Summer Wanes, and the Cool Autumn Breezes Begin to Blow!
NUMBER ONE
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER

GCH BRYR ROSE PHOENIX RISING

Owned and Bred by Carolyn Garrett

Presented by Gwen & Kent Meyer

NATIONAL SPECIALTY WINNER
RESERVE BEST IN SHOW WINNER
MULTIPLE GROUP WINNER
MULTIPLE SPECIALTY WINNER

Clean sweep at Great Western Terrier Association Weekend! Thank you judges for these exciting wins!
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About The Cover

This captivating photo is of Rufus, a rescue Wheaten pup, enjoying the cool breeze at sunset in Corona Heights Park, San Francisco. Photo taken by his owners, Gina Gregory & Charlie Kubal.
From the President

Don't Worry ~ Be Happy
Some final thoughts

It is with mixed emotions that I pen these final thoughts to our membership as my term of Director, Vice President, and finally your President draws to a close. I have learned so much along the way, good and well sometimes, not as good as...! But in the end it is the good, like the cream, that rises to the top.

We have a great club. It is not the simple club that I became a member of back in 1979. Our interests have grown far beyond the conformation and obedience of those early years. Rally, herding, and barn hunts, are some of the new interests of our members. Our health issues, unfortunately, have grown, but our Club has grown to meet and ultimately defeat those issues. We have a great group of members who have headed up this battle. With the continued support of our members, our club has been repeatedly recognized as a leader in our sport in how we tackle these issues.

Our Specialties are real "Special!" Montgomery is no longer the three-day event of yesteryear. It is a week of; rally, obedience, education, dinners, local specialties, sweeps, boutiques, and, of course, the National. Did I miss something? Oh yes, just like Camelot, Morris & Essex appears once every five years! The task of our Specialty coordinator(s) is monumental when you consider all of the days and events we have added to their endeavor. Our Roving too has gained greater importance, and with it greater responsibilities directly handled by our board. There has been a return to the original intent of the Roving in that we are moving it about the Country more to give more of our members the opportunity to participate in a National Specialty. And how about those trophies? With the commitment of the Board in 2009, we partnered with Wendell August Forge to develop a trophy table envied by most, and yes, copied (but never duplicated) by a few! These trophies are also part of our roving in the continued effort to bring parity between the two events.

We continue to review and refine our guiding documents to stay current with the times and meet the increased needs of our members. Updates in our Code of Ethics to reflect newer health testing modalities are being considered. Refining breeders' responsibilities in all areas is also on the agenda. Our Constitution & By-laws underwent a major change a couple of years ago with the new membership classifications. We are now working on Board meeting requirements concerning electronic meetings for your consideration.

Of course, all of this information has to be brought to you, the members. Where would we be without Benchmarks? What would we do without a first class website for our reference? The Benchmarks of today is not the Benchmarks of my early years. We now have two formats, online and printed, that get produced. Benchmarks will now be bringing you our Health Newsletter updates within its pages. Our website has grown exponentially! It is truly a Herculean task to manage this site. These two areas of the Club are crucial to our functioning on a national level. Accession for these especially, as well as our other committees that keep us functioning as a Club, are always on the minds of your board.

My six-plus years on this Board have shown me that even with the bumps, if we stumble, ultimately someone will come along and offer a helping hand. This support has never been more apparent to me than the past few months when challenges in my personal life have impeded my ability to perform my job as I would wish. My Board, your board, has been truly stellar in picking up my slack. Surely this is a group of professionally minded members with a heart. Who wouldn't want that as their board?

As I depart this Board, I will do so knowing that I will continue to serve our club in other capacities. I will not worry about what I have left undone because there is always more to do. I will not be sad because I can only be happy with the new and renewed friendships that have been forged over the past six years. I am also very happy for all of us with the Board that will be serving this club in the next term.

I will close then by repeating my lead in by saying: Don't Worry ~ Be Happy
The future looks bright!

Gary M. Vlachos
President /SCWTCA
From the Editors

While our June issue was both incredibly exciting with the addition of Wheaten Health News, as well as slightly traumatic with some printing issues...I am happy to report that overall, it has received very positive reviews. Deb, Molly, Cecily, and I are sincerely gratified by your responses.

Onwards and upwards: As we continue to grow and broaden our Benchmarks’ focus on “all things Wheaten,” my personal experience tells me we have some important training issues to address. In my home, we have four Wheatens (all females). Between the adoring “mauling” of visitors and the enthusiastic barking, my husband suggests I write a book: “How NOT to train your Wheaten.” With this in mind, we conducted a survey on some common behavior problems in the breed. The results were no surprise...with just under 50 respondents, the bar chart shows the exact profile of my home.

Based on this information, we are adding a section each quarter on “Basic Training Tips.” Clearly, jumping on guests is priority one. There are many self-proclaimed behavior experts, so we tried to be open-minded and incorporate ideas from several known trainers...enjoy, and report on any successes! Additionally, any tricks up your sleeve...please share!!!

The September issue is lengthy. It includes a piece on the “Dog Sport”, outlining many ways owners can participate with their dogs in fun activities, and some wonderful tips on training a puppy for show. The Wheaten IQ and Breeder-Judge Perspective is a synopsis on “Essence of Type”, with some interesting articles on judging and the need for education. The Wheaten Health News covers many aspects of caring for senior dogs.

Don’t miss the results and summaries from the Greater St. Louis and Southern Cal. Specialties. Unfortunately, some of our show photos are not very good, and required significant adjustment...we did the best we could with what we had to work with.

Looking ahead to our next issue where our focus in “Wheaten IQ” will be Grooming, I read an interesting article in Dogs in Review entitled Judges Weigh in on Grooming. The article polled judges on the most common grooming errors they see in the ring. In a breed such as ours where grooming can make or break a dog’s presentation we all understand the importance of getting the grooming right. Yet I was surprised to read it was some real basic issues that exhibitors often overlook.

Topping the list for almost every judge polled were long nails and dirty teeth. Also mentioned were dogs that were dirty and/or smelly. When you put yourself in the judge’s shoes you can imagine how unappealing it would be to look in dogs’ mouths all day only to find tartar covered teeth. Or to go over dogs and feel like you need to use a hand sanitizer for the grimy feel left on your hands. I often think we are spoiled as Wheatens almost never have a doggy odor, however I do find when I’m showing boys it’s easy for them to pee on their front legs and get that distinctive smell in short order.

Other pet peeves mentioned by the judges went to the other end of the spectrum, including things such as too much product, build-up of coat with backcombing and spraying, sculpted coats, and straight lines cut on furnishings or tuck ups. I know I have shown a dog or two with the dreaded curtain effect in their tuck up. Funny the better the coat the tougher it is to groom ... yes, those dreaded scissor marks and straight cuts are way more obvious on the best Wheaten coats.

So next issue we’ll get some input on the these and many other grooming do’s and don’ts from the most talented groomers in our breed ... You know who you are, so when we write asking for your tips and tricks, think of it as a compliment! Please share your secrets so more of us can make our dogs look ring perfect too.

Helen Fraguela

Deb Van De Ven
Happy Birthday Seniors!

“MAZIE”
Ch. Ivywild’s Take a Bow
CH Brenmoor’s Shampoo x CH Ivywild’s Star Billing
DOB 2-19-2001

Mazie, our lovely girl, steals the heart of anyone who meets her. The forever show girl will never sit for her treat but stand at "show" until she snatches her treat (look out fingers). Every morning she hikes to the mailbox with Bob, checking out the sights and sounds of her home. Our girl is still the pack leader and if she “has had it” the other dogs beware. Bath and a trim is a bit much for one day now as she just gets tired of standing. Mazie’s litter of nine puppies were her gift to us, and we did not ask anymore of her. She is our joy and has our hearts.

By: Genie Kline

Do I smell Birthday Cake?

Goodbye to a Champion:

MACH10 Joy-Dell’s New Years Malley MXGB MJB4 MXF MFB TQX
1/2/03 - 5/1/15

Malley, aka “Queen Malley,” was a great champion who graced the AKC agility fields for the past decade. Quirky and smart, she met every challenge in her life with grace and determination. And many of those obstacles were overwhelming, from the trauma of being attacked as a four-month-old pup to the devastating diagnosis of hemangiosarcoma in August 2013, Malley always rose to the occasion. She battled the cancer and subsequent liver failure with stoic valor, sometimes forcing herself to stand and move and eat to please mom and dad.

Malley had a passion for agility, and it drove her to regain the strength she needed to play the game she loved. She returned to competition in October 2013. In December, she achieved MACH10. Dropping to Preferred, she continued to play agility until the weekend before she died. It was a glorious sight watching her final runs that day, as she flew over the jumps with sparkling eyes, joyfully barking, as she brought home her last Double Q.

Yes, Malley was a great agility champion. More importantly, however, she was a champion of hearts…an inspiration to all who face adversity in life. Run free, baby girl…queen of our hearts. We will catch up with you on the other side.

Mom Lorri, Dad John and Brother MacGuiness

By: Lorri Ligato
As a breeder, I’ve often been asked this question: “When is the right time to have my dog put down?” I’ve had to ask myself the same question many times. When it’s another person, I tell them I can’t really make that decision for them. However, I do ask, is your dog suffering? Is it in pain? If they say no to these questions, I do remind them that dogs are very stoic and usually do not let us—or any other animal—know they are suffering. Doing so would leave them too vulnerable to other animals who might, through their own instinctual behaviors, attack the sick dog. My sense is that if you can tell your dog is hurting, it is REALLY hurting!

I continue with more questions. Have you talked to your vet? Did he or she have any estimate as to how long the dog might live? Then there is that really hard question: Are you keeping your dog alive for your sake, or the dog’s sake? I again remind the owner of my original comment: I can’t tell them when the right time is. I can only do that for myself.

As I write this, I am pondering that very question. My oldest Wheaten, Gleanngay Quinella—Ella—has recently been diagnosed with a brain tumor. She was diagnosed via an MRI. The neurologist said, based on her behavior, there was certainly something going on in her brain.

There were four possibilities: a brain tumor; a stroke from which most dogs recover in a few days; meningitis, which could be treated with medication; and lastly, an infection in her brain which could also be treated with meds. Four possibilities—fairly decent odds. However, Ella drew the short straw.

Ella stayed in the veterinary hospital for three days being treated with IV steroids, and medicine to

She responded well. No more difficulty in walking, confusion, pressing her head to the wall, moving in a circle to the right, etc. She seemed pretty much her old (almost 14 yrs old) self! I brought her home and she has continued to respond well to the steroids and other meds. However, there is no cure for Ella’s brain tumor. It’s just a matter of how much time I can buy for her, and I know I’m just putting off the inevitable. So, what is the quality of her life now? She eats really well thanks to the steroids, although I do think she is losing some weight. She also drinks a lot of water and subsequently, leaks urine. Sometimes she makes it out the doggy door to potty, but, just as often doesn’t and leaves big puddles on the floor. To her credit, it’s always on the tile floor, not my carpet, except for the leaking of which she seems totally unaware.

I originally thought I would want to keep Ella going until her 14th birthday, July 8 2015, (today is June 12.) but what’s the point? Just so her breeder and I can say she lived to be 14! I’m not sure that’s a good enough reason. Do I treasure every day with her? Absolutely! Is she suffering? I don’t think so. I do worry that she might die when I’m not at home or during the night when I’m asleep.

I don’t want her to die alone. I want to hold her in my arms when she leaves this life. I do think she deserves that. When you read this, I will likely have made my decision. For now, I continue asking my questions.

“We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.”

Immanual Kant
Ch Paisley Up All Night
Pepper Gregowske CGC
MACH3 Piper’s Irish Jig CD RN MXC MJB2 NF
Regan Mcdonald Jacobs CGC
Ch Rosheen Georgia Flame
Ch Rosheen Magic Over Andover
Shar-D’s Oliver Do N’ The Twist CD BN RN THD
CGCA*
Shiloh II CGC
Ch Star Give It All You Got
Ch Star Shaken Not Stirred
Tj’s Friar Tuck CGC
GCh Touchstone Masquerader
GCh Touchstone Spook-Tacular
MACH6 Vermillion Doogan’s Irish Cream MXC2
MJS3 T2B2
Ch Vintage Life Is A Whirlwind
Ch Hullabaloo The Rookie VCD1 RE
Springsongs Summer Breeze
Ch Shar-D's Check My Label
Too Kayo
Ch Never Lasting's No Limits
Ch Acacia's Farmer Expresso CD
GCh Stratford Top Brass
Ch Greentree Darcove Fairy Tale CD RN
GCh Mother's Finest Born To Be Animagical
Ch Briarlyn Star Hunter’s Quest
Vicki’s Chewy Toy
Ch Reflections Here Comes The Son
Ch Reflections Here Comes The Son
Traligill Gradaigh O'Kaler
GCh Lochlinear Gleannagya Cha Ching

April to June 15, 2015
Ch Acacia Orla Lil Fish Brandon
Ch Aine Gift Of The Gab
Ch Aine Money Talks
Ch Aine Something To Talk About
Aran Twisted Logic MXB MJS NF
Ch Atas Dim Sum Lights
Atticus Peck NAP NJP
Ch Avalon Legacy Aodthaghan An Dragon
Barum’s Pumpkin Pie Sage OAP OJP NF CGC
Baroque Sweet Nothings Shelby Makai NJP
Beau Gamble White CGC
Ch Blackswan Dreams Of Troy
Ch Blessing All The Way To The Moon
Ch Bonny Bushel And A Peck
Bradberry's McLaren Love, Love Me Do CGC
By-Jobe’s Harp Phineas CGC
Ch Caraway Southern By Design THD
Ch Ceili’s Shiny And Bright OA NAJ
Ch Ceila Dance The Knight Away
Cela Iota Be Sweet N Spicy CA CGC
Ch Cheshire Heart And Soul
CH Clover’s In The Knick Of Time
CH Coventry Seanchai Penny Serenade
Ch Culaun Bombs Bursting In Air
Ch Diamonds Swing Of Delight
Ch Doubleton’s Swing Time
Dundalk Southern Comfort RA CGC
Dundalk To Kill A Mockingbird CGC
Dunfrae’s Red Gate Renegade MXC MJB2 MXP MJP
OF
Ch Edgewood Idog Classic CGC
Ch Eringlo Dancing Through Life BN TD MX MXB
MXJ MJB NAP NJP
Ch Eringlo Playing With Fire VCD2 RE TXD MX MXB
MXJ MJS NF
Eringlo Riverdance MX MXJ
Ch Eringlo Rise Above The Mist
Ch Gemstone Legacy For Marquee
Geragold Verde Irislandes BN
GCh Haldane Does Your Mother Know?
Ch Islander's Jamakin Me Krazy
Ch Duidream Quicktime
Ch Eringlo Rise Above The Mist
Ch Eringlo Rise Above The Mist
Ch Gemstone As Your Fortune Comes
Ch Ellora Bastion
GCh Culinin Expresso Con Panna

