Spring breathes new life into the world around us.
GCHB REYEM’S IF SHE HOLLERS LET HER GO
WESTMINSTER BEST OF BREED
2017
Number One Bitch

“Laney”

Thank you Judge, Mr. Ken Kauffman

GCHB Reyem’s Red Rover Come Over x CH Geragold Paparazzi Of Reyem

Bred By: Meggan Abboud & Gwen Meyer
Owner: Kathy Clarke

Presented by: Kent & Gwen Meyer
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Benchmarks is available for viewing in color on our SCWTCA website, http://www.SCWTCA.org.

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About The Cover

The puppy pictured above is Ceili’s Wildfire (Nickie) at five weeks old, marveling at this fun new toy basketball.

Original photo (above) by Beth Sorenson
Cover modified by Editor
From the President

Each year as we open our new calendar (and hopefully, it’s a “SCWTCA Wheaten” calendar), we look forward to what the year will bring. 2018 started in spectacular fashion with our Roving National Specialty hosted by the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Tampa Bay on January 20th. There was a wonderful entry of Wheatens for Breed Judge Kathy Clarke, and Puppy/Veteran Sweeps Judge Bonney Snyder. I heard so many nice comments about the Tampa Bay club members and the warm welcome given to everyone attending. To quote one exhibitor, “They really know how to throw a party”! Please see this issue of *Benchmarks* for details and photos from the Specialty. Thank you to Roving Chair Kathi Elliot and the SCWTC of Greater Tampa Bay for starting our year on such a high note.

After many months of work by the SCWTCA Health Committee, the first Wheaten health survey in over 20 years is up and running on the OFA site. The response to the initial announcement was terrific . . . more than 1000 completed surveys in a just a few short days. It only takes minutes to complete the survey and the benefit for this and future generations of our breed could be significant.

The SCWTCA Board members met for its annual two- day meeting on February 8th and 9th. After two years in Phoenix, we returned to Las Vegas which offered more reasonable hotel rates and airfare for Board members. One important item on the agenda at this meeting each year is the Board vote for candidates to serve on the Nominating Committee. This year the Nominating Committee will be selecting the slate for the Vice President’s class which consists of the Vice President, Recording Secretary and two directors. Highlights of the board meeting will be posted to SCWTCA Discuss and SCWTCA Updates via “Board Bytes.” All officer and committee reports will be published in the upcoming issue of *Wavelengths*.

2018 also marks the 25th Anniversary of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Northern California’s very first Specialty and it was one to remember! I had traveled to Sacramento with friends and fellow exhibitors Bonney Snyder, Ann Leigh, Beverly Streicher among others to attend the specialty. The rings and tents were set up in the Cal Expo parking lot and the Northern California club had everything ready for a wonderful inaugural event. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had other ideas as what started as rain became nearly a tornado. EZ Ups went flying, umbrellas turned inside out while exhibitors and spectators held onto tent poles to keep the ring tents in place. All of us dressed in lovely Spring attire along with our perfectly groomed Wheatens were drenched. As everyone headed to the club dinner that night, we had to laugh at the day we just experienced. Not long after we returned home, we were surprised with the greatest T-shirt from the Northern Cal Club featuring Wheatens swirling around in a tornado-like wind and the words “You Had to Be There.” I have that T-shirt to this day. What a great example of making “lemonade out of lemons!” I’ve attended nearly every Northern Cal Specialty since and can’t wait to celebrate their 25th with them in April.

Believe it or not, Montgomery is only months away. Your Specialty Coordinators Jinx Moore and Lori Kromash have lots of fun planned for us. I’m pleased to announce that we have just received AKC approval to hold our first Scent Trial. The Scent Trial will join Barn Hunt, Agility, Obedience and Conformation in our line-up of events for the Specialty week. The SCWTCA Board voted to offer Veteran Sweepstakes in addition to our Puppy Sweeps this year. It’s time to get those seven- year- or- older Wheatens ready for the show ring! Judging our breed will be longtime breeder, Cindy Vogels of Andover Wheatens. Denise Daniel, Star Wheatens will have the pleasure of judging Puppy / Veteran Sweepstakes. Hotel reservations are now open so make plans to join us in October and be sure to check out the wonderful 2018 National Specialty theme debuting in *Benchmarks*.

Best wishes to all for a year filled with good times, good friends and good health!

Cecily Skinner
From the Editors

Just returned from the SCWTCA Roving Specialty held in Brooksville, FL and hosted by the local SCWTCGTB. Wow, what a spectacular job done by the local club to make this event special and welcoming for all... Southern hospitality won the day. A large entry from all parts of the U.S. and Canada brought a delightful sense of camaraderie and support for all our Wheaten people...enjoy the summaries, judges’ critiques and photos.

In this issue, we focus on the dog show sport...the good, the bad, the funny.

There is a particularly funny “tongue –in-cheek” article that takes a look and some jabs at all the players. Don’t be offended...sometimes it’s healthy to look and laugh at ourselves. There are some excellent tips from our breeder-judges and others involved in the sport, as well as some funny personal stories from readers.

On a much more serious and somber note, I cannot close my comments without discussing what has just occurred in Parkland, Florida...my home!

Until Wed. Feb 14, 2018, Parkland was named the safest and most idyllic community in the State...also in the top 10 across the country. An insane and incomprehensible act of violence, killing 17 children and teachers, changed all that forever. My 18 year old grandchildren (twins) are seniors in Marjorie Stoneham Douglas High School, a school that was just featured as one of the top, most progressive schools in the country. This was their senior year, a time for joy and planning for an exciting future. They witnessed things that no human being should ever have to see. Their lives, and the lives of 3,000 children and their families are changed forever. The entire city of 30,000 is grieving.

If this tragedy could happen here, in our little paradise, it can happen anywhere. We ask ourselves...how does a well-known, deeply disturbed kid go un-noticed, and own numerous assault rifles? And, more importantly, what will it take to end these tragedies?

An opinion

In the world there are two types of people ... those who love Facebook and those who hate it. I fell into the latter category up until a few short years ago. For the rest of you that think there is no redeeming value to Facebook, here are three wonderful learning opportunities that might make you reconsider ...

Do you ever wish you could learn how to groom your Wheaten for the show ring? Or maybe put a shorter trim on your retired champion? Maybe even a pet trim for one of your puppies? Well thanks to Lisa Lopez’s group Wheaten Grooming Matters, you can tap into step by step tutorials and videos of all of these. Topics run the gamut from hands on-how-to’s, to equipment, product, and daily maintenance advice.

Another great group is Wheaten Health Matters. This group deals with all things related to Wheaten health from minor to more serious. As a conscientious owner it’s often helpful to compare notes with others about your concerns. With nearly 7,000 members and moderators from three continents, there is a wealth of expertise and advice to tap into.

A third group you might want to check out if you show your Wheatens is The Dog Show Judges Report Card. In this group you can both provide feedback and poll others on Judges’ preferences. You can do a search to see what exhibitors say BEFORE entering the next dog show circuit. Maybe you’re showing a young dog and want to know if a particular judge is good with puppies? Or you want to know whether a judge tends to put up owner handlers or always the pros.

There are several other Wheaten specific groups on Facebook with topics ranging from Rescue, to Training, to general breed enthusiasts. So for all of you, who swear you’d NEVER join the social media brain drain, think again, you might actually learn something ... and like it!

Helen Fraguela

Deb Van De Ven
Barker was loved and cared for by his amazing owners, Bobby and Terrie Brooks, for 16 years and 26 days. Back in December, when Barker was 100 years old in “people years,” Bobby took off from work and spent the day taking Barker to all of his favorite places to visit and eat in Tallahassee.

Bred By Dennis & Bonnie Wirth

Happy Birthday Seniors!

Maille Enjoyed Being Shown, Standing Patiently for Grooming and Exam, Once Larry Cornelius Explained the Rules She Had to Follow to Become a Champion. On 10/8/2011 Maille Was the First Veteran Wheaten Bitch to Become an AKC Grand Champion, Followed the Next Day by Becoming the First GCH Wheaten Bitch Whose Daughter Became a Grand Champion. Her Grandson Mikey is Also Now a New GCH. At Age 12 She Still Had a Lively Step Around the Veterans Ring, Earning BV/VG2 a Few Times.

At 14 we notice Maille slowing down a little. On our walks she walks in a straight line at my side now rather than circling to cover 4 times the distance that I walk, twisting her lead into a tight spiral. Watching for that truck has been her favorite job, though now she prefers to grumble in the background, leaving the alert task pretty much to her housemates: daughter Sachet and granddaughter Aoife. Her hearing is still keen though her reactions more selective, preferring the sound of cheese being unwrapped to come running.

Maille and her family live with us, Jim and Ann McCormick in our Florida retirement home. She is co-owned by her breeder, Kathy Ostrander-Bowers.
I would like to discuss what I (and again, let me be clear, I am only speaking for THIS judge, expect from my exhibitors:

Bring me a clean dog, including his teeth, especially in the breeds we must look at them all. Don't want to see tartar so thick I can't count the teeth. I have had dogs with urine stains, remnants of poop in their hair... not fun.

If you enter two dogs of the same sex, there is a likelihood that you may have both in winners, or at least one needing to standby for reserve. Please have whomever is helping you ready, with the arm band on. We are scheduled to judge 25 dogs an hour normally and for every minute we have to wait for your dog (who often is back in his crate) or the handler to find a rubber band, shuffle arm bands around, gives us less time for photos and bathroom breaks.

Please come up a couple of classes early and see what our ring procedure is. Most judges do the same ring pattern unless you have a post or tree in the ring. Think about saying "down and back please" 175 times a day. My ring pattern is a little different than some others, but works for me.

Sportsmanship is part of the game. No one is in the ring to lose, whether you be a pro handler or at your first show. If I catch anyone deliberately trying to distract another person's dog, or run up on them...you aren't making brownie points. Also, when the judge says to the group "Take them around," if you are first in line, please glance at the others or ask if they are ready rather than take off like a bat...

NEVER snatch a ribbon angrily out of my hand (and yes, I have had some pros do that).

This is a tricky question. I have never given much thought to what I, as a judge, should expect from an exhibitor. I know that the exhibitors have given much thought to what they expect from the judge.

Please, be ready to come into the ring when your class is called. Keep in mind that the judge is expected to judge 25 dogs per hour. If the judge gets behind, the AKC rep will be all over them. If you have more than one dog entered, have someone ready to help— should they both need to come in for winners or Best of Breed.

Dogs presented should be clean and brushed. Not everyone has the same talent when it comes to trimming, but everyone can bathe and brush. Don’t forget the toe nails, my personal pet peeve. People spend hours grooming and don’t cut nails.

Learn the proper use of bait. It is intended to show expression and get attention, not continuous feeding. When you are trying to show the bite put the bait away. It is hard to get a dog to cooperate if you have food in your hand while trying to show the mouth.
Watch the exhibitors that go before you; most judges use the same pattern for every class and every entry. It is annoying to get to the last dog in a large class and they don’t know the pattern you have been using.

Above all, be courteous to the steward, judge and fellow exhibitors. Remember to have FUN! Yes we are all competitive and want to win, but what brought us to dog shows in the first place was to enjoy time with our dogs and the camaraderie of other breeders and exhibitors.

My Perspective...

To be successful in anything, advance preparation is key. Preparing your Wheaten and yourself for the show ring is done weeks and months in advance; not just the day before. After 40 plus years as a breeder/exhibitor, steward and judge, I’ve experienced showing from all sides. As a judge, I very much enjoy helping newcomers to the ring and to our sport, but once you’ve been in the ring twice or more, there are certain protocols and parameters I expect exhibitors to follow.

Know the breed Standard! It is surprising to me when exhibitors ask my opinion of their dog, particularly if it didn’t win, and they haven’t even read the Standard. In one case, a Wheaten I had given the breed to as a puppy to finish, appeared in my ring many months later as a Special with his lovely coat cut back like a Kerry Blue. When the owner/handler later asked why I didn’t put him up again, I was surprised and disappointed to learn she’d never read the Standard and didn’t know that over trimming was to be “severely penalized.”

Exercise is important, for you and your dog. Be sure you are physically fit to trot around the ring, sometimes more than once and sometimes outdoors in the heat. As for your Wheaten, these were all around farm dogs; they should have good muscling, not thighs that feel like marshmallows. Nails that look like talons says something about your preparation and about your care of your Wheaten. Teeth should be clean, not covered in yucky tartar, and if you bait your dog, check to see that food particles aren’t stuck in its teeth or beard. Learn how to bait properly. Shoving food in the dog’s mouth as I’m looking at it from the center of the ring only serves to push its neck back into its shoulders. It does nothing to enhance the picture, and if you throw bait, be sure you pick it up. You wouldn’t leave food on the floor of your office; please don’t leave it in mine. Be sure your dog has relieved itself before ring time. Accidents happen, I know, but cleanup takes up valuable time and also may necessitate a change in my ring pattern which isn’t fair to the other exhibitors.

Coats that are dematted just before they are shown are easy to spot and most unattractive. They look shredded and lack the sheen of a coat that’s been brushed and combed daily for weeks before. Your Wheaten should be clean and trimmed according to the breed Standard. Have your dog in proper weight. Wheatens are notoriously picky eaters, so overweight is rarely a problem, but neither should the ribs and spine be prominent as I gently go over the dog. Remember, this is part beauty contest: Miss America doesn’t go down the runway with knots in her hair, flabby thighs, dirty teeth nor a tattered gown.

