

UK - Post Mortem Information:

Dear Owner

Nobody likes to think of the time when we might lose our Wheaten friend and companion. The moment we do lose them is very emotional and sensitive for us and a time when the pain of grief can cloud our better judgement.

At a time like this, suggestions of a post mortem are almost unthinkable, but the last loving act could be to allow your Wheaten to provide valuable medical information that may benefit the breed in future; the health of every Wheaten is important, even if it has not been bred from.

Of course, this is a difficult task to take on board so soon after death, but it may help and reassure you that it may not be necessary for a 'full body' post mortem to be carried out. Often, all that may be required, unless there are serious concerns over the cause of death, is to take a sample, using keyhole surgery, from the kidney and/or intestine.

If you would like your Wheaten to make this valuable contribution to wheaten health, it may help to discuss the possibility with your Veterinary Practice so that they can be aware of your wishes well in advance so he/she can discretely carry out the necessary procedures on your behalf, when the time comes.

Importantly, if it is suspected that your dog has died of a hereditary disease, please inform your breeder, and the SCWT Club of GB as this may provide valuable information for future breed health.

Further details about the PM process are given below.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter.

Regards

Wheaten Health Initiative

Information for Owners and Veterinarians:

The request for pathological examination should be made through your veterinary surgeon, who will make contact with either the Animal Health Trust or the Royal Veterinary College, as they have experience in performing Post Mortems on Wheaten Terriers.

The AHT and the RVC will charge for their services, as will your Vet. and the cost of the process will depend on whether a whole body or tissue samples are required.

Should your Wheaten have a hereditary disease, or is strongly suspected to have died of a hereditary disease, then please contact the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of GB as you may qualify for assistance from the health fund. Contact details are at the back of this Handbook and also available on our web site.

Your post mortem report will go back to the referring veterinarian, who would then relay the report and results to you.

DNA will also be collected on PM (if it has not already been previously stored).

Important:

Please give your Vet all this information so he/she knows the correct storage procedure and who to contact – *this is very important*.

Ideally the post mortem needs to take place:

- Within 48 hours of death or euthanasia. ***However, in the case of samples of the intestine, it is important that these are taken as soon as possible after death.***
- The body should be refrigerated (*not frozen*)
- If death occurs over a weekend, please do not send anything to the RVC or AHT until Monday morning.
- Please include a summary of the clinical history leading up to death, or euthanasia, with the body/tissue samples.
- If a whole body post mortem is not necessary, advice regarding the appropriate tissues required for collection can be obtained by contacting one of the pathologists at the RVC or the AHT.
- The RVC and the AHT are able to give advice to the referring veterinary surgeon, on a case by case basis, submission of the whole body or parts thereof and the cost of the procedure.

Who to contact:

The pathology departments at the Royal Veterinary College and the Animal Health Trust have experience of the diagnosis of Protein Losing Enteropathy (PLE), Protein Losing Nephropathy (PLN), Renal Dysplasia (RD) and Addison's disease, including the criteria used to distinguish between a kidney affected by RD and one which is affected by PLN.

Vet Referral Only:**Animal Health Trust - Diagnostic Laboratory Services**

Lanwades Park
Kentford
Newmarket
Suffolk,
CB8 7UU

Telephone: 01638 552993

Fax: 01638 555643

E-mail: diagnostics@aht.org.uk

Web site: www.aht.org.uk

Royal Veterinary College

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