My Dream: Go to Crufts & show my own dog!

ROLLS * BOB

Thank you Margret. What a Thrill!

Thank you, Judge: Mrs. Angela Switzer

AM GCH, INT CH, GER CH (KFT & VDH), LUX CH, EUROCUP WINNER GREENTREE STORM CATCHER

Bred by: Bev & Kevin McDonald
Owned and loved by: Margret Möller-Sieber and Bev & Kevin McDonald
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From the President
by Jinx Moore

As the end of my six-year tenure on the SCWTCA Board approaches, I find myself reflecting on the people that comprise the Club. We live in different parts of the country as well as foreign lands; we bring together many diverse experiences, ideas, and knowledge. Obviously we have our Wheatens that bring us together, but I have recognized other commonalities that make our Club our family - we take good care of our dogs, and we take good care of each other.

Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast. I cannot tell you how many e-mails and phone calls I received from you checking on the safety of all of our members impacted by that storm. When contact could not be made with a few individuals, a phone chain developed to confirm their whereabouts. Offers were made to “come live with us and yes, bring your litter of puppies. You’re welcome to stay as long as necessary.”

We have those who have lost husbands, wives, children, parents, and of course, our Wheatens. We have those who are battling illness, but they are not alone. The condolences expressed on Discuss, and the cards and phone calls received are evidence of the bond we all share.

When there are issues with our dogs, all you have to do is refer to the knowledge of our Wheaten family to find answers. It is always amazing to me the response on the Discuss and Scwtbreeder lists where helpful advice and sometimes definitive answers to the questions asked can be found.

Then there is SCWTCA Rescue headed by our fearless, devoted Chair, Nancy Butler. There are not words to express the love, care, and effort given to protect our Wheatens. Even though not all of us, individually, have experienced rescuing a Wheaten, many of us support the effort through our financial donations. I love reading the shared success stories. How about compiling all those stories in a book, Nancy? I think it would make a great fundraiser!

Families protect each other. Recently, there was a warning about accepting friend requests on Facebook from someone you may not know personally. There are those who want to be associated with us, but do not hold the same Wheaten values as do we. They want to give a false impression to the public they are a part of SCWTCA, Inc. Be careful!

Because of our differences, we may experience controversy from time to time. This can drive us apart or make us stronger. I know, for a fact, that torn relationships have been mended by picking up the phone and stating, “Let’s talk.”

Health. Yes, we all have experienced health concerns with Wheatens, and if you haven’t, consider yourself extremely lucky. We don’t ignore these problems; we do something about them. As you will read in this issue, because of the many years of dedicated research, financial support, and commitment as a Wheaten family, we are closer to solving some of these problems.

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to share my feelings about all of you and the value of this Club. SCWTCA, Inc. is very special to me, so please---

“Celebrate the Breed. Celebrate the Friendships!”

When there are issues with our dogs, all you have to do is refer to the knowledge of our Wheaten family to find answers. It is always amazing to me the response on the Discuss and Scwtbreeder lists where helpful advice and sometimes definitive answers to the questions asked can be found.
Choices.

As breeders and owners of Wheatens, we are often faced with choices – some easy, some difficult. Recently I have been faced with decisions that have tested my fortitude, that’s for sure. I've been cleaning house, and I don’t mean my closets. I have had to make the tough decision to stop showing some of my dogs – I loved their temperaments but their conformation was not what I needed to put in my breeding program. I’m at the crossroads now where I have nothing to show and hope that some of my prospective show puppies turn out. Did I think I could finish those dogs I have now placed as pets? Yes, but I looked down the road and evaluated their assets. My choice was made. Move on.

It’s daunting to start over; I love to show so choosing to step out of the ring for months is also hard. It’s done. I will focus on the future and hope I have made the right call. Moving forward with puppies in this new age of DNA testing has asked me to consider another element of breeding. Would I or wouldn’t I DNA test all of my puppies before placing them? There are arguments to be made from both sides. Right now I have decided I will test puppies if I decide to breed them. Knowing their DNA results does not change my determination to follow the SCWTCA annual testing protocol at all, so I will learn their DNA profiles when I think it will provide me with information that impacts the breed. Puppies I have now are either homozygous negative or heterozygous. Confirming that before I make breeding choices will then be imperative. Others may say that I should inform all buyers of the DNA profile of their new puppies; I don’t think so. I feel obliged to tell them about the test and about the parents’ results. I feel obliged to continue my strongest urging to perform annual testing. I will provide them with testing kits and information if they desire. That’s my choice.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of breeding is evaluating puppies. What is better than watching a litter of puppies for long periods of time as their personalities develop? What is more trying than practicing patience as you wait for puppies to mature enough to evaluate their conformation? It’s a thrill to see that special one self-stack and look like the adult you hope it becomes. Now I have to make decisions of another sort. Will my judgment be right about who will be the star in the show ring? Sometimes yes, sometimes no, as I clearly illustrated in my first paragraph! But the hopefulness of picking the puppy to run on is exhilarating.

Sometimes our choices are taken out of our hands. I have a young dog in a show home right now whom I think will not make it to the conformation ring. Why? She is choosing to be an obedience dog. She loves working with her owner in that venue; showing for me is not so much on her events calendar. There are a couple of options here but I will let the dog direct what she does. If she is happier doing obedience then that is what she will do.

I’ve talked a lot about puppies and young dogs here but there are my old dogs who need me to make good choices for them as well. I bred three litters of puppies 13 years ago so many families I know are now at a point in their dogs’ lives when judging their quality of life is critical. When the day comes to choose to let our dear ones go, we need to make the decision that is best for each of our pets. Cook’s book, The New Normal: Learning to Live with Grief and Loss (see page 34), recognizes the deeply felt bonds we share with our dogs and how devastating it is when we lose them.

Siouxie, my 13-year-old is lying behind my chair, snoring. She rattles the windows when she’s conked out. Asleep or awake, she is an immovable island that I have to step over or around. She’s stiff when she walks around the house and trots like a youngster when she is on her lead. My daughter’s 14-year-old, Annabelle, is mostly blind and deaf, but always hears the food hitting her bowl. Nine months ago she leapt out of the car and tore her ACL. I didn’t even know dogs had an ACL in the shoulder. We feared she would not recover and it was dicey for 11 days. On day 12, she got up and resumed following my daughter around the house. With the vet’s help we had decided to wait two weeks and re-evaluate. That was a wise move.

One day we will have to make difficult decisions so I hope we have the good sense to make the right choices. From begining to end, that is our responsibility.
What an exciting weekend! As I stood on the sidewalk outside the baggage claim at the airport, I saw a car approaching with Wheaten flags flying and exuberant waves from Marcia Weisman and Dick Taylor. I was truly treated like royalty the entire weekend. A tremendous thank you goes out to the entire Northern California Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club for making this event unforgettable.

9-12 Months Puppy Dogs

1st Harbour Hill Toy Story—While he was the only one in his class, he displayed lovely color with a beautiful wave in his coat. He was quite happy to be in the ring this day, but had more substance than I prefer.

12-18 Months Puppy Dogs

1st Atas Harbour Hill Take a Bao—This boy had an impressive head with a dark eye and beautiful bite. He showed a very balanced outline with good transition of neck to back and a nice topline with an exceptional amount of butt behind the tail. He moved effortlessly around the ring, holding his topline and outline while sporting a gentle wavy coat. Even though he was a bit tentative about having his rear examined, with more confidence he will be one to watch. I was pleased to award this puppy Best in Sweepstakes.

2nd Marquee’s Sweet Home Alabama—What a beautiful little girl. Nice headpiece, very balanced, but a longer-cast bitch than my first-place puppy. She moved with little effort but was reluctant to keep her tail up.

12-18 Months Puppy Bitches

1st Bonney Hey Macarena—This puppy was beautifully presented from head to tail. Nice length of head, beautiful bite, good balance of rib to loin with a great tail set. She won the honor of Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes on the go around holding her outline and with the freedom of movement I wanted to see. Her coat was expertly conditioned and she had lots of attitude.

2nd PitterPat River Song—This little girl was a nice size and had a very nice coat. My winner in this class had a better outline and freedom of movement.

3rd Harbour Hill Atas Evoo—Littermate to my Best in Sweepstakes winner. She was quite confident as she showed off nice color and wave in her coat. However, she was not as refined as my winner in this class.

