Thank you to these Judges who also recognized Millie in 2020...
Mrs. Loraine Boutwell
Mr. Terry Stacy
Mr. Bruce Schwartz
Mrs. Jacqueline Stacy
Mr. Robert Shreve
Ms. Beverly Andersen
Mrs. Terry Berrios
Mr. H Scott Kellogg
Mrs. Mareth Kipp
Mr. Sidney Marx

Thank You Judge
Ms. Gloria Kerr
Group First

Millie
RESERVE BEST IN SHOW WINNING
GCHS HARBOUR HILL
ONE IN A MILLION

Owned by Susan Sakauye & Lauren Smith
Bred by Susan Sakauye

*CC STATS 09.03.2020

One
WHEATEN BITCH
ALL-BREED*

One in a Million
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

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Benchmarks is available for viewing in color on our SCWTCA website, http://www.SCWTCA.org.

About The Cover

These lovely pups (Macey, Rush and Smooch) were bred by Liz & Mike Jamilowski of Clover Wheatens. They are pictured here watching their Mama Lacey play in the garden. Original photo by Christine Leslie. Edited by Helen Fraguela

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Before going forward, I would like to thank Holly Craig for being the editor of *Benchmarks* for the past year. She stepped up to do a difficult job and we appreciate all her efforts. We wish Holly good health in the coming year.

We did it! We had our first virtual annual meeting, and with one exception, it was a success. More than 130 members preregistered, so I purchased the upgrade from Zoom to accommodate everyone. Unfortunately, Zoom charged for the service but didn’t provide it, so the meeting was limited to the first 100 people who entered the meeting. Other than that, the meeting ran smoothly, and I was able to share information usually provided at the annual meeting, including the Slide Show of award winners.

There is an important omission to the awards that I want to correct. GCHB Serendipity’s Urban Legend, owned by Dick and Camille Taylor, received her Register of Merit. To receive it, she produced eight champions of record. Congratulations Hattie!!

Speaking of meetings, the Board has scheduled its two-day meeting as a virtual one. With COVID still raging and no possibility of a vaccine for us before February first, we decided it was in everyone’s best interest to stay home. We will still meet over the course of two days.

So many virtual events dominate our “safer at home” lives, as we say in Colorado. Recently we presented a Virtual Puppy Sweepstakes Competition with the added class of 4-6-month puppies. Please go to page 36 to see details of the judging and photos of the winners.

The Board is developing a committee to examine our National Specialty weekend and to evaluate activities throughout. Liaison from this committee to the Board is Director Bonney Snyder.

The Club is still looking for volunteers. As posted on Updates, we are looking for a member to take over the position of Legislative Liaison as recent liaison, Connie Koehler, is now Club Treasurer. Additionally, we have formed a Fundraising Committee, chaired by Pat Robeski, with Denise Bendelewski as vice-chair for inventory housing/fulfillment. This committee will determine items for a variety of fundraisers, including the National Specialty.

Speaking of fundraising, we are offering the Wheaten ornament with design by Darcie Olson. You can order it from the Boutique on the website. While you’re there, consider any of the other boutique items that would make lovely holiday gifts. After some early glitches, PayPal is now up and ready to accept your payments.

We all owe a huge thank you to Rose Rose Lawrie for her 10 years of dedicated searches for unique and lovely items found in the boutique. Rose found such items as the nightlights, pendants and pins to name just a few. She will continue to be responsible for collecting the Wheaten Treasures, donations for fundraising given by Wheaten owners.

Recently the Breeders Education section of the website has been moved to the Members Only section, so please create a username and unique password on the website so you can access the Members Only section.

When you receive your dues notification early next year, please note that there is a change to the Breeders List Application. Because the integrity of the list depends on members adhering to the Club’s Code of Ethics, there will now be graduated consequences for those who do not. These changes were made to protect the health and well-being of our dogs.

Because many dog shows have been cancelled in 2020, SCWTCA will provide a supported entry in 2021 to the same clubs that we had intended to support this year. No new applications will be necessary for 2021.

One show that does appear to be happening is the AKC National Championship in Florida this December. Willie Rueda will present the SCWTCA Judges Education seminar for our Judges Education Committee. The breed seminars are critical to educate prospective judges as well as those who want to refresh their understanding of the Wheaten Terrier.

By the next time I write, I hope that everyone has had healthy and safe end-of-the year celebrations and maybe, just maybe, we will be looking forward to seeing each other at dog shows!

*Molly O’Connell*
Meet Your New Board Members

EMILY HOLDEN - VICE PRESIDENT

When I think back over my 52 year involvement with owning, exhibiting and breeding Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, what sticks out most to me are the friendships gained along the way. Some of my friends have been short term, the five year “wonders” who come in, finish a dog or a few, and then move on to other interests. Some of them have remained precious lifelong friends. Others stay involved for twenty or thirty years and some have been with me from the beginning. We are a family of diverse types of people from the entire United States, Canada, and countries all around the world. We all share our love for a very special breed and a desire to see it continue to develop in type, health and temperament.

Traveling and campaigning Wheatens toward AKC recognition was a terrific way for me to learn dogs and people. Carol Carlson and I worked as the Amaden team and covered a lot of territory. We bought Irish CH Benmul Belma in Ireland and she became the first female champion and second champion in the US.

I have shown my own dogs and have used wonderful handlers resulting in a hundred plus Soft Coated Wheaten and Dandie Dinmont Terrier champions. Breeding is my real passion. I love creating healthy happy pets and show dogs, but the best part are the phone calls from the owners expressing their love for their puppy and the amazing holiday picture cards.

As President and director of SCWTCA.org, I was able to initiate some programs that have served the breed well: the Health Committee, Rescue Program, Endowment, Open Registry, and our beautiful Illustrated Standard to name a few. I served as a Judges’ mentor and presenter for Judges Education in Raleigh, NC and Greenville, SC.

I have presented health seminars for clubs in Maryland, So. California, No. California, several times in Canada, Sweden and have been honored to judge sweeps for Garden State Terrier Club, Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, and for Wheaten Clubs in Chicago, New England, St. Louis, Del Val, So. Cal, Beverly Hills, the Netherlands, Sweden and the SCWTCA.

Articles of mine were published in Dog Fancy, Dog World, Popular Dogs, ShowSight, Terrier Type, AKC gazette and Benchmarks and my articles have been reprinted by the Potomac Skye Terrier Club, Sealyham Terrier Club and ChowChow Magazine.

In 2010 I was awarded the AKC Sportsmanship Award.

My club experience includes:

- Member, SCWTCA since 1970
- Member, DelVal SCWTC since 1971
- Co-Founder of DVSCWTC and served as:
  President, Vice President, Secretary, Director,
  Show Chair for Montgomery County Terrier Club  1990
    Vice President  2020 – 2022
    President         1989 – 1994
    Secretary         1974 - 1976
    Director          2000 - 2002
    Show Chair        2010
My life in dogs began at age four with my first ASCOB Cocker Spaniel following the original release of “Lady and the Tramp” (without betraying my age). Beginning in juniors showing English Setters throughout the Midwest, my competition career was interrupted for decades by the usual college, grad school, career and marriage, until a rescue Wheaten came into my life 25 years ago from our local breed club, SCWTCSC, and resuscitated it. She needed a lot of behavioral remediation, which landed both of us in obedience training and resulted in a CGC that was hard earned. A second pup followed in late 2003, who not only earned his CGC, but also titled in rally and herding. From there, the Wheaten bug was in my system, never to leave. Following my retirement in 2010 from a professional career in aerospace and defense that spanned 30 years, my current three generations of Wheatens have titled not only in conformation, but also a full range of performance and companion events, including rally, CgC, trick dog, therapy and now the new AKC Temperament Test.

One of my proudest moments was last year at the 2019 SCWTCA Annual Meeting, when now-10-yearold Bammie (a.k.a. GCH CH Marymore Circle of Friends THD CGC TKN) was honored as the Wheaten Ambassador of the Year for her outstanding therapy work reading with children at Los Angeles City and County libraries. Supporting the Wheaten and canine community has also been a labor of love. I have been privileged to serve as treasurer, president and rescue chair of SCWTCS; public education chair, board director, MCKC specialty co-chair, legislative liaison to the AKC, and now treasurer for SCWTCA; secretary/AKC LL for my local all-breed kennel club, South Bay KC; and AKC LL for my all-breed obedience club, Southwest Obedience Club of Los Angeles. My three Wheaten, Grammy Bammie, Mama Patsy, son/grandson Casey and I live in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. We look forward to returning to competition and seeing our wonderful friends throughout the Golden State as soon as our shows and trials reopen from their COVID shutdown.

CONNIE KOEHLER - TREASURER

My introduction to the dog fancy was when I got my got my first Wheaten. A friend asked me if I’d like to go to Pet Fair and see the dog, she was looking for a Wheaten Terrier. I had never seen a Wheaten in person nor had I ever been to a dog show. We met a breeder named Michael DeCarlo who just happened to have a male show potential available. Of course I fell in love with this puppy but the stipulation was that he be shown to his championship. I was very lucky that he turned out to be a lovely dog and finished his championship in one weekend at the prestigious Bucks County dog show back east. That was over 30 years ago and the rest is history. I jumped in with both feet. At my first local SCWTCS Wheaten club meeting I was asked to help with rescue. Of course I said I would. This became my passion and still is. I have been involved in rescue for my entire show career and always will be there to help place needy dogs. I have been the President of Malibu KC, President of our local club SCWTCS, Director of Los Encinas KC, Board member of American Sealyham Terrier Club, and presently am a Director of Desert Empire Terrier Club. Some of the other breeds that I have bred and shown to their championship are Sealyham Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers and Giant Schnauzers, but the Wheaten Terrier is my heart breed. My dogs and I are also involved in Performance. Nose Work, Agility and Barn Hunt are some of the sports we enjoy. I hope to be an asset to the Board and to the membership through my many years of experience.

