Benchmarks

Off to Montgomery!

A publication of the SCWTCA, Inc.
Volume 40, number 3
September 2012
A FEW RING HIGHLIGHTS

BIS Cape Brenton, Canada  2011
Res BIS Cape Brenton, Canada  2011
BISS Canadian Specialty  2011
1st AOM Del Val Specialty 2010
BOB Garden State all Terrier  2010
AOM Hatboro  2011
BBE/1st AOE Eukanuba Invitational  2011
BOB Garden State all Terrier  2012
Multiple Group Wins/Placements

ON THE LEADERBOARD

3rd Wheaten GCH Canadian CH
Limited showing 2010  # 8 Wheaten
Limited showing 2011  # 10 Wheaten
Current standings:
# 2 Wheaten
# 2 GCH Wheaten
# 2 National Championship

AS A PRODUCER

Several Champion get Sire of multiple BIS and #1 Wheaten in Canada

Ricky

HELEN FRAGUELA  WWW.MOONSTRUCKSCWT.COM
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As I consider all the DNA postings on Discuss, two words come to mind—responsible and refreshing. For those of you, who have had the courage to be the first to dip your toe in the water, CONGRATULATIONS for setting the breeder bar high. Open and honest disclosures about our dogs will only move us closer to solving the health issues in our breed. (We have come a long way since the skepticism expressed in the early days of the Open Registry.)

I have enjoyed the personal stories associated with result postings, and I know that these stories have helped others, as well as me, in the decision-making process. The financial burden of participation is of concern for many breeders, and for me personally. And so, I feel compelled to share my story.

Nearing the end of my three-day car ride home from Great Western, I see flashing red lights in my rear-view mirror. I assume it is an emergency vehicle needing to pass, so I pull off the left-hand side of the highway. I am then instructed, through a booming microphone, to pull off on the right-hand side of the highway. I can’t imagine what I have done. The officer approaches and gives me the good news that I was clocked going 62 in a 40 and yes, it’s a WORK ZONE (double fines)!! He returned with my “bill” of $600 and 6 points off my driver’s license. My instant response to this news—“Officer, there have to be some negotiations!” (In my mind I’m thinking, we’re talking about the cost of 5 DNA samples here!) I will not ramble on about my negotiation skills or lack of, but my fine was reduced to $350 and two points off my license. My obligation to pay the fine had to take priority over sending samples, but I am happy to report that all my samples are in the hands of Dr. Littman. I am awaiting the results, which will be shared.

My rule of thumb in life is to always find humor, but protecting the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier is serious business. Yes, the research is a wonderful tool, but in the end it is US who will save our breed by using this research to make logical, informed decisions and then sharing with each other.

I can hardly wait to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in October with some of the finest people I have grown to know. The responsibility that is being shown with the new knowledge research has provided is refreshing. Remember—“swab ’em, send ’em, and share ’em.”

“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships!”

ROM Correction and Addition

Correction to the introductory paragraph for the ROM listing in the last issue of Benchmarks: the year listed is the one where the Wheaten completes the number of required champion offspring. (The recognition is made the next year at the following annual meeting with this and other awards noted as having been earned the previous year.) The published listing correctly gives the year the ROM was earned.

The SCWTCA membership requirement has almost always been met by an owner or co-owner. This requirement can also be met by a breeder member or a lessee of a dog or bitch.

The list of Champion get produced is taken from American Kennel Club Awards for champion number which is eight (bitch) or 15 (dog).

Please add the following ROM to your list who qualifies through his SCWTCA member breeders. Note that the year he completed his ROM is 2007. Although he is a Canadian champion, only AKC titles are recognized in SCWTCA Awards programs.

Soldiersong Fianna Boy  Dog  2007  Otto
Progress. While we are celebrating the traditions of 50 years of our club, we are also looking forward. To do so, we must embrace change, for that is what fuels progress. The excitement of the DNA marker test for PLN is shared equally with the trepidation we feel as the ones who must take the scary steps that such change demands of us. How do we add this important piece of information to our decisions as preservers of the breed while we maintain the picture of the whole dog?

I find myself thinking about the test results not only as a breeder but as one of those preservers of the breed. As a breeder, I was thrilled to have three clear bitches. Obviously, I can breed them to clear males. That’s the easy solution on the surface; however, I don’t think it should be the only option. If I want to continue to breed to the standard with all the elements that represents, then I also need to consider breeding the clears to 0/1 as well as possibly to 1/1 dogs if I am going to help to maintain diversity in our gene pool. I need to continue to look at the whole dog I am considering: genotype, phenotype, temperament, and pedigree of each dog as well. Am I more careful with the clear bitch whose grandparent died of PLN than I am with the bitch with a less problematic pedigree? There is no clear evidence yet to suggest that the health of ancestors in a pedigree may be as influential as the number of markers, but my gut makes me consider the possibility.

On the other hand, I am also the co-owner of several dogs who may or may not be used as stud dogs. As one of those who makes decisions about my clear dogs, what is my position when people come to me with a bitch to breed? My first questions will be, as usual, "Why do you want to breed to my dog? What are you hoping to gain from this breeding?" Second, I will ask for their test results which will include the DNA test. It is the same as asking for OFA or CERF, blood and urine. No test results, no breeding. Like OFA, the DNA test is a one-time event that we plan to do before we put a dog in our breeding program.

Would I accept a bitch who carries both markers? Yes and no. One marker? Yes and no. No markers? Yes and no. Each breeding should still be planned individually. If I have a worthy bitch who would contribute to the breed and carries both markers, I also hope a stud owner will realize that her 0/0 dog will contribute to the breed as well by being used with that bitch.

We may be able to fix our marker issue easily by breeding only 0/0 bitches to 0/0 dogs, but at what cost? A severely limited gene pool may provide us then with other equally daunting issues such as PLE, RD, Addison’s, luxating patellas, or ectopic ureters. Who knows what else might arise? I realize that everyone has their comfort level of risk-taking, but I hope this test raises breeders to a new level of selflessness, one where we share our results regardless of the good or bad nature of the numbers. Our personal dogs’ results are not only our own business, they are the business of the breed as a whole. How can we move forward if we don’t have the information to do so fully informed about the health of our breed? If the results continue to show that 50% of our breed carries one marker (heterozygous), then we need to take risks together with shared information. This is not clear-cut; this is not easy, but this is doable together.

Frederick Wilcox said, "Progress always involves risk; you can’t steal second base and keep your foot on first." I’m going to steal second.

The photograph of CH Orion Trebol Hot Like Me, who was Select Bitch at the Delaware Valley Specialty show, was distorted. Here is the corrected photo of her. Breeders/Owners: Betsy Geertson & Guillermo Rueda.
Common Sense and Breeding

The very lively exchange on Discuss has showcased the intelligence and commitment of our breeders. I’d like to focus on the ultimate goal of this wonderful tool our researchers have placed in our hands to minimize and eventually eradicate PLN without jeopardizing the gene pool and allowing other genetic problems to come into play.

Because of my age, I’ve retired from breeding, but I must consider what I would do if I were 20 years younger. (Now, I know what you are thinking, let’s not go there.) To begin, please understand that my first priority when considering a breeding has always been phenotype, then temperament, overall health, and my confidence in the integrity of the owner of the dog I was considering. I would automatically eliminate from consideration any animal that was allergic or showed signs of obsessive behavior.

But before all that, I must honestly evaluate my dog as to adherence to the Standard in phenotype and movement. This would include an evaluation by the newly constituted CAP procedure. Then I could more readily find a complementary mate. And then, I would look at markers. Those of you who have double zero dogs have it easy; the rest have to juggle the options. These have been set out by Drs. Littman & Henthorn.

The information is on our easily accessed website. So, the first consideration is…should this dog be bred? If your dog is less than a superior specimen of the breed, a 0-0 might encourage you to proceed, a 0-1 is a bit iffy, and a 1-1 would require careful consideration. Since we all think our own animal is “superior,” a trip to a CAP function is in order. A study of Willie’s pedigree program, going into depth with ancestors, is also in order. As more dogs are swabbed and sent, more of these results will be on the Pedigree program.

There are the cautions. No animal should be automatically eliminated, lest we so narrow the gene pool that unwanted consequences will surely occur. Note the Portugese Water Dog experience: eliminating storage disease had one of those…a dramatic upswing in PRA in the breed. Dr Littman, in her talk and in her communications, has emphasized this. Perhaps there is an obligation on the part of 0-0 dogs to cooperate to avoid the loss of really wonderful animals, who happen to be strong in the qualities that are deficient in so many of our dogs. Ears, heads, short loins anyone? The ability to test progeny permits us this leeway so we won’t lose valuable breed characteristics and narrow the gene pool.

This cannot be a “rush” job. The genetic information we have is based on a search for prevalence data. Some figures are emerging, possibly to show a preponderance of 1-0 dogs. Obviously, they cannot be eliminated from the gene pool. Dogs with two copies of the alleles are at real risk of the disease, yet data shows some of them live long, healthy lives. The 1-0 dogs are at intermediate risk, this is not as yet quantified. There is great need to study the dogs who have been tested, looking for environmental triggers or modifying genes.

As genetic science advances by leaps and bounds, new studies will provide further enlightenment. That means we will need to raise considerably more money. I will be at the GRF table to help you purchase raffle tickets for the Cathy Lester graphite drawing of your own heart dog. All proceeds go solely to genetic research. The SCWTCA Health Committee also will have great items for you to purchase and help in the ongoing project.
Islander Wheatens

Proudly Presents Our Newest Champion!
CH Islander's Jamakin Waves

Ryder

Ryder finished in grand style!
Limited showing with 3 majors,
RWD Bucks County KC,
Del Val SCWTC Specialty,
Puppy and BBE Group
Placements!

GCH Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris x Am Can CH Islander's Girl Talk
Bred by Lori Kromash, Co-owned with Karen Garner
2012 Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater St. Louis Specialty Show

by Kathy Clarke

I would first like to start out by thanking everyone who entered under me. I had a wonderful time.

Dogs

6-9 Puppy Dogs (one in class)

Star’s Mr. Huckleberry Finnigan. Short-backed. Needs to grow into his legs. Appears higher than he is long which restricts his movement.

9-12 Puppy Dogs (three in class)

Reyem’s Red Rover Come Over. This was my Winners dog. Very typey and short-backed. Moved extremely well. An on-size, square puppy who was very showy with a pretty puppy coat. He wanted to win.

Bred-By (five in class)

Acacia’s Appointed by the Queen. My Reserve came from this class. This dog has a beautiful headpiece, lovely coat, and color. He felt nice to put my hands on. Covered ground when he moved. A bigger, rangier dog than my Winners.

Bitches

6-9 Puppy Bitches (three in class)

Cela Sweet Island Girl. Pretty, on-size bitch with a nice expression. She held her outline moving around. Nice solid young lady.

9-12 Puppy Bitches (four in class)

Lovesong’s Here Comes the Sun. Short-backed, up on leg, but not too tall. Very pretty young lady with breed type. Well-behaved in the class but wild in Winners. I didn’t like her upright neck-to-shoulder transition.

12-18 Bitches (one in class)

Sanwilly’s Positively Pippa. Sound mover; pretty coat. She needs to grow up a little.