Congratulations to all the breeders who showed their puppies to me. It was refreshing to see square dogs with exceptionally good butts and wonderful bites. There are good things happening in the whelping box!
Northern California Terrier Association
Friday, April 12, 2013

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Northern California hosted their Specialty in Sacramento, CA on Friday, April 12, 2013. The day began with Jinx Moore, President of SCWTCA, judging seven puppies in Sweepstakes. Following Sweeps, Edd Bivin entered the ring to judge an entry of 38 Wheatens. His top winner of the day was CH Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching, owned and handled by Pat Mullin. Receiving the Best of Opposite Sex ribbon was CH Atas Braumans Gypsy Run Through, handled by Jeanine Flavell.
**WD/BW: Harbour Hill Toy Story**  
(CH Melandeec’s High Wire Act x CH Harbour Hill At Wisteria Ln) Breeder/Owner: Susan Sakauye.

**WB: Marymore Essence Of Starlight**  
(CH Abiqua Wild Knight Romance x CH Starlight Pretty Woman) Breeder: Mary Peltier. Owners: Ann Leigh & Mary Peltier.

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

**SB: CH Bonney Labour Of Love**  
(Pitterpat Working On A Dream x CH Bonney Apple Of My Eye) Breeders/Owners: Bonita F Snyder, Victoria & Dave Gosnell.

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

**Brood Bitch: CH Pitterpat’s Mabe Funke**  
Don’t Miss the Boat!
Our MCKC 2013 Mailer/E-Mailer for “Paws Across the Water”
Will Depart Soon with a Cargo of Info!

Watch your mailbox and our website for news about weekend events, trophy donations, catalog ads, raffle tickets, and fundraisers plus our “Bob the Banker” order form!

Bonney Snyder and Connie Koehler
Specialty Coordinators
Meet SCWTCA’s Newest Members

Name: Karli Mueller

Occupation: Dog Trainer/Groomer

Children/Grandchildren: Nine-year-old daughter

Name and Ages of Dogs: Kaler Dreamsicle (Macy) 5 years old and Kalaer Doc Holliday (Doc) 6 years old

When did you get your first Wheaten? I have had them my entire life. We got our first Wheaten when I was a year old.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? I have always had a Wheaten, but after many years of working with other breeds I loved them even more.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? I had an Akita/Shep mix years ago. Fabulous dog. She was my training partner when I worked with dog-aggressive dogs.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? I teach dog safety to children at elementary schools, I do therapy work at hospitals and nursing homes, and I do bedbug investigations.

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? I think the most memorable thing for me was the blending of my training experience with my mother’s breeding program and becoming a great mother/daughter team. There is nothing more interesting to me than watching our litters grow and learn.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? My first personal Wheaten that I remember most was Elias. He was the sweetest, most amazing dog. I remember when we would take him to the nursing homes to visit and he just knew how to be around the people there. He would walk up to somebody in a wheelchair, turn around, back up to them, and sit to be petted. He taught me a lot about dogs in general at a young age. He made me fall in love with giving back to the community with our dogs.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? I wanted to join SCWTCA because I wanted to be part of a group that is excited about the future of this breed. There are so many amazing people in this club that I have known for many years. I think one of the biggest draws to me though is the fact that there is such a wide range of breeders and owners who participate in many facets of the community with their dogs. That is very important to me.

Karli was sponsored by Maggie Evans and Sharon Masica. Karli brings photography and computer skills to the Club. In addition, she helps in assisting SCWTCA Rescue in Michigan.
Name: Victor Pescatore

Occupation: Sales and Operations Manager, National Home Improvement Stores

Children/Grandchildren: No children but I am uncle to one niece and three nephews.

Name and Ages of Dogs: Currently I have Annabelle who I got as a puppy and is now 10 years old. Pepper I got as a young adult and is now eight, both of which came from the same breeder in Canada. Neither one has ever been shown or has a champion anywhere in their names. They don’t have kennel names; they are just our pets and most importantly our family.

When did you get your first Wheaten? When I was 24 (20 years ago), I started dating a girl who had just gotten her very first Wheaten as a puppy (Molly). Molly was a pet shop dog. Up until that point I had no idea such a dog breed existed. With the girl came Molly whom I quickly came to love but soon found out she had quite the “personality.” She was an Alpha dog and quickly tried to boss around other dogs no matter how much bigger they were. To see this little puppy try to be boss was quite the sight, but she loved people with all her heart and was such a sweet dog.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? About a year and a half after Molly arrived, I got my own Wheaten (Sara). She was my little girl and came to me as a puppy from a breeder in PA. Now we had two in the family and the both of them were truly inseparable. About six years later, Sara was diagnosed with PLE and soon passed away. Molly was then diagnosed with PLE at age 10, but this time I was able to save her and she was back to normal with no signs of the disease. She passed away at 14 ½ from old age. Since then I have been very interested in Wheaten health and have studied the diseases quite extensively. Knowing what I know, I cannot see myself having any other breed of dog in my house other than a SCWT. They are such beautiful and unique dogs.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? Actually before I was born my family had a German Short-Haired Pointer (Sammy). Once he passed we got another GSHP (Major) both of which were great family dogs. They both instilled in me my love of dogs and the importance of having a dog in the house.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? We don’t participate in any formal activities.

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? This is more funny than memorable. Whenever I go to Dunkin Donuts drive thru, they give dog biscuits to all the dogs. Annabelle has made all the employees over the years give her a dog biscuit first before I get my coffee. Even new employees quickly learn she is to be served first, then me. If not she will bark at them until she gets what she wants. Like all of us I just have to many wonderful memories with all of my dogs over the years.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? Throughout Molly’s life she always surprised us. As a puppy, she found the dog biscuit box and eventually wound up getting her head stuck in the box, she ate two pairs of underwear, she swam in a neighbor’s pool though she was not invited, stole Chinese food from the kitchen and ate all of our dinner, and sunbathed in the yard for hours. She has had so many other incidents all of which explains why one of her many nicknames was “El Diablo.” She was the perfect ambassador for the breed.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? For the past couple of years I have been a rescue volunteer for the SCWTCA. I do transport work in the northeast and...
it is very rare to meet people who only care about helping a dog in need. Working with volunteers like Nancy Butler, Mary Yourich, Bob Peck and countless others is truly rewarding.

Victor was sponsored by Nancy Butler and Sue Goldberg. Victor supports SCWTCA Rescue by providing transportation for dogs in rescue.

Names: Richard and Camille Taylor

Occupation: Both of us are retired school administrators.

Children/Grandchildren: We have four grandchildren: Chloe 14, Kobe 13, Gracie 11, and Ellie 8.

Name and Ages of Dogs: Bronx 10, Brooklyn 5, Manhattan “Hattie” 1.

When did you get your first Wheaten? We got Bronx 10 years ago from Betsy Geertsen.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? We saw our first Wheaten while on vacation and knew that we wanted one.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? Scottish Terrier, Miniature Schnauzer, Fox Terrier, and Weimaraner.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? We have shown all three of our dogs in conformation and have taken classes in obedience, rally, and agility.

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? The most memorable event was when Hattie won Winners Bitch at Montgomery. The most meaningful experience has been training Brooklyn to become a Certified Therapy Dog and taking her on her weekly visits with special-needs children.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her? We still have our first Wheaten and will always remember how loving and loyal he is. He is our perfect dog.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? We love the breed and have enjoyed making so many new dog and people friends.
CELEBRATING A NEW CHAMPION

CH Lismore Catching Fire

“KATNISS”

CH Andover Saltmsea Big Baby x CH Lismore I’m Going To Disney World

Finished at 10 months of age with 5 majors including two BOB over specials.

