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**From the President**

**What makes a Specialty Special?**

The definition of “special”:
1) distinctive or unique
2) exceptional
3) unusual
4) highly valued
5) for a particular purpose.

A Specialty is not only distinctive or unique to a certain breed, but for the local club that sponsors the event, the members hope to make the weekend exceptional and unusual for those who attend.

Long-term planning is essential for the specialty to be unforgettable (in a good way!) The creative juices start flowing when a theme needs to be chosen. The best themes usually come from ideas being thrown out by many and then combining and refining those ideas to decide on the finished product. Hopefully, there is an artist in the club who can design the flyer that will ignite enthusiasm for placing this show high on everyone’s list to attend. And of course, there are always distinctive or unique trophies that must be selected!

The weeks prior to the show volunteers create ring and table decorations which involves lots of hours. Then there is the food, which is “highly valued!” Most clubs offer a continental breakfast and lunch for each day of the show weekend. Many times the food is prepared by the membership who provides new and unusual recipes. Preparation for a specialty is similar to inviting guests into your home when you put forth maximum effort to make your guests feel comfortable, and provide every opportunity for them to have a lot of fun.

Obviously, all of us want to bring our new “highly valued” Wheaten(s) to show off. It might be that great champion you have been campaigning, or the puppy that is six months and five seconds old that you just can’t wait to get in the ring.

The purpose of a Specialty is not only to showcase our great breed, but to give friends from all over the country an opportunity to spend enjoyable time together. So when you are deciding what shows you will attend this year, please keep in mind how “special” a Specialty can be, the tremendous amount of work and effort that is done by the local club to organize the event, and how gratifying it will be to see old friends, beautiful dogs and possibly meet new friends. Just remember there is no greater compliment that can be given to a local club for all their effort than to have a large entry for their very “special” Specialty!

“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships!”

Jinx Moore

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**SPECIALTY SHOW SCHEDULE 2011**

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**From the Editor**

The New Year motivates us to make resolutions, to explore new opportunities, to examine our ideas and thinking. This issue of *Benchmarks* brings new views as well. A new column, which I hope will become a regular feature, is titled “Lessons Learned.” The first contributor is Kathy McIndoe who carefully explains breeding decisions she made and their unexpected outcomes. The impetus for this column was the thread of conversations following MCKC 2010 concerning mentorship and the worry that it is becoming a thing of the past. Hopefully this column will provide insight for newer members of our club through the shared wisdom of those who have devoted many years to our breed.

In addition to this column, another article highlights the new Nestle Purina Center in Missouri. It is a state-of-the-art facility that will host a variety of dog events through the year. Finally, I hope you will enjoy reading about the All-Breed Agility Trial that the Greater Denver Club hosted at the turn of the year. The amount of work that went into this event was mind numbing, but club members were determined, and the event was flawless. If you are an agility aficionado, put this event on your calendar to welcome the year 2012.

I ask forgiveness from those individuals who were inadvertently left out of the MCKC portion of the December issue. Please turn to pages 10-11 to read about the Agility/Obedience/Rally performers and to see pictures of the HIT winner along with the Reserve Winners Dog and Reserve Winners Bitch. I am also running Nancy’s Butler’s ads again as they were distorted in the print edition.

Here is my New Year’s wish for all of you: resolve to find what is important in your life and celebrate it. Resolve to remove stress from your life. Hug your dogs. Hug each other. *Carpe Diem.* Happy 2011!

Molly O’Connell
Recently I read a *Dog News* interview with Wood Wornall and his daughter Jenny. When asked what has changed over the years in the world of show dogs, he replied that large kennels and breeders are missing. He quoted an English Smooth Fox Terrier breeder, Linda Beak: “You have to have enough dogs to try out enough combinations to see what you get. This allows you to make mistakes and learn from them.” While Woody’s right that large breeding kennels are, for the most part, long gone, we all still have the opportunity, hopefully, to learn from our breeding mistakes. I’ve certainly made my share of mistakes and here’s what I learned from one.

In 1991, I kept a bitch sired by Billy (Ch. Wildflower Stardust, ROM) out of Veronica, Ch. Paisley Temptation Eyes). I named her Layla because she was very stubborn. She grew up to be a very moderate girl, nothing overdone or fancy, about 17-3/4” tall with a long neck, short back, solid topline and she never put a foot wrong. Her coat and color were acceptable, but nothing special, and that was really all I wanted to change on her. For some crazy reason I got it in my head that I needed to breed her to a red dog. My puppies were always mahoganies, and I guess I figured that breeding to a red would improve color.

I looked around at available stud dogs – my top criterion being a red – and I chose a handsome dog with a lovely coat who had been a red puppy. Even now as I write this, I’m shaking my head. What was I thinking? All I cared about was coat and color. Nine weeks later, Layla whelped 8 puppies, a mix of reds and mahoganies between 15 and 10 ounces, no two of which looked much alike, although they all had pretty coats.

As I watched them grow, it became apparent that the mahoganies were of better quality from a structural standpoint, but, remember, I wanted a red. So I picked out the best-made of the reds and kept her, a bitch I named Mary Lou. She grew…and grew and grew. By the time she was done, she was over 19” tall with a lovely coat of a soft wheaten color and eyes that verged on yellow. Oops. Several of the other puppies stayed in the area and I was able to watch them grow up. As it turned out, the only consistent factor was size – they were all very tall.

I had to start thinking seriously about Layla. While neither she nor her mom were big, Veronica’s father, Riley, was 19-1/2” and her mother, Spring, was 18-1/2.” Layla’s dad Billy, a gorgeous dog if there ever was one, was also pretty tall, about 19-1/2.” And the dog I bred Layla to? Yeah, he was over 19” himself.

Obviously I needed a smaller stud dog for Layla and it just so happened I knew of a lovely young dog only 18-1/2” tall. I found a home for Mary Lou, because, while I might be able to cope with either her size or her light eyes, I just couldn’t take the two together.

Layla was bred to the young dog and produced 5 puppies (all mahogany!). They were more consistent than her first litter, as they should have been since they were line-bred on both Billy and Riley. As they matured, they were very attractive, one bitch in particular that I decided to keep. Rita was such a pretty puppy; I liked everything about her, except she grew…and grew and grew. At about a year of age, she was over 18-1/2” tall, an improvement, but still too big. While I wouldn’t show Rita, I considered breeding her until her OFA came back as mildly dysplastic.

So it was back to the drawing board to figure out what to do with the very nice Layla who produced big puppies; it took me a while.

On Christmas Day, 1996, I whelped a litter of 4 out of another bitch and eventually made my mother take the
pick male, who was indeed, very, very nice. I watched him grow up very carefully, except that he didn’t… grow, that is. It was painful to watch, but by the time he was a year old, he was still under 18” tall, albeit lovely. We prayed that he would make size and he did continue to grow, just very slowly.

At 15 months, he was still not quite 18,” but Layla was in season and I figured this was the dog for her. In June of 1998, she popped out 5 puppies, the prettiest and most consistent yet, just as their sire hit his final height of 18.” It was hard to make a choice in that litter, but I kept a girl, Penny, who looked a lot like her mom and, ta dah!, she stopped growing at 17-3/4.” Fist pump here because I finally got it right!

Meanwhile, the photos from owners of the boys were so pretty that I decided to repeat the breeding. She had another 5 puppies, all looking like each other and like their older siblings. This time I kept a boy, Stevie. During his show career several breeders told me he was too small, but at 19” I thought he was just right. All of Penny’s and Stevie’s littermates also grew up to be correctly sized.

So that’s my story about a very nice bitch who did not have a single offspring enter a show ring until she was 8 years old because of my mistakes. However, I firmly believe not a single one of those first two breedings was wasted, because I learned something about my bitch and my breeding program from each of them.

You don’t have to have a large kennel to absorb your inevitable mistakes the way that Smooth breeder

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**CH Paisley Promises**

“Penny”

**CH Paisley Forever Man**

“Stevie”

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I would not, however, trade those two litters for anything, because from them I learned more about my dogs than I could have any other way. No one should ever be embarrassed a breeding didn’t turn out as hoped. Every mistake will teach us something, if we’re willing to learn, and it’s those lessons that make us better breeders.

As a post script, Mary Lou died last year at 15; her sister Ruby turned 16 on January 31 and still goes for short jogs. Miss Rita will be 15 in May and is happily ensconced on her cushy bed in my living room. Stevie is snoozing away at 11-1/2 (what else would he be doing?) and Penny is 12-1/2. Every Wheaten I have today comes down from her.
UPDATE:

Degenerative Myelopathy Research and Implications for SCWTs
By Liz Hansen, CPP Breed Club Liaison for Dr. Gary Johnson,
Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory, University of Missouri

[Introduction by Elaine Azerolo, CPP Committee:
This is an update to information published in the
Spring 2009 Wheaten HealthNews, Canine Phenome
described the results of testing 29 random Wheaten
DNA samples from the CPP DNA bank using the new
genetic test for Degenerative Myelopathy. Liz wrote,
“We randomly choose 29 SCWT samples from the
collection here, and found 0 testing affected/at risk, 5
testing carrier, and 24 testing normal. This is a fairly
low incidence of the mutant allele (5 of 58 alleles—
each of the 29 dogs have 2 alleles, or an 8.6%
frequency), but perhaps worth noting—as in a breed
with a small gene pool, a carrier individual widely
used for breeding could raise the overall breed-wide
risk.” The article ended with a request. “We would
ask that SCWT fanciers please report dogs with pos-
sible DM symptoms to us if they appear in the breed.”]

Updated Information from Liz Hansen
December 14, 2010

You may be interested to know that we also had 12
SCWT samples sent in for DM (degenerative
myelopathy) testing by their vet or neurologist, be-
cause they were exhibiting clinical signs of DM. Elev-
en of these 12 dogs did test as AFFECTED/AT RISK
for DM. The other one also had some other issues that
apparently were responsible for the symptoms seen.

While I know that PLE/PLN is higher on your prior-
ity list as a concern for the breed, it may be wise for
Wheaten breeders and owners to be aware that DM
does exist in the breed, and to be watchful. It would
be a good idea for those with dogs making a contri-
bution to the gene pool, especially widely used stud
dogs, to be tested for DM so that the problem doesn’t
become more widespread.

Through the first of this month, we have tested a total
of 51 SCWTs for DM: 32 tested NORMAL, 8 tested
CARRIER, and 11 tested AFFECTED/AT RISK. This
gives an allele frequency of 29%, which means 29%
of all the alleles out there in the breed show the muta-
tion (for DM) - since each dog has 2 alleles. Most will
have 2 normal alleles (NORMAL), some will have 1
normal and 1 mutated allele (CARRIER) and others
will have 2 mutated alleles and be at risk for develop-
ing DM as they age (AFFECTED/AT RISK). There
is no reason to panic, but it’s not something to ignore
either. One widely used stud dog that happens to be at
risk or a carrier, and the incidence could rise
dramatically.

