Benchmarks

A publication of the SCWTCA, Inc.
Volume 41, number 1
March 2013
HARBOUR HILL introduces ...

PIXAR Puppies

CH Melandee’s High Wire Act “Trapper” x
CH Harbour Hill at Wisteria Ln “Mary Alice”

Harbour Hill Toy Story (Buzz); Harbour Hill Finding Nemo? (Dory);
Harbour Hill Radiator Springs (Sally Carrera); Harbour Hill Monsters, Inc.
(Little Boo); Harbour Hill Monsters U (Sulley); and Harbour Hill WALL-E
(Wally) (not shown)

Harbour Hill Monsters, Inc.
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© photo by Catherine Swain
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From the President
by Jinx Moore

Looking ahead on the SCWTCA calendar, I am sitting in my office admiring all the puppy pictures on the March page and remembering some of the wheaten antics that make us all laugh and love them dearly. I know this list could go on forever, so I have chosen to share 17 favorites in honor of St. Paddy’s Day and our Wheatens.

I love the way you:

1. ...amaze me with your willingness to learn.

2. ...cuddle when I am sick.

3. ...greet me with exuberance when I return from a short trip to town.

4. ...care more about me than yourself.

5. ...nuzzle me with your big black nose.

6. ...love the sprinklers, but not a bath.

7. ...value your front paws.

8. ...can sleep in contorted positions.

9. ...“air out” your beard while sleeping on an air conditioning vent.

10. ...can find Kleenex, a loose paper towel, or T.P. no matter how well it is stored.

11. ...plow the snow with your head.

12. ...find a good hole to dig.

13. ...want the other dog's bone when you have your own.

14. ...run and play when you find that “perfect” stick.

15. ...strut your stuff in the show ring when you really prefer a nap on the couch.

16. ...gaze up at me through your fall.

17. ...always make me laugh.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY!
“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships!”
From the Editor
by Molly O’Connell

I’m about to replace my desktop computer; I’ve been slogging away on the same machine since 2005, and I must say it has never let me down. When I began as editor of *Benchmarks*, I added memory cards, downloaded the InDesign software, gave the tower a hearty and friendly pat and started computing. Lately the old thing has started to lose its memory – much like me I’m afraid – so it’s time to plug in the new tower, embrace Windows 8 and forge ahead. Change can be awkward; you will probably hear some grumbling as I learn new key strokes, how to manipulate the new start screen with tiles and myriad other techie fun. As with any change, moving ahead with the latest information in canine health can be awkward because not all the answers are readily available, not all the answers are set in stone.

I was fascinated to read the CHIC article, “Beyond the Genome.” There has been much discussion about a “protective gene” that may prevent some of our dogs who carry both PLN markers from falling ill. Is this the answer? I don’t know, but I will certainly consider the possibilities until we have more certainty. Keeping up with the research at least allows us to be well-informed so that when the next announcement comes, we have to background to absorb the information.

And speaking of information, how about treatment protocols for osteosarcoma and IBD? As a breeder of 27 years, I have had more dogs die of cancer than I have of kidney failure. And cancer is indiscriminate – any breed, purebred or mixed – is more likely to die of cancer than any other disease. Possible treatments for osteosarcoma present refreshing options for our dogs afflicted with it. Knock on wood, I have never had a dog with IBD. It is a difficult problem to deal with, and now we may have more ways to give our dogs healthy life. Options = hope = what we want for our beloved pets when they fall ill. I am not one to go to extremes to keep a dog alive but I am certainly open to treatments which allow our pet to sustain a happy, comfortable life.

“Sex!”
As a high school teacher, I would bellow that single word when I needed the attention of a rowdy bunch of teenagers. It’s amazing how quickly I grabbed them with a simple three-letter word. Gwen and Kent Meyer delve into sex as the fourth important influence in our dogs’ lives. We breeders are constantly aware of the sexuality of our dogs and how to manage it either through neutering or breeding. The Meyers give us a fascinating insight into how to manage the part of dog sex that is within our purview. They also tell us what we can’t control. I have a best-selling book ready to go to the publisher; it doesn’t need any content because the title alone with make it a bestseller: *Frantic for Sperm*. My fellow teachers, after listening to me on the phone in the office many times, would agree that I’ll sell a million copies.

Speaking of sex, Pam Mandeville looks at another side of the issue, discussing five areas that breeders need to consider when mating their dogs. I wholeheartedly agree with Pam when she talks about learning to tube feed puppies. Years ago I had a litter of seven and a mom with very little milk. Supplementing the puppies every two hours required me to learn to tube feed. I asked a dear friend – who was new to dogs at the time – if she would supplement when I was at school that first week. She was terrified. She asked, “What if I do it wrong and one of them dies?” I replied that they would die if they weren’t supplemented. That is a fact. Bottle feeding is tedious and a weak puppy has a tough time sucking. You can tube feed a litter of seven in 10 minutes. As Pam says, you brought them into the world, it’s your job to keep them alive. Amen.

I wish I could run over to the nearest computer store and buy some new memory chips to enhance my own. Would we all be so lucky! In the meantime, I will rely on technology to help me so I, too, can forge ahead with the best interest on our dogs at heart.
Celebrating Motherhood And A New GCH

“Portia”

GCH Lismore The World According To Me

GCH Stratford Top Brass

x

CH Stratford The World Revolves Around Me ROM

Meg Ryan
703-855-9150
ndlaw951@aol.com
Plus Three New Champions

CH Lochlinear Gleanngay Quick As A Wink x GCH Lismore The World According To Me

“Emma”
CH Lismore Once Upon A Time

“Twilight”
CH Lismore This Time Is Ours

Thank you so much to the owners, and to Shari Boyd Carusi and Angie Lloyd for all your help and support!

Meg
Meet the New SCWTCA Board Members
by Carol Carlson

Every year in October at the SCWTCA Annual Meeting, we have the opportunity to meet the incoming Board members. This past October we met two new directors, Connie Koehler and Pat Mullin. As in other years, I asked them a series of questions and asked for a photo of them, preferably with their dogs. You will see that both Connie and Pat are very interesting, experienced, and well-qualified people. You’ll see that they have more in their lives than SCWTCA. Here is what I asked:

Connie Koehler

Who Are You?
Aviation and dogs have always been my twin passions since childhood. As an aerospace program manager and general-aviation pilot, I broke a number of glass ceilings in the course of a 30-year career—and have the scars to prove it. But it was inevitable that on the day that I retired in June 2010, I went totally to the dogs. I turned in my badge and hit the road to bring home a 12-week-old Wheaten puppy bitch, Bammie—now CH Marymore Circle of Friends CGC—and haven’t looked back. In addition to another Wheaten, Magoo and Bammie, I live in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, with my husband Jeff and his 12-year-old rescue Yorkie.

How did you first become interested in Wheatens?
My first interest in our breed arose after helping my mother rescue a four-month-old Wheaten puppy bitch in 1980; the dog thrived until the ripe old age of 15. When she died, I contacted SCWTSC Rescue and adopted another Wheaten in 1995; alas, she was one with behavioral issues and who eventually died at nine years from PLN. Undeterred by that experience, I brought home my now-nine-year-old dog, Marymore Point Mugu CGC RN HCT-s (Magoo), as a pup in 2003, followed by Bammie in 2010. Mary Peltier, my breeder, co-owns Magoo and Bammie with me.

In early 2006, following an SCWTSC herding fun day at which Magoo showed a keen affinity for moving stock, we began herding training in Los Angeles with AKC/AHBA judge Judy Vanderford. Bob Nerrie, owner of the famous “Vinny the Weasel,” Magoo’s grandfather, subsequently put me in contact with Suzanne Stone and Susan McGee, who had both been working at the national-club level to achieve eligibility for Wheatens in AKC herding tests and trials.

