OUR NEW TREASURE!

CH* CLOVER’S MOONSTRUCK REFLECTION OF GREENTREE

Treasure

US & IRISH CH, GER CH (KFT & VDH), LUX CH, SWISS CH Wheaten Rebel's Nelson For Navy
X CH Greentree Clover Ooh La La

Completes her championship at eight months with four majors
And Best In Match SCWTCGTB “A” Match

Thank you Liz and Mike Jamiolekowski
for this lovely girl.
Special thanks to Bev and Kevin McDonald
and Margret Möller-Sieber

* Pending AKC approval

HELEN FRAGUELA
WWW.MOONSTRUCKSCWT.COM
From the President
by Gary Vlachos

I came home from our winter board meeting in Las Vegas not only to the cold that has gripped the eastern regions of our country, but to a phone message left on my land line (note to self... change primary contact number with AKC to my mobile number), inviting me to judge at a terrier show in 2015. When I returned the call, I apologized for not responding immediately due to the fact that I was away at our board meeting.

Ooh... was the first response when he heard where we had our meeting. I explained to him the $$$-saving economics of having our meeting in Las Vegas. The great room rates we get as a group. The ease of travel there for all the members. Plus the added dimension of camaraderie the location allows us as a group to share outside of board business. A dinner and a show after a hard day’s work does wonders for forging good friendships and working relationships!

Ahh... was his second response. If only his club and board could function like that! He then proceeded to tell me of the trials and tribulations of serving on his national club’s board. The East Coast faction, the West Coast faction, the agility contingency, all vying for its piece of the pie! No dinner and show for this group. A consensus could never be reached as to where to eat and what to see.

Ouch... I said. I’m so sorry. I told him I had heard “stories” of contentious board meetings before I arrived on this board. I saw and was involved in some heated discussions over time but never to the degree previously described. Not a one of us has ever walked away from a decision always the victor. But in the end, civility and the ultimate good of the Club has always prevailed.

When I hear stories of other breed boards and how they function, or should I say dysfunction, I count my blessings for this Club and our members because it is from our membership from which our board derives. We have our spats, but as a whole we seem to be able to move beyond them. We recognize our concord and we grow stronger as a club for it.

Hmmm... I am reminded of a time years ago when I attended the Metro New York Wheaten Specialty. I was there with my-then puppy CH Lontree’s Borstal Boy ROM who was sired by a breed great, CH Raclee’s Express West O’ Andover CD ROM (Ryan). Also attending was the eventual breed winner that day, CH Winquest Revelation ROM, a “Ryan” grandson. So at that time I was either knowingly or unknowingly in the “Ryan” camp! Now set up beside me was a dog who at that point in my young career was quite different to my eye. He also represented a new movement in our breed, thus a different camp… CH Gleanngay Holiday ROM! So many things could be said about the discourse that took place between these two (then) factions. But what is most deserving of our attention is how these now-stalwarts of the breed were able to focus on what they had in common and the breed was the true winner. We need only to look at the results: CH Andover Song and Dance Man (CH Gleanngay Holiday ROM x CH Andover Hootenanny ROM), my own CH Brenmoor’s Spark Plug ROM (CH Bantry Bay Gleanngay Kashmir ROM x CH Brenmoor’s Double Kylemore) are the easiest to bring to my mind. There are many more examples, but you get the point!

It is my hope as we move into the season of conformation shows, agility, rally, and obedience trials, that while we all have individual dreams at stake, we remember in times of discourse to respect our peers, move beyond our differences, and relish in the strength that that harmony brings to us as individuals, our club as a whole, and our Wheatens as a breed.

I outlined in my last Board Bytes how much the Board accomplished during our two days in Las Vegas. This is a great board supported by outstanding committee chairs, assisted by hardworking committee members, guided by a membership who loves its Wheatens and the opportunities that our breed club provides to them to pursue that love. As you can see we do not operate in a vacuum! Nor does our work stop. Nary a day passes when there isn’t something being discussed on the Board site. If you have a thought, share it with us. We will listen!
From the Editor
by Molly O'Connell

The March issue of Benchmarks is an interesting one to assemble. There are no show results to publish, so my challenge is to find information of interest to the membership with the hopes that people will actually read what’s in the issue! I – like many people – always went to the ads and photos first when a new issue appeared. You will not be disappointed with the beautiful ads in this issue – Helen Fraguela continues to produce quality advertising while working closely with individuals to present dogs in their best lights. Check them out!

On another front, I provide you with two different perspectives on health testing from veterans of dog breeding (pages 21-23). Where do you fit on the spectrum provided by these two writers? I believe both have valuable points to make and I think each of us breeders needs to develop and use a cogent philosophy and practice to make sound breeding decisions. I still think it is wise to know everything you can about the health of generations of dogs in a pedigree while utilizing the tools we have available to us scientifically.

Speaking of science...many answers still elude us. Last year was not a good year for me and puppies. In four breedings I only had three live puppies. The reason for the deaths of the others remains a mystery though my wallet certainly knows I consulted the reproduction experts well.

With my older dogs, I lost three to cancer in the last 12 months, so the article on a clinical trial for hemangiosarcoma greatly interested me. To date more dogs of my breeding have died of this disease than have died of PLN. The strides we have made in testing are noteworthy but I wish I had more answers as well to other health problems.

Sometimes I think I am the poster child for insanity, meeting Einstein’s definition of “doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.” Actually I hope that I don’t repeat mistakes; instead I try to use as much information sprinkled with wisdom of many years of breeding to produce the healthiest, happy puppies I can.

Celebrating Long Life

Shamrock was placed into the SCWTCGM rescue program in January 2006 at the age of six and a half. Her original owners gave her up because she no longer fit into their lifestyle, relinquishing her to a humane society in Minnesota. It contacted Bette Eckstrom, the Milwaukee Wheaten Club’s rescue coordinator, who arranged for the transfer to the Club’s rescue program. After a short time, Shamrock was placed with my mother who lived alone and had recently lost her Miniature Schnauzer to diabetes.

While we were a bit concerned at first because Shamrock was a bigger dog than Mom was used to, the two of them quickly bonded. Shamrock was a loyal companion to Mom until she passed away in March of 2012. We took her into to our household shortly after that. Shamrock fits in quite well with our other two Wheatens and our seven grandchildren, who call her Rocky. Even at 13, Shamrock has very sharp hearing and has a habit of howling when the phone rings and barking when a dog barks on TV. She is healthy for the most part, just has some weakness in her hind legs. Since we are unsure when her exact birthdate is, we celebrate it every year on the Fourth of July. Here’s to celebrating Shamrock’s long life!

Owners: Karen and Geoff Bilda
Nowadays, Casey's life is mostly spent under the table relaxing; her hearing is compromised a little and her sight is a little off. She is loved by Kevin and Kathy and is very special to them.

Breeder: Lynn Cone
Owners: Kathy and Kevin Marsar

Shanae is owned and very loved by Bonnie and Jack. She guards the docks at home, protecting the family home from the seagulls. She travels with them to North Carolina in the summer. She is a very lucky and special little lady!

Breeder: Lynn Cone
Owners: Bonnie and Jack Harrison

Raelyn Gentle Serenade has been my constant companion for the last 13 yrs. She came into my life, after my first husband suddenly died, to fill the hole in my heart. She is my second Wheaten.

She has fullfilled everything that I had hoped for and more. She has competed in rally, agility and obedience and most recently, pet therapy. She is certified by Pet Partners for complex environments.

Her jobs have included being the greeter at my second husband's store to being a constant companion during my hospitalization. She even was allowed to stay in ICU with me.

She has now become my husband's constant companion first at the UCLA Heart Transplant Center and then at cardio rehab. My husband would not have done as well if it wasn't for his Shannon.

Breeder: Lynn Cone
 Owners: Jan and Ed Koharik
“Maddie”
CH Gallagher’s Diamond Girl
(CH Hilltop’s Diamond Gem x CH Gallagher’s Uptown Girl)
DOB: November 9, 2000

Maddie is our first Wheaten and the foundation for Gemstone. We had no idea what we were getting ourselves into when we said, “Sure, we’ll show. How hard can it be?” If you would have told us 13 years ago that we were going to become breeders and show multiple dogs to their championships, we would have laughed. But Maddie changed all that for us. She is the reason and the beginning of our love of Wheatens and the sport of dog shows.

Maddie is the most stubborn dog you’ll meet. She has quite the attitude which is so much like mine and why I love her so much. Her attitude carried in the show ring along with her beauty, which made for some nice wins in her day.