An outstanding dog that tests at risk CAN be used in a
breeding program, but it would be advisable to breed
only to a mate tested “normal”. All the pups would
test “carrier.” None would be at risk for DM, and the
good traits the “at risk” dog possesses are passed to
the next generation. If those carrier offspring are bred
to a mate who tested normal, hopefully the best pups
from that litter (will) test normal. (You would expect
about half normal and half carrier pups from a carrier
x normal mating.) Using a DNA test wisely, it is pos-
sible to eliminate or greatly reduce risk of disease in
two or three generations, while maintaining the other
exceptional qualities that dog may have.

Elimination of all at risk or carrier dogs from the gene
pool will only serve to restrict an already relatively
small gene pool, and you lose all their good traits
along with the one bad one.

For comparison, we have tested 298 Kerry Blues for
DM: 138 NORMAL, 114 CARRIER, and 46 AF-
FECTED/AT RISK (allele frequency=35%). As with
the Wheatens, this is not horrible, but worth noting
and paying some attention to.

I’m sure you don’t want to end up in the situation we
have with Boxers and Pembroke Welsh Corgis. With
Boxers we’ve tested 2094, and only 270 test NOR-
MAL, 639 CARRIER, and 1185 AFFECTED/AT
RISK, for allele frequency of 72%. The PWC’s are
even worse. Of 1890 tested, only 111 test NORMAL,
556 CARRIER, and 1223 AFFECTED/AT RISK,
for allele frequency of 79%. Obviously, they have to breed some of the at-risk dogs, and the carriers, or they won’t have a breed left. In addition, some of those at risk Boxers may be normal for DCM (dilated cardiomyopathy - the heart condition that kills many at middle age), and don’t develop cancer, so they have genes that are much needed in the Boxer gene pool.

It took years for them to get into this situation, and it will take quite a few generations to get back out while maintaining genetic diversity and positive breed qualities, but with DNA tests, it is possible - IF people are testing and paying attention to how they make their breeding choices.

Our website for DM info is http://www.caninegeneticdiseases.net/ Click on DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY.

[Note from Elaine Azerolo: The genetic test for DM is available from OFA at http://www.offa.org/dnatesting/dm.html. The test kit contains a cheek swab to collect DNA from inside the dog’s mouth to transfer to a special card which is mailed back for testing. A report will be sent to the owner. Dr. Johnson requests that owners of SCWTs with possible DM symptoms contact his lab. Symptomatic dogs will be tested at no charge. See the Research section of the website above.]

(Editor’s note: A descriptive article, “Degenerative Myelopathy,” also appeared in the Spring 2009 HealthNews, pages 10-11.)

Unnamed Movement Disorder in SCWT
Veterinary Neurologists at University of Missouri Interested

A severe movement disorder has been observed in a few Wheaten Terriers. Liz Hansen showed a video of an affected Wheaten during her presentation to SCWTCA at Montgomery County in 2006. In the video, the Wheaten appears to move very erratically without coordination or control of its legs, body or head. The disorder is unnamed at this time.

Liz Hansen, breed club liaison for CPP and Dr. Johnson’s Animal Molecular Genetics Lab, sent the following update:

“We also received samples from 3 dogs for the unnamed movement disorder seen in SCWTs. I believe I showed a short video clip of an affected dog when I spoke at the meeting with Montgomery County about three or four years ago. If more dogs showing this movement disorder appear, we are definitely interested in samples from them, and also from their normal siblings and parents. Our neurologists here are interested in looking at this problem, so we’d appreciate being notified of any cases.”

Contact Liz at HansenL@missouri.edu

Dr. Johnson’s lab has been successful in developing genetic tests for several neurological conditions in other breeds working with veterinary neurologists at University of Missouri. Information is available at the Canine Genetic Diseases Network, http://www.caninegeneticdiseases.net/

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SCWT CHAMPION and PERFORMANCE TITLES
Compiled by Sheila O’Connell

BRED BY EXHIBITOR MEDALLION
All championship points from BBE Class
Ch Rosheen Acacia Go For Broke – Breeder: Melissa Lopez
Ch Cuilinn Funny Face – Breeders: Holly Million & Barbara Smith
Ch Atas’s Claire De Lune – Breeders: Myrna, Jeanine & Robert Flavell & Ilze Barron
Ch Haldane You Love The Thunder – Breeders: Sarah Holbrook & Tim Smith
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<td>Ch Whindancer's Handsome Accident</td>
<td>Ch Melaniee's High Wire Act</td>
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<td>Ch Cameron Hunnicut</td>
<td>Ch Marymore Hot Pepper Jack</td>
<td>Ch Byr Rose Les Trois Saules</td>
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<td>Carrick's Carolina On My Mind</td>
<td>Windisle Don Hugo</td>
<td>Extra's Pompeipossa</td>
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<td>Carrick's Perfect Storm RN</td>
<td>Ch Villa Rosas Dun Dryk Star O'Kaler</td>
<td>Carrick's Blue Moon</td>
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<td>Ceili's Natural Selection AX AXJ NAP</td>
<td>Anadelane's Warlock</td>
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<td>Ch Cuileam Sea Of Love</td>
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<td>Culee Take A Chance On Me CD RA</td>
<td>Ch Lissadell Cajun Comet CD</td>
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<td>Ch Derrynorthy Eureka Stereotype</td>
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<td>Dundalk's Flash Of Lightning NA</td>
<td>Ch Marqueulis Tricks Of The Trade</td>
<td>Ch Eureka Pin-Up Girl</td>
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<td>Ch Westridge High Adventure CDX GN RAE</td>
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<td>Edgewood Discovery CD</td>
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<td>Ch MACH Edgewood's Prime Minister NF</td>
<td>Ch Honeyeelye's Bye My Fair Whind</td>
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<td>Gleannaghy Hullabaloo Square One RN OA MXJ XF</td>
<td>Ch Honeyeelye's Bye My Fair Whind</td>
<td>Ch Geragold Daughter Of Aran</td>
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<td>Ch Haldane Running On Empty</td>
<td>Ch Marland's Awesome Dandy Andy</td>
<td>Ch Gleannaghy Ti There Wazo</td>
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<td>Ch Whindancer's Heart Like A Wheel</td>
<td>Ch Haldane Back Stage Pass</td>
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<td>Ch Heinroom T&amp;T's Tige In A Shoe CD RN AX MXJ OF</td>
<td>Ch Whindancer's Heart Like A Wheel</td>
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<td>Ch Geragold Orla Finlandia</td>
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<td>Ch Mill Mear Geragold How Far?</td>
<td>Ch Heinroom Wish Upon A Star RA OA OAJ OAP AJP</td>
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<td>Hobel I'M Walk To Derynll RN</td>
<td>Ch Lakkas Ulimus</td>
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<td>Ch Hullahballoo The Rookie CD RE TD NJP</td>
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<td>Hollywood's Venus In Blue Jeans</td>
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<td>Ch Paisley Forever Man</td>
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<td>Ch Jennu Outlaw CD RA</td>
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<td>Ch Jennu Fleur De Lis</td>
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<td>Ch MACH3 Joy-Dells New Years Mailey MXF TQX</td>
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<td>Kaler Country Star NAJ</td>
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<td>Kian O'Braramara RN TD OA OAJ OAP AJP</td>
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<td>Kincora Crystal Ball For Leella NA NAJ</td>
<td>Ch Dundalk The Stroke Of Midnight</td>
<td>Ch Effinstone Darcey O'Braramara CD TD</td>
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<td>GCH Ch Gleannaghy Legend Of The Grail</td>
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<td>Ch Stratford Top Brass</td>
<td>Ch Stratford The World According To Me</td>
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<td>Lonestar Play By Play CD AX AXJ OF</td>
<td>Ch Gleannaghy Boot Scoot'N Cowboy</td>
<td>Lissadell Splash</td>
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<td>Marolou Bree Egan CD AX AXJ</td>
<td>Ch Islander's Kiss The Girls</td>
<td>Ch Lonestar's Golden Snitch</td>
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<td>Marolou Run McLean CD NA OAJ</td>
<td>Ch Lissadell Dotcom</td>
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<td>Marymore Point Mugru RN</td>
<td>Ch Trébol Labour Leader</td>
<td>Ch Acabia's Some Like It Hot CDX RE OA OAJ AXP AJP NFP</td>
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<td>Ch Orion Trébol Hot On The Leader Board RN NAJ</td>
<td>Ch Trébol Labour Leader</td>
<td>Ch Acabia's Some Like It Hot CDX RE OA OAJ AXP AJP NFP</td>
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<td>Orion's Cool Your Jets OA AXJ OAP AJP NFP</td>
<td>Ch Shar-D'S Check My Label</td>
<td>Ch Sam Hill's Nutbush City Limit</td>
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<td>MACH Piper's Irish Jig CD RN NF</td>
<td>Ma's Irish Barney</td>
<td>Princess Smiles</td>
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<td>Roberts Sugarbear Riley NAJ</td>
<td>Ch Geragold Riders To The Sea</td>
<td>Ch Acacias Samhill Cowgirl</td>
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<td>Ch Sam Hill's I Told You I Was Trouble AX AXJ</td>
<td>Ch Candance Daze Of Thunder</td>
<td>Ch Edgewood Walk The Plank</td>
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<td>Ch Seanacy's The World According To Me</td>
<td>Ch Greenfairy Darcove Fairy Tale CD RN</td>
<td>Ch Shar-D's I Luv Lucie</td>
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<td>Lissadell Line Dancer CD RE</td>
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<td>Kaler's Amanda Of Vermilion</td>
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<td>Lonestar Play By Play CD AX AXJ OF</td>
<td>Ch Bon Aquarel Icon O'Kaler</td>
<td>Ch Kaylynn's Heartland Vintage</td>
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<td>Marolou Bree Egan CD AX AXJ</td>
<td>Li'Town Whindsport</td>
<td>Ch Waverleyglen's Kiss Me Kate</td>
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<td>Marolou Run McLean CD NA OAJ</td>
<td>Ch Tontowin's Toast To Tara</td>
<td>Ch Westridge Champagne Punch</td>
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<td>Manymore Point Mugru RN</td>
<td>Ch Whindancer's Heart Like A Wheel</td>
<td>Ch Whindancer Crazy Little Thing Called Luv</td>
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<td>Ch Orion Trébol Hot On The Leader Board RN NAJ</td>
<td>Ch Whindancer's Something So Right</td>
<td>Ch Whindancer Diamonds On The Soles Of Her Shoes</td>
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<td>Orion's Cool Your Jets OA AXJ OAP AJP NFP</td>
<td>Ch Whindancer's Loves Me Like A Rock</td>
<td>Geragold Whindancer Cirroc</td>
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<td>MACH Piper's Irish Jig CD RN NF</td>
<td>Ch Whindancer's Heart Like A Wheel</td>
<td>Ch Crazy Little Thing Called Luv</td>
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<td>Roberts Sugarbear Riley NAJ</td>
<td>Ch Meirleac's Steal A Kiss</td>
<td>Ch Winterwheat's Second Chance</td>
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SCWTCA National Specialty Reserve Winners

Reserve Winners Dog: Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris
By CH Marymore Hot Pepper Jack-CH Bryr Rose Les Trois Saules. Owner: Michele Connor.
Breeder: Jeanne Ferris.

