Set your goals high,
and don’t stop till you get there.
Am/Can GCH Keepsake’s Raise Your Glass

Blaine

Owned by: Shari & Sydney Robinson, Cheryl Satherley, and Priscilla Tims

Bred by: Shari & Sydney Robinson, and Priscilla Tims
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CYTOPOINT FOR A DOG’S ITCHY SKIN
THE HEARTBREAK OF DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY

This is “Lucky” demonstrating his remarkable herding instinct at a sheep ranch herding event in Elizabeth, CO.

Lucky was bred by Meg Ryan and owned by Leslie and Andy Heins. Photo by Colleen Baz.

ERRATA
Dec 2018, page 34:
GCHB KOLOHE IT’S RAINING SUNSHINE was mislabeled as GCHS BANNIONS BIBBIDY BOBBIDY BOO

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

The New Year is off to a busy start. The SCWTCA Officers and Board of Directors met in Las Vegas on January 24th and 25th for the annual two day meeting. It was a very full agenda, and I would like to use this message to share a few highlights of the club business addressed. Additional meeting notes will be posted for the membership via “Board Bytes” on SCWTCA Discuss and complete minutes along with all the committee reports will be in the upcoming issue of Wavelengths.

Our website upgrade and Word Press conversion has begun. This is a big project that will take several months. The Board was treated to a small preview and the site looks terrific. Our webmaster, Robyn Alexander, and SCWTCA Board liaison, Julie Burdick, are working together for several hours each week in conjunction with our website developer to facilitate the transition of information. When completed, the website will have a fresh clean look and utilize Word Press which will make updating information on the site much easier.

The Health Committee has reviewed several project proposals from our geneticist Paula Henthorn at University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Henthorn plans to develop a survey to be sent to all those who have had DNA testing at Penn that would request health status information on the Wheaten’s in their database. This is a project that our members have been asking for since the development of the PLN Variant Gene Test. There will be more on this promising project soon.

Several months ago, a discussion thread on the club’s Yahoo Group focused on the SCWTCA’s Breeders List. Comments mainly pertained to what should be the appropriate requirements to be on the Breeders List. The Board spent a good deal of time at our recent meeting considering how to address these concerns. A possible new process along with a revised Breeders List member agreement is being evaluated.

An exciting event has been suggested as part of our Roving or National Specialty festivities . . . a Top 20 Competition! The competition would feature the top 20 Wheaten in breed standings. This is a fun and formal event offered by many other breed clubs. A survey has been sent to SCWTCA members to determine interest for a future event.

The SCWTCA Facebook Page launch was very successful. If you haven’t visited the page yet, please do. It’s full of wonderful photos and lots of information on club activities. At the request of the Social Media Chair, Anna Marzolino, we will add Twitter and Instagram. The Board thanks Anna and her committee for keeping our Facebook fun and informative. For the latest news on Wheaten rescue, please check out the SCWTCA Rescue Group on Facebook. Thank you to our terrific Rescue Committee for all they do to make life better for our Wheaten rescues by finding them perfect forever homes!

While there is much to look forward to in the coming year, we will also face a big loss. Sadly we will lose our fabulous Benchmarks Editor Helen Fraguela and her Co-editor Deb Van de Ven. Helen and Deb have made the very difficult decision that it is time for change. Helen will continue handling the Benchmarks ads and Health Chair Molly O’Connell will remain as our Health News Editor. No additional changes are anticipated. Our Benchmarks editors will continue through the June 2019 issue. I know I speak for the entire membership when offering thanks to Helen and Deb for putting their “hearts and souls” into making Benchmarks such an outstanding publication. Please see the Help Wanted ad, page 15, in this issue for the skills that are needed as Editor.

My heartfelt thanks and those of your Board go out to all the SCWTCA members who support the club in so many ways. We have a wonderful group of people who never hesitate to say yes when help is needed. Your dedication to the club and the breed is amazing! Best wishes to our members for a great 2019!

Cecily Skinner

I don’t judge others. I don’t hate. I don’t discriminate. I don’t care about money. I don’t hold grudges. I do know how to love unconditionally and that’s all I want in return.

unknown
Celebrating Long Life...

“Freddie”
CH Canopy Road’s Prinze

Freddie crossed over the Rainbow Bridge on February 4, just a few weeks before his 14th birthday. He obtained his AKC Championship, Canine Good Citizenship and Rally Novice; but his real claim to fame was beating a dog handled by Larry Cornelius for a Group 2.

One of our favorite memories of Freddie occurred when he and Jane Cook’s dog, Chaz, were in adjacent X-pens after a dog show. A group of us were enjoying some adult refreshment when we noticed the boys trotting in circles in their respective pens, stopping each time they passed one another to raise a leg and pee. This entertainment went on for about 30 minutes or so, to the point where we were laughing so hard we had tears running down our cheeks and were almost rolling on the ground. Someone said, “Now I know where the term pissing contest comes from.”

Freddie was occasionally shy around dogs he did not know, but he loved attention from all humans, especially children. Freddie had two jobs. When visitors were leaving our house, Freddie would walk with us to their car to say goodbye. He also went to get the newspaper with Dennis each morning. Freddie was a consummate bait hound. We did not dare return from a show ring or a handling class without leftover bait for Freddie.

As sick as Freddie was on Feb 3rd, he came out of his crate with his tail wagging when Dennis came home from his morning bike ride, and he spent his last night with us in bed. He truly loved us as much as we loved him. We will miss him greatly.

Dennis and Bonnie Wirth
Happy Birthday Seniors!

“Roxie”

CH Shandalee Rocketfire

CH Bryr Rose Degas x CH Shandalee Fire Dancer

DOB: May 17, 2004

Roxie is our seventh generation of Shandalee Champions; the proud dam and grand dam of Champions and Grand Champions, multiple Group winners and placers, and the Top Producing BIS Gold Grand Champion Shandalee Fireworks, “Moxxy.”

She still looks like a 10 year old. Still has that gorgeous coat, and when she’s awake, still bosses her grandchildren around. We are so fortunate that she comes from a long line of long-lived Wheatens. Her dam lived to over 15, grand dam to 16 1/2, and we are hoping she can equal or top that.

Roxie’s a seasoned traveler, crisscrossing the country and making friends wherever she goes. We just hold the other end of the leash as she conducts her “meet and greets.”

Much loved by everyone who knows her, especially Sue and Harvey Goldberg

“Hannah”

Canopy Roads Sundance Kid

CH Harmony Robber Barron x CH Canopy Roads Erin Barkovich

DOB: October 4, 2004

Hannah, also known as ‘Happy Hannah”, recently celebrated her 14th birthday. She is one special resilient wheaten, who is loved and cherished daily.

Hannah still chases squirrels and barks at other dogs. She has had several serious health issues since age 12, and has come to be called our “miracle girl.”

Caring for Hannah daily has enabled me to build memories and an amazing strong bond these past few years. She is as sweet as they come and we are blessed to have her as part of our family. She loves her brother Brogan and he loves her.

Yes each and every day is a blessing having her in our life. I love you sweet girl!