Ch Paisley Days To Come
Lucky Penny III
Ch Sam Hill’s Nubhush City Limit
Liberty Lass Keeley
GCh Acacia’s Bat Out O’Hel
Ch Acacia Rosheen Naya
GCh Saltsea Weaving Magic
Ch Shar-D’s I Luv Lucie
Ch Almar’s Same As It Never Was
Ch Star Living The Dream
Bartels Jazlyn
Ch Touchstone Polka Dot
Ch Touchstone Polka Dot
Kaler's Amanda Of Vermilion
Ch Vintage Prairie Winds

Ch Orla Geragold Knob Tipper
GCh Aine Villanova Mouth Of The South CGC
GCh Aine Villanova Mouth Of The South CGC
GCh Aine Villanova Mouth Of The South CGC
Ch Aran Built A Bet Mouse Trap
Ch Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals
Ch Avalon Noblesse Oblige
Ch Geragold Whindancer Sunny Two
GCh Baroque You Ain'T Seen Nothing Yet
Genna Of Greta's Last Dance
Hillgael's Smoky Topaz
Ch Blessing Sweet Symmetry
Ch Bonny Apple Of My Eye
GCh Bradberry's Mackanme High Society Reese
By-Jobe’s Nutmeg And Spice
Ch Caraway Going For Baroque
Ceili’s Firefly OA OAJ
Ch Cela Barefoot On A Beach
Cela Bet She’s A Spice Girl
Cheshire You Talkin To Me
Ch Greentree Clover Ooh La La
GCh Waterford Coventry Caper
Ch Culinin Expresso Caramel Macchiato
GCH Diamonds Breakfast At Tiffany'S
Ch Dublicoon’s Playing For Keeps
Ch Dundalk A League Of Her Own

Ch Dundalk Redhill Garden Of Good And Evil
Dunfrae’s Mira’s Classy Lady
Ch Edgewood Bugaboo Bamboo
Ch Eringlo Playing With Fire VCD2 RE TXD MX MXB
MXJ MJB NF
Ch Eringlo Cuddlebug
Ch Eringlo Playing With Fire VCD2 RE TXD MX MXB
MXJ MJB NF
GCh Marquee’s Tax Exchange
Ch Geragold Winter Solstice
Ch Haldane Colors Of The Sun
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Looking for more information on Archived Breeds? Browse the full list here: [Link to full list](#)
The Dog Sport...Something For Everyone

The dog sport offers many different and varied competitive events/activities you and your dog can enjoy. While many of us compete in the conformation ring, participating in any dog sport is a great opportunity for fun and to meet fellow dog lovers. The dog sport builds confidence, burns off mental and physical energy, and reinforces the bond between dog and owner. Because our Wheatens are enthusiastic, energetic, and eager to please, many do quite well. Here are a few to consider:

By Betsy Geertson and Helen Fraguela

**AKC S.T.A.R. PUPPY:** Puppy classes are a must for all new owners! The AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is an exciting new program designed to get dog owners and puppies off to a good start. It is an incentive program for loving owners who have taken the time to take their puppies through basic training classes. These classes teach you how to best communicate with your puppy and provide an opportunity for socializing with other dogs. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy training is a natural lead in to the AKC® Canine Good Citizen® Program.

**CANINE GOOD CITIZEN (CGC):** The AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program is designed to recognize dogs who have good manners at home and in the community. This rapidly growing, nationally recognized program, stresses responsible dog ownership for owners, basic training and good manners for dogs. All dogs that pass the ten step CGC testing receive a certificate from the AKC. This training is the first step in training dogs and laying the foundation for other AKC activities.

**THERAPY DOG:** Wheaten Terriers make friends wherever they go and it should come as no surprise that they excel at therapy work provided they receive obedience training and have the right temperament. A CGC is a good starting point. Anyone who has felt a connection with a pet and experienced that unconditional love, understanding, and acceptance knows the value of a pet’s companionship. These qualities make dogs ideal therapeutic visitors for hospital patients and other medical facilities. AKC recognizes dogs and owners who have given their time and help by volunteering.

**RALLY:** Rally is a great stepping stone from the CGC® program to the world of obedience or agility. It offers an experience that is fun and energizing. Rally was designed with the traditional pet owner in mind, but can still be very challenging for those who enjoy higher levels of competition. Scoring is not as rigorous as traditional obedience. There should be a sense of teamwork between the dog and handler. The main objective of rally is to produce dogs that are trained to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs, in a manner that will reflect positively on the sport of rally at all times and under all conditions.
OBEDIENCE: This demonstrates the usefulness of a dog as a companion to humans. Trials highlight the human-canine bond in an impressive show. Each level of obedience competition requires mastering a specific skill set, increasing in difficulty, before advancing to the next level. Good canine companion skills exercise the dog in the most challenging class. These include; heeling, both with and without a leash, coming when called, standing for a simple physical examination, and staying in both sit and down positions with a group of dogs, retrieving and jumping challenges, scent discrimination, directed retrieves, with jumping and silent signal exercises.

AGILITY: Running a dog in an agility trial is the ultimate game for you and your dog and is an exciting spectator sport. This form of dog competition, where the animal’s fitness and the handler’s ability to train and direct the dog, are tested to the max. Agility is a highly competitive sport in which handlers direct their dogs over a timed obstacle course. Dogs race against the clock as they jump over hurdles and through tires, climb and descend ramps, dart through tunnels, maneuver across see-saws, and weave through a line of poles. The goal is to complete the obstacle course in the shortest possible time without any errors. It is fast, furious, and a great favorite with competitors and spectators.

HERDING: The purpose of competitive herding trials is to preserve and develop the herding skills inherent in the herding breeds and to demonstrate that they can perform the useful functions for which they were originally bred. Although herding trials are artificial simulations of pastoral or farm situations, they are standardized tests to measure and develop the characteristics of the herding breeds. Dogs must have training and prior exposure to livestock before being entered in tests or trials. Both parent and local clubs should provide opportunities for such training and exposure.

K9 SCENT WORK: K9 Scent work is a sport sanctioned by the National Association of Canine Scent Work (NACSW). It is patterned after the training of Detection Dogs and borrows elements of that for recreation. The Founders of NACSW are from California where the sport quickly spread. In the last few years, it has come to the East Coast, mostly in the Northeast where it is spreading like wildfire.

TRACKING: AKC tracking is a natural fit for Wheatens. It combines the ability of a dog to use its nose and the dog’s natural ability to lead. Dogs have a very highly developed sense of smell, at least 100,000 times stronger than humans. It’s the reason that dogs are often trained to find lost people and animals, drugs, bedbugs, and disaster victims. Dogs are also trained to detect cancer and alert for oncoming seizures. AKC tracking is a canine sport that demonstrates a dog’s natural ability to recognize and follow a scent. In AKC tracking the dog is completely in charge, and it is the handler’s responsibility to teach the dog to follow a scent and then learn to read the dog after he has that skill. For many people the greatest pleasure of tracking are the hours spent outside training with their dogs, leading to the thrill of the competition when he finds the glove at the end of the track.
How to Teach Your Dog Not to Jump on People

By: Lori Soard

It may be cute when a small puppy excitedly jumps at you when you come home, but when that same puppy hits 30+ pounds, the behavior can be more than bothersome. Before you realize what a problem it is, you may have already encouraged the behavior. Fortunately, there are specific steps you can take to train your dog not to jump on you or guests in your home.

Experts from the ASPCA recommend methods that involve positive reinforcement but never punishing the dog. Sarah Hodgson, dog and puppy behavior expert and author of Puppies for Dummies, says that pushing your puppy away when it jumps signals to the pup that it is time for confrontational play. Fortunately, there are techniques that work well in training a dog not to jump.

The ASPCA pet behavior experts say that if the dog is overly excited and jumping, ignore it until the dog calms. Go about daily tasks and do not speak to or look at your dog as long as he is excited. If the jumping is out of control or the dog is yapping, leave him in a crate and give him some time to calm down. Once the dog is released from his crate, do not acknowledge him until both of her front paws are on the floor.

Teach children to use Sarah Hodgson’s “Looking for Rain” method. When the dog begins jumping, the child should:

- Cross her arms over her chest with her hands placed on her shoulders.
- Look up as though seeing if rain is coming and refuse to make eye contact with dog.
- Remain in this position until the dog has both front paws placed on the floor. Pet the dog quietly to reward the good behavior without causing more excited jumping.

Sarah also suggests creating a barrier between you and your dog’s body.

- Fill an empty mister bottle with one part water to one part vinegar.
- Spray a boundary between you and the dog to slow him down. Do not spray in the dog’s face or on the dog.

Once you’ve sprayed the boundary, walk away and refuse to make eye contact with your dog until he stops jumping. Ignoring bad behavior is only part of the equation. Nearly every dog expert, including Millan, Hodgson, and the ASPCA experts, suggests praising your dog when he does as you wish. Once the dog calms down and stops jumping, give him praise such as “good boy” and a reward such as dog treats, a rub on the head or belly, or a favorite dog toy.

Victoria Stilwell, from Positively Victoria, suggests the best way to stop your dog from jumping is to ignore her while she is in the act of jumping.

- Each time she jumps up at you, turn your back.
- Do not look at, talk to, or touch her at any time and fold your arms in front of you so that you become boring.
- When she stops jumping, wait for three seconds of four paws on the floor...reward the self-control with attention.
- If she jumps again, repeat the exercise. Practice this with friends and family members for consistency.

Cesar Millan, host of the show “The Dog Whisperer,” advocates that prevention is the best medicine. You can avert a puppy jumping up problem from day one with your new puppy, by practicing the simplicity of the no touch, no talk, no eye contact rule whenever you first greet your puppy. This sends a calming signal and helps a puppy to stay focused on her nose. Her nose will keep her on the ground, and her eyes and ears will react differently.

Dr. Ian Dunbar, a Palm Beach dog veterinarian suggests that extreme punishment for jumping may be one of the biggest factors that creates a dog that is wary of people. It can cause a dog to react with aggressive behavior and develop other problem behaviors beyond the one you are trying to correct. Although it can be frustrating to deal with an animal that continues to jump after using training techniques, it is important to remain patient. Try going through each technique again. If that fails, it may be time to call in a professional dog trainer to help resolve your dog’s jumping problem.
Show Training...101

By Shari and Sydney Robinson

This is the first in a series of articles to help you train your Wheaten Terrier for the conformation show ring. Have you ever watched a well trained dog in the show ring and asked yourself “how do they train their dog to do that”? Well, we are going to share some training tips that work for us and hopefully will work for you too!

We are going to take this slowly and methodically, and ideally you will do some homework for a short time every day. First thing we need to get out of the way is something that you need to say to yourself before, during and after training...five little words that will change your relationship with your Wheaten: “We don't negotiate with terrorists.” There should be no time where your dog believes his “vote” counts. We can absolutely give them the very best of everything, but we should expect them to listen and behave....remember who has the opposable thumbs? I watch so many people get dragged here and there by their Wheatens, for walks, to the groomer, to the show, in the ring. And this is my favorite....then to relieve the dog's choking due to pulling in his collar...we fit him with a harness, something that now makes it easier for your dog to pull! Stop that right now, please! One or two good corrections will stop years of being dragged, and it's actually easier on your dog. They crave boundaries; your relationship requires boundaries.

On to show training...we do this same work for puppies, and adults alike. These series of exercises need to be fun for you both. Let's remember what you are actually asking your dog to do...stand and eat. That's easy! Stand here and eat this delightful chicken, or cheese. You aren't asking him to do your taxes or higher math....stand still(ish) and eat. So let's get started!

First we are going to start training on our grooming table. The benefit here is that extra arm. This helps you free up a hand for training. Puppy is on the table in the noose. If he is new to being on the grooming table, he may baulk at being in the noose, so make sure it is high enough for him to have to stand, but of course that he can breathe easily. The ideal bait for this is a cheese string, hot dog, or chicken breast- something that they can nibble on. If you are using hot dog or cheese string, start with about a 2 inch piece. Secure most of the piece in your fist, so he can only get little at one time. If the puppy sits, use your left hand again to get them to stand.

As puppy nibbles on the bait, start to remove your left hand from holding up the puppy and see if he remains standing. If the puppy sits, use your left hand again to get them to stand.

Official publication of the SCWTC Inc, volume 43, number 3, Sept. 2015
You can use a command to teach him the word, so say "stand" while they are standing. If he sits, the food stops until you stand him back up. Remember that you also need to get the puppy used to having its tail held up, and for those boys, remember that they need to be used to having someone touch their testicles. For now, that someone is you. Once the puppy understands that you don’t want him to sit, make sure you reward with your voice "good girl/boy". When he tries to sit, "no" (not sternly), but bring your left hand back under to help him stand.

Week one is just establishing some form of your control, and working on a stand while eating. Remember, we want our dog to love the shows, so be sure not to be too heavy-handed, or hard-voiced. Ideally you want your puppy to stand with head and tail up on their own. This has to be fun for both of you.

Now when puppy is standing on the table, being very interested in the bait in your hand, your left hand will soon not be required as often, so now we can reassign it. With your left hand you can teach your dog to accept a hard stack. That is where you place his feet where you want them. When placing the front feet, lift from the elbow, at the top of the leg, and let gravity show you where it belongs; it should fall straight down. For the rear legs, the hocks should be perpendicular with the floor. There is often some confusion as to how wide to put those legs; front feet should be straight down from the shoulder, and the hocks should be a little wider than the front is. Move puppy’s feet often, even if you are placing them in the same spot. The more hands on, the better.

With your puppy standing on the table, and you offering bait, hopefully. He stands there with this tail up. If the tail starts to drop, don’t panic, slowly reach over and push it back up. You can start to pull the food away from him a little, and move to the front of the table. Standing in front of the table, you can break pieces of the bait off and offer him a piece at a time. We want to drag out the time between pieces of bait so the puppy starts to learn to stand and wait for the reward. Don’t rush any of these steps, it is important that you get a firm basis of puppy understanding what you want. You need to be clear. Puppy stands still, puppy gets reward. If he sits, he gets nothing. After a week or so of this exercise, you should definitely notice a difference.

The next thing we are going to introduce is to start having your puppy lean off of its rear a little. Start to pull bait away just a little; we want puppy to reach without moving any feet. If you pull food back too much, puppy will walk forward. Dogs often will start to take a step with their rear feet. In this exercise, we want puppy to lean off of his rear, basically reaching without stepping. If he steps forward, treat it as you did when he sat. Reset the feet, and start again. All of these exercises so far have been on the table. When you feel your puppy has the general idea of what you have been asking, it is time to introduce doing this on the ground. If the puppy is inclined to sit, it might help if you kneel down beside him so you can use your left hand again to set up the rear. Remember to use your "stand" command. Go through the same steps, the standing, then introduce moving feet. Try to do the stacking from a kneel position as well as from a standing position as you would in a show ring. Once you have the standing part, try to pull the bait back a little getting the puppy to lean again without stepping forward.