BONITA SNYDER - DIRECTOR
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trophy Name</th>
<th>Winner Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andover Challenge Trophy III</td>
<td>GCHB Doubloon’s Extreme Gamer, owner/breeder/handler Elena Landa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amaden Best of Opposite Sex Trophy</td>
<td>CH Keepsake Timtara Im A Rockstar, breeder and owners Shari &amp; Sydney Robinson and Priscilla Tims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everett Keller “Ballyhoo” Memorial Trophy</td>
<td>Denise Daniel, breeder of Star Little Miss Can’t Be Wrong</td>
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<tr>
<td>David R Lincicome Trophy</td>
<td>Brittany Phelps, owner of Adako Built For The Wild</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan E McNamara Memorial Trophy</td>
<td>Cathy Perron &amp; Dana Barton, owners of Jendu Ryde Like The Wind</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen Holmes Memorial Award</td>
<td>Betsy Geertson &amp; Willie Rueda, breeders of Orion Trebol Break Through</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best in Specialty Show Breeder</td>
<td>Elena Landa, Breeder of GCHB Doubloon’s Extreme Gamer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best in Specialty Show Breeder</td>
<td>Elena Landa, Breeder of GCHS Doubloon’s Extreme Gamer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenmoor Bred by Exhibitor Challenge Award</td>
<td>Betsy Geertson &amp; Willie Rueda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenmoor Bred by Exhibitor Challenge Award for the Roving Specialty</td>
<td>Gay Dunlap, Jon Caliri and Robert Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Best in Show Award</td>
<td>GCHB Doubloon’s Extreme Gamer Breeder/Owner/Handler Elena Landa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve Best in Show Award</td>
<td>GCHB Doubloon’s Extreme Gamer Breeder/Owner/Handler Elena Landa</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Abby’s Postage Dhu O’Waterford “Casey” Award</td>
<td>GCHS Doubloon’s Extreme Gamer Breeder/Owner/Handler Elena Landa (defeating 734)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Register of Merit</td>
<td>GCHG Ainle Villanova Mouth of the South CGC. Bred by Cynthia Phelps and owned by Kathi Elliot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Register of Merit</td>
<td>GCHB Serendipity’s Urban Legend, Bred by F. Stanford, owned by Richard and Camille Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Register of Merit</td>
<td>GCHG Shandalee Fireworks. Bred by Sue and Harvey Goldberg, owned by Sue Goldberg and Dawn Sealy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Showmanship Award</td>
<td>Royal Miller, defeating 103 juniors</td>
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<td>Award</td>
<td>Winner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obedience Dog of the Year Award</td>
<td>Orion Trebol Hot House Flower UDX, PCDX, OM2, BN, OA, AXJ, CGCA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with an average score of 194</td>
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<tr>
<td>The High in Trial Award</td>
<td>Orion Trebol Hot House Flower UDX, PCDX, OM2, BN, OA, AXJ, CGCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agility Dog of the Year – Masters</td>
<td>MACH2 Rory Red King Of The Links MXG PAD MJ C PJD MFS TQX T2B4 THD CGCA TKP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agility Dog of the year – Preferred</td>
<td>CH PACH Katdancer Look At Me Scamper RN AX AXJ MXP5 MXPS MJP6 MUPS PAX OF SWN SCA SEA RATO TKN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idaw卖家 versatility Dog Award</td>
<td>GCH LiTown Katlyn Song of Ardacassa CDX, RE, NA, OA, SCA, SIN THD, CGCA owned by Carol Shaltz</td>
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<td>CGHS Pinehome Merrimoore Came to Dance CD, NA, NAJ, RN, CA, SCN, SIN, RATO.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Wheaten Award</td>
<td>Master Award –</td>
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<td>Doubloons’s Razzmataz RN, SWN, RATS, CGC, TKA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Advanced Award –</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Escapade Moonstruck Madness at Katdancer RN, OAP, NJP, NFP, SWN, SCA, TKN owned by Lee Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CH MACH Eringlo Dancing Through Life VCD2, BN, RE, MXC, MXJ, NAP, NJP, SWA, SIE, SEE owned by Cindy Jansen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cell’s Soul On Fire RA, OA, OAJ, OF, TKA, CGC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescue Family of the Year Award and is presented to the person or family who exhibits extraordinary care, dedication, and personal sacrifice to the performance of rescue efforts on behalf of SCWTCA Rescue.</td>
<td>Carolyn Dartly with Cagney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Celebrating Long Life...

“Aly”
Vanbeard’s Sweet Alyssum
May 2006 - July 2020
CH Vanbeard’s Alex x Vanbeard’s Awesome Blossom
Breeders: Susan Ostrander and Kathleen Ostrander-Bowers/Owners: Betsy and Marty Duggan

Aly was mom’s meerkat. She would sit back on her haunches and watch those “chippies” outside. Chipmunks were the bane of her existence and they would frolic on the front lawn. Aly loved babies and when one of our girls, Syd, had a singleton and couldn’t nurse it because her nipples were too big, we moved him to Aly and moved Aly’s bigger babies to Syd. It worked even though her puppies were already a week old.

She would play and play and launch herself off the couch like a torpedo. She would slam her head so hard into your leg seeking attention it made you wince and bruise. She had a stunning Irish coat that would shine in the sun and fall in cream colored waves. She loved the snow.

When mom’s health declined, Aly was fostered by Sue and Paul Adams and our Airedale friend, Pam Soleski. And then we found her the perfect home with Betsy and Marty in the Chicago area. They doted on her, took her for walks – she loved the kids and grandkids – and she went on vacations. They thought Aly was perfect – right down to the heart-shaped freckle on her nose. We can’t thank them and the others who fostered her enough.

Kathy and Scott Bowers

“Clover”
Shannon’s Four Leaf Clover
2/28/08 - 9/26/20
Kelly’s Macho Man Morgan x Kelly’s Bonnie Buttercup
Breeder: Carol Rosenberg/Owner: Shannon Sorensen

I was so lucky that Clover was in my life the last twelve and half years. From the start, Clover was a high energy dog. Clover loved running around the dining room table like he was on fire, hogging the bed, watching me from under the dining room table, and snow days. He loved everyone he met and greeted everyone with a big kiss.

It was just Clover and I and he was always by my side in our many adventures together. Clover had been to many parks to hike and explore and on road trips with Mom. He was my hiking partner. Clover was the leader and I was more the follower!!! He loved getting out on the trail and greeting everyone he encountered. I’m glad we were able to take our last trip together to Minnesota’s North Shore. I will always remember him by my side while we watch the big waves roll in. I Will forever miss him jumping up on me and his daily kisses.
Hamish was our second Wheaten. We grieved dreadfully for our first Wheaten, “Fergus” and were afraid we wouldn’t be able to love another puppy. But we wanted another Wheaten and when we discovered the father of Hamish’s litter was named “Fergus”, we felt it was a sign. The puppies were all to be named after Abba songs, so we picked “Take a Chance On Me” for him because it fit so well. We are so happy that we took that chance!

Hamish was smart, creative, funny, inventive, independent, and unflappable. He was my partner in Performance dog sports where he won many titles, usually placing in the top 4 and often coming in first.

Although Hamish didn’t really take to roughing it camping, he loved the sea, boat rides, and relaxing on a smart patio or in a nice restaurant after a day at the beach. He was our handsome gentleman and we met many lovely people because they wanted to meet Hamish.

Thank you, Holly Craig, for breeding this incredible dog and for trusting him to us. We loved him dearly and shared a wonderful life together.

Happy Birthday Seniors!

Rudi retired to come live with us in 2013 and for the last 7 years, she has made our home complete. Mostly quiet, fiercely independent, she’s her Daddy’s princess, and she keeps me around because I feed her. She has yet to come across a fruit or vegetable that she doesn’t love. She’s slowed down now, but she still manages to approach mealtime with same exuberance she did so many years ago. Happy 13th Birthday to the very best girl in the world!  

Kelly Vrettos

Rudi finished her CH easily, was a group placer and produced two CH daughters with specialty wins. Much loved by us, we nevertheless decided to grant her wish to be a princess...and she picked the Vrettos family to rule over. We are forever grateful to Rudi for bringing them into our lives and to Kelly, John and the kids for making her dream come true.

Pam & John Mandeville
“BobDog”
CH Banner Sweet Talkin’ guy RA, THDX, CGC
DOB: 12/16/2007
CH Edgewood Dream Catcher x CH Marymore Banner Gabriel’s Choice
Breeders: Pam & John Mandeville/Owners: Pam & John Mandeville & Carol Carlson

Never was a dog so aptly named.
We decided when Bob finished his championship, we would place him. Along the way, Carol met him at a show and by lunch time they were in love with each other and we all knew where he’d eventually land. Shortly after his first birthday, he became a CH and went to live with Carol where he became BobDog. She embarked on a quest for a versatility title, acquiring a lot of initials after his name but never the right ones! Nevertheless, both she and he enjoyed the journey. To her credit, she turned him into a therapy dog and he was the star of her local library’s reading program, for which he earned SCWTCA’s Wheaten Ambassador award.

During Carol’s final illness, her nephew and his fiance assumed care of BobDog. Shannon says: “Bobdog is doing amazing!! He still thinks he is a puppy some days. He still is spinning away when he gets super excited...He is loving life living out his days in Paradise, Pa with Carlton and me.”

Bob is still in Paradise and we are grateful that he is.

“Piper”
Cuileann Shadow of Your Smile
DOB: 09/08/2007
CH Lissadell Cajun Comet CD x Aran Odds On Favorite
Breeders: Holly Craig and Shari Boyd/Owners: Steven Chapkin and Denise Bologna

Piper is our special girl! Special because she should have never have been with us this long. She has defeated hemangiosarcoma, liver cancer, and the removal of her spleen, all because of her incredibly strong will to live. And live she has! Although she now sleeps more than she did when she was younger, she still takes me on long, mile+ walks, loves rolling in the grass and chasing squirrels. Piper loves everyone she meets and they all love her back. Piper may not be a show dog in the physical sense. But she is “best of winners” to us, with personality and a heart as big as the sky! She is special in more ways than two paragraphs will allow.
“Maggie”

CH Diamonds Magic Moments
DOB: 10/19/2004
CH Islander’s Jamakin Me Crazy x Diamonds Special Delivery
Breeder/Owner: Betty Ann Hillwig

My little girl, Maggie, way back in 2005, kept running in the ring toward any child that was by the fence. We tried so hard to do the diagonal as the judge wanted but to no avail. All she wanted was the children. Finally as a last resort, the judge walked to a different part of the ring and asked us to go in a different direction. Success! And she took WB that day. I still remember everyone chuckling at her that day. She has been such a wonderful girl and the constant matriarch of the family, still telling her daughter, granddaughters and grandson what to do and how to behave. She actually chased after a squirrel a couple of days ago but didn’t catch this one. She has been a fantastic companion and I truly and dearly love this wonderful girl. Betty Ann Hillwig

How To Survive The Pandemic, Treasure Fraguela
SCWTCA member Carl McGill met Archie in September and knew that he was in need of a new home. Archie was scared of people and needed experienced owners to help grow his confidence as he was still not even a year old and deserved a better life and home.

Carl McGill contacted one of his puppy owners who had Sadie and they had expressed interest in adding a second Wheaten. Carl had Mallory Naill fill out a SCWTCA Rescue Application and Nancy Butler interviewed Mallory via the phone. All seemed to be good so Carl made arrangements to pick up Archie and turn him over to the Naill family.

Archie now lives with his new, loving dog parents and big sister Sadie - just in time to celebrate his first birthday! He has already come out of his shell. Archie loves to mix it up at the dog park and to chase after squirrels when on walks with his new mom and dad. He likes to cuddle up on the couch with his sister Sadie - she is reluctantly accepting of his presence. Archie will do almost anything for cheese and loves to keep watch out the window.