Over the next three years, our team collaborated with numerous breed clubs in not only the USA, but also in Canada, Europe and Australia, as well as the USKBTC—who had gained AKC herding recognition for Kerry Blues in 2006—and several AKC performance committees. Judges Judy Vanderford and Carolyn Wilki of PA were asked by AKC to act as our expert evaluators. On May 11, 2010, the AKC Board of Directors unanimously voted to approve SCWTCA’s petition for Wheaten eligibility to compete and title in herding, effective Jan. 1, 2011. Del Val SCWTC held the first-ever AKC herding event, a weekend of instinct tests and workshops organized by Bonnie Ivler, at Carolyn Wilki’s farm in April 2011; I had the honor to serve as trial secretary for that historic moment.

When did you join the SCWTCA?
I joined SCWTCA in 2009 as a direct result of our herding efforts.

What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on?
Since that time, I have served as public education chair from 2010 through 2012; gate and ring steward for the past three years at the MCKC rally and obedience trials; and Saturday/Sunday...
hospitality co-chair (with Bonney Snyder) at MCKC 2012. Bonney and I will repeat our partnership in 2013 as national specialty co-chairs. I have also authored several articles on Wheaten herding and on rally, published in *Benchmarks* and the AKC Gazette since 2007.

**What all breed, obedience, agility, or breed clubs do you belong to?**
In my own backyard, I have been a member of SCWTCSC since the mid-1990s. In 2007, I was elected to the SCWTCSC board as treasurer, a post I held through 2010, followed by the club’s presidency from 2011 through 2012. I am currently the club’s rescue coordinator for 2013. I am also an active member of my local all-breed obedience club, Lomita (CA) Obedience Training Club. For LOTC, I have worked as a gate and ring steward for the past two years at LOTC’s annual spring obedience/rally/agility match. I am also proud to be a founding member of LOTC’s “rally throwdown” committee, to organize a charity rally match on behalf of America’s Vet Dogs, which trains service dogs for wounded warriors from the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns. Magoo and I were also team captains in 2011, the throwdown’s first year; we were the only SCWT—and terrier—team to participate. In just two years, the throwdown has raised over $26,500 for AVD.

**Do you have any other special club or work experience, e.g. P.T.A., that especially qualifies for the SCWTCA Board?**
Community service has provided me with additional skills to serve on the SCWTCA Board. I was appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the County’s Aviation Commission in 1992, the first woman pilot to serve in that body’s long history of managing the County’s general-aviation airports. I was elected as vice chair in 1997 and chair in 1998, again as the first woman pilot to hold those offices. My term of service ended in 2000 due to increasing career demands. A member of the Junior League of Los Angeles (JLLA) since 1990, I was elected to JLLA’s Board of Directors, first as Public Policy Director in 1993-94, and also as Projects Director from 1994-95, partnering with numerous governmental and nonprofit organizations throughout Los Angeles County. Since the fall of 2010, I have served as sustaining adviser to the Public Policy Council’s Appointments to Boards and Commissions Institute, which trains JLLA members and community volunteers for service on municipal, county, and state governmental advisory bodies.

**Who was your first finished champion/performance title holder?**
Magoo is my first performance title holder, earning a Herding Capability Tested on Sheep (HCT-s) title from the American Herding Breed Assn. in May 2009. He went on to qualify for his Canine Good Citizen certificate and complete his Rally Novice title, both awarded by AKC in 2010.

**What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out?**
Magoo represented the breed at the AKC/Eukanuba herding demonstration in 2008 at Long Beach, but was totally spooked by the chosen stock—mean, honking geese, instead of his usual sheep—and exited the ring unabashedly to the great amusement of the audience, my most unforgettable show-ring moment. The good daughter, Bammie, is my first conformation champion, handled by both Gabriel Rangel and me, awarded Winner’s Bitch at the 2012 SCWTCA Roving Specialty in June, and finished at Santa Barbara KC in August 2012. At this writing, Bammie is two-thirds of the way to her GCH, handled exclusively in the breed ring by this very proud mom. After finishing her GCH, plans for Bammie include motherhood as my foundation bitch and a performance career in herding and rally.

**If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why?**
My New Year’s resolution for 2013 is to focus on this year’s national specialty week at MCKC, from Sept. 30 through Oct. 8, along with my partner-in-crime, Bonney Snyder, plus our incredible team of committee chairs and volunteers. Our theme, “Paws Across the Water,” promises to bring us all together from far and wide to honor the best in our breed and our enduring friendships. We also have a week of the very best parties of the year in the works to boot!
Pat Mullin

Who Are You?
I am a Canadian transplanted to California by way of a brief stay (almost two years) in Seattle. It is hard to believe that I have lived in CA for over 30 years! I have a degree in Computer Science, which is how/why I settled in Silicon Valley. I currently work for Visa in the Chief Technology Office where I manage efforts that drive Visa’s technology direction.

I don’t have a long background in the dog fancy – I consider myself a newbie with only 13 years’ experience! I find that every day is a learning opportunity. I have focused on breeding, health, and conformation but can’t wait to jump into agility when I retire!

How and when did you first become interested in Wheatens? When did you get your first Wheaten?
I first learned about the breed in the early ‘80s from my dentist. His love for his own Wheaten sparked my interest and I began to research the breed. My research led me to a wonderful breeder from Calgary Alberta - Vivienne Lindsay - from whom I got my first Wheaten in 1999 – CH Walbrook’s Wander Lust. “Seamus” was ranked third in Breed Competition in 2001. Needless to say, I was hooked.

When did you join SCWTCA?
I joined SCWTA in 2002.

What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member?
I have had the opportunity to work on a number of SCWTCA committees – I believe the first was handling Montgomery dinner reservations and banquet menu in 2005; member of the Nominating Committee in 2006; and the Annual Meeting Minutes Approval committee in 2009. Most recently I served as Montgomery Coordinator in 2011.

What all breed, obedience, agility, or breed clubs do you belong to? How are you involved (offices, committees, etc.)? Do you have any other special club or work experience, e.g. P.T.A., that especially qualifies you for the SCWTCA Board?
I have been a member of the SCWT Club of Northern California since 2001 and have served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Director over the years. I have also served on a number of committees for SCWTCNC as well as Specialty Chair several times.

How many litters have you bred?
I have bred six litters.

Who was your first finished champion/performance title holder, etc.?
My first champion was CH Lochlinear She’s A Showgirl “Lola.”

What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out?
I have a difficult time answering this question – because starting out was mostly humbling. I recall demonstrating my lack of experience in handling with a puppy – you can imagine the puppy gyrations and laughs from the spectators.

If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why?
My focus will be to contribute to the Club and Board wherever I can. I am delighted to be assisting Lori Kromash with the treasurer activities. I think that the Club has reached a milestone in the introduction of the DNA test for PLN-associated variant genes. I think that the big question is where do we go from here. I am interested in helping to guide our club along a path which will preserve the breed and result in another 50 years of our club united in our goal of Wheatens bred for health, temperaments, and conformation.
“Chip off the old Doc”

New Champion!

“Chip” CH Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching

CH Gleanngay Holliday “DOC”

x

CH Gleanngay Tilde Wink “WINK”

Breeders: Pat Mullin & Gay Dunlap
Owner: Pat Mullin
Lochlinear Wheatsens
Redwood City, CA
pat@lochlinear.com
www.lochlinear.com
What Should Breeders Know?

