Celebrate Spring
In Loving Memory

“with a very sad heart I want to inform the wheaten community that Ron Shumate passed away yesterday evening”

-Nancy Butler

“My Hero and Best Friend”
- Don Cooksey

“We offer heartfelt condolences to his partner, Don Cooksey, and his close friend, Nancy Butler.”

“with his shock of white hair and bedecked with cool men’s jewelry (fashionista that he was)... This is how I will always remember him.”

“a sweet, kind man, and what great examples of Sportsmanship he always conveyed.”

“One of the most kind, funny and helpful people I have had the pleasure of meeting in the dog world.”

“Sitting ringside with Ron...was always a highlight of the Montgomery weekend”

“and their dogs were always impeccably presented and solid, it was fun to be in the ring with them.”
Ron Shumate
11/01/51 - 01/31/21

“Ron joined the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America in 1985 and has been a staunch supporter of both the club and breed ever since.”

—

“was a gentleman in the truest sense...a gentle man with impeccable taste and a generous soul.”

—

“such a character and the ‘fashion police’ whistle was the source of so many laughs.”

—

“always made me laugh with his ‘fashion police’ whistle. Always smiling and fun to be around.”

—

“always made Montgomery ringside even more fun.”

—

“There will never be a Wheaten more beautifully groomed than what Ron did.

—

“Traveling with Ron was always fun. I never saw anyone who could take more outfits on a trip! Our first trip to Montgomery, Ron had a suitcase the size of a large dorm refrigerator and two other bags.”
THE ENDOWMENT AT WORK FOR YOU

In addition to research grants, the SCWTCA Endowment provides tools and resources to helping owners, breeders and researchers improve our Wheatens’ health.

SCWT Database

Containing records on over 75,000 Wheatens worldwide, the Database is a robust resource for owners, breeders and researchers. Check your dogs on the database and send in missing information...and photos!

Learn more at www.scwtdb.org

DNA Cheek Swabs

Research has resulted in at-home DNA testing for some diseases. To support research and help owners obtain swabs for testing, the Endowment is presently making them available upon request.

Learn more at www.wheatenhealthendowment.org/cheekswabs

WatchDog Health Tracker

Keeping your results and comparing them year to year is a struggle. We can help with the WatchDog Health Tracker, a convenient and easy-to-use tool for organizing your dog's lifelong health testing results.

Learn more at www.wheatenhealthendowment.org/healthtracker

Fecal API kits

Because early diagnosis of PLE is challenging, the Alpha 1 Protease Inhibitor test done at Texas A&M can be a valuable screening tool. If annual testing results are consistent with protein-loss, consider following up with a Fecal API test. The kits for this testing are ONLY available through the Endowment.

NOTE that due to a supply issue, TAMU has paused testing until Spring 2021.

Learn more at www.wheatenhealthendowment.org/fecalapi.htm

Visit the Endowment website to learn more and support our work:

www.wheatenhealthendowment.org
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SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER
CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. - 2021

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
EMILY J. HOLDEN - AMADEN WHEATENS

February is a month for lovers, particularly for dog lovers. Dog show enthusiasts flock to New York for the “Garden” while millions of dog lovers watch it on tv, rooting for their favorite breed or perhaps to find a new favorite. But not this year, at least, not in February. So many changes have occurred in the past year that change is becoming as normal as masks and social distancing. You are able to travel to areas that are more accommodating for dog shows but remember to wash your hands, take plenty of hand sanitizer and wear that mask.

Our club has undergone an unprecedented change as well, but we are continuing with business as usual! We will not allow the plans of a few to undermine the need of maintaining a vibrant Breed Club. As we near the fiftieth anniversary of breed recognition, we need to look back on our history with pride. The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America, Inc. has stood for good sportsmanship, outstanding specialties, rescue, health research, and education (public, breeder and judges"). These areas have been proudly chaired by many of our valued members. They have given us a destiny upon which can be built a future for our breed. We need to honor their time and effort by learning to respect one another’s time and talents.

It is the hope of all that the 2021 SCWTCA National Specialty will take place and that it will be successful. Events are planned. The hotel is taking reservations and the fundraising items are chosen and will soon be on sale. The decision to move on will be determined in a few months. We don’t have to wait for some other exciting new options. Robert Bergman is offering access to a number of AKC educational programs. We are calling these our Members’ Education Events. Health Education, spearheaded by Neil O’Sullivan and Susan Ratliff, will be hosting webinars on health and genetic topics. Tapes of these programs will be available to local clubs, so if you miss one, it will be available on the website or with your local club. That leads to another club goal which is a stronger and more encouraging relationship with local clubs. Overall, the Board’s goals are aligning with the Mission Statement with an added emphasis on transparency, fiscal responsibility and a strong desire to work for and with the membership.

Stay safe, stay well…

Emily

COVER PHOTO

This handsome boy is “Hendrix” from Greentree Wheatens, now residing at Denzilly Wheatens in Northampton, England. At 18 weeks he was totally transfixed by the magic & mystery of bubbles on a beautiful day in the English countryside. Photo by owners, Jo and Graham Dowdy. Design by Helen Fraguela.
EDITOR’S MESSAGE
HOLLY CRAIG - CUILEANN WHEATENS

As with each issue of Benchmarks I want to thank those members who were generous enough to contribute articles. Benchmarks would not come together without the generosity from our membership. We have so many talented members in SCWTCA and it is truly wonderful that people are willing to share how they achieved their “competitive edge” so that others can realize that if they put their mind to it, they too can achieve a competitive edge!

William Given’s article from Canine Chronicle on The Competitive Edge - Don’t Leave Home Without It takes a look at the ways you can achieve your edge and what to do when you seem to be in a rut.

Next is an interview with George Alston, one of the country’s top professional handlers in his day. George shares how he achieved his edge starting out with winning Juniors at The Garden as a young teenager to a long history of handling top winning dogs. I was fortunate enough to attend one of George’s two day handling seminars over 20 years ago and I have to say it was worth every minute of it. Even with all of the mistakes I made I was awarded the most improved at the end of the second day.

You will also find an interview with our own top winning breeder/handler, Elena Landa. Elena shared how she started out in dogs all the way up until today where she is the owner/breeder/handler of a top 10 dog - Mister!

Sue Peters and Mary Whiting both shared how they achieved their competitive edge in companion events, Sue in Scent Work and Mary in Agility.

Neil O’Sullivan PhD, writes on how he goes about evaluating puppies in a very detailed and extremely informative article. Important information to take into account the next time you are evaluating a litter of puppies.

Tom Neill shares how he and his wife Wendy became the first AKC Breeder of Merit Bronze Level breeder in Wheatens. Congratulations to Tom and Wendy. Hopefully the article will encourage other breeders to aim for this award.

In this issue you will also have the opportunity to become more familiar with our five new board members.

With the recent discussion online regarding honoring members of SCWTCA upon their death and the confusion that ensued, someone was nice enough to locate the following statement from Wavelengths regarding official policy:

A. Memoriam section in Benchmarks - Tabled from June 26, 2019 meeting until a new editor is in place.

“The Board encourages those who wish to honor a deceased member to contact the Benchmarks editor and write an article if they so desire.”

Going forward I welcome members to write an article to appear in Benchmarks for any deceased member. You have the option of placing a paid ad as well if you prefer not to write an article.

What I am really excited about is the June Stud Dog issue! It has been over 20 years since this was last done in Benchmarks. Each participating dog gets their own full color page. In order to participate, each dog must be listed in the SCWT Health Database with complete information including photo. The purpose of the issue to to help breeders find dogs that are available for their next breeding. For a sample of what each page will look like, please go to page 36. The cost per page is $75. For dogs that are deceased and for which there is frozen semen, there is no cost to list your dog. Each deceased dog will receive a 1/2 page color with the same information as living dogs. This is a great opportunity for you to highlight those males that people haven’t had the chance to see since the pandemic. Helen will create the listing for you so this really is a turnkey opportunity to get your males out there!

It has been brought to my attention by BettyAnn Hillwig that the photo of her Maggie who was featured in the December Happy Birthday Seniors should have had a photo credit - Margaret Foxmoore.

Enjoy the issue and don’t delay in reserving space in the Stud Dog Issue! Deadline is May 5th! Dogs will be featured in alphabetical order.
Benchmarks is the official quarterly publication of the SCWTCA, Inc. The opinions expressed in articles contained herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Officers and Directors of the Club. The Editor reserves the right to reasonably edit all material submitted for publication. Comments, suggestions and expressions of opinion are always welcome. Original articles may be reprinted with permission of the Editor.

### Club Publications

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Make checks payable to SCWTCA in **US FUNDS**

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

### Yearbooks

For availability on 1988-2018 yearbooks and pricing visit www.scwtca.org/shop/#yearbook. Or contact Cindy Shea at eringlo@yahoo.com.

### SCWTCA Contacts

- **Membership Packet - Susan McGee**
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- **Rescue - Nancy Butler**
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- **Health - Susan Ratliffe**
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- **2021 MCKC - Janet Snoddy & Barb Smith**
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- **Benchmarks Issues - Cindy Jansen**
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- **Directory Updates**
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- **OFA/CERF Database**
  www.offa.org
- **Health Database - Kathy McIndoe**
  paisleyspring@q.com

### Donations

All club donations can be sent to Treasurer Connie Koehler, SCWTCA Treasurer, 28039 Calzada Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275. Checks should be made payable to SCWTCA, Inc. and in US Funds or with an international money order in US Funds.

Tax deductible donations for Wheaten health may be made payable to SCWTCA Endowment, a 501(c)(3) tax deductible fund. Send donations to Toni Vincent, SCWTCA Endowment Treasurer, 3825 132nd Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98005-1303

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**Publications & Contacts**

Benchmarks
SCWTCA USA Members $25
SCWTCA Overseas & Canadian Members $35
Non-SCWTCA USA Members $35
Non-SCWTCA Overseas & Canadian Members $45

US Funds Only

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

Articles and Advertising for the June issue are due by May 10th.

### Print Advertising Rates

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Ads may be sent via email, photos at least 300 dpi, jpeg format. Original photos sent to Ad Designer will be returned. No commercial advertising. Only photos with un-retouched dogs accepted. Limit health references to hip and eyes and/or “health testing current and available on SCWT Health Database”. Ads accepted from SCWTCA Members only. Payment accepted for ads of co-owned/co-bred dogs.

Send advertising requests to Helen Fraguela at fraguela@aol.com. If copy and photos are submitted by due date, draft layouts will be provided for approval.

Advertising payments can be made through Paypal at orders@scwtca.org or by check made out to SCWTCA, indicating Benchmarks ad and mailed to Connie Koehler, SCWTCA Treasurer.

Happy Birthday Seniors/Celebrating Long Life
Wheatens who are 13+ = Happy Birthday Seniors. Wheatens who crossed the Rainbow Bridge at 13+ = Celebrating Long Life. Please send photo, owner, breeder, pedigree and maximum of 2 paragraphs to hollycraig@mac.com

Editor Holly Craig hollycraig@mac.com
Ad Designer Helen Fraguela fraguela@aol.com
WHN Editor Susan Ratliffe health@scwtca.org
MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ROBERT TINNELLY - VICE PRESIDENT

My wife Pam and I have been SCWTCA members since 1999. My past SCWTCA experience includes creating and coordinating the Bob the Banker system, which allowed members to make their reservations and purchases for Montgomery Weekend on one order form. I was also the Chief Ring Steward at the SCWTCA National Specialty for 5 years.

Other indirect experience comes from Pam having been National Specialty Coordinator for 2 Specialties (including the 50th Anniversary Specialty), and being a member of SCWTCA Board for 4 years. One of the more rewarding projects I worked on with Pam was the first AKC Meet the Breeds in New York City, where over 20,000 people attended each day. We prepared all the posters, handouts and literature, and manned the booths with other volunteers and our Wheatens for 3 years.

I am a semi-retired Construction Consultant, having started my own consultancy in 1991. I have been licensed as a Professional Engineer in New York since 1978. I was Vice Chairman of the Village of Garden City NY Architectural Design Review Board, where I served for 22 years. Previous memberships in all breed clubs include Long Island Kennel Club, where I was the Treasurer, and Westbury Kennel Club, both on Long Island, NY. Pam and I now reside in San Clemente, California.

BRUCE PETERS RECORDING SECRETARY

My wife, Sue, and I have owned Wheaten Terriers since 1999. We began our Wheaten quest as wanting a pet, who turned out to be show quality. He finished as a champion and we were hooked. In early 2001, we began to show our dogs in Obedience and Agility. From there we continued onto Rally, Farm Dog, Scent Work, Tricks, and Barn Hunt. In all of these areas we have earned advanced or master titles.

In 2002, we joined SCWTCA and in a few years we were working with Carol Carlson and Rosemary Berg on the Wheaten National Obedience Trial. We managed this event for 7 years and added Rally and Scent Work. We have helped and shown our dogs at the Terrier Agility trial, first in Kimberton and later at Palmyra. I served as the National Specialty Sweeps chairperson from 2013 through 2019.

The best part of working with our Wheatens is appreciating their loving character and learning more about them. We can’t imagine our lives without a Wheaten.

Being a member of the Club is rewarding because we have met so many people with similar interests. Club members have mentored and supported us and seeing them at events, and reconnecting, is a pleasure. Some of our best friends have come through our Wheaten connections.

I am retired and my wife, Sue, and I, live in southern Florida and I hope to continue to help the Club grow and prosper.
MARLA BRAUN
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

My name is Marla Braun. I was born and raised in Maryland. From there, I lived in Florida, Tennessee and now reside in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. I am a paralegal and have worked in this field for twenty-five years.

I have been blessed with having dogs my whole life. Before getting our first Wheaten, Chuck and I had an Australian Cattle Dog who went blind at the age of five. She was quite amazing and smart. When we lost her at age 14, we found we simply could not live without a dog. I researched different breeds for three months. I finally presented Chuck with a picture of a Wheaten and he liked what he saw. Then he said, “now find us a good one.” I found Whindancer Wheats in NY and our journey began. On our first visit to see the dogs, Chuck asked Susan if she had a nice male he could see. Susan brought Frankie (CAN US CH Honeylee’s Bye My Fair Whind) into the room and we fell in love. He was nine years old. We told Susan if she ever wanted to place him, we would be thrilled to have him. Three weeks later, we brought home a ten-week old show female and Frankie. I knew nothing about grooming and Chuck had shown only sporting dogs since he was 16 years old. They taught us a lot.

We love showing our dogs and raising an occasional litter. Chuck and I work as a team in caring for the dogs. We do what we can to support and promote the mentors and sincerely thank each of them for our success both in the ring and in our breeding program.

If you want to succeed, you surround yourself with people who have years of experience and knowledge and you listen and learn.

I am honored to be your Corresponding Secretary and will work hard to fulfill my duties. Now, more than ever, we need to come together as one and make sure our vision for the breed continues and that the SCWTCA survives the challenges of these difficult times.

NEIL O’SULLIVAN
DIRECTOR

I was fortunate to grow up in an Irish Dog Show Family, but my own first show dog took a tragic turn, when I was 15, my 14 month old Great Dane had to be euthanized due to Cervical Spondylopathy (Wobblers).

His honest breeder let us know it was likely a genetic disease and this inspired my young mind on what career path I would take. My first peer reviewed paper was on the Inheritance of harlequin coat color in Great Danes published when I was 26 in Genetica.