Bred-By (six in class)

Both my Winners and Reserve came from this class. It was a tough class to judge because it was a lovely entry.

1st in class and Winners Bitch. Star Living the Dream. I loved this bitch. Square with breed type. Felt wonderful to go over and was in great condition. Moved well, covered ground and held her outline. Her coat is not her strong suit but a lovely, overall package.

2nd in class and Reserve Winners Bitch. Jendu Free Spirit. This was a hard choice to make. She is a little longer-cast in outline than my Winners. She has a nice head with a lovely expression. Could use more beard. Moved well and showed great. Covered ground when she moved out. Lovely rear movement.

I just felt my Winners was in a little better condition.

Open Bitch (three in class)

Eringlo I Hope you Dance. She is an attractive, solid, sound bitch. Nice outline and moved well on the ground. She just didn’t show as well as my winners.
Veteran Bitch (one in class)  
**CH Michaleen Star O’Kerry Morn.** Lovely old lady in great condition. Pretty coat and color. Moved and showed well.

**BEST OF BREED**  
(13 in class: eight dogs and five bitches)  
Best of Breed: **GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play.** She is a lovely bitch with pretty expression; nice coat in excellent condition. Very feminine, on-size, pleasant to go over with a nice head-to-shoulder transition. Moved and showed well with great attitude.

Best of Opposite Sex: **CH Rosheen Sufferin’ Succotash.** He is a handsome dog with a lovely neck-to-shoulder transition. Very stallion-like in outline. Solid mover. I loved the angles on this dog. Nice coat; I do hope the coat matures as well as I think it should.

Select Dog: **CH Jendu Just My Style.** Typey dog who still needs to grow into himself. Nice outline; good mover.

Select Bitch: **GCH Eringlo Always Luk’n to Race.** Nice, pretty, solid bitch to go over. Moves well.

My overall view of the entry was pleasing; it was a nice group of dogs. I saw dark eyes, nice bites but a few jumbled teeth. What did surprise me was finding domey heads. I felt quite a few of these dogs. There was also quite a mix of coat types.

Movement overall has improved. There is still some restricted movement, mostly on dogs that are taller than they are long. We still have a lot of crossing both in front and rear.

On a personal note, the Sweeps Judge Gigi Reiling and I both worked for the same terrier handler, Ray Perry and his wife, Lou, back in the ‘80s. I hadn’t seen her since, so it took a few minutes for us to recognize each other. Ray was a great dog man who bred Kerry Blues and who left us all too soon. He taught me a lot about dogs all those summers ago.

I want to thank the club for my lovely gift. It is a hand-made, wooden toy box with a Wheaten on the front. It will remind me always of the great day I had judging these dogs.

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**BOB: GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play**  
(GCH Doubloon’s Salt of the Earth x CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player) Breeder/Owner: Elena Landa.

**BOS: CH Rosheen Sufferin’ Succotash**  
(CH Honeylee’s By My Fair Whind x GCH Acacia’s Bat Out O’ Hel) Breeders: Melissa Lopez & Barb Smith. Owner: Melissa Lopez.
Overall the entry was very consistent with the standard and the essence of breed type. I would expect breeders to have entered puppies they hand-picked as their best representation of the breed. As puppies, I realize things will change and firm up structurally. The puppies all had good substance and breed type. Some of the ears could be set again to try and level the set. In most cases the final decision came down to movement. They kept all four paws on the ground while moving around the ring, although I like a puppy with a little fire and rebellion in the ring. I was happy to see none of the puppies shied away or refused to be examined. There were a lot of level bites that I hope stay that way. I would like to see better front movement and reach in the side gait. The fronts were not narrow when I examined them, but the movement was. The rear movement was good in that hocks did not turn in or out. The coat texture and color was consistent with the standard, understanding coat density and color will be changing also.

I really enjoyed the assignment and thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to judge the sweeps.

SB: GCH Eringlo Alwaz Look’n To Race
(CH Duidream Quicktime x CH Eringlo Alwaz An Angel) Breeders/Owners: Dennis & Cindy Shea.

RWD: Acacia’s Appointed By the Queen
(Whindancer’s Heart Like a Wheel x CH Acacia’s Hot Lava) Breeders: Barbara Smith, Ann Smith & Lisa Lopez. Owners: Barbara Smith & Susan Wilson.

Sweepstakes Commentary
by Gigi Lorentz-Reiling

BSW: Heirloom Nobody Does It Better

BOSW: Jendu Out of the Blue
(CH Candance Daze of Thunder x CH Jendu Navy) Breeders/Owners: Dana Frady & Catherine Perron.
2013 SCWTCA CALENDAR
Coming Soon!!!

Calendar Features:

- 13-Month Format
  January 2013 through January 2014
- Includes National & Regional Show Dates
  Plus Entry Deadlines
- Fabulous Photos…plus much, much more!!!

How do you get one??

First availability will be at the SCWTCA Boutique
October 5th, 2012

Orders will be taken online at
www.scwtca.org

Mailings will begin October 10th, 2012

Amazing things have been happening with our Wheaten health research!
All proceeds will support this cause

Pictured above: Winston and his new fire hydrant
Ch. Lakkas Ustilago (Gus) & Carol Carlson team up to win Veteran Sweeps at the SCWTCA Roving Specialty at Great Western 2012 under breeder-judge Bill Behan.

Thank you so much, judge Bill Behan, for the reward recognizing Gus's breed quality!

Thank you, Carol Carlson, for creating this team -- you and Gus were terrific together!

Thank you, breeder Hilde Nybom, for our funguy, Gus.

Thank you, Leo, forever.
WHEATNBROOK’S KENNEL

We are so proud of Donovan......

CH Wheatnbrook’s Lucky Charm “Donovan”
(CDN/AM Ch Modny Style Great Expectaions x Ch Wheatnbrook’s Sassy Sophie) and his accomplishments at the Canadian National Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Specialty.

Special thanks to Denise Wilde who lovingly cares for Donovan and showed him as a novice handler to this win. Donovan received an AOM and Best Canadian-Bred.

Co-bred and owned by Kristen Williams and Debbie VanPraet.
Play is one of the four areas of influence that we can use to improve our relationship with our dogs. It is also the most misunderstood and neglected area. We have seen many dogs of all different breeds that have not been exposed to a wide variety of play. Just throwing the ball occasionally is not nearly enough. A high performing dog will need many different play sessions daily to help maintain a positive attitude and willingness to work.

Now since we have Wheatens, we must also understand that they are genetically programmed to play differently than say a Golden Retriever. The SCWT has a different way of processing information than a Retriever. And a Retriever is vastly different than a Sight hound. A Sight hound is usually much too aloof for such menial tasks as chasing an inanimate object for its owner’s amusement. The Wheaten will be happy to fetch the ball a few times, but generally loses interest in this game within a few throws. However, we can teach any dog to want to play this game. We just need to understand them and how different breeds take in information. We will need to make the reward more than just the repeated joy of bringing the tennis ball back again.

First we need to define what a reward is for your dog. Quite simply, a reward is anything your dog is willing to pay a penalty to get. Sometimes it’s toy, a chipmunk, or a treat - whatever they are willing to pay a penalty to get. Understanding that your SCWT will be more sensitive than a Retriever, less willful than a Rottweiler, and more eager to please you than a Sight hound, will make your reward selection much easier. Remember that the reward needs to be highest in the teaching of the skill, and then lessened as the skill is mastered. Equally important is to be mindful that our dogs need to be rewarded randomly once the skill is mastered and practiced. Our training sessions have several selections in our arsenal and we can quickly reward the dog with the appropriate reward. A huge mistake that so many of us make is the elimination of the reward too early.

So how do we use play to influence our dog’s behavior? Remember from the previous articles that if a dog thinks he’s controlling one of the influences, he believes he’s controlling them all. An example of a dog that believes it’s controlling would be the Retriever that continuously wants to play ball with his owner and will keep bringing the ball back and nudging his owner to keep throwing the ball. The dog is not asking. Each time the owner takes the ball, the dog smirks and says, “Yep, I got ’em again!” This is a demanding behavior and should not be encouraged. When the dog is tired, he drops the ball and lays down and we say, “Poor Murphy is tired. I guess we’re done.” Did the dog control the game? Yes. He started and ended it. It is important for the owners to be able to start and stop play at will.

A better scenario to this interaction would look like this: Murphy approaches you with the ball. You take the ball and thank him for bringing it to you. Put the ball up for twenty minutes and bring it out later and go to Murphy asking if he’d like to play. Who now has the influence with the game? You do, with the control to start and end the play.

The two classifications of play are interactive or independent. Interactive play is anything that causes the dog to engage with you. Independent play is anything that produces food.

When working with dogs we use a mix of interactive play and independent play. Of course, this should be introduced at an early age.

Independent Play

Independent play, as we said before, produces food. The most common type of independent toy is the Kong toy. To introduce the Kong it is important that we don’t make the toy too difficult. Start the Kong very easy with some leftover chicken shoved inside. Most dogs love chicken and will work the Kong until it is clean. The idea is that we want them to win-win this game and encourage independent play and thinking. After the dog wants the Kong, only then do we begin adding a lower-value treat. Soon, we are able to fill the Kong with her dry dog food. As we covered diet in our first article, if the reward is food, the rewards should be part of their daily ration- their paycheck. Another great analogy that we like to use is that your boss pays you the least rewarding stimuli to get you to do your job. We should also be able to do that with our dogs. We then seal the Kong with a bit of peanut butter or cream cheese. And don’t forget, occasionally we add the chicken to keep her motivated. She can never know when the jackpot is going to be given. She just has to know that sometimes she’s in Vegas.
Another example of an independent toy is a common empty plastic bottle. It is important to realize that a dog toy can be ANYTHING! Our young puppies are given these soon. They love to chew on them at first. Before long, we have puppies that are tugging the water bottles and playing with their littermates with the water bottle. Each puppy learns to love the bottle and our adult dogs always have empty bottles in their toy collection. Remember that you can add food into the bottle and then the dog can be entertained with a recycled dog toy. It is also very easy to use water bottles and make them a more difficult game by keeping the lid on and cutting slits in the sides for the dogs to work with their paws to get the kibble out.

Interactive Play

Playing with your dog using interactive play is the most rewarding type of play and develops a strong bond between owner and dog. Most of us desire a dog that will play some basic form of fetch, whether with a ball or a stick. Yep, a recycled old stick is an excellent interactive toy. Your dog will need to win at this game, so don’t constantly be asking her to give up the stick. Let her chew on the stick and in small amounts it shouldn’t cause any adverse reactions if ingested. Remember, she’s a dog and in the wild this is one toy she would have found. Most competition sports require that a dog pick up a wooden article such as a dumbbell and return the article to her handler, so it is a very important skill to teach.

A second interactive game that is a favorite is the tennis ball. We start introducing balls at a very early age so that the puppies will play a simple game of fetch at about eight weeks. This exercise can also be used to help teach her to come when called. It is a simple game that most puppies are willing to do at an early age. When the puppy runs after the ball and if she picks it up (which most puppies will), call her back to you. As she is running back to you, be sure to praise her and make it a big deal, and give her a food reward as you tell her to give the ball.