Today’s discussion isn’t about understanding Wheaten type or health…that’s for another day. It’s five things breeders should know.

A caveat: I’m not really beating up on veterinarians here. There are fewer breeders all the time. It’s a simple, unfortunate truth our needs aren’t what today’s vets are taught to meet. We can complain…or do our homework and demand better.

1. Breeders should understand ovulation timing. Trust me, your vet may not, and you’re the one paying for misses or small litters.

When we relocated 14 years ago, we went to “the vet all the breeders around here use.” He was great. Our dogs got good care. However, we didn’t get competent ovulation timing. Our bitch missed with a proven sire and an AI followed by a litter of three from a live breeding with another proven dog.

When we moved again and went to a canine reproductive specialist, we learned the ovulation timing had been off. That vet managed the bitch’s third breeding, producing six. Since then, every litter has been seven, eight, or nine with only one unexplained miss.

Do the math: one extra puppy pays a lot of specialty vet bills.

Working in the health care industry means I can make an informed guess about what happens. The testing company’s sales rep comes in, discusses progesterone and LH testing, explains the financial benefit to the practice and leaves some material. The vet reads up, does some further research and thinks his few breeder clients may make offering this “simple” service worthwhile. After all, it only requires drawing blood, getting results and waiting for the “magic number.”

So… what’s the magic number? If you’ve used reproductive specialists…vets who have specialty training and have limited their practices to repro…you’ll recognize a trick question. You also know incorrect timing is the primary reason for misses.

You didn’t know that? Do your homework. Better still, consult with a reproductive veterinarian. Don’t moan there’s no one “nearby”…ours is two hours each way. A friend with extensive breeding experience recently drove six hours to this vet for a consult…and said it was worth every mile because the conversation about ovulation timing convinced them they had been breeding too late.

2. Breeders should know the pros and cons of breeding techniques. Someone commented recently they believed their bitch missed because she was surgically implanted. Um…no. Surgical implantation alone isn’t the reason for a miss; if anything, it’s used most often when other factors suggest you need the best possible way to deliver semen to ova. Breeders should understand the pros and cons of fresh semen, fresh extended semen, and frozen semen. But they should also understand the “delivery system”…straight from Mr. Wonderful, AI, transcervical, or surgical implantation. Each has different risks and success rates.

One reason I mention transcervical is I suspect this may be another “add-on” service in some practices, a way to either bill more or to avoid abdominal surgery. One repro vet told me they’ve correlated infections with transcervicals, based on what they’ve seen when some of these bitches come to their practice afterward. If your vet is suggesting a transcervical, be sure they know what they’re doing and you know if the benefits are worth it…to your bitch, not the vet’s bank account.

3. Breeders should know how to tube feed. A breeder was recently in a quandary with a struggling
neonate. When tube feeding was suggested, they didn’t know how. When it was suggested their vet show them, the vet told them they didn’t know how either.

Another reason to get a new vet. If no one in that practice…vet or tech…can tube feed, how do they care for some sick dogs? If they are unwilling to assist a breeder with a neonate…why do they deserve your patronage?

Tubing scares people who worry about getting the tube down the wrong “pipe.” Get over it and learn. One day you may have an orphaned litter of six or seven or 10, bottle feeding is killing you, the puppies aren’t gaining and your friend who knows how to tube is on vacation. You are responsible for these puppies being born…keep them alive.

Yes, you will have to take a deep breath. Call another breeder to teach you…and no one knows more about neonates than successful toy dog breeders. Search on YouTube for the half-dozen or more videos showing the technique. Once you’ve done it a couple of times, trust me, it’s easy. On your next litter try it a couple of times even if no one needs it. The puppies won’t mind an extra nosh. And, by the way, have those supplies…syringe, tube, and formula…on hand before your bitch whelps. The syringe and tube are cheap and if you don’t use the formula then, it can be used when weaning.

4. Just to involve all sides of the equation, here’s one for the Y-chromosome owners: Stud dog owners should know how they are going to get bitches serviced before they ever make Mr.
It’s that time of year again…

Please join us for the
Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club Specialty weekend
May 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2013

Friday:  Garden State All Terrier Club
Judge:  Ms. Shari Robinson,
        Keepsake Wheatens
Group:  Ms. Peggy Beisel-Mcllwaine

Saturday:  Bucks County Kennel Club
Judge:  Mr. Robert Hutton
Group:  Mrs. Lydia Coleman Hutchinson
Sweeps:  Ms. Denise Bendelewski,
         Dhowden Wheatens

Sunday:  Trenton Kennel Club
Judge:  Ms. Kathi Brown
Group:  Mrs. Rhonda Davis

For additional information visit
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SANSIBAR WHEATENS
The importance of sex can have a significant influence on your Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier’s behavior, and it is the fourth and final influence that we discuss in this series. It is important that your dog understands his/her gender as it will influence how he/she interacts with other canines and humans.

**Mate Selection**

Selecting sires and dams is not left to nature when breeding for purebred dogs. Therefore it is important that we as breeders are selecting appropriately. Sexual identity begins at an early age and can be influenced by many contributing factors. Some of these influences we can control and others we cannot. First, it is important that the puppy has a strong mother. All of the bitches that we choose to use in our breeding program are very confident and well-rounded. Because it is her responsibility to protect her puppies from harm, she must not be a shy or timid personality. If she is not a confident individual, it is impossible for her to provide for her puppies in a successful and nurturing environment. She is constantly worried to the point of inability to perform and becomes exhausted by the constant threat of danger to her new puppies. At some point, she just throws up her paws and gives up being a mother at all. (Some of you mothers have been here with your own children.)

**Our Influence**

Our culture demands that puppies are spayed and neutered at six months of age, thereby eliminating the opportunity to reach sexual maturity in both males and females. Each sex matures at a different rate. Males begin to reach sexual hormonal peak between seven-nine months and reach full maturity by 18 months. Females do not reach full sexual maturity until three years of age. However, both are fully capable of reproducing long before reaching maturity. With our puppies, we will expose them to the same-sexed, well-rounded adults beginning at eight-12 weeks. It is important that our pups learn from the examples of their same-sexed pack members. This is how they learn their role in the pack. The key to understanding this is that the role model must be an excellent example or you will not achieve the desired result. One such example is the female that lifts her leg (one of our Whippet girls did this). Obviously, this is a true male trait, but it can also be beneficial to the female displaying her dominance in the pack. It would be her signal to other females that this is her territory and their presence will not be accepted.

**Nature’s Influence**

An important thing to note is that sexual balance in a litter is important. Many years ago, we had a litter of 13 male puppies. They appeared to be a normal, healthy litter, but as they reached puberty (six months), they all began to act aggressively towards people and/or other canines. Several of these young males were obviously displaying high, male tendencies that were creating difficulties in their ability to cope in the world. We call this testosterone overload, which is not a fault of anything other than nature.

Another very interesting scenario presented when a female delivered her puppies. All the male puppies were stillborn, but all the female puppies were normal, healthy puppies. This was a result of the bitch releasing a toxin during delivery that was fatal to all the male puppies. Interestingly, the bitch’s mother had done the same thing in each of her litters. This was such a perfect example of nature. In a pack, it would have been beneficial to remove all males and only have females. This way, the mates would have had to have come from a different genetic makeup and there would have been no chance of interbreeding between relatives. Needless to say, this bitch and all her surviving females were spayed as this was not something that was wanted to be propagated.
So now that we have defined the perfect mother with an ideal litter size of five-six puppies and of equal male/female ratio, we must look at the best placement for all the puppies. Ideally, the puppies will be placed into homes that have balance between the sexes. For instance, if a family wishes to purchase a puppy from us, and they have three young boys, a mom and a dad, we would recommend that they purchase a female dog. Conversely, if the children were all girls, we recommend a male puppy. This way we have balanced the sexes. Unlike many breeders, we will place dogs into young families. Perhaps that is because we are a young family ourselves, but I think it may be because we both grew up with dogs and understand the importance that the dogs played in our lives. It is a shame when we hear that other reputable breeders will not place a dog into a young family.

