BENCHMARKS

a publication of the SCWTCA, Inc
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featuring
Judging Wheatens in Stockholm
Milwaukee and Denver Specialties
What’s Doing With the OR and DNA
Urinary Tract Disfunction
Hooked On Performance
Happy Birthday Seniors and Celebrating Long Life
Wheaten Golden Years
Canine Good Citizens
Montgomery!
Wheatens Coming Of Age With Herding

Angels we have heard on high!

Winston Debbie
10/17/1996 12/7/2004
Art work by Yvette Debbie

Benchmarks is available in color
Click on Benchmarks and check it out!
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From the President...

What a fabulous Montgomery weekend! From the perfect weather for the four-legged and two-legged exhibitors and spectators to the culminating Sunday night festivities with attendees laughing, hugging and sharing stories, what more could one ask? As I snuggled down in my “cozy” airplane seat for the long ride home, I chuckled to myself and thought, “What a great bunch we all are!” Our National Specialty reminds me of the Macy’s Day Parade—as all the floats are lined up for the big event, there are those who are behind the scenes already designing the floats for next year’s parade. So as Kathy Drobnak and Kayce Healy are putting their feet up and toasting each other, Emily Holden has her creative wheels turning and planning for 2010.

A big congratulation to all our conformation and performance winners, and special recognition to Lorri Ligato and her Joy-Dells New Years Malley must be mentioned for obtaining a MACH 4 (Masters Agility Championship). This is the highest accomplishment a dog and handler can achieve in Agility, and Malley is the first Wheaten to reach this level. And wasn’t it an emotional moment when 14-year-old Bailey and her owner Debbie Shew were recognized for competing in all three performance events during the week?

As a reminder, if you have sent blood samples for CPP but haven’t yet enrolled your dogs, please do so immediately and complete the Health Survey at www.caninephenome.org. Questions can be directed to Elaine Azerolo at eazerolo@centurytel.net. During annual check-ups for dogs born between 1/1/2005 and 12/31/2009 collect blood for the SCWT Lifetime Study at NIH. Volunteers are needed to organize blood collection clinics, also. Please email Kathy Drobnak at kdrobnak@jcfkk.com for materials.

I must share with you how pleased and, frankly, how impressed I was to have so many of you approach me during Montgomery and volunteer to help the Club in any way. A willingness to serve your club without being persuaded is an attitude that will be cultivated and encouraged! Remember, when your dues notice arrives in the mail at the end of the year, to let us know your areas of interest. Once again, on behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you, the membership.

Kathy Drobnak

From the Editor...

Our cover for this issue was “lifted,” with permission of course, from a booklet, in itself not simply a work of art but a feast for the eye. The little red book is dedicated “To Winston, who taught me the meaning of unconditional love.” Yvette and Steve Dobbie lost their beloved Wheaten to PLN two months shy of his eighth birthday. This booklet obviously was Yvette’s attempt to heal from her devastating loss, a process with which I am intimately familiar for it is my method for healing from loss as well. Mine, following the untimely deaths of both my son and my husband, are not at all creative. They are simply journals. Yvette’s is exquisitely artistic, filled with hearts and sparkling jewels, precious pictures and colorful paintings and a charming cartoon, the latter of which can be found in this issue on page 37.

Yvette begins:

On October 12, 1996, my life was inexplicably changed. I was lucky enough to have found the four-legged love of my life. Once in a great while, a person is fortunate to find the right pet or have him find you and to have the time to nurture and connect in a very profound way. Good-natured, funny, courageous, loyal and kind, Winston possessed these qualities in abundance and gladly shared with all of whom had the good fortune to know him.

As of this writing, it has been a little less than a month since his passing. I keep his collar in my car, sleep with his beloved toy monkey and have left his “stuff” undisturbed. Every day I say a prayer hoping it reaches him on hisuffy cloud in Heaven. Although I feel a desperate sense of loss, the memories of our magic carpet ride will live on forever.

I believe that without memories there is no life and that our memories should be of happy times. This is dedicated to all the happy times we shared.

I am grateful that Yvette allowed the sharing of her booklet with Marzolino, who trusted to put it in the mail to of us who have not lived losing a pet. Some who tions to me, at least those are quick to add, “Of like what you have gone what? The pain is excruciating, nonetheless. Our pets are family and losing one of them, especially prematurely, is heart wrenching. As Yvette poignantly reminds us, without memories there is no life. Make sure all the days with your Wheaten are happy ones so that your memories can only be of happy times.

“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships.”

Jinx Moore

“We are alone, absolutely alone on this chance planet; and amid all the forms of life that surround us, not one, excepting the dog has made an alliance with us.”

Max Depree

Gay Dunlap
It was such an honor to be invited to judge my beloved Wheatens in Stockholm! I had been told that I would love the dogs here and the prediction held true! I have never seen so many beautiful coats. Truly, the silken waves and glossy shine took my breath away. Thank you to the many who chose to show to me! I am so very appreciative of this for it provided me with the opportunity to see the breed in depth.

The morning rain was unfortunate since it is not particularly pleasant to go over dogs when both they and one’s hands are wet. Additionally, I think some of the younger males were a bit hesitant to stand under the tent for exam. But we all made the best of it and thankfully the rain ceased before too much unpleasantness had to be dealt with!

I think I left some exhibitors rather puzzled about top-lines when I spoke of “prominent lumbar vertebrae” in my critiques. Certainly it is not a serious fault; however, I felt it needed to be pointed out and breeders should try to breed away from it. Furthermore, knowing about it and understanding what causes it should encourage the breeder to both watch for it and to appreciate the dog or bitch that displays the ideal perfectly level backline.

The FCI standard differs from the US standard in defining length to height ratio. We prefer a square dog; that is, square to the eye and equal as measured sternum to pinpoint and withers to ground. The FCI standard states that withers to base of tail and withers to ground be equal, which in truth creates a dog that is off square. Nonetheless, whereas the dogs were not quite so square as I prefer, I was not faced with long-backed dogs such as some of those we see in the US.

Heads were, for the most part, pleasing although I did find some coarse back-skulls with heads square rather than rectangular. Eyes, with a few exceptions, were dark and bites were good. Some of my most preferred types could have displayed more reach and drive in their movement. For me, in the final analysis, beautiful breed type will usually take precedence over reach and drive; however I do expect to see clean movement coming and going. I was impressed with the number of Wheatens displaying lovely flowing blend of neck into back.

I did not find the natural (undocked) tails bothersome; however, we do have cut out for us as we work to improve their expression. Many are carried in an arc, too far over the back and I sought, when possible, to reward those that were not; to wit, my BOB Intermediate bitch, Rollick’s Apocalypse. I would like to suggest that many exhibitors seem inclined to push the tail too far over the back and think it appropriate to say this practice should stop! I also was very appreciative of correctly sized and well-placed ears. Both here and in the US, we have too many over-sized ears that are being held away from the head.

It appears the practice of stuffing food into dogs’ mouths rather than training them to stand for exam has taken hold in Sweden just as it has in the US. This is unfortunate and I strongly suggest that more attention be paid to training and less to food stuffing! One of our prominent judges in the US., Pat Trotter (who will judge Wheatens at Montgomery this year), wrote in a recent article about this unseemly practice stating that dogs need to be trained to stand for exam. She pointed out that, “They already know how to eat!”

I wonder if perhaps some breeders, perhaps without realizing it, are turning their Wheatens Terriers into dogs more fitting for your Pastoral Group (referred to as the Working Group here in the US.) I prefer a more refined terrier than many that were entered...I found some to be heavy and coarse, overall larger and heavier than the standard calls for. With some of these larger specimens, I found heads to be too small to be in proper balance.

My BISS bitch, Lakkas d’Arcy Spice, was a type I love, elegant and sound with exceedingly strong side gate. My BOS choice, Ch Cameron Hunnicut sports a breathtaking coat, strong headpiece, and his make and shape is so much to my liking...square! Additionaly, I was quite taken by my champion bitch, Ch Cameron Slitz, so nicely balanced, with perfect tail carriage and lots of dog behind it! My Best Puppy, Ballyhara’s Piony To Hubban, I felt to be a very promising youngster. Another dog that pleased my eye was the Intermediate dog, Ambush Braveheart, with lovely head-to-neck ratio, nice reach of neck, blending smoothly into his back. I know there were others that were pleasing as well, but too much time has lapsed for me to recall!

Again let me say that it was my distinct pleasure to judge your beautiful dogs and I thank you for the opportunity and for the warm hospitality afforded me on this special occasion. My ring secretaries, Ulla Rylander and Wija-Leena Hedberg, were awesome and a delight to work with and I so appreciated their patience. I must also pay special tribute to Kerstin Norgard for taking such good care of me during my stay. Her attention to detail, to driving me from place to place and especially for sharing my day as a tourist in Stockholm was above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you, as well, for the lovely gifts of a Wheaten-decorated mug and plant holder. Both made it home safely!

Pictures of all the winners can be found at http://www.wheatenshows.com/ scroll down and click on Photos from Södertälje, SWTK, Sweden 09-08-22

JUDGING WHEATENS IN STOCKHOLM  22 Aug, 09

This was written for the Swedish Wheaten Terrier Club’s newsletter by Judge Gay Dunlap
What is DPI and why we can’t use many of the photos you send.

DPI stands for dots per inch, which indicates the resolution of images. A dot is a single point, the smallest identifiable part of an image. Printers and monitors, for example, create characters and images by printing patterns of dots. The more dots per inch, the higher the resolution. The industry standard for photos in print advertising is 300 dots per inch. At this resolution the dots in the photos are just small enough that they are barely detectable with the naked eye.

Industry Standard for the web is from 72 to 90 dots per inch. In print, at this resolution, the dots are clearly visible. In this case the image is said to be pixilated. Pixilated describes an image in which individual pixels are apparent to the naked eye.

When you “do the math” it becomes clear that in images with 300 dots per square inch the dots will be smaller and more condensed than images with 72 dots per inch. These smaller more compact dots give us an image with more “information” per inch. We then come to the answer of why we cannot pull photos from your web site or use pictures you send other than those that have been taken at a high resolution (at least 300 dpi).

Compare the photos above. The high resolution 300 dpi photo gives us more detail and clarity, whereas the 72 dpi photo lacks quality and is pixilated.

The quality of your advertisements and the articles we bring to you is very important to us. We want you to be happy with the product we deliver to your mailbox. At times, it may seem that we are “difficult” when it comes to image quality, but the reality is that we are very picky for a reason – YOU!
GREATER MILWAUKEE SPECIALTY
FOUR-SHOW EVENT

by Karen Bilda, President, SCWTCGM

The 21st annual SCWTCGM Specialty Show was held at the Waukesha County Expo Center on Friday, July 24. The sun never came out, but that kept things cool. We were blessed with a nice breeze and no rain.

Pat Weir (Michaleen Wheatens) judged an entry of 6 (1-5). Jendu Forever Free (by Ch Candance Daze Of Thunder-Ch Glenamon Bjorn Free Of Jendu), from the puppy bitch 6 months and under 9 months, was selected as Best in Sweepstakes. She was bred by Dana Frady and owned by breeder and Cathy Perron. Tiffen’s Duke Blu of Barhill (by Ch Tiffen’s Shaboom Shaboom - Tiffen’s Plenty of Sunshine), from the 12 months and under 15 months class, took honors as Best of Opposite Sex. He was bred by Nancy Holland and is owned by breeder and Thomas and Michelle Gordon.

Ms Dawn Hanson judged an entry of 29 (9-17-3-0). Best of Breed, Winners Dog, and Best of Winners was award to Modny Style Great Expectations from the Open Dog class (by Latorps Celsus-Modny Style Aruba Antilija). This 2-year-old was bred by O. Kampaniets and is owned by Kristen Williams. Best of Opposite Sex was Ch Michaleen’s Song O’ Morningstar. Breeder: Pat Weir. (By Ch Dundalk The Stroke Of Midnight-Ch Michaleen’s Song Of Kerry). Owner: Doreen Gordin & Pat Weir. Winners Bitch: Jendu’s Debut. Breeder: Dana Frady (by Ch Marland’s Awesome Dandy Andy-Ch Jendu Fleur De Fete). Owner: breeder and Catherine Perron. Reserve Winners Dog: Jendu Outlaw. Breeder: Dana Frady. (By Ch Jendu Fleur De Lis-Ch Greentree Skellig’s Jendu Taboo). Owner: JoAnne Vogt & Dana Frady. Reserve Winners Bitch: Reyem Sweet Pea On The Vine. Breeder: Kay Baird & Gwen Meyer. (By Ch Andover Heatherstone Ru Sirius-Ch Reyem’s Abrie Cadabrie). Owner: breeders.

The winner takes all! WINNERS DOG, BOW and BEST OF BREED at the specialty was MODNY STYLE GREAT ESPECTATIONS, bred in the USSR by O Kampaniets and owner handled by Kristen Williams. Presenter is club president, Karen Bilda.