Thanks to: Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine, Carole Beattie, Karen Wilson, Pat Trotter, and Mary Jane Carberry

Meg Ryan

703-855-9150

ndlaw951@aol.com
Thirty years ago this December I met my first Wheaten at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Her owners were breeders and knew of other sick Wheats. Before long I was getting medical records concerning sick Wheats from all over North America. I could see that Wheats were predisposed to a number of diseases and that different dogs were actually ill with a variety of diseases, sometimes in combinations, including protein-losing nephropathy (PLN), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD, often involving food allergies), protein-losing enteropathy (PLE) due to IBD and/or intestinal lymphangiectasia, Addison’s disease, and juvenile renal disease (JRD, aka, renal dysplasia). People confused these diseases with one another because of similar clinical signs and some similar abnormal blood and urine test results. We started banking DNA samples from sick dogs and geriatric dogs with well-characterized phenotypes, and started the SCWT Open Registry to help stop rumors about which dog had which disease, to see if familial relationships might detect possible modes of inheritance, and to help educate people as to the prevalence of these health problems. In the 2011 update of the Open Registry, more than 1100 dogs are listed, showing that PLN is the biggest problem in the breed; 722 dogs had PLN (279 of these had PLE/PLN combined), another 222 had IBD or PLE alone, 98 had Addison’s disease, and 66 had JRD. We found there was no age limit for PLE and/or PLN, no predictive tests, and inheritance appeared complex, probably involving multiple genes, variable expression, incomplete penetrance, and possibly environmental triggers.

Technology finally came of age to use our banked DNA samples in a genome-wide association study, which honed our attention to a statistically significant area of the genome that was different in affected dogs. Fine mapping of candidate genes in this area showed variant alleles in two genes (NPHS1 and KIRREL2) which are next to each other on the same chromosome and in complete linkage disequilibrium (i.e., variations are almost always linked together) that encode two slit diaphragm proteins in the glomerulus of the kidney (nephrin and filtrin/NPH3). The variant alleles are SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms), one in each gene, which cause a change in one amino acid in each of the proteins they encode, causing a structural abnormality and functional permeability defect allowing for protein loss into the urine. These abnormal glomeruli may be more likely to leak if additional glomerular damage occurs. This is the first podocytopathy discovered in dogs and is a model for inherited PLN in people. In fact, there are at least 176 different variant alleles found in NPHS1 (nephrin) that have been described in people with PLN.

Our retrospective studies showed that dogs homozygous positive for the variant alleles were at highest risk for developing PLN, heterozygous dogs were at intermediate risk, and homozygous negative dogs were at very low risk. It may be that homozygous positive or heterozygous dogs are triggered to get PLN if they have allergies, IBD, PLE, Addison’s, or other inflammatory or immune-mediated diseases, because theoretically their abnormal glomeruli may not be able to handle the added wear and tear of immune complexes passively deposited in the glomeruli. Many future studies are proposed as we look at dogs with known genotypes prospectively and follow them throughout their lives.

The DNA test for the PLN-associated variant alleles is now available for Wheats and Airedales; among 114 breeds tested, only SCWT and Airedales had these variations, aka, mutations. By testing dogs we can know their individual risk for PLN as well as choose a mate to try to avoid producing puppies with high risk of developing PLN. The test does not tell which dogs should be bred, but it does help with deciding which dog to breed to. We need to be very careful NOT to cull all carriers since that will cause loss of genetic diversity in the breed which can lead to other genetic problems revealing themselves. We need to avoid using a small foundation stock, popular sires, or inbreeding. This test is just another tool to use in
decision making, to be considered along with other important characteristics such as temperament, other health predispositions for which there are no genetic tests yet (e.g., allergies, PLE, Addison’s disease), conformation, etc. So far, results show that roughly \( \frac{1}{2} \) the submissions are heterozygous, \( \frac{1}{3} \) are clear, and \( \frac{1}{6} \) are homozygous positive. If only the clear dogs were used in breeding, we would lose \( \frac{2}{3} \) of the population (!), and considering that only \( \frac{1}{2} \) of the remaining dogs are males, and some of them would be culled for poor temperament, poor conformation, severe allergies, IBD/PLE, etc., we fear that we would be left with popular sire effects and inbreeding, which would lead again to bottlenecks and new and maybe worse genetic problems. Realize that PLN, when picked up early, may be treatable for many years. Knowing that a dog is at high risk should increase monitoring and recognition of whether a dog is starting to show signs of PLN warranting intervention.

Submission forms for the DNA test and more information about our findings are found at [www.scwtca.org/health/dnatest.htm](http://www.scwtca.org/health/dnatest.htm). Please follow the instructions carefully concerning how to collect cheek swabs from dogs that live in multi-pet households. The original abstract is at that link as well as at [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23325127](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23325127). The full paper just came out in *Mammalian Genome*, available at [www.springerlink.com](http://www.springerlink.com). Here is the citation:


One problem we have noticed is that people may be using terminology on their own that will be confusing when compared with geneticists’ terminology. We have seen some breeders use a zero (“0”) in place for a wild-type (normal) allele, and a “1” for the variant (mutated) allele. That is NOT the abbreviation used by geneticists. Zeros are only used for an unknown result. A “1” is used to denote the normal allele and a “2” is used to denote the variant allele. Thus, a “1-1” in OUR system is a clear (homozygous negative) genotype, a “1-2” denotes a heterozygous genotype, and a “2-2” is a homozygous positive genotype.

We have received many DNA samples for a prevalence study conducted May-Oct 2012. Below is an abstract of our findings from the first 1208 submissions, which will be published in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* in April, 2013 and will be presented as a poster at the ACVIM Forum in Seattle in June.

I wish to thank everyone who participated in the seroprevalence study and all the owners, breeders, students and veterinarians who helped over these past 30 years, sending in information and samples. I especially want to thank our geneticist, Paula Henthorn! We have found a big piece of the PLN puzzle, but more studies are needed to follow dogs prospectively, now that we know their genotypes, to know what the risk is for them to develop PLN during their lifetimes. We want to know if there are more genes involved that put dogs at risk for PLN or that appear to protect them. Moving forward, studies are needed to understand and detect genetic variations leading to risk for PLE, IBD, allergies, Addison’s disease, and JRD. Please continue to support researchers interested in all these problems, at Penn and elsewhere. The Wheaten community is amazingly supportive, and I’m glad that my career path just happened to lead me to you. Thanks again for all your support.
PREVALENCE OF VARIANT ALLELES ASSOCIATED WITH PROTEIN-LOSING NEPHROPATHY IN SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS. MP Littman, MG Raducha, PS Henthorn. University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Philadelphia, PA.

Variant alleles in NPSH1 and KIRREL2, the genes which encode the slit diaphragm proteins nephrin and filtrin/Neph3, respectively, were previously found associated with protein-losing nephropathy (PLN) in Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers (SCWT) by a genome-wide association study and subsequent gene sequencing of candidate genes in a statistically significant interval that differed among dogs with PLN compared with geriatric (14 to 18-year-old) SCWT. Genotyping assays were developed for both of the single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in these genes that are in linkage disequilibrium in the breed. Homozygous positive dogs were shown to be at highest risk for the development of PLN, heterozygous dogs were at intermediate risk, and homozygous negative dogs were at low risk for the development of PLN. A prevalence study was performed to ascertain if breeders could safely remove carrier dogs in one generation. Cheek swab, blood, or semen samples were tested from 1208 SCWT dogs of all ages (median 4 yrs). Haplotypes are described as 1-1 (homozygous negative), 1-2 (heterozygous), and 2-2 (homozygous positive) for the PLN-associated variant alleles. The following table shows the frequencies found in various countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Description</th>
<th>1-1 %</th>
<th>1-2 %</th>
<th>2-2 %</th>
<th>Variant Allele Frequency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA, n=880</td>
<td>33 (32.5)</td>
<td>48 (49)</td>
<td>19 (18.5)</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada, n=108</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total USA and Canada, n=988</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordic Countries, n=93</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK/Ireland, n=100</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries (Australia, Poland, Argentina), n=27</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total all countries, n=1208 (Unknown Sex, n=11)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females, n=712</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males, n=485</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Without genetic counseling with the knowledge of these haplotypes and assuming random breeding, the variant allele frequency would remain 43% in the USA. This high frequency indicates that it would be unwise to cull all carriers (1-2 or 2-2 dogs) of the variant alleles in one generation, thereby risking loss of genetic diversity, increased inbreeding, and the potential of increasing the incidence of other deleterious genetic traits. An approach to avoid producing high risk homozygous positive (2-2) dogs would be to preferably breed desirable heterozygous (1-2) or homozygous positive (2-2) dogs.

**New Open Registry Members**

May 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 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.