Reserve Winners Bitch: Blessing Sweet Symmetry
By CH Reyem No Squattin On My Spurs - CH Harmony Sweet Blessing.
Breeders/Owners: Lise M. Moore & Jim & Sue Little.

2010 SCWTCA High in Trial Winner: JoAnne Vogt with Jendue Outlaw (“Finn”)

First there was Tanner, the dog that stole JoAnne’s heart and then her husband’s too. As a performance dog, he was the 4th UDX obedience dog in Wheaten history. Then came Maizy, a real handful and a show girl to boot, who has a title in front of her name to accompany her UD, TD and various agility titles, earning her a VCDk2 title behind. And now there is Finn, Jendu Outlaw, who claimed High in Trial at the 2010 SCWTCA obedience trials last fall. The victory was especially sweet because of the hard road JoAnne and Finn have traveled together. At 13 months, Finn was diagnosed with meningitis, a disease that is extremely rare in canines. Finn was on massive doses of prednisone (which caused all his hair to fall out) along with a human drug used to keep the immune system from doing its job. Luckily the treatment was a success and Finn’s high score of 187 proved you can’t keep a good dog – or even a sick one – down. Finn had earned his CD and RA title in time to make his trip to Montgomery.

Please note an omitted get of CH Greentree Darcove Fairy Tale CD RN ROM (“Jason”): CH Moonstruck Fairest of Them All
The SCWTCA Obedience/Rally Trial occurred on Saturday, October 9, 2010 at the Montgomery Community College location in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. The day dawned sunny and mild. The trial had an entry of 14 obedience and 14 Rally entries.

Dogs competed in all classes from Beginner Novice through Utility, and Novice through Excellent in Rally. Mr. Michael Mooney from Maryland was the judge.

Our Wheatens showed their terrier skill as they attempted to qualify at the trial. High in Trial went to JoAnne Vogt with Finn out of the Novice class with a score of 187. Beautiful trophies were awarded to the winners.

Obedience - There were 5 qualifiers out of 14 entries with 1 absent

Novice B
1st Place – Score 187 - Jendu Outlaw RN – Owner Joanne Vogt and Dana Frady
2nd Place - Score 171.5 - Lonestar Play by Play OA AXJ OF – Owner Suzanne Stone and Wendy and Tom Neill
Open A – No qualifiers
Open B – No qualifiers
Utility B – No qualifiers
Beginner Novice B
1st Place – Score 196 - CH Gleanngay Millionaire CD RAE2 NJP – Owner Sue and Bruce Peters and Lori Toivola
2nd Place – Score 195.5 - Jendu Outlaw RN – Owner JoAnne Vogt and Dana Frady
Veterans – Score 183 – CH Gleanngay Millionaire CD RAE2 NJP - Owner Sue and Bruce Peters and Lori Toivola

Rally – There were 12 qualifiers with 1 absent and 1 excused

Novice B
1st Place – Score 99 - Orion Trebol Hot on the Leader Board – Owner Betsy Geertson and Guillermo Rueda
2nd Place – Score 94 - Carrick’s Perfect Storm - Owner Pam Peckham
3rd Place – Score 87 - Carrick’s Carolina On My Mind NA NAJ - Owner Pam Peckham and Mary Flynn
4th Place – Score 75 - Hobel I’m Walking to Derrylin - Owner Anne and Gerald Sizemore

Advanced B
1st Place Score 96 – Maisy Moylan O’Neill – Owner Michelle and Gerry O’Neill
2nd Place Score 94 – CH Acacia’s Some Like it Hot CDX RE OA OAJ AXP AJP NF -Owners Betsy Geertson and Guillermo Rueda
3rd Place – Score 85 - Jendu Outlaw – Owner JoAnne Vogt and Dana Frady

Excellent B
1st Place Score 95 - Maisy Moylan O’Neill CDX RAE3 - Owner Michelle and Gerry O’Neill
2nd Place – Score 86 - CH Acacia’s Some Like It Hot CDX RE OA OAJ AXP AJP NF - Owner Betsy Geertson and Guillermo Rueda
3rd Place – Score 82 – Kaler Celtic Beauty of Derrylin CD RE - Owner Betsy Geertson and Guillermo Rueda

The Happy Jack award was presented by Cynthia Hollis to Linda Ruedy for receiving a UDX title this year. A beautiful portrait of Linda’s dog, Keegan, was given to Linda by Cynthia and the Obedience trial was dedicated to the memory of Keegan - Doubloons Last L’L Wise Guy UD, RA AX AXJ, OAP OJP, who retired from competition at the age of 13. He had received the most OTCH points of any Wheaten in history.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped us with the trial this year – Carol Carlson, Event Secretary, Rosemary Berg, Betsy Geertson along with our exceptional ring stewards, Mary Lou and Larry Monahan, Linda Ruedy, Connie Koehler and Lori Toivola.
The rainy cool weather on the first day of the agility trial in no way dampened the spirits of handlers and dogs. Mulch was brought in so the agility rings were in remarkably good condition.

There were fewer Wheatens entered this year, just 20, but the overall entries were up. Among the Wheatens running, we had one earning a MACH, one earned its very first AKC qualifying score, and at least one earned its first agility title.

Other breeds did well also – I saw a few MACH’s being earned and one little Cairn Terrier earned his MACH 14.

Also held at the same time as the agility trial was one day of All Terrier Rally and one day of All Terrier Obedience. The entries for these two events were so large that another judge had to be brought in for the obedience trial.

I had some fears about whether Teddy was ready to be in an AKC trial. For example, would he leave the ring and run off? I sent my friend, Betsy Geertson, a video of us practicing, and asked her if she thought he was ready. Always positive, Betsy said “Sure!”

As usual everything ran very smoothly with all events thanks to the organizing clubs and the trial secretaries for all the events.

We were blessed to adopt Teddy just two years ago from the SCWTC of Greater Tampa Bay Rescue. Lucky for us, Teddy came with papers, an unusual occurrence in rescue, and we were able to register him with the AKC. Teddy was 5-1/2 years old when we adopted him. His original owner died, and since that time Teddy had lived locked in a bathroom – approximately one year.

Our dream came true, and we were ready for Teddy’s first AKC trial debut. Not only did he never leave the ring, but he even took first place in one of his Novice Jumpers with Weaves, which was a Qualifying Run and earned us a coaster bearing the image of our handsome Wheaten friend Boone.

Montgomery holds a special place for us in our hearts, full of Wheatens, friends, love, and support. Will we be back? You bet! It is already on our calendar. Pennsylvania or Bust!

Teddy was 5-1/2 years old when we adopted him. His original owner died, and since that time Teddy had lived locked in a bathroom – approximately one year.

Susie Blackledge and Teddybear Jump for Joy
“ROCKY”
CH. MOONSTRUCK
MILLION DOLLAR BABY
RWD...Montgomery 2009

Bred by: Helen Fraguela, Bev & Kevin McDonald
Owned by: Gail & Geoff Johnston, Helen Fraguela, Bev McDonald

www.moonstruckscwt.com
Tradition

Before I start, two words for the SCWTCA Board: thank you. They know why. And to prove my gratitude, they get a pass in my column...this time around. 😊

I’ve thought a lot over the last year about the changes in “this thing of ours” and where we’re going.

As a former AKC employee, I pay attention to what comes out of its offices. It’s unfortunate more dog people don’t. AKC and dog shows are steeped in tradition. There are times when that tradition is meaningful, times when it’s just comfortable, and times when it has long since run its course. Few institutions struggle more with tradition in today’s world than AKC.

One AKC-initiated change is something I believe is anathema to what we are.

Mutts have no reason for being in AKC. Period. Call them “Mixed Breeds,” name the program “Canine Partners™” (and please, don’t forget that all-important “™”) and dress it up however you will…it still comes down to incorporating the progeny of careless, unplanned, irresponsible breeding into an organization whose mission statement includes the dedication to “breeding for type and function” and promoting “responsible dog ownership.”

I’m also a little bit cranky about AKC and exhibitors. As in...whose bright idea was it to come up with letting superintendents get away with not scheduling breeds in time blocks after lunch?

I understand...it’s easier for clubs, easier for judges and easier for superintendents. Did anyone ever ask exhibitors or...god forbid...handlers? I bet no one on AKC’s Board has recently had the joy of being the last breed on Sunday starting at 12:45 pm after 70 others in four different breeds (Pembroke Pipers at Berks County KC, September 19, 2010, for example, just in case you thought I was making it up) and wondering whether majors broke in any other breeds such that you need to be ready at 2 rather than 3 PM.

At least I think one of the best things AKC has done for the sport is the Grand Champion title. AKC finally recognized what those in companion events have long known...give people more titles to compete for and you’ll keep them involved. How many of us have dogs we might’ve shown more after they finished if there was a reason besides making breed points for a top special most weeks? How many of us have neutered champions in pet homes that might’ve sired a litter or two if other breeders had been able to see them in the ring after they finished?

The Grand Championship has been a good deal for clubs. AKC reports Best of Breed entries increased 30,000 in its first 7 months, as opposed to a projected 9,000 decline. Given the overall flat entries recently, the GCH may have helped some clubs break even or make a few dollars as opposed to being in the red. Dog clubs can no more afford to lose money than anyone else.

Yet the GCH makes some uncomfortable. There are two complaints I understand: Some AKC employees were heavy-handed with judges, insisting they give GCH points, while some exhibitors displayed a misplaced sense of entitlement to the award. All of you...grow up.

As to the other grumblers, my impression is many traditionalists squirmed and bemoaned the end of civilization as we know it. You know the arguments...the dogs aren’t good enough, it’s all about ego, it’s only chasing titles, handlers just want to make more money, and they just don’t make them like Fearnaught and Alva anymore, do they?