The Club hosted a luncheon, raffle, and silent auction following the Best of Breed competition. The raffle items included plants, picture frames, toys, and baskets of accessories for our four-legged friends. Once again, Cheryl Borree kindly created quilted items – a throw, tote bags, and aprons. Of special interest to at least one competitive bidder was the Ferrari dog bed filled with toys that any Wheaten would love.


Winners on Monday under judge Mrs Robert Smith at the Burlington Wisconsin Kennel Club Show were: **Best of Breed**: Ch Dhowden American Dream. (Ch Frolic's Squeeze Play – Ch Dhowden C'Dar Dreams of Cardiff), breeder owned by Denise Bendelewski. **Best of Winners and Winners Bitch**: Sanwilly's Annie's Song (Ch Lakkas Ustilago-Ch Sanwilly's Kiss Me Kate, breeder: Sandy Wiedenhoeft, owner: breeder and Bill Wiedenhoeft. **Best of Opposite Sex**: Ch Michaleen's Song O' Morningstar. **Winners Dog**: Bryr Rose Renaissance (Ch Bryr Rose Degas- Ch Bryr Rose Colleen O'Green), breeder and owner: Carolyn Garrett. **Reserve Winners Dog**: Tiffen's Duke Blu of Barhill. **Reserve Winners Bitch**: Kaylynn's Matilda Goes A Waltzing (Ch Milmear Dana Frady bred the **BEST IN SWEEPS** winner, JEN-DU FOREVER FREE. She won from the 6-9 puppy class in is owned by Dana and Catherine Perron. Geragold How Far- Ch Bello Di Granos Micaela); breeder: Kana Brusca & Kay Baird; owner: Kay Baird & Gwen Meyer.


The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Milwaukee (SCTWGM) hosted one fun-filled event in June and another in July. The annual fun match was held on June 28 and hosted by Jim and Nancy Andersen at their home in Waterford, WI.

Normally held in August, the annual Fun Match was held in June this year to accommodate the busy schedules that seem to occur in August. The turnout was great, with entries of more senior dogs as well as puppies that are still getting used to their new homes. Wheaten welcomes were displayed everywhere. Awards were given for such achievements as longest tail, biggest nose, and most wiggling tale. Jim and Nancy provided hamburgers and brats and everyone else supplied a dish to pass. The weather was great and the companionship was extra special. Each participant was awarded a Wheaten mug to commemorate the day. And, no, that is not a blue Wheaten! It is one of our cousins, a Kerry Blue Terrier.
Tomorrow my life will change dramatically. Tomorrow I take my male dog, Robbie, back to the handler and my house will seem empty. He has been home for three weeks to freeze sperm with a local reproduction specialist and now I have to take him back to Tracy to work on an elusive final major. There aren’t many majors in the South and fewer available to a dog with an undocked tail. Docking tails is illegal in Germany and I have chosen not to dock the tails on my imports, although I will continue to dock tails on all my pups.

Even though I have been involved with Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers for over 40 years, I stand amazed by how a dog can wheedle his way into my heart. Four years ago I carried Robbie in a Sherpa bag the entire trip from Eastern Germany to Pennsylvania. He was a wonderful puppy but at the time I owned another male and I was afraid that one of them would vie for dominance so Robbie went to live with a dear friend in Canada when he came of age. She had wanted a male dog for her husband and I knew that Robbie was a keeper from the beginning. He is so typical of male Wheaten Terriers: a loving spirit that wants to be with his owner all the time.

People will frequently ask “what is the temperament difference between the male and the female in this breed?” My answer is always the same. I liken them to children. Males seek approval and females will take the advice and get back to you. Still I know that it goes further than that. I will miss the feel of Robbie’s nose on the back of my leg as I walk through the house. It was annoying at first but quickly became more of a reassuring feeling except when I make a quick turn and he gets caught in my legs threatening to tumble both of us.

Robbie and I cook. OK, I do the work and he does the testing, but I am certain that the Cooking Channel would love to do a series on “Cooking With Robbie”. He makes sure that the dishes in the dishwasher are clean before I even run the machine. He rounds up my puppies and brings them into the house, growling in a way that tells them to chew on something else, not the parts of him that dangle.

Robbie helps me garden and only digs up things that I missed. He waters every tree and helps me keep my yard evenly watered. He enjoys making my bed and, if I don’t catch him fast enough, he’ll even take the sheets off the bed for me to wash them. Only once did he water my bed by mistake and, when I explained that all wood is not tree, he never did it again. Robbie has a huge black nose that he lets me squeeze whenever I am in the mood. He keeps very close to me so that I am able to pet him whenever I am able and he eats all of my leftovers so that I don’t have waste in my house. How great is that!

I have a female dog living here but she is busy. That explains females fairly well. They have their own agenda and will fit you in when it is convenient. Males are constantly vigilant. My female will let me pet her. My male makes it impossible not to pet him. My three twelve-week-old pups are cute and cuddly but they want to play hard and sleep. Robbie is with me and will play when I want to play, or when I get frustrated by his nudge me. There is just nothing more perfect than a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier male. Yes, Robbie will go back to Canada when he finishes his US championship, but only because I know that he is loved there as much as he is here.
Dogs Need Answers
You Can Help!

Owners and breeders are encouraged to participate in the following DNA research projects sponsored by SCWTCA

SCWT Lifetime Health Study at NIH

How You Can Help  SCWT breeders and owners are asked to collect blood for the SCWT Lifetime Study at NIH during annual health checkups for dogs born between 1/1/2005 and 12/31/2009. Email dog_genome@mail.nih.gov to request a collection kit and instructions. Detailed instructions for collection are available at www.scwtca.org in the Health section.

Background Information  The SCWT Lifetime Health Study will follow 1000 Wheatens for 10 years to determine the diseases prevalent in the breed and find genes related to those diseases. As disease patterns become apparent, those occurring most frequently and which have strong genetic components will be studied. Dr Heidi Parker at the Ostrander Genomics Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health is the researcher developing this project. See previously distributed NIH FAQs for additional information.

Current Status  Dr Parker has developed a short initial survey form and a consent form for this study. She has set the date of birth range for dogs in the study. The study will include Wheatens whelped between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2009. Currently, there are 108 suitable samples at NIH from clinics and individual submissions.

Canine Phenome Project

How You Can Help  SCWT owners who submitted samples to the Canine Phenome Project are asked to update the Health Survey for your enrolled dogs at www.caninephenome.org.

If you sent a blood sample for CPP, but haven’t yet enrolled the dog, please enroll the dog and complete the Health Survey at www.caninephenome.org.

Breeders and owners who have not yet submitted blood samples for their dogs are encouraged to participate. Instructions for collection are available at www.scwtca.org in the Health section.

Background Information  The Canine Phenome Project is a DNA bank with supporting data for use by researchers to identify the genes responsible for canine diseases and other breed characteristics. DNA is stored at the Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine led by Dr. Gary Johnson. For more information see the CPP FAQs at www.scwtca.org in the Health section.

Current Status  There are over 1000 Wheaten DNA samples at the University of Missouri. Owners of 628 of these dogs have completed the general health survey online. Data is needed on the remaining dogs to make the samples useful in research.

More samples are needed for the DNA bank. The SCWTCA Endowment has generously agreed to continue funding one-half the DNA processing fee for an additional 500 samples.

More Clinics Needed

Clubs and individuals are asked to consider volunteering to organize a blood collection clinic in your area. Email Kathy Drobnak at kdrobnak@icfkk.com for materials.

Contact Elaine Azerolo at eazerolo@centurytel.net if you have questions about these projects.

Submitted by Lee Martin, DNA Health Initiatives Committee
A MUST read before your next breeding.

So... I bred what I think is a beautiful bitch to a slightly older, outcross dog, who had physical traits I was looking for and everything was fine. My litter arrived and grew up fast. At around ten or eleven weeks, the breeder of the sire came to my home with a few fellow breeders to evaluate my litter, as well as another litter, slightly younger, sired by the same dog. As we gathered, the owner of the other litter and myself were notified that this same sire had produced a puppy with a “pelvic bladder” when bred to a third bitch. This was a “leaky” puppy, who was cleared of ectopic ureter through ultrasound/dye contrast study and found to have a displaced bladder and leaked urine. Medication can be useful for muscle control and a puppy with this condition can be maintained throughout life, as corrective surgery is not recommended, since it is seldom effective.

I learned so much more about this as I soon realized a puppy in my litter was “leaky.” I ruled out UTI (Urinary Tract Infection) and ectopic ureter. Through the same ultrasound and dye contrast study, I found my puppy had a “pelvic bladder,” too. The vet who diagnosed the other puppy was my vet as well, so consult was a no-brainer. I did consult other vets to determine what was the best course of action. My options were slim. Luckily, my pup responded to a simple pill per day, which allows her to hold her urine and eliminate normally. Actually, there is nothing normal about this. At least I did not have to euthanize her, an otherwise happy soul.

Twenty-plus years in and I have not come across this pelvic bladder situation before. I found it both sad and fascinating and I was learning so much. I had been hearing a whisper here and there about ectopic ureters and other “leaky” dogs, some of which outgrew their condition.

My situation, coupled with one that shared a common sire, had my interest so I dug deeper. I wanted to know what all of this whispering was about and I soon learned that a fourth breeding had occurred in which a resulting pup’s urinary tract was so deformed, it had to be euthanized. Same sire.

Oh yes, I dug into my own back yard. Back to Michigan and on to Sweden, far enough that I feel comfortable with what I am looking at and moving forward with. To think that I wasted a breeding has me frustrated, but I would not know what I know now if not for this.

I kept searching and, because a breeding involves a bitch owner and a sire owner, if I met a dead-end in confirming information, I researched the other party. What I found was a fistful of related pedigrees in which varying degrees of urinary tract dysfunction presented in resulting litters. Some had ectopic ureters, leaked, or had pelvic bladders. Of these, some had surgery (that failed), some were medicated and outgrew their condition and others were euthanized. There was one instance where an entire litter was euthanized.

I am left with this sweet puppy that has proven difficult to place but otherwise fits in nicely around here.

I have included my pedigree (on the following page) hoping that we can learn from it and maybe it will find its way to the Open Registry.
# Pedigree of Shari Boyd Carusi’s Puppy with Urinary Tract Dysfunction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breeder</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pedigree Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>US CH</strong> Greentree Fairy Tale Only Time Will Tell</td>
<td><em>US CH</em> Honeylee’s Bye The Bye</td>
<td>US CH Never Lasting’s Forever More ROM, Choroschie Drusja’s Humphrey Bogart, Wheaten Rebel’s Kiki Dee SchH 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US CH</strong> Green Tree Fairy Tale Princess</td>
<td><em>US CH</em> Waterford Just Meant To Be</td>
<td>US CH Amaden’s Meant To Be ROM, US CH Westridge Just Waterford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CA US CH</strong> Green Tree Fairy Tale Princess</td>
<td><em>CA US CH</em> Greentree Alysheba ROM</td>
<td>US CH Webspinn Tour De Force, US CH Green Tree Shibui Santa Anita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US CH</strong> Lissadell Cajun Comet</td>
<td><em>US CH</em> Lissadell Ragin’ Cajun CD</td>
<td>US CH Legacy Moonlit Knight ROM, US CH Lissadell Making Whoopee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US CH</strong> Lissadell Cajun Comet</td>
<td><em>US CH</em> Lissadell On Her Toes CD</td>
<td>US CH Legacy Summer’s Gone ROM, US CH Lissadell Amy’s Deadwood Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US CH</strong> Aran Build A Betr Mouse Trap</td>
<td><em>Int DE VDH LU SE US CH</em> Villa Rosas Paddy</td>
<td>DE CH Wheaten Rebel’s Lucky Luciano, Int D DK L N S VDH CH Villa Rosas Key Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aran All About Me</strong></td>
<td><em>US CH</em> Aran’s Hanky Panky</td>
<td>US CH Lissadell Ragin’ Cajun CD, US CH Shar-D’s Bhootin Tootin</td>
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"Intro" by Betsy Geertson

For this year’s competitors and for many spectators, Performance Events were a highlight of the week-long schedule surrounding Montgomery.

For the first time, SCWTCA sponsored three of the four days at the All Terrier Agility Trial. While I was a little hesitant to undertake such a huge commitment, there were no problems. Agility is a very labor-intensive dog sport, but we had a wonderful turnout of people the day prior to the first trial helping to set up and we had many Wheaten people who came out and volunteered their help, both participants and spectators, all four days. I heard accolades from everyone about the trial.

Once again we sold agility tee shirts and sweatshirts with a clever design by Cathie Helf. The shirt sale was a huge success. Thanks to all our club members who came by and helped out by distributing the shirts and taking orders for new ones.

On Wednesday there was an All-Terrier Obedience Trial sponsored by the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club. We had five Wheatens entered, which is a pretty high number for us, with three of them in an Open class. Unfortunately there were no qualifiers, which means that the very nice High Scoring Wheaten prize will be there again next year.