We also are not too worried about placing two males or two females into the same household, but we will of course want to meet the existing dog to be sure that its temperament will permit another dog of the same sex to coexist. In most cases, the Wheaten Terrier will not be so territorial so as not to be able to live in a group of the same sex. In fact, our dogs can all run in a pack of multiples and we have had few problems. Of course, this would depend on breeds as we wouldn’t recommend running a bunch of male Rottweilers together.

Once our puppies leave our care, we encourage the new families to enroll the puppy in obedience classes. It is important that the puppy continue to be exposed to new stimuli and we can think of nothing better than a group class. We are pleased that several of our puppy owners report that their dog was the star student and graduated easily. Remember that the new puppy needs the socialization and will continue to learn his/her place in the world. Playtime with other puppies is always crucial and will help the puppies as they mature. It is especially important that the puppies are playing with supervision, as not all pups have come from a reputable breeder and may have inappropriate behaviors. Interestingly, we have noticed that the puppies that are placed as city dwellers have better socialization than the littermates.

Of the four influences (food, play, sleep, and sex), sex is the most difficult for us to influence. It is important that we raise our puppies in an environment that allows them to grow into happy and healthy adults. Do your diligent best and your dogs will reap the rewards.

Recipe for Getting Skunk off your Dog!

Tried and true!

• 1 medium bottle hydrogen peroxide
• 1/4 cup baking soda
• 2 teaspoons Dawn dish detergent
• Mix well and sponge dog down with this mixture.
• Wait three minutes and rinse. It really works!
**SCWT CHAMPION and PERFORMANCE TITLES**

**October - December 2012**

Compiled by Sheila O’Connell

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Ian Dunbar Shares Tips on Breeding and Training at Recent Seminar in Madison, NJ
by Dorice Stancher

Renowned veterinarian and animal behaviorist, Ian Dunbar, shared his thoughts about canine reproductive behavior and physiology, and the development of social behavior with regards to fear, reactivity, and aggression at a recent four-day seminar. Here are a few highlights...

Sexual and Social Preferences
In order to gauge readiness for mating, Dunbar encouraged breeders to check females in a stand, gently pressing on the back, noting males press with their chins. He also suggested a mating test, having the female in diapers which have been perforated to allow scent to emit. If she stands still for three minutes, he indicated this is a sign of readiness. Highlighting experiences with his own test dogs in the lab, he noted that sexual and social preferences are very different. He suggested that outbreeding and hybrid vigor be a part of determining mating, keeping in mind as well the opinion of the dog for potential mate. Fear, he noted, could override ovulation with stress nullifying sexual behavior. The female is often selective, he stated, and it is about quality first and foremost. He also also discussed Ipsilateral Palpation or IPV as a way of classifying readiness.

Raising Super Puppies
Dr. Dunbar stated that “the puppy is the parent of the dog” when it comes to the future development of behavior and stressed the importance of preventing problems before they happen. This included temperament, which he felt was not “set in stone.” An advocate of puppy socials and early “flooding” of stimuli prior to eight weeks, his concerns arose with the transition to new homes and unlimited freedoms. With two-thirds of socialization having passed and no structure, the challenge according to Dr. Dunbar is not having the familiar cycle of destructive chewing, mouthing/biting and soiling leading to outside backyard banishment which has the potential to create a wary and aloof dog that digs or escapes, or is trotted off to a shelter. He remarked when too much freedom is presented to a young puppy and then abruptly taken away - including long periods of isolation outdoors - it may result in a ceaseless digger and Barker.

Early Training
When puppies go home, they are often given total freedom, which is gradually taken away as they misbehave. Instead Dr. Dunbar advocates starting small and earning freedoms as a rite of passage to a bigger world based on reaching behavioral milestones. And if young dogs are put into daycare, there needs to be a training element; otherwise, they will never learn down time and relaxation.

Dr. Dunbar is an advocate of the “Premack Principle,” encouraging dogs to earn their rewards,
which is similar to having vegetables before the dessert. In order of importance, bite inhibition, socialization, and classical conditioning for behavior were the most important steps for settling a puppy into his new home and for transitioning to adulthood. Squeezing out bad behavior and rewarding the good is his mantra, and he expressed serious concerns for the single pup born to a bitch as well as the isolated pup arriving at its new home at eight to 12 weeks. He noted that Parvo is not as much of a concern as is the importance of proper socialization. “Not getting an education can often be a death sentence,” he stated. He encouraged proper disinfection of classrooms for young puppies and inclusion in the curriculum of not only the basics, but also noises and everyday distractions such as moving skateboards and props/costumes to encourage socialization and to develop confidence over time.

The Importance of Neutering for Pet Owners
One of the most interesting effects of neutering was the placebo effect caused by the owner having more confidence according to Dunbar. Coincidentally this is often when remedial training will begin as the owner takes a greater interest in the dog. Neutering does not reduce aggression in the dog itself or its rank, according to Dr. Dunbar, but causes less fighting since other dogs are less likely to want to challenge him for being “different.” Dogs can smell testosterone and are likely to bully the intact dog as a result. The owners may actually create lunging by reeling the dog back and forth.

Some Advice on Training in “Real Life”
For every 25 yards of walking, Dunbar suggested owners do what he calls a “jolly routine,” which includes a loose leash sit with lots of talking and praise, progressing to heeling with an occasional stop to train. The idea of getting the dog to pay attention and look at the owner comes in very handy as a simple method of everyday training and also when dealing with distractions. He also suggested stepping away or backwards to elicit a response from the dog and for encouraging the recall. Another favorite was to teach the basics from multiple body positions; for instance asking for a DOWN/STAY while the owner is sitting instead of standing and facing the dog.

For free information to share with your expecting parents and new owners, visit: http://www.dogstardaily.com/free-downloads for free books on preparing for and after the puppy arrives.

Suggested books by Ian Dunbar (available at www.dogwise.com)
- Before and After Getting Your Puppy - The Positive Approach to Raising a Happy, Healthy and Well-Behaved Dog
- Dr. Dunbar’s Good Little Dog Book – especially good for kids

Wheaten Meetings!
A Great Day at Meet the Breeds NYC
by Dorice Stancher

There were many smiles and happy moments at the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier table at the AKC Meet the Breeds, held at the Javits Center in New York City on October 21 and 22, 2012. There were many questions about our beloved breed, and they were aptly answered by those in attendance and their marvelous dogs that radiated kind friendship as is common to our breed. Little ones delighted in receiving a lick and a bracelet or coloring book, and adults took away valuable information about the breed in order to make a more informed decision about bringing one into their homes.
Shows / Judges

Thursday, May 30
   Gateway Terrier Show
   Breed Judge: Mr. Fred Bassett

Friday, May 31
   SCWTCGSL Designated Specialty
      Mississippi Valley Kennel Club
      Sweeps Judge:
         Ms. Barb Smith
      Breed & Group Judge:
         Mr. Robert E Hutton

Saturday, June 1
   Mississippi Valley Kennel Club
   Breed & Group Judge: Mr. Terry Stacy

Sunday, June 2
   Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club
   Breed & Group Judge: Col. Joe Purkiser*

Monday, June 3
   Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club
   Breed & Group Judge: *
   (* pending AKC approval)

Superintendent
Foy Trent Dog Shows
www.foytrentdogshows.com

This year’s show is dedicated to our dear friend and club member, Jeannette Lohman.