But sometimes they do. And if a dog who may not be the next great one gets his GCH title and it puts a few more bucks in the pockets of the clubs and keeps his owner involved for another couple of years...that’s good by me and very good for all of us in these times.

Now I’m taking a deep breath and saying something I thought I never would about a near sacrosanct tradition...it’s time to rethink one I’ve loved for the 25+ years I’ve gone to shows.

It’s time to consider having SCWTCA’s specialty other than at MCKC every year.

Wait for it...no, lightning didn’t strike. And the snowstorms came long before I wrote that.

As usual, a hard-working team gave us a great specialty weekend last October, and the entry was respectably large.
But in the weeks leading up to MCKC, I discovered a lot of people I’d hoped to see decided to pass. Sure there were litters and work and family needs. But I also expect the cost in time as well as money made the decision for a number of travelers.

Obviously, wherever the national specialty, it will be too expensive for everyone who wants to go to attend. It’s too easy to say “put it in the middle”…where it may be equally inconvenient for everyone. But since this breed is no longer disproportionately located in the East…we lose too much by never moving the specialty around.

I know we have a “roving” specialty. But let’s be honest: for most it’s not the real thing. Hey, the folks and host clubs work hard and do a terrific job. They’re great…but a roving just isn’t THE national.

There is always tradition woven into national specialties. The trophies given, the award presentations, friendships made and renewed, the best of our breed….enduring things that make us return every year no matter what.

I am absolutely not saying wave good bye to MCKC. We shouldn’t…it is the premier terrier event in the world. Still, maybe it’s time to examine whether Pennsylvania in the fall is really critical for our national specialty. Other terrier breeds alternate their specialty at Montgomery one year and hold a supported entry the next. It’s worth a discussion.

Traditions are important. So is common sense and doing what’s in the best interests of having a healthy, vibrant Wheaten fancy throughout this country for as long as there are dogs.

THE A TO Zs OF GOOD CANINE SPORTSMANSHIP

Accept and abide by the decisions of the judges.
Be self aware, don’t perpetuate poor sportsmanship.
Cooperate with the judges, competitors and club members in trying to promote good sportsmanship.
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
Encourage your own teammates to be competitive, but fair at canine events.
Follow the rules of the competition at all times.
Give credit and appreciation to the competition when they’ve earned it.
Have a smile on your face, even when you are disappointed in a judge’s call.
Intervene to let others know that unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated at events sponsored by your club.
Judgment calls on the part of officials are not subject to debate.
Keep your cool at all times. Never let anger or disappointment cloud your good judgment.
Lose without excuses; win without demeaning the competition.
Message boards are for sharing, learning and helping a community stay connected – NOT for slanderous attacks on others.
Never blame other competitors or the judges for your or your dog’s shortcomings.
Offer congratulations and compliments to the handler whose dog placed above yours.
Provide opportunities for informing event participants of their responsibility to uphold the standards of sportsmanship.
Questioning a judge’s call or making negative comments about an official is unacceptable behavior.
Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding competitor.
Shake hands with other handlers prior to the competition and wish them good luck.
Teach sportsmanship and request that your well-wishers be good sports.
Use your club’s membership to help develop a sportsmanship education program.
Victors of the competition should be sure to congratulate other competitors for a job well done.
Work cooperatively with judges and hosts for a fair competition.
eXercise self-control and be a good example for competitors and spectators.
Zero in on sportsmanship and make it YOUR top PRIORITY!!

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Conclusion by Jackie Gottlieb

I’ve whelped my last Wheaten litter, and finished my last Wheaten champion, a singleton, Solista. It has been a wonderful ride. The dogs and the people have added such a fabulous dimension to my life. How did it happen? How did I go from an orthodontist’s wife in suburbia, giving talks on Economics & International Relations, to a dog nut? What happened to this middle aged lady that her freezer, formerly filled with home baked cookies, and hot and cold running hors d’oeuvres, is now overflowing with dog meat and puppy tails & dew claws?

Growing up, our family suffered two disasters involving canines. An Airedale puppy was stolen from our back yard in Connecticut, and a few years later a pound puppy died of distemper. Mother declared “no more.” She couldn’t cope with her two weeping daughters nor have her own heart broken again. An uncle’s Belgian Shepherd compensated for his unloving home by running away to our house so we could cry our adolescent hearts out on his willing shoulders.

Then came WWII, college, marriage, and a family. We were all animal lovers, but Gene’s family were city folk, who believed that progress came about when animals were put in a barn. Our children ruled otherwise, especially daughter Cindy, who had to have a dog despite having been bitten by a friend’s Irish Setter. When Cindy went to kindergarten, she made sure to acquire a “best friend,” a girl whose family had two poodles. The friend’s mother took pity on Cindy, and bred her miniature poodle so Cindy could have a pet, resulting in our owning a backyard bred, completely neurotic animal. The dam ran out of milk when Christy was four weeks old. We had no dog skills, and, despite our academic backgrounds, never bought a book. The poor baby was unable to digest dog food for a while. That didn’t keep her from eating a portion of our newly acquired wall-to-wall carpet. (Gene bought a carpet needle and rewove it). We soon acquired that pet mindset that cherishes a pet’s idiosyncrasies, and when she died of lymphoma at 11, we had to have another non-shedding, odor-free dog (paternal requirement). Besides, we were the only home on Andover Road that hadn’t been burglarized.

Reputable poodle breeders scorned us when we asked for a “caniche.” We despaired of finding a suitable animal. Finally via the New York Times classified, we met up with Charlie Arnold and SCWTs. Charlie was a delightful big bear of an outgoing personality. We were duly impressed with lady-like Eileen, and their silky coated, friendly, stable, happy dogs. Happily we bought the female since all the boys were spoken for, and promised to show!!! and breed!!! so the breed could acquire AKC Recognition. Armed with a tiny piece of paper adorned with Charlie’s enormous, scribbled 2 lines describing how to put up ears (infallible), we ventured into the world of dogs, completely unaware of our ignorance, never dreaming of what we had gotten into.

This spirited, people-loving, creature could not be contained in the kitchen. She promptly jumped the baby gate, even when we put it up on the back stairs. This was a much fancier house, and keeping a dog was contingent on minimizing damage. “You wanted a dog,” I said to my daughter, “get a bath mat and let it sleep in your room.” The snow had run out at Stowe, so Cindy was able to give Maggie (Andover Antic of Sunset Hill, CD) her full attention, and the little fireball quickly learned her way to the back door to be let out. Even skeptic Gene was convinced. This was an animal worth keeping.

I then contacted Juanita Wurzburger who lived in a nearby town. She had imported a bitch from Maureen Holmes and had a litter, so she was the authority, and promptly succeeded in brainwashing me. When Maggie turned six months, urged by the O’Connor’s pleas in Benchmarks, we entered her in Benchmarks, volume 39, number 1, page 16.
a show. Juanita, who had possibly been in the ring once, or claimed to have been instructed by Blanche Saunders (then a famous canine behaviorist), instructed Cindy over the phone on the fine points of handling a terrier. She told Cindy to “Give your lovely Wheaten a bath and take it to a show to get AKC Recognition.” We did as instructed. We went to Westbury, still revered as the most magnificent of shows, the tent poles were entwined with living roses! First we met a distinguished gentleman (I believe he was President of Westinghouse.) He wanted to know what “it” was, “it” being an Irish Coated scraggly infant Wheaten. He pointed out his motor home (huge), his handler’s rig, and mentioned his top winning Bouviers. He didn’t laugh at our bath mat and brush. Next we met an 18 year old boy, who took one look at 17 year old Cindy, and offered the use of his grooming table.

Maggie’s previous experiences “on lead” had been to sniff and potty. It was a large Miscellaneous class, no other Wheatens, but no doubt representative Bichons, Akitas (watch out!!) Tibetan Terriers, some with professional handlers. Major Godsol, of sainted memo - there was a truly respected judge - was very kind, told Cindy she had a nice dog, just needed to train her. That was in 1969.

To be continued...

A Rose By Any Other Name
by Gay Dunlap

When Gertrude Stein wrote, “Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose,” her intention was to imply that things are as they are. Staying au courant, today one might say, “It is what it is.” Certainly the Rose City Classic cluster is what it is...a huge undertaking, extraordinarily well conceived and carried out with great flair. I have loved these shows, dating back at least 8 years or so when I won two majors there, finishing one of my most favorite Wheatens, Gleanngay Quintilian (Tilly). Held in mid-January in Portland Oregon, the shows mark the beginning of a new year for exhibitors in the northwest. But it also draws fanciers from all over the country, with entries this year topping 2700.

I had the pleasure of officiating as a judge on three of the five days. Our own Jana Caraway served as chair for the Terrier Association of Oregon show held on Wednesday, the first day of the Cluster. She ran a tight ship! I judged most of the Terriers, including our breed, and also had the gratifying experience of judging the Terrier Group that day. SCWTCA supported our entry at this show with lovely medallions designed by Darcie Olson. In addition, local Wheaten fanciers donated fabulous trophies. One of them, a large Wheaten “Stuffie” created by SCWTCA member, Dana Loring, I was hard pressed to hand out! I did so want to take that puppy home!

Whereas the cluster drew entries from across the country in many breeds, the entire Wheaten entry, with one exception, was from the northwest. These are such great shows...the venue is huge with hordes of vendors...great food...pleasant hotels and Portland is an exciting vibrant sophisticated city with much to do. So what’s keeping you from attending? Think about it for next year...I guarantee you will have a great time, win or lose.

And while on the subject, please do take note that SCWTCA is striving to encourage entries (and majors) by offering to support diverse shows around the country with the same exquisite medallions offered at Rose City Classic. Won’t you do your part and make every effort to attend these shows? We all want majors!

Finally, “A rose by any other name would smell as sweet,” was an aphorism, from the pen of the bard, meaning that what matters is what something is, and not what it is called. The Rose City Classic is indeed what it is...rosy, sweet and classy!
January Northwest Clusters
By Jeri Voyles

To start off the New Year right, the Northwest has eight days of heavily attended and much anticipated shows. The first one is the Puyallup, WA Cluster of Shows (three days held Saturday through Monday). Tuesday is a planned travel day, so exhibitors and vendors can travel the approximately 135 miles from Puyallup to Portland, Oregon to attend the Rose City Classic, which is five days of shows held Wednesday through Sunday.

Both show sites are contained in very clean, heated facilities, with ample bathrooms. In Portland the grooming setups are located in a separate yet attached building adjacent to the show rings. This is great news in the Northwest as it is one of our rainy seasons.