The American breeders, the late Jean Peterson and Maureen Prokosch, established their Newkilber kennel in Ireland (early 1970’s) they set the world of Terriers in Ireland on fire. I would go watch Wheats to see their beautiful sound dogs. Along came their prodigy, Gerard Thompson, doing wonderful things with their guidance and bloodlines. In 1986 I became part of Geragold, and Gerard became part of Flighty Great Danes.
Together we have bred and owned number one dogs in the USA, Canada, Ireland, Australia and Finland. Our bloodlines have been used with great success for their owners all over the World. Our core breeds are SCWT and Great Danes, but we love Briards and breed and finished some nice ones, along with owning and finishing Kerry Blue Terriers.

My interests are helping the parent club develop tools for breeders, Genetic tests, Education, and having a welcoming, transparent Club. To celebrate our top dogs each year I want to bring the SCWT Top Twenty annual event, to the fancy, to celebrate the hard work done by the breeders, owners and handlers. I will work to have a Club that will focus on the interests of the breed we all adore.

KC GOTTSCHALK
DIRECTOR

My name is Kathleen Gottschalk aka KC. I hale from Upstate New York and proudly served as an elementary school principal until retiring five years ago. My new found freedom and empty nest allowed me to devote more time to my dog adventures.

My love affair with Soft Coated Wheatens began 20 years ago. Enter “Faley” ... and with her, our first experience with Wheatens. She was indeed the perfect dog! Faley was playful and loyal to our family until the day she passed at 14 years of age. And when that fateful day arrived, we knew without a doubt that we wanted another member of this magical breed. Through simply sharing her life and love with us, Faley was indeed the best ambassador for Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier imaginable!

The search for a “reputable” breeder ensued. I count my lucky stars that we were fortunate enough to cross the path of Susan Ratliffe. We agreed to meet and talk about puppies at a nearby dog show. At the close of our talk, Susie asked the now fateful question, “Have you ever considered being a ‘show family’?” Although we hadn’t, we began to entertain the idea, and never looked back. When I expressed an interest in showing our dog myself, Susie encouraged me. Despite having attended copious handling classes, a “green dog” with a “rookie handler” is challenging to say the least! There were times as I entered the show ring, I would pray that if there was a God, He or She would allow me to leave the ring with a shred of my dignity intact. Without Susie’s encouragement and feedback, I may very well have given up. As it turns out, I have finished three dogs to their Grand Championships, and now I am entering the world of breeding with an eye on health and pedigree - once again with Susie Ratliffe as my mentor. Along with MANY new found friends. Along the way, I have been blessed to meet a new and wonderful circle of friends, to whom I have felt an instant connection. People who cheer me on, provide valuable advice and who graciously and generously share their “tricks of the trade”! People that I feel I have known for all of my life!

In my spare time, I am an active member of:
• Albany Kennel Club where I serve as the Corresponding and Recording Secretary
• Editor of the Club Newsletter
• AKC Delegate
• The Albany Obedience Club, where I pursue Agility classes and have taken my dogs through an advanced title in Canine Good Citizen and Novice Trick Dog.
• UpState New York Stewards Club, where I steward at various all breed conformation shows in New York and New England.

As you can see, although a relatively new member, I have experienced all facets of Wheaten life - companion dog ownership, participation in conformation and companion sports and now breeding. I hope to bring this background with me to this director position. In my original application to join SCWTC, I stated that “In the future, I hope to give back to this breed” I am accepting a director position in order to keep that promise. In the meantime, hatsoff to our “wonder-dog-wheatens” and the people that they love!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
SENIORS

Inishkeen’s “Dream” Litter
January 26, 2008
Sire: CH Robins Crest Lil’ Cloud Nine, “McDuffie”
Dam: GCH Inishkeen Maille Of VanBeard, “Maille”
Breeders: Ann and James McCormick and Susan Ostrander

We brought our puppies home in 2001 and 2004, now 4 dogs from their first litter are 13 years old. What an adventure this has been! Thank you to our breeders and mentors Deirdre and Art Robbins, Kathleen Ostrander-Bowers and her parents Susan and Lynn Ostrander for their guidance and trust. Thank you also to all the wonderful families we found for these puppies and for succeeding litters as well.

Ann and Jim McCormick

Puppies left to right:
Gracie, Kama, Henry, Wilbur, Bailey and Shannon

We appreciate the McCormick’s commitment to the Wheaten Terrier breed.

It was a pleasure to be able to meet Maille and McDuffie and pick out our fur baby from the litter. We made the best decision!!

Beverly and CW Price

Inishkeen’s Bailey’s Irish Dream
“Bailey”

On the day Bailey was born our first Wheaten, Cliffy, who was only 5 years old crossed over the Rainbow Bridge and we feel that Cliffy sent Bailey to us.

It is hard to describe what a blessing Bailey has been to our family. Bailey is such a joy to be around. He looks up at you and your heart just melts and there is nothing better than a Wheaten Greeting. We can go out the door for 5 minutes or 5 hours and you get the same welcome.

Beverly and CW Price

Inishkeen’s Gracie Is A Dream Girl
“Gracie”

Gracie has, despite her little quirks, been an amazing family pet. She has enjoyed strolls on the beach and walks in the NC mountains. She is skittish around-stranger’s but loving with her family. She has a sister, a 7 year-old King Charles Spaniel/Poodle named
Coco, they are inseparable.

We are very happy she has been blessed with good health and looking forward to many more years with her.

Tricia and Mike McKinney

Inishkeen’s Heart Of The Dream “Henry”

Since Henry came into our lives, we have been greeted each day with him jumping up with his tail wagging and a happy expression on his face. The famous “Wheaten greetin.” It is an awfully heart warming greeting after a long day at work.

He helps us to appreciate our days, no matter the weather. On sunny days he enjoys lounging in the sun by the lake. If it gets too hot, he’s happy to cool off in the water! On snowy days he plays in the snow making us laugh despite the cold. In return for all the times he cheers us up, we pay him back with tummy rubs, treats, and letting him chase birds in the yard.

His sweet nature and companionship are worth every minute of care we give him, and God willing, we’ll be caring for him for several more years.

Sue and Bill Haydu

Inishkeen’s Daydream Believer “Shannon”

This is my gorgeous Shannon taken 2 years ago when he was 11 years old but still a puppy. He is 13 now and has slowed a little, but still a puppy! He has helped raise another brother, 3 birds, a cat brother and his latest bro who is a golden doodle. He has been very busy and never lonely!!

He is a kisser, a cuddler and very faithful to his family. He has always loved to eat, chew hard bones and run with sticks. Now in his old age, he likes being with his 2 year old sibling, Tucker!! Shannon has been and always will be my buddy. He has brought so much love into our home and our lives.

Judie and Ron Stevens

Sue and Bill Haydu
“Rynn”
CH Bryr Rose Renaissance
DOB 2/1/2008
Sire: CH Bryr Rose Degas
Dam: CH Bryr Rose Colleen O’ Green
Breeder: Carolyn Garrett
Owner: Carolyn Garrett

Rynn was a singleton puppy. Rynn is doing very well and is always by my side. Rynn loves helping socialize litter puppies with his wonderful temperament. Rynn’s best friend is his nephew, GCHG Bryr Rose Phoenix Rising - Ash.

Rynn is a very loved and spoiled boy as are all of mine. They all run and play together. Wonderful temperaments on all of them. I am so blessed on my 7th generation!

“Rosie”
Edgewood Arizona Rose
DOB: 7/18/2005
Sire: CH Greentree Darcove Fariy Tale CD RN
Dam: CH Edgewood Liberty Rising Cuileann
Breeders: Carl McGill & Holly Craig
Owners: Linda & Gary Wood

Rosie is doing well at 15 1/2 and has plenty of spunk!! She is enjoying that her family is all at home teleworking. She had a melanoma growth removed from her mouth in October. She finished a vaccine regimen and was re-tested with no evidence of metastasis and is in remission!! She has plenty of spunk!!!

Rosie celebrated her 15th birthday on July 18th, 2020 with a special dog cake made with pumpkin, peanut butter, egg and yogurt. She loved it.
Almost 14 years ago, I decided I needed a dog in my life. I had researched some non-shedding breeds, and they all seemed lovely, but there was something so majestic and regal about the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier that I felt this breed might be the one. I was lucky to find an extremely reputable local breeder and was so excited to meet the little puppies she had available. The minute I walked in, one little red ball of fur came straight up to me, put his two paws on my ankle and it was clear from that second that I had been chosen.

From the moment this little man came into my life, I was forever changed. I knew what it is to get a “Wheaten greetin’” every time I walk through MY door - and this as vigorous at 13.5 years as it was at 12 weeks. And I have never seen a dog learn so quickly - he was house broken in literally two days, knew his commands in the same time as well - and understands his human’s routines even better. He can tell time and stands patiently at the refrigerator every meal time until I come and fulfill his need to have me open that magical big box and get out his food.

I have learned what joy is - every walk he is at my knee, never pulling, just content to walk beside me at my pace, head and tail up, every once in a while looking up at me with a huge smile on his face, saying “Mom, isn’t this GREAT?”. He has an opinion on everything, and is never afraid to show it, with one raised eyebrow or a bark or two. He loves everyone, and has taught me the real meaning of acceptance and going with the flow. He is also empathic beyond words, and when I am having a tough time, makes sure he is close and lends me the comfort I need. He is generous beyond compare and shares his toys and his time with everyone. He is also curious to the point of being nosey, and MUST know everything that is going on. He has never lost his zest for life, preferring to run rather than walk and jump rather than run even now. He is my constant shadow and companion. He is the epitome of growing old gracefully. My boy is a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier through and through, and I have never regretted the decision I made to bring one of these little fiery balls of joy into my life.

He has taught me the Wheaten Way and I am forever grateful that he chose to spend his life with me.

2021 SCWTCA SUPPORTED ENTRIES

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<td>AKC NAT’L CHAMPIONSHIP ORLANDO, FL</td>
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CELEBRATING LONG LIFE

“Fiona”
Vanbeard’s Princess Fiona
2004 - 2018
Sire: CH Hamkel Celtic Traveler
Dam: Vanbeard’s Miss Love
Breeders - Susan Ostrander and Kathleen Ostrander-Bowers
Owners - Cindy & Perry Galloway and Susan Ostrander

From the Galloways -
“Fiona was our pretty girl. She loved to play with squeaky toys, romp in the snow, take long walks and race you up the stairs - always with a wagging tail. She was our constant companion and we miss her presence in our life every day.”

“Cassie”
CH Raelyn Lasting Impression NA NAJ CGC
2005-2020
Sire: CH Dundalk the Painter’s Son
Dam: CH Raelyn Singular Sensation
Breeders: Lynn & Ray Cone
Owners: Nancy Griffin, Wheaten Lane

As a dear, sweet love, always by my side and never far away whenever I was home, Cassie, was not just my first “show potential puppy”, but an exceptional part of my life for 15+ years. She was gentle and affectionate, just everything I could ever have wanted as a companion, a conformation and agility partner, a therapy dog and a mother of 8 puppies. Even now, I can sometimes imagine and hear Cassie’s unique and special bark, we called “rubba bubba bubba bubba”, and this is how I will always remember her.

“Jazz”
Raelyn Vintage Jazz
DOB: 03/29/2007  DOD: 01/08/2021
Sire: CH Vintage Green Beret Ballad
Dam: CH Raelyn All That Jazz
Breeder: Lynn Cone
Owners: Ainsley, Alex, April and Andrew Leary

Our lovely Jazz, always with her tail wagging, was ready to be in on the action. She was at my feet the moment the salmon was on the grill, waiting until the salmon skin was in her bowl. I picked up Jazz in Sonoma, CA and we headed south over the Golden Gate Bridge. It was love at first sight when I picked up that little puppy; and she was full of kisses and snuggles. She welcomed my husband and then 2 kids along the way; Jazz was a fantastic family dog. We would call her “Jazzeroo” or “Jazz the Spazz”! at story time every night, ready for the snuggles. She loved

As I write about her, tears still stream down my face and a huge lump is in my throat. It is the feeling everyone who has ever loved and lost a wonderful Wheaten knows, but so many happy memories of the years I spent with Cassie will never be forgotten. If only I could have just one more day with her...I would try to let her know how much she meant to me. Towards the end of her life, I held her every morning and she would snuggle and lay her head on my shoulder. She certainly expressed her love for me and “owned me”. Cassie’s spirit lives on.
to be groomed, and would jump up on her pink table ready to be a pretty girl. Jazz moved with us, from CA to Texas, then to WA. She turned into a crazy wild frisky dog in the snow! At almost 14 years old, she would still dive bomb the couch and wipe her beard all over. She brought so much laughter and fun to our family. Thank you to Lynn Cone who has been such a supportive breeder. 

Thank you to Mike Weiss and Brian Ness who owned the champion sire. Thank you to Lance Sullenberger Canter who originally trusted me with my first Wheaten, trained me to groom a Wheaten, and then found this lovely puppy at just the right time.

### 2021 SPECIALTY SHOWS

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<tr>
<td>SCWTC SO. CA. #2</td>
<td>POMONA, CA</td>
<td>JANUARY CANCELLED</td>
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<tr>
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<td>GRAY SUMMIT, MO</td>
<td>MAY 28TH</td>
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<td>GREATER DENVER SCWTC #1 &amp; #2</td>
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<td>MCKC</td>
<td>BLUE BELL, PA</td>
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### DONATIONS TO SCWTCA RESCUE IN MEMORY OF RON SHUMATE

NANCY BUTLER
JANET & PHIL SNODDY
ROBYN ALEXANDER
CARL MCGILL
TOM & WENDY NEILL
ROSE LAWRIE
DEB VAN DE VEN
MICHELLE TOLAND
CANDY WAY
That was certainly unexpected, wasn’t it?

I am sure some of you expect I’d have a lot to say about the upheaval in SCWTCA in early January. I don’t. Well, that’s not exactly true. I have plenty to say, just not here. But there are a couple of things to reflect on.

The first is that something good has come out of this: a lot of new faces on the Board and leading some committees. For sure, “new” isn’t necessarily “better”…we don’t know how successful these folks will be. Nor do we know how long they will serve…some may have chosen to help out as fill-ins until the next election or the Nominating Committee may choose other candidates or there may be petition candidates.

What IS surely good is the willingness among the membership to serve the club and to step forward in difficult times. Happily, it proves the “no one will want to volunteer now” doomsayers wrong. These folks serve as an example to the rest of the membership to get up and get involved. There are places for you, big and little.

It’s possible we’ll like everything this new Board does, it’s possible we won’t like anything they do and it’s more likely we’ll all come in down the middle. Regardless, I think my last column still applies: communicate with care, use Discuss, use Zoom calls…talk to us.

And build a good Board culture. It’s a lesson to be learned from the resignations so we don’t go through this again. It’s incumbent on the SCWTCA Board to do that work. PLEASE do not read this as a criticism of the past Board; I have no idea how it got to the point it did. Rather, I’m pointing out “Management 101 Obvious”: know what you want, start in the right way, adjust as needed and get everyone behind it.

When I joined the department in which I held my last job, there was a definite culture in place. It was supportive, very little workplace gamesmanship and expectations were clear. We were committed to our work and to each other; after Hurricane Sandy closed our office for a week, we were all so glad to get back and know everyone was ok. It wasn’t perfect and neither was our director who set the tone. But it was the best job I ever had and the best place I ever worked. When the director retired, her replacement was a nice guy but a very different personality. Many aspects of the culture remained but it slowly changed. Had I retired 3 years ago I would miss it all a great deal; now, not so much.

