Once you bring life into the world, you must protect it!

Elie Wiesel
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This endearing photo, taken by Anne Kruger in Germany, is her lovely "Wheaten My Love You and Me," caring for her young pup.
From the President

Members of the SCWTCA often refer to themselves as “hobby breeders”. We use the term with pride, and stress to potential puppy buyers that this is what sets us apart from back yard breeders and puppy mills. As we make the decision to breed our next litter, are we confident that this is still a hobby or has it turned into something different? Do we still feel a passion for the breed? Are we breeding for the love and betterment of our breed? Do we have the time to fully support our puppy owners throughout the life of their dog? Have we carefully considered health and temperament in our breeding choices?

When we speak with puppy buyers, we point to the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America’s “Code of Ethics” to indicate why, as SCWTCA members, we consider ourselves responsible breeders. Last Spring the SCWTCA Board appointed a committee of five qualified club members with many years of breed experience to review our Code of Ethics. The members of this committee spent countless hours crafting a document that would reflect the most current recommendations from veterinary and reproductive specialists.

It is important to remember that the Code of Ethics in NOT a policing tool and shouldn’t be viewed as something that limits our individual decisions as breeders. Rather, it is a set of guidelines that distinguishes us as reputable hobby breeders. It demonstrates to potential puppy buyers that we are doing our utmost to breed dogs that are sound of mind and body, and who will represent the wonderful qualities that make our breed so special.

In the coming weeks, SCWTCA members will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed changes to the current Code of Ethics. Please know that the COE Committee has made every effort to ensure that this document represents the best of our values and ideals as breeders and owners. As guardians of the breed, we should strive for nothing less.

Cecily Skinner

“I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive.” Gilda Radner

From the Editors

According to the ASPCA, 1.2 million dogs are euthanized in shelters every year; 25% to 30% of these are “purebred” dogs. Does this shock you as it does me? With the seeming overpopulation of dogs in the U.S., there is only one responsible reason for breeding...to improve and preserve the breed. Breeding is not a casual undertaking, and it requires an understanding of science, especially in a breed like ours with a fairly limited gene pool. It is incredibly time consuming, costly, and occasionally heartbreaking. Having experienced both PLN and RD in decades past, I know too well the potential heartbreak and onerous responsibility that comes with breeding. I have learned that it is not for the “faint of heart.” But, yes, on the other hand, it is also one of the most rewarding and awesome accomplishments of my life. Breeding that wonderful show dog and top producer, as well as that incredible family pet that changes lives for the better, is simply amazing.
As a small hobby breeder, my goal is to produce healthy, well-socialized Wheaten Terriers that positively contribute to the breed and conform to the AKC standard. I typically breed when I have specific show homes waiting, owe a puppy back to a breeder, or plan to keep a pup.

While we all strive to breed that perfect dog, a significant percentage of our pups are sold as pets. These pups are as much our responsibility as that Best in Show winner. We must support these owners in every way possible: to teach and help with grooming, maintenance and training, to be there when they have questions or needs, to be prepared when a crisis requires taking a puppy back, and to give them the same time and attention we give our show pups. A common family situation such as divorce, illness, or relocation can easily force the need for re-homing a dog. Continuous contact with all our puppy owners can prevent a tragic placement. This is what keeps our well-bred Wheatens out of shelters and out of the statistics.

Over the last year, Benchmarks Wheaten IQ has focused on what is correct in this breed by emphasizing the elements that make the perfect Wheaten. In this issue, we hone in on breeding (both with Wheaten IQ and WHN), and hopefully provide some helpful guidelines to make your breeding decisions and experiences a worthwhile and positive contribution to our beloved breed.

This issue also covers another training challenge: “barking,” my pet peeve. Plus, don’t miss the great article on Therapy Dogs. We also detail information regarding our upcoming Specialties and Supported Entries, including Eukanuba and Westminster summaries. Additionally, please read page 42, where we lay out our Benchmarks plan for the year. Get inspired! We want and need your participation in these important topics.

Pam’s Devil’s Advocate is focused on the need and the responsibility of members to contribute their time and talents in volunteer activities for the SCWTCA. Hopefully you will find areas of interest that will also inspire you to “get involved.” Note on page 53, Julie Burdick has listed some key areas where extra help is currently needed.

Helen Fraguela

Okay I’ll admit it; this issue includes my absolute favorite part of this hobby ... breeding! Is it just me or does a new litter of puppies never lose its thrill of the miracle of life? With every litter I’ve brought into this world, I feel such anticipation with each squirmly little baby so full of promise. Not only do I imagine how perfect they look ... taking note of their beautiful heads or long necks, or their shiny coats with rich red highlights, but I also am thrilled knowing I’ll have that precious life to grace the owner whose heart aches for a new furry friend.

Breeding is a huge responsibility, and we all know of its challenges, but for me the payback is huge. Thinking of the photos from past owners with the puppy who has become a much loved member of their family, or that win photo of the one who achieved everything you dreamed in the show ring, makes me forget all the hard work. I still cherish the photo of a puppy from my first litter that went Best in Sweeps in St Louis. The judge and my first mentor who showed the puppy have become close friends, and for me that win might as well have been a Best in Show! It was the start of a lifelong love affair with this breed.

This quarter we’re tackling Part I of our breeding series, with articles on topics to get you thinking of how you can create the best breeding combinations. Next quarter, we’ll continue with Part II in the series with more on Whelping & Rearing puppies, Development & Socialization and Evaluating litters to find your next super star.

Deb Van De Ven
Happy Birthday Seniors!

“Bumper”

CH Harbour Hill Speed Bump

(CH Harbour Hill Where’s My Blanket? x CH Harbour Hill Porsche Carrera)

01-11-2003

Loyal, funny, faithful and adorable, Bumper is the total package. He loved the show ring and became a Best of Breed winning Champion while still living with first mom/breeder Susan; then he came to live with us and our life changed forever. He has never forgotten first mom Susan and will immediately sniff out and confiscate any envelope or package that arrives in the mail from her, or leap into the air at the mere sight of her approaching, even after all these years.

After retiring from the show ring, he became an annual favorite of young and old during the holidays, whether it was climbing on Santa’s lap at the Christmas tree farm or ringing the bell on the corner for the Salvation Army. When he isn’t on mom’s lap keeping her safe and warm, you can find him spending his days hiking and playing in the north woods of Maine with mom, dad and his three furry, younger “siblings.”

Today at age 13, despite having contracted a debilitating tick-borne disease many years ago, he remains active and vibrant. He still plays with his toys and is not above teasing the younger dogs or romping through a fresh snowfall for the sheer joy of it. And when day is done, he curls up in his favorite spot and goes to sleep….on mom’s legs. His unceasing spunk and bright positive attitude in the face of his illness are an inspiration to us and a tribute to the courage and stamina of the breed and to his breeding.

Happy Birthday to our beautiful boy, Bumper, and his dear sister Hadleigh (Harbour Hill Freeway Diamond Lane)!

Sherrie & David Wight

“Wheatley”

Frolic’s Carnival Games

CH Greentree Charismatic Display x CH Frolic’s Pocketful of Dreams

11-25-2000

On November 25, 2015 the “Wheatster” turned a fabulous, frisky FIFTEEN! Amazingly, we found out, he still has a brother, Ralph, who is also living!

The Original Goob enjoyed being outside that morning in the frosty air - his favorite place to be. As with all first kids, he has taught us a lot of important lessons in the past 15 years - patience, forgiveness, and the importance of letting your loved ones spoon you when they need love. Wheatley is the dog that EVERYONE loves. He is the light of our lives, and we are so grateful for his presence. Thank you, Cherie, for trusting us with this special boy.

We love you so much Wheatley!! Momma, Dad and Sunnybird

Kris Jackson
Welcome New Members

Jo Ann Budraitis: Occupation-retired and thrilled to be a Dog Mom!

While growing up I had poodles. When my husband and I were looking to add a dog to our family, I remembered meeting a Wheaten in NYC before they were even recognized by the AKC. I instantly fell in love with the face, the personality, and the overall cuteness factor. In 1998 I began researching the breed to learn more. One phone call led to another as I worked down the list of breeders. After contacting several breeders, I reached Dennis Wirth who directed me to Marilyn Stowell. She was expecting a litter in June 1999, and we got our first wheaten, Mr. Higgins. In 2004, after attending many shows as a spectator, Bonnie and Dennis Wirth asked if we would like to add a female to our family. I knew my answer but had to convince my husband. A trip to Tallahassee where my husband sat on the couch, smothered with Wheaten kisses, sealed the deal. The result: Francie, born during Hurricane Frances, Canopy Road’s Sundance Kid, was going home with us. She became Hannah; today she is 11, loving and beautiful. I call her my “wild child.” Sadly we lost Mr. Higgins to cancer in 2011. Our house was not the same. That would change when we hit the Wheaten lottery, adding Brogan, CH Sundance’s Keepsake South of the Border, in January 2012. Thank you Sue and Don Wuerz for trusting us with this amazing wheaten! He and Hannah became instant best buds. He is eight, has earned his CGC, CGCA and therapy titles.

In Atlanta, I worked with service dogs, a wonderful experience, but working with my own dog is even more wonderful. Brogan and I visit Parris Island (Marine Corps Recruitment Depot), The Naval Hospital, and we participate in individual Therapy Dog events. Soon we will be participating in school reading programs and the Boys and Girls club in Beaufort SC. Brogan has a wonderful laidback, sweet temperament and brings smiles and love to all those he meets. It is so rewarding. Obedience competition may be on the horizon. We’re in a small town now, Beaufort SC, where few are familiar with Wheatens. I am the ambassador for the breed whenever we meet someone who asks what breed it is. After member encouragement and attendance at many dog shows, it was definitely time to join the National Club. I have such a love and passion for dogs, and most of all, for this wonderful breed. I look forward to learning even more, meeting more club members, and participating/supporting club fund-raising and other Wheaten activities. I am excited to be a part of this wonderful Wheaten community!

Jo Ann Budraitis was sponsored by Bonnie Wirth and Sue Wuerz. Jo Ann’s interests and skills include education, grooming, health, rescue, and stewarding.

Michelle (Shelly) Serafin: Self Employed, Insurance Adjusting

My first Wheaten “Riley” came to live with us in 2002, not from a reputable breeder but National Breeders Assoc., a cleverly named puppy mill. I lost Riley at 5-1/2 to health issues, but he was the one that made me fall in love with the breed and add a second Wheaten to our family. We subsequently learned about reputable breeders, and along came our second dog, Greentree Key To My Heart "Brianna." She was my first "show" dog, and foundation. She certainly was the Key To My Heart and changed my life in a wonderful way that I could never have imagined.

My husband and I met Bev and Kevin McDonald, Greentree Wheatens, at the Trenton KC show in 2003, not knowing a thing about dog shows. They were expecting a litter from their Irish import, Maroc Marie Antoinette “Claddagh (Claddy)”. There we also met the sire, CH Greentree Darcove Fairy Tale “Jason.” After the litter was born, we met again with Bev and Kevin. We spoke about the "pick pup" who we adored, and the possibility of placing her with us..."so long as she could be shown.” Sure! That sounded easy enough....
Moving forward, I have had five litters, finished seven dogs; five to CH and two to GCH. Memorable moments include: "Brianna" Greentree Key To My Heart, winning Best in Sweeps, Bucks KC Specialty 2004; "Tanner" Am/Can CH Greentree Trinity Heartbreak Kid, BOS Sweeps at Montgomery 2006; "Lilly" CH Greentree Trinity Follow Your Heart, a 5 point major at Hatboro, Montgomery weekend 2007; "Sophie" GCH Greentree Trinity Par Ti Favor, the first I finished to GCH acquiring all of her points on my own; "Buddy" GCH Trinity All Need Is Love, the first dog I finished in BBE class to GCH, and won BOS Trenton KC, Bucks specialty weekend 2012, and AOM Bucks KC Specialty 2013.