Trophies

New Trophies for 2013!
Custom made pottery created by Mississippi Mud Pottery.
Donations are always appreciated.
Make checks payable to SCWTCGSL and send to:
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   Sedalia, MO 65301-0039
   Phone: 660-826-4342
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Specialty Dinner

Join us on Friday evening at the Purina Events Center after Best in Show judging for our Silent Auction, Raffle and dinner! Cost is $25 per person. Reservations are required. Send payment to Cindy Shea by 5/15 to reserve your seat!

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

For more information, visit our web site:
www.scwtcgsl.com

For more info on the Purina Farms Event Center and area lodging, visit the web page:
SO PROUD TO BE MOONSTRUCK...

“TANGO”
CH MOONSTRUCK TOO
HOT TO MOMBO

“RICKY”
AM GCH, CAN CH Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man
x
“FLIRT”
CH Marland Moonstruck Minx

NEW CH

“NEALA”
CH MOONSTRUCK Rhumba Rhythm OA NAJ CGC

Owned by: Nancy Griffin, Helen Fraguela
AM CH Greentree Skellig Samba Par Ti x
“BELLE” CH Greentree Moonstruck Fairy Tale
***

NEALA’S “Wheaten Lane” Pups (just 6 mos old)
Quinn...Best Puppy SCWTGTB B Match

Abby...BW 2nd week out

Rory... WB
4 days straight
1st week out

HELEN FRAGUELA
WWW.MOONSTRUCKSCWT.COM
Research of Canine Osteosarcoma and IBD Advance Treatment Options

While there is no cure for canine osteosarcoma or inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), researchers are focusing on promising new treatments. Recent advancements in treating osteosarcoma may spare limbs and extend life for dogs affected by this painful cancer. Likewise, genetic discovery of polymorphisms causing IBD in German Shepherd Dogs may lead to new treatments. Here are snapshots of the research.

Killing Cancer Cells
Osteosarcoma is a fast-spreading, painful cancer that affects about 9 percent of giant breeds and 1 percent of large breeds. Owners and veterinarians work together to provide the best treatment possible using surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and medications for palliative care. Usually, amputation of the affected limb followed by chemotherapy is recommended to increase survival, but owners of giant breeds often are reluctant to amputate, particularly a forelimb, because it can make walking difficult and may compromise quality of life.

While the conventional therapies for treating osteosarcoma aim to increase survival, research veterinarians are investigating promising new treatments. These include a recombinant bacteria vaccine and a powerful limb-sparing stereotactic radiosurgery that kills tumor cells and spares healthy tissue.

Osteosarcoma mostly occurs in dogs over the age of 8, long after they have been bred, but dogs as young as 1 or 2 years old can develop the cancer. Since osteosarcoma generally occurs in the leg bones, lameness and difficulty going up and down stairs are the most common signs that owners notice.

The cancer arises from mutated cells that stop bone-matrix remodeling and the production of bone cells. A definitive diagnosis is made from a bone biopsy, but characteristic lesions on radiographs are a strong indicator of osteosarcoma. Tumors are depicted in radiography as a starburst pattern of needle-like fragments of bone. In 90 to 95 percent of dogs, osteosarcomas have micrometastasized at the time of diagnosis. Micrometastasis is not clinically evident on radiographs but will eventually lead to large metastatic tumors usually in the lungs or other bones.

Treatment of osteosarcoma is challenging partly because the cancer is likely to metastasize, or spread, especially to the lungs. Metastasis in the lungs usually is the ultimate cause of death for dogs with bone cancer.

It is not known definitely whether osteosarcoma is an inherited condition in dogs. Nicola Mason, B.Vet. Med., Ph.D., DACVIM, the Pamela Cole Chair in Companion Animal Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, says, “Large and giant breeds may be predisposed to osteosarcoma because of genetic influences, but other factors may also be involved. Rapidly proliferating cells tend to be more susceptible to cancer-forming events, therefore dogs whose bones grow rapidly, such as large and giant breeds, or dogs that experience bone trauma and damage that requires cellular proliferation for repair may be at higher risk for developing osteosarcoma.

“Chronic inflammation is known to be associated with the development of other cancers, although it is unknown whether persistent bone inflammation predisposes to bone cancer. Most likely the cause of osteosarcoma, like other tumors, is multifactorial, involving both genetic and as-yet unknown environmental factors that together can create the perfect situation for bone cancer to develop.”

Alternative approaches to treating osteosarcoma are being investigated. Sarah Charney, D.V.M., DACVIM, DACVR, adjunct professor of radiation

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oncology at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and staff radiation oncologist at Animal Specialty Center in Yonkers, N.Y., is part of a team that has pioneered a limb-sparing CyberKnife® radiosurgery technique for dogs where amputation is not possible or desired. Combined with chemotherapy, this radiosurgery, also known as stereotactic surgery, has a survival time that is similar to the standard of care with amputation and chemotherapy for good candidates. Unfortunately, not all dogs are good candidates. The viability of radiosurgery is best assessed by a CT (computed tomography) scan. The benefit of radiosurgery is that it saves the limb.

“With this procedure, a radiation oncologist uses a high-tech, image-guided and computerized robotic control system to deliver radiation with submillimeter accuracy,” Charney explains. “The CyberKnife radiation beams are sculpted to conform tightly to complex masses and deliver multiple radiation beams from many points outside the dog’s body to the targeted tumor. The beams kill tumor cells yet spare healthy tissue. When the beams converge on the tumor mass, they deliver high-energy, pinpointed radiation with astounding power.”

Compared to conventional radiation therapy, the precision of CyberKnife radiosurgery allows higher doses of radiation to be delivered to the tumor while minimizing damage to healthy tissue. One to three treatments are the same as 15 to 20 treatments of conventional radiation. The benefits include fewer hospital visits, fewer anesthetic episodes and reduced stress. Treatment is based on how much bone destruction has occurred as seen on a CT scan.

Meanwhile, at the University of Pennsylvania, Mason is testing a recombinant Listeria monocytogenes tumor vaccine. “Our project focuses on finding and killing the cancer cells that amputation and chemotherapy overlook,” she says. “This method uses the body’s immune system to elicit anti-tumor immunity and prolong survival in dogs with cancer of their long bones.” To be eligible, dogs with osteosarcoma must have had a limb amputation and standard chemotherapy consisting of four doses of carboplatin. “If the dogs live for more than eight months following vaccination, which is greater than one year post-diagnosis, then we will have increased median survival and will consider that the vaccine is having some effect,” Mason says.

“We hope in the future to test whether this vaccine is effective in dogs that have not had amputations. This technology could be applied to other cancers, such as canine mammary cancer,” she says. “It also may help people. Pediatric oncologists are watching our trial closely. This bacteria-based vaccine could possibly stimulate an immune response in children with osteosarcoma.”

While Cyberknife radiosurgery and the L. monocytogenes vaccine provide a glimpse of future treatment possibilities for osteosarcoma, owners of dogs diagnosed with the cancer today continue to struggle to determine the best treatment that will extend longevity for their individual dog.

**Genetics May Aid IBD Treatments**

When a dog experiences idiopathic diarrhea and vomiting, veterinarians may suspect canine inflammatory bowel disease. The chronic gastrointestinal condition occurs more commonly in middle-aged large-breed dogs. Since it cannot be cured, veterinarians manage IBD using medications to address the signs.