The Puyallup ring times seemed to be in the middle of the night – 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. for Wheatens?! In Portland the ring times were nicely set mid-morning or just before lunch. (Many thanks to Jana Carraway, who was able to arrange decent ring times for us in Portland.)

An always well-attended and welcomed event is the annual dinner at Christy and Todd Weagant’s house in Vancouver, WA. The dinner is held on the Saturday evening during the Rose City Cluster. We all look forward to Todd’s tender barbecued steak and garlic mashed potatoes, and Christy’s yummy stuffed mushrooms. (The recipe for the mushrooms is in the latest cookbook.)

It seemed that there were more vendors this year than we had seen in the past. Also, the vendors were located near the agility and performance rings, so it was easy to stop to watch these events.

We hope you will join us here next year!

Meet The Breeds
By Emily Skoglund

During the Saturday and Sunday shows at the Rose City Classic, six booths were open for Meet the Breed from 9am until 2:30pm, featuring 54 different breeds from Afghans to Xoloitzcuintle, including four terrier breeds. Saturday was better attended day than our hour on Sunday, which was during the lunch hour. The three Wheaten ambassadors were provided by Roni Andrews and me featuring a variety of coats, and all were very well mannered and gentle with the visitors.

People and canines alike made a lot of new friends. One girl said she wasn't sure if two Wheatens would fit in her bed, but she'd sure like to try! Lots of Wheaten kisses were passed around and most kids asked for permission to meet the dogs. Another girl ran over and gave my dog, Nos, a big bear hug and was surprised by more kisses than she really wanted -- her eyeball could have especially done without a kiss! Cherie Turner Fogarty kindly assisted us in manning the booth both days, and many of the other Wheaten breeders came over to the booth to visit, bringing their Wheatens along to create a very festive atmosphere.

During the two days, an estimated 50 people stopped to talk for an extended period of time, asking mostly about coat care, shedding and activity level. We handed out business cards with the parent club website, as well as flyers to those interested in more information.
Members of the Greater Denver Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club welcomed the New Year with a celebration of agility during the Club’s inaugural three-day, all breed agility trial.

The Denver Club made big strides on the agility front in 2010. Early in the year, Club member Patrice Chevalier attended a meeting of the Board to encourage the Board to consider getting the Denver Club licensed to hold AKC agility trials. Patrice’s presentation was organized and enthusiastic and her rationale was persuasive. She had been through the AKC approval process before and agreed to spearhead the endeavor. The Board was supportive of her proposal and Patrice and her committee (agility aficionados Bob Bergman, John Unruh, Kathy Wishart, Jackie Tucker and I) were off and running. Information for the Club’s AKC application was assembled and submitted. On the heels of the application, the committee made a request to the AKC for approval to hold the required sanctioned “A” agility match. Our match was held in June and the Club received notice from the AKC that it had been granted its agility license in July. Application was then immediately made for approval to hold a sanctioned trial over New Years weekend and notice of approval was received shortly thereafter. Whew! Talk about an example of “Git ’er done!”

Finally, the whirlwind of planning that had consumed 2010 was coming to an end. Our trial date was upon us. And wouldn’t you know it? After months of unseasonably warm weather, Mother Nature ushered in a dose of blizzard conditions and deep freeze temperatures for the weekend. Dogs and their humans alike arrived at the trial bundled in winter wear that made them unrecognizable as they moved gear and crates from the parking lot into the agility building. Once inside the building, Mother Nature was held largely at bay and the mood was happy and upbeat. Music was playing and there was a sense of camaraderie and anticipation among everyone who had “braved the storm” to celebrate the holiday together while competing in the sport of agility. Some were dressed in holiday appropriate glitter and sparkles. All were ready for a lively weekend of competition and fun.

The weekend was a lot of fun and passed without a hitch. Courses were built quickly and efficiently, workers were enthusiastic and plentiful, and time to start planning the trial in earnest. The work involved with hosting an agility event is a bit daunting. All of the arrangements are made by the sponsoring Club – everything from negotiating site, equipment and judge’s contracts, to purchasing awards, enlisting course builders, organizing a multitude of workers, planning and purchasing hospitality items, and transportation, set-up and tear-down of ring barriers and a myriad of equipment and supplies needed for the trial. Lots of planning and help is needed to get it all done. The Denver Wheaten Club is fortunate to have a cohesive group of agility enthusiasts who work together well. Besides members of the committee, Denver Club members Bruce and Kathleen Larkins, Mary Alford and Alan Drobnak also pitched in and gave us a hand over the weekend. More help came from special friends in the Cairn Terrier Club. Thank you all!

It was decided that our inaugural trial would be held at Arena Sports in Windsor, Colorado. Arena Sports is an indoor soccer and volleyball facility. The soccer field is covered with high tech artificial turf that provides a wonderful surface on which to run agility and the adjacent volleyball courts have ample room for crating. Another nice aspect of this venue is that there is a mezzanine area that overlooks the soccer field with food and beverage service. Besides being a great place to relax and watch the activities, the mezzanine would provide a good location to hold a dinner and New Years Eve celebration. Once the venue was lined up, it was
attentive competitors moved to the start line like clockwork. The New Years Eve celebration was filled with music and wonderful food and provided time to relax and chat with friends. All in all, it was a great way to ring in the New Year.

Plans are already in the works for the 2011 – 2012 New Year’s weekend trial. It promises to be another fun-filled, high-energy weekend. Why don’t you consider joining us? We would love to have you!

Back row: John Unruh with Kylie, Betty Richardson with Bailey, Kathy Drobnak with Sasha, Kathleen Larkins with Reaghan and Bruce Larkins with “honorary Wheaten” Walker
Front row: Bob Bergman with Delaney, Patrice Chevalier with Tige and Glad, Alan Drobnak with Razz and Jackie Tucker with Amelia
Missing: Beth Sorenson and Russ Howard with their three children and three Wheatens
Photo Credit: Roger and Joni Weed at Dandylion Design
Needle felting involves using special barbed felting needles to shape wool. It is a dry felting method in which the needle binds the wool fibers together with no water or heat required. This technique can be used to cover surfaces, create surface designs, and also to create 3D objects.

Felting is the process of tangling fibers. It is one of the oldest fiber crafts, dating back as far as 6300 BC. Felt making predates spinning, weaving or knitting, and for centuries this non-woven fabric has provided for basic human needs, such as yurts (felt tents), rugs, hats and footwear. Today, many crafters and artists work in felt to create one-of-a-kind sculptures of many sorts.

One such artist specializes in unique Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier sculptures. Jolijne Ubbink, a club member from Ontario, Canada, has made herself such a niche. At last year’s specialty weekend, Jolijne presented many of her fine dogs -- adult and puppy, American coated and Irish coated -- at the boutique. Among her work she includes many poses from standing to sitting to the characteristic canine play bow. Jolijne was honored with a “Judges’ Choice” ribbon at a handcraft show last fall for her mother and puppy sculpture. (See photo above.) For her, the honor was as significant as a BIS!

While Jolijne offers a variety of poses and sizes, she will also custom create one to replicate a beloved pet. The sculpture can be finished with coat from your dog that you collect and send to her. Following is the process that begins with three pipe cleaners and a wad of wool. With the magic of the felting needle and the artistry of Jolijne, the process moves to the completion of an extraordinary sculpture.
Step 3 - Start to wrap the fleece around the pipe cleaners and needle felt into a solid mass, working carefully to strengthen the joints and feeling it enough to stiffen the limbs. Thousands of in-and-out movements with the felting needle is required to give the inner core the substance you will need to then start to sculpt the piece.

Step 4 - Once you have felted a firm foundation around the pipe cleaners, gently move the limbs into the position you want to sculpture. The "dog" will look quite odd but by continuing to apply a little fleece here, and more fleece there, you will be able to sculpture it to look like the conformation you want to achieve.

Step 5 - I usually work on sculpturing the legs and body, leaving the tail and head for last. Add layer-by-layer of fleece. Don’t try to add too much at a time in one piece - doing that causes it to get "lumpy". Use thin layers of fleece, felting each layer in to gradually build up the figure.

Step 6 - Add fleece gradually to the areas you want to build up. Here the "top line" is being improved.

Step 7 - Prefer your Wheaten to have a lot of substance under his coat? Then keep adding layers of fleece to "build up" his muscles where you want them.

Step 8 - Using black wool roving fleece, add the eyes and mouth. The nose is a plastic dog nose available from craft stores. It is attached by slipping the end of the pipe cleaner through a hole in the stem of the nose. Make the ears from fleece that you needle felt into a triangle. Then apply the ear by felt ing under the flap first, then tacking it down at the tip of the ear. Next continue to apply fleece to shape the head.

Step 9 - Finish the outer coat layer, on the body and legs before putting on the beard and tail. For a just washed, blow-dry and trimmed "show cut", use a fluffy layer of fleece, gently needle felted into place. For a more natural coat with waves, use Alpaca Coat (shown). You can use your own Wheaten’s hair for the final, outer layer, but the hair shaft is smoother than that of wool fleece, and you will find that you have to needle felt it almost hair-by-hair. You can also use Alpaca coat for the outer layer.

Step 10 - Finally, put on the beard. Apply under chin first, then on the muzzle. The last step is to apply the tail. In this example, I used alpaca fleece from a mature male alpaca because this fleece is long and silky, but not downy so it falls in a gentle wave.
Be a Sport...Support!

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America

proudly supports our Wheaten entries across the country with the hope and expectation that, as exhibitors, you will support these shows by entering them!

The Supported Entries for 2011 are

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Select Dog and Select Bitch, when awarded, will also receive a medallion

Medallions designed by SCWTCA member/artist, Darcie Olson
2010 Donors to the Colony Dogs

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America and the SCWTCA Endowment thank the following people for their 2010 donations to the Colony Dog Fund at North Carolina State University. To make a donation to the fund, make your checks payable to: NC Veterinary Medical Foundation, Inc., 4700 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27606-1499; phone: (919) 513-6660; fax: (919) 513-6105. Please write on the memo line: SCWT Health.

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Happy Birthday to Stella
Celebrating her 17th Birthday

Susie Blackledge
Laurel Brunke
Barbara Delozier
Pat Dorr
Kathy Drobak
Vicki Duncanson
Rachael Fenton
Margaret Foxmoore
Remember Wheaten Health in Your Will

We invite you to include the Endowment in your philanthropic planning by becoming a member of the Endowment’s Heritage Society. When you notify us of your intention to make a planned gift, you will be honored as a member of the SCWT Heritage Society. As a society member, you'll receive invitations to annual recognition events, and special events, as well as recognition in SCWTCA, Inc. publications.