I am also proud of my other Champions "Gabrielle (Gabby)" CH Greentree Trinity Here's My Heart, "Guinness" CH Greentree Trinity Havin' A Par Ti, and "Finn" CH Trinity Can't Buy Me Love. None of this would have been possible without the mentorship I receive from my friends, Bev and Kevin McDonald, together with the support and friendship of the "Greentree Family," too many to mention by name. I also have had the support of the DVSCWTC, where I have been a member since 2004.

I now find myself sharing knowledge I have gained over the past 12 years with others. Being a member of SCWTCA is the next step for me to be part of a larger group dedicated to the health and well being of our breed. Because of the experience I had with my first Wheaten, it is extremely important to me to share with future Wheaten owners the importance of reputable breeding.

Shelly was sponsored by Bev McDonald and Helen Fraguela and is very active in the DelVal Club.

By: Shelly Serafin
Trinity Wheatens

Welcome New Open Registry Members

February 1, 2016

The Open Registry is a joint project of SCWTCA-sponsored research at NC State University, University of PA and the University of Guelph (Canada). Its purpose is to publish information on confirmed cases of genetic diseases in Wheatens and to maintain health and genetic records for SCWTCA-sponsored research. Dr. Meryl Littman at Penn maintains the Registry at the request of SCWTCA.

Members of the Open Registry agree to forward pedigrees and medical data for all Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers they own, have owned or bred who may be affected with Protein-losing Enteropathy/Nephropathy, Addison’s Disease, Renal Dysplasia or Irritable Bowel Disease to the SCWT Open Registry, c/o Dr. Littman. For membership form, visit SCWTCA web site at http://scwtca.org/documents/health/or_membershipform_20100630.pdf.

For a complete list of Open Registry members, email kccarlson@comcast.net.

Alexandra Taylor & Martin Cowart  ~  Evelyn McAdams  ~  Marcel & Patricia Tremblay  ~  Theresa Gustafson  ~  Jerry Eberts

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.
SCWT Champion and Performance Titles  Oct 2015 - Jan 2016

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GCH CH Macphail Wicked Live Wire
GCH CH Marymore Circle Of Friends THDN CGC
GCH CH Sundance My Beau’s A Roxstar
GCH CH Wheaten Rebel's Take A Ticket To Greentree
Geragold Verde Irandes CD BN
Jack Pitts CGC

Jendu Tongue Twister CD BN RN
Kilronan Zuggy Stardust AX AXJ NF RATN CGC
Li'Town Cianan Irish Flirt Of Ardnacassa BN RN CGC
Ltd. Edition Who’s My Aisling CGCU
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MACH3 Dunfrais’s Red Gate Renegade MXC MB2 MJP2 MJPB OF
MACH3 Dunfrais’s Red Gate Renegade MXC MB2 MJP2 MJPB OF
Orion Trebol Breaking Bad TD
Orion Trebol Hot House Flower CDX BN PCDX OA AXJ CGCA
Oriel Stopping By Woods CGC
Rory Red King Of The Links CGCA
Rosheen Caribbean Red CD RE THDN CGC
Rosheen Caribbean Red CD RE THDN CGCA
Rosheen Caribbean Red RE THDN CGC
Saddlebrook’s Cubs On Base CD RA
Sandcastle’s Enchanted Tail CGC
Tucker’s Maggie CGC
Vineyard Natalia Of Geragold CGCA

NOTE: missing from June
CH Ainle Something to Talk About
CH Ainle Gift of the Gab

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GCH CH Mackanme Foreign Affair V. Bodasca
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Tabaluga Vom Drei Klug
CH Ellora Bastion
MK’s Michael Lee
CH Mackanme Bradberry High Flyer
CH Cameron Hunnicut
House Of Softy Legend
CH Gleanngay Who’s Your Daddy
Ma’s Irish Barney
CH Islander’s Jamakin Me Krazy
CH Islander’s Jamakin Me Krazy
CH Cameron Hunnicut
CH Candance Daze Of Thunder
CH Ml’ear Geragold Cowboy Up
Got To Call Me Ricki Of Homr
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CH Whindancer’s Sweet Baby James
Charlie IX
CH Choroschie Drusja’s Niinsky

So far, our barking has saved our owners from;
➢ Ten murderous postmen
➢ Forty rabid dogs
➢ Five wild newspaper boys
➢ Twenty three speeding cyclists...

…Yet they still remain ungrateful!

GCH CH Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching
GCH CH Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching

GCH CH Mackanme A Wicked Good Tale RATN
CH Mackanme Foreign Affair V. Bodasca
CH Marymore Legacy Renaissance
CH Sundance Order Of The Irish Rose
Wheaten Rebel’s Ready 4 Take Off
CH Geragold Winter Solstice
MK’s Hannah Kay
CH Jendu Twisted Sister
CH Edgewood Steel Magnolia
CH Lil’ Town Flint Of Ardnacassa
LTD Edition Bridget O’Dundalk
Princess Smiles
Dunfrais’s Mira’s Classy Lady
Dunfrais’s Mira’s Classy Lady
GCH CH Orion Trebol Hot Like Me TD
CH Acacia’s Some Like It Hot VCD2 RAE MXP MJP NFP
Oriel Fire Of The Hearth
Missi Liberty Wigglebutt
GCH CH Acacia’s Bat Out O’Hel
GCH CH Acacia’s Bat Out O’Hel
GCH CH Acacia’s Bat Out O’Hel
CH Saddlebrook’s Good Karma
CH Sandcastle’s It's Great To Be Queen
Sly’s Toffee
CH Geragold Paper Gangster At Vineyard OA AXJ

GCH CH Aine Villanova Mouth Of The South CGC
GCH CH Aine Villanova Mouth Of The South CGC
Barking is one of the many ways dogs express their innermost feelings and provide valuable information to their pack, humans included. They alert us to strangers and let us know when they have to go outdoors. It would be unfair to expect a dog to never bark. But what happens when a good thing goes too far and becomes excessive or even compulsive?

The first step is to identify why the dog is barking in the first place so that the right treatment can be used. Next, you will want to keep a log about where and when the barking happens. Not all barking is the same, and it is a complex, self-reinforcing behavior that can take “nerves of steel” to change, but with patience it can be done. Remember, shouting and wild gesturing will convince your dog that you want to join in on making noise with him. Instead, use your confident leader voice and speak in a calm yet firm tone. Train your dog to understand the word “Quiet” instead of shouting random words. It is a command all dogs should learn and understand. A tired dog is less likely to bark, and both mental and physical exercise go a long way in prevention. The longer barking is allowed to continue, the harder it is to stop.

Decoding: Why is my dog barking?

1. “You’re on my property!”
Your dog may be protecting his territory, which can include the home and surrounding area, as well as the car, and even the areas he has already explored and spent a great deal of time in. He may also be afraid. As the perceived or real threat gets closer, the barking increases in intensity, and the body language may appear aggressive and assertive.
Solution: Often this type of barking comes from what your dog sees and hears and interprets as threatening. By reducing what your dog sees, you can reduce this type of barking. Using solid fencing, rather than chain fencing for perimeters and preventing the dog from being able to look out of windows and glass doors or adding window coverings will help reduce barking.

2. “Look at me!”
Attention-seeking barking is common when dogs want something, including companionship, basic needs, and play.
Solution: If your dog barks to go outside, consider teaching him to ring a bell instead. And if your dog barked at you when he was hungry and you fed him, you have taught him to bark for his food. Instead, have him go to a place or sit quietly and feed him on a regular schedule. Seek ways to have your dog communicate and express needs without barking.

3. “I’m so lonely or bored!”
Anxiety-induced barking can have a compulsive side to it as the dog may bark excessively and pace simultaneously when left alone. They may also appear depressed and become destructive.
Solution: It is wise, for this type of barking, to consult a veterinary behaviorist who can recommend the proper solution whether it be the use of a DAP product, anxiety wrap, behavior modification, or drug therapy. Boredom can be lessened by leaving out a few food-dispensing toys. Exercise and mental stimulation prior to leaving the dog alone can help too.

4. “I am so frustrated!”
When dogs are in confinement and cannot get to the object of their desire, they will bark out of frustration.
Solution: Teaching impulse control and putting the dog on a “learn to earn” program can help. For instance, having dogs sit and stay for food, before going through doorways or before crossing the street are examples of trained impulse control. And if the problem is wildlife entering the yard, try motion-sensors to discourage its presence.

How to Reform a Barkaholic!

By Dorice Stancher, MBA, CPDT-KA
5. “I hear my friends calling!”
Dogs are social animals and often when they hear their friends barking in the distance, will strike up a chorus or two themselves.

**Solution:** You can discourage your dog from joining in the chorus by playing music (to drown out the sound) or distracting your dogs with training or play. Dr. Pamela Fisher, founder of the Rescue Animal MP3 Project has put music in more than 1,100 animal shelters around the country, claiming it has a calming effect and reduces barking. According to a 2012 Colorado State University study, published in *The Journal of Veterinary Behavior*, dogs were less likely to bark when Mozart, Beethoven, and other classical artists were playing.

6. “I’m so happy to see you.”
What Wheaten can resist greeting its humans with joyous exclamations of barking?

**Solution:** Teach your dog a different behavior like going to a certain place and stay there when you come through the door. You can make this into a game and his focus on the effort will reduce barking.

**What Not to Do…**

**Shock collars** can hurt your dog and can make dogs more aggressive, especially if they associate the human or animal they are barking at, with the pain. **Spray collars** have become more popular since owners have become more aware of the negative psychological effects of shock collars. Studies by the Animal Behavior Clinic at Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine suggest they are more effective than alternative shock collars. The spray collars often use citronella, lemon juice, or water to spray water in the dog’s face when the microphone picks up barking. However since it can also pick up other sounds, including other dogs barking, it can have a serious psychological effect and unduly punish the dog for good behavior. The same is true for **Sonic collars**. Any automatic collar can shock unnecessarily or too intensely as good behavior goes unnoticed and unrewarded.

**De-barking** is a highly controversial procedure that carries severe health risks. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA): “Canine de-vocalization should only be performed by qualified, licensed veterinarians as a final alternative to euthanasia after behavioral modification to correct excessive vocalization has failed and after discussion of potential complications from the procedure with the owner. When dogs are housed in groups (e.g. laboratories, breeding facilities, kennels) de-vocalization should not be used as an alternative to appropriate animal management and facility design.”

Despite breeders’ best attempts to reduce barking, it is the new pet owner that will determine the successful outcome relating to behavior and barking. According to Jane Killion, dog breeder and author of the “Puppy Culture” program and a series of videos that provide guidance for puppy development from the whelping box and beyond. “As a breeder, you can do everything you can to prepare the puppies for their lives, but the new owners are ultimately going to shape and determine how all of your great preparation actualizes.” In other words, it is the owners who will often break down the good behavior put into a puppy by the breeder. It may start as simply as letting the puppy out of the crate on the way home when she whines.

As with so many forms of behavior, education, continued training with a certified professional and consistency can keep dogs and their owners headed in the right direction.

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SCWTCA member Dorice Stancher, MBA, CPDT-KA is one of four national finalists in the Media Broadcast category for the Dog Writer’s Association of America (DWAA) Annual Awards. Appearing on “The Pet Stop with Dr. Brian Voynick” which aired on News 12 New Jersey, Stancher and her 6-year-old Wheaten Terrier, “Krista” (Can CH Holweit's Red Grenadine, RN, CGCU, HT, THDA, RATN) filmed two unrehearsed segments for the program that focused on trick training. She is a nationally certified trick trainer with the “Do More with Your Dog” program and studied with its founder, Kyra Sundance. The goal of the program is to provide free access to trick training through digital media in order to help dogs stay in their forever homes. Many of the skills taught provide a foundation for the AKC Canine Good Citizen and the program is currently under review by the AKC.

For more information on the program visit: http://domorewithyourdog.com
What is a Breeder?

I am curious, and excited. I am soothing Carrie, who has no idea that she is about to embark on the most important event in her life. I say to myself that this is indeed what it’s all about.