Socialize your dog around people and other dogs. Before you enter a show, train it to walk on a leash without pulling and to stand happily for examination, which includes the bite. Expose your Wheaten to a ramp, which many judges now use. Learn the art of showing. It is not brain surgery. Have the proper show lead and learn how to position it under the chin, not around the throat so that the dog doesn’t choke its way around the ring. Either go to handling class or watch the professional terrier handlers or experienced exhibitors and emulate them. The center of the mat is for the dog, not for you. Learn the proper speed for your...
An interesting question posed on Facebook by Diana Han, the very talented West Coast dog show photographer. She asked Judges to post suggestions on how exhibitors could improve their handling skills. The post got a surprising 98 comments in two days … Here are the top ten responses:

1. **Bait is bait, not a buffet.** Quit feeding dogs in the ring and train them.
2. Move your dog at the appropriate speed for your breed and standard.
3. The best exhibitors are “invisible” – develop the ability to disappear behind your dog.
4. **Good Sportsmanship** -- show respect for the dogs, your competition, & the judges.
5. **Pay attention to the judge’s instructions** – they’re most likely trying to help you make your dog look better.
6. **Stop over-handling and fussing** so much.
7. Go straight down and back, without weaving or zigzagging, and stop before you get to the judge – all a slower pace than the go-around.
8. **Stop the games** – blocking other people’s dogs, crowding, distracting. Show your dog to his best advantage and let your competition show theirs.
9. **Stop double handling** – you’re the only one that thinks no one notices.
10. Love your dog & have fun – you’ll take home the best dog at the show – win or lose.

Diana Han,
Dog Show Photographer

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**Dress appropriately.** As a judge, while I will certainly cut a newbie some slack, I find it disrespectful when exhibitors are dressed like they’re about to clean the kennel or like a Las Vegas stripper. If you want to be a winner, dress like one. Emulate the professionals. Dinner casual makes a nice impression. Wear shoes, not sandals. I would not want you to fall in my ring.

**Get to the ring early and watch the gaiting pattern** I use and where the dogs should line up. Get your armband at that time. And be nice to my steward as theirs is not an easy job. Be there, ready to go in when your dog’s class is called, or better yet, a few minutes ahead. Pay attention. Be sure you stay at ringside with your dog and its armband until the entire breed judging is over.

Understand when you might need to go back in for Reserve and be ready. If you are showing multiple dogs, prearrange for an extra pair of hands at ringside to help you. If one of your dogs is absent or moved up, let the steward know so time is not wasted. Judges are expected to judge 25 dogs per hour and calling for a dog that won’t be in that class takes up valuable time.

Be courteous to other exhibitors. No crowding nor distracting your competition with loud squeak toys. Be a gracious winner and a gracious loser. Be polite when you get your ribbon, regardless of the color. You paid for the judge’s opinion, not for a win. If you don’t like it, don’t show to that judge again. And if you want to maximize your dog’s chances of winning, take the time to be prepared.

**Walk in like a winner and good luck!**
Advice for New Dog Show Exhibitors

Dogs in Review magazine asked this question to experienced exhibitors: If you could give one piece of advice to a newbie in conformation, what would it be? Most dog show enthusiasts advise that beginners observe, learn and find a mentor, know their breed in and out, be patient and have fun.

Below are some of the exhibitors’ responses (names omitted) from the Dogs in Review magazine Facebook wall.

**Watch and Learn**

Look at the quality and accomplishments of the breeders who have been in it 10 years or 40 years. You may be surprised! Breed to the standard and don’t get hung up on the flavor of the month or the “ribbon winners.” My best mentoring has come from long-time breeders and professional handlers that are not in my breed. Most importantly, never become kennel blind! Be able to pick your own dogs apart and have an ultimate goal in your breeding program.

I would tell a very new person to study the owners and professionals that are winning in your given breed first. Also you have to watch other breeds and handlers, too. When you watch the people that are doing the most winning, there is a reason. Study where they place their hands, how they stack each breed, what speed they move their dogs, etc. Try to copy the way the best in the sport show your breed. I also would like to see the new people coming into the sport not worry about who is in the ring with you, but keep working and watching your own charge. At first your wins will be few, but as you get better, the wins will come more often. Before you know it, you’ll be able to compete against anyone at any time. Good luck! This is a wonderful sport, but no one starts at the top — it takes time and hard work.

Get a mentor and find out who knows what they are talking about and who thinks they know everything but don’t.

Develop a strong relationship with the breeder who you bought the dog from — a mentor like that is invaluable. Join a local club, and don’t be afraid to ask questions. At your first show, have fun with your best friend win or lose, and then splurge for a photo!

Spend vast amounts of time observing other handlers in your breed. See what responses the dogs have to the handler’s each move. Then spend much more time seeing what works for you and your dog. Conformation classes are great. Study your breed standard!

Listen to those that have earned the right to speak; learning is a never-ending quest. Have respect for your dogs, judges, and fellow breeders and competitors. Be honest with yourself and honest about your dogs.

Watch your ring before your class. Make sure you know the judge’s preferences and procedures in the ring. Go in with the dog you love and come out with the same dog you still love no matter what happens. It takes a while before someone can really show a dog to its best advantage, so be patient and watch the pros. When you can show your dog as well as the professional handlers, then you’ll see that it doesn’t make any difference whether you’re an owner-handler or a pro. Judges are normally fair and will reward the best dog in the ring.

**Know Your Breed**

Have fun and remember to attempt to understand your breed’s conformation as it relates to the function it was meant to perform.

Study your breed thoroughly. Study those successfully presenting your breed in the ring. Film them and film yourself, and then compare. Attend classes if you can to socialize your dog and yourself to ring manners and procedures. And
most of all, believe in your dog and yourself each time you walk into a ring. Don’t forget to breathe deeply and smile —
it all goes right down the lead to your dog.

Memorize the standard for your breed and remember that you’re advancing the breed for the generations to follow.
Leave a healthy, happy bloodline behind for others to build on as your legacy.

Find a breeder that has continued to produce typey dogs in your breed, someone that upholds the code of ethics of the
Parent Club. Ask questions, research, watch, learn the history of the breed, and learn about the health issues and what
tests can be done to minimize it. Be ethical and moral.

Get a real thick skin and listen, read and ask all the dumb questions you can. Most of all, study your pedigrees; they will
tell you most of what you need to know. Find out all the dogs in your chosen bloodlines and what made them good,
great or weak.

Read your breed standard. Pick it apart line by line and compare it to a dog. Do this with an unbiased eye and an
experienced dog person to help you. It doesn’t have to be someone in your own breed, but they have to know how to
interpret a standard.

Learn your breed standard from beginning to end. Observe your breed in the ring, and see if you can pick out the points
that the standard outlines and apply it to your own dog. We all start with our first dog, and without educating ourselves,
we generally start with a poor one. But if you love showing, you will learn what is correct for your breed and what you
find appealing about your breed, and you will find a good breeder who produces dogs that meet the standard. Good
luck out there!

Be Patient

Be patient! You seldom win out of the gate, but every time you compete or observe is amazing learning experience.

It’s not if you lose, it’s when you lose. That’s how you learn. Instead of complaining, remember presentation,
conditioning and total belief in your dog no matter what anyone says. It’s hard work and the love of sport, and when
you do win, it’s fantastic.

At your first show, one of two things is going to happen: You’re going to win or you’re going to not win. No one is
going to fire you, flunk you or hurt you, and your dog will be the same great buddy after you’re out of the ring as
before you walked in the ring. So try to relax, get through the first show, and then do what all good dog people do
every time: work on doing it better next time.

Have Fun!

Have fun! Too many exhibitors, handlers and judges have taken the fun out of a really fun sport! Smile, relax and have a
great time!

Keep it fun for human and dog. The most common mistake made by novices is to do the March of Death (show the dog
too often and too seriously). By the time the team is ready to win, the dog has lost its taste for the ring and “hates
showing.” What they really hate is the stress put on their relationship with their owner-handler.

If you are not having fun, it becomes a chore to show. Don’t let the first rude people you meet drive you away. Smile
and let them go their way. There are nice people out there … there’s just no guarantee that they will be the first people
you meet.

This is a sport — your actions do not decide the fate of the world for good or bad. As a side note, courtesy will get you
further than rudeness, whether it’s to your fellow exhibitors, spectators, judges or stewards.
To a novice, a dog show can be a daunting experience. The initial impression is often one of a single-purpose county fair where many grim-faced people run about with numbers on their arms and dogs in tow, and where, if one can judge by their facial expression, only about 1 in 20 of them is actually having fun. Following is a short list of the most frequently encountered personages at a dog show, and how to identify them by their typical plumage, temperament, demeanor and call.

**Professional Handlers**

Professional Handlers (PHs) are those who show dogs for a fee, so the dogs’ owners are spared the joys of kneeling in the mud in their own business suit, or having their last pair of pantyhose split on the second day of a 10-day circuit. PHs can be discerned from other exhibitors by several methods. One is their somewhat officious and aloof manner around ringside (which is difficult to master when you have muddy knees and/or split pantyhose). Outside the ring, PHs rarely acknowledges anyone except the judge (whom they know personally), other PHs (whom they know personally), and their own kennel help. Kennel help, by the way, are those nubile young men and women who race back and forth from the grooming area to ringside like orbiting comets, bringing dogs to their PH to show and taking already-been-shown dogs back to their crates in a never-ending cycle. This is called “learning the business”. Meanwhile, the PH stands there, dog-less, squinting at the competition and deciding whether to get his or her armband—the usual half-second before going into the ring, or give the steward a real shock and get it a whole minute ahead of time. PH plumage is the nicest seen among those at the dog show, and sometimes change color abruptly in the ring when they don’t receive the award they expected. Generally leaving speedier in motion when leaving the ring than when they entered it.

**Owner-Handlers**

Owner-Handlers (OHs) are people who show their own dog(s), rather than hiring a PH. They are roughly divided into two groups: Experienced OHs (EOHs) and Novice OHs (NOHs). We will discuss them separately. At first glance, EOHs may be difficult to differentiate from PHs. Their plumage is similar and their general look of competence, control and ‘cool’ is the same. The way to tell them apart is outside the ring. EOHs always have a dog with them because they don’t have kennel help to bring them their dog at ringside. Also, EOHs do talk to people and usually gravitate to, or form on their own, a small circle of other EOHs almost from the moment they arrive on the grounds. (The really well established EOHs are generally prominent breeders, and they often arrive at the show with their very own personal circle of communicants, called “disciples”.) EOHs know everyone who has their breed and they know all the dogs in their breed by registered name, call name, pet name, pedigree, show record and degree of quality (which they are constantly critiquing). This allows them to chatter on freely in rarified terms about the latest breedings, wins, dogs and people without a newcomer having a clue as to what they’re talking about. (By contrast, the PH might not even remember the name of the dog they have on the end of the lead at any given moment). If an unknown competitor shows up, EOHs give their dog a quick visual once-over and then talk about it behind their hands. EOHs never buy a catalog. They arrive at the show in enormous motor homes with six x-pens bungeed on the front, even if they’re only showing one Chihuahua that day. However, they only bring their dog and a small bag of equipment to ringside. Distinctive call: “Can I see your catalog a minute?” NOHs, on the other hand, are easily picked out. They arrive at the show three hours before they are due to go in, with their St. Bernard stuffed into the back of the family Toyota. To ringside, they bring the dog, its crate, its bowl, a water jug, a bag of dog food, a large blanket, three chairs, a Coleman cooler, four kids (two fully ambulatory, one in a stroller and one an infant), the spouse, and a portable TV. They always have their armband on three breeds before theirs is to be judged, and they always buy a catalog (which is how they meet EOHs). For all their advance preparation, NOHs are often the last ones into the ring because by the time their class is actually called, they’ve passed out from exhaustion. NOHs are generally either overdressed or underdressed for the occasion, and have been known to show their dogs on flat collars and chain leashes. For all that, their typically sweet, earnest, and somewhat addlepated temperament is among the...
best one will meet up with at a dog show, although after the eighth time one of them is late for his or her class, it starts to wear thin. The distinctive call is raucous and usually shouted across the ring to the family: “Hey, Honey, look… we got fourth! Isn’t that GREAT????!”

**Junior Handlers**

JHS may be confused, at first, with kennel help. However, this is only because of the similarity in age and intensity of the facial expression. The plumage is distinctly different. While kennel help are invariably in white grooming smocks with paw prints and clots of hair stuck to them, JHS are by far the most impeccably dressed people at the show, including the judges, the show chair and the AKC field representative (q.v.). The average JH looks like a recent appointee to the ambassadorship of Great Britain, and a whole class of them filing into the ring evokes images of an opening session of Congress, but more dignified. The JHS’ expression and demeanor is unique in the world of dogs: In the standing line-up, they stare intently down at their stacked dogs with a slight frown that says, “I’m very constipated, and so is my dog.” This effect is only interrupted by piercing glances up at the judge, at which point the expression changes instantaneously to a disconcerting and maniacal sort of rictus, which says, “All better!” This transformation is exaggerated even further when the judge has the JH gait the dog. The JH then goes into high gear, somehow running the dog around in a circle but never unpinnning the judge from that death’s head grin. It is a skill worth watching, but weirdly reminiscent of the scene from The Exorcist when Linda Blair’s head creaks slowly around backward. Throughout the entire performance, their clothes never wrinkle. JHS are the only exhibitors who routinely congratulate each other on their wins, although it may be done through jaws clenched so tightly that one can almost see the child’s orthodonture shifting. JHS do not have a readily identifiable call, as custom forbids any audible reaction whatsoever. Noises are strictly the purview of the parents of the JH, who are at ringside. (They are the ones with the paw prints and clots of dog hair stuck to them.) These calls range from high-pitched screams of delight (when the child wins) to a sharp but hushed squawk of “Andrew! Bring that dog over here!” (When the child doesn’t win).

**Judges**

Judges are those official-looking officials in the middle of each ring. Their plumage is wildly variable but generally falls somewhere in the range of sporty to dressy, depending on the weather and the venue. At some of the fancier shows, plumage can become positively splendidiferous, including sequins on both males and females. No matter what the attire, the infallible means of identification is the purple badge they wear. This badge is critical for the judges because it gets them free meals, free hotel rooms, free transportation and a check from the club treasurer at the end of the day.