Jeffrey Bratton
Riley Frerking
Elena Lafferty
Barbara & Marshall Ostom
Laura McDonough
Catherine Pikul
New GCH Stratford Fashionista

"Caden"

GCH Stratford Top Brass x CH Stratford Accesorized

Caden finished in grand “style” at the Great Western Specialty. The next day she was awarded an AOM at the National Roving Specialty.

Breeder/Owner/Handler:
Molly O'Connell
Stratford Wheatens
moconn1030@comcast.net

Co-owned and Adored by:
Barbara Gillett and Kay Kotzelnick

Benchmarks . volume 41 . number 2 . page 17
**What Does Gene Testing Mean?**

By Neil O’Sullivan, Ph.D.

Dr. Littman’s long-term efforts researching PLN in Wheats has produced many benefits to Wheats affected with PLN, improving diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life for our Wheats with the disease (Littman, 2011). Her work has helped breeders and clinical practitioners alike to better understand this disease. Her recently published, groundbreaking research in collaboration with Dr Henthorn now allows us to test for and better understand the basic biology of the disease, including its most common form which has an underlying genetic basis (Littman et. al, 2013).

Their work developed from the painstakingly detailed work that was carried out over decades. It amassed many hundreds of samples from Wheats affected with PLN, including their in-depth medical histories and their pedigrees. In addition she also gathered geriatric normal dogs, documented equally painstakingly with their medical histories and pedigrees in the samples. The first part of her work is published and updated in the Open Registry and made available to members of the Open Registry. This huge body of work then allowed the researchers to scan the DNA of both affected and normal dogs with a SNP chip to see if patterns within the DNA showed affected and normal dogs differing at one or more regions of the DNA. This detailed genetic work is very commonplace today but within the dog world less commonly found because of the rigorous background work which is needed to build such a database. Dr. Littman and her team achieved this with the Wheats screening them for both the Open Registry and the geriatric normal studies. This quality of database is not common among dog breeds.

This scan of the Wheaten DNA found the normal and affected dogs differed in their DNA sequence for two genes involved in building the structures which help with filtration in the kidneys. These two genes, each with a mutated allele, were very closely linked on the same chromosome, and so inherited as a single unit. This close linkage of two genes on a chromosome is referred to as a haplotype. All dogs studied in the initial study have shown no breakup in the linkage, so we would state that there are two common haplotypes documented in Wheats. One dog has now been identified which is the result of a crossover between the two common haplotypes. So one rare haplotype has now also been identified. So far either the normal alleles for both genes are inherited together (as one of the two common haplotype) or both mutated alleles are inherited together (as the other common haplotype). Of 105 breeds tested, these mutations are known only to occur in Wheaten Terriers with the exception of two Airedale Terriers - one of whom was homozygous for the mutation and was affected with PLN, and one bloodhound.

In their work, because their samples sizes were so large, the researchers were able to extensively survey Wheats and calculate the Odds Ratio (OR). We now know that having two copies (being homozygous) for the alleles with the mutations mean those Wheats are at a very high risk of developing PLN. These dogs are homozygous (2,2) for the markers. Dogs with one copy of the mutation marker and one normal marker (1,2) are heterozygous dogs, at a lower risk of developing PLN compared to the homozygous (2,2) dogs. The dogs at least risk of developing PLN are the homozygous (1,1) dogs. While almost all cases of PLN in Wheats were due to mutations in these two genes, a very small number of Wheats were found with other risk factors such as Amyloidosis. This disease can cause of PLN, independent from the genetic mutations commonly found to cause PLN in Wheats.

So how do breeders use this new tool? Most breeders will want to breed using a technique known as marker assisted selection. Parents (or grandparents) of possible breedings can be screened with the new test. Dogs who are 1,1 can be freely intermated with the PLN risk reduced to a minuscule level. Breeding decisions among 1,1 dogs will involve all the other criteria which need to be considered but with PLN no longer a factor in the decision process.

- Dogs with 1,2 markers can be bred to 1,1 dogs and only the resulting 1,2 dogs will have any significant risk of developing PLN. However since we now know that more Wheats are likely to carry the mutation (76% of the geriatric normals were carriers of one or two copies of the allele) then a mating of a 1,2 to 1,1 will be an improvement as the progeny only 50 % carry a single copy of the marker and 50 % are clear (1,1). This mating produces no progeny in the highest risk group of 2,2, which carry the highest risk.
of developing PLN. Remember in all 145 Wheatens studied only 11 percent were 1-1 in genotype and among the geriatric normals (an elite group for status with respect to this disease) only 24 percent were 1-1. Since the release of the test, we see in the results that the Wheaten population actually looks more like the geriatric normal population for mutation frequency than the combined affected dogs and geriatric normal dogs used for the initial screenings. So a 1-2 to a 1,1 mating is helping to improve the population and to greatly reduce the frequency of PLN cases.

- A 2-2 to 1-1 breeding produces all puppies who are 1-2. This is the average status of the breed currently (roughly 50 percent of all Wheatens tested are 1-2) and isn’t a step backwards. It is a status quo mating.

- A 2-2 to 1-2 mating will result in 50 percent 2-2 puppies at high risk of PLN and 50 percent 1-2 puppies at moderate risk of PLN. This mating is increasing the frequency of the disease-causing alleles and therefore should be a breeding that is discouraged. Doing such a mating will increase the risk of more PLN cases compared to the average population of Wheatens currently tested.

- A 1-2 to 1-2 mating will result in 25 percent 2-2 puppies, 50 percent 1-2, and 25 percent 1-1 puppies, this also is a status quo mating as it doesn’t improve the population by lowering the risk of PLN compared to our current status. Since it produces 25 percent 2-2 puppies who are at highest risk of being affected by PLN, this mating should also be discouraged.

In future years, as the frequency of the mutated alleles decreases with the power of marker assisted selection, and as people take advantage of 1-1 Wheaten of quality in the population, the frequency cases of PLN will drop to very low levels in the SCWT. The screening of parents prior to evaluation of breeding stock and screening and selection of 1-1 puppies among litters where the options are between 1-1 and 1-2 status puppies will increase the frequency of normal alleles in the population. It would be recommended to avoid 2-2 for future breeding candidates so that we see PLN fade to the status of a rare disease in the SCWT population. Breeders should screen their current stock and develop a plan for their breeding program to have a long-term goal of 1-1 stock. However, depending on each breeder’s current starting point, this goal may take three or more generations to achieve.

Wheaten breeders need to use this test wisely; rushing to the small pool of 1-1 Wheatens currently available in the gene pool would reduce the genetic variation in the Wheaten population and create a bottleneck, which would have unpredictable but negative results for the future. Are there dogs of 2-2 status who should be bred currently? Of course there are. They are elite individuals who offer much-needed genetic diversity to the SCWT gene pool. However, programs should be developed to achieve no disease-causing alleles for PLN in future generations. All the other normal healthy genes from these 2-2 dogs will be maintained through wise breeding. This test provides the opportunity for a brighter future for the SCWT. It should be used widely. Breeders must remember it is a screening tool, to be utilized over many generations, with the the goal of having a breed at a very low risk of PLN, making Wheaten similar to other breeds of dogs screened in Dr Littman’s studies found to be at low PLN risk.

References


Neil O’Sullivan is a population geneticist working with Hy-Line International as their Director of Research and Development. His current professional interests are the use of genomics in selection for poultry and production animal genetic improvement. He has been in a partnership with Gerard Thompson (Geragold Wheatens) and together they have shown, bred, and lived with Wheatens over many years. Along the way they have had Great Danes, a few quality Briards, and Kerry Blue Terriers. Neil currently serves on the Board of the GDCA, has been active in having the Great Dane genome sequenced, and has worked on the Health and Research functions of the GDCA. His interest in genetics started with dogs, and his first peer-reviewed scientific paper was on the genetics of harlequin coat color in Great Danes.
Glossary of Terms as Used in Dr. O’Sullivan’s Article

Allele – an alternative form of a gene, for example white vs brown allele in color gene.

Gene – a gene is a segment of DNA in a specific location on a chromosome that details the blueprint for a protein.

Gene Pool – is the collective of all genes, with their alternate alleles, in a population. A large gene pool reflects extensive genetic diversity, making such populations robust with high fitness, and able to resist bouts of intensive selection.