Jo Ann Budraitis
New Titles Earned

DOG      SIRE             DAM

Sadie Rupe CGCA
Rory Red King Of The Links MX MXJ MJB XF T2B THDN CGCA TKI
GCH CH Orion Trebol Hot Like Me Rl TD NFP ACT2 RATO
Atar Crusin In The Fast Lane BN RN CA CGCA TKN
Reyem's You Are It BN CGC
Declan CGC
Dino CGC
Monticello's Oliver's Twist CGC
Zoey XIII CGC
Finlay Holdsworth CGC
Lambchop CGC

O'Mannion's Full Of Goodness CGC
Keely Skates NA OA JX AJP CGC
Oscar XX CGC
Rader's Molly Rose CGC
CH Airl Talk Of The Town FDC CGCA CGCU
CH Charmax Bea 'Cause Your Mine
CH Coventry Life Of The Party
CH Frolic's It Was Up To Stiehl
CH Whindancer's Autumn In New York
CH Acaicia's Lil Bit Of Curry
CH Ballybae Isolie's Missy Morgan
CH Frolic's Heading For Stardom
CH Keepsake's Senorita Margarita
CH Lovesong's Moondance
CH Mackanee Spark A Flame
CH Moxy Shandalee Lord Of The Rings
CH Roimk Rocket Man
CH Charms Enchanteur Of Oz
CH Doubleton's Extreme Adventure
CH Greentree Monmo In Margartaville
CH Haldane Castle By The Sea
CH Keepsake's Raise Your Galss
CH Moxy Shandalee Hello Gorgeous
CH Serendipity's Lady Liberty
CH Serendipity's National Acclaim
CH Summerland's A Southern Comfort
CH Tiffen's Gives Me Fever
CH Whindancer Under The Tuscan Sun
CH Whindancer's Moon Song
Reyem's You Are It CD BN CGC
CH Whindancer Little Ball Of Fire CDX
CH Star Not Jokin CAA
Acacia Rosheen Dash O'Cajun THDD CGC TKP
Holweit's Red Grenadine RN THDA RATN DJA CGCA CGCU TKP
GCH CH Keepsake's Raise Your Galss
GCH CH Cailin Isle Autumn Running Like The Wind
GCH CH Moxy Shandalee Hello Gorgeous
GCH CH Rioga Hakuna Moscato
GCH CH Cuilinn Born To Reign
GCH CH Star Fuzzy Naval Of Woodmore

Got To Call Me Ricki Of Horner
CH Candance Daze Of Thunder
CH Ata's Chariot Of Fire
GCHB CH Reyem's Red Rover Come Over
Sir Henry Of The Valley
Sammy J
CH Kincora Tara Life In The Fast Lane
Firmie's Baby Red**
Disterhaupts Bear II
CH Wheatan Lane's Heart Of Gold
GCH CH Wheatan Rebel's Take A Ticket To Greentree
C'Lee's Buffy Bill
Felicias Swheatie Alticus The Brave
Ryan's Stoney Creek Jake
GCHS CH O'Lorcans's Mystery Writer
CH Bradberries One Quintessential Love Story
CH Bryr Rose Nouvelle Vague
CH Harbour Hill Renun Van Pelt
GCH CH Whindancer's Fireworks At Westwind
CH Acaicia's Friar Tuck
CH Whindancer Little Ball Of Fire CDX
CH Star Kaler Lord Nelson
CH Boreal Keepsake Immortal
GCHS CH Sundance My Beau's A Roxstar
CH Mackanee Patriotic Justice
GCHS CH Sundance My Beau's A Roxstar
CH Haldane Blue Suede Shoes
CH Bryr Rose Nouvelle Vague
CH Tara I Get Around
GCHB CH Greentree Luellen Unbridled Song
CH Cullinin Caislean Dundrum
CH Boreal Keepsake Immortal
GCHS CH Sundance My Beau's A Roxstar
GCHB CH Reyem's Red Rover Come Over
GCHB CH Reyem's Red Rover Come Over
GCH CH Raelyn Jewel Of The Nile
CH Bryr Rose Of The Nile
CH Whindancer's Over The Moon
GCH CH Whindancer's Fireworks At Westwind
GCHB CH Reyem's Red Rover Come Over
CH Whindancer's Heart Like A Wheel
CH Star Kaler Lord Nelson
CH Acacia's Friar Tuck
CH Lakkas Ulmus
CH Boreal Keepsake Immortal
GCHS CH Bonney Bushel And A Peck CGC
GCHS CH Sundance My Beau's A Roxstar
GCHG CH Lismore Moccamack's Dragon Song
CH Cuilinn Caislean Dundrum
GCHB CH Sundance's Lucky Rover
Missi Liberty Wigglebutt
CH Acacia's Some Like It Hot VCD2 RAE MXP MJP NFP
GCHB CH Atlas Dim Sum Lights
CH Geragold Paparazzi Of Reyem
Kim Of The Valley
Penny Guadalupe
CH Monticello's Gypsy Jewel
Nellie Of Emerald Cottage
Walnut Creek Winner Yoders Pride
CH Sundance Princess Of Arnoldale CGC
GCH CH Greentree Havana Moon-Struck
C'Lee's Zoe
Felicia's Swheatie Ruby Red
Woodland's Always On My Mind Marti
GCHG CH Aine Villanova Mouth Of The South CGC
CH Charmax Diamond Liberty's To Coin A Phrase
CH Waterford Coventry Caper
CH Frolic's Road Runner To Dennis
CH Whindancer When My Heart Comes Home
CH Acacia Rosheen 'Lil Bit Of Spice
Ballybae Una's Isoldie
GCH CH Frolic Freya Of Fennis
GCHB CH Keepsake Timtara Im A Rockstar
CH Lovesong's You/Re A Fine Girl
CH Mackanie Sparks Will Fly
GCHG CH Shandalee Fireworks
CH Roimk Toast To The Roun'D Table
CH Charmax's Liberty Belle II
GCHG CH Doubloon's Extreme Play
Greentree Monmo In Aruba
GCH CH Haldane Sea The Stars
GCHB CH Keepsake Timtara Im A Rockstar
GCHG CH Shandalee Fireworks
GCHB CH Serendipity's Urban Legend
GCHB CH Serendipity's Urban Legend
GCH CH Marquees Pretty Little Love Song
Tiffen's Bebop She's My Baby
CH Whindancer's I Hope You Can Dance
CH Whindancer When My Heart Comes Home
CH Geragold Paparazzi Of Reyem
CH Whindancer Crazy Little Thing Called Luv
CH Star Sweet And Sassy CGC
CH Acacia Rosheen 'Lil Bit Of Spice
Holweit's Mexican Martini
GCHB CH Keepsake Timtara Im A Rockstar
GCH CH Bonney Artic Piece Of My Heart
GCHG CH Shandalee Fireworks
CH Edgewood Rush
Cuilinn Gelt She's All In
CH Star Living The Dream
So, you want to breed your female...and it’s time to find her perfect mate. There are many factors to consider when breeding Wheaten Terriers. Health, pedigree, conformation, temperament, and of course the ever-elusive aim for perfection.

Understanding the faults and virtues of your female is a great place to start. If we tackled life partner choices with the same diligence as a stud for your girl, the divorce rate would surely drop.

To start this process, you need to be brutally honest about what you want to improve with your bitch. You must know her strengths, weaknesses, what can you improve upon. Part of being a dog breeder is being able to love the dog, as well as have the ability to see it for what it is. Faults and all! Identify them...if it helps, say them out loud. It doesn’t mean you like her less, it just means that you can be objective about the dogs in your breeding program. That alone is a huge step to becoming a top breeder.

Finding a suitable mate to complement your female is more than just putting two dogs together and getting what you get. It’s the ability to research the male, and know your female, and then in your mind’s eye, put the two together to see if it has possibilities. When you are assessing your female, you have to have the ability to assess her top line, does she drop a little in her tail set? Does she carry her tail up? Or off her back? Clean head, or wider in the back skull? Correct length? Or needs shorter back, or longer legs? Is she missing any teeth? You need to know how good her shoulder angle is, and how she stands on her rear. When you don’t stack her, are her back feet close together? Or wide? Do all feet point forward? Or does she toe out at all? If you have trouble seeing this with her hair, then do it right after a bath and look at her then. To do this right, total honesty is required. You need to be critical, and honest about what you have. Breeding a mediocre female to a top winning dog doesn’t give you a guarantee for great puppies. Pictures and video are also helpful tools.

