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Join your Best Friends
SCWTCA National Specialty 2011
October 9, 2011
From the President

RECOGNIZING OUR BEST

Due to the generosity of our members through the years, awards and trophies are presented annually to recognize outstanding accomplishments in our breed. In this informational article, I will revisit how SCWTCA and its members “recognize our best!”

Trophy recipients receiving recognition at the time of the win for conformation.
Presented to the winners at the Montgomery County Kennel Club Show.

- **Andover Challenge Trophy**: Presented to the Best of Breed Winner at the SCWTCA National Specialty.
- **Bryan E. McNamara Memorial Trophy**: Presented to the owner of the winner of the Bred by Exhibitor Bitch class at the SCWTCA National Specialty.
- **Supported Entries Trophy**: Presented to the Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Winners Dog and Bitch, Select Dog and Bitch, Best in Sweepstakes and Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes for the winners of approved regional specialties and selected shows with a large Wheaton entry. These trophies are medallions with an embossed Wheaten head designed by Darcie Olson, made by Wendall August Forge and provided by SCWTCA, Inc.
  *Supported Entries are not given at SCWTCA National Specialties.*

Award recipients receiving recognition at the Annual Awards Dinner following the win for conformation the previous year.

The following Awards acknowledge the Breeders of dogs and/or bitches with SCWTCA National Specialty wins.

- **Best in Specialty Show Breeder Award**: Presented to the breeder(s) of the Best of Breed winner at the National Specialty.
- **Everett Keller Memorial Trophy**: Presented to the breeder(s) of the Winner’s Bitch at the National Specialty.
- **Mary Ann Dallas Award**: Presented to the breeder(s) of the Best of Winners at the National Specialty.
- **Maureen Holmes Memorial Trophy**: Presented to the breeder(s) of the Best in Sweepstakes winner.
- **Brenmoor Award**: Presented to the Breeder(s) of Record who accumulates the most points from the Bred By Exhibitor class (dogs and bitches) during the National Specialty Weekend or the Roving Specialty Weekend.

The following Awards acknowledge dogs and bitches with special conformation achievements.

- **Best in Show Award**: Presented to each Wheaten who wins a Best in Show at an AKC All-Breed Show and at least one co-owner is a SCWTCA member.
- **CH Abby’s Postage Dhu O’Waterford “Casey” Award**: Presented to the Wheaten defeating the most Wheatens by going Best of Breed and at least one co-owner is a SCWTCA member.
- **The Amaden Trophy**: Presented to the Wheaten Bitch defeating the most Wheatens by going Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex and at least one co-owner is a SCWTCA member.
- **Junior Showmanship Award**: Presented to the junior handler, showing a Wheaten, who has defeated the most junior handlers as a result of class placements or winning Best Junior Handler at AKC shows within the show calendar year. The junior handler must co-own the Wheaten exhibited with a SCWTCA member or be a relative of a SCWTCA member.

The following Awards acknowledge the dogs and bitches with special achievements as producers.

- **Register of Merit (ROM)**: Presented to
top producing Wheatens; sires must produce fifteen (15) champions of record, and dams must produce eight (8) champions of record.

- **Gleanngay Holliday “Doc” Award:** Presented to the Wheaten dog that produces the most champions during a calendar year, with the stipulation that the dog produces no fewer than five champions. In the event of a tie, the winner will be chosen by age, with the oldest dog winning the trophy. The wheaten must be owned by his breeder, and the breeder/owner must be a member in good standing with SCWTCA.

The following Awards acknowledge dogs and bitches with special performance achievements.

- **Obedience Dog of the Year:** Presented to the Wheaten with the highest average obedience score at AKC Obedience Trials and at least one co-owner is a SCWTCA member.

- **High In Trial:** Presented to a Wheaten who wins High In Trial at any AKC show or obedience trial, but not at a SCWT Specialty, as verified in AKC Awards.

- **Ida Sawtelle Mallory Versatility Awards:** Presented to Wheatens which have achieved two (2) titles in multiple areas of AKC competition; conformation, obedience, tracking or agility.

- **Happy Jack Memorial Awards:** Presented to any Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier owned by a member or non-member who earns an AKC CD, CDX, VD, VDX.

- **Harry Blair Award:** Presented to any wheaten owned by a SCWTCA member in good standing who earns an AKC Tracking Dog (TD) title during the calendar year preceding the presentation year, as verified in AKC Awards.

- **Judy Shortino Award:** Presented to any Wheaten owned by a SCWTCA member in good standing who earns an AKC Tracking Dog Excellent (TDX) title or an AKC Variable Surface Tracking Dog (VST) title during the calendar year preceding the presentation year, as verified in AKC Awards.

The following Awards acknowledge individuals who display extraordinary effort in the support of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.

- **SCWTCA Rescue Family of the Year:** Presented to the person or family who exhibits extraordinary care, dedication, and personal sacrifice in the performance of rescue efforts on behalf of SCWTCA Rescue as determined by the chair of the Rescue Committee.

- **Jan Linscheid Fellowship Award:** The Award is presented when deemed appropriate (not more than once per year) to a member of SCWTCA who has made an extraordinary contribution to the Club and to the Breed and who epitomizes the outstanding qualities of Jan Linscheid.

- **AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award:** At the discretion of the Board, SCWTCA shall participate in the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award honoring an active valued member of the Club who deserves special recognition for having made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied in the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.

The following Award acknowledges the dog that has provided a community service.

- **Wheaten Ambassador Award:** Presented to the Wheaten Terrier who has made a difference in its community. The primary emphasis is on community service and diplomacy through therapy work and or exceptional fund-raising activities for the greater good.

We’ve all had that unique Wheaten or that special someone in the breed that changed our lives when we least expected it. SCWTCA would like to offer you the opportunity to sponsor a trophy or award in their honor for our National or Roving Specialty. Please submit details and your request to the Board of Directors at board@scwtca.org.

“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships!”

Jinx Moore
It’s that time of year when specialties abound. In this issue, look for articles, critiques and photographs from the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Northern California held in Sacramento in April, and from the 40th anniversary weekend of the Delaware Valley Kennel Club, highlighting their specialty at the Bucks County show the first weekend in May. Because the shows are separated by 3,000 miles and Gay Dunlap had judged both, I asked her to compare the dogs she judged at each of these weekends. Her commentary makes me wonder how we can conceivably have the same experience she did, that is, see the diversity of our breed and how we can incorporate the best of all as we continue to advance our breeding programs.

Two things come to mind: is it time to discuss (once again) the possibility of an independent specialty somewhere in the heartland of America. Could we consider the new Purina indoor facility in Missouri which has state-or-the art facilities for exhibitors, vendors and observers? What is the best way to facilitate bringing dogs from both coasts together with the vast number of dogs not seen at either show – those dogs of the central part of the U.S.?

Another less complicated, less expensive way to highlight a variety of dogs is to advertise. For a very reasonable fee, you can showcase your dog in Benchmarks both in color (the website) and in black and white (the print version.) How about an ad which features the dog you want to advertise along with pictures of both the sire and the dam? We can research photos in the yearbooks, but this would be a visual opportunity to see all three on a single page.

While conformation events abound, they are not the only red letter days for Wheaten Terriers. In May, the first AKC sanctioned herding trial occurred. Along with the write up of this inaugural event, is an article called Herding 101. How many of us would like to participate in this burgeoning performance event, but don’t know how to get started? Herding 101 will give you the basics in an easy-to-follow format. Look for similar articles about therapy dogs, rally and agility in future issues.

On the medical front, Mars Veterinary is offering a new genetic test. Whether or not this ultimately proves beneficial to our breed, it is information that is cutting edge and soon available to breeders. Two clubs are offering DNA clinics to benefit both the CPP research at Missouri University and the National Institute of Health. Both studies have specific requirements which are detailed in this issue.

As always, we rejoice in the celebration of our senior dogs. Please enjoy Beth Sorensen’s narrative about moving with a (very!) senior dog. It certainly shows us how our older pets can adjust as long as they are with their beloved human companions. Following the celebration is a FAQ with my local vet. It serves as a reminder of the many questions we all will face as our exuberant youngsters enter their later years. For a more detailed explanation of senior testing, please refer to Jana Carraway’s article Wheaten Golden Years in the June 2010 issue of Benchmarks, available on the website.

Dogs remind us daily that living in the moment may be the best way to live. Be kind to one another, eat well and enjoy a good cuddle - today.

From the Editor

Molly O’Connell

N.B. In the interest of space: sires, dams, breeders and owners of SCWTCNC are acknowledged in the show write up; those winners at Del Val are captioned with the pictures.

Dogs are our link to paradise.
They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring--it was peace.

- Milan Kundera
“ROCKY”

GCH CH MOONSTRUCK MILLION DOLLAR BABY
CH Greentree Skellig Samba Par Ti x CH Greentree Moonstruck Fairy Tale

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

www.moonstruckscwt.com
“Bringing Broadway to You, Take Two” was a wonderful way to elaborate on last year’s theme and enjoy a second set of Kathy Helf’s beautiful hand painted trophies featuring different Broadway shows. And they did not disappoint!

Jeanne Ferris of Bryr Rose Wheatens judged a Sweepstakes entry of 8. Best in Sweepstakes was Bonney New England Patriot. (By CH Harbour Hill Mike Delfino x CH Jamboree Tres Amigas.) Breeders: Bonnie Snyder, Jocelyn Slayton, and Barbara Fain. Owned and shown by Bonnie Snyder. 

Beautifully complimenting our winner, BOS Gemstone Monarch Over Boston (CH Mackanme Beary Special of Bodasca x CH Gemstones Eighthinning Emerald) was bred by Marji Baumann and Tami Herzog and owned by John Roos, James Calibjo, and Tami Herzog.

The regular classes were judged by long time breeder judge Gay Dunlap who evaluated a field of 39 Wheatens. Best of Breed was a repeat of last year’s winner—Ch Vintage Signed Sealed and Delivered (CH Marymore Gift Wrapped x Ch Kaylynns Heartland Vintage.) Breeder: Brian Ness and Michael Weiss and Kay Baird. Owned by Laura Marrero and Brian Ness and Michael Weiss.

Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to GCH Baroque You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet (CH Stratford Top Priority x CH Marquee’s If It Ain’t Baroque). Breeder/Owner: Christy Weagant.


Winners Bitch was Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals (CH Harbour Hill Peanut Butter Cup x Harbour Hill at Wisteria Lane.) Breeder: Susan Sakauye. Owner: Jeanine Flavell and Susan Sakauye. Reserve Winners Bitch went to Escapade Just a Minute (CH Eringlo Rise Above the Mist x Duidream Just a Titch.) Breeder: Cynthia Lilley and Bonnie O’Connor. Owner: Cynthia Lilley.

Select/AOM awards were given to: Ch Kincora Tara Life in the Fast Lane (CH Duidream Quick Time x Kincora Tara Go for Gold.) Breeder: Jon and Kathy Apogee and Cecily Skinner and Kayce Healy. Owner: Jon and Kathy Apogee and Cecily Skinner and Kayce Healy.

GCH Galen’s Winter’s Tale (CH Starlight Treasure Chest x Galen’s Five Golden Rings.) Breeder: Sheila O’Connell and Maurice Monette and Penny Smith. Wheatens were not just successful in conformation. Clyde Schauer and “Lacey” completed the 3rd leg of
their successful quest for Lacey’s CDX and she was the highest scoring Wheaten.

In addition to our Specialty on Friday, there were three additional shows during the weekend. Plenty of time to show our dogs and connect with Wheaten friends, both old and new. Our Club’s dinner on Friday night and it was a wonderful place to relax and schmooze.

