featuring

- Canine Nutrition
- Leaky Plumbing
- Northern California’s Specialty
- Traveling with Darby
- Del Val Specialty
- Ash Cloud’s Role in a Visit to German Dog Show
- Happy Birthday Seniors
- Herding with Del Val
- Devil’s Advocate
- Grandma’s Attic

**Benchmarks**

- Available in color

*Best Buddies... George, left, and Christian, right, share a ride!*

*Photo by Auntie Jackie Minyard*
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC

jinx moore, president
sedalia, mo 65301
660 826-4342

anna marzolino, corres sec
orange ca 92869
714 538-3512

willie rueda, director
washington, dc 20009
202 986-7671

susan mc gee, vice pres
kansas city, mo 64113
816 444-4637

lori kromash, treas
spring city, pa 19475
610 469-4993

pam tinnelly, director
garden city, ny 11530
516 248-4843

nancy draper, rec sec
adel, ia 50003
515 689-7557

kay baird, director
roscoe, il 61073
815 389-8073

gary vlachos, director
sewickley, pa 15143
412 741-9424

BENCHMARKS EDITOR

gay dunlap . 1134 south oak court . gilbert, az 85233-8109
phone 480 926-1622 email gaydunlap@cox.net

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loyalty, respect, honesty, kindness and reliability are all qualities friends share. Lee Iacocca once said, “My father used to say that when you die, if you’ve got five real friends, then you’ve had a great life.” Much has been written and sung about friends over the years: “You’ve Got a Friend” by James Taylor, “Lean on Me” by Bill Withers and from John Lennon, “I get by with a little help from my friends” are the lyrics to a popular Beatles song. And who can forget the most popular TV sitcom, “Friends” that aired for ten years?

The “Wheaten World” is a great place to develop friendships where everyone has a common interest and share a common language. Have you ever considered how confused the casual observer might be listening to our dinner conversations about, “nice layback,” “good tail set,” “silky coats,” “beautiful fronts,” “great angles at both ends,” and of course, “well balanced?” Yes, we are certainly special!

These special friendships take time to develop and despite work schedules, family obligations and distance, good friends always have time for each other. True friends are fun to be around. They are not critical of one another, but support one another. They listen and learn from each other, thus building each others’ self esteem. I found a quote I think is worth sharing. “There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it hardly behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us.” ... Edward Wallis Hoch

This incredible dog known as a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier brought us together and has resulted in life-long friendships. It’s the responsibility of all of us to protect and preserve both.

“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships.”

---

Dear Gay

I am one of the few that wait until my Benchmarks arrives in the mail. I sit in my big blue chair and read it from cover to cover. In our last issue of Benchmarks I was excited about “From the Editor” and would like to reprint it for our local all-breed club (Montgomery Alabama Kennel Club) newsletter “The Tailwagger.” We have tried for years to get our local membership to participate in the working and running of our shows and club. There are the few, and we are getting old, that are there from sun up to sun down making judges comfortable, running errands, serving lunches, and scooping poop. We have asked that the new members help, but many take advantage of OUR show date to show, entertain, and complain about the judges. (don’t complain until serving on the judges committee, yikes that is no fun) Maybe the reprinting of this timely article will help wake up some of our members. Thanks Gay.

Genie Kline

I deeply regret the hurt feelings that emanated following my editorial. I hope that, by now, there is some understanding as to the message I was trying to convey. And yes, the lack of participation and tendency to gripe and complain is pretty much across the board within the fancy. Nothing personal about it!
Ch. Ceili’s Time To Shine

(Ch. Duidream Quicktime x Ceili’s Susan B Anthony)

It takes a village . . .
Percy finished with one 5-point and two 4-point majors! Thanks to Bonnie O’Connor for all her support and the Northwest exhibitors for their wonderful hospitality

Bred by: Sara and Beth Sorenson, Seth Mullinnex, Maki Duncan
Owned by: Sara and Beth Sorenson
ceilimd@yahoo.com
Grey Hairs...

(Mine, not the dogs.)

Oh, man, are there ever days when I feel old! Knees creak, trips to the colorist come more frequently and co-workers look more like high schoolers every day.

Then I go to a dog show and feel at home. Sure, there are hot shot, impressive young handlers but they are supposed to look like kids. There’re plenty of people who look like me…and plenty older, too, thank god.

Great, right?

Not so fast. I might feel among peers at shows but it doesn’t actually make me feel better.

At work, I see the next generation of leaders, the people who will make sure my pension is paid. When I look around at dog shows, I’m a lot less confident I’m seeing the people who’ll be running dog clubs and their shows in twenty years.

I’ve said it before: I believe dog shows are important for everyone who cares about purebred dogs. Shows remain the place where the dogs are evaluated independent of our personal stake, our hopes and, yes, our often shaky objectivity. Not to mention, dog shows bring together a group of people with a unique, common interest…where else can you talk about chilled semen without grossing people out?

Dog clubs make all that happen. Certainly, the sport is changing…"local" clubs are getting more regional by the day. Sometimes it looks like the future is shows run by commercial interests…dog food companies or, as this year’s Crufts, a business entirely unrelated to dogs.

Reliance on commercial interests is a short-term panacea. Never forget that commercial support of dog shows requires a payoff for the company. For them, shows are an element of a marketing program, which must show a return on investment every budget cycle. One need look no further than Pedigree to see proof. Remember when their TV ads were show breeders endorsing their product and the Pedigree booth was at dozens of shows annually?

Today, they are a presence at Westminster…until the TV ratings nosedive.

At their best, clubs do more than put on shows. The parent clubs are charged to be the guardians of the breed. This means they are typically deeply involved…as SCWTCA has been for the last two decades…in breed-specific health issues. They provide breed-specific education to judges, breeders and the public. They maintain the historical record of the breed.

So…of course clubs and their shows are important. But without people…club members and a continual influx of new members…there is no guarantee there will be clubs and shows in the future. How do we insure that?

First, we should look at how we might be keeping new people out. Obviously, I don’t think we all need to skip hand-in-hand down the garden path to thrive. I’m the last one to say we shouldn’t speak our minds. That still means we must be at least a little self-conscious about our debates and insure they stay focused on the issues.

The recent online debate over Benchmarks’ last issue veered a little too close to demonizing one side or the other to make points. That one “side” was highly experienced and the other much newer made me worry about the impact on newbies. Newcomers especially should never be left with the impression they need longevity to be valued. They can be instructed but, as John was once told by a legendary AKC field rep, make sure you step on their toes without ruining the shine on their shoes.

I digress…how do we nurture the future of SCWTCA? I work in a large corporation with an extensive development program, intended to help talented people flourish, become committed to the company and turn into future leaders. Shouldn’t clubs do the same?

Absolutely. It requires people at every level to put some thought into some very simple changes. It starts…but doesn’t end…with the Board.

Now, before the Board groans and says “not again,” let me say this problem didn’t start with the current Board. It’s been a long time in the making. Nor is it unique to SCWTCA.

The Board needs to institutionalize looking for new, eager members and giving them opportunities. Here’s the easiest thing of all: a Board member personally calls every newly approved member – to welcome them to the club, to find out their interests and to encourage them to help make the club stronger.

Another simple step: every Board member should come to the October meeting with a list of 5 people in the club for no more than 5 years. They should know something about these people: what they do for a living, what unique skills they have, or what they may have done for other clubs or organizations. Even with overlap that should give the Board a pool of at least 30 people. Whenever there is a project that needs a leader or a committee that needs members, this list should be a key resource.

Next, the Board should insist on a co-chair for most committees and projects. First, it’s just responsible governance, protection against the “getting hit by a bus” scenario. Second, it gives a committee chair an opportunity to mentor someone, a great skill

continued on page 6
for a future Board member. Most importantly it gives someone an opportunity to work on a project without having to shoulder more responsibility than they may want. The recent appointment of an experienced member as the new Benchmarks editor and a newer member as associate editor is exactly what's needed.

Following on that...for Board members and committee chairs alike...look for ways to break projects into smaller parts. I believe there are members willing to help but who may either lack confidence or have other constraints impacting their ability to take on a major role. Not every project would lend itself to this but we should all actively look for those possibilities.

Many breeders successfully get their owners involved with shows (and their local clubs). I'm in awe of them. Shouldn't we all be more self-conscious about trying to bring new members into the national club, too?

Nor should members wait to be asked. Certainly, if the Board and committee chairs make a concerted effort to make opportunities available, members cannot sit back and grump about not being involved. If the opportunities aren't obvious, there's nothing to stop a member from reaching out and saying “Hey, I'm interested and have some time to help over the next few months.”

This isn't only about developing leadership. It's also about developing commitment to the club and the sport. People who work for the club are more likely to remain involved and remain members long after their tasks are done.

Developing leaders, ongoing and long-term commitment...now there's something to slow down the growth of grey hair.

---

Nancy Butler  
SCWT, Rescue Chair  
P.O. Box 385  
Velarde, NM 87582-0385  
March 25, 2010  
Dear Madam Chairwoman:

I am writing to you to request permission from you to make a contribution to the SCWTCA rescue in the names of Abby and Thomas Kahn, Birchbark Kennels, McMillan, MI,. Please accept my check and make the donation to the rescue in their names.

I am a new SCWT owner. I purchased my first and only SCWT bitch under a show contract from Kristin Williams (Wheatnbrook) in Canada last May. I have been trying to educate myself about the breed the best I could, through books, videos, and club information off the internet. I live in a location where the breed is not prevalent. I also knew that if I was going to participate in AKC sanctioned shows I was going to have to make some contacts and hopefully find someone to give me the advice and help I needed.

Last week my husband and I traveled south to the Louisville Kennel Club cluster for Saturday and Sunday. I showed up at the ring with my 9-12 month bitch in hand. There were two of us in the class. After the class was over, and I had my 2nd place ribbon in hand my husband and I sat on the sideline watching the others show. I was approached by Mrs. Kahn, who very politely and poignantly started asking me questions about my grooming “job.” Knowing that my grooming was not like the others, she offered to take us back to her RV, wash, bathe and try to salvage what she could. Mr. and Mrs. Kahn spent several hours with us over the weekend grooming our bitch and offering advice on how we could improve, and stayed to cheer us on Sunday when we went back into the ring again. I came out with another 2nd place ribbon, but after the show, I was approached by numerous observers wanting to know if I was showing the same bitch I showed the prior day. We all agreed she looked 100 percent better. I am overwhelmed by the generosity that they so freely showered upon us.

The SCWT is not the first breed of dogs that I have shown, I have had some other involvements with other breeds prior to this, but honestly I have never been embraced the way that I was with the SCWT breeders and exhibitors at the Louisville show. What a wonderful group of people!

Please accept my donation to the SCWT Rescue in the names of Thomas and Abby Kahn, for whom I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet.

Sincerely,

Lori J. Clark  
Hillsboro, IN
Senior Health Testing...If you don't test, you don't know.

Over the years and from time to time, there have been discussions regarding health testing Wheaten Terriers into old age. As much as we would like to think that, once they have reached senior or geriatric status, their health won't change, we find that it can and does. I am sure we've all heard of geriatric Wheaten Terriers whose health test results have started to trend in a direction indicating a health issue in an otherwise healthy geriatric dog.

Our Kieffer, Ch. Legacy Maverick (1992 – 2007), started tending toward hypothyroidism as a senior. At 10, his results for T4 RIA and T4 Equilibrium were at minimum normal values. For the rest of Kieffer’s life, until he died at almost 15.5 years old, we monitored thyroid function and supported it with thyroxine. Many “senior” panels or “comprehensive” panels include a superchem blood panel, T4, T3 and T4 by ED(equilibrium dialysis) or RIA(radio immunoassay). We raised the thyroid hormone level to midrange and maintained it at midrange through continued testing.

Stella, Ch. Lissadell Cajun Star (1993 - ), who is still with us at 16 years and 7 months of age, was found to be in early stage renal failure in 2008. In just over a year, the values for BUN and Creatinine increased to above recommended limits and the Urine Specific Gravity decreased to the low end of the range. Following is a table of Stella’s test results showing the significant changes in kidney function.

Stella’s Kidney Function Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Antech Diagnostic range</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>February 2007</th>
<th>June 2008</th>
<th>February 2009</th>
<th>July 2009</th>
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<tr>
<td>BUN</td>
<td>6-25 mg/dL</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>75 (H)</td>
<td>43 (H)</td>
<td>47 (H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine</td>
<td>0.5-1.6 mg/dL</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.7 (H)</td>
<td>2.5 (H)</td>
<td>2.6 (H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUN Cret Ratio</td>
<td>4-27</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>28 (H)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urine Specific Gravity</td>
<td>1.015-1.050</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.044</td>
<td>1.017</td>
<td>1.018</td>
<td>1.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPC Ratio</td>
<td>&lt; 0.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>&lt;2.5 mg/dL</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our vet worked with Dr. Littman who diagnosed Stella as being in old age kidney failure. Copies of each of Stella’s test results have been faxed to Dr. Littman and her assistant, Amy Smagalia, upon completion of testing.

It was recommended that we change Stella’s diet to a hydrolyzed protein diet formulated for insufficient kidney function, however, most are chicken based and Stella is allergic to chicken. We opted to keep her on her current diet (IVD), because of her allergies and her age, and added a raw dehydrated food to her diet (Honest Kitchen). Our homeopathic vet prescribed 2 kidney function support supplements. I do not know if the supplements are responsible for the decrease in BUN and Creatinine between June 2008 and February 2009, but something did make a difference. We added other supplements and medications as well, but each case of renal failure, be it old age or PLN, should be treated individually (I highly recommend the Yahoo group K9Kidneys for dogs with renal insufficiency).

Stella is extremely difficult to medicate. Not difficult, extremely difficult. She has always fought forced medication. She can find a pill in the smelliest of camouflage treats. As the volume of food she ate decreased, adding ground supplements to her food became too detectable for her. We had to make choices of which and how many medications/ supplements to give, how to administer the meds and how best to keep her eating. As she continues to age and become more and more fragile, we have eliminated most of her medications/supplements and are, at this very late stage in her life, giving her only a pain medication. The pain medication is ground and added to goat milk, which is then administered orally via syringe.

I use Kieffer and Stella as examples, however, this is not about our treatment/supplement strategy for them. What's important is that: Owners continue annual health testing through old age; Owners make treatment choices best suited to their dog and their relationship with their dog; and that Owner's choices and decisions are made with respect to the stage of life of the dog.

One note regarding testing geriatric or “antique” dogs; at some point, it may become too difficult, due to lost weight or constricted veins, to collect a blood sample from a very old dog. We had a blood sample taken from Stella, in late 2009, for submission to a DNA study. The vet tech said at that time it would have to be the last collection from Stella as it was painful for Stella and difficult for the vet tech to draw. She will have no more samples taken.