Archie has found his forever home! Thank you to Carl McGill for helping to make this placement come about and to the Naill family and now sister Sadie for welcoming Archie into a home that is allowing him to mature into a well-adjusted and happy Wheaten living with a wonderful family.
CATARACTS

A cataract is any opacity or cloudiness to the lens. The lens is a structure inside that eye that focuses light on the back of the eye or the retina. Vision occurs at the retina. The structure of the eye is similar to a camera, which has a lens to focus light on the film. Cataracts scatter or block light and prevent light from reaching the retina.

The most common cause of cataracts in the dog is inherited disease. Other causes include injuries to the eye or diseases such as diabetes mellitus ("sugar diabetes"). Some cataracts appear to occur spontaneously and are age related.

THE VIEW FROM THE FRONT LINE - A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ON CATARACTS

KC Gottschalk / Carillon Wheatens

Many of you have been in my shoes, so I thought I’d share my journey....

Two years ago, I began a wonderful experience with a dog that I co-own with Susan Ratcliffe. He blossomed into an exceptional animal inside and out. This boy took to the show ring with aplomb. He wrapped up his championship within the year and went on to earn his grand championship at 17 months - all with limited showing. To say that I was excited is an understatement! His coat was gorgeous (and still is) and his temperament and personality made him a joy to be around (he still is). I excitedly began to pursue testing in anticipation of breeding.

That’s where the train derailed. At a show in Florida, I made a perfunctory visit to an eye clinic. Under dilation, the clinic found a small cataract in his right eye. I was devastated - obviously if he had a hereditary cataract, his breeding days would never begin. Such a loss!

I followed up with a second opinion when I returned to New York. They too saw a small cataract under dilation. When I asked them if they believed it was hereditary, or if perhaps it could have been created due to another issue such as a trauma or infection, they shared that they did not know, but since they observed no obvious evidence of trauma to his face, they would not sign off on an OFA certificate and rather cavalierly stated, “He will make a great pet.” My Irish ire piqued ....The journey continued.

Not getting a definitive answer as to whether the cataract was hereditary or not, I was not ready to take this boy out of my breeding program.... yet. I didn’t doubt that the cataract was there, but without genetic testing, it seemed like a rather subjective guess as to what caused it. In the mean time, we were discarding a good dog in a breed with a fairly shallow gene pool! I began to research everything that I could find on hereditary cataracts...
(PHC), naively hoping to find that a genetic test for wheatens existed. I could find some peace of mind if it was definitively determined that my boy had a hereditary condition. But after searching, I was not able to locate a DNA test for PHC in Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. The HSF4 has been associated with cataracts in several other breeds, but the wheaten was not one of them.

With that avenue closed, I began to look into his pedigree. Going back five generations, there was no evidence of eye issues on either side. Both his sire and dam have been used multiple times with no cataracts reported. None of his litter mates had a cataract either. In my limited exploration of PHC, I have also read that this is usually a bilateral condition. Once again, that was not the case with my boy. Through continued conversations with many other people who were interested in this issue (there were many more out there than I realized), I was steered toward UPenn and Dr. Gustavo Aguirre. I didn’t have much hope of Dr. Aguirre agreeing to see my Wheaten. With the pandemic, many avenues were closed unless it was an emergency situation. No one but myself considered this an emergency!

Dr. Aguirre who is both a geneticist and an ophthalmologist and who is presently researching cataracts in two other breeds responded to me with complete understanding of my request:

“I would be happy to see your dog. The interpretation of cataracts being or not being hereditary is often difficult, and many ophthalmologists tend to be quite rigid, and incorrectly so, in making this assessment."

“Look forward to your visit. Gus Aguirre” (taken from my email with Dr. Aguirre)

Dr. Aguirre agreed to see him, and fit him into his clinic schedule within 10 days. I was suddenly looking forward to an eight-hour road trip! I knew that no matter what the outcome, the train stopped here. If anyone was going to be able to make a fair assessment of whether this was inherited or not, it would be this doctor who wore the hats of both a geneticist and an ophthalmologist. I was finally ready to accept the outcome either way.

After dilating and examining him, Dr. Aguirre concluded that in his opinion this “cataract” was not inherited, and should not progress. In his opinion, this wheaten should not be removed from a breeding program. He emphasized the importance of returning in one year for a follow-up appointment to confirm lack of progression in his right eye, and to also validate that there were no cataracts in the left eye. A photocopy of the examination form from this initial visit should accompany him. At the risk of “poking the bear”, in a follow-up thank you email, I asked the good doctor how he came to his conclusion without the benefit of a genetic test. His response was:

“In making this judgement I use the appearance and location of the cataract, and whether it affects one or both eyes; if both, then the symmetry is important. This is type of cataract I often see secondary to focal trauma to the eye, and causes a limited ‘scar’ in the lens seen as a cataract.”

I also asked him why there was no research study of cataracts in wheaten Terriers. His response was informative, thorough and as usual, kind:

“Cataracts in SCWT make up ~3% of examined dogs (6879 dogs examined between 1991-2013; and 1189 between 2014-2018). The problem is that the diagnosis does not include cataracts that are similar in appearance or progression, but lumps together a varied number of conditions that only share a diagnostic term: ‘Cataract’. That and the low incidence of the problem makes searching for a genetic defect extremely difficult, time consuming and unlikely to succeed. For the past 6 years I have been working with two breeds that have a much higher incidence of cataracts and we are still far from getting to the finish line. Your breed will be even much harder. I am not saying this to discourage you, but to put in perspective the low likelihood of success.”

So, my journey ends after nearly a year - down countless alleys and avenues. It doesn’t appear that a genetic test for cataracts is in the near future for Soft Coated Wheatens, but perhaps there are ophthalmologists out there who are more skilled in making this all important call for our breed!

My boy’s OFA certificate arrived via email this morning!
HEREDITARY EYE DISEASE BASICS

Elaine Azerolo, SCWTCA Eye Registry Chair

Reference: The Blue Book, Ocular Disorders Presumed To Be Inherited in Purebred Dogs. 12th edition, 2019, Genetics Committee of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. Online on the OFA website. ofa.org

Hereditary Eye Disease in Dogs

Several eye diseases in dogs are considered to be hereditary in all breeds where they occur. Others are breed specific. However, the mode of inheritance is known for only a few diseases in a few breeds. The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) Blue Book says, “Although there are noteworthy exceptions, most of the ocular diseases of dogs which are presumed to be hereditary have not been adequately documented.” ACVO uses the terms “presumed inherited” and “suspected to be inherited.”

Eye disease is suspected to be inherited when it occurs more frequently in a breed especially in closely related dogs; when it has a characteristic appearance and location, a typical age of onset and progression; or when it looks identical to disease proven to be inherited in another breed.

Board certified veterinary ophthalmologists use their professional judgement based on knowledge, training and experience to diagnose eye diseases. Some eye issues are well defined and readily apparent such as the small eye characteristic of Microphthalmia. Others are complex. Cataracts are one of those.

Canine Cataracts

The ACVO defines cataracts as “any opacity of the lens and/or its capsule, regardless of size or location within the lens.” Some cataracts are thought to affect vision, others are not thought to do so. There are many variations based on type, size and location. There were 17 different designations for cataracts found in Wheatens in the latest ACVO statistics. The examining ophthalmologist may evaluate a cataract as “suspect not inherited” or “significance unknown”. Otherwise, the cataract is presumed to be hereditary.

Cataracts in Wheatens

During the past 5 years (2015-2019), board certified veterinary ophthalmologists examined 1256 Wheatens for OFA registration. Of those, 65 (5.2%) had cataracts which examiners listed as “suspect not inherited/significance unknown”. ACVO breeding advice for dogs with this type of cataract is “breeder option.”

Significant cataracts were found in 54 (4.3%) Wheatens. Significant cataracts are “thought to affect vision and presumed to be inherited.” ACVO advises that these dogs should not be bred. Mode of inheritance is unknown.

The statistical data used by ACVO is compiled from the research copy of the OFA eye exam form. Individual dog identification information is not listed on that copy.

Eye Exam Frequency

SCWTCA Code of Ethics statement: “The eyes of breeding stock are examined by a Board-certified ophthalmologist and registered with Companion Animal Eye Registry (CAER), a division of OFA prior to the first breeding and a minimum of every two years thereafter while being bred; live dogs whose semen has been frozen are tested until age 10. Only dogs with CAER/OFA eye certification may be bred.”

ACVO recommendation: “Due to the potential for disease to arise from inherited genetic defects at any age, the Genetics Committee recommends annual eye exams.”
WHY IS MY WHEATEN LEAKING?

Over the last couple of years I have encountered several breeders who have had problems with leaking Wheaten puppies or adolescents currently or in the past. This is not a new problem in our Breed. But it is a problem as Breeders we would like to ignore but can’t. Often Breeders feel this problem is a hereditary problem but do we know this for sure? Often I hear this is a problem with the European lines not US but is it? The heartache of puppy families and the expense of trying to correct this problem or the decision to euthanize a puppy can be devastating. As editor of Wheaten Health News I would like to do a series of articles over the next year to look closer at this problem to identify occurrence, develop educational information to help Breeders and owners to identify problems and where to go to get answers and help. Eventually a goal might be to find a Veterinary practice that would do research to find a DNA marker to help us all avoid this problem if this is an appropriate course of action.

Following is a short explanation from the Wheaten Health Initiative website on Ectopic Ureters followed by an owner’s experience with her dog. I hope this helps everyone to begin to understand this complex health issue.

Ectopic Ureter:

A small number of Wheatens have been born with congenital Ectopic Ureter. This condition can affect one or both Ureters. An Ectopic Ureter bypasses the bladder and can open into the urethra, vagina or uterus. Any of these malformations result in the puppy constantly dribbling urine.

This condition is present from birth so the problem may not be noticed at first as the mother constantly cleans the puppy. Many puppies have problems house training and can have bladder infections.

Signs of an Ectopic Ureter are:

- Almost exclusively diagnosed in females
- Incontinence i.e. urine leaking or dribbling at times but normal urination at other times
- Frequent urination
- If infection is present blood tinged urine can sometimes be seen
- Excessive licking of the genital area. Often the urine leakage will cause a rash in this area

Normal Kidney Anatomy

The kidney is made up of very small filters called nephrons. These filter blood and the final waste result is urine. The tube that carries urine from the kidney to the bladder is called a Ureter.

The urine is stored in the bladder until the dog needs to expel it to the outside via the urethra.

Anatomy of Ectopic Ureters

Diagram (A) shows the right Ureter opening into the bladder as normal but the left Ureter is totally bypassing the bladder and entering via the Urethra.