Our favorite interactive game of all times is the game of chase. All puppies are born with the chase game as an instinct. It is a survival game that they learn to play with their littermates and other members of their pack. Since we are the highest ranking member of their pack, we can use the chase game to reinforce our rank. The highest ranked member always controls play and can start and stop play with all the other pack members at will. We have all seen dogs that cannot control their emotions during play, and that is primarily because they have not been taught the correct way to play. Our dogs get all excited with a quick game of chase and they all know that when the game is over, it is time to settle down and relax.

One of our favorite dogs was a male Wheaten that had the strongest work ethic of any dog that we have ever met. The first day that he arrived into our care, he zoned in on me, and you could see in his eyes that he had just become mine. Or maybe, I had become his! He was willing to do anything to get our attention; some things we liked and some things we didn’t. He came to us lacking coping skills, but the issue that we soon found out was that he was brilliant and he needed a high level of mental activity to meet his needs. He would play any game that we ever asked him to and he was always successful. It was like he was asking the question, “What do I have to do for someone to hear me?”

Once we satisfied his need to learn and be mentally challenged, we were able to teach him to relax and cope better. He learned everything very quickly, and he was willing to do anything that was ever asked of him. I will never forget the day that he was returned to his owner. It was the hardest thing I have ever done because he had become my constant partner and I knew that he would have given his life to please me. The importance of play, and what an important influence in changing behavior, was raised to a different level when working with this incredible dog. I have never met a dog like this since, and I doubt that I ever will. He was truly a once in a lifetime dog and I learned more from him than all of the thousands of dogs I have had the pleasure to work with.

We hope that you have gained some insight into the wonderful opportunities that play can influence your Wheaten’s relationship with you. If you practice with her for a few lessons a week, you should see a remarkable change in her attitude. We believe that all of us can devote a few minutes every day to create a more balanced and happy dog. Good luck and have fun!
We Are Alive

I have written this column in my head so often that when the time came to put it down on paper, I thought it would be a piece of cake.

Not so much.

The last few months seem to have brought such changes that there’s almost a new world of breeding Wheatens every day. But perhaps…it’s not so new.

For us it began as we planned Rudi’s litter. As usual, I drove the owner of Mr. Wonderful halfway around the bend, interrogated every breeder who’d used him and studied test results like tea leaves. All looked good.

Until Rudi’s brother, the well-known BobDog, had scary annual testing. We couldn’t breed his sister until we knew what was going on. Disappointed, we prepared to wait another season. Then…word trickled out “The Test” was nearly ready. I believe if you wanna get, you gotta give. I said I’d do whatever was needed to help make the test publicly available. So I acquired a second job hawking cheek swabs…along with a team of utterly devoted terrific people.

Back to breeding Rudi: Cheek swabs for Rudi, Bob and their mother were mailed the instant we got them. Bob’s results arrived first, homozygous negative. He is an adored, wonderful dog; we were relieved for Carol and cautiously optimistic for the girls. They are heterozygotes. Having had PLN dogs, it was hardly tragic news.

Who knew waiting for test results would bring a bitch in season? Rudi came in while Mr. Wonderful’s swabs were in transit.

Admit it or not, we’ve all been breeding blind for an awful lot of years. Sure, we’ve tried to be careful, studying pedigrees, investigating dogs, pouring over test results and Open Registry reports. Is there anyone who hasn’t done a breeding that’s made them take a deep breath?

Trust me: Half-blind is worse. If we went ahead and Mr. Wonderful was anything other than a homozygous negative, there was a chance of homozygous positive puppies...“2s.”

We talked it through…for hours. Breed and abort the litter if he came back positive? Probably easier to say than actually do. What if he were a heterozygote, a “1”? Cull the 2s? A friend in another breed had that immediate reaction…not for us.

The clock was ticking. We decided. We would test the litter. We would be forthcoming with potential owners and provide ongoing support as usual. We would hold onto them as long as necessary.

We bred Rudi. The fates smiled: Mr. Wonderful came back homozygous negative. Years ago, I herniated a cervical disc. I got so used to the pain I forgot about it…until it was gone. This was the same. I hadn’t realized my stomach was knotted and I had been holding my breath until that email arrived.

Mother Nature again proved herself a bitch: Rudi missed. Regardless, I learned something invaluable: I will never, never, ever breed without these test results.

We’re all learning to navigate our new world. For me, it’s a world with new hope. I am sorry for those who shut their eyes out of fear, ignorance and distrust. Disagreements will occur…and we’re...
always going to look at someone else’s breedings and think “Huh?!”. I hope we have learned from our past to not let civil war start again.

The basics haven’t changed. A Wheaten is still more than this test...he’s a unique personality in a typey, sound body. Breeders still need to educate themselves; ignorance is still no excuse. My attitude toward testing remains the same as always: test for eyes and hips and disease, understand the results and reveal them to those with a stake...the stud-dog/brood bitch owners and potential puppy owners.

Mostly it’s still about owning our breeding decisions.

If I breed a bitch with an iffy bite without looking into Mr. Wonderful’s mouth, then I shouldn’t be shocked by bad bites. Maybe I’m prepared to deal with them, but if I’m surprised, then I’m just plain stupid. This test is no different.

If you’re breeding a 1...you better understand if you breed it to another 1, you’re probably going to produce some 2s...possibly a lot of 2s. If you’re breeding “don’t knows” you may have a LOT of 2s. You better have thought it through.

Don’t think for a second potential owners won’t think about it.

Owning your decision means you have no right to be surprised or to wring your hands or blame anyone else. Owning your decision means you have thought about what you will do with those 2s if/when they occur. Owning your decision means you realize in advance you must tell potential owners the truth about your litter.

At the end of the day, YOU are putting two dogs together...not SCWCTCA, not Penn, not Meryl Littman, and not Paula Henthorn. It’s not other breeders, either. If you need your friends’ approval to run your breeding program...don’t call yourself a breeder.

During these few months’ roller coaster ride, I have, more than anything, remembered the dogs who went before. Mostly, it’s been those who didn’t get bred...relatives of affected dogs who went on to live long, healthy lives...and today would be contributing to our breed’s future.

So my motto is: we aren’t where we’re going to be but we are better off than we were.

I worship at the Church of Bruce. This spring, I dove into “Wrecking Ball” and one chorus kept going through my head:

“We are alive.
And though our bodies lie alone here in the dark
Our souls and spirits rise
To carry the fire and light the spark
To stand shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart.”

We carry the spirit of our breed. Our past dogs live on. I am proud of my fellow breeders who are again carrying the fire. But let’s be sure to keep standing together.

Today...this breed...we are alive.

The basics haven’t changed. A Wheaten is still more than this test...he’s a unique personality in a typey, sound body. Breeders still need to educate themselves; ignorance is still no excuse.
Dingo has always been my comic-relief Wheaten. She was born by candlelight in Maryland during a tropical storm. She was a singleton puppy, and her first nickname was “Ceili’s Fat and Happy” which still applies to her today. Her motto has always been “It’s all good.” She has always been great with every other dog despite her lack of littermates. In fact, other dogs have always had a strange affinity for her – even those that don’t normally care about other dogs.

When she was in beginning agility class, many dogs would leave the course just to say “hi” to her. She was a fun dog to show in agility although her qualifying rate never matched her half-sister Ripley. She would saunter up to the start line looking a little bored, and then wait (or not) for her release. Once on course, she was always fast but not always efficient. She never turned tightly, preferring to check what was going on around her and occasionally taking an extra obstacle just to keep me on my toes. When we finished a course, she never celebrated with me; it was just on to the next adventure. I retired her over halfway to her MACH since I couldn’t find much time to train once I started having kids, and she would never qualify without regular training! Dingo is still the same independent, confident, fun dog she has always been. She loves patrolling our yard for bunnies and birds, and continues to get along with every dog she meets. Dingo still takes random full height jumps out in the agility field whenever it suits her. She is a joy to live with, and still makes me laugh most every day!

Owner: Beth Sorenson
Breeder Beth Sorenson & Marjorie Shoemaker
CH Frontline Silver Darling at Sanzerena (Tara)
(Starcadia Tailspin x Kileleagh Goldcrest in
Frontline (IKC))

On January 17th we lost Tara aged 15 years, 10 months.

Tara was an independent spirit, very self-contained; she loved life to the full, she had a steady reliable temperament and her big loves were home comfort and food!

Tara was a star of the stage and played “Sandy” in the musical “Annie” with a children’s youth theatre!

She gained her championship, did agility, and always jumped off everything - landing 5 feet across a room - she even did this up to the end. She had one litter, and we are lucky that we have her Grandson Ruffle who continues her legacy.


Starcadia Chloe at Syzygy (Chloe)
(Miwaivlys Bacchus x Starcadia Feliz Navidad)

Chloe had a sweet gentle soul; she loved kisses and cuddles and would Whooo with happiness!

She took many BP and a Reserve BP in Show, she gained her Stud Book number, we retired her, but decided to give her one last outing in 2009, where she won Best Veteran bitch at the Club of GB Show.

Sandra & Malcolm Jeffries (Sanzerena)
Bred by: Angela Switzer; we jointly owned her with Jo & Graham Dowdy (Denzilly).

[Sadly we have had to say goodbye to both our girls this year. Our home feels empty without their presence, but we take comfort in knowing we have been lucky to have two sweet girls, who lived long, healthy lives, and we will miss them forever…….]

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Molly, at the grand age of 14, was enjoying her days (and evenings) reclining in her favorite spots in my bedroom and its adjoining rooms! She passed away on July 11 in her favorite spot with her head on her favorite pillow.

Molly was born in 1998 to my foundation stud, Derravara Irish Elegance (affectionately known as “the Professor,” who lived to two weeks shy of his 14th birthday) x Wheaten Rebel’s Heart and Soul, my primary foundation bitch (affectionately known as “Leslie.”)

Significant to this breeding were the carryforwards! Molly carried the absolutely gorgeous coat of her mother, but surpassed her with carrying it with the coloring from her father. Thus, richer color. She showed such richness in the test breeding that I did with her with the boys; unfortunately, the one girl in that litter ‘Jada’ carried the brillo coat! Yes -- the gene for the brillo coat IS in the Irish stock as well! Of course, this being such a major factor for me, “Jada” was sent out as a loving pet to a wonderful lady in Connecticut. Thus the story of Molly’s only daughter, Cabaret’s Jadajadajingjingjing!

Molly exceeded her parents in that she had a better outline than both; she had her Dad’s wonderful bone and muscle in the correct size package. I sent her out with Tracy Szaras-Deloria who handled her with superb professionalism. The only problem with her show career was her decision that she wanted no part of it!!! She wanted to be home with Daddy, enjoying her kennel mates! So, back home she came and she enjoyed life at home up to the end!

On June 23, 2012 at age 14 “Molly” told the world she merited the title “Grand Diva”; on July 11, 2012, she said goodbye to the world having been blessed with a wonderful, loving life and to be called home without suffering--a peaceful transition during her sleep!

Breeder & Owner: Joseph deLeon McDuffie, Jr. (Cabaret)

Sandcasts Locomotion (Lil Eva)
(CH Ivywilds Starbuck x CH Sandcasts Celebration)
Date of Birth: 8/28/1997

Lil Eva has always been my little girl. I could not have her with me when I first went away to college, but that did not weaken our strong bond, and she did end up living with my husband and me in Gainesville. She was a show dog, although she did not care for the show ring.

