



To provide a platform for the reception and transmission of  
information about the health and well-being of the  
Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier

## NEWSLETTER

No. 13 December 2006



*"Failure is only a temporary setback before your next success"*

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### EDITORIAL

After sterling work since February 2003, Sandra Jeffries has decided to take a step back from the day to day work involved with WHI, so is no longer an active member of the steering group. However, she will still be assisting with other tasks, including the printing and distribution of the AHT packs and Health handbooks. The steering group would all like to thank you San for your past and continued support, and hope you enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

I enjoyed a great visit to the World Show in Poznan, Poland in November with Wheaten friends where 85 Wheatens were entered. Suzi Jacobs, owner of Megan, joined us and you may remember that Suzi first wrote about Megan in our Newsletter No. 5. Megan had started being unwell around Christmas 2003 and was diagnosed with PLE early in 2004. Suzi has sent an update which I am sure will give heart to those who may be concerned about this disease.

I am pleased to report that the third of the pledged donations to the Animal Health Trust from WHI has now been made.

News from Cecily Skinner in the USA : The second Wheaten Health Newsletter, another very useful and informative publication, is now available from the SCWT Club of America Website. This can be accessed on [www.scwtca.org](http://www.scwtca.org) in the 'What's New' section of the Home Page. In this issue Cecily has very kindly included the 'Diary of WHI events' since the inception of the group in February 2003. I believe that at the moment the Newsletters of WHI and the SCWT Club of America are possibly the only publications dedicated to the health of the breed in the world. Long may they continue to share information worldwide.

On behalf of WHI I was able to attend the British Veterinary Nurses Association Congress at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, in October, under the cloak of the British & Irish Breeds Preservation Trust, where I was able to distribute the WHI chart for hereditary diseases which hopefully will reach even more of the veterinary profession. I do appreciate that many people in the breed do not consider the Wheaten vulnerable, and perhaps in terms of numbers they are not; however, it is so important not to be complacent about this. All of our dogs, worldwide, are descended from the same few Wheatens and therefore share the same genetic background. Because of this we need to be mindful that the health issues of PLE, PLN and RD are forever present and could manifest themselves when least expected in any line. This must surely represent a vulnerability that we cannot afford to ignore.

If you carry details of your dogs in the car in case of accidents, and I'm sure most of you do, some good tips are to also include feeding instructions, medication details if required and microchip information. Updating every six months is also advised. My thanks to 'Woof', Newsletter of the SCWT Club of Southern California for these tips.

With my love of archives I was very interested in reading Anne Roslin-Williams comments in her article in a recent Dog World when she wrote about breed historical records over the years, particularly mentioning a rare book in another breed, published in hard back. She said what a good thing it was that this was not produced on someone's computer as it would have been today, but was published in hard back so that, nearly a century later, this scarce record book still exists. Her last sentence read – *"The properly printed word and photograph endures the passing of decades and even centuries"*. Oh how I agree with her. I keep hard copies of everything which can prove very valuable on occasion.

The second, and final part, of Sara John's 'The Importance and Variety of Play in Dogs' is included in this issue. Thanks must go to Sara for her interest and the time involved in collating this insight into the understanding and necessity of play for owners and breeders.

Many thanks to Shirley Barton who has recently completed a course in puppy training with Behaviourist Gwen Bailey and sent in an excellent article on this subject. Well done Shirley this is very much appreciated and your article will be included in the next Newsletter.

Although it could appear that the steering group are possibly a bit quiet, believe me, we certainly are not dormant and there is much going on in the background. The fourth birthday of WHI is on the 16<sup>th</sup> February and plans are in action for an interesting Workshop event near that date. See **STOP PRESS** at the end of this Newsletter.

Last, but not least, check out this website – [www.vetkiosk.info](http://www.vetkiosk.info) – it's great!



Barbara Tel : 0117 9324297  
Email : [penney@btinternet.com](mailto:penney@btinternet.com)

## GT RAFFLE

Congratulations to Lynn Carter on her marvellous Campaign with GT (aka Muffin) which pulled a wonderful £415 on the GT raffle. The money raised will be put towards our next event.



The winning ticket was drawn by Barry Canty on the HUB International Stand at LKA, and the winner is Karen Webster in Lincolnshire.