If we do not test into old age, we cannot help our dogs, to whatever degree is possible or appropriate, in their senior and geriatric years. Just like testing in general – if you don’t test, you don’t know. ☹️
Happy Birthday to our Wheatens, 14 years and older!

... compiled by Toni Vincent

CH MANSURA ANDOVER TRUE COLORS “DYLAN”

Ch Trigo The Highway Man X CH Mansura Glory Days

March 27, 1995

We have been very fortunate to have Dylan in our lives. Considering: At six months Dylan decided he wanted to snack on a mesquite tree, and of course he ended up being hospitalized. Dylan recovered and went on to win 1996 Montgomery’s Best of Winners. When he was three Dylan came down with Valley Fever and managed to come through with flying colors. One of Dylan’s nicknames is “Bunnies;” boy that dog could jump. He could jump (without a running start) and land on the island counter looking for a snack or to be closer to somebody’s face for a lick. Dylan still has that fighting spirit. He is the first one at the door to greet you (we have two other Wheatens 13 years younger!) and the first in line to remind you it’s time for dinner or a walk. Just recently he managed to slip out the garage door for an adventure; mind you, he only made it down to the end of the street...then I found out somebody hadn’t taken him for a walk that evening. Life would be pretty boring without our boy Dylan.

Dan and Cyndi Bracken

CH DUIDREAM GREAT ESCAPER, CGC “CAPER”

Ch Legacy In Shining Armor ROM X Ch Winterwheat Bonbon Duidream ROM

May 2, 1995

Caper came into my life in the summer of 1995 when I had decided I needed a second Wheaten due to the advanced age of Dancer, my first Wheaten. Through Dancer’s groomer, I learned of Bonnie O’Connor in San Antonio who had a litter of puppies. Bonnie had only a show-potential pup available and I agreed that showing was fine with me as long as she did all the work. Little did I realize that Bonnie had set the hook and I was reeled into this subculture called ‘dog shows.’ Caper was a lovely young dog and showed well. He would have finished quickly except neither Bonnie nor I can count to 15. We stopped showing him, thinking he was finished and wondered why the certificate never came. Hmmm. Eventually we figured out he was one point shy of a CH and back in the ring he went. That lone point took a long while! Caper retired to a life of luxury after that and continues to enjoy long snoozes interspersed with fine meals. He insists that breakfast is at 5 a.m. and will tolerate no delay. He has been a joy in my life and introduced me to lifelong friendships. Happy Birthday, Caper!

Lee Martin
Happy Birthday to our Wheatens, 14 years and older, continued...

CH GRIAN ROCKIN’ ROBIN, RN OAJ AX “CLANCY”

Ch Vergoldet’s True Value x Grian Nightingale

June 3, 1996

Clancy, my first Wheaten, has changed my life. This gentle, goofy, non-confrontational boy has brought much joy, happiness, friendships and adventures to my life. He was expertly groomed and finished by my mentor, Bonnie Kanter, who patiently showed me how to handle terrier temperament and develop grooming skills.

“The Clance Man” was my first agility dog and retired one leg shy of earning the next title due to neck issues which have since contributed to his recent hearing loss and some atrophy in his right shoulder. Despite this, Clancy earned his Rally Novice title at the age of 10. His favorite resting spot has always been at the top of the stairs (so that the girls know who really is in charge).

My “Buddy” likes to patrol the grounds of the yard and appreciates his special ramp that allows easy access in/out of the house. He still serves as my sentry, sounding the alarm if he sees anything out of the ordinary. Despite the passing of his agility buddy, Maddie Burt the Golden Retriever, Clancy loves attending “Camp Burt” when I am out of town. He enjoys the attention and special dog massages he receives from human friend, Jenny Burt.

Recently, after three serious bouts of illness, he was diagnosed with pancreatitis and now dines on special food that his sister, Sabrina (Ch Doubloon’s Playing for Keeps) thinks is caviar! When not sleeping soundly, he follows me wherever I go and still manages the stairs. Clancy is such a good boy! Happy 14th Birthday!

Susan Mc

GRIAN WHOOPSI DAISY “DAISY”

Ch Vergold’s True Value X Ch Grian Whoopi Goldbird

January 21, 1996

Daisy has been the love of my life since I saw her as a tiny puppy. As a puppy, she terrorized her big brother, Spanky, and then they became best buddies. Though we tried and tried, Daisy never liked showing. She was a great mother! She never tired of puppies but knew when to be the disciplinarian. Daisy still keeps her two offspring (who live with her) under control. She also keeps her Border Terrier “kids” in line.

I thought this winter would be hard on her because of all the snow. She surprised me by snowplowing and jumping over drifts as well as she did when she was two.

She is a breast cancer survivor, a cuddler, a sneak thief; the “old girl.” She's still my love...always. Many thanks to Pam and Dave Donahue.

Jan Van Ness
Lexi’s Lessons for a Long Life

Lexi retired from showing and breeding in 2002 to live in California. In her retirement years, Lexi has efficiently managed her household while coaching her granddaughter, Lovey, on how to be sweet and cute. Lexi enjoys walks on the golf course, sleeping each night with her entire family on a Tempurpedic bed, lots of treats and nightly rubs under chin and tummy. Lexi’s advice for a long life includes giving lots of love, licking with pleasure, demanding treats and at all times, being a “Sweetie Wheatie!” We love you, Lexi.

Dan Weimer and Sloan Bentley

Never shown nor bred, Rita is my “bed dog.” She has happily spent most of her life on my bed, where she has munched her way through the bedclothes. I don’t have a single sheet, blanket, quilt or pillowcase that is completely intact. Amazingly enough, she has never required surgery to remove any of the fabric that she’s eaten (and there’s been a lot in 14 years!) Just lately, she seems to have given up her taste for fabric and I’ve dared to buy a new quilt. She sleeps most of the time these days, getting off the bed three times a day; in the morning, before supper and at bedtime. Rita still manages to get on and off the bed under her own power and still sees and hears very well. This past winter was hard on Rita until Aunt Jana sent her an African, “wild dog” printed, Crazy Coat; it’s perfect for her and she loves it. The Lakelands and I are looking forward to a few more years of sharing the bed with Rita, even though it often annoys her to share it with us!

Kathleen McIndoe

Rory is my seventeen-year-old Wheaten. And, even now, he’s still a crazy terrier; independent and a handful! My family and I still have to be careful about doors because if one is left open, Rory will know it and sneak out to explore. This isn’t much of a problem as I live on 20 acres in rural Georgia. Still, Rory will wander far enough to visit the neighbors’ dogs (his girlfriends) and he always comes back with a coat full of weeds. Rory is also still well aware of a schedule. He knows when it’s time for his walk and paces the house until he gets it; leashes are still required or he’s off to explore! He also never misses a meal.

The only things that have ceased in the past couple years are that he doesn’t bark much any more and that he no longer climbs the six-foot embankment to wade in the creek that borders our property. He’s also not seeing or hearing as well, though that doesn’t seem to slow him down. And one of the other dogs has finally started to take the mantle of “top dog” in the past few months, which over a 16-year reign isn’t too bad. He’s still quite a handsome, cute boy.

Rory is a dog from Nancy Klepitsch (Bhan-or). Unfortunately, illness required Nancy to leave the litters to her veterinarian nephew. We don’t actually know which litter Rory came from so we can’t be sure of his lineage. Happy 17th birthday, Rory!

Bonnie Walsh
Happy Birthday to our Wheatens, 14 years and older, continued...

CH ANDOVER WISH UPON A STAR  “TIFFY”

Ch Andover Make a Wish X Ch Andover Little Night Music

December 25, 1995

Ch Andover Wish Upon A Star (you may call her Tiffy) was 14 in December 2009. She came to live with us in March 2001 at the age of five. She had received a bad rabies vaccine and began to have seizures, so she was retired to “pet life.” She was mostly seizure free the first year but in year two began to have increasingly greater seizure activity; culminating in a horrible day of 15 grand mal seizures in April 2002. Tiffy started on potassium bromide by her fabulous vet, Carol Sampson, and four months later ceased to seize and has been seizure free for 7 1/2 years. Tiffy is the Queen of all she surveys. She is a loving, funny and energetic lady even at 14 and with all her health issues. I believe she is the only Wheaten to demand that she be wrapped in a towel sitting on your lap for 40 minutes to an hour after each bath whilst being combed and told the story of her life. There’s no running, no craziness, just a ladylike wait until I, her handmaiden, can get the bath sheet ready for her wrap. One of the things that has benefited her enormously is Jin Shin Jyutsu – a form of Japanese Acupressure. Since I do not like to give her much medicine due to the seizures, I have found these treatments to work giving her pain relief and to help keep her in her “refined” yet puppy-like behavior. When Jackie Gottlieb gave her to us, she thought Tiffy might have three or four years left but she has been our constant, funny, loving companion for nine wonderful years. Here’s to Wheaten health and love.

CH LONESTAR CRAZY FOR YOU  “TESSIE”

Ch Amaden’s Sole Man X Ch Orion’s Red Storm Rising

May 14, 1996

Tessie is a wonderful and loving companion. She is our bed dog and is never too far from our sides. She’s never met a person she didn’t like and she loves the bank teller most of all (cookies!!!). She is and will always be our heart dog, not to mention that she was a “push-button” show girl and I think that she is the best we’ve ever had! Happy 14th birthday to Tessie!!!!

Wendy & Tom Neill

KAIRI TRAMORE TIGER LIL  “TIGER”

Ch Amaden’s Meant To Be X Ch Kairi’s Hot Tamale

March 28, 1996

Nancy Land

Tiger Lil is blessed with a sweet and wonderful disposition. She is partially blind, hard of hearing and was diagnosed with PLN at the age of seven. Tiger’s health has slowed her down somewhat but it has not dampened her spirit. She loves to shower everyone with kisses. She loves to ride in the car and the golf cart. Tiger is the love of my life, my true friend and my shadow. She is the joy that brightens my day. My other Wheatens have come and sadly gone and they were all very, very special but Tiger remains the grand old lady. Happy 14th birthday, Tiger. I love you.

Nancy Land
Happy Birthday to our Wheaten, 14 years and older, continued …

KAIRI’S SANDY “SANDY”

Ch Kairi’s Kahlua X Ch Tair’s Stand By Me

March 25, 1994

Back in August of 1994, Mary Ann Dallas placed Sandy with a family where she lived with them for seven years. Sandy’s family could no longer keep her and she was returned to Mary Ann and re-homed with me after Mary Ann saw how Sandy and I had bonded. Although Sandy and I have been together for only seven years, she’s kept me on my toes and is the light of my life. Despite Sandy’s bad knees, elbows, cataracts and ACL tear, she still walks around the block and is a chow hound, always looking ring ready.

Thank you Mary Ann for Sandy. We miss you.

Jo Ann H Rentzheimer

DUFFY AT CAMP DREAM STREET

Dorice Stancher’s Duffy (Holweits Stancher, CGC, CD, CDX, RN, RA) was a regular at Camp Dream Street for children with cancer and blood-related disorders, run by Tomorrow’s Children at Hackensack Hospital and Columbia Presbyterian. Dorice is the head of the therapy dog team there and, along with Duffy, had been visiting for the past 10 years. He just received his sixth Golden Bone award from the American Cancer Society for outstanding fundraising. He died on December 10 of a cancerous nasal tumor. Duffy has been nominated for a New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association Award in honor of his therapy work with children.

The following photo was printed in our March, 2010 issue without the story! Apologies to Dorice Stancher. I promised we would run it again in this issue.
THE GREATER DENVER SCWTC IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE

OUR NEW SPECIALTY DATE: SATURDAY SEPT. 11, 2010

OUR NEW DATE IS IN CONJUNCTION WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN ALL TERRIER CLUB (RMATC) AND EVERGREEN KENNEL CLUB SHOWS.
3 DAYS OF SHOWS, 2 ALL BREED.

COME ON OUT AND JOIN US FOR THE 2010 “WHEATEN ROUND-UP”

What a great warm up for MCKC 2010!

RMATC will have a specialty dinner on Friday, so plan to attend. It is always fun!

As always GDSCWTC will have a dinner, silent auction & raffle after the Specialty on Saturday

Superintendent: Onofrio

Judging Information

Friday September 10  RMATC Specialty
Sweepstakes Judge: Karen Saunders
Specialty Judge: Gary Doerge

Saturday September 11 GDSCWTC Specialty
Entry supported by SCWTCA
Sweepstakes Judge: Louise Bishoff
Specialty Judge: Randy Garren

Sunday September 12 Evergreen Kennel Club
Breed Judge: Desi Murphy
“So much happened before Dorothy dropped in” – as always the Northern California Specialty was a ‘wicked’ good time. In keeping with the theme of “Bringing Broadway to You,” the ring decorations and the hand-painted trophies were an inspiration.

Neil O’Sullivan of Geragold Wheatens judged a sweepstakes entry of 13. Presented from the 6 to 9 month Puppy Bitch class, Bryr Rose Pop Champagne took top honors winning Best in Sweepstakes (Sire: Ch Marymore Hot Pepper Jack and dam: Ch Bryr Rose Les Trois Saules). The bitch was presented by Julie Burdick, bred by Jeanne Ferris and owned by Julie and Josh Burdick and Jeanne Ferris.

Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes, from the 12 to 18 month puppy dog class, was Derryhumma Eureka Stereotype (Sire: Ch Marquee’s Tricks Of The Trade and dam: Ch Eureka Pin-Up Girl). The dog was bred and owned by Robyn Alexander and Douglas Mylcraine.

The regular classes were judged by respected Wheaten breeder and judge Gary Vlachos who evaluated an entry of 40 Wheatens: 10-16 (7-6) Best in Specialty went to Ch Vintage Signed Sealed and Delivered (Sire: Ch Marymore Gift Wrapped and dam: Ch Kaylynn’s Heartland Vintage). The dog was bred by Brian Ness, Kay Baird and Michael Weiss, owned by Brian, Michael and Laura Marrero and handled by Brian Ness.

Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to Ch Gemstone’s All That Glitters (Sire: Ch Lontree’s Desert Star and dam: Ch Gemstone’s Marquee Cut), owned by Rachelle Hackett and Jim and Tami Herzog and bred by the Herzogs.

Winners Dog went to Pitterpat’s Blue Bayou (Sire: Ch Westridge Back to Waterford and dam Ch Pitterpat’s Holly Jolly) who is owned by Santi and Jack Teague and Sheryl Beitch and breeder/handled by Sheryl. Reserve Winners Dog was awarded to Lochlinear Gleanngay Quick as a Wink (Sire: Ch Glenamon Gleanngay He’s Key 2Me and dam: Ch Gleanngay Tilde Wink), bred by Pat Mullin and Gay Dunlap, owned by Art and Sam Kauffman and Pat Mullin, handled by Pat Mullin.