Diagram (B) shows the abnormal Ureter separated from the bladder and only connecting at the Urethra.
At the neck of the bladder is a valve called the urinary sphincter, which controls the release of urine. Dogs that have Ectopic ureters can also have weak urinary sphincters.

Although surgery is possible for ectopic ureters, in many cases it is not successful and the puppy continues to leak urine.

Sadly, in extreme cases this condition may result in the euthanasia of the puppy.

**Vulvovaginal Stenosis:**

A less common cause of incontinence in female dogs is call vulvovaginal stenosis. It is a condition in which the vagina at the level where the urethra ends is narrowed. Occasionally when the bitch urinates, some urine will be trapped in the vagina in front of this narrowed area. When the dog rises from lying down the urine seeps out. This condition can be diagnosed by veterinary examination. In some dogs the narrowing can be stretched under anesthesia. The incontinence may or may not resolve as sometimes other defects are also present.

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**KODA BLUE STORY**

By: Haley Nutter-Sitek

We got Koda, July 29th, 2014. She was my eldest son’s (Aiden) 3rd birthday present. We had just moved to South Florida from Chicago. We were looking for the perfect addition to our family, and Koda was it.

I grew up around dogs, as well as my husband. We wanted our son to have the companionship that comes with having a dog family member. I was raised with boxers and labs, where my husband was raised with Bichons and Maltese. We are a family that believes in rescuing, but we found out that Aiden is allergic to dogs, and finding a full bred, hypoallergenic dog in shelters is hard to come by. We ended up getting Koda from a breeder in Missouri through Pet Finder.

It wasn’t too long after we had Koda that we noticed her leaking issues. I remember cuddling with her in our bed one day and dozed off only to wake up to a wet spot under where Koda was laying. I figured it was because she was still a puppy and wasn’t fully house broken yet. She leaked frequently as she grew. I remember her napping in the kitchen and I just watched as urine dripped from her and she was blissfully unaware of it happening. I took her to the vet multiple times. They kept saying it could be a UTI and sent me on my way. I tried reaching out to the breeder to see if she had issues with other litters in the past, but once I mentioned Koda had a medical issue, she went mute. After almost a year of being in Florida with Koda, we relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio. Her leaking hadn’t improved at all and when I took her to the vet here, that’s when the Ectopic Ureter came into play. Koda was 1 by this point. Over the past few years, we have tried Proin and Incurin to help with the leaking, because financially ($5,000-$20,000), the surgery was not an option. Koda struggled to keep weight on, and was always fluctuating between 20-25 lbs. Her blood pressure became a concern and after a consult with my neighbor who is also a vet, we decided to pull Koda off the medicine. We knew at the end of the day the medicine was causing her more health problems and would never fix the issue she had.

This past year was difficult. We were expecting our third child and Koda’s leaking was out of control. She would saturate dog beds. Her tail became stained yellow from alway being wet from leaking. The groomer had to shave her shorter by her urethra and back legs so she could feel the wetness on her and ask to go out. We went through at least 3 area rugs just from her daily sittings with the family. We had to replace our carpet upstairs from the smell and stains we could no longer treat. We had always crated Koda at night, and have a large 48” crate so she has all the space in the world. But we had to start crating her every time we left the house so we could contain her leaking. We had to stop buying dog beds and use large beach towels that would be washed 2-3 times a week. Our house reeked of urine and it was hard to mask. We started doing the reusable diapers but she would just leak through them. After having the baby, diapering 2 butts became a hassle. We also couldn’t let our baby down on the floor for tummy time or to practice crawling because of the pee Koda was leaking. We needed a solution and
began our research. We found SCWTA and were able to find some sort of support in an area we knew little about. Koda finally was able to receive the treatment we knew she always needed, the Ectopic Ureter surgery. Unfortunately, her diagnosis was not what we had hoped. Although her ureter was misplaced, it was only off by a little and was not the main cause of her leaking. She has a leaking sphincter and would need to receive collagen injections yearly to stop her leaking completely.

Koda is part of our family and is SUCH a good girl. She is Aiden’s best friend, and is spoiled rotten. We limit her couch time because spot cleaning a couch is a lot harder than a carpet! But when we envisioned the kind of life we wanted to give our dog, it was bedtime cuddles with our kids. Late night couch hangs with the parents, and running the house when we are away. I feel a sense of guilt because it is not the life we wanted for Koda, but we are doing the best we can. The kids don’t fully understand why she can’t come in bed with them, but they know she is sick and that we are taking care of her. We are navigating this the best we can but it is not easy and we wish there were more resources available to us. It took us over a year to even get a diagnosis and 6 years to get actual treatment. Koda still leaks post surgery. It is not as bad as before, but bad enough where she has to be diapered at night still.

We wanted to get Koda a companion dog and because we thrive in chaos apparently, (LOL) but because of her leaking, we don’t want to bring another dog in and it mark in the house because of her past stains. Also, Koda requires our attention and that’s plenty for us right now.

**KODA BLUE VETERINARY REPORT**

Presenting Complaint:

Koda was presented for evaluation of incontinence.

Assessment:

Koda was presented to the Internal medicine service for further evaluation of urinary incontinence.

Based on her imaging results and history of urinary incontinence since the time of adoption, I strongly suspect that Koda has an ectopic ureter (EU). EU is a condition in which one or both ureters terminate abnormally within the urethra rather than within the bladder. This is the most common cause for urinary incontinence in young dogs and is much more common in females. It is also commonly associated with other abnormalities of the urinary tract such as persistent bands of tissue (paramesonephric remnants), a recessed vulva, dilation of the affected ureter (hydrourotere), and urethral sphincter mechanism incompetence.

EUs can be extramural, meaning that they travel outside the bladder and connect directly to the urethra, or intramural, meaning that they enter the bladder at the correct location, and then “tunnel” down the urethra. Over 95% of ectopic ureters are intramural and can be corrected via minimally invasive laser ablation, whereas extramural EUs must be corrected surgically. Following either procedure, many dogs will still require some degree of medical management of urinary incontinence, and in rare cases, additional procedures such as collagen injections or placement of an artificial urethral sphincter may prove necessary. Overall, about 80% of dogs achieve continence with these therapies and about 50% will achieve continence with correction of the ectopic ureter alone.

Today we obtained a urine sample to help rule out underlying infection which would raise the risk of complications from laser ablation.

**Diagnosis/Differentials:**

Incontinence, suspect ectopic ureter
HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE SCWTCA ENDOWMENT, INC.

Although our lives have been altered and somewhat restricted by an unprecedented pandemic, thanks to the generosity of our donors, the SCWTCA Endowment, Inc., has continued to drive forward with its mission to advance and protect the health and well-being of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.

It is important to recognize that your donor contributions have led to studies that benefit not only the Wheaten Terrier, but dogs everywhere. As an example, Telmisartan (a new drug), was recently approved for veterinary use. It is now being prescribed and studied as a potential front-line drug for dogs diagnosed with protein-losing nephropathy. Many dogs have seen significant improvement in their UPC with this drug.

Our current projects include:

- **2020 Defining the Effect of Genotype, Breed and Age on the Risk of Developing Canine Degenerative Myelopathy and Investigating the Molecular Mechanisms Underlying that Risk**: University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine $3,000
- **2020 Ectopic Ureters**: Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine $1,600
- **2019 University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine**, Paula Henthorn PhD BS $7,750
- **2019 Genetic Testing for PLN-Associated Variant Genes Follow Up Survey**: University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Paula Henthorn, PhD BS, Mariah Gentry DVM $5,000
- **2019 Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)**: University of Pennsylvania - Ongoing
- **2019 & 2020 Database Expense**: $3,676

In addition to these projects, we are currently in discussions with the researchers at Texas A & M School of Veterinary Medicine regarding future studies in gastrointestinal reflux.

We want to express our thanks to those who have donated this year and are planning an end-of-year donation to the Endowment. We sincerely appreciate your incredible generosity that does so much to improve the health of our Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers and dogs everywhere.

“Sending a huge thank-you for the crew who created the SCWT database. It has been enormously helpful for our research and testing efforts.”
Paula Henthorn, B.S., Ph.D. & your research team at Penn Vet.

For a limited time, donors giving $25 or more will receive our one of a kind Wheaten bandana for their best buddy. Visit our website for more information.

Designed/created by Jeri Voyles and Helen Moreland.

SCWTCA ENDOWMENT, INC.
A registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

Please visit us at [http://www.wheatenhealthendowment.org](http://www.wheatenhealthendowment.org)
SCWTCA Holiday Gifts

All proceeds from the sales of ornaments and jewelry benefit the SCWTCA Health fund.

Wheaten Collectable Ornament

Created by Darc Olson

- 3.25" frosted glass ball with "Warmest Wheaten Wishes" emblazoned in gold
- $28.00 includes US shipping

Wheaten Pendant

- Hand crafted by Copper Witch Designs. Available in copper or bronze.
- Hammered or lily of the valley patterns.
- Choice of a copper chain or leather cord, adjustable 16"-18" in.
- $65.00 includes US shipping

For more details: https://scwtca.org/shop/
NEW CHAMPION
CH MOXXY SHANDALEE UNFORGETTABLE FIRE
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#1 SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER BITCH BREED
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GOLD
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THANK YOU JUDGE
MR. JAMES MOSES

GROUP PLACEMENT
CORNAHLKSHER KENNEL CLUB, JU 2020
HOSTED BY ABBIE MILLER

Beautifully presented by LAURA KING & ROBIN NOVACK
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The Delaware Valley
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club

Invites you to Celebrate our
50th Anniversary
May 7, 8 and 9, 2021
3 days of shows and fun

SHOW

* Friday May 7th
  Garden State All
  Terrier Club

  Saturday May 8th
  DVSCWTC Specialty
  Bucks County Kennel
  Club

* Sunday May 9th
  Trenton Kennel Club

* Supported Entry

JUDGES

Breed: Sally George
Group: Sally George

Breed: Robert Hutton
Sweepstakes: Emily Holden, Amaden
(puppies 6 months to 18 months)
Sweepstakes: Marjorie Shoemaker, Waterford
(junior dogs 18 to 30 months)
Veteran Sweepstakes: Emily Holden, Amaden
(dogs 7 years and older)
Group: Bruce Schwartz

Breed: Richard W Powell
Group: Richard W Powell

Trophies
Carole Clark
ciewbay@comcast.com

Specialty Chair:
Cherie Turner
frolicdogs@verizon.net

Please plan to
join us for our

❖ SILENT
  AUCTION
❖ WINE/CHEESE
  PARTY
❖ LUNCHEON
❖ RAFFLE
Get Your Dog Certified for Therapy Work

Dorice Stancher, MBA, CPDT-KA, CTDI

Here’s how to get started

There is a lot of confusion regarding Therapy Dogs and Service Dogs and the testing relevant to each. Therapy Dogs are pets that owners have trained, which bring comfort through their visits to others. They are not Service Dogs which perform a service or task for their owners. There are many types of therapy organizations both local, national and international with specific rules and guidelines.