When looking at possible stud dogs, you need to look even more critically. It’s not enough that he has testicles and a championship. Does he fit the shape you desire? In North America we measure square from withers to ground, and the front to the rear, get out a measuring tape. Is he square? Or reasonably close to it?

Does he have a good front end? And matching rear? You can’t trust pictures, ideally you should get your hands on, or have someone you trust do it. When this boy stands without stacking, is he four square on his own? Do his feet all point forward? Does he have good hair? You need to understand what you’re feeling and if you don’t understand, you need to ask somebody. If you’re offering a dog at stud or someone inquires about breeding to your boy, it is imperative that you know what you’re offering breeders. They aren’t petitioning to marry your son, it shouldn’t be about us...just the dogs and their merit. You need to know his pedigree and what his strengths are, as well as the strength of what is behind him.

When you think you found the male, look at the pedigree with that of your girl. You need to be familiar with where problems might be. Don’t just look at three generations, go back farther, investigate and learn what’s behind both sides for potential health issues. You don’t want to miss a potential catastrophe just because it was a sensitive subject and you were too polite to ask. When you look past 3 generations, you will likely come across names of dogs you don’t recognize, call up our old-time breeders, they are a wealth of information and I’m sure would be willing to reminisce about those dogs. Those were the dogs they may have started with or bred to, and their input would be extremely useful. Information and understanding how to use it is so helpful.

Another very important point that many people omit, or hate to face is that just because you’ve done your due diligence, bred your girl to what you determined to be the best available male, that does not guaranty a successful litter. This is science, and the outcome is not controllable. It is only “plannable”. But here is where knowing your stuff will definitely pay off. Knowing what’s behind you, helps you to move forward. I feel breeding is all about moving forward. Don’t dwell on what doesn’t work, accept it didn’t and keep moving forward. I remember once holding onto 2 best puppies in a litter, and after a couple of months I called my friend and said that no matter how much I wanted them to be good, they just weren’t. Sometimes that happens. I didn’t keep and show and breed them anyway...
If the best bitch puppy in the litter isn’t better than her mother, then why keep her? Or worse...sell her to someone else as their foundation?

Keeping only the best, showing only the best will rise our breed up overall. Holding onto a puppy because it was the smaller one, or you fell in love with it when it was born, or it’s the one that opened its eyes first, or your granddaughter loves it, is not assessing and keeping breeding stock. That is an emotional decision; not one based on quality and how they conform to the breed standard.

To breed the best litter you can, homework, homework, homework! Education pays off. Go to specialties, don’t just accept what the judge decides...watch the dogs in the ring, if you like something (even if it didn’t win), ask to go over it. The more hands on, the more you watch and pay attention, the better your decisions will be. Best of luck and we all look forward to seeing the fruits of your labour!!

Looking for Mr. Right???

Finding a stud dog is easy. Finding a good stud dog is a little more difficult. Finding the right stud dog for your bitch can be downright daunting. By following these guidelines, you can narrow your list to just a few contenders.

1. The selection of the right sire begins by knowing the strengths and weaknesses of your bitch, and prioritizing which are most important.

Use the tools available to understand the strengths and weaknesses of your bitch. The breed standard and Illustrated Standard are your best friends. Take advantage of experienced and successful breeder’s knowledge to help with an impartial assessment of your bitch.

The chances of finding a stud dog that complements all of your bitch’s weak areas is low, but it makes sense to focus on dogs that don’t share many of her faults and, more importantly, don’t share her more-significant faults. Even better, find a stud that has corrected the same weak points when bred to other bitches.

2. Learn as much as you can about the inheritance of the traits you need to change.

If your bitch’s undesirable trait is inherited as a simple dominant, then the stud dog may not be able to correct it, even if he doesn’t have that trait. If your bitch’s undesirable trait is inherited as a simple recessive, then the stud can only correct it if he does not exhibit the same trait, and even then, some puppies may still inherit the trait if he carries a recessive gene for it.

By looking at the stud dog’s ancestors, you can gauge how likely it is that he might carry a recessive gene. If an undesirable trait is inherited polygenically (by the combined action of several traits), then the stud may only be able to correct it part way, depending on how affected he is. You can get clues about what hidden polygenic genes the stud might carry by looking at his siblings.

3. Research the Top Candidates.

Look at any puppies he has sired. Remember that in picking a stud, you are not choosing HIM- you are choosing what he will most likely produce with your bitch. Many gorgeous dogs never have a single pup that’s as good as they are. You aren’t getting the male, you’re using his sperm.

Temperament matters. All the best pedigrees and photos cannot replace real knowledge of the dog as a dog. Talk to his owners, people that have met him, lived with him, and/or seen him work. Try to get a good idea of the personality of the dog.

4. Look at pedigrees of proposed sires.

Evaluating each stud dog should include the careful examination of his pedigree. If there are common relatives in his pedigree that have produced serious health problems, poor temperaments or life-threatening diseases, take them off the list. When you are finished it is best to write down what is known about each pedigree in a summary statement. Compare them to what is needed to
complement the pedigree of the bitch. This is a sorting process that will result in finding one or two candidates that have the best health histories, temperament, breed traits and progeny.

While a complex endeavor, consider Dr. Carmen Battaglia’s “stick-dog pedigree” as discussed on page 13. Even if you decide not to use the technique, remember you are breeding to every dog in that pedigree.

Take advantage of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Database that allows you to run trial pedigrees, calculate the Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI), see details of litters produced by a stud dog, view multiple photos, health information, and DNA results for dogs you’re interested in. The database is made available by the SCWTCA Endowment at http://www.scwtdb.org/ 5. See prospective stud dogs in person.

Pictures can be deceiving. Almost anyone can get a single decent photo of their dog... no matter how they truly look. Look at as many as you can, and try to create a composite image of the stud.

Talk to other breeders. Some gorgeous dogs are completely un-photogenic. A good place to see stud dogs is at the national specialty. For the dogs who make it to the top of your list, take the time and effort to see them up close and put your hands on them.

6. When possible choose a less-used sire over a popular sire, and a proven, mature dog over a young dog.

For one thing, who wants what everyone else has? In addition, if you plan to breed subsequent generations, your dogs will be more valuable to the breed if they don’t carry the same genes that are swamping the breed’s gene pool. Choose a mature dog or older sire over a young one. Young dogs may not have reached maturity. Size, substance, and coat can be significantly different on a one year old versus a three or four-year-old. Seeing the progeny of a proven stud dog is another huge benefit.

7. Consider the location of the stud dog.

Although location shouldn’t be your primary consideration, it factors into your planning. Do you want to breed your maiden bitch to a stud dog using chilled or frozen semen? Does the stud dog have a track record of successful long distance breedings? Although chilled semen is often a reality in our breed, extra expenses are involved in collecting, chilling, shipping and inseminating.

8. Once you’ve narrowed down your choices, contact the breeder or owner.

It’s better to contact only real contenders; other owners won’t appreciate a shotgun approach, especially if they send you lots of information and you never get back to them. Be prepared to tell them about your bitch, and either show her to them or supply pictures. Explain what you hope to achieve with the litter and when you plan to breed. It’s bad manners to simply assume they will say yes. Instead, ask them if they would consider a breeding.