Conformation judges are usually seen in the middle of the ring with a line of dogs and handlers tearing around them in a circle, trying to look like they’re having fun. The judge scrutinizes them all with feet slightly spread (for balance), hands clasped behind the back or folded across the chest (to keep them out of the way), and eyes squinted (to look sagacious). Older judges have been known to fall asleep in this stance, so it behooves the first exhibitor in line to get clear instructions ahead of time as to when to stop running around the ring. The call of the conformation judge cannot usually be heard outside the ring as they are given only to short consultations with the exhibitor nearest at hand. Younger judges may be chattier than older judges. Some elderly judges have been known to reduce their instructions, over time, to a combination of grunting and pointing, which the exhibitor must then interpret and execute properly. It’s a skill. Obedience judges look like high school gym teachers sans the whistle. They tend to be more athletic than their conformation counterparts, as they must follow each exhibit around the ring as it performs the exercises. They carry a clipboard and a pencil everywhere with them, and they can be heard calling commands to the exhibitors, who in turn, command their dogs. This makes the obedience rings much more interesting to watch than the conformation rings, where everything seems more private and quite inexplicable from the outside (and sometimes from the inside). Because of all this activity, obedience judges’ plumage runs more to the practical/sporty side of the spectrum than the conformation judges’ do. Obedience judges are very particular about their rings, pacing them off, inspecting the ground for dog-distracting detritus, personally setting jump standards to their own satisfaction, and measuring everything in sight with their own personal tape measure (which they all carry), so as to make it fair for each competitor.

Conformation judges, by comparison, have been known to lose half their entry in a ring crevasse and mark them all absent before noticing anything was wrong. Obedience judges are also skilled at totaling up entire score sheets of two-digit numbers in five seconds or less.

**Stewards**

The steward is the person sitting at the table by the ring gate who isn’t the judge and isn’t an exhibitor. As is the case in most walks of life, this most unobtrusive person, with the dullest plumage, is actually the one doing most
of the work. The conformation ring steward hands out armbands to the exhibitors, lines up the exhibitors for the classes, arranges the ribbons and trophies on the table for the judge, and calls for clean up and for the photographer as needed. The obedience ring stewards perform all of the above, also stand as “posts” for the Figure-8 exercise, diddle about with gloves, and dumbbells for various retrieving exercises, adjust jumps, and generally see to it that the judge stays on time and the ring runs smoothly. Stewards dress strictly for practicality, as they have to work at the show all day. Indeed, on a rainy or cold day, the stewards may be the only people who seemed to have had common sense enough to wear boots or a proper coat, since everyone else is concerned with looking elegant. They generally carry a largish sort of bag with them, and this bag has every possible emergency item in it, from weights for holding down ribbons on a windy day, to an extra pair of socks, to a fully equipped first aid kit. The steward’s job is to be prepared for any eventuality, which might befall them, their judge, or their exhibitors, and the good ones are so prepared. Stewards have a distinctive call, and one of the most highly valued assets in a good steward is a loud voice. In the conformation rings, it consists of the announcement of a breed name and class, such as “Dalmatians! Puppy Dogs!” used to summon the entrants into the ring for judging. Conformation types are more likely to be carrying on some incredibly important conversation with someone and not paying attention to what class is in the ring). If an armband remains unclaimed, the steward will wave it overhead while shouting the number out. If an errant exhibitor has picked up the armband but has not reported to the ring for their class, the steward will shout out that number as well. Then he or she will fall silent, turn to the judge, and shrug.

**Official Photographers**

The Official Photographer (OP) looks like someone on safari, but without the attending gun bearers. Typical under-plumage is slacks, all-terrain shoes and a shirt with a many-pocketed vest over top of it. Over-plumage consists of a large camera, a flash unit and a battery pack, with lots of black cording attaching everything to everything else. OPs also carry a set of plastic signs around in one hand, and sometimes a tripod. Despite these hindrances, they are notably agile and can leap tall ring fences in a single bound. When summoned, they can calculate the light angle, plunk the sign rack on the ground, fix the signs in the frame to indicate the win, position the judge, handler and dog to best advantage, drop to their knees, focus the camera, center the picture, throw a toy, snap the shutter, record the exhibitor’s armband number in a notebook, wind the film, and be up and gone to the next ring in thirty seconds or less. It is breathtaking. OP behavior is noticeable for periods of frenetic activity interspersed with periods of total quiescence, during which time they actually remove their over-plumage and sit next to it on a grooming table. OPs tend to develop crow’s feet due to weekends of peering into a viewfinder at the shows, alternating with weekdays of squinting at their airbrush work in the darkroom. The distinctive calls can vary in content but tend to be delivered in punchy, staccato bursts, such as “Rear foot! Your side! Back an inch!”

**Breed Spectators**

BSs (forgive the acronym) are experienced dog people who, for whatever reason, are not showing that day but came to the show to watch. They are usually in casual (non-show) plumage and are clumped at ringside, outside the tent. Like EOHs, they are often seen in small groups, huddled around the one catalog somebody bought or borrowed from a nearby NOH. However, the distinctive mark of an armband is lacking from BSs, and they are dog-less. Most easily distinguished in the field by their demeanor and call, timing your identification is critical: BSs tend to exhibit distinguishing behavior only as the judge is pointing to his or her selections. At that point, they roll their eyes like agitated horses and shriek, “You’ve got to be kidding!” (Alternate call: “Oh my GOD!”)

**Non-Breed Spectators (i.e., the General Public)**

Identical to NOHs in general appearance and number of accoutrements, except without a dog in tow. They fill this void in their lives by asking exhibitors if their child can pet the dog. This request is inevitably made right after said child has finished eating a hot dog and is covered with mustard, and the exhibitor is going in to show a Maltese which he just spent six hours grooming. NBSs are more likely to be seen wandering vaguely from ring to ring, or around the concession stands, rather than planted at ringside. When they do choose a ring to watch, they and their clan tend to stand annoyingly right in the ring gate, thereby preventing the exhibitors from entering. Adult NBSs are often observed making erroneous instructional comments to their fledglings, such as, “Look, dear, see all the lovely Poodles!” (when pointing at a ring of Portuguese Water Dogs.) A day in the company of a flock of NBSs can be very confusing for all concerned.

~ Author Unknown ~
Building Confidence for Show and Performance

Dorice Stancher, MBA, CPDT-KA

It can be a real challenge to have a beautiful conformation or performance prospect that is shy or fearful. There are many ways to build confidence with rewards-based training. It only takes a few short sessions a day to make real progress. Here are some of the activities that you can incorporate into your training.

1. **Have your dog learn to earn his rewards**

Building a working relationship based on trust is essential for all dogs but especially important for dogs that lack self-confidence and purpose. Having your dog learn to earn increases their motivation and it also teaches self-control. Dr. Sophia Yin popularized this program which essentially rewards for desired behavior and removes the reward for undesirable behaviors. The dog learns that the most successful way to get what they want is to do what he is asked.

2. **Teach Targeting**

Pat Miller in “Whole Dog Journal” encourages the use of teaching nose or paw targeting to help frightened dogs change their thoughts and turn their heads away from what causes them to be fearful. Simply hold out your hand in front of your dog, at nose level or below and when he sniffs click or use a verbal marker like the word “yes” and feed him a treat. Remove your hand, then offer it again. Each time he sniffs, click and treat. Over time, the dog will make a positive association with the scary man or whatever caused him to become anxious.

3. **Get a Buddy**

Corky Vroom, professional handler and Executive Field Representative for the AKC has used this method to help shy show prospects. She kenneled an anxious pug next to a very confident Boston Terrier that loved to be shown. On numerous occasions, the two were put on leads and led to the show ring area (with the confident dog in front). When attention and treats were offered to the Boston Terrier we asked that no interaction with the Pug occur other than letting her observe the reaction and willingness of the confident dog. Eventually the pug was able to enter the ring and finish her championship with confidence. Forcing a dog into a situation he or she is not ready to accept can do irreparable damage and reinforce the fear. She also noted there is a big difference between rewarding a dog for desired behavior and stuffing a dog to distract or restrain.

4. **Pass on the professional handler and work on de-sensitization and counter-conditioning**

Vicki Ronchette is the author of *Positive Training for Show Dogs* and has a site devoted to the topic. She noted that fearful dogs often respond better for their owners rather than being passed off to a stranger. Instead of forcing a dog through fearful situations, she advocates learning to read canine signals including the inability to focus, hyper-vigilance, curved towlines and the eagerness to escape the environment.

De-sensitization and counter-conditioning is essentially adding something the dog likes with the presence of the scary thing. When it is gone, so is the food. She lets the dog set the pace. De-sensitization and counter-conditioning is the best way to treat a dog that is shy, fearful or unsure. De-sensitization is the process of systematically exposing the dog to the “trigger,” which is the thing that scares him, at controlled levels so that he is aware of the trigger, but at a distance or level where he still feels comfortable. This level of exposure is called “sub-threshold,” where the dog is aware of the trigger, but is not worried or upset. This is where understanding body language is important. If your dog’s behavior is changing once he becomes aware of the trigger, he may be starting to become anxious and that is when you need to start making decisions about what to do next.

Ronchette makes a list of potential items the dog may need help with through this method and only moves forward when the dog is ready. “Handing your dog off to someone he doesn’t know, especially if that person uses force or physical corrections, forcing your dog to be touched when he is afraid, disappearing at a dog show when he isn’t used to that are all ways to breach the trust.”

**Helpful resources:**

*Positive Training for Showdogs* by Vicky Ronchette, Dogwise Publishing
*Show Me! A Dog Show Primer* D. Caroline Coile, Ph.D.
Barron’s Educational Series Positive training for show dogs.blogspot.com
Laugh and Learn

We asked breeders/exhibitors to share some funny (embarrassing) stories and lessons learned in the ring. Here are a few to enjoy:

Oh my gosh, that would be the Saturday my pantyhose felt a little loose as I entered the Breed ring with my Champion. They slipped a bit on the first go around but no problem. The waistband seemed a little looser on the down and back. On the last go around, as the judge pointed to me, I felt the waistband slide down around my knees, and then around my ankles. As the judge turned to mark the book, I quickly and quietly (I thought) removed my shoes, stepped out of the hose, stuffed them into my shoes, and held them behind my back to accept my dog’s award from a judge who was grinning from ear to ear as he handed me the ribbon for select bitch while gazing at my bare feet.

If my friend had not noticed me throwing the hose in the trash, my secret would have been safe; just between me and the judge. Everyone else was so busy watching their own dog that nobody noticed, but I told my friend the real story about losing my hose and by Sunday morning, everyone in the arena knew!

Ann McCormick
Inishkeen Wheatens

In 1970 I was showing my 6 month old male Black Labrador Retriever at Santa Anna KC. I was stacking him when I mistakenly leaned over him to move a front leg back in position. When I did that he sat down and I fell forward, face first, right into a fresh pile of dog poo! I was mortified when the judge came over and handed me his hanky, chuckling the whole time. I never showed that dog again and turned him over to Corky Vroom. His name was Red Cloud’s Jamboree Jones.

It was at that infamous show that I saw my first Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier running for the miscellaneous ring. I chased the strawberry blonde woman with the little golden sheepdog down, dragging J.J. with me. If that woman is still showing Wheatens in California, please have her e-mail me. I’m the woman with brown poo on my chin!

Wendy Neill
Lonestar Wheatens

In late July, 2014, my girl Bammie (AKA GCH CH Marymore Circle of Friends THDN CGC) needed one point to finish her GCH. We thought we had done the deed the previous December, but were short one bitch in the point count. She was bred a month later and gave birth to her litter on St. Paddy’s Day in 2014.

After post-partum coat and figure rejuvenation, Bammie was ready to finish at the Lompoc Valley KC show, in Lompoc, CA, on the central coast. The show venue was a city park with very challenging footing due to a combination of the statewide drought and critter excavations. We entered the BOB ring under Judge Houston Clark, a lovely gentleman.

All went well through the individual exam, including the down-and-back. Judge Clark then instructed us to complete the process with our individual go-around. As we did, I felt Bammie startle abruptly on the end of the lead and look down directly in front of us. A very large gopher, who was himself competing for the Darwin Award in the terrier ring, had popped up from his burrow. All our human buddies collectively gasped in that precise nanosecond.

Being the trouper that she is, Bam never lost a beat. She completed her gaiting and subsequently chalked up her fourth GCH major to finish with a flourish.

As we stood waiting for the win picture, I asked Mr. Clark if he had seen what happened. He replied that he did and had chuckled to himself. But he added that we gals had literally taken it in stride.

Connie and Bammie
Connemar Wheatens

It was 1992, my very first Wheaten, Morgan; Ch. DeDanaan Taste O’Honey and my very first Montgomery. I was new to showing, so Ray and I went to the Hatboro show so early it was still dark. But we were very excited to be there.

When it was my turn to show Morgie, I stacked him waiting for the judge to go over him. In my nervousness I accidentally stepped on his back foot. He yelped, and spun around. I was mortified, but fortunately the judge didn’t notice. I learned from that mistake, and took many, many conformation classes afterwards. I learned so much through the years, but I’ll never forget that first experience.

In showing, you should always be open to learning and watching others, especially the other breeds.

Lynn Cone
Raelyn Wheatens

In 1981 I brought a beautiful wheaten puppy back from Germany- All American bred and his grandsire belonged to Beth Heckermann of Hexacres Wheatens who lived in the outskirts of San Antonio where my military husband and I lived!

Beth mentored me and encouraged me to show “Paddy.” I took him to conformation classes and spent time to...
condition him to respond to me via hand signals!

I showed him the first day in the ring, and hadn’t a clue that I needed to stack him for the judge to go over him. Incredibly, he stood like a statue for her and won his first point. In my excitement to get his first win photo, I had stuffed the ribbons in my pocket, but pulled out two crisp one dollar bills instead and presented them to the judge for the picture!

Marty Brusch
Sunfield Wheatens

There was a popular judge who often judged Wheatens. Over time, it seemed to me that if she talked to you, as she was going over your dog, she wasn’t going to put you up. However, if she was silent, the opposite happened. This theory proved to be true through the many times I showed to her over the years. The funny thing is that I bet she never realized she was doing it.