The puppies arrive, one by one, round, pink, blind, and helpless, and immediately Carrie nominates herself as Mother of the Year. I have played this scene so many times over the past 30 years, but for Carrie it is her first starring role -- yet within minutes she is older, wiser, and far more capable than I. Once again, I marvel at the miracle that nature has wrought, and I admire the perfection of each tiny little body. But most of all, I know that now their future is in my hands, and I am sobered by the responsibility and commitment that I feel.

Four weeks later I am sitting on my kitchen floor, which doubles as a puppy room, and I am getting my hair chewed, my nose bitten, my face licked, and my shoelaces untied. I am soothing the bumps of the tumbling and tripping puppies, and I’m the referee of the Baby Whippet Wars. Their little legs carry them farther and faster each day, and their individual personalities blossom. Their minds develop just as their bodies grow. Carrie is still an amazingly caring, compassionate, and capable mom, but she is now content to let me handle more of the mundane and boring nursery chores.

I know that their future is in my hands, and I am sobered by the responsibility and commitment that I feel.

Choosing a Brood Bitch: A Bit of a Gamble

I’m not a fan of country music, but as I begin writing this column, from the radio in the next room the song “The Gambler” is crooning, “The secret to survivin’ is knowing what to throw away, and knowing what to keep.”

Choosing a brood bitch is a bit of a gamble. Whether acquiring your first foundation stock or selecting the pick female puppy from your own litter, knowing what to keep is key to success. For breeders of Norwich Terriers, a breed with an average litter size of three to four puppies, this is easier said than done. Often, we must arrive at a conclusion from a small number of puppies.

As a breeder, my first priority is the brood bitch.
I believe that no kennel or line is stronger than its bitches. The foundation bitch is often the cornerstone of a successful line. Yet few people actually focus on choosing a brood bitch. Most will buy a “show quality” puppy, perhaps show and finish her, and then breed a litter, hoping to get a female puppy to breed on. That “foundation bitch” becomes a permanent part of the new breeder’s line. The die is cast. Too narrow a focus on finding a “show quality” bitch may bring disappointing results. While it is true that the great show dog (or bitch) is often valuable for the breeder, many great show dogs will fail to reproduce their own excellent qualities. On the other hand, a dog or bitch who is hard pressed to even win a ribbon may prove invaluable as breeding stock.

So, how should we choose a brood bitch? The bitch herself (whether adult or puppy) must be evaluated, to include her health, temperament, and conformation. Certainly, we only want to keep the brood bitch who was a good mother and, we hope, an easy whelper too. Remembering that the goal is to select a bitch who will produce progeny retaining the ideals of the breed, her ability to produce is most important. If acquiring a new adult bitch (or if deciding whether to keep a bitch in our breeding program), we may be able to evaluate the progeny she has already produced. If she consistently produced high-quality puppies, that is a promising sign of what she is likely to produce again. The key word is consistently. A single star (usually the one we are most likely to see in the show ring) in a litter of rather ordinary puppies is not a good sign.

In assessing the bitch’s progeny, we would like to determine how the sire might have contributed to their excellence or mediocrity. Even an outstanding brood bitch will fail with the wrong mate. Because in our breed, bitches produce a small number of puppies, evaluating her based on her progeny is difficult. If the bitch is young, her progeny will be few (or none). In this case, we will need to predict her ability to produce by her appearance and her pedigree. She should come from a good-whelping line. In any pedigree, I place the most importance on the dam. This is because there are many dogs produced by an exceptional sire to each one from an outstanding dam. I suspect this is true because an exceptional stud dog will be bred to many bitches, of which only a few are of exceptional quality. Scrutiny of the pedigree may bring to light names of individual dogs whose qualities we would prefer not to reproduce. Of course there is not a perfect pedigree, but if the dam has produced quality dogs and is herself of first-rate ancestry, we can lessen the uncertainty. The letters “Ch.” before names in a pedigree mean very little to me, because as mentioned earlier, show worth and breeding worth are not the same metric. The show-champion bitch who needs artificial progesterone supplementation and a C-section and then produces a singleton puppy is not brood bitch quality. We must evaluate the individual bitch under consideration in her appearance and structure. If she has serious faults in several aspects of the ideal specimen of the breed, it is certainly a more risky gamble to breed from her. I like to see correct proportions and angulation, good skeletal structure and bone, and breed type. We know some faults are hard to eradicate. A Norwich Terrier bitch may be lacking in one particular trait (too big or too small, too light in bone, soft coat, have a long loin), but with intelligent selection of a mate, she is not as likely to pass her undesirable trait to her puppies.

As breeders, we must work with what we have available to us. Great bitches are few and not easy to obtain; obtaining a daughter may be easier. Choose only the best bitch to purchase or to breed from, considering her individual merit and her pedigree. To make it all work requires that we adhere to some simple rules of thumb and be ruthless in our final decisions. I spayed and placed several young bitches earlier this year rather than breed them to “see what I’d get.” Each possessed some desirable qualities, but magical thinking is no better than a gamble.

“Know when to walk away, know when to run …”
After buying a national winning bitch, a breeder wonders why the bitch fails to produce quality offspring. She doesn’t understand her bitch is not the only ingredient in her recipe for success. Throwing time and money away, she blames the bitch. In all actuality; it is her lack of knowledge regarding her breeding program that is at fault. Breeding her bitch to currently winning dogs without giving a thought to health, pedigree, or cross faulting, she puzzles as to why others accomplish what she can not.

An excellent breeding program isn’t “happen-chance”. Cross faulting, health certifications, and pedigree research is imperative as is breeding with the future in mind. It is imperative one has a “breeding plan” in place. There are reasons why some people consistently breed top winners and others breed a “flash in the pan” with the inability to reproduce its qualities. One may go to the expense of buying a top winner, but to reproduce a winner without a “battle plan” is an effort in futility.

The goal of all breeders should be to breed to standard. Breeding something different to “catch” a judges eye may temporarily produce a winner, but it doesn’t do the next breeder in line any favors toward trying to build a credible breeding program. This “quick fix” is a fad with little lasting value that pushes the standard to the side.

This in turn creates a continuously moving target and sadly, it is the reason many people in the sport drop out within the first five years. For everyone to SUCCEED, we must aim for a stationary target (the breed standard). Only then will we perfect our aim toward producing “breed excellence”. So let’s start with the basics.

**OUTCROSS:** This is a breeding of pedigrees where the first (5-6) generations have NO common ancestry. To achieve a successful outcross, determine if the chosen male offers “locked in” genetic abilities to produce such virtues by observing his offspring. A “flash in the pan” winner offers instant gratification, but where does one go from there if he isn’t bred to reproduce himself?

When possible, visit his sire and dam as well as siblings. If the male of choice does not appear to produce what you need, WHAT IS THE POINT OF BREEDING YOUR BITCH to him? Using an inbred or closely line bred bitch when introducing new characteristics may assist you as this particular outcross invites a lack of uniformity.

You have choices. If the puppy reflecting the “trait” you went after is not sound, but is showy, consider growing out a second puppy as well. The first puppy may well carry the genes to produce that which the second choice sounder puppy is not capable of reproducing. Only by growing the two puppies to maturity and breeding a litter from each, will you know...

So every litter offers “different types”. Watching my two puppies and breeding them resulted in “What you see is not always what you get”. The lesser of the two adults actually produced more desirable puppies.

How did I learn this? By growing the two puppies to maturity. When evaluating the offspring of their litters, I gave those virtues most important to me additional consideration. Without losing what my own line offered, while evaluating the virtues, I was able to incorporate them through the outcross. The goal was “the best of both worlds”. My male produces a certain “look” and through serious consideration I will incorporate this into my initial soundness. This explains the difference in phenotype (What you see) and genotype. (Hidden value). Eventually, offspring from the bitch will be bred to offspring of the male, anchoring outstanding virtues into the pedigree by careful selection. At this point, it evolves as “line breeding”.

**LINEBREEDING:** Line breeding is the concentration of valuable characteristics. It allows some control over “families”. This method requires one of the selected parents having one or more common ancestors in the pedigree in the last several (5-6) generations. These ancestors themselves may be a successful line-breeding of outstanding individuals. Use only healthy individuals or the program will meet with disaster.
because compromises negatively affect your future breeding program and will require further elimination.

INBREEDING: Once reaching the pinnacle of desired virtues, INBREED. This “sets” breed type and defines a certain “look”. You will “reap what you sow”. Inbreeding results in “the best of the best” and “the worst of the worst”. This is what makes a breeder! This risk is not for the faint of heart. If things go “south”, take responsibility for the results and act accordingly.

TO PUT IT IN A NUTSHELL:
OUTCROSSING introduces new traits for definite improvement. Our biggest failing is “throwing the baby out with the bathwater”. LINEBREEDING creates and establishes a pedigree which in degrees, incorporates and produces specific traits on a continuous basis. If a good female results from a breeding, she can be bred back to her grandsire for consistency of type reflecting the sire’s side.

INBREEDING sets type and simplifies goals. Inbreeding consists of mother to son, father to daughter, brother to sister, etc. Strengthening desirable dominants as well as hidden recessive, the breeder must recognize and correct once again through outcrossing...

“Breeders must always be aware of hidden genetic positive and negative effects. A breeding made from paper study alone is like an arranged marriage—it may be consummated, but there is small chance for success”. (EHH 1968)

Successful breeders “arrive” through heartbreak, tears, and hard work. They achieve desired results by eliminating animals that do not reflect their goals. These animals are called “pets”. The standard IS our blueprint, although too often, personal opinion takes precedence.

Understanding the Coefficient of Inbreeding

The coefficient of inbreeding is the probability of a dog inheriting two copies of the same allele from an ancestor on both the dam and sire’s side of the pedigree. It is also a prediction of a dog’s genetic homozygosity, and gives breeders a quantitative way of evaluating both the risks and benefits of a particular combination.

How many generations of pedigree data should you use to estimate inbreeding?
Everybody has an opinion about this. Some use 5 generations, some 8, and some 10. Relatively few people use more generations than this, perhaps because often pedigree software won’t do more than this, or if it does it gets very slow.

The data in this chart were computed from pedigrees of several different dogs. One had very low inbreeding (< 5%), the others had significantly more. For each of these individuals, though, the way the computed COI changed with the number of generations of data used was different. One thing is clear - unless the level of inbreeding is very low, or the pedigree very shallow, using only 5 generations of pedigree data is likely to be extremely misleading.

If you’re worried about the probability of producing puppies with a genetic disorder caused by a recessive mutation, there is a whopping difference between the relatively low risk of about 1 in about 20 (6% COI with 5 generations) and 1 in 4 (25% COI using 30 generations).

Does it matter how many generations you use when calculating COI?
Yes. How many generations should you use? As many as you can.
So you’ve decided to Breed …

Finally after many years of hard work to learn the ropes in the world of dogs, you’ve decided to take the plunge and breed a litter. Of course along the way you’ve educated yourself on the basics: things like the time, money, and emotional investment a litter requires. You have thought through the logistics of creating a puppy nursery in your home. You are prepared for the fulltime commitment of caring for these tiny beings from their first breaths until they are ready to go off to their families. And speaking of families, from your first interview, to the support you’ll lend throughout your puppies’ lifetimes, it’s a long-term journey you’re embarking on.

You’ve learned from your mentors and think you are ready to play your part in bringing to perfection the qualities of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. You have the girl who you’ve decided is worthy of being your foundation bitch, the one who will be the beginning of your breeding program and forge the ‘type’ known by your kennel prefix. So naturally all you have to do is find the perfect stud dog that will be her ideal complement … hmmm, not so fast, let’s think through some considerations.

**Stud Dog Selection …**

The first thing you need to do as you contemplate the choice of a stud dog is to take a step back and know your bitch. You may think that’s easy; after all you bred her or bought her, and raised her from puppyhood. You also likely showed her to her championship and remember fondly her big wins, so naturally she’s perfect in every way, right? Well no, most likely she’s not! So the trick is to be really objective about both her best and her not as great features, and we aren’t just talking about her physical features; think about all those categories listed in this chart.
Now the real challenge after you’ve carefully weighed all aspects of your brood bitch is to find the stud dog that can contribute those traits where she may fall a little short.