My mother, Jackie Kase, became ill and passed away just as Eva’s only litter was about to go to its new homes. Eva lives with one of her daughters from that litter, Joyce, who is now 11 years old, and she lives with her granddaughter, Betti, who is four years old.

Even though Eva turned 15 years old the month of August, she is still the matriarch and leader of the home, and no one dares to cover her yard markings! She is tender and caring, and still romps just a little bit with her granddaughter. Eva has arthritis in her rear legs and her sight and hearing loss are
I’m thrilled to have this opportunity to celebrate the long life of my special girl, Maeve! Maeve is my first bitch and, as wise women do, she’s given me an enormous education on what it is to own - and be owned by - a dog. My previous SCWTs were males, including Maeve’s father, and while they did a good job of preparing me for her arrival, they were also easy, uncomplicated guys.

Maeve is wise beyond her years, braver than all the males put together, and never met a challenge that she wouldn’t face head on. She’s been my steady, stalwart girl at a time when many other things weren’t so strong. Not overly demonstrative, she’s nonetheless always ready to be pulled onto my lap (even though she’d probably never admit to wanting to do so) and to have her belly rubbed until the evening ends or the coat wears off - whichever comes last.

Aptly named, from the beginning I had to learn to wait for Maeve; she’d do the task when she was ready ... from winning in the show ring to having her litter of puppies - it was all done on her own private timetable. She did her motherhood duties with determination, counting little black noses after each outing, and still takes issue with her son, Dughan, lest he forget that she’s the Queen in our home. We love her beyond reason, enjoy her wry sense of humor and dependability, her uncomplicated nature, and the beauty that she still displays proudly - and I think she plans to stick around with us for a good long while. That’s my hope, and I tell her how much she is loved at the end of each day after she’s had her nightly drink from her own bathroom cup and has given out the good-night kiss!

Owner: Jacki Stein
Breeders: Fran Talbot & Jacki Stein

Can/Am CH Sweetbriar Rebel Heart of Ballymena (Maeve)
(CH Briarlyn How Sweet It Is (Gleason) x Can CH Ballymena’s Fire Water (Katie)
Date of Birth: 09/28/1998

I’m so thankful to have her and the generations in my home because of her. I am also thankful to Dennis and Bonnie Wirth and the countless other SCWTCA members who have helped mentor and guide me in my passion for Wheatens!

Owners: Sherri Kase-McKenzie & Gina Colombo
Breeders: Jackie Kase and Gina Columbo

significant; somehow she manages to instinctively know when I am home from work, and rouses herself from an old dog’s hard slumber in her crate to come and find me.

I am so thankful to have her and the generations in my home because of her. I am also thankful to Dennis and Bonnie Wirth and the countless other SCWTCA members who have helped mentor and guide me in my passion for Wheatens!
Amaden’s Liam (Liam)
(Maroc Captain x Holmenocks Hadora)
Date of Birth: 4/5/1999

Liam has been a wonderful pet and a party animal. His birthday party was a big hit with his friends, although this is his St. Patrick’s Day outfit. He is the mascot for the Metropolitan Animal Clinic in Norristown, PA where he majors in internal medicine, never doing surgery because he is afraid of blood. He lives with DeClan and they are best friends. Both are from dogs imported and bred by Emily Holden.

Owner: James F. Dougherty VMD
Breeder: Emily Holden

One of the greatest gifts we receive from dogs is the tenderness they evoke in us.

Dean Koontz
A Big Little Lie: A Memoir of a Joyful Dog

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MEET GLEANNGAY’S NEWEST CHAMPION ... “MILES”

Riley Frerking came onto the scene after “Miles” was sold to him by the previous owner without my knowledge or consent.

My initial shock quickly turned to delight.

I could not be more pleased!

“Miles” finished at Great Western with two majors including a BOW and a BOS, shown by our very talented Alison Miller.

Riley piloted him for his remaining points, which included a third major and a BOB!

CH GLEANNGAY RUNAWAY
Ch Andover Mayhem Magic “Hammy” X Ch Gleanngay Lady Of The Lake “Ninianne”

Breeder
Gay Dunlap
760 345-1757
gleanngay@me.com

Owner:
Riley Frerking
701 527-9202
riley.frerking@yahoo.com
Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising
"Ash"

CH Bryr Rose Nouvelle Vague x CH Bryr Rose Flower Power

Best In Specialty Sweepstakes
Great Western Terrier Association
National Roving Specialty

Thank You Breeder Judge
Jon Caliri...
A Very Special Thank You
to Elena Landa!

Bryr Rose Wheatens
Jeanne "Yenna" Ferris
860.635.7171
Carolyn Garrett
310.890.4070
Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising
"Ash" makes his debut at six months

Francois and Phoebe are so proud of their little man!

Reserve Winner's Dog - Pictured
Great Western Terrier Association
National Roving Specialty
Breeder Judge Karin Bergbom

Also Winning RWD
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club
of Southern California

Bryr Rose Wheatens
Jeanne "Yenna" Ferris
860.635.7171
Carolyn Garrett
310.890.4070

A special thank you to Shari Boyd Carusi
Grooming bags packed - Wheatens across America were ready to get their kicks on Woof 66 for the National Roving Specialty and the SCWTSCC Specialty weekend in Long Beach, California. The weekend was dedicated to the memories of Bernie Barron, Janet Turner Dalton, and Leo Springer, all good friends and Wheaten advocates.

The show began on Friday, June 22nd with the SCWTSCC Independent Specialty. Judging was by Vandra Huber. That same day the CAP program was driven by Bonney Snyder. Late afternoon was the GWTA “B” Match.

Marilyn Smith and Merrilee Ford worked in high gear over the hospitality table in the morning. Scones, cold watermelon, quiche: each bite more wonderful than the last, provided great fuel to keep us going!

Saturday was the SCWTCA Roving Specialty, Sweepstakes, and Veteran Sweepstakes and an incredibly busy day. Breed Judge was Karin Bergbom, Sweepstakes Judge was Jon Caliri, and Veteran Sweeps Judge, Bill Behan. After judging, Dr. Merrill Littman talked about the latest news on the Wheaten DNA testing. 300 DNA kits were given out over the weekend. Dr. Littman was brought here by a mysterious, anonymous donor. Thank you to that wonderful person!

Again, Merrilee Ford and Marilyn Smith manned the hospitality table along with Carol Carlson and Merrilee’s sister, Leslie Grieve.

Jeanine Flavell chaired our amazing raffle. The wondrous items that Jeanine and her committee gather are always a delight to see – thank you to all that contributed.

That evening we had our “Dinner on the Green.” For several years, the dinner had been on the Queen Mary, but by popular demand it was brought back to the show grounds. It’s a nice time to enjoy the company, visit with old friends, and make new ones, all within eyesight of our dogs. The show site is so magnificent that it truly is like a vacation right next to the ocean and the permanently docked Queen Mary. Ann Warren provided a CD filled with Route 66 and other vintage traveling songs.

After dinner Stephen Steging, our auctioneer, auctioned off the Route 66 Wheaten centerpieces and the ring decorations. The lively auction was full of laughter and heartfelt friendship. The evening was delicious! A portion of the auction was donated to the Health Fund.

The next morning was our SCWTSCC Specialty. Sweepstakes was judged by R. Doreen Gordin and the breed judge was Fran Brown.

Each year when organizing our specialty, we focus on the past, present and the future. The past is the foundation of our breed. We celebrate the people and Wheatens that created history so many years ago. The present is the joy of the moment, your bundle of fur, a ribbon, friendship at the show site. But most importantly we look down the road to the future. The future is sweepstakes, competition, rescue volunteers and health cures. The future is in our hands. We must follow the right road.

Get Your Kicks On Woof 66!
SCWTSCC Specialty/Roving Weekend
June 22nd, 23rd & 24th
by Karla Baer Cohen
Throughout the weekend we had many people that pitched in to help make our specialty weekend smooth driving.

Thanks to:

Our faithful and wonderful ring stewards Lynn Aquirre and Wilma Johnson
Decorations Committee - Joan Johnson, Carolyn Filing, Mike Smith
Raffle Chair - Jeanine Flavell
Hospitality - Marilyn Smith, Merrillee Ford
Wristband Chair & all-around helper - Beverly Streicher
Incredible Fill-in Person – Nancy Graves
Pack ‘em and Move ‘em Committee – Jim Cohen, Conrad Virant
Bow Wow Boutique Chair - Miriam Kahan
Keeper of the Gold & Reservations - Vickie Gosnell
Dinner - Karla Baer Cohen, Laura Virant
Advertising Chair – Anna Marzolino
Trophy Chair – Karla Baer Cohen

Soft Goods – Karla Baer Cohen
Auctioneer – Stephen Steging
Dr. Littman Reception - Marilyn Smith, Merrillee Ford
Wheaten Health - Dr. Merrill Littman & anonymous donor
SCWTCA Assistance and Support – President Jinx Moore
Website – Jon Apogee
Theme Artwork – Darcie Olsen

Helping Hands – Jinx Moore, Carol Carlson, Lori Kromash, Susan Mc Gee, Janice Driver, Elena Landa, Mary Lindquist, Jon & Kathy Apogee, Nancy Graves, Molly O’Connell, Leslie Grieve, Ann Warren, Jim Cohen, Conrad & Laura Virant, Ron & Viviana Hetherington, Hunter Gill, Pat & Dennis Hetherington and any other wonderful people we may have overlooked.

Thank you for joining us or helping us...it was a wonderful, joyous three-day celebration of Wheatens.

Judge’s Commentary
SCWTCSC Independent Specialty
June 22, 2012
by Judge Vandra Huber

As a terrier person, but not a breeder judge, I was much honored to be asked to judge Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers at Great Western this year. I waited with great anticipation for judging day. And I was not disappointed with the number of entries but more important, the quality of the entry.

In judging Terriers generally and Soft Coated Wheatens in particular, I feel that breed type is integrally linked to the original purpose of the breed. The temperament of the SCWT is an important aspect of breed type which separates the Wheaten from other more aggressive, single-purpose terriers. As an all-purpose farm dog, which by design hunted and killed vermin as well as herded, watched, and guarded livestock, the Wheaten has to be a versatile terrier that is strong, well-coordinated, confident, and steady. Given this, I placed great importance on temperament. In diffidence to the heat, the majority of dogs moved with steadiness and with tails that were up on this day. I feel that sometimes judges and owners have allowed a softer temperament than the standard suggests. While the day was warm, the great majority of dogs shown to me had proper confident temperament with tails up. Nevertheless, there were some specimens for which tail carriage could be improved. I also tried to award those dogs which moved with balanced reach and drive. While many dogs looked good on the go round, fewer looked good coming and going.

Your standard does not specify a desired back length. However, it does state clearly that the back should be strong and level and help complete the image that a SCWT is a square in outline. I concede that the grass can throw the silhouette off, but the image of a square, hardy, well-balanced dog was not always there among the dogs I examined. I
got a clearer image when I went over the dogs and stepped back to take a look at the dog in profile.

Regarding coat quality, I feel that great strides have been made to obtain the balance between American “bouffant” coat of past years and “the heavier, less stylized” Irish coat. I could not get enough of running my fingers through the coat of some specimens. They were silky and gently waved.