Is Your Dog Well Socialized?

Therapy Dogs need to be comfortable with a variety of places, sounds, surfaces and people. This begins when they are young puppies and continues as they mature. They also need to be outgoing, resilient, confident and responsive to the handler. There can be no reactivity or noise sensitivity. We want the visits to be enjoyable for them too.

Therapy Dogs Need Training

It’s important to have some basic training prior to taking the therapy test and the AKC Star Puppy and AKC Canine Good Citizen program are a great place to start. Obedience training helps to build confidence between the dog and handler especially when taught using positive reinforcement based on building communication and trust, rather than fear of punishment. Therapy dogs are expected to know the basics including sit, down, stay and come. They also need to walk nicely on leash and behave when other dogs are present. They also cannot jump up when greeting people. This is not an impossible task to train a Wheaten Terrier however it does take time and patience.

Choosing a Therapy Organization

Many organizations administer a test to help replicate the experience of being on a visit. A list of these organizations can be found here https://www.akc.org/sports/title-recognition-program/therapy-dog-program/therapy-dog-organizations/

When considering which pet therapy group to join pet owners should consider where they would like to visit and investigate which organization has teams there. In some cases therapy organizations will be exclusive to a facility and only allow members to visit. Fortunately, many visits are also run by the volunteer office of a facility which may set their own criteria and specifics regarding which organizations may visit. Also important is reviewing the guidelines and testing procedures, along with any additional education required and fees.

The Therapy Test

Besides the required obedience basics, the handler and dog are often required to meet strangers using a cane, crutches, walker and wheelchair. There may also be a test to see if the dog can leave a food item placed on the ground. The dogs cannot sniff or lunge toward the item. The handler calmly asks the dog to “Leave It” as they pick up the item and return it to the evaluator. When a team has successfully passed the test many organizations will require that their first visits be with a more experienced mentor. There are also minimum requirements for visits.

What is a Typical Visit Like?

Sometimes therapy dogs will visit a facility to engage with those they meet in a casual setting. Some of these visits may be in a group setting while others are private room visits. There are also visits to schools and libraries where children read to the dogs. With the current pandemic many visits are virtual on ZOOM or done outdoors depending on the facility guidelines.

Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) is more specific in treatment and part of long term care provided by health professionals. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) “Animal-assisted therapy is designed to promote improvement in human physical, social, emotional, or cognitive function. Animal-assisted therapy is provided in a variety of settings, and may be group or individual in nature. The process is documented and evaluated.”
Dr. Rises Van Fleet is a licensed psychologist (PA), registered play therapist-supervisor, and a certified dog behavior consultant known internationally for her work in Animal Assisted Play Therapy. She offers certification classes for professionals and has written a book “Animal Assisted Play Therapy" won a 2018 Maxwell Award https://www.risevanfleet.com

The AKC Pup Pals Program

The American Kennel Club (AKC) has recently expanded the AKC PupPals Program providing a comforting message from a dog. Anyone is eligible to receive a video, including people who are struggling with an illness, the illness/death of a loved one (human or pet), who are missing a deployed loved one, or who are otherwise struggling through a difficult time. AKC Education is seeking videos of your dog to send to people in need of a PupPal and more information is available here https://

The Wheaten Ambassador Award

The Wheaten Terrier Ambassador Award is presented at the annual dinner to the Wheaten Terrier that has made a difference in its community. Preferably titled in one AKC performance event, the emphasis of this award is on diplomacy and community service through therapy work and/or exceptional fund-raising activities for the greater good. An added bonus is the willingness to participate in new ventures including herding-instinct testing, or outdoor sports such as skijoring or kayaking; exhibiting a zest for life. The award is sponsored by Dorice and Mark Stancher in memory of their dog “Duffy” (Holweits Stancher, CGC, CD, CDX, RN, RA, Therapy Dog and Therapy Evaluator Dog).
After the last few months, I’m sure many of you are done with “talk.” Good news…this isn’t for you. My husband always said his “Inside Out” columns in Dog News on AKC matters were written for just 12 people…the AKC Board.

This is for 9 people.

I hope the Board got the message from the recent contested election: do some soul searching. (As an aside, I know the two Board members elected by petition before Emily’s election. Both said they were met with hostility and frozen out. I hope this group is behaving responsibly.)

The landslide for Emily should tell you something. Because based on everything I heard…the vote wasn’t about the candidates or money.

It’s about lectures that being on the Board is a hard job. It’s about wanting to “reprimand” volunteers.

It’s about launching an attack on one Board candidate while seeming to favor the other.

It’s about whining you’re being made to look like the bad guys. It’s about pronouncements from on high, with no background.

It’s about patting yourselves on the back for following the Bylaws.

It’s about condescending or sloppy messages. Add it up and the impression is a toxic Board attitude toward the membership. Note I said “impression.” I don’t sit on the Board. Maybe it’s just sloppy communication.

Or maybe not. Maya Angelou wrote “When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.” The accidental public posting of the Board’s private discussion certainly showed us who some are. We all privately vent. But we vent to people who probably share our opinions. That’s what disturbed me about those “private” posts: two people thought attacking a volunteer and whining about their image was appropriate on a Board only discussion list. Worse, the Board’s public response demonstrated a greater concern over being caught than what was said.

By the way, that volunteer told me the Board members promptly reached out…good. But honest apologies are equivalent to the harm…and harm was done to every SCWTCA volunteer.

This isn’t the first Board that has needed to take a hard look at itself and won’t be the last. Hopefully they remember a few things.

SCWTCA’s members are adults and our juniors are mature. We’re not children and the Board isn’t our parents or teachers. “Because I know better” doesn’t opt. Our strength comes from our over 350 members. It doesn’t take much for people to decide dues money could be better spent elsewhere.

SCWTCA runs on the work of volunteers. They aren’t employees to be fired or disciplined. Yes, accountability is necessary…but remember volunteers don’t need us as much as we need them.

SCWTCA elects its Board. Board members aren’t anointed or guaranteed their positions. Their duty is to the members, not to retaining power. Didn’t like having a contested election? Don’t cause a future one.

SCWTCA has long been successful…well-supported specialties and yes, solvency. But if 2020 has told us anything, it’s that success can disappear in a heartbeat. It is long past time for the Board to do more than nod and move on. Maybe I’ve got this all wrong. It’s been a truly awful year for everyone. Maybe these are missteps born of the stress we’re all under. Still, self-examination never hurts…and it would benefit SCWTCA if the Board would look in the mirror.

I’ve previously referenced a boss telling me, “Don’t bring me problems, bring me solutions.” Here are my suggestions.

- Examine Board dynamics. Every group has natural leaders. What about the Board members who are always silent? Why? Are they being bullied? Or are they just not engaged? Neither creates a successful team.

- Always question the inevitable encroachment of an
Kudos on the Annual Meeting via Zoom. Sure, there were a couple of glitches but the first one is never easy to manage. With the ice broken, let’s do it more often! SCWTCA is required to hold one meeting…but there’s nothing preventing more. Have a Zoom town hall in the spring and allow questions.

Pay attention to your communications. Putting aside my cynicism about the increased number of “Board Bytes” that appeared for a bit, more is normally better. PLEASE have a trusted non-Board member read them first. “Trusted” is the person who is going to tell you when you’re shooting yourself in the foot, not your BFF who tells you you’re wonderful. For the 13 years John wrote “Inside Out” for Dog News and for the longer period I’ve written “The Devil’s Advocate,” every single column was reviewed by someone else before submission. A fresh set of eyes meant we heard “I’m not sure I understand this” before it was too late. Sloppiness and unclear wording make a communication ineffective…and insults the readers.

Let’s discuss Discuss. I understand why past Boards made certain decisions about Discuss. Sending requests for action to board@scwtca.org allows for good management. Not every member is on the platform nor is there a large percentage who comment. When someone says “we all agree…” well, no, we “all” may not, and the Board shouldn’t assume a consensus. But they should demonstrate they’re paying attention by responding in close to real time. Otherwise, conversation on Discuss is like spitting into the wind. A message saying “this is an interesting thought; the Board will discuss it” or “here’s some information on that” will go a long way to improving the Board/Membership relationship.

Finally, never, ever forget: questions, criticism and challenges come from people who care about the club. They aren’t divisive; an antagonistic, “how dare you,” response is. The time the Board should worry is when they hear crickets. Perhaps everyone is content…or maybe they’ve checked out. Really…it’s pretty simple to make things better…just talk to us.
Woof Woof on The Roof!

Puppies and Christmas go together like Santa and his Sled...

Try for a moment though to see it all through your pup's wondering eyes! All the decorations, people, noises, and different scents in the Home! Will it be overwhelming? Or are there steps we can take to make sure it is a positive experience for our furry friends?

First of all, try to stick to their normal routine for feeding, exercise, playtime and rest.

Does your pup have a safe place for down time? A quiet place it can get away to, such as a crate, expen, or even its own room can provide the perfect Puppy Cave.

Train In Advance! Great manners need to be taught and we can enjoy working with our dogs on the life skills they need to be the life of the party!

How about reviewing your pet's cache of commands before the Holidays hit:

**Who's At the Door?** Practice door etiquette! Heavily reinforce sits and ignore jumping up by turning your back. Or go to Mat/Place and a Stay can be a very helpful tool to have in your Kit. This is also helpful during package deliveries.

**LEAVE IT!** For anything off limits including the Tree, countertops, and dropped food items. Reinforce your pup's correct response with treats, praise or toys. Keep an eye out for plates and cocktails left at your dog's eye level, like on the coffee table.

**DROP IT!** Once trained your dog will happily spit things out to get something better. Kind of a trade game! Remember, everyone likes to trade up, so be generous.

**SIT!** To be petted when greeting visitors, or for a treat.

**STAY/WAIT!** Can be used when you're getting something hot from the stove, or opening doors.

**OFF!** This can be used to keep the dog from jumping on guests or "counter-surfing." Train your guests not to pet the dog or give any treats unless all 4 are on the floor.

**GO TO MAT/PLACE!** Can be helpful when guests arrive, or to keep the dog away from the table while everyone is eating and "dropping" food. (those guests who despite all your requests insist on passing tidbits to the dogs). Lots of fatty snacks can lead to intestinal upset and even pancreatitis. Crate games are loads of fun. I tell my Wheaten to "Go In House" and he heads right to his crate. He has learned with training that his crate is a safe happy place where treats rain from the sky.

**SHAKE!** Everyone will enjoy your puppy performing a trick for the crowd! High Five is easy to teach also and a real crowd pleaser.