On Saturday a Wheaten-only Obedience and Rally Trial was held in Blue Bell. Entries were up a bit from last year and, as we continue to promote the performance events for Wheatens, we are hoping that there will be an even greater turn out next year.

One interesting suggestion from the obedience judge was that we tell the exhibitors to not think so negatively about their chosen breed of dogs. She said we have a very trainable working breed of terriers and we must not underestimate their abilities. Many years ago when I first became interested in performance events, the mindset was that “these are just terriers and can’t do this stuff.” Times and training methods have vastly changed over the years, I would encourage everyone to do some basic puppy training with their Wheatens and maybe just try one advanced class. The motivational methods available today are really made for Wheatens. Who knows, you too might get hooked. Sure, some of our Wheatens can be real clowns – just keep reading this article for some very entertaining stories – but they can also accomplish the same things that other more traditional performance breeds can.

This year we had a lot more interest from conformation/breeder folks than we have ever had in the past. Thanks go to Kayce Healy and Kathy Drobnak for their interest and help in promoting all aspects of the performance events. It was a memorable year for us.

“My First Performance Visit” by Lori Kromash

My first visit to an Agility Trial will not be my last. I readily admit that I know absolutely nothing about Agility other than that I have always thought it appeared to be dogs running an obstacle course with their human partner close by yelling commands and pointing. Frankly, it held little interest for me but I certainly learned not to judge an event by casual appearance.

On Wednesday afternoon, Jinx Moore and I decided to drive to Kimberton, PA to watch the agility events sponsored by SCWTCA. Listening to the spectators, I realized that “agility speak” is another language I need to learn. I remember feeling the same way when I first started showing in conformation. The point system was so complicated and what did all those people see in one dog that made it better than another?

Most of you who know me would be somewhat surprised to see me standing outside the agility ring. Among the first to greet us was Betsy Geertson. She looked at me, did a double take and with a great big smile said, “Well, what on earth are you doing here?” My response, “Came to watch agility” and watch agility we did!

I believe it was Betsy’s dog Dylan, who was the first dog we watched perform. Dylan and Betsy entered the ring and Dylan started zooming…not an agility term. Zooming is what I use to describe the low-to-the-ground run a Wheaten takes after he is bathed, towel dried, and allowed to race in circles in the yard, finally free! Back to Dylan. After a few laps of zooming it was time to get to work, but Dylan’s human handler went in one direction and Dylan went in another. I do not think he received any points for making his own course and I do not think his handler was very pleased with his behavior. Dylan wasn’t that interested in pleasing his handler, because all of a sudden he saw a dog at the far end of the ring and decided to go say hello. Personally, I would have given him extra points for that behavior and I’d call them “cute points.” By the time Dylan got to the weave poles he must have been worn out because, he only wove his way through a few of the poles before he decided he had had enough. It was probably not polite, but we could not stop laughing. Even the judge was laughing at this point. The entertainment Dylan provided was spectacular. He certainly knows how to work a crowd! I later found out that this highly titled dog certainly did know what was expected of him but had been tipped off that a few of the SCWTCA Board Members were standing ringside who knew nothing about agility and would
The other two dogs that I had the opportunity to watch were sired by two of my boys. I have to admit that this gave me a vested interest and it was truly amazing for me to watch Boone and Gabby fly through the course. I was so incredibly impressed and so proud for the owners of these two dogs. I stood there with tears running down my face. Watching these dogs made me realize that our Wheatens are so multi-talented that it is a shame to allow them to grow old sitting on the couch all day when they could be involved in so many different performance events, no matter the age.

I also watched Obedience prior to Sweepstakes. The scene was very "library-ish" due to the lack of noise. The concentration level was pretty impressive until some of our very social Wheaten exhibits became distracted, and decided they would get back to the commands in just a few minutes. Again, a very good-natured judge was most patient and very kind to all of the dogs.

What a proud moment it was during Sweepstakes when two Wheatens were brought into the ring and introduced for their tremendous accomplishments. Malley, the first Wheaten introduced, had just earned a MACH 4 in Agility. My understanding is that this is the first Wheaten ever to earn a MACH 4. Bailey, the second Wheaten introduced, was a 14-year-old who had participated in Agility, Obedience, and Rally and gaited around the Sweepstakes ring with her head held high. It provided me with great feeling of pride for our breed.

It was a beautiful day to be outside at the Agility Trial and to have the opportunity to watch our wonderful Wheatens at work, or play, depending on the dog. This was not my first agility trial to attend, but maybe I was being a more attentive observer than in the past. I noticed that Wheatens take good care of themselves outside the ring--begging for a small cookie, getting lots of hugs and an occasional massage, and in some cases, sneaking in a short nap. But when it is their turn to perform, they are alert and ready. I noticed Wheatens always "smile" when they go over jumps, and I think I heard squeals of laughter from a couple of them going through the weave polls! The hit of the day was a precious little guy named "Dylan." Dylan stood poised and ready to go. He was given the signal, and he immediately turned into the social director for the day. He ran across the course going over a few jumps (at his choosing) to greet some four-legged friends outside the ring. After saying "hi" to them, he went over another jump and weaved through a couple of poles to greet another friend on the other side of the course. By this time, I was doubled over with laughter as his owner threw her hands up the air and gave him a hug!!! Is there anything better than an independent thinking Wheaten on an agility course on a beautiful autumn day? I THINK NOT!!

"A Great Ride" by Lorri Ligato

What a great ride! From a 4-month-old puppy that was shy and frightened of people and dogs, to a confident champion filled with focus and drive. MACH 4 Joy-Dell's New Y ears Malley made history on October 1 at the Montgomery All Terrier Agility Cluster in Kimberton by becoming the first Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier to attain a Master of Agility Champion 4. It was the perfect setting. Surrounded by terrier owners who understand the special gifts and challenges of the terrier group, Malley and I were able to prove that Wheatens can be great at agility. Terriers have the drive and tenacity that makes for a good agility dog. They have a powerful build that can propel them over jumps and up ramps. Their "squareness" is a challenge for the turns and contacts, but can be managed by sensible handling techniques. And the joy on their faces Lorri Ligato and "Malley" (© 2008 PawPrintsPet.com) when working the course with their favorite person is unmatched by any Border Collier or Sheltie team. Wheatens are not just beautiful examples of canine structure and grace. They are all-purpose farm dogs that love nothing more than working with their human...unless it is lolling on the couch after a good run with the same human.

The Terrier crowd at the Montgomery Trial was very supportive of one of their own reaching this lofty goal. Malley and I felt blessed to have been with such a wonderful group of friends who truly appreciate the best and most challenging dogs in the world...the terriers. GO WHEATIES!

Suzanne Stone and “Gabby”

“Impressions” by Jinx Moore

It was a beautiful day to be outside at the Agility Trial and to have the opportunity to watch our wonderful Wheatens at work, or play, depending on the dog. This was not my first agility trial to attend, but maybe I was being a more attentive observer than in the past. I noticed that Wheatens take good care of themselves outside the ring--begging for a small cookie, getting lots of hugs and an occasional massage, and in some cases, sneaking in a short nap. But when it is their turn to perform, they are alert and ready. I noticed Wheatens always “smile” when they go over jumps, and I think I heard squeals of laughter from a couple of them going through the weave polls! The hit of the day was a precious little guy named “Dylan.” Dylan stood poised and ready to go. He was given the signal, and he immediately turned into the social director for the day. He ran across the course going over a few jumps (at his choosing) to greet some four-legged friends outside the ring. After saying "hi" to them, he went over another jump and weaved through a couple of poles to greet another friend on the other side of the course. By this time, I was doubled over with laughter as his owner threw her hands up the air and gave him a hug!!! Is there anything better than an independent thinking Wheaten on an agility course on a beautiful autumn day? I THINK NOT!!

“The Last Leg” by Dorice Stancher

When we chased after the CD a few years ago, I actually had someone tell me my dog was “stupid” and that I didn't have a chance to ever win a title. We all know you never say that to a terrier owner. By the end of the day I had my second leg at the Newton Kennel Club show, having beaten a Golden Retriever in a driving rainstorm, after an exciting run-off. Barbara Zapf and the other terrier lovers and I hugged and screamed and danced in the glorious mud. I have always loved competing against the other breeds, to prove that Wheatens can be great at agility. Terriers have the drive and tenacity that makes for a good agility dog. They have a powerful build that can propel them over jumps and up ramps. Their “squareness” is a challenge for the turns and contacts, but can be managed by sensible handling techniques. And the joy on their faces Lorri Ligato and “Malley” (© 2008 PawPrintsPet.com) when working the course with their favorite person is unmatched by any Border Collier or Sheltie team. Wheatens are not just beautiful examples of canine structure and grace. They are all-purpose farm dogs that love nothing more than working with their human...unless it is lolling on the couch after a good run with the same human.

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So why then did Duffy's CDX legs all happen at the SCWTCA Obedience Trial? It wasn't planned that way. In 2005 he earned
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his first leg (our only trial for the year) and we chugged along
training and taking lessons, but then my mother had a heart attack
and she became our priority. I didn’t have the time to drive to
the few shows in the area. Then in 2008 we were back on track
and timing set us up for you guessed it, our only trial for the year.
And so, after a long layoff, daily training on our own, and a
month’s worth of once-a-week class lessons to practice the group
exercises, he earned his second leg, much to my astonishment.

The third leg though, was the most special. It loomed in front
of us and I dreamed of putting Duffy in another trial to get
it as soon as possible. Little did I know that three weeks later I
would face a devastating head injury. It took months before I could
regain my balance and walk or drive, but my constant companion
was my Duffy, God bless him. Every day I walked a little stronger,
as he waited patiently for me to return to good health. Finally,
in July, I scheduled a match for us, but the about turns made me
dizzy, and Duffy hated the heat. With summer upon us and our
son leaving for college in Boston, our training sessions together
were irregular and short. We did other things to bond while on
vacation…kayaking, whale watching, learning to dance, therapy
visits, and camping.

When September came I decided to go for that last leg with earnest
determination and returned to my once-a-week lessons and daily
regimen with Duffy. I would show him at Montgomery because
we felt comfortable there. This would be a new start. Little did
I know that Duffy would try so hard to please me once more by
holding it together so well. I am delighted that he completed
the title, but honestly, his steadfast place by my side had already
earned him a blue ribbon in my heart.

“A Journey To High In Trial” by Cindy Jansen

My Wheaten, Riley (Ch Azlough Turn To Gold VCD2 RE AX
MXJ), won High in Trial at the SCWTCA Obedience Trial at our
2009 National Specialty. For me, the achievement meant much
more than having the high score in obedience that day.

I had participated in performance events with Riley for many
years. He had done well in obedience, mostly earning scores in the
190’s. It was the last weekend of December 2007 and I had already
planned out several upcoming obedience trials for the next year.
He had earned his first leg in Utility a few months prior and was
gaining confidence in the exercises with every show we attended.

There had been snow and ice several weeks earlier in Missouri and
the fenced part of my yard still had ice in an area shaded by the
house. My dogs, an Irish Terrier named Zoey, a young Wheaten,
Cayenne, and Riley were outside running around in the back part
of the yard. After a few minutes Riley came to the dog limping. I
didn’t see what happened, but could only assume he ran onto
the ice patch by the house and slipped. I picked him up and placed him
on the grooming table to see what was wrong. I discovered I could
not move either of his rear legs forward or back and the lower half
of his back was becoming inflamed.

Over the next few days we visited several veterinarians and I was
told he had a partially torn ACL in his left leg and a compressed
disk in his back between disk L5 and L6. The veterinarians said the
leg would heal with time, but the injury to the back was a concern.
He was treated with Rimadyl, Tramadol and acupuncture. Within a
week, he had responded to the medicine and acupuncture resulting
in the inflammation subsiding. The veterinarians determined he
would not need surgery. Unfortunately, the injury left him with
some nerve damage in his back. He developed severe ataxia and
was unable to walk without dragging his rear legs.

At this point I knew he would recover, but I didn’t know if he would
ever compete in obedience again. He could barely walk a few feet
across the floor, so I couldn’t imagine him jumping the height of
his shoulders.

Following six weeks of rest, his injuries were healed enough so that
he could move without pain. The next step was physical therapy
with the goal of eventually being able to compete in obedience
again. He started working 10-15 minute sessions three times a
day. Then, as he improved, there were longer sessions, twice a day.
My days started revolving around Riley’s physical therapy. I often
thought, if I was doing this for me I would not have endured the
schedule even for a week, but for him I was dedicated. Riley made
amazing progress. All the years of training had given him the focus
and endurance he needed to work through the physical therapy
exercises. By the end of April he was walking and by summer he
was jumping. Even though he had regained his movement, he
had not fully recovered. It would take several more months for
him to regain the lost muscle tone. Also, because he still had the
compressed disk, his back required ongoing attention to maintain
his movement and prevent him from becoming stiff.