Karen, who wasn't present at the show, writes -

*"I just wanted to let you know how thrilled I was to become GT's new mum. I have made the decision that for the time being he should stay with his Aunt Lynn as he tells me he enjoys his work and he feels that there is still more he can do to raise funds for WHI, that Lynn is an excellent foster mother, and he is very happy.*

*When (and if) he retires, he will be homed with a special little girl who has been through a lot lately with her Mum in and out of hospital, and who I know will give him a good home."*

GT, looking splendid in his new Christmas outfit for the draw, will leave in his own special 'I'm going home' box, which includes an extra outfit, a Pet Passport and a book of his exploits, with photographs, up to December.

GT was kindly commissioned and donated by Barbara and Steve Bradford

## Update on Megan

Suzi Jacobs, owner of Megan who was diagnosed with PLE, writes -

*"It has been three years now since the onset of Megan's illness. She was on medication for the first 5 months only and has not been on it since. She is fed on Eukanuba Diet FP Formula Dermatitis, with Ocean Bites treats from Burns which are 100% pure dried fish (not too smelly either!) and is doing really well. Her weight is normal and she is just like a Wheaten should be. I had her checked recently and everything was fine. All the DNA and results were sent to the Animal Health Trust.*

*Megan will be 9 years old at the end of January. What more can I say except we love her to bits."*

## The Importance and Variety of Play in Dogs

By Sara John

### Part 2 - The Results

*The first part of this survey appeared in Newsletter 12 and gave an introduction to the study and purpose of play*

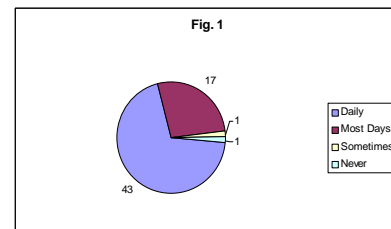
*The survey questionnaire was handed out at the WHI Seminar in November 2004 and a copy is available if required*

### Results

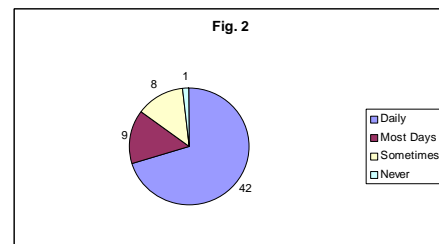
Owners (n= 14) who had bred their own litters were asked to identify what age they started playing with their puppies. The timing specified was in the range of two days to five weeks with 1 abstinence. The median of opinion was identified as two weeks (n=5) and three weeks (n=4). All breeders stated they played with their puppies both individually and altogether. A total of 35 games were played individually, with eight of these games involving human contact and were variously identified as noises, hiding, blowing, tickling, grooming etc. Popular games were chasing, fetch, playing with toys generally, and the selection of human contact activities outlined above.

A total of 28 games were played with the puppies altogether, the most popular games were retrieving and chasing, with a selection of toys used in both activities. A full list of individual and altogether games can be seen in Appendix 2.

Owners were also questioned on whether they played with their adult dogs. Significantly 96.7% (n=60) played with their dogs daily or most days, and only 3.3% (n=2) stated they played with their dogs only sometimes or never, see Figure 1.

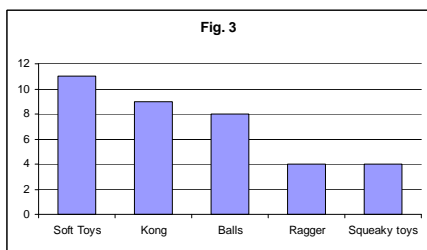


When asked if their dogs played with other dog, 85% (n=51) stated this occurred either daily or most days, and only 15% (n=9) stated their dogs only sometimes or never played with other dogs.



When asked what games the owner's elderly dogs liked to play, the list reduced considerably to either the same games as when younger, or a selection of only seven games in all. The most popular games were those, which were food orientated, or the dog continued to play similar games to those it had played when younger.

100% of respondents stated their dogs used toys, and provided a list of 30 toys used. The five most popular toys used were soft toys (11), Kong (9), Balls (8), Ragger (4), and squeaky toys (4).



The final question asked for an opinion on two statements: 22 participants strongly agreed that 'Play can improve and maintain the health of the dog', with three tending to agree and two abstaining. On the opinion of 'Play can improve the intelligence of the dog', 23 strongly agreed, two were unsure and two abstained.

### Discussion:

Triangulation to eliminate bias would not have been possible with this survey. It is suggested that some answers may be biased in favour of owners wanting to present their particular dog(s) as being the best at playing etc. however, it is generally believed the answers were given honestly. A general impression of consistency across most questionnaires would suggest this hypotheses to be correct.

