Benchmarks

A publication of the SCWTCA, Inc.
Volume 40, number 2
June 2012
Celebrate The Breed - Celebrate The Friendships
Celebrating 50 Years! 1962-2012

A Celebration Of You...
SCWTCA 2012 National Specialty

Fundraiser Items  October 4 - 7  Raffle Items

Commemorative Mug

Front   Back

iPad & Cover

Ring Decorations

Insulated Cooler
Green & Purple
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The definition of “dedicated” is devoted; faithful. In 2012 we celebrate “YOU” because of the devotion and faithfulness that “YOU” have shown to the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier for the past 50 years. Some might think in this situation dedicated could be synonymous with crazy. Well, if that is true, I am proud to say that I know a lot of crazy/dedicated people in this world that I call “my friends!”

I get a little emotional every year at MCKC looking at the banners of all our past National Best of Breed winners. Yes, the presentation of the breed may have changed a bit throughout the years, but the Wheaten is still the wonderful dog that brought us all together. However, I would be remiss to not mention, as well, how I have enjoyed a good chuckle viewing the banners, noting how our “personal” presentation has dramatically changed over the last 50 years. Gray is still unacceptable in our dogs, but thank goodness it does not apply to all of us humans who have 25+ years in the show ring!

Once again, the Southern California club will be sponsoring our Roving Specialty. How fortunate for us that we will have two specialties to celebrate our anniversary. Veteran Sweepstakes, as well as Puppy Sweepstakes, will be offered for this celebration.

The hope is that there will be a large veteran entry to honor our elder Wheatens and allow them to “strut their stuff” one more time.

There will be many opportunities for everyone to support SCWTSC and SCWTCA by purchasing raffle tickets for all the unique items that will be offered by the local club, and SCWTCA will be selling stone coasters, trivets, and napkin rings with colorful Wheaten art by some of our favorite artists to support the ongoing health efforts. Also SCWTCA will raffle a wine table with an Illustrated Standard stone top. And last, but certainly not least, you don’t want to forget to pick up an anniversary mug and the 2009 yearbook, both of which will be offered in color for the very first time.

Lots of planning and hard work is involved to ensure any successful event. SCWTSC and SCWTCA hope you will be able to attend the Roving and National Specialty this year to celebrate the history of our Club and to admire our beautiful breed with friends across the country. Remember that it is most important to:

“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships!”

NEW OPEN REGISTRY MEMBERS
May 1, 2012

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 a membership form, visit SCWTCA web site at http://scwtca.org/documents/health/or_membershipform_201006 0.pdf. For a complete list of Open Registry members, email kcCarlson@comcast.net.

Diane & Hannah Escott
Cheryl & Chris Satherley
Robert & Jan Schoenherr
Amy Feldman
Darla Dickson &
Kevin Jorgensen
Margaret Foxmoore
Penny and Stephen Robertson

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Influencing Sleep Environments
by Gwen and Kent Meyer

As breeders we all get questions from our puppy owners and when we see behaviors in our own dogs, we wonder why things happen the way they do, why a dog chooses to do a behavior that it does. There are four major influences of a dog's behavior: food, sex, play, and sleep area. In our last article we discussed food, but this one will focus on sleep area. We hope that you will enjoy the articles and continue to ask questions. We never turn ourselves off to learning; the more that we can do, and the more we can understand our dogs will determine how we have better relationships with them.

One of the most important things we can do as dog owners is to remember that our dogs are pack animals. Their society is set up using very a structured hierarchy where only the strongest members of the pack survive and reproduce. Our domesticated dogs are “wired” with this basic premise and through human intervention we are able to control...
which dogs are selected for breeding and which ones are removed. As our culture has created a pet dog (dogs without a job), we have seen an increasing humanistic attachment to the dog. There is even a movement to change from ownership to guardianship of animals. Many of us, if not all, have even made provisions for the care of our dogs upon our demise. We are easily identifiable because our dogs are given names that we could name any of our children. Our first Wheaten was named Georgia Belle. Yes, she even had a middle name. And when we got married, Georgia Belle, being a feminist, chose to have a hyphenated last name. Her vet records knew her as “Georgia Belle Baird Ilseman-Meyer. She was the queen of our pack and lived her life in luxury. She could never be denied and was given to sleeping well past the rest of the dogs. No amount of poking, prodding, or begging could rouse her at the 5 am let-out time of the pack. She would slowly awake, sometimes as late as 10 am, and wander out to find someone and look longingly at them until she was allowed outside. She would then quickly do her business and wait patiently and quietly until someone would let her back inside. Meanwhile, her partners in crime had been up for hours, wrestling and playing joyfully since the crack of dawn.

Because our dogs are genetically programmed to protect the strongest member of the pack, our dogs naturally would sleep in a circle with the most dominant member in the middle of the pack. This dog is usually elevated up on a rock or log. So naturally, if there is a threat, the dogs on the outside of the circle are sacrificed to protect the dog in the middle. Now, unless you’re in college, your bed is probably set up in the middle of the room and is elevated. If your dog is sleeping in bed with you between you and your partner, your dog may think that she is the most dominant member of the pack and that her humans will be sacrificed. This is not a problem with submissive dogs, but can be a major problem for some more dominant personalities. We have all heard of dogs that do not give up their place in the bed and sometimes will not let the partner into the bed. For these dogs, we recommend that they are never allowed on the bed. They must sleep on the floor or their own dog bed. The bed should be moved every day so that the dog is not always sleep-

ing in the same place on the bedroom floor. (Georgia Belle never knew where her dog bed would end up because we randomly placed it every evening before bedtime.) We also have recommended that in some rare instances the dog not be allowed in any of the bedrooms, but relegated to some other area of the house. This is usually only done with dogs that are overly aggressive or have a bite history.

Another common mistake that some dog owners make is whether to allow the dog on the furniture. We do not allow our dogs access to the furniture EVER! This is not because our furniture is in particularly good condition. It is truly only done to control the fantasy that our dogs may have that the furniture was bought for them.

Puppies present problems in that most of them cannot immediately be trusted to sleep without waking up and destroying the house in the middle of the night. Our young pups are crated for sleep, and we control where the crate in placed in the house. When the pup first arrives at approximately eight weeks, she is always crated right next to the bed so that we can correct any excessive barking or whining that puppies generally exhibit. After a few weeks, when the pup is sleeping through the night without potty accidents, she is then moved out of the bedroom into another area. Her crate may be placed in the family room where she can be still closely monitored. After she has adjusted to this new arrangement and providing she is progressing on her housebreaking, we begin moving the crate slightly. We do this simply by turning the crate around, so that the door is now on the opposite end. Before long we are moving the crate all around the house and the dog never knows where her crate will be. This seems to eliminate any possessiveness towards her sleep area. This is especially important for us since we have a three-year old son. We have never had to worry about the dogs being aggressive towards Luke. Remember, if a dog believes he controls one of the influences, he believes he controls them all. The next of the four influences we’ll address is play. We’re looking forward to continuing forward with the influences. Good luck with sleep areas and using the knowledge to have influence on your dogs and their behaviors.
The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Milwaukee cordially invites you to our 24th annual Specialty in beautiful southeastern Wisconsin.

**Friday July 27**

**SCWTCGM Specialty**

Sweepstakes Judge: Helen Moreland of Kuhhullen Wheatsens

Specialty Judge: Dr. Vandra Huber of McVan’s Scotties

This event is supported by the SCWTCA.

Hospitality luncheon, raffle, and silent auction held after BOB.

**Saturday July 28** Waukesha Kennel Club

Breed Judge: Robert Black

Entry supported by the SCWTCGM

Group Judge: Dr. Vandra Huber

**Sunday July 29** Waukesha Kennel Club

Breed Judge: Bruce Schwartz

Entry supported by the SCWTCGM

Group Judge: Bruce Schwartz

Waukesha County Expo Center

Related events: Obedience and rally

**Monday July 30** Burlington Wisconsin Kennel Club

Breed and Group Judge: Mrs. Dawn Hansen

**Tuesday July 31** Burlington Wisconsin Kennel Club

Breed and Group Judge: Mrs. Charlotte P. Patterson

Walworth County Fair Grounds
To celebrate 25 years of Wheaten recognition by AKC, the 2002 Yearbook included a list of all ROMs to that date. We wanted to honor these Wheatens who are influential in our breed. We also discovered that pedigrees submitted by owners of dogs earning AKC titles often had not been updated to include ROM titles. There were some dogs labeled ROM who had not earned this title! We felt this list would be good, corrected reference. This has been updated to include the last 11 years.

The Register of Merit Award is given to the dog who has produced fifteen champions or the bitch who has produced eight champions of record. At least one of the owners must be a member of SCWTCA. Each Wheaten completes the requirements by December 31, but the Award is presented the following year at Montgomery and this is the year identification in this list.

Especially for newcomers to the breed, there is confusion connecting call names used in discussions, articles, and references to “official” AKC names. Who are Wheatens like Casey, Brandy, Jenny, Mimi, Knuckles? Call names were not included in the Yearbook until 1995. With the help of many long-time Wheaten breeders who searched back files and records, we were able to include the call names of all ROMs.

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Legendarry's Babe In The Woods ROM</td>
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With limited showing this special girl attained both her CH and GCH by 17 Months of Age. Thanks to the judges, and to Laura and Andy for providing a wonderful home for “our” terrier.

Bred by Meg Ryan
Owned by Meg Ryan, Laura Wertheimer, and Andy Pincus
As I write this, the PLN-Associated Variant Genes DNA Test has been available to breeders for less than a week…but oh, what a week!

Dr. Meryl Littman and Dr. Paula Henthorn decided to start with local Wheaten specialty clubs and announcements to SCWTCA members to reach an important population: owners of sires and dams producing future generations of Wheatens. While anyone can request a test kit…see page 14 …some SCWTCA members began working with Dr. Littman to provide kits at local specialties, the first at DelVal on May 5th.

Hats off to the DelVal club and the breeders and owners who attended! Dr. Littman spoke for 40 minutes, discussing the research resulting in the test and answering questions. You’ll find audio of her presentation on the SCWTCA Website.