Best of Winners/Winners Bitch/Best Bred by Exhibitor was awarded to Marquee’s Tax Exchange (Sire: Ch Harbour Hill Mike Delfino and dam Ch Gemstone Marquee Cut), bred and owned by Richard and Sonya Urquhart. Reserve Winners Bitch went to Tralee Bay’s Higher Than A Kite! (Sire: Ch Harbour Hill Nuts & Chews and dam: Ch Tralee Bay’s High On You!). The bitch was presented by Jillann Steging, bred and owned by Jillann and Stephen Steging.

Awards of Merit went to the following: Ch Gleanngay Legend of the Grail (Sire: Ch Legacy The Grail and dam Ch Gleanngay Quintilian) bred by Gay Dunlap and owned by Sally Leonard; Ch Lochlinear Finnegan Inverlochy (Sire: Ch Harbour Hill Mike Delfino and dam Ch Keepsake Inverlochy Lochlinear). This dog is owned by Kim Palmer and Pat Mullin and bred by Pat Mullin, Trudie Forbes and Shari Robinson. Also receiving an Award of Merit was Ch Kincora Tara Life In The Fast Lane (Sire:
continued from page 14

Fast Lane (Sire: Ch Duidream Quick Time and dam: Kincora Tara Go For Gold), shown by Cecily Skinner and breeder/owned by Jon and Kathy Apogee, Cecily Skinner and Kayce Healy.

Wheatens in competition extended to the rally and obedience ring. Bob Nerrie with Ch Hullabaloo The Rookie TD RN CD achieved High Wheaten in Trial for Obedience on Friday. Bob and Rookie enjoyed other successes during the weekend. On Thursday they took 2nd place in Rally Advanced B and since this was Rookie’s third Qualifying Trial, it also meant he achieved his Rally Advanced title. On Saturday, Bob moved Rookie up to Rally Excellent B and he took 3rd place honors. To top the weekend off, on Sunday Bob and Rookie achieved 1st place with a score of 98 in Rally Excellent B. In the great “toast” tradition, Rookie celebrated his weekend of success by twice rolling over on his back on “down” commands to the delight of the audience but, unfortunately, no extra points for showmanship!

In the Rally competition, Clyde Schauer and “Lacey” qualified in Rally Advanced and Excellent and achieved a leg in RAE 2. Ellie Wong and “Lyndee” qualified in Rally Excellent.

The weekend was not entirely dominated by competition although there were three more days of supported entries. There was still ample opportunity to greet old friends and meet new ones at the evening hospitality. Dinner, raffle and silent auction were once again a success.

It was a wonderful weekend! The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Northern California would like to thank all who attended and exhibited. We would like to also thank all the club members who contributed in so many ways to the success of our specialty. See you next year.

SCWTCNCSweepstakes Critique
Dr Neil O’Sullivan

I would like to thank the Club for the honor to judge your Sweeps entry this year. I found this an enjoyable entry to work with, the bitches having the most quality in the entry. I found some very pleasing outlines, lovely heads with Terrier expression and many with small to medium-sized ears well carried, however some ugly big low hanging ears were still in my entry. Eye color and shape were correct without exception, few were correctly indicated. Bad trimming, almost all eyes were scooped-out; please learn the correct trim for a Wheaten head and especially those beautiful eyes as it contributes to presenting correct breed type! We need to get our Wheatens square, with correct short loins, not short rib cages; neither can we have over-sized Wheatens that get to square by having excessively long legs. Our standard calls for a square Terrier with a short loin in moderate size. Our Sporting Terriers need a shoulder set well back on the rib-cage, a well-angulated shoulder with the correct forechest. With these correctly-made front assemblies we will see the correct front movement our breed so often lacks. Rears were overall quite good, a few were excellent. There were a few lovely coats; please watch texture, soft and silky are not easy to breed, but they are essential to breed type.

6-9 Puppy Dog. 1. Gemstone Gameboy. Lovely length of head, confident and moved out well. 2. Brelan Knight Magic. Naughty but nice, while more correct for size, and a very typy puppy, I found my class winner more confident today and a sounder puppy on the move especially in front.

9-12 Puppy Dog. 1. Lochlinear Gleanngay Quick As A Wink. Correct type, size, and coat, with a beautiful terrier expression, set off by lovely-sized ears, correctly set, dark expressive eyes. A lack of reach in front, and attitude let this puppy down in the challenge for Sweeps winner. 2. Bonney Five Guns And A Rose. A very appealing outline, but is quite a tall puppy, for his age. Pleased in head length, and a very nice rear.

12-18 Junior. 1. Derryhumma Eureka Stereotype. What style on this total showman, he was beautifully presented to me, with lovely substance and one of the best heads, eye and shoulders on the males, with a correct forechest (rare in our breed).

This and his confidence in the ring won him his BOSS. However his size and rear action gave the bitch the edge in the challenge. 2. Pit-terpat Working on a Dream. What a beautiful coat on this dog, and a lovely head. I would have liked him with more balance between his front and rear angulation. He is also a bigger than ideal-sized dog.

6-9 Puppy Bitch. This class was outstanding in depth of quality. 1. Bryr Rose Pop Champagne. I simply loved this bitch, from her beautiful coat, to her best in the entry shoulders, her combination of substance in a correctly-sized bitch to how her movement proved to me this bitch was made right. She didn’t have the smallest of ears or the longest of heads, but she showed me what a Wheaten with great type and movement could be. So I took her all the way to BISS because she was typy and showed her head off right to the end. 2. Baroque You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet. Another lovely bitch, a star when she gets it together, not the shoulders of the winner and so she didn’t move out with reach in front, a nice outline and an excellent bitch unlucky to meet the winner today. 3. Brelan Timely Magic. A third lovely bitch, in this, a wonderful class. 4. Gemstone Playin’ Games.
9-12 Puppy Bitch. 1. Lochlinear Gleanngay Couldn't Sleep A Wink. Alone in this class, but a classy and typy bitch, what a head and lovely terrier expression, needed to be more confident in the ring today.

12-18 Junior Bitch. 1. Tara Life's A Beach. Another star, oh how I wished she was in a mood to show, the square outline the breed should have, the head and expression that is correct and the lovely wish she was in a mood to show, the square outline the breed needed to be more confident in the ring today, on bite and coat.

SCWTCNC Critique
Gary M Vlachos

Invariably, I begin these critiques by thanking all of those involved for the invitation to judge your Specialty and of the honor it bestows upon me. Sometimes redundancy is a nice thing, like this time. Thank-you!

As I was judging I noticed a few recurring themes that as breeders we need to pay attention to. To borrow from Sesame Street, today’s critique is brought to you by the letters T and V!

T is for:

TEXTURE - I was happy to see many more coats of the proper wave that is asked for in our Standard; however, too many of them were crisp and wiry. The plus side is of course that the wave that is so much more “Wheateny” than the plush, cottony coats so common in the past!

TEETH - There were too many dropped lower incisors! A few bites bordered on being undershot, but when looking at the sides of the bites, it was apparent that the problem is not in the length of the lower jaw, but in the width and finish of the lower jaw. This fault is so much easier to see in breeds without beards, so when you are evaluating your breeding stock you really have to get in there to feel and look for the adequate width and finish. Of course the teeth will tell you too!

TOP-LINE - Much to my pleasure, length of backs are getting shorter (we need to get them shorter still), but the “Sweeney-ridge” has crept back in! For those of you newer to the breed, many of us “old timers” refer to a grouping of vertebrae in the middle of the back that rise up to cause a slight roach in the top-line as a “Sweeney-ridge.” Whether deserved or not this characteristic was attributed to a certain dog (of course the bitch is never blamed!) in our breed, which is why, as an “old-timer” myself, I refer to it this way!

TEMPERAMENT - Our Standard says... “alert, happy... steady disposition.” I had a lot of happy, a few too many “not so steadys!” I’m not an expert on dog psychology. I tend to be old-fashioned in my approach to my puppies. My puppies always received a lot of socialization. I took them to my salon for the constant coming and goings of people, the lights, and the cacophony of sounds.

My puppies always had boundaries! I never have bought into the notion that if your puppy is doing an unacceptable behavior you needed to distract him from that behavior by getting him to do something else. I always wondered how he would learn that what he was doing previously wasn’t acceptable?

By the time a puppy is ready for the show ring he should have been on the table enough to learn how to stand for an examination. If he spins and spins to the point that the judge can barely examine him, he hasn’t been given his boundaries of acceptable behavior. Either he has become the Alpha, or he is still waiting for his Alpha to appear. I have a hint; his Alpha is waiting for him out behind the barn! They’re terriers! They occasionally need a trip to the back of the barn.

TONY - No, not tone as in sound, nor tone as in muscle condition, but tone as in color! Grey shading as it appears on the ears and muzzle is acceptable. The occasional black guard hair in the coat is acceptable. A preponderance of grey in the coat other than on the muzzle and ears is not acceptable! We have struggled before with this in the breed and corrected it. I’m sure we can, pardon the pun, “clear out” the problem again!

Now you would think with so many T’s how did I find my winners?

 Didn’t I say we have two letters today?

Today’s second letter is V.

V is for: VIRTUE!

My Winner’s Dog, Pitterpat’s Blue Bayou, came to me from the Open Dog Class. An 18” dog he looked somewhat out of place in a class that overall brought too much size to the ring. He was of the make and shape that I like. Square in outline and balanced, he presented the proper sporting terrier movement and outline on the go-around. I would have liked a tad more length of muzzle and a clearer coat on him, but his VIRTUES carried him to the Winner’s award! I was later pleased to find out that his dam was the bitch that I awarded WB/BOW/BOS to the last time I judged your Specialty!

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continued from page 16

My Reserve Winner’s Dog was a 9 & Under 12 Months Dog. Lochlinear Gleanngay Quick As A Wink was very pleasing for his balance and moderation. A nice square package was yet another VIRTUE. His main fault was some looseness in his front, which may improve with age.

My bitches overall were stronger than my dogs, better size, better balance. Of course as a breeder I think this bodes well for the breed!

Winner’s Bitch/Best of Winner’s came from the Bred-By Class! Marquee’s Tax Exchange topped the largest most competitive class of the day. So many VIRTUES in this package! Properly sized and of the make and shape I look for, she carried her outline on her side-gait, and was clean on the down and back. A beautiful ear both in size and set enhanced her excellent expression. She had a few tentative moments but quickly pulled herself back together. With a bit more muscle and filling in I could have carried her to the top spot.

Reserve Winner’s Bitch was also from the Bred-By Class. Tralee Bay’s Higher Than A Kite was very feminine in expression, well constructed, moved true, and had a Virtuous silhouette! Her coat was not as typey as my Winner’s and her bite could have been cleaner.

My Best Of Opposite Sex was awarded to the bitch Ch Gemstone’s All That Glitters. She had excellent Wheaten type. She was in good body and muscle. Her top-line was level with a good set on of tail. Her movement was true coming and going and had an excellent balanced side-gait. I particularly liked how her VIRTUOUS coat lent itself to her over-all Wheaten type.

My Best of Breed was a dog of many VIRTUES. Ch Vintage Signed Sealed And Delivered was of moderate size, correct head to neck proportions, blending smoothly into a strong level top-line with a high set-on of tail. Plenty of rump behind, he had a strong driving rear, balanced by his well-constructed front. His expression was very Wheateny, and all boy! His coat was a little too “blown out” for me (something I expressed to his owner/handler at the dinner) but his superior balance, conditioning, and movement “delivered” him to the top spot on this day!

Three Awards of Merit were given this day: 1st AOM to Ch. Lochlinear Finnegan Inverlochy. A well moving dog with good overall balance. 2nd AOM to Ch. Gleanngay Legend Of The Grail. An upstanding dog with good leg and a strong silhouette. 3rd AOM to Ch. Kincora Tara Life In The Fast Lane. A moderate dog in size and proportion, sporting a beautiful coat.

The trophy table was beautiful. You could see a lot of hard work went into the product and development end of the trophies awarded!

I am happy to say that I managed to come home not only with more great memories, but also with one of the special offerings from the trophy table...a ceramic trivet honoring the movie, Breakfast at Tiffany’s! Many thanks! 🐾
Ch Kairi's Butterfly Kisses

May 4, 1998 to February 28, 2010

I know it will take time and strength before things feel quite right. But just for now I need to mourn, my heart, it needs to mend. My constant companion, a love I won't forget. Forever my sweet Kisses you will live in my heart.

"With all that I've done wrong I must have done something right To deserve a hug every morning and Butterfly Kisses at night"

Lori & Marv Kromash
Islander Wheatens
Introducing

Amaden’s Bugger Vance

Sired by: CH Coventry’s Hey Look Me Over
Dam: CH Amaden’s Lady Slipper

Bred by Emily Holden, Bonnie Ivler, and Lori Kromash

Exhibited by Lori Kromash

His first weekend showing:
Reserve Winners Dog and Best Puppy at Garden State All Terrier Show
Mr. Kerry Lee judging

Best in Sweepstakes and Reserve Winners Dog at Delaware Valley SCWTC Specialty at Bucks County Kennel Club
Mr. Michael DeCarlo and Mr. Gary Valachos judging

On loan from Richard Tomlinson and the congregation of Stella Maris RCC, Sullivan’s Island, SC
Ch. Diamonds Breakfast at Tiffany's comes in a nice square package!

Honey

Breeder-Owner-Handler
Betty Ann Hillwig
diamondscwt@verizon.net

Handled by Dana Bryson
danabryson@earthlink.net

Already in the Top 10

Bucks 2009 Specialty - WB, AOM
Judge - Kathy Ferris

Bucks 2010 Specialty - AOM
Judge - Gary Vlachos

MCKC 2009 Specialty Weekend
Hatboro KC - WB, New Champion
Judge - Chris Erickson

Trenton KC - BOB
Judge - Anne Barlow
Our September issue will be the last Benchmarks produced by our peerless editor, Gay Dunlap. I’m allowing myself to indulge in nostalgia, perhaps mandated by a column of this title, but seldom employed by this correspondent, who tends to be future focused in matters related to our dogs.

Working first with Carol, and now with Gay, I’ve been given complete freedom of expression as they created a publication that has become the conscience of the breed. Gay has promised that she won’t edit this, so I’m free to “speak my piece.” She has challenged all of us to think of every aspect of participating in the sport of purebred dogs, and of being a fully committed Wheaten breeder. Covering every aspect of Wheaten concerns, she has fearlessly opened “Pandora’s box” to discussions of health, conformation, breeding issues, responsibility, and the larger world of canine concerns…the all-breed scene. Gutsy and opinionated, that is our Gay…ready to cut through to the heart of the matter.