Once Riley was moving well, I started entering him in a few
obedience shows. Because travel and competing was hard
on his back, I could not show him very often. Sometimes he gave a nice performance, only missing
qualifying by one or two exercises. At other times, his back must
have been bothering him because he had no interest in doing the
exercises. I never really knew if I was bringing a dog that wanted
to compete or not.

I had planned the trip to Montgomery in order to compete with
my younger Wheaten, Cayenne, but had not decided what I would
do with Riley. I didn’t know how the long trip would affect his

Cindy Jansen and her High In Trial dog “Riley”
back. When it came time to fill out the entry forms, I decided to enter him in just one obedience class. Based on everything he had been through, I wasn't thinking of him having a high score, but was hoping he would qualify.

When we entered the ring that day, I could feel that Riley was going to do well. He was happy and full of energy. I had not seen him like this since before his back was hurt almost two years prior. I felt like I had my old dog back. He sailed through all the exercises. Walking out of the ring, I really didn't care what the score was; it was just great to work with him as a team again. Achieving HIT made Montgomery 2009 even more special and I have never felt so joyfully ecstatic!

“An Old Guy Can Do It Too” by Debbie Shew

Bailey and I entered the first All Terrier Agility Trial at Montgomery nine years ago and had such a great time that we've entered every one since. Bailey is 14 years old now, so we've moved to Novice Preferred in agility, which allows her to jump at a lower jump height and to run less complicated courses with fewer obstacles. This year at Montgomery, we entered Agility, Veterans Obedience, and Rally. One of the highlights of the week for us was that Bailey finished her Rally Excellent title at the SCWTCA Obedience trial.

Performance events at Montgomery are always special because Wheaten people understand what it's like to train a terrier and are excited when your dog does well and laugh along with you when your dog decides its her turn to be "comic relief." The best part of going to Montgomery over the years has been all the great people and dogs we've met. Hope to see you next year!

“Officially Hooked” by Kathy Clarke

I have been going to Montgomery for years now, glued to the breed ring; this was my first time competing in agility. I had been gearing up towards this since I started training a couple of years ago, previously dabbling a bit with training but really got serious last November. I am now officially hooked on this sport... it is so much fun!

Now, as all of you who have done it well know, traveling by plane with a dog is nerve racking at best these days. But off I go to the airport on Sunday, two days before the trials are to start, with “Killian.” I get there early like they suggest only to find my flight is delayed by an hour and a half. So, we hang out in the airport making friends for the breed because, of course, my agility dog is so well trained. If people only knew what training a Wheaten for agility really is like...controlled chaos, I call it!

We change planes in Atlanta, heading to Philadelphia only to be delayed by storms, circling Washington D.C. for 45 minutes of horrid turbulence. Finally the plane lands and I head to baggage where I wait for my dog. Well, he arrives and as I approach his crate I start to realize the stuff oozing out the sides is not pleasant. My poor dog has a dreadful case of diarrhea. I drag his crate and him into the handicapped bathroom where I start dunking his feet in the toilet to try to get the poop off. Naturally, the towel dispenser is one of those that stingily gives you only one at a time! The crate was another matter. After 20 minutes or so we are clean enough to collect our bags so we can get our rental car. I drove to the hotel with the windows down disparately looking for a Walmart to buy shampoo & towels. I didn't bring any because why was I going to have to bathe my agility dog!

Tuesday, the morning of our first day of the trial, while walking him, he managed to drag his face through a skunk trail. I have to say, it was wonderful to be around terrier people who understand that running a terrier is a real challenge. I met fabulously supportive people who I know will be future friends.

I got my Open Preferred Standard title and enjoyed watching Patrice Chevalier get her Excellent Standard title on “Tige.” She has worked hard for that. I was also thrilled to see Lorri put a MACH 4 title on her girl! It really brought tears to my eyes to see that MACH run around the ring, knowing how much work it is to get there.

The four days went by so fast. We didn't qualify again but we enjoyed moments of brilliance followed by handler error where “Killian” made up his own course. I am now in what I call the “big dog” class, Excellent A, where you have to run fast, run clean and be almost perfect which, especially with a terrier, is a laugh in and of itself.

My trip home was quite uneventful and a downright joy compared to the trip out. Of course I ripped up enough newspaper for Killian's crate to ship a full set of fine china. Never again will I ship a dog any other way! And some words of advice...always travel with paper towels! ☹️
Ch Bon Aquarel Icon O’Kaler

“IKE”

Crispa’s Bushman x Wheaten Rebel Evolution

“Ike” finished in style, earning both of his majors Montgomery weekend under breeder/judges Christine Erickson (Hatboro) and Candy Way (Devon). We thank Kent and Gwen Meyer for their expert handling.

Owned by:
Denise Daniel
Karen Mueller

Bred by:
Tanya Zhukova
Bon Aquarel Wheatens
Russia
## SCWT CHAMPION and PERFORMANCE TITLES
### July - September 2009
Compiled by Sheila O’Connell

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<td>Ch Whindancer's When The Stars Go Blue</td>
<td>Ch Ellora Bastion</td>
<td>Ch Andover Wildrose High On Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch Wildrose Andover Parttime Angel</td>
<td>Ch Andover Saltissea Big Baby</td>
<td>Ch Winter wheat's Second Chance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch Winterwheat's Second Edition</td>
<td>Ch Meirleac's Family Jewels</td>
<td>Ch Winter wheat's Second Chance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following awards were given out at the 2008 Montgomery County Specialty:

Andover Challenge Trophy (Best of Breed)
Ch Doubloon's Ultimate Player owned by Elena Landa

Bryan E. McNamara Memorial Trophy (owner of 1st place, Bred by Exhibitor Bitch Class)
Keepsake Lastingimage's Encore owned by Helen & Jerry Larson/Helen Moreland/Ruth Fagan/Shari Robinson

High in Trial Trophy
Doubloons Last L'L Wise Guy UDX AX AXJ OAP OJP handled by Linda Ruedy
Terrier Association of Oregon January 27, 2008

The following awards were given out at the Annual Meeting in October 2009

Jan Linscheid Fellowship Award - Presented when deemed appropriate to a member of SCWTCA who has made an extraordinary contribution to the club and to the breed and who epitomizes the outstanding human qualities of Jan Linscheid.

Honorees
1983 - Gay Sherman Dunlap
1985 - Virginia Potter and Jacqueline Gottlieb
1988 - Carol Carlson
1993 - Linda Nelson
1995 - Sue Poulin
2001 - Diane Lunde
2002 - Janet Petros
2004 - Ronnie Copland
2005 - Nancy Butler
2007 - Bonnie O'Connor
2008 - Elaine Azerolo
2009 – Roni Andrews

SCWTCA Rescue Family of the Year
Ed and Amy Fowler

AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Medallion (Given to individual who deserves special recognition in the sport of purebred dogs, embodies the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and has been an active and valued member of an AKC member club).

Nancy Butler

Best in Specialty Show Breeder Award
MCKC – Elena Landa for Ch Doubloon's Ultimate Player

Everett Keller Memorial Trophy (Breeder of Winners Bitch at Montgomery County KC)
Douglas Mylcraine, Shari Robinson and Janice Cunningham for Keepsake Lastingimage's Encore

Mary Ann Dallas Award (Breeder of Best of Winners at Montgomery County KC)
Douglas Mylcraine, Shari Robinson and Janice Cunningham for Keepsake Lastingimage's Encore

Maureen Holmes Memorial Trophy (Breeder of Best Puppy in Sweepstakes)
Betsy Geertson and Willie Rueda for Orion Trebol Hot On The Leader Board

Ch. Abby’s Postage Dhu O’Waterford “Casey” Award (Wheaten who defeats the most Wheatens by going Best of Breed)
Ch Doubloon's Ultimate Player owned by Elena Landa; 966 Wheatens defeated

Ch. Amaden Trophy (Wheaten bitch who defeats the most Wheatens by going Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex)
Ch Doubloon's Ultimate Player; 1012 Wheatens defeated

Junior Showmanship
Catherine Pikul handling Aran Nobody Does It Better owned by Catherine Pikul and Shari Boyd

Obedience Dog of the Year Award
Ch Heirloom's Back on Track, CDX owned by Ann Skogerboe, Patrice Chevalier & Robert Bergman; Average Score = 194.4

Versatility Dog Excellent Award:
Ch Acacia's Some Like It Hot CDX RE OA OAJ OAP OJP owned by Betsy Geertson/Willie Rueda
Versatility Dog Award:
Ch Cuilinn License To Kill CD owned by Holly Million and JaNell Verebelyi
Ch Erinlo Playing With Fire TD owned by Cindy Jansen/Dennis & Cindy Shea
Ch Geragold Maximum Joy NA NAJ owned by Gerard Thompson/Neil O'Sullivan/Ron Bedford
Ch Greentree Darcove Fairy Tale CD RN owned by Doris Petracco/Beverly & Kevin McDonald/Dot Schider
Ch Haldane Running Wild NA NAJ owned by Mila Mathews/Tim Smith
Ch Heirloom T&T's Tige In A Shoe CD NA OAJ owned by Patrice Chevalier/Robert Bergman/Jacquelin Tucker/Arnold Tesnow
Ch Kaler Drivin Me Bugs CD RN owned by Sharon Masica & Karen Mueller
Kaler Getcha Some CD RN NA NAJ owned by Karen Mueller/Debra Harrington
Kian O'Braemara RN TD NA NAP owned by Marsha Moore
Orion Trebol Hot Off The Press RAE TD NA NAJ NAP owned by Betsy Geertson and Willie Rueda
Piper's Irish Jig CD RN AX MXJ owned by Alison Bradley

Register of Merit (ROM) (Sires with at least 15 champion get and dams with at least 8 champion get)
Ch Ellora Bastion ROM (Dog) owned by Neil O'Sullivan & Gerard Thompson

There was no qualifying winner for the Gleanngay Holliday (“Doc”) Award.
There were no qualifying winners for the Harry Blair Memorial Award.

NEW OPEN REGISTRY MEMBERS
November 1, 2009

The Open Registry is a joint project of SCWTCA-sponsored research at NC State University, University of PA and the University of Guelph (Canada). Its purpose is to publish information on confirmed cases of genetic diseases in Wheatens and to maintain health and genetic records for SCWTCA-sponsored research. Dr. Meryl Littman at Penn maintains the Registry at the request of SCWTCA.

Members of the Open Registry agree to forward pedigrees and medical data for all Soft Coated Wheaten Terries they own, have owned or bred who may be affected with Protein-losing Enteropathy/Nephropathy, Addison's Disease, Renal Dysplasia or Irritable Bowel Disease to the SCWT Open Registry, c/o Dr. Littman. For membership form, visit SCWTCA web site at http://www.scwtca.org/documents/health/or_membershipform_20080309.pdf. For a complete list of Open Registry members, email kccarlson@comcast.net.

Carolyn Anderson
Susan Banovic
Gail M. Johnston
Lana & Wolfram Menser
Debra & Douglas Pereira
James Peterson & Judy Pidcock
Donald & Virginia Reeves
Catherine Wesley
Six Wheatens and their owners took the CGC Test at the SCWTCA specialty on Saturday, October 3 after Obedience and Rally. We opted to go outside and actually start before Rally was completed since the weather was nice. I’m happy to say that all the participants passed the CGC test. There were two board members and a variety of agility, obedience and rally enthusiasts on hand as well.

Since I first gave the Canine Good Citizen test at the SCWTCA specialty weekend in 2004, the quality of the CGC test performances has continued to improve. We Wheaten owners have come to realize that our dogs are capable of more than looking drop dead gorgeous! They also can be trained to be good citizens as well as agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, canine freestyle, flyball and therapy dogs. (I’m sure there’s more!)

Thanks to all participants and helpers including Biscuit the “greeter dog.” Please join us next year for the Canine Good Citizen test. You have a year to train!
SCWTCNC Wheaten Picnic  
by Pat Mullin

On the last Sunday in September the Northern California Wheaten Club held its annual Wheaten Picnic. Once again, Mike Weiss and Brian Ness hosted this event on the grounds of their beautiful Sonoma property - Vintage Kennel Dog Resort and Spa. This event is always popular with the club members and our extended Wheaten families. those who have puppies from our club's breeders, perhaps have rescued a Wheaten, own or would like to own a Wheaten. This year, 55 people and 23 Wheatens attended the event. Chef Mike expertly manned the BBQ, serving burgers and hot dogs of all flavors. The potluck of salads, side dishes and desserts was a wonderful accompaniment. It was a perfect day for a picnic and wine tasting. Our Wheatens dined on frosty paws with a prize for the fastest consumption...as if they needed one. The Wheaten costume contest was another opportunity for the dogs to shine. Other games and contests ensued but most attendees, dog and human, took refuge under the shade of the trees to escape one of the hottest days of summer. A few of the children ventured out to the barn with Brian to collect eggs and meet Wink, the donkey, and Sahara, the camel. Visiting with old friends and new, watching our wonderful Wheatens enjoy life in the dappled shade of Vintage's trees and the California sun...what more could we want of a Sunday afternoon. Thanks to Brian and Mike for all their work and for providing the perfect venue. Thanks go, as well, to the members of the SCWTCNC board who helped make this event so special.