Margaret Young Renihan told me many years ago that a specialty is for breeders. It’s the job of a judge to concentrate and pick well, but also put on a show such that breeders have a chance to evaluate potential breed stock. People come to see dogs, critique future breeding stock, and talk dogs. My entry on this day gave people much to look at and talk about. The Best of Breed class was magnificent. The specials class was deep with quality and oozed breed type. It was such a wonderful feeling to be encircled by such outstanding breed specimens. Oh, it was a nice feeling to be a judge this day!

I was able to choose a top-quality, well-made, handsome bitch for Best In Breed namely GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play, owned by Elena Landa. This was the first time I had judged this bitch. She was all that I asked for in a SCWT bitch: correct size, presentation, and quality. I was particularly impressed with her neck-to-back line and how that helped translate into a balanced gait. And her tail was erect as it should be. I want to draw attention to her coat which was not overdone or over trimmed. The texture was soft and silky and had a gentle wave like the wonderful finger waves that marked hairdos of the past. This bitch was as feminine as my BOS and BOW dogs were masculine. She moved very true coming and going.

My Best of Opposite Sex Dog, GCH Bonney New England Patriot, owned by breeders Jocelyn Slayton, Barbara Fain and Bonney Snyder, was a full-bodied Wheaten at the top of the standard. He was a hardy, well-balanced dog who moves with purpose. I was impressed with his balance, correct rectangular head with balanced ears. A young dog according to the catalog, this dog can only get better with maturity.

It pleased me that I was able to recognize dogs at the champion level with Select and Judge’s Awards of Merit. My Select Dog, CH Bendacht Pursuit of Happiness, owned by Michael DeCarlo and M.J. Carr, was under consideration for top honors, but on this day was outshown by the BOS dog.

Select Bitch went to GCH Andover Solista, bred by Jackie Gottlieb and co-owned with David Holy. She was a well-balanced, mature bitch in nice condition. Awards of Merit went to CH Never Lasting’s No Limits, owned by Swenja Nasse, Atas’s Femme Fatale, owned by Jeanine Flavell and Ilze Barron, and finally CH Lismore the World According to Me, owned by Meg Ryan.
Regarding the non-champion classes, the quality of the entries on this day was exceptional. I was pleased that I did not have any shy or timid entries. The one opportunity for improvement, in my view, lies with movement. Even beyond the puppy class, numerous entries still crossed over in the front and did not have drive to match front reach. I think some would tire quickly if out herding for the day.

My Winners Dog and ultimate BOW came from the open dog class. Bred by Gay Dunlap, Gleanngay Runaway, owned by Riley Frerking, had a “look at me” attitude. He caught my eye standing ringside waiting to go in. He was a pleasure to go over with clean shoulders, nice layback, and appropriate coat. Additionally he had a pleasing head, good body, strong quarters, moved true, and was presented in nice condition. He bested my Winners Bitch in self-confidence. He showed himself.

My Reserve Winners were from the puppy classes and certainly presented good promise for the future of the breed.  Reserve Winners Dog – Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising owned by Carolyn Garrett and Jeanne Ferris - came from the 6-9 puppy class. This beautiful-moving, young dog had lovely neck-to-back lines, energy to spare, and a pleasing rectangular head with well-placed ears.  

My Reserve Winner’s Bitch – Bonney Labor of Love - owned by Victoria, Dave Gosnell, and Bonita Snyder - came from the 9-12 puppy class. She moved nicely for a youngster. She was presented well and had nice breed type. She lacked the maturity of purpose that the open bitch had. Still, I’d love to see how this young lassie finishes out in a year or two. Both of these youngsters seemed to be enjoying themselves in the ring.

My Winners Bitch was a triple threat. She was balanced in size, head, and presentation. Coming from the open bitch class, this feminine lassie – Stratford Fashionista – was bred and co-owned by Molly O’Connell, Barbara Gillett and Kay Kotzelnick. Her shoulders were well laid back and cleanly knit. I liked what I saw coming and going – even on the uneven grass.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my stewards who kept me organized and on time. I could not have done it without their help and encouragement. I also wish to thank everyone who exhibited to me and for trusting me to judge his or her “child.” I know you have choices on when and under whom to enter; I thank you for choosing to show under me. It means a great deal.
SD: **CH Bendacht Pursuit of Happiness**  
(Ch Glenamon Gleanngay He’s Key 2Me x CH Bendacht California Dreamer)  Breeders: Michael DeCarlo & Sheila Breeding. Owners: Michael DeCarlo & M.J. Carr.

SB: **GCH Andover Solista**  

AOM: **CH Never Lasting’s No Limits**  
(Wheaten Rebel’s Walk on Top x Never Lasting’s Funny Hill) Breeder: Antoniette Bayer. Owner: Swenja Nasse.

AOM: **CH Atas’s Femme Fatale**  
(CH Dhowden’s American Dream x CH Westridge Back to Limerick)  Breeders/Owners: Jeanine Flavell & Ilze Barron.

AOM: **CH Lismore The World According to Me**  

VB: **CH Tralee Bay’s Magic Moment** (CH Amaden’s Sole Man x CH Brelan’s Guinness Gold)  Breeders/Owners: Stephen and Jilliann Steging

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SCWTCA Roving Sweepstakes Observations
by Judge Jon Caliri

I was honored and touched to be asked to judge the SCWTCA National Roving Sweeps. That the show was honoring my mentor, Janet Turner Dalton, as well as dear friends to the breed, Bernie Barron and Leo Springer, made it all the more special and personally significant.

To give some perspective...the last time I judged Great Western weekend, I looked like this and Gary looked like that. Okay, Gary pretty much still looks like that.

The main difference was after all this time I had little reason to be nervous. So the weeks leading up to the big day were concerned mainly with wardrobe. After all, at this point there could be little question as to what I like, and I’d been to enough shows to turn my hair this color. So when the day arrived, I was more than a little surprised to find myself...well...a nervous wreck. Enter Judge Chris Erickson, who thankfully was at the right place at the right time. After explaining how I was feeling, she let me in on a secret. She said she was just as nervous every time she is about to enter the ring, but it was not unlike acting (something I could relate to). She said the moment I got started, all that would fade away and unless she missed her guess, it would become about the dogs.

Much to my relief that was very much the case. And thanks to the lovely entry, I had no time to be distracted by little else. So a special thank you to the ring stewards who kept me well in hand.

Some overall impressions. My entry on the whole was well-groomed and presented. Despite a particularly sunny day all but a couple showed to advantage and displayed lovely happy
temperaments. While coats varied in quality, it was pleasing to see that all fell well within an acceptable range in both texture and color for their age. Eye color and shape was also uniformly good as was pigment.

On the downside. While the standard allows for level bites, there was a surprising number that strained the definition. I would have to say few, in fact, sported bites of proper width, with even dentition, whether scissor or level. Another area of concern was heads. Prominent zygomatic arches were the rule rather than the exception. Also overly wide skulls paired with leaner muzzles lacking fill, were more prevalent than I’d like. Ear size and set also continue to be a challenge.

**Puppy Dogs 6-9**
Both entries were pleasing to the eye, exhibiting lovely coat, color, and moderation while retaining the elegance and style I seek in a sporting terrier. Both were particularly well-presented and fine young showmen. The winner, Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising, prevailed as he would later in the day on his exceptional soundness, balance and outline. Second went to a lovely boy, Frolic’s Speed Demon at Fenris.

**Puppy Dogs 9-12**
Two very square moderate young gentlemen. I should have liked stronger angles on both as well as a better transition from neck to back. My class winner, Monarch Boston Marathon, edged out his competition, Trigo Let Freedom Ring Gabby, with stronger movement and presentation on the day.

**Puppy Dogs 12-18**
One of the tougher classes of the day. On this day it came down to two dogs of fine quality. Initially in first place, it was Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching, a lovely very balanced square dog perhaps sporting a bit more coat than benefited him. He balked in the final go around, making way for the winner, an exhibit of similar overall quality. he placed second for being slightly longer-backed. But Gemstone As Your Fortune Comes would not be denied, prevailing on his lovely presentation, carriage, and strong side gate. My third place, Marquee’s It’s Showtime, a square typey dog of proper size and proportion, was not having the happiest of of mornings...likewise my pretty 4th-place dog, Blessings High Regard.

**Puppy Bitch 6-9**
The young girls in this class were of contrasting style. My first place girl, PitterPat River Song, a moderate, refined bitch, lovely to go over with particularly good expression and pleasing balanced movement was pushed by my second-place girl. Serendipity’s Urban Legend, an elegant, stylish girl who had a lovely headpiece and striking side gait, but was longer-cast then I would prefer. In third, Lismore Once Upon A Time, was a pretty bitch who fell to stronger movement and expression.

**Puppy Bitch 9-12**
First in this class went to Bonney Labor of Love, a bitch of overall quality that won on her fine movement and pleasing outline...despite her proclivity to do the “Snoopy suppertime dance” whenever she heard applause. In second, Saddlebrooks Party Shoes, a very striking bitch, with lots that I liked, but she fell short on front movement. In third, Ceili’s Shiny and Bright was another with a pretty outline; in this case rear movement was her undoing on the day.

**Best In Sweeps**
**Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising**
Moderate yet elegant, extremely sound and square, he met all criteria, save his somewhat large ears, which he still managed to use extremely well. A lovely young example of the the breed with much promise. Beautifully presented...and full of himself!

**Best of Opposite Sex**
**PitterPat River Song**
From the 6-9 Class she was a perfect complement to the Best in Sweeps. Also moderate, with lovely expression, type and clean movement. She was pushed very hard by my 9-12 bitch, but won at the last on stronger tail carriage and expression on the day.

Thanks to all of you...for a wonderful day I will long treasure.
It was a thrill for me to receive the kind invitation to judge one of SCWTCA’s main specialties. My immediate thought was that this will be one of my greatest moments during my judging career: judging for the first time in the States and judging my own breed, Wheatens.

A Few Words About Myself
I have owned Wheatens since the 70’s and my first litter was born in 1983. I breed Wheatens in Finland with the prefix ‘Wheatstone’. Up to date I have bred 70 Show Champions, including a couple of AM CH, tens of International Champions and several World Winners. I started my judging career ten years ago and I am now judging most of the Terrier breeds and also some other breeds such as Dachshunds and Poodles. I have had the honor to judge Wheatens in many countries, e.g., Ireland, the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Italy, Russia and Australia – and now the USA!

The Show
The show was held in The Queen Mary Events Park, situated at Long Beach, California. It was a very nice showground just next to the shoreline. The show was near to the ship Queen Mary, which is a historic ocean liner, now docked permanently in the harbor. This was the first time for me as a judge to stay on board for a show!

It was a nice, sunny weather – not too hot and not too cold. The ring was beautifully decorated and you could really see that there was a lot of work behind. I had a really nice audience on ringside, two excellent stewards to guide me through the ring procedures, and the show committee was very friendly and helpful. And, I had a nice entry of Wheatens.