Maddie is slowing down these days but is in overall good health. She loves to eat and sleep. We still get that special Wheaten greetin’ when we walk through the door.

Breeders: Linda and Al Gallagher
Owners: Tami and Jim Herzog

“Caramel”
CH Marquee’s Trick Or Treat
(CH Gleanngay Daring Display ROM x CH Marquee’s Spellcaster ROM CD)
DOB: October 21, 2000

Caramel came into our lives in the fall of 2000 from Sonya and Richard Urquhart of Marquee Wheatens. She was pretty, feisty, feminine, and quite the alpha bitch with a great personality. Caramel was our first show Wheaten, and I showed her to her championship and she finished at the age of 15 months. She got into the top 25 and was invited to the Eukanuba Nationals in Orlando, Florida in 2002, a great experience. She took Best of Opposite Sex at NCTA and SCWTCNC Specialty in 2006 under Judge Ed Bivin.

She had one litter and was a fantastic mother. She dabbled in agility and learned within two weeks to speed through weave polls. Caramel was also a great nurse. When our first Wheaten, Finley, was an old dog, she would lie next to him and put her head on his hip. Caramel now shares her life with her Wheaten buddies, MeMe and McKinley in our home. She is shown now in Independent Specialties and Veteran Sweepstakes and still likes to be in the ring. She is healthy and active. She is “daddy’s girl,” and she loves going on long walks with Arnie. She loves going on car rides, and chewing bully sticks. She still “chases airplanes” and barks at deer. In her spare time, she sits in Arnie’s office keeping him company. Her favorite trick is “get the paper, bring it in’”; she carries the newspaper from living room to family room. She is a sweetheart who has brought us much joy and happiness. We in turn give her the best life a Wheaten can have. Celebrating Caramel!

Breeders: Richard and Sonya Urquhart
Owners: Arnie Spanjers and Rose Rose

Benchmarks . volume 42 . number 1 . page 7
“Wouldn’t it be nice”

“ZUMA”

CH TARA GOOD VIBRATIONS FOR CLADDAGH

Best of Breed over Specials from the Puppy Class
Best of Opposite Sex at SCWTCSC Specialty Sweepstakes

Handling fun shared by Karla and Cecily

Cecily Skinner
Breeder/Co-Owner
tarascwt@aol.com

Tara Wheatens

Owned and Loved By
Karla and Jim Cohen
Claddagh Wheatens
claddagh3@earthlink.net

Benchmarks . volume 42 . number 1 . page 8
To Introduce our New Champions!

GCH CH Stratford Top Brass  x  CH Tara Life’s A Beach

“Seamus”

CH Tara I Get Around

Shown only three weekends!

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Finishing in style to our great delight by going

BEST IN SHOW BBE

Special thanks to his sire’s owner, Meg Ryan

Breeder/Owner/Handler
Cecily Skinner

Owned and Loved By
Celeste, Joel and Hailey Sokoloff

Benchmarks . volume 42 . number 1 . page 9
Meet the New SCWTCA Board Members

Deb Van De Ven, Director

How and when did you first become interested in Wheatens? When did you get your first Wheaten? When did you join SCWTCA?

I was fortunate to get my first three Wheatens from a long-time breeder in Pennsylvania. Looking back, I realize what a leap of faith that was for her to be willing to sell me such quality dogs who would become a foundation for my own breeding program. Being in the Air Force, I moved away from the East Coast to the St Louis area just a couple years later. Once again, I was lucky to meet a very talented and generous breeder who would help me learn to groom and show. Almost 25 years later, I am grateful for those who were willing to help me get a start in this wonderful hobby and breed I love.

What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member?

Until my retirement in 2010, my Air Force career kept me on the move, living in 14 locations around the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East. I haven’t had as much opportunity as I’d like to participate in club activities. Now that I’m settled in the Boston area, I hope to get more involved.

I’ve been a member of SCWTCA for over twenty years and just recently joined the Delaware Valley SCWT Club.

Do you have work experience that especially qualifies you for the SCWTCA Board?

As a colonel in the Air Force, I’ve had the opportunity to work with great leaders doing work that I thought was worthy of our best efforts. I enjoy working with people and am inspired by the selfless contributions and devotion of so many club members, including those who are on the board, head committees, and are active in regional clubs.

How many litters have you bred?

I’ve bred 12 litters and finished 18 champions.

Who was your first finished champion, performance title holder, etc.?

My first champion was Lontree O’My Bradley. Bradley was shown to his title by Elaine Azerolo.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out?

At a St Louis Specialty I was admiring the trophy table before puppy sweepstakes. I commented to the pleasant lady standing next to me on how beautiful the rosettes were and how lucky we would be to win such a striking award. Later when I entered the ring for my class, I realized the nice lady was the judge … I made a mental note to always know who the judge is before the show in the future.

If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why?

Two things: first I would like to encourage and help new people get involved in Wheatens and join the SCWTCA. I was lucky to have people welcome me when I was new and I’d like to do the same for others. Second, I like to become more involved in club activities and give back for the many years of enjoyment I’ve gotten from this hobby.
I live on five acres of land in Foristell, MO with my husband Dennis and six Wheatens ranging from three to 12 years old.

I work for McKesson Corporation as a product advisor for our Laboratory Information System product and have been there for almost 20 years. I have always worked from my home office with Wheatens lying at my feet.

How and when did you first become interested in Wheatens? When did you get your first Wheaten? When did you join SCWTCA?

Not long after Dennis and I got married in 1994, we started talking about getting a dog. We researched breeds and came down to wanting either a Wheaten or a Bouvier, but the Wheaten was our first choice since it was the smaller of the two breeds. After what seemed to be an eternity, we got our first Wheaten (named Bailey of course) in the fall of 1995 from Angie Baker in Decatur, IL. Dennis and I joined SCWTCA in 1999.

What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member?

I have been an active member since I joined SCWTCA. I had only been a member for a short time when I took over as the Mailing Coordinator and served in that capacity for over 10 years.

In 2011 I got involved with the SCWTCA Yearbook and worked with Holly Craig to produce the 2008 and 2009 yearbooks. In 2012 I took over as yearbook coordinator and in just a little over a year published the 2010, 2011, and 2012 yearbooks. I have also recently taken over the awards presentation at the MCKC dinner and really enjoy putting that together.

What all breed, obedience, agility, or breed clubs do you belong to?

I belong to the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater St. Louis (SCWTCGSL), Show-Me Canines performance club and just recently joined Missouri Rhineland All-breed Kennel Club.

Do you have work experience that especially qualifies you for the SCWTCA Board?

I have been very involved in the SCWTCGSL Club since I joined the club in 1996. I have served as newsletter editor, President, Treasurer, Secretary, board member, and specialty show coordinator at various times. I am currently serving as Treasurer.

At McKesson, I work with a customer-support team that covers the entire U.S. and Canada and am used to handling multiple issues and tasks at the same time. I have a wide range of computer skills, am organized and understand the need to meet deadlines.

How many litters have you bred?

I have bred and raised eight litters and been co-breeder on three additional litters.

Who was your first finished champion, performance title holder, etc.?

Our second Wheaten, Alfie (CH Saddlebrook Alwaz Luk’n Fancy) was our first champion. Alfie came from Stan and Jinx Moore and is the foundation of Eringlo Wheatens. I was her handler and Renee Kotaki was her groomer and my mentor. I finished Alfie the weekend our 16-year-old niece, Erin, died of cancer which is how our kennel name of Eringlo came to be.

Parker (CH Eringlo Alwaz An Angel NJP), was my first agility dog. I did not start agility with her until she was almost five and really had no idea what I was doing back then, so did not go any farther than getting one novice title on her. I am now competing in agility with Chip (CH Eringlo Choc’Late Chip Crunch AX AXJ) and hope to eventually get an agility championship title.
What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out?

It was a rainy day in May and Alfie was entered in a show that was being held outdoors at Purina Farms. I had a hard time believing the show would be held since I had worked so hard on having a clean and well-groomed dog to show, so I called a good friend, Jody Sylvester, to ask if she thought the show would be cancelled due to the rain. The laughter on the other end of the phone was my answer. Not only did the show go on, but I am still reminded of that silly question I asked many years ago.

If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why?

My focus for this year is to learn as much as I can about how the board functions and what I can do to be a good and productive member. I want to keep the yearbook progress going so we continue to have them up-to-date.

Karen Mueller, Vice President

How and when did you first become interested in Wheaten Terriers? When did you get your first Wheaten? When did you join SCWTCA?

