



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. 14 March/April 2007

*'Without challenge there is no achievement'*

### Contents

	Page
From the Treasurer	2
pANCA Research Project	2
Birthday Event - 'Healthy Dogs – Naturally'	3
Puppy Training by Shirley Barton	4
News Reports & Information	6
Health Services, Handbooks & Software	7
Membership Details	8
Contacting us	8

### EDITORIAL



#### **EXCITING NEWS – The pANCA Research Project in Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers**

Since Dr. Allenspach's talk at the WHI Seminar 'Towards a Brighter Future' in November 2005, thanks must go to Carole, Karen and Lynn who have given so much time to working towards this goal. It is indeed an exciting prospect and the future is beginning to look bright for Wheatens everywhere. (Full details on Page 2)

Our annual Birthday bash was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, at the Weedon Bec Village Hall, near Northampton, when we celebrated four years since the formation of WHI. The venue was easy to find and well attended 'Healthy Dogs – Naturally' was the theme, Jan Thackray introduced the day and her report can be seen on Page 3. A hearty lunch was provided by the local village ladies with the most wonderful parsnip, celery and lemon soup. It was pleasing to welcome friends from other breeds, particularly Christine Keay who is part of the Airedale Health Group. So much can be achieved by working together.

I see from the dog press that Celia Cox, B.Vet.Med. Cert.V.R. F.R.C.V.S has retired. Mrs. Cox was one of the first vets to carry out hearing tests under the BAER scheme and my Kaber was one of the first to have his hearing tested by Mrs. Cox in 1997 when cases of deafness in the breed were diagnosed. His hearing levels were taken down to minus 5, a level it was found unnecessary to go to in later tests. Kaber's hearing was always exceptional, as indeed it is in most Wheatens, but now, at nearly 14, he has to be kept in sight on a walk as he doesn't respond to calling.

The hearing assessment clinic has now been transferred

to Kate McMorris, B.Vet.Med. Cert V Ophthal, at the Seadown Veterinary Group, Hythe, Frost Lane, Hythe, Southampton, SO4 6NG – Phone 02380 842237.

Shirley Barton has completed a Puppy Training Course with Behaviourist Gwen Bailey BSc (Hons) and has written a very good article for this Newsletter. This does hold a copyright but I'm sure Shirley will gladly give permission to those of you who breed to include it in your puppy packs. Thank you Shirley for giving us the opportunity to publish this.

I mentioned PetScreen in our December Newsletter, a pioneering company dedicated to improving cancer detection and treatment in pets. Despite the crowds at Crufts, Caroline Watkin made a special effort to find the stand and discuss their cancer screening. The cost is about £40 and she plans to have her two Wheatens tested shortly when they have their annual check-up. This test can then be repeated annually.

PetScreen – [www.pet-screen.com](http://www.pet-screen.com) - have developed the first ever cancer screen for canine lymphoma, and some of you will remember when Caroline and her partner Jeremy, lost a beloved Wheaten to this dreadful disease.

Earlier this year the Blue Cross had a dog for re-homing on their Website that looked very much like a Wheaten but was, in fact, a Lakeland. Concerned that Wheatens ending up in rescue may not be recognised as such, I sent three copies of the 'Recognising a Wheaten' brochure I compiled to them, with photographs of Wheatens in varying states, and received a thank you letter with a request for two more copies.

Congratulations to Sandra Jeffries who has now topped 30,000 Wheatens on the Database. It has taken many years of research and hours of computer work to arrive at this figure and is a great achievement. (Full details of how this pedigree information can be obtained are on Page 8)

I was most surprised recently to find a Feeding Mat for sale on the internet featuring a photo of my Polly (Ch. Stevelyn Blue Christmas at Willsbridge). This photo was originally taken at the Welsh Kennel Club Championship Show in the early 1990s for a book to be published at a later date. I was given no information regarding the book and finally came across the photo in 'The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds' by Joan Palmer published in 1995. It is not a very good photo in as much as she has her tail tightly clamped down and I understood the original intention was to use Polly for a head study only. This photo is also used to represent the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier section on the Website of the Continental Kennel Club in the USA.