In 1984, I was successfully campaigning CH Lontree Star Wagon. As Montgomery approached, I felt we had a good chance of winning and was nervous, of course. I also was showing a bitch in the bred-by class. As she won reserve winners bitch, I became even more nervous, feeling that I might have jinxed my chance of winning with Star. As I came out of the ring, obviously upset, a non-showing friend of mine offered to exercise Star during our break before the BOB judging, so that I could relax and calm down a bit. Imagine my shock, and dismay, when she brought him back to me with his legs thoroughly wet, from letting him walk in the bushes! As my friends and I frantically brushed corn starch into his legs to dry them, my heart was sinking. I went into the BOB ring with little hope and much anxiety. As Montgomery approached, I felt we had a good chance of winning and was nervous, of course. I also was showing a bitch in the bred-by class. As she won reserve winners bitch, I became even more nervous, feeling that I might have jinxed my chance of winning with Star. As I came out of the ring, obviously upset, a non-showing friend of mine offered to exercise Star during our break before the BOB judging, so that I could relax and calm down a bit. Imagine my shock, and dismay, when she brought him back to me with his legs thoroughly wet, from letting him walk in the bushes! As my friends and I frantically brushed corn starch into his legs to dry them, my heart was sinking. I went into the BOB ring with little hope and much anxiety. Well, amazingly, Star won the breed that day, and I had to go into the Best in Show ring, thoroughly exhausted from the experience. The memory is funny now – it wasn’t then!

Some Tips

I was a total novice handler when I bought my second Wheaten from Marjorie Shoemaker, but I lucked out by not only getting a beautiful Wheaten in the form of CH Waterford Lontree Lace, but in gaining knowledge from the expertise of both Marjorie and her good friend, Penny Belviso, a noted handler and Kerry Blue breeder.

Penny gave me many handling tips that helped me in the Wheaten ring. Some I remember were: To always wear something bright that would catch the judge’s eye, and never wear a color the dog would blend into, as you stood behind him. As a result, I never owned anything khaki in my showing years! Another tip is to show confidence in the ring...show the judge that you think you belong there. She also said that as I set up the dog that I should look the judge in the eye, as if to say, “This is the winner!”

I was also urged to always act and move confidently, even if I was quaking inside from nervousness. As a part of being confident, I learned to go the ring before Wheatens were to be judged, to observe the pattern the judge was using to move the dogs, so that I would not hesitate when I was told to move mine. Also, when you are in line, waiting as the judge examines other competitors, keep your dog up, happy, showing, and alert. You never know when the judge may glance your way and you want the dog to always make a good impression.

And of course, with the help of my mentors, I learned to groom with practice, practice, practice. The moto became, “If I make a mistake, it will grow back!”

These tips were just a part of the whole picture of correctly learning how to train the dog, set him up and gait him correctly. Handling classes and matches were a big part of my learning experience, also.

Joy Laylon
Lontree Wheatens

I love outdoor shows. A Wheaten coat looks so wonderful in the sunshine, blowing in a gentle breeze. But there are a few hazards when showing outside (beyond freezing, roasting and drowning) and the worst one is BUGS. Little bugs don’t bother me but the kind that fly around and sting (Yellowjackets and Wasps) make me crazy. I’ve had some bad reactions to stings and we had a 5 year old Wheaten who was spending the weekend at our house die of anaphylactic shock and a Yellowjacket sting was the prime suspect. So, I don’t like Yellowjackets at all. I’ve had two Yellowjacket encounters in the ring; one was many years ago at Westchester back when the show was at Lyndhurst and the other was last summer in Macungie. Common factors... both shows were in September on warm days... prime Yellowjacket time. And both days I had inadvertently attracted every Yellowjacket on the show site. At Westchester I had washed Quincy in an apple shampoo – great for his coat but he smelled like a giant overripe apple. The judge came to go over him and he was covered in Yellowjackets. I have a vivid memory of the judge frantically shooing away the Yellowjackets so she could go over the dog. Last September just before I took Gracie off the grooming table I sprayed her down with some wonderful (and very sweet smelling) coat dressing. The Yellowjackets got to Gracie before the judge did and we were both covered – all over Gracie and all over me. It was the closest I have come to simply leaving the ring in the middle of the class. This was not our finest moment in the ring. The moral of the story – be very careful about what your dog smells like at an outdoor show. The attention you get may not be from the judge.

Sally Sotirovich
Mclaren Wheatens
Long ago, when I was young and could move fluidly around the show ring, I had the privilege of showing a lovely bitch that I had bred. Her name was CH Amaden’s Tangarine Dream. Angie was a dream to show in that she responded to the show lead and moved beautifully with her handler. I showed her frequently and her owner, Kathy DuFour had trained her to perfection. This particular show was on Montgomery County weekend and the Sweepstakes was to be held at a hotel in Coatesville after the Devon Show. I had several puppy entries for the Sweeps but my main objective was to do well with Angie at Devon. Mr. Roger Hartinger was judging and he had liked her in the past so I had high hopes. It was one of those days that defied description. The skies opened and you could barely see a foot in front. Everyone with a BOB dog pushed under the tent and watched as the mud took over the ring. The ring was situated in the lower arena so that the water rolled down the hill creating a small pool. Finally BOB started and cuts were made. I was competing for BOS, since a top dog was getting looked at very closely. BOS at Devon was worth the fight. I flew around the ring and, while it was obvious that Angie had the judge’s full attention, I was determined that she should show her best. Suddenly I slid face first through the mud. I was laying flat on the ground. Some people wanted to reach for Angie but she stood her ground and waited for me to stand. When I did, I was mud from forehead down. Mr. Hartinger, gentleman to the core, handed me a tissue. As I dripped mud from every square inch of my rather large body, my sense of the absurd kicked in, and I looked at him, accepted the tissue and asked “where do you suggest I start?” In the end, Angie was awarded her BOS. We headed to the hotel for the Sweepstakes and it was there that I learned that the mud had made it onto everything I wore. I am fairly certain that I never wore a wrap-around skirt to another show.

Emily Holden
Amaden Wheatens

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Test Your Dog Show Savvy

ACROSS
5  Bait is bait, not a ___; Quit feeding dogs in the ring and train them.
6  To be successful in anything, advance is key.
9  Dress; Dinner casual makes a nice impression.
10 Believe in your dog and yourself; Don’t forget to breathe and ___ – it all goes right down the lead.
11 Watch your ring before your class; Make sure you know your judge’s preferences and
13 Watch those who win in your breed; Study how they stack their dog and what ___ they move them at.
16 Learn your breed ___ from beginning to end.
18 The best exhibitors are ___; Develop the ability to disappear behind your dog.
19 Be able to pick your dog’s apart and not ___ blind.
20 Stop over-handling and ___ so much.

DOWN
1 Judges are expected to judge 25 dogs an hour. To avoid wasted time, be ringside and ___ when your class is called.
2 Dogs presented should be clean and brushed, and don’t forget the toe ___.
3 Get a ___. Find out who knows what they’re talking about, and who thinks they know everything and don’t.
4 ___ is part of the game; don’t distract or run up on another person’s dog.
7 Watch the exhibitors that go before you, most judges use the same ___ for every class and every entry.
8 Will get you further than rudeness to your fellow exhibitors, spectators, judges, and stewards.
12 The most common mistake made by novices is the “march of death”, made by showing their dog too ___ and too seriously.
14 Be polite when you get your ribbon regardless of the color. You paid for the judge’s ___ not for a win.
15 Be ___ you seldom win out of the gate, but every time you compete is an amazing learning experience.
17 Listen to those who have earned the right to speak; Learning is a never ending ___.

WORD BANK: APPROPRIATELY, BUFFET, COURTESY, FUSSING, INVISIBLE, KENNEL, MENTOR, NAILS, OFTEN, OPINION, PATIENT, PATTERN, PREPARATION, PROCEDURES, QUEST, READY, SMILE, SPEED, SPORTSMANSHIP, STANDARD

ANSWERS ON PAGE 20
HAIR

“Give me a head with hair. 
Long, beautiful hair. 
Shining, gleaming, streaming, flaxen, waxen”

Ah... don’t we wish all our Wheatens had hair like that?
We have had the good fortune to have coats at both ends of the spectrum. This includes a bitch, very successful as a special, with a curly crisp coat, as well as a number of generations of really outstanding coats, courtesy of a beautifully coated foundation bitch bred by another breeder.

Like most breeders our dogs fall in the middle. Acceptable but not great coats. I think we’ve recognized that but I’m not so sure our realism is shared. I’ve heard an awful lot of people say “oh, what a pretty coat”...including about some of my so-so ones...and wondered who they were talking about.

Let’s dispose of one thing right now. When 3 of the 4 words of the name of the breed refer to the coat, it should be obvious that coat is a MAJOR trait in the breed. Don’t tell me those words are included in the name just to distinguish Wheatens from Irish Terriers. Not when the second sentence in the very first paragraph our standard states: “He is distinguished by his soft, silky, gently waving coat of warm wheaten color...”

Does that mean I think a gorgeous coat on an unsound dog or one who is rectangular or shy or aggressive makes a great Wheaten? Of course not. But it also doesn’t mean badly-coated dogs who are fabulous movers or have perfect proportions meet the mark either.

Let’s move on to color: “…clearly wheaten, with no evidence of any other color...” with the adolescent described as quite light but “never white or carry(ing) gray.” The amplification to the standard goes on to describe it as “any shade of wheaten, from pale gold through warm honey.” The FCI standard is similar, “A good clear wheaten of shades from light wheaten to a golden reddish hue” and while not being quite as specific as the US standard, it’s pretty clear that until maturity, color can be varied.

We see few mature coats in the ring and that’s unfortunate for many reasons. Judges who rarely see a correct adult coat may not recognize one when it comes into their ring. Breeders don’t get to see it either. I believe that is one reason coats are currently so varied; there’s a lot of breeding to unpredictable adolescent coats.

Going back to the language in the standard...“clear” is often used. It’s dismaying to see dogs whose color might best be described as dingy or dirty or muddy. They don’t necessarily have patches of gray but there’s nothing “clear” about those coats.

And one more thing about words...anyone see “silver” in any Wheaten standard? No? So can the “silver wheat” idea just be retired, please? Before I wrote this column, I Googled “silver wheat.” just to see if perhaps it was a strain of wheat...nope. I told a Golden Retriever breeder about this at least 3 weeks ago...she’s still laughing hysterically.

I know referring to the really lovely coats we had as good fortune is understandable. They are a source of pride to any breeder and a pleasure to exhibit. It’s a kick to be able to have a spray bottle of just water be the only magic potion you need. They were standards for us to measure against in every subsequent breeding.

Why was the bad coat also “good fortune?” Because we learned so much from it. John became a master at finding the right grooming products to tame it and make it acceptable. He put hours into making that bitch...who didn’t live with us...one about whom people would say “Really? She has a bad coat?”

The other thing I learned was a lesson that has stuck with me. One of the master groomers in our breed gave a seminar and addressed showing a bad coat. Their comment: trim the dog to accentuate the structure and forget about the amount of coat you leave on. More bad hair is just...more bad hair. If a judge is going to penalize your dog for being over trimmed or too short to flow, they’re not going to reward you for a lot of bad hair that’s never, ever going to do anything except bounce.

That’s probably a lesson many don’t want to hear, especially if their coats don’t warrant a tight trim. (By the way...make sure you look at your coats with a critical eye before concluding that.) Here’s what you should remember: you never know where you’ll find
tips that will help you with your coats. No tool or technique is inherently “wrong”... it’s all about how they are used. Ages ago as I was learning to trim, I went to a presentation by someone whose style was 180° from what I had been taught. It was informative…and 6 or 7 years later, when I was struggling with a dog, I remembered the technique, tried it and had an improved result.

We don’t have the consistency in coat quality in our breed we should have. What worked on your first Wheaten may not work on your next one...or your third or fourth or 15th. Look at others’ dogs, ask and LISTEN. We have some very talented groomers in this breed. You don’t have to like them or like their dogs or necessarily want your dogs to look like theirs. But learning from them will come in handy someday.

Just as there’s no perfect dog, there’s no one who knows it all...even if some of us think we do. Hearing different approaches to presentation...or breeding or assessing dogs...will get you closer to a better dog. And in the end...isn’t that what it’s about?

* “Hair” from Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical by Galt MacDermot, James Rado and Jerome Ragni

**Support The Open Registry**

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 was to publish information on confirmed cases of genetic diseases in Wheatens and to maintain health and genetic records for SCWTCA-sponsored research.

The Open Registry lists dogs affected with Protein-losing Enteropathy/Nephropathy, Addison’s Disease, Renal Dysplasia or Irritable Bowel Disease.


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

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.

**ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE**
The Board of the SCWTCA Endowment thanks the following for their generosity in 2017. These donations fund grants selected by the SCWTCA Endowment Board or provide matching funds for grants approved by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation.