In 1980 I had a co-worker who had a show female wheaten and when she bred her, I wanted a puppy. Of course the male pup I liked was a “show potential pup,” so we showed him to his championship. I joined SCWTCA in 1993

What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member?

I was on the Sunday post-show dinner committee in 2012 and chaired the committee in 2013. I am the National Specialty Coordinator for 2014.

What all-breed, obedience, agility, or breed clubs do you belong to?

I was a member of the Motor City Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club from the mid-’80s until we retired in North Carolina in 2011.

Do you have work experience that especially qualifies you for the SCWTCA Board?

I served on the board of the Motor City Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier club for most of the years I was a member. I served as President of MCSCWTC for about 10 years.

How many litters have you bred?

I have never actually counted, but in 33 years I would say about 40 litters.

Who was your first finished champion, performance title holder, etc.?

CH Car O Mic’s Golden Rising Son

What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out?

From my first litter I had a six-month-old bitch and I took her to her first show the Chicago Specialty. She was first in the 6-9 puppy bitch class. When the judge told us to take them around together, I started to move her and she spun around, got down in the puppy play bow and started barking at all the girls behind her. They in turn did the same thing, so we had about 10 puppies barking at each other. It seemed like it went on forever. The owner of that girl still reminds me of that funny moment.

If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why?

I will be focused on the 2014 Specialty and will also try to bring some new ideas to the table.
Kayce Healy, Corresponding Secretary

How and when did you first become interested in Wheatens? When did you get your first Wheaten? When did you join SCWTCA?

I had never even heard of the breed until I met my first Wheaten at Molly O’Connell’s house. We had just moved to Colorado and Molly had invited us over to speak about schools for our kids. We rang her doorbell; three adult Wheatens popped up in the living room window. When the door opened, a litter of puppies came running towards us. It was love at first sight! I got my first Wheaten soon after that in 1996. I joined SWCTCA in 2001.

What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member?

I assisted Molly with some Montgomery fundraising projects before I actually joined as a member and have continued to work on Montgomery fundraisers for many years. In 2009 Kathy Drobnak and I had the honor of serving as Co-chairs for Montgomery which was an amazing experience! Since September 2012 I have served as Publications Mailing Chair.

What all-breed, obedience, agility, or breed clubs do you belong to?

Greater Denver SCWTC and Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club.

Do you have work experience that especially qualifies you for the SCWTCA Board?

I have served on the Board of the Greater Denver club during our first stay in Colorado from 1996 until 2004. I was pleased to join that board again when we happily returned to Colorado in 2011.

I have always gotten a great deal of satisfaction out of volunteering. We were transferred a lot due to Ed’s job, but I always found that the local schools were more than happy to have volunteers in all sorts of capacities. Serving on the board of various PTAs, working with the Great Books Reading program, and helping children who were struggling readers has always been so gratifying.

One of the most interesting experiences was serving on a superintendent’s council to plan the future direction of school building projects in Rancho Bernardo, CA.

How many litters have you bred?

I have bred seven litters and have been the co-breeder of another six.

Who was your first finished champion, performance title holder, etc.?

My first Kincora champion was Sadie, CH Kincora Illusive ExSpence (CH Heartstrings Toast to Tara, ROM x CH Stratford Veiled Illusion ROM). She was a beautiful bitch, and I was quite a newbie. I started showing her on Memorial Day weekend and miraculously finished her a month later with back-to-back majors at Great Western. It was quite a ride!

What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out?

The very first time I was in a ring was at the Eagle Vail dog show in a dirt barn in Colorado. The Wheaten entry was two bitches. Molly was showing my Libby and I was showing a young bitch for her. When the judging was done, Molly turned to me to let me know Libby had taken the point. I was so excited I hugged the Judge Bob Shreve. When the photographer told us the picture turned out great, I hugged him too! I was hooked.

If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why?

I have yet to figure out a specific thing on which to focus other than learning the ins and outs of the job of Corresponding Secretary. I have been very impressed with the depth of talent and dedication of my fellow board members and look forward to what we can accomplish for the club.
Make it Special

Are all specialties…special? Is the Roving as exciting as MCKC? Are local specialties more alike than different, or do they reflect regional differences? Is an independent specialty more exciting than one held in the classes? Are local specialties just for the people in the area or from around the country…and the world?

It wasn’t just Montgomery Weekend but a recurring topic on Discuss that started me contemplating such questions.

There’s that recurring question: should our national specialty always be at Montgomery? This question invariably includes the sub-context of the cost and difficulty of taking dogs and the companion complaint of unfairness to exhibitors not living nearby. The proposed solution is the always-popular “have the national specialty in the middle of the country.”

Great, make it difficult and more expensive for almost everyone.

This time everyone was reminded we DO have a national specialty other than Montgomery: The Roving Specialty. Okay that’s technically true…in reality, it’s disingenuous.

Quick - no fair looking it up - where and when did the last Roving take place?

It’s okay if you don’t know. No one considers the Roving as significant as Montgomery. All you need do is to look at the online policy manual with the listing of trophies and awards. How many of them require a win at “the National Specialty at Montgomery?” Beyond that, how engaged has the national club been in promoting past roving specialties? Much to the current Board’s credit, it is taking the approach that we are having two national specialties in 2014; let’s see how that plays out.

Moving the specialty around sounds like a solution…and, by the way, here’s a solution the Dandie Dinmont parent club uses in that vein: every other year their specialty is held other than at Montgomery.

What’s not clear to me is whether we have actually considered the real problem we’re trying to fix. That’s hardly unusual…a “fix” makes us feel good, like we’re doing something, so we rush right into it. Or maybe it’s a solution we like even if it has nothing to do with the problem. Too often we miss the opportunity to get it right…and sometimes we make matters worse.

Certainly the cost of traveling to a distant specialty, especially when bringing a dog, is a significant deterrent to attending…and to any one individual it can well be. We entered Great Western some years ago, and to take a dog cross country again, we’d have to be pretty sure he was truly competitive.

But even the collective frustration of many people may not be an adequate basis for making such a change. Is the problem there is not sufficient diversity in the breed such that people don’t feel the need to see what’s going on in other parts of the country? Do we have breeders too self-satisfied to think they should see what else is being bred far from their own backyard? Is it just a reaction to what MCKC has become…to much crammed into one exhausting weekend? Is it even simpler: a struggling economy? Is it more complex: the shrinking of the sport? Each of those questions might call for a different fix…or none at all.

To the credit of most who engaged in the discussion, they recognized that just moving the specialty isn’t a simple proposition; it requires careful study. In part, they were being sensible. But another piece of the discussion is that moving away from MCKC presents the opportunity for an independent specialty with the greater possibility for educational programs and other types of events.

That’s a project the Board should get behind. Whether an independent specialty is realistic is an issue that won’t go away, and it’s time to give it the thorough attention it deserves. At least then we can say as a club we have fully considered it and have reasons to change or not.
Montgomery last fall also made me think about the local specialties. In 2012 DelVal designated the second day of Hatboro as a specialty including a sweepstakes; in 2013, it was again a specialty but without a sweeps. (Disclosure: I’m not a member.)

An aside about that sweeps: some people overreacted, saying it was “too much.” Please. There are multiple shows on the same day in Canada and everyone survives just fine. No one is twisting anyone’s arm to enter. Exhibitors should know what their dogs can handle and what they cannot. If you overdo it with your six-month and three-minute-old puppy by showing her six times in four days, you deserve for her to quit on you by Montgomery Sunday…unless, of course, she’s as goofy as mine and is just calming down at that point.

Back to the DelVal Specialty at Hatboro…I think it’s a great extra for the MCKC weekend. It makes a win at that companion show that much sweeter. And it’s not additive…there’s no extra activity to run to.

I’m also glad it’s DelVal’s second specialty. Because other than the great basketweave Wheaten and big rosettes, there’s little of the club about it. Compare that to the spring specialty, held in the classes at Bucks. It’s DelVal’s weekend…from the post-judging wine and cheese on Friday through the hospitality on Saturday to the wind-up on Sunday. It reflects the members and the area.

Over the years, I’ve been to all of the local specialties at least once. I recommend it. First, everyone is nice to you: you’re a fresh face, not involved in local politics, and you came to visit. A recipe for being liked! Seriously, going to other specialties gives you insights into the breed that you won’t get elsewhere.