We have been friends and competitors since 1971 when I showed Sweeney (later Ch Stephen Dedalus of Andover) in the Miscellaneous Class at the First Governors Foot Guard show in Hartford. A very attractive Westchester housewife, who had shown a Yorkie, came over to talk. In line to acquire a Wheaten bitch, she was ready to jump into our quest for AKC recognition. That bitch was to become Ch Innisfree’s Annie Sullivan, our first AKC BIS. As soon as Annie was old enough, we joined forces. Gay had moved to Massachusetts, but we traveled together up and down the East coast. Coming from Long island, we met on the Jersey Turnpike. I left my car, (the only Cadillac we ever owned) in the Howard Johnson parking lot, and we arranged our (then untrimmed and very fluffy) darlings in crates in the back of her Volvo station wagon. Later, daughter Cindy worked in a summer camp near Gay, and she and Gay traveled together. We often stayed with Marjorie and Dan Shoemaker; met up with Emily Holden…we were an extended family, united in our devotion to these wonderful dogs.

In due time Gay bred Annie to Sweeney. Meanwhile, Marjorie had purchased a Sweeney son, Ch Abby’s Postage Dhu O’ Waterford. In turn, his son, Ch Koops Kilkenny of Woodbridge was bred to the Annie-Sweeney daughter, Ch Gleanngay’s Goldilach, to produce the all time top producing Wheaten sire, Ch Gleanngay Holliday (“Doc”). Among his worthy champions, was Ch Andover Song N Dance Man, whose record as the all time top winning Wheaten held up for 19 years. And now, almost 30 years later, we have high hopes for the progeny of another Gleanngay-Andover breeding.

Have we always agreed on everything? Of course not. But what has kept this friendship alive is respect for each other’s sincerity and devotion to the breed. A glance at our Yearbooks attests to Gay’s success as a breeder. Let me remind you of a few of her other contributions to the breed. Our “Visualization of the Standard”, edited and produced by Gay is held in highest esteem by so many other breeds, and is a wonderful tool for breeders and judges alike. She has worked tirelessly on educational materials collaborating with her co-chairs on the Judges Education Committee. She now judges the Terrier Group and the Toy Group. When health problems cropped up, she without hesitation listed her dogs on the Open Registry. Gay’s term as Benchmark editor has provided us with a handsome, provocative quarterly publication. Now, in her new career as our Delegate to the AKC, she can further her goal of keeping the Wheaten community aware of the greater world of purebred dogs. Thank you Gay, for all these years of service. And what would the breed look like without you? Is there a picture of Annie and Sweeney traveling together?

I welcome Molly O’Connell as she takes on the challenge of this publication. Of course, we share a history, but that comes in the future. These old fingers don’t want to type any more today.
M y friend Darby revels in the good life when he travels: Egyptian cotton bed linens, gourmet meals whipped up by the chef, a workout with a private trainer or a day of in-room massage and grooming.

Happily, some of Southern California’s finest hotels leap at the chance to accommodate his penchant for luxury. They greet him with open arms, tell him how handsome he is, then give him the run of the place.

Never mind that Darby speaks only in monosyllables, doesn’t carry a credit card and ambles across the lobby on four legs instead of two. He is treated as an honored guest. Hotels that once shunned nonhuman guests are now rolling out the grass carpet. And we’re not just talking about Motel 6, which has allowed guests to bunk with man’s best friend since its founding in 1962. AAA estimates the number of dog-friendly high-end hotels has doubled since 2006.

“Luxury hotels set themselves apart by the level of service they lavish on guests,” said Kim Atkinson of Mobil Travel Guides, which recently published “On the Road With Your Pet.” “This is another way to go above and beyond your competition.”

At these posh hotels, dogs are welcome

**Lake Arrowhead Resort and Spa:** 27984 Highway 189, Lake Arrowhead; (800) 800-6792, www.laresort.com. Rates range from $149 to $900 per night; $20 charge per pet per night.

**Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey:** 4375 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey; (800) 542-8680, www.ritzcarlton.com. Rates range from $339 to $3,200 per night; $125 nonrefundable pet cleaning fee per visit.

**Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort:** 21100 Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach; (800) 445-8667, www.hilton.com. Rates $209 to $829 per night; $75 charge per night for dogs.

**San Giuliano:** 375 W. Arenas, Palm Springs; (877) 897-7100; www.sangiulianohotel.com. Rates range from $145 to $295; $30 per night pet fee. $200 refundable cleaning fee.

**Cambria Pines Lodge:** 2905 Burton Drive, Cambria; (800) 445-6868, www.cambriapineslodge.com. Rates range from $109 to $229 per night; $25 per night per pet.

Among the perks she cited: mini-bars containing doggy ice cream treats, color sessions for the poodle that needs a touch-up, appointments with trainers and pet psychics.

At such tony digs as the Peninsula Beverly Hills, pampered pups receive a nightly turndown service with Evian water and a set of monogrammed paw-print towels.

At the legendary Beverly Hills Hotel, where some of Hollywood’s most glamorous stars hide out in pink bungalows, hounds can chase pink tennis balls and wolf down cookies inscribed with their name. At the Omni San Diego, they can choose an in-room doggy movie to help them pass the time. At the St. Regis Monarch Beach, personalized food and water bowls await, along with an issue of Hollywood Dog and toys from Bark Jacobs and Jimmie Chew.

With so many luxury hotels putting on the dog, I was curious. Would Darby really be accepted or would he and I be shunted off to a room at the back of the hotel with a view of the parking lot? We hit the road to test the luxe quotient at five dog-friendly California hotels.

Of course, the fun usually doesn’t come cheap. Some swank hotels charge a nonrefundable pet fee of as much as $500, but there’s a range: The Beverly Hills Hotel’s fee is $200 per stay; the Peninsula charges $35 per day. In some cases, the fee is used for additional cleaning to make sure the room is acceptable to the next guest, who may not be traveling with a pet.

Here’s an account of our journey, with Darby’s favorites listed in descending order.

**LAKE ARROWHEAD RESORT & SPA**

Darby, a Wheaten Terrier, and I met about six months ago when he was up for adoption. He planted so many wet kisses on my face the first time I saw him that I knew he had found a home. He knew it too. That night, he hopped up on the bed and stretched out his long body lengthwise across the pillows.

This guy enjoys the finer things in life, I thought. But so do I. So I shooed the big pillow hog down to the foot of the bed.

Our tug-of-war escalated the night we visited the Lake Arrowhead Resort & Spa. I had to struggle mightily to persuade him to move to his part of the bed.

The mountaintop hotel, which underwent a $17-million renovation last year, has beds on a grand scale: soaring leather headboards, plush pillow-top mattresses, rich Egyptian cotton linens and plump...
Darby staked out the head of the bed immediately, ignoring a cushy doggy bed that had been left in the room. When I pointed to the smaller bed -- a prince-like concoction of sheepskin and velvet -- he snuggled into my pillows, dropped his head onto his paws and pretended to be asleep.

My pal found a lot to like about Lake Arrowhead Resort, a rambling three-story contemporary lodge in the San Bernardino National Forest about 90 miles from Los Angeles.

When making the reservation, I alerted the hotel that Darby would accompany me (a must for people who travel with pets). When we checked in, the desk clerk was ready for us and shot a picture for the hotel's doggy visitors wall.

Our room, which had a balcony overlooking the blue waters and green pines and cedars of Lake Arrowhead, held plenty of pet perks. A gift bag bearing Darby's name awaited with treats, scented dog soap and a small squeaky toy; a letter from the manager welcomed him; and a hang tag for the door read, "Pet on the Loose," a handy warning for hotel personnel.

But Darby's favorite perk involved the pet menu, which listed delicacies from Bin 189, the hotel restaurant. He gobbled down the Hound Dawg Burger, an $11 mixture of ground chuck, beef broth and dry dog food; I drew the line at the Rover Filet, a $39 splurge on 8 ounces of filet mignon prepared with gravy.

Many activities here include pets, so Darby had a chance to work off his dinner during a naturalist-guided walk we took along the shady shoreline with other guests. We also caught a starry, starry night astronomy show on the hotel's grassy lakeside terrace. I liked it, but he slept through it.

RITZ-CARLTON, MARINA DEL REY

When we travel, Darby spends a lot of time flirting. But what did I expect of an Irish dog? The lovable-rogue stereotype fits man and beast.

So he was in his element at the elegant Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey, where he turned on the charm as soon as he pranced in the front door. Gloria Cox, a hotel greeter, admired his physique and gave him a dish of water. He, in turn, kissed her hand. Then two female desk clerks told him how handsome he was. He stood up at the counter on his rear legs and batted big brown eyes at them.

Darby doesn't discriminate by gender, either. If a man pats him on the head, he's just as likely to get a friendly kiss, which is what happened when we ran into executive chef Chad Minton near the hotel elevator. Minton told us about the dog cookies and entrees ($10 each) he creates for the hotel's four-legged guests. He tests them on Oliver and Isabella, his English bulldogs.

The Marina del Rey Ritz-Carlton is L.A.'s only AAA five-diamond waterfront hotel. Located on the marina near Venice, it qualifies as Big City Posh, with marble floors, crystal chandeliers and fresh orchids in every room.

It's known for its amenities.

But what about the canine perks? Darby gave them high marks. He liked everything about our room except the dog bed, preferring, of course, the plush bedding and Egyptian cotton linens on my bed.

Pet amenities were first-rate: welcome notes, toys, pet towelettes, beach body spray, an issue of Bark magazine and "pet-i-fours" on a silver tray. Darby took it all in, then pounced on a flaming-pink chenille dog toy and turned somersaults playing with it.

The next day, we lounged on striped pillows near the edge of the pool, and Darby turned on the charm again, this time for Jules Taylor, a 9-year-old tourist from New York City. Jules scratched his head. Darby kissed her. She kissed him back on the top of his nose. Darby wagged his fluff ball of a tail. Such a flirt.

HILTON WATERFRONT BEACH RESORT

From the elegance of the Ritz-Carlton, we ventured south on Pacific Coast Highway to Huntington Beach, home of another seaside hotel, the Hilton Waterfront Beach Resort. "Surf City, here we come..."

It was Darby's sixth birthday, and we were going to celebrate it by cavoring on Huntington's mile-long dog beach (between 21st and Seapoint streets).

We also looked forward to enjoying the casual charm of the Hilton, a high-rise overlooking the Pacific.

Rooms have balconies and most have views of the ocean. We lucked out with an eighth-floor corner room, which gave us a panoramic view. We watched the sunset, and later, the bonfires burning on the beach. (I liked the view, but Darby dozed.)

The Hilton's crisp, white, overstuffed dog bed bore the words "Wag It at the Waterfront" and matched the striped duvet on the bed, but again, Darby wasn't buying it. He was happier, however, with the signature dog dish, which guests can take home.

Best of all, the Hilton Waterfront offered an easy place to walk a dog, a perk in short supply at the other hotels we visited. A grass-lined street behind the hotel is quiet, safe and close.

Hilton's pet-friendly program is going global and will be offered at all Hilton brand hotels.

SAN GIULIANO

No California hotel listing is complete without at least one entry

continued on page 24
from the desert. But deluxe dog-friendly accommodations are in short supply here. While some hotels accept pets, few offer special amenities or perks. A small boutique hotel in Palm Springs, the San Giuliano, makes up for what the others lack.

The hacienda-style hotel, with just eight rooms -- all suites -- offers private gardens and patios. So, Darby had his own yard, complete with fountain and spa. And he could have used either one, I was told. But he really wasn't into the getting-wet thing. He was more interested in the perks, which included bones and toys and fortified water.

The downtown hotel is beautifully landscaped with mature shade trees and bright bougainvillea spilling across the walls. Rooms are chic; each is different.

CAMBRIA PINES LODGE
Darby and I made a quick stop here on a Central California trip. Cambria Pines Lodge, a collection of cabins on 26 acres about a mile and a half from the beach, doesn't have the perks, or the luxe accommodations, of the other hotels on this list. But it gave us a chance to rub shoulders -- so to speak -- with nature: A doe and two fawns grazed outside our cabin one morning.

And Cambria is a great place to visit with a dog. It offers one of our favorite walks, where dogs on a leash can promenade along a boardwalk that runs for 1 1/2 miles round-trip along craggy bluffs overlooking beautiful Moonstone Beach. Sea lions and seals play in the water, barking. Darby shifted into excited dog mode, trying to out-bark them.

Not a chance, but I didn't tell him that. 🐶

NEW OPEN REGISTRY MEMBERS
May 1, 2010

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 Terriers 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 the SCWTCA web site at http://www.scwtca.org/documents/health/or_membership-form_20080309.pdf.

For a complete list of Open Registry members, email kccarlson@comcast.net.

Meredith Bannister
Mary Ann Curtis
Justin & Ashley Nevins
Michael & Eloise Sheldon
Susan Sowmick
Drip, Drip, Drip – Oh Those Leaky Pipes
Canine Urinary Incontinence  Part 1

Sheilla E (Blanker) Morrissey, DVM, SHCA Genetics’ Chairman

I graduated from the Univ. of Minnesota College of Vet. Med in 1983. While going to school there I adopted my first Siberian who was part of a research study looking at ways to surgically correct ectopic ureters. This was how my special interest in ectopic ureters was started. I continue to be interested in the topic and have attended many lectures on the topic in regards to new techniques to diagnose and treat the condition.

What has leaky plumbing got to do with canine health and genetics? Well if you’ve ever had an incontinent dog you know – it means puddles everywhere. Urinary incontinence, or urine leaking, is not an uncommon occurrence in our canine companions and most notably in our female dogs (while it can occur in male dogs it occurs at a much lower frequency). While there are many possible causes of this condition this article will focus on the two main causes, ectopic ureters and urethral sphincter muscle incompetence (USMI - previously called estrogen responsive incontinence).

Ectopic ureters are most commonly diagnosed in young dogs under a year of age but can be diagnosed later in life also. Ectopic ureters refer to the congenital malformation of the tubes connecting the kidneys to the bladder. This malformation can occur on just one side (unilateral) or both (bilateral). There are many different variations to the malformation as well, the ectopic ureter can run outside of the bladder wall (extramural) or can tunnel through the bladder wall (intramural) – more common – and in the case of bilateral ectopic ureters each side can be different. In either case the ureter opens further down the urinary tract than normal occasionally even opening into the vagina and usually past the internal urethral sphincter (the small muscle near the neck of the bladder that controls urination) which is why ectopic dogs leak urine. Male dogs have another functional sphincter further down the penis, which is why male dogs with ectopic ureters tend to not leak (be continent) – and to be under diagnosed!