Efforts to learn more about IBD in German Shepherd Dogs led to the recent discovery of polymorphisms in the TLR4 and TLR5 genes. The research was supported by the Morris Animal Foundation and the American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation (AGSDCF).

Lead investigator Karin Allenspach, Dr.med.vet., Ph.D., head of the Clinical Investigation Center at The Royal Veterinary College of the University of London, says, “It appears German Shepherd Dogs with chronic enteropathies have a distinctly different microbiome from healthy dogs, as well
‘beneficial’ bacteria in the duodenum, specifically sequences of the order of Lactobacillales.

“We’ve made great progress to identify genetic predispositions underlying IBD in German Shepherd Dogs. We continue to analyze whether the mutation of an immune system protein is linked to the intestinal inflammation associated with IBD. If so, new treatments potentially could be developed. We also have identified antibodies specific for E. coli flagellin in dogs with IBD that are not present in unaffected dogs. This could lead to the development of a noninvasive diagnostic test for IBD.”

While diarrhea and vomiting are the most common signs of IBD, the disorder also may cause anorexia or loss of appetite, weight loss, and blood or mucous in the stool. With loss of appetite, a dog becomes lethargic and loses condition and coat. Signs are persistent, and by the time a veterinarian examines a dog with IBD, overall health condition may be poor.

“The clinician faced with a potential case of IBD usually performs an extensive workup to exclude extra gastrointestinal causes as well as treatable disorders, such as pancreatic diseases, chronic parasitic or bacterial infections, and tumors,” Allenspach says.

An accurate diagnosis may require an endoscopic biopsy of the GI tract. A veterinarian looks for lesions caused by lymphoplasma cellular inflammation in the mucous layer of the GI tract. These can be seen in about half of cases.

“The intestinal lining is composed of cells with proteins on the surface,” says Allenspach. “Some of the proteins are receptors that recognize microbes. If that protein is not functioning properly, it will tell the immune system to develop inflammation against the normal bacteria in the intestines, causing the diarrhea and vomiting that are characteristic of the disease.”

After a tentative diagnosis of IBD is determined, the gold standard approach to treatment is a food trial with an elimination diet containing a novel or hydrolyzed protein. This is based on theories that IBD is caused by an allergic reaction or hypersensitivity to dietary antigens. If a food trial does not reduce signs of IBD, antibiotic treatment is tried for several weeks, followed by immunosuppressant and anti-inflammatory treatments.

Lymphocytic plasmacytic IBD is the most common. It is due to an excess of two kinds of white blood cells, lymphocytes and plasma cells. Lymphocytes are responsible for much of the body’s immune protection, and plasma cells are a mature type of lymphocyte. This type sometimes responds well to a four- to five-week course of antibiotics, such as metronidazole or tylosin. “These antibiotics probably are effective because they change the gut microflora,” Allenspach explains.

If antibiotics fail, the next step is anti-inflammatory agents such as steroids, and immunosuppressants, which help eliminate intestinal inflammation. “Steroids can have significant side effects,” says Allenspach, who is researching alternative medications. Cyclosporine, a drug used in humans to prevent organ transplant rejection, has shown excellent results without the side effects associated with steroid use, excessive thirst, urination and gastrointestinal ulcers, she says.

The second most common form of IBD, eosinophilic gastritis or gastroenteritis, refers to the type of inflammation found in biopsies of the GI tract. This type of IBD is more severe. Biopsies show a high number of white blood cells called eosinophils that are often linked to allergic responses and parasitic infestations.

As breeders try to understand whether they should breed dogs with IBD, veterinary experts also grapple with the question. “It is too early to say that dogs with the mutation should be excluded from the breeding pool,” Allenspach says. “It is probable that many dogs carry the mutation, but not all of them will get IBD. It is unlikely that one mutation is the single cause of the disease. There are environmental factors and probably other genetic factors that we haven’t found yet.”
In most breeds, the cause of IBD is likely not strictly genetic or environmental, Allenspach says. Affected dogs within a breed probably share one or more genetic mutations, but the presence of the mutation alone does not mean the dog will develop IBD.

“If the environmental triggers were known, they could be avoided so possibly a dog carrying the mutation would never develop the disease,” says Allenspach. “This is an area needing to be studied. At this point, we really don’t know.”

Meanwhile, Allenspach advises breeders not to link every dog or every breed in the same category. “My belief is that there are different triggers in different breeds and thus different responses to treatment among the breeds as well as among different dogs,” she says.

Used with permission from the Purina Pro Club Update newsletter, Nestle Purina PetCare.

Food for Thought...

If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can get going without pep pills,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can overlook it when those you love take it out on you, when, through no faults of yours, something goes wrong,
If you can ignore a friends limited education and never correct him,
If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend,
If you can face the world without lies and deceit,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without liquor,
If you can say honestly that deep in your heart you have no prejudice against creed, color, or politics,
then, my friend, you are almost as good as your dog.
-Anonymous

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Norma Beatty

Occupation: Director of Curriculum for UNC School of Medicine Asheville Campus, Asheville, NC (a regional medical school)

Children/Grandchildren: Three grown children, first grandchild due in February.

Name and Ages of Dogs: CH Cheshire Bailey Na’Eireann (eight-year-old bitch) and Cheshire Bodacious Lad (three-year-old dog). Bodie is from Bailey’s last litter and has two majors and eight points toward his championship.

When did you get your first Wheaten? Bailey was my first Wheaten in 2004.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? While on a vacation in Canada, my husband and I saw these adorable dogs with most unusual coats. They were definitely some one’s pets, but so cute and friendly. We were looking for another dog as we had just recently put down our beloved Cardigan Welsh Corgi. We had had Corgis for many years, but I was getting tired of the semi-annual shedding extravaganza. I started researching Wheatens and decided to visit a nearby breeder just to check them out. That’s how we met Shari Fougnie. She had recently moved to NC and also had a Wheaten litter. Sadly they had all been sold except the show bitch she was keeping. We, of course, fell in love at first sight. I’m sure Shari might tell a different story, but over the course of two more visits we were able to convince her to let us co-own that puppy. So, Bailey came to live with us.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? Several Cardigan Welsh Corgis and one Jack Russell Terrier (before AKC recognition).

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? To date we have just been involved in showing and co-breeding our Wheatens. Many years ago, we showed several of our Corgis to their championships. My husband and I also showed and taught obedience for about 10 years, as well as some tracking. Perhaps in the future, we’ll return to some of these dog activities.

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? I think for me it was getting my first TD on my beloved CH Winsdown Magic Man CD CDX (Cardigan). It was a cold, windy, early March day outside Chicago. What a thrill it was to be along as Magic did such a fantastic job following that track, not being bothered by the wind, and becoming so excited to find his object. That same day another Cardigan also got its TD which was rather rare back then.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? From the very beginning Bailey has been such a comfort
creature, always looking for the softest place to sleep and usually finding it.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? Members are the backbone of any organization. Becoming a member of SCWTCA will enable me to support the growth and future direction of our breed. Through public education, upholding the breed standard, and lobbying efforts with the AKC, all SCWTCA members can contribute to the continued success and quality of our beloved Wheatens.

Norma was sponsored by Sheryl Fougnie and Karen Mueller. Sh can bring her skills in education and statistics to SCWTCA.

Lori J. Clark

I live in rural Indiana on a small farm with horses and dogs.

Occupation: I work for the State of Indiana, in the Secretary of State’s Office, Election Division. I do GIS mapping, and demographics along with assisting with voter registration outreach.

Children/Grandchildren: I have one grown daughter, Amanda and two grandchildren, Wyatt who will be five in May and Jorja who will be four in April.