So until next time...happy training.
Presented by: Deb Van De Ven
Credit: SCWTCA Illustrated Standard

Official publication of the SCWTCA, Inc, volume 43, number 3, Sept. 2015 pg 16

**ESSENCE OF TYPE**

**COAT**
Soft, Silky, Waving, Flowing Warm Wheaten Color

**SILHOUETTE**
Square, medium-sized Tail set well up on back Neck... Medium in length

**HEAD**
Rectangular, moderately long, in proportion to body Ears... Small to medium, level with skull, held close to head, point to ground

**ATTITUDE**
Happy, steady, shows himself gaily

**MOVEMENT**
Must be able to cover ground in an efficient/graceful fashion, indicating strength and endurance. A properly structured, well conditioned dog has reach and drive, and maintains a strong, level topline when moving.

From her book, *The Nicholas Guide to Dog Judging*, Anna Katherine Nicholas describes Essence of Type as “the combination of distinguishing features which add up to make the breed’s stamp of individuality. A “typey” dog must be strong in those points considered by the Standard as characteristic of his breed. The word “type” is constantly abused by fanciers who misuse it as an expression of personal preference. Actually, there can be only one correct type within a breed.”

The much admired judge Anne Rogers Clark described that “moment of epiphany you have when all the parts and pieces come together”, adding “it was the picture created by the right dog, the dog that has it all” which pulls all the pieces together and “stamps out a silhouette in a permanent mental template for which all subsequent dogs of that breed are viewed”.

Our goal as breeders should be to develop an eye to discern the qualities that allow dogs to exude exceptional Breed Type, in order to have that image as our goal both for individual dogs as well as our breeding programs as a whole.

“A judge must understand not only size, shape, substance, and furnishings, but also the finer distinctive nuances that individualize a breed. He must then seek the elusive essence of type particular to the breed.”

Dorothy MacDonald, AKC Gazette, May 16, 2015.

For the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier the essence of breed type is characterized by the essential four pillars of Coat, Silhouette, Head, and Attitude. In the last three issues of Benchmarks we’ve looked at these attributes individually. We also cannot forget the role that Movement plays as it relates so closely to the well-made Wheaten. After reviewing these features once more in words, we welcome you to match the photographs on the following pages to the appropriate description and identify the correct images from those incorrect images of Wheaten breed type and essence.

**UNDERSTANDING : “ESSENCE OF BREED TYPE”**

Essence- “the intrinsic nature of something; the quality which determines something’s character.”
—Oxford University Press

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“The breed standard is the blueprint, the breeder is the builder, and the judge is the building inspector.”
—Percy Roberts

***

“The essence of breed type can be defined as how the various parts of a dog come together with the requisite temperament to make a breed unique.”
—Cindy Vogels

**Coat:** The very name of the breed places emphasis on coat, yet fundamentally, it is the least understood feature of the SCWT. The Standard says quite specifically “he is distinguished by his soft, silky, gently waving coat of warm wheaten color.” It also refers to the coat as “a distinguishing characteristic of the breed which sets the dog apart.”

**Silhouette:** The SCWT is *Square* with equal length withers to ground and chest (prosternum) to rump (ischium). The Wheaten is *Medium Sized*, ideally 18 ½” for a dog, 17 ½” for a bitch, with a *moderately long neck.*
The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier is a well-balanced sporting terrier who is square in outline. As a long-legged terrier the Wheaten is moderate in outline, neither racy nor extreme, but defined by his equal length from withers to ground and chest to rump. His moderately long neck and long rectangular head further give him his distinctive breed type, with his ears adding to his terrier expression. He is spirited, happy, self-confident, and alert... true to his terrier origins.

Head: The Head is Rectangular, not square, with the skull and foreface equal in length, each a rectangle unto itself, creating a longer rectangle as a whole. In addition, the head is to be Moderately Long and In Proportion To The Body. If proportions are correct the head should appear to be approximately the same length as the neck and slightly less than the length of the back. Ears are also important to breed essence because they create terrier expression. Look for ears that are Small to Medium in size, Level with the Skull and Pointing to the Ground, not to the eye or the shoulder.

Attitude: Despite the Standard’s statement that the SCWT “exhibits less aggressiveness than is sometimes encouraged in other terriers”, there should be no doubt as to their terrier origins. They are bright, Happy, alert, Steady, and show with an Air of Gaiety. Judges who call for facing off in other terrier breeds, should allow the Wheaten Terrier the same privilege—to look his best, standing free, on his toes and alert to his surroundings.

Judging the Wheaten Coat, outline, head, and temperament create breed type, but a working terrier must be able to cover ground effortlessly, therefore soundness must never be discounted. A properly structured dog will carry his outline securely when moving, exhibiting good reach and drive. An overall inferior dog should never be put up over the overall superior specimen even though the latter carries some small deviation from the standard of perfection.

Credit: SCWTCA Illustrated Standard

CAN YOU MATCH HEAD WITH DESCRIPTION?

H1. Correct, well-placed ears which don’t fall below the eye, nose is large for size of dog, overall very pleasing expression_____

H2. Incorrect, foreface longer than skull, hound ear_____

H3. Incorrect, ears appear lower than they are because of excess hair on top of skull_____

H4. Incorrect, fold of ear is wrong causing ears to drift away from head, ears lack lift, head also appears to lack length and correct rectangular shape_____

H5. Incorrect, ears are nicely set on head but too small. Given the choice these are preferred over too large or low set_____

H6. Incorrect, large, low set ear is made worse with “conehead” trim_____

A  B  C

D  E  F
CAN YOU MATCH SILHOUETTE WITH DESCRIPTION?

S1. Correct, well-set tail, lovely neck-to-back transition
S2. Incorrect, longer than tall
S3. Incorrect, high in rear, front quarters appear more substantial than rear
S4. Incorrect, insufficient length of neck to balance head & back, creates stuffy appearance
S5. Incorrect, taller than long, straight in stifle, head too small to balance body
S6. Incorrect, dog is trimmed to create the look of a shorter back. Tuck-up is cut in forward of the loin with body coat left behind so as to appear as leg furnishings

CAN YOU MATCH MOVEMENT WITH DESCRIPTION?

M1. Correct. This dog has great extension both front and rear
M2. Correct. This dog has reach & drive & maintains outline and balance, correct extension for sporting Terrier
M3. Incorrect. This dog does not maintain his outline and balance when gaighting, he is long cast and has reach and drive as a result, not because he is correctly made
M4. Incorrect, restricted front movement, but nice rear extension. Likely has a straight shoulder with front and rear angles mismatched. Also poor tail set

Answers on page 65
In the early 1990s...I wrote the following prologue to the Illustrated Standard and Amplification, published in 1992:

**Essence of SCWT Type**

essence, n. 1: the basic, real and unvariable nature of a thing or its significant individual feature or features.

The concept of focusing in on breed essence in order to discern correct breed type is neither new nor is it original. The truly great judges, past and present, do it without thinking, often not even aware they are doing it. These judges, once familiar and comfortable with a breed, do not find it necessary to rub their hands all over a dog in order to judge it. They are unhesitatingly clear on what it is that sets a particular breed apart, certain of its breed type, its essence. So often we get hung up on a fault or faults, which have nothing to do with breed type and as a result fail to acknowledge or appreciate the whole entity. Most of us have, at one time or another, shown a dog we felt epitomized breed type but, because of some fault, took longer to finish than necessary, often losing to dogs with no glaring faults but of exceedingly poor breed type. A good case-in-point when discussing breed faults versus breed essence is the great Smooth Fox Terrier, Ch Nornay Saddler. Terrier historian, John Marvin, tells us he was a dog of exquisite breed type, exuding the pure essence of the breed but with a serious fault ... he had a light eye. Obviously there were many judges in his day that chose to honor essence and overlook the fault.

Let’s take a look at the essence of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. The four essentials of breed type are within the realm of COAT, SILHOUETTE, HEAD, and ATTITUDE. Type is not found in eye color, teeth, pigment, depth of pad or the like. These are all part of the breed’s blueprint and dictate ideals for perfection. They are not about essence.

The Illustrated Standard continues, dissecting these four essential elements both journalistically and pictorially. In retrospect and if I were to design it today, based on the current climate of our breed, I would place more emphasis on silhouette...because without the correct silhouette, the dog is just a dog.

Twenty-three years later, I find myself wondering how many of our breeders own the Illustrated Standard or, for that matter, have even browsed its pages. Based upon what we are seeing in the ring it would appear not. Or perhaps they look and cannot see. The responsibility for some of today’s winners cannot wholly be placed upon the judges’ shoulders. As judges we can only judge what we see in the ring. For those who wonder why more judges don’t withhold ribbons for lack of merit, it’s a sticky wicket. The numbers tell us that fewer and fewer fanciers are showing their dogs in the conformation ring these days, and this feeds an underlying fear that withholding ribbons will drive these numbers down even further. Basically, we are damned if we do and damned if we don’t. But what we can lay on judges’ shoulders is culpability for situations wherein a dog exudes breed essence and, because he/she looks different from the others, fails to win. This simply should not happen. I remember in the early 1980s showing Gleanngay Gather Moon Dust at the terrier specialty shows in Grayslake, IL. He was not yet finished, and I had high hopes for him. He was different from the others; back then the Mid-west Wheatens had a look of their own...longer, lower with body carriage and movement more like a herding dog.
Much to my disappointment the sweepstakes judge did not place “Duster.” This judge caught up with me a little later in the day and said, “You know, the dog you showed me in sweeps has the best tail set and carriage I have ever seen on a Wheaten, but he’s just too terrier for me.” To say I was nonplussed is putting it mildly…I have never forgotten it. But Duster’s problem, other than appearing too terrier for this particular judge, had to do with the fact that he was a standout and most judges, assuming the others were correct, assumed he must be wrong…odd man out!

It seems the same thing is happening across the country. Multi-group judge Dana Cline addresses this topic in an article reprinted elsewhere in this issue, indicating that the problem is not limited to Wheaten Terriers but is happening in other breeds as well: to wit, dogs of exemplary breed type being beaten by the generic “show dog” displaying few virtues other than perhaps placing its feet in the proper place on the go-around or the up-and-back. Must we then assume many judges are not bothering to refresh their knowledge of the breeds they adjudicate and thus cannot recognize the correct silhouette for each? For whatever reason, they often seem to lack the tools necessary in order to recognize dogs of exemplary breed type, unless, of course, there isn’t one, in which case they are often left with the unfortunate job of choosing the best of the worst. What might the breeder/exhibitor do, to help set things right?

Some time ago, Rick Beauchamp, author of the much acclaimed book, Solving The Mysteries of Breed Type, commented that there are “far too many dogs shown today that have been produced by individuals who are themselves unclear about what they are shooting for.” Could this explain why we find short-legged long Wheatens and long-legged tall ones in the same ring? Obviously, the starting place is education; as Beauchamp says, “There is absolutely no way around it.” In studying the Illustrated Standard, SCWTCA’s Judges Education CD (a PowerPoint presentation), perhaps including old pictures of past top-winning dogs, our eye should discern a certain consistency of silhouette (outline). Everything we need to know about the Wheaten Terrier is held within this silhouette. If the silhouette/outline is wrong then the dog is wrong. Understand that I am not implying it’s ok for a Wheaten to be undershot or have yellow eyes.

What I am implying is that if the silhouette is not correct, faults such those mentioned, major or otherwise, are inconsequential. They all take a back seat to the value of a correct silhouette because this is what screams exemplary breed type; without it we have nothing.

Dogs that lack the correct silhouette also lack correct breed type. When we show them it opens the door for them to be rewarded and if the wrong dogs are consistently rewarded they are often, on the basis of a show record, chosen for breeding. This is when a breed begins to spiral downward. How many of you recognize that we are experiencing this in our breed today? How many of you are willing to go back to the drawing board and reevaluate the road you are on in terms of your breeding program?

If there is anyone reading this that does not have a copy of the Illustrated Standard, I urge you to order one immediately, and then to study it. I also recommend that you order the Judges Education CD, both available on our SCWTCA website.
As a breeder of reputation of many breeds, Danes, Mini Bull Terriers, Beagles, Borzoi and German Wirehaired Pointers, I have experienced a need for placing emphasis in a varying number of areas. I do however, find that in two of those breeds, Danes and Bull Terriers, type is hallmark, the one singular virtue that sets the breed apart from all others. Two breeds that have physically been manipulated and hybridized through the efforts of talented, conscientious breeders. Is the breed standard a guide for breeders to breed better dogs? Is the standard a guide for the judges to judge dogs better? I am not certain we could ever agree on that answer, but I can say with certainty, most new judges of our breed, judge them with a “generic “ flare that does in no way contribute to, nor benefit the efforts of a well balanced, breed specific program.

As judges, our sole purpose is to judge breeding stock. Much too often is the case that judges are passing over the truly good specimens in a breed for dogs of much lesser quality who are lacking severely in breed characteristics. Judges tend to error in the favor of performance related characteristics and reward dogs that tend to do nothing wrong, but when you actually study them, they rank terribly low on the scale of breed virtue, almost to the point of insignificance. If an individual had the confidence to judge our breed with the eye of a breeder, I feel that the results would be very different. Far too many judges concern themselves with how their decisions might be received by ringside, or the fact that someone might notice that the best dog in the class also lacks the most noticeable fault! When judging dogs, a certain phrase comes to my mind “the total sum of his parts” that says, averaging the good with the bad and the highest score wins!

Let’s say for example, a judge that is capable of recognizing good breed type in a Dane, has before him, two dogs:

Dog #1 Shows steadily, uses his ears, stands perfect for his examination and moves smoothly about the ring, BUT lacks severely in breed characteristics, ie, size, head type and correctness of bone shape.

Dog #2 has correct angles but is restricted by the ring size, moves with hesitation and lacks flow. He has excellence in breed type, but stands with his back slightly soft although in motion, carried his top line correctly. This dog is slightly less experienced and not as well trained as dog #1. Which dog should win? Most of us would probably agree that dog #2 should win hands down, however, in most cases dog #1 is winning the higher number of times. As a breeder I feel that having a dog with a generic ability to show well and lacking angles and is able to negotiate himself around the ring fairly well and most offensively lacks any breed excellence is truly like having nothing at all! When you have a dog like #2 before you and you reward him for his positive attributes to the breed, it becomes no real contest! What is wrong with the system or our sport that allows this to happen weekend after weekend? Have we become more interested in personally winning than preserving the breed? Are we actually striving to produce dogs that fit that “show dog” mold instead of striving to produce the magnificent, remarkable creature we know as the Great Dane! Have the real guardians of our breed surrendered their efforts, discouraged by the fact that they are so easily and frequently passed over for animals that have no place or value in any breeding program?