Most dogs with ectopic ureters are diagnosed as young puppies, sometimes as young as 4 weeks of age. Either the breeder or the puppy owner notices that the puppy is always wet down the back or inside of its rear legs or that the puppy doesn’t seem to be housebreaking as they find puddles of urine where the puppy was sleeping. The amount of urine leakage can vary as can the severity of the ectopia and signs do not always correlate with the degree of ectopia. Cases with mild signs may not be diagnosed until later in life when the dog may also have a bit of sphincter muscle incompetence (USMI) in addition to the ectopia and while working up the USMI the ectopic ureters may be uncovered.

Originally ectopic ureters were felt to be just a simple displacement of the ureters from their normal position on the bladder but now it is known to be more complex than that. It is not just the area of the bladder neck (the trigone) where normal ureters connect that is abnormal but also the area of the internal urethral sphincter as well. It is not uncommon for the affected ureter(s) to be dilated as well, a condition known as hydroureter, and again the severity of this can vary from case to case.

Ectopic ureters can NOT be diagnosed with plain radiographs or with ultrasound. Although ultrasound can pick up hydroureters there are many causes besides ectopic ureters for hydroureters. Radiographs with dye studies, either giving the radiopaque dye intravenously (IVP) or up the vagina (or penis in the case of a male) and urethra (the tube from the bladder to the outside) via a urinary catheter (retrograde vaginocystogram) used to be the methods used to diagnose this condition. Dye studies also have limitations, oftentimes it is very hard to identify exactly where the ureters end and if the ectopic ureter tunnels into the bladder and then exits in the urethra it may appear on the x-ray that the ureter is normal when in fact it is not. Cystoscopic examination, which entails putting a rigid endoscope up into the urethra and the bladder, is now the preferred method for diagnosing ectopic ureters since it allows the actual visualization of the ureters and where they open into the bladder. Sometimes both dye studies and cystoscopy are used to diagnose ectopic ureters.

Diagnosis of ectopic ureters typically includes a physical exam, a urinalysis +/- a urine culture, and blood work to check kidney function. It is not uncommon for a dog with ectopic ureters to have a bladder infection (cystitis also known as a urinary tract infection or UTI) due to the constantly wet conditions of the hindquarters. History of a puppy whose hindquarters are always wet or wakes up in a puddle of urine or who is having difficulty house training lends a high degree of suspicion of ectopic ureters.

Ectopic ureters are a congenital condition meaning “present at birth”. It is also thought to be a genetic disease since although any dog can be affected there is a higher incidence in certain breeds – our beloved Siberian being one of them. A few of the other breeds that can be affected include West Highland White Terriers, Golden Retrievers, Wheaten Terriers and Labrador Retrievers. No clear genetic pattern of inheritance is known. Affected dogs should not be bred and the mating that produced the affected offspring should not be repeated. Judicious breeding of siblings and parents can be done but with full disclosure of information and diligent record keeping for several generations.

Urethral sphincter muscle incompetence (USMI) occurs due to the failure of the urethral sphincter to function properly. It can occur in any type of dog and occasionally in cats as well but rarely. Most commonly it occurs in spayed larger breed, young to middle age spayed dogs. The time at which this occurs after spaying can be quite variable but it is usually seen within three years of the operation. Male dogs, primarily those that have been castrated,
can be affected and occasionally it can be seen in an intact male dog. About 13-20% of dogs will develop USMI after being spayed.

The signs are very similar to a dog with ectopic ureters but the history is different. The typical history is of a middle age or older spayed female dog that is leaking urine. The dog may be "having accidents" in the house but when questioned further the owner will report that the dog is waking up in a puddle of urine or a wet spot on the bed. The dog is squatting to urinate in the house. Again this condition can be variable as to its severity. Initially it may occur only intermittently or only when the dog is very tired and sleeping very deeply or it may occur whenever the dog is lying down. Other causes, such as ectopic ureters, bladder infection, or kidney disease, etc. need to be ruled out. This will entail a physical exam, urinalysis +/- a urine culture, blood work and, as in the case of ectopic ureters, it may also include x-rays or a cystoscopic exam. As with ectopic ureters the urinalysis is usually normal and no urinary tract infection is present. In a university or referral setting special equipment can measure urethral sphincter tone (a urethral pressure profile) and can be helpful to determine a definitive diagnosis. When there is a high level of suspicion of USMI due to history and physical findings, response to treatment (with medication used to treat USMI) can be used to make a diagnosis of USMI but since up to 30% of cases may not respond to initial treatment, treatment failure does not rule out USMI as the cause of incontinence.

USMI is not completely understood but is thought to be multifactorial, with both structural and physiological factors playing a role in its development. After spaying estrogen levels are decreased and this hormonal change may result in decreased urethral tone. Interestingly spayed dogs with and without USMI have similar estrogen levels. Aging may also play a part by affecting the collagenous support tissues of the region decreasing urethral tone as well. Abnormal positioning of the bladder or urethra is thought to also contribute to the inadequate functioning of the urethral sphincter. Normally the bladder and the forward (proximal) part of the urethra are within the abdomen. When there is increased abdominal pressure this pressure causes compression (or squeezing) of both the bladder and the urethra preventing urine leakage but if the bladder and proximal urethra are located further back (caudally) within the pelvis (a condition known as pelvic bladder) no compression of the urethra occurs so there is a predisposition to leak urine. This abnormal position may be present prior to surgery while others theorize that after spaying the bladder may move caudally. Obesity and other structural abnormalities of the genital tract may also be contributory to the development of USMI.

Incontinence caused by ectopic ureters and urethral sphincter mechanism incompetence have many similarities in common in how they present but their causes are very different. Treatment options also are different for the two diseases but there is some overlap as to how they can be treated and these will be discussed in the next part of the article.

This series of articles is dedicated to the Siberians in my life who have been afflicted with ectopic ureters: C.J., my first Siberian who was an ectopic ureter research dog; Kira, a rescue dog who has become our clinic mascot; and Freya. Through them all I have learned a lot about the condition.

The following dogs were awarded

**CHAMPIONSHIP AND PERFORMANCE TITLES**

last year and were not recognized in our last issue of Benchmarks. Apologies!

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## SCWT CHAMPION and PERFORMANCE TITLES

**January – March 2010**  
Compiled by Sheila O’Connell

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In an unbelievable scoop, usually found in lesser publications such as *The National Enquirer*, The Star has gained an exclusive interview with a dog. Yes, a dog. A real dog...the four-legged, bow-wow, lick-you-in-the-face kind of dog.

We didn’t believe it either until the unedited transcript was brought to us by “a reliable source.” Our “reliable source,” apparently quite adept at canine conversation, prefers to be identified only as a “ghost writer,” though a more accurate description might be “holy ghost writer.”

“Percy,” the new parish dog, pulls no punches and reveals his innermost thoughts about life in a rectory in this hard-hitting, riveting, and exclusive interview found only in The Star.

Percy, the Parish Pup, pontificates...

The Star: Hello Percy. May I ask you, what is a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier?

Percy: We’re an Irish farm dog. We were bred to go to ground, to hunt small game, and we also work as herders and gun dogs.

The Star: And what do Wheatens do in America?

Percy: We’re mostly companion dogs. But we do some obedience and agility, and also visit in nursing homes and work as therapy dogs.

The Star: Is there a Hard Coated Wheaten Terrier?

Percy: No. The Wheaten, the Kerry Blue and the Irish Terrier are all descendants of the original long-legged Irish Terrier, we’re basically the same dog under the coat. We were originally called Irish Wheaten Terriers but when our breeders wanted to join the Irish Kennel Club, the Irish Terrier people objected, saying the name would be too confusing, so they came up with the Soft Coated stuff.

The Star: How can you see with all that hair in your eyes?

Percy: I can see just fine, thank you. The hair is there to protect my eyes when I dig in the ground. If you ever see a Wheaten without hair over his eyes, he is not correctly groomed.

The Star: How old are you now?

Percy: 10 months. I was born on May 20, 2009.

The Star: How did you get the name Percy?

Percy: One of my Dad’s favorite writers is some guy named Walker Percy. But he calls me Percival for short.

The Star: How do you like living in the Rectory?

Percy: It’s nice. A little on the quiet side. But I have a big yard, and there are lots of other dogs in the neighborhood.

The Star: What do you do all day long?

Percy: Well, every weekday my Dad takes me out to Bishop England. I hang out with the ladies in the front office and greet the students. I also go to the Men’s and Women’s Club functions, the Soup and Sandwiches, the homeschoolers, the Irish dancing, and play with the kids after Sunday masses. And I get to ride in the car a lot. We go downtown sometimes, or to make communion calls, or run errands. And of course I walk on the beach, play in the yard, eat, and sleep. All the usual dog stuff.

The Star: Sounds rough.

Percy: Hey, somebody has to do it.

The Star: What do you think of Father Tomlinson?

Percy: He’s kind of strict and boring, like most Dads. But he loves me.

The Star: And what do you think of Monsignor McInerny?

Percy: He’s bonkers. But he makes a mean waffle.

The Star: I understand he says you make Beau look smart.

Percy: He can say whatever he wants, as long as he keeps cooking waffles.

The Star: What are you going to do this summer?

Percy: I’ll go up north to be in some dog shows, and also to see my big sister Siobhan and my cousins.

The Star: Anything else on the horizon?

Percy: My dad says when I grow up I can go with Monsignor to hunt Martians.

The Star: Uh, I think you mean marsh hens.

Percy: Hey, whatever.
Teddy’s Story...paws in the sand

This sad story tells itself and there is a lesson here for many of us...

Dear Gina

I am the editor of the SCWTCA quarterly publication, Benchmarks. I read your touching story about Teddy. I know how difficult it must have been to do what you did but, rest assured, it was your only choice. I hope that as the days have progressed you understand this. I would like to share your story with our Benchmarks readers and wonder if you would allow me to reprint it?

Gay Dunlap

Hi Gay,

Just last night before bed I started thinking about Teddy and broke down and cried. It has been 6 months and there hasn't been a day that I haven't thought of him. I feel Teddy's story should be shared to bring awareness and I would be honored to be in your newsletter. I'm attaching some pictures of him. Please send me a copy of the newsletter with Teddy's story. Thank you.

Gina

In a message dated 7/14/09 Gina writes:

Hi, I am need of advice. I have exhausted all resources and at the end of my rope. I have a four-year old Wheaten named Teddy purchased from a pet store. I have later learned of the tragic conditions that these dogs are bred under “after the fact.” I feel that if I cannot fix his aggressive behavior he will have to be put down. Teddy is my best friend, fun loving, great with kids & other dogs. If a dog is barking at him he will ignore them and walk on by. You could put your face in his bowl, take away a treat or a bone, etc. He goes to dog parks and day care. He has a great temperament except when it comes to my husband and most recently my 15 year-old son. He spends 80% of the time with me and takes a 2-mile walk everyday. He goes everywhere with me. He is crated at bedtime in my room and doesn't mind it much. When my husband comes home from work he gets the biggest greeting, lays on his back and gets his tummy rubbed but all that changes in a matter of minutes. When he was 2 years old he started showing aggression toward my husband when he was brushing his teeth, both at night or the morning. At first we thought it was cute but when he suddenly attacked and bit my husband on the rear end it wasn't funny anymore. So then he had to shut the door while brushing. But one day Teddy was sitting in front of the door waiting for him to come out and bit him when he opened it. So then we crated him while he was in the bathroom. Six months passed with no incident until one day my husband was changing clothes after work in his closet.

Teddy attacked and bit him. I can't even count the times he has gone after him in the closet. So then again we would lock him in the crate. It turned into every time he was carrying his shoes or in his office getting his keys, etc. Then he turned on my son while he was getting changed into work-out wear in his room. He was beside me in the hall, spotted him, froze, got this weird look, then charged full speed ahead like a mad dog, jumped up on him, and bit him in the arm. The last time he bit my husband was totally weird. We were going to take him for a walk, I brought down my husband's shoes and he was in the downstairs bathroom washing his hands. Same thing happened ... Teddy froze, got that weird look and charged. Before my husband could shut the door once again he attacked him breaking skin on his fingers down to the bone. This was it for Teddy and I can't blame my husband after getting bit over 12 times. He wants him to go if we can't fix him. I have tried trainers, watched Cesar, It's Me Or The Dog, etc. Followed everyone's advice and still no improvements. All these trainers I have talked to have never heard of this type of aggression. So I am hoping that one of you has heard of this and can help. I love my dog but we can't go on like this any longer.

Thanks,

Gina

In a message dated 7/19/09 Gina writes to Bonney Snyder (Bonney had been advising her).

Subject: Paws in the Sand- My Wheaten Teddy

Dear Bonnie,

I wanted to let you know what happened with Teddy. Thank you for caring enough to respond. I took Teddy to a specialist Neurologist, Dr. Glass. He is the best of the best in Red Bank NJ. He diagnosed Teddy with Rage and basically told me there was nothing he could do for him. I had to get a 2nd opinion so I made another appointment at Garden State Referral-only hospital in Red Bank. Although I made the appointment I knew deep inside what had to be done.

Last night I took Teddy on his final night walk. We walked to all of his favorite sniffing spots in the rain. And for the first time in my life I didn't mind getting my hair wet. He sniffed a few poles, the fire hydrant, walked past the pavilion restaurant where he sat patiently in front of the restaurant's back door for a dog biscuit, up to the draw bridge to stick his nose out of the concrete spindles to smell the ocean like we have done almost every night we were here and finally I let him put his paws in the sand for the very last time.

When we got home from our walk I made him 4 hotdogs for dinner (his favorite) and laid on the floor with him crying my eyes out as he licked my tears. I surfed the night all night looking for something the vet could have missed but found nothing. This morning I didn't feed him because I tried to convince myself that he was going to have tests done at the new neurologist. Teddy's continued on page 30
records were faxed so she had everything in front of her. When she walked in she looked sad for me. She asked me many questions and did a reflex test and looked in his eyes. She then basically told me the same thing the other neurologist said. He has “Rage Syndrome,” explaining that it is in fact an epileptic seizure in the emotional lobe of the dog’s brain. Like other forms of epilepsy (motor, or behavioral) the dog behaves normally 98% of the time. It is the 2% that is the problem. This can happen in any breed of dog. So I had it done. She took him out of the room to give him an IV. When he came back into the room he was so excited to see me wagging his tail (little did he know what I just told them to do). The vet was such a nice woman. She asked me if I wanted Teddy to lay on the floor or on the table. I chose the floor. I knelt down beside him as she gave him something to sleep. When he was in a deep sleep she then gave him the drug to stop his heart. He looked very peaceful and died with no pain. I told him I was sorry, that I loved him, that I would see him in Heaven one day and wished I could go with him. I have been so upset today. Everything reminds me of him. I have been second-guessing my decision all day. I know Teddy was a dog but he was everything to me. He was my best friend and, like I have said so many times, I really feel like he was the only one who truly loved me. I have had a really tough year. Teddy was always there for me to hug when I was feeling low and got me through some very difficult times through his unconditional love. I will make it my mission in life to do anything to help the closing of puppy mills.