SCWTCSC Wheaten Fun Day  
by Beverly Streicher and Jill Steging

On October 11th the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California celebrated its 15th Annual Fun Day. Each year the club uses their "Fun Day" to reach out to Wheaten family pet owners, and pay special tribute to our rescue Wheaten families. Fun Day activities included games played with our Wheatens with lots of prizes given for such as biggest nose, longest tail, shortest tail, youngest, oldest, that sort of thing...our two parades...the Halloween costume parade and the parade of rescue Wheatens were highlights of the day. A Wheaten afghan was donated and raffled. Our rally, agility and obedience experts presented a wonderful demonstration on beginning and advanced levels of expertise which proved to be quite interesting to everyone. Fall family portraits, teeth cleaning and a delicious barbeque lunch concluded the festivities of the day. The weather was perfect, and brought out approximately 30 families, 40 Wheatens, along with our club members. Everyone attending our "Fun Day" was then invited to attend the club's monthly meeting held directly after lunch.
While economic woes and high gas prices seemed to be the topic of the year, they couldn't quell the excitement at this year's Wheaten Round Up. Dog fanciers from Texas, Virginia and Missouri joined Coloradoans to celebrate our dogs. Forty individuals joined us for the specialty luncheon with raffle and silent auction to honor the day's winners in the ring. Sweepstakes judge Charlene Dwyer chose puppy dog, Lismore The World As I See it, bred by Meg Ryan and Molly O'Connell and owned by Meg Ryan, as her Best In Sweepstakes winner. Best of Opposite was Whindancer Six Degrees at Roimh bred by Art Miller and Susan Ratliff and owned by Sharon and Lynn Olney, Holly Million, Tim Smith and Susan Ratliff. Judge Robert E. Hutton chose Elena Landa's Ch. Doubloon's Ultimate Player as his Best of Breed winner. Best of Opposite went to Ch. Katdancer EZ to Look At, bred and owned by Lee Martin. No photo was taken of BOS. In the classes, Elena continued her winning ways with Doubloon's Salt of the Earth (Mort) who garnered Winners Dog and Best of Winners while Winners Bitch went to Lismore The World According to Me, bred and owned by Meg Ryan and Molly O'Connell. While the Greater Denver Specialty has been held in August for over 25 years, it maybe moving to another weekend. Keep an eye open for updates and plan to join us!
STELLA'S SWEET SIXTEEN

Ch Lissadell Cajun Star, born October 5, 1993

Stella officially turned 16 years old on October 5th. She woke to birthday cards and birthday greetings from Wheaten friends far and wide.

It was chilly the night before her birthday, so I placed a lightweight blanket over Stella in her crate. When I checked her in the morning, there was a round burgundy bump in the crate, no head or tail, just a round bump. After patting around the bump, I found the head and nose, peeking out in the back of the crate. I felt bad rousting her out of her warm den on her birthday morning... how rude! It reminded me that it's time for sweaters on the old dogs again.

Stella and I enjoyed a nice walk on her birthday. We have downsized our walks again; they're our immediate block only. She's now mostly deaf. Clapping hands to get her attention no longer works, other than as a visual. Her eyesight is fading too. She became jumpy this summer in the sunshine on our walks when I would move and create a shadow... the difference made her jump. I learned to minimize creating shadows by walking in front, behind or on the other side of her. At home, since she no longer really hears us, I try not to startle her by touching her from behind. I try to move in front of her, so she sees me, and then touch her. If I do have to touch her "unannounced," I make firm contact and hold it. She will startle slightly and then realize it's Mom. She started more easily during the transition to mostly deaf and being touched, but has adjusted and very quickly realizes the "unannounced" touch is okay, as long as the touch is firm and held.

Stella's a wonder to me. She has a typical US pedigree and has had allergies most of her life. She was on a heavy dose of antibiotics when age 3, after which she would develop a UTI after each season, requiring more antibiotics. After a second breeding did not take and after more rounds of antibiotics, we decided to spay her. Despite allergies and being on antibiotics much of her younger life, she was extremely healthy. She seldom needed a chiropractic adjustment until well into her senior years when she developed spondylosis. The vet would give her a quick check when Stella accompanied Kieffer for his adjustments, but Stella's back was fine. Her only surgeries were for two wart-like cysts on an eyelid and the tumor on her spleen at 13. She is a hardy, robust little dog who has kept her mental faculties well into antiquity. She does "zone out" more these days...it's well deserved.

Stella taught me to not micro-manage. She was determined to do things her way. She was GOING TO chase the neighbor cat up the street given the slightest opportunity, there was no question.

Kiefer would stop at the border of yard to sidewalk, his boundary. Stella would give a look over her shoulder with that glint in her eye and there was no question that she felt no boundaries and off she shot; she was always so happy with herself afterwards. Nothing like a chase well performed! She also ruled the house with an iron paw - all intruders had to be personally instructed by Stella in the rules of her house! She used to torment Ken Gengler's first Wheaten, Killian, and he tried so hard to be invisible. Even Ken's big boy Tiarnan, almost twice Stella's size, learned who ran our house...it wasn't us; it was Stella! The best management methodology for Stella was to tuck her under one arm and hold her – she taught me the value of portable Wheatens. She was 32 lbs at her middle age, little roll of fat at the tail, heaviest. Today she is 22 lbs.

Stella was reserved with her kissing. We were graced if Stella gave up a kiss. These days, I pick her up often to help her outside or back on the deck and she acknowledges with a kiss. She gave me a Birthday Kiss the morning of her birthday as I carried her outside, having forced her from her cozy den from under her warm blanket. I couldn't ask for a more dear gift.

Stella celebrated her 16th birthday with a liver dinner. Liver is her favorite meal/treat/flavoring/topping/scent. It is the one thing that has kept her eating when few things tempt her. I don't cook it; I stop at a local restaurant on my way home from work and pick up "Stella's Liver Dinner", including mashed potatoes, gravy and carrots. The order is placed in her name.

Stella is not the oldest living Wheaten on record, she's not the oldest living Wheaten Caroline Goldberg has produced, nor is she the oldest living Wheaten at this time. She is one of many seniors and geriatrics we get to acknowledge, celebrate and honor for all they stand for in the breed. Happy Birthday to them all.
Proudly present
Ch Stratford Top Brass – “Ike”

Ch Stratford The World Revolves Around Me – “Dagny”

Lismore The Best of Both Worlds
“Judge”
Best in Sweeps, SCWICA

Lismore The World As I See It
“Einstein”
Best in Sweeps, GDSCWIC
Lismore The World According to Me
“Portia”
Winners Bitch, GDSCWTC

Lismore I’m Going to Disney World
“Belle”
Puppy Terrier Group winner

Bred by Meg Ryan and Molly O’Connell
Meet The Breeds
Pam Tinnelly

The AKC held its first stand-alone Meet the Breeds at the Javits Center in New York City on October 17-18. It was by all accounts a resounding success. Almost 40,000 people attended the two-day event. Most attendees were families considering what breed of dog would make a good family pet for them. We fielded many questions about the characteristics of our breed, the health issues, and advice for families that were experiencing some behavior issues with their Wheaten. People were amazed that “show dogs” can also make good family pets. We emphasized the versatility of our breed including conformation, obedience, rally, agility, and herding. We had puppies and adults to show and tell about. People were able to see and feel the Irish coated Wheaten vs. the full coated Wheaten. Our obedience dog impressed many by showing that Wheatens can be trained to obey! We thank our Wheaten ambassadors Duffy, Rudi, Satchel, Perri, Priscella, Tanner, and Dazzle. They provided the typical Wheaten Greetin’ and enthusiastically gave plenty of Wheaten kisses to the delight of both the young and old. They made us proud! Thanks to all who contributed to this event.
THE OPEN REGISTRY AND DNA BANK FOR THE SCWT

AT UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Meryl P. Littman, VMD, DACVIM and Amy J. Smagala, MLAS

Introduction:

Since 1983 a number of familial diseases in the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier breed have been recognized that may be described under the umbrella of hypersensitivity, immune-mediated, or inflammatory diseases. These include food allergies, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), protein-losing enteropathy (PLE), protein-losing nephropathy (PLN), and Addison's disease (AD). The breed is also predisposed to renal dysplasia (juvenile renal disease, RD).

We first described 33 SCWT dogs with PLE and/or PLN in 1990. The dogs were related to a common male ancestor that died with evidence of a saddle thrombus, a thromboembolic event which suggests the dog may have been affected with PLE and/or PLN which can cause hypercoagulopathy. By 2000, the number of SCWT dogs described with the syndrome PLE and/or PLN reached 222 dogs. By August 2009, consultations for diagnosis and management of sick Wheatens (requested by FAX, email/mail, phone, or visit at Penn) documented more than 1000 Wheatens to be affected with PLN (460 dogs), IBD or PLE (249 dogs), sequential or combined PLE/PLN (226 dogs), Addison's disease (80 dogs), renal dysplasia (51 dogs), or incompletely characterized renal failure (RF) before 8 years of age (41 dogs). Veterinarians need to be aware of the genetic predispositions in the breed, especially the immunodysregulation disorders which comprised more than 90% of the requested consultations. Currently there are no genetic markers or predictive tests so annual screening tests are recommended to find early warning signs before dogs become ill, so that interventions can be started (diet and medication). Since the clinical signs of these diseases may mimic one another at presentation of a sick dog, characterization of the specific diagnosis by further testing is important.

Methods:

The clinical diagnosis for IBD/PLE, PLN, RD, Addison's disease and/or incompletely diagnosed renal failure (RF) at a relatively young age (8 yrs or less) was based on the clinical findings including history, physical examination, and diagnostic tests, e.g., clinical pathology, adrenal function tests, histopathology, ± serology/imaging/etc., as necessary. Criteria for inclusion of an affected dog on the Open Registry required permission from the owner(s) and documentation by blood (Bl), urine (U), and/or histopathology (Bx) of abnormalities as follows:

PLE: Protein-losing enteropathy
   Bl: panhypoproteinemia without evidence of hemorrhage or other causes.
   U: absence of proteinuria.
   Bx: intestinal lesions characteristic of PLE (e.g., inflammatory bowel disease, lymphangitis, lymphangiectasia).

IBD: Inflammatory bowel disease
   Bx: changes as for PLE but without panhypoproteinemia (if bloodwork available).

PLN: Protein-losing nephropathy
   Bl: hypoalbuminemia without hypoglobulinemia, ± azotemia.
   U: proteinuria (by urinalysis, SSA, microalbuminuria, or urine protein/creatinine ratio). inactive sediment, and no other cause for proteinuria other than glomerular leakage.
   Bx: renal lesions characteristic of PLN (e.g., glomerulonephritis, glomerulosclerosis).

PLE/PLN: including criteria of both PLE and PLN, i.e., panhypoproteinemia, proteinuria, and/or characteristic intestinal and renal histopathologic lesions.

RD: Renal dysplasia or juvenile renal disease
   Bl: changes of renal failure without hypoalbuminemia.
   U: decreased urine specific gravity.
   Bx: renal lesions associated with RD (fetal glomeruli, fetal mesenchyme).
   R: (Radiograph or ultrasound): small kidneys at a very young age.

RF: Renal failure, incompletely diagnosed, aged 8 years or less
   Bl: changes of renal failure without hypoalbuminemia.
   U: decreased urine specific gravity.
   Bx: abnormal but not classic for PLN or RD (possibly end-stage kidneys).

continued on page 28
Addison's disease:

Bl: low Na/K ratio (typical), flat/low ACTH stimulation test results.

Clinical features of the most common of these diseases are compared in Table 1.

Open Registry:

At the request of the SCWT Club of America and SCWT Association of Canada, an Open Registry (OR) was started in 1997. Normalcy cannot be predicted (there is no age limit), so the OR only lists affected dogs. Owners of affected dogs having confidential consultations at Penn were asked to give permission to have their dogs listed. By August 2009, the OR listed 856 affected dogs (see Table 2). The SCWT Open Registry lists dogs affected with IBD, PLE, PLN, PLE/PLN, Addison's disease, renal dysplasia, or uncharacterized renal failure at a relatively young age (8 yrs or less), based on documentation from blood (Bl), urine (U), and/or histopathology (Bx) results. Listed are the dog's registration name/number, call name, sire/dam, dates of birth/death, age of onset, sex, diagnosis, and methods of documentation. Comments note if a littermate, sire, dam, or offspring is also listed. The OR was started in an effort to share health information among breeders, to stop rumors about which dog had what disease, to have standardization of criteria for diagnosis, to educate breeders/owners/veterinarians about these diseases and their prevalence in the breed, to study patterns of inheritance, and to find informative families for study. The mode of inheritance of PLE/PLN appears complicated. Multiple genes, variable expression, and possibly environmental triggers are suspected. The increased risk for female Wheatens for PLE, PLN, PLE/PLN and Addison's disease agrees with the finding of higher female risk in other species for immune-mediated diseases.