Genotyping – this is a DNA screening process which allows the alleles an individual has inherited from their parents to be accurately determined by biological assays.

Haplotype – a combination of genes or markers which are closely linked on the same chromosome and are inherited usually as a block. Rare crossovers, breaking up these linkages, can occur and result in the reaction of a new haplotype.

Homozygous – an individual gene that has two copies of the same allele.

Heterozygous – an individual gene that has both copies of the different allele.

Linked Genes – every chromosome is made up of many genes, like beads on a string. linked genes are on the same chromosome, so are normally inherited together as a single block.

MAS (marker-assisted selection) – selection of animals using additional information on a limited number of markers associated with traits of interest.

Mutation – a process which changes the sequence of a gene giving rise to a new allele which changes the form produced by the new mutated allele. Most mutations are neutral; only a tiny percentage of these changes result in improved or deteriorated gene performance.

Odds Ratio (OR) – the odds ratio is the relative odds of an event happening in one group when compared to the odds the events occurs in another group.

SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) – change in a DNA molecule at a single position. For example, ATTGCT>ATCGCT which creates two alternative alleles.

SNP Chip (or microarray) – technology which allows rapid and relatively inexpensive simultaneous genotyping at many positions in the genome.

Genetics is about how information is stored and transmitted between generations.

–John M. Smith
A Year In

This time a year ago…

…DNA swabs were what you used when your dog sired his seventh litter.

…Reading the tea leaves of annual testing and pedigrees was how we assessed PLN risk.

…Wheatens out of a PLN-affected parent were often eliminated from breeding programs, regardless of their health.

…We juggled type, movement, temperament, health and availability when making breeding decisions.

Part of our world has changed almost overnight…but we always will be jugglers.

As I write this, it’s a year to the day since the DNA marker test swabs were first distributed. I’m reasonably pleased with how we’ve handled it. The rhetoric, thankfully, has not been excessive. It appears people are testing before breeding. Both are evidence we’ve learned from our more contentious past.

Not surprisingly, given the dog world’s inherent love of gossip, some are appalled. Stories of extreme reactions have been spread…rash actions, reckless decisions. Some think people are being too careless; others think people are blind to everything but a number.

It’s often amusing to hear discussions about other people’s breeding choices, all too frequently including assumptions pulled from thin air. While talk about others’ breeding choices is common, it’s rare that people have actually talked to the breeder involved.

Welcome to dogs. Again. Today’s assumption du jour is people are “breeding to a number”…selecting sires based solely on their DNA results.

Oh, please. Every breeder I know sorts through dozens of potential sires and is always considering multiple factors. Long before asking a potential stud’s owner about DNA testing, they’ve already eliminated numerous other dogs … sometimes on a single factor unrelated to health.

One of my two mottos for the last year…until now, shared only with friends…has been, “You can’t fix stupid.” Our fellow breeders will always make decisions we don’t understand or seem downright insane. Somehow, the breed survives. Mostly, I’ve heard thoughtful, sometimes confused, reactions. People are trying to work it through.

A friend, blessed with many homozygous negatives, recently said they were ready to consider heterozygotes. They’d concluded they needed to diversify and address specific type issues. For this person, that required taking a deep breath.

Another friend approached the owner of a homozygous negative stud dog with two bitches, a homozygous positive and a heterozygote. The stud dog owner talked my friend out of one of the breedings…the heterozygote…for reasons unrelated to DNA.

They discussed breeding the homozygous positive. Just a year ago, no one would’ve thought the bitch risky. She’s mature with good test results, her parents are older and healthy and her grandparents lived to healthy old ages. The breeder is responsible. This is the type of breeding at the heart of the “don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater” cautions.

Other stud dog owners have talked about turning down homozygous negative bitches…temperament concerns, other health issues or just plain incompatible type. You know… solid, practical breeding decisions intended to improve the next generation.

I believe like these breeders and stud dog owners we all have the opportunity to become better Wheaten breeders because of DNA marker testing…not alone because it gives us solid scientific information, but because it can also make us think.

Owners of homozygous positive bitches face the greatest challenge. Keeping such a bitch in a breeding program requires more than a too-forgiving assessment of our bitches and too-casual choice of Mr. Wonderful. When your girl is homozygous positive, the voices in your mind are inevitably more insistent. Is she really worthy or does she need too much “fixing?” Is she really the picture of health or are there a variety of problems? Will a breeding put her
at risk? Is she so good it’s worth using Mr. Not-As-Wonderful-Homozygous-Negative?

Such decision making is really tough. Ultimately it is the test of a real breeder. We must expand the pool of homozygous negative Wheatens. Hopefully we understand it will take a few generations. Breeding only negatives to negatives now could well endanger too many essential breed traits breeders have spent decades improving and would likely expose us to other risks, potentially as bad or worse than what we now deal with. Heterozygous and quality homozygous positive males need to be collected and frozen now, while they are young with good quality semen.

While waiting for those future generations, another thing we should do now to provide more breeding choices is to increase the visibility of homozygous negative dogs.

Elsewhere in this issue, Dr. Littman reports submitted samples are running about 33% homozygous negative in the US. Even accounting for bitches or for dogs submitted for research only, that represents a respectable number of homozygous negative potential stud dogs.

So where the heck are they?

During an online chat about showing older dogs, the hypothesis was raised: shouldn’t we bring out retired homozygous negative dogs and let our fellow exhibitors and breeders see them?

What about bringing them out for their Grand Championships? Or bring them to Veteran’s Classes at specialties? Perhaps the local specialty clubs and the national specialty could revive Parades of Titlists; let those neutered dogs with semen on ice or in pet trims be seen and considered. Hey, a “beefcake parade” could be fun!

And for heaven sake, if you’ve got a homozygous negative potential stud dog, either post his results or send them to the database folks or put it on the Stud Register…or all three…so we know about it! It’s not pimping your dog…it’s making sure we all know who’s available. Every one keeps a list of stud dogs and many are keeping track of the homozygous negatives; I know my list is hardly complete.

Another issue is whether to test entire litters. It seems few people are. I get it. For many breedings…ones involving homozygous dogs… the results are known, unless in Dr. Littman’s words, there was a “travelling salesman” involved.

For another common breeding…heterozygote to homozygous negative…there are arguments for and against testing the litter. Some breeders may use test results in their evaluation process, getting serious only about the homozygous negatives or using the DNA status to break a tie between dogs. Others are comfortable moving forward with heterozygotes and want to evaluate without regard to DNA status.

We’ve had two such litters and fall into the latter camp. We have four puppies still in our program, and we’ll test them in the future. I can’t say I’ve felt we let a puppy go to a pet home I might have kept had it been a homozygous negative. But I don’t want to be tempted to keep a lesser individual because I know it’s a homozygous negative.

Nor do I feel I have done owners a disservice by not providing the status of their new pet. The research so far doesn’t tell me what should be done differently for a heterozygote vs. a homozygous negative. My advice to all my owners remains unchanged: test annually, review the results with your vet and send them to me.

A year in and one thing remains absolutely the same: breeders must still be jugglers. We just have another ball to play with… and we’re becoming more confident we can work it into the mix.

And a year in and my primary motto remains unchanged: we’re not where we’re gonna be but we’re better off than we were.
Cordially invites you to attend
the annual wheaten round-up
for three days of shows, friendship and fun

Island Grove Regional Park
Greeley, Colorado

Friday, September 6, 2013
Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club Specialty Show
Breed and Group Judge: Chris Levy
Puppy Sweepstakes: Dennis Corash
Best in Sweepstakes & Best Bred By: Lois Crole

Saturday, September 7, 2013
Greater Denver SCWT Club Specialty Show
And Evergreen Community Kennel Club All-Breed Show
Breed Judge: Wyoma Clouss
Group Judge: Richard V. Miller
Puppy Sweepstakes Judge: Cindy Shea

Sunday, September 8, 2013
Evergreen Community Kennel Club All-Breed Show
Wheaten Entry Supported by SCWTCA
Breed Judge: Joan Anselm
Group Judge: Clay Coady

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SCWT CHAMPION and PERFORMANCE TITLES
January - March 2013
Compiled by Sheila O’Connell

**DOG**

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**BENCHMARKS . volume 41 . number 2 . page 24**
New Eye Database and Registry at OFA

The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) jointly established a database to track results of canine eye examinations and a certification registry effective November 1, 2012.