Many canine books appear to view play for training purposes and discussed activities as a learning exercise, suggesting that dogs can only learn if lessons are presented as informal and social activities. However, the survey amongst this sample of mostly Wheaten breeders and owners indicates many pet owners see play as a specific activity quite separate from training. There was also a special sense of 'pleasure' evident in the selection of toys that were suggested as being frequently played with.

Most interesting was the fact there were 27 respondents with a total of 62 dogs, averaging dog ownership at 2.3 per participant – just under the norm of 2.4 children! There were more bitches than dogs, however as half the owners were breeders (n=14, 51.9%), this had some significance as to the bias in favour of bitches, because between the breeders there were 28 bitches (70%) amongst a total of 40 dogs.

100% of all the breeders played with their puppies in the litter, thus supporting the theory given by Fogle (1992) and Coppinger (2002) that early socialisation should start from as young as four weeks. In conjunction with this it was considered significant owners played with their elderly dogs, but food orientated games were favoured more. Experiments have shown that healthy active dogs whose oxygen level is increased take longer to develop the signs of ageing. This suggests maintaining healthy condition with suitable environmental stimulus is likely to retain vitality and slow down the ageing process. Fogle (1992) makes the point, all breeds differ in the time sequence of the biological clock and when it tells the body to alter course and age, this can be breed specific but is also as a direct consequence of the environment with which the dog is associated. So clearly participants were providing appropriate

stimulation for their ageing canines. The oldest dog reported was seventeen.

The variety of toys suggested was not as wide as had been anticipated. Fewer toys were used in the early days of socialisation, and play or learning activities appeared to be more in use with puppies than actual toys. In counting the number of different toys on sale at a local shop, 102 different items were identified - different sizes or variations of the same theme, were not included in the numbers. Owners however, only accounted for 26 (25.49%) within the ideas offered for those dogs not playing in the litter and not elderly. Three of the toys: soft toys, balls and Kong, were clear favourites amongst the dogs owned by this group.

In considering whether owners played with their dogs or allowed them to play with other dogs, there were similarities of numbers for those dogs that played with their owners daily (n=43) and played with other dogs daily (n=42). The figure divided over the option of most days and sometimes between the two groups, with one dog apparently never playing either with its owner or with other dogs, and perhaps more investigation of the reasons behind these figures, would be worthy of further study.

The final opinion shared related to participants ideas on play contributing to health and well being and intelligence, and here most people seemed to be in favour of strongly agreeing and supporting the view that play was an important means of developing the dog's potential for these reasons.

### Conclusion:

This survey generated some interesting data in terms of information about breeder's practice in developing early socialisation with litters of puppies. In addition the ideas produced of the games and toys used, would make a useful addition to information for potential new recruits to the field of dog breeding. Toys used later in the dog's life would be useful information to include in puppy packs for new owners, who must feel overwhelmed by the choice of different toys available to them.

The experience of playing with a dog can be exhausting at times, but the unique bond that can develop, and the benefits to both the dog and the owner in terms of health and stimulation was very obvious in the survey. It makes information of this type most enjoyable to analyse. It was evident from the results that nearly all owners shared the pleasure they gained from sharing activities with their dog(s). Further research to analyse the context, depth of stimulus and the relationship to canine longevity would make interesting further study.

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## NEWS REPORTS AND INFORMATION

### Games breeders played with individual puppies:

Paper	Toys	Training activities
Human contact	Hide and seek	Hide treats
Find treat	Tug	Retrieve
Ball	chasing toy	grooming
Silly noises	blowing on tum	loving
Soft toy fights	fetch	squeaky toys
Telly watching	tickling	play fight
Ball rolling	fluffy toy moving	Frisbee
Hide biscuit	ball game	chasing ball
Touch toys	sound toys	rubber bone
Rubber gloves	card egg boxes	small boxes
Card tubes	rubber ring	

### Games breeders played with their puppies in a group:

Retrieve	With toys	Hide and seek
Whistle training games	Wrestling	Chase the sock
Tap the floor	See who comes	Chasing
Scruffing	throwing	tunnelling
Ball catching	Tug	fetch
Squeaky toys	telly watching	toy rolling
Ball games	Frisbee	hide biscuits
Suspended toys	rolling toys	noisy toys
Human contact	2me2you	open the box
Blanket game		

### Games people played with their elderly dogs:

Food orientated	new tricks	retrieve
Pinching blanket	chasing soft toys	catching balls
Find the treats		

### Toys people's dogs liked to play with:

Ragger	pull toys	noisy toys
Soft toys	old clothes	kong
Ball	teddies	furry toys
Mobile phones	rooster	large rope
Hard rope	rubber ring	squeaky toys
Wiggly giggly ball	kong on rope	Frisbee
Octopus	solitaire blocks	stolen clothes
Latex toys	soft rope	nylabone
Filled bones	spiky ball	squeaky bone
Xmas pudding string	empty box game	

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### Acknowledgements:

Wheaten Health Initiative, who kindly gave permission for the survey to take place.