DNA Bank:

Penn's SCWT DNA bank was begun in 2000 and now has more than 500 samples. Included are frozen whole blood or tissue samples from affected dogs, members of several informative families including Dr. Shelly Vaden's Wheagle colony at NCSU, frozen puppy tails/declaws saved by conscientious breeders, and geriatric non-affected Wheatens. Samples sent in from puppies or normal dogs less than 14 yrs of age will not be used for study until their phenotype is known. Such dogs need to be followed carefully throughout their lives, with proper documentation of diagnosis, so that the correct phenotypic characterization can be eventually associated with each dog's DNA sample. Geriatric dogs are considered phenotypically normal for the diseases of interest based on blood, urine, and/or biopsy, and having reached their 14th year of life. Ongoing studies of the genetic areas of interest include especially the immunity-related genes (MHC, DLA, DQA), SNP chip analysis, and karyotype of affected vs. geriatrics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RD</th>
<th>ADDISON'S</th>
<th>PLE</th>
<th>PLE/PLN</th>
<th>PLN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of Onset (mean, in years)</td>
<td>1.3 yrs</td>
<td>4.0 yrs</td>
<td>5.7 yrs</td>
<td>6.1 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Predilection (Female:Male)</td>
<td>F:M = 0.8</td>
<td>F:M = 4.0</td>
<td>F:M = 1.4</td>
<td>F:M = 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PU/PD</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>± (medullary washout)</td>
<td>No, unless on steroids</td>
<td>As PLE and PLN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascites/Edema</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azotemia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>± (pre-renat)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>±</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney Size</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Often normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum Albumin</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>± Low (GI ulceration)</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum Globulin</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>± Low (GI ulceration)</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum Cholesterol</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>± Low</td>
<td>Often Low</td>
<td>Anywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na/K ratio</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Low (typically)</td>
<td>± Low in 10%</td>
<td>As PLE and PLN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urine Specific Gravity</td>
<td>Low, ± Low or inappropriate</td>
<td>Normal Mean 1.033</td>
<td>As PLN</td>
<td>Mean 1.023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proteinuria</td>
<td>± Mild</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histopathology (K = kidney)</td>
<td>(K) = Fetal glomeruli, fetal mesenchyme</td>
<td>Small adrenal glands</td>
<td>(I) = IBD, lymphangiectasia, lymphangitis</td>
<td>As for PLE and PLN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histopathology (I = intestine)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Table 1: Comparisons of Clinical Features of Genetic Diseases in SCWT Dogs
Table 2: SCWT Open Registry Statistics (as of August 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLN Only</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLN/Addison's</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLN/RF</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>242</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>372</td>
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PLN average age onset = 7.1 years, Ratio F:M = 1.9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLE Only</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD Only</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLE/Addison's</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBD/RD</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLE/RD</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>114</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLE average age onset = 5.7 years, Ratio F:M = 1.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLE/PLN Only</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLE/PLN/Addison's</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLE/PLN/RF</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>109</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLE/PLN average age onset = 6.1 yrs, Ratio F:M = 1.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addison's Only</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addison's/PLE</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
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Addison's average age onset = 4.0 yrs, Ratio F:M = 4.0

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RD average age onset = 1.3 yrs, Ratio F:M = 0.8

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RF average age onset = 4.2 yrs, Ratio F:M = 1.1

References:


5. Annual screening tests recommended for all Wheatens – See web site http://www.scwtca.org/health/protocol-vet.htm

6. Request for DNA and histopathology samples from normal geriatric Wheatens – See web site http://www.scwtca.org/health/geriatric.htm


'Tis the Season
To Be Giving...
With Much More,
You'll Be Receiving!

When you give $100 to support the SCWTCA Endowment, Inc., you get much more than a 2009 tax deduction and this beautiful "limited edition" unique Wheaten trivet - our gift of appreciation to you.

You get to invest in the future of your Wheaten's health. There is no better gift to give or receive!

Only 30 Left!

You can donate via Paypal on the Endowment's "Make A Gift Now" webpage at wheatenhealthendowment.org/endowmentform.html.

Thank you for supporting Wheaten health. For more info about the SCWTCA Endowment, Inc., please visit our website at wheatenhealthendowment.org.
2010 Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

The BEST gift you can give for the holidays is a smile that will last all year!

Read the rave reviews:

“I just got the calendar last night and wanted to let you know that I love it. My favorites are the pictures of the dogs in action (playing in the snow, playing at the beach, etc.). It shows the true Wheaten personality. Thanks so much!” Amy, Ventura, CA

“I really like the calendar! The photos are awesome and the sayings add a sparkle.” Janny, Piedmont, CA

“We have a Wheaten Terrier...the greatest dog ever!! The pictures in the calendar made me laugh out loud. Just like our Murphy!!” Barbara, Laguna Woods, CA

“I received my calendar and it is fabulous. It makes me smile every time I look at it.” Julie, Yardley, PA

“Got the calendar and it looks terrific! We have ordered (and bought at calendar stores) and both my wife and I agree, this is the best one we have seen.” Loren, Bellevue, WA

“I got my calendars and they are wonderful!” Penny, British Columbia.

“Thank you so much for the prompt delivery of the Calendars. They are wonderful!” Christine, Calgary.

“I love my calendar! You can just see all the dogs' personalities shining through every picture. Laurie, Webster Groves, MO

“The calendar is absolutely wonderful. From the photographs, to the quotes and the calendar notes. Well done.” Linda, Princeton, NJ

“Very nice calendar. My daughter will be especially happy when she gets it in her stocking for Christmas. Thanks again.” Kathi, South Park, PA

To view the calendar slide show and order a calendar please visit: http://www.scwtea.org/shop/index.htm#calendar
It is hard to believe that Montgomery 2009 has come and gone. What a memorable feast it turned out to be! Making new friends and catching up with old ones provided much needed food for the soul. The grooming workshop and ask-the-breeder symposium provided food for the mind. A beautiful lineup of dogs provided food for the eyes.

One of the goals that we set when we started planning Montgomery so many months ago was to get as many members as possible involved in working on the events of the weekend. We wanted to truly give everyone ownership of their National Specialty. The responses to our requests for help were very enthusiastic and the plan worked like a charm! Close to 50 members volunteered to join the 2009 MCKC team. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of you. Your combined efforts resulted in a year to remember.

There were a number of highlights and innovations that made this year’s national specialty unique. The consolidated order form and "one check" payment simplified life for everyone. Bob Tinnelly "Bob the Banker" worked behind the scenes collecting money and creating and distributing spreadsheets to each of the event chairs to keep them apprised of the order status. Roxanna and Leo Springer created the eMailer and worked through lots of unforeseen hiccups in converting the hard copy mailer to an electronic format. Jody Sylvester created our beautiful theme artwork and designed the user-friendly postcard mailer. Betsy Geertson, assisted by a cadre of volunteers, chaired three fabulous days of agility at Kimberton. Jan Van Ness boxed up the contents of her kitchen and hauled it to the Park Ridge to create those wonderfully fun and innovative table decorations for the banquet. Genie Kline, Christine Thorpe and Nancy Butler treated us all to warm hospitality at the "Scruffy Dog Pub" on Sunday evening. And who can forget about all those amazing photos collected by Bonnie Wirth for "Guess the Breeder" – was that really you, Gary? Speaking of Gary, the grooming workshop was fabulous. Gary Vlachos, assisted by Willie Rueda, shared grooming tips that will be put to good use by many of us. This year’s fundraiser, the keepsake cookbook, became a labor of love (most of the time) for Christy Weagant. The cookbook is a beautiful and fitting reminder of Montgomery 2009.

We were thrilled when Jody Sylvester agreed to create the “Now We’re Cookin’!” artwork. The three of us spent several weeks discussing the artwork and the form it should take. In January we received an email from Jody. She told us that she had started blocking out a design for the art and had used her beloved Hamish (Ch Gleanngay Rebel Rouser) as the model for the chef. She went on to explain that on that day she had lost Hamish to a brain tumor. The sum paid to Jody for her artwork was donated by Jody in Hamish’s name to the SCWTCA Endowment fund.

Montgomery brings us together each year to share in a celebration of a wonderful breed that is so much a part of each of our lives. The following words received from Jody are a fitting reminder of why we breed and how the dogs we breed touch the lives of those to whom they are entrusted:

"We need to think about this breed we love so much, every chance we get. All the vet techs and the vet kissed Hamish goodbye, one by one, and cried with me today. He was everything we ever want in a Wheaten. A great and lovely show dog with a totally loving and playful personality. Game, active to the very end, uncomplaining, happy and really funny, ever ready to defend his family. And the best thing...he loved me with no reservations. None at all. That’s the way I’ll always love him."

Hamish...thank you for doing us the honor of so gracefully and elegantly capturing the essence of the Wheaten Terrier and the spirit of MCKC 2009.

The cooks have left the building.

Kayce Healy and Kathy Drobnak

MCKC 2009 Co-chairs

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I'd like to begin by saying what an honor it was to judge the National Specialty Sweepstakes. I was thrilled with the entry numbers, as I know it is always difficult to choose between Devon and Sweepstakes. My heartfelt thanks to the exhibitors for bringing their dogs to me...I loved every minute of it!

The day began with a threatening sky and the occasional “downpour!” While we debated on moving the ring under the tent, Rosie looked to the heavens during one of these “downpours” and gave a quick request to her son to, and I quote, “Knock it off!” Now wouldn't you know it...he must have put in a good word for us because exactly at show time...the rain stopped!!! The cloudy, cool day turned out to provide perfect weather for the puppies.

I was very pleased with the depth of quality in the entry and with the happy, “tails up” attitude exhibited by the puppies. The majority of the coats were in good condition and of a nice texture although several were overly trimmed which did not allow for proper flow. There were very few of the heavier coats, which I was happy to see. Pigment was good as was eye color on most of the dogs. It was wonderful to see a lot more dogs that were “up on leg” and still the correct size. Heads have improved and many of the entries had lovely length of head as well as clean, smooth planes with good fill. One area that I was disappointed in was mouths. There were too many entries with teeth that just weren't pretty...something I hope we can work on. There were scurried teeth; open bites and more level bites than I would like to see as I worry those bites will “go off” down the road.

Weight and conditioning on all exhibits was excellent with most having lovely, solid toplines and nice tail sets. Although I thought side gait in general was nice, there were only a handful that I would consider to be outstanding movers. Front movement was pretty good but rear movement overall, needs improving.

While there are a couple of areas that I feel we could improve on, I was delighted to see so many entries with wonderful breed type and I truly loved my final line-up for Best in Sweeps. I would have been happy to take any of those dogs or bitches home with me. And now, the critique:

**SCWTCA MONTGOMERY SWEEPSTAKES CRITIQUE**

**JUDGE - CECILY SKINNER**

**6-9 Puppy Dogs (Entry of 9 w/2 Absent)**

6-9 Puppy Dogs (Entry of 9 w/2 Absent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Entrant Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lismore the Best of Both Worlds</td>
<td>1st – Lismore the Best of Both Worlds – Excellent breed type, beautiful coat, lovely head, good eye color and wonderful bite. Great to go over...nice amount of bone, solid topline, smooth neck transition. A lovely mover who held his outline on the go around.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinehomes Trade Secret</td>
<td>2nd – Pinehomes Trade Secret – Lovely coat, good eye color, nice expression. Pretty outline, used himself well. Beautifully presented. He pressed my number one dog hard for the class win.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coventry's Fence Buster</td>
<td>3rd – Coventry's Fence Buster – Lovely coat, nice size with good substance. Used his ears well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paisley Jumping Jack Flash</td>
<td>4th – Paisley Jumping Jack Flash – Lovely expression, good eye color, great attitude. Held a beautiful outline on the go around.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**9-12 Puppy Dogs (Entry of 7 w/1 Absent)**

9-12 Puppy Dogs (Entry of 7 w/1 Absent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Entrant Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eringlo Choc' Late Chip Crunch</td>
<td>1st – Eringlo Choc' Late Chip Crunch – Outstanding side gait and held his outline on the move. Lovely length of neck, nice amount of leg and a short back. Beautiful coat. Good attitude and used himself well. Would like better ears but only a “detail” in an otherwise very sound package!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anamcara’s Ivan Vasilevich</td>
<td>2nd – Anamcara's Ivan Vasilevich – Pretty coat, nice outline. Lovely head. Pushed hard for Number One but not as good a mover as my first place dog.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man</td>
<td>3rd– Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man - Lovely dog with a pretty coat. Nice on the go around. Would like a better bite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Tree Sheelin Rocket Man</td>
<td>2nd – Green Tree Sheelin Rocket Man – Lovely size, nice coat, would like a better tail set.</td>
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**12-15 Dogs (Entry of 4 w/2 Absent)**

12-15 Dogs (Entry of 4 w/2 Absent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jendu Outlaw</td>
<td>1st – Jendu Outlaw – Very nice on the go around, good bite, clean shoulders, pretty coat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greentree Point Given</td>
<td>2nd – Greentree Point Given – Beautiful coat, nice outline, good attitude. Will benefit from a little more time in the ring.</td>
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**15-18 Dogs (Entry of 2)**

15-18 Dogs (Entry of 2)

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Cove Tequila Sunrise</td>
<td>2nd – Sandy Cove Tequila Sunrise - Nice dog. Would like a darker eye. Did not carry his tail on the move. Will benefit from more ring experience.</td>
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**6-9 Puppy Bitches (Entry of 17 w/6 Absent)**

6-9 Puppy Bitches (Entry of 17 w/6 Absent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whindancer's Hey There Delilah</td>
<td>1st – Whindancer's Hey There Delilah – Gorgeous head and ears, good bite, lovely size, beautiful coat and a &quot;look at me&quot; attitude. Loved her expression and breed type.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

continued on page 34
2nd – Lismore I’m Going to Disney World – Beautiful coat, wonderful side gait and held her pretty outline on the move. A feminine girl but with a nice amount of substance and a solid topline. Would like to have a bit more length of head.