None of that is easy for a boss, let alone leaders of a membership organization. So again, I respectfully suggest as I did before: challenge insularity, pay attention to group dynamics, and eschew cliques.

There’s a lesson the membership should have learned from the personal fighting that occurred on Discuss. I get it: emotions took over, people got careless. But that’s not an excuse.

Here’s what happens when someone goes after a specific, identified person online. Most of the time the target fights back; mea culpa. A verbal brawl ensues, friends chime in and the rest of the audience checks out. It’s followed by less than sincere apologies..."I’m sorry I posted" as opposed to "I’m sorry for the damage I caused"...which just makes people more angry.

Remember, an attack may backfire, engendering sympathy for the target such that even people who aren’t the target’s friends think “what an awful thing to say.” Also remember, we are a small community and we know people’s relationships, good and bad. Readers may see your comments through that lens and assume there’s more to it. Most of all...remember what you say reflects as much on you as it does on your target.

Finally, a note about The Devil’s Advocate: this remains, as it has always been, a column containing one person’s opinions; I’ve requested the new disclaimer below so we’re all clear on that. I do
get suggestions; most are fine but don’t light a fire in me. Each column is worked at over the course of a few weeks. I typically vet it through a few people to insure clarity...and as a guardrail. While I’m satisfied with my work, I am very proud of SCWTCA for being secure enough to print it...and especially appreciate those Boards who gritted their teeth when doing so. It shows a trust in the intelligence and maturity of the Wheaten community. I thank those past Boards and hope future Boards will do the same, not only for The Devil’s Advocate but for anyone who speaks up. Such confidence in the membership is a great strength.

DISCLAIMER: The Devil’s Advocate represents the views of the author only, not the SCWTCA nor the editors of Benchmarks. The author can be reached at bannerscwt@yahoo.com.

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**Final Yearbook SALE!**

- Green (1973-1982) and/or Orange (1983-1987) hardback books are available for the price of shipping.

- 1988-2000 available for $10 each.

- Prices only good through 4/15/21

Contact Cindy at eringlo@yahoo.com for shipping costs or more information.

**Prices on the web site do not reflect this sale, so you will need to send a check payable to SCWTCA to get the sale prices.**
ANOTHER CHANCE AT THE GOOD LIFE - SCWTCA RESCUE

Older Dogs Make Great Rescues

Daphne was recently rehomed through SCWTCA Rescue. She is healthy, energetic and goes for daily walks. She is an older girl who loves the snow, her play time, and playing keep away with her toys. She recently went on an out-of-state family vacation. She rode in her crate in the car like a pro and stayed at a pet friendly hotel. She even rode in the elevator and was very good about going out when necessary. She has found her favorite places in her new home, where she is trusted with the run of the house. Daphne’s new family assures us she is well cared for and says she’s a great addition to their family!

Daphne is 9 years young and was a beloved pet by an owner whose health issues were increasing in severity and she wanted a better and more active life for Daphne. The new owners had Wheaten experience and Daphne’s age was not an issue. She had been very well cared for and loved and it was a very difficult decision but the right one.
Hi Nancy,

It’s Debby Donovan in Pagosa Springs saying hello and Happy New Year. Hope you have avoided the virus and are staying safe.

I thought you might enjoy a Finny update. He turned 3 at the end of November and has grown into a giant Wheatie! Although not taller than others we’ve raised, this boy is solid muscle! Currently, he weighs a whopping 55 pounds!!! I’m sure this is partly due to all the exercise he gets. We have regular playdates with other dogs in our area so the chance to jump, run, chase, wrestle, etc. is endless.

I recently took Finn to the vet for an annual assessment and he is in fine shape. Ideally, the vet would like him to lose 3-5 pounds, but didn’t call him fat. In fact, you can’t pinch even a half inch. Finny is getting the same amount of food as the other 3 Wheaties we’ve raised so his size is most likely due to his breeding; 1 cup Fromm in the morning at 1 cup in the evening. I have reduced that to 3/4th cup at each feeding and some days Finn is content and others he begs at his bowl. We supplement with healthy treats and chews and that seems to satisfy him. At any rate, he is a happy guy with lots of attitude.

As you may remember from the photos I sent you 2 winters ago, Finn loves everything about snow from rolling and jumping into piles of it to eating as many “snow snacks” as he prefers. My favorite trick is watching him literally swim through mounds of snow completely laid out with all 4 paws stretched in opposite directions. He is a character for sure.

I hope you are well. I also hope the Wheaten world is doing well.

Take care,

Debby & Patrick
THE COMPETITIVE EDGE - DON’T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT

WILLIAM GIVEN

Competition comes in many forms and on different levels, and while not everyone is looking to compete at the highest level, I believe it is important to find some level of competition in conformation—or in the companion or performance events—for everyone that wishes to participate in the sport of purebred dogs. Competition on any level is healthy; it gives our training purpose and structure, and leads to positive results.

Aside from your basic feeding and conditioning routine, grooming skills and handling abilities required to master the art of handling, what’s going to set you apart from the competition may be mental toughness. Having a competitive advantage is not a permanent thing. If you are to maintain your competitive edge, you must continue to adapt, adjust, learn new skills and refine old techniques. You must position yourself to respond to the changes occurring within yourself, changes in breeding trends and judges’ preferences, and challenges from competitors.

Challenges Brought By Competitors

It is the challenges brought by competitors that you will most likely experience first and most often. You must understand, your competitors want to win also, and some of them will have been working hard to find ways to make that happen. They will practice daily with their dog and they will learn to get the very best out their ring partner.

Some will finally admit that they will never get the performance they have been working hard to achieve and will choose to purchase a much better dog. This time, instead of buying a dog that the breeder promised was finishable, they purchased a young, show quality dog whose sire, dam, and grandparents all have great pedigrees, as well as being properly constructed, nice moving with soundness, and all having winning records in the show ring.

There are those competitors out there who have never excelled because they got too nervous in the ring. They always believed that if they did just one thing wrong, they would fail their dog and he would lose, and (the self-fulfilling prophecy being what it is) that is exactly what happened. Possibly, practice yielded a vast improvement in their handling skills, and this has given them an immeasurable boost in their confidence. That can make a competitor feel unbeatable, and they will be hard to beat.

No competitive advantage is safe for long, you have to be prepared for that. Concentrate your efforts on what you do best, focus on highlighting your dog’s strengths and do it better than any of your competitors. Your competitors may have made strategic errors and tactical blunders over the years, but they get refocused and they want to win. Everyone taking a dog into the conformation ring today needs to take time to discover what it is that makes them and their dog unique, and sets them apart from their competitors. Use that knowledge to your advantage.

Changes In Judges’ Preferences

The judge, who does not let any of the disqualifications get past him or her, can pretty much serve his or her own taste. And, though this is meant as an exaggeration, it is not far removed from the truth. Poorly written standards invite personal preferences, but even the most detailed standards will be open to interpretation. That allows for preferences.

It is my belief that every judge has his or her preferences. These preferences may be deeply rooted and long-held, or the opposite. They form naturally, I believe, over many years and are based (in a large part) on the ease or difficulty experienced building strengths and eliminating weaknesses in their breeding programs. For example: maybe his or her problem was light eyes. If, as a breeder, the judge spent a great deal of time, money and energy into breeding light eyes out of his or her line, it is reasonable that they might penalize light eyes more heavily.

And, not all personal preferences are bad because many of them are founded in breed standards. For example: Whether inside or outside the ring, I cannot begin to guess the number of times I have heard an exhibitor say, “The standard allows for up to four missing teeth.” The breed standard for the Doberman Pinscher lists as a disqualifying fault, “Four or more missing teeth,” so, to an extent (limited), they are correct, however, the judge was not contemplating disqualification. Additionally, it reads, bite: 42
correctly placed teeth, 22 in the lower, 20 in the upper jaw. Now, the standard does not directly state full dentition is preferred, but it is implied, and I am okay if a judge prefers full dentition.

We are in agreement; judges should not penalize an exhibit for any trait, characteristic or quality if the dog falls within the standard. And, let us remember, that judges are human and even with their preferences, they do labor diligently, I believe, to maintain objectivity. The personal preferences of judges can and do change, and those changes are very often for the better of the sport. However, to be successful, it is important to know what a judge’s personal preferences are today. The best way to gain insight is by observation. Spend time watching the men and women who judge your breed and your group, learn their preferences and make notes that you can refer back to from time to time.

Long before you enter a show, you will know who is judging your breed and you will also likely have a very good idea of what the competition will be. If you know your dog’s strengths and weaknesses and those of the competition, and if you know the judge’s preferences, you can use that knowledge to give the judge a nudge in the direction of your dog. It isn’t cheating, it is showing smart.

Changes In Breeding Trends

In a previous article titled, “Understanding Standards,” I stated, “If a trait, feature, or characteristic is desirable, it should only be present in the proper measure.” As my wife was proofreading this, she reminded me of an Oscar Wilde quote, “Moderation is a fatal thing. Nothing succeeds like excess.” For those who are not familiar with the works of Oscar Wilde, he was an Irish novelist, poet and playwright, most known for his work, “The Importance of Being Earnest.”

To the point, Wilde was indeed correct. There is, of course, always the ever-present danger that a breeder might be prone to exaggerate some feature of their stock to display more of a breed trait or characteristic. The breeder will, naturally, want to get this animal into the show ring as soon as possible, but only under the right judges. The man or woman judging at one of the big prestigious shows or at a National Specialty could go down the line selecting dogs which, in some characteristic, vary from what has been winning. It is, then, most understandable when their owner bursts out with advertising spreads, then more breeders respond, and a new “type” is launched.

Changes Coming From Within

Sometimes, the loss of a competitive advantage occurs as a result of changes taking place within us. These changes can, if left unattended, have a great impact on a person’s ability and desire to compete and win. These changes can be something direct with a rapid onset or they can be more subtle and slow. More often than not, people change in ways that are seemingly imperceptible, and this has an influence on their competitive edge as well.

These changes can be physical, mental or emotional. Physical changes are more readily noticeable. We see them, for example, when the fine lines we first see in our forties are often well-developed wrinkles in our sixties. The physical changes in our bodies become much less positive because, over time, we begin to feel them.

Psychological and emotional changes may also take place. Changes that are most likely to have a negative impact on maintaining your competitive edge are likely to be the result of something like problems at work, marital strife, children growing up and leaving home, the sudden loss of a child or sibling, or the mounting health concerns or death of a person’s parents.

No matter what the internal changes happen to be, continuing to live each day positively is one of the best ways to weather the storm. Another way is to stay connected, with family and friends, with members of your all-breed or specialty club, and with breed colleagues. Try not to make changes unless you know the change is something that will benefit you and help maintain your competitive advantage.

Warning Signs Of Burnout

Breeders and exhibitors who have a strong drive for success, a passion for their breed, or who set perfectionist standards for themselves are the most susceptible and often the hardest hit. If we combine that with a lack of attention to self-care, one can soon find himself or herself without the energy or interest to keep up the pace. If left unchecked, burnout can pose serious physical and mental health concerns. The following are ten warning signs of burnout that may help indicate we are on a path leading to burnout and need to make the necessary changes to
Loss Of Enjoyment

Probably, the most defining characteristic of burnout for an exhibitor is the loss of pleasure received from participating in our sport and, if not treated, enjoyment may be lost in all aspects of life. If we reach burnout, we will cease feeling excited in our preparation for a show and even the fun felt when receiving a big win. If we lose our enthusiasm and passion for the sport, the sport becomes more of a chore for us and feels like something we “have to do” rather than something we really want to do. This will likely be seen in our approach to preparing for a show. When we near burnout, we are no longer excited about dog shows. Instead we feel a sense of dread about having to go to another show and while we are at the show our mind will be filled with thoughts of “when will all of this be over.”

Loss Of Purpose

The closer an exhibitor gets burnout, the more he or she will find themselves asking questions like, “why am I doing all of this?” and “what is the point?” We might experience difficulty in finding meaning in continuing to exercise our dog for optimum weight and fitness, to maintain his closely adhered to schedule for coat care, and all of the things we once did to maintain our competitive advantage. It is as if we have lost touch with our long-established goals, and even those elements of the sport that attracted us to it and once ignited our passion.

Difficulty Focusing

An exhibitor who is struggling with the emotions associated with burnout will experience difficulty maintaining focus, and many people find the sudden loss of concentration to be quite frustrating. Whether preparing for a show or at a show, one may find himself or herself, mentally, all over the place, and will likely perform at a much lower level. This is because one’s concentration is continually being interrupted by nagging thoughts of wanting to be anywhere other than a dog show.

Physical Fatigue

It is one thing to feel a bit fatigued due to a sleepless night, but quite another thing to become fatigued at the mere mention of dogs and dog shows. If this sounds familiar, you could be well on your way to becoming burned out. Exhibitors who are well on the way to becoming burnout seem to feel tired almost all of the time. They go to bed exhausted and they lack any feeling of being refreshed the following morning when they wake up. Because they continuously overwork both mind and body, they never allow for themselves to completely regenerate. A person can carry a base level of exhaustion that consistently interferes with show preparation, competing at dog shows, and day-to-day living. Despite being in good physical condition, the person suffering from burnout consistently complains about a lack of energy and limited endurance.

Health Issues

The onset of burnout can also have a debilitating effect on our physical health. Exhibitors could expect to experience general muscle aches and back pain. Also common are gastrointestinal issues, fluctuations in weight and a significant lowering of the immune system. Sadly, if burnout reaches this phase, the only thing a person can really do is “stop.” If we do not attend to these physical symptoms, they will likely get worse and nonaction would be inviting more serious health concerns in the immediate future.

Mental Health

I am sure it is not surprising to anyone that burnout and depression are strongly related to each other. The generally accepted difference between burnout and a diagnosis of depression is in the remedy. If an exhibitor is challenged with depression due to burnout, the key would be to minimize or eliminate the cause of burnout. If one is suffering from depression and burnout is not a factor, there may be a wide range of causes. Seeking the support of an experienced professional is a great way to determine an appropriate course of action.

It is important to understand that we are more susceptible to the changes coming from within when we are driven to excel. The key to avoiding this is to develop a self-care routine that includes time for rest, recuperation and recreation. This might be as simple as taking a long, hot bubble bath a couple nights a week (works for my wife) or a nice, long three-day weekend away (also works for my wife) but, no matter what you choose that
Change is inevitable, and in the sport of purebred dogs it sometimes feels as though it is changing faster than ever. Staying with what has worked for you in the past simply isn’t going to cut it anymore, especially if you are seeing a decline in your win-loss ratio. You need to stay vigilant to keep ahead of the curve and protect your competitive advantage.

Reprinted from the September, 2020 issue of Canine Chronicle

is best for you, taking regular breaks in your schedule to do something special for you can truly be the number one preventative for burnout.

Takeaway Message

Finding and holding a competitive edge originates in the desire to excel and win. Winning is better than losing, and I make no apologies for saying it; but make no mistake, our passion for the sport and our drive to achieve cannot be allowed to override the need for self-care.

GEORGE ALSTON - LIVING A DREAM TO BE THE BEST
JOAN HARRIGAN

If you’ve seen the movie “Best in Show,” you may remember the handler who was really showing himself—not his Shih Tzu. Iconic handler George Alston would have no patience with this type of handler, and probably doesn’t think much of being called an ‘icon.’ “When people say ‘I went Best in Show’ that’s b.s.,” he says. “You didn’t—you dog did!” Alston accomplished much in his handling career, but he’s emphatic that there are only two things he ever won himself. In a way, they are the bookends of his career: Best Junior at Westminster in 1954 when he was 14 and his election to the Professional Handler Association Hall of Fame in 2012.