Your Heritage Society gift can take many forms – from an outright gift to trust arrangements that benefit a surviving spouse, from a bequest under a will to a gift that provides for you and your family. Here are some of the options:

- **Wills, Bequests.**
  Leave specific assets or a portion of your estate.
- **Outright Gifts.**
  Give cash; publicly traded securities; bonds.
- **Life Insurance, Retirement Plans, Savings Accounts. Designate the Endowment as beneficiary.**
- **Gifts offering lifetime income for you and your spouse. Set up a charitable remainder unitrust or a charitable remainder annuity trust.**
- **Gifts of Income.** Set up a charitable lead trust.

Many of these options offer significant tax advantages. Be sure to seek the advice of your financial planner, lawyer, or advisor to decide which choice offers the greatest benefit and obtain details on these plans.

For details, contact:
Rosemary Berg, Secretary
37953 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
twaggin@windstream.net
Candy Way recently informed the SCWT Endowment of her plans to include the Endowment in her philanthropic planning and is welcomed as the newest member to the SCWT Heritage Society!

Long time breeder, exhibitor and now judge, Candy Way (aka Sharol Candace Way) began over four decades ago in Saint Bernards and Great Pyrenees but soon was smitten with the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. Her first American/Canadian SCWT champion was Legendary Babe in Toyland. She then acquired her foundation bitch from Gay Dunlap: Ch Gleanngay Holly Berry. Perhaps her most well known get under her Bantry Bay kennel name have been Ch Bantry Bay Kairo ROM (Kairo) and Bantry Bay Gleanngay Kashmir (Kash). At the 1990 SCWTCA national specialty, Kairo went best of breed, Kash received award of merit, winners bitch/best of winners. (Amaden’s Kash Sterling) shown by Candy was out of a Kash breeding and winners dog (Bendacht Amaden’s Gold) was from a Kairo breeding. Truly a Montgomery to remember!

Ten years ago, Candy retired from running a small pharmaceutical company and became increasingly active as a judge. A judge since 1996, Candy now judges the terrier and working groups as well as having BIS certification. She is completing the qualifications for the hound group and has judged internationally (Argentina, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Brazil) as well as in the USA. She has judged both the USA (2002) and the Canadian (2005) National SCWT Specialties and judged SCWTCA National Sweepstakes in 1992.

When asked why she decided to make a bequest in her will to SCWTCA Endowment, Candy indicated that she had no immediate family other than her husband, Roger Cotton. She believes that Roger’s heirs would probably not know or appreciate the exquisite wheaten art, jewelry and collectibles she had accumulated over her lifetime. So, other than a few specific items left to close friends, she named SCWTCA Endowment to receive her special wheaten items to be sold, auctioned or raffled to support wheaten health research. Candy has allowed us to publish her story in the hope that it will inspire others to think of creative ways to support SCWTCA Endowment’s commitment to advance research related to the health of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.

We invite you to include the Endowment in your philanthropic planning by becoming a member of the Endowment’s Heritage Society. When you notify us of your intention to make a planned gift, you will be honored as a member of the SCWT Heritage Society.

Learn more about the Heritage Society at: http://www.wheatenhealtheendowment.org/plannedgiving.html
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The Board of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America and the Endowment Board thank the following for their generosity. Donations fund grants selected by the SCWTCA Endowment Board or provide matching funds for grants approved by the American Kennel Club/Canine Health Foundation. The SCWTCA Endowment, Inc. is a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Unspecified Gifts

Megan Abboud
Robyn Alexander and Kaiser Community Giving Campaign
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Sandra Amorosia
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Wendy Beers, DVM
Victoria Bendetson in memory of Bailey
Laurel Brunke in honor of Joey Knoll, loved by Alma & Kent Knoll
Jo Byron
Carol Carlson in memory of Maureen Brinkers & Molly
Carolina Cavalier King Charles Club thank you to Beth Verner for her services to club
Jana Carraway, her Mom & Dad, & Jason Gretton in loving memory of “Stella” CH Lissadell Cajan Star for her 17th birthday fund raiser for the colony dogs
Ellen Chapman
Patrice Chevalier and Bob Bergman in memory of Heirloom Wheatens, Kaycee & Turbo
Holly Craig
David Csaki
Judith Downing
Kathy Drobnak in loving memory of “Libby” CH Stratford Veiled Illusion
Drumheller in honor of a puppy from Kathy Clarke
Vicki Duncanson in loving memory of our Princess Diana, CH Shannon, Shenianigans, Bailea, Keegan, Riki Tikki Tavi & Mookie
Jeanne Ferris
D.G. Frank
Kathy Fries
Shirley Gee in honor of our colony dogs "Colony Dogs...we care"
Sue & Harvey Goldberg in honor of John & Pam Mandeville & our beloved “Brio” Ch Shandie Banner She-Devil
Jackie Gottlieb
Mel & Marcie Granick in memory of "Greta" McLaren's Hampton Classic
Grant Guthrie in memory of our dear "Mac" & “Casey”, forever in our hearts
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Felicity Leonard
Richard Leshko in memory of Cabaret' Ebbtide HWM Jazz-Jazz
John & Pam Mandeville in memory of Howard Peltier
John & Pam Mandeville in memory of “Details,” and “Morgen,” CH Banner Speak of the Devil in honor of all the Banner Wheatens, past and present and their owners
Dawn Marcus
Kris McDowell
Dotty McGill in memory of Murphy McGill
Dotty McGill in honor of Carl McGill's birthday
Ellyn McCue
Susan McGee
Gwen Meyer & Kay Baird in honor of Ronnie & Hugh Copland, Meirleac Wheatens
Minnesota SCWT Health Screen
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Sally Leonard                 Susan Wuerz
                            Barbara Zapf

Send contributions to:
Toni Vincent, 3825 132nd Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98005
Make checks payable to SCWTCA Endowment (U.S. funds only)

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Heritage Society

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www.scwtgrf.org
Jeter turned 13 years old on October 20, 2010. If I hadn’t pleaded with Sue Goldberg to give this soon-to-be new Wheaten owner and almost total novice a chance, Jeter and I wouldn’t have discovered the plethora of dog activities that have opened up a whole new world to us.

Jeter started out our adventure as a show dog, getting his championship at the age of 10 months, going on to become the #14 Wheaten in Breed in 1999. He would earn a Westminster Award of Merit in 2000, a Canadian Championship in 2001 and eventually attain a Veteran Sweepstake Group I, going up against the same terriers that usually had beaten him in the past.

With me never really training a dog before, or being involved in the dog world, Jeter and I charged into dog training and performance activities with great enthusiasm before most people knew what performance activities were. We were like two kids in a candy store, not knowing what we wanted to do next, but wanting to try everything!

Jeter passed both his Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dogs International tests in 1999. I was encouraged by a friend at our Suffolk Obedience Training Club to pursue therapy dog visits at AHRC in Brookville, Long Island, NY at a school for kids with disabilities. We started out getting help with our visits from an occupational therapist there that had a Wheaten when she was growing up, bred by Jackie Gottlieb. This OT had a real understanding of Wheatens and would work with me so that the kids would treat Jeter safely and with respect.

Jeter went on to do 152 therapy dog visits over six years at AHRC, making lasting friendships along the way. There was a 16-year old girl who would help me “train” Jeter. There was a boy with a debilitating muscular illness who initially would walk Jeter down the hall, and later walk him in his wheelchair. There was the deaf girl who would gently pet Jeter and sign “dog” to me. There was the boy who couldn’t talk, but “swung a bat” to show me that he knew who I had named my “Jeter” after (Derek Jeter, the shortstop for the Yankees). There were kids in wheelchairs and daybeds that Jeter would especially connect with, gently and sweetly giving soft Wheaten kisses. There was one particular boy in the wheelchair that was afraid of dogs. We took our time, slowly acclimating him to Jeter and eventually Jeter was putting his paws up on the boy’s wheelchair giving him kisses and getting treats. My neighbor, who is a physical therapist at the facility, still treats this now young man at 15 whose mother is thinking of getting him a dog. My friend asked him what kind of dog he wanted and he answered “Jeter.” My friend said, oh you want a Wheaten Terrier, and the boy said, “No, I want JETER!” It has been 5 years since we had visited AHRC! The young man wrote me a sweet note that he still loved (heart) Jeter.

In addition to letting the kids train, feed, pet and brush Jeter, we did agility, canine freestyle and trick demonstrations that the kids loved.

Jeter has gone on to participate in many other activities including obedience (getting his CD in 2002), learning Rally, learning to track, and training in Canine Freestyle (dancing with your dog). We even drove down to Tennessee with our friend, a canine chiropractic vet, to participate in a Canine Freestyle retreat that we all enjoyed.

Jeter started agility at the age of four and went on to compete the next six years despite a significant neck injury that was managed with chiropractic, acupuncture and hydrotherapy. Jeter started out his agility training being afraid of the surfaces of the contact obstacles, the noise of the see-saw, afraid if he knocked a bar jump. He ended up running agility happily, (albeit not when it was too hot out), attaining his AXP and AJP (Agility Excellent Preferred and Agility Excellent Jumpers Preferred) titles.

During this same time, after attending the first Delaware Valley Wheaten Terrier Herding Instinct Test at Raspberry Ridge Sheep Farm, Jeter went on to herding training including six week-long “herding boot camps” learning herding through entirely positive reinforcement methods. Jeter inspired me to co-write the herding proposal to the American Kennel Club to be approved to herd in AKC events. The AKC Performance Committee recently
unanimously accepted Wheatens to herd in AKC events on January 1, 2011. Jeter’s picture is on the cover of that proposal as well as on the bibliography page in the form of a pastel portrait I did of Jeter’s herding, which won “Best In Show” in 2005 at the Dog Fancier’s Art Competition at Sardi’s Restaurant in New York City. This image currently sits on a banner created by my herding proposal co-writer, Connie Koehler, celebrating Wheatens’ AKC herding acceptance.

Jeter has been a willing model for my Wheaten art and dog portraits. His great grandmother Lacey, was my first Wheaten dog portrait, done for his breeder in appreciation of giving me such a wonderful dog, shortly followed by several portraits of Jeter. I’ve gone on to do about 30 portraits as well as mixed media and collage pieces. Jeter was also the model for the giant wooden painted image of a Wheaten doing a play bow for recent years’ AKC Meet the Breeds Wheaten Terrier booth at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City.

On a sad note, Jeter lost his sister Brio to PLN a short while back. Before Brio passed, Jeter and Brio were enrolled in the Wheaten sibling study to help determine the cause of this destructive disease. As the healthy remaining sibling, Jeter continues to contribute to the welfare of Wheatens everywhere.