If you are a judge or breeder who holds movement in high regard equal to physical breed virtues, please consider when it was, that you last saw a dog that exemplified the breed standard in motion, possessing long, powerful and strong easy strides holding his backline parallel to the ground. It’s been a very long time since I have ever seen a Great Dane that exhibited these qualities and much longer since I’ve seen one with great breed virtues added to the mix!

Unfortunately, the lack of good education at many levels and the absence of quality mentoring, may very well be the cause of this atmosphere and rapid decline in true quality breed specific judging. If as a breeder, exhibitor or judge you should ever find yourself compelled to produce or select a dog based strictly on the most common denominators and judging “within the box” I can assure you that it will not be received by most as favorable. It takes courage dedication and knowledge to stand up and do what is right! It takes even greater discipline to be different from the rest and go where your conscience leads you, even if it may be against the flow. Whatever your interest, or the extent of your involvement in our Beautiful breed, breeding, rewarding or merely recognizing true Great Dane type will always be an asset and your gift to the breed!
Just as an art critic evaluates a canvas, a judge must assess a dog's success or failure in upholding artistic standards. The breeder-judge relationship is an interesting continuing theme that needs further analysis to be fully appreciated. If one is an architect, is the other a building inspector? If one designs art, is the other an art critic? If one is a writer, is the other a reviewer? If one is a gourmet chef, is the other a gourmand? If one is a creator, is the other a destroyer? The answers may be yes, the answers may be no, or the answers may fall somewhere between the two! Sometimes the relationship seems so complex that one wonders if breeders and judges are often on the same wavelength. Yet we readily acknowledge that when they are, the entire breed benefits. In my April column, I discussed how some of the educational tools that are available to us today, and that are likely to be available in the future, aim to help all of us to agree on an exact definition of functional basic type while recognizing that individuals may sort their priorities differently. One such tool would be the work resulting from the recently formed Breeders' Education Committee.

Overcompensating
Perhaps the problem could be more readily solved if breeders would present dogs of like type to the judges, which would allow for more apparent consistency in judging as well as in breeding. One of the many problems facing judges in the ring today is the "piecemeal" dog that results from breedings where well-meaning breeders seek to correct a fault by overcompensating. For example, a small, compact bitch with the correct length and depth of rib cage is bred to a huge dog with a long loin and an insufficient, short rib cage in hopes of some magic blending of traits to produce a "happy medium." Instead of a litter combining the hoped-for merger of the traits, the resulting puppies are piecemeal dogs with the faults of each parent. What went wrong? Or take a case in which a dog who comes at you true, but with very little side gait, resulting from an incorrect straight-front assembly, is bred to a very elastic bitch with lots of angles and very little control of her front end. The breeder desires to produce puppies that move true in front and also cover plenty of ground from the side. Alas! All the puppies have no control of their front end and are all over the place like their dam. Furthermore, they cover even less ground than their rather short-strided sire, resulting in the worst of both parents. What went wrong? How do these things happen? Piecemeal dogs are the result of breeding two dogs that are not of like type. Because the breeder has ignored the wise adage to "breed like to like," the progeny are uncoordinated and unable to function in the proper athletic manner for the breed in question. Perhaps they have disproportionate length of bones with angles of one kind at one end and angles of another kind at the other end. They are out of sync and not pleasing to the judge, even if they please the breeder. And this is perhaps the most important contribution the judge can make to the breeder: to send the message that piecemeal dogs are not in the best interest of the breed, no matter how attractive and pretty they may be.

Evaluating Judges
One of the most important considerations in evaluating judges is the contribution they can make to your breeding program. That contribution is why collective opinions are important, and all the more so if they occur in excellent competition and under world-class
judges who understand the needs of the breed. These judges can guide you because of their demands for a smooth-working functional animal and their appreciation for the essence of breed type. Such judges are able to appreciate a quality lone entry in a breed just as much as a dog whose attributes make it stand out in a huge class. This is because they have honed their skills at evaluating as well as their skills at comparing. These are the true connoisseurs of the judging community who have the most valuable contributions to make to your breeding program. You should appreciate and utilize their decisions accordingly in assessing your breeding stock. Your own personal interpretation of the worth of any judge's opinion is confused by two obstacles: First and foremost always is the subjective factor that makes you look at your own dogs through rose-colored glasses while looking at the breeding stock of others through a jaded lens. Each and every breeder must come to terms with their own version of kennel blindness in their own way. Failure to keep this bias under control can ruin your breeding program.

Second, when you appraise a judge's performance it is of vital importance that you factor in the difference between judging as an observer from ringside and judging from within the ring. If there are 20 dogs in the class, the ringside observer has time to zero in on the five dogs of quality and can spend the entire duration of the class studying them. The judge must give each of the 20 entries an appropriate share of the class time and thus has less time to study the select individuals. Perhaps the judge misses that moment the ringsider sees when the select dog looks its very best, and sees the dog only when it is not cooperating at all with the handler. Furthermore, the judge's close examination may reveal both virtues and faults not evident to those at ringside. As a breeder you should study all aspects of each and every animal in depth and under all circumstances before deciding to put that animal into the gene pool. As the building inspector to the breeder's architecture, it is the judge's responsibility to respond to unsound conditions in the foundation of an animal. Just as an art critic evaluates a classic canvas, the judge must react to an artwork's failure to uphold the standards of artistic expertise. Just as the reviewer of the written word does, the judge must correctly assess prose that does not flow. Just as the gourmand sampling the work of the haute cuisine chef does, the judge must react realistically when the latest recipe does not satisfy delicate taste buds.

Does this then make the judge the destroyer of the creator's work? Indeed not; it makes the judge the protector of the creator's work! By providing proper guidance, judges who correctly evaluate breeding stock are truly as much guardians of a breed as are breeders who correctly evaluate breeding stock. However, because of the time and circumstances involved with "in ring" judging, there is room for a greater margin of error in judging decisions than in breeding decisions. When a judge makes a selection in the ring, the judge and others live with that individual decision on a short-term basis. When a breeder makes a decision, the breeder and the breed's gene pool live with that decision forever!

Therefore it is in the best interest of the breeder and the judge to work together in the breeding and judging of dogs. Such cooperation will produce the best of all worlds: judges who are the ultimate breeders and breeders who are the ultimate judges. —P.T.

Patricia V. Trotter is a longtime breeder of Norwegian Elkhounds, and is approved to judge five groups, as well as Junior Showmanship. She is the author of Born to Win.
Get Ready for an Exciting Montgomery MCKC Education Seminar…
“A Breeder Panel”

The SCWTCA, Inc., is excited to present “A Breeder Panel,” Thursday, October 1st, from 7-9pm, at the host hotel, DoubleTree by Hilton. This will be a fantastic opportunity for breeders, owners, and exhibitors to learn more about our wonderful breed. We are bringing together a group of diversified breeders to the panel, posing the question, “What topic do you believe needs to be addressed to improve our breed?”. We hope this peaks your interest…

Our panel consists of, Dana Barton, Jendu Wheatens, Bev McDonald, Greentree Wheatens, Gwen Meyer, Reyem Wheatens and Molly O’Connell, Stratford Wheatens. "Collectively, they have well over 90 years of experience breeding Wheatens, they have bred well over 200 champions, have experience in multiple breeds, imports, health, handling and they all currently have strong, well respected breeding programs.

Seminar content will include discussion, videos, handouts, and a Wheaten to aid the analysts in the presentation of:
♦ Evaluating movement
♦ Grooming
♦ Breed Type
♦ Behavior

At the end of the seminar, we will open it to questions from the audience. Dessert and coffee will be available along with a cash bar. Thank you to the SCWTCA, Inc for subsidizing the cost of the seminar, so we are able to offer this to you for only $15. Reservations can be made with your PawPal form or online at www.scwtca.org.

Additional details of activities on pages 26-27
Another Great Weekend:

GCH Lil’Town Fiddler’s Lullaby Of Ardnacassa

BOB
Terrier Club Of Michigan
50th Anniversary Show

Progressive Dog Club
of Wayne County

GROUP 4
Progressive Dog Club
of Wayne County

CH Lil’Town Aibhilin's Song Of Ardnacassa
(Fiddler’s daughter - 14 Months old and a Champion)

MAJORS
Terrier Club Of Michigan
50th Anniversary Show

Progressive Dog Club of
Wayne County

Ann Arbor Kennel Club

Special Thanks To
Allison Sunderman!

Carol Shaltz  fcshaltz@sbcglobal.net  http://www.lil-townwheatens.com/
Important Details:

Hotel:
DoubleTree by Hilton
Philadelphia Valley Forge
301 West Dekalb Pike
King of Prussia PA 19406
610.337.1200
www.doubletree.hilton.com

Boutique/Dinner:
Friday 10/2 5:30 pm

Post show Dinner/Raffle:
Sunday 10/4

For lunches, dinner, Fundraiser... Order on the PawPal form.

PawPal Reservation Due 9/16
Send to: Cindy Shea
1524 Meinershagen Rd
Fornell, MO 63348
pawpal@scwta.org

Schedule of events:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<td>9/28 Mon</td>
<td>• Montgomery Terrier Agility Cluster&lt;br&gt;• Obedience &amp; Rally Fun Match (Monday Evening)</td>
<td>Palmyra, PA</td>
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<td>9/29 Tue</td>
<td>• Montgomery Terrier Agility Cluster&lt;br&gt;• Obedience &amp; Two Obedience &amp; Two Rally Trials</td>
<td>Palmyra, PA</td>
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<td>9/30 Wed</td>
<td>• Hatboro DC&lt;br&gt;• Hatboro DC Obedience &amp; Rally&lt;br&gt;• Montgomery Terrier Agility Cluster</td>
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<td>10/1 Thu</td>
<td>• Morris and Essex KC&lt;br&gt;• Montgomery Terrier Agility Cluster&lt;br&gt;• Barn Hunt Trial&lt;br&gt;• Education, Dessert &amp; Cash Bar 7:00pm</td>
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<td>10/2 Fri</td>
<td>• Hatboro DC/Del Val SCWTC Specialty&lt;br&gt;• Hatboro DC Obedience &amp; Rally&lt;br&gt;• Wheaten Boutique &amp; Cash Bar 5:30 pm&lt;br&gt;• Banquet, Annual Meeting &amp; Awards 7:00pm</td>
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<td>10/3 Sat</td>
<td>• Devon DSA&lt;br&gt;• SCWTC A Sweepstakes 2:00 pm</td>
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<td>Blue Bell, PA</td>
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<td>10/4 Sun</td>
<td>• Montgomery County KC&lt;br&gt;• SCWTC A National Specialty&lt;br&gt;• MCKC Obedience &amp; Rally&lt;br&gt;• Post-Show Hospitality Party&lt;br&gt;Cash Bar 6:00pm, Buffet Dinner 7:00pm</td>
<td>Blue Bell, PA</td>
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And our terrific Fundraiser and Raffle items...

**FUNDRAISER ITEMS**

*Trunk Organizer:* that folds up flat for easy storage. Whether you’re toting around groceries or dog supplies, this trunk organizer will hold it all. Perfect size of 12” H x 14 ¼” W x 24 ½” D with the SCWTC logo imprinted on it. Price: $28 plus shipping

*License Plate Frame:* made of zinc alloy with chrome finish, green background with white lettering. Use this on the front, back or both! Show off your love for our wonderful breed. Price: $18 each or $16 each for 2 or more plus shipping.

These items can be pre ordered and picked up at the boutique to save shipping costs

**RAFFLE ITEMS**

*Custom Stained Glass Panel:* designed and crafted by Diane McHutchinson, the Fool’s Glass, [www.thefoolsglass.com](http://www.thefoolsglass.com). Diane created this custom panel of our whimsical logo, Wheatens at the Wheel, specifically for our raffle. It’s a beautiful piece that will be displayed in your home for years to come. The panel measures 18” x 18” and is framed in wood. ($300 value)

*Wheaten Quilt:* Our very own talented club and board member, Lee Martin, designed, pieced and quilted this amazing Wheaten Quilt. The design includes appliqued Wheatens surrounded by Celtic-inspired endless chains that represent friendship and love. It’s bound to look beautiful in any home. The Quilt is approximately 56” x 56”, a perfect size for a lap or wall hanging piece.

Raffle Tickets: One for $5, six for $25 * Questions: Contact Rose Rose at raffle@scwtca.org

Online ordering available NOW at www.scwcta.org

***

Questions - contact Julie Burdick or Mary Ann Curtis at specialty@scwtca.org
Introducing... Lochlinear A Serendipitous Win

BISS GCH Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching x GCH Serendipity’s Urban Legend

“Karma”

GOOD KARMA

Sincere thanks to judges Camille Bakker and Karen Wilson for these prestigious Specialty wins at 8 months

LochLinear

Pat Mullin ~ pat@lochlinear.com ~ www.lochlinear.com

Owner/Breeder: Pat Mullin, Co-Breeders: R & C Taylor
Sam Hill's Happy
CH Aran Walks on Water x CH Sam Hill's I Told You I Was Trouble

"Pharrell"

Breeders: Amy Havely & Alison Bradley
Owners: Amy Havely & Vicki Noah

We could not have asked for a more enjoyable time during the SCWTCGS show weekend. Dinner, conversations and hospitality were most entertaining and your hard work and attention to detail did not go unnoticed.

We are grateful for this experience and anticipate our return to St. Louis in 2016. Thanks to Sweepstakes Judge Karen Mueller for recognizing our boy, Pharrell.

Sam Hill
Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers

Amy Havely & Vicki North
samhill23@me.com
NEW... GCH Clover’s In The Knick Of Time
US & IRISH CH, GER CH (KFT & VDH), LUX CH, SWISS CH Wheaten Rebel’s Nelson for Navy x CH Greentree Clover Ooh La La

Knick

Completed his Grand Championship with 6 Majors
...Always Owner Handled

Bred by: Liz & Mike Jamiolekowski
& Bev and Kevin McDonald

Co-Owned and Loved by:
Peggy Love & Paul Pacello
Liz & Mike Jamiolekowski

Clover Wheatens
And his brother... CH Clover’s Mr. Blue Sky
US & IRISH CH, GER CH (KFT & VDH), LUX CH, SWISS CH Wheaton Rebel’s Nelson for Navy x CH Greentree Clover Ooh La La

BOB and Group 4 at Lackawanna KC. Many thanks to esteemed judge: Darryl Vice

Clover Wheatens

Bred by: Liz & Mike Jamiolekowski
& Bev and Kevin McDonald

 Owned and Loved by:
Liz Jamiolekowski
ljamiolekowski@yahoo.com
HARBOUR HILL GUCCI GUCCI GOO

CH Pitterpat's Blue Bayou "Luke" x CH Harbour Hill French Pastry "Biscuit"

"photo by Lauren Smith"

Presented by Gwen & Kent Meyer and Susie & Jorje Olivera

"GUCCI"

Best of Winners SCWTCSC Specialty under Judge Mr. Wood Wornall

Winners Bitch NCTA Specialty under Judge Mrs. Patricia Nemirovsky de Alsina

Owned/bred by Joan Wright,
Becky Smith & Susan Sakuye

HARBOUR HILL WHEATENS
Susan Sakuye * 805.967.0953 * ssakuye@aol.com
Gold GCH Ainle Villanova Mouth Of The South

And All three of her puppies showing, finish by 9 months of age

GCH Lochlinear Glengay Cha Ching x GCH Ainle Villanova Mouth of the South

CH Ainle Money Talks “Cash”

CH Ainle Gift Of The Gab “Marlie”

CH Ainle Something To Talk About “Bogie”

Kathi Elliot
k Elliot@tampabay.rr.com
Matisse

NUMBER ONE WHEATEN *

©2015 Evasuik

*CC All Breed Stats 06/30/15
A true work of art!