-Gina

(Gina, pictured with her beloved Teddy)
A dramatic vacation trip to Europe to deliver puppies to the stud dog owners, turned into an ash cloud nightmare with all of Europe’s planes grounded due to the Eyjafjallajökull volcano eruption in Iceland. While we thought that the real adventure would be the trip across the ocean with three wiggly 8-week-old puppies in Sherpa bags, passing through Customs and our subsequent stay in Germany, we were mistaken! The 8-hour trip from JFK to Frankfurt, Germany was unexpectedly easy. But the ash cloud added a whole other dimension to our trip. After dropping off the puppies, we traveled through the German countryside, shopping for shoes, visiting beautiful churches, castles, parks, and eating and drinking—yes, the beer & brats are as good as people say!

Days before we were to depart, the volcanic ash cancelled our flight home, with no end in sight. Travelers were stranded in airports across Europe, sleeping on cots, eating airport food & hoping their money would hold out until the cloud lifted. The news media referred to these unfortunate travelers as “the cloud people” all across Europe. Many could not leave the airport because they had no Visas for the country they were in at the moment.

We were still at the home of our German breeder in the countryside, eating home-cooked meals and enjoying the fresh-baked German croissants, Brie, schnitzel, feta cheese-stuffed pork chops, white asparagus and of course no evening was complete without a glass or two of wine. Sure, we felt guilty thinking of all the stranded travelers across Europe, husbands at home caring for dogs, and work responsibilities piling up with no end in sight. But what could we do?

Because our return trip was delayed we were able to attend a small terrier show in Limburg, Germany. There were 15 entries for Wheaten Reels. What a delight to attend a real European dog show to see how it’s done across the waves! There were entries for Junior dogs & bitches, International Champions, class dogs & bitches, all in German! Some dogs were earning CCs for their Junior Title, some were earning CCs for their German Title or National Title. Dogs had been bathed a week before & trimmed & brushed a day before.

At the dog show site, no bathing or blow drying was evident. Tables were allowed but no arms. Exhibitors had to hold each others’ dogs so they could be brushed and combed. Animal rights groups had successfully campaigned for no arms & nooses on the grooming tables. Judges dictated ringside and comments were typed on an electronic typewriter with a carbon copy going to the exhibitor. No computers or spell check here. Exhibitors came from every angle, stepping over the ropes & walking into the ring. Professional handlers were not evident.

Dogs were presented in a natural stance and then moved around the ring. Each dog had about 3 to 4 minutes as the Judge assessed and dictated his or her comments. Coats were as diverse as this show as they are in the States: long, short, wavy, straight, light, golden, Irish & heavy coats, all with full tails! One’s eye quickly became accustomed to the full tails, looking very natural, happy and waving exuberantly adding to the lively, energetic nature of the dog’s look. Food was wonderful also – homemade sandwiches (salami with hard-cooked eggs), and delicious cakes of all kinds served on china plates. Even though the ash cloud changed ours and many others’ plans that week, it was a delight to attend our first European dog show.

Finally, the airport opened six days after it closed. With souvenirs packed, we took a train from Fulda to the Frankfurt airport, boarded a plane, and flew to JFK in New York with stops in Paris and Atlanta. After 30 hours we were finally back in the States, tired and relieved to be home. We will miss the beautiful, orderly German countryside, good food, wine, German movies translated by our German hostess, wonderful Wheatens, friendly polite people with their cheerful parting goodbyes of tschüss…Cheers!

A special thanks to Margret Möller-Sieber for sharing her home, dogs, food, wine and countryside with us.

Int Ch Wheaten Rebel’s Like An Irish Lord

How the Ash Cloud Helped Us to See a European Dog Show

By Susan Ratcliffe and Marcy Kraus
One Wonderful Weekend
Garden State All Terrier Show

Greentree Point Given
Winners Dog, BBE Group 4
“Dawson”

Greentree Wind Dancer
Winners Bitch & BOW
“Carleigh”

Am Ca Ch Greentree Trinity Heart Break Kid
x
Greentree Preakness Clover

Ch Greentree Fairy Tale Only Time Will Tell
x
Ch Wheaten Rebel’s Eve of Destruction

Greentree Moonstruck Mombro Man
Best of Breed
“Ricky”

Ch Greentree Skellig Samba Par Ti
x
Ch Greentree Moonstruck Fairy Tale

Greentree Wheatens
Bev & Kevin McDonald
www.greentreewheatens.com
One Wonderful Weekend

Bucks County Kennel Club
Del Val Specialty Show

Greentree Rising Star
“Lola”
Winners Bitch
BEST OF BREED

Am Ca Ch Greentree Heart Break Kid x Greentree Preakness Clover

CH Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man
“Ricky”
1st Award of Merit

Ch Greentree Skellig Samba Par Ti x Ch Greentree Moonstruck Fairy Tale

Greentree Wheatens
Bev & Kevin McDonald
www.greentreewheatens.com

Photos courtesy of Gerry Meyers www.framewrightphoto.com
Del Val SCWT Club’s 7th Annual Herding Instinct Test and Clinic

BY SUZANNE STONE & CAROLYN WILKI

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America Board has submitted a proposal to the AKC to allow Wheaten to Herd in AKC events. Connie Koehler and I compiled a 26-page illustrated proposal documenting both Wheaten herding history and current interest accompanied by a video of our Wheaten showing their herding prowess. I’ve been collecting data over many years and the time was ripe to compile and submit the proposal. Wheaten owners have achieved herding titles through the American Herding Breeds Association, and interest on both the East and West Coasts with lots of places in-between have been documented.

Nineteen dogs were tested on this day and 16 passed.

Control

Of the 19 dogs, 7 were able to show some sort of pause on balance. Four dogs were able to show a stop on command, and 4 more were able to show a stop at least sometimes on command. One was able to sit at least 20 feet away from the sheep and from the handler. Only one dog, a dog that did not pass, demonstrated a consistently strong recall. Eight dogs had no recall at all, and the others had a recall, sometimes yes, sometimes no. These are results I would expect of typical pets that might have potential for herding and herding training.

Interestingly, the dogs that put in the strongest performances in terms of showing stock sense and the ability to move and keep the moving livestock moved or held in a group had some of the
spottiest formal control. However, despite the lack of formal obedience commands, the dogs were relatively responsive to the body language of the sheep and the handler and responsive to training attempts.

**Interest**

Interest was either apparent from the get-go, spotty at the beginning but flaming by the end, or sporadic to non-existent/not herding today. One non-passing dog obsessively ate every bit of sheep dung everywhere, wherever, instead of herding. Two others would not work 4 sheep but showed better interest in 25-30 sheep for at least a brief time, 20 seconds or less. This interest in driving the large flock sputtered out quickly, and when returned to 4 sheep, the dogs still showed no interest today, as if they felt they had no permission to work the livestock. However, most dogs showed sufficient interest in the livestock and the training.

**Movement of Stock**

Most of the dogs showed a variety of tendencies when moving the stock. Most of the dogs chased at least a little, with the exception of one of the best dogs who passed and with the exception of one of the dogs who did not pass (too busy eating sheep dung; would not run with mouth full). Many of the dogs kept the sheep mostly grouped, but at least occasionally, a few dogs seemed to make little attempt to re-group the sheep, going into the sheep wherever they could. About half lost contact with the sheep at one point during the test or another, especially in the beginning of the test or when they were distracted by other dogs watching the test. Only one dog singled out individuals, and that happened only a couple of times during that one dog’s test.

**Temperament**

Most of the dogs looked like they would readily adjust to herding training. A few started out easily distracted by dogs or people or sheep dung but then showed good adjustment to herding training as the test wore on. A couple looked somewhat frightened of the situation initially but were able to recover.

**Power**

All the dogs that passed had sufficient power to control livestock. The only one who did not show any power was our dung-eater. None showed excessive force with the livestock today.

**Balance/Distance**

Just about all the dogs showed some adjustment of balance and distance at least occasionally when working the sheep. Some of them went in and out of showing this adjustment. Others showed this adjustment of balance and distance after brief exposure to pattern training to show the dog what to do. Many showed remarkable ability to hit the fetching balance point and move/keep the sheep to their handler who was inside the pen with the sheep, while the dog was worked outside the pen.

**Responsiveness to Direction/Control**

The 3 dogs that did not pass seemed to be inhibited from herding sheep by the direction/control attempts of their handlers. Just about all the dogs that passed showed flashes of responsiveness to control commands interspersed with flashes of non-

**Approach**

Most dogs ran close. Two dogs had moderately wide approaches to sheep.

**Eye**

Most dogs had a loose eye.

**Wearing**

Most dogs showed at least some wearing. I saw no patrolling activity typical of tending.

**Barking**

Most dogs worked silently. Several force barked when sheep challenged or were reluctant to move. One dog sustained barking, but backed off to a force bark by the end of the test (maybe due to exhaustion?).

**Show Ready Adjustment To**

Dogs that passed showed ready adjustment to learning either fetching or driving. I observed no strong style preference, fetching or driving. Some dogs were able to hit both a fetching balance, especially when outside the arena and then find driving balance when in with the sheep inside the arena. I don’t think this breed is suited for working far out of sight or doing 400 yard outruns (they want to run too close), but the dogs seem generally trainable to me as a loose-eyed herding dog. In general, the strong interest many of these dogs showed in the livestock and herding work could be enhanced if their owners worked on their dogs’ off leash obedience, particularly their recall and stop and hand signals.

**Sunday Clinic**

At the clinic on Sunday, I first gave everyone an overview about herding using one of my infamous pictures to illustrate the principles behind the flight zone, and the instincts of sheep and dogs that we manipulate as shepherds to get the sheep to move. I happened to mention that there were only 7 basic command concepts that dogs would have to master in herding.
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Participants then spent a lot of time in real-time learning about the flight zone of sheep and what makes sheep move by first moving groups of sheep to various places on the farm without the dogs—a humans-only training exercise. Many of the human “dawg” teams (anywhere from 3 to 6 people, or more on each assignment) were quite successful and pleased with their results when their sheep finally made it to their designated destinations. Then, we worked with some wily yearlings, and well, people gained a new-found respect for the intelligence of sheep. At one point, there were 10 people and 4 green dogs in the field, and the sheep were still outflanking everyone, going where they pleased! The whoop of relief was heartfelt when the sheep finally entered the pen, realizing perhaps that there was only one place we all were suggesting that they go. Then, during lunch break, the wily ones broke out of their pen, and I (the more experienced shepherd) with my more experienced dog went to fetch them back to the pen, something we did relatively easily and simply. The lesson, I hope: there is much to learn about sheep behavior for novices and their dogs.

After lunch, we then broke up into groups and spent the afternoon playing “sheep pong” and “woolies go home!” at multiple locations on the farm. These are training games that help the dog and handler practice moving sheep calmly under control in driving position, find the flight zone, practice moving left or right, lying down or standing stops, leash manners (if the dog is on leash) or dog heeling, and recalls. Many of the dogs in these exercises were able to display their nascent ability to work as stock dogs at a herding trial. A couple of owners tried working their dogs completely off leash. One dog was able to herd 11 sheep (not knee knockers and not schooled sheep) under her handler’s control and completely off leash. The dog looked like an experienced stock dog after one herding instinct test and one herding clinic!

Obedience Test Challenge

At the very end of the day, we had 8 people and their dogs stay to try the Wheaten obedience test challenge. Participants could choose to work their dogs off leash or on leash, with other dogs present, with sheep present, with no distractions. A base score of 1 point for each of the ten test exercises would become 2 points for each exercise simply by doing the exercise off leash. The score was further multiplied by 2.5 if the dog did the exercise around another dog or by 5 if the dog did the exercise around the sheep. To their credit (because they wanted to gun for the maximum number of points), everyone chose to work in the presence of sheep, which were in a small pen in the center of a small arena. And to their further credit, because most owners of Wheatains are extremely leery of taking the leash off their dogs in any circumstance, the owners decided to take the leashes off.

Everybody was able to control their dog somewhat around the sheep. Dogs and owners need more off-leash work and out-of-sight lie-down work, as well as out-of-sight distance work with the dog focused on something it likes other than the owner. It is hard to lose that dependency on that leash!

The obedience scores were as follows:


Awards

At the end of the day, we gave out awards to dogs and owners:

Mud Pie Award (no mud this year; so, for dog most resembling a sheep)— Lyle

Pennyloafer Award (for dog who could do the most lie downs in 5 minutes)— Gabby

Flexible Flyer Award (for dog who could change directions and travel easily in both directions)— Quarter

Smooth Amaaco Transmission Award (dog who tugged the least on the leash while working the sheep)— Tully

Redwood Award (dog who had the longest barking jag of the day)— Willy

Bounce Drier Sheep Award (Dog that does highest bounce around the sheep)— The Sheep (no bouncing dogs today, just bouncing sheep!)

Best Woolies Go Home Team Award— Lawson & Len

Confucius Award (for most confused handler moment of the day)— Bonnie (co-starring the scary sheep)

Best Owner(s) & Dog(s) Team Award— Lana/Wolf & Georgia/Buxx

Pepto Bismol Award (handler who goes from diarrhea of the mouth commanding-nagging to quiet)— The Entire Del Val Club (this year, in comparison to 2 years ago)

Best Human Herder Award— Bev

Celebrity in the Parallel Universe Award (for longest out-of-sight lie down)— Gabby

Note: We were unable to give out either the NASCAR Award (for dog who can only make left turns around the sheep) or the RASCAN Award (for dog who can only make right turns around the sheep) this year because it did not happen.

Meanwhile, we are happy to announce that Wheatains have been approved to participate in AKC herding events as of January, 2011!
Topics In Nutrition ..... by Geneva Coats, R.N.

Geneva Coats is a Registered Nurse with 28 years of full-time critical care experience. She is currently the president of the City of Angels Pomeranian Club, the Legislative Liaison for the American Pomeranian Club, and the Secretary for the California Federation of Dog Clubs. She is a mother and grandmother, and enjoys gardening in her spare time. She is also a member of the Epiphyllum Society of America. This article first appeared in The Pomeranian Review, the Official Publication of the American Pomeranian Club, Inc. and permission to reprint it was granted by both the author and the publication. This is the first of a three-part series.

DIET and HEALTH

Scientists have long advised us that fresh, whole, raw foods provide greater nutritional benefits than processed foods. Eating processed foods with supplements added does not provide the same level of nutritional benefits as eating whole foods. We also are learning that the nutrients in whole foods work best in combination. Does this knowledge apply to feeding our dogs? Of course! We’ve probably all been advised to avoid giving our dogs “table scraps”, “leftovers”, and “people food”. We’ve heard that it is best to buy a commercial “complete and balanced” dog food. But where can we get advice on how to formulate a fresh, wholesome diet? Exactly what do our dogs need to eat? How can we “balance” their diet?