Judy Creswick, Secretary of the SCWT Club of GB, who kindly made the effort to find and send some articles and loaned a book on Games to Play.

© Sara John, Dohoci Wheatens, February 2006

### Coronavirus: What you need to know

Andrew Little, MCRVS, writes that Canine Coronavirus is not the most well-known dog disease yet it's more common than infectious diseases, such as Parvovirus and Distemper and has a worrying ability to magnify the severity of other diseases.

Here's an example. Parvo' is serious and can sometimes prove fatal. But when coronavirus is also present, the mortality rate increases dramatically. In one study, the mortality rate went from 0% for dogs with Parvo' alone, to 89% when Parvo' and coronavirus were both present. A chilling fact!

Perhaps coronavirus has remained out of the spotlight because it is difficult to diagnose. Initial signs include lethargy, anorexia and depression. This can progress to severe diarrhoea, then dehydration and weight loss. On occasion, deaths have been attributed to coronavirus infection.

According to researchers, roughly 25% of diarrhoea samples may contain coronavirus. If dogs are infected, they risk becoming seriously ill, a risk which is compounded if they then contract another virus. As with other diseases, young pups are more susceptible than older animals.

Recent research aimed at improving diagnostic tests for coronavirus has increased our knowledge of the virus and this has led to a reassessment of its importance. While at present testing for coronavirus remains difficult, the potential threat posed to dogs is crystal clear.

Mr. Little suggests that when you are planning your vaccination schedule, you ask your vet to vaccinate your pet against coronavirus – prevention is always better than cure.

*Source 'Our Dogs' 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005*

### Dog Blood Donors

You can help save a pet's life by registering your dog as a **blood donor**.

Every day dogs just like yours need blood transfusions. For many procedures a transfusion is a clinical necessity, without dog blood donors, veterinary surgeons could not undertake important and often life-saving operations.

**You can help**, there is always a need for donors like your own dog! With advances in veterinary medicine, it is possible for vets to offer higher and higher standards of care for their patients. In human medicine, supplies of blood and blood products are available through the efforts of the National Blood Transfusion Service.

Vets however must rely on their own resources. That is why the **Dog Blood Donors** website was created. By becoming an animal blood donor your dog can help vets help other pets through provision of life-saving blood transfusions.

The website, [www.DogBloodDonors.com](http://www.DogBloodDonors.com) which is free to owners and vets, aims to bring dog blood donors to the attention of vets so that lives can be saved. Veterinary practitioners are provided with an on-line database of potential dog blood donors, pets just like yours! Please consider your dog as a donor and making him, or her, available when you are contacted. Registration is free and easy on-line.

The **Dog Blood Donors** is currently a UK only facility. Through generous support from various organisations the project was able to be set up.

## Dedicated to fighting cancer in our pet dogs

1 in 4 dogs will develop cancer in their lifetime and lymphoma is one of the most common cancers in dogs. To help in the fight against this terrible disease, **PetScreen** have developed the first ever cancer screen for canine lymphoma.

The big problem with cancer in dogs is that it usually goes unnoticed until it is too late. When dog cancer is discovered early, the chances of successful treatment are much greater. Routine screening can improve cancer care by helping pick up tumours that might otherwise be missed.

**PetScreen Ltd.**, based in Nottingham, UK, is a pioneering company dedicated to improving cancer detection and treatment in pets. They have developed the first ever screen for lymphoma cancer in dogs and are now working on additional dog cancer screens for the other major canine cancer killers.

## Detecting Cancer in Dogs

The lymphoma screen only needs a very small blood sample which is taken by your vet. You can book your dog's lymphoma screen through **PetScreen's** website [www.pet-screen.com](http://www.pet-screen.com) using the on-line booking form, or telephone 08000 284811. All you need to do then is to make an appointment with your vet to take the blood, **PetScreen** will arrange the rest. The results will be sent to your vet directly in about two weeks who will then discuss the report with you.

## Helping to Treat Cancer in Dogs

If cancer is detected, **PetsScreen** provide an additional test called DCA which helps your vet find the best treatment for your dog.

Professor Graeme Radcliffe, Chairman and Co-founder of **PetScreen Ltd.**, who has lost three dogs to this dreadful disease, says *"The screen and treatment programme has been born out of a real passion for our dogs and the experience of losing them to cancer"*.