**COME!** A good recall is so important. Keep in mind guests can leave gates and doors open by mistake in all the excitement. Does your dog have a collar with ID on it, just in case? Routinely practice recall and be generous with your rewards.

**Desensitization from the Noise.** Prepare your pup in advance by playing firework sound recordings low at first and increasing the volume as tolerated till you have "Bombs Bursting in the Air!"

Other good reminders include making sure no one leaves bones from the turkey or alcoholic drinks in your dog's reach. Remember some plants are poisonous to pets. like Holly, Mistletoe and Poinsettias! Lights on the bottom of a tree can get very hot. Food items on the tree like popcorn and candy should be avoided. Puppies might want to chew exposed wires on the decorations.

So you see with some advanced planning and a little training, you can make things more festive and fun for your pets and less stressful for you! Have a Merry!
Our animals are truly able to see into our souls and remind us of the True meaning of Christmas. In this spirit I share with you this lovely poem.

**A Puppy’s Christmas**

It’s the day before Christmas
And all through the house
The puppies are squeaking
An old rubber mouse.

The wreath which had merrily
Hung on the door
Is scattered in pieces
All over the floor.

The stockings that hung
In a neat little row
Now boast a hole in
Each one of the toes.

The tree was subjected
To bright-eyed whims,
And now, although splendid,
It’s missing some limbs.

I catch them and hold them.
"Be good", I insist.
They lick me, then run off
To see what they’ve missed.

And now as I watch them
The thought comes to me,
That theirs is the spirit
That Christmas should be.

Should children and puppies
Yet show us the way,
And teach us the joy
That should come with this day?

Could they bring the message
That’s written above,
And tell us that, most of all
Christmas is love.

by Susie Blackledge
Does Your Wheaten have what it takes to be a Farm Dog?

Joyce Rienzo, AKC Rally Judge AKC Farm Dog Certifier

Wheaten history tells us that the breed was an all-around farm dog in Ireland. Herding, hunting small game, guarding the stock, deleting vermin were all in a day’s work.

The AKC introduced a Farm Dog Certificate test in 2016. The test is like a CGC test but on the farm. There is no herding involvement. The dog must perform a series of 12 exercises that would be typical in a farm environment. It is a non-competitive test with a pass/fail evaluation. Dogs and handlers are scored and need to qualify under two different judges.

The judge is looking for the dog to have confidence and self-control in proximity to livestock and other sights, sounds and scents found on a farm. The dog is on a leash at all times. The test is primarily performed outdoors with the judge’s option to have some stations within a building. Each station is described in detail in Chapter IX of the Herding Rules & Regulations booklet. Check the AKC You Tube videos to view what is expected at each station. Tricky stations are those that have the live animals.

Many Wheaten do not normally encounter the chickens, goats, sheep, horses, ducks, etc. that can be used. Each station is a challenge and fun!

My Wheaten Terrier, Ltd. Edition Who’s My Aisling, CD, BN, RE, FDC, THD, CGCA, CGCU, TKI, SWN, SCE, call name Bette, was the first in the breed to obtain this title. Her sister, Ltd. Edition Par Ti girl, BN, RN, THDN, CGCA,CGCU, TKN, FDC, call name Una, also have the fun and enjoyment of striving to obtaining this title.

Give the Farm Dog Test a try to see if your dog has what it takes. It is all FUN, exciting for both the handler and Wheaten!
Ireland is the home of many wonderful and beautiful breeds. For many years the sporting and hunting dogs were reserved for the upper classes. Several terriers were used as general purpose farm dogs, including the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, the Kerry Blue Terrier, and the Irish Terrier. The Wheaten is distinguished by his coat – Wheaten colored, soft, silky and wavy. Temperamentally, they are also less feisty than some other terriers. Wheatens are currently the second most popular terrier based on 2019 AKC registration statistics.

We found twenty-eight Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier breeder/judges and mentors to invite to take a survey on their breed’s priorities. Twenty-one agreed to participate, and fifteen returned surveys. The group has been in the breed for nearly thirty-six years on average. Those who judge have been doing so for an average of more than seventeen years.

**Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Virtues**

The experts prioritized a group of Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier characteristics taken from their breed standard and listed on the survey. The list of virtues below is in sequence by the average ranks, with one being the most important.

1. Square in outline
2. Gait free, graceful, lively, good reach, strong drive
3. Happy, steady, self-confident, alert
4. Head rectangular in appearance; moderately long
5. Moderation both in structure and presentation
6. Shoulders well laid back
7. Soft, silky, gently waving coat of warm Wheaten color
8. Back strong and level
9. Tail set on high, carried upright from back, straight or with slight curve forward
10. Muzzle strong, powerful, well filled, equal in length to skull
11. Ear small to medium, dropping slightly forward, inside edge next to cheek, pointing to ground
12. Well bent stifles, hocks well let down
13. Dog 18”-19”, bitch 17”-18”
14. Scissors or level bite
15. Eyes dark reddish brown or brown, medium size, slight almond shape, set fairly wide apart
16. Coat of sufficient length to flow when dog in motion

The majority, eighty percent - were on “Square in outline” (#1) and “Coat of sufficient length to flow when dog in motion” (#16). Close behind was “Eyes dark reddish brown or brown, medium size, slight almond shape, set fairly wide apart” (#15) followed by “gait free, graceful, lively, good reach, strong drive” (#2) and “Muzzle strong, powerful, well filled, equal in length to skull” (#10). “Gait” (#2) was in the first quartile for ten, with another four in the second quartile. Nine of the surveys agreed on “Happy, steady, self-confident, alert” (#3). “Head rectangular in appearance; moderately long” (#4), and “Moderation both in structure and presentation” (#5). “Temperament” (#3) was 2nd – 5th for the majority; another five placed it 7th – 10th. “Moderation” (#5) was in the top quartile for nine; four placements at or near the bottom lowered its ranking. The smallest majorities agreed on “Soft, silky, gently waving coat of warm Wheaten color” (#7), “Back strong and level” (#8), “Dog 18”-19”, bitch 17”-18”” (#13), and “Scissors or level bite” (#14). “Coat” (#7) was between 2nd – 5th for eight, and well below average for another seven. “Back” (#8) had a similar split. “Size” (#13) was in the bottom quartile for the majority, but in or close to the top quartile for four. “Bite” (#14) was at or near the last quartile for eight, but six had it placed closer to the middle.

Twelve virtues had majority agreement. The other four had bipolar opinions. “Shoulders well laid back” (#6) was above average for seven, and in the third quartile for five. Seven placed “Tail set on high, carried upright from back, straight or with slight curve forward” (#9) in the third quartile, while five thought it much more important. “Well bent stifles, hocks well let down” (#12) was in the last quartile on seven surveys, but in the second quartile on six. “Ear small to medium, dropping slightly forward, inside edge next to cheek, pointing to ground” (#11) was split with six ranking it 6th – 9th and another six at 12th – 15th. “Bite” (#14) and “Eyes” (#15) had averages less than one-tenth of a point apart, so more surveys might change their relative placements in the list.

**Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Faults**

The survey also included a list of faults taken directly from or derived from their standard for the experts to prioritize. The faults are listed below in sequence by the
average ranks, with one being the most serious.

1. Timid or overly aggressive
2. Not square in outline
3. Tail not kept erect when moving
4. Coat woolly or harsh, crisp or cottony, frizzy, kinky, or standaway
5. Any color save Wheaten (adults)
6. Nose color other than solid black
7. Head coarse or snippy
8. Eye color approaching yellow
9. Any exaggeration (lacking moderation)
10. Undershot or overshot
11. Back not strong and level
12. Neck not medium in length, not blending smoothly into body
13. Dogs/bitches under or over specified heights in the standard
14. Hound ear or high breaking ear
15. Front or rear feet turning in or out
16. Overly trimmed

Eleven experts agreed on “Timid or overly aggressive” (#1), “Not square in outline” (#2), “Hound ear or high breaking ear” (tied at 13th), and “Overly trimmed” (#16). The majority had “Over trimmed” in the bottom three placements, with eight at 16th; four others had it in the third quartile. Nine of the group concurred on “Tail not kept erect when moving” (#3), “Head coarse or snippy” (#7), and “Front or rear feet turning in or out” (#15). “Tail not up” (#3) was at or near the top quartile for the majority, but four had it 11th – 14th. “Head coarse/snipy” (#7) was around the middle on nine surveys, but another four ranked it 3rd – 6th. The smallest majorities similarly valued “Any color save Wheaten (adults)” (#5), “Neck not medium in length, not blending smoothly into body” (#12), and “Dogs/bitches under or over specified heights in the standard” (tied at 13th). “Too tall/short” was in the last quartile for eight, but in the second quartile for five. There were fewer majorities on the faults and more split opinions. “Undershot or overshot” (#10) was ranked 4th – 7th by seven, but another four ranked it 15th. “Back not strong and level” (#11) was in the second quartile for seven and the third quartile for another seven. Six placed “Coat woolly or harsh, crisp or cottony, frizzy, kinky, or standaway” (#4) in the top quartile, while five put it 6th – 9th. “Any exaggeration (lacking moderation)” (#9) was 3rd – 6th on six surveys, 8th – 11th on five, and in the bottom quartile on four. Six experts ranked “Nose color other than solid black” (#6); the others were all over.

“Eye color approaching yellow” (#8) was in the last quartile for five experts, in the top quartile for four, and around the middle for another four.

There was over two points difference between the second place and the third place averages, confirming the seriousness of the top two faults. “Over trimmed” (#16) had an average rank confirming the seriousness of the top two faults. However, “Over trimmed” had an average rank almost four points lower than that next fault, securing its place at the bottom. Additional input would break the tie at thirteen. It might also change the placements of adjacent faults whose averages were less than one-tenth of a point apart: “yellow eyes” (#8) and “exaggerated” (#9) and the two at thirteen and “Feet in/out” (#15).

Outlines

The survey included two sets of outlines – six dogs and six bitches – for the experts to evaluate, placing them as one would a class at a dog show. The outlines were made from photographs of real Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. All were good, but none was perfect or intended to be ideal. This is a coated, trimmed breed, so the outlines are greatly affected by the grooming. The placements might change if the experts could judge the dogs in person, feel the condition and structure under the coat, watch them move, and see the whole dog.

The dog with the best average placement was Wheaten “D.” Those who placed him first commented “flowing neck, moderate, square, proper rear extension, correct tail and ears,” “well balanced, looks like he would move well,” “strong back, short loin, lovely neck length, good shoulders and bend of stifle, adequate butt,” “nice tailset, good ear placement,” “nice head with great ears, good leg length,” and “overall make and shape, moderate.”