The judging system in USA differs very much from the one at home. In the Nordic countries all exhibits get a written critique and individual grading, and only those graded as champion quality compete for challenge certificates. It was quite easy to judge according to the AKC system, at least in the classes where I had to just place the dogs. In the finals it became more complicated to pick out the finalists from all the nice exhibits. In the end I was very pleased to see a really nice line-up of many beautiful Champions, Winners, and Veterans.
The Wheatens
The U.S. breed standard for the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier gives an excellent description of what to look for: a medium-sized, hardy, well-balanced sporting terrier, square in outline, and distinguished by his soft and silky, gently waving coat of warm wheaten color. The standard asks for moderation, alert and happy temperament, and being both graceful and strong. These were the points I focused on in my judging, and I was a very pleased to see many of the exhibits fulfilling these requirements.

The overall impression of the breed was that the quality was very good. My winners had the features I was looking for and the overall size and presentation was excellent. The coats were mostly good or acceptable, but some had quite harsh or woolly coat, and some were lacking the clear Wheaten color. As the coat and color are so important in the breed, it is a feature that must not be overlooked. As the standard asks for an alert appearance, the terrier expression is very important. I had quite a few dogs with too big and low set ears, which tends to impact the expression. Almost all exhibits had the correct square outline. Unfortunately some lost the outline in the movement – for me it is very important that the Wheaten holds its topline also on the move and that the gait is balanced.

The Dog Classes

Puppy Dog 6-9
1st-Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising – This appealing puppy was really beautiful with a nice head and coat, moving well. He went all the way to be Reserve Winners.

2nd-Frolic’s Speed Demon At Fenris - Nice coat and expression. Still immature; movement loose, needs time.

Puppy Dog 9-12
1st-Monarchs Boston Marathon – Nice puppy of excellent type, nice head, short in body but needs more ribcage, nice movement.

2nd-Trigo Let Freedom Ring Gabby – Appealing standing, did not move so well today and his coat will take a lot of time.

Dogs 12-18
1st-Blessings High Regard - This junior dog had a nice outline and good proportions in body. He could have a better head. Very beautiful coat and moved well. Nice temperament.

Bred by Exhibitor Dogs
1st-Aran Walks On Water – This beautiful, alert dog had the silky Irish coat type which I like very much. He had a strong, long head, super expression, excellent strong body and excellent side gait. Due to his young age his coat was not yet ready, but will typically mature in a year or two to the correct soft and silky structure. He was still a little loose in front. I liked this dog very much and gave him Winners Dog and Best of Winners.

2nd-Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching – He had a really nice coat, excellent outline and beautiful movement. Still needs to develop.

3rd-Gemstone As Your Fortune Comes - This dog was very strong and masculine, but he could have a better head. Nice coat color.
4th-Marquee’s It’s Showtime – Nice movement and coat color, but could be more masculine and needs more body.

Open Dogs
1st-Gleanngay Runaway – Appealing, nice in outline with a good coat. He could have more body.

2nd- Harbour Hill Pic-A-Nic Basket – His coat and movement could be better.

The Bitch Classes

Puppy Bitch 6-9
1st-Serendipity’s Urban Legend – This was a really nice, promising pup, very attractive and alert, nice head, good proportions, good body for age, still loose on the move.

2nd-Lismore Once Upon A Time – Nice pup, still needs a lot of time, but attractive, tail set could be higher; promising.

Puppy Bitch 9-12
1st-Saddlebrook’s Party Shoes – Attractive pup, very nice in outline, needs to improve in movement. Nice head and expression; very promising coat with nice color.

2nd-Bonney Labor Of Love – Nice puppy, short coupled, good body, needs to settle on the move and she was bigger than the winner of the class.

3rd-Ceili’s Shiny And Bright – This one I liked a lot and she had a promising silky coat. She still needs to develop in head and bone, and unfortunately reacted to sounds while moving.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitches
1st-PitterPat River Song – This young puppy was very nice in type and outline. She had good construction and proportions. She did not want to show herself, but she was still so nice in type that she took the class.

2nd-Paisley Timeless – A good bitch, but her light ears spoiled her expression. She could have clearer coat color. Nice movement.

3rd-Gemstone’s Baroque Fortune Teller - A big bitch, could have kept her tail higher and have darker eyes. She could have a better coat quality. She had a nice neckline.

Open Bitches
1st- Marymore Circle Of Friends – A really beautiful bitch, nice movement, nice head. Excellent body. She was for me the obvious choice for Winners Bitch.

WB: Marymore Circle of Friends
(CH Marymore Hot Pepper Jack x CH Marymore Legacy Renaissance)Breeders: Jon Caliri, Robert Hale, Mary Peltier.

2nd-Avalon Noblesse Oblige – Also a really nice bitch, very correct in type and outline. She did not move as well as the winner of the class. She pushed herself up to Reserve Winner.

3rd-Banner Marymore Double Triple Axel – She had a nice head and good body, but a little low on leg.
Veteran Dogs

1st-CH Hullabaloo The Rookie – This old boy had one of the best constructions, really beautiful head, dark eyes, and excellent bite. I liked this one a lot, and would have loved to see him in his best days. Now, he was not in coat and did not move so well but he obviously loved his day out, and is a credit to his owner.

My Best Opposite, CH Doubloon’s Extreme Play, is a beautiful bitch, very feminine, with excellent presentation and outline, and with a strong body. She had one of the best silky coats and a nice clear wheaten color. Her movement could show a little more power instead of length of stride. I liked this bitch a lot.

Select Dog GCH Bonney New England Patriot had many of the same features as my BOB winner. Excellent strong body, good coat; lost on movement to the winner.

Select Bitch CH Atas’s Femme Fatale was very beautiful standing, nice topline and style, beautiful head, good angulation; body needs still to develop.

AOM-CH Never Lasting’s No Limits had one of the best coats, silky and shiny with great color, and he had a great long masculine head. He moved well, but I would have liked him shorter in loin.

AOM-GCh Galens Winter Tale had a really nice outline, nice neck; would prefer a stronger muzzle and she was a little thin in body for the day.

AOM-CH Gemstone’s Eighth Inning Emerald is a stylish bitch with nice long head and a very good front. She is a bit long in body and not in the best color for the day.

AOM-CH Stratford Fashionista was an attractive, moderate bitch with a very good front and proportions; not in her best coat for the day.

Finally, I want to thank you all for this wonderful opportunity. It was a great day, which was completed by a great hospitality dinner afterwards. I met many old friends, and I think I made some new ones. And I got a glimpse of the Wheaten World in sunny Southern California to take home and remember during the cold and dark winter evenings back in Finland.

Thank you all, and hope to see you again somewhere!

PS: Pictures from the show at www.katjanvehna.galleria.fi

Veteran Bitches

1st-CH Tralee Bay’s Magic Moment – Nice old lady, nice expression and proportions but a little big; moved well.

2nd-CH Trigo Olive The Other Reindeer – I liked this lady a lot; excellent size and type, nice expression but in too heavy a condition for the day.

Best of Breed

My choice for Best of Breed was CH Bendacht Pursuit Of Happiness, very masculine with excellent proportions, strong head with great muzzle, well-developed body, balanced movement, good coat. He was well up to the breed standard, being moderate in structure and not showing any exaggerations. A worthy winner! I was very pleased to see him shortlisted in the Group Competition.

As mentioned before, my Best Of Winners was Aran Walks On Water. I was pleased to see him also do so well in the big ring. Judged by the Breeder-Judge Mr. Gary Vlachos, he was placed 2nd in the Bred-By group competition.

Select Dog GCH Bonney New England Patriot had many of the same features as my BOB winner. Excellent strong body, good coat; lost on movement to the winner.

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BOB: CH Bendacht Pursuit of Happiness
(CH Glenamon Gleanngay He’s Key 2Me x CH Bendacht California Dreamer)  Breeders: Michael DeCarlo & Sheila Breeding.  Owners: Michael DeCarlo & M.J. Carr.

BOS: GCH Doubloon’s Extreme Play
(GCH Doubloon’s Salt of the Earth x CH Doubloon’s Ultimate Player)  Breeder/Owner: Elena Landa.

SB: CH Atas’s Femme Fatale
(CH Dhowden’s American Dream x CH Westridge Back to Limerick)  Breeders/Owners: Jeanine Flavell & Ilze Barron.

SD: GCH Bonney New England Patriot
(CH Harbour Hill Mike Delfino x CH Jamboree Tres Amigas)  Breeders: Bonney Snyder, Jocelyn Slayton & Barbara Fain.  Owner: Bonney Snyder.

Judge Karin Bergbom - Finland
AOM: GCH Galen Winter's Tale

AOM: CH Never Lasting's No Limits

AOM: CH Stratford Fashionista

AOM: CH Gemstone's Eighth Inning Emerald
(CH Dundalk The Painter's Son x CH Gemstones Diamond Chase) Breeders: Tami Herzog & James Herzog, Jr. Owners: Marji and Frank Baumann & Tami Herzog.

RWB: Avalon Noblesse Oblige

RWB: Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising
My assignment to judge Veteran Sweeps at the Roving this year was certainly a special one for me! I always have a special spot in my heart for those old guys and gals that have contributed so much to our lives and our Breed!

This was my first visit to this venue for Great Western. The park is beautiful, and with the harbor and the Queen Mary as a backdrop, it doesn’t get much better, unless of course you have a ring of beautiful veteran Wheatens!

It was important to me in my ring process to have the dogs in the shade as much as possible. Champions all, they rose to the occasion, stood beautifully for the exam, and moved out well when asked.

My pick for Best of Opposite Sex in Veteran Sweeps was Ch Tralee Bay’s Magic Moment (b)(10+ years). Maggie was a solid, well-built bitch of good color. Her coat presentation was excellent. She moved in a balanced fashion. A well-placed ear of good size added to her expression.

My Best in Veteran Sweeps was Ch Lakkas Ustilago (d)(11 years old). Gus had a beautiful open silky coat of loose curls and wave that contributed greatly to his strong Wheaten type. This coat overlaid a superior front assembly, and a very solid topline and high tailset. Nice leg under him, he moved in a very positive fashion. Great ears and expression, I was very pleased to offer him the top honor on this day!
Let me first thank the SCWTCSC for inviting me to judge your Specialty. I want to thank my very informed ring stewards. It surely makes an assignment go smoothly when the stewards are keen on the procedures. Also, I want to say how very respectful the exhibitors were entering and in the ring. What a nice group of people.

I try not to evaluate each dog on paper after judging. The reason being I’m not a fault judge and look at the whole dog when judging. If I must evaluate each dog separately then I must mention each fault. When judging, one compares one dog to another and then from that standpoint lines them up. I have done seiger evaluations at Nationals but truly do not like to write down the faults and then grade the dogs from that criteria. The comparison of dog to dog is my way and the way we should judge here in the USA.

It was a pleasure to have strong classes. There were some classes that any one of the entries could have easily won the blue ribbon. It really came down to small virtues when deciding the placements. I must commend the owners or handlers on the condition of the dogs. They were in good weight and coats well taken care of.

I have to say there is a problem with bites. There were far too many even bites with some teeth misplaced within the bites. I realize the standard calls for level, along with scissors; however, I felt the bites could be better. I like to see large, strong, white teeth on a terrier.

It was also a pleasure to judge a breed that was not over-groomed. The coats felt clean, free from product and not overly trimmed or stylized. Each entry made a lovely outline and represented the breed well. I was pleasantly surprised to see the majority of the entries clean on the down and back, and nice on the go around.