I want to thank the SCWTC of Northern California for the honor of judging Sweepstakes at its specialty. It was my first time judging, and I enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you to all of the exhibitors; you made my assignment a lot of fun.

**Sweepstakes Critique**

*by Jeanne Ferris*

Puppy Dog 9-12 Months
**Bonney New England Patriot.** This young boy really caught my eye. He had a lovely coat and color, and was a good mover. He was square and balanced, creating a nice picture going around the ring.

Puppy Dog 12-18 Months
**Finley Denali High and Mighty.** Also a nice dog. Good movement coming and going, with a nice coat. Could use a bit more head.

Puppy Bitch 6-9 Months
**Escapade Just A Minute.** This youngster was one cute little package with a pretty coat. She could use more angulation in the rear.

Puppy Bitch 9-12 Months
**Gemstone Monarch Over Boston.** A very pretty bitch with a nice headpiece and good expression. A good mover. She was very sound and nice to put my hands on.

**Puppy Bitch 12-18 Months**
**Starlight Rose Parade.** Was nicely balanced with pretty side movement. Needed a bit more length of coat for my liking.

**Best in Sweepstakes (from the 9-12 class)**
**Bonney New England Patriot.** He was the puppy that stood out in my mind and he was presented beautifully. I was delighted when he went on to win Best Puppy In Show.

**Best of Opposite Sex (from the 9-12 class)**
**Gemstone Monarch Over Boston.** A very pretty and showy girl. She was a pleasure to go over.

Thank you again to the SCWT Club of Northern California. I had a wonderful time judging and enjoyed visiting with friends old and new at the dinner that evening. I just love my beautiful judge’s gift, a hand painted ceramic by Cathie Helf.

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It was a fabulous weekend. On behalf of the Soft Coated Wheaten Club of Northern California, I would like to thank all who attended and exhibited. I would also like to thank all the Club members who worked so hard to make our Specialty a success. Looking forward to April 2012!
A few very brief glances into the Wheaten ring diagonally across from where I was judging the day before the specialty told me that I could expect to see some rather nice outlines on my Wheaten entry. This made me happy. The temptation to watch my breed being judged when I am judging in another ring is always present! I am reminded of the inimitable Anne Rogers Clark who would invariably stop proceedings in her ring to watch her beloved Poodles being judged in an adjacent one. But I am no Anne Rogers Clark!

Overall, my assessment proved right. There were some quite nicely balanced Wheatens of pleasing make and shape. I was also, overall, pleased with coat quality both color and texture. If I may make a few general observations here, I was pleasantly surprised with side gait in all my classes. I found none to be lacking in what I feel to be correct extension. I do not expect nor do I want tremendous reach and drive in our terrier breeds. I would have been delighted to see better ear size and placement. There were far too few. When possible, I tried to honor correct size and found too many that I felt were over the size specified in our standard. Rears have vastly improved but front movement still is vexing. Some I found to be coarse in body type and others sported coarse back skulls. Bites were, with two exceptions, quite acceptable. Eye color was up to standard. Top-lines have really improved, and I can think of none that displeased me. I was delighted to find a dearth of long and low, which I feel to be the drag of the breed, along with oversized ears.

Puppy Dog 9-12 Months

1st – Bonney New England Patriot. A singleton entry. Easy on the eye in terms of outline, with lovely coat and color. Would like to see a smaller, slightly better placed ear and his head could be slightly longer to balance his size. Held his outline on the go around. Pleasing set on of tail with nice butt behind it.

Bred By Exhibitor Dog

1st – Stratford Notorious At Lismore. A young dog, nicely balanced with lovely ear size and carriage. I was pleased with his moderate size. I would like to see a bit more color to his coat.

2nd – Finley Denali High And Mighty. Larger than my first place dog but within reason. He lost to my winner of the class on ear size and placement. I would also prefer a larger headpiece which would in turn create better overall balance. Nice level top-line, smooth on the go-around.

Open Dog

1st – Ltd Edition Dempsey’s Legacy. Lovely balance on this dog and he out-moved the others in this class on the day. His reach of neck and exceptional headpiece really caught my eye and held my attention. I would like to see more of him behind his tail.

2nd – Mackanme Foreign Affair V.Bodasca. Also an acceptably sized dog. Thought the first place dog was more balanced. Moved out smartly. I would have liked a bit more to his headpiece and felt he lacked sufficient neck to balance his length of back.
3rd – Harbour Hill Visits Jellystone. A heavier boned dog, his intense color, although I am certain it is natural, was a bit too much and the texture lacked the silken quality called for in the standard. Pleasing outline with nice set on of tail.

Winners Dog – Ltd Edition Dempsey’s Legacy (From the Open Dog Class) Reserve WD – Bonney New England Patriot (From the Puppy 9-12 Class)

Puppy Bitch 6-9 Months

1st – Escapade Just A Minute. Singleton entry. Adorable puppy with lots of spark and animation. Loved her size. Just 6 months, she could use more bend of stifle but, that being said, she sports a level top-line nonetheless, even on the go around. Ears are a lovely size but probably should be reset to bring them closer into her head.

Puppy Bitch 9-12 Months *

1st – Bryr Rose Marymore Moet Chandon. Appealing make and shape although an over abundance of coat, albeit man made, was a serious distraction. Pleasing coat color and texture. Could use a smaller ear. Sound of movement coming, going and in profile. Held her outline. Loved her moderate size.

2nd – Landmark Ready For Primetime. Lovely ears, both set and size. This bitch is solid with good neck to back transition. Also well balanced with nice length of leg under her. Larger than my first place bitch however, and still, she pushed her for 1st place. Would have liked a bit more of her behind the tail and found her trim a little too “Kerry-ish.”

3rd – Emerald Isle Perchance To Dream. Also well put together, she proved to be sound with good reach and drive. What really hurt this bitch was her presentation. Ears were much smaller than they appeared because of excess hair left on them. Overall, it was her trim that did her in.

4th – Gemstone Monarch Over Boston. Very pretty coated, nice moving bitch. In the best of worlds I would want her to be more compact and would prefer straighter pasterns. I wish she had shown with a bit more spark and held her tail up when she came back to me.

*Such a disappointment here. The winner of this class was excused from the Winners Bitch competition because of a conflict of interest. The co-owner was our sweeps judge on the day and the handler was unaware of it.

12-18 Month Bitch (Not a strong class. Front movement was a problem with all.)

1st – Bonney Follow That Star. The obvious winner in this class due to her correct size and coat quality. Ears could be smaller and better placed.

2nd – Starlight Rose Parade. Coat quality and over-sized ears placed this bitch in second position. Nice feminine bitch, could have had a better trim.

3rd – Marymore Circle Of Friends. Not an easy one to comment on since, although her ears were better than my first two placements, she did not show well. A higher tail set would improve her outline. Nice length of leg.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitch

1st – Tralee Bay’s Higher Than A Kite. This bitch won out in the final analysis because of her overall balance and square outline. Could have smaller, better-placed ears.

2nd – Gemstone Playin’ Games. Lovely blend of neck into back, she is pretty coated. Considering her size I would like to see a larger headpiece.
Open Bitch

1st – Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals. She won on her lovely square outline. Free moving, an honest bitch, I feel a slightly longer neck would serve her well.

2nd– Glenamon Dress Me In Silk. Prettiest coat of the two but I feel she needs more daylight under her. On the move she appeared to run downhill.

Winners Bitch – Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals (Open Bitch Class)
Reserve WB – Escapade Just A Minute (Puppy 6-9 Class)

Best Of Breed – Ch Vintage Signed Sealed And Delivered. What an honor to be able to award BOB to a mature dog! Just shy of 4 years old, he has held onto the qualities he displayed as a youngster. Pleasing rectangular headpiece and ears of perfect size, he sports a bang-up tail and excellent angles, front and rear. His superb attitude and incredible self-confidence added to the elegance I love to see exhibited in our breed.

Best of Opposite Sex – GCH Baroque You Ain't Seen Nothin’ Yet. This young bitch pressed my BOB dog hard. Her exquisite coat texture and color, perfect ear size/placement and correct square outline made her a shoe-in for one of these top honors. She was flawlessly presented and her movement equaled that of my BOB dog.
Another beautifully balanced dog on the small side but well within standard, there is nothing to suggest he is not a boy! He is nicely put together, square, with a well-set tail and nice shelf.

Select Bitch and AOM — GCH Galen’s Winter’s Tale. Another mature Wheaten to admire! 4 1/2 years old and in prime condition, the bloom on her coat was exquisite, falling in lovely silken waves. Perfect size, bang-up tail, nicely angulated, she is extremely competitive and, in turn, would have pushed my BOS bitch harder had her trim been better. It’s a hard one for many handlers, getting the trim right, and the more correct the coat the more difficult the job. Sculpting simply doesn’t work on a proper flowing coat! (No Photo available)

Another beautifully balanced dog on the small side but well within standard, there is nothing to suggest he

Select Dog and AOM
CH Kincora Tara Life in The Fast Lane

Reserve Winner’s Bitch:
Escapade Just a Minute

Thanks to NCTA and the Wheaten folks for the honor of judging a show I always enjoy, both as a judge and as an exhibitor. It was, as always, a delightfully rewarding experience.

The Faces of SCWTCNC

Benchmarks . volume 39 . number 2 . page 13
Moving with a Geriatric Dog
by Beth Sorenson

My family found out that we would have the opportunity to move from San Diego to Colorado in February of 2010. I started the process of finding a place to live near Denver that legally allowed us to keep all of our dogs (no easy task with the zoning laws!). However in April we bought a house on an acre that met all our needs, and proceeded to plan our move.

Our oldest dog, Shooter, was 16 at the time, and I did have some concern about how she would handle the transition. Shooter had been with me through most of my adult life: from graduate school, through four job changes, marriage, the addition of three children and eight moves, so she had proven herself to be quite adaptable. She had always been a great car traveler, but hadn’t been on a long road trip since 2001! Additionally she had lost a little weight in the spring, so as our June move approached I hoped her health was stable and that she would weather the trip well.

Our move would be two full days of driving with two cars, three adults, three kids (three and under) and seven dogs! The other six dogs were crated, but Shooter was allowed to travel on the seat with a dog bed. The first half hour of the trip was on a winding road and she had trouble getting comfortable. Since she had always been a dog that curled up and didn’t move during any car trip, I was concerned about the next 18 hours. Fortunately she settled in once the road evened out. I suspect the jostling and turns were just a little uncomfortable for her. Just before we started the trip, a couple of our dogs had upset stomachs. I thought it might be stress, but since it proceeded to go through the whole crew I think they may have caught some stomach bug. The only dog who avoided it entirely was Shooter! We did have a couple of extra stops for a sick dog that first day, but it was a relatively uneventful drive to Utah. We spent the first night at a dog-friendly La Quinta in St. George. However dog friendly meant two dogs, so most of the crew stayed in the car (we drove until after dark so it was cool for them). We made Shooter a bed area in the car since we had one dog that had been sick the first day and another that was likely to whine in the car who needed to stay in the hotel. Shooter once again proved to be uncomplicated. She ate and drank normally and went for a short exercise walk before settling in for the night. Day two started early, but was easy for the whole canine crew. (The kids, however, were rather tired of the car trip). We hit some nasty weather in eastern Utah and snow through the Rocky Mountains, but otherwise the day was long but uneventful.

When we finally arrived at our house in Colorado, Shooter proceeded to check out every room in the house, finally reaching the master bedroom. When she entered that room, she stopped, raised her head to look at us and wagged her tail, like she realized she was home at last.