Afterwards, we began handing out test kits. Over two days, we distributed kits to test 160 dogs, a very big start.

So…what is a test kit? Genetic testing is done via a swab, rubbed on the cheek inside the dog’s mouth. As a control, owners get two swabs, one for each cheek. The swabs are air-dried, returned to their sleeves, and put inside Ziploc™ bags. There’s also a form for information about you and your dog. The form and baggies are returned to Penn in a normal envelope by regular mail.

Owners have two choices. There is a $125 fee to obtain results; if you are simply assisting further research, you can submit anonymously for free. The fee for litters (three or more submitted together) is $100 per puppy, to a maximum of $500 per litter.

Results tell you if your dog carries 0, 1 or 2 copies of the gene mutations associated with PLN. Additionally, you receive information explaining the results and implications.

We are working with local Wheaten clubs for distribution at their 2012 specialty shows and upcoming events. At writing, we have confirmed test kits will be distributed during the St. Louis and Southern California/SCWTCA Roving specialties in June. By the time you read this, the SCWTCA website should contain more announcements. We are also engaging clubs outside the US. The cost of test kits distributed through clubs is borne by the Wheaten Endowment and the SCWT Genetic Research Fund.

Some owners previously submitted samples supporting research efforts. If these samples were tested, Dr. Littman will provide you with a report at no charge. Email her at merylitt@vet.upenn.edu with your dog’s call name and your name.

What about dogs from outside the US? Owners submitting blood or tissue samples should also contact Dr. Littman directly; otherwise they can send in swabs using the same process as US owners.

A team is working with Dr. Littman to help spread the word…and those cheek swab kits! Thanks to Carol Carlson, Holly Craig, Anna Marzolino, Bonnie O’Connor, Cecily Skinner, Beth Verner, Toni Vincent, and Jeri Voyles for volunteering. Thanks to George Davis, Elena Landa, and Roxanna Springer for the photos in the flyer.

Stay tuned to the SCWTCA Website and the discussion lists for more information. Please drop me a note at bannerscwt@yahoo.com with any questions.

It’s an exciting time for the breed!
Do you want to know if your Wheaten has the genetic mutations associated with PLN?

Would your club like to distribute cheek swabs at your upcoming event?

After years of research supported by hundreds of Wheatens and their owners and breeders, Dr. Meryl Littman and Dr. Paula Henthorn at PennVet identified mutations associated with PLN in two genes. As a result, there is now a test using a non-invasive cheek swab, which an owner can use and submit to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine for interpretation...no blood test, no complicated shipping, no trip to the vet!

What’s Next?

For research purposes, Drs. Littman and Henthorn would like to collect as many swabs as possible to understand the distribution of “clears” and “carriers,” and help give us informed genetic counseling.

Individual owners can now submit samples from their own dogs to learn their genetic status and the associated risk for developing PLN or passing it on to their offspring.

At upcoming specialties and club events, cheek swab tests will be available. Breeders and owners will have the option to submit these samples anonymously or, for a fee, receive the results on their own dogs. Additionally, individuals can obtain a test kit directly from PennVet and return the swab via regular mail.

Would your club like to distribute swabs at your upcoming event?

Test kits for both anonymous samples and paid testing can be provided to your club. These materials are provided at no charge to your club as the result of funding by the SCWT Endowment and the SCWT Genetic Research Fund.

Genetic Testing for PLN-Associated Variant Genes

Now available for all Wheatens and Airedales

To obtain a test kit, send a self-addressed, stamped, business envelope FOR EACH DOG to Michael Raducha/PLN Test; Ryan Veterinary Hospital, Rm. 4022; University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; 3900 Delancey St.; Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010

SCWTCA Liaison Pam Mandeville • bannerscwt@yahoo.com
Protein-Losing Nephropathy (PLN) affects 5-15% of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers (SCWT). The SCWT Open Registry, which lists hundreds of SCWT with PLN diagnosed since 1997, shows no limitation for age of onset nor evidence of predictive biologic markers. The mode of inheritance appears complex.

Samples from the PennVet SCWT DNA Bank were used in a genome-wide association study (GWAS) using 177,000 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), of which 81,097 SNPs were informative. Disease status was defined by blood, urine, and histopathologic criteria. Because the average age of onset for PLN is 7.1 years, control dogs were unaffected SCWT aged 14-18 years. The GWAS showed strongest support for association of PLN to a locus on chromosome 1 that contains two significant candidate genes encoding the podocyte slit diaphragm proteins nephrin and Neph3 (filtrin). DNA sequencing of the genes encoding these proteins identified a novel canine SNP in the nephrin gene (NPHS1) changing a glycine to arginine in the nephrin protein that is associated with PLN-affected SCWT. The gene encoding canine Neph3 (KIRREL2) contains a novel SNP responsible for a proline to arginine substitution in the Neph3 protein, also associated with PLN.

DNA samples of 753 dogs representing 114 other breeds were assayed for the NPHS1 SNP using an MspA1I restriction enzyme digest. The KIRREL2 SNP in 190 dogs of other breeds was analyzed through sequencing. One bloodhound was heterozygous at only the KIRREL2 SNP. Only one dog, an Airedale Terrier, was heterozygous for both polymorphisms. The only dog homozygous at both SNPs was also an Airedale and had been diagnosed with PLN. Eight additional PLN-affected dogs of other breeds lacked the novel alleles.

Both nephrin and Neph3 are found in the podocyte slit diaphragm, a fundamental component of the glomerular filtration barrier in the kidney. Mutations in nephrin have been associated with PLN in humans. While no mutations in Neph3 have been identified, decreased glomerular expression of Neph3 has been observed in humans with PLN. The amino acid changes caused by these SNPs may have pathologic effects on the glomerular filtration barrier and warrant further investigation. In addition, these studies indicate that the availability of DNA-based tests for these SNPs could lead to a decrease in the incidence of PLN in the SCWT breed through selective breeding.

FLASH: All of the local Wheaten clubs have committed to distributing test kits at events this summer and fall! In addition to DelVal and Southern CA, thanks to the officers and members of Greater Denver, Greater Milwaukee, Motor City, Northern CA, and Tampa Bay for their support. Thanks also to the Canadian Wheaten club and exhibitors in the Pacific NW for taking kits to shows.
A First Step

At the recent Del Val Specialty, a very excited Dr. Meryl Littman presented her paper delineating the findings of the genome-wide investigation of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers that she and Dr. Paula Henthorn had conducted. The study, aimed at uncovering the genetic background of PLN, was underwritten by the AKC-CHF, the SCWT-GRF, and the SCWT Endowment. An equally-excited audience was thrilled to hear that researchers have gathered some very hopeful results. Their tests have shown two mutated genes in affected Wheatens that seem to occur together on a chromosome—the “hot spot.” 171 other breeds were compared and only one Airedale, who is affected with PLN, showed this mutation at that spot. These tests represent examinations of a very limited group of Wheatens…some affected and the others from a healthy geriatric group, 14 to 16 years of age. They also discovered that some geriatric dogs show mutated copies of one or both mutations, yet were disease-free. Now it is imperative to get a wide sampling of the dogs who are likely to go on to be bred, and who constitute the future of the breed. This is where you come in. What is needed is the cooperation of those of you who plan to breed, so researchers can obtain the broadest possible spectrum of samples of the gene pool of the future.

Cheek swabs will produce the necessary information. Kits with supplies and instructions will be available at local and National Specialties, another good reason to attend those events. Unable to attend? Get a kit or kits as follows: send a stamped, self-addressed envelope, business envelope FOR EACH DOG to:

Michael Raducha/PLN Test
Ryan Veterinary Hospital, Rm. 4022
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010

The cost will be $125 per dog; for a litter of 3-10 puppies, $100 per dog for a maximum of $500.

This larger sample will also provide a better perspective on the percentage of the population that is affected, and other factors affecting the performance of this defective gene, and reveal clues as to why some of the otherwise (unaffected) healthy geriatrics show one or two copies of the gene. Are there protective factors in the environment? Or precipitating agents that trigger it? Lyme disease certainly seems to trigger the onset of PLN. Allergies may be implicated. Perhaps this is an incompletely penetrant dominant. The good news is that we now have a beginning.

Now I will put on my other hat. In a lifetime of volunteer work, I never was a fundraiser. Now, my hand is out. This is a very labor-intensive project, and will need very generous support from our Wheaten lovers. What we have here is a very positive beginning. Much remains to be done. The AKC-CHF grant, supplemented by our health-related groups, the SCWT Endowment and the GRF, has run out. Working together the latter two have come up with funds to purchase and distribute kits. Research is always slow and expensive. As you acquire your cheek swabs, realize that you are assuring the future of this extraordinary breed.

This is exciting news but a bit scary, too. There are challenges ahead. “How will this affect me,” is a breeder’s first reaction. The best advice seems to be, “Hold your breath.” This is a tool, and all ramifications are not clear as yet. A planned breeding may have to be shelved when more information is processed, but we all must proceed with caution. We must remember the old saying, and avoid “throwing out the baby with the bath water.” Keep in mind what happened to the Portuguese Water Dog when the conscientious effort to breed out life-destroying Storage Disease resulted in a very heavy incidence of PRA. Through a reassessment of breeding protocols, using some Storage-affected...
dogs, the PWD breeders are clearing their breed. On a plane, I sat next to one of the leading figures in that effort, and she assured me that it took maximum cooperation and many dollars to get that job done.

The mode of inheritance has not been established. When Dr. Henthorn has sufficient data, she will be supplying informed breeding guidelines. This effort will require several generations to come to fruition. Dr. Littman emphasized that we don’t want to lose the type and temperament that make the SCWT such an endearing companion.

A word about our scientists. Dr. Littman is a clinician at the Penn Vet School, and many years ago became enchanted with our breed. She was personally concerned with the protein-losing disease that affected them. She collected many samples, creating substantial data. Dr. Paula Henthorn is a nationally-recognized geneticist, supplying the professional background to supplement Dr. Littman’s pioneering effort. A normally very reserved scientist, she exhibited tremendous excitement at the presentation. This excitement now pervades the entire Wheaten community. Now we need to respond in a cool, rational manner to this groundbreaking information. This research has indicated parallels with PLN in humans, and this paper will be submitted to human publications. In my lifetime, I’ve seen this breed go from having a reputation for exceptional health to a breed threatened. Now I am thrilled to be able to write about this positive development. Grandma says: “Take a breath, get your kits, help financially.”

