Congratulations on your SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER

Congratulations on your choice of a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier as a family member. The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America, as guardian of the breed, welcomes you and would like to offer some basic information to ensure that the relationship between your family and the puppy develops into a sound and healthy one.

HISTORY

Here is a breed true to its name…soft coated and the color of shimmering wheat. Native to Ireland, the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier shares a common ancestor with the Kerry Blue and the Irish Terrier and may even be the progenitor of these two Irish breeds. It was originally bred by the poor tenant farmers of Western Ireland where it served as an all-purpose farm dog. They kept the varmints to a minimum, did some herding of sheep, hunted with their master and even helped turn the spit in the kitchen. The breed arrived on these shores in the mid 1940s and in 1973, through the efforts of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America, became an American Kennel Club recognized breed.

SCWT DESCRIPTION

The CORRECTLY bred Wheaten is a medium sized terrier, square in outline and distinguished from other terriers by its soft, flowing, gently waving coat of wheaten hue. It is single coated, non-shedding and does not impart the typical dog odor common to most dog breeds. Its temperament tends to be steadier than that of most other terrier breeds and therefore, they are generally less quarrelsome. Nonetheless, they are terriers and more active than many other breeds. Although they exhibit less aggressiveness than that encouraged in other terrier breeds, there is no doubt of their terrier origins. A well-bred Wheaten Terrier is happy, steady and alert to its surroundings. It is versatile and enjoys a variety of such activities as Obedience, Agility, Fly-ball, Earth Dog, Scent Work, Trick Dog, Fast CAT and Herding Trials. One can find information on these activities at www.akc.org. The breed also loves to serve as a therapy dog.

CARE OF THE SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER

Socialization and Training

One of the first things you must understand as a new owner of this delightful breed is the importance of socialization. It is imperative that your new puppy be well socialized from the moment you bring it home. Introducing it to new surfaces such as the outside grass, stone patio, wood or tile flooring and carpeting is a great beginning. House breaking via the use of a crate is a must. It is vital that you provide it with the basic structure and consistent training necessary to ensure that it becomes a happy and well-adjusted member of your family. Puppy Kindergarten classes (for puppies three to six months old) are a great idea. Wheatens are "people dogs" and should be raised in the home. They do not do well as yard dogs although they will need a fenced in area for exercise and playtime.

Your puppy should never be left alone with young children since children often mistake a puppy for a toy and, although unintended, may seriously hurt or traumatize the puppy. As a parent it is up to you to teach/monitor correct behavior on the part of the child and the puppy. Crate training is strongly recommended. The crate, when placed in the living area of your home will become your puppy's safe haven, its "den." Once the puppy can be trusted to not relieve itself in the crate, soft, washable bedding and toys can be placed in there and the door left open so that it can go into its den at will. Children can be taught that puppy is to be left alone when it retreats to its den.

It is natural for puppies to chew on each other, wrestle and growl to determine the structure of the pack. Understand that puppies may confuse toddlers with other puppies. Consistent training and correction will teach your puppy that children are not puppies but small humans, Likewise, roughhousing, high pitched squeals and quick movements may excite a pup or dog while loud or harsh corrections will often confuse or intimidate it. It is vitally important that the adults in your home assume the role of pack leader; in other words, the boss. Consistency and repetition, love and positive reinforcement are the keys to ensuring that your puppy will grow up secure, confident and well-behaved.

Do consult with your breeder immediately if a problem arises, regardless of your Wheaten's age. The ethical, reputable breeder should be your primary resource whenever you have a question and their response should be immediate.

Grooming and Coat Care

Your puppy's coat can be its crowning glory, or it can be an off-putting mess of matts. It's up to you. But if you are not willing, or feel you will not have the time, to properly care for its coat, then this is probably not the breed for you. Although the Wheaten does not shed, its coat will eventually become matted if

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not properly cared for. Regular sessions devoted to brushing and combing its coat should be started immediately. Going through the motions of grooming, well before it becomes a necessity, will create a pleasurable experience, rather than a dreaded one, for both you and the pup. It's not a bad idea to begin clipping nails at the same time. A small grooming table and grooming arm are highly recommended. If not a table, a grooming arm with clamp that can be attached to a table or counter may do the trick. An early start to grooming allows the puppy to become accustomed to being brushed and combed long before you are faced with the heavier adult coat. Even if you are planning to use a professional groomer, early and regular grooming sessions ensures that your Wheaten will be a willing and perhaps even a cheerful client.