Our fence was supposed to be completed before we arrived, but the rainy weather had prevented it. The house is great for older dogs; there are two separate ramps to the yard from the deck area, as well as a couple of stairs. When we took Shooter outside she explored our yard then went over to the neighboring farm and started trotting off like she was on a mission – I’m not sure how far she would have gone if I didn’t call her back. Shooter settled in to her new life immediately spending a lot of time sleeping in our room on a soft blanket by the bed or out exploring the yard. Shooter was always an exceptionally easy and steady dog; her age was really no impediment to her move.

Unfortunately we had to say goodbye to Shooter the end of September 2010, but I’m very glad she was able to enjoy her 17th birthday (June 30th) in Colorado. She thoroughly enjoyed her last few months and she especially liked standing outside with her nose to the wind. We will always miss her.
CH Lontree Desert Charisma (Carrie)  
CH Paisley After Midnight x CH Lontree Sparkles Plenty  
August 19, 1995 - March 4, 2011

Carrie earned her Championship and then was x-rayed and diagnosed with mild dysplasia in one hip. She was never bred and went to Pennsylvania to live with a dear friend of mine. She lived a long healthy life, very much loved by owner, Sharon Lamp, and she never had a bit of trouble with that “faulty” hip!

Joy Laylon  
Lontree Wheatens

In Honor of Winterwheat’s Ice Crème  
(Cubby) CH Galway Baileys Irish Crème- Sire x CH Winterwheat’s Illusive Glance  
May 2, 1996 - March 12, 2011

Cubby was a strong, athletic, loving boy who enriched our lives beyond words. He was an extraordinary wheaten who loved to chase squirrels, bury his head in the snow, go for long walks and above all, hang out with his family. We miss him terribly. He will be in our hearts forever.

Jean Menard

Happy Birthday to  
CH. Shenanigan’s Jump n’ Jehosophat CD RE OAJ NA (Wrigley)  
(Jendu Ante Up x Shenanigan’s Second Edition CD)  
Date of Birth: February 27, 1998

Wrigley was our first dog and our first Wheaten! What a joy and how blessed we are to have a champion who loved being in the ring in both conformation and performance! His career was cut short when he became blind on an agility course at 9 years old! He still remains a fantastic, fun-loving dog and an amazing Houdini - even blind! He can find his way out of a Cabana crate in 30 seconds! He continues to be a joy to our family and we are so thankful he is living a good life even without his sight. He has out-lived all his littermates and continues to prance his way down the street making everyone think he can see perfectly! He is determined to keep up with his 11 year old brother and we hope he lives to be 17 or 18!

Sue and Bruce Peters
Happy Birthday to CH Galen’s Toyon Green Apple (Appy)
CH Carlinayer Ldy’s Cork Laddie x CH Carlinayer Tasmanian Devil
Born: May 13, 1997

Appy lives with Penny in Oakland, California. She is a very sweet girl who always has a smile on her face and a wag in her tail. We call her “Happy Appy”. Her favorite subject is food. She never met a meal she didn’t like. She also enjoys moseying around her backyard keeping check on everything.

Appy had one litter which produced one boy who is a conformation champion and one boy who has earned performance titles. Today she shares the house with five other wheatens - all boys. She is second in command when it comes to keeping them in line. Most of the time these days, though, you can find her napping.

Sheila O’Connell and Penelope Smith

Happy 13th Birthday to Littermates Hayley and Rakish!
CH Kaylynn’s August Moon (Augie) x CH Legacy Caraway Worth the Gold (Regan)
Date of Birth: March 2, 1998

Littermates Rakish (CH Caraway Golden Moonraker) and Hayley (CH Caraway Golden Moonshadow) have a special place in our hearts. Rakish lived with us from birth. Hayley returned to us when her co-owner moved his psychiatry practice to FL and could not take her. Both loving pets and beautiful dogs, they distinguished themselves in the conformation ring.

In 1999 Rakish won SCWT Club of Southern California Specialty Sweeps and finished his championship at Hatboro Dog Club by going WD from the BBE class. His “job” since then has been to socialize our puppies.

Hayley’s most notable accomplishments came in 2000 when she finished the year as #1 SCWT bitch, #2 SCWT in breed, and #3 SCWT in group competition; went BOB at the SCWT Club of Northern California Specialty; was AOM at the SCWT Club of America National Specialty; and received SCWTCA’s Amaden Award for the bitch who defeated the most SCWTs by going BOB or BOS.

Hayley produced two litters that included 5 AKC champions and 1 Canadian champion. Among them are Kovu, Kiara, Bailey and Monet, all of whom distinguished themselves by winning SCWTCA or Canadian National/Roving Specialty Sweeps, WD, WB, BOW or BOB.

We are blessed to share our retired lives with Rakish and Hayley, both of whom are enjoying healthy and happy senior years.

Beth Verner and Betty Chapman
Caraway Wheatens
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ARDEN AND JORDAN!
Bantry Bay Chances Are (Arden)
Briankeen Merry Master x CH Bantry Bay Kismet
Born: 5/3/97
and
CH Bantry Bay Petra (Jordan)
CH Caraway Worth Your Thyme x CH Bantry Bay Tahiti
Born: 4/15/98

Bantry Bay Wheatens is happy to announce the birthdays of our beloved house pets Arden and Jordan. Arden stays under my computer, and Jordan likes to sit in the corner of the kitchen and watch the world go by.

Both owned and loved by
Candy Way and Roger Cotton
Bantry Bay Wheatens

Happy Birthday to Shar-D’s Della en Jardins (Lilly)
CH Shar-D’s Dickens Did It x Ch. Shar-D’s Game of Choice
Born: May 3, 1997

Lilly has a real curiosity about the world. While Tony gardens around the house, Lilly will sit stock-still in the shade of the magnolia tree in the front of our house taking in the sights and sounds of the neighborhood. She loves to watch cars go by, people stroll along, and catch the wind on her nose. Once in a while, though, a young family will come by and Lilly will go to greet them. She loves young children and is very calm and gentle with them even if they accidentally tug on her ears!

Sue and Bruce Peters

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Raelyn Wish ‘N Tell (Molly)
CH Andover Make A Wish X CH Mansura Gentle Rain
Born: May 31, 1997

Molly who started life as Li’l Bit is turning 14 years old at the end of May! She lives with three cats and two people. She loved to hike the Adirondacks and cross-country ski with us when she was younger. She can’t wait for the mounds of snow to melt to get back to her walks in the neighborhood park this spring. She’s been our love and the center of our lives and she continues to amaze us with her sense of humor, playfulness and unconditional love – even in her hard-of-hearing senior years!

Loved by Lynn Larson

Raelyn Hugs ‘N Wishes (Celtie)
CH Andover Make A Wish X CH Mansura Gentle Rain
Born: May 31, 1997

Celtie was our introduction into the wonderful Wheaten World, making us ‘dog people’ more than we already were, and bringing us in contact with lifetime wonderful wheaten friends.

She has been in Benchmarks several times over her years but it is with great excitement that she appears in this special senior’s section, and we are thrilled she “is” as she “was”, being the same dainty, petite, beautiful girl she was as a puppy. She’s just as alert (although a tad hard of hearing) and just as spunky (although a tad bit of arthritis), but she amazes people when they learn her age. Celtie has been known for making beautiful dives into the pool, known for traveling (she’s been in 46 states), and known as the poster girl for the Red Hat Society for the SCWT Genetic Research Fund. She’s taken agility classes and was pictured in Benchmarks doing jumps at the annual wheaten picnic when she was ten. She’s been in the newspaper with her Birthday Parades, and each year the number of dogs increasing with people asking to be a part of the fun, silly parade around the neighborhood, ending with a blessing of the animals and of course liver cake. This year she is proud that she will be the oldest as she travels to SC to attend her Raelyn Family Picnic. She has been a joy and a wonderful big sister to Doogan when she was two and to Higgins when she was 12.

Karen and Ken Wood
Happy 13th Birthday to Litter Sisters
CH Raelyn Sweet Serenade (Chloe) and CH Raelyn Good N’Plenty (Carly)
(Ch. Legacy Wildwest Wildflower x Ch. Mansura Gentle Rain)
Born: April 22, 1998

When their mother, Emma, had her second litter, I decided to keep these two girls. Everyone warned me that two littermates would be trouble. And they were right! What one didn’t think of, the other one did. They made a habit of sleeping together on my coffee table. But these girls were a joy, and they both produced beautiful puppies. Their sweet temperaments are evidenced in their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They both live with each of their sons now, enjoying their senior years and are deservedly spoiled.

Lynn Cone
Raelyn Wheatens

Happy 15th Birthday to Tara!
(CH Frontline Silver Darling at Sanzerena)
Starcadia Tailspin x Kileleagh Goldcrest in Frontline (IKC)
Date of Birth: March 16, 1996

At 15 years old, Tara enjoys a stroll and a peaceful life, but enjoys her three meals a day a great deal, so much so, you can set your clock by her! She still does not miss a cat in the garden or across the street and is selectively deaf!
We love her very much.

Sandra & Malcolm Jeffries
Sanzerena, UK
Caring for Our Senior Dogs

In an interview with Tom Geiselhardt, DVM, I asked him to consider a number of questions concerning our older Wheatens and what to expect as our dogs grow older. Being aware of the normal aging changes for our senior pets will help us identify when there is a medical problem that should be addressed.

Dr. Geiselhardt graduated from Colorado State University Veterinary School in 1985 and has been in practice at Homestead Animal Hospital in Centennial, Colorado for the past 21 years. He lives with his wife, Jennifer, three children, four cats and Ernie, the three-legged Wheaten Terrier. He has 110 active Wheaten patients and his special interests include: urinary tract medicine, surgery, reproduction, orthopedics, and Brachycephlic Obstructive Airway Disease.

Q: What is old age for a dog?

A: Because of the many advances with nutrition and preventative care, our veterinary patients are living longer with dogs living to 13 years and beyond (depending on weight and breed.) We generally classify a dog “senior” after 7 years of age, which according to many charts, is comparable to a 47 year old human.

As animals age, the deeper the relationship and bond deepens between owner and pet, and the more difficult it is to see and accept old age. This is the main reason “senior well pet checks” are invaluable.

Q: What comprises the Senior Health Exam?

A: Senior Health Exams should include a thorough history, complete physical exam, and screening tests which identify medical conditions in pets with no clinical signs. These tests allow the early intervention and management that can improve quality and possibly the length of a pet’s life. Animals are remarkably adept at hiding medical problems until they may become more advanced. Also in a healthy senior pet, these tests provide critical baseline information on normal values to allow us to evaluate trends as the pet ages.

Some tests we use are complete blood profiles, radiographs, ECG’s, blood pressure monitoring, fecal exams, tonometry, and dental exams. For the SCWT, Urine Protein/Creatinine values and periodic electrolyte levels are crucial.

Q: What are some of the common conditions you see in the senior dog, and how do you treat them?

A: Osteoarthritis: Analgesics, anti inflammatory meds, acupuncture, physical therapy, surgery, and/or stem cell therapy

Renal disease: Diet, blood pressure control, fluid therapy.

Periodontal disease: Routine assessment, cleanings, and home care are very important. Newer anesthetics and patient monitoring capability allow us to monitor geriatrics precisely during anesthetic procedures with quick recoveries.

Cancer: Early diagnosis and treatment may cure cancer with surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy.

Cardiac disease: Newer meds along with ultrasound allow us to monitor and slow the progression of heart failure.

Infectious Disease: With newer vaccines and protocol studies, we as practicing veterinarians can make better recommendations for the safety of you and your pets against infections diseases.