My Winners Dog and Winners Bitch were outstanding to me as they both were structured to do the ‘job’. The Best of Winners was a lovely puppy bitch. In my winners line up I kept going back to her; she has great presence, is strong mover with wonderful reach and drive and also beautiful side movement. Winners dog was also an outstanding entry. This was not an easy task. Looking at the Winners line up in both sexes, it was a beautiful lineup indeed.

When the Specials came in, I was so pleased to see a strong line up. Sometimes when a certain dog enters the ring, you spot that dog or bitch that says, “I’m your winner.” My Best of Breed did exactly that. She was beautiful to examine and beautiful on the move.

I believe the breeders are doing a good job. I appreciated each and every wonderful SCWT who entered my ring. Thank you for bringing them to me, and thank you for making my assignment enjoyable.
RWB: Avalon Noblesse Oblige  

WD/BOS: Gleanngay Runaway  
(GCH Andover Mayhem Magic x CH Gleanngay Lady Of The Lake) Breeder: Gay Dunlap. Owner: Riley Frerking.

RWB: Gemstone As Your Fortune Comes  
(CH Baroque Top Shelf Hurrikane x Gemstone Carolina Queen) Breeders: James and Tami Herzog. Owners: James & Tami Herzog & Linda & Christine Lee.

RWD: Gemstone As Your Fortune Comes  
(CH Baroque Top Shelf Hurrikane x Gemstone Carolina Queen) Breeders: James and Tami Herzog. Owners: James & Tami Herzog & Linda & Christine Lee.

SD: CH Templar’s Fly Away Home  
(CH Never Lasting’s No Limits x CH Lissadell Born To Fly) Breeders: Jana Carraway, Jason Gretton & Caroline Goldberg. Owners: Jana Carraway & Jason Gretton.

AOM: GCH Galen Winter’s Tale  
I would like to thank the SCWTCSC for asking me to judge their sweepstakes on Sunday, June 24. The day was lovely and the location beautiful. The food was very tasty.

My puppy class a pleasure to see as all of the puppies were in proper trim and all were well-behaved. Handlers were their proud owners.

My 9-12 puppy, “Trigo Let Freedom Ring,” was a very nice boy. He had a good coat and moved well, both coming and going. Sound body.

AOM: GCH Gemstone Monarch Over Boston
(Ch Mackanme Beary Special of Bodasca x CH Gemstone Eighth Inning Emerald). Breeders: Marji Baumann & Tami Herzog. Owners: John Roos & James Calibjo and Jim & Tami Herzog.

AOM: CH Destiny Star Student
(Ch Baroque Top Shelf Hurrikane x CH Starlight You Are My Destiny) Breeder: Miriam Kahan. Owners: Lauren Smith, Miriam Kahan and Marilyn Smith.

AOM: CH Never Lasting’s No Limits

AOM: CH Atas’s Femme Fatale
(CH Dhowden’s American Dream x CH Westridge Back to Limerick). Breeders/Owners: Jeanine Flavell & Ilze Barron.
My 12-18 class was very tough as any one of them could have won on any given day. Lochlinear Glenngay Cha Ching was my first choice. He had a beautiful outline, good coat, and moved very well. He was a pleasure to watch. However, my second place dog, Gemstone as Your Fortune Comes, was pressing hard for 1st place as he also was a lovely dog with good movement, good coat, square, and a pleasant head. My 3rd place dog, Marquee’s It’s Showtime, was a very pleasant dog. He showed very well and also had a good coat and good movement. My 4th place dog, Blessing High Regard, was also a very nice dog who was presented well and had good movement. Overall this was a very hard class to choose for the ribbons.

My puppy bitch class, 6-9 months, had some very promising young bitches. My first choice was Lismore Once Upon A Time, a lovely girl with good coat, sound movement, and square. She also had a pretty head and a good tail set. 2nd place was Pitterpat River Song, a very nice little bitch, who needed a little more ring time, but is very promising. 3rd place, Serendipity’s Urban Legend, also needed ring time. She was nice and square with a good coat. Very pretty. I look forward to seeing these girls again.

My 9-12 class puppies were all good to see. All showed well and were groomed well. My 1st place, Bonney Labor of Love, was a lovely square bitch, with a pretty head, good tail set, and good movement. My 2nd place bitch, Saddlebrook Party Shoes, was also a very lovely girl who good going around with a good coat and pleasant head. In 3rd place was Ceili’s Shiny and Bright who was also a pleasant bitch. She was square and moved well. All three are very promising young bitches.

My 12-18 class winner, Gemstone Baroque Fortune Teller, was also pressing for BOS. She showed well and had a good head. She was square and also had good movement and a good coat. I wished I had two first-place ribbons. My 2nd place bitch, Banner Marymore Double Triple Axel, was also a lovely bitch with good movement and good coat. They are all just over a year old and will get nothing but better.

Overall, I had to make some very hard choices as these were an excellent group of puppies. I really had my work cut out to make my final choice:

BSW: Lochlinear Glenngay Cha Ching
(CH Glenngay Holliday x CH Glenngay Tilde Wink)
Breeders: Pat Mullin. and Gay Dunlap. Owner: Pat Mullin.

BOSW: Bonney Labor of Love
Paddy Got His Kicks on Woof 66!

Best of Opposite Sex
SCWTGSC Specialty, June 22, 2012
Judge: Dr. Vandra Huber

GCH Bonney New England Patriot
“Paddy”
Select Dog
SCWTCA Roving Specialty, June 23, 2012
Judge: Ms. Karin Bergbom

Bred. Owned and loved by
Bonita Snyder
Bonney Wheatens
I want to share with you and the group what we here in Colorado are doing in this regard.

The breeders in the Denver Club decided to work together to assist Dr. Littman in her quest to collect DNA from 1,000 Wheatens. In addition to the swabs that would be sent in on a paid basis for our breeding dogs, each breeder wrote to their puppy people to explain the importance of the test and asked them to participate by swabbing their pets. The response from our pet owners was overwhelming!

We placed an order with Toni Vincent for 500 cheek swabs. Our club paid for the supplies to create the kits, including return envelopes with printed mailing labels, to Dr. Littman to make it super easy for our pet owners to comply. Many breeders even filled in the pedigree info for the pet owners so they didn’t need to search through paperwork.

I distributed the kits to the local breeders. Some people who have been breeding for years distributed over 50 kits to dogs in their breeding programs alone. Other breeders organized birthday parties at which they did the collections. Our rescue coordinator, Bob Bergman, has kits to collect any Wheaten who comes into our local rescue program. (In fact, one breeder ran out in her robe one morning to collect DNA from a Wheaten who was passing in the street!)

Molly O’Connell did a wonderful presentation and a collection demonstration at our Herding Event in June. Everyone in attendance took kits to test their own dogs. A few people even took kits for their neighbors’ Wheatens after hearing about the importance of the program.

A number of us have made it a point to collect littermates and send those results back together with notes to Dr. Littman about the health status of the dogs. I know I have sent in swabs from dogs who are on the OR and are happily doing really well, along with their siblings who are still healthy at age 11-1/2. We figure the more history we can provide, the better the information.

In short, I am pleased to report that we have already run out of 250 kits! All of our breeders are now in the process of following up to make sure the swabs have been sent in.

I am really proud of the efforts of my fellow breeders here in Colorado. We are working as a team to get collections done. We are being really supportive of each other as the results are coming in. AND we are committed to share the results, both good and not so good with each other and on the internets list.

So I would add to Pam’s comments... “swab ’em, send ’em and SHARE ’em!”

Our appreciation goes out to to the SCWTCA Endowment, Inc. and the SCWT Genetic Research Foundation for providing the swabs free of charge to Wheaten owners everywhere.
First Kincora Litter

The gang's all here to celebrate its 13th birthday!
Thursday, April 3, 2008, started off like any other routine day. By that afternoon, the day proved to be anything but routine.

My husband and I had decided to bathe our loveable, sweet, goofy, seven-year-old Wheaten Terrier, Buddy. The bath and blow-dry went as expected with Buddy trying his best to be as uncooperative as possible. In the bathtub, Buddy would hide his face in the far corner of the tub, hoping somehow if he couldn’t see us, then we shouldn’t be able to see him. On the table, Buddy would sit, hoping that we might forget to dry that hidden portion of his body.

With the bath and blow dry behind us, I decided that Buddy was in need of a trim. Everything was routine until I turned over his front paw. Between his pads was a black, bubbly, large, angry-looking growth. I immediately knew that something was terribly wrong.

We called the vet’s office, but they were just closing. Luckily, there was an open appointment for the next morning. At the appointment, the veterinarian took one look at Buddy’s paw and confirmed our worst fears that the growth didn’t look good.

As we waited for the biopsy results, the next few days became a blur of tears and unanswerable questions. Should we put Buddy down? If the bad part of his foot was removed, would walking be difficult? How much of the foot would they have to remove? What if they needed to remove more than the foot? How long would he live? How much pain would he have to endure? And how much would this cost us?

The biopsy results confirmed that Buddy had malignant melanoma. By the time we received the results, we had decided that we would do whatever we could to try and save our loveable little Wheaten.

We had little time to rethink our decision, as the malignancy incredibly seemed to have grown in the few days since it was discovered. Within the week, Buddy had his toe and pad removed. His foot remained bandaged for a long time, and he managed to hobble around without too much difficulty.

During this time, we learned that an experimental immunotherapy treatment for dogs with malignant melanoma was being offered throughout the country. At this point we had to make another decision. Do we move ahead with the treatment, or live with the results of the surgery and hope for the best? Our decision was to go forward with the treatment.

It was a two-year process involving a series of simple injections of Oncept Melanoma Vaccine. Initially Buddy received one treatment a week for four weeks. After that we brought him in every six months. Regular local care by our veterinarian was also an important factor in maximizing the effectiveness of the vaccine. Buddy experienced no adverse side effects as a result of the immunotherapy. It has been four years since Buddy’s initial diagnosis. Today he is cancer-free, happy and healthy.

When a pet becomes seriously ill, we all want to do what is best. Sometimes that can mean putting a pet down. At the same time, the right approach is not always easy to ascertain and results will vary, to be sure. For us, the difficult decisions we made have resulted in a longer and healthier life for Buddy.
Happy 50th Anniversary to SCWTCA!

It all started at the Kennel Club of Buffalo show in July of 1975 when I saw my first Wheaten. It was love at first sight, and I have had one or two Wheatens since that time. I even learned, after about two years, to show in conformation and finished Sweet (Winnie’s daughter) myself. I have been proud to be a member of the SCWTCA for over 30 years. During that time I had the pleasure of living with the five girls pictured above. All were the light of my life in turn; only Panda remains now. Thank you to their breeders, Joy Laylon, Lontree, and Emily Holden, Amaden, for letting me share my life with these Wheatens.

Judy Downing
beary@ptd.net
GCH Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris "Eiffel"
Ch Marymore Hot Pepperjack x Ch Bryr Rose Les Trois Saules
Co-owned by Michele Connor and Breeder Jeanne Ferris

Eiffel proudly presents his kids...

CH Islander's Jamakin Waves "Ryder"

Ryder finished in limited showing with 3 majors, Puppy and BBE Group Placements!