In recent years, we seem to be noticing an increase in skin and coat problems, allergies, cancer, arthritis and other degenerative diseases in our dogs. Is this more than a coincidence? Lifespans also seem to be getting shorter than they were just a few generations ago, and chronic illnesses are being noted at an earlier age. Naturally, there are genetic and environmental factors, which can adversely affect health, but diet is a major factor over which we do have some control.

YOUR DOG IS A CARNIVORE

The dog’s anatomy and physiology provide us with clues to understanding his food requirements. Over thousands of years, dogs evolved from wolves. They became our work partners and our pets, sharing in the hunt, the resultant meals, and they also scavenged from our trash heaps. Genetically speaking, the dog today remains nearly identical to the wolf. In 1997, UCLA molecular biologist Robert Wayne conducted a study comparing the genes of dogs, wolves, coyotes and jackals. He found that dogs and wolves share 99.8% of their mitochondrial DNA. Mitochondrial DNA is inherited through the tail female line. In dogs, this genetic material goes back to a few original common ancestors. According to Wayne, ¼ of modern dogs resulted from a single female wolf lineage. Dogs clearly originated from wolves, and have recently been classified as a subspecies of the grey wolf: Canis lupus familiaris.

Dogs have the same basic anatomy as wolves. Both the wolf and the dog have a digestive tract that is custom-designed to efficiently process meat and bone. They have sharp teeth designed for ripping and tearing. Molars are pointed for tearing, not flat for grinding; and the molars mesh in a jigsaw manner, further hindering the ability to grind food. A cow or a human can chew and grind by using a side-to-side jaw motion, but a dog physically cannot. The canine jaw opens wide, is heavily muscled, and has a hinge design for swallowing chunks; however, the jaw cannot move side-to-side. Food remains in a dog’s stomach for many hours, where meaty, bony meals are easily digested in an extremely acid environment. Their intestinal tract is much shorter, smoother and more muscular than ours.

Human saliva contains amylase, an enzyme that begins the process of digesting starch, carbohydrates. The dog’s saliva contains no digestive enzymes, so carbohydrates must be digested entirely in the intestines. However, the dog’s intestinal tract is short, only about one third as long as ours. Grains and other high-carbohydrate foods require a long time in the intestines to be broken down.

Ruminant animals have multi-chambered stomachs, processing and fermenting grass and grains. A dog’s short digestive tract cannot do this. Their short muscular intestine is designed for rapid absorption of fats and amino acids. If all that wasn’t enough, dogs do not produce the digestive enzyme cellulase, which is the enzyme needed to break down the fibrous cell walls of plant-based foods. The dog is highly efficient at digesting proteins and fats, but less efficient digesting plant matter such as grains, fruits and vegetables. No question about it, just like the wolf, your dog is a carnivore!

Dogs have traditionally survived quite handily on man’s table leftovers. However, in the early 20th century, food producers thought of a way to change what would otherwise be waste material into profits. Using slaughter waste and grain remnants, they began to make canned and kibbled pet food.

COMMERCIAL DOG FOOD

For thousands of years, dogs ate raw, unprocessed, whole foods. Dogs have only been consuming processed commercial food for less than 100 years. In that time, man has radically changed their diet. From a primarily moist, protein-based diet, with a wide range of naturally-occurring microbes, enzymes, vitamins and full complement of amino acids; we have change their diet to a dry, carbohydrate-based food, devoid of most natural nutrients.

Over the past decades, the pet food industry has perpetuated these myths:

Myth #1: Commercial pet food is complete and balanced
Myth #2: Dry food is all your dog should ever eat.
Myth #3: It’s best to stick with one diet and not ever change it.
Myth #4: Dogs should not eat “table scraps” or “people food”.
Myth #5: Adding fresh foods to a commercial diet will “unbalance” it.
Myth #6: Dry food cleans the teeth.
Myth #7: Cooking meat is necessary for “safety”

Regardless of how many of our pets are sickened or killed by commercial dog food, these myths persist. Over 150 brands of commercial foods were recently affected by manufacturer recalls due to melamine contamination. Aflatoxin poisoning in pets is also a recurrent problem, ever since the first kibbles were invented. Toxic levels of vitamin D and zinc have been the cause of some deaths, resulting in more recalls. Most recently, cats in Australia have suffered with neurologic problems resulting in death; all these cats have in common the same commercial diet. Irradiation of this commercial kibble upon import is suspected to have resulted in dangerous vitamin deficiencies (and possibly free radical production) causing the illnesses and deaths. The troublesome fact is that commercial dog food is not safe, and likely not truly “complete” or “balanced”, either.

As public awareness heightens to the dangers of commercial foods, consumer demand for safe and nutritious pet food has produced a dizzying array of choices. “Organic” “Human Grade” and “Premium” have become buzz words. Raw diets have rightly come into vogue, and commercially prepared raw diets are readily available. We have come to realize that “balance” is not needed within each individual bite, but is achieved over time. Many people have

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decided that home-prepared meals aren’t such a bad idea after all!

With today’s economy, costs are an important consideration; fresh foods are often much more expensive than commercial dog foods. And, in today’s fast-paced world, pre-packaged dog foods are convenient, and may need to be relied on as a large part of the diet. In this series, we’ll look at the basics of canine nutrition; as well as address some factors to consider when preparing or selecting food for your dog. I hope to provide you with some inspiration for adding fresh items to the menu, and also some practical ideas for keeping your food costs within your budget.

**BASES OF NUTRITION**

Proteins, carbohydrates, and fats are the three basic nutrients derived from food. These three major ingredients are called “Macronutrients”. These macronutrients provide energy, while proteins also provide building material called “amino acids”. Foods (particularly fresh, whole foods) also contain varying amounts of “micronutrients”; vitamins, minerals, antioxidants probiotics and enzymes. There are untold thousands of different micronutrients. More are being discovered every day.

The dog’s digestive system is not designed to process carbohydrates, so calories should be obtained primarily from protein and fat. Fiber can also be included, although fiber is not digestible by dogs, and is non-nutritious. Fiber can, however, serve to provide some bulk to the stool.

Water is the most important substance in the diet; and, even though not a “food”, should always be made readily available. Filtered or purified water may be advisable if you live in an area where the quality of the tap water is in doubt.

**PROTEIN**

Protein is “the stuff of life”, and should be a mainstay in the diet of the dog. Protein is necessary for tissue growth, maintenance and repair. High dietary protein levels are necessary during periods of growth and reproduction. Studies show that high dietary protein levels are also beneficial for older dogs. Foods high in protein include muscle meats, organ meats, fish, dairy products, and eggs.

Proteins are made up of chains of amino acids. In the stomach, the pancreas secretes enzymes to break down these proteins into their amino acid components. The amino acids are absorbed through the intestinal wall into the bloodstream, and then reassembled by the body into various new proteins. Animals need specific amino acids, not just any “protein”.

The nutritional value of protein depends on its amino acid profile and its digestibility. There are two types of amino acids in dietary protein:

**ESSENTIAL amino acids – must be included in the diet, and NON-ESSENTIAL amino acids – can be made by the body.**

To be maximally useful, a protein should contain all of the amino acids in its makeup. Lack of any essential amino acid will eventually produce illness.

Meat, fish, eggs and dairy products all contain high amounts of protein. Plant foods such as corn, wheat and soy also supply some protein; however, there is a difference in the quality of protein. Animal proteins contain all the essential amino acids, and are considered very high quality, “complete” sources of protein. Plant proteins do not contain all the essential amino acids, so these plant proteins are considered “incomplete” proteins.

Amino acids that are often missing in plant proteins include arginine, taurine, methionine, lysine and tryptophan. Corn does not contain any glycine, lysine or tryptophan. Wheat is low in lysine, methionine, and threonine. Rice is also low in lysine, but high in methionine. Lack of some essential amino acids means the protein from these plant sources is of lower quality.

Most of us are in the habit of checking labels to see what percent of protein that food contains. However, more important to consider is: how much of the food’s protein can be utilized once it is eaten?

The Biological Value scale is a measurement of effectiveness for protein. Eggs are considered the “gold standard” for complete, digestible protein. They rate 100 on the Biological Value scale, meaning that eggs are the most useful form of protein known. By comparison, animal protein (derived from meat and organs) is rated around 80-90, while plant proteins such as those in corn or wheat may rate as low as 40.

Every amino acid has specific roles in metabolism. For one example let’s look at tyrosine. Tyrosine is needed for synthesis of the chemicals epinephrine, norepinephrine, dopamine and serotonin, important neurochemicals which can affect mood. Tyrosine also aids in the production of melanin (a pigment responsible for hair and skin color) and in making and regulating hormones produced by the adrenal, thyroid, and pituitary glands. Tyrosine can be manufactured in the body from the essential amino acid phenylalanine. Meat sources are rich in both phenylalanine and tyrosine, so deficiency is unlikely.

Overcooking can destroy vital amino acids. Those most susceptible to heat damage include lysine, taurine, methionine, carnitine and histidine. Shorter cooking times and lower heats will cause less damage. Luckily, dogs have digestive tracts designed to readily and easily digest raw meat.

When reading dog food labels, look closely at the source of protein. You want to see listed in the first few ingredients quality protein sources such as beef, venison, pork, lamb, fish, poultry or eggs, and avoid such ingredients as unspecified “meat”, meat meal, corn gluten, wheat gluten, rice protein or soy. Remember that the grains in the food contribute to the listed percentage of protein content, but do not provide the complete proteins that are necessary to maintain a healthy body.

Proteins derived from grains are not readily digestible, and can contribute to formation of allergies, bloat and gas. Cooking a protein alters its structure, and this may also contribute to the formation of allergies. When people suffer from allergies, we sneeze and sniffle as our bodies respond to histamine released by mast cells in our nose and upper airways. Our pets, however, have very different symptoms when they develop an allergy. Dogs and cats have many more histamine receptors in the skin, and

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<th>Essential amino acids for dogs include:</th>
<th>Nonessential amino acids include:</th>
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contrary to popular belief, high levels of dietary protein do NOT cause liver or kidney problems, nor does this cause bone or joint problems in large breed puppies. Protein restriction may sometimes be indicated as therapeutic treatment for dogs with pre-existing liver and kidney disease. When protein is metabolized, nitrogenous waste products are produced. Normally, the liver and/or kidneys filter out these waste products, but if these organs aren’t working well, waste products can build up in the bloodstream, making the dog ill. A low protein diet helps to keep down the levels of these waste products in situations where liver or kidneys are not functioning properly.

Excess amino acids can be stripped of their nitrogen and converted into glucose. This glucose can be used immediately for energy, or can be stored in the liver as a glycogen reserve “bank” for future energy needs.

Normally, intact proteins cannot be absorbed. However, puppies during the first 24–48 hours after birth are able to absorb large protein molecules from thecolostrum in breast milk. This allows them to temporarily enjoy the same protective immunity to diseases that their mother has been exposed to, or was vaccinated against.

GLUTENS and melamine toxicity
Gluten is a sticky protein substance that remains when starch is removed from cereal grains such as wheat, rye, barley and corn. Glutens are added to pet foods as an inexpensive protein source. The protein obtained from gluten is plant protein, which lacks one or more amino acids, and is also poorly digestable.

There are bigger problems with gluten, however, than their low basic nutritional value. Recently, melanime was found contaminating glutens and rice proteins sourced from China. Melamine, a high-nitrogen chemical, was intentionally added to glutens to artificially boost their measured protein levels. Melamine, however, can crystallize in the kidneys and cause kidney failure. This reaction was noted most particularly when melanime was ingested in combination with cyanuric acid, another contaminant found in some glutens.

Melamine contamination has been found in wheat gluten, rice protein product, corn gluten, and in chicken jerky. All these were sourced from China. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has received reports of approximately 8500 animal deaths, including at least 1950 cats and 2200 dogs who have died after eating melanime-contaminated food.

Melamine has since been found in milk produced in China. The latest contamination has caused kidney stones and kidney disease in more than 50,000 human infants and caused the deaths of several human babies when melanime found its way into infant formula.

Avoid products which contain any sort of “gluten” or “rice protein” in their list of ingredients. Also, avoid commercial puppy milk replacer formulas. These may be contaminated with melanime, just as human infant formulas have been in recent months. There are several recipes out there for making your own puppy milk replacer formula using fresh ingredients…that is a topic for another day!

"BY-PRODUCTS"
Our little wolves don’t just eat muscle meat, they eat bones and organs, too. This helps to balance their diet. "By-products" is the term for non-muscle meat ingredients used in pet food, such as liver, kidney, heart, and intestines. These are usually derived from healthy animals slaughtered for human consumption. As such, they can be a very valuable source of nutrition. By-products can be a protein source in commercial foods which is far superior to plant glutens.

It is desirable if the manufacturer is willing to specify the exact by-product, such as “Chicken liver meal”; however, few producers are willing to commit to the use of a specific quality ingredient. The content of by-products can vary greatly from batch to batch. Allowable ingredients for “meat by-products” can include liver, lungs, spleen, brain, blood, bone, and cleaned intestines. These are usually derived from cattle or swine.

Chicken by-products: “Consists of the ground, rendered, clean parts of the carcass of slaughtered chicken, such as necks, feet, undeveloped eggs and intestines...” (AAFCO definition). Some food producers claim to only use organ meat for their chicken by-products and not feet etc. Realistically, when many of the high-end foods are manufactured at the same plants as the grocery store brands, can we really believe that the bulk ingredients included will be different?

RAW EGG WHITES
In the 1920’s, an experimental diet in rats included large amounts of raw egg whites. This diet produced symptoms of toxicity within a few weeks. These symptoms became known as egg-white injury syndrome. The syndrome was caused by a lack of the B vitamin biotin. Biotin is essential for healthy hair, nails and nerves. The major findings with this diet included severe dermatitis, loss of hair, and lack of muscular coordination. Biotin deficiency isn’t common unless you feed raw egg white, which contains a protein called avidin. Avidin blocks the absorption of biotin. Cooking egg white inactivates avidin so that it won’t pull biotin out of the diet. Avoid feeding raw egg whites on a regular basis. Egg yolk is high in biotin, so biotin deficiency from consumption of whole raw eggs would be unlikely.

TAURINE
Taurine is an amino acid, found in protein foods like meat. Taurine is not generally believed to be an “essential” amino acid for dogs because they can convert carnitine to taurine. Both carnitine and taurine, however, are destroyed by heat and processing. Some evidence is now surfacing that cardiomyopathy in dogs may be related to taurine deficiencies. Large dogs in particular may not be able to convert as much carnitine into taurine as they need to maintain good health.