Name and Ages of Dogs: I have a lot of dogs!!! LOLOLO – my Jack Russells are all Senior Citizens (retired from hunting and showing). Champ and Pocahontas are 14, Holly Bob is 13 and Wyatt dog, is 12; they are all (JRTCA). I have two rescues, Duke, a large black dog that someone so kindly left in my yard 10 years ago, and another rescue, Scout, a Jack Russell mix, who is 12, and who was on his way to be euthanized since his parents had a baby. My Wheaten, “The Fabulous Nash,” AKA Wheatnbrook’s Long May You Run, who will turn one in February. I most recently added a Parson Russell Terrier to our menagerie, Winchester, who is six months.

When did you get your first Wheaten? After admiring Wheaties for quite some time, I was able to bring my first one home on May 23, 2009.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? Jack Russells and Parson Russells.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? I purchased Nash on a show contract; he and I will be out showing around the Midwest this year.

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? My first Wheaten, Sorcha, auditioned and played the role of Sandy at the local theater’s “Annie” production. It was the absolutely one of the best experiences in my whole life. She made so many friends and performed flawlessly every performance. She truly loved the kids and theater, and the kids loved her. She became the local celebrity and stole the show!

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? This is the hardest question to answer. My first Wheaten became one of the statistics that no one wants to be. I thought I had done a pretty good job educating myself about the health conditions and concerns of the breed, and had purchased my dog from a reputable breeder that tested. My sweet girl was one of the unlucky ones. We were able
to sustain her through alternative medicine along with my vet conferring with Dr. Littman. She lived longer than we were told to expect, but when the medications quit working, we said good bye to her on November 12, 2012. Putting all that aside, I think the thing I will always remember is how she loved everyone she met! She could melt hearts.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? I wanted to stay informed about the breed, and hope that some day I can help contribute to areas of health.

Lori Clark was sponsored by Maggie Snow and Carol Schaltz. She hopes to contribute in some way to benefit health.

Amy Feldman

Occupation - Dog trainer (CPDT-KA)

Children/Grandchildren: I have been married to Jim for 30 years. Our eldest daughter lives in NYC and works in advertising; our middle daughter lives in Miami and works in finance; our son is a sophomore at the University of Michigan.

Names and Ages of Dogs: Max, age 13 and Posey (Orion Trebol Hot House Flower CD), age three. Lily, (Mansura Lily of Lakesprings CDX) sadly died last year at the age of eight. We are very excited to be welcoming another Orion Trebol puppy to our household in March.

When did you get your first Wheaten? Max was our very first Wheaten, joining our family in 2000. He is a puppy-mill dog purchased from a broker. Yes, we did all the wrong things when we got Max. But, since then, we’ve learned much about how to choose and buy a dog from a reputable breeder.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? One day I saw a woman walking down the street with the most beautiful dog I had ever seen. The wind was gently blowing its fur and the dog was so adorable and bouncy. I contacted the woman and asked her about her lovely dog and she was more than happy to share all she knew about the breed. I met her dog, fell in love with him and knew that a Wheaten would be a great fit for our family.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? Growing up in NYC, my parents were not open to having a dog, so I was the kid who knocked on the neighbors’ doors asking if I could walk their dogs. Finally, when I was a young teenager, my parents gave in and Maggie, an Old English Sheepdog, joined our family. She was my constant companion and through her I was introduced to the world of pet dogs.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheaten? Competition obedience is my first love and Posey is my current competition dog. We are working on our Open title and she is a wonderful partner and a joy to work with. Lily was my first competition obedience dog and we were working in Utility. Posey and I take agility classes at the competition level and should be ready to compete pretty soon. All three of my Wheaten have been therapy dogs, visiting hospitals, nursing homes, schools, hospices, etc.

I teach classes at a local school (pet manners, intermediate obedience, CGC, AKC Star Puppy) and Posey sometimes is my demo dog. We have also tried sheep herding and lure coursing and hope to try dock diving this summer.
What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? Certainly achieving every leg and title is memorable. But I think the proudest and most memorable times have been when someone tells me they’d love to have a dog exactly like mine. What a lovely compliment that is.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? Well, Max was our first Wheaten and he is still here at age 13. He is a sweet boy and gets even sweeter as he ages. When I think about Lily, I think about the love and trust that we had and our journey into the world of competition obedience. Through her, I have met many interesting friends and had some wonderful experiences. I am grateful that my life has expanded through my dogs.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? I decided to join the club to help spread the word that Wheatens can be successful in performance events. They are intelligent, talented, and fun to watch. And yes, sometimes they do provide comic relief. I hope that my dogs, by example, will encourage other owners to train their dogs and participate with their Wheatens in the many venues of performance out there.

Amy was sponsored by Kathy Clarke and Betsy Geertson. Amy lists crafts, education, stewarding and training as interests and skills she can contribute to SCWCTA.

Margaret Foxmoore
Occupation: Artist and personal assistant

Children/Grandchildren: None

Name and Ages of Dogs: Lord Argyle, king of all dogs, and 13 years old; Miss Maisy, age 7.

When did you get your first Wheaten? Thirteen years ago...how much love can fit in a little dog’s body?? A lot!

How did you become interested in Wheatens? Because they looked like great big block heads... little did I realize it’s all fuzzy hair and really they aren’t all that big.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? Dalmatians and mutts.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? My two dogs walk five miles, five days a week. A lot of walking...

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? Argyle ate a whole lasagna when I went to the bathroom. Came back in and he was sitting on the table with an empty pan. With Maisy it has to be her will to live. Every time she has gotten sick and we are convinced she won’t pull through...she knows what to do. I am so blessed to have the sweetest little dog around who knows I adore her so much that she keeps on ticking!!

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? His bounding to the door and jumping up with such love and devotion. They are always so happy to see me. The other thing is how they seem to fill up every inch of the bed as though I am imposing on their space, but they don’t mind giving me a few inches. Another is riding in the car and we are all howling all the way to Baxter Road!!!

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? To join all my sister and brother Wheaten lovers...nothing is better than a Wheaten and the devoted keepers of this playful breed!!!

Maggie was sponsored by Carol Carlson and Rosemary Berg. She lists artwork, crafts, event management, and fundraising as skills and interest she can contribute to the Club. She very much wants to learn to steward.
JoAnne Applegate Vogt

Occupation: Owner and chief bottle washer of Applegate’s Deli. Retired.

Children/Grandchildren: We have two children, a boy and girl. She lives in a yurt, on an island off the coast of Seattle with her son. He has three children, and they live a conventional life in Tucson.

Name and Ages of Dogs: CH Gleanngay Keep the Faith UD TD OA OAJ (VCD2) RA (Maizy) - 13 1/2 years old; GCH Jendu Outlaw UD TD OA OAJ (VCD2) AXP AXJP RA (Finn) - four years old; Heirloom Take a Chance on Me CGC (Abby) - 10 months old.

When did you get your first Wheaten? I got my first Wheaten in 1996 after the second child went to college.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? Our family dog had been an Elkhound. She had to stay outside because she shed too much to be in the house. I wanted a dog about the same size which didn’t shed and, untrimmed, looked like a ragmop. Wheatens fit the bill. And they were goofy. And I liked their color.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? Growing up we had a mixed breed named Beauregard Hound, Man’s Best Friend.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? I took my first Wheaten, Saddlebrook Raise ‘A Ruckus, to a little obedience class because I didn’t want my dog to jump on my friends. With the encouragement of the trainer, we took another class. And that’s all she wrote...I got hooked. After I fell off the roof and needed to do a lot of walking for rehab, I took up tracking because walking inside around and around was incredibly boring. I like tracking because it’s such a good opportunity to be outside doing something other that raking leaves. The primary reason is that it’s something the dogs do that is natural, and I have NO control. I have to trust my dog when he’s on the scent and following the trail - and go where he takes me. Love doing agility - the dogs look like a bunch of 2nd graders playing on the playground with the sound turned off - mostly. Conformation involves trimming - which just isn’t my cup of tea. I love looking at the beautiful dogs and their coats, and I’m surprised at how much I enjoy sitting on the floor brushing and combing them. That’s therapy. But given the choice of trimming a head or a tuckup or spending the afternoon outside tracking - there’s no contest!