In a perfect world, there would be a stud dog that has everything she needs and doubles up on those things you consider paramount. If you’re really lucky, he lives in your general area of the country, and he’s intact. It’s even better if you’ve interacted with him and know he’s more than just a good-looking photo in an advertisement. Chances are all of these things won’t coincide … but, thinking through the process is the key to finding the best possible match.

The chart we’ve laid out on the preceding page is designed as a starting point; you may have many other priorities you’d add to the list. To further challenge your thinking on the subject of breeding, we’ve included a couple of articles in this issue that delve deeper in to a few areas: Brood Bitch Selection, Linebreeding vs. Outcrossing, and the impact of Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI). We’ve also thrown in a crossword puzzle with Breeding Terms to get you started.

Are you familiar with the terminology?

ACROSS
1. The female parent
3. Offspring
4. breeding of pedigrees where the first (5-6) generations have NO common ancestry
5. The act of birthing puppies
7. Female dog used for breeding
8. Breeding rights assigned to another person for a specified time
10. Breeding combination with one or more common ancestors in the pedigree
13. Introduction of semen into the female reproductive tract by artificial means
14. Sum of qualities that distinguish dogs of one breed
15. Written record of a dog’s genealogy of three generations or more
16 Breeding two closely related dogs

DOWN
2. To breed a dog and bitch
3. The time between mating and birth
6. The physical expression of a dog’s genetic makeup
9. Seasonal period of the female, aka Estrus, in season
11. The puppy or puppies from one whelping
12. The male parent

WORD BANK:
WHelpING, TYPE, SIRE, PHENOTYPE, PEDIGREE, OUTCROSSING, MATE, LITTER, LINEBREEDING, LEASE, INBREEDING, HEAT, GET, GESTATION PERIOD, DAM, BROOD BITCH, ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Answers on page 52
SCWTCA Roving Specialty
April 14, 2016

SCWTCNC Specialty
April 15, 2016

Sacramento, California

Sacramento Kennel Club, April 16 & 17
Rally and Obedience all 4 days

Cruisin’ Northern California

Specialty Chair: Camille Taylor, sena101@sbcglobal.net
The Run for the Roses
May 6 - 9, 2016

Please join us for the Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club Specialty and our 45th Anniversary!

*Friday, May 6: Garden State Terrier Club
  Judge: Neville Hodgkins
  Group: Neville Hodgkins
  OH Group: Kerry Lee

Saturday, May 7: Bucks County Kennel Club
  Judge: Cindy Vogels
  Group: Dr. Jerry Klein
  Sweepstakes: Denise Daniel

*Sunday, May 8: Trenton Kennel Club
  Judge: Dr. H. Scott Kellogg
  Group: Dr. H. Scott Kellogg
  OH Group: Diane K. Ondo

Monday, May 9: Trenton Kennel Club
  Judge: Billie Kellogg Kneale
  Group: Billie Kellogg Kneale
  OH Group: Richard L. Reynolds

Join us for: Wine and Cheese Party Friday
            Lunch and Auction Saturday
            Lunch Sunday

*supported entry

For additional information visit www.delvalwheatens.org
Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club

Raffle

Standing
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

An Original Needle Felted Sculpture
by Kelly Wamsler

Kelly’s sculptures have sold to dog lovers and collectors around the world. This one-of-a-kind piece is 9 ½ inches tall, and valued between $500 and $1,000, comes with a removable felted saddle, commemorating the “Run for the Roses”

Tickets: $10 Each
Only 200 will be sold

Drawing on May 8, 2016
immediately following breed judging (you need not be present to win)

Contact info: Cherie Turner
965 Waterbury Heights Dr.
Crownsville, MD 21032
frolicwheatens@yahoo.com

Please make checks payable to: Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club or PayPal payments to: delvalwheatens@gmail.com

NOTE: Tickets will not be issued until payment is received!

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SUMMER CLASSIC DOG SHOWS, OKLAHOMA CITY
June 29- July 3rd, 2016
5 days All Breed shows / 5 days of majors
Soft Coated Wheaten Club of America Supported Entry

Wed... Ms. Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine, NOHS: Leyda Lucia Perez
Thur... Elliot B Weiss, NOHS: Ann F. Yuhasz
Fri... Leyda Lucia Perez, NOHS: Jan Ritchie
Sat... Jon Cole, NOHS: TBD (SCWTCA Supported Entry)
Sun... Denys Janssen, NOHS: TDB

Member Clubs: Oklahoma City Kennel Club, Mid Del
Tinker Kennel Club, Lawton Dog Fanciers Association

All Hotel info Provided by Connections Housing
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The Colcord – across from the Convention Center

If you even think you might come, please make reservations. This is a big show and rooms fill up fast, especially these hotels as pet fees are waived.

For Information Contact:
Holly Million 405-210-0976
hollymillion@iHeartmedia.com

SCWTCA 2016 Calendar

Full of stunning color photographs with inspirational and fun quotes
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13 Months from Jan 2016 to Jan 2017
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Holidays and upcoming Wheaten event schedules
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Order online at www.scwtca.org
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$12 each for 1-2
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SCWTCA, INC., VOLUME 44, NUMBER 1, MARCH 2016

SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER CLUB OF GREATER ST. LOUIS SPECIALTY

"Celebrate Good Times, Come On!"

Friday, June 3, 2016
Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club
Purina Event Center, Gray Summit, Missouri

Sweepstakes Judge: Ms. Lisa Lopez
Breed Judge: Mrs. Lydia Coleman Hutchinson
Superintendent: Foy Trent Dog Shows foytrentdogshows.com
"Start June in St. Louis" Cluster
Closing Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2016
Weekend Shows Thursday, June 2 - Monday, June 6

Thursday, Gateway Terrier Association: Dr. Al Pertuit
Saturday, Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club: Mr. John (Tom) Ward
Sunday, Mississippi Valley Kennel Club: Mr. Desmond J. Murphy
Monday, Mississippi Valley Kennel Club: Mrs. Connie H. Clark

Information: www.scwtcgsl.com - eazerolo@centurytel.net
The Greater Denver Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club, Inc.

Specialty Show Date: Friday August 19, 2016

Specialty Judges:
Regular Classes - Kathy Clarke
Sweepstakes - Nancy Butler

***

Luncheon: Friday, Aug 19

***

Greeley Kennel Club shows: Sat and Sun, Aug 20 and 21

***

SCWTCA Supported Entry: Sat, Aug 20

"We’d love to have you here!"
NEW CHAMPION  Lonestar A Study In Scarlet

Fred By: Tom & Wendy Neill & Pam Beckham
Owned By: Tom & Wendy Neill
Shown Exclusively By Breeder/Owner Tom Neill

Lonestar Wheatens since 1984
016—489-4048
New Champion... “Tavia”

CH Azydeco How Can U Surpass Perfection

CH Abiqua Wild Knight Romance x CH Azydeco Starlight Savannah Annabelle

BOB over the Specials at 7 months (Pasadena)
BOB over the Specials at 12 months (Hatboro)
WB/New Champion – Eukanuba, December, 2015
Four Majors first weekend out as a Special (Desert Empire)
January, 2016
#4 SCWT Bitch
Thanks to Robert Hutton, Ken Kaufmann, and Gary Vlachos for recognizing Tavia for type, movement and her happy attitude.

And thanks to Jon Caliri for his presentation and stamina for showing this lively girl.

Cathryn Bennett
cathryn.bennett16@sbcglobal.net
CH Lochlinear A Serendipitous Win

New Champion finishing with two 5-point and a 4-point major giving her sire, Chip, his ROM

A great way to end 2015!

Karma
BISS GCH CH Lochlinear Gleanngay Cha Ching ROM*

Thanks to the breeders who recognized Chip’s qualities and contributed to his ROM

Congratulations!
CH Mirikal Playing Footsie CGC
CH Westridge Weekend At Bernie’s
GCH CH Legacy Gleanngay At Bonney
GCH CH Legacy Gleanngay Cyd Charisse
CH Lochlinear Atas Enigma
CH Atas Brut, Et Tu?
CH Bryr Rose Monmartre
CH Bryr Rose Lillet’s Monsieur Cooper
CH Vintage Nor’ Easter Winds
CH Vintage Life Is A Whirlwind
CH Lochlinear A Serendipitous Win
CH Serendipity October Quest
GCH CH Ainele Gift Of The Gab
GCH CH Ainele Money Talks
CH Ainele Something To Talk About

* pending SCWTCA verification

Pat Mullin ~ pat@lochlinear.com ~ www.lochlinear.com
Finley Wheatens is pleased to introduce a new **Grand** Champion...

McKinley, born to The "National Parks Litter," was named after Mt. McKinley in Denali National Park Alaska, USA. Denali, originally named by Native Indians, means “tall or high one.” Recently Mt. McKinley was re-named Mt. Denali.

But this Wheaten will always be: “McKinley!”

CH Harbour Hill Mike Delfino (Mikey) X CH Marquee’s Party Girl (MeMe)

Rose Rose * Dublin, CA  * rose.rose@comcast.net
GCH Finley Denali High and Mighty

McKinley quickly earned his "Grand Championship," and is now on a fast track toward the Bronze level

Trained and expertly handled by Amy Rutherford and her team

Bred by Rose Rose and Sonya Urquhart
Owned and adored by Rose Rose

finley wheats
MULTIPLE BEST IN SPECIALTY WINNING
MULTIPLE GROUP WINNING
GCH BRYR ROSE MATISSE

Owned by Marilyn Jacobs and Edward J. & Janet E. Koharik, Jr.
Bred by Jeanne Pedersen Ferris • jpferris@sbcglobal.net

Thank you Judges
Mrs. Gloria Geringer and Mr. Darryl Vice
for these Group One Wins!
HARBOUR HILL… “JUST DOIN’ IT”

In the West

HARBOUR HILL
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
Harbour Hill Toy Story “Buzz” x Ch Harbour Hill Atas EVOO “Olive”

Hello! My name is “CASH” and I live in Orange County, CA. I love the water, and am a S. CA. surfer dude. Yes....I really do surf!

(Cash is owned and much beloved by the Boydstun Family)

HARBOUR HILL ATAS
FLEUR DE LEASH “Jayce”

Behind every great show dog there are the heroes no one ever hears/knows about. They are the Pit Crews! We would be nothing without these unsung heroes. They are the real champions. This picture says it all.

Today I honor... Pit Crews!

Michael Capton with his charge, Jayce, co-piloted with Michelle Montes-Capton and beautifully presented by top Jr. handler Riley Capton.
Bred by Jeanine Flavell

Harbour Hill
FROM COAST TO COAST

NEW CH. HARBOUR HILL
DOUBLE DOG DARE
Harbour Hill Toy Story x Ch Harbour Hill Atas EVOO

“Mister Utley”

BOB, SPRINGFIELD KC * BOB, EASTERN DOG CLUB * WD/BOW, EUKANUBA NATIONAL DOG SHOW

Thank you judges Mr. Fred Ferris, Ms. Gay Dunlap and Mr. Gary Vlachos for these exciting wins!
Expertly groomed and presented by the esteemed Deb Van De Ven (Bradberry).
Mister Utley is owned by David & Sharon Wight and Susan Sakauye.