George Alston grew up on a farm in what is now Reston, Virginia where his family raised purebred Boxers. From birth, he only had sight in his right eye. “My father wanted to keep me out of contact sports, so he introduced me to showing dogs,” Alston recalls. At eight, he showed his first dog, a neighbor’s Standard Poodle; six years later, he won juniors at Westminster with his family’s house dog, a Boxer named Boomer. Ch. Barmere’s Talisman had been purchased from Barmere Kennels in California and was the first champion offspring of his illustrious sire, Ch. Bang Away Of Sirrah Crest.

Ch Barrage Of Quality Hill. At Foley’s benched shows, the young Alston was a ring runner. “We’d get paid $5 plus a catalog to run back and forth to the benching area to let people know their dogs were due in the ring,” he says. “Then, I’d sell the catalog for 50 cents or a buck—it paid my entry fees in juniors.”

SCHOLARSHIPS - OR LEARNING TO MAKE A CAREER IN DOGS?

When it came time for Alston to decide his future—college or a career in dogs—his father may have regretted facilitating his son’s introduction to the fancy. “My father disowned me,” Alston says. “I had merit scholarships and swimming scholarships to Yale, Harvard, Cornell, the University of Pennsylvania, and Indiana University—I turned them all down.” Instead, Alston
“Phil was considered to be the ‘king of hand stripping,’” Alston says. “On a terrier, he could have six coats working at the same time—the most I could do on an Irish Setter was four.” Alston took what he learned from Prentice and applied it to his sporting dogs. “It’s a lost art now,” Alston says. “There are probably only about four handlers who still do it.”

In training his own assistants, Alston used Trainor’s approach. “I would show them the basics, and then let them achieve their own styles,” he says. “I would guide and nudge them, but without them realizing I was doing it. Too many people try to thrust their thoughts on others—that’s no way to teach.” He laments the state of dog showing today, where the entries in each breed tend to look the same, regardless of the handler.

“Today, every Irish Setter looks the same,” he says. “Back then, you could see specials in the ring with Dick Cooper, Horace Hollands, Jane Forsyth, Tommy Glassford, Tom Tobin, Bobby Barlow, and me—no two would be trimmed or shown exactly the same, yet all were successful.” And, Alston notes, “we all competed but we also appreciated each other’s abilities.”

“MY GOAL WAS TO BE THE BEST”

During his career, Alston was best known for his sporting dogs, but in fact, he was a true all-breed handler, showing dogs in every group. He married twice and had two sons and a daughter with his first wife, Patty Lapinski, and one daughter with his second, Mary Ann. He met Mary Ann for the first time in the Irish Setter ring at Westminster, where they competed. “She beat me,” he recalls. Mary Ann had also been one of Bill Trainor’s assistants, but she taught school in New Jersey. In 1970, Alston married her and headed to Pasadena, Maryland “with a month’s rent on a kennel and $10 in my pocket.” Mary Ann spent weekdays in New Jersey, living with her mother and teaching third grade and weekends helping her husband turn two long buildings on their rental property into kennels—one for boarders and one for show dogs. They built every run themselves, and since he only had a few clients in the beginning, Alston also worked seven nights a week as a night auditor for a Holiday Inn.

After two years of hard work, Fieldstone Kennels was operating in the black. It had been built to Alston’s exacting specifications—with box kennels, that required dogs to be walked or carried out to the runs.

“Bill Trainor gave me the greatest gift,” Alston says. “He allowed me to have my own style, even when it differed from his own.” Trainor always showed his dogs on a tight lead; Alston favored a loose lead most of the time. And, Alston had learned to hand strip sporting dogs rather than scissoring them—something that Trainor never did himself. Alston learned to roll coats from terrier handler Phil Prentice, who had shown the Scottie Ch. Walsing Winning Trick of Edgerstoune to a Westminster BIS in 1950.
“I wanted people to have their hands on the dogs, so there were no sliding doors to the runs,” he explains. The runs themselves were 28 feet long and set under large maple trees for shade. “Any shorter than 28 feet, and dogs would bounce off the ends,” Alston says. “Longer than 28 feet, they’d gallop rather than trot.” Runs were either three or eight feet wide—for dogs with short or long tails—so that they wouldn’t bang their tails while exercising.

At Fieldstone, Mary Ann Alston bred Gordon Setters, but the Alstons always used other handlers for their own dogs, rather than compete against their clients. They helped with their clients’ breeding programs, often doing the breedings, raising the litters, and assisting in the evaluation of the offspring. Some of these clients had very large kennels of their own—operations that have largely disappeared today.

“I showed for Mrs. W.W. Clark, who had 40 or 50 Gordons at her farm in Virginia,” he says. “Ted Eldredge had 50 or 60 Irish Setters. Today all the big breeders are gone. It’s a shame, but it’s the AKC’s fault—they’ve chased them away with too many dog shows, diluting the quality of breeds, judging, and handling. It used to take 36 Irish Setters for a major. Breeders prided themselves on producing champions. Now, it’s possible to finish anything.”

NEW AVENUES TO EXPLORE

In 1986, Alston began to look for other ways to be involved in the sport. He began to lose the sight of his only functional eye, and despite this, continued to handle dogs for two years while legally blind. He couldn’t drive or trim, but if his wife walked him around the ring beforehand, he could navigate it with his dog. To stack a dog, he reached down to feel the feet. Alston remembers winning the Irish Setter National in Oakland and not realizing the judge was pointing to him until he heard “young man, do you want to win?”

The problem was a combination of a cataract and detached retina. Multiple surgeries at Johns Hopkins ultimately gave him 20/10 vision in his right eye. Alston wrote a book, “The Winning Edge,” with Connie Vanacore which was based on his seminars and applied sports psychology to showing dogs. “We all had a laugh when Jane Firestone presented Jimmy Moses with a copy I’d inscribed to him, “Alston says. “I’d written ‘I hope this helps you, Jimmy’ and signed it.”

Alston could see well enough to read a computer screen, and another outlet occurred to him. He considered the existing kennel management programs to have been “written by nerds with no knowledge.” So, he bought a how-to book on programming and a large magnifying glass. He learned to program in DOS and wrote his own management software. A friend suggested marketing it, and after a friend, Sandy Jones, volunteered to write the manual, he went to four kennels and the Maryland School of Dog Grooming and made his first sales. Three years later, “Canine Coordinator” by K9Bytes Software had 90% of the market. He added programs for judges and professional handlers, and one for juniors that he made available at no charge. When Windows replaced DOS, he sold the copyrights and patents to a firm who recreated the programs in the new operating system.

Seminars formed another important part of this phase of Alston’s career. He had conducted his first, for juniors, when he was 14 right after his WKC juniors win. As an adult, he volunteered to do handling seminars to benefit the Maryland Sporting Dog Association, of which he was a founder, as well as 4-H clubs. “I really didn’t do seminars to make money until after I retired from handling,” he says. At his busiest, he did as many as 25 a year—in Canada, Bermuda, and Hawaii, as well as the continental U.S. Through these seminars, as well as the guidance he gave the assistants he employed through the years, Alston feels that he’s made his greatest contributions to the sport. He may not have won BIS at Westminster—though he certainly won groups there—but multiple handlers he worked with have achieved this honor and many more have won groups at the Garden.

“I’ve had people ask me to go back to handling,” he says. “But when I quit at 52, I was on top.” Two years after he retired, Alston was offered $100,000 per year plus expenses and a motorhome to show a Borzoi. “I said ‘no,’” he says. “I told the person that no matter how good I could be, I would never be as good as you thought I was. Too many sports figures come back past their prime, and they are never as great as

Facebook Video of Will Alexander Interviewing His Mentor George Alston
HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECANINECHRONICLE/VIDEOS/694686887924100
they were.”

Alston tells a poignant story of watching another great sporting dog handler in the ring near the end of a long career. “A kid standing next to me said ‘so that’s the great _, what’s so great about him?’” Alston says. “Well the ‘kid’ was six feet tall, but I slammed him up against a column and said, ‘you can’t pick up poop in his run.’” After Alston’s eye issues, as well as the host of orthopedic problems that come with the job, his last all-breed show was the Delaware (Pa.) County Kennel Club show—the same show at which he had his first all-breed junior handling victory. “I showed 10 or 12 dogs that day,” Alson says. “None of them came from a client who had been with us for fewer than eight years.” Fittingly, the Irish Setter he showed to BIS at that last show was owned by Sandy Jones and Caroline Warner, who had been his first client.

“THE WIND BENEATH HER WINGS”

Now, Alston is content to be “the wind beneath Mary Ann’s wings” as she travels for judging assignments. For many years, he says, she did the same for him. They live in Ocean Pines, Maryland with a Doberman born on April 15 from 30-year-old frozen semen. Her name is “Elsa”—SmackDab’s Frozen Asset. They also have a Border Terrier, who joined the family shortly after Alston had bypass surgery. He says, “Last spring, I put the dogs out into the yard, and they found a possum. Fred, the Border, beat the hell out of the possum, but Elsa just stood by.”

Ask George Alston what he thinks about the state of the sport today, and he speaks frankly: too many shows have led to smaller entries with fewer quality dogs. Some that win BOB are truly pets,” Alston says. And, the pool of judges has been similarly diluted— too many “generic judges” who are not really knowledgeable about the breeds they are approved to judge. As for the handlers, Alston is displeased with the state of their educational process. It takes years to learn this craft he says, pointing to some of his students who did it the right way—Angela Lloyd (“she started with me at 8 or 9 with a Corgi”), Will Alexander, Dougie Holloway, and Alston’s daughter, Jane Myers—all with Westminster BIS wins to their credit. This is by no means a complete list of the individuals who have worked with Alston and whom he mentored: Liz Muthard, who is now an all-breed judge; Alston’s younger daughter, Jenn Pahl, who took BIS with a Pointer; Andrew Doyle, and David White—two very successful professional handlers who have tragically passed away.

If there were fewer shows, Alston argues, the competition would be better, and this would encourage more good handlers, who do more than care for a client’s dog and pilot it around the ring. Alston believes that handlers should teach their clients, as well as their assistants: helping with breeding programs as well as giving lessons on manners and deportment when necessary. “I’ve fired many a client who could not accept a second in Group at the Garden,” he says.

And Alston doesn’t like the thought of show dogs living week after week in crates in a motorhome or van. “I made it a point to be home after each weekend’s shows,” he says. “The dogs had a few days to run and exercise before going out again.” Too many shows and too many clusters keep handlers on the road for weeks— not an ideal living situation for dog or handler.

As for mentorship—the means of passing knowledge from one generation to another—“the process is all wrong today,” Alston concludes. “You used to learn at bench shows, but they’ve stopped most of them. People go to a National Specialty to learn about a breed, but they don’t—they learn one person’s opinion of a breed.”

True mentorship doesn’t happen in an hour at a dog show, he says. “People go home thinking, ‘oh, I was mentored.’ But a mentorship doesn’t really develop until there’s been a five-year relationship. And a mentor doesn’t tell you what to think—he guides you.”

George Alston’s passion for the sport and for teaching certainly hasn’t waned over the decades. Tell him that as an amateur you “can’t” compete with professional handlers, and he quickly sets you straight. “I told my assistants—and my children—never to say ‘can’t’”, he says with emphasis. “Can’t really means ‘won’t.’” He knows the sport of purebred dogs from every angle, and rather than reminiscing about his dogs’ (not his!) successes in the ring, he’d rather talk about the importance of guiding and mentoring the next generations. Throughout his career, he has tried to learn all he could, and teach it, without trying to produce handlers who were clones of himself. This was his dream—to be the best and to teach what he’d learned—and it’s likely that these students are now doing the same.

Reprinted from Canine Chronicle, February, 2020 issue
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THE ROARING 20s
AT MONTGOMERY

Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021
Bring your flapper!
Dyna & Roy
A “Dyna-Mite” Team

#1 Owner-Handled Wheaten

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“Start June in St. Louis” Cluster - Mississippi Valley Kennel Club

Closing Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Thursday, Gateway Terrier Association: Mrs. Delores Burkholder
Saturday, Mississippi Valley Kennel Club: Mr. David Kirkland
Sunday, Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club: Ms. Linda Reece
Monday, Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club: Mr. William deVilleneuve

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- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater St. Louis, in Memory of Carol Carlson
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Tampa Bay, In Memory of Mia' bred and owned by Kathi Elliott, and on behalf of the SCWTCGB
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California

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- Network for Good, Facebook Fundraiser organized Anonymously & included 15 donors
- Network for Good, Facebook Fundraiser organized Anonymously & included 11 donors
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SCWT Breeder Tributes

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- Ballinyoung Wheatens  Eileen Collins,
- Derryhumma Wheatens  Michelle Wilcox, In Honor of our breeder extraordinaire Robyn Alexander Derryhumma Wheatens who gave us the joy of ‘Macky,’ ‘Diva,’ ‘Dweezil’ & ‘Lena’
- Edgewood Wheatens  Carl McGill:
  Sandra Bai, In Memory of Edgewood Wheatens
  Jan Johns and Daniel Hoffacker, In Memory of ‘Mollie’ (Edgewood Rogue)
  Caroline Lange
  Aubrey & David Lipscomb, In Memory of Edgewood Wheatens
  Gopa Raychaudhuri and Tod Merkel, In Memory of ‘Redwood’
  Maria Scaler and Byron Schwind, In Memory of ‘Finnegan’
  Craig Stevens, In Memory of ‘Neely’ Stevens
  Alyssa Verbalis, In Memory of ‘Naiya’
  Shannon & Michael White, In Honor of Edgewood Wheatens
- Pitterpat Wheatens  Laurie Gomer, On Behalf of ‘Willett the Wheaten’ — Sam Cook on the Radio (Sheryl Beitch’s Pitterpat Litter) & Mon (Laurie Gomer) — thanks for the amazing website feature
- Vermillion Wheatens  Roxanna Springer, In Honor of Bandon x Piper Vermillion Wheatens litter of 5 puppies (3f, 2m) born 31 October 2020

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- (CH Bonney Touch of Reality)
- Robyn Alexander, In Memory of ‘Izzy’
- (CH Eureka Pin-Up Girl)
- Robyn Alexander, In Memory of ‘Omis’
- (CH Eureka Elevator Man)
- Ronda Allen, In Memory of Dave Kondur’s ‘Mischka’
- Bob & Elaine Azerolo, In Memory of
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- Bob & Elaine Azerolo, In Memory of ‘Anna’
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- Karen Gomer, In Memory of our girl ‘Chooee’
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- Lori Hershberger, In Honor of San Jeffries
- David Hickman
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- Cindy Jansen
- San Jeffries, In Honor of Chrissy Bristow and Bav Howes supporting my Wheaten books give-away fundraiser
- Gail Johnston
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- Helen J. Knopf, In Memory of Angus
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- Rose Lawrie, In Memory of ‘MeMe,’ CH Marquess's Party Girl
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- Kathleen Lesbiel
- Maureen Loftus, For 'Toby'
- Pam Mandeville and the Johnson & Johnson Matching Gift Program
- Evelyn McAdams and the McAdams Family Foundation
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- Barbara Penney, In Memory of Carol Carlson
- Cindy Pierson, In Memory of Dozer
- Janet Revis
- Linda Robison, In Honor of Emily Holden
- Sandra Ross
- Meg Ryan, Thanks to the Endowment for all you do
- Steve & Susan Sakauye, In Memory of Carol Carlson
- Roberta Salmon
- Cheryl Satherley, In thanks to San Jeffries’s yearbooks give-a-way
- Deborah Scurr
- Christine P. Shields, In Memory of ‘Murphy,’ In Honor of ‘Bobby,’ Most loving dogs ever
- Sam Simkins, In Memory of ‘Hudson,’ aka ‘Babycakes!’ You brought us so much love every single day!
- Sally Sotirovich, In Honor of Dr. Sue Ann Lesser
- Roxanna Springer, In loving Memory and In Honor of Carol Carlson
- Mark & Dorice Stancher, In Memory of Lisa Jaye Shore's 'Rusty'
- Mark & Dorice Stancher, In Memory of 'Krista’ and ‘Charly
- Elizabeth Stonehouse
- Carolyn Stracker, For ‘Katie,’ always in my heart
- Carolyn Stracker, In Memory of Carol Carlson
- Greg Soukup and MJ Carr, In Memory of Michael De Carlo
- Gerard Thompson
- The Benevolence Community Impact Fund
- Peter & Carol Tierney, In Memory of Duffy Tierney
- Deborah A. Tomczyk, In Memory of ‘Clancy’ & ‘Winston’ Tomczyk
- Marcel Tremblay
- Roenn Tsakalas
- Toni Vincent, In Memory of K. Carol Carlson
- Laura Virant, In Remembrance of our lovely ‘Sophie’ who passed in 2019
- Jari Voyles
- Sharol Candace Way
- Mike Will
- Karen & Ken Wood, In Memory of ‘Celtie’ (Raelyn Hugs ‘N Wishes, CGC) and ‘Doogan’ (Kaylynn’s Undaunted Doogan, CGC)
- Zavelion Yan
- Elena Yarritu

Thank You To All!