The ACVO is the accrediting group which establishes requirements for becoming a Board-Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist and determines whether requirements have been met. It has endorsed use of the OFA registry. The Genetics Committee of the ACVO offers breeding recommendations for dogs with hereditary eye disorders.

The OFA Eye Certification Registry (ERC) registers dogs whose eyes are free from observably hereditary eye disease which affects vision when the dog is examined by an ACVO-certified ophthalmologist. This includes dogs with “normal” eyes and those with hereditary conditions not currently known to affect vision. Data for these dogs is listed on the OFA website, available to the public.

OFA registry exams procedures and fees are the same as those used by the CERF (Canine Eye Registry Foundation). OFA eye exam forms include copies for the owner, ophthalmologist and OFA research database. To register the dog, owners send their copy of the form and a fee to OFA.

The ACVO/OFA Clinical Database for Ophthalmic Diagnoses will provide data for use by researchers and breed clubs working to determine significance of general and breed specific eye conditions. The database will collect information on dogs examined by ACVO ophthalmologists in private practice and institutional practice as well as dogs being examined for certification. OFA has database capabilities to manage data accurately and in a timely manner.

In recent years, data processing issues have caused significant delays in CERF statistical reports to...

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forms as recently as February. If owners have a CERF form, it may be submitted to OFA with the fee and a signed note asking that it be added to the OFA database. CERF will also register the dog if the form and fee are sent to them. For several years OFA has listed eye registration information sent quarterly by CERF. CERF information was still being listed at OFA in April 2013. CERF does not send abnormal exam statistics to OFA.

Latest Statistics For Hereditary Eye Disease in Wheatens
Eye-exam results for 512 Wheatens were listed in CERF Statistical Analysis reports for 2009-2012. Sixty-five percent of the Wheatens examined were females. Five percent were under one year of age; 45 percent were under three years; 76 percent were under the age of five years when examined. Eleven percent were over eight years.

Hereditary eye disease which affects vision occurred in 4.5 percent of the Wheatens examined. ACVO guidelines recommend that these dogs should not be bred. An additional 4.9 percent had eye disorders presumed to be hereditary but not currently thought to affect vision. These dogs receive a “Breeder Option” designation listing the abnormality. ACVO recommends that if they are bred, it should be to dogs which do not have the same eye abnormality. As research continues, Breeder Option conditions may be determined to be “normal” or to significantly affect vision. Breeding recommendations would be changed accordingly.

Cataracts were the most common hereditary problem affecting vision in Wheatens examined in 2009-2012. Almost 3 (2.7) percent of Wheatens had significant cataracts. Cataracts are opaque areas in the lens of the eye which can cause blindness if they cover the entire lens. ACVO guidelines say, “The prudent approach is to assume cataracts to be hereditary except in cases known to be associated with trauma, other causes of ocular inflammation, specific metabolic diseases, persistent pupillary membrane, persistent hyaloid or nutritional deficiencies.” ACVO recommends that these dogs should not be bred. It should not be assumed that cataracts are a normal “old age” condition or that they occur only in older dogs. Six of the 14 Wheatens with cataracts were under the age of three years. Only three were over the age of eight years.

Some cataracts are listed as “significance unknown” which is a Breeder Option designation. There were 44 “cataracts-significance unknown” found in 2009-2012 exams.

SCWTCA Breeder’s List Eye-Exam Registration Requirement
At its January 2013 meeting, the SCWTCA Board approved a policy requiring registration of eye exams as a condition for Breeder’s List eligibility. Registration may be with either OFA or CERF.

References:
American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists website, www.acvo.org
Ocular Disorders Presumed to Be Inherited in Purebred Dogs, Fifth Edition, 2010 Genetics
Committee of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists.
Orthopedic Foundation for Animals website, www.offa.org
Would you believe...

- I played for the Cleveland Browns?
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5 Shows In 5 Days!
The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Milwaukee

cordially invites you to our 25th annual Specialty
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Friday, July 26
SCWTCGM Specialty
Sweepstakes Judge: Karli Mueller
Specialty Judge: Kathy Clarke
Event supported by the SCWTCA.
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Wheaten outline garden art for sale

Saturday & Sunday, July 27 & 28
Waukesha Kennel Club
Judges: TBD
Entry supported by the SCWTCGM
Location: Waukesha County Expo Center

Monday, July 29
Burlington Wisconsin Kennel Club
Breed and Group Judge: Robert E Hutton
Location: Walworth County Fair Grounds

Tuesday, July 30
Burlington Wisconsin Kennel Club
Breed and Group Judge: Charlotte Clem McGowan
Location: Walworth County Fair Grounds

Questions: Chairman, Geoffrey Bilda at bilda@sbcglobal.net.
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Celebrating Long Life

CH Caillan Stratford SiouxSpence (Siouxie)
(CH Heartstrings Toast to Tara ROM x CH Stratford Siouxprano
DOB: May 3, 2000

I wasn’t going to take a puppy from this litter of nine born on May 3, 2000. I had three young Wheatens at home already, but this puppy bitch stole my heart. She ran the litter with a confident nature that said, “I’m alpha, so everyone just get along.” And they did. Siouxie (CH Caillan Stratford SiouxSpense) has always been the one closest to my heart. As a devilish youngster, she was also known as the Stealth Wheaten because she could grab anything and run off with it undetected: glasses, tasseled shoes, seven lamb chops – she was fast and she was silent. In the show ring, she allowed me to go in with her but never needed me. Head cocked, tail wagging, she won specialties, breed points and group placements. Ever the matriarch, she has helped to raise other litters here as well as her own. Now, as the dowager queen, she tolerates the youngsters with the same grace and dignity that made her mine 13 years ago.

Owner: Molly O’Connell
Breeders: Laura Sarff & Molly O’Connell

CH Stratford Point Well Taken (Alice)
(CH x CH Stratford Points ‘n Plugs)
DOB: May 19, 2000

Stratford Point Well Taken aka Alice has spent her life loving and being loved by our grandchildren. Although she is 13, she continues to be constantly guarding them and me. When “The Grands” were little I never had a concern about them being in the backyard because Alice was always watching them.

Alice thoroughly enjoyed the show ring with her best friend and breeder Molly O’Connell and if Molly was not fast enough with a reward, Alice was always able to take one from another handler. My patience is tested with every grooming session but I love her just the same.

Everyone who meets her cannot believe she is 13. Although she sleeps more than she did, the typical Wheaten behavior of high and off are still there.

Owners: Maureen & Jim Reis
Breeder: Molly O’Connell
Am/Intl CH Lissadell SeaKyss (Kysha)  
(CH Lissadell Cajun Comet CD x CH Lissadell Stroll’n For A Buck)  
DOB: January 24, 2000

A beautiful girl—a beautiful soul. Gentle, with tomboyish energy and a zeal for life. I couldn’t have asked for a more perfect friend to share these years with.

At 13, she attacks her cookie in the morning, kicking it around and pouncing on it like a puppy. She runs through the yard protecting us from intruders, jumps up into my arms, and is always ready for a long walk. When she returns, she cools her toes on the top step of the pool. She loves visiting assisted-living facilities and adores young children. Her goal in life is to be petted by everyone at least once and will sit on your foot so you can’t leave. She sleeps on our bed, stretched out in the middle — sideways, of course, allowing us the edges of the bed.

I knew from the very beginning how special she was—out of and in the ring. We enjoyed going to shows, time to bond, cuddle, and take those long walks she likes. At age four, in the prime of showing, Kysha contracted the desert malady Valley Fever. She was being campaigned, but in the middle of the year I brought her home to get healthy.

Kysha received her Eukanuba invitation in 2005, ending the year at #17, after being shown for only six months. She is an IABCA Gold Welt-Schönheits-Championat, with three International Best in Shows, five Reserve Best in Shows, and a Gold Cup recipient.

At the age of 12 she placed BOS over five specials at Sun Country Terrier Show in Scottsdale AZ, then two weeks later won two International Best in Shows.

She loves running full speed in the grass and sailing in San Diego on the boat where she spent her first night with us. She is our special girl and we treasure her and every minute she shares with us.