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? Tanner, my first obedience dog, earned his advanced obedience title, UD, in the morning. In the afternoon, I showed my other Wheaten, Maizy, to her conformation championship. I left the car in the parking lot and floated home on a cloud.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? I had not had a dog of my own until my first Wheaten. So to have a dog I trained, a dog who wanted to please me beyond anything else, one that was so sweet, yet was funny and cat-like, was the joy of my life. Much like your first love. - you never forget it.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? Over the years I’ve met so many dog people who have become great friends. By joining the national club, I have widened that circle of friends, friends who all have the same goal, the good of their dogs - The Wheaten.
The MCKC 2013 Specialty, “Paws Across the Water,” is Sailing Your Way!

Watch SCWTCADiscuss for information on trophy donations, catalog ads, Boutique space, and our fabulous fundraisers!

Bonney Snyder and Connie Koehler,
Specialty Coordinators
The SCWTCA Endowment, Inc. wishes to thank the following donors for their generosity. These funds are used for health research and education.

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Thank you to the judges who awarded Cash Best of Breed all 4 days of the Philadelphia weekend:
Robert D. Black
Mary Jane Carberry
Pamela Peat
Geir Flyct-Pedersen

Special thanks to Col. Joe Purkheiser for recognizing Cash with a Group 3 among the top terriers in the country.

We're looking forward to 2013!

CASH is owner-breeder handled by Betty Ann Hillwig, Diamonds in the Ruff Wheatens
With the completion of enrollment in the Lifetime study at the end of 2011, we now have a clear picture of our participating population. There are a total of 238 dogs enrolled and the following is a brief summary of the group based on the introductory survey:

The lifetime study participant group is 65% female and 35% male with an average age of 4½ yrs this month. The group comprises two primary generations of SCWTs with peaks of enrollment for dogs that are currently either 2 yrs of age or 5½ yrs of age. The average age of males and female are essentially the same (4.2 and 4.5, respectively).

On average, owners acquired their puppies at 10 weeks of age. Approximately 52% were purchased while 37% were born in their current homes. Approximately half of the males and one-third of the females in the study have been spayed or neutered. Just over half of the participants’ owners have indicated an intent to include their dog in a breeding program and nearly one-quarter has already produced at least one litter. Eighty-two percent of the dogs come from the United States and represent between 2 and 3 percent of the SCWT population registered by the American Kennel Club.

The vast majority of the participants (80%) is currently in excellent health and 90% see a veterinarian at least once a year. The most common ailments reported to date are kennel cough (12%) and allergies (14%).
We are now reaching the end of 2012 and it is time for the first annual health survey of the SCWT lifetime study. The survey should be available online in the coming month. Watch for notices in your mailboxes with instructions for accessing and completing the survey. Information is the foundation of any good research project and with your help we will all learn more about the health of this amazing breed.

Dr. Heidi Parker is a Research Fellow in the Cancer Genetics Branch at the National Human Genome Research Institute of NIH. Dr. Parker received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center where she studied the population to structure of the domestic dog. She continues her work on canine genetics at the National Institutes of Health by applying information gained from population studies to the mapping and identification of genes involved in complex traits and diseases. Dr. Parker is currently leading projects aimed at identifying genetic variants associated with cancer susceptibility, auto-immune disorders, and limb morphology, as she continues to study breed structure, development, and history through genetics.

New Open Registry Members
January 15, 2013

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 Terries 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.

Trish Haas     Robert Peck     Kevin Jorgensen & Darla Dickson
Laura Kearns
This past July marked the eighth anniversary of the posting of the first draft of the dog genome sequence into free public databases for use by biomedical and veterinary researchers around the globe. On the occasion of this anniversary, it is important to take stock of our progress and our future in canine health research. We are now in our third iteration of the canine genome, CanFam3.1, and much progress has been made by the Dog Genome Sequencing Consortium. Beyond the genome, much progress has been made in our understanding of the regulation of health and disease, and we anticipate future discoveries will utilize multiple approaches to solve our greatest health problems. We would like to take the opportunity to introduce our supporters to these exciting scientific advances.

The genome refers to all DNA present in the cells of an organism and is the blueprint that determines the genetic makeup of an individual. Segments of DNA encode genes, which, when turned on, lead to transcription of RNA and ultimately synthesis of protein (Figure 1). Proteins help define cellular function and contribute to their roles in the tissues within a body. An excellent example of the power of the genome in canine health was the discovery of the mutation that causes Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) in English Mastiff dogs. This disease is caused by a mutation in the RHO gene encoding Rhodopsin, a signaling protein in retinal cells. The end result of this mutation is the production of dysfunctional Rhodopsin protein that prevents the rods in the eye from responding to light properly, and ultimately leads to loss of vision.

Beyond sections of DNA that code for genes, there is a vast amount of DNA that does not code for any functional protein. In fact, the amount of DNA in the genome that actually encodes protein is approximately 1%, and for a long time the remaining 99% was considered ‘junk’ DNA. Recently there has been a shift in this thinking, and there is now a growing respect for non-coding DNA and the role it may play in repression or activation of gene expression.

Of equal importance are the events downstream of the genetic blueprint: RNA and protein, which ultimately define a disease phenotype and are the endpoints where severity of disease is recognized. New techniques have been developed to perform rapid, large volume (also known as “high throughput”) analysis of RNA (the transcriptome). Unlike the genome, the transcriptome can vary with external environmental conditions and reflects the genes that are turned on at any given time. High throughput analysis of the proteome, the entire set of proteins expressed by a cell or tissue, has advanced understanding of protein expression and modification. Because protein expression does not necessarily reflect protein activity, we must often dig deeper and evaluate the activation state of protein (the phosphoproteome).

Finally, the importance of defining the factors that regulate gene expression is growing as well. One of the most rapidly growing fields is epigenetics, which is the study of the heritable changes in gene
expression caused by mechanisms other than changes in the underlying DNA sequence. Epigenetic regulation plains how two identical genotypes can give rise to different phenotypes in response to the same environmental stimulus. There are four recognized epigenetic mechanisms by which gene expression is altered: modifications of histone proteins, DNA methylation, chromatin remodeling, and noncoding RNAs (microRNAs or miRNAs). Aberrant DNA methylation has been identified in human and dog cancers and is found in two distinct forms, hypermethylation and hypomethylation, when compared to healthy cells. Developing a greater understanding of all of these mechanisms of disease development is on the horizon for the dog and will likely help solve some of our most complex problems. The AKC Canine Health Foundation looks forward to supporting cutting-edge research in these areas so that we can fulfill our mission to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.

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Articles and letters for June issue are due May 1

Advertising Rates
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Ads may be sent as e-mail attachments, photo 300 dpi, jpeg format or .pdf format
Original photos will be returned.

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 June issue: May 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 May 1, a draft layout will be sent to you for edits. Include email address for quick turnaround. Payment should be sent to the editor, payable to SCWTCA.

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Celebrating Long Life submit to:
Molly O’Connell by closing date May 1, 2013

Benchmarks Editor
Molly O’Connell
mocom1030@comcast.net

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