Taurine deficiency can result in heart failure (cardiomyopathy) and retinal degeneration leading to blindness. In the 1970s and 1980s, cats were dying by the thousands from heart failure. The problem was determined to be a dietary deficiency of taurine. Cats in particular must have adequate amounts of taurine in their diet, they cannot synthesize taurine as many other animals can. Taurine is abundant in meat, fish, chicken, organ meats and shellfish. However, when cooked, a large percentage of taurine is destroyed. It is estimated that about 50% of the taurine in meat is destroyed by heat.

Commercial cat foods now are all supplemented with taurine. Unfortunately, the world’s major supplier of supplemental taurine (as well as many other vitamins and supplements) is China. Contamination of these imported ingredients is a real concern at this point in time.

POTTINGER’S CATS
In the 1930s, Dr Francis Pottenger conducted a feeding study on over 900 cats. He fed one group of cats a diet of raw foods including meat, bone, milk, and fish oil. Another group of cats was fed the same diet, but the food was cooked. After observing the effects over several generations, Pottenger found the raw-fed cats completely healthy, while those fed the cooked foods developed health problems such as arthritis, skeletal anomalies, mouth and gum disease, thyroid problems, bladder inflammation and decline in reproductive capability.
Calcium and phosphorus should never be served cooked as they become brittle when cooked and may splinter. Some people have safety concerns about serving raw bones, and choose to omit them from the diet entirely. If you are feeding meat (either raw or cooked) without any bone, calcium should be added to the diet in the form of a calcium supplement, bone meal, or ground eggshells. Add ½ tsp ground eggshells, or 1000 mg supplemental calcium, or 1-1/2 tsp bone meal per pound of food. This will provide the proper calcium/phosphorus ratio. If you add grains to the diet you will need to add a bit more calcium. If bones are not included in the diet, you will need to add some vegetables or fruits to the diet. This will provide some bulk to help maintain firm stools.

Calcium supplements such as calcium lactate, calcium citrate or calcium carbonate can be used. “Tums” brand is a calcium product; it contains primarily calcium carbonate derived from limestone. It is intended for use as an antacid but can be used as a source of calcium. Tums does not contain aluminum as other antacids do; however, Tums may contain other undesirable ingredients such as sugar, starches, herbs and flavors.

Dairy products including cheese and yogurt can be a way to include calcium, and these foods also include some vitamin D, which enhances absorption and metabolism of calcium. Ricotta cheese, hard cheeses, yogurt and evaporated milk are all good sources of calcium. Cottage cheese is much lower in calcium than most other dairy products, and is also high in sodium and phosphorus. Some dogs, like some humans, can have difficulty digesting milk products.

What about bone meal? Ground eggshells contain 98% pure calcium carbonate, while bone meal contains calcium, phosphorus, magnesium and other trace minerals. Bone meal contains two parts calcium to one part phosphorus. When using bone meal, you are not just adding calcium, but you are also adding more phosphorus to the diet as well. So, you will need to add to food a larger amount of bone meal than you would ground eggshells. Instead of ½ tsp of eggshell per pound of food, you would need to add about 1-1/2 tsp bone meal. Research in the 1980s found that many bone meal preparations were contaminated with lead and other toxic metals. Look for a high-quality bone meal intended for human consumption.

Do not add calcium to commercial diets that advertise as being balanced, since they already include calcium and phosphorus in their proper ratio. If you are feeding raw meaty bones on a daily basis, you do not need to add any supplemental calcium.

Overuse of calcium may cause magnesium deficiency and constipation. Too much calcium also inhibits zinc, copper and iodine absorption. Excess calcium in the diet is not absorbed from the intestines, and is excreted in the feces. The exception to this is young puppies under six months old. There are indications that overfeeding calcium to large breed puppies may have an adverse effect on bone growth and development.

Excessive calcium intake during pregnancy may cause problems. The parathyroid gland responds to low blood calcium levels, and releases a hormone to stimulate calcium release from bones. This maintains calcium balance in the bloodstream. The prevailing theory is that if you are feeding a steady supply of calcium to the mother, her bloodstream maintains constant levels of calcium. The parathyroid gland then becomes inactive, since it is not needed. Later, when parathyroid hormone is needed to manage calcium levels during birth and lactation, the gland may become “lazy” and not work as well as it should. Dangerous low blood calcium levels can occur. The end result could be the need for a c-section, as the uterus may not contract well due to low blood calcium levels. Another life-threatening problem from low calcium is eclampsia, a condition where the dam has seizures. Once the puppies are born, plenty of calcium should be added to the bitch’s diet, but prior to birth do not fall into the habit of including excessive amounts of calcium in her diet.
Vitamin D is necessary in the diet for proper calcium metabolism. Vitamin D is needed to absorb calcium, to regulate blood levels of calcium and to enable bone mineralization. Fish (such as salmon, tuna, and mackerel) and fish liver oils are among the best sources. Vitamin D is also found in beef liver, cheese, and egg yolks. Vitamin C in the diet will also enhance calcium absorption.

Cod liver oil contains both vitamins A and D, but don’t overdo it! These fat-soluble vitamins are stored by the body and can be toxic in large amounts. Nutri-Cal and Nutri-Stat both contain substantial amounts of cod liver oil, so please use those products sparingly. When fed to the bitch during early pregnancy, too much of these vitamins can cause birth defects.

In Part Two, we will cover fats, fatty acids, fish and fish oils, Vitamin E, and carbohydrates. See you next issue! 🐠

Del Val’s Specialty …
Bucks County Kennel Club

May 8, 2010

Friday, sunshine and 70 degrees; Saturday, a twenty-minute lightning storm that defies description; and Sunday, near-tornado winds…not the typical spring weather associated with the Bucks County Kennel Club weekend. Still it was a wonderful time and the Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club hospitality overcame the effects of the bizarre weather patterns.

The Garden State Terrier Club Show was held at the Mercer County Park where there is lots of space and parking. Judge Kerry Lee from Australia ran an exhibitor friendly ring and charmed both the dogs and handlers. His BOB was Ch Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man, BOS Ch Candance Dazed and Confused, WD Greentree Point Given, WB and BW Greentree Wind Dancer, and Best Puppy award went to Amaden’s Bugger Vance. After the judging the wine flowed and the cheeses, pates and assorted fruits added to the conversation and excitement of the day.

The specialty weekend had begun but the big bang came on Saturday during the sweepstakes 9 – 12 puppy dog class. Lightning struck all around us and judging had to be suspended for 15 minutes. Michael DeCarlo officiated in the Sweepstakes ring and Gary Vlachos judged the regular classes. Both exhibited great ring presence and handled themselves admirably under some unusual circumstances provided but Mother Nature. Best in Sweepstakes was Amaden’s Bugger Vance with BOS going to Keepsake Timtara Spicy Secret. BOB at the Del Val Specialty came from the Open Bitch Class, Greentree Rising Star and BOS to the veteran, Ch Fairfield Cyclone. WD was Waterford Reprise.

Del Val outdid themselves with breakfast and a luncheon bar-b-que that was a real feast. Barry Ivler manned the grills as Bonnie, his wife, and a number of other members worked hard to keep the food plates filled with various grilled meats, casseroles and desserts to die for. Great food and raffle items really make for a fun specialty, and Carol Clarke’s trophy table was absolutely perfect.

The final blow dealt by nature was the wind that blew down the Trenton Kennel Club tents during Saturday night so that exhibitors were subjected to an extra hour of delay in the windy cold of the Mercer County Park on Sunday morning. Judge Anne Barlow gave top honors to Ch Diamond’s Breakfast at Tiffany’s, BOS to Ch Wheatens Pride Buxx Bogart, WD to Waterford Reprise and WB and BW to Bradberry’s Mackanme High Society Reese. Once again, Del Val was prepared with a wonderful after-show party for those who persevered the cold and delays.

SPECIALTY SWEEPSTAKES
JUDGE’S CRITIQUE

Michael DeCarlo

Being asked to judge the Del Val Specialty is one of the biggest honors given to me in the twenty-five years I have been involved with Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. I really was nervous before going into the ring even though I have judged several times before, but as soon as I saw the first class, I knew I was going to have fun. Overall, my impression was good. Most of the dogs had nice eye color and all of the bites were good. Ears were another story; some were very large and poorly set but there were a few really pretty ones. The majority of the dogs were very nice.

My first class went well. Keepsake’s Avatar caught my eye because of his pretty coat and nice outline. He was a big puppy but nicely put together and his side gate was nice. The second class was the one that took the lightning strike. Two of the three pups were scared but the Best in Sweeps pup, Amaden’s Bugger Vance, stood...
his ground and acted like the thunder happened just for him. We had a break for the storm and then one dog in the Junior 12 to 15 class, Lonestar Two Dollar Pistol. The dog was nice enough and it was fun seeing Tom Neill in his kilt. I picked Coventry’s Fence Buster in the next class. There were a lot of coarse heads and white coats in the dog classes.

Overall I liked the bitches better than the majority of the dogs. Whindancer’s Sweet Dreams Are Made Of This topped the Puppy bitch 6 to 9 class. She was a sweet feminine bitch. Junior 12 to 15 went to Greentree Skellig’s Stir It Up, another bigger bitch of very nice proportions but the bitch that matched my pick for Best in Sweeps came from the Junior 15 to 18-month class, Keepsake Timtara Spicy Secret. She was very square, nicely balanced and moved smoothly around the ring.

My Best in Sweeps choice was Amaden’s Bugger Vance. He has attitude to spare and is square, moves freely and true and has coat and color. His head and ears gave the great expression that I want in a terrier. It was all there in one package. I have been told over the years that a judge should pick the type of dog he would like to take home. This dog was the one I would have stuck in my suitcase.

I really enjoyed the day and Del Val really was good to me. My judge’s gift was great and the food at the hospitality tent was terrific. Thank you to the club for inviting me and being so nice.

DEL VAL SPECIALTY JUDGE’S CRITIQUE

Gary M Vlachos

I must say that I have never judged on a day when Mother Nature threw such a variety of weather at me! The day started overcast with the smell of rain in the air. About 45 minutes into the morning the drizzle began and on came the trenchcoat. Not too long after, the skies opened, off went the trench, on came the rain gear. Judging continued under the tent overhang. The wind kicked up followed by thunder and lightening, so judging was suspended for 15 minutes! Judging resumed after the threat of lightening abated (but not the rain and wind), so there were plenty of skittish dogs in the ring. Did I say all of this took place before my Wheaten judging at 10:15 a.m.!

By the time I made my way to the Wheaten ring the skies were clearing and the sun was now working on ‘sauna-like’ conditions. This was short-lived though, because as the day progressed the wind increased and the temperature cooled down. The wind was so fierce at times that the grounds crew had to go around and re-stake many of the tents’ roping because they had come loose!

Mother Nature’s variety of weather was only matched by the variety of type and quality in my Wheaten entry this day.

On the positive side, in my winners I found the quality and type that our Standard describes and as a Breeder-Judge I hope to see. My winners were all of proper size and relatively square. They were all well constructed with shoulders transitioning smoothly into level backs with good tail-sets. I like to call these ‘one-piece dogs’, meaning that as I examine them my hands flow from one element to the next without abrupt changes in angles, boning, or musculature. My winners were sound and exhibited good sporting terrier movement without the extreme side action that seems to be so often rewarded in the ring these days! I did not have the issue of grey in the coat with this entry that had I noted earlier this year. I felt very good about this.

On the negative side, long backs, giving that low-slung rectangular proper up-on-leg square that our Standard describes, were far too numerous. Many silhouettes would have been helped with the removal of excess length of coat to the underline. Remember when showing outdoors in the grass you lose an easy two inches to the perceived length of leg. Ear size continues to be a drag on the breed, creating for the most part, a houndy look to the expression. A few ear sets were too fancy (including my RWB and a lovely AOM bitch) but at this juncture I will swallow that pill more readily than its counterpart! And movement? Too many exhibits didn’t match from fronts to rears. It was as though they were moving independently of each other. This caused a complete breakdown of silhouette when observing their side gait. Improperly constructed fronts forced many exhibits to drop their heads down and forward to gain any amount of functional reach, thus losing the desired sporting terrier outline on the go-around.

My Winners Dog, Waterford Reprise, was a nicely-balanced dog with a strong headpiece, beautiful top-line and set on of tail. He came and went nicely and held his outline from the side. He was pushed by my Reserve Dog, Amaden’s Bugger Vance, who sported a superior coat to my WD giving him a typier look, but my WD finally took the honors in the class with his balance, confidence, and his sure coverage of ground.
Winners Bitch and onto Best of Breed was Greentree Rising Star. This bitch matched my WD in body type but was squarer in proportion. She had an excellent front assembly blending into a short back with tail set on high and plenty of rump behind. She was such a joy to watch tracking towards me. So straight and true. Her side gait exemplified the proper reach and drive while maintaining her silhouette. She had lovely head proportions and good ear size. Her coat quality was excellent with a lovely sheen. I had to remind myself in judging her that more color is not rewarded in our Standard. While overall light in appearance, there was plenty of evidence of color behind the ears and over the withers so as not to be faulted.

Reserve Bitch was a treat to the eyes, too! An outstanding coat, proper leg under her, good overall construction, with a showy personality made this bitch very appealing. As I noted earlier, her ear was a little too fancy marring an otherwise feminine Wheateny expression.

Coming from the Veteran Dogs class my Best of Opposite Sex was Ch. Fairfield’s Cyclone. He was in tiptop condition! He was all boy and stood his ground when the younger upstarts challenged him. His coat was lovely, open loose waves draped over well-sprung ribs, and a full hard body. His movement was effortless confirming his overall balanced proportions.

There were four Award of Merits given this day to the following deserving recipients: Ch Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man, Ch Michaleen’s Song O’Morning Star, Ch Diamond’s Breakfast At Tiffany’s, Ch Wheaten’s Pride Buxx Bogart

Trying to play “catch-up” with the delay in judging, after pictures (I fear the wind was too great for good photos!) I had to rush off to my next ring assignment so I wasn’t able to partake of the Del Val’s luncheon. This was too bad as I always enjoy spending time with my fellow breeders. Of course the food is good, too!

A big thank-you to the Del Val Club for my wonderful judge’s gift. It was a hand-painted ceramic dog bowl not with an image of a Wheaten, but of my dark-brindled Frenchie, Wanda, with her name painted on the side! How unexpected! How thoughtful!
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Linda Ruedy, wheatenmom@hotmail.com
Nancy Butler, nbtrigo@cybermesa.com
Cecily Skinner, tarascvt@aol.com
Toni Vincent, fecalAPIKit@aol.com
Emily Holden, amadensouth@yahoo.com

RESCUE
Carissa Hutchins, carissa@bravowheatens.com

HEALTH ISSUES
Robyn Alexander, webmaster, web@scwtca.org
Cindy Jansen, 1203 pierpont meadows rd, columbia, mo 65201-9309
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