The best local specialties are showcases not just for local breeding programs but also for the area. Can anyone say that the Southern California specialty isn’t about the sun and the sea and…well…so California? That St. Louis and Milwaukee aren’t about Midwestern hospitality? Northern California and Denver are equally charming. It’s also why I wish we had local clubs holding specialties in the Pacific Northwest, Arizona, and Florida. There are established and developing breeding programs in those areas worth seeing and they’re great places to visit. It’s hard to think Wheaten fanciers there wouldn’t create a unique experience.

So yes, I think specialties are worth the effort to put on and to attend…wherever they’re held. And that most definitely includes the Roving!

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It came to me that every time I lose a dog, they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog that comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are.

~anonymous
The Canine Good Citizen program consists of three parts, starting with AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy, then the Canine Good Citizen (CGC), and ultimately the AKC Community Canine test which awards the title Canine Good Citizen Advanced (CGCA). The first two tests are typically given in a ring and involve simulated situations, but not so for this new advanced test which takes place amid community environments and public venues.

In order to be eligible, a dog must already have a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate or title recorded by the AKC and one of three types of AKC registration: an AKC registration number, Purebred Alternative Listing, or an AKC Canine Partners number. There is no age limit. The test is administered with the dog on leash and wearing a well-fitting buckle or slip collar (or martingale) or body harness. Flexi-leads are not permitted nor are pinch collars, training head halters, or training-type harnesses. Owners are encouraged to enjoy the test and have fun communicating with their dogs positively as on a typical day out together for a stroll.

As a CGC evaluator I was very keen to participate in the test with my own dog in order to not only pass but to have the opportunity to share my experience and knowledge to help others achieve the same goal. Here are the test items and my experiences testing with my own dog Krista (CGC ThD RN HI), the first Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier to take the test.

1. Dog stands, sits or lies down and waits under control while the owner completes paperwork:
As Krista and I filled out the application to take the new AKC Community Canine Test, we were already being scrutinized for our behaviors. “This is the very first part of the test, to see if your dog remains relaxed while you complete the paperwork,” I was informed by our tester Janet Mines Krings (who was the evaluator for the Meet the Breeds NYC test along with the watchful eyes of Dr. Mary Burch, Director and founder of the AKC Canine Good Citizen program).

2. Walks on a loose leash in a natural situation (not in a ring)—does not pull: Upon passing part one, I was asked to walk Krista on a loose lead with a left and a right turn and straight walking both slow and fast pace - all without pulling. This was no small task at the Meet the Breeds in the Javits Center, New York City, with dogs everywhere, children rushing by, and the smell of food in the air. But we did it! As on a typical walk, we remained connected by my communicating with Krista through commands, signals, and praise which are both allowed and encouraged for the test.

3. Walks on loose leash through a crowd: Next we navigated a crowded hallway filled with children, adults, and dogs, and again we walked forward, maintaining slack in the leash throughout our journey. I was thankful that I had practiced working in more enclosed and crowded places to desensitize and build confidence.

4. Dog walks past distraction with dogs present; does not pull: We were then directed toward the breed booths and were made to walk within two feet of the seated dogs, maintaining that soft bend in the leash. How did we manage to keep things together? Lots and lots of practice weeks beforehand in our local community set the tone and prepared us both for this big day.

5. Sit/stay in small group (three other people with dogs): Upon returning to the CGC booth, we were met by three other handlers and their dogs that were registered to test. We were all instructed to have our dogs sit at our left side, maintaining a distance of at least three feet apart from one another. We held this position for a minimum of 30 seconds as we conversed in what appeared to be a normal meeting of friends.

Being a CGC evaluator myself, I was curious to see how we would do on the new test which is loaded with everyday curiosities and distractions. And I hoped that we were up to the task.
6. **Dog allows person who is carrying something (backpack, computer bag, etc.) to approach and pet it:** Continuing with the test, Dr. Burch approached us with a large parcel in her hand and asked, “May I pet your dog?” before placing the parcel on the ground in front of us and petting Krista. The dog should present no lunging forward or jumping, or aggressiveness toward the item or person.

7. **“Leave it.” Dog walks by food and follows owner instructions to “leave it”:** Our therapy-dog training had included the all-important “leave it” command, although with an empty stomach, the sight of food in a silver mesh-covered bowl must have been tempting. It is important to give the command early before reaching the bowl so your dog has time to make adjustments and respond correctly without having to correct the behavior.

8. **Down or sit/stay—distance (owner’s choice):** I chose the sit/stay for this exercise; once Krista was attached to the 20-foot line, I gave my “stay” command as I left with my back toward her which is the same style as used for leaving dogs in obedience competition. In the Canine Good Citizen test (CGC), owners may back away. Upon leaving her I walked 20 feet, picked up a package, then placed it by the evaluator and returned to release her with an “okay.” We were almost at the end (thankfully).

9. **Recall with distractions present (coming when called). Handler goes out 20 feet and calls dog:** Krista was once again on the 20-foot line. I was instructed to go to the end of the line but this time with a distractor appearing almost midway and to the left of my position. When given the signal to call her to me, she responded readily, and I was thankful that I practiced this exercise as part of our normal daily training.

10. **Dog will sit or stand/stay (owner’s choice) while owner enters/exits a doorway or narrow passageway. Owner calls dog through door when ready. Owner may also choose to a) send the dog through first and have the dog wait for the owner, or b) the owner may choose to have the dog go through the doorway at the owner’s side.**

   Whichever method is used, the dog must not pull the owner and must be under good control. Think of the handler having the leash in one hand and a cup of coffee in the other: As a trainer this is one of those more easily practiced exercises since dogs go through doorways with their handlers on a daily basis. In order to prevent “door dashing” and accidents where the owner takes a tumble down the stairs, I always encourage students to practice as often as possible. When given the signal to “wait” or “stay,” I have found dogs respond much better if reinforced with praise as they wait, and then use a “release” word allowed to move. My release word is “okay” although you can use any word as long as you are consistent with its use. I had Krista “wait” and then released her with “okay” as we walked through the makeshift doorway together.

   We passed! And so can you and your dog with training, patience, and practice.

   Positive reinforcement training and classical conditioning go so much further in teaching dogs to have a strong work ethic and to please their owners. For those considering therapy work with their dogs, the CGCA provides excellent preparation for therapy-dog testing and future success. Why not set your sights on achieving one of the AKC Canine Good Citizen program titles with your dog?
SALTNSEA IS CELEBRATING TWO NEW GRAND CHAMPIONS!

Rocky

Temperament:
- Excellent
- Moderate: 18 ¼”
- OFA: Excellent
- All health testing available

GCH Saltnsea Runnin’ Down a Dream

Autumn

- BISS and WB Great Western 2010
- BOS Great Western 2011
- Select Great Western 2013

GCH Saltnsea Weaving Magic

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AND ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF AUTUMN’S PUPS!

• Whelped litter of 4 on 9/7/13
• Proud Mom with her 4 girls on whelping day
• Litter sired by GCH Stratford Top Brass

There’s a new “Jackie” getting ready for the ring

Susan Jacobsen & Eric Taylor
susanj02@yahoo.com

Benchmarks . volume 42 . number 1 . page 19
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Thank You!

To make your tax deductible gift, please visit our web site: www.wheatenhealthendowment.org
Recent results from research funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation have potential to significantly impact recommendations for spaying and neutering dogs in the United States. Most dogs in the United States are spayed or neutered, and for years the procedures have been completed prior to maturity. The study, published in the prominent, open access journal PLOS One, suggests that veterinarians should be more cautious about the age at which they spay and neuter in order to protect the overall health of dogs.

A team of researchers led by Dr. Benjamin L. Hart at the University of California, Davis has completed the most detailed study performed to date that evaluates incidence of cancer diagnoses and joint problems in one breed – Golden Retrievers – by neuter status: early (before 12 months old), late (12 months or older), and intact. Consistent with previous studies on the topic, the results showed increased likelihood of hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma, mast cell tumors, and canine cruciate ligament (CCL) rupture in neutered dogs.

The most profound observations were in hip dysplasia in male dogs when comparing early and late neutering. The risk of development of hip dysplasia doubles, and disease occurs at a younger age in the early-neuter group compared to both the intact and late-neuter group. No occurrence of CCL disease was observed in intact male or intact female dogs, or in late-neutered females. In early-neutered dogs, the incident of CCL was 5.1 percent in males and 7.7 percent in females, suggesting that neutering prior to sexual maturity significantly increases a dog’s risk of developing CCL disease. With respect to cancer, cases of lymphoma were three-fold greater in the early-neutered males. Interestingly, incidence of mast cell tumors (males and female dogs) and hemangiosarcoma (female dogs only) were highest in the late-neuter group.