Susan K. Sakauye
424 Covington Pl., Goleta, CA 93117
ssakauye@aol.com

Official publication of the SCWTCA, Inc, volume 44, number 1, March 2016
Sundance Wheatens

NEW...
CH SUNDANCE PRINCESS OF ARONDALE

Thank you Judge Geri Kelly

“ANNA”

CH Mackanme Foreign Affair V Bodasca x CH Sundance Order Of The Irish Rose

Sue Wuerz

Breeders/Owners: Susan Wuerz & Donald Wuerz & Julianna McKamey
“BRONZE”

GCH SUNDANCE’S HOT SURFER DUDE

GCH Greentree Keepsake Surfin USA x CH Sundance Order Of The Irish Rose

“MILO”

Thank you, Judge Gary Vlachos, for this prestigious win

Presented by Juliana McKamey

❖ BOW, Eukanuba 2013
❖ Award of Excellence, Eukanuba 2014
❖ Select Dog, Eukanuba 2015

Breeders/Owners: Susan Wuerz & Donald Wuerz & Julianna McKamey
New Champion...
CH Moonstruck Windancer of Wheaten Lane

Moonstruck and Wheaten Lane are proud to introduce

Dexter

CH Greentree Buddy's Charm x CH Moonstruck Rhumba Rhythm AX OAJ CGC

Breeders: Nancy J. Griffin & Helen Fragueula
Owners: Javier Ortiz, Helen Fragueula, Nancy J. Griffin

HELEN FRAGUELA
WWW.MOONSTRUCKSCWT.COM
The following interview was originally released as a podcast on September 24, 2015. The interview has been abridged here. For the complete text, go to http://www.akcchf.org/educational-resources/podcasts/canine-semen-evaluation.html

In this podcast interview with reproductive specialist Dr. Cheryl Lopate of Reproductive Revolutions and Wilsonville Veterinary Clinic in Wilsonville, Oregon, we will be discussing canine semen evaluation. Dr. Lopate received her Master’s degree in reproductive physiology and her DVM from The Ohio State University. She completed a residency in comparative theriogenology (reproduction) at Purdue University and has been board certified in Theriogenology since 1997. She has worked in a variety of practice settings including general mixed practice, referral practice and academia. She believes strongly in providing client education and regularly speaks at breed group meetings. She also speaks at many veterinary conferences and has written many journal articles and book chapters on a variety of reproductive topics.

What are the reasons that a semen evaluation might be requested?
There are many reasons that we receive requests for semen evaluation – the most common reasons are for young males to assess fertility prior to breeding; any dog with a breeding imminent that hasn’t been used in the last month or two with a confirmed pregnancy; after a dog misses with one or more bitches or goes from having normal sized litters to small litters; prior to an upcoming chilled semen breeding; or prior to freezing semen.

What is involved in a routine semen evaluation?
It is very important to do a complete semen evaluation anytime one is requested. Gross assessment or eyeballing of sperm numbers, motility or morphology from a wet mount smear can be tremendously misleading. For example, sperm can be very motile, yet be abnormal in shape or function, making the dog infertile. Further, proper motility evaluation is crucial because if the ejaculate is very concentrated, normal sperm will push the dead ones around making them appear motile when they are not. So each semen evaluation should include assessment of the male’s libido and the ejaculatory process; a semen volume, motility assessment (both total and progressive), sperm count, and a stained morphology (assessment of how normal the individual sperm cells are).

Can you discuss each of these in more detail? What does each test tell us about the male’s fertility and quality of the semen?
First - Libido and ejaculatory process - We always recommend having a bitch in season in front of a male we are collecting because this will provide us with the most representative ejaculate we can get. Many dogs that have high libido or are used to being collected may be able to ejaculate without a teaser, but there is no doubt that sperm numbers will be highest if he is stimulated with an estrus bitch prior to ejaculation. If an estrus bitch is not available, swabs or pads, stored in the freezer, can be used to provide scent for a non-estrus bitch and she can just stand in front of the male to provide a visual cue.

As the dog is collected, the first few jets of ejaculate should be allowed to drip onto the floor – this first fraction is produced by the prostate and the urethral glands as a method to clear the urethra and distal prepuce of urine, cellular debris, dead sperm, and WBC. It also serves as lubrication during a natural breeding to facilitate intromission. We do not want to contaminate the ejaculate we evaluate with this fluid. This first fraction is produced until the dog obtains a full erection. There may be 2-8 ml or more of fraction one.

The second fraction, the sperm-rich fraction, comes next and originates from the epididymis (the storage site for sperm lying on the top of the testicle). The second fraction is usually emitted once there is full swelling of the bulbus and thrusting motion ceases. Often the dog will step his leg over the collector’s arm just before fraction two is emitted. This fraction is generally quite small, usually ½ - 2 ml.
Some collectors will try to fractionate the ejaculate and so will capture fraction one in a separate tube from fraction two and another for fraction three.

The third fraction is the largest in volume and derives from the prostate only. Its purpose is to flush the urethra of all sperm that have been ejaculated, to provide a medium for sperm to swim in and to fill the vagina with fluid during a natural breeding to facilitate the sperm reaching their destination at the cervix.

Next is motility. Motility is evaluated as total and progressive. Total motility is the number of sperm moving, while progressive motility is the number of sperm moving in a straight line across the field of view in the microscope. Initially, motility may be assessed at low power, but before a final determination is made, higher power magnification should be used. If one cannot see individual sperm movement clearly, the sample should be diluted (often just a drop of semen and a small volume of extender is used), allowed to equilibrate and then be re-evaluated. This is one of the most common mistakes made by evaluators. It is VERY easy to overestimate sperm motility due to high concentration.

The more accurate we are with semen evaluation, the better we can determine the potential fertility of the ejaculate. In addition to the number of sperm moving, the speed at which they move is also assessed – this is called velocity of movement. A grading scale of 0 – 5 is typically used, with 0 representing dead sperm and 5 representing those that are moving as fast as is possible across the field. Most dogs are in the 3-4 range. Velocity needs to be assessed after the sperm are re-warmed to body temperature.

Accurate morphologic assessment takes considerable practice and requires the operator to take the time to evaluate each sperm individually. It is a critical part of the semen evaluation, because motile sperm may not be normal, so without this piece of the puzzle, a fertility issue may go undetected.

So once the standard semen evaluation is performed, how do we know if the dog is considered a satisfactory potential breeder? Accepted normal parameters in dogs are as follows:

**Motility:** Greater than 70% progressive motility, with a velocity of at least 3/5.

**Total sperm/ejaculate:** A bare minimum of 10 million/sperm/pound bodyweight (i.e. a 30# dog will have at least 300 million sperm).

**Morphology:** Greater than 70% morphologically normal sperm

How long is a semen evaluation good for? Or, how quickly can semen quality change?

Semen evaluation is a like a snapshot in time. Because sperm production is a never ending process and can be interrupted at any stage of development by scores of factors, like temperature, physical stress or illness, travel, age, cancer, infection, just to name a few, semen quality has the potential to change significantly within just a day or two of an insult to the testicles. For this reason it is always a good idea to have a semen evaluation performed close to or at the time of breeding to ensure semen quality is adequate for normal pregnancy rates. If semen quality is found to be low, a different sire may be substituted in time for the breeding to occur.

Is there any bloodwork that is recommended at the time of a semen evaluation?

Brucellosis testing is recommended either every 2 months for males being bred frequently or within 2 months of breeding for less frequently used males. Many reproductive clinics run brucellosis tests in-house so they only take a few minutes to run and can be performed immediately prior to semen collection.

How often should a semen evaluation be performed on an intact male?

Generally speaking, semen evaluation should be performed at least once annually for any breeding male, along with a brucellosis test. In some cases evaluation will be performed just prior to an anticipated breeding to make sure the dog is acceptable for breeding. They should be performed at the time of every semen shipment or freezing. They also may be performed because the dog has a fertility issue or is showing signs of possible prostate or reproductive tract disease.
TIMING THE FERTILE PERIOD OF THE BITCH: BRIEF REVIEW

Canine Reproduction Seminar courtesy of AKC-CHF
Dr. Scarlette Gotwals
rrcus.org/rhodesianridgebackhealthy/Documents.../19-30_dobs_0797.pdf

Stages of the Estrous Cycle

Proestrus: Vulvar swelling and bloody vaginal discharge marks the beginning of proestrus. The first day of bleeding is called the first day of heat. The duration of proestrus can vary from as little as 1 day to 21 days. Proestrus is a time of rising estrogen levels preparing the reproductive tract for breeding.

Estrus: Is the period of receptivity. Behaviorally it begins the first day the bitch stands. Hormonally it begins on the day of the LH surge and is marked by rising progesterone levels and decreasing estrogen levels.

Diestrus: Normally begins 7 to 9 days post the actual LH surge. Progesterone levels continue to rise and the vaginal cytology cornification abruptly declines. The diestrus period lasts until the bitch whelps or the serum progesterone returns to a basal level.

Anestrus: Is the period of time between the end of diestrus and the next proestrus period.

Important Hormones of Estrus

Estrogen: Estrogen is the first significant hormone of the estrous cycle. Rising estrogen levels result in the clinical signs of estrus. Estrogen causes vaginal and vulva swelling and bloody discharge. Under the influence of estrogen, the vaginal lining thickens resulting in the changes seen on exfoliative vaginal cytology. Estrogen rises during early proestrus, reaches a peak level and then declines. Changes in estrogen levels cause the bitch to show behavioral changes. Even a spayed bitch administered estrogen will develop vulvar swelling, become fully cornified on vaginal cytology, stand, flag, and accept a male. However, estrogen blood levels are quite variable from bitch to bitch and do not correlate accurately with ovulation.

LH (Luteinizing Hormone): LH is the biological trigger leading to the events resulting in ovulation. The LH surge is the central timing event of the bitch’s cycle. After a variable period of elevated estrogen the bitch will be stimulated to have a surge in LH. Ovulation occurs 2 days post the LH surge. In the bitch the ova are not mature and capable of being fertilized until an additional 2 days have passed. The mature ova live another 1 to 3 days. Counting the LH surge as day 0, the bold bitch’s peak fertile period is days 4, 5 and 6 post the LH surge. Determining the actual day of the LH surge requires daily blood testing. The LH surge causes the follicular cells to convert from secreting estrogen to secreting progesterone. The time of the LH surge can be estimated by monitoring progesterone serum levels.

Progesterone: Progesterone is needed to maintain pregnancy. In the dog, progesterone levels are baseline prior to the LH surge (typically < 1.0 ng/ml). Corresponding to the beginning of the LH surge, serum progesterone levels will increase (initial rise) to a typical range of 1.5 to 2.0 ng/ml. After the LH surge, progesterone will continue to rise. It usually rises to a level > 5 ng/ml by day 2 to day 4 post the LH surge and continue to rise to >10-15ng/ml by the end of the peak fertile period. The initial rise in progesterone correlates closely to the LH surge and can be used reliably to plan breedings during the bitch’s peak fertile period.

Gestation Length

Bitches whelp 65 +/- a day from the LH surge, regardless of the day bred. Bitches that whelp at no less than 59 days were bred very late and those that whelp over 65 days were bred early. When bred ideally a bitch should whelp 60-61 days from the first of two breedings. If the day of the LH surge is not known, a due date can be estimated from the first day of diestrus. Bitches whelp 57 +/- a day from D 1 (the first day of diestrus).

Advanced Ovulation Timing Tools:

Blood Progesterone Levels

The blood progesterone level is the number one way to accurately determine the optimum fertile period in the bitch. Progesterone is also the best tool for quickly staging where a bitch is in her estrous cycle. The standard is quantitative progesterone levels (numerical values reported by an outside lab). There are many veterinary as well as human labs that offer timely, cost effective quantitative progesterone analysis. Progesterone levels are baseline prior to the LH surge; increase to 1.5 to 2.0 around the time of the LH surge and increase to >5 ng/ml by the peak fertile and often are >10 to 15 ng/ml by the end of the fertile period. The time of the LH surge can be closely estimated from the initial rise in progesterone levels. Accuracy is related to the testing interval.
Fresh Chilled Semen Breedings: Tips for Success

Part 1: The Stud Dog

The following two interviews were originally released as podcasts on May 21, 2015 and June 4, 2015. In this podcast interview, Dr. Scarlette Gotwals discusses tips for success with fresh chilled semen breedings with a focus on the stud dog as part of CHF’s Reproductive Health Series done in collaboration with Zoetis Animal Health. In the following podcast, she discusses tips again, this time with a focus on the brood bitch. Dr Gotwals received her DVM from The Ohio State University in 1987. She has a special interest in canine reproduction and has been involved with canine reproduction and semen cryopreservation for 21 years. She is a nationally recognized authority in these areas and serves as a consultant to veterinarians through the Veterinarian Information Network. Dr Gotwals practices at Country Companion Animal Hospital in Morgantown Pennsylvania and is a consultant for the Canine Reproduction Division of Zoetis.