Individuals & Corporation
- Robyn Alexander, In Memory of 'Dweezil' (Keepsake Derryhumma Red Licorice)
- Robyn Alexander, In Memory of 'Rummy' (CH Derryhumma Bonney The Rum Tum Tugger)
- Robyn Alexander, In Memory of 'Triscuit'
- Robyn Alexander and Carrissa Tosi, In Memory of CH Derryhumma Fashin For Fashin, 'Pink'
- Sheila Baker, In loving Memory of Molly Mascaro
- Ingrid Burton
- K Carol Carlson, In Honor of Rosemary Berg and her years of devotion and work for Wheatens
- K Carol Carlson, In Memory of Penny Belviso
- K Carol Carlson, In Memory of Rosemary Berg
- Chapman Verner Charitable Fund
- Carmen Dwyer
- Diane Escott and Kate Williams, In Memory of Sanzerena Atlantic Special, 'Ruffle'
- Helen Fraguera, In Memory of my beloved 'Flirt'
- Shirley Gee
- Shirley Gee, In Memory of Rosemary Berg
- Mel & Marcie Granick, In Memory of McClaren's Comedy Central, 'Squash.' We will remember her always.
- Mel & Marcie Granick, In Memory of McLaren's Zoom Zoom Zoom, 'Bubba'
- Amy Halstead
- Kyndrea Hardin
- Clarissa Hobden
- Robert Horgan, In loving Memory of Siobhan and Rory
- Rob Horgan, In Memory of Amaden Cultured P'Earlecroft
- Robert Horgan / Ace Charitable Foundation, In Memory of Glenn & Sandra Amorosia's Ltd. Edition Liffey O'Tara
- Robert Horgan / Ace Charitable Foundation, In loving Memory of Siobhan and Rory
- Sharon Howard, In Memory of Russ & Beth Sorensen-Howard's 'Caroline,' a sweet and loving friend and family member
- Pam Mandeville, In Honor of all the Banner Wheatens and their families
- Ann McCormick, In loving Memory of Susan Ostrander
- Coralie Murray
- Christina Pae, In Memory of CH Luvlade's Banner Headline 'Flash'
- Sue Peters, In Memory of Rosemary Berg
- Janet Revis, Okera American Beauty, aka 'Tia'
- Linda Robison, In Honor of and With Thanks to Helen Fraguera for her help and support
- Meg Ryan
- Roberta Salmon / AbbVie Foundation Employee Engagement Fund
- Roberta Salmon / AbbVie Foundation Employee Engagement Fund
- Roberta Salmon / AbbVie Foundation Employee Engagement Fund
- Roberta Salmon / AbbVie Foundation Employee Engagement Fund
- Pat Simrell, In Memory of Kris Jackson's Frolic's Carnival Games 'Wheatley'
- Jessica Smith
- Roxanna & Leo Springer, In Memory of Rosemary Berg whose unfailingly cheerful and ready support and advice helped to make MCKC welcoming and accessible for Leo and me
- Gerald & Kirstin Stack
- Cyndi Stokvis
- Bob & Pam Tinnelly, In Memory of Jody Sylvester
- Bob & Pam Tinnelly, In Memory of Rosemary Berg
- Pam & Bob Tinnelly, In Memory of CH Shandalee Firecracker, 'Biscuit'
- Deb Van de Ven
- Toni Vincent, In Honor of Merrillee Ford
- Toni Vincent, In Memory of Rosemary Berg
- Michelle Wilcox & Rob Kuhling, In Memory of Keepsake Derryhumma Red Licorice, 'Dweezil'
- Yan Zavelion

Dog Clubs
- MN SCWT Kidney Clinic
- SCWTCA of Greater Tampa Bay
- SCWTCA of Greater Tampa Bay

Thank You!

To make your tax deductible gift, please visit our web site: www.wheatenhealthendowment.org
The Run for the Roses
May 4-7, 2018
Please join us for the Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club Specialty

SCHEDULE

Friday, May 4:
Garden State All Terrier Club
(Supported Entry)
Judge: Lydia Hutchinson
Group: Harry O’Donoghue
OH Group: Linda Reece

Saturday, May 5:
*Bucks County Kennel Club
(Specialty)
Judge: Dr. Valeria Rickard
Sweepstakes: Michael Pawasarat
Group: Dr. Vandra Huber
OH Group: Mark Threlfall

Sunday, May 6:
Trenton Kennel Club
(Supported Entry)
Judge: Harry O’Donoghue
Group: Thomas Parrotti
OH Group: Debra Thornton

Monday, May 7:
Trenton Kennel Club
Judge: Linda Reece
Group: Linda Reece
OH Group: Jacqueline Rayner

Closing Date is Wed. April 18

RAFFLE ITEMS

1. Ltd Edition Steiff Wheaten Approx. 12” high

2. Wheaten Metal Coat Rack Approx. 30” wide

Tickets for both items; $5 each or 3 for $10
Checks made to DVSCWTC
Send to Pat Robeski
182 Little Philadelphia Road
Washington, NJ 07882
(Indicate which item tickets are for)

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

* The Bucks County KC Specialty is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend Jacqueline Andras.

For additional information visit dvscwtc.org
Friday, June 1, 2018
Purina Event Center, Gray Summit, Missouri

Sweepstakes Judge: Ms. Pat Mullin
Breed Judge: Mrs. Betty-Anne Stenmark

Superintendent: Foy Trent Dog Shows
foytrentdogshows.com
“Start June in St. Louis” Cluster
Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club

Closing Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Five Show Weekend
Thursday, May 31 - Monday, June 4

Thursday, Gateway Terrier Association: Mr. Alfred Ferruggiaro
Saturday, Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club: Mr. Kenneth Kauffman
Sunday, Mississippi Valley Kennel Club: Mr. Edd Biven
Monday, Mississippi Valley Kennel Club: Mr. Richard Powell

Information: www.scwtcgl.com - eazerolo@centurytel.net
June 27- July 1, 2018
5 days all breed shows... 5 days of majors
Conformation, Obedience, Rally

Soft Coated Wheaten Club of America Supported Entry
Member Clubs: Oklahoma City Kennel Club, Mid Del
Tinker Kennel Club, Lawton Dog Fanciers
Association, North Texas Non Sporting Association,
North Texas Barn Hunt Assoc.

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<td>Bradley Odagiri</td>
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* Supported Entry

NEW THIS YEAR!
BARN HUNT
DOCK DIVING
LURE COURSING
TRICK DOG
SCENT TRIALS
WEIGHT PULLING

Hotels – Book directly with hotel to receive the Summer Classic rates and waived pet fees. Online booking does not guarantee waived fees.

**Host Hotel - Staybridge Suites OKC Airport**
4401 SW15th St./4411 SW 15th St.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73108
(405) 429-4400

**Best Western Plus Saddleback Inn & Conference Center**
4300 SW 3rd Street, Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma 73108-1024
(405) 947-7000 Toll-Free: 800-228-3903

**The Biltmore Hotel Oklahoma**
401 South Meridian Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK

**La Quinta**
808 S Meridian Ave, Oklahoma City,
OK 73108 (405) 702-7720

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

NOTE: This is the site for the 2020 Roving National
GCHG AINLE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Owned By: Linda Robison
Bred By: Kathi Elliot
Presented By: Brian Tuel, PHA
2017 Was A Great Year for America’s Number One SCWT (All Breed)

Special thanks to Judges; Mr. Dana L. Cline (BIS win) Mrs. Mareth K. Kipp (BISS win) Ms. Sharol Candance Way (Group Win #11) and to all the other judges who recognized Bogie in 2017.

-Best in Show Win and Best in Specialty Show Win
-45 Group Placements, including 11 Group Wins
-1st Award of Merit - SCWT Specialty - MCKC
-1st Award of Excellence - AKC National
Lismore DOUBLE

GCH CH Lismore Once In A Lifetime
CH Tara I Get Around x GCH CH Lismore Catching Fire

Littermates...
Rooney, Best of Breed and Group 4.

Owned by Meg Ryan,
Fred Mitzner,
Albert Baker Knoll
Presented by Shari Boyd.
EXPOSURE

New CH Lismore This Must Be The Place
CH Tara I Get Around x GCH CH Lismore Catching Fire

Thea, Best Of Winners/ Best Opposite Sex over specials.

Our thanks to Judges Ms. Pamela Bruce and Mr. Geir Flykt-Pedersen for these special wins. And we all thank Maureen Long for her continued support to the team.

Owned and presented by Meg Ryan
Moxxy’s 1st Litter

GCHG Lil’Town Fiddler’s Lullaby of Ardnacassa X
GCHG Shandalee Fireworks

CH Moxxy Shandalee Don’t Stop

ROYAL CANIN

WINNERS DOG
MAJOR WIN
NEW CHAMPION

CH Moxxy Shandalee Night Moves
Champions and counting...

Proudly bred by
Sue & Harvey Goldberg
Dawn Sealy & Nanee Bailey

CH MOXXY SHANDALEE SUPERFLY

MOXXY SHANDALEE WHEATENS
(908) 647-0907

CH MOXXY SHANDALEE FIREBALL
SUNDANCE WHEATENS…
BOB & BOS AT SCWTCA FL ROVING SPECIALTY

Thank you so much Judge Kathy Clarke for recognizing our Sundance kids!

"BOWIE"
BOB
Owned by Kerrie Rousey and Susan Wuerz
Bred by Susan and Don Wuerz and Juliana McKamey

GCH Sundance's Lucky Rover

"KISS"
BOS
Owned by Susan Wuerz
Bred by Susan Wuerz and Maureen Mac Sweeney

CH Sundance's Kiss-Kiss You Rule My World Prince
“FINN”
BOB
Tampa Bay Terrier Club

Owned by Maureen MacSweeney & Sue Wuerz, Bred by Susan and Don Wuerz and Juliana McKamey

Thank You
Judge Ms. Kathleen J. Ferris

Presented by Daryl and Donna Hills

GCH Sundance's Finnegan Wake Me After The Dream

KISS, AT AKC ROYAL CANIN NATIONAL SHOW

Kiss completed her Championship at Orlando shows going WB/BOW/BOS over specials.
Next day moved up and placed BOS over specials

AOE at Royal Canin under Judge Mr. Desmond J. Murphy
Presented by Blake Hansen

SUNDANCE WHEATENS

Susan and Don Wuerz * sundancewheatens@gmail.com
Krista

Canadian CH Holweit’s Red Grenadine, CGC, CGCA, CGCU, RN, THDA, HT, BN, TDP, DN, DJ

BOW 2010 at the Canadian Specialty
2015 Canadian Wheaten Ambassador
Top 10 Winner AKC 2017 Nationals (Dock Junior Veteran)

Krista finished in the top ten at the AKC Dock Diving Nationals in the competitive Junior Veterans class. Her personal best of 12’ 9” earned her a 10th place finish against much larger dogs. She has proven herself both in and out of show and performance rings with courage, tenacity and joy. We are blessed to have her as part of our family and look forward to more fun adventures with this perky little bitch.

Owned by Dorice and Mark Stancher
Bred by Sylvia and Bill Hamilton
www.caninescando.com
New Champion...

CH Moonstruck Cosmic Cruiser

GCH Wheaten Rebel's Take A Ticket To Greentree x GCH Clover's Moonstruck Reflection of Greentree

Frankie “Cruises” to his Championship in 5 shows with 4 majors!

Breeders: Helen Fraguela & Liz Jamiolekowski
Owners: Sarah Romano & Helen Fraguela
SCWTCA RESCUE

Rescue wants to express their thanks to Margaret Foxmore and the circle of six for raising over $7,000 dollars to help the Wheatens in their journey to a forever home.

WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR EFFORTS!

NANCY, KARLI AND THE RESCUE TEAM

---

Don’t forget to order your SCWTCA 2018 Calendar

Full of stunning color photographs of our beloved Wheatens
***

13 Months from Jan 2018 to Jan 2019
***

Holidays and upcoming Wheaten event schedules
***

Order online at www.scwtca.org
***

Please refer to website for latest pricing.

International pricing available
## New Titles Earned

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<td>GCH CH Limore Once In A Lifetime</td>
<td>CH Tara I Get Around</td>
<td>GCH CH Lismore Catching Fire</td>
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<td>GCH CH O’Mannion’s Shattered</td>
<td>CH Mackanne One Love One Heart</td>
<td>CH O’Mannion’s Queen Of The Underground</td>
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<td>GCHB CH Adako Little Red Robin Hood</td>
<td>GCHB CH Villanova Blame It On The Bossanova</td>
<td>CH CH Marquee’s It Ain’T No Trick</td>
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<td>GCHB CH Sundance’s Lucky Rover</td>
<td>CH Kincora Tara Life In The Fast Lane</td>
<td>CH Sundance Order Of The Irish Rose</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH MACH Eringlo Dancing Through Life VCD2 BN RE MXG MJG NAP NJP</td>
<td>CH Eringlo Rise Above The Mist</td>
<td>CH MACH Eringlo Playing With Fire VCD2 RE TDX MXS MUG NF</td>
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<tr>
<td>MACH Eringlo Riverdance MXS MJS CGC</td>
<td>CH Eringlo Rise Above The Mist</td>
<td>CH MACH Eringlo Playing With Fire VCD2 RE TDX MXS MUG NF</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH MACH4 Aran Twisted Logic MXC MJB2 OF</td>
<td>CH Gleenngay Holliday</td>
<td>CH Aran Built A Betr Mouse Trap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barnum’s Pumpkin Pie Sage MXP2 MJP2 XFP CA RATN CGC TKI</td>
<td>CH Whindancer’s Heart Like A Wheel</td>
<td>CH Geragold Whindancer Sunny Two</td>
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<td>Joydell’s New Beginning For Macguinness MX MXJ MJS OF NFP CGC</td>
<td>Mariner’s Catch As Catch Can</td>
<td>Joy-Dell’s Kelly Stormin Nite</td>
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<td>Marolou Cours Izzy Cours NAJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jendu Tongue Twister CD BN GN RAE NJP CGC</td>
<td>CH Mackanne Bradberry High Flyer</td>
<td>CH Jendu Twisted Sister</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH Edgewood Idog Classic RATN CGC</td>
<td>CH Duidream Quicktime</td>
<td>CH Edgewood Bugaboo Bamboo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH Ceili’s Sister Of Fire OA OAJ</td>
<td>CH Whindancer Little Ball Of Fire CD</td>
<td>GCH CH Ceili’s Shiny And Bright AX AXJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jendu Tongue Twister CD BN GN RAE CGC</td>
<td>CH Mackanne Bradberry High Flyer</td>
<td>CH Jendu Twisted Sister</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bendacht Adventure Runs High CD PCD BN RE NAP NJP NFP CGCA TKN</td>
<td>CH Westridge High Adventure CDX PCD GN RAE NAP NJP CGCA TKN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Li’Town Cianan Irish Flirt Of Ardnacassa CD PCDX BN GO RE CGC TKP</td>
<td>House Of Softy Legend</td>
<td>CH Li’l Town Flirt Of Ardnacassa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH Li’Town Katlyn Song Of Ardnacassa RN CGCA</td>
<td>GCHG CH Li’Town Fiddler’s Lullaby Of Ardnacassa</td>
<td>GCH CH Bon Aquarel Nightingale Song At Li’Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH CH Dromara’s Huggable Quinn RN THDX CGCA CGCU TKP</td>
<td>CH Bon Aquarel Bittersweet For Almar</td>
<td>CH Ballinvounig Pure Joy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosheen Caribbean Red CD RE THDX CGCA TKA</td>
<td>CH Never Lasting’s No Limits</td>
<td>GCH CH Acacia’s Bat Out O’Hel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jendu Picabo’s Ricochet CDX CGC TKA</td>
<td>CH Fairfield’s Cyclone</td>
<td>CH Glenamon Bjorn Free Of Jendu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jendu Picabo’s Ricochet CDX CGC TKI</td>
<td>CH Fairfield’s Cyclone</td>
<td>CH Glenamon Bjorn Free Of Jendu</td>
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<td>CH Kaylynn Murphy’s Law Unto Himself RN AX AXJ CA RATM CGC TKI</td>
<td>CH Trebol Top Billing OA OAJ NAP NJP</td>
<td>CH Reyem’s Who’s Under My Skirt</td>
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<td>Jendu Picabo’s Ricochet CDX CGC TKN</td>
<td>CH Fairfield’s Cyclone</td>
<td>CH Glenamon Bjorn Free Of Jendu</td>
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<td>Inishmore All That She Wants Ace TKN</td>
<td>CH Gelt P-38 Lightning</td>
<td>CH Unique Beauty Una Kni-York</td>
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<td>Kaler’s Little Southern Charmer BN RN CGC TKN</td>
<td>CH Star My Dear Watson**</td>
<td>Kaler Dreamsicle</td>
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<td>Lilly Desiderio CGCA CGCU TKN</td>
<td>Obrien Of Wheatenway</td>
<td>Dinger’s Smiley Miley Moe</td>
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<td>Acacia Rosheen Dash O’Cajun THDN CGC TPK</td>
<td>CH Acacia’s Friar Tuck</td>
<td>CH Acacia Rosheen ’Lil Bit Of Spice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosheen Caribbean Red CD RE THDX CGCA TKP</td>
<td>CH Never Lasting’s No Limits</td>
<td>GCH CH Acacia’s Bat Out O’Hel</td>
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</table>
The Health Committee is delighted to present the first comprehensive Wheaten Health Survey since 2000. The notice has been posted on board blogs and lists around the world, and we hope each of you who takes it can find a friend, fellow dog owner or buyer to also complete the survey. It is user-friendly and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete, even for a dog with several health issues. This survey is for ALL dogs – both healthy and those with issues. By including both categories of dogs, we will have results representative of the breed as a whole.