## Dogs, Children & Immune Systems

Apparently 'new research' is telling us something that most dog people have known for a long time, that young children who live in homes with dogs (or cats) are less likely to get gastroenteritis than those who do not.. These 'new researchers' believe that "greater exposure to bacteria at a young age may help children develop stronger immunity systems".

The research took some 6 weeks observing almost 1,000 children aged four to six. Those children with a dog or cat in the household were found to be 30% less likely to have incidents of diarrhoea and vomiting.

## Hedgehogs & salmonella/e-coli type virus

Welsh Springer Breed Notes in October, gave a word of warning – a Welsh Springer Spaniel was rushed to the vets and on examination it was thought to be pancreatitis but it wasn't, so he was put on a drip overnight and given medication. The following morning two more belonging to the same owner were rushed in with the same thing, in fact four of them ended up on drips.

Whilst relaying this to someone else a friend suddenly said "Hedgehogs". His two WSS had had a fight with a hedgehog and around two weeks later one fell sick showing the same symptoms as the first one above. He wouldn't eat, had no energy and was committing with a temperature. On examination by the vet

again it was thought to be pancreatitis and the dog was on a drip for days.

This information was relayed to the owner of the first dog who remembered that her dogs had investigated a dead hedgehog on one of their walks, and this was enough for them to catch the virus. She got on to her vet straight away who put the dogs on the right medication and they are now back home fit and well.

## Leg Stiffness in older dogs

Sandra Jeffries' Tara was sometimes stiff on one of her front legs when almost 10 years old. As Sandra always looks to an 'alternative' medicine first if she can, she spoke with Dorwest Herbs who advised giving garlic 2 tablets twice a day to clear toxins in the joints, together with 2 mixed vegetable tablets twice daily for three weeks, then reduce to a daily maintenance dose of 1 garlic and 1 mixed veg twice daily. Within 4-5 days Tara was bounding about and has not had any stiffness since.

## Leishmaniasis Disease

This disease is transmitted by a sand fly from the Mediterranean regions and also parts of Turkey, so anyone thinking about bringing a dog into the UK from these areas should have a blood test carried out specifically for Leishmaniasis. Sand flies become infected when they bite animals, such as dogs, that are already sick with leishmaniasis. The infected flies then bite other animals (including people) and pass leishmaniasis to them. Because sand flies are smaller than other flies and do not make any noise when they are flying, people may not know sand flies are around them.

This disease is normally undetected until it is too late and the dog suffers an agonising death. There is a cure, or at least vaccines that will ease the symptoms, but at this time, due to licensing, they are extremely expensive.

The World Health Organisation is recommending that dog owners travelling to the Mediterranean, or who live in that region, protect their dogs against this potentially fatal disease. A special collar called a Scalibor worn during the summer can protect dogs.

This is a notifiable disease and for further information visit <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/lyme.htm>

## Canine Care Card

**DogsTrust** Canine Care Card scheme gives dog owners complete peace of mind – in the event of an owner's death, their dog will go to them. They will undertake a full health check and will look after the dog until a loving home and responsible new owner are found. To find out more call - 020 7837 0006

## Sharing affection but not infection

- ❖ Animal bites and scratches can result in infections; their mouths are home to a vast array of bacteria and viruses that normally don't affect them. But they can affect us.
- ❖ The most common source of infection is pasteurellosis, caused by a bacteria called *Pasteurella multocida*, which is found in the saliva of over 50 per cent of pets.
- ❖ If the infection spreads, it can cause flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headaches, chills and swollen glands, and

- ❖ complications such as abscesses, cellulitis and joint infections. If left untreated it can result in septicaemia and, very occasionally, death.
- ❖ There were 395 laboratory-confirmed reports of pasteurellosis in the UK in 2004, although there are likely to have been more cases not officially reported. There were only four fatal cases between 1993 and 2005.
- ❖ Pasteurellosis can be treated using antibiotics. If you have been bitten or scratched, you should cleanse the area using an antiseptic, and seek medical attention as soon as possible if signs of infection appear.
- ❖ Anyone with a weakened immune system because of, say, cancer treatment, should seek medical attention immediately after any significant animal bite or scratch.

*Source 'The Times' - Saturday September 20 2006*

### Paw Trail - a runaway success

A good fund raising idea set up by the Royal Veterinary College Animal Care Trust is the Paw Trail. Anyone who has visited the Queen Mother Hospital this year will have noticed it. The paw trail has so far raised over £32,000 and has over 3,100 named paw prints decorating the reception area of the hospital.