“Dr. Hart’s landmark study is the first to provide evidence for when to spay or neuter dogs. For years the veterinary community has been aware that early spay and neuter may impact orthopedic health in dogs. Through a very detailed analysis and inclusion of body condition score as a risk factor, Dr. Hart was able to show that timing of spay and neuter does indeed have health implication,” said Dr. Shila Nordone, Chief Scientific Officer for the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

“CCL disease is painful, debilitating, and costs dog owners $1 billion annually to treat. The AKC Canine Health Foundation is committed to funding research, like Dr. Hart’s study, that can lead to evidence-based health recommendations. Armed with prudent guidelines for when to spay and neuter dogs, we will have a significant impact on the quality of life for dogs,” continued Dr. Nordone.

Importantly the task at hand is now to determine if the observations in this study are indeed true across all breeds and mixed breeds of dogs. Dr. Hart is interested in continuing his work by studying Labrador Retrievers, German Shepherd Dogs, and Dachshunds. Additionally, gaps in knowledge continue to exist concerning the complex relationship between sex hormones and cancer.

Last summer the AKC Canine Health Foundation released a podcast interview with Dr. Hart on his early spay and neuter research as part of a series dedicated to the health of canine athletes. To listen to the podcast, visit www.akcchf.org/canineathlete


The Pitfalls of Health Screening
by Jacquelyn Fogel

Six months ago I had a Basset litter that I love more than I have loved a litter in a long time. It was the result of a planned strategy to rebuild my line of dogs and recapture the look I had without the poor mothering (unwillingness to nurse the puppies, mastitis and high incidence of puppy smothering). I had finally decided, after five generations of similar problems, that the lack of mothering skills was being passed down genetically, and I was tired of handraising puppies. I loved the look of my dogs, and if they got to adulthood, they were healthy. But keeping the babies alive had become a stressful, often disappointing, always exhausting ordeal. I decided to cut off that entire branch of my family tree, and start over, using only healthy, free-whelping bitches that demonstrated a willingness and ability to mother...
I know it is currently the expected thing to do – run every imaginable genetic test, and every test for hips, elbows, eyes, heart, or bleeding disorders. There seem to be tests for hundreds of potential maladies, and more are being discovered every day. The health care industry is alive and well! But I am not convinced that all this testing is leading us towards healthier dogs. All the science in the world cannot replace the wisdom and experience of carefully breeding dogs for multiple generations. It is certainly making the breeding of quality purebred dogs enormously expensive, and those expenses are rarely recaptured by breeders. It also focuses breeding too narrowly – on one or two predominant disorders at the expense of the whole dog. I don’t just breed livers, or hearts or eyes – I breed dogs. Whole dogs.

Meanwhile, the general public is getting used to buying their pets from shelters and rescues. Those dogs are usually mixed breeds with no health guarantees. Some people even like the idea of rescuing dogs that have obvious health problems in hopes they will be the ones to provide just the right care to get the unhealthy, unsound dogs through their troubles. Purebred-dog breeders are helping to make this the easier decision. We are training the public to look for and expect disorders in our purebred dogs. (Why else would we insist on doing so much testing if we did not know there were lots of problems in our dogs?) The pet-buying population is more than happy to settle for “as is” in the rescue or mixed breed market, but never in a purebred dog even though the initial cost of the dog is not substantially different. This public does not trust us as breeders; they only trust the science. There seems to be no shortage of magical thinking in the pet-buying world.

This article was first published in Show Sight magazine and reprinted with permission.

Epigenetics
by Pat Rock

Breeding dogs is both an art and a science; if one ignores the art dimension, one robs oneself of much of the enjoyment of creativity. Ignoring the science is to buy a ticket to a Fool’s Paradise. Remember the ad slogan, “It’s Not Nice to Fool Mother Nature”? If you want to be a dog breeder for the long haul, and leave your breed in better genetic shape than when you began breeding, you need to pay attention to advances in scientific knowledge.

One of the most important recent advancements in the understanding of inheritance is the field of epigenetics, the study of variable expression of genes. Not every gene is “turned on” in every individual or at all times in the life of an individual, and genes turned on or off may be passed to offspring in that same mode. Genes interact with environmental forces, not the least of which are nutrients absorbed during gestation and growth, and the microbes that live in an individual.
The current scientific literature is replete with research that demonstrated that manipulating exposure to nutrients and microbes can delay or prevent the onset of disease in genetically susceptible individuals, as well as trigger onset. One recent study (Journal of Pediatrics, May 6, 2013) revealed that children of parents who sucked on their children's dropped pacifiers to “clean” them were less likely to suffer from allergies and eczema than children whose parents did not. (See, proof positive that “Mom’s spit” can cure anything!) The researchers were quick to point out that this one behavior might have been a general indicator of attitude toward cleanliness; much other research is implicating too-rigid standards of hygiene with inappropriate reactivity of the immune system.

Be grateful for each advance that provides tests for deleterious genes; these tests are a tremendous boost to the gene pool, allowing for the breeding of carriers without risk of producing affected pups. However, be aware that there are far more genes that are under the influence of epigenetic forces. Substances in the environment, especially plastics and pesticides, have shown to influence hormones, which can then affect fertility, behavior, development of cancer, and who knows what else. An environmental insult may “turn on” a gene in an individual (or across a breed where most individuals have the same genes – for example, cancer-prone breeds) where another dog exposed to the same lawn chemicals, kibble dog food contaminant, and so on will remain unscathed.

Breeders must be ready to do the ruthless culling (and by that I simply mean not allowing a dog to breed on) that is necessary to prevent the dissemination of genes for defects throughout a breed. However, they must be extremely careful to also avoid eliminating dogs who may be exhibiting a trait that is triggered environmentally or developmentally.

It happened to me many years ago. I kept no offspring of one of the best hunting Lakelands I’ve ever owned because at the age of 18 months she developed what I later learned was hypocalcemic tetany. It took nearly two decades to figure out that the tetanic spasms that looked like motor seizures are due to diet – most dry dog foods are formulated so that the calcium is supplied in a form that can’t be readily assimilated by some dogs, primarily terrier breeds. When switched to a meat- and-bone-based diet without the plant material that makes up so much of many dry dog foods, the condition does not recur. Interestingly, that dogs holds the record for the longest life span of any Lakeland in a survey conducted by the parent club, living for 18 years and four months. I so regret not having any of her descendants, but I thought I was doing the right thing. So far I have heard of tetany in Wires, Welsh, and Borders. I am certain there are many more examples of such environmentally triggered disorders.

I recently talked to a breeder of another terrier breed that is prone to skin issues. She has spayed and neutered all her dogs because they suddenly all developed allergies in spite of careful genetic selection of their background to avoid just that. Are the allergies due to sheer bad luck? Something in the environment? A failure in the development of the immune system? That is what makes us tear our hair (no pun intended) over many issues that breeders deal with. First and foremost, we don’t want to risk selling a puppy to a pet owner that could potentially lead to a situation of suffering animal and owner.

My recommendation is twofold: keep track of as much of the science as you can that is emerging about epigenetics, and do your best to raise your dogs as naturally as possible. You might start with a book recently published: The Royal Treatment by Barbara Royal D.V.M. Dr. Royal is president of the American Wholistic Veterinary Medical Association. Of particular interest is that before she became a veterinarian, she worked with zoo animals; she is keenly aware of the ways in which animals stay “wildly healthy.”

This article first appeared in the August 2013 digital issue of the AKC Gazette and was published as the Lakeland column in the Breed Column.
2013 WAS ALL ABOUT WEST COAST CONNECTIONS

**CH Paisley Timeless**
Bred & owned by Kathleen McIndoe, co-owned & handled by John & Pam Mandeville, **LINDSAY** was WB at Hatboro/DVSCWTC Specialty 2012, and a new mom in 2013.

**GCH Banner Marymore Double Triple Axel**
Owned by Mary Peltier, **MIKA** was handled by Debbie Doll to her CH and GCH, along with wins at the SCWTCSC and Hatboro in 2013. Watch for Mika puppies in 2014.

**Pinch’s Daughters**
(CH Whindancer’s Take It To The Max x GCH Burdigan Banner Five Finger Discount)

**CH Burdigan I’m On My Way**
Owned by Janice Driver, co-owned & handled by Julie Burdick, **FIONA** was BW and Best in Sweeps at the SCWTCGSL.