For the complete podcast interview, go to http://www.akcchf.org/educational-resources/podcasts/tips-for-success-with-fresh-chilled-semen-stud-dog.html

What is a Fresh Chilled Semen Breeding?
Fresh chilled semen breedings are an excellent way to accomplish breedings over a distance without shipping either the stud or bitch. It is much easier to ship the semen than transport the female. Fresh Chilled also is an option for international breedings. The highest success is achieved with proper preparation, selection of adequate candidates, accurate ovulation timing, and finding experienced veterinarians for the collections and inseminations.

How successful are fresh chilled semen breedings?
Fresh chilled semen breedings are expected to produce puppies 80% of the time. This means that 20% of the time even if everything goes as planned puppies may not result.

How do you determine your dog or bitch are suitable for fresh chilled semen breeding?
Ideal candidates for fresh chilled semen breedings are studs and bitches free of any underlying health condition and in their reproductive prime 2-6 yrs. of age. Likewise the semen quality needed to optimize success for a fresh chilled semen breeding is higher than what is needed for a fresh semen breeding.

What makes a stud dog an acceptable candidate for a fresh chilled semen breeding?
Proper stud dog selection is critical to maximize success with the fresh chilled breeding method. Semen quality should start out with 75% or better forward progression motility, have less than 20% morphologic defects and have counts in the average range for the breed. Expected sperm counts can be estimated using 10 million sperm per pound of bodyweight. For example, a 70 lb. Labrador would be expected to have a 700 million sperm count. Typical range 500-1.5 billion. So if your stud dog only had a 200-300 million sperm count, he still might be able to be used for fresh chilled, but may not be as successful.

The stud dog needs to be easily collected when needed. The stud also needs to have sufficient sexual rest prior to collections. Stud owners need to commit to collecting for fresh chilled on the days needed and not accept other bitches that need bred on the same days. It takes 60 days to produce a new sperm cell and another two weeks for maturation. The first two collections after a period of sexual rest are usually the best. Stud dogs need to be proven by each breeding method performed. What is required for a successful natural breeding may not be sufficient for a fresh chilled semen breeding. Just because a breeder’s stud dog doesn’t miss with a natural does not mean the dog will be suitable for fresh chilled.

What helps to collect a stud dog?
Having an estrus teaser bitch present often makes or breaks a fresh chilled semen breeding. Stud dogs are easier to collect and may release 30-50% higher sperm counts when there is a bitch in standing heat present for the collection. Stud dogs also may cue on a breeding mat, stool or a specific collar only put on the dog for collections. In my clinic we have one room used for collections and all other veterinary work is performed in a different room. Males quickly learn the door to exam room 3 where they are being collected. It is true many studs dogs can be collected without a teaser present, but they typically won’t release as many sperm cells. Using our Labrador example: if the male should have a 700 million count he might only release 210-350 million sperm without a suitable teaser present. What would you want shipped to you? Making the effort to find a suitable teaser increases the chances of a suitable collection for shipment.

How are males tested for fresh chilled?
Semen is collected for a complete semen analysis. After initial motility and morphology assessment, the semen is prepared for fresh chilled shipment, extended with the chill buffer, then kept in the refrigerator for 7 days to document how well and long the semen survives. A small amount is warmed and viewed under a microscope to assess motility daily. Good fresh chilled
candidates have semen that starts out at 75% or better progressive motility and only drops off 10-15% in the first 24 hours. Many stud dogs have semen that will stay at sufficient motility levels for 5 days more. Buffers do not miraculously make semen better than it is, but they do extend the life of the sperm cells in the cooled state.

**How long can fresh chilled semen be kept to use for a breeding?**
Fresh chilled semen is best inseminated in 24 to 48 hrs. The shorter the time interval from collection to insemination increases the odds that the semen will have the motility needed for pregnancy. It is true some stud dogs semen will last for 7-10 days, but it is less than ideal to collect that far in advance. However, this option is available for stud dogs with excellent semen quality that may be unavailable when needed. In these cases the semen is either held at the site of collection or shipped to destination and placed in an appropriate cooling unit to maintain the sperm at 4-5C or 40F until needed.

**What about first time males?**
A stud dog needs to be proven with each breeding method. Inexperienced males need a test collection in advance. This is called a “Chill Check”. A complete semen analysis is done and then the semen extended just like it would be for shipping. Then the semen is kept chilled. A small sample is tested for motility twice daily until the semen is no longer viable.

**What questions should stud dog owners ask bitch owners when planning a fresh chilled semen breeding?**
1. **How are the breeding days going to be determined?**
The success for the stud dog is determined by the quality of the semen the stud owner ships and how well the bitch owner determines the day of insemination. Accurate ovulation timing is essential to optimize success. If a bitch owner is unwilling to invest in accurate ovulation timing then the stud owner has to decide if they are willing to go through all the effort to ship semen when it will be a shot in the dark.
2. **Insemination method?**
Stud owners need to be familiar with how best their stud dogs’ semen works with fresh chilled. For dogs with excellent semen this is not an issue, but if the stud dog has sub-standard semen, success can be increased by a TCI or surgical insemination. These options need to be discussed with the bitch owner before a commitment is made.
3. **What are the anticipated days for insemination?**
Be certain of your availability before accepting a fresh chilled semen breeding. It is unfair to have a bitch owner go through all the expense of ovulation timing if you will be unavailable for the collection when needed or using the stud for another bitch on the same days collection is needed.
4. **Will this be a dual sire breeding?**
Dual sire breedings are an option available to the bitch owner. The stud owner should consider if they are comfortable with this option. For the bitch owner having a backup dog in cases where the semen is not as good as expected on arrival can help them increase their chances of a pregnancy occurring. AKC requires both studs and dam have a DNA profile completed. The resultant puppies will need to be DNA tested and matched to the correct sire before they can be registered. Some bitch owners plan a dual sire from the beginning to try and have puppies from two different sires in one litter.
5. **Are you willing to be forthright and honest with bitch owner?**
Do not send poor semen samples. Call the bitch owner right away if the stud dog does not collect well or is found to have poorer semen quality than expected. If you did not collect with a teaser, then find one and try repeating the collection.

**Part 2: Brood Bitch**

**What makes a bitch an acceptable candidate for fresh chilled semen breeding?**
The bitch should be in good health and have all her expected genetic clearances. She should also not have any fertility issues. Bitches with fertility issues are best bred with fresh semen of high quality so they are the only variable. Accurate ovulation timing maximizes success. Ovulation timing has been covered in an earlier podcast. It is very important for the bitch not to be inseminated until ovulation has occurred. Fresh Chilled semen is expected to live at least three days—one day in transit and two additional days in the bitch. Bitch owners are at the mercy of what is shipped to them — selecting suitable stud dogs is paramount to success.

**What do bitch owners need to ask potential stud dog owners?**
1. How many times have you shipped fresh chilled in the past 6 months? How many litters?
2. How many puppies per litter? Stud dogs vary in how well this breeding method works for them. Some stud dogs have excellent semen that chills well and as long as not inseminated too late, have high rates of success. Other studs may have semen that appears to be of high quality, but just doesn’t chill well and are not as successful.
3. What breeding methods were used for the breedings? AI, surgical AI or Trans-cervical (TCI)? Fresh Chilled semen is generally meant to be vaginally inseminated but TCI has the potential to increase pregnancy rates and litter size. Surgical
insemination is generally reserved for cases where the bitch may have fertility issues or the semen is low in quality.

Knowing how the semen has been successfully used in the past, helps determine how the bitch owner inseminates the semen.

3. Do they have a veterinarian experienced in collection, processing and shipping fresh chilled semen or does stud owner collect and ship? Using an experienced veterinarian increases the likelihood of receiving good quality semen. Stud owners who ship semen frequently can learn to be very proficient in collecting and processing semen. There are many excellent veterinarians with interest in canine reproduction throughout the country. Ask for referrals from other breeders. Breeders generally figure out who is most successful in their geographic area.

4. Does stud owner or their veterinarian have fresh chilled kits on hand or do you need to ship them kits? Kits should be sent in advance. Most experienced veterinarians have kits on hand at all times as do breeders who breed frequently with this method. There are many very successful, commercially available, canine chilled semen breeding kits available.

5. Will stud owner commit to only collecting the stud for your bitch when needed and won’t be breeding another bitch on the same days? It is easy for stud owners to forget—out of sight out of mind. Stud dogs, first one-two collections after a period of sexual rest contain the highest counts.

6. Will they have a teaser bitch available? I cannot stress enough how critical it is to have an estrous teaser bitch. It is true many males will collect without a teaser but they will often release 30-50% higher sperm counts with a teaser present. This is especially true of less experienced males. A teaser bitch often makes or breaks a fresh chilled shipment. Sometimes the veterinarian doing the collection may have another client willing to let their bitch be used for collection.

**What is the best insemination method for Fresh Chilled?**
Fresh chilled is most commonly inseminated vaginally as a standard artificial insemination (AI). Trans-cervical inseminations (TCI) are a great way to increase the chance of pregnancy and to maximize litter size. Now that the availability of TCI has become more widespread, surgical inseminations are not as common or needed. Semen quality on arrival determines best insemination method. If the semen has a count at or higher than expected for the breed, and is greater than or equal to 75% progressively motile, success will often be achieved with a vaginal AI. However, if the semen count is lower than expected and the motility is lower than expected (75% or less); then a TCI can increase the chances of success. Surgical inseminations are usually reserved for cases where the bitch might have uterine problems or if the breeder’s veterinarian does not have TCI.

**How many shipments are needed?**
One breeding during the optimum fertile period is often all that is needed. BUT if there are any factors that prevent the semen from arriving on the best day or if the stud does not have high semen quality, success can greatly be increased by shipping two separate collections. In my opinion, shipping two collections increases success. Far too often unforeseen things happen—shipping delays, failure to have a teaser, weekend shipments, semen not fractionated on collection, that lowers the quality of the semen.

**Can you split one collection for 2 inseminations?**
Yes, but why would a bitch owner want to? It is far better to receive two inseminations to maximize number of sperm inseminated than to reduce the amount inseminated by splitting one collection. Sperm cells also live inside the female after insemination so if the female has ovulated, her uterus is a better place for the sperm cells than a refrigerator. Not every male has semen that survive for more than 24-48 hrs. despite buffer being used. Just because a 5-10 day buffer was used, it does not make lesser quality semen last any longer. If the semen is shipped prematurely and the bitch has low progesterone, then holding the semen until the bitch is post ovulation would be prudent. I am not a fan of splitting and saving for later insemination. It can be done successfully when unforeseen events occur, but is not advisable to plan a mismatch of collection and insemination times from the beginning. The goal is to maximize chance of pregnancy and litter size. Inseminating more sperm cells within 24-48 hrs. after collection is a big step towards this goal.

**Do bitch owners need a backup plan?**
Absolutely! Bitch owners are at the mercy of what they receive. Having a plan B helps salvage a pregnancy if the semen on arrival is not sufficient for a pregnancy to result. If you inseminate the semen, you owe the stud fee. Plan in advance what your options are if the semen is poor quality. Another contingency plan is to consider a dual sire breeding if the semen is still alive on arrival but of low quality by motility, count or both. If you plan in advance, your veterinarian would be able to ensure that the ovulation timing would be sufficient for whatever breeding you are doing (Especially true if frozen semen is your backup plan.)

**Summary**
Fresh chilled semen breedings are a viable method of achieving breedings without transporting the bitch. However there are many more variables encountered with this breeding method than a side by side or even a frozen semen breeding. Variables can include: weather, stud dogs availability and health, availability of a suitable teaser bitch and willingness of stud owner to collect when necessary. I always tell my clients that these breedings are not for the faint of heart because you are always at the mercy of what you receive. Be flexible and always have a back up plan!
Parent Club Membership

My columns come from a variety of sources...an annoyance, a “hot” issue, a friend’s suggestion, or just something I think should be discussed. It’s not unusual for a small story to stick in my mind and when eventually joined by enough other small items, I see a common thread.