If you would like a paw print on the trail, contact Julie on 01707 666300 or go online at [www.rvc.ac.uk/act](http://www.rvc.ac.uk/act)

### I didn't know that!!

How many vets are there in the UK? Steve Dean, in his column A Vet's View, Dog World 23rd June, reported that the latest Annual Report from the RCVS for 2005 gave some of the answers.

There are 21,619 vets registered, 12,975 reported as being in general practice.

769 work for the government or other official institutions and 663 work in universities. Industry employs another 299 and a total of 2,587 are listed as non-practicing.

2,746 UK vets work abroad and 1,205 registered but working in the Republic of Ireland. The remainder work in research or for charities.

Wouldn't it be just great if all these Vets knew everything there was to know about Wheatens!! WHI are working hard to spread awareness in this direction.



© Jan Thackray & Daisy

## 'Where to obtain health information'

Many owners/breeders are often surprised how mixed their ancestry lines are and because of the global mix of the breeding lines hereditary health information is vital, especially if you are considering breeding a litter or allowing your dog to be used at stud.

The countries that publish official lists of 'carriers/producers' of Renal Dysplasia (RD), Protein Losing Nephropathy (PLN); Protein Losing Enteropathy (PLE); Irritable Bowel Disease (IBD) and Addison's Disease are:

The Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Great Britain - published in Bulletins and Year Book.

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Sweden - published in Year Book.

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Finland - published in Year Book

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America - published as Open Registry

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Association of Canada - published as Open Registry

In 2006 the Club of GB published for the first time a list of dogs affected/died of Protein losing disease. The Club of GB publish an 'A' and 'B' list of RD, PLE and PLN. They published a 'C' list in the Autumn/Christmas 2000, issue 117 Bulletin, page 10-11 and additions were made to it in the Summer 2000, issue 119 Bulletin, page 24. It is also in the Club of GB 2001 Year book, page 52-53. The 'C' list is mostly made up of 'historical cases' that produced renal failure, although a few cases were more recent.

Finland and Sweden publish RD Carriers and Dogs affected with Protein losing diseases.

America and Canada publish the Open Registry which lists, RD; PLN; PLE; IBD and Addison's Disease. Anyone can join the Open Registry for a small fee to cover administrative costs. This is a one off payment and ensures you receive updates when they become available. You can obtain a form to join by logging on to [www.scwtca.org](http://www.scwtca.org) and clicking 'Health', then scrolling to SCWT Open Registry General information. The application form is available at the end of the said article.

If you would like further information on how to obtain these lists, please contact one of the WHI steering group

**Summary results of the Purebred Dog Health Survey Questionnaire for Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers**  
**Source: Kennel Club/British Small Animal Veterinary Association Scientific Committee**  
**Author: Dr. Vicki Adams (Animal Health Trust)**

A total of 824 forms were sent out to Wheaten owners in January 2004, and 380 returned, representing 505 live dogs, a 46.1% response rate. This represented 2.77% of all breed returns.

**Mortality data :** A total of 111 deaths were reported and this represents 0.70% of all deaths reported in the survey (111/15,881). The median age at death for Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers was 12 years and 6 months (min = 6 months, max = 17 years) and this was higher than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months.

**Mortality data - all breeds:** Deaths were reported for 165 breeds. The median age at death overall was 11 years and 3 months (minimum = 2 months, maximum = 23 yrs and 5 months. Only 20% of dogs remained alive at 14 years of age and this had fallen to <10% by 15 years.

**Table 1 Causes of death by organ system/category for SCWT**

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1. Cancer	29	26.1	Type unspecified (liver, mammary); carcinoma
2. Old Age	23	20.7	Old age & age combinations
3. Other	10	9.0	Uncodeable
4. Urologic	9	8.1	Kidney failure; PLN; glomerulonephritis; incontinence
5. Combinations	8	7.2	
6. Neurologic	5	4.5	Seizures; myelopathy; spinal paralysis
7. Behaviour	4	3.6	Aggression; unspecified behavioural problem
8. Cardiac	4	3.6	Heart attack; heart failure
9. Cerebral vascular	4	3.6	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
10. Gastrointestinal	4	3.6	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); PLE; unspecified
11. Trauma	3	2.7	Road traffic accident
12. Unknown	3	2.7	
13. Endocrine	1	0.9	Diabetes mellitus
14. Hepatic	1	0.9	Liver failure
15. Musculoskeletal	1	0.9	Arthritis
16. Poisoning	1	0.9	
17. Respiratory	1	0.9	Respiratory disease unspecified
Total	111	100.0	