HEALTH

The Wheaten Terrier is predisposed to several health issues. It is important to understand that ethical breeders are obligated, to test their breeding stock for specific diseases and to make the results of such testing available to prospective puppy owners. The SCWTCA requires its members to abide by a strict Code of Ethics which addresses breed health problems we feel should be considered in evaluating breeding stock. The club also discusses the breed's health issues and the sponsorship of extensive health research on its website at https://scwtca.org/health/.

Helping Wheatens Live Longer, Healthier Lives

Members of SCTCA, along with other Wheaten Terrier lovers, support health research through the SCWTCA Endowment Inc, an organization focused directly on the health issues of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers throughout the world. Another organization, but one devoted to canine health in general is the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Supporting these 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations will help ensure a healthy future not only for the Wheaten, but for all dogs. For more information go to:

www.wheatenhealthendowment.org or www.akcchf.org

WHEATEN TERRIER PEDIGREE AND HEALTH DATABASE

We invite you to enter any Wheaten Terriers you own or have owned into our pedigree and health database. Join the over 100,000+ Wheatens worldwide that have a dedicated page in the database. Your Wheatens' information contributes immeasurably to the prosperity & longevity of our beloved breed through research. To learn more, visit us at www.scwtdb.org.

BREED OR SPAY/NEUTER

The Primary purpose of dog shows is to evaluate potential breeding stock. Along with this evaluation are years of education in order to make qualified decisions about breeding. For this reason, the ethical private breeder will usually require that all puppies going into a companion home be spayed or neutered. This is the only way we have of protecting the future quality of the breed.

Spaying and neutering is best done after of the age of 12 months since to do so prior to this interferes with the closing of growth plates. Additionally, science has proven that dogs sterilized before puberty have an increased risk of cancer, hip dysplasia, cruciate injury, female incontinence, and other health issues. By making the decision to spay or neuter after 12 months, your pet will be easier to train and be better protected from some forms of cancer.

IDENTIFICATION

Please consider the microchip as a means of identification for your Wheaten Terrier. Collars and tags can easily fall off or be removed whereas a microchip is permanent. It will be more effective in getting your Wheaten back to you if it is lost or stolen. The microchip is placed between your dog's shoulder blades under a veterinarian's supervision. The implantation is quick, virtually painless and can be done during a regular clinic visit. Once this is done, you will want to register your Wheaten's microchip with the AKC Reunite program. There is a 100% re-homing rate with enrolled animals. For further information, call 800 252-7894 or go to www.akcreunite.org.

RESOURCES

Breed Specific:

To learn more about the breed and the care of your Wheaten Terrier, SCWTCA offers the following breed specific publications available at nominal prices. All items can be ordered at: www.scwtca.org/pubs.

Illustrated Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Breed Standard and Amplification The ultimate tool for understanding the breed. Beautiful illustrations and clear explanations demonstrate the ideal Wheaten as defined in the AKC Breed Standard. The essence of type is discussed along with size, proportion, substance, and all other aspects of the breed standard.

The *Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Owner's Manual* contains everything you ever wanted to know about the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. A brief breed history starts out the manual, followed by chapters on temperament, and how to care for both a puppy and an adult Wheaten. Information on routine maintenance and grooming takes up a large part of the manual.

The *Grooming Chart:* a 23" x 26" chart describing grooming for the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. Drawings of correct and incorrect grooming are displayed along with brief explanations on how to achieve the ideal "Wheaten look." This chart is ideal for placing on the wall in your grooming area for easy reference.

Pet Grooming Pamphlet: a 5-page document that discusses and illustrates basic trim and grooming techniques for the companion dog with notes on show trimming a Wheaten. Routine care is also well documented in this pamphlet.

Benchmarks: the quarterly magazine of the SCWTCA. Available online at no cost. Go to: www.scwtca.org/benchmarks/

Visit SCWTCA for more information on your breed.