Today, it’s parent club membership. What does it mean to you to be a member of SCWTCA?

Odds are you joined without thinking much about it. Your breeder or friends encouraged you, probably pointing out it was something committed Wheaten fanciers do. Maybe you were starting to breed and felt SCWTCA’s Breeder Referral could be helpful. Whatever the reason, you joined.

Have you thought about it since? For some, being a member is about what they are getting…and I’ve heard more than a few gripe; the answer is “not much.” Such comments usually arise from dissatisfaction with a club action or a personal experience. Understandable...if you’re aggravated, it’s easier to see the negatives than the positives. I’d suggest pausing to look at the purposes of the organization; they’re right upfront in the Constitution, posted on the SCWTCA website. Isn’t there something in there you think is important?

Of course, you say, but the Club isn’t doing it because of club politics/people in charge/bureaucracy/agendas (pick your reason).

So, who is this “Club” you’re talking about? Isn’t the “Club” its members? That’s right, “ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” I believe as club members you have an obligation to do some work. No, that doesn’t mean you have to be on a committee day in and day out. But if you haven’t done something in the last five years, it’s time to volunteer.

That’s “volunteer.” Don’t wait to be asked. Contact a Board member or committee chair, tell them what you’re interested in, the time you can devote and ask how to help. I’ve found Boards receptive to projects a member puts forward that are thought out with at least a skeleton plan backed by the member’s desire to do the work. I know not every member has had a good experience volunteering for SCWTCA. Just remember, Boards are not forever, nor will one Board always follow the approach of past Boards. Nor does my urging members to volunteer mean the Board doesn’t have a substantial obligation to proactively get more members involved.

Being a member also means speaking up. Not everyone is prepared to engage in public debates. While I always think the more the merrier in such conversations, I know it’s not everyone’s métier. Well the website has contact information for every Board member. Express your opinion on an important issue directly and privately. Trust me, Board members aren’t psychic; I was on a nominating committee and ESP wasn’t required.

Then there is how one joins a club. Hoo, boy...hang around long enough and you’ll hear tales! One newer parent club gave a member an honorary membership as a reward for her longtime work for the club and the recently recognized breed. Like many small clubs, it was run by a clique...and when the member used a dog whose owner was in a dispute with “the leader,” her “honorary membership” was coincidentally revoked. Another club was presented with the membership application of a longtime, highly successful breeder known for blunt, outspoken honesty. Unsubstantiated and patently false allegations came out of the woodwork. This story, at least, had a good ending when friends rallied and the applicant was admitted.

I’m a longtime SCWTCA member and observer of how our Boards operate. I’m aware of only one time our membership process turned into an exercise in “blackballing”. It was disappointing. On the plus side, other members made sure it didn’t happen in secret. On the down side, the club failed to fully reform the process. Yes, anonymous letters opposing the candidate are no longer accepted. However, there is no requirement to share such objections with the candidate for a response. That is patently wrong and shamefully unfair.

During the recent Code of Ethics discussion, there was talk about “who” the Code was for, with some believing strongly it was a tool to keep a newbie on the straight and narrow. Leaving aside what I think the Code represents, it’s too late to rely on it for those people. Or, as the post-9/11 motto says, “if you see something, say something.” Sponsors need to remember their responsibility is to SCWTCA, not the candidate and not your friend who asked you to sign. Do you really know the person? Does some of their behavior...their opinions about breeding, your observations at shows and in your local club...give you a twinge? If so, stop and think again. Ask yourself a version of the famous Groucho Marx quote*: would you feel that person’s membership would embarrass you as a member? Sponsor or not, if you know something concrete about a candidate leading you to believe he or she shouldn’t be a member, speak up. It’s a fine line between being cliquish, overly restrictive and being open to all. We have in place the tools to draw it. But like everything else having to do with Club membership, it requires every member to, you know, actually do something.

“*I don’t want to belong to any club that would accept me as one of its members.” Groucho Marx
If your retired show or performance dog is looking to move beyond competition, or your pet Wheaten wants to find a new job besides being your best friend and companion, the AKC Therapy Dog Program—as well as others like it—may be just the ticket for both of you to give back to your community and help humans in need.

In the September, 2011, issue of Benchmarks, Dorice Stancher authored a comprehensive article on getting started in therapy work entitled, “Your Wheaten Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Others.” Her excellent piece outlined the steps for any owner to follow in earning an AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) certificate, enrolling in a therapy-dog class, and investigating therapy-dog programs across North America. The article may be viewed online in its entirety at: http://www.scwtca.org/documents/benchmarks/bm201109.pdf, pp. 32-36.

CGC and THD: Movin’ On

In the intervening five years, both the Canine Good Citizen program—most generally a prerequisite for all therapy-dog programs—and the sheer number of therapy-dog organizations have expanded significantly. Moving beyond the original certification procedure which began in 1989, the CGC program became an AKC title process in January, 2013, with the new opportunity to append the initials “CGC” to a dog’s registered name following successful passage of the CGC test. Any registered dogs—purebreds or “All-Americans” in the Pet Partners program—who had earned CGC certificates prior to that date could also apply for the title to be “grandfathered” into their AKC title records. The evaluation requirements have remained the same as in the certification process, with the choice of a certificate—rather than a title—still an option for eligibility in a therapy-dog program. The basic CGC requirements can be met following completion of an intermediate-level obedience class or the equivalent.

The CGC program has also added two new, advanced titles to its repertoire. The Community Canine, or Advanced CGC, title (CGCA) measures a dog’s skills in a real-world environment, as opposed to the CGC test’s simulation of a “natural” setting. Dogs being evaluated must already possess the baseline CGC title or certificate and be registered with AKC. The Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU) title challenges a dog and its handler to demonstrate advanced skills in an urban setting, such as a large metropolitan area. CGCU test criteria involve distractions such as automobiles, elevators, public buildings and city noises. A prerequisite is possession of the CGCA title or certificate. Both the CGCA and CGCU tests may be passed successfully following advanced-level obedience training or the equivalent.

Complete information on all title levels of the CGC Program and associated training requirements may be found on the AKC website at the following direct link: http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen/.

The AKC Therapy Dog Program grants titles to dogs who have served their communities in a wide variety of capacities. While AKC does not itself administer evaluations or conduct community-client visits, it partners with 145 therapy-dog organizations throughout the USA, Puerto Rico and Canada; that number has almost tripled from 53 at the publication of Dorice’s article in 2011. The goal is to recognize dogs and their owners who have donated their considerable skills and time to “act locally” and improve the lives of needy neighbors.
Across the breadth of the communities they serve, therapy dogs work in organizations whose clientele include: schoolchildren in reading and literacy programs; college students who need to manage stress, particularly during exam periods; patients in hospitals and extended-care facilities; seniors and assisted-living residents; and military veterans who now battle the physical and psychological scars of combat during their transition back to civilian life.

AKC and most of its partner agencies emphasize that therapy dogs are not service dogs. The mission of therapy dogs is to improve the lives of others through voluntarism, as opposed to service dogs, which directly support the physical and/or emotional needs of those with disabilities.

There are currently five levels of AKC Therapy Dog (THD) titles, granted after successful certification by recognized therapy-dog organizations, plus the completion and validation of a prescribed number of volunteer hours by dog-handler teams. The AKC partner agencies must document the number of required visits for each title level, as follows:

- Therapy Dog Novice (THDN); must have completed 10 visits
- Therapy Dog (THD); must have completed 50 visits
- Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA); must have completed 100 visits
- Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX); must have completed 200 visits
- Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD)

For a compendium of information on the Therapy Dog Program, its nonprofit partner agencies, qualifications, and documentation, please visit the AKC website at: http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/akc-therapy-dog-program/.

**Making a Difference: Wheatens at Work**
Accompanying Dorice’s therapy-dog primer in the September, 2011, issue of *Benchmarks* were three pieces entitled “Congratulations to our Nominations for the AKC Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE),” (pp. 36-38), “Therapy Dogs at Work,” (p. 39) and “Like Father, Like Son: Therapy Success Stories Continued” (p. 40). They feature the stories of six remarkable dogs—five from both coasts and one from the Midwest—which have worked in such varied environments as schools, psychiatric wards and rehabilitation units of hospitals, veterans hospitals, and children’s cancer homes.

Miriam Kahan’s Chester and his son, Mary Lindquist’s Oliver, were the subjects of the “Like Father, Like Son” story in 2011, and have unfortunately left us for the Rainbow Bridge. While there are numerous Wheatens volunteering as therapy dogs across the USA, three current ambassadors of the breed in my own southern California backyard deserve mention.

Max, a very active senior at age 13 and veteran of thousands of hours of Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) duty, is owned by Carole Aragon, an attorney who lives in Santa Monica and is a longtime member of SCWTC of SoCal. When he was 18 months old, Max was certified as an AAT dog and began serving with Delta Society, now Pet Partners. Carole and he are now volunteers with the Love on 4 Paws organization, a non-profit founded in 1997 which serves primarily hospitals, schools and healthcare facilities in more than 30 locations on the Westside, in the San Fernando Valley, and the South Bay of the greater Los Angeles area. Max is the only Wheaten on the volunteer roster of over 100 dogs and one cat (yes, a cat!) and visits hospitals, schools, senior facilities and special events featuring therapy dogs throughout the area served. Max has volunteered with blind students at Frances Blend School for the Visually Impaired, the Los Angeles Unified School District’s special-educational campus which serves children from pre-school through elementary grades. He has also been a regular at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, even fulfilling a special request from a patient in the Intensive Care Unit.

Max has also served for several years at Cedars-Sinai...
Medical Center, visiting women hospitalized for long-term pregnancies as well as cardiac and other intensive-care units. Max has over 400 documented visits since he began his therapy dog “career” in 2004.

Two retired conformation champions in the South Bay volunteer with Beach Animals Reading with Kids (BARK), a therapy-dog program which was founded in 2007 and has quickly expanded in California and Arizona. While its principal mission is reading and literacy programs at schools and public libraries, BARK dogs also visit hospitals, senior and assisted-living facilities, veterans centers and college campuses, among them my alma mater, UCLA, as well as UC Irvine.

Higgins (CH Bryr Rose Chanels Monsieur), owned by Janet and Steve Smolak of Manhattan Beach, also SCWTCSC members, retired from the show ring after earning his championship at eight months and ranking as the number 12 Wheaten in 2009. He quickly went to work supporting the SoCal club’s public-education opportunities such as our breed booth at America’s Pet Expo, an annual public event held each April in Orange County and attended by tens of thousands of animal enthusiasts. After joining BARK in 2012, Higgins visited with eight to 16 special-needs students per week at Felton Elementary School in Lenox near LAX; the impact on the kids was huge, according to Janet. He has also de-stressed college students and visited local libraries to read with younger students. His current BARK visits have focused on monthly outings to the Canterbury, a senior/assisted-living center in Rancho Palos Verdes that is operated by Episcopal Communities and Services of Pasadena. Higgins and Janet meet with dog-loving residents on Sunday afternoons in a community room with commanding views of Catalina Island and the Pacific Ocean.

Finally, my own Bammie (GCH CH Marymore Circle of Friends CGC THDN) joined BARK in June of 2015 after a distinguished show career, advanced obedience training, and birthing a litter of pups on St. Paddy’s Day 2014. Bammie began her volunteer experience at the tender age of eight months in the SCWTCA Meet The Breed booth in 2010 at the final AKC/Eukanuba National Championship Show held in Long Beach. She subsequently earned her CGC at 19 months and staffed several SCWTCSC booths at America’s Pet Expo prior to finishing her championship. Bammie retired from the conformation ring upon the completion of her GCH in 2014 and passed her BARK certification with flying colors early last summer.

She immediately began volunteering twice a month in reading programs at Los Angeles City and County library branches in the South Bay; “Selfies with Bammie” have become a major hit of our sessions. Bammie has since added elementary-school visits to her portfolio this year, with excursions to UCLA planned for finals week of winter quarter 2016. She earned her THDN in October 2015, after 10 library visits.