Q: When is it time to see the vet?

A: All pets should be seen immediately by a veterinarian for any bleeding disorder, sudden mass, seizures, blindness, lameness, behavioral changes, or breathing difficulties.
Senior Dogs. Many of us have lived with our older dogs, and all of us will at some time. There are books, websites, magazines, and many venues where owners, veterinarians, and other experts talk about how to manage the unique needs of our dogs’ golden years. What better source to tap, I thought, than our own SCWT owners. I invite you to share the special particulars that you have discovered to bring comfort to your senior dog.

Please share with all of us your tricks of the trade. The following topics may spark some ideas. Feel free to bring up others as well.

- **Feeding:** Is there a particular diet that seems to be easier to digest? Number of meals? Type of bowls?
- **Bedding:** orthopedic beds? Heated ones?
- **Bathing:** how do you help an older dog stand in the tub?
- **Grooming:** clippers? Straight scissors? What if the older dog can’t stand on the table?
- **Holistic supplements:** additives that ameliorate arthritis or other aging diseases?

Here is the process:

- Label your topic (see ideas above or create a new one.)
- Limit your comments to a maximum of five sentences.
- Email to me at moconn1030@comcast.net no later than August 1, 2011.
- Sign your name!

I hope there will many responses. If so, I will print your comments in the September issue of Benchmarks. If several of you submit the same idea, I will use all your names.

Share the wealth of knowledge that this wonderful readership has to offer!
Whatever Lola Wants...

GCh Baroque You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet
Ch Stratford Top Priority X Ch Marquee’s if it Ain’t Baroque

Lola wanted to win at Montgomery!

2010 National Specialty - WB/BW - Judge Sue Goldberg

Lola wanted her Championship!

You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet!...

Sammamish KC - WB - Judge Joe Walton
www.BAROQUEWHEATENS.com
Lola wanted the Breed at her first show as a Special!

- January 2011

TAO Terrier Group Show - BOB - Judge Gay Dunlap

Lola wanted her Grand Championship!

- March 2011
  17 months old
  b-b-b-baby...You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet...

Seattle Kennel Club - BOB - Judge Cindy Vogels

...Lola wanted a fabulous California Weekend, April 2011:

AOM - NCTA  BOS - SCWTCNC Specialty  BOS - Sacramento Kennel Club
Judge - AnneMarie Moore  Judge - Gay Dunlap  Judge - Rosalind Kraus-Kramer

Lola is exclusively Breeder/Owner handled & conditioned by Christy Weagant

www.BAROQUEWHEATENS.com
Forests and Trees

Soon it will be mid-year evaluation time where I work. We are in part measured by “standards of leadership,” one of which is “Big Picture Orientation with an Attention to Detail.” Meaning…while you’re making sure each and every tree is healthy, don’t forget to keep an eye on the forest.

That’s a competency we dog people need, too.

In some ways, purebred dogs are all about the details. Is your Wheaten’s tail straight or gay? Is he over 19”…and by how much? Is that coat grey or does it just have dark guard hairs? And beyond the dog…is it a 3 point or a 4 point major? How many points off for that crooked sit?

It’s easy to get lost in those weeds of detail and miss the big picture.

Think about the last puppy evaluation you went to. I bet you heard a lot about ears and red vs. mahogany and rears and shoulders and fill and on and on. The breeder likely talked about how they wanted to improve this trait or that and how well they think they did. How many people stood back and looked at the overall picture, the “make and shape” of the dog?

My husband relates a story about being a semi-bystander at an evaluation. Each piece of the dog was discussed in detail. Finally, John asked “what about the head?” Well, those with their hands on the dog raved about its head…and yes, it was a well-made head. “But,” John asked, “what about the head in proportion to the rest of the dog?”

Ooops. Respectable head, but not enough of it to balance the rest of the dog.

My version of this story arises from those umpteen conversations we all have about finding Mr. Wonderful. You know, the breeder friend that calls you fawning “Who can I breed Poopsy to?”

I always ask a couple of questions. What 3 things about Poopsy do you want to change? What 3 things would you never, ever want to touch?

I hear what you’d expect…ears, shoulders, rears, size, blocky skulls.

No one ever mentions balance. No one ever comments on squareness, as big an issue as any in our breed.

It seems to me too many Wheaten people focus too much on details and not the big picture – the whole dog. Quick…without looking…what’s the first sentence in the standard?

Thumbs up to those who quoted: “The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier is a medium-sized, hardy, well balanced sporting terrier, square in outline.” To those of you who knew even more, the description of the coat, the emphasis on moderation, the steady disposition…even better.

Will those be the first things you consider when you do your next breeding? Most of us should…because I’m not seeing enough dogs in the ring fitting that first “General Appearance” paragraph and I’m darn sure not hearing enough breeders citing those characteristics when talking about possible Mr. Wonderfuls.

If you’ve revisited the General Appearance paragraph…did you see anything about ears or shoulders or rears or blocky skulls? If those or any details are the first things you’re considering…are you confident your bitch so sufficiently personifies the Standard’s opening paragraph you can narrowly concentrate on those few specific traits?
What about when you look at a litter? Do you stand back and look at puppies and first think how close they are to that paragraph? Or are you immediately drawn to the shiny coat or the pretty little ears or the wide rear or smooth shoulders?

To me, a breed is in good shape when you look in the ring and feel every dog is reasonably close to the general description. Then it doesn’t bother me when the details differ because those variances may just represent individual breeders’ choices and/or the luck of the draw.

Clubs also need to move between the forest and the trees. In most clubs, that’s a big challenge for the board. Understandable…boards are frequently made up of people who made their bones in the club as hard workers who get tasks accomplished. It’s easy to continue in that vein.

In the years I’ve been a SCWTCA member, I’ve watched that struggle…and in recent years, the micromangers have dominated Boards. I think the current Board has taken some positive steps. I’ve noted more tasks being assigned to member-chaired committees; more still should be passed along. That helps insure our club’s future. Members who have ownership…a word used advisedly…of projects develop an investment in the club; their success makes them candidates for future Boards.

Boards spending time discussing details of members’ projects aren’t doing their job. They should be asking broader questions: Is the membership growing or declining? Are Wheaten entries up or down? In all events? How about MCKC and Roving attendance? Are Wheaten litter registrations up or down? Are newer or older members serving the club? Are OFA participation and results changing? How are these things trending? Who are the people involved? What kinds of issues do other parent clubs have and what are they doing about them? How do they handle issues like ours? These are questions for which the club has access to real data, not just impressions or beliefs. These and many more such questions need to be asked and studied.

Which brings me to nominating committees and their need to also look at the big picture (This is being written while the current committee is still going about its task.) Nominating Committees too often work at just filling Board seats. This is how Board members are re-nominated or automatically moved along with no consideration of their performance.

I’ve long argued that the Nominating Committee shouldn’t ask seated Board members if they want to return. They should ask if they want to be considered for a seat. This difference means the Committee can look at the Board as a whole and think about the best options for the club.

The other “big picture” a Nominating Committee should consider is the future of the club. It’s the rare individual who can join any Board as President in their first year. Better a Nominating Committee put a couple of promising newcomers on as directors, giving them an opportunity to understand and address issues the Board faces and build a foundation to possibly become a future President…or prove themselves a one term director.

Bottom line: We’re pretty good at examining detail…but the Big Picture still needs work.
Herding 101:
Getting Started with Your Wild and Wooly Wheaten

By Connie Koehler

Connie Koehler is president of SCWTSCC and chair, public education, SCWTCA. She was one of the co-authors—with Suzanne Stone—of the successful 2010 SCWTCA petition to AKC for Wheatens’ eligibility to enter and earn titles in AKC herding events. Connie was also the secretary of the DVSCWTC’s recent AKC herding instinct test weekend in Pennsylvania, a first for our breed. Her seven-year-old male, Marymore Point Mugu CGC RN HCT-s (Magoo) was awarded his AHBA Herding Capability Tested on Sheep title in May, 2009. Connie and Magoo are now training for their AKC HT.

On May 11, 2010, the American Kennel Club approved the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier for entry into its Herding Program, effective Jan. 1, 2011. Our Wheatens can now compete and earn titles in AKC herding tests and trials, joining 31 other approved breeds as well as 16 Foundation Stock Service (FSS) breeds that are awaiting full AKC recognition. Members of eligible breeds above the age of nine months, intact or altered, can enter herding events. All dogs six months of age or older from eligible breeds can participate in AKC Herding Instinct Tests, a precursor to the test and trial levels of eventing.

AKC offers two levels of titles in its Herding Program. The first level comprises two non-competitive herding tests which evaluate a dog’s basic instinct and aptitude for training, using standardized metrics. Both test titles are awarded after completing two legs under two different judges: Herding Tested (HT), in which the dog demonstrates the controlled movement of stock twice from point to point; and Pre-Trial Tested (PT), in which the dog passes stock through four gates, changes direction, executes two controlled stops, and pens the stock.
The second level of herding titles, the trial level, is competitive. Titles are earned over increasingly difficult courses that display the dog’s ability to make contact with the sheep (outrun/lift), and fetch or drive the sheep over farm or ranch courses through a variety of obstacles. Work over courses is also timed, with that factor used to break scoring ties. AKC issues three titles, Herding Started (HS), Herding Intermediate (HI) and Herding Excellent (HX), to dogs that have completed three qualifying legs under three different judges. Finally, the Herding Champion title is awarded to holders of HX titles who have earned 15 championship points in Advanced (HX-level) trial classes, with at least two first placements.

As the new kids on the block in AKC herding, how do we Wheaten owner/handlers move our dogs and ourselves from city streets to country roads? The following are some basic guidelines to transforming your Wheaten from a pampered pup into the steely-eyed stock dog that is lurking beneath that gorgeous, well-maintained coat:

1. **Find a trainer who knows loose-eyed, upright dogs with a “soft” herding style.** There are two types of herding styles. The “strong-eyed” dog controls stock by holding them with a firmly fixed stare or gaze, and moves over the ground in a stalking or crouching movement. Strong-eyed dogs are totally focused on their stock, extremely intelligent and will be oblivious to most other external stimuli. The Border Collie is the only truly strong-eyed breed, although some may include the Australian Cattle Dog in this category.

   All other herding breeds are “loose-eyed, upright” dogs that control stock not with their eye, but rather with physical pressure, herding in an upright position. A sub-category of this second style consists of those dogs who respond with gentle, positive guidance from the shepherd. The collie breeds and the Wheaten are in this latter group.

   In your search for a suitable trainer for your Wheaten, here are a few tips that will help you make the right match for your dog and you:
   - Attend herding trials and ask club members for their recommendations for trainers. Interview trainers who are trialing their own dogs, or judging. Many trainers are AKC herding judges as well.
   - Seek out a trainer who works not only with all herding breeds, but also who is familiar with Wheatens to the greatest extent possible.
   - Observe the trainer at his/her facility, working with a variety of breeds and types of clients. Look closely for positive training methods and be attentive to any tendency toward harsh treatment of the dogs.
   - Talk with other clients and ask them about their experiences with the trainer.
   - Personal referrals from other Wheaten owners are strongly recommended, where possible.

2. **Establish basic obedience skills (sit, down, stand, come, stay) early.** The AKC emphasizes “controlled movement of stock” throughout its Herding Regulations. The handler must employ a controlled pause at the beginning of each exercise; a recall in the middle, and a controlled stop at the conclusion.
   - Enroll your Wheaten in a basic obedience class before or at the outset of your training. It is also a wonderful way to establish the strong bond between you and your dog that is crucial to herding.
   - Once your dog has mastered the rudimentary commands, more advanced obedience or rally classes will reinforce your initial training.