**CH Banner On The Road Again**
Co-Owned by Mike Kempinski & Michael Wasyliw, **EVIE** was RWB at DVSCWTC her first weekend out. She is now working on her GCH. (Special thanks to Andrew Green for handling her to a surprise finish!)
IN 2014, THE ACTION RETURNS TO THE EAST

Banner Jersey Girl
“Zoey”

(CH Whindancer Heart Like A Wheel x CH Banner Shout)

New arrivals: Pinch puppies sired by Jersey boy,
GCH Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man
Put on Your Dancing Shoes...

... and start planning your trip to Southern California for the
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America
2014 National Roving Specialty
Hosted by the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California

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JUDGES:
- Breed: Gay Dunlap
- Sweeps: Genie Kline
  (Veteran & Puppy)

Watch for details on weekend events at
SCWTCA - www.scwtea.org
SCWTSC - www.wheaten.org

Join the hosting club —

**SCWTSC Independent Specialty**
Friday, June 20th with judge Virginia Latham Smith

**SCWTSC Designated Specialty**
Great Western Terrier Association
Sunday, June 22nd with judges
  - Breed: Anne Katona
  - Puppy Sweeps: Ellen Voss
  - Terrier Group: Edd Divin
  - Bred-By and Sweeps group competitions

Saturday night Specialty dinner

Let’s Dance!
Celebrating Caramel

CH Marquee’s Trick or Treat
CH Gleanngay Daring Display ROM x CH Marquee’s Spellcaster ROM CD

Still Chasing Airplanes at 13!

Finley Wheatens

Loved and Cherished by
Dr. Arnie Spanjers and Rose Rose
Meet Two New Members of SCWTCA, Inc.

Name: Lorie Kearns
Occupation: Full time homemaker; previously in accounting and finance

Children/Grandchildren: Three adult stepchildren

Name and Ages of Dogs: Danny, 10, and Teagan, three. Also four fluffy cats.

When did you get your first Wheaten? As an adult I have had four wonderful Wheaten Terriers: Ryley, Kelli, and now Danny and Teagan.

How did you become interested in Wheatens? I was 10 years old when my father gave away my first Wheaten, Taffy. I knew then I would someday have another Wheaten.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? Miniature Poodle and a Schnauzer.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? The dogs and I especially enjoy exploring new parks and neighborhoods on our walks as well as shopping at pet, hardware, garden, and any other stores that allow pets. They attract lots and lots of attention, and it’s fun to talk with all the people who stop and ask about them.

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? I have so many wonderful memories with my dogs, but one of my favorites happened when I lived in Santa Barbara, CA. There is an event there called the Big Dog Parade. They close the main street, and people and dogs in crazy costumes parade through downtown, ending at a festival at the beach. The streets are lined with thousands of spectators, both human and canine. Danny was in puppy kindergarten at the time, and was doing great in his cute little costume, walking along in the parade. Suddenly, he veered out of line and started lunging towards the curb! I tried to keep him focused, to no avail. Then I discovered where he was going … he had spotted one of his little doggie friends from puppy school, and wanted to say hi! I was astonished that among the huge crowd of spectators, he had recognized his friend. Such a little smarty!

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? As long as I can remember, I have enjoyed learning and growing my knowledge about dogs, and Wheatens in particular. I am asked questions about them frequently, and I truly enjoy educating people about them. I feel like a real ambassador for the breed, and becoming a member of the SCWTCA gives me a feeling of credibility. It has also strengthened and expanded my connection to the rest of the Wheaten community. I can see myself becoming an exhibitor and breeder someday, but for now, I am thrilled to be a member of the club and look forward to contributing in many ways!

Lori was sponsored by Sheila O’Connell and Elaine Azerolo. Lori brings many interests and skills to SCWTCA including: artwork, computer, event and project management, research, stewarding and writing.
Name: Catherine Pikul  
Occupation: AKC Registered Apprentice/ full-time college student  
Children/Grandchildren: none  
Name and Ages of Dogs: Kay, one year  
When did you get your first Wheaten? Spring of 2013  

How did you become interested in Wheatens? Having worked for Shari Boyd, I was around them constantly and loved them from the start. Shari allowed me to show one of her bitches, Irish, in Juniors, and it was a great beginning in this breed - not to mention watching her breed and raise her own dogs. It was a wonderful experience.

What breeds of dogs have you had other than Wheatens? I originally had German Shorthaired Pointers, then had an Irish Water Spaniel and a English Cocker.

What activities do you participate in with your Wheatens? Conformation

What is the most memorable thing that has happened to you and your dog(s)? Just recently when Kay went Best of Breed from the 9-12 class and received her first major under Anne Katona. This is my first, very own conformation dog, so it is very exciting to show her.

When you think of your first Wheaten, what do you remember most about him/her?  
As Kay is my first Wheaten, I am still experiencing every wonderful moment.

Why did you decide to join SCWTCA? I joined SCWTCA because I thought it would be a good foundation for what I hope is a long, and exciting time with Wheatens and all of the people who care so much about them.

Catherine was sponsored by Meg Ryan and Lana Menser. Catherine lists photography, writing, and grooming as skills and interests she brings to the club.

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 friend’s 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
Not just a pretty face!

SHOP NOW!!
Go to www.scwtnca.org
and browse the boutique
for these special items.

Your Wheaten
wants you to shop.

All proceeds fund the SCWTCA October 2014
National Specialty weekend.
We invite all Wheaten enthusiasts to join us!
Look for details in the months to come.

Wheaten Blanket
$38 plus $10 shipping

This cozy blanket is perfect for travel.
One side is fleece and one side is waterproof—good for
keeping you or your Wheaten warm and dry!
50”W x 60”L the blanket folds neatly
and is held closed with velcro for easy packing.

Wheaten Garment Bag
$48 plus $10 shipping

This fold-over garment bag is a great size
for use on short trips, with
or without your Wheaten.
Can the classical music you turn to for relaxation or contemplation have a similar effect on your pet dog? A California company says yes.

BioAcoustic Research Inc. sold more than 250,000 CDs and downloads of its “Through A Dog’s Ear” albums. The collections offer selections designed to soothe dogs, with music sorted by age -- Mendelssohn and Brahms for puppies, Debussy and Massenet for older dogs.

The company’s newest offering, the iCalmDog, is a portable music device designed to ease your dog’s nerves during thunderstorms, fireworks displays or trips to the vet.

Business partners Lisa Spector and Joshua Leeds also customize the sounds of the recordings for the canine ear, the San-Jose Mercury News recently explained.

*Through a Dog’s Ear* consists of simplified arrangements of themes by such classical composers as Bach, Beethoven, and Schubert. Spector typically plays the music at a slower-than-normal tempo while Leeds removes the higher frequencies from the notes.

“The music is particularly well-suited, Spector says, for dogs that are sensitive to living in a human environment, with its cacophonous array of noises, from car horns and police sirens to jackhammers.” Spector and Leeds have produced three CDs specifically designed to acclimate dogs to these urban sounds, as well as thunder and fireworks, in collaboration with Victoria Stillwell, star of the TV show “It’s Me or the Dog” on Animal Planet.

But is there evidence to back up the idea of treating Spot to some calming classics?

Some studies suggest there is. Scientists and veterinarians are already studying the calming effect of classical music on pooches in stressful situations.

A 2012 Colorado State University study published in the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior* found dogs in animal shelters slept better after exposure to classical music but shook more -- a sign of agitation -- when heavy metal blasted from nearby speakers.

Researchers’ interest in the calming effects of classical music on animal extends beyond domestic pets.

Scientists working at a zoo in Belfast reported elephants engaged in less pacing and other abnormal behavior after exposure to classical music, The *Guardian* wrote in 2008. But researchers stressed it’s unclear how the elephants process the music - whether they enjoy the melodies and harmonies or it simply masks upsetting background noise.


Mendelssohn and Brahms for puppies, Debussy and Massenet for older dogs.
Is proud to announce

“RINGO”

CH Lismore Band of Brothers

Meg Ryan
703-855-9150
ndlaw951@aol.com

Special thanks to Angie Lloyd and his co-owner Corazon Aquino.
three new Champions...