Speaking as one who has sat on hard floors with my dog listening to giggly kids read aloud and loving every minute of it, get that Wheaten off the couch and into action, greetin’ those whose lives can be brightened considerably by the unconditional affection that only our dogs can give. Whether it’s teaching responsible dog ownership to kindergarteners, bringing cheer to a hospital patient, helping a wounded warrior cope with the sacrifice that he/she has given to all of us, or easing a senior through the final years of life, your Wheaten and you will share some incredible feel-good moments with our friends in the greater community. That’s unmatched therapy for each of us, too.

As Dorice said so sagely five years ago, make a difference with your Wheaten.
Montgomery BOB/BBE

The Bred-by-Exhibitor class is a very prestigious class, and one that breeders support to showcase their best.

This year a new class was introduced at Montgomery; the BOB/BBE, won by Bonita Snyder with Birchbark Bonney Super Yooper "Yooper."

Our sincere apologies for having overlooked reporting this win in our Montgomery coverage last issue.

2016 Specialty/Supported Entry Plan

Specialties
- National Roving Specialty, Sacramento, April 14
- SCWTNC, Sacramento, April 15
- DelVal Spring, Bucks County, May 7
- SCWTC Greater St. Louis, June 3
- SCWTSC Long Beach CA, June 26
- SCWTC Greater Milwaukee (2 Specialties in 1 day), July 29
- SCWTC Greater Denver, Aug 19
- DelVal at Hatboro, Oct 7
- SCWTCA National at Montgomery, Oct 9

Supported Entries
- Desert Empire Terrier Show, Jan 8
- Dog Fanciers Assoc. of Oregon, Jan 23
- Louisville Kennel Club, March 20
- Columbia Terrier Association, April 22
- Mississippi Valley Kennel Club, June 5
- Great Western/SCWTC So. Cal. June 25
- Oklahoma City Kennel Club, July 2
- Waukesha Kennel Club, July 30
- Greeley Kennel Club, Aug 20
- AKC/Eukanuba, Dec 12
Eukanuba National Dog Show

Dec 13, 2015  Orlando, FL
Judge:  Mr. Gary Vlachos

Best of Breed:  GCH CH Villanova Blame It On The Bossanova
Best of Winners:  Harbour Hill Double Dog Dare
Best of Opposite Sex:  GCH CH Canopy Road’s Carry On The Legend
Winners Dog:  Harbour Hill Double Dog Dare
Winners Bitch:  Azydeco How Can U Surpass Perfection
Select Dog:  GCH CH Sundance’s Hot Surfer Dude
Select Bitch:  CH Villanova Good Golly Miss Raleigh
1st Award of Excellence:  GCH CH Serendipity’s Urban Legend
2nd Award of Excellence:  GCH CH Bryr Rose Matisse
3rd Award of Excellence:  GCH CH Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising
BOB/Bred by Exhibitor:  CH Villanova Good Golly Miss Raleigh

2015 AKC Agility Invitational Results

By Susie Blackledge

Pawsome Awesome!
That is what the AKC Agility Invitational is!
Only the top dogs are invited, and MACH Roberts Sugarbear Riley was honored to represent his breed for the third year in a row. Joining us were Cindy Jansen and CH Eringlo Playing With Fire (Cayenne). Cayenne kept us covered in Wheaten kisses all weekend. A very gifted girl, who is not only a conformation champion, but also excels in tracking! This was their first Invitational and they show-cased the breed like the champions they are. Riley and Cayenne recognized their fellow Wheatens right away and became immediate buddies. Unfortunately, the other Wheaten teams who were invited were unable to come due to life and its tribulations interfering in their plans.

First came our practice run, Time to Beat. It was our first time on the new spongy turf surface, and the Sugarbear had a bobble in the weaves. Cayenne, who is more turf savvy, nailed this run. Then both dogs rocked it Saturday in rounds one and two. Whew!

Sunday proved a bit tougher for both teams. Team Jansen hit a few bobbles but carried on “in great form.” Sugarbear got round three and I had tears in my eyes when I saw he was then 26th out of 140 some dogs in the 20 inch class. Top dogs from all over the country. And my “lil’ Wheaten Terrier” was holding his own. Ah, but then came the 4th round... my butt moved a lil’ too slow in a most critical moment, and Riley took the off jump. But, not losing my head, we completed the rest of the run, “clean” (no mistakes!). Sugarbear Riley would now win the precious AKC Medallion for Top Dog that is sponsored by the parent club of each breed. When I received it, the presenter was getting ready to put it back in the box and I said, “Oh no, I want to wear that!” I was so proud and my smile went ear to ear. You see, we have been doing agility for almost seven years, and I never dreamed that we would achieve such success. There was a point in our career that Riley was so misbehaved; a trainer refused to let him come to class! So I wore that Medallion for Top Agility Dog in our breed very proudly. I am 57, overweight, and arthritic. There are moments when I can barely walk. But when we enter the ring, the endorphins take over and my nine-year old Wheaten and I take off like there is no tomorrow! Cayenne is also nine, so don’t think that agility is only for young handlers or young dogs. It is, however, for the “Young at Heart.” Thank you SCWTCA for sponsoring this beautiful award for us. I will treasure it always.

The other Top SCWT Teams who were invited are:  MACH6 Vermillion Doogan’s Irish Cream (Doogan and Bill Space)
NOTES from attendees, Jeri Voyles and Cheryl Johnstone

The seminar was recorded and is available to view on YouTube at the following link:

http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+videos+breeder+seminar+akc&qpvt=youtube+videos+breeder+seminar+akc&view=detail&mid=FDA4DEB28B3DB5156EF1FDA4DEB28B3DB5156EF1

Below are a few items we thought especially interesting:

- With regard to reproduction, it is important to know what type of insemination is planned. Semen is packaged by the collecting veterinarian based on the type of insemination (AI, TCI, Surgical), and by when it will be used.

- When planning to use fresh chilled semen, you need to ensure that the dog’s semen is still viable. When was the last semen evaluation? The dog may be proven, but that was then. Does the dog’s semen survive with extender? It’s important to do a chill test.

- When determining whether to use TCI versus surgical, consider the quality of the semen and your willingness to do surgery. When doing a surgical, the repro vet will hold and palpate the uterus, check it for cysts, and rupture cysts during surgery. Otherwise, a surgical and a TCI are identical as to where the semen is placed.

- When using the semen of a dog long dead, or when there is limited supply, or not the best semen quality, you should consider using surgical.

- Use health databases to improve your breeding success. An open database publishes all data in a set, whether normal or not. A closed data base publishes only normal results in a set. Semi-open data bases publish all normal and abnormal data, with the owner’s permission.

- OFA Vertical pedigrees are a good source of breeding information. You can find all available genetic testing for dogs and which labs are running them on the AKC Canine Health Foundation site under the Genetic Testing Section.

- How is a disease inherited? Could a disease be genetic? How do we know? Everything is genetic. We are a combination of our genes. How those are utilized in inheritance is a different story. If a disease is reported in other breeds, it is likely heritable. Do you see frequency in lines or in the entire population? If it is very common in family lines, or if those with a higher degree of inbreeding show more expression of the disease, it could be heritable.

- We were introduced to a product from Royal Canin called Mousse. The product has the texture of mousse, and is built for puppies that don’t have motor skills, and are barely able to suck or lick. Numerous testimonials were given about saving several one week old puppies using this product.
The 140th Westminster Kennel Club All Breed Dog Show reached a Combined entry this year of over 3,000 dogs in three different competitions.

This world-famous dog show has a long history of bringing the best examples of their breeds to the viewing public as the second-longest continuously held sporting event in this country, beginning in 1877.

The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is one of the few benched dog shows in this country. Originally, most shows were "benched" in some fashion, where the entered dogs were required to be in assigned areas (on benches) at all times when not being judged in the ring. This allows for interaction of dogs and their owners with spectators and other owners and breeders as an educational process. In 2014 the show expanded to include the Masters Agility Championship at Westminster and new this year was the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster.

Wheaten IQ

How well did you do?
A Note from your Editors

Important Notice

Our June issue of *Benchmarks* will continue to feature Wheaten IQ on breeding, but more from the whelping and rearing perspective. The Wheaten Health News will also focus on this topic.

Remember, *Benchmarks* is your publication, and we are anxious to have our readers participate with articles and contributions. To that end, we are sharing our plans below for the year, and hope you will find a topic of interest that inspires your participation...

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Seeking Club Volunteers

**Calendar Coordinator** - To organize one of SCWTCA big fundraiser. Highlights of responsibilities are requesting and selecting pictures for the calendar, working with publisher to produce calendar, and organizing event list for calendar. Contact Cecily at tarascwt@aol.com for more details or to volunteer

**MCKC Hotel Grounds Crew** - This person has an important job of making sure we keep the hotel staff happy by keeping the grounds free of doggie litter. Included in responsibilities are checking supply buckets daily at hotel, making sure dog poop bags are always stocked, and notifying Pam T or hotel if outside cans are overflowing. Contact Pam T at pamwaggintail@gmail.com

**MCKC Sweeps Photographer** - Love taking pictures and know what “show pictures” are supposed to look like? Seeking a volunteer to take the official show pictures for the Sweeps Winners. Contact Pam T at pamwaggintail@gmail.com for more info.

**MCKC Sunday Helper** - Looking for helpers with the breakfast table on Sunday at Montgomery. Breakfast runs from 7-10am and people can sign up for any one hour or the whole three hours. Contact Rose at 925-967-8418 or rose.rose@comcast.net

**Rescue Help** - 1) **Information Gatherers** from various areas of the county to provide info on vets, trainers, kennels, etc. 2) **Home Visit Volunteers** to visit/check potential homes of adoptive families 3) **Transportation Drivers** to help rescue dogs move from one location to another 4) **Foster Homes** to house rescue dogs until permanent home is found. 5) **Regional Representatives**. Contact Karli Mueller at dogcoachkarli@gmail.com or Nancy 505-433-5009
Benchmarks Subscription Rates

SCWTCA members USA $25/year
Canada and overseas $35/year
Non-SCWTCA members USA $35/year
Non-SCWTCA members Canada and overseas $45/year
US funds only

The link to Benchmarks online is sent to all AKC approved and provisional SCWT Judges. Benchmarks is sent to judges requesting a subscription, free of charge.

Articles and letters closing date for June 2016 issue: May 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. No commercial advertising. Only photos with un-retouched dogs accepted. Limit health references to hip and eyes and/or “health testing current and shared upon request”. Ads accepted from club members only, limited to two pages per issue. ONLY CLUB MEMBERS’ CHECKS ACCEPTED for ads of co-owned/bred dogs.

Ad closing date for June 2016 issue: May 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 and photos submitted by due date, draft layouts will be provided for edits. Include email address for quick turnaround. Payment sent to the editor, payable to SCWTCA.

Birthdays/Celebrating Long Life:
Submit to editor by closing date

Benchmarks Editors:
Helen Fraguela, fraguela@aol.com
Deborah Van De Ven, deb@bradberryswheatens.com

WHN Editor:
Molly O’Connell, moconn1030@comcast.net

Benchmarks is the official quarterly publication of the SCWTCA, Inc. The opinions expressed in articles contained herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editor or the Officers and Directors of the Club.

The editor reserves the right to reasonably edit all material submitted for publication. Comments, suggestions, and expressions of opinion are always welcome. Original articles may be reprinted with permission of the editor.

For Benchmarks subscriptions contact:
Cindy Jansen
jansen@outlook.com

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The Endowment Board Welcomes Dr. Meryl Littman To The Endowment Board As A Director

Dr. Meryl Littman VMD DACVIM has been elected as a Director to the SCWTCA Endowment Board. For over 20 years, through her research, Dr. Littman has worked tirelessly on improving the health of the SCWT. Dr. Littman’s experience, expertise and love for the SCWT will make her a valuable asset to the Endowment Board.

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