Thank you Holly Craig and Pam Mandeville for your help with the project. You may recognize a few of your own sentiments.

2012 Delaware Valley Specialty Weekend
“Run for the Roses”
by Cherie Turner Fogarty

Friday morning at Garden State All Terrier Club dawned overcast and breezy for the first of three shows of the Delaware Valley SCWTC Specialty weekend. Today’s judge was Hans Lehtinen, from Finland. There was an entry of 48.

Winners Dog for the day was Trinity All You Need is Love, owned by Shelley and Ray Sherafin. Reserve Winners Dog was Bradberry’s Summer Games, owned by Deborah Van De Ven. Winners Bitch and Best of Winners was Wheaten Rebel’s Quite a Storm, owned by was Beverly and Kevin McDonald. Reserve Winners Bitch was Greentree Gold Charm, also owned by Beverly and Kevin McDonald. Best of Breed for the day was GCH Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man, owned by Beverly and Kevin McDonald. Best of Opposite Sex was CH Edgewood Boogaloo Bayou, owned by Carl McGill. Select Dog was GCH Sundance Second Chance, and Select Bitch was GCH Greentree Havana Moon-Struck.

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

Saturday was a beautiful day for our Specialty show held in conjunction with Bucks County Kennel Club. The day started with Airedale breeder, Dr. Valeria Rickard, judging Sweepstakes. The entry was 18. Dr. Rickard chose for Best in Sweepstakes Aran Midnight in Paris, owned by Shari Boyd Carusi; Best Opposite went to Greentree Gold Charm, owned by Beverly and Kevin McDonald.

Regular Classes followed and were judged by Bruce Schwartz. There was an entry of 47. Winners Dog and Best of Winners was from the Bred-By class, Aran Midnight in Paris, owned by Shari Boyd Carusi. Reserve Winners Dog went to Islander's Jamakin Waves, owned by Lori Kromash & Karen Garner.

Winners Bitch, was Mackanme Dutch Design V. Bodasca, owned by Jeri Voyles. Reserve Winners Bitch was Greentree Gold Charm owned by Beverly
Best of Opposite Sex was GCH Greentree Havana Moon-Struck owned, by Joanne Manning and Beverly & Kevin McDonald.

For Best of Breed, Bruce’s choice was CH Caraway Southern By Design, owned by Beth Verner and Betty Chapman. Select Dog was GCH Caraway Baryshnikov By Tyrone, owned by Beth Verner. Select Bitch was CH Orion Trebol Hot Like Me, owned by Betsy Geertson and Guillermo Rueda. Awards of Merit for the day were CH Waterford Carnival and GCH Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris.

After judging, we were honored to have Dr. Littman speak to us about DNA collection for the gene mutation that was found for PLN. We then 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 platter as the prize for our third annual Leprechaun Toss. There were lovely items to be won at our Chinese and silent auctions. Thanks to all who were kind enough to donate.

Sunday was another Supported Entry for us, and the great weather continued for our the third and final show. This day’s Breed judge was Otto Kreal of Austria. There were 53 dogs entered.

Today’s Best of Breed, Best of Winners, and Winners Bitch was Greentree Magic Dreams, owned by Trent Hurst and Kevin and Beverly McDonald. Winners Dog and Best of Opposite Sex went to Trinity All You Need is Love, owned by Ray and Shelley Serrafin. Reserve Winners Dog was Cuileann Rumor Has It, owned by Holly Craig, and Reserve Winners Bitch was Whindancer’s Queen Of Hearts, owned by Susan Ratliffe. Select Dog was CH Whindancer’s Tonight’s the Night, owned by Susan Ratliffe, and Select Bitch was CH Edgewood Boogaloo Bayou.

**Specialty Winners**

**BOB:** CH Carraway Southern By Design  
(CH Melandee’s High Wire Act x CH Caraway Going For Baroque). Breeders/Owners: Beth Verner & Betty Chapman.

**BOS:** CH Greentree Havana Moonstruck  
(CH Greentree Skellig’s Samba Par Ti x CH Greentree Moonstruck Fairy Tale). Breeders: Helen Fraguela and Beverly & Kevin McDonald. Owners: Joanne Manning and Beverly & Kevin McDonald.
WD/BW:  Aran Midnight in Paris
(CH Gleanngay Holiday x CH Aran Built A Betr Mouse Trap). Breeder/Owner: Shari Boyd Carusi.

WB: Mackanme Dutch Design V. Bodasca
(Multi CH Honeylee’s Lord Of My Heart x Multi CH Dogside’s Love Potion For Bodasca). Breeder: Charlotte Froon. Owner: Jeri Voyles.

SB:  CH Orion Trebol Hot Like Me
(CH Candance Daze Of Thunder x CH Acacia’s Some Like It Hot VCD2 RE OA OAJ MXP AJP NFP). Breeders/Owner: Betsy Geertson & Guillermo Rueda.

AOM:  CH Waterford Carnival
(CH Dhowden American Dream x CH Waterford Frolic O’ Prescott). Breeders/Owner: C. Turner Fogarty & M. C. Shoemaker.

AOM:  GCH Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris
Thank you very much for this exciting judging opportunity. The venue was wonderful, with the ring being nicely groomed and of good size.

I had a very nice entry of 18 Wheaten youngsters. Classes were well-represented with many wonderful-looking dogs. The majority of dogs were well-groomed and presented.

The winner of my 9-12 puppy dog class was Islander Jamakin’ Waves. He was of a very good breed type, with sound movement, and in excellent condition.

The 12-15 month dog class had only one entry, Greentree Buddy’s Charm. This youngster was an excellent mover, well-coated, but a bit on the shy side temperament-wise.

My Best in Sweepstakes winner came from the 15-18 class, Aran Midnight in Paris. He is a lovely specimen of the breed, very typey and sound. He had the best shoulder layback on that day. He covered ground with lots of reach and drive. He had a lovely head and a keen terrier expression. His coat was good and proper and he was in an excellent trim. He “used himself” well.

In the bitch classes, Cuileann Dirty Laundry was the winner of the 9-12 class. A compact, short-backed typey bitch. She skipped a few steps on the first go around, but then got it all together and moved fluently with the rest of the class.

The winner of the 12-15 class, Greentree Gold Charm, was my BOS in Sweeps. She is a very showy girl, cobby and short-backed, with excellent side movement showing very good reach and drive. She expressed an excellent terrier attitude that is not often seen in a Wheaten ring nowadays.

The winner of the 15-18 class, Greentree Clover Hurricane Havoc, was an elegant bitch, in nice coat and condition but with a bit of a high ear set. Her runner-up, Mackanme A Wicked Good Tale, was a lovely bitch as well, but just would not move and behave that morning. She did settle better later in the regular classes.

Overall, the entry of youngsters was of very nice quality, well groomed and presented. Coat quality was very nice with only a few exceptions of curly coats, and movement was good. The main problems encountered during the judging consisted of straight shoulders and some shortened upper arms. There were also some dentition issues. Some dogs moved quite close behind, and there was a fair amount of shyness/lack of showy attitude through the classes.

Again, thank you so much for this tremendous opportunity and for inviting me to be your judge on that day.
New Champion
“Allie”
CH Destiny Star Student

Who made the Dean’s List by being ‘our star’ in the ring.

[Image of two women and a dog with a ribbon]

CH Baroque Top Shelf Hurrikane x CH Starlight You Are My Destiny

Breeder/Co-owner: Dr. Miriam Kahan
docmiriam@aol.com
Co-owner/Handler: Lauren Smith
littlesmitty1218@yahoo.com
Co-owner: Marilyn Smith
Kennel Blindness: A Closer Look

By Claudia Waller Orlandi, Ph.D.

A dog breeder’s knowledgeable use of genetic principles is of paramount importance to the success of a breeding program. But an all-too-common phenomenon known as kennel blindness can stop some breeding programs dead in their tracks. Most works on dog breeding devote relatively little space to the concept of kennel blindness, although the seriousness of this “breeder defect” and the lasting harm it can have on breeding success merit a closer look.

Prognosis

Because a kennel-blind breeder can become “blind” to serious faults and health defects in their dogs, these problems may become fixed in a couple of generations. Unless quickly diagnosed and treated, kennel blindness can lead to the demise of a successful breeding program.

Symptoms

Fortunately, most common symptoms of kennel blindness are easy to spot. Following are three of the most pervasive symptoms:

Symptom 1

The tendency to ignore the virtues and focus on the faults of a competitor’s dogs. Kennel-blind breeders tend to focus on negative features in dogs that are not their own. Often times, what they view as a fault in someone else’s dog may be an acceptable variation of a style in that breed.

Treatment

Reread your breed’s AKC standard and understand that standards outline the essential aspects of a breed and that more than one style may be acceptable in your breed. Be sure you understand the difference between breed type and style. A dog’s breed type is defined by its breed standard, which is the written description of the ideal dog of that breed. Style, on the other hand, is how individual breeders interpret the standard and artistically express various elements of breed type in the dogs they breed. Each breeder’s interpretation of the standard can therefore result in a variation of styles within a breed. This may produce a range of excellence in a breed and allow dogs of various styles to be correct and fit their breed standard.

Finally, pretend you are a dog show judge, and get into the habit of looking first for the virtues in dogs bred and owned by others. If a dog is consistently winning under a number of different judges, it usually means that the dog has obvious virtues compared to its competition.

Symptom 2

The belief that you have bred the “perfect” dog. No “perfect” dog has ever or will ever be bred in any breed. Even what you consider your best can usually be improved upon.

Treatment

Realize that your concept of what is an ideal representative of your breed may become modified with the passage of time. Experience with a breed may gradually change the priority a breeder gives to certain features. A breeder who is a stickler for correct heads may gradually start realizing that angulation and movement are also important aspects in their breed.