GCH Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris x Am Can Ch Islander's Girl Talk
Co-owned by Karen Garner and Breeder Lori Kromash

Banner Marymore Double Triple Axel "Mike"
GCH Bryr Rose Symbol of Paris x Ch Banner Shout
Co-owned by Mary Peltier and Breeder Pam Mandeville

Head...Coat...Type...
Mike is well on her way, winning both majors at the SCWTCNC Specialty and supported entry!
Roving Down Woof 66...with a Bam!

Marymore Circle of Friends
“Bammie”
Winners Bitch
SCWTCA Roving Specialty
June 23, 2012, Long Beach, CA

Bred by: Jon Caliri, Robert Hale, Mary Peltier
Owned and Loved By: Constance Koehler and Mary Peltier
Presented by: Gabriel Rangel

Thanks to Judge Karin Bergbom!
Where does AKC money come from and what does AKC spend it on? Here’s a short primer:

AKC’s 2011 income was $59,529,000. The five largest income sources were:

- Registrations: $22,888,000 (34.4%)
- Recording and event fees: $10,912,000 (18.3%)
- Fees and certified pedigrees: $6,168,000 (10.4%)
- Royalty and sponsorship income: $5,971,000 (10%)
- Enrollment fees and microchip sales: $4,473,000 (4.6%)

Combined, those five income sources total $50,412,000 (84.7%).

AKC’s 2011 total operating expenses were $59,789,000. The five largest operating expenses were:

- Payroll and related benefits: $29,209,000 (48.9%)
- Depreciation and amortization: $6,088,000 (10.2%)
- Professional and service fees: $5,410,000 (9%)
- Rent: $3,647,000 (6.1%)
- Communications and postage: $2,714,000 (4.5%)

The fact is, if you’re like most fanciers, you don’t think about AKC’s finances. Why would you?

I hear little complaining about the fees AKC charges for its services. Nor do I hear, as I once did, much complaining about AKC rolling in dough, which seemed to always have an unspoken but somehow intimated undercurrent that all wasn’t kosher with Big Brother.

That was ridiculous.

No doubt the sometimes not particularly hidden antagonism toward AKC back then was fueled by a generalized resentment toward authority. In those days AKC was its own worst enemy – detached, unapproachable, more than a tad arbitrary, and far from a pillar of commonsense. AKC was so conservative when Jack Lafore became AKC’s president in 1971 AKC was doing two complete outside financial audits annually: Easy money for AKC’s auditors and something that drove then AKC controller and future President Bob Maxwell crazy.

Today’s concern is AKC’s finances – something anyone can get a perspective on by looking at the financial statements in AKC’s annual reports. The last seven annual reports, 2005 through 2011 inclusive are available on AKC’s website.

Remember, please, these are financial statements: High-level, professionally audited accounting of AKC’s finances. Reviewing them provides an overview of how much income AKC has, where it comes from, and where it goes. There is little detail. Don’t look at them expecting to find out how much AKC spends on field reps or the Judges Department, let alone what AKC’s Invitational Dog Show costs – and brings in.

Oddly there are no auditor’s notes (those explanatory comments typically found in auditor’s statements) in 2011’s financial statements. There is a 195-word cover letter – about three paragraphs of this article – summarizing in gross terms AKC’s financial performance last year.

In four words, “AKC is financially secure,” but the days when registrations provided seemingly unending and ever-increasing income are long past. In round numbers AKC registered 550,000 dogs in 2011, which brought in $22,888,000. Another $6,168,000 came from, “Fees and certified pedigrees.” I don’t know what the fee part of that $6 million is, but as far as I’m concerned certified pedigrees are registration income; doubly so, because almost all certified pedigrees result from pets being registered with the new owner buying a certified pedigree at the same time;
meaning $29,056,000, 48.8% of AKC’s 201 “total operating support and revenues” of $59,529,000 came from registration. 2010’s, comparable revenue numbers were: $24,901,000 from registration, $2,013,000, 8.8%, more than 2011’s $22,888,000; certified pedigrees $6,359,000, $191,000, 3.1% more than 2011’s $6,168,000; meaning $31,260,000, 50.9% of AKC “total operating support and revenues” of $61,397,000 came from registration.

Our money-wise AKC has a dilemma. Their predicament being the more registrations, the more money coming in, the less diversified AKC’s finances, the greater AKC’s vulnerability to any disruption incoming registrations.

Then and now AKC’s books were no great mystery for professional auditors.

The big difference today is that registrations, once AKC’s seemingly unending cash cow, have collapsed. In 1992, AKC set its all-time record for registrations in a single year at 1,442,690. Twenty years later, AKC totaled 550,578 registrations, a mind-boggling 892,112 lost registrations, 62% lower.

Worse, that 550,578 number is artificially and disingenuously distorted upwards because it includes 23,173 one-time transfers from the Foundation Stock Service for four new breeds. The Foundation Stock Service is where breeds seeking AKC recognition are enrolled until they are given full recognition, a decision made by AKC’s Board. Breeds are usually in the Foundation Stock for a period of years. When a breed is given full recognition, all of their Foundation Stock enrollments are entered into AKC’s registry at once.

This means newly recognized breeds are highly unlikely to ever record anywhere near that number in a single year. For example, the Treeing Walker Coonhound boosted 2011’s registration total by 18,632 dogs. I was told Treeing Walkers might record approximately 1,200 registrations annually.

Given that, 2011’s registration total is really closer to 533,146; considering the rate of decline in the last 20 years, it is conceivable AKC will register fewer than 500,000 dogs in 2012. The last time AKC registered fewer than 500,000 dogs was 51 years ago. Those many hundreds of thousands of dogs AKC no longer registers are still being bred. They’re just not being registered with AKC. That is a story of arrogance to the point of stupidity: Next time details on the how and why.

At today’s fees every 100,000 dogs AKC should be registering represents an additional $5,000,000 income for AKC. That is a conservative estimate based on an additional $50 in revenue per dog registered ($30 per dog registration plus $20 combining pro-rated fees for litter registrations, certified pedigrees and the host of other fees AKC collects).

In any case, Jack Lafore becoming AKC’s president in 1971 is a convenient dividing point between the inaccessible, unapproachable AKC and the contemporary AKC. Jack had a foot in the old boys’ world while genuinely liking exhibitors and being approachable such as AKC Board members and officers had most often never been.

This was no surprise given Jack’s Philadelphia Main Line pedigree combined with his having been an automobile dealer and U.S. Congressman. AKC’s evolution from a tradition-laden Eastern Establishment, old boys club – women only became eligible to be AKC delegates in 1974, a mere 90 years after AKC’s founding – another story for another time.

Financially AKC is well prepared to cope with any operational hiccups, disruptions, or flat-out disasters: The 2011 Annual Report states as of December 31, 2011, AKC had $78,682,000 in investments. There is another $57,600,000 in unrestricted net assets; an amount which were it necessary to tap is reduced considerably because of unfunded balance sheet obligations for post retirement plans.

Hmmm… if AKC’s not rolling in dough, they’re most certainly not hurting. Good. A financially sound AKC has never been more important than in these times. Uncertainty surrounding companion animal ownership is the new reality. We need a strong AKC with the financial resources to protect us.
## SCWT CHAMPION and PERFORMANCE TITLES
### April-June 2012

Compiled by Sheila O’Connell

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<td>GCh Lismore World Without End</td>
<td>Ch Aran's Chunky Monkey</td>
<td>Ch Stratford The World Revolves Around Me</td>
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New Open Registry Members
August 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 membership form, visit SCWTCA web site at http://scwtca.org/documents/health/or_membershipform_20100630.pdf. For a complete list of Open Registry members, email kccarlson@comcast.net.

Lori J. Clark Margaret Gray, PhD, DVM Sandy & Frank Russo
Diane & Stan Byra Sarah McNeil Alexandra Taylor
Susan & Stephen Collins Karli Mueller Camille & Richard Taylor

Benchmarks . volume 40 . number 3 . page 55
Raccoon Chase Goes South When Dog Maroons Self
by Dave Bryce

Tradition has it that when a dog trees a raccoon, it’s a three-step process. In Step 1, the dog chases the raccoon up the tree; Step 2 has the dog standing around at the bottom of the tree looking up at the raccoon and barking. Time passes. In Step 3, the dog realizes the futility of barking and goes away, whereupon the raccoon climbs down and resumes its life.

Guinness, a 40-pound, eight-year old Wheaten Terrier, added a nuance on the evening of June 19 in Atherton: Step 2a, in which the dog climbs the tree, chasing the raccoon to a higher perch. The problem with this is Step 2b: Getting out of the tree once you realize that you’re a dog and that there’s a reason that dogs don’t climb trees.

Guinness was “frozen in place, nervous, and shaking” on a branch 30 feet above the ground and 50 feet above the Atherton Drainage Channel when Eggimann, atop a 36-foot ladder, captured him and carried him safely back to the ground, Schapelhouman said.

The dog’s owner had also climbed the tree, though not as far as her dog, but firefighters convinced her to climb back down, Schapelhouman said.

The family asked not to be identified, Schapelhouman said.

Did Guinness learn a lesson?” Only time will tell.

“In my 32 years in the Fire Service, we have been asked to rescue many cats in trees and while we have rescued dogs from pipes, culverts, under homes, and many other locations closer to the ground, I have never seen or heard of a dog that could climb a tree,” Schapelhouman said in the statement. “I’m glad this had such a positive ending. Guinness is an amazing animal.”

Reprinted from the Palo Alto Online News

Benchmarks . volume 40 . number 3 . page 56
“Tully”
CH Lissadell Teller of Tall Tales

(CH Aran About Face x Lissadell Big Story)

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Handler & Friend: Bobbi Kinley-Bluett

Lives with and Loved by: Dee & “Lucie”(fur) deeshard@ameritech.net (216)749-4626

Benchmarks . volume 40 . number 3 . page 57
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Non-SCWTCA members USA $35/year  
Non-SCWTCA members Canada and overseas $45/year  
US funds only  

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Benchmarks is also sent to all judges requesting a subscription, free of charge

**Articles and letters for December issue are due November 1**

Advertising Rates  
Full page only, 1 picture $40.00, additional pictures $5 each  
Page size 8.5 x 11 inches  

Ads may be sent as e-mail attachments, photo 300dpi .jpeg format  
Original photos will be returned  
Back Cover advertising in color $100  
Inside Covers advertising in color $75  

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.

**Ad closing date for December issue: November 1**

Send advertising to Molly O’Connell. (If sent by overnight service, sign “signature waiver” so driver will leave package.) If you have copy submitted by November 1, a draft layout will be sent to you for edits. Include e-mail address for quick turnaround. Payment should be sent to the editor, payable to SCWTCA.

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- **RESCUE**: Nancy Butler (rescue@scwtca.org)  
- **HEALTH ISSUES**: Cecily Skinner (health@scwtca.org)  
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- **2012 MCKC**: Pam Tinnelly (specialty@scwtca.org)  
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Spring City, PA 19475-3428

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Tax deductible donations by check for Wheaten health may be mailed to:  
Toni Vincent  
SCWTCA Endowment/Treasurer  
3825 132nd Avenue NE  
Bellevue, WA 98005-1303

Make checks payable to: **SCWTCA Endowment, Inc.**  
(a 501(c)(3) non-profit, fully deductible for IRS purposes)

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**Celebrating Long Life** submit to:  
Molly O’Connell by closing date November 1:

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Molly O’Connell  
moconn1030@comcast.net

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