**Table 2 Distribution of gender and neuter status for 502 SCWT with reported gender and neuter status. There was no association between gender and neuter status.**

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	158	135	293 (58%)
Male	116	93	209 (42%)
Total	274 (55%)	228 (45%)	502 (100%)

**Table 3 Disease conditions by organ system/category for SCWT**

Disease condition	All conditions No.	All conditions %	Most common specific conditions in descending order
1 Dermatologic	39	14.9	Dermatitis; sebaceous cysts; fading nose pigment, pyotraumatic dermatitis
2 Aural	34	13.0	Otitis externa
3 Gastrointestinal	30	11.5	Colitis; diarrhoea; inflammatory bowel disease (IBD); vomiting & diarrhoea; pancreatitis
4 Musculoskeletal	21	8.0	Arthritis (hindlimbs>shoulders=spine>rest); stiff joints; CHD; patellar luxation
5 Cancer	18	6.9	Unspecified (mammary>rest); carcinoma (mammary; tail); basal cell tumour, lymphoma
6 Immune mediated	17	6.5	Food allergy; flea allergy; atopy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; allergy unspecified
7 Benign neoplasia	16	6.1	Lipoma; unspecified; adenoma; cysts
8 Reproductive	15	5.7	False pregnancy; dystochia (physical blockage);agalactia; inability to breed; mastitis, pyometra
9 Respiratory	14	5.3	Kennel cough; asthma; coughing; upper respiratory tract infection
10 Urologic	13	5.0	Incontinence (unspec.>after spay); cystitis; uroliths (unspecified); PLN; urethral obstruction
11 Cardiac	11	4.2	Heart murmur (unspecified>grade2=without clinical signs); heart valve condition
12 Ocular	7	2.7	Cataracts; conjunctivitis; entropion; trichiasis; corneal ulcer
13 Unknown	7	2.7	Undiagnosed illness
14 Other	5	1.9	Uncodeable
15 Neurologic	4	1.5	IVDD; seizures
16 Behaviour	3	1.1	Unspecified; aggression
17 Trauma	3	1.1	Hindlimb; forelimb
18 Anal gland	2	0.8	Anal sacculitis
19 Endocrine	2	0.8	Hypothyroidism
20 Haematopoietic	1	0.4	Anaemia unspecified
Total	262	100.0	

*Reproduced by kind permission of the Kennel Club*

## HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATIONAL HANDBOOKS and SOFTWARE

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### **The Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier HEALTH HANDBOOK**

Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers are generally healthy and robust dogs, but they do have genetic predispositions to certain diseases and owners need to be aware of these.

This handbook, which covers hereditary diseases, genetics, and incorporating our previous publication 'Medical Terms' will help you to understand these known hereditary diseases.

At a later date other medical conditions which, as far as we are aware, are not hereditary but have occasionally been known to affect the SCWT, will be added to this handbook.

Section 3 now available, covering Cushing's Disease, ectopic Ureter & Vulvovaginal Stenosis, Eyes, Deafness, Luxating Patella & Skin Conditions.

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### **WatchDog\*(UK) - CANINE HEALTH TRACKER**

The **WatchDog\*(UK)** Health Tracker is a customised version of a system first developed in the United States by Anna Marzolino and Janet Petros with the help of Dr. Wendy Beers DVM and Prof. Meryl Littman VMD, DACVM.

The Health Tracker uses a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet to compare your dog's test results against a predetermined range set by the laboratory. This means that trends in test results can be easily and continuously monitored and used as an aid to assist early detection of health problems.

Some of the Excel spreadsheet operations have been automated to make them as user friendly as possible.

Other features available on the **WatchDog\*(UK)** Health Tracker are as follows:

- The format reflects the AHT tests which have been specifically profiled for the Wheaten Terrier.
- Automatic highlighting of high and low results against the laboratory reference range.
- Comment boxes provide a glossary of medical test terminology and descriptions, which can be printed as part of the test results.
- One touch buttons' give automated page previews.

This particular version is designed specifically for use with the Animal Health Trust testing, but this can be adjusted to display the formats for different laboratories. Please contact Malcolm if your own lab. format is required.

You will need to have Microsoft Excel on your computer.  
Full technical support is available.

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## **Health Services available specifically for the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier at the ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST**

This booklet gives full information for SCWT owners and their vets. The Blood and Urine Testing at the Animal Health Trust has been designed for the specific profile of tests required for Wheatens.

**DNA Storage** – is free of charge at the AHT. Your vet needs to take a little more blood at the time of the Blood and Urine test and that sample is then sent for storage at the AHT.