Symptom 3

Blaming the fact that your dog is not winning on bad judging, politics or anything except the possibility that there may be something wrong with your dog. Bad sportsmanship and kennel blindness can go hand-in-hand. Kennel-blind people always have an excuse for why their dog didn’t win. While some of their reasoning may be legitimate, consistently losing under a variety of judges usually means a dog does not fit the standard in one or more important aspects.
Treatment

If your dog is not winning, ask several knowledgeable people to objectively evaluate your dog. Tell them to be honest, and listen to their comments with an open mind. Are you at risk? Kennel blindness is more apt to be a problem for …

Breeders who do not have an “eye” for a dog.

An eye for a dog is an almost innate ability to view a dog as one piece and to recognize balance, quality and correctness in any breed. Some breeders are simply not born with an eye for a dog. Despite having read and studied their breed’s standard, they may be incapable of correctly evaluating structure and movement in the dogs they breed. Hence, they are blind to their dogs’ shortcomings.

Novice or even long-time breeders who are strongly affected by a dog’s temperament and personality. Many kennel-blind breeders think all puppies are cute. These owners usually decide to breed their dog, not to improve the breed, but because they love its personality and want more puppies just like it. Breeders such as these are blinded by the love they have for their dog and can remain “blind” to the fact that their dog may lack quality. Breeders who have produced quality animals in the past but are now struggling to stay on top. Breeders who may have had a superstar in the past are usually looking for their next big winner. In some cases, their superstar may have resulted from good luck as opposed to thoughtful breeding practices based on genetic principles. One scenario is a breeding program based solely on non-genetic breeding practices, such as like-to-like matings. Offspring of like-to-like matings cannot usually be counted on to pass on their traits because their homozygous gene pairs are not identical by descent. It is an accepted genetic principle that offspring that carry higher proportions of identical by descent genes have a greater chance of passing on traits that are influenced by these genes. As a result, there may be less consistency and quality in the offspring. A second scenario concerns the breeder who is confronted with inbreeding depression but refuses to consider outcrossing (the mating of unrelated individuals of the same breed) to bring in hybrid vigor. With each generation, the quality of dogs declines. In both scenarios, a burning desire to produce the next star may make breeders blind to the fact that they are producing below-average dogs.

Breeders working with small numbers of dogs.

Because small breeders have less to choose from, there is more pressure to make a litter “work out.” Breeders for whom every waking moment revolves around dogs, making dogs a live-or-die situation can hamper the breeders’ ability to objectively admit, to their dog’s shortcomings.

Individuals who were mentored by kennel-blind breeders. In these cases, like may beget like.

Characteristics of the NON-kennel-blind

- They are truly objective concerning what they produce and are always aware of what they need to improve in their next generation.
- Regardless of time and effort already spent, they are ready to remove dogs from their program that do not pan out, even to the point of starting over with new foundation stock.
- They have an eye for a dog and can appreciate an outstanding dog regardless of who bred or owns it.

Tips for correcting vision

If caught in time, kennel blindness can be cured before it has a lasting, detrimental effect on your breeding program. Try these tips:

- Avoid overemphasizing a certain feature in your breeding program to the detriment of overall correctness. Although many breeders try to emphasize the excellence of the whole dog, it’s human nature to be drawn to certain features. In fact, the importance we give to a particular trait in our dogs may be part of how we express our breeding style. One breeder may be a stickler for fronts and another for backlines. The danger here is that by focusing on just one feature, we can become blind to other faults that may be creeping into the breeding program.
- To assess your kennel blindness level, ask someone whose opinion you respect to objectively evaluate your dogs. Some of the best people to ask are
knowledgeable breeders who have produced good dogs and who are not kennel blind themselves. Request they honestly critique the virtues and shortcomings in your dogs. Ask more than one qualified person, and compare their evaluations with your own.

- Be prepared to make changes, even to the point of eliminating or adding new dogs to your breeding program. As difficult as it is to admit we are not succeeding, the realization that our dogs are not measuring up to our expectations can be the first step in devising a plan to obtain what we really want.

Found in many purebred dog kennels, kennel blindness is a “disease” that results in breeders’ inability or refusal to admit to the failings in their own lines of dogs, whether they relate to conformation traits described in the AKC breed standards, behavior or genetic disease. Kennel-blind breeders are given to justifying the dogs they breed by developing warped and unrealistic interpretations of their breed’s standard, said Ann Seranne in her book, The Joy of Breeding Your Own Show Dog.

Breed standards are breeders’ guides

Each breed of dog recognized by the AKC has its own standard, which is written by the national breed club or “parent club.” The breed standard provides a blueprint or complete picture of what the ideal dog of a particular breed should be like in appearance, structure and temperament. The standard may specify everything from the curvature of a dog’s tail to the color of its eyes. The breed standard is the official guide by which dogs are judged at dog shows. Visit www.akc.org to view a complete breed standard for all the breeds recognized by the AKC. You may order breed-specific educational videos from the AKC. Many parent clubs offer more detailed information on the standard, such as amplifications and illustrations. Visit the AKC website for links to national parent clubs.

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"The breeder, to be successful, must look at his dogs...not only in the face, but in the body, front, and running gear. Even to themselves, many breeders will not acknowledge their failure when they fall short of their objective (p 179)...and in an effort to convince others of the perfection of their dogs, [they] convince...usually only themselves” (p. 183).

From The New Art of Breeding Better Dogs by K. Onstott

justifying the dogs they breed by developing warped and unrealistic interpretations of their breed’s standard, said Ann Seranne in her book, The Joy of Breeding Your Own Show Dog.

Breed standards are breeders’ guides

“From Shaggy to Sensational - What a Difference a Haircut Makes!”

by Sue Benso

Do you remember the very first time you groomed your dog? Scary, wasn’t it?!

The Greater Denver Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club hosted a well-attended grooming seminar on March 4th under the direction of Kayce Healy. Members were asked to bring their bathed and ungroomed dogs, and this free seminar included detailed grooming handouts as well as a wonderful buffet lunch.

Benchmarks . volume 40 . number 2 . page 24
It was attended by 30 participants including eight breeders, Board Members and puppy owners - some of which had not even gotten their first pup! The feedback we received speaks for itself.

“We truly enjoyed the group and we learned SO much about Wheatens. We are looking forward to getting more involved when we have our puppy!” ~Natalie G.

“I did appreciate the opportunity to meet other Wheaten families, and the grooming session was great.” ~Janet D (owned by Daphne)

Patrice Chevalier did an exceptional job explaining in layman’s terms how to groom a Wheaten in a “pet cut.” Even the veterans learned some new things! She included all details from how to get the dog accustomed to the clipper’s noise, to clippering via various blades and clip-on combs, sculpting and shaping and blending with scissors and thinning shears, to cleaning ears and clipping nails. Patrice fully covered the particular uses of different types of brushes, combs, clippers, and the ever-important scissors. She also fielded countless questions from the participants.

This seminar alone resulted in new Club memberships and many expressed an interest in future Club activities. Several participants inquired as to how they can learn more about our breed including health, agility, herding, therapy/CGC, training and conformation.

“I have had no experience trying to groom a dog but with the recent addition of a puppy to our household, we now have two Wheaten. I found the workshop to be extremely helpful, and I may actually get up the nerve to try this. I bought thinning shears and a couple of new combs on the way home. It was great education whether I do the grooming myself or communicate with others on taking care of our dogs.” ~Jan Y (owned by Maggie and Avi)

“Great meeting...great content and documentation of grooming needs for Wheaties, friendly and accessible trainers, lively audience and friends. Have more sessions like this one.” “The seminar was extremely helpful...I also feel much more confident in trimming and ‘blending’ the fall...Patrice gave me significantly more confidence grooming the head!” ~Jeff and Lauren U (owned by Cooper and Madison)

Barbara Gillett’s girl, Maddy was Patrice’s Demo-Dog and she was amazingly calm, well-behaved, and patient on the table despite a full audience of people and dogs. Thank you Maddy!
I’ve had Wheatens since 1980, and have groomed my pets most of the time. Then the club offered us the opportunity to learn how to do a pet trim using straight scissors and clippers, along with a chance to meet other club members and their dogs. Lunch was included! Patrice Chevalier gave Maddy a terrific haircut, teaching throughout the demonstration. I learned a lot, and loved meeting other Wheaten owners.” ~Barbara G (owned by Maddy)

Then it was time for owners to do some hands-on grooming with the help of many of the Club’s breeders. That’s when the fun and fur flying began! Those cute Wheaten butts were sculpted, front legs were scissored to columns, ears were snipped to their leathers, paws were trimmed, top lines were clippered, and tails were sculpted. Patrice taught us well as no one (dogs or humans) experienced any bloodshed!

“We had such a great time! It was amazing to see all the varieties of Wheatens there are. Most of all, it was so fun to see the similar traits in all of the dogs. And Noodle likes her new cut. Thank you for having such an informative meeting, and we can’t wait for the next event!” ~Meredith G (owned by Noodle, six months old and this was her very FIRST trim!)

All of our breeders shared their vast knowledge and their hands-on help with dogs not of their line. I felt this was an impressive testament to our Club’s ethical breeders and their mutual respect. The participants were extremely grateful for their help, and I applaud them.

“The seminar was so great! Charlie and I had a blast! It was so great to be able to meet everyone and learn new techniques on grooming. I loved being able to work with different breeders and groomers because everyone had different tips and ideas. What a great group!” ~Jane M (owned by Charlie)

This breed’s grooming needs are paramount and as owners and advocates, it is essential that we share knowledge with others, making grooming a positive experience for owners. This successful event resulted in many educated owners, but very tired - albeit beautifully groomed - Wheatens! Most importantly, the seminar afforded everyone a new (or renewed) enthusiasm about their dogs and new ways to interact with these beloved animals and other Club members.
Hereditary eye disease in Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers was recently mentioned on the SCWTCA Discuss email list. Some basic information on types, frequency and testing protocols follows. This is updated to include 2008 statistics from the Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF).