3. **Get your dog and you into good physical shape.** Herding is one of the most grueling of dog sports. Not only are you moving over rough or mucky terrain, you the shepherd are also working in front of or
1. at the side of a flock of sheep, ranging in numbers from three to 40+. Sheep are powerful critters, very independent variables, and can move incredibly fast.
   - Being fast on your own feet is critical to your health and safety. Whatever your preferred workout and training-table routine, get yourself in gear prior to herding.
   - Practice running and walking backwards, since you will be moving facing your dog and the sheep in the fetch. You will find you have muscles that you didn’t know existed, and will thank me later for it. You also must learn to get out of the way of the stock quickly.
   - Bring your dog to the vet and have him/her examined thoroughly prior to initiating herding. Then put your dog on a training program with long walks or on a treadmill, if s/he is a couch potato.
   - If your dog’s pads are not calloused, use paw wax on them until they roughen up over exposure to farm or ranch terrain. A good brand is Musher’s Secret, developed in Canada for sled dogs. It is available through various online dog vendors.
   - Always examine your dog for foxtails following a lesson. They are ubiquitous in rural areas, are insidious, and can sideline a dog for weeks as well as being a major health risk.

2. **Build a good set of beginning equipment.** As in all sports, your feet are your most important assets. Good herding footwear consists of waterproof boots with non-skid soles.
   - In rainy climates, Wellies are a must. Mud—with liberal amounts of sheep s—t (a technical term)—will cover your boots almost to your knees in wet conditions.
   - In the West, western or paddock boots are preferred for ranch terrain, with ample room for moisture-wicking socks.
   - A shepherd’s crook is also a fundamental piece of gear. It acts as an extension of your arm in giving direction to your dog; it can protect you and/or your dog against charging sheep; and it can help you get sheep off fences in dangerous situations. It is NEVER used to strike a dog.

3. **Consult a variety of resources (books, videos, websites).** There is a plethora of literature on herding, since humans and dogs have been doing it together for thousands of years across the planet. A few of my favorites include:
   - **Books** (many more are readily available through Amazon):
   - **Videos** (these are advertised as the “only ‘all-breed’ videos available,” and they are great; the Canadian scenery alone is spectacular):
     2. Lynn Leach, “All Breed Herding: The Next Steps.”
     3. Lynn Leach, “All Breed Herding: Getting Your Driver’s License.”
   - **Websites**
     1. AKC, Herding link (the AKC Herding Regs are available for download): [http://www.akc.org/events/herding/](http://www.akc.org/events/herding/)
     2. American Herding Breed Assn. (AHBA); AHBA has recognized Wheatens for herding titles since the 1990s, and several of our dogs have earned them: [http://www.ahba-herding.org/](http://www.ahba-herding.org/)
6. Finally, patience is indeed a virtue. Sheep ranches and farms are, by definition, far from the madding crowd. If you are lucky, one may be within an hour’s drive. In most metropolitan areas, the commute to the sheep is more on the order of two or more hours. That said, herding training for the working staff—who may also be competing other dogs in a variety of AKC events—may not be feasible on a weekly basis. As with any sport, practice makes perfect, so the frequency of lessons will drive your progress in herding.

Most herding experts calculate that it takes four to five years to make a competent stock dog—and the making of the shepherd is the weakest link in that chain, if one is starting out as a novice with a novice dog. Your journey with your Wheaten toward herding perfection will not come overnight. A piece of breaking news is the recent report that Smokey, a Kerry Blue Terrier, became the first of his breed and the Terrier Group to go High In Trial on the second leg toward his HS title in Mississippi on April 9, 2011—five years after the Kerries won their AKC herding recognition. So relax, enjoy the clear country air, and think sheep!

An Historic Weekend of Wheaten Herding

Del Val’s 8th Annual Herding Event, and 1st AKC Herding Instinct Test

By Suzanne Stone and Connie Koehler

The Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club held their 8th Annual Wheaten herding event at the Raspberry Ridge Sheep Farm in Bangor, PA. What made this historic this year was that it included the first-ever AKC Herding Instinct Test administered to Wheats after their admission to the AKC’s herding program on Jan. 1, 2011.

Carolyn Wilki, AKC judge, sheep farm owner, and trainer, tested all dogs that had not previously been exposed to stock on Saturday morning. This is a pre-requisite to the AKC Herding Instinct Test. On Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, 18 Wheatens were tested. Eight out of thirteen wheatens passed the test on Saturday, and four out of five passed on Sunday for a success rate of 67%. For those dogs that did not pass, the primary reason was not that they lacked instinct to herd, but that they could not totally fulfill the AKC test obedience requirements to show a controlled pause and release by the handler at the beginning of the test, as well as a recall and controlled stop at the end. This is something that can be rectified by some further obedience training.

Following the conclusion of the Herding Instinct Test on Sunday, about a dozen dogs and handlers stayed for an afternoon clinic to begin or continue their herding training. Carolyn divided the group into four teams of three each, working in different areas of the farm. Teams rotated during the afternoon to practice different exercises aimed at controlling the dogs’ natural urges to get at the sheep before being directed to do so by their handlers. While maneuvering the sheep in the classic fetch was not taught specifically, basic obedience skills were honed to enable the shepherds to guide their dogs and overcome their instinct to chase the sheep. At the end of the clinic, both serious and humorous awards were given out to the dog/handler teams, and many of the participants expressed their keen interest in continuing training for future competition.
Many Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier breeders face difficult decisions when choosing potential breedings. You have many things to consider in terms of health, physical, and behavioral traits in your quest to produce the best possible puppies. While you can consider what a dog looks like and acts like, and even what their relatives are like, you may still have some concerns about potential health issues that could arise based on the breed and your dog’s family history. Certainly there are a few phenotype tests to give us some information about the risk of hip dysplasia and eye diseases, however, you still have concerns regarding many diseases that we have little or no genetic information about including protein losing enteropathy and nephropathy, renal dysplasia, food and environmental allergies, and many more. These concerns can make your breeding decisions very difficult. Thankfully, recent advances in veterinary genetics have expanded our ability to look at the DNA of breeding Wheatens and provide you with a better understanding of the specific chromosomal patterns, called “haplotypes”, that your dogs carry, allowing you to use that information in your breeding decisions and work to maximize the genetic diversity or heterozygosity in your puppies.

Why should you be concerned about the genetic diversity of your puppies? It is an important concept for the overall health of the breed and for your breeding program in particular since a number of studies in a variety of breeds have shown that decreased diversity can impact the fertility, litter size, working ability, and health of dogs. In fact, many breeds, including Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, have a relatively small population and could be considered the equivalent of an endangered species. Since we don’t want to have our dogs end up like the cheetahs which are having significant medical and reproductive problems due to their lack of genetic diversity, it is important to consider genetic diversity as a factor in our breeding programs to at minimum maintain, and if possible increase, the genetic diversity within the breed.

Optimal Selection™ by Mars Veterinary is a new blood test that uses over 300 genetic markers to analyze your Wheaten’s DNA on many key chromosomes. You can then consider a number of “virtual matings” to the dogs you are considering to predict the potential sire’s and dam’s chromosomal similarities and differences. By minimizing the risk of genetic overlap, you are given the opportunity to diversify the genetic makeup of your puppies and reduce the risk of autosomal recessive medical conditions while still selecting for your stud dog and bitch’s attributes.

Many breeders are already trying to consider genetic diversity when they calculate inbreeding coefficients which is a measure of the relatedness of the ancestors for the offspring in a litter; however, it is still a relatively rough measure as it will vary depending on the number of generations considered and is an average for the entire litter. Within that litter, the puppies can vary quite widely in terms of their genetic diversity within themselves (heterozygosity) or as compared to the breed as a whole – for example one littermate may carry a particularly rare haplotype for Wheatens, perhaps making that dog a more valuable breeding candidate in order to preserve that rare haplotype. Thus, a tool like Optimal Selection™ which can evaluate each dog at the genetic level would give you significantly more information than an inbreeding coefficient alone. Within the dogs that you are considering in your breeding program, you can now include information on their specific DNA haplotypes to make educated decisions with regard to the diversity of the mates you have chosen. Optimal Selection™ utilizes a scoring system based on the compatibility of the chromosomes analyzed between the dogs. Lower scores are preferred since they show that these dogs are more likely to produce puppies with less risk of doubling up on unselected regions that may cause disease while maintaining the desired traits that you originally selected the dogs for.

It is very important to remember that Optimal Selection™ is not a way of determining who is a “good” or “bad” Wheaten, instead, it is a matter of which dog would be better in this particular mating. Even if one stud is not a great match for this particular bitch, there are likely many others that he would work well with, resulting in healthier puppies overall. It is also up to you to verify the physical and behavioral traits of each potential mate to ensure that they have all the qualities you value in your breeding program regardless of their DNA profile.

Many traits that you are selecting for may be recessive and thus you want some areas of homozygosity or genetic overlap to maintain them. Not to worry; these traits will
not be lost with Optimal Selection™ since you are selecting the potential mates based on all the physical and behavioral traits you can control through selection and those traits should carry through as they would normally. You are in complete control of your breeding program. Within your program, Optimal Selection™ can help you gather additional information about the areas of the genome that you are not specifically selecting for and thus minimize overlap in those regions.

To prove the effectiveness of Optimal Selection™, Mars Veterinary has spent over two years conducting a pilot study with the Dandie Dinmont Club of America. The Dandie breeders are extremely dedicated to preserving this wonderful breed and have been very helpful in the course of this study. We first performed an extensive analysis of the breed’s chromosomal haplotypes to better understand their current genetic state and found that there are chromosomes with a large degree of heterozygosity and others that have lower diversity which may be related to traits that breeders have “fixed” in the breed as they are the features that are breed-defining such as coat texture and leg length. Breeders could then perform Optimal Selection™ virtual matings for the dogs that they were considering to help determine final mate selection. Dandie breeders have been using this tool with great success to date and they have increased their average number of puppies produced in Optimal Selection™ litters to over 4.0 compared to the breed average of 2.75 puppies per litter. These Dandies puppies all appear sound and some are doing very well competitively. Many additional litters are in progress and all the litters are being followed to collect data on soundness, temperament, health, competition, and reproduction over the course of their lives.

Using Optimal Selection™ is an easy process beginning with picking your potential mates based on their family lines, temperament, and conformation. Next, you obtain Optimal Selection™ kits for each Wheaten being considered for breeding, have your veterinarian collect a blood sample from each, and mail the kits in for testing. Within 2-3 weeks you will be emailed individual reports for each dog tested which show their chromosomal results. You can then request a match report that shows the virtual matings for all the dogs you are considering so that you can compare the breeding scores for each potential mating and examine any particular chromosomes of interest – e.g. chromosome 12 for the immune system which may be involved in diseases like Addison’s disease and hypothyroidism – to help make your final breeding selection.

Let’s look at an example to get a better feel for how this will work. We have a bitch named Guinevere and we are considering mating her to two brothers Excalibur and Arthur or a third dog, Lancelot. You have chosen each of these stud dogs based on their conformation and your preference for their specific breed type on how they can improve upon the bitch with whom you are breeding. Each of these dogs have had their hips OFA certified, patellar luxation test, passed their CERF exams, have performed the required boodwork regarding PLE and PLN and they all have great temperaments. While all of them meet our standards, which one should we ultimately choose? Performing Optimal Selection™ on these dogs gives us the following breeding scores when compared with Guinevere: Excalibur 3.25, Arthur 2.00, and Lancelot 5.75. Remember that a lower breeding score shows a lower risk of overlap, thus Arthur would make the best match for Guinevere, although his brother Excalibur would be a good second choice. Lancelot has a number of areas of overlap with Guinevere which could cause their puppies to have less diversity and could lead to more health concerns as a result. In fact, comparing Lancelot with our other bitch, Morgana, we find that she is a much better match for him with a breeding score of 2.50.