9. Ask to see the stud dog’s genetic test results.

You should be familiar with the hereditary problems in our breed and the available tests for them. In fact, your bitch should have already had the same tests you require of the stud dog. Ask about the health and longevity of the stud’s siblings and ancestors. Give preference to a dog whose owner seems upfront about possible problems.

Keep in mind the growing interest and market for genetic testing is greatly expanding. Characteristics as coat color and curl are currently available markers. In the future even a defect like hip dysplasia could be a simple DNA test.

10. Seal the Deal.

Make sure the stud contract is clear, logical, and every detail is spelled out in writing. Ask about what constitutes a litter, and what arrangements are made in case no litter results. What sort of pre-breeding tests are expected by the owners of the stud and the bitch? Semen analysis? Ovulation timing? Brucellosis?

Remember, just as no dog is perfect, no stud choice is perfect. But doing the best research you can may raise your chances of perfect puppies.
Pedigrees are much more than dog names on a piece of paper. To dog breeders, pedigree analysis is more important than DNA because a top breeder can “read” genetic soundness.

Purebred dogs are much more than a pretty cover so it is the “family tree” that determines what is inside the eye-catch exterior.

Most kennel names on the pedigree should be familiar, and at least half should have the coveted Ch. or even GCh, and ideally, some dogs should be recognized top producers.

It’s a fast paced world out there and increasingly, everyone is or wants to be in the express lane. As you may have noticed, that can lead to pileups. If you’re too busy to study a stud dog’s pedigree and learning basic genetics seems like a waste of time, well, your “breeding program” is headed towards a fatal crash.

According to AKC records, the average life span of a new breeder used to be 5 years but I’ll wager it is now less than 3 years. So it only seems fair to take 3 minutes to learn things that can extend your time in dogs with contributions to the breed. Small rewards, like “bait” lead you onwards and help you succeed as a breeder.

Names on a pedigree tell you nothing unless...

... you’ve seen at least half of the first 14 dogs. If a dog is “repeated”, i.e., appears more than once, pay particular attention and research that dog. If you haven’t observed the dog in person, try to get a video. Photos are better than nothing but be aware that digital retouching is common today and the very fault you are trying to eliminate from your breeding program can be erased from a photo.

Parents and grandparents usually represent the most dominant genes in the pedigree but not necessarily. We’ll get to the “doubled up on” factor shortly but for right now, you need to know the phenotype and genotype of the first 6 dogs; sire, dam, and all four grandparents.

The importance of having a knowledgeable AND objective mentor in the breed can’t be stressed enough. Depending on which bloodline the pedigree represents, your mentor may be a bit biased. It’s human nature. The important thing when selecting a mentor to help you sort out a particular pedigree is: Has your potential mentor actually seen the first 6 dogs on the pedigree and hopefully, some of the siblings?

Look for genetic evidence of thoughtful line-breeding on a particular dog within the third or fourth generation of the pedigree you are literally buying into. If that dog produced consistently well, count him as being in the first or second generation because his genes are more concentrated and should therefore be more powerful.

A dominant, linebred grandparent repeated on the pedigree...

... can contribute as much as any one of the first 6 dogs. Hang on though, before you run into that pedigree pileup, you need to know there’s a little glitch in the above statement. More so today than ever before, most so-called line breedings occur as a matter of economy or convenience, not due to study of the genetics involved. A mediocre dog repeated in the pedigree can be bad news. It’s up to you to ferret out the concentrated dog’s quality before getting excited about a “line-bred” pedigree.

Top ranked BREED winners in the first two generations indicate someone was willing to spend time and money to prove their quality. Those dogs could be your super highway to breeding success. If the pedigree doesn’t reflect one or more verifiable top ranked Best Of Breed winners within the first three generations, it means one of two things: either there are no outstanding dogs despite any claims to the contrary OR you just learned that incompatible top winners bred to each other for the wrong reasons do not guarantee success. Even if a dog and bitch are outstanding representatives, it matters not unless they are genetically compatible.

A compatible pedigree means that neither sire nor dam...

... share the same fault either visibly (dominant) or hidden in their genes (recessive). Ideally, both would be dominant for the most important features of breed type and/or soundness. Do not mistake compatibility as being "from the same bloodline" because frankly, very few real bloodlines exist today.

Anyone can get lucky once or even twice. Before you buy into a pedigree, you need to slow down and take a good...
The Stick Dog Pedigree

Carmen L Battaglia, Ph.D. presented this tool at the education seminar during Montgomery KC 2018 weekend. For more detailed information visit https://breedingbetterdogs.com/book-page/stickdog-pedigrees-manual

The Stick Dog Pedigree is useful as a tool to improve the traits (phenotypes) of conformation. It allows breeders to see the strengths and weaknesses of each ancestor in a pedigree. The logic underlying this pedigree is that each individual is represented as a stick figure rather than a name and title. Each ancestor is drawn as a stick figure with seven structural parts: ears, head, neck, front, back, rear and tail. Each body part is color coded for its quality based on the breed Standard. Coding is straightforward. For example, if the ears of the sire were correct based on the breed standard, they would be coded blue; if they could be improved they would be coded black. If they were faulty they would be coded red and if they were a serious fault or a disqualification they would be coded grey. Thus, the color-coding of each ancestor identifies quality or lack thereof.

**Codes Rank For Quality**

**Blue:** Correct based on breed standard
**Black:** Could be improved
**Red:** Is a fault
**Grey:** A serious fault or disqualification
**Green:** Missing information

Notice how the Stick Dog Pedigree shows the strengths and weaknesses of each ancestor and which ancestors have not (green) been color coded for their qualities or lack thereof.

One of the advantages of pedigree analysis is the ability for breeders to “formula breed” and when information is missing go to a method known as “breeding-up.”
Advancements in Genetic Testing

By Peri Norman

As genetic testing becomes more commonplace, it behooves us to stay abreast of this rapidly changing field and to spend our dollars wisely. Many of us invest significant amounts of money testing our breeding stock and related animals. The availability of genetic testing has exploded subsequent to the completion of the canine genome map.

There are two basic types of genetic testing for dogs. One option is to test for a specific disease disorder or trait. If you have one or maybe a few tests that you are interested in, there are a myriad of companies that will test for a single mutation or may offer a breed-related panel with a handful of tests at a reduced rate. This worked well in the earlier stages of commercially available genetic testing, but as the number of traits and diseases that we can test for has sky-rocketed, it is often not the most economical way to obtain relevant information. More recently, another alternative has emerged, known as a high-density genotyping array. These arrays (or SNP chips) query hundreds of thousands of genetic markers, evenly spaced across the canine genome. Specific probes target known mutations to provide disease and trait testing; and others provide information on ancestry, inbreeding and diversity. The majority of markers are still uncharacterized. They are perhaps the most important as they provide an unprecedented opportunity for us to contribute directly to greater insight into the genetics of our dogs!

The landscape of canine genetic testing is changing at light speed. It is complicated and requires that we make a significant effort to educate ourselves. Choosing to do so puts us in the unique position to be able to make a positive impact for our dogs far into the future.

Excerpts from: Preservation Breeders – Advancements in Genetic Testing
Canine Chronicle, 222 – September, 2018; www.caninechronicle.com

As breeders, we should promote testing that contributes to researchers, not commercial entities. Both Missouri University and Penn provide genetic testing that benefits the breed through accumulation of results.