Dog Outlines
Wheaten dog “B” had the next best average placement, but he actually was placed first more often than “D.” “D” had the better average because almost all experts who didn’t place him first did place him second, producing the better average. Experts who placed “B” first said “square outline, proper length of head to neck to back, proper length of leg,” “good tailset, well let down hock,” “correct outline, adequate leg length, good stationing,” “up on leg,” “head length, back length,” “ear size,” and “best outline, balance, moderation.”

The bitch with the best average placement and the most first placements was Wheaten “X.” Those who liked her said “best outline, balance, moderation,” “head and neck,” “bricklike head, stationing,” “nice feminine package, nice ears, level topline, front well set on,” “square, well let down hocks,” and “good transitions, rump behind.”

Bitch “X” had the best placement average and most f irst placements of all twelve outlines and was placed Best of Breed by five experts. But Wheaten “D” was named BOB by six experts. So, you pick the winner between those two. Dogs “B” and “D” and bitches “V,” “X,” “Y,” and “Z” were placed first on at least one survey. Bitch “X” was the only Wheaten who was never out of the ribbons.

Dogs “A,” “E,” and “F” were most often unplaced among the dogs. Bitch “U” was unplaced more than any other outline.

**Essential Characteristics**

The experts listed four to six essential characteristics that they felt a good Soft Coated Wheaten must have. Most often mentioned was coat – silky, wavy, clear color, soft, correct texture, and correct length so it would flow when moving. This was immediately followed by square outline. They also often mentioned temperament (steady, confident, happy, alert, never shy), movement (good reach and drive, free, lively, maintain outline), and head balance, rectangular, brick, moderate length.

**Additional Notes**

The experts were asked to provide additional suggestions for students of their breed. Here are some of their comments.

Judge structure first and then look at coats. As much as we want proper coat and color, we cannot sacrifice everything else for coat.

- Square in outline, must move freely with reach and drive.
- It is a moderate breed
- Understand the coat; that is what makes the breed what it is supposed to be.
- This is a terrier; it needn’t be raced around the ring or have tremendous reach and drive.
- Sparring is preferred.
- Do not reward long and low; a Wheaten is square and moderate.
- Coats go through major changes as the dogs mature, so it might be helpful to ask the age of the dog.
- The head should be shaped like a brick. Avoid wide back skulls and lack of fill.
- Don’t penalize a good dog for bad grooming.
- The beauty is in balance and moderation.
- Wheatens should be able to move; not all square dogs can.
- Essentials of type: coat, silhouette, head, and attitude.
- Get under the hair; watch for trim concealing faults.
- Movement should be graceful, lively, with good reach and drive.

Thanks so much to the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier experts for sharing their knowledge.

Nikki Riggsbee
What’s Under that coat?

An Educated Look At The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

Gay Dunlap

There’s a sound and well-structured dog under that coat...or at least there should be. Can you tell visually or do you feel you must put your hands on the dog to determine its true make and shape? Certainly artful groomers can set lie to what is really under a jacket and this is true with most if not all coated breeds. Those of us that come from coated breeds and also know our way around with a pair of scissors are usually quite adept at spying the tell-tail signs of a dog that is little more than a hair cut. Others, not so much. Hair can hide a lot so with this in mind here are a few visual aids, which hopefully will help in speeding up the judging process among those less familiar with “the tricks of the trade” used by handlers and other scissor-gifted exhibitors.

First, let’s take a look at this well-balanced Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. He has been artfully trimmed. His proportions appear quite correct although there are a couple of qualities that can’t be immediately assessed. Is the top-line absolutely level (we have a tendency toward prominent lumbar vertebrae) and is there sufficient bend of stifle? Otherwise everything we need to know structurally is there if we know what we are looking at.

With the properly proportioned SCWT, length of head, neck and back should be equal (blue lines). Body length, sternum to pin bone, should be equal to height, withers to ground (red lines). Length of back skull should equal foreface (pink lines). Depth of body, withers to brisket, should equal length of leg, elbow to ground (purple lines). Shoulder and forearm, set at a 90° angle, should be equal in length (green lines); rear angles are equal (yellow lines).

LEGEND:

FE = EC = IJ
AB = CD
CG = GH
CB = BG
JA = AK = KI
MN = OP

In the best of worlds, the measurements here would be equal as specified in the legend. When one considers the possible build up of coat in certain areas, the dog used in the diagram comes pretty darn close. Of course, these measurements represent perfection. Perfection, although difficult to achieve, should always be that for which we strive. He may have a slightly longer second thigh (K–L), something hard to determine under the leg furnishings. Additionally, if body depth (C–G) equals elbow-to-ground (G–H) he appears to need a tad more leg. To my eye, this dog displays beautiful breed type with pleasing balance and angles.
Let's proceed to examine other SCWT outlines in the same manner. Clever groomers have created several techniques designed to suggest a shorter back. One is to backcomb and tease hair from the lower portion of the neck, withers and part way down the back. When a dog appears to have a neck as thick as this one, it is a dead giveaway that the dog is not as short backed as one might suppose. It is also hard to determine shoulder layback under all the hair. In the same manner, build up of hair in front of the tail can easily hide a low set tail and/or croup drop-off. Excess hair on the top-skull can create the impression of both a longer head and a longer neck. The latter also makes the ear, which should be level with or slightly above top-skull, appear low set. Another ruse, designed to create a back shorter than it really is, is to bring the tuck-up further forward than the loin area and allow the side skirt behind the ersatz tuck-up to appear as leg furnishings. Based on the over-stretched rear, I would suspect a straight stifle.

Red lines indicate dog is longer than tall:
- Length
- Height

Proper tuck-up should be beyond ribcage
- Instead of here
- Body coat disguised as leg furnishings

Below is another dog with slightly different proportions. Obviously, head, neck and back are not equal. It is lacking sufficient neck to balance a pleasing length of head. It is also slightly longer than tall. The lack of neck would indicate an upright shoulder. Added to that, the dog is low on leg.
Here is one more example of the build up of hair over withers used to create the illusion of a shorter back, although in this case, not so successfully. The lack of balance is further destroyed by the fact that the dog is low on leg, certainly not helped by excessive coat left on the undercarriage.

Length, point of shoulder to pin bone
Height, withers to ground
Withers to brisket
Elbow to ground

Taking a brief look at the correct Wheaten head, many that we see in the ring today are thick with coarse back skulls that form a three-dimensional block (width, length, depth) instead of a neat, clean brick (narrow, long and lean). Heads tend to be square rather than rectangular. Skull and muzzle should each be rectangular, equal in length and on equal planes. Ideally the skull should be easily spanned by a woman’s hand. The two photos taken from the front cannot take into account the foreshortening of muzzle but hopefully project that the width of the head should be approximately half the length of the head, and, also, that the muzzle should not fall off or lose width to any appreciable degree.

It is hoped that those reading this article will be inspired to more thoughtful judging (and breeding) of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, understanding as well that much of it can be applied to other coated breeds, notably the Kerry Blue Terrier.
"That judge doesn’t know the breed standard!" It’s a common declaration heard around the rings, a slightly angry statement, an editorial comment. When I hear it, I can't help but think about what “knowing” a breed standard really means.

If knowing the breed standard means reading and memorizing its words, it would be an elementary task. I can’t imagine that anyone would see a perfect score on a breed standard test as proper verification of breed knowledge. Yes, it’s a part of the learning journey, but on their own, breed standards aren’t enough in a real quest for knowledge.

The official requirements are: memorize the breed standard, take a test, attend a seminar, make sure you get the certificate, find a mentor, and visit a breeder. While I suppose those are reasonable learning elements, they alone cannot make anyone an expert. First, the focus is on getting answers instead of learning how to ask ourselves the larger questions. Second, it means applying the standard to the current dogs at hand. Third, it understandably runs the risk of perpetuating someone else’s interpretation of the breed standard. While that can be a great interpretation, it can also just be a snapshot in time. The style of the day lives on and we’ve explored nothing in depth about the core development of the breed.

Gaining real breed knowledge means going beyond the typical requirements. We must find ways to ask ourselves questions, even questions without answers, to create our own set of master tools instead of relying on the beginner’s set. It’s necessary to learn from the knowledge of others, but without finding other ways to seek our own answers, we won’t be able to see the standards come alive on the page and in the ring.

My approach to learning has obvious personal biases and is certain to be incomplete to all and incomprehensible to some. My hope, though, is that it at least sparks an interest in diving deeper into thinking, learning, and seeing things from a different perspective.

**ORIGIN AND FUNCTION**

While the standard may be the blueprint, nothing can be built without a sound foundation of origin, history and function. The typical approach is to take the time to read the preambles in breed standards, on breed club websites, and in dog books. Learning from reading, however, is incomplete unless we simultaneously consider how each sentence relates to each and every specific part of the breed’s conformation, movement and temperament. It’s the “why” that’s important.

For example, reading that function in a breed requires a long, deep muzzle offers zero reference to the actual size and proportions of the muzzle. How long and how deep? And most important, why? If, for example, the breed’s function is to point and retrieve a pheasant, we need to know and consider the size of a pheasant. I’ll save you that step. The typical male ring-necked pheasant in the United States is 2.6 pounds and 3.5 feet long. The common pheasant in the UK is about the same length but more dense at 3.3 pounds. Proportionally, for a 200 pound human, that’s similar to carrying a 10 pound, 3 foot long bag of wet concrete by the teeth. Thinking about these seemingly inconsequential facts is the only way to ingrain in your brain the image of proper muzzle size and shape, other associated head elements, neck, shoulders and supporting front assemblies required to carry that particular game bird over distance. It is clearly not by basing proportions by the dogs in the ring, which all may be wrong! Another example; does a sighthound breed require large round feet with thick pads for coursing long distances in the sand? Find out why and how that relates to the function of other foot shapes.

**RELATED BREEDS**

There is no better way to never learn about a breed than to study only that breed. Learning about the “related breeds,” the family of breeds in which a breed exists, is key to understanding relative breed proportions. At the end of the day, it really is all relative.

The English Springer Spaniel is described as the tallest and raciest of land spaniels. Beyond just measurements, knowing how tall and racy they should be is key to understanding relative breed proportions. At the end of the day, it really is all relative.

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If you don’t learn about English Toy Spaniels, you’ll
never learn about Cavaliers. And if you don’t learn about great Danes and Scottish Deerhounds, you may never understand the correct shape and outline of the Irish Wolfhound. Irish Wolfhounds are sighthounds, a massive, rough-coated greyhound, and should have an outline to reflect that heritage. Yet, we still see judges award Irish Wolfhounds with Great Dane outlines. The point is that without learning about the related breeds we’ll never know the specifics of any breed.

At the storied AKC Sesquicentennial Show in 1926, five dogs were entered as “Retrievers.” Since then, six distinct retriever breeds have evolved. At the same show, spaniels were divided into Clumber, Cocker, Field, Irish Water, Springer, and Sussex, but there were no distinctions for English and Welsh Springers or American and English Cockers. Anyone studying those breeds should learn how, when and why those breeds evolved before learning about any one of them. What exactly sets each of them apart and how does that relate to origin and function?