Eye Diseases in Wheatens
Hereditary eye diseases which affect vision occurred in about 3.4% of 888 Wheatens examined from 2006-2008. Types of hereditary eye diseases affecting vision which have been found in Wheatens are progressive retinal atrophy (PRA), hereditary cataracts, microphthalmia, three types of persistent pupillary membranes (PPM) and persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous (PHPV). Dogs with these diseases are not eligible for CERF registration.

Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) reappeared in the 2008 statistics. Four cases were found in 228 Wheatens examined. All were dogs under the age of four years. This is less than 2% of dogs examined, but is a reminder that PRA exists in Wheatens. In dogs with PRA, retina cells degenerate causing blindness. There is no genetic test for PRA in Wheatens. The genetic tests available for some types of PRA are breed specific.

In 2008, 15% of Wheatens examined had eye disorders presumed to be hereditary but not currently known to significantly affect vision. As the study of eye diseases advances, some of these diseases may be determined to affect vision. This was the case with PPM which was added in 2007. Dogs with these disorders are eligible for CERF registration but receive a “breeder option” recommendation. CERF registration forms list the disorder found.

Breeding Recommendations Are Breed Specific.
The Genetics Committee of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) determines breeding recommendations for dogs with hereditary eye disorders. CERF uses these ACVO guidelines. These guidelines are not the same for all breeds. (The ACVO is the accrediting group which determines the credentials necessary to become a Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist.)

There are nine disorders included in the “NO” breeding recommendation for all breeds. All other “NO” breeding recommendations are breed specific and are based on breed incidence, ACVO ophthalmologist’s clinical experience and published reports. Dogs with these disorders are not eligible for CERF registration.

ACVO Recommendations for Exam Frequency
The ACVO Genetics Committee and CERF recommend annual eye exams. There is no age suggested for discontinuing exams. Dr. Jacqueline W. Pearce, co-chair of the 2012 ACVO Genetics Committee, says, “Ideally, a dog should be evaluated yearly for life to rule out genetic ocular disease development. Yearly exams are what are typically recommended, often breeders elect to discontinue examinations after the animal is not used for breeding purposes anymore. There is a chance stopping examination at this stage reduces our ability to catch all genetic defects but I understand why breeders do this from the economic viability standpoint.” (private correspondence, February 2012)

SCWTCA Requirements for Exams
The current SCWTCA Code of Ethics (COE) requires that “eyes are examined by a Board certified ophthalmologist prior to the first breeding
and a minimum of every two years thereafter while being bred or until age 10, whichever is later; dogs whose semen has been frozen are tested for life or until frozen semen is no longer stored.” Registering the dog with CERF is no longer required by SCWTCA.

Age to Discontinue Examinations

It would be useful to know how long we need to be testing dogs to identify and reduce hereditary disease in the breed. The ten year age limit was selected when the COE was revised for practical reasons, though there is no scientific basis for this. Little is known about frequency of eye disease in older Wheatens since very few are examined. Ninety-four percent (94%) of the Wheatens examined in 2006 through 2008 were under the age of 7 years. Over half (57%) were under 3 years.

How CERF Statistics are Collected

ACVO ophthalmologists send one copy of every exam form to CERF. This copy is the source for statistics. The information is collected for all dogs examined, regardless of whether the owner sends in their copy and pays the fee to be registered.

References:

SCWT CHAMPION and PERFORMANCE TITLES
January–March 2012
Compiled by Sheila O’Connell

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Five Good Reasons Why You Should Consider the CGC and Therapy Test for Your Dogs...

by Dorice Stancher

1. Show Dogs Are The Perfect Candidates...

The show dog life gives Wheatens exposure from an early age to the sights, sounds, and conditioning necessary to pass these tests. Just think about the self-control necessary to be groomed in the midst of all the commotion, the touching by judges and those in attendance, and the plush life of being whisked from one venue to another, staying in hotels along the way. These are transferable skills that give these dogs an advantage when training and taking these tests.

2. Your Puppies Will Have a Better Chance of Remaining in their Forever Homes...

When you encourage your pet owners to train their new Wheaten puppies, why not plant the idea early to train toward the CGC and ultimately the Therapy Test? Having a long-term goal will not discourage, but provide a glimpse into the potential future of the puppy once grown. It has been proven that when owners spend time training and connecting with their dogs, they are less likely to give up on them. Especially families with children may make training more of a team effort when they realize their children’s community service requirements can revolve around the family dog. And who knows? Ultimately they may even win the Wheaten Ambassador Award for their life-changing help to others. This is good Karma!

3. It is Good for the Breed...

Wheatens are often stereotyped as uncontrollable, friendly knuckleheads that mow people down with their greetings and cannot be walked. The truth is that they are incredibly friendly and when trained early, their sweet, lovable personalities shine through. Why not create some good PR for our breed by encouraging all Wheatens to train with the goal being the AKC CGC test? A brief summary of the test is below and unlike formal obedience, the owners can talk with their dogs as they pass a series of real-life simulations.

4. It is Good for the AKC...

Owners are more likely to participate in AKC events once they have made the commitment to train and are exposed to what is possible with their dog. Despite the amount of information available, many owners are unaware of the opportunities they have to participate in AKC events and are only familiar with televised events which they consider the exclusive territory of professionals.

5. It is Good For You...

Remember the movie “It’s A Wonderful Life” when the bell rings as an angel gets its wings? Every time a Wheaten is certified for therapy work, imagine a bell ringing as they get their “wings.” And you, the owner, get your wings, too since you have made an important choice. You have opted to choose the greatest gifts you can give someone else. You have the power to change someone’s life for the better. When you see that Wheaten curled up at your feet after a visit, don’t be too surprised that it makes you feel wonderful, too.

The CGC Test

The CGC Test includes obedience basics: sit, down, stay from 15 ft. and come, plus friendly greetings, a noise test, simple walking through a crowd, and supervised separation. For more information visit: http://www.akc.org/events/cgc/.

The Therapy Test

The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dog Test includes the elements from the above test plus greetings with a wheelchair, four-footed cane, crutches, and
a walker, plus the Leave It (food avoidance test), and the Elevator Test which simulates standing and control in close settings such as an elevator. For more information visit: http://www.golden-dogs.org/.

Both of these tests are administered to dogs wearing a flat buckled collar, slip collar or a standard harness. Training harnesses and learning aids are not permitted for the test.

Just a reminder…If you are ready to test your dog for the CGC or Therapy Test, both will be offered at this year’s National Specialty following obedience on Saturday. For information on pre-registration, please visit the club website. Suzanne Stone will be once again giving the CGC test, and this year I will be giving the Therapy Certification Test with The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, a national organization recognized by the AKC.

And don’t forget…if you have been out and about doing marvelous acts of goodwill with your Wheaten, we want to hear about it! The Wheaten Ambassador Award is given to the Wheaten that is owned or co-owned by a club member that has been an example of friendly Wheaten diplomacy and community activism.

Dogs owned or co-owned by members of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America (SCWTCA) are eligible with the following guidelines...

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.

This year’s winner will receive a beautiful engraved wooden plaque with room to place their own dog’s photo. It will be awarded at the SCWTCA dinner on Friday evening. Dogs may enter more than once for the award. Judging panel includes a representative from performance, conformation, and myself.

Give a gift to yourself, your dog, and your neighbors; train your dog to become a Canine Good Citizen. It will mean sanity for you, safety for your dog, and compliments from your neighbor.

~ Jack & Wendy Vollhard
Being asked to judge Sweepstakes for the SCWTC of Northern California was truly an honor, a privilege, and a wonderful experience. The hospitality offered to me was very warm and welcoming. Flying from the East Coast to the West Coast requires a little extra stamina, but the thought of judging puppies kept the adrenaline flowing. It is much easier sitting ringside, second-guessing the judging than it is to actually be putting my hands on the dogs.

Getting through the classes was relatively easy, and the quality of the dogs was very pleasing. Thank you to Jeanne Ferris for taking pictures of all the dogs I judged.

**6-9 Puppy Dog**

- **Monarchs Boston Marathon**

  Nice, square little package. Presented beautifully and very well-behaved.

**9-12 Puppy Dogs**

- **Mackanme Quest For Glory**

  Very moderate, well-balanced dog. Nice mover. Unfortunately, he did not want to be examined, and after several attempts, his owner asked to be excused. I was very happy to see that the dog gained confidence as the weekend progressed.

**9-12 Puppy Dogs (continued)**

- **Gemstones As Your Fortune Comes**

  Very nice dog with a lovely coat, pretty head, and nice expression. Pleasing outline with a nice tail set. A littermate to my 9-12 puppy bitches.

**12-18 Puppy Dog**

- **Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching-BSW**

  When my 12-18 month puppy dog walked into the ring, I knew that this was his win to lose. In addition to his beautiful outline, lovely coat, nice head, and good movement, he had ring presence. He never let down, and went on to be my Best In
Sweeps. What a pleasure it was for me to watch this dog in the Northern California Terrier Association, Best of Sweepstakes Group Ring earning a well-deserved Group 1.

6-9 Puppy Bitch
Bonney Labor of Love - BOSSW

For such a young puppy, this little girl never missed a beat. She was shown to perfection and never let down. Very pretty coming and going and also nice on the go around. Pretty head, nice coat, and substance. She went on to be my Best of Opposite in Sweeps. I look forward to watching her as she matures.

9-12 Puppy Bitches
Gemstone Baroque Fortune Teller - 1st place

She won out over her littermate with her overall balance, square outline, and movement. She had a little more substance than what I was looking for. Very pretty coat with nice color and wave. Nice head with good expression.

Gemstone Sailor’s Good Fortune - 2nd place
Littermate to my first place bitch in this class. An attractive bitch with a lovely head and nice expression. Finer-boned than her sister and not quite as strong a mover.

Final Line Up
It was fun to see these youngsters strut their stuff, and I look forward to seeing them at Montgomery so that I can judge them again sitting ringside.

BSW: Lochinear Gleanngay Cha Ching
(CH Gleanngay Holliday x CH Gleanngay Tilde Wink). Breeders: Pat Mullin & Gay Dunlap. Owner: Pat Mullin.

BOSSW: Bonney Labor of Love
It is always an honor when a breed club asks a breeder to judge a specialty, whether it is for the sweepstakes or the regular classes. All I can say is thank you to all who entered their dogs.