4th – Star Shadowlands of Aslan – Another lovely girl but a bit over trimmed for me. Beautiful outline with a good amount of butt behind the tail, nice neck and coat. Presented beautifully.

9-12 Puppy Bitches (Entry of 13)

1st – Jendu Forever Free – A very “eye catching” girl with wonderful breed type. Very balanced with a nice amount of leg. Pretty coat, good mover in all directions and really used herself well. A sound girl beautifully presented and in excellent condition.

2nd – Keepsake Timtara Spicy Secret – Beautiful coat, lovely mover with a nice, clean head and pretty expression. Would like a better bite and a bit more leg.

3rd – Greentree Trinity Par Ti Favor – Very nice mover, pretty coat and outline.

4th – Greentree Sunday Silence – Beautiful coat, nice outline, would like a darker eye.

12-15 Bitches (Entry of 4 w/1 Absent)


2nd – Wheatnbrook’s Erinisle’s Jewel – A nice bitch that used herself well. Carrying some gray in the coat.

3rd – Bonney Sorceress Apprentice at Tarlu – Pretty coat and head. She was not settled on the day and will benefit from more ring experience.

15-18 Bitches (Entry of 10 w/1 Absent)

1st – Marquee’s Tax Exchange – Lovely, moderate bitch with great breed type. Short backed with nice balance, good amount of neck and nice tail set. Really used herself well with great terrier attitude.


4th – Canopy Road’s A Star is Bjorn – A very feminine girl with a lovely coat, nice outline, moved well.

My Best in Sweepstakes choice was Lismore The Best of Both Worlds from the 6-9 Puppy Dog class. This handsome, stylish dog exuded breed type. Lovely coat, head, bite, attitude and movement. He was the total “package” and never put a foot down wrong.

My Best of Opposite Sex was Whindancer’s Hey There Delilah from the 6-9 Puppy Bitch class. A beautiful, feminine girl with exquisite expression and a ring presence not often seen in a young puppy. She caught my eye as she stepped into the ring and never disappointed. Perfectly presented, she was a joy to watch!

Thank you again for the privilege of judging Sweepstakes. . . I’ll treasure the memories! 😊

Reflection – Hatboro 2009

Judge Christine Erickson

I want to start by saying it has been many a year since I saw such strong dog classes. I knew as soon as I saw my 6-9 puppies’ walk in I could have taken any of them home so I had my work cut out for me. Puppies had wonderful heads, toplines, eye color, and small EARS. My bitch classes were not the quality of the dog classes this year.

Most had lovely coats; however, there were more then a few that carried too much gray.

The issue over the past several years and still my major concern is that Wheatens are too long. This is a square breed; if you need to be reminded what square is please look at other terrier breeds: Wires, Airedales, Welsh and think about that when you are selecting dogs for your breeding program. Now for heads…most were quite nice but I still saw too many with square or blocky heads, not the rectangular (brick shape) with nice fill under the eyes and accompanying full muzzle. There were also too many big hound ears. Breeders need to be cognizant of round eyes (incorrect!) and must not be showing or breeding undershot bites, a few of which I had in my ring.

Specials class…what a thrill to see that many quality Wheatens. I was sorry to make cuts because so many good dogs were in the ring. The majority of specials carried great coats and nice toplines on the go around. Shoulders are still a major problem, most very upright and if we can improve on shoulders our front movement will improve. I did see improvement in rear movement and drive in my specials and most were in good muscle tone. Overall there is work to be done but I was thrilled at the opportunity to go over so many wonderful Wheatens. 😊

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Congratulations to the Soft Coated Wheaten Club of America for the hard work that makes for a great National weekend. The “Now You’re Cookin’ theme at Montgomery County was truly on target and reflected the distance the breed has come since I judged the specialty at Bucks County in May 2005.

At that time I wondered where your breed would go with the need to use the Irish dogs to improve the health of the gene pool. Because these dogs were so very different from the Soft Coated developed by American breeders in the four decades since AKC breed recognition, there were many questions that went through my mind at the time. Would off-square longer dogs with a differing body configuration and compromised croups and tail sets become the order of the day? Would the merger of these differing gene pools result in the worst of both? Or would it end up producing a better product?

You answered those questions at Montgomery this year with second and third generation animals from the Irish-American cross that preserved some of the best elements of both the Irish and the American gene pools. If my memory serves me correctly, the WD and another specials dog that made the final cuts were both representative of this combined effort. Sincere congratulations to those guardians of the breed who have combined efforts in the on-going protection of both the purity of the breed and its preservation.

The BOB class was absolutely glorious. Dog after dog displayed the square profile so typical of the breed and used their legs well. Each cut sadly required me to let dogs go that I would be thrilled to have at most shows. Indeed, the final decision was agonizing. After several cuts I selected a dog and bitch of outstanding make and shape with superb type for final consideration. Both were very well constructed under the coat with correct front assemblies, well-sprung rib cages and short strong loins contributing to a compact package. What a breathtaking pair! Careful consideration and evaluation resulted in re-gaiting them again. Both were moving machines.

The BOB bitch was truly on and in synch with her flowing coat and gait and simply would not be denied. The BOS dog is a beautiful stallion of a dog that didn't give an inch. For the spectator, the excitement of seeing two such great specimens competing is exhilarating. For the judge it is an excruciating decision. For all it is a memorable experience that defines that moment when everything comes together: the excellence of the dogs; the conditioning and work of their people to prepare them for this great event; the appreciation of the ringside; the pride of the breeders and the admiration of the awed judge.

The 9-12 Puppy Bitch Class was the next strongest class to the marvelous Best of Breed class, and both the WB and RWB came from this lovely assortment of young bitches. The winner is a very square typey bitch with lovely side gait and profile, and she was also BOW. Her strong sense of self for one so young and of such excellent quality could prove a special in the making. A case could be made for the second place winner in this class too, as she also prevailed for RWB over two other truly nice bitches - the BBE
The overall entry presented the picture of a breed in good hands. None of the dogs were obvious pets that were out of place: they all looked as though they belonged. The "general appearance" of the exhibits definitely represented the breed. The merging of the Irish and American lines seems to be moving on from its infancy.

Running gear for the most part is quite acceptable, but there is always room for improvement in an entry of this size. The well-sloped correct shoulder with good return of upper arm is so easy to lose from the gene pool, thus breeders must always be vigilant. Strong rears providing the power to drive the dog are also absolutely necessary. When it all comes together in the dog that keeps the square profile in motion as it covers ground freely, it is truly poetry in motion.

Of course this square profile is the result of a strong rib cage that feeds into a short, strong loin. Dogs that achieve the look of squaredness because of a short rib cage and long loin are fooler dogs, dangerous to the breed, so beware of them. Such dogs can give one a false sense of correctness from ringside until one conducts the hands-on examination. Although the animal appears square, the breeder is nonetheless faced with correcting two serious anatomical faults—incorrect ribbing and a long loin. In my own square breed (the Norwegian Elkhound) I constantly struggle to get the correct angles that allow for proper reach and drive while still maintaining the short-coupling (loin) that brings the front and rear together as the working partners of locomotion.

Breeders must avoid being seduced into accepting ground-covering gait on long dogs, for although extra length allows dogs with compromised anatomy to cover ground, it adds to a breakdown of endurance, creates soft toplines and handicaps lateral movement. In his original job description as hunter, livestock assistant and general helpmate to farmers, the Wheaten's square conformation made him adept at dodging, turning and performing a variety of athletic moves.

While visiting in Ireland in 1999, it was my pleasure to observe Wheatens working sheep on open (unfenced) lands in the countryside. Although their grooming left much to be desired, their athleticism was impressive.

It takes a near-perfect combination of front and rear assembly that works in synch to retain this historical talent. Keep in mind that running around a show ring is no test for a working animal!

Bites were overall correct and heads, for the most part, pleasing. Most exhibits had good strong muzzles but some had back skulls that were too cheeky. A few eyes were too light and some too round. Some of my winners could have used better ears but had good skull shape.

And of course the coats are typically Irish, typically American or a combination of both. Some coats were a little off in that they were not as soft and silky as perfection would require. The coats still seem to be a work in progress as breeders strive to improve.
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Nonetheless, most coats are close to satisfying the basic requirement on color and texture.

Size seems to be one area that is difficult to maintain as some of the best dogs are over the ideal. Nonetheless there were several very nice dogs of ideal size that were much appreciated for what they bring to the breed's gene pool.

With such exceptional puppies, the breed seems to be on an upward trend. This is thanks to wise decisions made in the past that are beginning to bear fruit. So “keep on cooking” because you are on the right track! Sincere thanks to one and all for allowing me to participate in your great day in October. I always enjoy judging your breed as the SCW breeders and their dogs are an inspiration to all. 

Winner of the STUD DOG CLASS was MODNY STYLE GREAT EXPECTATIONS (left), sire of the Winners Dog (middle). He was bred in the USSR by Oksana Kompaniets and is owned by Kristen Williams. Sire: Latorps Celcius; dam: Modny Style Aruba Antilia.

Editors note: One additional Award of Merit was handed out but photo was unavailable. It went to CH GREENTREE REAL QUIET.

AOM to CH WILOBET’S ANGEL IN MY POCKET. She was bred by Betty Orachuck, who passed away last year. Owners are Jeffrey Bratton & Tiffany Walter. Sire: Ch Lonestar's Order Of The Phoenix; dam: Ch Rose Of Tralee.

AOM to CH GREENTREE KEEPSAKE TOBASCO CAT, bred by B & K McDonald and owned by his breeders and Shari Robinson. Sire: Ch Greentree Skellig's Samba Par Ti; dam: Greentree Preakness Clover.

“With such exceptional puppies, the breed seems to be on an upward trend. This is thanks to wise decisions made in the past that are beginning to bear fruit. So “keep on cooking” because you are on the right track! Sincere thanks to one and all for allowing me to participate in your great day in October. I always enjoy judging your breed as the SCW breeders and their dogs are an inspiration to all.”

“Cigarsotti

“The bidding will start at eleven million dollars.”
It seems like just yesterday that I got the call, “Do you still want a pup?” Boy, did I! I drove two hours to the breeder’s house and after what seemed like hours of instructions on taking care of the puppy, I was finally told to go over to the puppy pen and pick out the one with the purple ribbon. Ms. Purple became my Madison.

As a young dog, Madison was like most Wheaten Terriers; she loved to jump & whirl and run around like a speed demon. We tried Agility and she sailed over the jumps; the only problem was she just kept running. The agility trainer told us to come back when she was reliable on the re-call. Maddie had no idea she couldn’t walk on water. She was running after ducks in the park one day and went right into the pond and sank like a rock; the indignant look on her face was priceless.

Savannah came to live with Madison and me when she was 14 months old. She won her very first Puppy Match and won her 1st breed points, a 5 pt. major, at Great Western in 1998. In early 1999 she went to Pennsylvania to be shown and came home with me after Montgomery. She earned the nickname “Ch Princess Putty-Put” because she likes to sleep on my pillows like a little Princess. She’s my girly-girl, dainty in all that she does, but she’s tough as nails, just ask the Akita that used to live down the street.

Madison came to the shows with us in the beginning as our support dog. Never wanting to be left behind, she climbed out of her X-pen and followed us to the ring on more than one occasion, so I had to leave her at home. She’s endured many bad haircuts as I learned how to properly trim a Wheaten and never complained. She earned her CGC 3 times over the years and helped raise several litters.