While Optimal Selection™ should not be the only means of determining a desirable mating, the diversity of the dogs should be included as a factor in order to maintain the genetic health of our Wheatens.

Optimal Selection™ will be available in the US for most AKC breeds including the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier beginning this summer. For more information about using the Optimal Selection™ genetic breeding analysis in your breeding program please visit www.marsveterinary.com/breedersservices.
Michelle and Jep Street hosted a "Dog Show After Glow" party the Saturday evening of last year’s Detroit Kennel Club Dog Show. The annual show took place the first weekend of March and is one of the Country’s largest all-breed, benched shows.

The invitations featured a Wheaten profile, were bound with a blue and red ribbon, and mailed in Montgomery Red envelopes. Sixty guests came for "Bark, Bite and Cocktails.” The party celebrated the Terrier, and all good dogs and dog shows. It was a great way to bring together friends and family, and favorite breeders, handlers, officials and ringside supporters.

The Presidential Suite on the seventieth floor of the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center was made to feel like a special Kennel Club. It was set with a life size Wheaten ice sculpture. There were small Azalea bushes in silver bowls and trophies, around the suite. Classic, live ivy topiaries in latticed planters graced the perimeter of the rooms, and old show catalogs rested on cocktail tables. While tall votives glowed with shaded images of dogs.

Michele and Jep provided the photos from the show and a continuous feed video of the dog show ran during the party. All went home with a doggy bag filled with shortbread dog shaped cookies iced with a collar and rosette around the neck, two bottled waters, dog treats, mints and a miniature "gold" trophy. The Streets also enclosed a donation form from the Michigan Animal Rescue League.
The SCWTC of Greater Milwaukee cordially invites you to 5 days of shows beautiful southeastern Wisconsin.

Friday July 29

SCWTCGM Specialty

Sweepstakes Judge: Ms. Jacquelyn Fogel of FirstClass Bedlingtons and Basset Hounds

Specialty Judge: Miss Dorothy M. Macdonald

This event is supported by the SCWTCA.
Hospitality luncheon, raffle, and silent auction held after BOB.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday July 30</th>
<th>Sunday July 31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Waukesha Kennel Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>Waukesha Kennel Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Breed Judge: Mrs. Patti A Long Smith</td>
<td>Breed Judge: Ms Anne M Barlow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Judge: Mr. Michael D Buckley</td>
<td>Group Judge: Ms Dorothy M Macdonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waukesha County Expo Center</td>
<td>Waukesha County Expo Center</td>
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This event is supported by the SCWTCGM. Related events: obedience and rally.

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<th>Monday August 1</th>
<th>Tuesday August 2</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Burlington Wisconsin Kennel Club</strong></td>
<td><strong>Burlington Wisconsin Kennel Club</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Breed and Group Judge: Mrs. Sally Ray Baugniet</td>
<td>Breed and Group Judge: Dr. Edna K Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Walworth County Fair Grounds</strong></td>
<td><strong>Walworth County Fair Grounds</strong></td>
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For more information on area lodging, visit the Onofrio Web site at http://www.onofrio.com
Meeting Today’s Challenges

Several years ago I wrote a Gazette column that elicited much favorable notice from fanciers in other breeds. It discussed the necessity for breed clubs to maintain an elitist attitude. This was not in reference to status symbols such as cars and clothes, but to ethical standards. It was prompted by a membership application from people who had done some questionable things dealing with puppy people and a member breeder. Their membership would have given them clout in the then “hot” Wheaten market. Fortunately the breeder who had been injured by their activities successfully blocked the application, and another “tempest in a teapot” was resolved. The sponsors had hoped that these people could be educated, and become valuable members. We will never know if that was a possibility, but we can be happy that by really getting to know our prospective members, we have avoided the bad apples who would, once admitted, be so difficult to dislodge.

Today’s challenges unfortunately are not so easily controlled. The abundance of “puppies available” notices on our lists point them out clearly. That “hot” market is gone, perhaps never to reappear in the same way. Designer dogs and new “rare” breeds are enticing the folks who are novelty motivated. HSUS and the “feel gooders” tout the humane aspect of going to the shelter and rescuing an innocent animal from death. Most affecting our market is the sluggish economy. Our dogs are high priced because, breeding according to our ethical standards our dogs are expensive to produce. The nature of the Wheaten mitigates against “running on” a litter. The ability to place obvious pets at the appropriate age is what enables us to pursue intelligent breeding programs. The market dictates can cripple our promotion of the breed, as we limit and postpone matings. The state of the economy also affects our ability to attend shows, resulting in a loss of entries, and subsequent ability to share knowledge and get to know breeding stock.

The other unfortunate aspect of the economic downturn is its effect on our need to recruit newcomers to the sport and to the breed. As some of the “old timers,” - and I certainly am one of them - retire, we need replacements. This is especially true for most terrier breeds. It is up to us to encourage newcomers. We have to be friendly, open, and helpful. We must make our events inviting and fun. A few “goodies” brought to the scene of local shows can create the atmosphere necessary to enlist and keep replacements. If you have a possible “show” person purchasing a puppy, and you invite that person to a show, you may make a valued friend, too. Local specialties are over for the season, except for Great Western, and, of course, that is a highlight of all show experiences. We must leave no stone unturned to bridge the gap between yesterday’s prosperity and today’s uncertainties. The economy will pick up, and those uncertainties cannot deter us from our overall goal…to promote and protect the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.

David Lincicome, Ph.D

Born: January 17, 1914
Died: March 9, 2011
Services: A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the Roxbury Congregational Church.

ROXBURY – David Richard Lincicome, 97, of Roxbury, CT died Tuesday, March 9, 2011 at Danbury Hospital. He was the husband of the late Dorothy Lucille (Van Cleave) Lincicome and the late Margaret Amelia (Stirewalt) Lincicome.
David was born January 17, 1914 in Campaign, IL, son of the late David Roseberry and Olive Iola (Casper) Lincicome. He has resided in Roxbury for the past seven years, previously living in the Washington, D.C. area since 1955. He received his Ph.D. in Tropical Medicine from Tulane University. David was a professor and assistant professor at universities, including Howard University and The University of Wisconsin and is has been listed in the Who’s Who of America for several years. He was an active member of societies devoted to biomedical research, dog breeding, and genetic preservation of farm animal breeds. He was a member of the Roxbury Congregational Church and a widely recognized authority on the writings of Martin Luther. He was internationally known as a specialist in tropical medicine and as an expert in small herd animal conservancy, and was the founder and long-time editor of two professional journals: Virology and the Journal of Experimental Parasitology. After retiring from academia, he had a second career as a sheep and Nubian dairy goat farmer and as a breeder of Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers, serving as a judge in numerous sheep, goat, and dog shows throughout the country. In recent years, he has taught dozens of students to speak German and to play the piano in his home studio at Roxbury.

David is survived by a son, David Van Cleave Lincicome of Roxbury, a daughter, Judith Ann Lincicome, eight grandchildren – Marc, Ian, Sarah, Jeremy, Daniel, Rebecca, Kelly, and Catherine Lincicome; and two great grandchildren – Erik Lincicome and Kyle Klingensmith.

He was predeceased by a brother, Marian Shields Lincicome and a sister, Louise Meister.

Memorials: Contributions may be made to the Freedom Angel Foundation, 153 Baker Ave., Roxbury, CT 06783.

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**Wheaten Ambassador Award**

Given and funded annually by Dorice and Mark Stancher in memory of Duffy (Holweit’s Stancher, CGC, CD, CDX, RN, RA) In addition to his AKC performance awards, Duffy was double certified as a therapy dog and evaluator dog, and was the poster dog for the American Cancer Society’s DogsWalk Against Cancer in 2009, appearing also on television and receiving the Golden Bone Award for exceptional fundraising six years in a row. He also was herding-certified, participated in tracking with the Hudson Valley Tracking Club, kayaked, and skijored.

Eligibility: Honoring dogs owned or co-owned by members of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America (SCWTCA) who meet the following qualifications.

Qualifications: The Wheaten Terrier Ambassador Award is presented to the Wheaten Terrier that has made a difference in its community. Preferably titled in one AKC performance event, the emphasis of this award is on diplomacy and community service through therapy work and/or exceptional fund-raising activities for the greater good. An added bonus is the willingness to participate in new ventures including herding-instinct testing, or outdoor sports such as skijoring or kayaking; exhibiting a zest for life.

Nominations: To be obtained from a notice in Benchmarks and on the SCWTCA.org website.

Judging Panel: Dorice Stancher, plus one Performance member, one conformation member

Presentation: Annual Dinner at the Montgomery weekend

Documentation: SCWTCA Awards catalog

Award: To be determined

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Happy Mother’s Day to a special Mum!

Ch. Harbour Hill at Wisteria Ln (Mary Alice)

Love, yogi, Boo,
Chef, maith’i, Tessa and Rachael

NEW CHAMPION Harbour Hill Visits Jellystone (Yogi)

Winners Dog SCWTCNC and Sacramento KC

Thank you judges
Mrs. AnneMarie Moore and Mr. Elliot Weiss

Yogi is handled by Amy Rutherford

Watch for Yogi’s brother Boo
(Harbour Hill Pic-A-Nic Basket) in the ring summer 2011

Yogi and Boo are sired by Ch. Modny Style Great Expectations

HARBOUR HILL
Susan K. Sakauye ssakauye@aol.com 805.967.0953

Benchmarks . volume 39 . number 2 . page 36
Harbour Hill serves “Table for 10” . . . .
Ch. Harbour Hill Peanut Butter Cup x Ch. Harbour Hill at Wisteria Ln

NEW CHAMPION Harbour Hill Ratatouille (Chef)
Handled by Amy Rutherford

Harbour Hill Fortune Cookie (Maihli)
Co-owned with David and Sharon Wight

Harbour Hill Barefoot Contessa (Tessa)

Harbour Hill Barefoot Contessa (Tessa) and Harbour Hill at Spago (Wolfgang) each need only a major to finish. Watch for Harbour Hill French Pastry and Harbour Hill Haute Cuisine's debut later this year.

**NEW CHAMPION Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals (Rachael) sweeps NCTA weekend going WB at the SCWTNMC and the two Sacramento KC shows. Our appreciation to judges Ms. Gay Dunlap, Mrs. Rosalind K. Kramer and Mr. Elliot Weiss. Rachael is co-owned with Jeanine and Myrna Flavell.

HARBOUR HILL
Susan K. Sakauye ssakauye@aol.com 805.967.0953

Benchmarks . volume 39 . number 2 . page 37
Friday morning at Garden State All Terrier Club dawned sunny and breezy for the first of 3 shows celebrating the Delaware Valley SCWTC 40th Anniversary. This was a Supported Entry for us and the first of 3 days of Breeder Judges. Today’s judge was long time Wheaten Breeder Gay Dunlap. There was an entry of 55.

Winners Dog for the day was Waterford Carnival owned by Marjorie Shoemaker and shown by his co-breeder Cherie Turner Fogarty. Reserve Winners dog was Mackanne Bradberry High Flyer owned by Jeri Voyles and Jim Goltz. Winners Bitch was Waterford Frolic Tangled in Love owned by Marjorie Shoemaker and Cherie Turner Fogarty. Reserve Winners bitch was Banrions Give the Girl a Kiss, owned by Jeffrey Bratton and Tiffany Walter.