As I mentioned at the dinner, I was initially nervous about the assignment because I was coming “home,” and knew that most - if not all exhibitors - would be friends. I wasn’t wrong. As I looked back on the entries, it became clear that, with a few minor exceptions, I did know everyone in the ring, including the handlers, a number of whom have shown for Sonya and me in the past. Yet within moments of putting my hands on the first entries, all faded except the dogs.

I made audio notes on the placements, but I have never been a fan of the written “critiques” which go entry by entry, expounding on the merits of the placements and sometimes containing comments about various failings or the need for improvement. Although as a developing breeder the comments were somewhat helpful, as time went on, they were much less so. As a breeder/exhibitor I was generally aware of the improvements my entries needed as well as individual virtues, and I seldom needed to have them confirmed. Almost all of the entries I had at the SCWTCNC specialty were presented by experienced breeders or presented by handlers of dogs owned by experienced breeders. I won’t insult your intelligence by detailing each and every dog.

For the foregoing reason, I must first preface my comments with this double cliché: it is a dog show, and you can only judge dogs on the day and moment you see them. Also in reading on, please remember that when I make decisions on that day, my personal bottom line or default - when all other

Best of Breed: GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play (GCH Doubloon’s Salt Of The Earth x CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player) Breeder/Owner: Elena Landa.
considerations become equal - is that our dogs are a “hardy, well-balanced sporting terrier, square in outline” and that they must “present the overall appearance of an alert and happy animal, graceful, strong and well-coordinated” with a gait that is “free, graceful, and lively with good reach in front and strong drive behind.” If I see that, I believe I am on firm ground with my decisions. Major faults aside, I don’t look for a deficiency in a dog in order to decide between dogs of apparent equal worth.

I will offer two comments in general (with some specifics) that I hope will be helpful.

First, regarding the dog and bitch classes: as I mentioned at the dinner, when I stood back to look at the dogs as well as the bitches in the winner’s class, there was not one that was not deserving of the purple on any given day – and that included those that came from single-entry classes. I can tell you that in my admittedly limited number of judging assignments that has not always happened. I can also say that in the classes where there was more than one entry, my placement could have changed on another day depending on how the dog was either presented or behaved.

My Winners Dog was Gemstone’s As Your Fortune Comes from the 9-12 month class. Even as young as he is, in his class and in the winners class, he showed with an understated elegance, and kept his outline while moving with confidence and the reach and drive that I love. Yet when he came back for the Breed, he had obviously decided he had either had enough, or he was allowed to get lazy, so he lost his outline on the move. Such an attitude can have unfortunate consequences if the dog, despite being square, is somewhat leggier and longer in the loin. Looking at the catalogue and my notes, that same issue was even more evident in his littermate sister who was second in her BBE class for the much the same reason. Although my reserve went to the open dog, Templar’s Fly Away Home, who overcame a few weak points by showing to his full potential, he was pushed (whoops, another cliché) by the Bred-by Exhibitor dog, Mackanme Quest for Glory who was also the Best Bred-by Exhibitor winner. I might have even given the Bred-By dog the win if he could have behaved a little better and given me some straight movement on the down and backs (remember my first cliché).

My WB and BOW was Banner Marymore Double Tripel Axel who came from the 12-18 month old class. She was not only a very compact, nice moving, moderate bitch, but was consistently steady and overall a very nice package. My RWB, Harbour Hill Peanut Brittle, was a five-year-old from the Open Class and was the clear winner of her class despite being a little doggy. Some might disagree, but that type doesn’t really bother me because I believe that “hardy” implies, among other

WD: Gemstone as Your Fortune Comes

WB/BW: Banner Marymore Double Tripel Axel
attributes, substance - and you begin to see it somewhat more in older bitches. She was one of the better-moving and shorter-backed dogs of all the class entries and could have easily been WB; unfortunately, she appeared a little out of balance to me, probably because of the length of her beard in relation to her substance. The remaining entries in the Open Class, including the bitch out of the ribbons, were in my opinion, all of equal worth.

My Best of Breed, GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play, was not an easy choice despite being the most complete package presented that day. My BOS, CH Kincora Tara Life in the Fast Lane and SD, GCH Bonney New England Patriot, were tugging at my eyes as well. All three took center stage from the moment they entered the ring and I saw them. I preferred the presentation of the coat on my BOS, but loved the length of neck on the BOB. Unfortunately my SD, a regal dog that was to me stunningly moderate, short-backed and balanced - not to mention unbelievably sound and efficient on the move - just couldn’t overcome the additional virtues of the coats on the BOB and BOS. Looking at his age, he will hopefully mature and wear a jacket that is a little more crisp and clear in color with just a tad more wave. Looking at his sire, a dog I know well, as well as the dam, I think it’s safe to say that will happen. My SB, CH Gemstone’s Playing Games, was a nice-moving and stylish, feminine bitch with a beautiful head piece. The AOMs, CH Locklinear Gleanngay Quick as a Wink and GCH Galen’s Winter Tale, were both very moderate and stylish entries and deserving of BOB consideration as well.

Finally, my overall observations: other than in the Specials class, there were few entries in the regular classes that I could safely say were a complete package. Each of the entries had very nice individual breed traits, but each was deficient in one as well. I had dogs with low set ears or large ears. I had dogs with nice side gaits but seemed to cross over when coming which might have been the result of the concern I address below. As I have mentioned, I had a number of dogs that could be shorter coupled, but then I had dogs that were short coupled but didn’t have sufficient reach and drive. I had entries that moved well, but were lacking in the smooth neck-to-back transition that is required in the breed - this could have been because of age - but some were the result of shoulders a little too upright. Although I remember a couple of light eyes, I also recall that all of the bites were either scissor or level which was nice to see. Perhaps the biggest concern I had and hope was an age issue: I had quite a few entries that were lacking in depth of chest - it should come to the elbows - and as a result I found a little too much space between the elbows and the rib cage. That structure resulted in a number of entries that seemed to come at me somewhat cleanly but with some weaving or crossing over in the front end - what I would term “loose fronts.” This brings me back to my early comment: all things being equal, I go to my bottom line.

Once more, thank you SCWTCNC for the honor of the assignment.

SB:  CH Gemstone Playin’ Games

AOM:  GCH Galen’s Winter Tale
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND
THE ANNUAL WHEATEN ROUND-UP
FOR THREE DAYS OF SHOWS, FRIENDSHIP AND FUN

ISLAND GROVE REGIONAL PARK
GREELEY, COLORADO

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2012
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ALL TERRIER CLUB SPECIALTY SHOW
BREED JUDGE: JAMES REYNOLDS
GROUP JUDGE: JAMES REYNOLDS
PUPPY SWEEPSTAKES: LOUISE LEONE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2012
GREATER DENVER SCWT CLUB SPECIALTY SHOW
AND EVERGREEN COMMUNITY KENNEL CLUB ALL-BREED SHOW
BREED JUDGE: KAREN C. WILSON
GROUP JUDGE: RONALD N. RELLA
PUPPY SWEEPSTAKES JUDGE: KATHLEEN HEALY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2012
EVERGREEN COMMUNITY KENNEL CLUB ALL-BREED SHOW
WHEATEN ENTRY SUPPORTED BY SCWTCA
BREED JUDGE: SHAROL CANDACE WAY
GROUP JUDGE: SHAROL CANDACE WAY
Celebrating Long Life

CH Galen’s Field of Dreams (Kevin)
(CH Starlight Dream Lover x CH Galen’s Double Scoop)
Date of Birth: 11/17/1998

Kevin lives with Penny in Oakland, CA where he shares the house with three other Wheatens. One of those is Aunt Appy who had her story in this section last year and is now 15 years old.

Kevin is a very sweet boy who always aims to please. He has a very independent side, but knows the rules and will follow them when asked.

One of the things I remember most about him was his role as a nursing home visitor. When he was one to three years old, I would take him along when I made a weekly visit to a family member. Kevin had a list of residents who had requested that he always stop by and say hello when he was there. Most wanted him to jump up on the bed so he could be petted which he would do if invited. One lady kept dog biscuits in her room just for him. He was a popular fellow.

Kevin is a champion but I think a reluctant one. Dog shows were not his idea of a way to spend time. He has been a good companion to us and his Wheaten housemates.

Breeders/Owners: Penelope Smith & Sheila O’Connell, Galen Wheatens

Galen’s American Dream (Kramer)
(CH Starlight Dream Lover x CH Galen’s Double Scoop)
Date of Birth: 11/17/1998

Kramer lives with Lynn in a condominium on the edge of a golf course. Being a friendly and outgoing boy, he’s made friends with the groundskeepers and, for a number of years, has been allowed to take early morning runs along the edges of the course. Today, however, the runs have slowed down to an amble.

Owners: Lynn and Mikey Kantor
Breeders: Penelope Smith and Sheila O’Connell, Galen Wheatens

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CH Galen’s Dream Girl (Kerry)
(CH Starlight Dream Lover x CH Galen’s Double Scoop)
Date of Birth: 11/17/1998

Kerry is still alive, doing beautifully, as perky and lively as ever, slowed only by a bit of deafness and small cataracts in her eyes. Her back legs are a little shaky but she can still jump up into our truck and onto beds. Over the years, she has helped foster 13 dogs for a rescue group and was a great companion to them all.

She has walked many, many miles with me taking the girls to school, and during their middle school years, she was the school mascot complete with outfit for game days. Although she can’t go as far, she still loves to go for short walks in the neighborhood.

This recent photo captures her still puppy-like spirit!

Owners: Douglas and Diane Paulsen
Breeders: Penelope Smith and Sheila O’Connell, Galen Wheatens

Trebol Asta II (Asta)
(CH Honeylee’s Hilight on Trebol x CH Lontree Laced Kid Glove)
Date of Birth: 4/23/1999

Asta II celebrated her 13th birthday on Monday, April 23rd. Her predecessor in our lives, Asta I, unfortunately only lived 10 years. When we took Asta II for her first visit to the vet as a nine-week-old pup, the vet, in addition to giving her a clean bill of health, said that she was a very sweet dog. She still is! We had considered naming her Baci (kiss), and maybe we should have because she loves to give us kisses.