Some Terms We Should All Know

**Phenotype:** Traits that are visible to the eye e.g. color

**Genotype:** The genetic make-up of the dog or what the genes look like

**Genome:** The complete DNA of a species

**Gene:** A short piece of DNA made up of base pairs that are arranged in a specific order. A gene has a specific function and if the order of the base pairs is altered, a disorder can occur.

**Mutation:** A change in the sequence of the gene. This could lead to a disorder e.g. PRA or a new trait e.g. color variations

**SNPs:** Genetic markers where one nucleotide or base is substituted with another base

**Nucleotide:** An organic molecule that is the building block of DNA and RNA
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Group Judge: Ken Kauffman

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Group Judge: Jan Ritchie Gladstone

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• Lee E. Sprout, Jr., In Memory of Kate Imbrie
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As pet owners, we all want to provide our dogs with the most comfortable and healthy lives. Health concerns, both physical and behavioral, can challenge their overall well-being. A number of our dogs struggle with allergies, which are often difficult to diagnose. They can suffer from food allergies or environmental allergens, so it is vital that the causative agent(s) is found to aid in choosing the right treatment. For several years, a drug marketed as Apoquel has relieved many allergy symptoms. More recently, another called Cytopoint has worked well to mitigate allergy symptoms. Please read the following article by Jean Dodds DVM about the two drugs to help you make an informed decision about using these drugs.

Physical ailments can prevent our dogs from thriving as we like, but behavior problems can have the same effect. Noise phobia is a difficult problem to treat, but there several options available to relieve the panic that can arise from a phobia. The article presented here is adapted from a VetVine webinar by Julia Albright, MA, DVM, DACVB.

Finally, I continue to provide stories of dogs who have suffered and died from Degenerative Myelopathy. While this is an old-age onset disease, it is no less devastating for owners and dogs alike. Please read Charles’ story and thoughtfully consider DM testing of your breeding Wheatens. It is quick, painless and inexpensive. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to eradicate this disease?

Several readers asked us about Cytopoint, a newer medication to relieve itchy skin in dogs, and how it is different than Apoquel after an article we recently penned about the latter.

**WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CYTOPoint AND APOQUEL?**

Apoquel (oclacitinib) is a synthetic medication that modulates two (JAK1 and JAK3) out the four known Janus Kinase (JAK) enzymes. JAKs are important in white and red blood cell formation, immunity, inflammation, and also act as sentinels in the body to potentially help protect against tumor formation.

Once the JAKs are inhibited, inflammatory cytokines – that result in inflammation and itching – are slowed or stopped. The cytokines affected are interleukin-2 (IL-2), IL-4, IL-6, and IL-13 for allergy and inflammation. Another cytokine, IL-31, is also affected, but it is the one associated with itchy skin (pruritis).

However, Apoquel affects several important body functions as well as to simply stop itchy skin.

Used for the long-term, Apoquel can lead to a decrease in white blood cells and elevated liver values. Additionally, it increases a dog’s susceptibility to infection and neoplasms, which are new and abnormal growths of tissue in some part of a body that are characteristic of cancers such as mast cell tumors or even adenocarcinoma.

Cytopoint, by contrast, is a very appropriate name for this newer medication. Cytopoint is a protein (monoclonal antibody) and directly binds to the cytokine, IL-31, which is the one associated with chronic itching.

Long-term studies have not yet been published regarding Cytopoint, but very few side effects have been reported in clinical cases. Generally, fatigue has been noted within the first 24-48 hours after injection.

A researcher noted that a few cases showed diminished response with each additional injection, suggesting that antibodies to Cytopoint were developing (a process called tachypylaxis = rapid and short-term onset of drug tolerance).

So instead of affecting many different parts of the body like Apoquel, Cytopoint gets to the point: targeting the exact cytokine that causes the itchy skin.

**ARE CYTOPoint AND APOQUEL GIVEN DIFFERENTLY?**

Apoquel is an oral and daily medication. However, the manufacturer states that a dog caregiver can give Apoquel for short periods of time and that itch relief should occur within four hours.

Cytopoint is an injection given every four to eight weeks by a veterinarian. The manufacturer (same one for both drugs) says that some dogs may need year-round continuous treatment, whereas other dogs may only need it when itchiness flares.
ANY OTHER OPTIONS?

Another option is allergen-specific immunotherapy, although this author has had limited success with it. It functions by gradually increasing the given dosage amount of the specific antigen(s) causing the problem until the tolerance threshold has been achieved. Immunotherapy for environmental antigens can be administered via injectable shots (Allergen-Specific Immunotherapy; ASIT) or a newer treatment option that puts a few drops under the tongue (Sublingual Immunotherapy; SLIT). ASIT and SLIT are specifically tailored to the individual pet.

If the treatment is successful, veterinarians might be able to extend the interval between administrations or cease treatments altogether, but this therapy has an uneven success rate. The success rate for ASIT to alleviate symptoms is stated to be approximately 60-80% and SLIT has been around 60%.

Side effects are noted to be uncommon, but they can include injection-site reactions and the rare potential for anaphylactic shock. Thus, we should use caution when prescribing this protocol for environmental allergies.

PREFERENCE?

Dr. Dodds and Hemopet Holistic Care clinic use Cytopoint for chronic atopic dermatitis in severe cases, but only after certain steps are taken first.

Figure out what is causing your companion dog’s itchy skin. Jumping into immediate itch relief – without knowing the exact cause or causes of the itch – may quell a problem but doesn’t address the underlying cause that needs to be eliminated. On top of that, it can be costly.

So first, proper testing needs to be completed.

Itchy skin is often caused by a food sensitivity or intolerance. So, it is preferred to eliminate any documented reactive food proteins from your companion dog’s diet. For this, we suggest NutriScan Food Sensitivity and Intolerance Test for Dogs. NutriScan testing is recommended every 18 months, starting around puberty. Food reactivities can change and are cumulative as pets age.

At the same time, you should also have a serum-based blood test completed for seasonal and environmental allergens such as grasses, weeds, trees, wool, cotton, pollen, mold, fungi, dust mites, fleas, etc.

After NutriScan testing, many dog parents realize that they must carefully read all ingredient labels to be sure that the product is appropriate to feed. They remark that they are happy to have their dogs no longer itching, but also admit that sometimes finding the right foods can be frustrating.

Regardless, it is easier to eliminate one or more reactive foods than environmental allergens. Exposure to environmental allergens can be minimized. For instance, if your dog has a reaction to grass, you can wipe off his paws after a walk or have him wear booties. However, if these preventative measures do not work to minimize the reaction, talk to your veterinarian about Cytopoint.

References


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Category: General Health | Tags: Allergen-Specific Immunotherapy for Dogs, apoquel, cytopoint, dog food allergies, itchy skin, NutriScan
The Heartbreak of Degenerative Myelopathy

Here is the story of Denise and Jim Hansen and their dog, Charles, whom they rescued. They provided him a life he could never have imagined. Unfortunately, Charles developed Degenerative Myelopathy, a disease much like Lou Gehrig’s Disease in which the central nervous system is impaired to the point of paralysis followed by death. Determining a dog has DM is a diagnosis by elimination; that is, when everything else is ruled out, the diagnosis is DM. Only a necropsy of the spinal cord is definitive, and most people do not choose to do that. There is no known cure for DM, but there is a simple, inexpensive genetic test that can show the risk of DM in breeding pairs before puppies are born. Please read Charles’ story:

Charles was rescued

In August 2015, we rescued Charles from Southern California and brought him to Alaska at six years old. He was abandoned in a field of foxtails before being saved by the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California (SCWTCSC). His few remaining teeth were broken, he was thin, his hair was brown in many areas, his belly was very much discolored, and he was in pain.