To make your tax deductible gift, please visit our web site: www.wheatenhealthendowment.org
June Benchmarks Will Highlight SCWTCA STUD DOGS

DETAILS:
❖ The June issue of Benchmarks will have an entire section devoted to stud dogs.
❖ Available to members of the SCWTCA and/or local affiliate clubs
❖ Full participation in the SCWT Database (all data complete) is a PREREQUISITE
❖ Listing details will include:
  Reg. Name        Sire
  Call Name        Dam
  SCWTDB #         Availability for breeding
  Reg #            Owners
  DOB              Stud inquiries contact
❖ Contact Holly Craig for page reservation
❖ Helen Fraguela will work with layouts

FOR LIVING DOGS
❖ Each dog will have full color page. One large photo and one text inset (max 50 words) describing attributes.
❖ Cost per page $75.00

DO YOU HAVE FROZEN SPERM FROM A DECEASED DOG? PLEASE PARTICIPATE:
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BECOMING A TOP BREEDER
AN INTERVIEW WITH ELENA LANDA

When your earliest memories center around sitting in a kennel grooming room listening to stories about dog shows. When another of those earliest memories is that you showed a Bouvier for your parents but had to move under the dog to place the legs because you weren’t tall enough to reach over the dog, it is no surprise that you would become breeder and exhibitor of many of the top winning Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, your chosen breed.

Elena’s show training came from some of the great handlers. She sat and watched at dog shows, soaking up all she could from any handler showing any breed, while holding the AKC Book of Dogs on her lap. Watching Jane Anderson and Pat Hastings was particularly memorable but her greatest mentor was a Smooth Fox Terrier breeder and professional handler, Billy Lou Robinson, from her area. She learned more from the bad handlers than she did from the good. Her life revolved around the kennel and breeders or handlers who would take her to shows.

Elena’s parents showed dogs from the time she remembered and had gained enough status in the game that they were also writing a dog column for the Seattle Times. Authors would send books hoping that the Landas would review them. Elena would look at the books but none interested her enough to read through. One day Maureen Holmes’ first book came to her parents and Elena read it from beginning to end. That is when she chose the Soft Coated Wheaten as her personal breed. At the time she didn’t have breeders in her area who showed Wheaten so she looked at the advertising in Dog News. It was there that she found Legendary Kennels on Long Island. Elena did not want to co-own. The breeder insisted that the dog never sleep on the bed.

Legendary Baby Snooks traveled to Seattle at 10 weeks of age. The puppy slept on the bed every night and never once had an accident in the house. After a month Elena’s family were upset that she had still not come up with an appropriate name for this ball of fuzz. One day the pup couldn’t close her mouth properly and upon investigation, Elena discovered a long lost puzzle piece lodged in her mouth. She lost the puzzle piece but gained a name. Puzzle was and is Elena’s heart dog.

They traveled together as Puzzle earned titles. CH Legendary Baby Snooks CD CDX AMCANTDX still wanted to work at 12. Elena took her along with another of her dogs to a training center and Puzzle flew over the challenges while Elena feared for her safety. Elena bred Puzzle to CH Marima’s Classical Jazz and experienced the shock that many breeders experienced years ago. The first puppy was black and she was too embarrassed to ask his owner if there could have been a mistake. Maureen Holmes book helped her sort that out. Puzzle would outsmart visitors by pretending to limp when people drove into the kennel. She got the sympathy pats and returned to normal as soon as they left. Puzzle lived to be 17.

When asked which female has been her favorite to have bred and to have shown, she was stuck. Her answers should encourage Wheaten owners to be very sensitive to their dogs. Charlie taught Elena to listen to her instincts, to let go, and let her do it the right way. Jolie housebroke herself but more importantly she was Elena’s company during a very difficult time when Elena suffered with a ruptured disk. Jolie has predicted every time that Elena’s back is going to cause problems and has saved Elena from very extensive back surgery. Elena listens to her dogs and knows their signals.

Her favorite male was a Wheaten named Dash. While showing him as a youngster in Canada, he slipped his lead and ran into the ring stacking on his own and won BOB.
He was a class dog but that day he won the breed over a strong group of Specials. Elena said he posed every time he saw anyone with a camera.

Elena has shown in a lot of states but would really like to spend time showing in New England. Maybe, after Covid19. Meanwhile she will exhibit in states that allow. Mister loves to show. She knew at four weeks that he was staying. That is when she puts pups outside for the first time and Mister stood there telling her that he is the one. When he was just shy of 6 months Elena and he did a road trip across country to observe at the National Specialty in Pennsylvania. He was a hit with exhibitors and most were happy that he was too young to show. They proceeded to visit Maine. At one point Elena was walking him in a rest area and a man seemed to be stalking them. At that young age he stood ground between the man and Elena. It turned out to be an innocent situation but it was great to know that he had that instinct. He watches over Elena and he is much like Charlie. Mister knows the best way to show himself. Elena just holds the lead.

Mister’s Point of View:

When asked who he loves best, of course he replied that Elena is number one, but Jim and Sue Little are right up there. It bothers him a bit that Elena doesn’t think that he is too smart, but she does give him lots of credit for instinct. Being ranked in the top ten terriers is nice, but Mister thinks he should be number one. He has a huge ego!

He lives to be in the show ring. If he isn’t showing he does enjoy chasing birds in the sky and he is really good at chasing away thunder. One day he stopped suddenly and later they learned that a tornado had struck nearby at that time. He has a puppy named Thunder in honor of his unique ability.

Mister loves puppies. He enjoys playing with them and he is a proud dad. But most of all, he loves being a show dog and it shows!
SUCCEEDING IN SCENT WORK
Sue Peters

Scent Work for the Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier is a great bonding experience for you and your dog and is one of the easiest performance events to trial in. The dog tries to find a hidden scent in one of four elements (Container, Interior, Exterior and Buried) for the AKC trials.

To train for Scent Work you can start out with a simple cardboard box and a small treat. The treat will be hidden in the box and when your dog recognizes there is a treat in the box he will probably try to paw at it. When he does you can open the box and give him the treat and praise him. You continue to practice this by adding more boxes and putting them around furniture, pieces of equipment, etc. When you feel he has gotten the idea of what he is looking for, you can add other boxes putting them in rows, maybe three rows, a circle, an L shape, a square and see if he can find the correct box with the treat inside. This particular element is called Containers and can include anything that can hold a scent (i.e., I have seen luggage, backpacks, totes, cosmetic cases, shoeboxes, etc.)

Once he has mastered this you can move onto an actual scent. The first scent in Novice Scent Work is Birch. There are various websites you can find to purchase the Birch and other scents you will eventually need (Clove, Anise and Cypress). The scents can be put on a q-tip and put in a tin with holes on top, a small glass jar with holes in the cap or a scent vessel - anything that can fit a q-tip that has the Birch scent on it. Once he/she finds the scent his reward is a treat and a lot of praise.

In training for the element Interior, the dog will have to find the scent on, under or above a piece of furniture, equipment, a book shelf, a locker door, inside a drape, etc. Again, the Birch scent can be hidden almost anywhere in a room and be hidden with a maximum height of 24" for the Novice level. It must be accessible for the dog. The search area must be between 100-200 feet. Again, you will use the odor and when your dog alerts, that you will be your clue to treat and praise your dog.

In the Exterior element the target odor is placed outside in an area of 200-400 ft. and cannot be any higher than 2 feet and must be accessible. You can use toys, play equipment, bikes, trees, plants, bushes etc., anywhere you can plant the odor in the outdoors. Again, you will use your target odor hidden and let your dog find the odor and reward him with his treat and praise.

The final element, Buried, also has containers set in rows. The clear, Tupperware-like containers will have water and/or sand in them and your target odor is in the container.
The containers will be placed in a formation and it is the dog’s job to find the odor.

When training your dog for Scent Work some individuals may train their dog to sit or lie down when he/she finds the targeted odor. Other Scent Work dogs may just indicate by looking up at you, to signify they have found the correct odor. The nice part about Scent Work is the dog gets rewarded as soon as he/she finds the odor so it is an automatic treat and praise. This is even true when you are trialing.

Once you have mastered these elements with your Birch scent you can move onto the other scents. When starting to trial in Scent Work, you have various classes Novice, Advanced, Excellent, Master and Detective. In each of these classes you will have your dog on leash, unless the judge indicates you can take your dog off leash. You will get an opportunity to see the search area, without your dog, prior to the trial starting. When you do start, you will walk the search area with your dog to find the scent in each of the different elements. You may want to trial in just one element at a time. When trialing, once he finds the odor you must say “Alert”. You generally have 1-3 minutes in Novice, and the time limit increases as you move up to the higher levels because you have more than one odor to find in which case you must indicate “Alert” for each odor found, and when you are done you must indicate by saying “Finish.”

There is also another part of Scent Work called Handler Discrimination in which the target scent is the handler’s own scent rather than the oil odor. To train for this division you must provide a scented article for instance, a glove, sock etc. with your own scent on it. The article is to be sealed in a plastic bag and the steward will hide your article in a container search area for the Novice level.

The way to scent your article is by rubbing the article on your body or storing it in with dirty laundry. The judge will have his/her own scented article placed in the search area as well, and the hide steward will take your plastic bag and remove the scented article while you are behind a partition whereupon the judge will tell the steward where to put the hide. This is great “detective” work as your dog must find only your scent. If he finds the judge’s scent it is an automatic failure.

Scent Work is an easy and fun performance event for a Wheaten who enjoys using his nose to play “hide and seek.” As you have probably seen on tv dogs are now being trained to find the covid-19 scent on people who are attending sports events. I am sure you have also seen Scent Work dogs finding people after earthquakes, so it is becoming a very important area for search and rescue. I hope everyone will give Scent Work a try with their Wheaten.

Fascinating fact: Dogs have a sense of smell that’s between 10,000 and 100,000 times more acute than ours! The sport of Scent Work celebrates the joy of sniffing, and asks a dog to sniff to their heart’s content; turning your dog’s favorite activity into a rewarding game. It is a terrific sport for all kinds of dogs, and is a wonderful way to build confidence in a shy dog.

In so many dog sports the handler is in control but this isn’t true in Scent Work. Neither the dog nor handler knows where the target odor is hidden. The handler has to rely on the dog, and follow the dog’s nose to success. In Scent Work, it is the canine who is the star of the show.

The sport of Scent Work is based on the work of professional detection dogs (such as drug dogs), employed by humans to detect a wide variety of scents and substances. In AKC Scent Work, dogs search for cotton swabs saturated with the essential oils of Birch, Anise, Clove, and Cypress. The cotton swabs are hidden out of sight in a pre-determined search area, and the dog has to find them. Teamwork is necessary: when the dog finds the scent, he has to communicate the find to the handler, who calls it out to the judge.
Bronze Level Breeder of Merit

Tom Neill, Lonestar Wheatens

AKC Breeder of Merit: Recognizing Breeder Success with New Levels

Despite the success of the program, we realized that there are those breeders whose accomplishments far exceed the basics required of a Breeder of Merit (BOM). To recognize these breeders, a new phase of the Breeder of Merit program was designed to highlight their achievements.

The Advanced Levels of Recognition were introduced in November 2017. The program implements levels based on the titled dogs a breeder has produced in the three AKC event areas. The new levels are not automatic, and the breeders must apply for them. The application verifies the BOM’s status and fulfillment of the program foundation of health testing and registration. Breeders are excited by the announcement of the new levels, which distinguish those that have put so much heart and soul into producing healthy, competitive dogs. We have so many successful Breeders of Merit; in the first months of the new program, nearly 100 BOMs have been promoted to the new levels.

In order to maintain the integrity of the Advanced Breeder of Merit Recognition, the health testing of sires and dams of litter is verified. This verification takes time; each breed has unique required health testing, and proof of testing is not recorded in one central location. As a result, the approval process for the Advanced Levels can take much longer than that of the base-level Breeder of Merit application.

The Breeder of Merit designation is increasingly recognized by the public as a level of the commitment to responsible dog breeding that they can expect when looking for an AKC registered puppy.

An Overview of the Advanced Levels of Recognition Requirements

Recognition is available to those that meet the following minimum standards:

Have qualified and enrolled as a Breeder of Merit
Can provide proof of Parent Club-required health testing on litters
Have met their commitment to ensure that all their

Breeder of Merit - Bronze
Minimum of 10 dogs earning titles with at least 5 earning prefix titles.

Breeder of Merit - Silver
Minimum of 25 dogs earning titles with a minimum of 15 being prefix titles.

Breeder of Merit - Gold
Minimum of 50 dogs earning titles with a minimum of 30 dogs having earned prefix titles.

Breeder of Merit - Platinum
Minimum of 100 dogs earning titles with a minimum of 60 having earned prefix titles.

Tom and Wendy Neill are the first and only Breeder of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers to qualify for the Bronze Breeder of Merit. This is their story:

Last June, I was with my new puppy at her first Puppy Kindergarten class. During introductions, I mentioned that she is a “show dog”. I am her breeder, eventual show handler, and that I am an AKC Breeder of Merit. The instructor mentioned that the AKC had created advanced levels in the BOM program. It was news to me, but I followed up on the tip later that week. I looked up the AKC qualifications and it looked like fun to see if I could qualify having been a Breeder of Merit since 2014. After my initial application was accepted, it took many weeks of effort to complete the process; identify those titled dogs that I had bred or co-bred, track down certain puppy owners to remind them that they had not, and needed to, register their dogs, and then locate, verify and submit health records for both my dams and for sires owned by other club members. It was late August when I learned that I had at last qualified as an AKC Breeder Of Merit Bronze level.
Looking back, Wendy and I began our journey in Wheatens in the mid 1980’s, having purchased our first Wheaten puppy from Joy Laylon. We finished our first Champion in April 1987. We were initially mentored by Joy Laylon until she moved to Arizona. Emily Holden took up that burden and helped steer us through both good times and bad. There have been many others who have been a source of support and encouragement over the years. We joined our local breed club in the late 1980’s, and were accepted as national club members in 1991.