Other than a little arthritis, Asta still acts like a pup with boundless energy, from playing tug-of-war and catch with a plush dumbbell toy first thing every morning, leaping on/off our bed, smoochy-facing on the couch or bed immediately following one of her favorite meals or racing to the garage door to go for a ride in the car. She also loves to recline outdoors on her chaise. We affectionately call her the “Empress.” She has a ten-year-old Wheaten “sister,” Diva, whom she continues to treat lovingly as an interloper. We’re fortunate to live on the coast because Asta and Diva both love to walk on the beach.

We’re grateful for the unconditional love and great deal of joy we’ve received from our Wheaties for over 23 years.

Happy Birthday Asta II!

Owners: Eileen & Jim Milioti
Breeder: Willie Rueda, Trebol Wheatens
Carly is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She has always been an observer of life, a very gentle soul. The sweetest little girl, she has been living with Jeff and her son, Kona, for the past eight years. She is a little hard of hearing but she can always hear the food bowls being readied for dinner!

Breeder: Lynn Cone, Raelyn Wheatens

Raelyn Hugs ‘N Wishes (Celtie)
CH Andover Make A Wish x CH Mansura Gentle Rain
Date of Birth: May 31, 1997

“All I Want for Birthday is My Two Front Teeth.... and a Waverunner Ride and My Annual Birthday Parade.”

Celtie is not counting on the two front teeth, but dog willing, planning the other two! With old age comes a bit of arthritis, hearing issues and the kidneys don’t work as good either, but she’s doing well and planning to celebrate! Twenty dogs marched in her neighborhood parade last year, and more have asked to be on the guest list. In addition, she has two special guests coming - Deb Leas will be visiting from Omaha, and Kaylynn’s Bentley Blue, owned by Phil and Judy Duncan, are making the trip from northern Illinois to East Tennessee, particularly to be a part of the parade. All doggy guests get liver cake, a neighbor plays “Happy Birthday” on her accordion, and their minister has a Blessing of Animals at the end of the parade.

Owned by Karen and Ken Wood
Breeder: Lynn Cone, Raelyn Wheatens

CH Raelyn Sweet Serenade (Chloe)
Ch. Legacy Wildwest Wildflower (Dalton) x CH Mansura Gentle Rain (Emma)
4/22/98 - 7/30/11

Chloe had a wonderful life. She was a mother, grandmother, and a great-grandmother. I see her sweet temperament in her children and grandchildren. Always a kiss for you, and her tail never stopped. I used to take her to nursing homes in Florida. Rest in peace my sweet angel.

Lynn Cone, Raelyn Wheatens
Raelyn Wish ‘N Tell (Molly)
(CH Andover Make A Wish x CH Mansura Gentle Rain)
5/31/97 – 2/1/12 (14 years and 8 months of age)

Molly started life as Lil’bit from Emma’s first litter, a litter of nine. She was owned and loved by Lynn Larson. She lived with three cats and she loved to hike the Adirondacks and cross country ski when she was younger. Lynn was such a special owner, learning to groom Molly herself. He was the center of Lynn and Mark’s life and greatly loved.

Owners: Lynn and Mark Larson
Breeder: Lynn Cone, Raelyn Wheatens

Happy Birthday to CH Amadeus Steam “N” Hot (Lucy)
(CH Amaden’s Keystone Cowboy x CH Doubloon’s Hot “N” Steamy)
Date of Birth: April 16, 1999

Lucy came into our lives at the age of 12 weeks old! She “picked” me as she danced for attention in her drop pen. “Me, Me, I’m the ONE!” So, yes, she WAS THE ONE, and had a long trip from Houston to San Antonio. She was crated in her little Vari Kennel, supplied with a very raw knuckle bone, and had it completely clean by the time she was introduced to her new surroundings in her new home.

She came with such a happy, steady attitude! Nothing fazed her; she was easy going and carefree. She fit right in, never missed a beat.

I decided to try to show her simply because I love doing that. My life was full, but I decided to enter Lucy at a dog show in San Antonio. Lucy had not been to a dog show, so I thought that if she showed signs of not liking it, I would turn around and bring her home. Well, she walked into the ring, showed like she had been doing it forever and WON that day under Annie Rogers Clark. My, what an honor, it was a day I will never ever forget. From that point on, Lucy finished her championship very easily.

It’s hard to imagine that she is 13 years old. She continues to have lots of sparkle and spirit, and always loves to travel. AND she goes everywhere with us; she is never left. She whirls and twirls for the next adventure. This photo was taken of her on April 29, 2012. She’s in fabulous condition.

She’s so special to us, so completely loving and brings complete joy into our lives every single day. She's the perfect one, and our heart dog. We thank Heather and John Giles for such a beautiful little Lucy.

Owners: Marty & Walt Brusch and Heather & John Giles
Breeder: Elena Landa, Doubloon Wheatens and Heather & John Giles, Amadeus Wheatens
Maddie stole our hearts when we first saw her and she chased and nipped our five-year-old grandson in the seat of his pants! She has been a joy and had a wonderful life. Maddie has sailed for weeks on Lake Huron, explored many islands, and been on many hikes – and nothing beats plowing through the underbrush. Her last great hike was just last year (age 14) in Utah’s high desert wilderness where she hiked at least three to five miles a day with nine adults and five other dogs, seeking rarely visited petroglyphs and cliff dwellings. Maddie has traveled from Canada to Florida and Maine to Utah for the pure joy of it. Mention “ride” and she’s ready for action – even now with major hearing and vision loss and weakened by old age.

She had three wonderfullitters for a total of 16 offspring. When she had her first litter, she sat on top of the small basket in which they were first placed – like Horton hatching the egg! We traveled to Virginia this March and she enjoyed finding many new places to sleep. First it was on top of clothes in a friend’s closet, then on top of my clothes in an open suitcase, and then in the middle of a plastic ball pit used by my toddler grandchildren. Nothing stops her from enjoying a good snooze, and nothing stops us from forever loving her.

Owner: Beverly Wolf

Maizy is almost as active as ever. Sleeps a little more, and she is losing her hearing, but she’s a Very young 13...

In this picture Maizy is jumping over the black and white bar. The only place this bar is used is in Obedience UTILITY! Thanks for letting me brag on this amazing little girl with such a huge personality and a mind of her OWN.

Owner: JoAnne Vogt

Breeders: Gay Dunlap and Dana Frady
For more than 16 years, Nikki has been such a joy in our lives. She is happy with just the two of us, but enjoys it when the kids and grandkids come home to visit. It’s great she gets along with all types of dogs because each of our children and grandchildren brings their pets with them, sometimes making it a total of 10 dogs at once! Nikki gets along with all of them, but sometimes she needs a break from the younger, active ones.

Nikki loves to go for walks or a ride in the car. When ready for bed (at 8:00 p.m.), she will stand in front of us until we take her up. She can no longer jump up on the bed herself, and needs that extra boost up. In the morning she spins around until she feels she is ready to jump off. She hates it if you try to help her down; she wants to do it herself. She can still jump up on the sofa, and when we get home, that is where we usually find her.

She is slowing down, but outside she acts like a young pup, and loves to play and romp in the snow. She still hates thunder storms, just like her mom and grandmother. Nikki hates to have her photo taken. She could have her tail up and acting spunky until she sees the camera; then she gets bashful, her tail drops, her head goes down, and she turns away. It’s a major accomplishment if we are able to catch a good photo of her. Nikki has a wonderful temperament and is such a joy in our lives!
CH Claddagh’s Gabriel’s Message (Gabe)
(CH Heartstrings Toast to Tara ROM x CH Claddagh’s Granuiale O’Malley)
April 10, 1999

Thirteen years ago, my dear friend Cecily Skinner and I were preparing my bitch, O’Malley, for her first litter. We bred Cecily’s CH Heartstring’s Toast to Tara ROM to CH Claddaugh’s Granuiale O’Malley and had eight, sweet puppies. It was our “Heaven Sent” litter.

My husband, Jim, and I kept “Gabe,” CH Claddagh’s Gabriel’s Message, who finished before he was 10 months old and later became a Eukanuba Invitational dog. Used by several novice handlers to train them in the conformation ring, he is every inch the gentleman he always was…a little slower, but with a hearty appetite, beautiful coat, gait, and a happy tail.

In that litter of eight, six are still alive and doing well: CH Claddagh’s Kells O’West Isles, “Kelli” owned and loved by SCWTCSC member Joan Johnson; “Bailee,” Claddagh’s Angel Eyes; “Blue,” Claddagh’s My Blue Heaven; “Princess”, Claddagh’s Little Bit O’Heaven; “Tallulah”, Claddagh’s Oh My Heavens; and CH Claddagh’s Gabriel’s Message, “Gabe.”

Happy Birthday dear puppies…we wish you many more happy days!

Owners/Breeders: Jim and Karla Cohen, Claddagh Wheatens

CH Claddagh’s Kells O’West Isle (Kelli)
(CH Heartstrings Toast to Tara ROM x CH Claddagh’s Granuiale O’Malley)
April 10, 1999

Claddagh’s Kells O’West Isle (Kelli) is my “little darling.” She is the sweetest of the sweet. She loves to be invited to dinner. When she sees her dinner being prepared, she runs outside and sits very close to the doggie door. When dinner is ready, I gently pull up the flap on the door and tell her dinner is served. She immediately dashes into her bowl. It’s a mystery how she developed this behavior, but it is so charming! She is my love.

Owner: Joan Johnson
Breeders: Karla & Jim Cohen, Claddagh Wheatens

CH Legacy in Shining Armor x CAN CH Cashel’s Dangerous Liaison (Reilly)
In Loving Memory
April 30, 1995 - May 13, 2011

In loving memory of a great dog, a truly loveable companion, and our best friend…Reilly.

Owners: Harry and Kelly Borget
Breeders: John and Penny Rogers Cashel Wheatens

Benchmarks . volume 40 . number 2 . page 44
Ziggy was a great dog. He had a great temperament and was very easy to live with. He was a natural show dog, but most importantly, he was our great family pet.