Coming to Alaska meant a future of healing, fresh air, healthy food, crazy wheaten playmates and finally the “24/7” love Charles deserved. His potential seemed endless! His first year was a period of learning how to trust people, settling into his new life, understanding what it meant to be a dog and getting healthy. Then for the next year Charles finally experienced the true joy of being a dog before signs of DM appeared. But in that one year I saw enough courage, determination, and strength to last me a lifetime.

A typical wheaten, a typical life, so what makes Charles’ story so different? What makes this story so important to tell? It’s how a typical life and story can change when you hear the words “degenerative myelopathy.”

Charles’ year of Degenerative Myelopathy begins

We first saw signs of Charles’ lameness and dragging his back leg in November 2017 when we returned from my mother’s funeral. Signs of Charles’ lameness were evident on the snow-covered deck: three clear paw prints and a “drag.” But his personality was not diminished! Based on an exam, observations, and x-rays, our veterinarian suspected diskospondylitis. Given his history with foxtails, this seemed like a plausible diagnosis. We treated him with powerful antibiotics and anti-inflammatories, restricted his activity, purchased a dog carriage so he could join his family on walks, and waited patiently for the suspected infection and inflammation to heal. We knew it was a six-to-eight-week treatment plan.

After six weeks, we saw no signs of improvement. By chance a wheaten mother in Canada, whose dog was tested positive for DM, recommended taking a DNA test for Degenerative Myelopathy - a simple (cheek swab), inexpensive ($40-48) genetic test done through a laboratory. We opted to use DDC Veterinary; however, GenSol and Orthopedic Foundation for Animals offer saliva tests to screen for the mutated gene as well. On January 30, 2018 the test results came back “At Risk (2 copies of the DM mutation)”. Our hearts sank but our hopes remained high.

The next step was to confer with a neurologist and have an MRI exclude all other possibilities. The newly created “Team Charles” went off to Seattle in March 2018.

All signs pointed to a generally healthy spine and the neurologist broke the sad news and prognosis to us. The words “no cure” hit us like a ton of bricks and ring in my head to this day. Rehab techniques such as hydrotherapy, massage, and short but frequent walks were recommended to slow the progression of the disease. Ultimately a harness, some booties, and then a wheelchair would be required. The neurologist pointed out that each parent makes the decision at various stages of this disease where quality of life stops and when the parent has had “enough.” We were in it for the long run!
One day in early summer we noticed the lameness progressed to affect both back legs. The disease was spreading despite our efforts. His determination, spirit, energy, and positive attitude remained boundless! Because of Charles’ reactivity and the progression of the disease, he was in the harness 24/7. Living in the harness made it difficult to massage him, pet him, scratch his belly, and rolling over ceased to happen. While helpful for movement, elimination, and exercise, his life was changing. Behaviors often associated with a happy playful Wheaten were stripped away.

In July 2018 it was evident that Charles’ needed a wheelchair. His backend was completely paralyzed. After considerable research, we selected Eddies Wheels. We found them to have great experience with a focus on quality. Eddies Wheels is pricier than others, but Charles was worth it! Their products provided an added feature of adjustability when the DM began to impact the front legs. We provided over two dozen measurements to Eddie’s Wheels and placed our order!

We had such high hopes that Charles would take to his wheels and gain a whole new lease on life! His mobility would allow him to run freely and be a dog! Fitting Charles into his new wheelchair required a trip to Anchorage and our friends at VSA. Charles was his usual reactive self so after a few hours, medication, cones, towels, two technicians and repeat attempts over two days, we had a good enough fit to return to Homer and continue introducing him to this contraption. This did not go well, so we prioritized Charles’ comfort and peace over the anxiety associated with the wheelchair.

The good, the bad and the ugly of Degenerative Myelopathy

We explored all avenues, we exhausted all possibilities, we were frustrated and disappointed some options were not available to us, we did everything we could, and decided watching television, eating snacks and loving Charles was a good life. And that good life continued till November 5, 2018. His front legs were getting weaker, the sparkle in his eyes was dimming, and his quality of life significantly diminished. Charles was ready to go and on the one-year anniversary of my mother’s passing, we set Charles free. The Big One, Backseat Barker, Charles Barkley barked the whole way to the Rainbow Bridge.

You see your dog enjoying life, and then in a blink of an eye, you see ataxia or loss of coordination in his hind legs. Then his other hind leg drags only months later. Your dog is alert but wonders what is happening with his back end. CBD oil, lavender, and other over-the-counter supplements only slightly eased his anxiety. The struggle to move becomes more difficult. Your dog works so hard to motor and that takes a toll on his muscles. The cruel disease slowly progresses up his spine until he drops his front legs. There’s no easy mobility. Your dog becomes handicapped. His fate is sealed. Breathing becomes difficult and swallowing gets tougher. His bark goes from deep and throaty to squeaky. Yes, DM even takes a dog’s bark - the most fundamental of his communication and expression.

No breeder should ever want one of his/her puppies to experience even one horrific symptom of DM; no dog should ever experience that which is DM; no parent should ever have to endure the heartbreak of seeing their dog struggle with DM, especially when a simple, inexpensive, cheek swab test is available. I would appreciate the breeders adding that simple, inexpensive test to their responsible breeding practices. And to thank those who already do!!

For Charles’ complete story, contact:
Denise P. Hansen
Jimalohal@gmail.com
PO Box 3108, Homer Alaska 99603
571-218-5538
Contrarian

I’ve been very cranky lately. Instead of just subjecting John to it, I’m going to spread it around to all of you…be glad you’re only hearing it once.

Purebred Dog Breeders

The flavor of the last few months is that in lieu of “responsible breeder,” people are using “preservation breeder.” Many jumped on this bandwagon to the point that in advance of Westminster, those on Facebook saw an attempt to have this phrase go viral: “PURPOSEFUL PUREBRED DOGS, PROUDLY BRED BY AKC PRESERVATIONIST.” (Yes, in all caps.)

Leaving aside the alliteration and silliness of thinking that if purebred dog breeders put this on their Facebook pages they’re going to reach the masses, this phrase just makes me gag. Let’s start with…can we at least be grammatically correct? (I warned you I was cranky.)

Hey, if you reposted it…no harm, no foul. Lots of people did. You saw it as a way to promote our dogs, and that intent is always good.

I understand the point…purebred breeders preserve breeds. We aren’t creating the latest designer dogs just to make money. We recognize the wonder of purebred dogs is the great uniqueness of breeds…those traits making a Wheaten a Wheaten, a Lab a Lab, a Pug a Pug.

But the whole thing sounds apologetic, like we’re trying too hard to justify our existence. What’s wrong with “responsible breeder?” What are we afraid of…a puppy miller complaining we’re calling them irresponsible? Heck, bring it on…I’ll have that debate with anyone any day of the week. We will never adopt a phrase the millers won’t hijack so stop trying.

Forget about appeasing PETA, too. Because it sounds to me too much like we’re so afraid of PETA that we have to say no, no, we’re not bad people, we’re “preservationists.”

Get real for a minute. Did you breed your first litter solely to preserve the Wheaten breed? No, you didn’t. (If you say yes…I’ve got a few Pinocchios looking for a home.) You bred your bitch because you were encouraged by your breeder and friends you’d made, because she was pretty, because you wanted another Wheaten and one that came from your girl, because you wanted your next show dog, because it seemed like a fulfilling thing to do…or all the above. You’d fallen in love with the purebred dog world and wanted to continue to be a part of it. I’m glad you did.