Jeter has finally reached retirement age, and takes his time to sit or lie down, but still has the incredible enthusiasm that has made him my best buddy and partner in so many dog activities that have enriched my life so fully, as well as the lives of so many others. He still relishes going to hotels and attending agility trials with his “sister” Gabby, who he still feels he can charm. Jeter has been instrumental in helping me to realize my passion and calling in all things “dog,” while being an amazing ambassador of Wheatens everywhere. He’s really changed my life in a very special way. I can’t thank him enough!

Suzanne Stone and Jeter
Am/Can CH Shandalee Daredevil, CD, AXP, AJP, CGC, TDIOAV, HIC, Versatility Dog

(American and Canadian Champion, Companion Dog, Agility Excellent Preferred, Agility Excellent Jumpers Preferred, Canine Good Citizen, Therapy Dogs International Active Outstanding Volunteer, Herding Instinct Certified, SCWTCA Versatility Award)

***********************

NACHO

(CH Summerwind Jalapeno Pepper )
May 12, 1995 to November 1, 2010
CH Doubloon’s Quiet Man X CH Harbour Hill Ruffles ‘N Lace

Nacho enjoyed a wonderful, full and long life, and we wereblessed to have him. We will miss him always.

Nick & Pat Scheuer
Sweet and gentle Casey lived with his loving family since he was 9 weeks old. He is owned and loved by Bruce, Jill, Tara, Dana, and Zachary Silber in Melville, Long Island. Casey is older than Zachary who is 14 years old! Zachary has never known a day when Casey wasn’t there as part of his family and personal pillow when he was a toddler. Bruce believes that the long brisk walks that Jill took with Casey every day made him strong and healthy. The devotion, patience, and love that the Silber Family has shown for their pet is just outstanding, especially now when Casey is growing weak and tends to wobble, only hears and sees when he is in the mood, and is sometimes uncooperative when it comes to his daily routine. If he looks a bit put out over having his picture taken, it is because he would rather be napping in one of his favorite places than putting up with pictures at this time in his life! Join us as we all get ready to celebrate his 17th BIRTHDAY!!!!!!

Wendy & Tom Neill
Lonestar Wheatens

Lissi is the perfect Wheaten, loving everybody and almost every animal. She is forever cheerful, but woe be to any dog who might harm a puppy on her watch.

She has blessed us with three litters of lovely puppies. She now is a bit slower getting up in the morning, but will still run like the wind if given the chance. She rules the pack with gentle confidence but is ever alert, just in case.

Judith Martin
Shivaree Wheaten Terriers and Lagotto Romagnolo
RIPLEY  Born  March 6, 1997

(Ch MACH Ceili’s Calypso CDX OAP OJP OF RA CGC AAD NAC NGC OJC)

CH Doubloon’s Gangster ROM x CH Waterford Just A Second CDX OA OAJ CGC

Ripley is the puppy I kept from my first litter. She chose me early, supporting her body weight by latching onto my chin when she was three weeks old. At first I thought she was one of the more dominant pups, but she was just determined to monopolize my time from birth. She is actually a complete pacifist, great with every person and animal she meets. She has been a wonderful competition dog and an outstanding pet. At her first obedience class I was trying to help another student who was having some trouble. She turned to me and said “it’s not like my dog lives to please me like your dog” – she was training a Golden Retriever (and she was right). Ripley has always loved to work, obedience, agility, rally, tracking, or just hiking through the woods. The last few months her attitude towards training has changed and she no longer is jealous when I work the other dogs. She still has a good appetite and a playful attitude and I hope she will be with us for quite some time. We are fortunate to have her daughter and granddaughter in our house who remind us a lot of Ripley.

Beth Sorenson
Ceili Wheatens

***************

Biogal Announces the USDA Approval of ImmunoComb® Canine VacciCheck

Miami, USA, September 2010 Biogal-Galed Labs and Modern Veterinary Therapeutics, LLC (Miami, FL) are pleased to announce the USDA approval of Biogal’s ImmunoComb® Canine VacciCheck. The Canine VacciCheck kit is intended to be used as a diagnostic tool to evaluate the antibody response to the core vaccination or infection by Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Canine Parvovirus and Distemper Virus. A high antibody level is associated with immunity to infection (in healthy dogs) and can also diagnose a dog that is sick with one of these diseases.

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association states that vaccines should not be given needlessly, as they may cause adverse reactions.

This test can help determine if a dog requires additional vaccination, and may save the dog unnecessary vaccination. It is especially useful when making a decision about vaccinating an animal with unknown vaccination history, or for determining if puppies have received immunity from vaccination.

What is unique about Biogal’s ImmunoComb® Canine VacciCheck is that it gives the veterinarian the opportunity of being able to quantitatively check for all the 3 core vaccines. This is all done in one test as a follow up to vaccination, in the vet’s clinic or the veterinary lab, with an answer received within 20 minutes.

“We at Biogal sincerely hope that this tool will assist in reducing over vaccination” said Amos Gershony, Biogal’s General Manager.

Biogal already has the following USDA approved products available in the USA.

To read more: http://www.biogal.co.il/biogal/Publications/The-ImmunoComb-Canine/ <http://r20.rs6.net/t?i=h9dfrwptf&et=1104265122348&s=5806&e=001ap5hjIV42iUX9AZUsSAoaie_52GjIOE9xjxjBxOaZm2KEm PcBt3UTdGxEve04nQd6PsYR01y6OxhQ4CQM9OHwBOox_mVCZ6PSln0yUgZdsrF3yL6q1xsvsimKJf44hZs7QpX0F ChYL2R8DpL5Ne7EeJHCMV0a4Fpmug9K3-f12Ulo9iuxA==>
Pet sterilization has become widely regarded as a routine procedure that is purely beneficial. Most breeders today sell companion puppies under contracts requiring spay or neuter as a condition of sale.(6) Ingrained in recent popular culture is the notion that pet overpopulation is a serious concern, and that to prevent the deaths of animals in shelters all pets should be sterilized. To bolster the campaign for pet sterilization, we have further been informed that a sterilized pet is happier, healthier and longer-lived than one who remains intact. Should we believe these widely circulated ideas that “everybody knows?” What are the facts?

“OVERPOPULATION”

In the mid-twentieth century, there was an abundance of pets; many were available “free to good home” via newspaper ads. Few pets were sterilized, and many people unwisely allowed their dogs to roam the neighborhood. Consequently, there were many unplanned litters produced by family pets.

According to “Maddie’s Fund” president Richard Avanzino, in the 1970s, our country’s animal control agencies were killing, on average, about 115 dogs and cats annually for every 1000 human residents. This amounted to about 24 million shelter deaths every year.(2) Avanzino is also the former executive director of the San Francisco SPCA, and is regarded by many as the founder of the modern no-kill movement in the US.

“The Problem” of too many pets and not enough homes to go around was ingrained into the public psyche. To deal with “The Problem” of massive shelter killings, a huge public awareness campaign was initiated. The importance of spaying and neutering pets was emphasized. Vets began to routinely urge their clients to sterilize their pets as an integral part of being a “responsible owner”. Planned breeding became a politically incorrect activity. A popular slogan that persists today is “Don’t breed or buy, while shelter dogs die.”

The crusade for spaying and neutering pets has been very successful. A 2009-2010 national pet owners’ survey by the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association reveals that the vast majority of owned pets...75% of dogs and 87% of cats... are spayed or neutered.

In recent years, according to Avanzino, annual shelter death numbers have dramatically declined to about 12 per thousand human residents, or about 3.6 million deaths each year. This amounts to a staggering 85% reduction in killing since the 1970s.(2) We have reached a nationwide pet shelter death rate that averages just 1.2% per population. This can effectively be considered a “no kill” rate.

In most areas, feral cats and kittens account for the majority of shelter numbers.(9) Several areas of the country have actual shortages of adoptable dogs, particularly purebreds and puppies, and must import from other regions to fill the need. Dogs are being smuggled into the US by the thousands. Some rescue groups are even importing from other countries.....Mexico, Brazil, the Caribbean, Taiwan and Romania, to name some of the most popular points of origin. The conservative estimate is that 300,000 dogs are imported into the US each year to meet the demand for pets.(3)

According to shelter expert Nathan Winograd, every year in this country, approximately 3 million adoptable pets die in shelters.* At the same time, each year around 17 million US households are looking for a new pet. That is 17 million households above and beyond those who already will adopt a shelter or rescue pet. There are nearly six times as many homes opening up every year as the number of adoptable pets killed in shelters!(8) It seems the greatest challenge these days is to find ways to match up the adoptable pets with the homes that are waiting for them. Breed rescues fill this niche admirably, but are privately funded and desperately in need of assistance in order to effectively perform this service. Perhaps some of the public funds budgeted for shelters to kill animals could be better spent helping rescue groups who are proactive in matching adoptable pets to suitable homes.

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Rethinking Spay and Neuter
By Geneva Coats, R.N.
Secretary, California Federation of Dog Clubs
SPAY/NEUTER AND HEALTH

Now that we have addressed the issue of pet overpopulation, let’s examine the claim that sterilization surgery promotes better health. While there are some benefits to sterilization, there are some drawbacks as well.

Sterilization will naturally serve to prevent any unwanted litters. In bitches, spaying will greatly reduce the risk of breast cancer, pyometra, perianal fistula and cancers of the reproductive organs.(5)

Spay surgery itself carries a somewhat high rate (around 20%) of complications such as infection, hemorrhage and even death.(5) Spaying significantly increases the rate of urinary incontinence in bitches…. about 20-30% of all spayed bitches will eventually develop this problem. This is believed to be most likely caused by the lack of estrogen that results from being spayed.(1)

Sterilization of males may reduce some unwanted sexual behaviors, but there are few other proven benefits to neutering a male dog. Testicular cancer is prevented, but the actual risk of that cancer is extremely low (<1%) among intact dogs. Contrary to popular belief, studies show that the risk of prostate cancer is actually HIGHER in neutered dogs than in their intact counterparts.(5)

Other studies prove significant health risks associated with sterilization, particularly when done at an early age. The most problematic is a delayed closure of the bony growth plates. This results in an abnormal, “weedy” skeletal development that increases the incidence of orthopedic problems like hip dysplasia and patellar luxation. Working and performance dogs, if neutered before maturity, risk the inability to perform the jobs they were bred for.(10)

But by far the most startling news to surface this year is the result of a study that shows that keeping ovaries to the age of six years or later is associated with a greater than 30% increase of lifespan in female Rottweilers.(4) Similar studies in humans reinforce this finding.(7)(11)

A 30% longer lifespan means that you could have many additional years with your bitch simple by delaying spay surgery until middle-age or later.