He finished quickly and retired, but he made us very proud in 2008 when he went Best of Opposite Sex in Veteran Sweeps at Montgomery under judge Janet Turner Dalton.

Ziggy was a real character. He loved playing with his toys. He would stack them in the corner, take inventory, and every once in a while would pick one up and drag it around squeaking it. He loved his walks with Brian. Even when his arthritis was bothering him, he would eagerly wait at the door to go. He loved to go in the car to our cottage. His favorite spot was lying by the door watching what was going on out there. Every year we would dress him up for our Club Picnic Costume Contest. Didn’t matter how silly it was, he was fine with it.

Thank you to Karen for breeding such a wonderful boy. Thank you to Denise Daniel for having the patience to groom him when he didn’t feel good. She never cut him down. He always looked like the handsome show dog that he was.

Thank you to the breeders who recognized his good qualities and bred to him. He produced some very nice kids and grandkids.

Ziggy was our loyal buddy. He loved both of us equally. We miss him very much.

Owners: Maggie & Brian Evans
Breeders: Karen Mueller & Madelaine Evans
If you have never visited Crufts, it is hard to imagine what it could be like. There are four days of shows in all the different breeds, some of which I have never seen or heard of in my life. There are approximately 28,000 dogs entered in the show. Wow! It’s the largest dog show in the world.

Imagine: Five halls of vendors, goodness knows how many square feet of space, wall-to-wall people buying anything from dog goodies to books, equipment, jewelry, apparel, artwork and everything in between.

A visit to Discover Dogs is a must (Meet the Breeds) that provides an opportunity to meet the dogs and their respective owners and breeders.

One needs stamina, a sturdy pair of walking shoes and a good breakfast to start the day.

There exists a casual air for both exhibitors and spectators. For example, you can sit ringside with your feet in the ring, eat your lunch or chat with the exhibitors while they wait their turn to be examined by the judge. One may neither smoke nor take flash photography, the latter of which is felt might possibly upset the dogs.

The KC (Kennel Club) championship shows have more classes than we do. There are eight categories: Veteran, Special puppy, Special Junior, Yearling, Post Graduate, Limit, Open, and Good Citizen. The champions compete in the Open Class rather than a Specials Class as is done here. There is no limit on how many CCs a dog may earn. The class winners in dogs and the bitches compete for the Challenge Certificate (the ticket). Three CCs (tickets) must be awarded under three different judges in order for a dog to be made a champion. The dog CC and the bitch CC compete for BOB with the Best of Breed winner competing in the group.

There has been much reported in the dog press about the dogs, but after all was said and done, there had to be the champagne, the camaraderie, and the cake.

It is a unique experience for the consummate dog lover and one that every dog fancier should experience at least once in a lifetime!
Sheep-Shape in the Sunbelt
Southern California and Greater Tampa Bay Wheaten Clubs Hold Late-Winter Herding Days

By Linda Hallas and Connie Koehler

A brisk, sunny Honest Abe’s birthday witnessed Wheatens working stock at SCWTCSC’s fifth herding event since 2006, held on Sunday, Feb. 12, at AKC/AHBA judge Judy Vanderford’s ranch in Lake View Terrace, a suburb of Los Angeles. The entry of 11 dog-handler teams made up a full house with a number of spectators for good measure. The day marked the return of herding to the club after a hiatus since October 2009.

Judy conducted a comprehensive, six-hour workshop to get southern California Wheaten teams ready to compete in AKC herding tests and trials. She introduced the participants to basic herding techniques, with the aid of her Belgian Tervuren and Border Collies, and outlined the various AKC tests and trials in which titles can be earned. Next, Judy evaluated each dog on basic instinct and instructed both dog and owner in introductory maneuvers in a small corral with four sheep. All teams passed with flying colors.

After lunch, Ron Hetherington and his CH Claddagh’s Star-Studded Ceili JHD (Ceili) demonstrated the AKC Herding Tested (HT) course in a 100’ x 100’ arena. Finally, Judy explained in detail the Pre-Trial Tested (PT) and Herding Started (HS) courses, and allowed volunteers to take their dogs on lead and off lead through the HT and PT courses with sheep in her large sand arena where she holds HS trials. About three of the dogs appeared ready to pass the PT test with some training. The workshop ended on that very high note with a thoroughly successful day from start to finish. Many thanks go to Viviana and Ron Hetherington, event chairs, for their efficient planning and enthusiasm.

On the opposite coast, the SCWTCGBT Herding Day on March 4 was a windy affair with gusts upwards of 25 mph, but that didn’t deter most of those who signed up from participating. Thirteen Wheatens took turns beginning at 8 a.m. at Edan Ranch in Odessa. Some were more enthusiastic than others. Interestingly, it was the senior citizens of the group who really got the sheep moving. The award for the pushiest went to Darcy who was also the smallest and oldest of the group. She took no grief from the sheep and when she felt it was necessary, didn’t mind using her teeth to show them who was boss. Chaz, age 12, who before this was known strictly as a fancy show dog, worked those sheep like he had spent his whole life on the farm. Sue Wuerz’s ten-year-old Erin also jumped right in and got them moving. The babies in the group also showed great promise. Daisy at just one year showed no fear of sheep and five-month-old Gabby had a big time herding ducks. There were many others that showed instinct and several owners have decided to continue with training. We look for more Wheaten herding titles in the near future. You can view photos from herding day on the club website.
For more than 20 years, candidates running for office in the Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association in Annandale have stood, waved and received polite applause at the annual meeting in June. Everyone votes, eats ice cream, chats with neighbors and goes home.

This past election, to make the meeting move faster, only the names and qualifications of the candidates were announced. Running for president, Ms. Beatha Lee was described as a relatively new resident, interested in neighborhood activities and the outdoors, and who had experience in Maine overseeing an estate of 26 acres.

Though unfamiliar with Lee's name, the crowd of about 50 raised their hands, assuming that the candidate was a civic-minded newcomer. These days, it's hard to get anyone to volunteer to devote the time needed to serve as an officer. The slate that Lee headed was unanimously elected. Everyone ate ice cream, watched a karate demonstration, and went home.

Only weeks later did many discover that their new president was, in fact, a dog. Ms. Beatha Lee is a shaggy, dirty-white Wheaten Terrier.

The news broke in the association's newsletter with Lee's promise to "govern with an even paw." The dog's photo appeared under the heading, "Dog Rules, Humans Apathetic (Pathetic)."

"Many people, like myself, were amused. But some were extremely upset. I've spent a lot of time on the phone explaining things."

"At first, people would say to me, 'This is crazy!' " said Helen Winter, a director emeritus of the board who is in her 80s and is a major force behind the neighborhood watch, the welcoming committee, and the annual block party. "And I'd say, 'It is crazy. Isn't that fun?' It's one of those things that breaks the monotony."

Dave Frederickson, who read the dog's name and qualifications to the crowd at the annual meeting, said, "Many people, like myself, were amused. But some were extremely upset. I've spent a lot of time on the phone explaining things."

The duly-elected president is actually the pet of the former president, Mark Crawford, who inherited Beatha (pronounced Bee-AH-tah) in 2008 from his mother and stepfather in Maine.

Out of sheer frustration, Crawford decided to put up his dog. "This isn't a power trip," said Crawford, who now serves as vice president under his pooch. "We wanted to send a message to the neighborhood that they needed to get involved and get engaged. That they can't count on the same people to do this year in and year out."

Crawford and the nominating committee carefully scanned Article V of their bylaws on officer association bylaws, could not run for the office again. For weeks leading up to the election, he begged, pleaded, and cajoled neighbors to run for the often-thankless volunteer post. No one bit. Newer, younger families told him that they were too busy juggling work, long commutes, and kids. And longtime residents, many burned out after losing a bruising zoning battle against a Montessori school in their neighborhood, said they'd already done their time.
qualifications. Resident of the neighborhood: check. Attained the age of majority: check (in dog years). "Our charter language did not mention that a human had to serve," Crawford said. "The way it was phrased was very accommodating, to be frank."

Those same bylaws also outline the fairly substantial duties of the president, everything from running meetings and appointing committee members to executing contracts and co-signing checks. Not to mention speaking for the association at public meetings. So how has the canine managed? "Well, she delegates a lot," Crawford said. "That's what executives are supposed to do - delegate."

The dog occasionally attends the monthly board meetings usually held the first Tuesday or Wednesday of the month in Crawford's home. "She's sometimes sitting under the table, listening to what goes on," Frederickson said, "until she gets bored and wants to be let out. I don't know if the board members need to pet her on their way in."

Crawford and the other seven human board members have kept the annual block parties and ice cream socials running without a hitch - the president was too out of sorts to attend.

Other than a few rumblings about speed bumps and tree trimming, it has been a pretty quiet year for the association. "We're dealing with things like trying to get our phone book out," Crawford said. "Pretty mundane stuff."

Over time, the neighbors have come to accept their new leader. "It doesn't surprise me one bit that a dog is the president - our neighborhood is so dog-friendly," said Meghan Pituch Myers, who moved in a little over a year ago. "We often find ourselves referencing people by their dogs - 'I saw Daisy's mom today at the store.'"

So has the ploy worked? Are people getting more involved? Crawford said it's too early to tell.

Browder, whose father ran the association when she was a girl and whose husband also served as president, said she might be willing. "If we elected a dog, I'm thinking, okay, maybe I better do my duty," she said.

But if she doesn't, "Maybe we'll get a cat this time," groused longtime resident Dave Borowsk. "We're hoping for a Homo sapiens."

Ms. Beatha Lee, President of the Annandale Civic Association

This canine interest story ran in the Washington Post in February 2011.
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Articles and letters for September issue are due August 1

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Only photos with un-retouched 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.

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CH Lil’Town Fiddler’s Lullaby of Ardnacassa

“Fiddler”

CH Modny Style Great Expectations x CH Lil’Town Lullaby of Ardnacassa

Finished at 10 Months of Age with Three 4-Point Majors and one 5-Point Major!

Thank you Allison Sunderman for your expert handling, and Judges Penny Hirstein, Barbara Alderman, Peter Green, and Betty-Ann Stenmark

Watch for sister (Kacy) and brother (McGee) who are up next!

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