The results are presented live on the OFA website – go to the bottom of the survey to see responses as they are tallied, both numerically and by percentage. The results are in the aggregate, that is, no specific geographical, sex-related, or other particulars can be pulled out. Perhaps the responses to this survey can lead to another, more specific one which pinpoints particular health issues. Please feel free to contact me at health@scwtca.org with any questions you may have.

HOW TO USE THIS SURVEY

This survey has been developed in cooperation with the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America, Inc. to help determine the significant health concerns in the Wheaten. The results of this survey will assist in determining the overall health of the Wheaten and in helping to determine priorities in addressing problems. Information received will help us to recommend health-related research. All responses to the survey are completely anonymous and confidential. Compiled survey results will be made available on the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals website. There is no way for anyone, even health committee members or OFA staff, to know the source of any particular responses.

If this link isn’t active, go to www.offa.org. On the home page, scroll down to bottom left. Under the word Breeder, there is a blue button that says, “Learn More.” Click that button. That will take you to a page with an orange button that says, “Click here to find the health survey for your breed.” Click and scroll down to Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. Click on orange button that says, “Answer Survey” and you are ready to complete it.

Please complete the survey one time for each Wheaten (purebred, no mixes) that you have owned between 2000 to the present, living or dead, healthy or with health issues. At the end of each survey, click “Finish” and then, if reporting more than one dog, simply take the survey again. For the survey to take as short a time as possible, be sure you have the dog’s health records at hand when you begin the survey. Each survey should take about ten minutes.

For a number of questions to which you respond “yes,” there will more questions to follow about that condition. Please pass the word and ask all Wheaten Terrier owners and breeders to complete the survey for their dogs. Your responses provide invaluable information for the overall health and well-being of our breed.

Thank you for participating in the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier of America, Inc. Health Survey.
WEIGHT CONTROL FOR OPTIMAL HEALTH

Pet Obesity: A National Epidemic

In 2012, the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention found that 52.5% of dogs are overweight or obese. Also in 2012, Banfield Pet Hospital demonstrated a link between pet obesity and illness. The report analyzed data from > 2 million dogs, finding:

• 42% of diabetic, 40% of arthritic, and 61% of hypothyroid dogs are overweight.
• > 40% of dogs with high blood pressure are overweight.
• Overweight dogs are at increased risk for numerous diseases and live an average 2 years less than those of ideal weight.

Obesity is an Increased Risk for:

• Cardiorespiratory diseases, airway obstruction in brachycephalic breeds, and laryngeal paralysis.
• Endocrine disorders, hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing’s disease) and hypothyroidism.
• Functional alterations, like decreased respiratory capacity, exercise intolerance, heat intolerance/stroke and decreased immune functions.
• Metabolic abnormalities, like hyperlipidemia and dyslipidemia.
• Neoplasia, including transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder.
• Orthopedic disorders, like osteoarthritis, anterior cruciate ligament rupture and intervertebral disk disease.
• Urogenital system conditions, including transitional cell carcinoma of bladder.

Human Obesity = Pet Obesity

A parallel exists between the spike in obesity in people and companion animals. This relates to their similar environmental and lifestyle changes. Calorie restriction lengthens lifespan by increasing the dietary activators of proteins that regulate metabolism and lifespan, such as resveratrol and other polyphenols (green and black tea, grape seed extract).

Chronic Inflammation and Weight Gain

Acute inflammation serves a purpose, whereas chronic inflammation leads to a variety of diseases. Thus, we need to screen overweight pets for possible underlying health conditions that could be at fault. Since inflammation generates obesity, a key step in achieving weight loss is to feed fat-fighting anti-inflammatory foods, while removing pro-inflammatory foods. Remember that food intolerances/sensitivities can lead to weight gain as they cause inflammation.

The Body Condition Score (BCS)

All pet caregivers should regularly examine their dogs every 2-4 weeks:

• Observe the dog from the side and above.
• Palpate shoulder blades, spine, ribs, hips and belly to feel the amount of overlying fat.
• BCS is based on either a 5-point or 9-point scale; the middle number (3 out of 5 or 5 out of 9) reflects optimal body condition (15-25% body fat).
• Lower numbers reflect degrees of “under-condition”; higher numbers reflect degrees of “over-condition”.
• A score of 5 of 5 or 9 of 9 indicates > 35% body fat, which means an obese dog.
Signs of Obesity

Obvious signs of being overweight are: large body relative to the legs; excess fat around neck and underside of belly; round appearance, especially when viewed from above; decreased activity level; difficulty rising or climbing stairs; and excessive panting during activity.

Functional Foods to Reduce Fat

- Fat-fighting functional foods include high quality, bioavailable and novel proteins; virgin coconut oil; omega-3 fatty acids from fish or plant-based oils; L-carnitine; white kidney bean extract, and the antiangiogenic foods that starve cancer cells (e.g. apples, artichokes, berries but not strawberries, cherries, ginseng, kale, parsley, medicinal mushrooms, pumpkin, and turmeric).
- Commercial weight-loss foods are less than ideal. They typically contain unhealthy carbohydrates, pro-inflammatory ingredients and insufficient high quality animal protein.
- Opt instead for fresh, wholesome foods to promote healthy gene expression, maintain lean body mass, and optimum health.
- Shedding extra pounds will reduce weight-related inflammation, and avoid chronic disease.

Spaying/Neutering & Obesity

A recent study found that after gonadectomy dogs are more likely to become overweight in the next 2 years, as compared with sexually intact dogs. But, no difference was seen between males and females, and the increased risk was not influenced by the dog’s age at the time.

Feeding for Weight Loss

Weight loss of 3-5% of body weight per month is safe.

Feed 100% of the Resting Energy Requirements (RER) = daily amount of kcals the body needs to perform resting and basic metabolic functions.

Formula to calculate RER in animals weighing 2-45 kg (5-99 pounds):
Step 1: Determine ideal weight in kilograms (kg)
Step 2: Determine RER based on this ideal weight

\[
\text{RER (kcal/day)} = 30 (\text{ideal body weight in kg}) + 70.
\]

Once at ideal weight, the amount to feed to maintain that weight = Maintenance Energy Requirement (MER).

- Intact adult normal activity 1.8 x RER
- Light work or play 2.0 x RER
- Moderate work or play 3.0 x RER
- Heavy work or play (e.g., agility dog) 4 to 8 x RER
- Pregnant dog (first 42 days) 1.8 x RER
- Pregnant dog (last 21 days) 3.0 x RER
- Lactating dam 4 to 8 x RER
- Puppy, weaning to 4 months 3.0 x RER
- Puppy, 4 months to adult size 2.0 x RER
- Geriatric dog 1.4 x RER

Dogs are more individualized than people for determining the daily MER. Many factors affect MER, including breed, age, health status, lifestyle and even thickness of coat.
Special Considerations for Senior Dogs

Senior dogs are naturally at the opposite end of the activity spectrum from puppies. Like adults, senior dogs are in a maintenance phase; however, they are generally less active and have slower metabolisms. To avoid excess weight gain, their energy intake should be adjusted to match their activity level. While each senior dog is unique, a dog’s energy needs generally decline as he ages. Dogs older than 8 years consume about 18% fewer calories than dogs under 6 years of the same breed type.

Functional foods for senior dogs

Older dogs have a decreased ability to fight disease, creating the potential for health problems ranging from infections to cancer. For example, genetic differences have been identified that determine which geriatric dogs will get kidney disease and which ones will remain healthy.

In addition to the fat-fighting functional foods listed above, recommended foods for seniors are: bananas, beans, beets, fish (low mercury, sardines), pomegranates, raw honey (not pasteurized) and yogurt (from goat or sheep’s milk).

W. Jean Dodds, DVM Hemopet / NutriScan


THE USE AND ABUSE OF PROBIOTICS

Yes; I love probiotics! My co-author, Diana Laverdure, and I consider them to be a functional superfood. As many of you know, probiotics are microorganisms, or “good” bacteria that provide beneficial effects to humans and animals, including preventing the overgrowth of bad bacteria in the gut, improving gastrointestinal health, and delaying or preventing the onset of food sensitivities. Recent research indicates that probiotics may offer anti-cancer benefits also. I believe dogs should be given probiotics regularly for these reasons.

Are you giving probiotics for the reasons listed above or to manage chronic diarrhea? Yes; probiotics can help manage diarrhea. But, I believe that their popularity can make us not see the forest for the trees. We need to step back and survey what could be causing the diarrhea. Throwing a probiotic at the symptom may be masking a bigger, progressive condition that needs to be medically diagnosed for best management. Yes; probiotics may be a part of the regimen once a diagnosis is found but we first must do due diligence.

The Hardest Question

Let’s start with the most basic yet hardest question for any pet caregiver to answer, “Are you overfeeding your pet?” You might not think so. We have become so hooked on the euphoria we feel from indulging our pets that we now think a pudgy dog is the new normal. As we all know, overfeeding leads to weight gain and can add to stool size. On top of that, obesity is the leading health threat to companion dogs and makes your dog prone to conditions such as osteoarthritis, cancer and diabetes.

Even though your veterinarian has asked you to shave off a couple of your dog’s pounds, you may still not categorize him as overweight. Yes; he is. Over 52.7% of US dogs are considered overweight or obese. The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention’s dog-to-human weight ratio comparison is approximate but eye-opening and should make you heed the doctor’s orders.

- A Pomeranian should weigh around 7 pounds. One extra pound on a Pomeranian is the equivalent of a 5’4” woman being 21 pounds overweight. Pomeranians are susceptible to tracheal collapse, and less weight helps to alleviate the symptoms of the condition.
- A Sheltie should weigh approximately 20 pounds. 3 extra pounds is an additional 22 pounds on the same average height woman.
- A Rottweiler should weigh around 100 pounds. 16 extra pounds equates to 23 extra pounds on a 5’4” woman.

You need to remember to account for the total caloric intake, including treats. Try cutting back on the amount of treats and providing healthier treats like carrots, apples, pears, bananas or blueberries. Also, cut back on the amount
you are feeding per meal. Several dog food manufacturers provide daily feeding ranges. Most of the time, we aim for the middle or top of the range when we should be aiming a bit lower. And, don’t forget to walk your dog! If your dog is still not losing weight, I would have him properly tested for thyroid disorders as obesity is a common symptom of hypothyroidism. The preferred test measures the T4, FT4, T3, FT3 and TGAA antibodies in the blood. I would suggest this test to be completed at the laboratory I oversee, Hemopet Hemolife Diagnostics, or the equivalent test panel run at Michigan State University or the larger commercial veterinary clinical diagnostic laboratories.

**Too Skinny**

Let’s say your dog is too skinny and it is difficult to put weight on him. So, you add probiotics to firm up his stool in an effort to make him absorb more food. These could be symptoms of chronic pancreatitis or Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (EPI). Pancreatitis, inflammation of the pancreas, disrupts the flow of digestive enzymes into the digestive tract and leaking them into the abdomen. Rapid enzymatic digestion of the exposed tissues occurs, along with serious clinical consequences. EPI occurs in dogs and cats whose cells that produce these digestive enzymes are damaged. Thus, the enzymes cannot function normally in the small intestine and you will end up with pasty colored, “cow pie”-like stools. A blood test will determine if your dog or cat is suffering from either condition. In the case of EPI, we would give pancreatic enzymes from another animal.

**Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)**

The symptoms of IBD include – but are not limited to – stomach cramps, bloating, gas, and diarrhea. Vomiting may also occur. Importantly, IBD causes inflammation that damages the gastrointestinal lining. Think of cat claws poking holes in your clothes. That’s what the inflammation is doing to the gut lining, so toxic and foreign substances can flow into the bloodstream. IBD can be caused by an underlying genetic predisposition that runs in human and animal families when encountering a variety of environmental challenges.

IBD is diagnosed with an array of blood and urine tests and may require endoscopy with biopsy of the affected intestine. In many cases, the diagnosis is presumptive based upon the clinical signs and routine lab tests, and can be treated as such without resorting to endoscopy or biopsy. Traditional treatment options are the use of corticosteroids and gastrointestinal antibiotics. While I do not like to rely on these conventional medication options due to the long-term side effects, occasionally or at least initially, we need to use them. Then, we can introduce probiotics and other bowel-supportive products like clay or slippery elm powder to lessen the effects – but not cure – the inflammation.

**Food Sensitivity**

A food sensitivity is the body’s negative reaction to a protein it cannot tolerate or handle. In the first paragraph, I did state that probiotics can “delay the onset of food sensitivities.” True. However, probiotics do not necessarily stop them. Importantly, if you add the probiotics after the diarrhea starts, your companion pet may already have the food sensitivity so you are chasing the bad with the good instead of taking care of the root problem. That’s the same case with EPI. Upon diagnosis, you replace the digestive enzymes but if your dog is sensitive to the digestive enzyme’s protein source then you are causing inflammation in the intestine. In the case of IBD, a food sensitivity is likely the cause. In these circumstances, you would need to figure out the protein causing the reaction. At the end of the day, a food sensitivity can affect any of the conditions noted above. This is why I recommend testing with NutriScan. If you can eliminate one portion of the aggravation, then it is easier to manage these medical conditions.

**A Note about Food Transitioning**

When changing diets, always transition your dog to the new diet gradually over a period of 10 to 14 days, substituting more of the new cooked or raw diet for the old diet each day. Digestive enzymes and probiotics should be given to help support the dog’s digestive system through the transition period. Of course, transition only to the right proteins for your companion pet.

*W. Jean Dodds, DVM Hemopet / NutriScan*


Dodds, Jean, DVM, and Diana Laverdure, MS. Canine Nutrigenomics: The New Science of Feeding Your Dog
Pawsitive Strides in Obedience

In Dec. 2017, the Obedience Classic was held in Orlando Florida in conjunction with the AKC National Championship. The following 4 Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers were qualified to attend:

Novice - Jendu Tongue Twister CD BN GN RE CGC Bruce Peters/Sue Peters/Dana Barton/Catherine Perron

Novice - Whindancer Mockingbird Paws CD ACT1 CGC Patricia Wiltse

Open - CH Eringlo Dancing Through Life VCD2 BN RE MX MXG MXJ MJC OF, owned by Cindy Jansen

Utility - Orion Trebol Hot House Flower UD PCDX BN OA AXJ CGCA Amy Feldman

Per Cindy Jansen, one of the qualifiers, "The qualifications to attend the Classic at the Novice, Open, or Utility levels are 3 qualifying scores in the year and earning the title at the level they invite you. The Master level for dogs who have already earned the Utility title is more competitive where the dog has to get 6 scores of at least 193 out of 200 in Open B and Utility B to qualify."

Also of special note is that Cindy Jansen and Rio not only qualified for the Obedience Classic, but were also in the Top 5 that were invited to the Agility Invitational!

The AKC National Obedience Championship will be held June 30-July 1, 2018 Idashe N Wilmington, Ohio.

Here is what Amy had to share with us regarding her obedience journey with Posey:

"Obedience takes up most of our training time but I am hoping to get back to trialing in agility soon, classes are about all we can fit in right now. In obedience, we are working towards a UDX title. Posey has 6 UDX legs. 10 are needed for the title. In order to get a leg, teams have to Q in both Open and Utility at the same trial. Points are given for placements. The really big title is the OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion) Requirements for the OTCH are 3 1st places out of both classes and 100 points." (which no SCWT has yet obtained)

"We attended the Obedience Invitational last March in Perry, GA (we live in Atlanta) and it was amazing to be around top national competitors and their fabulous dogs. Seriously, these are folks whose books I read and DVDs I watch. There were 8 rings set up and teams performed 2 or 3 exercises in each ring, then rotated to the next ring. It was a marathon, started at 8 a.m. and finished around 4 p.m. Over 100 dogs did group sits and downs together (this exercise is going away with change of position exercise taking its place). Points are cumulative, so if dog or handler makes an error, you just keep going. Posey placed 3rd in the Terrier group at Nationals last year. We are very honored and excited to again attend in 2018!"

Please join me in congratulating Amy and Posey on their most recent title, OM (Obedience Master), as they are the first SCWT team to obtain this. Also in wishing Amy and Posey Clean Rounds and Lots of Fun in Ohio this June! All of our Obedience Teams are such an Inspiration for Performance Wheatens everywhere!

2017 AKC Agility Invitational

By Janine Mroz and Susie Blackledge

The 2017 AKC Agility Invitational held this past December in Orlando, Florida invites the Top 5 and one Top Preferred dog of every AKC breed to attend this unique event showcasing the diversity of breeds that are currently competing in agility.

Receiving invitations to this year’s prestigious show for Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers were the following teams that compiled the highest scores during the July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 qualifying period.

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Regular Dogs

#1 “Pretzel” CH MACH3 Aran Twisted Logic MXG MJC OF, owned by Elizabeth Abate (956 pts)

#2 “Riley” MACH2 Roberts Sugarbear Riley MXC MJS2 OF, owned by Susie Blackledge (524 pts)

#3 “Darby” Eringlo Riverdance MX MXB MXJ MJB, owned by Janine Mroz (506 pts)

#4 “Vida” Dunfrae’s Live in the Moment MX MXJ, owned by Dina Melendez (422 pts)

#5 “Rio” CH Eringlo Dancing Through Life VCD1 BN RA MX MXS MXJ MJG, breeder/owner by Cindy Jansen (333 pts)
Preferred Dog

#1 “Sage” Barnum’s Pumpkin Pie Sage MXP MJP XFP CA RATN CGC TKN, owned by Maria Barnum (119 pts)

Our agility teams had a year mixed with high and low emotions, resulting in some teams opting out and some absent from the competition for various reasons that opened the door for other teams in the Top 10 to receive second round invitations.

This turn of events proved to be a dream come true with the following two teams now invited to attend the 2017 Invitational to fill spaces of the #2, #5 and #7 dogs that opted out.

#6 “Mac” Joydell’s New Beginnings For MacGuiness MX MXJ MJB OF NFP CGC, owned by Lorri Ligato (239 pts)

Elizabeth Abate with #1 Pretzel was unable to attend. Pretzel earned MACH4 in November as the 5th Wheaten to do so.

Susie Blackledge with #2 “Riley” opted out as she lost her Wheaten Riley at the end of March.

Dina Melendez with #4 Vida was unable to attend.

Cindy Jansen with #5 “Rio” opted out. Rio earned his MACH in October as the 20th Wheaten to do so.

Judith Johnson/Susan Summers with #7 “Callie” opted out. (87 pts)

The four teams that represented our breed in the 2017 AKC Invitational are as follows and are shown in the photograph:

#3 “Darby” Eringlo Riverdance MX MXB MXJ MJB, owned by Janine Mroz (top left)

#6 “Mac” Joydell’s New Beginnings For MacGuiness MX MXJ MJB OF NFP CGC, owned by Lorri Ligato (bottom right)

#8 “Yogi” Yogi MX AXJ, owned by Donna Pizzulli and J.R. Emmanuelli (68 pts)

#1 Preferred Dog “Sage” Barnum’s Pumpkin Pie Sage MXP MJP XFP CA RATN CGC TKN, owned by Maria Barnum (bottom left)

Below are the final standings and cumulative stats after two days of competing with the other 120 dogs in the 20” height class and 133 dogs in the 16” height class. The points and seconds listed are cumulative for the 4 Invitational runs and total time for 4 runs. Individual run scores are noted at the end of each dog’s name.

#1 “Yogi” 368 points 188.879 seconds - #83 in 20” height class (91/100/95/82)

#2 “MacGuiness” 365 points 157.071 seconds - #92 in 16” height class (85/90/95/95)

#3 “Darby” 339 points 200.989 seconds - #100 in 16” height class (95/95/66/83)

#4 “Sage” 269 points 231.164 seconds - #105 in 20” height class (67/77/43/82)

The 1st place team of J.R. Emmanuelli and “Yogi” won the 2017 Top Wheaten Breed Medallion. This was J.R. and Yogi’s debut at this show. He also earned one Clean Run ribbon on day one of the competition for his score of 100. Owned by Donna Pizzulli and J.R. Emmanuelli.

The #2 placed team, “MacGuiness” and Lorri Ligato were only 3 points behind the #1 team. Lorri has competed several times at the AKC Agility Invitational. She holds the honors of having the highest titled agility Wheaten Terrier in AKC history, MACH 10 Joy-Dell’s New Year’s Malley who is the half-brother to MacGuiness. Mac enjoys barn hunting and has his RATO title.

The #3 Team, “Darby” and Janine Mroz competed for their second time at the Invitational this year. They were also invited and attended in 2016. Darby earned her MACH in November 2017 and is the 21st Wheaten to earn this title.

Also debuting at this year’s show, #4 team “Sage” and Maria Barnum have only done agility for a few years and having a blast. Sage is a registered Therapy Dog and also loves all performance events: Lure Coursing, Barn Hunt, Rally and recently earned his Intermediate tricks title.

A common statement from all four teams, “we were so thrilled to be invited to this national show and honored to represent our breed.” We enjoyed meeting and competing against each other with each competing hard to win the SCWTCA sponsored Top Wheaten medallion.

The medallion is generously sponsored by the SCWTCA and is an honor to win. Top Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier for the 2017 Agility Invitational was “Yogi” and J.R. Emmanuelli.
Year of the Trifecta for Eringlo Wheatens

By Cindy Jansen and Janine Mroz


Of those puppies, one fine little male would stay with his mom Cayenne and co-breeder/owner Cindy Jansen and be named Rio, CH MACH Eringlo Dancing Through Life VCD2 BN RE MXG MJG. One cute little female, Darby, MACH Eringlo Riverdance MXS MJS CGC would be proudly owned and loved by Janine Mroz.

Both Cindy Jansen and Janine Mroz were looking for another Wheaten to join their families and had high hopes each dog would love agility as their mother Cayenne had during the years prior. Cindy and Janine trained each of their respective puppies in agility and over the years gained more and more agility titles. The journey to the MACH for all three dogs was a road traveled with hills and valleys.

You might call 2017 the year of the “Trifecta” for this Eringlo dog family.

2017 proved to be a year of magic for this Eringlo breeding line of Cayenne and her puppies.

Cayenne earned her Master Agility Champion title on Jan. 20, 2017 and became the 19th Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier to obtain a MACH title.

Rio earned his Master Agility Champion Oct. 15, 2017 on their home turf in Columbia, MO and was the 20th Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier to obtain a MACH title.

Darby earned her Master Agility Champion on Nov. 26, 2017 on their home turf in Lake St. Louis, MO and was the 21st Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier to obtain a MACH title.

With so few Wheaten’s having earned the Master Agility Champion title, having the three dogs from the same family obtain the titles in the same year was very unexpected.

This threesome has enjoyed other unexpected honors together in the past few years.

In Dec. of 2016, all three dogs, mom, son and daughter were invited to attend the 2016 AKC Invitational and all three Eringlo Wheatens competed together in Orlando that year.

Once again, this past Dec. 2017, two of the family made it into the Top 5 Wheaten Terriers. Darby and Rio were once again invited to the 2017 AKC Invitational but only Darby was able to attend in Dec. 2017.

Krista Finishes in Top 10

Junior Veteran division at AKC North American Diving Dog (NADD) Nationals

By Dorice Stancher

After being operated on for a tumor on her paw it was uncertain how Krista would compete at the nationals. Distance Jumping involves running down a 40 foot dock and then vaulting to retrieve an article. We contacted Dr. Robert Gillette of Sportsvet, an experienced biomechanics expert, to evaluate her form and to quickly condition her for competition. This year at eight years old, Krista was moved into the veteran class. Since she had missed the competitive season, the judges allowed her to initially compete at the Novice Veteran class which includes distances up to 9’ 11”. After a few warm up jumps it was apparent that Krista was eager to prove herself. She achieved a personal best of 12’ 11” which was 20% farther than her jumps from the previous year. She was quickly moved up to the competitive Junior Veteran Class with distances up to 14’ 11”. Even though she was one of the smallest dogs in competition she finished in the top ten for her division with a jump of 12’.
AKC National Championship Dog Show
Orlando, FL, Dec. 17, 2017

Judge: Mr. Desmond J. Murhpy

WD: Moxxy Shandalee Night Moves
RWD: Cela Just The Right Fit
WB/BOW: Villanova Dancing In The Dark
RWB: Star Neet
BOB: GCHP CH Bryr Rose Matisse
BOS: CH Moxxy Shandalee Don’T Stop
SD: (Veterans) GCHG CH Sundance Second Chance
SB: GCH CH Atas Dim Sum Lights
AOMs:
GCHG CH Ainle Something To Talk About
GCHB CH Adako Little Red Robin Hood
GCH CH Lismore Once In A Lifetime (AOM/BOBBBE)

Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show
New York, NY, Feb. 13, 2017

Judge: Mr. Ken Kauffman

BOB: GCHB CH Reyem’s If She Hollers Let Her Go
BOS: GCHB CH Adako Little Red Robin Hood
SD: GCHG CH Ainle Something To Talk About
SB: CH Moxxy Shandalee Don’T Stop
AOM:
GCH CH Lismore Once In A Lifetime
After a week of freezing temperatures in Brooksville, FL, the weatherman promised warm weather for the 2018 SCWTCA Roving Specialty. By the time our Sweeps puppies entered the ring it was a very comfortable day. Sweeps Judge Bonney Snyder selected Jendu In The Spirit Of The Game as Best In Sweeps and Whindancer’s Fire On The Mountain At Carillon as Best of Opposite Sex from an entry of 9 puppies. Best Veteran went to GCH Sundance Second Chance from an entry of 4.