Behavioral studies show that sterilization increases fearfulness, noise phobias and aggression. Other well-documented adverse health effects of de-sexing include increased risk of bone cancer, hemangiosarcoma, hypothyroidism, and cognitive dysfunction in older pets. Sterilization confers an increased susceptibility to infectious disease, and also a higher incidence of adverse reactions to vaccines.(10) So there is no need to feel obligated to sterilize for health or welfare reasons. But, what about the need to protect the puppies that we sell from unethical breeders?

SALES CONTRACTS

Many breeders are justifiably very concerned about the possibility of their dogs being subjected to neglect or abuse by falling into disreputable hands. To help prevent such situations, it has become commonplace for breeders to include spay/neuter requirements in their pet sales contract, and/or to sell the dog on a limited registration. Another common stipulation, particularly for a show/breeding dog, is requiring that the dog be returned to the seller in the event the buyer no longer wishes to keep him.(6)

Such contracts are highly effective when selling a puppy to someone who is honest and ethical. However, contracts are easily skirted by the unscrupulous, particularly if the buyer lives in a different region. Someone intent on breeding may do so regardless of contract language, and sell the puppies without any registration. And without personal knowledge of the living conditions at your puppy’s new home, it is impossible to predict what sort of care and attention he or she will receive. Even some show breeders may have very different ideas than the seller of what constitutes proper care. There is no substitute for a home check to follow up that initial puppy application!

Bottom line, the best insurance for a happy future for your puppies is making sure that you get to know
the buyer personally. If something about the buyer doesn’t seem right, then it’s probably best to cancel the sale. If you wish to sell puppies on spay-neuter agreements you might also consider advising the buyer to wait until the puppy reaches maturity before having sterilization surgery performed. Another idea is to ask your vet if vasectomy would be a viable alternative. The future availability of pets, the perpetuation of the dog fancy, the health of the individual dogs and the gene pools of the breeds that we love may all depend on keeping a few more dogs intact!

PUREBRED GENE POOLS

Sterilization of all dogs sold as companions may have some unintended adverse effects. The nature of purebred breeding for the show ring involves intense selection that severely narrows the gene pool in many, if not most, breeds. Some breeds started with just a small pool of founders. Through the years, overuse of only a few popular sires further reduced the genetic variety available in the breed. When troublesome health problems surface and become widespread, where can we turn for “new blood”?

The show-bred population of a breed may have become too small as a result of intense inbreeding or the genetic bottleneck created by overuse of popular sires; or the breed gene pool may have become genetically depleted because of unwise selection for specific, sometimes unhealthy physical traits favored in the show ring. As a result, dogs from the “pet” population may actually be the salvation of the breed gene pool.

Trying to guess which dogs are the “best” to keep intact for showing and breeding can be hit-or-miss. Imagine the scenario where a successful show dog eventually develops a heritable health issue, while his brother is much healthier...but brother was neutered long ago, thereby eliminating those good genes forever. What about that Champion’s non-show quality sister, who just happens to have good health, great mothering instincts and/or the ability produce exceptional offspring? If sold as a spayed companion, her genes are effectively lost.

And what about the very future of the dog fancy? Many people (myself included) have bought an intact dog as a pet, and only later sparked an interest in showing and breeding. Developing new breeders is critical to the survival of our sport, but if we sell all companions on spay/neuter agreements, we will lose many fanciers before they have the chance to discover the joy of dog breeding and showing! Sadly, mandatory sterilization laws are sweeping the nation and may further compromise the future of the dog fancy. AKC registrations continue to decline and the push to legally and/or contractually require spay and neuter of most every dog will only worsen that situation.

Regardless, there is a huge demand in society for healthy pets; a demand which the responsible breeders could not come close to meeting even if they wanted to...and sometimes, they do not want to. The choice we have as a society is how that demand will be filled. Many believe that only show hobbyists should be allowed to keep intact dogs and breed on a limited basis. However, the attempt to legally force well-regulated and inspected commercial breeders and the casual small home breeders out of the picture leaves only the unregulated, less visible “underground” producers and smugglers to fill the need for pets. Perhaps it is time to re-think our preconceived notions about who should and shouldn’t possess intact dogs!

As a dog owner, one must weigh the risks of sterilization against the benefits in order to make that very personal decision. Popular culture and many veterinarians downplay or even ignore the risks involved with spay/neuter because of their own belief in the need to reduce dog breeding in general. Many people still believe that overpopulation remains a pressing concern and that sterilization always promotes better health. Some even believe that breeding a female is abusive. It seems the animal rights groups have done an excellent job of brainwashing the public on these matters!

As breeders, we may be wise to re-examine the routine request to have all our companion puppies spayed or neutered. The future availability of pets, the perpetuation of the dog fancy, the health of the individual dogs and the gene pools of the breeds that we love may all depend on keeping a few more dogs intact!

For references:
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SCWT Club of Greater St. Louis
Invites you to join us for some spectacular Mid-West Hospitality. . .

**INDOORS** for 5 Days of shows at the
**NEW Purina Farms Events Center**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Gateway All-Terrier Show</td>
<td>Mississippi Valley Kennel Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breed &amp; Group Judge: Ms. Melinda Lyons</td>
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<td><strong>Designated Specialty</strong></td>
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<td>Mississippi Valley Kennel Club</td>
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<td>Sweeps Judge: Mrs. Lori Kromash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breed &amp; Group Judge: Mrs. Betty Ann Stenmark</td>
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**TROPHIES**
Contributions to the Trophy Fund are always appreciated.
Donations must be received prior to **May 1, 2011** to be included in the show catalog. Make checks payable to **SCWTCGSL** and send them to:

**Jinx Moore**
18403 Highway 65
Sedalia, MO 65301-0039
Phone: 660-826-4342
E-mail: saddlebrook@wildblue.net

**Friday Evening DINNER**
The Raffle, Silent Auction and Dinner will be held at the Purina Events Center after Best In Show judging on Friday.
Cost is $20 per person and reservations are required.
Send payment to Cindy Shea to reserve your seat!

**Cindy Shea**
1524 Meinershagen Road
Foristell, MO 63348-1707
Phone: 636-332-1680
E-mail: eringlo@yahoo.com

**NEW** Superintendent for all 5 shows: Foy Trent Dog Shows
[www.foytrentdogshows.com](http://www.foytrentdogshows.com)

For more info on the Purina Farms Event Center and area lodging, visit the web page:

For more information on the specialty show, visit our web site: [www.scwtcgsl.com](http://www.scwtcgsl.com)
Ch. Trigo’s Puesta Del Sol
“Rainey”

Best of Breed
Canadian Valley November 9, 2009
Judge Cindy Meyer

Finishing at Albuquerque
May 2010
Judge Norm Patton

“Rainey” and “Twister”
are little sisters

(Ch. Andover Saltmsea Big Baby x Ch. Trigo’s Olive the other Reindeer)
Ch. Trigo’s Relantago “Twister”

Major win under Judge Clay Coady
March 2010

FLASH!!
Group 1 under Judge Pat Huber
Los Lunas October 2010

FLASH!!
Group 4 under Judge Gay Dunlap
Los Luna October 2010

Finishing under Judge Gary Doerge
At Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club Speciality
September 2010
Select Bitch Awards following two days

The Trigo Team:
Conditioning: Don Cooksey
Trimming: Ron Shumate

Team Leader: Nancy Butler
Trigo Wheatens
505.852.0305
Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier
Association of Canada

NATIONAL SPECIALTY
‘Celtic Capers’

August 26, 2011
Bay Plex Recreation Centre, 151 Lower North Street, Glace Bay, B1A 6B4

Specialty Judge: Ken Kauffman, Pennsylvania
Sweepstakes Judge: Emily Holden, Amaden Kennel, Georgia

Regular and Non-Regular Classes, including Altered Class.
Puppy and Veterans Sweepstakes. Obedience and Rally-O Trials.
In conjunction with the Cape Breton KC Show Weekend which includes 4 All Breed Shows.
Five sets of points available in one weekend!

Come join us for some Cape Breton Hospitality
Show day! Brunch - Meet and Greet 10:00-11:00 am
Post-Specialty Buffet Banquet after the show.

Saturday, Aug. 27th join us for a Cape Breton Ceilidh at 7:00 pm

Host Hotel: Comfort Inn - 368 Kings Road, Sydney, B1S 1A8 902-562-0200
Rooms have been held until July 1st. Price: $119.99 plus tax. Continental breakfast is included and there is no additional ‘dog charge’. Code for booking: Wheaten Terrier Specialty Dog Show.
Information about additional hotels is on the web site www.scwtac.com

Photo Contest: Send us your favorite photo. The winning entry, judged by Cindi-Lee, our show photographer, will be published on the back cover of our catalogue. Other entries will be used throughout the catalogue. Deadline June 1st. Details are on the web site.

Junior Handling: This will run at the end of our specialty.
In Canada Juniors do not have to own the dog they show. Kids from 4-18 are eligible to participate.

Other Activities being held throughout the weekend include a Raffle and Silent Auction.
Check out the details at www.scwtac.com

Show Secretary: Nancy McRae email: nancymc@ns.sympatico.ca or phone:1-902-895-8815
Premium List: Will be available on line by May 1st. www.scwtac.com

For further information visit us at www.scwtac.com
or contact Show Chair, Elizabeth Buffett
1155 Brickyard Road, Albert Bridge, NS Canada B1K 2V4 1-902-565-2851
Subscription Rates
SCWTCA members USA $25/year, Canada and overseas $35/year
non-SCWTCA members USA $35/year, non-SCWTCA members Canada and overseas $45/year
US funds only
The link to Benchmarks online is sent to all AKC approved and provisional SCWT judges
Benchmarks is also sent to all judges requesting a subscription, free of charge

Articles and letters for June issue are due May 1

Advertising Rates
Full page only, 1 picture $40.00, additional pictures $5.00 each
Page size 8.5 x 11 inches
Ads may be sent as e-mail attachments, photo 300dpi .jpeg format
Original photos will be returned

Only photos with un-touched dogs will be accepted. Limit health references to hip and eyes and/or “health testing current and shared upon request.” Ads accepted from club members only and limited to two pages per issue. ONLY CLUB MEMBERS’ CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED for ads of co-owned and/or bred dogs.

Ad closing date for June issue: May 1
Send advertising to Molly O’Connell, 7912 South Vincennes Way, Centennial, CO 80112. (If sent by overnight service, sign “signature waiver” so driver will leave package). If you have copy submitted by May 1, a draft layout will be sent to you for edits. Include e-mail address for quick turnaround. Payment sent to the editor, payable to SCWTCA.

Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Owner’s Manual</td>
<td>$11</td>
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