Owners: Pete and Venda Schmid  
Breeders: Carolyn Goldberg & Leslie Wimmer

CH Caillan Master of SiouxSpence (Clancy)  
(CH Heartstrings Toast to Tara ROM x CH Stratford Siouxpiano)  
DOB: May 3, 2000

Little did Terry know when she drove from Southern California to Colorado to pick up her puppy that he would become her “heart” dog! Terry cheered ringside while she watched Clancy become a champion. After his time in the show ring, Clancy was Terry’s constant companion as she hiked the Southern California hills. He played with the grandkids and was by Terry’s side as she cared for her ailing and aging parents. He shared all the ups and downs life brings. To quote Terry, “I don’t know what I’ll do when I no longer have him.” We hope that won’t be for a long time but, “No matter how long we have them . . .it’s never long enough.”

Owners: Terry Stratton & Cecily Skinner  
Breeders: Molly O’Connell & Laura Sarff
In the beginning, everything about getting Ted was controlled, from interviewing breeders, choosing the litter he was coming from, picking the best month to bring him home in relation to potty training and even getting a family dog versus a show dog. Most of that went out the window the minute Theodore P Bear went from a dream and actually came home and into our lives! Ted arrived at our scene in June of 2000. He was cute and fluffy and so much fun. He was what each of my sons needed and wanted him to be. He could be a pal to play soccer with (even if he pulled down my son’s sport shorts with those sharp puppy teeth) or someone to lie quietly next to after a hard day of school. Not too long after bringing him home our wonderful breeder realized what we knew all along, Ted was a pretty boy! Under her guidance he quickly earned his AKC Championship at nine months of age with limited showing, winning four majors from the BBE class.

He is such a part of our lives that I sometimes forget who has trained whom to do what! His favorite treats are carrots and frozen peas. On the weekends he knows my husband will make him an egg. At 13 he still chases squirrels, even if he is not diving like Superman off the deck to do so. With my boys grown and out of the house and a husband who travels, Ted makes coming home to an empty house, not so lonely. He was then and to this day is just a sweet, pretty boy!

Owners: Peter and Laurie Sterling
Breeders: Jim & Nancy Anderson & Bette Eckstrom

Carly was placed at 12 weeks with the Brocavitch Family. She is a much-loved pet by her family of five. She belongs to Joseph and Sheila, and has watched her human sisters, Stephanie and Kristen, grow into adulthood. Joseph Jr. came along about a year after Carly arrived, and he has never lived a day without his best friend!

Owners: Joe and Sheila Brocavitch
Lonestar Wheaten’s is proud to be her breeders.
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The phone rang. The caller was a woman, crying so hard it was difficult for her to speak. “This is embarrassing, but my dog died and I think I might need some counseling.”

The woman came in for a first session and her story quickly unfolded with horrific details. Her young dog had become ill and she took him to a new vet close by. The vet suspected a terminal illness, drew blood for testing, and advised the woman it would take two weeks to get the results. Only days later, the vet called with the tragic news. The blood test confirmed the worst and he urged the dog be euthanized as soon as possible, saying it was “the only humane thing to do.” With a broken heart, the woman reluctantly gave permission and said her sad good-byes.

Several days later, another and unexpected call came from the vet’s office. They’d made a mistake. They mixed up test results and said they had a legal and ethical obligation to tell the woman her dog’s test results had not arrived until after the dog was gone. The results, in fact, showed a treatable and not terminal illness. Already devastated, she was inconsolable. She was enraged at the clinic for what they had done, and she wished they’d never told her the truth. She was riddled with guilt for not questioning why the results were available so quickly, instead of the anticipated two weeks, as well as for not getting a second opinion.

Grieving the loss of a loved one who lived long distance can be especially difficult as day-to-day life can appear unaffected, until reality pops in with frequent and brutal reminders of the truth. Losing a pet can be the exact opposite in that the reminders are constant and relentless. You climb out of bed reaching a few extra feet to avoid stepping on or tripping over your furry friend snoozing close by. You hang your hand over the chair only have it filled with a fuzzy face holding a favorite toy, demanding to be tossed. Maybe you just can’t remember the last time you got to go to the bathroom alone. Our lives can be so intertwined with our pets emotionally, cognitively and physically that it simply becomes routine, taken for granted, normal.

Then, one day, too soon, they are gone. The house is too quiet, the silence is too loud. You may still step to the side of the bed, but only out of habit, not need. You may still feel that fuzzy head in your hand, only to be surprised your hand is empty. And you may wish for the bathroom companionship you once found so annoying.

If you are grieving the loss of a pet, find fellow pet lovers to support you. Avoid anyone who attempts to minimize or mitigate your pain. Make no apologies for your sadness that is just as valid as another person’s sadness; there is no room for competition in grief. If someone asks you what’s wrong and you don’t want to go into details, usually a simple “someone in my family died” will suffice, and it is the
the truth. Consider having your own ritual to say good-bye, maybe releasing balloons or scattering ashes somewhere special. Put a favorite picture that makes you smile where it is often and easily seen. Stay out of pet shops where there are radars that identify grieving pet owners as prime targets for the next big sale. Be gentle with yourself and know the pain will slowly be replaced by happy memories that will be yours forever.

A man, who admitted he was not an animal lover, once said to me he thought we dog people must be masochists. He could not understand why we would open ourselves to love our dogs so much knowing their lives are so short and how we suffer when we lose them. Clearly this deprived man knew nothing about puppy breath, silly games of Keep Away, cute wiggly butts put into motion only because you walked into the room, or what it is like to be unconditionally accepted and adored. My answer came quickly and easily. We endure the sadness at the end of their lives in exchange for all the joy, laughter, love and companionship they bring us every day, every year we have together.

Darlene F. Cross, MS, MFT, Inc. is the author of Amazon Bestseller, *A New Normal: Learning to Live With Grief and Loss*. She is the proud mother of seven-year-old Wheaten and two Pons, the younger of which she is actively showing in conformation. www.darlenecross.com
HARBOUR HILL... Pixar and an Olive

HARBOUR HILL GOT *BUZZ(ED)* at NCTA...

"Buzz" at 3 months

"Buzz" at 11 months

Winners Dog at NCTA, BW at SCWTCNC, BW at Sacramento K.C. shows

Thank you judges Ms. Anne Barlow, Mr. Edd Bivin, and Mrs. Rosalind Kramer

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Susan K. Sakauye  ssakauye@aol.com  805-967-0953
The mighty Quigley: Pooch on patrol prevents fire in Evergreen

By Deb Hurley Brobst
Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 2:23 pm (Updated: March 26, 2:24 pm)

Quigley is Evergreen Meadows’ new best friend.

The mighty Quigley: Pooch on patrol prevents fire in Evergreen

Quigley is Evergreen Meadows’ new best friend.

The 4-year-old soft-coated Wheaten terrier saved the subdivision along Highway 73 from a wildfire on March 18. He was honored Monday night by Evergreen firefighters for his keen sense of smell and perseverance in getting his owner to walk across the backyard and find flames in a pile of dry pine needles on a neighbor’s property. The fire ignited after ashes that weren’t completely cooled had been thrown out, and the wind re-ignited them.

Quigley received a standing ovation from firefighters, a junior firefighter hat and a badge. For his part, Quigley was much more interested in treats from his owners, P.J. and Donna Lilly, who have been Evergreen residents for 12 years.

“You know, he’s my little guy,” P.J. Lilly said of Quigley, who was rescued from a puppy mill at the age of 4 months. “He’s the real hero.”

“We are thankful (P.J. Lilly) called us,” said Stacey Montague, a spokeswoman for Evergreen Fire/Rescue. “It could have gone bad if Quigley had not been agitated by (the fire). I’ll go out on a limb here: (Quigley) saved the neighborhood.”

Montague reminds residents to be alert and report any smoke they see to the fire department.

“If you see smoke, smell smoke, call us,” she said. “It’s a tinderbox out there.”

She also reminded residents not to empty ashes outside. She suggested mixing them with water in a fireproof bucket to make sure there are no hot embers.

The story unfolds

Quigley and his sisters, Darby, 13, and Cassie, 1, also Wheaten terriers, had come home from agility practice with the Lillies about 8 p.m. March 18. They went outside one last time before bedtime.