GCH Stratford Top Brass x GCH Lismore World Without End

“MAMIE”
CH Lismore
I Like Ike

“WINSTON”
CH Lismore
V For Victory

Mamie and Winston both finished from BBE
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<td>GCh Greentree Mondonstruck Mombo Man</td>
<td>Ch Westridge High Aventure CDX GN RAE NAP NJP</td>
<td>Ch Starlight Y Ou Are My Destiny GCh Diamonds Breakfast At Tiffany's</td>
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<td>Ch Eringleo Rise Above The Mist</td>
<td>Ch Starlight Treasure Chest</td>
<td>Ch Eringleo Playing With Fire VCD2 RE MX M XJ NF</td>
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### SCWT CHAMPION and PERFORMANCE TITLES

**October – December, 2013**

Compiled by Sheila O’Connell
Team Earns Perfect Score at 2013 AKC/Eukanuba Agility Invitational
by Bill Space

By way of introduction, my name is Bill Space. My wife Michelle and I are blessed with two SCWTs that we play agility with in our spare time back in Minnesota. This past weekend, the 2013 AKC/Eukanuba Agility Invitational was held in Orlando, Florida. Our dog Doogan was the top-scoring SCWT with a perfect 400 score over four runs. Given his score and time combined, he was awarded the SCWTCA-sponsored medallion. It is beautiful and it made this special weekend just that much better.

I want to thank the SCWTCA for its sponsorship of the medallion. I know that I speak for all the SCWT teams at the Invitational when I say that the support of the parent club and sponsorship of the medallion is important to each of us. In return, all five SCWT agility teams showed just how athletic and accomplished our beloved Wheaties are in agility.

Bill and Michelle Space
Doogan and Riley

Bronchi-Shield ORAL – First Oral Bordetella bronchiseptica Vaccine Approved for Use in Dogs

Veterinarians have a new, innovative vaccine choice available for protection from the primary pathogen of canine infectious respiratory disease (CIRD). The vaccine, Bronchi-Shield ORAL from Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. (BIVI), recently has been approved by the USDA for use in dogs. This vaccine is unique because it is the first live, avirulent Bordetella bronchiseptica vaccine licensed to be administered orally to dogs.

“Doctors have told us they like intranasal vaccines because they provide optimal immune responses, but doctors and their patients dislike having these vaccines given in the nose,” Zislin says. “So we’ve developed an easy-to-administer oral vaccine that is mucosally absorbed.”

To read the study of the efficacy of the oral vaccine see http://www.jarvm.com/articles/Vol9Iss3/Chiang.pdf
Schedule

Thursday, May 29
Gateway Terrier Association Show *
Breed & Group Judge:
Ms. Charlotte Patterson

Friday, May 30
Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club
SCWTCGSL Designated Specialty *
Supported Entry SCWTCA
Sweepstakes Judge:
Mrs. Cecily Skinner
Breed & Group Judge:
Mrs. Cindy Vogels

Saturday, May 31
Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club*
Breed & Group Judge:
Mrs. Judith A Franklin

Sunday, June 1
Mississippi Valley Kennel Club
Breed & Group Judge:
Mrs. Sue Goldberg

Monday, June 2
Mississippi Valley Kennel Club
Breed & Group Judge:
Mr. Richard William Powell
(* pending AKC approval)

Trophies
Custom Hand-made pottery with our Club Wheaten design
Created by Mississippi Mud Pottery
Trophy Donations are always appreciated
Make checks payable to SCWTCGSL
Send to: Jinx Moore
18403 Highway 65
Sedalia, MO 65301-0039
E-mail: sddlbkscwt1@aol.com

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 by May 15th.
For more information, Contact Susan McGee at kcswheatie@aol.com

For more info on the Purina Farms Event Center and area lodging, visit the web page:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Show</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Superintendant</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Group Judges</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Kentucky KC</td>
<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td>MBF</td>
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<td>03/14</td>
<td>Wood Wornall</td>
<td>Rosalind Kramer</td>
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<tr>
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<td>03/15</td>
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<td>James E Frederiksen</td>
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<td>++No CA Terrier Assoc.</td>
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<td>MBF</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>R C Williams</td>
<td>Mary Jane Carberry</td>
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<td>Breed: Philip K Freilich</td>
<td>Justine Blyth</td>
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<td>Scrameno KC</td>
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<td>4/13</td>
<td>Clay Coady</td>
<td>Geri Flyckt-Pedersen</td>
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<td>Garden State Terrier Club</td>
<td>W Windsor Twp, NJ</td>
<td>Jim Rau</td>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>Sean Delmar</td>
<td>Cathy Delmar</td>
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<td>MBF</td>
<td>5/3</td>
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<td>Anne Katona</td>
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<td>Ed Biven</td>
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<td>Carlos Navarro</td>
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<td>Charlotte Patterson</td>
<td>Jon R Cole</td>
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Like many other dog owners, Jyotsna Ghai, Ph.D., of Plymouth, Minn., and her family learned about the canine cancer hemangiosarcoma when they were least prepared to deal with it. Their 11-year-old German Shepherd Dog named Ruby, who they lovingly called “Ubu,” had collapsed and was unable to get up.

“We rushed Ubu to an emergency clinic and were told she had hemangiosarcoma and was bleeding internally,” Ghai recalls. “The veterinarian told us we should put her down because she would probably live only two-to-five days.

“I felt like someone had sucked the life out of me. I knew I couldn't make life-and-death decisions in two minutes. With my daughter holding an IV drip giving Ubu blood to replenish lost blood cells, we drove her to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center.”

Oncology specialists examined Ubu and told the family their options. Surgery to remove the tumor, followed by chemotherapy, would help to extend Ubu's life, though it was uncertain whether it would give the dog a few days or years. The family opted to treat the cancer, and Ubu went into surgery that evening.

Ubu was hospitalized five days at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center following the surgery. When she went home, it wasn't long before she was feeling well. The family was encouraged by their dog’s progress. Meanwhile, Ubu had five chemotherapy treatments, and the specialists closely monitored her care.

During the next year, Ubu collapsed two times. Each time, a blood transfusion helped to revive her. The Ghai family enjoyed celebrating Ubu's 12th birthday, knowing the end was near. The next day, Ghai made the difficult decision to euthanize her beloved dog after she collapsed again.

“I decided the time had come,” Ghai says. “I was not helping her. It was more for my sake. We had given Ubu all the love and comfort that we could.”

Because hemangiosarcoma occurs more commonly in dogs than any other animals and because some breeds are at higher risk than others, experts believe that heritable factors combined with environmental influences lead to the gene mutations that cause tumors. Although hemangiosarcoma is a research priority for more than 40 national parent breed clubs, the outcome for affected dogs has changed little over the past 30 years. A clinical trial in dogs that recently began at the University of Minnesota may validate a safe, effective treatment using a bispecific ligand targeted toxin.

If the results are successful, the treatment may also offer hope to people who develop a similar cancer, angiosarcoma. An aggressive soft-tissue sarcoma, angiosarcoma is challenging to study because it is rare, accounting for less than 1 percent of sarcomas, which in turn account for only 1 percent of all types of human cancer. Less than 30 percent of people diagnosed with angiosarcoma survive five years. As with canine hemangiosarcoma, angiosarcoma metastasizes freely because the malignant cells are in constant contact with the bloodstream.

**Possible Long-Term Survival**

Lead investigator Jaime Modiano, V.M.D., Ph.D., the Perlman Endowed Chair in animal oncology at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Masonic Cancer Center of the University of Minnesota, expects the canine clinical trial to include from 18 to 30 dogs. “The intent is to enroll the number of dogs that will allow us to find a dose that has no or acceptable side effects and shows an efficacy signal,” he says.

The trial follows research by Modiano and his University of Minnesota colleagues, Daniel Vallera, Ph.D., professor of therapeutic radiology, and Jill Schappa, D.V.M., a second-year pathology resident, that showed for the first time that a genetically
engineered toxin, called EGFuPA-toxin, could be targeted very specifically to tumor cells. Vallera's group linked the toxin to two receptors that are rarely present at the same time in normal cells but almost always occur together in hemangiosarcoma cells. This highly targeted delivery system allows the toxin to enter and kill highly chemotherapy-resistant sarcoma cells, including a subpopulation of cancer stem cells.

“This therapy was specifically designed to target molecules that are expressed by sarcoma tumors and that are highly abundant in newly made blood vessels, which is a hallmark of these cancers,” Modiano explains. “We anticipate that this approach will help us improve outcomes beyond what we can achieve now using conventional treatments.”

Among the complications in developing this type of therapy has been the immune system's ability to reduce effectiveness over time. One of the unique features of the EGFuPA-toxin is that it has been altered to make it invisible to the immune system to prevent a patient from producing antibodies to inactivate the toxin. The clinical trial will help to determine the efficacy of this masking strategy.