Lonestar is a modest kennel, operating entirely out of our home. We may breed a single litter once each year, if we are able. Most, if not all, of our puppies are sold as companions, even the “show quality.” We do not require new owners to show their puppy as a requirement for purchase. We require love, responsible care and a clean environment, not an AKC title. We have kept only a very few puppies over the years and attend shows mostly in our local tri-state area. We do not attend the major national shows across the country nor do we campaign our dogs extensively or regularly use professional handlers. Only recently have we earned our only GCH and finished a young male at eleven months with a CH, CGC and a TKN.

After qualifying as an AKC Breeder Of Merit Bronze, I went looking to find all the many others that had reached this level or above. I did not find anyone else. I don’t know which surprised me the most - the fact that I was the first, or that there had not been any one else in Wheatens who had qualified. How could this be? The AKC’s advanced recognition program was launched in 2017. Why, to my limited knowledge, had no one else tried to qualify? Or had no one else been able to qualify? If my fellow club members have not yet applied to the AKC for advanced recognition, then I hope this article will educate, and encourage their participation in pursuing BOM advanced recognition. If prior applicants have been unable to qualify, for whatever reason, then I hope this article will encourage those club members to “up their game” renewing their efforts to complete the requirements for BOM advanced recognition.

The AKC initiated this opportunity to honor responsible breeders who had gone above and beyond on health issues, temperament, and genetic screening, as well as to the individual care and placement of puppies in responsible homes. The AKC Breeder of Merit Advanced Recognition Program gives breeders a way to continue to prove their dedication to preserving breed characteristics and producing healthy, well-socialized puppies. In my mind, these are also the core principals promoted by SCWTCA to which we all pledge our support. This is the essence of ensuring and maintaining a competitive edge as we promote the sport of purebred dogs.

Congratulations to Tom and Wendy on this exciting accomplishment and representing our breed! HLC
MICROPHTHALMIA  (A history from a Breeder’s Perspective)

HOW RBP4 WAS FOUND

A short history of my background in the breed: Kennel Geijes was founded in 1943 by my grandmother Eva Corander (1900-1980). She bred Airedale, Dachshund, Kerry blues and in 1963 she imported the first Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier to Scandinavia from Ireland.

Together with my sister Mia we continued breeding kennel Geijes, she Kerrys and I Wheatens. I had my first litter in 1986 my goal has never been to breed a large amount of dogs or choose combinations to get show dogs. I don’t remember a day without a wheaten in the house, here I am over 50 years later still the same lines running around me.

- That is perhaps the reason why, I personally, have never felt the need to hide any aspect of my breeding because I’ve always put the future of the breed first.
- It’s become my life’s work to preserve the breed for future generations to enjoy.

In the early 80s I was as a kennel girl 2 summers in Germany, I saw the beginning of all European Wheatens. I also heard the very first time that a litter had been born with blind puppies. I was told that there was just one puppy with normal eyes. It was speculated that the puppies had not been raised in the best environment. This healthy dog went on to have lovely healthy puppies. Since then I have had it in my mind what caused it!

My grandmother never mentioned anything about any eye diseases in Wheatens. Back then, we didn’t have the same resources as today.

About 10 years later in 1990’s a litter with abnormal eyes was born in Finland. I saw it alive for the first time. I will never forget the puppies running against me. They were as happy as all the others but it was heartbreaking to see them.

About the same time there were other litters in Europe. Again came the thoughts that what can it be. Many of us cooperated to try to figure out what the reason was. Was it collie eye, pesticides, what you put on fields? Rat poison, some sort of parasite, some incompatible medicine. Also some disease from cats was spoken! Checking pedigrees made no sense, they were so different.

There was no Google or other easy way to find out things by your own. But at my work we had a library with a lot of books about hereditary diseases where I spent a lot of time. My opinion was that it was hereditary and it was microphthalmia. But quite naturally few believed the same.

None of the veterinarians had a clue what it was, they were very interested to find out but unfortunately without result.
I decided back then that if this ever happened to me, I would not keep quiet about it, and I would do everything I could to find out what the reason behind it was.

I can tell you that waiting for the eyes to open in every litter was a nightmare and sleepless nights for me since that litter. Now, in retrospect, I know that I have had litters with high risk. But because I usually only have one litter per bitch, I’ve been lucky that none of the males have been carriers that I used with females that could have giving me sick puppies.

I also listened to the vets so I have had my litters eye tested before 9 weeks, unofficial but done. It showed later that this decided for the gene being found. May 21, 2011 my sick litter was born. This litter with 3+3 puppies made a huge change for me in many respects. My puppies in the litter were normal size. The litter was born with caesarean and I almost lost the bitch. First days were hellish. But finally all turned well for the bitch and the puppies. All puppies grew normally and everything looked well. I could have explained the abnormal eyes because of all troubles and medicine, but I knew it wasn’t the case. I had it in my whelping box for the first time. When the puppies were 3 weeks I went for the first time to the eye special vet. He thought I over reacted, the puppies will be great pet dogs. I breed pet/home dogs but they have to be healthy and of good quality. I said this is not normal. He said if you want to check come again when they are 6weeks.

No one who visited the puppies saw that something was wrong until I told them. That also tells how easy a very light version of this disease may have slipped past. I once visited a kennel with puppies and that breeder had no idea that the puppies had some eye problems. She was actually very angry at me telling such rubbish.

I knew when I left home when they were 6 weeks that I will just have 3 back home. Eye test showed that 3 were normal and 3 were almost or already blind with many eye problems mirophthalimia and coloboma. Why I didn’t keep the 3 was that I also knew that mirophthalimia can have other serious diseases on various organs. I discussed with the vet What to do that we don’t lose the genetic information from these sick puppies. I had heard about 20 litters at that time. 2011 the Lohi’s Canine genetic studies had just began in Helsinki. We took blood samples and they were sent to them. I personally contacted Lohi the next day with my story and actually got a response. I told them what I knew, and they became interested in the issue. There my regular contact with Lohi started for 7 years, first with researcher Saija Ahonen and then with researcher Maria Kaukonen. I’m sure I tried her patience when I kept contacting her whenever I found something indicative of the illness. I had done my own studies, often they were completely unofficial but at Lohi they believed in my statements because I was so open about all diseases and I had a long experience with the breed.

I’ve gathered pedigrees and managed to convince people to join the project. I’ve organized blood sample days. I’ve written dozens of emails, and played detective whenever I’ve found some interesting pictures. FB was a good place to look for them. It was not easy; I have heard the most different excuses why breeders couldn’t take part in it. I also heard that they were not interested to help me with my dogs and breeding. I contacted clubs and breeders in many countries, but they were uninterested.

During this project I received messages from Wheaten owners asking for advice, they believed their dog had it. I also received pedigrees and some pictures, and I was convinced that there were more cases like this. But, as in earlier cases, the breeders were refusing to believe that it is an inherited illness. In this time I already knew that the RBP4 gene was found. But it was top secret.
The 30 of May 2018 was release day for the research conducted by Canine Genetics Research Group at the University of Helsinki, Finland. The test was for the congenital eye disease mutation.

Samples from almost 300 Wheaten Terriers were included from around the world 20 affected puppies from four litters. Disease is caused by a mutation in the RBP4 gene and 22% of the tested Wheaten Terriers carried the mutation.

RBP4 encodes a protein that delivers vitamin A from the liver to other organs. During pregnancy, the mother's vitamin A is transported with the RBP through the placenta to the developing puppy. Because of this mutation the result is puppies suffer from lack of vitamin A, which is a well-known risk factor for developmental diseases. This cannot be cured by feeding vitamin A supplement, as the affected dogs do not have the crucial carrier protein to transfer dietary vitamin A.

NEW MATERNAL INHERITANCE MODEL

It was found that the disease shows only if both the dam and the puppy have two defective gene copies!

In other words were homozygous for the mutation. Inheritance is therefore autosomal recessive with special maternal effect.

This kind of maternal inheritance differs from the usual recessive mode of inheritance, in which the individual's own genes define its risk for hereditary diseases. If the dam was homozygous for the mutation and the puppy was a carrier, the puppies had increased risk for milder form of the disease (coloboma or choroidal hypoplasia), but they did not have microphthalmia and they were not blind.

Therefore, the dam's genes define whether the puppy will be affected and the puppy's own genes how severe the disease will be.

They tell us to do as following in our breeding program:

Because of the mode of inheritance, a homozygous dam should not be used for breeding, even if it was healthy in eye examination as its puppies would have increased risk for congenital eye disease. If the dog from this combination is genetically affected, but it is free of the eye disease, its dam has most probably been carrier of the mutation and not homozygous.

In this case the gene is found in our breed and we shall not leave out the carriers because that would reduce the gene pool even more. This has been my greatest achievement as a breeder. I’m sure I’ll never achieve anything like this again in my breeding career. With breeding dogs I helped to find out a gene to help the humanity and of course our own breed.

That it happens to be a disease with a new material inheritance model was extra exiting. I remember when Maria called me and said; tomorrow it will be published as a world success on the cover of an international journal.

I have made it possible to use carriers in breeding, I did not expect such a thank you that I got. The father of my sick litter was used in total secret short time after the gene was found. I have an agreement that I want to know if Geijes dogs are asked for breeding. I hope and suppose that every breeder wants to know who would like to use one’s breeding. My story is evidence that a breeder has information that cannot always be directly informed.

Aya Lundsten
Finland
Kennel Geijes

Visit the Dog Genetics Research group of Hannes Lohi
WHY IS MY WHEATEN LEAKING?

The following article is the second in a series looking at Ectopic Ureters in the female SCWT. Of note the data for this study was collected in 2011 and published in 2016 in The Journal of American Hospital Association 2016 Jan-Feb; 52(1): 27-35. The following comments are a synopsis of the study. The online version of this article available at www.jaaha.org contains supplementary data. I believe this is an important study for our breed in recognizing the prevalence of Urinary Incontinence, Ectopic Ureters and related anomalies associated with it in our female dogs. Following Benchmark articles will deal with diagnosing and treatment options.

ABSTRACT: Urinary Incontinence in Juvenile Female Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers: Hospital Prevalence and Anatomic Urogenital Anomalies

Jason Callard, DVM, Mary A McLaughlin, DVM, MS, DACVS, Julie K Byron, DVM, MS, DACVIM, Dennis J Chew, DVM, DACVIM

Urinary incontinence in juvenile female dogs is often associated with urogenital anatomic anomalies. Study objectives include: (1) determine hospital prevalence of urinary incontinence in juvenile female soft-coated wheaten terriers (SCWTs) compared to other affected dogs; (2) characterize anatomic anomalies affecting urinary incontinent juvenile female SCWTs utilizing uroendoscopy; and (3) compare incidence of ectopic ureters, parameonephric remnants, and short urethras in juvenile female urinary incontinent SCWTs to other juvenile female dogs with urinary incontinence. We hypothesize juvenile SCWTs have an increased prevalence of urinary incontinence and an increased incidence of ectopic ureters, parameonephric remnants, and short urethras compared to non-SCWTs with urinary incontinence within our hospital population. Medical records of female dogs 6 mo of age and younger with clinical signs of urinary incontinence and video uroendoscopic evaluation presenting to The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center from January 2000 to December 2011 were reviewed. Twelve juvenile SCWTs and 107 juvenile non-SCWTs met the inclusion criteria. Juvenile SCWTs were found to have an increased hospital prevalence of urinary incontinence compared to other affected breeds. Observed anomalies in SCWTs include: ectopic ureters, shortened urethras, parameonephric remnants, and bifid vaginas. This information will help guide veterinarians in recognizing a breed-related disorder of the lower urogenital tract in SCWTs.

Endoscopic view within the vestibule of a 5 mo old female soft coated wheaten terrier (SCWT) with urinary incontinence. View of the cingulum and opening to the cranial vaginal vault showing a complete vaginal septum creating a bifid (double) vagina (black arrow). The external urethral orifice appears normal and is located directly ventral to the vaginal opening.
The study looked at female SCWT under the age of 6 months with Urinary Incontinence with symptoms ranging from slight dampening of peri-vulver hair to constant leakage of urine. Some conditions associated with Urinary Incontinence included Ectopic Ureters, Sphincter incompetence, Pelvic Bladders and shortened Urethras. Anatomic anomalies such as tissue septum’s dividing the vagina and bifid (double) vaginas were also present. The study used several tests to identify these problems with the best being Uroendoscopy (evaluator is able to see directly into the bladder). In the study it proved that SCWT were identified as having an increased prevalence over other breeds studied.

**Conclusion**

1. There was an increased prevalence of urinary Incontinence with SCWT compared to other breeds.
2. Ectopic Ureters, sphincter incompetence and pelvic bladder were identified as causes.
3. Anatomic anomalies (Vaginal Septal defects, Bifid (double) Vaginas, shortened Urethras were associated with Urinary Incompetence

After reading this study it is apparent that health conscious breeders pay attention to this problem to find ways of identifying, treating and eventually discovering ways to decrease occurrence within our breed.

**KIDNEY ANATOMY**

**NORMAL KIDNEY**

The urinary tract of the dog consists of the kidneys, ureters, urinary bladder, and urethra. The kidneys play an important role in the regulation of the body’s water balance, electrolytes, and acid-base status. The kidneys are also involved in hormone metabolism and the elimination of toxins and wastes. Diseases of the urinary tract of puppies and kittens may be caused by congenital or acquired disorders.

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.

**ECTOPIE 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.
I was fortunate to grow up in a family where showing was a big part of our lives, both my parents bred and showed dogs, and a grandmother and grandaunt also. It was clear to me as a kid that people who were successful in dogs had a breeding program and the cornerstone of these breeding programs was a systematic way of objectively evaluating their litters. I soon learned rule number one, objectively evaluating litters is best done with your peers present, to prevent your emotions from overwhelming your objectivity.

What I saw growing up still hasn’t changed a great deal, between the ages of 8 and 9 weeks, (between 56 and 63 days of age), is the ideal age to evaluate puppies, regardless of breed. So, let’s have a puppy evaluation party. Invite experienced breeders, and those who wish to learn, and be mentored. This is not the place to have your families, who await their cherished companion, as they will feel very badly about their puppy’s deviations from the breed ideal.

Evaluations are always best done on a grooming table. Have your Wheaten puppies bathed, and trimmed, before the evaluation. Many people place a towel with the color corresponding to the collar’s color for each puppy. This helps when pictures are taken. An experienced evaluator who can articulate the structure of the puppy and relate this to function is essential.

Plan to let people feel what the evaluator is feeling and describing. The evaluator will likely swing the puppy holding the puppy firmly by the neck and under the butt. This will steady the pup on the table as the puppy seeks a firm footing. Allow the evaluator to stack the puppy in a four-square stack. Now will begin a systemic evaluation of the puppy. I recommend a designated recorder write down the evaluator’s comments, and at the end of each puppy’s evaluation a photographer should photograph the puppy from the side, from the front, and from the rear. This gives a written and photographic record for the puppies file and can be referred back to when the puppy matures.