Following Sweeps, Judge Kathy Clarke had the largest entry of Wheaten Terriers judged in FL in recent years, with more entries than at AKC Royal Canin in Orlando a short five weeks earlier. 47 wheatens were greeted by enthusiastic spectators, which included every Past President of the host Club, SCWTCGTB. After careful examination of each dog Mrs. Clarke chose her winners.

Immediately following the Breed Judging, Sue Goldberg, who graciously replaced Emily Holden who had to send her regrets, presented our Education Seminar. Fifty-three people attended. A number of people new to conformation were very enthusiastic and were overheard talking about what they had learned!

Saturday evening “Wheatens in Paradise” closing dinner was held at Southern Hills Plantation Club with a record number of reservations – 93! Everyone enjoyed a “Margaritaville” themed evening with $5 margaritas, hors d’oeuvres, (including mini “Cheeseburgers in Paradise”) followed by a buffet dinner and of course key lime tarts.

Tickets for the themed quilt designed by Dorice Stancher and made by Linda Hallas were totally sold out! Hunting Horn Jewelers donated a 14k gold running wheaten on a silver oval and included a silver chain. Laura Vincent Virant donated a lovely flamingo/wheaten standing decoration that was used on the trophy table and then auctioned at dinner. Two of the ring decorations made by Dave Hallas were auctioned - all in addition to the silent auction hosted by the Florida Wheaten Club. All proceeds went to the Florida Club Rescue.

HUGE thanks to all the people who traveled from near and far to be a part of this first Roving to take place in Florida! Many thanks to all the volunteers from the Florida Club who made this Roving a success!
What a wonderful experience I was afforded to judge the National Roving Sweepstakes in Florida.

I would like to thank all the people involved in making this experience truly memorable.

I would also like to thank the exhibitors for bringing their puppies and veterans for me to judge. I really do appreciate your hard work and dedication to our breed. All of the puppies and veterans were in lovely condition and were presented well.

My choice for BISSW was #31 Jendu in the Spirit Of The Game. This handsome young dog was square, medium size and with a lovely flowing coat. He has a beautiful rectangular head, nice wide mouth, dark eyes and nicely set ears. He had a happy attitude and covered ground in a graceful manner. He moved true coming and going.

BOSSW #18 Windancers Fire On The Mountain at Carrillon; Very pretty feminine puppy. Lovely flowing coat and nice movement. She was overall a very well structured puppy.

Best Veteran # 21 GCH Sundance Second Chance; This handsome dog exudes bred type. He moves true and steady with great confidence. He commands the ring on the go around. He was presented by his owner in wonderful condition.

BOS Veteran #8- CH Marquee’s If It Ain’t Baroque; This amazing almost 13 year old girl moved like a younger dog. She was happy and confident and a pleasure to see. Her coat and condition is a tribute to her breeder and owner’s care.

BISSW: JENDU IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME
By CH Gelt P-38 Lightning - CH Jendu Joyful Spirit.
Owner/Breeder: Dana Barton & Catherine Perron

BEST VETERAN: GCH SUNDANCE SECOND CHANCE
CH Eudora’s Isak Finnigan O’Bradberry - CH Sundance Truly An Heirloom.
Owner: Sandy Russo & Frank Russo Breeder: Susan & Don Wuerz

BOSSW: WHINDANCER’S FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN AT CARILLON
GCHS Rosheen Ring Of Fire - CH Whindancer's This Girl Is On Fire.
Owner: Kathleen & Peter Gottschalk & Susan Ratliffe
Breeder: Susan Ratliffe & Art Miller & Abby Cochran

BOS VETERAN: CH MARQUEE’S IF IT AIN’T BAROQUE
CH Glenngay Spin City - CH Marquee’s Birthday Toast.
Owner: Sonya Urquhart
Breeder: Christy Weagant & Sonya & Richard Urquhart
I want to thank everyone who put in the work to make the specialty a memorable experience. Your hospitality was unsurpassed. Even the weather cooperated it was a lovey sunny day, just the right temperature.

My overall impression of my entry was a positive one. What I see that needs improving is front end movement. We have come a long way in establishing type. I did see a lot of dogs holding their outlines on the go around. But our down & backs bring out what we need to improve.

I felt a lot of course back skulls that lead into snippy muzzles. The bites were pretty decent.

My Dog Class Winners:

6 to 9- Legacy Kaloh Ke Winters Tale: Pretty head, good ears, nice young dog to go over, well presented. A little close behind. He was my Reserve Winners Dog

9 to 12- Doubleloon’s Extreme Gamer: Lovely coat and color on this young man, incredible headpiece. When he got it together in his head, his movement was powerful. He was my Winners dog & Best of Winners

12 to 18- Moxxy Shandalee Walk This Way: Nice outline, short backed pretty type.

Bred By- Jendu In The Spirit Of The Game; Pretty coat, imposing presence. Just needs to grow up.

Open Dog- Hooligan Rollin’ Semair: Nice outline, moved well, good dark eye.

My Bitch Class Winners

6 to 9- Villanova Adako She Wore A Yellow Ribbon: Nice reach & drive, pretty coat.

9 to 12- Windancers Fire On The Mountain at Carrillon; She was a nice honest young bitch.

12 to 18- Heritage Music Makes The World Go Round; Pretty coat & color, nice rear. She was my Reserve Winners Bitch

Bred By- Villanova Dancing In The Dark; Very cute, on size, honest mover.

Open- Edgewood You Had Me At Merlot; I loved this girl; a bit of a wild child but the young man handling her did a great job getting her to behave. Lovely rear, extremely sound mover. She was my Winners Bitch

I want to thank everyone who brought me a very lovely Breed Class; it truly wasn't easy.

What I found for my breed dog was an on size, pretty-coated and held his outline on the go round. Nice head, decent ear-set with a good eye color. He asked for the win every time I looked at him he was giving it all he had. BOB- GCH Sundance’s Lucky Rover

My Best Opposite Bitch was a moderate on size bitch that held her outline well. BOS- Ch Sundance’s Kiss-Kiss You Rule My World-Prince

Select Dog- Ch Keepsake’s Wave Ryder; this is a lovely young dog who was extremely well presented.

Select Bitch- GCHB Pinehome Merrimore Came To Dance RN CA RATN; This is a well put together beautifully coated girl.

AOMs:

GCH Lismore Once In A Lifetime (dog)
Kale Ice On Ice (bitch)

Thank you to everyone who voted for me to judge the roving specialty; I was extremely honored.
BOB:  GCH SUNDANCE’S LUCKY ROVER (d)
CH Kincora Tara Life In The Fast Lane - CH Sundance Order Of The Irish Rose
Owners: Kerrie Rousey & Susan Wuerz
Breeders: Susan A Wuerz & Donald L Wuerz & Juliana McKamey

SB:  GCHB PINEHOME MERRIMOOR CAME TODANCE RN CA RATN
CH Pinehome’s Seamus Walnut - Pinehome’s Check Me Out
Owner: Linda Hallas  Breeder: Peggy A. Gale

BOS:  CH SUNDANCE’S KISS-KISS YOU RULE MY WORLD-PRINCE
GCH Mackanme One Love One Heart - CH Sundance Seamrog Wearin ‘O’ The Green
Owners/Breeders: Susan A Wuerz & Maureen McSweeney

AOM:  CH LISMORE ONCE IN A LIFETIME (d)
CH Tara I Get Around - GCH Lismore Catching Fire
Owners: Meg Ryan & Albert Baker Knoll & Fred Mitzner
Breeder: Meg Ryan

SD:  CH KEEPSAKE’S WAVE RYDER
CH Wheaten Rebel’s Take A Ticket To Greentree - CH Keepsake’s Soul Surfer
Owners/Breeders: Shari Robinson & Sydney Robinson

AOM:  KALER ICE ON ICE (b)
CH Kaler Midnight Mac Attach - CH Kaler Star Ice Ice Baby.
Owners/Breeders: Karen Mueller & Denise Daniel
### WEEK AT A GLANCE

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**SHOWS**
- WD: MOONSTRUCK COSMIC CRUISER
- RWD: HERITAGE I'VE GOT THE MUSIC IN ME
- WB: HERITAGE MUSIC MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND
- WB: LISMORE THIS MUST BE THE PLACE
- BOB: GCH ADAO LITTLE RED ROBIN HOOD
- BOW: MOONSTRUCK COSMIC CRUISER
- BOS: KALER ICE ON ICE
- SD: CH HOLLYWOOD'S BACK TO THE FUTURE CD RN BN RATO
- SB: GCH GREENTREE SAGE'S MAGICAL ENCHANTRESS
- BOB/ OH: GCH PINEHOME MERRIMOOR CAMEOTODANCE RN CA RATN and OH/GRP 3
- BBE: WHINDANCER THE HEAT IS ON
- AOM: GCH LISMORE ONCE IN A LIFETIME

**SWEEPS**
- BSW: JENDU IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME
- BOSSW: WHINDANCER'S FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN AT CARILLON
- BV: GCHG SUNDANCE SECOND CHANCE
- BOSV: CH MARQUEE'S IF IT AIN'T BAROQUE

Official publication of the SCWTCFA, Inc, volume 46, number 1, March 2018
**Specialties**
- SCWTC No. CA, Sacramento, CA, Fri. April 13...Pat Rutherford
- Del Val Spring SCWTC, Erwinna, PA, Sat. May 5...Cheryl Turner
- SCWTC Greater St. Louis, Gray Summit, MO, Fri. June 1...Elaine Azerolo
- SCWTC So. CA (#1), Irwindale, CA, Fri. June, 22...Karla Baer Cohen
- SCWTC So. CA (#2), Irwindale, CA, Sun. June 24...Karla Baer Cohen
- SCWTC Greater Milwaukee, Waukesha, WI, Fri. July 27...Karen Bilda
- Greater Denver SCWTC, Greeley, CO, Fri. August 17...Patrice Chevalier
- Del Val Fall SCWTC, at Hatboro, PA, Fri. Oct 5...Cheryl Turner
- SCWTCA Nat'l Specialty, Blue Bell, PA, Sat-Sun. October 6-7...Jinx Moore and Lori Kromash

**Supported Entries**
- Desert Empire Terrier Show, Thurs. January 4...Ann Leigh
- Dog Fanciers Assoc. of Oregon, Thurs. January 18...Patti Strand
- Evansville KC, Sat. March 17...Dana Barton
- No. Cal Terrier Assoc., Thurs. April 12...Pat Mullin
- Columbia Terrier Assoc., Fri. April 20...Cheryl Turner
- Mississippi Valley KC, Sun. June 3...Jinx Moore
- Great Western Terrier Assoc., Sat. June 23...Karla Baer Cohen
- Oklahoma KC, Sat. June 30...Holly Million
- SCWTCA, Fri. July 27...Nancy Andersen
- Greeley KC, Sat. August 18...Patrice Chevalier
- AKC National Championship, December 2018...TBD

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**AN EDUCATIONAL FLYER**

On pages 55 and 56 you will find a small trifold that we have designed to be used as an educational tool for beginners as well as a refresher for the experienced exhibitor or judge.

**DO NOT TEAR IT OUT!** Just cut along the dotted vertical line (to prevent the opposing page from falling out.)

There is a front and back that when folded properly will turn into a pamphlet that looks like this one on the left.
**Benchmarks Subscription Rates**

SCWTCA members USA $25/year  
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**Articles and letters closing date for June 2018 issue: May 1**

**Advertising Rates**

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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 issue: May 1**

Send advertising to Helen Fraguela, at fraguela@aol.com or via mail to 8681 Waterview Terrace, Parkland, FL 33076. 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.

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Multiple copies at discounted prices available to club members only.  
Non-USA prices, see website.

**Publications and pricing outside the US contact:**  
Kayce Healy  
publications@SCWTCa.org

**Yearbooks**

(1988–2000) specify the year $15  
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(2009–2013) specify the year $65  
(2010–2015) print and cd $75  

**To purchase/receive yearbooks contact:**  
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eringlo@yahoo.com

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6206 Sheffield Lane E  
Fife, WA 98424

Checks should be made payable to SCWTCA, Inc., drawn on US accounts or with international money orders in US funds.

**Tax deductible donations by check for Wheaten Health may be sent to:**  
Toni Vincent, SCWTCA Endowment/Treasurer  
5825 152nd Avenue NE  
Bellevue, WA 98005-1503

Make checks payable to SCWTCA Endowment, Inc.  
(a 501(c)(3) non profit, fully deductible for IRS purposes)
UNDERSTANDING TERMS IN THE BREED STANDARD

WHAT IS SQUARE?
The Wheaten is SQUARE in outline. The distance from withers to ground and forechest to buttocks are the same.

MOVEMENT VS STRUCTURE
“The Wheaten must be able to cover ground in an efficient and graceful fashion, indicating strength and endurance. A properly structured, well conditioned dog will have reach and drive, and maintain a strong, level topline when moving”

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF “ESSENCE OF TYPE”

COAT
Soft, Silky, Waving, Flowing Warm Wheaten Color

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

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

ATTITUDE
Happy, steady, shows himself gaily

MOVEMENT
As detailed under Movement vs Structure

A Quick Study Of The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

ESSENCE OF TYPE
The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier is a well-balanced sporting terrier who is square in outline. As a long-legged terrier the Wheaten is moderate in outline, neither racy nor extreme, but defined by his equal length from withers to ground and chest to rump. His moderately long neck and long rectangular head further give him his distinctive breed type, with his ears adding to his terrier expression. He is spirited, happy, self-confident, and alert... true to his terrier origins.

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America
www.scwtca.org

CREDITS: SCWTCA Illustrated Standard, Benchmarks, Gay Dunlap, Helen Praguela, Ken Kauffman

Ken Kauffman