MULTIPLE SPECIALTY & GROUP WINNING

GCH BRYR ROSE Matisse

GCH Greentree Keepsake Surfin USA x Ch Bryr Rose French Kiss

Matisse went on to win BISS, thank you Judge Geir Flyckt-Pedersen. Thank you to all the judges who have recognized Matisse’s outstanding type and quality.

Bryr Rose Wheatens

Owners: Marilyn Jacobs & Edward J. Koharik, Jr. & Janot E. Koharik

Bred by: Jeanne “Yenna” Pedersen Ferris
jpferris@sbcglobal.net
“HATTIE” DOES IT AGAIN!

Bronze GCH Serendipity’s Urban Legend

GCH Gleanngay Legend of the Grail x CH Serendipity’s Mamma Mia

Great Western Terrier Association Specialty Weekend

Thank you...
Best of Opposite Sex under Judge Karen Wilson
Best of Opposite Sex under Judge Christine Erickson
Award of Merit under Judge Wood Wornall

Special Thanks to Amy Rutherford for her superb handling and her dedication to our very special girl.

Dick and Camille Taylor
sena101@sbcglobal.net
209.236.1208
Had a fabulous weekend at the St. Louis Specialty, winning four 5 point majors!

**NEW CH Star Dream It**
"KEEVA"
**WB** Gateway Terrier Assoc.

**NEW CH Star On Cloud 9**
"LOUIE"
**WD & BOW** Gateway Terrier Assoc.

**Star Head Above the Clouds**
"WILLOW"
**WB** at both SCWTC Greater St. Louis Specialty & Rhineland KC

following her mother’s (CH Star Living the Dream) foot steps winning at the SLS!

“Looking forward to Montgomery”

Denise Daniel
734-558-8442
ddddddstar@comcast.net
Celebrating "Dolci"
New Grand Champion

GCH Emerald Isle Perchance to Dream
CH Derryhumma Mr. Mistoffelees x CH Emerald Isles Double Your Money

Our Dream Come True

Breeder/Owners:
Greg and Sandy Reburn
greg.reburn@sbcglobal.net
And... Watch for Raffe and Marcus in the ring!

CH Pitterpat’s Blue Bayou x CH Harbour Hill French Pastry

“Raffe”
Harbour Hill Emerald in Ralph Lauren

Thank you, Judges:
Mrs. Patricia Nemirovsky de Alsina, NCTA Specialty, Major Win...WD and BOW
Mr. Elliott B Weiss, Major Win...WD
Mrs. Marion D McPherson, WD

“Marcus”
Harbour Hill at Neiman Marcus

Thank you, Judges:
Mr. John R Boozer iii, Major Win...WD
Mrs. Cindy Vogels, Major Win...WD
Sally George, Major Win...WD and BOS
Ms. Camille Bakker, Great Western Specialty... Best Op Sweeps

Emerald Isle Wheatens

Breeders: Joan Wright, Rebecca Smith and Susan K Sakauye
Owners: Gregory & Sandra Rebune and Susan K Sakauye
Lonestar
A Study in Scarlet
(CH. Star "My Dear Watson" X Carrick's Lonestar Phoenix Rising)

Many Thanks to: Jennifer A. Moore – WB & BOW @ Bucks County K C for a 5 point Major from the puppy class!!!
Michael D. Buckley – Puppy Group 3 @ New Brunswick K C Charles L. Olvis – WB @ Bronx K C – Major!
Col. Joe B. Purkhiser – WB @ Bryn Mawr K C

Bred by: Wendy Neill, Tom Neill & Pam Peckham
Owned by: Wendy & Tom Neill, Collegeville, PA
Exclusively Owner-Handled
Moonstruck and Greentree are proud to announce “Ricky” now qualifies for his ROM*

BIS, BISS, RBIS, AM GCH, Can CH
Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man, ROM*

“When you look at a dog’s pedigree, it tells you what he ought to be. When you look at a dog in the ring, it tells you what he seems to be. When you look at a dog’s progeny, it tells you what he is.” Pat Trotter

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- MBIS MBISS RBIS Am GCH/ Can GCHEx Greentree Keepsake’s Surfin’ USA CGN
- CH Sansibar Keepsake Marley
- CH Moonstruck Too Hot To Mombo
- CH Moonstruck Dance The Night Away
- CH Greentree Caribbean Mombo
- GCH Greentree Mombo In Maui
- GCH Greentree Rachel Alexandra
- GCH Banner Down in the Treme
- CH Burdigan's Adventure Of Mr Bill
- BISS MRBIS Can GCH/Am CH Cashel's Oban On Ice
- GCH Diamonds Ain’t Misbehavin
- GCH Diamond's Sentimental Journey To Tidewatch
- CH Sundance Seamrog “Wearin O' The Green”
- CH Cheshire Heart And Soul
- CH Cheshire Kaler Strings Of The Heart

Bred by: Helen Fraguela, Bev & Kevin McDonald
Owned and loved by: Bev & Kevin McDonald
www.greentreewheatens.com

* Pending SCWTCA approval
Announcing A New Champion:

CH Blessing All the Way to the Moon

GCH Rosheen Sufferin' Succotash x CH Blessing Sweet Symmetry

Finishing with a five-point major in St. Louis and two four-point majors

Thank you Judges: 
Darren Bowey, 
Polly Smith and 
Loraine Boutwell

“Professor Lupin”

Owners and loving family, Tony and Cara York
Wonderfully presented by Lisa Lopez
Breeder; Lise and Bill Morgan

…and back... is how much I love you!

Blessing Wheatsens

www.blessingwheatens.com
At 9 months Marlie was awarded Puppy Best in Show and went on to claim "Best of the Best In Show" in the Breeders Showcase in Orlando. The next day she became a CH and competed in the Terrier Group for the first time - receiving a Group 2 placement.
NEW...

CH Sundance Seamrog "Wearin' O' The Green"

GCH Greentree Moonstruck Mombo Man x CH Sundance Truly An Heirloom

Breeder: Susan Wuerz & Paula Henderson & Linda Hallas
Owner: Susan Wuerz & Maureen MacSweeney
SundanceWtns@cfl.rr.com

Sundance Wheatens
I’ve had a unique professional life. There’s my long-past legal career followed by my AKC days. Before entering Corporate America 15 years ago, I got an MBA in Marketing. Admittedly, marketing was a default choice but I liked it. It’s interesting to look at things through that lens…including our dog world.

Marketing …packaging, promotion, production and pricing…occurs after a business has engaged in research to understand customers and developed a strategy to match their products or services to them. This is true whether it’s a commercial entity or a non-profit.

Which brings me to a fine example of muddled marketing: the American Kennel Club.

AKC’s marketing challenge is tricky. Its customers are varied and the same groups can inhabit multiple segments: handlers can be breeders, judges can be delegates, pet owners can be product buyers…and lots of other combinations. Having multiple messages that don’t conflict requires an investment in research, strategy and planning.

What comes out of AKC screams a scattershot approach done on the cheap. One website works? Great, let’s have a dozen for everyone! A breeder recognition program is successful? Let’s spread it to everyone who breeds a bitch! It’s inexplicable, leading one to ultimately wonder if they have a clue.

Interesting, you say, but dog people aren’t marketing anything. Think again.

Top show dogs engage in advertising campaigns in magazines and online, engaging photographers and designers to create a message…this beautiful dog is being rewarded. That’s marketing.

Ok, you say, fine, but I don’t have a special.

Whenever you take an ad, you’re marketing. Sure, we might call it a “brag” …but what we’re really saying is this is what our breeding program has produced. Maybe some are thinking people will use our stud dog or approach us to acquire a dog. So always show off your best.

No, you say, all I do is post on my website or my Facebook or Instagram page and it’s just for fun. I’m not spending any money.

Social media is a form of marketing too. All those Facebook posts about your dog’s wins and your litters? You’re doing the same thing as running a paid advertisement…telling people about dogs you as a breeder own and show. Yeah, you’re playing… and also marketing your dogs and breeding program.

Ok great, got me. So what? Can’t I just have some fun?

Of course…just up your game a little bit?

Consider: local car dealers’ cable TV ads. Poorly shot, stupid scripts staring homely, awkward family members. Maybe they’ve got a great inventory and are offering great deals. But the real message is they are so narcissistic they forgot they are supposed to be selling cars. It brands them amateurs, destroying their credibility as a competent firm.

Don’t be a local car dealer. Eschew amateurish ads…which includes bad cut outs, overdone graphics and much too much text.

NEVER use a bad photo. NEVER, EVER. It tells the world you love your dogs but don’t recognize they aren’t good ones. You’ll do yourself a disservice using it. I know it’s tempting to use a great win photo even if the dog looks bad. Don’t. We all have them…I’ve got a group photo in my files right now that’s staying there. I don’t want someone looking at it and thinking the rest of the competition must have been dreadful or I bribed the judge.

All of your posts and ads and website photos should make strangers say “Wow…no wonder he won! Wish he were mine!” That’s Marketing 101 for Serious Dog Breeders.
To add to Pam’s Devil’s Advocate, I would like to offer the following guidance to ensure your Benchmarks ads are the best they can be. While I am not a graphic designer, there are some simple, basic rules we should all follow…

There are four basic elements that are the building blocks of an ad page design:

- Headline
- Copy
- Visual Element
- Signature

To make the elements work effectively, they must be organized to consider hierarchy (the ranking of elements on the page by importance) and reader eye flow (a description of how the reader’s eye moves around on the page). There are several flow designs that I use when suggesting possible layouts…they are imperceptible to the eye, and work well. Selection of the right color scheme is also important. It should be aligned with your logo colors or the colors you use to represent your brand (ie: kennel name). Understand that when a graphic designer refers to “White Space,” it is not always “white.” It is the empty parts of the page where no images or copy appear. If the page has a background color; that is the color of the white space.

A good, clear, high resolution photo of at least 1 mb (jpeg preferred) is critical:

Again, an ad is only as good as the photo being used. Print design requires a DPI of 300, which is why we must utilize only high-quality photos and graphics. No matter how beautiful the image, it is essential to ensure the image is high enough resolution for print. Scan “high quality” images at 300 DPI or higher.

Digital images are made up of thousands of pixels (blocks of color), and the number of pixels in the image will determine how high the image’s resolution is.

D.P.I. or "Dots per Inch" is the measurement used within the printing and graphics design industry to determine how sharp an image is. Web graphics and online photos are normally created at 72dpi (dots per inch). This low resolution is great for the web because the images look excellent on a computer monitor and the file sizes are very small which helps web pages load faster. However, when designing graphics for commercial printing purposes, your images should be 300dpi or better.

Credits: Hullabaloo Visual Concepts, Ver Duin’s Inc
  Printing & Advertising, The Marsid-M&M Group
Old Dogs Rule!

Puppies are adorable. People stop to pet them, oohing and aahing over their antics and teddy-bear looks. New owners spend much time training, scheduling vet visits, playing with their pups. As our dogs reach adolescence and adulthood, we enjoy the wonderful companions we have developed, reveling in the perennial youthfulness that most Wheatens display. Then one day, our dogs are old. Senior. Then geriatric. These are dogs with different needs than the rambunctious ones we have been living with for years. Senior dogs occupy a special place in our hearts, and we wish to provide the best care for them in their golden years. We need to consider how to keep their minds and bodies occupied, how to provide the best nutrition, and how to mitigate old-age maladies to provide our dogs the most comfortable living possible. Ultimately we often must decide when to let them go.

In September 2014, AKC devoted the month to webinars and online articles exploring in depth the needs of older dogs. In this issue you will read several of these articles.

Senior Dogs 101

This article is adapted from a podcast with Dr. Fred Metzger, DVM of Metzger Animal Hospital in State College, Pennsylvania.

Thanks to advances in veterinary medicine, today’s dogs are living longer, healthier lives. It is estimated that nearly 40% of veterinary patients are classified as “seniors.” Just like people, dogs who reach senior or geriatric status have special health care needs.

Senior and Geriatric Defined

According to Dr. Fred Metzger, a diplomat of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, and a frequent lecturer on geriatric medicine, classifying a dog as a senior or as geriatric, depends on the breed and his weight. “Dogs don’t live as long as we do, so unfortunately, they go through the aging process a lot quicker than humans do. The key is trying to keep them in the younger stages as long as possible and making the change to geriatric very slowly.”

The Metzger Animal Hospital Age Chart was developed by Dr. Metzger and takes into account the age and the weight of a dog. A larger breed dog like a St. Bernard will progress through the stages from adult to senior to geriatric patient much more quickly than a smaller breed dog like a Poodle. Generally speaking, though, most veterinarians consider a dog a senior at age eight and geriatric at age 12.

Importance of Senior Dog Well Visits

“The number one thing you can do to help your older dog is to have annual visits to the vet,” said Dr. Metzger. During these visits the veterinarian will draw blood, conduct a urinalysis, and do a thorough physical exam. By establishing a baseline — what is “normal” for your dog, the veterinarian is able to know more quickly if something seems out of the ordinary and may require additional testing.

Research continues. Cognitive Dysfunction - much like dementia in humans – affects many. Good nutrition, exercise, and in some cases supplements can ease the symptoms of dementia. There is some evidence that Neutricks, Sam-E, and Senilife are useful natural supplements. Giving Melatonin to a dog to aid sleep can also help with the pacing and anxiety some dogs experience at night. As always, consult your veterinarian before starting any new medications with your dog. Asking about adverse effects of prescriptions with signs of dementia is a good topic to discuss as well.

Finally, I found great response to toys and puzzles with my sweet old girl Siouxie. She still loved her walks, but they were ambles rather than her no-nonsense marches that we enjoyed for years. Her puppiness flared every time I got out a puzzle for her. She was super-skilled at solving them and pounced on them eagerly. There are many on the market as well as feeders (like giant wobbly kongs) that make eating a game as well. All these activities keep an older dog’s mind sound and exercised.
Blood work and a urinalysis can alert a veterinarian to health issues such as diabetes, kidney disease, and hypothyroidism. A physical exam focuses on checking a dog’s teeth, listening to her heart and lungs, palpating the abdomen, and checking her eyes. Each part of a senior wellness exam can help a veterinarian understand how quickly that particular patient is aging.