*Editor's Note: WHI would like to make it clear that any test undertaken at the AHT is completely confidential between the AHT, the owner of the dog being tested, and their vet. WHI do not receive any printouts of these results. Owners should be able to obtain a copy of their dog's results from their vet on request.*

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### **PEDIGREE DATABASE**

There are now over 28,000 Wheatens of global ancestry at present on this database, giving information on Wheatens from the early 1930s to the present day.

The software required to operate and manipulate this data can be purchased from the following:

**Anim-All** - John Grierson 01204 300349 [www.griersoft.com](http://www.griersoft.com)  
or

**Breeders Assistant** pedigree software programme –  
[www.tenset.co.uk](http://www.tenset.co.uk)

**This pedigree data is available to Members for £75  
and to non-members for a minimum donation of £80**

*All proceeds go to the WHI Health Fund to  
continue our health and education programme*

*Please note that this data is supplied with pedigree  
information only, although many more features are available  
on both software programmes*

This database is an essential aid for new and existing breeders who wish to make responsible decisions about their breeding programme.

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**A minimum donation (cheques payable to WHI) is  
required as follows:**

<b>HEALTH HANDBOOK</b>	£5.50
<b>Section 3</b> of the Health Handbook	£1.50
<b>AHT PACK</b>	£2.50
<b>WatchDog*(UK) Health Tracker</b>	£5.00

Further details, or orders, from: Sandra or Malcolm  
Jeffries, 31 Storforth Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41  
0PP 01246 554742 [sananmalc@aol.com](mailto:sananmalc@aol.com)

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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

### Member Benefits

Impartial, informed and sympathetic advice and assistance on health issues from the WHI team.

Should you ever find yourself facing a serious health problem, or any problem, with your Wheaten, there are experienced, caring, people at the end of a telephone who will share their knowledge with you, and who will do their utmost to ensure that you have all the information you need to make informed decisions.

Plus regular Newsletters dedicated to health matters.

- *Do you care about the health of your dog?*
- *Do you want to belong to a group dedicated to resolving issues about your dog's health?*
- *Do you want to share your knowledge and experience with others?*

*If you answer YES to all questions - then join us!*

#### Contact :

Malcolm Jeffries 01246 554742

E-mail : [malcalone@aol.com](mailto:malcalone@aol.com)

There is no membership fee, but any donation will be appreciated to help with administration costs.  
*(Please make cheques payable to WHI)*

## Contacting us:

### Telephone:

Carole Barnes-Davies	01245 231434
Ian & Lynn Carter	01793 765253
Karen Francis	02086 692255
Malcolm Jeffries	01246 554742
Barbara Penney	01179 324297
Jan Thackray	01132 525206
Lynne Witheyman	02380 614508

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### Write:



Wheaten Health Initiative  
c/o 31 Storforth Lane  
Chesterfield  
Derbyshire  
S41 0PP

### E-mail:

[wheatenhealth@hotmail.com](mailto:wheatenhealth@hotmail.com)

### Web site:

[www.wheaten-health-initiative.co.uk](http://www.wheaten-health-initiative.co.uk)

*We would be grateful if all of those contacting us for more information can provide an electronic address (if possible) for future contact and dissemination of information*

*"You are never on your own with a Wheaten  
And never on your own with a problem"*



Photo – Chris Moran

### *Celebrating life, health and friendship – LKA December 2006*

*Back row : left to right – Barbara Penney, Mandy Ryemill, Ian Carter, Carole Barnes-Davies, Jan Thackray, Barbara Bradford, Steve Bradford, Jenny Matthews, Stephanie Cox & Karen Francis*  
*Front & middle row : left to right, Steve O'Sullivan, Sandra Jeffries, Ann Harding, Maria Rigby, Suzi Jacobs with Daisy , and Lynn Carter with GT*



*The Steering Group wish you and all Wheatens  
a Happy Christmas together  
with health and happiness in the coming year*



## STOP PRESS

We will be celebrating our **Fourth Birthday** on  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

This event will take place at  
**Weedon Bec Village Hall, Northamptonshire**  
and the theme for the day will be  
**"Healthy Dogs – Naturally"**

We are planning an active "workshop/discussion" day with  
plenty of topics for you to explore.

Further details will be published in the New Year

Please put this date in your diaries – it promises to be a very stimulating day!!

*If you are interested and wish to reserve a place, please mail  
[wheatenhealth@hotmail.com](mailto:wheatenhealth@hotmail.com)  
and let us know how many would like to come along.*