The evaluator will examine the bite, looking for a very slight overbite in puppies at this age, as a scissors bite is desired in adult SCWT, the incisors should be in a straight line top and bottom (so the adult bite will not have the two central bottom adult incisors dropped, this will occur if the puppy’s bottom jaw has a convex curvature of the deciduous incisors). The placement of the deciduous canine teeth are such that they intersect cleanly, and the bottom deciduous canine teeth do not have the tips in the upper jaw gumline. (If the bottom canine teeth are digging into gumline, it is recommended a veterinarian clip them to allow the jaw to grow normally). Do not allow the veterinarian to extract any deciduous teeth, as this will disturb the growth of the adult teeth developing in the jaw. Check the gumline behind the canines, it should normally be level, if there are concave depressions, this shows a lack of developing adult premolars or molars, which can be confirmed by x-ray. Missing teeth are very serious faults in many breeds, adult dogs should have 42 adult teeth, a puppy will have normal puppy will have 28 deciduous teeth.

The evaluator will examine the nose, large is better in SCWT and a breed characteristic, and fully pigmented with black pigment, lips and eye rims should also have black pigment. Checking head proportions puzzle of equal length to the skull, with a notable stop, check
the growth plates in the corner of the eyes, bigger is better, as it indicates the muzzle will continue to develop to the desired length. Check if the growth plates are closed on the point where the lower jaw articulates with the skull, closed will mean the skull won’t widen out of proportion as the puppy matures. Check eye shape, an oval eye is desired, round eye, or Mongolian eyes are serious faults. Iris should be a dark brown almost black pigmentation. Ear size is measured relative to the eye, in a Wheaten where a small/medium ear is desired and large ears which are very undesirable, take the ear tip, if it comes to the outer corner of the eye, the ear is small, if the ear tip reaches the center of the eye, it is medium, ear tips reaching to the inner corner of the eye will be large. Check ear placement relative to the top of the skull, puppy ears should break just above the skull, as they mature the placement will be level to the skull, ears breaking at the skull, will drop further with maturity, ears below the top of the skull will descend further into a faulty hound like appearance in the adult.

Next the evaluator places their hand on the neck measuring length by number of fingers corresponding to the neck length, four fingers being typical neck length in a Wheaten this age. The evaluator should note the arch of neck if present. Next the evaluator locates the prosternum and the placement of the point of shoulders (the joint of shoulder blade, scapula, and upper arm, humerus) which should be set back relative to the prosternum, a forward set shoulder is less stable for movement. The evaluator should pick up a front leg so that the shoulder blade and upper arm move and this aids in the measurement of the length of both bones (they should be equal in a Wheaten) with a 90-degree angle between the bones being ideal. The shoulder blade should be laid back on the rib cage at a 45-degree angle from the perpendicular. If the neck is correctly set into the shoulder the neck to topline transition will feel smooth and flow. The withers are elevated due to the long boney processes on the thoracic vertebra. The evaluator can demonstrate with an imagined perpendicular line, drawn from the back of the tip of the shoulder blade, if the shoulders are correct, this line will pass through the puppy’s elbow. The evaluator will next pick the puppy up and using both hands feel the shape of the rib cage, looking for a Wheaten ideal of oval, a slap sided puppy will be too narrow as an adult and a barrel ribbed puppy will be too broad and bulldog like. When picking up the puppy the evaluator can judge substance, Wheatens should weigh more than expected in such compact bodies. As the puppy is returned to a stack on the table, note the front feet
pointing straight ahead being ideal, and the feet should be compact and catlike.

Next the evaluator measures the length of the rib cage (5 fingers typically) and the loin (3 fingers or less is ideal). The Wheaten is a compact terrier in part large due to the short-coupled loin. The length of body from point of shoulders to point of the hip bone should be the same length, as from the withers to the feet. This gives a characteristic square appearance. The evaluator will check the topline is level, a ridged topline in the transition from thoracic vertebra to the lumbar vertebra is a common Wheaten fault. The topline should be level to the tail-set. Tail should be freely carried at 12 o’clock ideally, high on the croup and the croup has a 15-20-degree slope. Measure how much shelf there is behind the tail relative to the point of the hip bone (1 or more fingers are ideal).

Now the evaluator will pick up a rear leg, ideally the femur is equal in length to the second thigh (tibia and fibula) and the top of the hock can be fit up to the butt. As the leg is lowered note if the Knee is central to the rear assembly. Short femurs, and excessively long second thigh are common Wheaten faults. Lastly look for short hocks relative to the rear assembly and note the hocks should be parallel and the feet pointing forward and placed just outside the hips giving the breadth in the rear.

The final step is to rank the puppies by sex, top male(s) and top female(s). Place the top picks back on the table. Compare the top picks to find the pick of the litter and rank them, who has the most show potential, and who can go as companions. You will find that there are very few differences in what the experienced people agree are the top picks. Now all that is left is to enjoy the food and beverages at the puppy party.

CH Rolfelan Oonagh, age 5, eight weeks after her first litter. In two litters she produced 2 Am CH, I Am and Aus CH and a Canadian CH
THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IN AGILITY

Mary Whiting and Rory

AGCH MACH5 Rory Red King Of The Links MXS2
PDS MJG2 PJS MFC TQX T2B7 THD CGCA TKP
has been my wonder dog! Rory is my first Soft
Coated Wheaten Terrier and my first agility dog!
Before getting Rory I watched the Westminster Agility
Championship on television and was envious of the
special bond between the dogs and handlers! I was
also intrigued when I saw Therapy dog teams. With
my love of volunteering I thought it would be fun!

Unfortunately, I was unaware of the importance of
researching whether or not health testing was done by
the breeders I contacted. I look at Rory as my lucky
charm. His breeder (Linda Sprague), who passed
away when Rory was two, was not renowned and
Rory does not come from champion lines but he sure
has been a blessing and my champion. When I chose
Linda it was evident she loved her dogs and she was
doing it for the right reason. Her home & dogs were
clean and loved. Before the litter was on the ground
I told her I wanted a female but ended up getting a
male! He was one of nine in his litter and he was what
some would call the runt. He was so tiny she said
many would have given up on him. She told me she
carried him around and syringe fed him to keep him
nourished. I would drive 2.5 hours every week after
the pups were born to visit them! It wasn’t long before
Rory & I chose each other! This was the beginning
of a very special bond. My breeder did a wonderful
job socializing Rory. He had been introduced to basic
commands, car rides, vacuums, and people. I brought
him home at 10 weeks old and taught him in a few
days to ring a bell to go out to potty. The best piece
of advice my breeder gave me was to always keep
training positive. I have found this to be the single
best piece of advice that I have carried throughout our
journey together whether we were working on basic
commands, tricks, therapy or agility.

I did a bunch of training on my own when Rory was
a baby and then we took a few obedience classes. I
remember Rory being antsy and getting bored much
of the time in class. He seemed to be more advanced
and there seemed to be a lot of down time. From this
I learned how important it is to keep him busy with a
task even if it was a simple one! I can remember some
instructors being turned off by his enthusiasm. He is
a very smart boy who always gives 110% no matter
what we are doing.

When Rory was six months old I took him to an AKC
show site that had the “My Dog Can Do That” event
that allows owners & dogs to be introduced to the
sport of agility. It was our turn and Rory had a great
time! He wasn’t afraid of anything and displayed his
typical enthusiasm on all obstacles he tried! The
trainer in charge said if I continued with agility Rory
would be going to Orlando in the future! I of course
didn’t know what he meant but soon found out when
Rory was in the top (5) in his breed and was invited to
the AKC Agility Invitationals in Orlando!

I worked with him keeping it fun and earned his
Canine Good Citizen(CGC) title when he turned one!
We continued to train towards my goal of becoming a
therapy dog team. I knew this was going to be tough
with all of Rory’s enthusiasm and his love of giving
Wheaten Greetings! With a whole lot of fun training
using only positive reinforcement, when Rory was 1.5
years old we were a certified team with Therapy Dogs
International! We have put smiles on so many faces
and it warms my heart!
Rory and I kept having fun learning & earning titles in tricks and agility. Again, keeping in mind Rory gets bored easily so it has always been important to do short training sessions and to make them enjoyable! This has been the key to keeping him interested in the sport!

Most of our agility instructors along the way have been impressed with Rory’s enthusiasm and skills and have helped us tremendously. One however in particular was so insistent in using a big lead out and having your dog on a start line stay. Rory does a stay like a champ outside of the agility but at times in the ring if I ask him to do this he decides to put his nose down and sniff the turf. This instructor having the mentality that every team “must” use this technique was counter-productive to us as a team. Once I figured out there isn’t just “one way” to complete certain tasks on the course and sometimes you have to adjust to be successful we really meshed as a team. There aren’t many trainers who are familiar with the intricacies of a Terrier. They are NOT Border Collies! And that is why we love them so much! I can’t tell you how many times I have received compliments on runs but when we would have a not so perfect run people would say, “Well, he is a Terrier.” I would always tell them it is not because he is a Terrier! I have always found it very important to focus on the positives of every run rather than dwelling on the negatives. I make mental notes on what I may want to focus on for training in the days to follow but take away the good in each and every run. This is vital and leads to future success.

My goal has always been to not slow Rory down. Mission accomplished! It has been a fast fun ride and I wouldn’t change anything!

I have been fortunate to have had access to many very good trainers including a few World Team members! This has been great as I have always been very goal driven and they have helped me accomplish some of my goals.

We have been very successful as a team and have been invited to the AKC Agility Invitational in Orlando the last (3) years. The first year Rory had only been in the Master’s level for about 6 months when he qualified. We were a very green team at the time! Rory always enjoys himself on the course! I’ve been told so many times how happy he looks in the ring! This makes me melt as it has always been important to me for us to both have fun! This is a result of keeping our training fun! Rory has been the #1 AKC MACH Wheaten in 2019 & 2020 and was #13 & #3 for all breeds in his jump heights consecutively in those years! Rory has qualified for the AKC National Championship the last 3 years and is already qualified for 2021! Rory is a (5) time Agility Champion and was the first Wheaten Terrier to become an Agility Grand Champion! The AGCH title requires 450 qualifying scores! There are only around 220 dogs in all breeds to have earned this title since it’s inception! Needless to say, I am so very proud of my boy and the team we have become!

Again, the single most important thing is to always keep it fun! Our Wheatens can be very sensitive and they need us to stay positive! Sure, there have been frustrating times throughout our agility journey! But I have always made sure to not let it interfere with moving forward. It is also critical for both Rory and me to have a healthy diet and maintain a high level of fitness. Rory is an athlete and conditioning is of utmost importance. Getting to where we are today is a result of a lot of hard work and dedication! I have always been considered an overachiever and it holds true in this sport as well! Keeping the right frame of mind while training and competing is very important! In agility when there is an error on the course it is usually because we, as handlers, didn’t give our dogs enough information or information at the correct time! It could also be a training issue! Once again, it is usually our fault! Keeping that in mind results in a winning team! The following is a good quote to live by:

“ABILITY is what you’re capable of doing. MOTIVATION determines what you do. ATTITUDE determines how well you do it.” ~Lou Holtz
2020 AKC AGILITY INVITATIONAL
MARY WHITING

Annually the AKC invites the top (5) regular jump height and the top (1) preferred jump height dogs of every breed to compete in December in Orlando Florida. The qualification period was from July 1, 2019 - March 8, 2020. However normally this period would have gone until June 30th. The Covid-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of shows so this date was chosen by AKC.

The following Soft Coated Wheaten teams were invited:

Top regular jump height (16”):

#1 - “Rory” MACH3 Rory Red King Of The Links MXC PAD MJB2 PJS MFG TQX T2B5 THD CGCA TKP (2,763 MACH points)

#2 - “Pagne” CH Saddlebrook’s Wyldwood Rebel Without A Cork BN MX MXJ MJB MXF T2B CGC TKN (683 MACH points)

#3 - “Highway” Marolou Highway RN MX MXJ MJB XF (475 MACH points)

#4 - “Pretzel” CH MACH7 Aran Twisted Logic MXG2 MJG2 OF T2B (406 MACH points)

#5 - “Darby” MACH2 Eringlo Riverdance MXB2 MJB2 CGC (300 MACH points)

Top preferred jump height (12”)

#1 - “Scamp” CH PACH Katdancer Look At Me Scamper RN AX AXJ MXP6 MXPS MJPG PAX2 OF SWN SCE SEA SBA RATN CGC TKN (580 PACH points)

The following teams were Round 2 invites due to teams not able to accept first round invites:

#6 reg/#2 Pref - “Vida” MACH Dunfrae’s Live In The Moment MXB MJB NF SWN SCA SIA SBA RATN CGC TKP/RATI, NW1,ETD (243 MACH points/152 PACH points)

#7 - “Izzy” Marolou Cours Izzy Cours AX AXJ (19 MACH points)