I took marketing in my MBA program. I understand branding and the need for slogans. I also understand when they don’t have meaning for your audience, when they don’t represent the product accurately and when they stretch way too hard for importance…the fall like lead balloons. They need to be true, and they need to be simple.

If you’re breeding purebred Wheatens and you’re doing it responsibly…caring for your dogs, choosing mates wisely, selecting and supporting owners carefully and there for the life of your puppies…you only need to stand up and say the obvious: “I am proud to be a responsible Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier breeder.”

On The Other Hand…

Guess what? If you’re in favor of purebred dogs, you’re an elitist snob.

Such was the verdict of a number of people in a Wheaten-related Facebook group. This judgment was rendered when someone asked questions about getting a Whoodle, and some of us pointed out it was a mutt.

Oh, the horror.

Believe it or not, I chose to shut up once this supposed insult was hurled. After all, the frenzy was dying out. Plus, I was having a hard time typing over my guffawing.

What did they think was sitting next to them on the couch? It’s a PUREBRED dog.

People can talk all they want about loving all dogs, and they all deserve a home. Of course, they do. But they also own a Wheaten for the reasons I do: they love the temperament and they love the look. Some of them love the non-shedding aspect and for some, the lower allergenic...
nature of Wheatens is a plus. All worthy reasons for owning a Wheaten.

And lest anyone forgets, those traits exist because we snobby elitists breed purebred Wheatens.

The Old Bitch

Speaking of cranky...that was our much-loved Gabby. Oh, she was a happy, charming puppy, the California girl who always looked on in wonder at the “cold white rain,” a hoot as a youngster with a glorious coat in the show ring, a great mom. But in late middle age, she took on the persona of a “you kids get off my lawn” old-fart. We joked her motto was “Only the good die young...I’m living to 18.”

But after 13 years and 8 months, it was the day the candle in our wonderful vet’s office was lit for us.

It had been the better part of a decade since we faced saying good bye to one of our own. We’d held many owners’ hands in the interim, giving them advice and listening to them. We said all the right things we believed: better a week too soon than a day too late, don’t let their last day be their worst day. That experience didn’t make it any easier when it was our Gabby.

In those conversations, we also thanked all those owners for giving such good homes to those puppies whose first breaths were taken in our hands.

Our thanks for Gabby are many. We’ll always be grateful to Gabriel Rangel for saying “she’s the one, of course” (hence her name, CH Marymore Banner Gabriel’s Choice) and to Meg Ryan for getting her here from California...and beyond grateful to her breeder, Mary Peltier, for sending her to us and becoming our friend.

We didn’t love Gabby in spite of her crankiness. We loved her for it and for every minute of her life....and give us a magic wand and every owner’s experience would be like ours with Gabby.
The AKC National Championship in Orlando, FL, presented by Royal Canin, drew a record entry of 5,003 dogs.

- All 190 AKC recognized breeds were entered to compete.
- 4,803 entries in the AKC National Championship.
- 705 dogs were entered in the AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) Finals.
- 162 juniors, ages 9-17, who met high academic standards and qualification criteria based on year-round competition, competed in Junior Showmanship.

Obedience Classic and Agility Invitational

- 235 entries in the two-day AKC Obedience Classic, including 60 breeds from 30 states, Canada and Puerto Rico.
- 35 Junior Obedience entries and 33 Junior Rally entries in the AKC Juniors Classic.
- 716 entries in the AKC Agility Invitational, including 166 breeds from 45 states and 4 countries.
- 78 entries in the AKC Junior Agility Competition.

Events including all those listed pushed the overall show totals to 9,023 entries. This was the largest dog show held in the United States since the AKC 1984 Centennial event and the largest dog show in North America.

Judge: Bruce R Schwartz

Best of Breed: CH Keepsake's Raise Your Glass
Best of Opposite Sex: GCH CH Moxxy Shandalee Hello Gorgeous
Select Dog: GCHP CH Ainle Something To Talk About
Select Bitch: CH Keepsake's Seniorita Margarita
Best Bred By in Breed/Variety: CH Keepsake's Raise Your Glass
Best of Winners: Keepsake's I'M Trouble Y'All
Winners Dog: Frolic's It Was Up To Stiehl
Winners Bitch: Keepsake's I'M Trouble Y'All
1st Award of Excellence: GCHB CH Sundance's Lucky Rover
2nd Award of Excellence: GCHG CH Ainle Villanova Mouth Of The South CGC
3rd Award of Excellence: GCH Moonstruck Cosmic Cruiser
4th Award of Excellence: Keepsake's I'M Trouble Y'All
The 2018 AKC Agility Invitational held in December in Orlando, Florida, brings together the Top 5 Regular height competitors and the Top 1 Preferred height competitors in each AKC recognized breed. Rankings are compiled based on agility MACH points earned during the July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 qualifying period:

Receiving invitations to this year’s prestigious event were the following Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier teams:

**Regular Dogs**

#1 “Pretzel” CH MACH5 Aran Twisted Logic MXB2 MJB2 OF, owner Elizabeth Abate (1585 pts)

#2 “Darby” MACH Eringlo Riverdance MXG MJB CGC, owner Janine Mroz (1344 pts)

#3 “Riley” Gradaigh O’Riley Of Vermilion MX MXG MXJ MJC T2B, owners Bill and Michelle Space (428 pts)

#4 “Rory” Rory Red King Of The Links AX MXJ OF T2B THDN CGCA TKI, owner Mary Whiting (336 pts)

#5 “Rio” CH MACH Eringlo Dancing Through Life VCD2 BN RE MXG MJC NAP NJP SWN, breeder/owner Cindy Jansen (231 pts)

**Preferred Dog**

#1 “Scamp” CH Katdancer Look At Me Scamper RN AX AXJ MXP MJP OF SWN, owner Lee Martin (201 pts)

We had a fun and enthusiastic group this year with all the top teams able to attend the competition. It was great for us all to compete with other Wheaten teams, as many of us do not get to see other Wheatens in our home areas. There was a genuine spirit of camaraderie among our group, with some competitors seeing each other again from previous years’ Invitational as well as new friends made. After two days of competition, we were all tired, but thrilled, to have been a part of such a wonderful agility competition in the wonderful venue that is the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando.

The six teams representing our breed at the 2018 AKC Agility Invitational are shown in the group photo:

From left to right:

Back, Michelle Space and “Riley,” Janine Mroz and “Darby,” Elizabeth Abate and “Pretzel,” and Cindy Jansen and “Rio.” Front, Mary Whiting and “Rory” and Lee Martin and “Scamp”
Following are the final standings after two days of competition with four runs total. Entered were 114 dogs in the 20” jump height class and 139 dogs in the 16” jump height class. The points and seconds listed are cumulative for the 4 Invitational runs. A “clean” run with no faults is 100 points. Individual run scores are noted in parentheses.

#1 “Rory” 375 points 132.269 seconds - 84th in the 16” height class (90/95/95/95)
#2 “Riley” 365 points 211.291 seconds - 91st in the 20” height class (80/71/100/76)
#3 “Rio” 312 points 215.644 seconds - 99th in the 16” height class (97/85/80/50)
#4 “Pretzel” 300 points 96.629 seconds - 100th in 16” height class (100/0/100/100)
#5 “Darby” 238 points 130.587 seconds - 127th in the 16” height class (100/0/100/38)
#6 “Scamp” 167 points 105.736 seconds - 135th in the 16” height class (0/0/73/94)

Mary Whiting and “Rory,” as the 1st place team, earned the 2018 Top Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Breed Medallion. The medallion is generously donated to the top Wheaten by the SCWTCA. This was Mary and Rory’s first time at the Invitational after only competing for a little over a year. This 4 year old is Mary’s very first agility dog. Rory also has titles in Therapy and Tricks. These two are an awesome team of newcomers who are already becoming a credit to the breed. Mary was thrilled to win the medallion, and Rory is a sweet, social, beautiful guy who was such a joy to watch running agility.