Importantly, the ability to relate the findings to angiosarcoma in humans is promising. “While sarcomas are infrequent in humans, they occur spontaneously and frequently in dogs, so the use of canine tumors could help accelerate further clinical developments in humans,” says Modiano. “Because angiosarcoma is so rare, we may never get enough people who get this disease to test this therapy.”

**Deciphering a Silent Killer**

Hemangiosarcoma is one of the most challenging canine cancers to understand, though it has been estimated to comprise 5 to 7 percent of all cancers in dogs. It is often called a silent killer because it seldom is detected before the tumor ruptures, causing a life-threatening condition. The propensity for bleeding is the most common cause of death.

The cancer typically starts in the thin layer of cells that line the interior of blood vessels, where it has access into the blood supply and metastasizes throughout the body. Tumors in about 50 percent of cases start in the spleen. Other internal organs that are commonly affected include the heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, mouth, muscle, bone, brain, and bladder. Unlike these visceral hemangiosarcomas, tumors that occur in or under the skin typically show less aggressive behavior.

In order to feed their growth, hemangiosarcomas use a process called angiogenesis to create new blood vessels from existing blood vessels. Unlike normal angiogenesis that is well organized, tumor angiogenesis is disorganized and leads to formation of blood clots as well as hemorrhaging. Mini-hemorrhages within a hemangiosarcoma can heal quickly with dogs showing only mild signs, but severe hemorrhaging from within a tumor can be fatal.

Since signs of hemangiosarcoma are not apparent until the cancer is in advanced stages, it is virtually impossible to detect early. The cancer most commonly occurs in dogs older than six years of age. There are no reliable tests or imaging technology to identify the presence of this cancer before it is visible or has caused clinical signs.

Without treatment, dogs with visceral hemangiosarcoma usually die in one to two weeks. The standard of care for hemangiosarcoma is surgery and/or chemotherapy depending on several factors, such as the location of the tumor. Treatment typically is meant to prevent fatal blood loss and to extend life but is seldom curative. In tumors confined to the spleen, about 50 percent of treated dogs live four to six months after diagnosis, but as many as 10 to 15 percent survive 12 months or longer. The outcome is less favorable for dogs with tumors that originate in other organs and for dogs that have detectable metastasis at the time of diagnosis.

Hemangiosarcoma remains a devastating, untreatable disease of dogs. Ongoing research, such as the clinical trial at the University of Minnesota, is helping to increase understanding of this disease. The bispecific ligand targeted toxin therapy may provide long-term treatment success. Importantly, this research in dogs may one day lead to a safe, effective treatment for people with angiosarcoma.

1 Schappa JT, Frantz AM, Gorden BH, Dickerson DB, Vallera DA, Modiano JF. Hemangiosarcoma and its cancer stem cell subpopulation are effectively killed by a toxin targeted through...
To Participate in the Trial
A clinical trial to test the safety and efficacy of a bispecific ligand targeted toxin in dogs with hemangiosarcoma recently began at the University of Minnesota. Lead investigator Dr. Jaime Modiano encourages owners whose dogs have been diagnosed with the cancer to participate.

Eligibility criteria and other information on how to participate can be found at http://www.cvm.umn.edu/cic/current/oncology/home.html#SRCBST or by calling 612-624-1352.

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

**Do You Know What A Yellow Ribbon Tied On A Dog’s Collar Means?**

You are out in the park with your family, playing, running, maybe even having a picnic. Perhaps your dog is with you; however, off in the distance you see adorable dog approaching with their handler and your children immediately begin to run towards this adorable dog. As the dog is getting closer, you see a yellow ribbon tied on the dog’s collar. What goes through your mind?

A yellow ribbon around a dog’s collar is to help children identify that you need to proceed with caution. The dog may not be child friendly, may have fear or anxiety issues, or may be overly excited. Either way, caution should be applied when approaching.

The Yellow Dog Project is a nonprofit organization that is a global effort to help raise awareness and education around dogs that require a little extra distance upon approaching. Does this mean that the dog is aggressive or mean? No, there are numerous reasons why a dog may have a yellow ribbon. It may mean the dog is new with the handler, is under medical care, or in foster care for instance.

The purpose of this project is to assist with the proper techniques to approach a dog. Children have a lot of energy and often to run up and pet a dog. Not all dogs understand this and can become fearful. With proper education, all parties are put in a less stressful environment, which in turn reduces opportunities for an unforeseen accident.

For more information about this wonderful cause, please visit: The Yellow Dog Facebook page. Learn how to educate family, friends, colleagues, and yourself. When there is knowledge, there is understanding.

Have you ever seen a dog wearing a yellow ribbon? Did you know what it meant prior to this article? Do you have a dog that may need to wear a yellow ribbon?

Read more at [http://theilovedogssite.com/do-you-know-what-a-yellow-ribbon-tied-on-a-dogs-collar-means/#BDBWwK7s73BCGC8o.99](http://theilovedogssite.com/do-you-know-what-a-yellow-ribbon-tied-on-a-dogs-collar-means/#BDBWwK7s73BCGC8o.99)
gemstone’s Amazing Trio
CH Baroque Top Shelf Hurrikane x Gemstone Carolina Queen

“Jackson”

CH Gemstone As
Your Fortune Comes
Multiple BOBs over Specials
WD NCTA Northern California
Specialty 2012
RWD GWTA Southern California
Specialty Weekend 2012
Group 3 Mensona KC 2012
Finished out of BBE

“Bonnie”

CH Gemstone Sailors
Good Fortune
WB Devon KC 2013
RWB Montgomery KC 2013
Multiple Group Placements
Golden Gate KC 2014 BBE Group 1
Finished out of BBE

“Ruby”

CH Gemstone Baroque
Fortune Teller
BOB Redwood Empire KC 2012
Award of Merit 2013 NCTA weekend
Finished out of BBE

Jim & Tami Herzog
herzog@gemstonewheatens.com

gemstone wheatens

Benchmarks . volume 42 . number 1 . page 41
Subscription Rates
SCWTCA members USA $25/year, Canada and overseas $35/year
Non-SCWTCA members USA $35/year
Non-SCWTCA members Canada and overseas $45/year
US funds only
The link to Benchmarks online is sent to all AKC approved and provisional SCWT judges
Benchmarks is also sent to all judges requesting a subscription, free of charge.

Articles and letters for June issue are due May 1

Advertising Rates
Full page $50
Back Cover advertising in color $100
Inside Covers advertising in color $75
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 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 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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RESCUE Nancy Butler (rescue@scwtca.org)
HEALTH ISSUES Cecily Skinner (health@scwtca.org)
FECAL API KITS Toni Vincent (fecalapikit@scwtca.org)
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CERF DATABASE http://www.vmdb.org/cerf

Donations
All donations may be sent to:

Pat Mullin
565 Cringle Drive
Redwood City, CA 94065

Checks should be made payable to SCWTCA, Inc. drawn on U.S. accounts or with International money orders in U.S. funds.

Tax deductible donations by check for Wheaten health may be mailed to:

Toni Vincent
SCWTCA Endowment/Treasurer
3825 132nd Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98005-1303

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

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Owner’s Manual $13
Benchmarks (Back Issues) $ 9
Grooming Chart $ 5
Pet Grooming Pamphlet $ 5
Illustrated Standard $18

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

For publications and pricing for shipments outside the U.S. contact:
Kayce Healy
7290 Forest Ridge Circle
Castle Pines, CO 80108
publications@scwtca.org

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(1988-2000) specify the year $15
(2001-2003) specify the year $20
(2004-2005) specify the year $25
(2006-2008) specify the year $45
(2009-2012) specify the year $65
(2010-2012) print and cd $75

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1524 Meinershagen Rd.
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eringlo@yahoo.com

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

Celebrating Long Life submit to:
Molly O’Connell by closing date May 1, 2014

Benchmarks Editor
Molly O’Connell
mocom1030@comcast.net

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KILRONAN ZIGGY STARDUST
NA NAJ OA OAJ CGC

We now have our Open titles and are working on our Excellent ones ... Run Fast, Run Clean, No Mistakes!

Kathy Clarke: breeder/owner
kclarke520@msn.com
CHIP

Multiple Group Winner
Best-in-Specialty Winner

BOB
AKC/EUKANUBA
Under Judge
Mr. Norman L. Patton

#3 Wheaten 2013
with limited showing

GCH Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching

CH Gleanngay Holliday x CH Gleanngay Tilde Wink

Pat Mullin
Breeder/Owner
Redwood City, CA
www.lochlinear.com

Gay Dunlap
Co-Breeder

Handled by Amy Rutherford
Assisted by Swenja Nasse