Another important part of a senior wellness exam is checking the lumps and bumps that older dogs have on their skin. In many cases these can be lipomas, benign fatty tumors, but some can also be cancerous tumors. Dr. Metzger recommends that veterinarians take fine needle aspirations of the lumps found on older dogs. This allows cells to be collected and viewed under a microscope. The procedure is painless and most dogs feel no discomfort.

“A great physical exam combined with laboratory work is the number one way a person can detect disease early in their dog,” said Metzger.

**Common Health Concerns for Older Dogs**

“Aging to me is a natural disease,” said Dr. Metzger. “We’re never going to stop aging, but we want to change the rate of aging and with nutrition, diagnostic testing, wellness visits and weight management, we can slow the transition from senior to geriatric dog.”

Heart, kidney, and liver disease are all health concerns that tend to be more prevalent in older dogs. Senior and geriatric dogs can also be impacted by osteoarthritis and cognitive dysfunction. Environmental factors such as living in a house where people smoke can negatively impact older dogs. Genetics also play a factor in how a dog ages. Some breeds are more predisposed to specific health concerns than others. A dog’s immune system is also impacted by aging and may not function as well as it did when the dog was younger.

Overall, many of the health conditions humans deal with as they age are mirrored in dogs. By making annual senior dog wellness visits a priority dogs can live not just longer, but live well.

To learn more from Dr. Metzger about senior and geriatric dogs, be sure to check out his podcast which will be released on Thursday, September 4.

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Senior dogs whose owners closely monitor their weight and keep them active and properly conditioned are shining examples of how growing older can be a healthy progression of life. Active senior dogs also glow with emotional health and well-being. Fortunately, there are ample opportunities today for older dogs to participate in sports they enjoyed when they were younger – albeit at a modified level for seniors. Among the senior dog offerings from the American Kennel Club are Preferred Agility competitions with lower jump heights, Veteran Sweepstakes at conformation events, and a lure coursing ability test in which seniors run two-thirds of the normal course distance. Some dogs do well in hunting tests and field trials well into their senior years. The same approaches taken with nutrition and conditioning of senior athletes can be applied to normal daily life if you plan to increase the length or intensity of walks, runs or play sessions with your older dog.

The secret to success involves tailoring a conditioning program to the needs of an individual dog. Even before training begins, it is important to take your dog for a thorough veterinary checkup. For dogs who participate in seasonal activities, preseason training should begin several weeks sooner than normal to allow a senior dog time to rebuild muscle strength and stamina.

“Some dogs love their activities so much, they could be a detriment to themselves,” cautions Joseph J. Wakshlag, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVN, DACVSMR, associate professor at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. “Dogs that have some orthopedic problems or are suffering from osteoarthritis may not be ideal for participating in intense competitive events like field trials.”

A thorough veterinary examination should be the first step in determining whether an older dog is healthy to participate in sports or start a new or increased exercise routine. The examination is likely to include a complete blood count and thorough physical examination. Radiography and diagnostic ultrasounds may be warranted if there are signs of potential problems.

“Finding things like renal disease or anemia will impact what a dog is capable of doing,” says Dr. Wakshlag. “Early heart disease will definitely affect the exercise patterns you do with your dog. Lumps and bumps should be checked out to make sure they do not hinder movement. Something as simple as a lipoma, which is a growth of fat cells under the skin, in the wrong spot can seriously affect gait if it is near a joint.”
“It helps if owners keep a log of their dog’s veterinary visits and record any abnormal findings at home and bring this information to the preseason checkup,” says Janet Van Dyke, D.V.M., DACVSMR, CCRT, founder of the Canine Rehabilitation Institute in Wellington, Fla. “It also helps to consult a veterinarian who is well-versed in musculoskeletal anatomy and gait analysis and has a good working knowledge of canine sports to give advice about the suitability of these activities to individual dogs.”

Although keeping dogs fit for life should be the goal, many senior dogs are less active, which contributes to their being overweight. “Extra weight puts undue stress on joints and may make it difficult for a dog to prepare for competition,” Dr. Wakshlag says. “Keeping a dog in ideal body condition is the best thing for aging companions because it helps a dog perform at his best while staying injury free.”

“Just as in humans, we know in dogs that obesity, even marginal excess weight, contributes to morbidity in many ways, including increased circulating inflammatory mediators, compounds that can contribute to patients experiencing additional inflammation and therefore pain,” Dr. Van Dyke says. “Just like in people, it is harder for senior dogs to maintain a lean weight. They experience sarcopenia, the loss of lean muscle mass, and can easily gain weight secondary to having a lower metabolism.”

Dr. Wakshlag agrees. “In young dogs, you feed and condition them to try and build mass. In older dogs, you try to diminish the loss. Older dogs need more protein in their diet to maintain the same muscle protein synthesis that occurs in younger dogs. You may need to decrease the fat content due to less activity and to help maintain a good athletic body condition.”

Using a body condition score system and recording a dog’s weight can aid in determining the correct proportion of fat and lean muscle mass. A dog should have an hourglass shape when viewed from above, which equates to a score of 4 or 5 on a nine-point body condition score system.

When your dog is ready for training and conditioning, you should start slowly, gradually increasing the intensity and length of exercise. “The muscle capacity for work is typically decreasing in older dogs due to mild sarcopenia,” explains Dr. Wakshlag. “They don’t quite have the energy powerhouses in the muscle cells that they did when they were younger.” Conditioning is the process of getting a dog’s joints and muscles in shape for a sport or activity. A balance of cardio and strength conditioning is best, as well as addressing areas of weakness. The result of proper conditioning is that a dog is less likely to get hurt when he needs to exert greater physical effort during competition.

Keeping senior dogs active is best for promoting their health and longevity. Proper conditioning and training can help prevent injuries so that you can share your favorite sports and activities together for many years to come.

**Tips on Training Senior Dogs**

- Schedule a checkup with your veterinarian before beginning a conditioning program to ensure your dog is physically fit.
- Begin a good nutrition program six to eight weeks before training starts. Keep in mind senior dogs require more protein for muscle synthesis, and some may need less fat to maintain ideal body condition.
- Keep excess weight off your senior athlete, as it contributes to fatigue and predisposes a dog to muscle and ligament injuries.
- Use common sense when training. Avoid pushing too hard in extremely hot or cold weather. Train on a surface such as grass or ground to minimize stress to the musculoskeletal system.
- Properly warm up and cool down your dog during a workout. Be mindful that senior dogs take longer to warm up, especially if they have osteoarthritis or muscular strains. Spend five to 10 minutes walking and then jogging to warm up the soft tissues (muscles, tendons and ligaments) to help reduce straining. After training, spend five to 10 minutes jogging and then walking to keep blood pumping through the muscles and heart to help flush out toxins built up during exercise.
- During the off-season continue to monitor your dog’s musculoskeletal system at least monthly by having him flex and extend his toes, wrist and elbow. You also should check his gait looking for signs of limping or soreness.
A dog’s whitening muzzle, graying coat and changing body condition combined with a noticeable decrease in his ability to see and hear are prominent signs of aging. Less obvious are the physiological changes that go along with growing older.

These physiological changes create a slowdown in a dog’s energy needs. The good news is that by using a common-sense approach to an aging dog’s changing nutritional needs, you can help offset many of the negative effects of old age. Although healthy aging starts with providing proper nutrition throughout a dog’s life, it is never too late to begin feeding a diet to match a dog’s individual nutritional needs.

“As a dog reaches his senior years, around age 7, a thorough nutritional assessment should be completed as part of a geriatric screening examination,” advises Purina Research Scientist Dottie Laflamme, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVN.

“The nutritional profile of a dog’s dietary intake, including any treats and table foods fed, should be compared against the dog’s individual needs. Feeding to maintain ideal body condition despite the decrease in energy requirements that occurs with age has multiple health benefits.”

From a dietary perspective, preventing obesity is the most important thing an owner can do to promote a dog’s health and well-being. Not only is obesity a risk factor for osteoarthritis and other health conditions, it also contributes to shortened life span. In a 14-year Purina study, dogs fed to maintain lean body condition throughout their lives had a median life span of 1.8 years longer than their heavier, paired littermates. Additionally, the age at which the lean-fed dogs were treated for certain health conditions was delayed compared to their littermates.

“Besides osteoarthritis, overweight dogs may be at greater risk for diseases such as diabetes mellitus, respiratory and cardiovascular disorders, and cancer,” Dr. Laflamme says. “Obesity is an inflammatory condition that causes an increase in oxidative stress.”

Senior dogs should be fed complete and balanced nutrition that contains an optimal blend of vitamins, minerals and other nutrients to help support their joints and other tissues. Dog foods with long-chain omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, specifically EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) from fish oil, help to reduce inflammation such as that caused by obesity. A dog’s maintenance energy requirements (MER) decrease with age due to decreases in lean body mass and activity level. Neutering not only can reduce MER, it also can stimulate appetite. If energy intake, or food consumption, does not likewise decrease, a dog could become overweight or obese. Feeding table foods, treats and high-fat diets also can contribute to obesity.

Obese and overweight dogs should be fed weight-loss diets or low-calorie foods with an increased proportion of essential nutrients to calories. Feeding high-calorie foods may require an inappropriate reduction in the volume of food that could cause dogs to feel hungry and an inappropriate reduction of essential nutrients. Dietary protein is important in weight-loss diets because it promotes lean body mass and muscle strength. Dietary fiber has a low digestibility and when combined with high protein provides enhanced satiety so a dog feels fuller. Older dogs need high protein to offset the detrimental effect of aging on protein turnover, the process in which the body catabolizes spent protein and makes new proteins needed by the body. Inadequate protein intake increases the rate of loss of lean body mass.

“Studies show that there is at least a 50 percent increase in the dietary protein requirement in elderly dogs,” says Joseph J. Wakshlag, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVN, DACVSMR, associate professor at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. “It is very important to feed higher protein diets to maintain lean body mass in muscle-wasted elderly dogs.”

Weight loss occurs when there is a negative energy balance. Feeding a low-calorie food with increased protein and nutrient-to-calorie ratio is best because it helps to minimize the loss of lean body mass. Feeding a senior dog an appropriate diet, managing meal portions and promoting increased activity all contribute to a negative energy balance and effective weight loss.

**Key Nutrient Considerations**

Senior dogs should be fed foods that contain:

- Complete and balanced nutrition
- A minimum of 25 percent protein from a good quality protein source
- Long-chain omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids with EPA and DHA from fish oil to reduce the inflammatory effects of obesity and being overweight
- Overweight and inactive dogs should be fed lower calorie foods with an increased nutrient-to-calorie ratio
After a lifetime of excited tail wagging, loyal companionship and memorable moments with your dog, you come home from work and your buddy is no longer at the front door to greet you. Rover’s sacked out on his doggy bed snoozing away, while you stand there wondering what has happened. Where did the display of liveliness and affection go that you’ve come to find irresistible?

Sure, he’s getting a little gray around the muzzle, he walks a little slower and last week he wasn’t interested in a game of catch. Your dog’s changing behavior may be more than simply aging. Pet owners may be unaware of a common condition called cognitive dysfunction syndrome (CDS), similar to Alzheimer’s disease in humans.

"Cognitive dysfunction syndrome is related to the aging of the dog’s brain," explains Gary Landsberg, DVM, BSc, veterinary behaviorist at North Toronto Animal Clinic in Thornhill, Ontario, Canada. "No one knows the exact cause, but beta-amyloid peptides (protein) are present in the brain, as well as an increase in toxic free radicals and possible circulatory problems that contribute to neurons dying off with signs of aging and dementia."

The brain ages like any other organ in the body, resulting in a deterioration of how your dog thinks, learns and remembers, which in turn alters both your life and your dog’s.

If you want to test your own dog for this condition, here’s an informal test you can conduct on your own. "Take a dog, show him two different containers, one orange and one green," says Dr. Landsberg. "Cover them up, put food underneath one of them. The dog must learn which container covers the food. Older dogs and younger dogs get that pretty much the same. Then if you change it, the older dog doesn’t get it." This experiment highlights the point that older dogs have a harder time competing due to deficits in learning abilities.

You can help your dog with CDS. Routine activities can be calming to dogs with this disease and make them more comfortable at home. Don’t rearrange the furniture as that can be upsetting to an older dog. Get rid of clutter in order to provide wider pathways for your dog that might not be so steady on his feet. Develop a routine schedule for feeding, watering and walking.

If you suspect your geriatric dog might be suffering from CDS, make an appointment with your veterinarian for an examination, along with laboratory tests that include blood and urine, to rule out other possible causes. Any additional tests would only be performed if the veterinarian finds some other problem. Dean Henricks, DVM, president of the California Veterinary Medical Association in Sacramento, Calif, stresses that while medications and an antioxidant diet can help offset the symptoms of CDS, ultimately there is no cure.

The results of medication and diet are unpredictable. "I have used medication and diet and seen no effect. Then again, I’ve used the same medications and diet and seen less cognitive deficits," says Dr. Henricks. "We just finished testing Senilife and Novofit (Sam-e) medications that show..."
improved learning and memory," says Dr. Landsberg. "There is also Selegeline (Anipryl), which has been shown to improve CDS with this drug therapy. These medications are all licensed and tested in laboratories."

If these medications don't work, and your dog is waking up at night, treat the signs and give a sleep aid. It's always a good idea to treat the medical problems, but because they're older dogs, they may also have health issues such as arthritis. Then you need to find new ways to keep them active while treating their arthritis.

In addition to medication, another recommended treatment for dogs experiencing CDS is more physical activity, good food, and more brain enrichment such as food puzzles, games, and agility training. Physical and mental activity keeps the brain active.

Seldom is CDS life threatening in itself, but the disease can affect the bond between dog and owner if your pet is disoriented. You may find that your interaction and you and your dog’s quality of life is not what it used to be.

The onset of CDS varies with age. "Not all dogs develop signs of cognitive dysfunction, much as all people don't develop senility," Dr. Landsberg warns. "Some dogs decline as early as six to eight years old, but we may not see clinical signs in a dog until age nine to 11. However, laboratory tests may be able to detect earlier changes."

A veterinarian should see aging dogs without signs of cognitive dysfunction twice a year. Changes can happen quickly and will be seen in a blood study before you will see any outward alterations in behavior.

Be vigilant and let your veterinarian know of any behavior changes, and don't dismiss CDS behavior as simply old age.

Don't tolerate cognitive dysfunction syndrome longer than is necessary. If you think your dog might suffer from cognitive dysfunction syndrome, seek help immediately. If you wait too long before taking your geriatric dog to the veterinarian, he may become incontinent. Don't let that happen to your best animal friend.

For information on Nutrition and how it can help improve the effect of cognitive dysfunction in older dogs, see http://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/your-dogs-health/senior-dog-health/nutrition-can-help-improve.html

Nine Questions to Consider When Planning Your Pet’s End-of-Life Care

By Laurel Logoni, M.S.