The Kennel Club has a 'Safe And Sound Award' scheme to promote safe interaction between children and dogs. See under News Reports on Page 6. This information must surely be a must for all breeders placing puppies where children are concerned.

Your news and views are always welcome. Contact numbers are at the end of this Newsletter.

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## FROM THE TREASURER

WHI members and supporters continue to be generous with their donations, allowing us to provide stimulating seminars, fully researched and up to the minute Health Handbooks, and a growing Genetic Research Fund. Thanks to all who share our common goal.

Genetic Research Fund - £1,893.00  
Health & Education Fund - £1,470.95

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## Exciting News!!!

### The pANCA Research Project in Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers

Those of you who attended the WHI "Towards a Brighter Future" seminar in November 2005 will remember Dr Karin Allenspach med. Vet. FVH, DECVIM-CA, who was one of our speakers that day. Karin is, at present, Lecturer in Internal Medicine at the Royal Veterinary College although she had worked in other countries prior to this appointment, including the United States, where she was involved with Dr Shelly Vaden's team at the North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine.

During the WHI seminar Karin mentioned the pANCA test which she had been working with. pANCA is a serum test based on evaluation of antibodies to neutrophils and this can be easily established from about 1ml of blood. The test had been evaluated with a small group of SCWT in the United States. The dogs were first pANCA tested at 6 months and then every 6 months thereafter. The dogs in this study which produced positive pANCA results went on to develop protein-losing disease later in life. Positive pANCA results are not found in dogs which remain healthy.

Karin said that the interesting factor was that the positive pANCA result was seen on average 2-3 years before the dog showed signs of illness. This means that the pANCA serum test may be useful in identifying the disease before the dogs become ill. These dogs could then receive early treatment and also their participation in a breeding programme could be reviewed early in life.

The WHI steering group had further talks with Karin over the months following the seminar and learnt that she hoped to progress this research to validate her findings. Naturally, like the "true terriers" we are, we were determined to help in any way we could and we are now delighted to report that this important research project will go ahead in this country during the summer

In order to estimate how many dogs in the UK population are pANCA positive, blood samples need to be obtained from at least

200 dogs; preferably 100 dogs in the age group of 2-4 years and 100 dogs in the age group 4 years and older.

The pANCA test result is unaffected by any other health issues in the dog at the time of testing; for example, the result would not be altered, even if the dog had already been diagnosed with any other disease. In order to maximise the potential benefits from this project, we hope to combine efforts with the Animal Health Trust and Karin will send any leftover samples to them for their genetic studies under the guidance of the chief geneticist, Dr Cathryn Mellersh BSc (Hons) PhD, our other speaker from the "Towards a Brighter Future" seminar.

Naturally, our major concern now is finding the appropriate number of Wheatens, whose owners are willing to let them take part in this study. We are pleased to say that the committee of the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of GB has now indicated their willingness, in principle, to be involved in helping us in this task and we are all working towards a successful outcome. Judy Creswick, Honorary Secretary of the SCWT Club of GB, joined members of the WHI steering group at a very productive meeting with Dr Allenspach and members of the research team on the 4<sup>th</sup> April to learn more about the pANCA test from Karin and to discuss the practical aspects of the project.

There will be opportunities to attend testing sessions over the months of July and August this year. We will publicise where and when the sessions are being held through a variety of methods to try to ensure that the maximum number of Wheaten owners are aware of the project. We are really hoping that you will play a part in this by talking to others who may not receive this newsletter.

If you are able to attend one of the testing sessions, Dr Allenspach and her research student will take the blood sample, carry out the test and send the result to you free of charge. The pANCA test result of each individual dog will be known only to Dr Allenspach and the respective owner. (Although WHI strongly recommends that the owner shares this information with the breeder of the dog and the SCWT Club of GB.)

The WHI steering group members are very excited about this research project and the very real prospect of furthering knowledge of protein-losing disease in our breed and finding ways to better protect our breed in the future.

You can now play your part by helping us to target our testing sessions effectively in locations where we can be certain of an appropriate number of Wheatens to sample.