But Quigley kept going to the door and asking to go back outside. Eventually, P.J. relented. Quigley ran to the back of the property, all the while turning around as if wanting P.J. to follow him. P.J. reached the back of his property, looked up and saw flames.

He put Quigley back in the house, grabbed a shovel and threw snow on the fire. He knocked on his neighbor’s door on Damascus Trail, but no one was home.

P.J. threw more snow on the area and called 911. Evergreen Fire/Rescue responded and saturated the area with 300 gallons of water.

“If it wasn’t for Quigley,” P.J. said, “and if he hadn’t been such a pain in the butt, who knows what would have happened?”

“I’m glad Quigley was on duty that day,” Montague said. “Maybe he was a firefighter in a former life.”

Contact Deb Hurley Brobst at deb@evergreenco.com or 303-350-1041. Check www.CanyonCourier.com for updates.
Garden State All Terrier, the first of the three shows on our Specialty weekend, was breezy and chilly and with bright sunshine. The judge for the day was Wheaten breeder, Shari Robinson, Keepsake Wheatens. There was an entry of 27.

Winners Dog was Frolic Road Warrior at Fenris, owned by Cherie Turner. Reserve Dog was Whindancer Tied Together With A Smile, owned by Susan Ratliffe, Abby Kochan, Dana Meath, and Chelsea Radford.

Winners Bitch, Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex was Greentree Clover Hurricane, owned by Liz Jamiolkowski. Reserve Winners Bitch, Best Puppy, and Puppy Group 4 was Diamond’s Sentimental Journey to Tidewater, owned by Betty Ann Hillwig and Brenda Algar.

Best of Breed went to GCH Diamond’s Cactus Cash, owned Betty Ann Hillwig. The judge also chose CH Trinity All You Need is Love, owned by Shelley Serafin, for Select Dog and CH Diamond’s Can’t Resist Me, owned by Betty Ann Hillwig and Connie Rado, for Select Bitch.

After judging, all Wheaten lovers and their friends gathered for the 7th Annual Wine and Cheese party, provided and hosted by Carole Clark (Clewbay) and Cherie Turner (Frolic).

Saturday was a beautiful, sunny day for our Specialty, held in conjunction with Bucks County Kennel Club. The day started with Denise Bendelewski, Dhowden Wheatens, judging Sweepstakes. The entry was 17. Her winners were CharMax’s Liberty Belle II for Best in Sweepstakes, who is owned by Barry and Bonnie Ivler and Lana Menser, and for Best of Opposite in Sweeps, Greentree Do You Believe in Magic, owned by Bev and Kevin McDonald and Jan and Tony Mazzeo.

Regular classes followed and were judged by Robert Hutton. There was an entry of 45. Mr. Hutton choose Diamond’s Ain’t Misbehavin’ for Best of Winners and Winners Dog, owned by Joseph and Dina Pietropaoalo and Betty Ann Hillwig. Reserve Winners was Frolic Road Warrior at Fenris, owned by Cherie Turner.

Winners Bitch was Diamond’s Sentimental Journey to Tidewater, owned by Betty Ann Hillwig and Brenda Algar. Reserve went to Banner On the Road Again, owned by Pam and John Mandeville and Michael Wasylkiw and Mike Kempinski.

Best of Breed was GCH Greentree Cayenne Dancer, owned by Robert Reey and Beverly McDonald. Best of Opposite Sex was GCH Greentree Gold Charm. Select Dog was GCH Sundance Second Chance and Select Bitch was CH Lismore Catching Fire. Awards of Merit went to GCH Waterford Carnival,
GCH Diamond’s Cactus Cash, CH Diamond’s American Mystique, and CH Trinity All You Need Is Love. After judging, there was a luncheon with Barry Ivler manning the grill, and dishes from our members. There was also the leprechaun toss. This year’s prize, a pitcher, again was donated by Dennis Baribault.

It was sunny and breezy again for the third and final day of our Specialty weekend. This day the judge was Scottie breeder Kathi Brown and the entry was 32. She chose for Winners Dog Whindancer Tied Together With A Smile, owned by Susan Ratliffe, Abby Kochan, Dana Meath, and Chelsea Radford. Reserve was O’Mannion Greentree Havana’s Midnight Rambler, owned by Joanne Manning and Beverly and Kevin McDonald.

Winners Bitch and Best of Winners was Greentree Sugar Plum Magic, owned by Beverly and Kevin McDonald. Reserve Winners Bitch was Whindancer’s Forget About the Boy, owned by Michael and Kristin Brown and Susan Ratliffe.

In a repeat of yesterday’s win, the judge’s choice for Best of Breed was GCH Greentree Cayenne Dancer, owned by Robert Reey and Beverly McDonald, and Best of Opposite Sex was GCH Greentree Gold Charm, owned by Bev and Kevin McDonald. Select Dog was GCH Waterford Carnival, owned by Marjorie Shoemaker and Cherie Turner, and Select Bitch was CH Lismore Catching Fire, owned by Meg Ryan.

After this day’s judging, Kevin and Bev McDonald again graciously hosted a wonderful lunch, thanking us all for coming and celebrating our wins. A big thank you to all who helped make this a successful weekend.

**Sweepstakes**

*Judge Denise Bendelewski*

*Saturday, May 5, 2013*

**BSSW: Charmax’s Liberty Belle II**

(GCH Wheatens Pride Buxx Bogart x Ch Amaden’s Lady Slippers) Breeders: Bonnie & Barry Ivler. Owners: Lana Menser & breeders.

**BOSSW: Greentree Do You Believe in Magic**

(GCH Greentree Storm Catcher x CH Greentree Jendu Tabu Red Heels) Breeders: Beverly & Kevin McDonald. Owners: Jan & Tony Mazzeo & breeders.
WD/BW: Diamond’s Ain’t Misbhavin’  
(GCH Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man x GCH Diamonds Breakfast At Tiffany’s) Breeder: Betty Ann Hillwig. Owners: Joseph & Dina Pietropaolo & breeder.

WB: Diamond’s Sentimental Journey to Tidewater  
(GCH Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man x GCH Diamond’s Breakfast At Tiffany’s) Breeder: Betty Ann Hillwig. Owners: Brenda Algar & breeder.

SB: CH Lismore Catching Fire  
(CH Andover SaltnSea Big Baby x CH Lismore I’m Going To Disney World) Breeders/Owners: Margaret Ryan & Donna & Jerry Jordan.

AOM: CH Trinity All You Need is Love  
(CH Wheaten Rebel’s Nelson For Navy x CH Greentree Trinity Follow Your Heart) Breeders: Michelle & Raymond Serafin and Kevin & Beverly McDonald.

AOM: GCH Waterford Carnival  
(GCH Dhowden American Dream x CH Waterford Frolic O’Prescott) Breeders/Owners: C. Turner & M. C. Shoemaker.
When Bev brought home Waterford Mr. McGillycuddy (Gilly) from Marjorie Shoemaker, who knew the impact this dog would make in her life, or the impact she would have in the breed of Wheaten Terriers?

Bev has committed more than 30 years to preserving and improving the breed. Her accomplishments are too numerous to list, especially as a breeder/owner/handler in the ring. Those of us who are friends or have been mentored by Bev, realize and appreciate her impact, and understand her dedication to the breed, her dogs, and to us.

Years ago Bev and Kevin took brave and bold steps with their dear friend, Margret Möller-Sieber, to introduce European lines. Bringing Maroc Marie Antoinette “Claddy” from Ireland and CH Wheaten Rebel’s Eve of Destruction “Katrina” from Germany has made a huge contribution to the health and soundness of her breeding program. Those of us who have been fortunate to incorporate her lines into ours, or started off with them, are better for it.

Bev’s “Greentree Family” knows she is always there for advice, guidance, and support. Sometimes, just a shoulder to lean on, or a sympathetic ear.

Her Greentree roots run deep in our hearts!

Thank You Bev and Kevin!
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The link to Benchmarks online is sent to all AKC approved and provisional SCWT judges. Benchmarks is also sent to all judges requesting a subscription, free of charge.

## Articles and letters for September issue are due August 1

**Advertising Rates**
- Full page $50
- Back Cover advertising in color $100
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Page size 8.5 x 11 inches

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 September issue: August 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 August 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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