When you find yourself caring for your ill or aging pet, you may be facing a more difficult situation than you had anticipated. For instance, there may be many sleepless nights as you tend to your pet’s needs (or simply lie awake worrying). Or, there may be physically exhausting tasks, like carrying your big dog outdoors or cleaning up mess after mess if he or she is incontinent. And, then, there is the endless list of decisions that, sooner or later, you must consider. These include dilemmas like, “Which treatment is best for my pet, as well as for me and my family?” “Can I afford these treatments?” “Should I consult with a veterinary specialist or seek out a clinical trial for my pet?” Thinking through all of these decisions can be a dreaded and overwhelming task. However, research and clinical experience show that it may be easier and less overwhelming for you if you can make these crucial choices now, before your pet is in the midst of a medical crisis. Even though the caregiving process is taxing and hectic, now is when you are relatively calm and clear-headed. Why not take advantage of these qualities to create the best end-of-life plan for you and your pet? Being informed, prepared and mindful as you move through the decision-making process can help. When you feel your answers are complete, please share your decisions and plans with your veterinary team.

1. What medical information do you still need in order to make decisions for your pet? What aspects of your pet’s condition require further clarification from your veterinarian?

2. What do you need to understand about the treatment options you are considering for your pet? For instance, are there side effects from the recommended medications/treatments (like chemotherapy) that could be difficult to deal with? Is the recovery time and rehab process after surgery realistic for your lifestyle and financial situation?

3. What is a realistic budget that you can afford in order to care for your pet? Also, what emotional costs, as well as time investment, are you and your family able/willing to devote to your pet’s care?

4. How will you include and involve your children in your pet’s end-of-life care, as well as in the decision-making process about death or euthanasia? What resources might help you if you need to learn more?
5. What do you think your pet wants? What signs will serve as a signal to you that your pet is no longer enjoying life? (See Quality of Life Scale that follows this article.)

6. If your veterinary clinic offers a veterinary hospice or palliative care service, or if there is one available in your community, is hospice care something you are willing to pay for and commit to for your pet?

7. What do you want to say or do for your pet before he or she dies? For instance, do you want to take a last hike, say “thank you” for the many years of friendship, or seek out the resources that will help you deal with your pet’s loss?

8. What do you need to know about how/where/when your veterinary team will perform euthanasia? For instance, does your veterinary team offer in-home euthanasia or is there a referral practice in your community that provides this service?

9. What body care options are available to you via your veterinary clinic? While cremation is the most common choice offered by veterinarians, other options may be more suited to your needs. Making caregiving and end-of-life decisions for your pet can be the most stressful part of being a pet parent. But, it can also be the most loving. Please be gentle with yourself and remember that every decision you make for your pet comes from a place of deep love and respect.

This article was abridged. For full document, see http://www.veterinarywisdomprofessionals.com/resource_center/help_for_clients/client_handouts/nine_questions_to_consider_when_planning_your_pets_end_of_life_care?utm_source=July+2014+Newsletter&utm_campaign=July+Newsletter&utm_medium=email

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**Quality Of Life Scale**

Alice Villalobos, DVM, DPNAP, a renowned veterinary oncologist, introduced “Pawspice”, a quality of life program for terminally ill pets. Pawspice starts at diagnosis and includes symptom management, gentle standard care and transitions into hospice as the pet nears death. Dr. Villalobos developed a scoring system to help family members and veterinary teams assess a pet’s life quality, *The HHHHHMM Quality of Life Scale*. The five H’s stand for: Hurt, Hunger, Hydration, Hygiene and Happiness. The two M’s stand for Mobility and More good days than bad. The QoL scale is also a helpful decision making tool to assist pet lovers in the difficult process of making the final call for the gift of euthanasia to provide a peaceful and painless passing for their beloved pet. Available for download at www.pawspice.com.

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<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>HURT - Adequate pain control &amp; breathing ability is of top concern. Trouble breathing outweighs all concerns. Is the pet’s pain well managed? Can the pet breathe properly? Is oxygen supplementation necessary?</td>
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<td>0-10</td>
<td>HUNGER - Is the pet eating enough? Does hand feeding help? Does the pet need a feeding tube?</td>
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<td>HYDRATION - Is the pet dehydrated? For patients not drinking enough water, use subcutaneous fluids daily or twice daily to supplement fluid intake.</td>
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<td>HYGIENE - The pet should be brushed and cleaned, particularly after eliminations. Avoid pressure sores with soft bedding and keep all wounds clean.</td>
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<td>0-10</td>
<td>HAPPINESS - Does the pet express joy and interest? Is the pet responsive to family, toys, etc.? Is the pet depressed, lonely, anxious, bored or afraid? Can the pet’s bed be moved to be close to family activities?</td>
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<td>0-10</td>
<td>MOBILITY - Can the pet get up without assistance? Does the pet need human or mechanical help (e.g., a cart)? Does the pet feel like going for a walk? Is the pet having seizures or stumbling? (Some caregivers feel euthanasia is preferable to amputation, but an animal with limited mobility yet still alert, happy and responsive can have a good quality of life as long as caregivers are committed to helping their pet.)</td>
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<td>0-10</td>
<td>MORE GOOD DAYS THAN BAD - When bad days outnumber good days, quality of life might be too compromised. When a healthy human-animal bond is no longer possible, the caregiver must be made aware that the end is near. The decision for euthanasia needs to be made if the pet is suffering. If death comes peacefully and painlessly at home, that is okay.</td>
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TOTAL *A total over 35 points represents acceptable life quality to continue with pet hospice (Pawspice).*

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Wheatens and the SCWT Club of Greater St. Louis to celebrate good times at the May 29, 2015 Specialty. The weekend marked the 35th anniversary of the St. Louis Club. Exhibitors came from WA, CA, AL, TX, MI, OH, IA, IL, OK, NE, AZ, CO, GA, SC, IN, VA, NC, MO and ON, Canada. We were honored with an entry of 62 Wheatens for Specialty Judge Geir Flyckt-Pedersen and 25 puppy entries for Sweepstakes Judge Karen Mueller. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Specialty trophies were custom designed pottery pieces from local craftsmen at Mississippi Mud Pottery. Sweeps winners received a canvas tote bag embroidered with our "celebrating Wheaten". The “Celebrate” logo was designed by Darcie Olson. As a result of generous donations, Trophy Chair Jinx Moore selected Wheaten-themed trophies for the other four weekend shows. Trophies included canvas wine totes filled with Chris Christensen products generously donated by Club members Jeannine and Tony Salvati of D'Artagan’s Pets. On other days the prizes were Wheaten decorated items by Sara England and embroidered towels. Thanks to SCWTCA for supporting the entry on Sunday!

Friday evening, guests toasted the Specialty with local wine offered by Mt. Pleasant winery, while shopping the Club's boutique and bidding on silent auction items. The boutique and silent auction were followed by a delicious buffet dinner in the Purina Event Center Cafe. Diane Watson created floral Wheaten centerpieces and logo-decorated bags of chocolate truffles for each table.

The boutique, chaired by Cindy Shea, featured embroidered t-shirts, vests and denim shirts as well as custom designed cards by Cindy and by Diane Watson. Diane’s beautiful stuffed Wheatens were snatched up in no time by eager guests. Bonnie Kanter and Robyn and Jack Nawrot spearheaded the silent auction that featured Wheaten art, hand painted items, jewelry and other items. Friendly bidding “wars” occurred adding to the evening’s camaraderie.

A hospitality area was set up in the RV lot where our guests could enjoy snacks and beverages each day. Club members Jinx Moore, Cindy and Dennis Shea, and Bonnie Kanter and guests Molly O’Connell and Meg Ryan arrived early Wednesday to set up tenting, tables and coolers. Dennis Shea and Jan Van Ness replenished supplies during the weekend. Jean Mennen’s famous homemade cookies were quite the hit.

This year Cindy Jansen, Deborah Tumulty, Jean Mennen and Jan Van Ness managed our first raffle at the all-breed show on Saturday showcasing wonderful items for dogs and humans donated by Club members and friends. Thanks to our Wheaten friends for purchasing raffle tickets!

Tony and Jeannine Salvati joined forces with JoAnne Vogt to arrange Saturday night’s casual dinner. Tony and Jeannine worked wonders to find a covered onsite venue for the BBQ dinner from multi-award winning Super Smokers in Gray Summit, MO. Denise Daniels claims it’s the best meat she has ever eaten, going back for seconds ... and thirds?

Missouri weather is dynamic and generally it was cooperative, raining while we were showing indoors! The onsite dog bathing room was brimming with Wheatens, the "place to be seen" in the morning hours, a wonderful perk of this show venue.

Major points, bathing tubs, reserved grooming space, air conditioned facility, non-slip flooring, good food, drink, fun, camaraderie, great prizes, casual atmosphere . . . What more could you want? See you next year at the St. Louis Specialty on June 3, 2016!
Judge’s Critique, 5/29 Sweepstakes: Karen Mueller

I was so looking forward to judging Sweepstakes at the Purina Event Center and I was not disappointed. The facility is wonderful and the St. Louis club does an outstanding job organizing the whole weekend. With such a nice number of entries I knew it would be a good time and I would see some really nice dogs. Again, I wasn’t disappointed and my final line up made me smile and then think, “now what?”

I awarded Best in Sweepstakes to Sam Hill’s Happy a young dog who, though his coat needs to mature, has a lovely head piece with a very pleasing expression. He has proper side movement and is true front and rear. He is moderate and not overdone. It will be fun to see how he matures.

Best of Opposite in Sweeps went to Stratford You’ve Got Mail. This bitch has a nice head with proper-sized ears. She covered ground effortlessly and was balanced front and rear. She could use more color but that should come with age.

Overall the entry was quite nice. I think we still need to work on the size of the ears and tail sets. I was pleased with most of the temperaments and presentation was quite good on most. We also need to remember more is not always better, especially if it throws balance off. The Wheaten is to be moderate in structure, not overly exaggerated.

What fun it was to get to put my hands on all of these young dogs and to enjoy the hospitality of the St. Louis club.

Best In Sweeps: Sam Hill’s Happy
CH Aran Walks On Water x CH Sam Hill’s I Told You I Was Trouble CD RN AX MXJ
Breeders: Alison Bradley, Amy Havely and Vicki Noah
Owners: Amy Havely and Vicki Noah

BOS Sweeps: Stratford You’ve Got Mail
GCH Heirloom Nobody Does It Better x GCH Stratford Fashionista
Breeders: M. O’Connell, B. Gillett and K. Kotzelnick
Owner: Molly O’Connell

Judge’s Critique, 5/29 Specialty : Geir Flyckt-Pedersen

First of all: Thanks for the opportunity to judge your shows and see the breed in “numbers” which we so rarely get a chance to at regular, local shows. An entry of 62 was in my opinion excellent, but my promise to give individual critiques could not be kept due to the total entry I had for the day, which meant that 75 dogs had to be moved to another judge.

One or two of you might already have heard me bragging that (although at that time mainly involved with Welsh Terriers, Wire Fox terriers and English Cocker) I had the pleasure of making the first ever Norwegian Champion of your breed in 1967. Her name was Sweet Sorrell, (by Kelly of Binheath x Binheath Biddy) was born in England and imported by a friend of mine who also brought in a male named Yarina Lord (by Seamus of Binheath x Tilby of Bluehatch). Sadly he was undershot- so lived his life as a pet.

We could never find a suitable partner with good coat and perfect mouth for this bitch, so she never was bred from, but my partner at the time Aase Tofte (a great lady and horsewoman) became really taken with the breed and later imported another bitch from England, Tinkinswood Athena (by Brownsbank Fin McCool x Mareehay’s Kay of Tinkinswood) who did a fair bit of winning. Well, I don’t think Sorrell would have had much success in today’s competition, but she
Side-gait was generally ok, but some rather wide in front, a lot of them very close behind and a number sadly cow-hocked, both standing and moving.

Coat should be soft and silky. Not soft and fluffy, and regarding color I know there are conflicting ideas about what color is true wheaten. I don’t think I saw any really red ones which is a serious fault, but a few very pale and close to white. Wheaten is part of the breed name, so don’t forget about it…

The UK and FCI standards both ask for a scissors bite. In the US scissor or level. I don’t know why this has happened, but someone with a lot of influence must have had a problem breeding perfect mouths? So ok, when in Rome, etc… I will accept a level bite. BUT a level bite means a level bite. All teeth in line and not like I saw in a number of dogs, even champions, as if thrown in at random-some under, some over and some in the middle. Whenever a standard gives some tolerance in an area like this there is a risk that things will just get worse and worse. In my humble opinion I think you as breeders should all aim for perfection- and in this case a scissors bite, with large white teeth. And then just accept that you don’t succeed every time! But never be too relaxed or too tolerant. Stick to the straight and narrow, however frustrating it might be at times.

Temperaments seemed all over excellent. In some cases a little more terrier spirit would have helped. Also the sporting way you all seemed to accept my decisions was greatly appreciated.

American breeders have done a great job getting the breed to where it is today and hopefully the current generation of breeders will continue the way forwards and upwards, which can only happen if you keep your eyes open and are able to objectively look at your own dogs. Good Luck!

W/B to WD: Keepsake Timtara Jedi Master
Ch Mackanme One Love One Heart x Keepsake Timtara Remember Me
Owners: Octavia Hristea and Shari Robinson

WB: Star Head Above The Clouds
GCH Greentree Real Quiet x CH Star Living The Dream
Breeder: Denise Daniel
Owners: Jenifer Piser and Denise Daniel
## Weekend At A Glance

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**BOB/TERRIER GROUP 1:** GCH Bryr Rose Matisse  
GCH Greentree Keepsake Surfin USA x CH Bryr Rose French Kiss  
Breeders: Jeanne Ferris  
Owners: E. Koharik, J Koharik, and J. Ferris

**BOS:** CH Jendu Joyful Spirit  
GCH Sundance Second Chance x CH Jendu Free Spirit  
Breeders/Owners: Dana Barton & Catherine Perron
The party is over and a good time was had by all!

Three beautiful days of dog shows, friendship and fun by the water in Long Beach, CA.

Kudos to the following: Theme artwork by artist and dear friend Beth Babos, advertisements compiled by Kay Baird, web communications and post card design, thanks to Michele Montes-Capton and Connie Koehler. Webmaster Michael Larson.

Cecily Skinner did the dreaded paper work, a great help to me, and a huge thank you to our esteemed treasurer Jackie Whitham. For the first time in many years our dear Karla Cohen was not able to attend, but we thank her for the trophy letters and selections.

The ring was exceptional, designed and constructed by Laura and Conrad Virant and Debbie Bowen. The signature archway assembled by Mike Smith was decorated with sea shells. Woodcut wheaten dressed in bikinis and beach clothes were placed around the ring and a woodcut car ready to drive them to the beach... such fun!