Best of Breed, Best of Winners, and Best Puppy went to Marjorie Shoemaker’s Waterford Carnival, Best of Opposite Sex was GCH Wilobet’s Angel in My Pocket owned by Jeffrey Bratton and Tiffany Walter. Select Dog was CH Wheatens Pride Buxx Bogart and Select Bitch was CH Whindancer’s Sweet Dreams are made of This.

Also, today was a special event, our first ever Breeder’s Challenge. First went to Frolic, second was Jendu Wheatens, third was Trinity Wheatens, and fourth was Bradberry Wheatens

After judging, all the exhibitors gathered for the 5th Annual Wine and Cheese party hosted by Carole Clark (Clewbay) and Cherie Turner Fogarty (Frolic).

Sweepstakes Emily chose Waterford Coventry Caper owned by Marjorie Shoemaker and Jim and Erma Heckman. Best of Opposite Sex went to her littermate Waterford Change the World shown and owned by Marjorie Shoemaker.

Regular Classes followed judged by Cindy Vogels, Andover Wheatens. There was an entry of 65. Winners Dog was Waterford Carnival owned by Marjorie Shoemaker and again, shown by his co-breeder Cherie Turner Fogarty. Reserve Winners Dog went to his littermate Waterford Change The World. Winners Bitch, Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex was Banrions Give the Girl a Kiss, owned by Jeffrey Bratton and Tiffany Walter. Reserve Winners was Bradberry’s Hottie Biscotti Brie owned by Deborah Van De Ven.

For Best of Breed Cindy’s choice was CH Wheatens Pride Buxx Bogart owned by Lana and Wolfram Menser. Select dog was GCH Greentree Point Given, bred by Kevin and Bev McDonald and owned by the McDonalds and Jacob and Diane Horst. Select bitch was CH Bradberry’s Mackanne High Society Reese. owned by Deborah Van De Ven.

Award of Merits for the day were Winners Dog, Waterford Carnival and GCH Wilobet’s Angel in My Pocket owned by Jeffrey Bratton and Tiffany Walter.

After judging we were treated to a wonderful lunch. A big thanks to Barry Ivler for manning the grill and keeping the hungry crowd fed!

In addition to the great food, Show Chair Dennis Baribault donated a lovely canister set as the prize for our 2nd annual Leprechaun Toss, and there were lovely items at our chinese auction and silent auction. Thanks to all who were kind enough to donate items.
Sunday was another Specialty, and the great weather continued for our the 3rd and final show. We started off with Veteran Sweeps judged by Emily Holden, Amaden. BEST VETERAN IN SWEEPSTAKES was CH Greentree Fairy Tale Princess.

This day’s Breed judge was Wheaten Breeder, Richard Urquhart, Marquee. There were 59 dogs entered.

Today’s Winners Dog and Best of Winners was Waterford Change The World owned by Marjorie Shoemaker. Reserve Winners Dog went to his littermate Waterford Carnival. Winners Bitch was once again Banrions Give the Girl a Kiss, owned by Jeffrey Braton and Tiffany Walter. Reserve Winners went to Waterford Frolic Tangled in Love owned by Marjorie Shoemaker and Cherie Turner Fogarty.

Best of Breed was CH Greentree Point Given bred by Kevin and Bev McDonald and owned by the McDonalds and Jacob and Diane Horst. Select Dog was CH Wheatens Pride Buxx Bogart owned by Lana and Wolfram Menzer and Select Bitch was GCH Frolic Freya of Fenris owned by Cherie Turner Fogarty and Emily and Thomas Skoglund. Awards of Merit went to CH Dhowden American Dream owned by Denise Bendelewski and to GCH Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man owned by Kevin and Bev McDonald.

Being asked to judge the 40th anniversary show sweepstakes held by a local club I had helped found was an honor, on so many levels. Certainly, I am thrilled to be physically able to meet the task but was most excited about being able to go over the newest generation of dogs that will influence the breed. The day couldn’t have been better and Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club had a wonderful turn out. Dennis Baribault and the club members should be very proud of a job well done.

Puppy Dog 9-12 Months
The first class consisted of 8 males ranging in age from 9 – 12 months of age. It was a very interesting class and presented the second greatest challenge that I believe can plague a judge; the biggest being a class of 8 equally ugly dogs. Thankfully, this was a much more interesting and lots more fun for a breeder. There were several lovely dogs in the class and all had some merit, but the ones that placed first and second were of different type and that always causes controversy. I had no idea of the previous day’s judging, nor would it have mattered, because judging is the dog, the day and the eye of the judge. I was given my hour in the ring and it was my desire to find the dogs that most epitomized my view of the standard as illustrated in our breed’s booklet. The dog that I placed first, WATERFORD CHANGE THE WORLD, just might. I was quite impressed with his elegance and his movement. The second place dog, WATERFORD CARNIVAL, is very compact and has lovely movement and coat. They were dogs that could be used either way on different days but at 9:20 on May 7, 2011, I saw a spark of greatness in WATERFORD CHANGE THE WORLD, just might. I was quite impressed with his elegance and his movement. The second place dog, WATERFORD CARNIVAL, is very compact and has lovely movement and coat. They were dogs that could be used either way on different days but at 9:20 on May 7, 2011, I saw a spark of greatness in WATERFORD CHANGE THE WORLD. Third place also shows great promise, lovely coat and type. Fourth place while very much a puppy again shows great promise. He has lovely head type, coat and great attitude.

Puppy Dog 12-15 Months
JENDU WILD BLUE YONDER, the lone entry in the 12 to 15 month male class, made an excellent showing for himself. He has lovely hair, type and movement.
Puppy Bitch 6-9 Months
The 6 to 9 puppy bitch class was very pretty; nice feminine girls, pretty hair and pretty faces. I liked BRADBERRY'S HOTTIE BISCOTTI BRIE very much. My opinion is that she was sounder than the other two bitches, although my second place bitch was being a silly pup, certainly her prerogative. Young girls just have to have fun.

Puppy Bitch 9-12 Months
The 9 to 12 puppy bitch class provided a couple of AhHa moments. The first place bitch, WATERFORD COVENTRY CAPER, was one who looked at me and connected immediately. She is a lovely type, great little show dog and knows how to flash that look at just the right time. Second place, BRADBERRY'S ALEXANDRIA JILLIAN, was a very close contender. Third and fourth place were lovely girls but not quite the same quality. In fact this was a very nice class overall.

Puppy Bitch 12-15 Months
Puppy bitches 12 to 15 were both lovely. KILCRENNAN MARY'S AMERICAN IDOL was very impressive on the go round. LONESTAR CRACKLIN ROSIE, has very pretty type, coat, and outline. She just didn't want to be a showgirl this particular day.

Puppy Bitch 15-18 Months
GreenTree A BIT OF MAGIC won over her littermate GREENTREE CHRISTMAS MAGIC with coat and showmanship but the girls are very pretty and could easily change places on another day.

**Best in Sweepstakes** (from the 9-12 puppy bitch class). The final line-up was very pleasing but the star of the day was WATERFORD COVENTRY CAPER.

Best of Opposite Sex (from the 9-12 puppy dog class). WATERFORD CHANGE THE WORLD littermate to the BISS winner!

My overall impression of the entry was very positive. The type, coat color, and general characteristics of the entry were pleasing. I really enjoyed my time in the ring with these lovely puppies and with breeders who are working to improve this breed.

Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes:
Waterford Change the World

Veteran Sweepstakes: Sunday, May 8, 2011

The three girls were very exciting to watch and moved and behaved a lot like the pups I judged the day before. They flowed around the ring and enjoyed their time in the sun. CH GREENTREE FAIRY TALE PRINCESS at age 141/2 showed and moved like the royalty she is. It was a joy to watch her. CH LONESTAR PRAIRIE MOON is such a pretty girl and at age 11, was using herself for all she was worth. CH GREENTREE CLOVER GINGER ROSE was another lovely entry and showed beautifully. These girls all deserved the applause and the attention of the day. They were a delight.
I was honored to be asked to judge the Del Val SCWTC 40th Anniversary Show, and had been looking forward to the assignment. I still remember the first Del Val match show in Macungie, PA, and the number of founding breeders still active today speaks well to their dedication to our wonderful breed! The show committee certainly “pulled out all the stops” making the occasion extra special. Ribbons and awards were spectacular. I believe it is the first time three SCWT breeder/judges have passed on the same entry, and the similarity of our choices over the three day weekend was most interesting.

The essence of our breed is not complicated: a square, upstanding, balanced Terrier, sporting a silky, soft coat of warm, Wheaten color, displaying a happy, merry disposition, and moving with moderate reach and drive. I was pleased to be able to find these virtues in my winners.

9-12 Puppy Dogs
First place (Waterford Carnival,) WD and AOM, was a standout; moderate, well-balanced with an attractive head, he was sound-moving and used every bit of himself. The attractive second place dog also sported a good head and very pretty coat and color. He was a bit larger in ear, and could use a higher tailset. The third and fourth place dogs didn’t use their legs as well as the first two.

Bred By Exhibitor Dogs
With apologies, my recorder didn’t work during this class. The winner (Waterford Change the World) RWD and littermate to the WD, was quite an eye catcher. A more extreme dog than the WD with spectacular neck and shoulder construction, he might well have edged out his brother had he chosen to use his small, well-set ears better on the day.

Open Dogs
Single entry (Greentree Trinity Havin’ A Par Ti) sported pretty ears, but was a bit big, rangy, and off-color.

Winners Dog was a duel between the two brothers, with Carnival out-showing Change The World.

Puppy Bitches 6-9
First place (Bradberry’s Hottie Biscotti Brie,) quite fetching and feminine, and went on to RWB. She was well balanced with an appealing head and used herself well. Good coated, her color was a little darker than I prefer, but puppy coat color is not necessarily an indication of adult color. The second place bitch had an excellent tailset, but was a little longer cast. The third place bitch was nicely balanced, but not in optimum condition and didn’t use herself as well.

9-12 Puppy Bitches
Nice class. The winner (Bannions Give The Girl a Kiss) WB, BW and BOS was also a real standout. Balanced, moderate, she was good headed, pretty coated and used herself well. The second place bitch was nice and compact, but could use a bit more head. She, too, used herself well, having particularly strong drive from the rear. Third place, also a nice pup, was a little longer cast and didn’t use her legs as well. The fourth place bitch was a bit long and low and would have benefited with less coat.

12-18 Bitches
First place (Michaeline’s Innisfree White O’Morn) won on her overall virtues. While she had the best make and shape in the class, I still would have shortened her up. The second place bitch was sound moving, but a bit large in ear and gave to the winner in overall balance.
Amateur Owner Handler Bitch
Single entry (Holweit’s Red Grenadine) was a bit short on leg and lacked coat.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitches
The first place bitch (Jendu Twisted Sister) was the best balanced. I would prefer a little less of her, but she was also the best on her legs. The second place bitch was pretty coated and had a pleasing head, but didn’t use her legs as well. The third place bitch was a nice size, and shape, but a bit coarse in skull, short on coat and proud of her tail. Fourth place was very sound, but off color, crisp in coat, and a bit doggy.

Open Bitches
A class of two extremes. The winner (Waterford Adare Anew) was the bigger and doggier of the two, but sound; the other, more feminine bitch didn’t use her legs as well.

Winners Bitch went to the outstanding 9-12 puppy that put it all together on the day. The very promising baby puppy went reserve, giving to the winner on head, ears and tailset. She, too, put on a great show.