Michelle Space and “Riley” were the 2nd place team. Michelle and her husband Bill Space have attended several Invitationals in past years and are well known to many of us with agility Wheatens. At seven years old, this was Riley’s second qualifying year for the Invitational and his first opportunity to attend. Riley also loves Barn Hunt and taking long walks to find new canine friends.

Cindy Jansen and “Rio” as the 3rd place team were making their second appearance at the event, having been invited a total of three years. Rio is 7 years old and has titles in several AKC dog sports in addition to agility such as Conformation, Obedience, Rally, and Scent Work earning two Versatility Dog titles. Cindy is not only the owner/handler of Rio, but also his breeder as well.

Elizabeth Abate and “Pretzel” were the 4th place team. Pretzel has been invited to the Invitational five times and has been able to attend three years. She previously earned the Top Wheaten Medallion twice and was the #1 Wheaten going into the Invitational three years in a row.

Janine Mroz and “Darby” earned the 5th place spot. Darby has been invited to, and attended, the Invitational in 2016, 2017, and 2018. She is 7 years old and is a littermate to Cindy’s Rio. Darby earned her second MACH only seven months after earning her first one in November 2017.

Lee Martin and “Scamp” took 6th place amongst the Wheatens. At ten years old, Scamp was our oldest competitor this year. Unfortunately due to a shoulder injury, Scamp was unable to compete on Saturday, but did run on Sunday. This was Lee and Scamp’s first time qualifying for and attending the Invitational. A conformation champion, Scamp also has titles in other dog sports like obedience and dock diving.

Overall, it was a fun weekend and an honor to be at an event with some of the best agility competitors in the country. The level of training and skill among dogs and handlers has increased tremendously over the years. These six Wheaten teams not only had an amazing experience in Orlando, but also did a wonderful job of representing our breed at this large and prestigious event. We are all blessed to have such wonderful, versatile Wheaten companions.
We're Going To Tulsa!

By Amy Feldman

Orion Trebol Hot House Flower UDX PCDX BN OM1 OA AXJ CGCA (“Posey”) and her humans will be going to Tulsa, Oklahoma March 16-17, 2019 to participate in the 2019 AKC National Obedience Championship.

Invitations were sent to the top scoring dogs of every AKC recognized breed and over 500 dogs will be competing. All dogs are OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion) pointed. This event is held the day after the National Rally Championship at the same site in Tulsa.

On Saturday all dogs will compete in each of eight rings, performing two to three exercises from the advanced Open and Utility obedience classes. Points are deducted for both dog and handler errors. At the end of the day awards will be given out for placements by group. On Sunday the top 50 dogs will compete for final placements.

Posey and I have attended this prestigious event twice before, in Perry, Georgia in 2017 and Dayton, Ohio last year. She is the first Wheaten to be invited and we are excited and honored to represent our breed again this year. Wish us good luck!

Amy Feldman

Wheatens Prove Their Versatility

By Dorice Stancher

At the AKC Dock Diving North American Diving Dogs (NADD) Nationals in Orlando, Krista showed courage and determination at her third invitation to the NADD Nationals earning seventh place in the challenging Dock Junior Veteran division. She was the smallest in the class of 20 competitors, finishing ahead of larger working and water dog breeds including German Shepherds and Labrador Retrievers. Many dogs and their owners struggled with the noise and dock conditions which were challenging due to cold water and the crowd of several thousand people. Krista in her usual style lunged for the stairs and forced the gate open taking position for the 20 foot stay. She took two competitive jumps and then re-confirmed her dominant position in the final jump sequence. Krista thinks nine is the new seven and continues to train in the off season as she looks forward to competing with her owner, Dorice Stancher and earning her Dock Junior Excellent title.

Krista has raised more than $500 toward Camp Dream Street for children with cancer. Krista participates in cam as part of their pet therapy program.

Krista
Canadian CH Holweit’s Red Grenadine CGC, CGCA, CGCU, RN (CKC/AKC), THDA, HT, BN, TDA, DN, DJ AKC Achiever Dog

Owned by Dorice Stancher
Bred by Sylvia and Bill Hamilton (Holweit)
The Westminster Kennel Club is America’s oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. In its 143rd year, it is the second oldest U.S. sporting event, behind only the Kentucky Derby horse race.

Established in 1877, Westminster’s influence has been felt for more than a century through its famous all-breed, benched dog show held every year at New York City’s Madison Square Garden. Today, America’s dog show has expanded into Westminster Week which includes Meet The Breeds, Masters Agility Championship at Westminster and the Masters Obedience Championship at Westminster, held at Piers 94. More than 3,000 dogs entered from around the world make Westminster Week like no other.

With its spectacular beginnings and extraordinary growth in the years to follow, the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show was quickly reflecting the growth and success of New York City. As the dog show grew every year, so did the Westminster Kennel Club’s position as the symbol of the purebred dog, with its influence being felt in show rings everywhere, and eventually in millions of television homes across the country. Westminster has become America’s Dog Show.

JUDGE: Mr. Michael J. Dougherty

Best of Breed and GROUP 4: GCHS CH J’Adores Stanley Cup Toews At Raelyn

Best of Opposite Sex: GCHS CH Serendipity October Quest

Winners Bitch: Harbour Hill One In A Million

Select Dog: GCHB CH Lismore Once In A Lifetime

Select Bitch: GCH CH Moxxy Shandalee Hello Gorgeous

Award of Merit: GCH CH Bradberry’s Divine Fitzpatrick

Award of Merit: CH Keepsake’s Raise Your Glass
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Articles and letters closing date for June 2019 issue: May 1

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Ad closing date for June 2019 issue: May 1

Send advertising to Helen Fraguela, at fraguela@aol.com or via mail to 8681 Waterview Terrace, Parkland, FL 33076. If sent by overnight service, sign “signature waiver” (so driver will leave package). If you have copy and photos submitted by due date, draft layouts will be provided for edits. Include email address for quick turnaround. Payment sent to the editor, payable to SCWTCA.

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3825 132nd Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98005-1303

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Christmas dreams can come true!

CH Harbour Hill Toy Story (Buzz) x CH Harbour Hill Atas EVOO (Olive)

MR UTLEY ~ GCHB Harbour Hill Double Dog Dare

BISS ~ Greater Denver SCWTC - Judge Mr. Robert J. Shreve
BISS ~ Greater Denver SCWTC - Judge Mrs. Lorraine W. Bisso
Group 3 ~ Eastern Dog Club Holiday Classic - Judge Mrs. Jacqueline L. Stacy
Group 1 ~ Greater Lowell Kennel Club - Judge Mrs. Carine Buitendach

Owned by Dave & Sherrie Wight and Susan Sakauye. Beautifully presented by Jorge & Susie Olivera and Susan Burrell.

GUINNESS ~ GCHB Harbour Hill A Christmas Story

BOB ~ Desert Empire Terrier Club of
So. CA - Judge Mrs. Billie R. Kellogg Kneale
Group 4 ~ Conejo K.C. - Mr. Houston Clark

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Harbour Hill Wheatens
Susan Sakauye ~ 805.967.0953 ~ ssakauye@aol.com

Owned by Alla Bezkrovny & Susan Sakauye
Beautifully presented by Jorge & Susie Olivera
GCH Moonstruck Cosmic Cruiser
“Frankie”

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

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

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