The trophy table, decorated by Laura, sported crystal trophies on Friday, and trophies created by our own Merrillee Ford on Sunday. Wendell August medallions were offered on Saturday, a supported entry by SCWTCA. An array of specialty theme merchandise was on sale in lovely beach colors, and morning hospitality was offered all three days, donated and served by club members.

The raffle was splendid! So many wonderful gifts on offer. The baskets of goodies were put together by Beverly Streicher and Connie Koehler. The star prize was a magnificent coffee maker, together with a grinder, coffee and mugs. We are all going to visit Sheryl Beitch for coffee! The boutique was also a great success. Vendors offered an array of outstanding items, and unique artwork. Thanks to Miriam Kahan a busy girl, who coordinated the boutique as well as lunch and dinner reservations and organized the box lunches for distribution.

Dinner was once again catered by the now-famous Nana. A Mexican buffet was served to 70 guests. Thanks to Kathy Apogee who added her stylish touches. Charming table decorations included vintage cars carrying Wheats to the beach, made by Laura and Debbie that were raffled after dinner.

A lovely entry of Wheats strutted their stuff under the keen eyes of Wood Wornall on Friday, Chris Erickson on Saturday and Karen Wilson on Sunday. Sweeps was judged by Camille Bakker.

Congratulations to all the winners, and many thanks to our wonderful ring stewards Wilma Johnson and Lynn Aquire.

Much appreciation to everyone who helped set up the show and pack up afterward. Special thanks to Gilberto Chicol who hauled everything to storage.

I cannot say thank you enough to everyone, exhibitors, judges, club members, and to our lovely President, my dear friend Bonney Snyder, who was with us every step of the way.

6/19 SCWTCSC Specialty, Judge: Woody Wornall

Our sincere apologies; there is no Judge’s Critique for GWTA on Friday.

Also note, many of the photographs were either not available or of unusable quality.

The photos on the following pages are of the winners, but not necessarily taken on that exact day. We felt it better to include some photos that would enable us to enjoy seeing these beautiful dogs.
WD: Bonney Bushel and a Peck
Mackanme Foreign Affair V Bodasca x CH Bonney Apple of My Eye.
Breeders: Bonnie Snyder, Victoria and Dave Gosnell
Owner: Bonnie Snyder

WB/BW: Harbour Hill Gucci Gucci Goo
CH Pitterpat's Blue Bayou x CH Harbour Hill French Pastry
Breeders: Joan Wright, Becky Smith and Susan Sakauye
Owner: Susan Sakauye

RWD: Rosheen All That and a Smile
CH Whindancer Tied Together With A Smile x CH Rosheen Acacia Christmas Isle
Breeders: Melisa Lopez, Barbara Smith, and Gail Lopez
Owners: Eric Von Godenschwager, Reginald Martin, and Melisa Lopez

RWB: Lochlinear A Serendipitous Win
GCH Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching x GCH Serendipity's Urban Legend
Breeders: Pat Mullin and R. & C. Taylor
Owner: Pat Mullin

BOB: GCH Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising
CH Bryr Rose Nouvell Vague x CH Bryr Rose Flower Power
Breeder/Owner: Carolyn Garrett

BOS: Legacy Escapade Kolohe Collie
CH Legacy Wildwest Wildflower -- CH Avalon Noblesse Oblige
Breeders: Mary Brown, Sandra Amrosia & Glenn Amorosia
Owners: Cynthia Lilley & Mary Brown
AOM: GCH Legacy Gleanngay at Bonney (b)
GCH Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching x GCH Gleanngay Lady of the Lake
Breeders: Jon Caliri, Robert Green and Gay Dunlap
Owners: Bonita Snyder, Jon Caliri and Robert Green

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

AOM: GCH Atas Harbour Hill Take A Bao (d)
CH Mackanme Bradberry High Flyer x CH Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals
Breeders/Owners: Jeanine Flavel and Susan Sakuraue

AOM: GCH Pitterpat Allons-YI (d)
CH Derryhumma Mr Mistoffelees x CH PitterPat's Mabe Funke
Breeders: Sheryl J. Beitch & Julia Campbell
Owners: Karen & George Davis and Sheryl J. Beitch

AOM: GCH Serendipity's Urban Legend (b)
GCH Gleanngay Legend of the Grail x Serendipity's Mamma Mia
Breeder: Ferol Stanford
Owners: Camille & Richard Taylor

SD: GCH Atas Grauman's Gypsy Run Through
GCH Dundalk Put Me In Coach x CH Westridge Back To Limerick
Breeders: Jeanine Flavell and Ilze Barron
Owners: Michelle Montes-Capton and Jeanine Flavell

SB: GCH Atas Dim Sum Lights
CH Mackanme Bradberry High Flyer x CH Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals
Breeders/Owners: Jeanine Flavel and Susan Sakuraue
6/21 Judge’s Critique, SCWTCSC Sweepstakes: Camille L. Bakker

9 to 12 month PD - 1st place #9 - It was difficult to "judge" this youngster as he was happy and lacking in training. He had a nice head, well placed ears, good shape to the eye and dark color; good bite; pleasing expression; coat needs some conditioning as it felt dry. He was a bit straight in the shoulder and lacked reach on the move; a bit close on his rear. Good top line and tail set and held a nice shape on the move when he was behaving.

12 to 15 month Dog - 1st place #15 - This exhibit had a nice head, with properly placed ears, good shape to eye and nice expression. Nice coat with good texture. He was a tad loose on his front and good on his rear. Held a lovely shape on the side movement with a good top line and tail set. He was a tad taller than I prefer, but overall a good young dog, and my BOSS.

6 to 9 month PB - 1st place #14 - One stubborn, but pretty girl. This was my BISS… I loved nearly everything about her. Good bite, lovely head, properly placed ears, and lovely dark eye. Lovely neck into shoulders. Solid top line and when not being stubborn had lovely carriage when on her side gate. When being stubborn she would relax her tail a bit and ever so slightly alter her shape. Very nice coming and going with good foot fall. Coat was a tad "fluffy" if you will, but acceptable for her age. This would be a bitch to build a foundation on.

2nd place #8 - A nice exhibit who also had a good head, well placed ears, nice shape to the eye and nice expression. Coat texture felt a bit dry which could be due to age. Nice side gate with good top line. She felt a bit upright on her front and was not as clean coming at me as my first place bitch. Good on her rear.

3rd place #3 - She too had a good head, ear set, good eye, and good expression. Her coat felt a bit "stringy", not full like the other two competitors. She felt a bit upright and a bit forward in her shoulder set, and her down and back were not her fortune. She was tending to side-wind and that did make judging her a bit difficult. She did hold good top line on the side move and she had a nice tail set and carriage.

12-18 month Bitch - 1st place #22 - Again an exhibit with a good head, eye shape and color, good ear placement, and nice expression. Coat texture was good, but overall condition could have been better, this too could be to age. This exhibit was a tad overweight, but did carry herself nicely on the side holding a very nice shape. I would have liked to see her reach and drive a bit more, but her handler had an obvious foot injury and I give her credit for moving not only herself, but her exhibit as well as she did. She was a tad wide coming back at me, but good on her rear.

Overall, I had a group of puppies and young adults that brought forth great temperaments and in general behaved themselves! I found heads to be in good proportion, with nice breadths to muzzles, nice balance to back skulls, and properly placed ears. All the exhibits had good strong under jaws, and only a few questionable bites. Shoulders and fronts could have been better, but I also kept in mind that age could play a factor on the day. Rears in general were very nice with well let down hocks; I did not observe any "sickle" or "cow" hocks. There were no bad top lines and for the most part the exhibits held nice shape and carriage on their side gate. Coats and texture were good for the most part, and again, I took age into consideration.

Thank you to the membership for having me judge your Sweepstakes Classes, it was nice to be in the ring without a leash in my hand! I do love the breed and enjoyed my entries. Thanks to my ring stewards for keeping my ring moving along, and to exhibitors who supported my entry.

Best In Sweeps: Lochlinear A Serendipitous Win (b)
GCH Lochlinear Gleannagay Cha Ching x GCH Serendipity’s Urban Legend
Breeders: Pat Mullin and R. & C. Taylor
Owner: Pat Mullin

BOS Sweeps: Harbour Hill at Neiman Marcus (d)
CH Pitterpats Blue Bayou x CH Harbour Hill French Pastry
Breeders: Susan Sakauye, Joan Wright, and Becky Smith
Owner: Susan K. Sakauye

Official publication of the SCWTCSC, Inc, volume 43, number 3, Sept. 2015 pg 61
It was a pleasure to judge the Specialty for the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California during the Great Western Terrier weekend. It is always an honor to be asked to judge a specialty show.

My sincere thanks to my very capable ring stewards - they kept the dogs coming in at a pace which I like to judge, and also made sure there was shade available for the dogs on this very sunny, warm, California day.

I chose a very nice young dog from the 12-18 mo. class for Winners Dog - Rosheen All That And A Smile. He was of proper size, square in outline, alert and happy. The Reserve Winners Dog was from the Open Class - also a moderate dog in presentation and structure.

The Winners Bitch and Best of Winners (from the very competitive Bred by Exhibitors Bitch Class) was Lochlinear A Serendipitous Win. She was well balanced, square in outline, with a gently waving, silky, soft coat that was a warm wheaten color. She really caught my eye when she came in the ring, and I was pleased that she was the final winner. Reserve Winners Bitch was a lovely Bitch from the Open Class who showed well and was happy and alert, with an air of self-confidence.

The Best of Breed class had many nice Wheatens that on any given day could be the final winner.
My choice was **GCH BRYR ROSE PHOENIX RISING**. He came in the ring with a super attitude of self-confidence, was alert and showed gaily. His coat was in top condition and he was “good on all four legs,” with free and lively movement. Good reach in front and strong behind. A standout on the day.

Best of Opposite Sex was **Serenditity’s Urban Legend**, a delightful bitch with proper coat and color who showed well on this warm day.

I only had a couple of areas of concern - rear movement that was too close on some with not enough reach in front to present a balanced picture. The temperament on a couple of dogs was not very steady - perhaps they just needed more in-the-ring time. Size always seems to be an issue... Something that needs to be watch a little closer.

Coats were generally good for this time of year - and most grooming was not overdone.

All in all it was an enjoyable time in the ring. I thank you all for your good sportsmanship. You endured the heat as well as the dogs did!

**BOB: GCH Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising (d)**
CH Bryr Rose Nouvell Vague x CH Bryr Rose Flower Power
Breeder/Owner: Carolyn Garrett

**SD: GCH Bryr Rose Matisse**
GCH Greentree Keepsake Surfin USA x CH Bryr Rose French Kiss
Breeder: Jeanne Ferris.
Owners: E. Koharik & J. Koharik and J. Ferris

**BOS: GCH Serendipity’s Urban Legend**
GCH Gleenngay Legend of the Grail x Serendipity’s Mamma Mia
Breeder: Ferol Stanford
Owner: Camille & Richard Taylor

**SB: GCH Atlas Dim Sum Lights**
CH Mackanme Bradberry High Flyer – CH Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals
Breeders/Owners: Jeanine Flavel & Susan Sakuye

Thanks for inviting me to judge your wonderful breed.

Warmest regards,
Karen Wilson
Weekend At A Glance

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<td>Breeder/Owner: Shelly Sumner</td>
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AOM: GCH Atas Grauman’s Gypsy Run Through (d)
GCH Dundalk Put Me In Coach x
CH Westridge Back To Limerick
Breeders: Jeanine Flavell & Ilze Barron
Owners: Michelle Montes-Capton & Jeanine Flavell

AOM: GCH Touchstone Spook-Tacular (b)
CH Reflections Here Comes the Sun x
CH Touchstone Polka Dot
Breeder/Owner: Shelly Sumner

AOM: GCH Pitterpat Allons-YI (d)
CH Derryhumma Mr Mistoffeleees x
CH PitterPat’s Mabe Funke
Breeders: Sheryl J. Beitch & Julia Campbell
Owners: Karen & George Davis & Sheryl J. Beitch

遂, Dora, how was your date with that hunky black labrador last night? I don’t want to talk about it, it’s too upsetting.

DID HE TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU?

YOU CAN TELL US, SWEETHEART, WAS HE A PERVERT?

SOB! HE EATS HIS OWN POO!
Welcome New Open Registry Members

July 30, 2015

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 Wheaten 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.

Ashley Ambrose ~ JoAnn Budraitis ~ Liz Jamiolkowski
Ed & Janet Koharki ~ Gail & Thomas Richvalsky

Please remember to support Wheaten Health with your tax-free donations.
Checks payable to SCWTCA Endowment.
Keep in mind the Open Registry is an important tool in our tool box as breeders.
We need your continued support and participation.

Test Your Wheaten IQ...

Answers
How did you do?

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A note from your Editors:

Our December issue of Benchmarks will feature the Wheaten IQ on grooming.
The Wheaten Health News will focus on the most current news in canine health from the biennial Parent Club Conference, presented by AKC-CHF

Remember, Benchmarks is your publication, so please send us your ideas, input, and articles you’d like to see in the future.
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 / provisional SCWT judges. Benchmarks is sent to all judges requesting a subscription, free of charge.

Articles and letters closing date for December 2015 issue: Nov 1

Advertising Rates

Full Page/B&W in print, color on-line: $50
Back Cover/color: $100
Inside Covers or inside single/color: $75
Center fold 2 page spread/color: $200
Page size is 8.5 x 11 inches
Ads may be sent via email attachments, photos 300 dpi (300 kb), jpeg format. Original photos sent to Editor, 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 December 2015 issue: Nov 1

Send advertising to Helen Fraguela, at fraguela@aol.com or via mail to 7221 W. Cypresshead Dr. Parkland, FL 33067. If sent by overnight service, sign “signature waiver” (so driver will leave package). If you have copy submitted by due date, draft layouts will be sent to you for edits. Include email address for quick turnaround. Payment sent to the editor, payable to SCWTCA.

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Mary Ann Curtis, directory@scwtca.org
Robyn Alexander, web@scwtca.org
board@scwtca.org
http://www.offa.org
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This little girl can do it all...

Krista

Canadian CH Holweit’s Red Grenadine
CGCA, CGCU, RN (CKC/AKC), Therapy Dog THD (AKC) Herding Tested HT (AKC)

SCWT Association of Canada’s 2015 Wheaten Ambassador

We are delighted that Krista was chosen for this award. Krista has proven herself both in and out of the show and performance rings with courageous tenacity and drive, but her greatest joy and accomplishment is her work as a therapy dog, making others happy with her presence. She is also a therapy evaluator test dog. In her spare time Krista enjoys dock diving, barn hunting, stand up paddle boarding, skijoring and hiking. Lately she is working on her Trick Dog Expert Title with the “Do More With Your Dog” program.

Krista’s brother, Duffy, was the first Holweit to be honored with this prestigious SCWTAC Wheaten Ambassador Award.

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