Often, after a long walk or a lively play session with the other dogs, Savannah will run to the water bowl and splash all the water out to cool off. She’s a messy drinker, dribbling water all over the floor, so I taught her to come to have her beard dried after every drink.

The girls haven’t always been little angels. Coming home from work one night I found the houseplants strewn all over the place, along with shredded leaves and dirt. They’d obviously had a fun day. Then there was the time someone came to the door while I was eating dinner. I got up to answer it and returned to find my dinner plate empty and the girls licking their chops! Always ready when the treats are handed out, Maddie doesn’t wait anymore; she demands them in no uncertain terms. Savannah always comes running for her cookies and barks the whole time I’m preparing their meals.

These days, both girls spend a lot of time sleeping, but are always ready for a walk or a treat. I count every day they’re still with me as a blessing.
What can I say about my best buddy and friend? Willow was the greatest and I loved her with all my heart. From the day we brought Willow home from Mary Anne Dallas’ home, she and I bonded, even though my daughter (who was 10 at the time) picked Willow out for herself. Willow was full of energy and mischief, like unrolling a whole role of toilet tissue and stealing underwear that was put out for the next day. Willow never liked her picture taken and if she saw me with a camera, she would walk away. We attended puppy obedience class together and Willow was great, even though she never liked other dogs, she just loved all the people. Willow certainly perfected the Wheaten greeting. Her groomer named her Willow the Pillow because of her soft coat. Over the years Willow never lost her exuberance for life, although she did slow down recently. Just a few days before passing Willow was in the yard barking at passerbys, protecting her property. When Willow’s time came, we were with her. It was a peaceful passing. I still can’t believe she’s not with me, but I will see her again at the Bridge.

Kathy, George & Erin Oakes  
Philadelphia, PA

Southern California member KARLA COHEN was the recipient of SCWTCA’s AKC OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP MEDALLION at the club’s annual meeting on October 2. The award is given to the individual deserving special recognition in the sport of purebred dogs who embodies the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and has been an active and valued member of an AKC member club.
On Sunday morning, Oct. 18, 2009, when thousands were filing past the SCWTCA “Meet the Breed” booth at the Javits Center in New York City, a baker’s dozen worth of Wheatsons gathered across the country north of Los Angeles for SCWTSCS’s first sanctioned herding trial. Of those 13 SCWTs, 11 qualified for their first leg of the American Herding Breed Assn. (AHBA) Herding Capability Tested on Sheep (HCT-s) title, an 85% passage rate for basic instinct testing. Even the stock dog was a herding-titled Wheaten, showcasing our breed’s herding abilities as never before.

Conducting our first sanctioned trial is of major import in and of itself. We have held annual herding days for the past four years, although our proceedings have previously followed the format of informal “fun” herding tests. This year, however, SCWTSCC’s official documentation of the Wheaten’s innate herding capabilities will enable the final steps toward a major milestone in the breed’s history: recognition of the SCWT’s eligibility to compete and earn titles in AKC herding trials.

Another peril, which almost caused the outright cancellation of our re-scheduled trial made national headlines in late summer. The Station fire, which engulfed hundreds of thousands of acres in the Angeles National Forest in late August and early September, threatened to destroy Judy’s ranch and stock. On the first weekend of the fire, Judy was forced to evacuate 56 head of sheep. The fire ultimately burned right up to her property line, but all training areas and grazing land were saved. Her sheep settled in as refugees in neighboring Ventura County, and returned home a week after the fire was extinguished.

Nonetheless, the luck of the Irish prevailed for the October 18 trial. Club members began arriving at Judy’s ranch before 8 a.m. under a crystal-clear sky with mild temperatures. Fortified by a bountiful assortment of breakfast treats provided by the hospitality committee, owner/handlers pitched their EZ-Ups and prepared their dogs, many already anxious to get to the sheep.

At precisely 9 a.m., Judy gathered the participants for the judge’s instructions to the handlers, all of whom were entered for their first leg of the HCT-s title. During the herding days of preceding years, our Wheatsons were allowed flexible periods of time to “turn on to the sheep” and demonstrate their instinct at leisure, while Judy coached us rookie handlers, evaluated our dogs, and educated both canines and humans on moving stock. This year, however, was very different.

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Judy explained that this event was a real trial and she was acting formally in her role as judge. She enlightened newcomers and returning participants about the different styles of herding among various breeds, highlighting the general style of the SCWT as well as the variations in technique among individual Wheatsens that she has trained. Judy also stated that while it is preferred that the owner handle the dog him/herself, the judge has the option of moving the dog in the corral for the first leg. She assured the crowd that she would have no problem performing that function if anyone desired. No one, however, took her up on the offer; all owners worked their dogs themselves.

Operating under AHBA rules, each dog and handler were allocated a maximum of 10 minutes for the judge to ascertain the presence of herding instinct. Carolyn Filling, a club member and official timekeeper, recorded each team’s start and stop times on the judge’s score sheet. If the dog displayed instinct quickly to the judge’s satisfaction, the dog exited the corral immediately upon qualification, even if the full 10 minutes had not elapsed. If the dog did not demonstrate instinct within the official time allotment, he/she was excused.

Each team entered the ring on lead to test with a group of four sheep. The handler and dog walked with Judy alongside or in back of the sheep. If the dog indicated interest in the sheep, then the handler dropped the lead or took the lead off completely to allow the dog to work the sheep unfettered. Many of the dogs were raring to go and needed little coaxing. Some were more tentative, but the DNA quickly kicked in and the dogs were off and running.

Some statistics are in order, sliced in a variety of ways:

- The majority of the 13 dogs tested—10 in number—had been exposed to stock previously, and all 10 had either passed the club’s informal testing sessions or practiced moving sheep shortly before the event. Nine of those “experienced” dogs qualified for HCT-s Leg 1.
Five of the dogs entered have earned conformation championships and two more are being actively exhibited in class competition; only one of those dogs did not pass Leg 1.

Three out of the total are juveniles, ranging in age from one year to just seven months; all qualified.

Only two dogs failed to qualify.

Speaking of DNA, our herding day turned into something of a family affair; the empirical evidence strongly confirmed the herding instinct as a genetic trait. The five progeny of one sire—Ch Starlight Treasure Chest (Chester), owned by SCWTSCS president, Dr Miriam Kahan—all passed with flying colors. Chester himself, successfully instinct-tested each year since 2006, also qualified for Leg 1. So did Miriam's other entry, Ch Starlight You Are My Destiny (Destiny), dam of two of Chester's qualifying offspring and Miriam's foundation bitch.

Another qualifying Wheaten is Ch Aisling Claddagh U2 Can Be Like Me (Indie), the daughter of one of our two titled herding dogs, Ch Claddagh's Star-Studded Ceili JHD-s (Ceili). Proud mama Ceili, the club's first qualified stock dog and leading light of the 2007 AKC/Eukanuba herding demo in Long Beach, earned her Junior herding Dog on Sheep title at the age of 10 months. Both Indie and Ceili are owned and handled by Viviana and Ron Hetherington.

Behind the scenes, a team of three—two human stock handlers and one SCWT—“refreshed” several groups of four sheep, which were used to test increments of three dogs before they were changed out. Ron Hetherington; the author; and my own SCWT, Marymore Point Mugu HCT-s (Magoo), stood duty in the sheep shed adjacent to the testing corral. Magoo, who completed his HCT-s between April and May 2009, has trained with Judy since late 2007, and is currently preparing for JHD-s trials in 2010; this was his debut as a working stock dog.

The stock-handling procedure was straightforward: Ron opened the gate to each holding pen as Magoo and I entered. We came behind the sheep to drive them from the small enclosure to a larger area beyond the shed awaiting Judy's instructions to launch the fresh stock. At Judy's signal, Magoo drove the sheep into the corral for the testing. Once the sheep were ready to be relieved by a fresh set, Magoo entered the corral to gather and steer the stock back to their pens. Judy's Border Collie and Belgian Tervurens were resting nearby in shaded runs, and left all the heavy lifting to a very eager Magoo.

After the judging was completed, Ron and I treated Ceili and Magoo to their turns in the corral. Working with a rested set of four sheep, each dog entertained the group with a preview of more advanced herding maneuvers, the result of multiple hours of hard, gritty training, ample reserves of patience, a quick sense of humor, and the occasional spill on one's backside amid galloping sheep. Ceili fetched the sheep expertly to Ron with her signature joyous bark, head and tail held high. Magoo, whom Judy describes as a “powerful” herding dog, made sweeping outruns before ending in a by-the-book controlled stop and recall before his beaming mom.

After presentation of rosettes to the successful teams and lunch, Judy invited interested handlers to participate in a short workshop as a sneak preview of training for Leg 2. To pass Leg 2, she emphasized, the requirements are more stringent than for herding instinct testing in Leg 1; they include four controlled passages from one end of the arena to the other and a directed halt. The handler puts the dog in position and removes the lead; the dog should then hold a brief stay before being sent to collect the stock. The stock are moved across the arena to the opposite end, then returned to the vicinity of the starting point, taken again to the opposite end of the arena, and brought back a second time to the vicinity of the start point. The dog is given a final stop command, and recalled.

About three teams attempted the Leg 2 maneuvers, with some success, while a group of eight spectators looked on and offered support, often irreverent. After 30 minutes, the consensus of all participants was that more training was definitely in order to succeed in Leg 2!

While the day’s activities and festivities are finished, the work of compiling the documentation for inclusion in SCWTCA's AKC herding petition is not yet complete. Jay Smith, son of club members Marilyn and Mike Smith and a film student at California State University, Northridge, recorded video footage of the trial, just as he has done for prior herding activities of the club since 2008. Joan Johnson and Lauren Smith (Jay's sister and a graduate student at CSUN) shot still photos of the proceedings, some of which are included in this narrative.

After editing the videotape with the aid of Judy Vanderford's expert eye, we will submit the finished product along with still photography and archival videos from 2006 through 2009 to Suzanne Stone for
incorporation into the SCWTCA petition that she is authoring. We have also submitted statistical data, previous publications about our herding activities, and other supporting information to Suzanne over the past year. Finally, we have been collaborating since 2008 with Dr Jann Lane, a past member of the US Kerry Blue Terrier Club Board of Governors, currently USKBTC national herding chair and an associate member of SCWTCSC. Jann was the catalyst behind the AKC’s granting of eligibility for the KBT to compete in its sanctioned herding trials, as the coordinator and author of the USKBTC herding petition in 2006. She most recently served as trial secretary for our HCT’s Leg 1 event, and will publish SCWTSC’s report to AHBA. Her guidance has already proved invaluable to us on our herding quest.

Finally, SCWTCA’s support of the herding cause has kept our enthusiasm and energy levels charged for the past four years. From the board of directors to our AKC delegates—first Cindy Vogels, now Gay Dunlap—we have garnered enormous support from our national club. We eagerly anticipate the 2010 annual meeting at Montgomery, when we can all celebrate AKC’s recognition of the true canine function that ultimately led to our breed’s unsurpassed form: herding.

Got sheep?

Connie Koehler is treasurer and herding chair of the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California. She has recently been appointed as chair of SCWTCA’s Public Education committee, and invited to join the SCWTCA performance committee. Her unflagging gratitude goes to the following SCWTSC members who have made the club’s herding adventures possible: fellow board members Dr. Miriam Kahan, Karla Baer Cohen, Joan Johnson, Jeanine Flavell, M. J. Carr, and Jackie Whitham; Carolyn Filling; the fabulous Smith family; Dr. Jann Lane; Vivana and Ron Hetherington, who got us started in the first place; and all the herding enthusiasts who participated in club events the past four years. In addition, special thanks go to Jim Cohen for suggesting the “Give Fleece a Chance” theme for our trial, plus to Susan McGee and Suzanne Stone for all their guidance and support. Judy Vanderford has always been our incredible guardian angel. Finally, Connie’s very special, undying love and thanks go to Magoo, who continues to be her primary inspiration for running around in sheep s—t and loving it.

SCWTSC Qualifying Teams, AHBA HCT’s Leg One
Lake View Terrace, CA, October 18, 2009

Owner(s)/Handler(s)                          Dog
Marilyn and Lauren Smith                     Destiny Reach for the Stars
Marilyn and Lauren Smith                     Kincora Tara Good as Gold
Joan Johnson, Cecily Skinner and Kayce Healy Ch Kincora Tara Gold O’West Isles
Miriam Kahan                                Ch Starlight Treasure Chest
Jon and Kathy Apogee                         Kincora Tara Go for Gold
Jon and Kathy Apogee                         Kincora Tara Life in the Fast Lane
Barbara and Bruce Darracq                   Destiny Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
Miriam Kahan                                Ch Starlight You Are My Destiny
Maryann Welker and Ron Tank                  Harbour Hills Dirty Laundry
Dave and Vickie Gosnell and Bonita Snyder   Bonney Apple of My Eye
Viviana and Ron Hetherington

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