Best of Breed
(CH Wheatens Pride Buxx Bogart) was no stranger to me. I have admired his balance, substance and soundness. His single, golden, wavy coat shimmers in the sun and moves with the breeze. I believe that the founders of our breed would agree that this handsome dog represents the original concept of the Soft coated Wheaten Terrier – a sturdy, upstanding companion dog who could do a day’s work on the farm.

Open Bitches
A class of two extremes. The winner (Waterford Adare Anew) was the bigger and doggier of the two, but sound; the other, more feminine bitch didn’t use her legs as well.

Winners Bitch went to the outstanding 9-12 puppy that put it all together on the day. The very promising baby puppy went reserve, giving to the winner on head, ears and tailset. She, too, put on a great show.

Best of Breed
(CH Wheatens Pride Buxx Bogart)
By Honeylee’s Lord Of My Heart -
Lou Lou Von Der Flurau.
Owners: Lana Menser & Wolfram Menser.
Breeder: Dirk Nase.

Best of Opposite Sex was won by the class bitch who pressed hard for the top award; in the end, her youthful stamina giving out.

The Select Dog (GCH Greentree Point Given)
and Select Bitch (CH Bradberry’s Mackanme High Society Reese) were sound, appealing, typey representatives.
**Awards of Merit** went to the beautiful WD and a lovely specials bitch (GCH Willobet’s Angel in My Pocket) that was the dam of the WB, BW, BOS.

I found many pleasing Wheatens in the entry, and breeders are to be commended particularly in light of breeding compromises based on health issues. In general, though, too many Wheatens are incorrect in outline, off-square, either long in body, short on leg – or – both! Head details are often lacking; backskulls are coarse; muzzles are short and often snipey. Stops are incorrect resulting in broken head planes. Eyes are too close together, and/or too large resulting in an uncharacteristic expression. Large (and often low set) ears are common. Faulty construction often manifests itself in poor movement. I know that SCWT breeders are among the most dedicated, and I’m hopeful that these issues can be corrected in future generations. Wishing you all the best of luck, and, again, thank you for the opportunity and honor to pass on your dogs.

Cindy Vogels
May, 2011

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**Support your SCWT Specialties**

June 4, 2011    SCWTC of St. Louis (Follow results on Twitter)

June 24, 2011   SCWTC of Southern California

June 26, 2011   SCWTC of Southern California

July 29, 2011   SCWTC of Greater Milwaukee

September 9, 2011 Greater Denver SCWTC

October 9, 2011 SCWTCA National Specialty

If you are unable to attend, you can follow the daily results on Twitter, provided to you by devoted ringside observers.
Comparing the Wheatens at NCTA and Garden State

by Gay Dunlap

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to judge our breed both on the west coast and on the east coast within a few short weeks of each other: NCTA on April 14 followed by Garden State on May 6. When Benchmarks Editor, Molly O’Connell, asked me to write a brief comparison of the experience, I accepted the challenge.

There are some lovely dogs on both coasts but for differing reasons. How nice it would be if we could just come together more often with our breeding choices, combining what is good to create a ring wherein we see a breed consistent in correct breed type.

In general, I found the Wheatens at NCTA, overall, to be of a more acceptable make and shape; e.g., they tended to be more square than the dogs exhibited over Bucks weekend. Size, in terms of height, was better on the east coast with only one bitch that I felt to be considerably over the standard. But I found many of the east coast Wheatens to be coarse and lacking elegance even though of correct height. Thick back skulls plague the breed both east and west; we need to address this. Some of our east coast bitches lack strength in the foreface and could use more fill. I noted many east coast Wheatens did not display the smooth flowing transition of neck into body. Consequently, the resulting outline was one in which the neck appeared too short to balance length of back. Ideally, the head, neck and back should appear to be the same length.

Coats, on the whole, were more pleasing on the west coast. I noted light eyes on some of the east coast dogs, but most exhibited better ear size, placement and carriage than the west coast dogs. Top lines on the west coast were generally better than those on the east coast. That said, my east coast bitches had better top lines than the dogs; only one dog (the WD) sported a dead level top line with the others all displaying prominent lumbar vertebrae (sometimes referred to as a “Sweeney ridge”).

I found rear movement to excel over front movement, both east and west. Reach and drive, with one notable exception on the east coast, was more than adequate, regardless of length of back. On this subject, I would like to comment on my east coast BOB dog. He puts lie to those who feel that the formula for square is withers to set on of tail = withers to ground and that this added length of back is necessary for correct reach and drive. This dog is square, point of shoulder to pin bone equaling height from withers to ground. I found his movement to be flawless.

I delighted in the number of Irish coated dogs shown at Garden State. There were none at NCTA. Those in the classes, however pleasing, were still in need of additional furnishings in order to be more competitive. The Irish coated special was a knockout, placing all three days either as Best of Breed, Select or AOM.
New Champion:
Lissadell Teller of Tall Tales

“TULLY”

(Ch Aran About Face x Lissdell Big Story)

Owners: Dee Boyd and Shari Boyd
Lives with and Loved by: Dee

deeshard@ameritech.net
(216-749-4626)
FIRST TWO WEEKENDS OUT
ONLY 4 SHOWS
4 MAJORS = 16 POINTS = NEW CHAMPION
BEAUTIFUL MOVEMENT, COAT & HEAD
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Time to Make Plans to Hitch up the Wagons and Join Us in Greeley for the Wheaten Round-Up

Specialty Date: Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011

Our Specialty is in Conjunction With the Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club (RMATC) and Evergreen Colorado Kennel Club Shows.
3 Days of Shows, 2 All Breed.

Plan to join us at the Bunkhouse on Saturday evening for chow and our annual silent auction and raffle

Judging Information

Friday, Sept 9 RMATC Specialty Sweepstakes Judge: TBA
Specialty Judge:
Peggy Beisel McIlwaine

Saturday, Sept 10 GDSCWTC Specialty Sweepstakes Judge:
Kari Loken
Specialty Judge:
Anne Katona

Sunday, Sept 11 Evergreen Colorado Kennel Club
Breed Judge:
Lydia Colman Hutchinson
Mark Your Calendars Now to Support Wheaten Health

by Helen Moreland

Following are two opportunities to support all Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers by participating in one of the two DNA Clinics listed below. The blood samples and information collected at these clinics will enroll your dogs in the NIH Lifetime Health Study and/or the Canine Phenome Project.

If you have an AKC registered SCWT puppy born between January 1, 2006, and December 31, 2010, we encourage you to contribute to NIH research by submitting a blood sample. For the Canine Phenome Project, a blood sample from any age SCWT dog is eligible. You will also need to bring AKC Registered Name and number and for NIH, a pedigree. These two projects are designed to help with researching health issues in our breed.

For CPP
Blood sample for DNA extraction (to be drawn at the clinic)
Dog’s name, sex, registration information (if any) and pedigree (if known)
Signed consent form with owner contact information
Completion of online general health survey and pedigree information (if known)
In the future, completion of online breed specific health survey and breed characteristics survey
$20.00 to submit (SCWTCA Endowment is paying half of the $40.00 fee for the first 1500 dogs)

For NIH
Blood sample for DNA extraction
Dog’s name, sex, AKC registration information and pedigree
Commitment to complete annual health surveys for 10 years
Copies of veterinary and laboratory reports for diagnosed health issues
Signed consent form with owner contact information
No fee for samples collected at SCWT group clinics

There will be more blood clinics in various geographic areas around the country to collect samples for the NIH SCWT Lifetime Health Study and the Canine Phenome Project. Look for those announcements.

Clinics

DNA Collection Clinic
When: May 21, 2011
SCWT Conformation Match co-sponsored by the SCWTCGTB
Where: Gladden Park Recreation Center
3901 30th Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, FL
Contact: Nancy Griffin, wheaten@tampabay.rr.com
Telephone: 941-677-6140
DNA Collection Clinic
When: June 25, 2011
Where: Willingboro Veterinary Clinic - Doctor Lawrence Wolf VMD
12 Sidney Lane
Willingboro New Jersey 08046
Contact: Bev and Kevin McDonald, greentreewheatens@comcast.net
Telephone: 609-698-9590 or
Cheri Turner-Fogarty, turnerfogarty@verizon.net
Telephone: 410-923-1247

Consent forms will be available through each coordinator.

NEW OPEN REGISTRY MEMBERS
May 11, 2011

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

Members of the Open Registry agree to forward pedigrees and medical data for all Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers they own, have owned or bred who may be affected with Protein-losing Enteropathy/Nephropathy, Addison’s Disease, Renal Dysplasia or Irritable Bowel Disease to the SCWT Open Registry, c/o Dr. Littman. For membership form, visit SCWTCA web site at http://scwtca.org/documents/health/or_membershipform_20100630.pdf. For a complete list of Open Registry members, email kccarlson@comcast.net.
CUILINN FUNNY FACE
“JOJO”
For you’re a cutie,
With More than beauty,
You’ve got a lot of,
Per*son*ali*T.N.T*

Ch. Trebol Labour Leader x Ch. Acacia Farraritessa

Bred by: Holly Million & Barbara Smith

Owned by: Holly Million
Handled by: JA.Nell VEREBELYI
Jones, OK.

*Funny Face – starring Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astair
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 September issue are due August 1

Advertising Rates
Full page only, 1 picture $40.00, additional pictures $5 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

Back Cover advertising in color $100

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 September issue: August 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.

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RESCUE Nancy Butler, nbtrigo@cybermesa.com
HEALTH ISSUES Cecily Skinner, tarascwt@aol.com
Fecal API KITS Toni Vincent, FecalAPIKit@aol.com
2011 MCKC Pat Mullin, pat@lochlinear.com
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ADDRESS CHANGES directory@scwtca.org
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Bd of Directors board@scwtca.org
OFA database http://www.offa.org/search.html
CERF database http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html

Donations

All donations are sent to:
Lori Kromash
107 Croton Court
Spring City, PA 19475-3428

Checks are made payable to SCWTCA, Inc. drawn on US accounts or with International money orders in US funds.

Donations for Wheaten health may be sent to the SCWTCA Endowment Fund to:

Toni Vincent
3825 132 Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98005-1303

Checks are made payable to:
SCWTCA Endowment, Inc. (fully deductible for IRS purposes)

Publications

Owner’s Manual $11
Benchmarks (Back Issues) $6
Grooming Chart $3
Pet Grooming Pamphlet $3
Illustrated Standard $18

Multiple copies available to club members only. See directory for prices
SINGLE COPIES ONLY to non-members. Price includes postage if mailed in the U.S.

YEARBOOKS
(1988-2000) specify the year $15
(2001-2003) specify the year $20
(2004-2005) specify the year $25
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For all publications except Benchmarks subscriptions and pricing for shipments outside the USA contact:
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eringlo@yahoo.com

For Benchmarks subscriptions contact:
Cindy Jansen, 1203 Pierpont Meadows Rd., Columbia, MO 65201-9309
cjansen@socket.net

Make all checks payable to SCWTCA, Inc.
ONLY US FUNDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All others will be returned.

Celebrating Long Life submit to:
Jeri Voyles by closing date
August 1: jgvoyles@centurytel.net

Benchmarks Editor
Molly O’Connell
moc0nn1030@comcast.net

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CH GLEANNGAY LAST HOORAY

GCh Andover Mayhem Magic “Hammy” X Ch Gleanngay Lady Of The Lake “Ninianne”
when Andover and Gleanngay pair up, magic happens!
“Bode” finished under Pat Trotter at Sun Country Terrier with three majors in six shows

Owner David and Susan Allphin, Highland Utah
daveallphin@hotmail.com

Breeder Gay Dunlap
gleanngay@cox.net

Handled by Amy Rutherford