ROOT BREEDS

“Root breeds” can be largely described as the crosses used to create a breed. Sorry but the Ark didn’t pull up to Crufts in 1891 and deposit all purebred breeds as we know them today. When we see uniformity within a breed today, it’s easy to forget that over 80% of today’s breeds are less than 120 years old. All breeds have root breeds. Our job is to learn what they are, what they contributed and why, and how much of those traits we want, or don’t want, in today’s breeds. Learning about root breeds also gives perspective into a breed’s anatomical history. Learning to see a breed’s anatomy while picturing its root breeds offers a unique insight into breed history and how a breed was developed.

For example, pointer development likely included early infusions of foxhound and bloodhound for scenting, greyhound for speed and agility, and the occasional dash of white bull terrier for tenacity. Those root breeds don’t necessarily look today like they did a century ago when they were blended in, so further history homework is required. Meanwhile, consider the pointer’s underline. The standard says, “tuck-up should be apparent but not exaggerated”. On its own, that doesn’t explain a thing. Apparent? How apparent? Exaggerated compared to what? The key to those answers are embedded in learning about the root breeds. Only then can we understand that too much tuck-up indicates too much greyhound, and straight, skirted underlines indicate too much scent hound. With that knowledge, we have specific and proportional information into what “not exaggerated” means at both ends of the spectrum.

OLD ART
OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES

While there are other excellent approaches to learning - for example, actually seeing dogs do their jobs and seeing how some breeds reflect the fashions of the day – one more to consider is geographical differences. This is a slippery slope in some breeds but necessary to consider, even if you don’t agree. If you haven’t seen the breeds you’re studying in their country of origin, or in different unassociated countries, you’ll miss a chance to fill in some gaping blanks. What are the essential differences in winning dogs from our country and the country of origin? What elements may have shaped these differences? Asking which is better is not the point. It’s a matter of learning by seeing and understanding the differences and drawing our own conclusions.

SUMMARY

To think that we know a breed standard by honing our ability to identify dogs that look like dogs that are winning today is total folly. First of all, it’s not that difficult to point to dogs that look like the winners of the day but doing so can quickly turn a breed into a cartoon of itself. There is no better way to lose perspective of a breed than to think that the dogs before us are the only ones that ever existed. The only way to learn is to go far beyond what we see in the ring.
We were excited to announce our Virtual Puppy Sweepstakes Competition. Although we were not able to gather at our National Specialty, we were able to celebrate our puppies through this event. We included a new class for puppies four-to-six months. This was a fundraising event with proceeds going to defray costs of our National Specialty. Puppies were groomed and well presented for submitted videos. Once the entries were received, each exhibit received a number and instructions on how to film the video and how to upload it to a dedicated Facebook page. You can now see all those videos by going to Facebook and searching SCWTCA Virtual Puppy Sweeps.

The judging panel was comprised of three people: AKC breeder-judge Sue Goldberg, breeder Neil O’Sullivan and handler Laura King. Each judge independently evaluated the puppy video using a 100-point scale that evaluated and rated the following characteristics:

- Stacked outline
- Stacked from Front
- Stacked from Rear
- Movement Going Away
- Movement Coming Back
- Movement in Circle
- Free Stack
- Bite (mouth closed)
- Temperament
- Coat

Those scores were then tallied by another party and the winners determined by the overall scores. Our entry was quite impressive: 15 dogs and 15 bitches.

What fun it was to see well-presented puppies who were amazingly well behaved. Thanks to all the breeders who took the time to join in this fun event.

**Best in Sweepstakes**

**Greentree Olympic Charm**

“BODE”

GCHB Keepsake Raise You Glass x GCHB Greentree Nugget’s Charm
Owners: Kevin & Beverly McDonald & Jill C Miller
Breeders: Dr Jill C Miller, Royal & Erik Miller & Beverly & Kevin McDonald

**Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes**

**Ceili’s Miss Mischief TKA ACT1**

“KAIJU”

CH Dromara’s Perfect Treble Maker BN RE OA NAJ NF CGC TKA x Ceili’s Sister of Fire OA AXJ AXP CGC TKA
Owners/Breeders: Elizabeth Sorenson & Russell Howard

CH Greentree Olympic Charm x CH Ceili’s Sister of Fire OA AXJ AXP CGC TKA
Owners/Breeders: Kevin & Beverly McDonald & Jill C Miller

CH Greentree Olympic Charm x CH Ceili’s Sister of Fire OA AXJ AXP CGC TKA
Owners/Breeders: Kevin & Beverly McDonald & Jill C Miller
America’s largest dog show, the AKC National Championship, returned to Orange County Convention Center Dec. 8-13 — this time without spectators.

The annual event, presented by the American Kennel Club and Royal Canin, features thousands of dogs and handlers participating in events ranging from dock diving to agility to obedience to conformation. This year represents the club’s 20th annual show as it proceeds with pandemic-inspired changes.

While the show normally attracts tens of thousands of visitors to browse vendors, witness competitions and meet different dog breeds, December’s spectacle took place without the public present. Attendance was limited to handlers, handlers’ assistants, owners, judges, TV production crews and event staff. Social distancing and masks were required for the limited guests within the convention center.

**JUDGE:**
Mrs. Cindy Meyer

**Winners Dog:** Doubloon’s Chasin Thunder  
**Winners Bitch:** GCH Greentree Charm Dynagriffe TKN  
**Best of Winners:** Doubloon’s Chasin Thunder  
**Best of Breed:** GCHS Doubloon’s Extreme Gamer  
**Best of Opposite Sex:** GCHS Harbour Hill One In A Million  
**Select Dog:** GCHB Adako Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
**Select Bitch:** GCHG Moxxy Shandalee Hello Gorgeous  
**Best Bred By in Breed/Variety:** GCHS Doubloon’s Extreme Gamer  
**1st Award of Excellence:** CAN GCH, CH Greentree Olympic Charm  
**2nd Award of Excellence:** GCH Greentree Mombo In Margaritaville TKN  
**3rd Award of Excellence:** CH Amaden Tula Adorabelle Of Summerland  
**NOHS:** GCHS Doubloon’s Extreme Gamer

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHOW</th>
<th>Judge</th>
<th>Winners Dog</th>
<th>Winners Bitch</th>
<th>Best of Winners</th>
<th>Best of Breed</th>
<th>Best of Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Select Dog</th>
<th>Select Bitch</th>
<th>Best Bred By in Breed/Variety</th>
<th>1st Award of Excellence</th>
<th>2nd Award of Excellence</th>
<th>3rd Award of Excellence</th>
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<td>Space Coast Kennel Club Of Palm Bay</td>
<td>Mr. William deVilleneuve</td>
<td>CAN GCH, CH GREENTREE OLYMPIC CHARM</td>
<td>AMADEN RINGS IN THE JUBILEE</td>
<td>CAN GCH, CH GREENTREE OLYMPIC CHARM</td>
<td>AMADEN TULA ADORABELLE OF SUMMERLAND</td>
<td>CH ADAKO MICKEY MOUSE CLUBHOUSE</td>
<td>GCHS DOUBLOON’S EXTREME GAMER</td>
<td>GCH HARBOUR HILL ONE IN A MILLION</td>
<td>GCHS DOUBLOON’S EXTREME GAMER</td>
<td>CAN GCH, CH GREENTREE OLYMPIC CHARM</td>
<td>GCHS DOUBLOON’S EXTREME GAMER</td>
<td>GCHS DOUBLOON’S EXTREME GAMER</td>
<td>GCHS DOUBLOON’S EXTREME GAMER</td>
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### Benchmarks Subscription Rates

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Members USA</th>
<th>Canada and overseas</th>
<th>Non-SCWTCA members USA</th>
<th>Non-SCWTCA members Canada and overseas</th>
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<td>$35/year</td>
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The link to Benchmarks online is sent to all AKC approved and provisional SCWT Judges. Benchmarks is sent to judges requesting a subscription, free of charge.

### Articles and letters closing date for March 2021 issue: Feb 1

### Advertising Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full Page/B&amp;W in print</td>
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<tr>
<td>Covers or inside Full Page/color</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center-fold 2 page spread/color</td>
<td>$200</td>
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Page size: 8.5 x 11 inches

Ads may be sent via email, photos 300 dpi (300 kb), jpeg format. 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 "ONLY CLUB MEMBERS' PAYMENT ACCEPTED for ads of co-owned/co-bred dogs.

Ad closing date for March 2021 issue: Feb 1

Send advertising to Helen Fraguela, at fraguela@aol.com

If copy and photos are submitted by due date, draft layouts will be provided for review/edits.

Payment is made through PayPal at orders@scwtca.org or by check made out to SCWTCA and sent to Treasurer.

### Birthdays/Celebrating Long Life:

13 yr b’day/dogs deceased after 13 yrs +

### Contacts

- **Membership Packet:** Susan McGee, membership@scwtca.org
- **Rescue:** Nancy Butler, nbtrigocybermesa.com
- **Health:** Susan Jacobson, health@scwtca.org
- **2021 MCKC:** Kayce Healy, publications@SCWTCA.org
- **Benchmark Issues:** Cindy Jansen, subscribe@scwtca.org
- **Webmaster:** Robyn Alexander, webmaster@scwtca.org
- **Directory Updates:** directory@scwtca.org
- **Board of Directors:** board@scwtca.org
- **OFA/CERF Database:** http://www.offa.org

### Donations

All club donations may be sent to:

**Conne Kohler, SCWTCA Treasurer**

28039 Calza Dr.

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

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**

3825 132nd Avenue NE

Bellevue, WA 98005-1303

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

CH VANBEARDS OILLIBHEAR STARLIGHT IN ‘MY I’S, TKN

“Ollie”

Vanbeard’s Milwaukee Thunder x Starlight Patience is a Virtue for Vanbeard.

Ollie finished in three weekends
at 13 months of age.

Vanbeard Wheatens
Kathleen Ostrander-Bowers
and Scott Bowers
Janesville, WI
kaosb@chartec.net

Owners: Sue and Paul Adams, Kathleen
Ostrander-Bowers and Scott Bowers
Breeders: Kathleen Ostrander-Bowers, Scott
Bowers and Ann Leigh
US GCH Orion Trébol Break The Box

US GCH Rosheen All That And A Smile x US GCH Orion Trébol Breaking Bad BN RI TD NA NAJ NJP OFF RATO TKN

2020 AKC National Owner-Handled Series
#1 SCWT

"Kane"

Co-Owned by: Sandy Durbin & Martin Durbin
Bred and Owned by: Betsy Geertson & Guillermo Rueda

Orion Trébol

Official publication of the SCWTCA, Inc, volume 48, number 4, Dec 2020