All 8 of these teams are pictured on page 39 courtesy of Mary Whiting!
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<td>CH DROMARA'S PERFECT TREBLE MAKER RE OA NAJ NF CGC TKA</td>
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<td>CH LIL'TOWN EVERLAND'S DAENERYS MORN OF ARDNACASSA BN RN AX AXJ OF SWA SCE</td>
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<td>CELA ROISIN MAVOURNEEN BCAT CGC</td>
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<td>GCH CH CELA ROYAL HAWAIIAN NIGHT</td>
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<td>CH STAR NOT JOKIN CAX DCAT SCA</td>
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<td>DROMARA'S PERFECT CODA CGC TKN</td>
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<td>ATAS CRUISIN IN THE FAST LANE BN RI FDC AXP OJP XFP CAA BCAT CGCA TKN</td>
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<td>CH PACH KATDANCER LOOK AT ME SCAMPER RN AX AXJ MXP6 MXPS MJP7 MXG PAX2 OF SWN SCE SEA SBA RATO TKN</td>
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<td>CH CUILEANN ONE HOT MINUTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH SAM HILL LOVE ME DEW NA NAJ</td>
<td>CH ARAN NOTHING VENTURED...</td>
<td>CH SAM HILL'S SUPER SOUL SUNDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELFAST ROSE CAIFE GAELACH RI ACT1 CGC</td>
<td>RANGER RICK COUNTRY BUMPKIN</td>
<td>JUSTEN'S MAKE A LATTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH STRATFORD ANYTHING GOES</td>
<td>CH ANDOVER SONG N DANCE MAN</td>
<td>CH STRATFORD THE EYRE AFFAIR</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALMAR'S FIONA CLARE MORAN RN</td>
<td>CH MOTHER'S FINEST LUCKY LOOKS FOR JOLLY JUMPER</td>
<td>ALMAR'S LITTLE BIT OF CLASS</td>
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<td>CELA ROISIN MAVOURNEEN DCAT CGC</td>
<td>GCH CH BRADBERRY'S DIVINE FITZPAT-RICK</td>
<td>GCH CH CELA ROYAL HAWAIIAN NIGHT</td>
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<td>CH ROSHEEN BLACK PEARL</td>
<td>CH ELLORA BASTION</td>
<td>GCH CH ROSHEEN ESPRESSIONE SUPREMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH ROSHEEN NUA GLAN AT ACACIA</td>
<td>CH WHINDANCER'S FIREWORKS AT WESTWIND</td>
<td>CH ROSHEEN HAPPY-GO-LUCKY</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCH CH ORLA ACACIA BLACKWATER RIVER</td>
<td>CH ACACIA ORLA LIL FISH BRANDON</td>
<td>CH O'LRORCA'S MYSTERY WRITER'S M.E. CONFIDANTE</td>
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<td>HEATHERSTONE SHAMROCK QUEEN CD RN RATN CGC</td>
<td>CH ORION TREBOL HOT ON THE LEADER BOARD BN RE AX AXJ AXJ OJP OF</td>
<td>HEATHERSTONE MANSURA I'M FIONA</td>
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<td>CEILI'S FLY AWAY HOME CGC TKN</td>
<td>CH DROMARA'S PERFECT TREBLE MAKER BN RE OA NAJ NF CGG TKA</td>
<td>CH CEILI'S SISTER OF FIRE OA AXJ AXJ TKA</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEILI'S FLY AWAY HOME CGC TKI</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHEATEN</td>
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<td>AGCH MACH3 RORY RED KING OF THE LINKS MXC MPS MJS2 PJS MFG TQX T2B5 THD CGCA TKP</td>
<td>GOT TO CALL ME RICKI OF HOMER</td>
<td>MISSI LIBERTY WIGGLEBUTT</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>GCH CH BRADBERRY’S MCLAREN LOVE, LOVE ME DO BN RI CGC</td>
<td>GCH CH MACKANME ONE LOVE ONE HEART</td>
<td>GCH CH BRADBERRY’S MACKANME HIGH SOCIETY REESE</td>
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<td>RANGER RICK COUNTRY BUMPKIN</td>
<td>JUSTEN’S MAKE A LATTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH STAR NOT JOKIN CAX FCAT SCA</td>
<td>CH STAR KALER LORD NELSON</td>
<td>CH STAR SWEET AND SASSY CGC</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCHG CH MOXXY SHANDALEE HELLO GORGEOUS</td>
<td>GCHS CH SUNDANCE MY BEAU’S A ROX-STAR</td>
<td>GCHG CH SHANDALEE FIREWORKS</td>
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<td>CH HALDANE DREAM WEAVER</td>
<td>CH CUILINN THE KINGMAKER</td>
<td>CH HALDANE DREAM WITHIN A DREAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCH CH JOIA GEMSTONE’S BRAZILIAN BOMBSHELL</td>
<td>GCHB CH SUNDANCE’S LUCKY ROVER</td>
<td>CH MARQUEE’S FORTUNE IN GEMSTONES</td>
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<td>CH LIL’TOWN EVERLAND’S DAENERYS MORN OF ARDNACASSA BN RN AX MXJ OF SWA SCE</td>
<td>CH ITS MICHALEEN MORN’ CATCH ME IF YOU CAN</td>
<td>LIL’TOWN CALLIE’S LULLABY OF ARDNACASSA</td>
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<td>CH SAM HILL LOVE ME DEW NA OAJ</td>
<td>CH ARAN NOTHING VENTURED...</td>
<td>CH SAM HILL’S SUPER SOUL SUNDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCH CH STAR SHUT UP AND DANCE RATCHX TKN</td>
<td>CH STAR KALER LORD NELSON</td>
<td>STAR SAVED MY LAST DANCE FOR YOU OA OAJ SCN SIN</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAR DANCING IN THE SKY TKN</td>
<td>CH STAR FLYNN O’FLUTE CGC</td>
<td>GCH CH STAR SHUT UP AND DANCE RATCHX TKN</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAR TOO HOT TO DANCE TKN</td>
<td>CH BRADBERRY’S ONE QUINTESSENTIAL LOVE STORY</td>
<td>GCH CH STAR SHUT UP AND DANCE RATCHX TKN</td>
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<td>VANBEARD’S STARLIGHT SPRITE TKN</td>
<td>VANBEARD’S MILWAUKEE THUNDER</td>
<td>STARLIGHT PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE FOR VANBEARD</td>
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<td>GCH CH ORION TREBOL BREAKING BAD BN RI TD NAJ NAP NJP OFP RATO TKI</td>
<td>CH CAMERON HUNNICUT</td>
<td>GCH CH ORION TREBOL HOT LIKE ME RI TD NFP ACT2 RATO</td>
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<td>FREEDOM’S LUMINOUS LUNA CGCA</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCH CH WHINDANCER’S WALK OFF HOME RUN CGCA</td>
<td>GCHB CH ROSHEEN SUFFERIN’ SUCCOTASH</td>
<td>CH WHINDANCER’S THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCH CH WHINDANCER’S WALK OFF HOME RUN CGCA</td>
<td>GCHB CH ROSHEEN SUFFERIN’ SUCCOTASH</td>
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<td>LORD OF MY HEART CGC</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUILEANN WONDERS OF THE WORLD ACT2 SWN SCA SIA SBA TKP</td>
<td>CH ISLANDER’S KISS THE GIRLS</td>
<td>CH CUILEANN ONE HOT MINUTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEILI’S FLY AWAY HOME RN CGC TKA</td>
<td>CH DROMARA’S PERFECT TREBLE MAKER BN RE OA NAJ NF CGC TKA</td>
<td>CH CEILI’S SISTER OF FIRE OA AXJ AXP CGC TKA</td>
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## WHEATEN

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>GCH CH BRADBERRY'S MCLAREN LOVE, LOVE ME DO CD BN RI CGC</td>
<td>GCH CH BRADBERRY'S MACKANME ONE LOVE ONE HEART</td>
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<tr>
<td>STRATFORD SPLENDID OUTCAST OX AJX</td>
<td>CH STRATFORD PLEASE REMEMBER ME</td>
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<td>CH ARAN NOTHING VENTURED...</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCHB CH ADAKO MICKEY MOUSE CLUB-HOUSE</td>
<td>GCHS CH RIOGA HAKUNA MOSCATO</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOGAN ALEXANDER CLAGETT AXP OJP NFP ACT1</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH CELA SANGRIA BEACH DELIGHT</td>
<td>GCHS CH RIOGA HAKUNA MOSCATO</td>
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<td>CH SAM HILL LOVE ME DEW OA OAJ SWN</td>
<td>CH ARAN NOTHING VENTURED...</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCHB CH MARQUEE'S TROPICAL STORM</td>
<td>GCHB CH MARQUEE STORM WARNING</td>
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<td>CONNEMAR BONNEY SPRING TRAINING CGC TKN ATT</td>
<td>CH BONNEY NIP &amp; TUCKIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCH CH STAR LITTLE BIG SHOT</td>
<td>CH KALER KICK IT UP A NOTCH</td>
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<td>LTD EDITION PAR T1 GIRL BN RI FDC THDN CGCA CGCU TKN</td>
<td>CH GLEANGAY WHO'S YOUR DADDY</td>
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<td>CH PACH KATDANCER LOOK AT ME SCAM-PER RN AX AJX MXP6 MXPS MJF7 MJPG PAX2 OF SWA SCE RATO TKN</td>
<td>CH KATDANCER EZ TO LOOK AT</td>
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<td>ESCAPEADA MOONSTRUCK MADNESS AT KATDANCER RN OAP NJF NFP SWN SCA SEA TKN</td>
<td>CH HULLABALOO THE ROOKIE VCD1 RE</td>
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<tr>
<td>JENDU TONGUE TWISTER CD BN GN RM RAE FDC AXP AJP OFP SWA SCE SEE SHDN CGCA TKI</td>
<td>CH MACKANME BRADBERRY HIGH FLYER</td>
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<td>MORROWS SPICY GINGER CGC</td>
<td>BREEZY WIEDS COMIC TRIX</td>
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<td>DOUBLOONS RAZZMATAZ RI SWN RATS CGC TKP</td>
<td>CH TARA I GET AROUND</td>
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<td>HEATHERSTONE SHAMROCK QUEEN CD RI RATN CGC</td>
<td>CH ORION TREBOL HOT ON THE LEADER BOARD BN RE AX AJX AXP OJP OF</td>
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<td>WHINDANCER MOCKINGBIRD PAWS CD AX OAJ ACT1 RATCHX CGC TKP</td>
<td>GCHS CH O'LORCAN'S MYSTERY WRITER</td>
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<td>AGCH MACH3 RORY RED KING OF THE LINKS MXB2 PDS MJS2 PJS MFC TQX T2B6 THD CGCA TKP</td>
<td>GOT TO CALL ME RICKI OF HOMER</td>
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<td>CH SADDLEBROOK'S WYLLWOOD REBEL WITHOUT A CORK BN MX MXB MXJ MJX MXF T2B CGC TKN</td>
<td>CH MACKANME PATRIOTIC JUSTICE</td>
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<td>CUILEANN WONDERS OF THE WORLD ACT2 SWN SCE SIA SBA TKP</td>
<td>CH ISLANDER'S KISS THE GIRLS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICKI VEDDER NAP OJP</td>
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<td>GCH CH CONNEMAR SHE MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS RI CGCA TKN</td>
<td>GCHS CH GREENTREE MOONSTRUCK MOMBO MAN</td>
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<td>CH VANBEARDS OILIBHEAR STARLIGHT IN MY I’S TKN</td>
<td>VANBEARD’S MILWAUKEE THUNDER</td>
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<tr>
<td>MILIE BAKER CGC TKN</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>MILIE BAKER CGC TKI</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>MILIE BAKER CGC TKA</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCH CH GREENTREE CHARM DYNAGRIFFE TKN</td>
<td>GCHS CH KEEPSAKE’S RAISE YOUR GLASS</td>
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<td>JNA WOODLANDS PRIDE O MINE CGC</td>
<td>CH ITS MICHAILEEN MORN’ CATCH ME IF YOU CAN</td>
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<td>CH DROMARA’S OH SO BRAVE OF DERRYLIN BN RN BCAT CGC TKN</td>
<td>GCH CH MOTHER’S FINEST BORN TO BE ANIMAGICAL</td>
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<td>CH LIL’TOWN EVERLAND’S DAENERYS MORN OF ARDNACASSA BN RI AX MXJ OF SWA SCE</td>
<td>CH ITS MICHAILEEN MORN’ CATCH ME IF YOU CAN</td>
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<td>VERMILION’S BRIMLEY CGC TKN</td>
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<td>VERMILION’S BRIMLEY CGC TKI</td>
<td>GCH CH ROSHEEN ACACIA GO FOR BROKE</td>
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<td>CH DOUBLOON’S SNOW QUEEN</td>
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<td>CH WESTWHIND WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE</td>
<td>GCHS CH KEEPSAKE’S RAISE YOUR GALSS</td>
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<td>CH AZYDECO GRAND DUCHESS BEATRICE</td>
<td>GCH CH BRYR ROSE SYMBOL OF PARIS</td>
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<td>CH MODNY STYLE HIGH TECH</td>
<td>TEJARPSDALENS PAPARAZZI</td>
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<td>CEILI’S MISS MISCHIEF ACT1 TKA</td>
<td>CH DROMARA’S PERFECT TREBLE MAKER</td>
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<td>KALER SITTIN’ ON GO BCAT</td>
<td>GCHB CH SUNDANCE’S LUCKY ROVER</td>
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<td>ROARING DOWN THE FAIRWAY BCAT CGC TKN</td>
<td>SUEDE SEATON GALLOROSE</td>
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<td>BALLYBAE KEILEIGH’S WWILOMENA ERIN TKN</td>
<td>BALLYBAE DEVIN’S LIAM L’ANDREW</td>
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<td>GCHB CH GREENTREE MOMBO IN MARGARITAVILLE TKN</td>
<td>GCHS CH GREENTREE LUELLEN UNBRI-LED SONG</td>
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<td>MAGGIE THATCHER CGC</td>
<td>CH IULIUS PLANUS PARMIGIANO CGC</td>
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<td>CH BAN O’GOLD STUNNING SUNFLOWER</td>
<td>GCH CH KEEPSAKE’S WAVE RYDER</td>
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<td>CH ISLANDER’S KISS THE GIRLS</td>
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<td>GCHS CH SUMMERLAND’S A SOUTHERN COMFORT</td>
<td>GCH CH RAELYN JEWEL OF THE NILE</td>
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<td>CH BRADBERRY’S HOUSTON, WE HAVE LIFT OFF!</td>
<td>GCH CH BRADBERRY’S DIVINE FITZPAT-RICK</td>
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<td>CH MOXXY SHANDALEE UNFORGETTABLE FIRE</td>
<td>GCHB CH BRADBERRY’S THE ONE I LOVE</td>
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<td>CH CELA RHUM CHATA BEACH</td>
<td>GCHS CH RIOGA HAKUNA MOSCATO</td>
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<td>GCHB CH SUNDANCE’S LUCKY ROVER</td>
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<td>REYEM’S YOU ARE IT CD BN GN CGC</td>
<td>GCHB CH REYEM’S RED ROVER COME OVER</td>
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<td>CH LILTOWN EVERLAND’S DAENERYS MORN OF ARDNACASSA BN RI AX MXJ OF SWA SCE SBE</td>
<td>CH ITS MICHALEEN MORN’ CATCH ME IF YOU CAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCHS CH PINEHOME MERRIMOOR CAMELOTANCE CD RN NA AJ CA SWN RATN</td>
<td>CH PINEHOME’S SEAMUS WALNUT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CH ADAKO VILLANOVA DEJA VU</td>
<td>GCHS CH RIOGA HAKUNA MOSCATO</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIPER X CGC</td>
<td>WHISKEY BREWER</td>
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<td>CH DROMARA’S PERFECT TREBLES MAKER BN RE OA NAJ OF CGC TKA</td>
<td>CH KAYLYNN MURPHY’S LAW UNTO HIMSELF RN AX AXJ CA RATM CGC TKI</td>
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<td>CH SANDCASTLE’S GOLDEN PRINCESS ON THE EMERALD COAST</td>
<td>GCHB CH SUNDANCE’S FINNIGAN WAKE ME WHEN THE DREAM IS OVER</td>
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<td>CH AMDEN TULA ADORABELLE OF SUMMERLAND</td>
<td>GCH CH BRYR ROSE SYMBOL OF PARIS</td>
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<td>CH CEILI’S SISTER OF FIRE RN OA AXJ AXJ CGC TKA</td>
<td>CH WHINDANCER LITTLE BALL OF FIRE CDX</td>
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<td>MCLAREN’S MY ONE AND ONLY LOVE RN</td>
<td>GCH CH BRADBERRY’S DIVINE FITZPATRICK</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Multiple BIS & Specialty Winner

“MISTER”

1
SCWT—all systems

7
Terrier—all systems

4th Generation National Specialty Winner

4th Generation BIS Winner

Always Owner Handled

Doubloon Wheatens
Elena Landa
elenalanda@gmail.com

GCHP DOUBLOON’S EXTREME GAMER

2020
AMADEN
Closes out 2020 with 2 new CHAMPIONS...
GCH Bryr Symbol Of Paris x Amaden’s Funny Valentine

"Murphy"
CH Amaden Rings In The Jubilee
Owners:
Nancy Piazza &
E Holden

"Tula"
CH Amaden Tula Adorabelle At Summerland
Owners:
Jessica Schollaert &
Emily Holden

Thank you handlers Tracy Szaras & Luiz Antonio Abreu
With a Group Placement & Multiple Breed Wins
TULA GOES GRAND in 2021!
GCH Amaden Tula Adorabelle At Summerland

Thank you Tracy Szaras for your expert handling and conditioning

Owners: Jessica Schollaert & Emily Holden
The Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club invites you to celebrate our 50th Anniversary May 6, 7 and 8, 2022.

**Show**

* Friday May 7th
  Garden State All Terrier Club

* Saturday May 8th
  DVSCWTC Specialty
  Bucks County Kennel Club

* Sunday May 9th
  Trenton Kennel Club

**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

**Supported Entry**

**See you next year!**

Trophies
Carole Clark
clewbay@comcast.com

Specialty Chair:
Cherie Turner
frogscdogs@verizon.net

**Save the date!**

Please plan to join us for our:
- Silent Auction
- Wine/Cheese Party
- Luncheon
- Raffle