**If you would like to be involved in this important project, or would like further information, please contact a member of the steering group, or email [wheatenhealth@hotmail.com](mailto:wheatenhealth@hotmail.com) and provide your name, address and how many Wheatens you wish to take part. This project cannot succeed without your help!**

Lynn Carter



## Fourth Birthday Event 'Healthy Dogs Naturally'

This event took place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2007; there were 45 people present and it was a lovely day, with the atmosphere being very welcoming and inclusive. In the morning, there were two eminent speakers:

**Marie Miller** a Tellington TTouch Level 3 practitioner who gave a talk, with demonstrations (using live Wheatens) outlining the basis of this gentle therapy, which offers a holistic training method to use with dogs (and other animals) and how it can be used to overcome a variety of problems such as lead pulling, noise sensitivity, excessive barking, hyperactivity, travel sickness and so on.

To find out more about TTouch look at Marie's website [www.pawsnlearn.com](http://www.pawsnlearn.com) from which you will find many links. Marie is also holding a workshop on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May where there will be the opportunity to learn more about TTouch. This is to be held in Burbage, Nr. Hinckley, Leicestershire, and you can get more information from the website above.

**Philippa Rodale**, a qualified vet who has additional training and qualifications in the use of homoeopathic medicine, explained the basis of homoeopathy before looking at how it could help throughout a dog's life from conception to birth. She was quite fascinating and we were interested to learn that she had managed to get the local authority in her area (Dorset) to accept vaccination by homoeopathic nosodes, as well as by the traditional methods, in boarding kennels.



**Philippa Rodale**  
(second from right)

The lunch was delicious, with the Lemon & Parsnip Soup being of particular note. During the lunch break attendees were able to take advantage of speaking to **Maria Rigby**, an independent distributor of an Aloe Vera range of projects and to look at educational material and a range of newsletters produced by WHI over the past four years. Tickets went fast and furiously at the fund raising Tombola stall.

The afternoon session comprised 5 workshops and small groups of attendees moved between these workshops every 20 minutes to enable them to ask questions and gather information. This aspect worked really well as everybody felt that they had been able to gain answers to their queries.

Marie Miller and Philippa Rodale were both available to answer questions following their morning talks, with Marie also demonstrating more TTouch massage and wrap techniques using a

live Wheaten as well as a Labrador model.

We were very pleased to have **Eileen Boak**, a Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Breeder of 30 years standing, who held a workshop entitled "Stress-free Living with your Dog". Eileen is trained in the Jan Fennell "Amichien Bonding" method and holds the Certificate of Advanced Canine Communication; this method is based on communication and positive re-enforcement and enables people to significantly improve their relationship with their dog. Eileen was so clear and calm in her presentation, and answered everyone's queries in such a straightforward way.

To find out more about this method of training and to find a practitioner near to where you live go to:

[www.janfennellthedoglistener.com/about.htm](http://www.janfennellthedoglistener.com/about.htm)

click on 'Consultations' and then

'Recommended Associate Dog Listeners UK'

**Lynn Carter** and **Carole Barnes-Davies** were on hand to discuss their experiences in feeding a natural raw diet to their dogs. This session enabled people who had read about the diet to ask questions of those who are currently using it successfully with their dogs.

**Sandra Jeffries** set up her computer to demonstrate the Database programmes "Anim-all" and "Breeders Assistant". She was able to explain how these databases can be a useful tool for breeders who wish to track the health of the breed and to understand how the pedigrees of all Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers relate back to approximately 8 original dogs.

Following afternoon tea and birthday cake, there was a further opportunity to ask any questions that remained outstanding prior to thanks and presentations to the speakers.



*Although semi-retired, GT, also known as Muffin, made a guest appearance with his donation bowl and toy giraffe, symbol of the WHI Genetic Research Fund*



We are looking forward to welcoming you all to our 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday event next year.

**Jan Thackray**  
Founder Member - WHI

## Feedback from 'Healthy Dogs – Naturally'

A questionnaire was available for attendees to complete. Everyone agreed or strongly agreed on all questions asked and only one had difficulty finding the venue.

The question 'What improvements could have been made to the day's events' brought the following comments :

None  
Bigger map!  
You should charge more  
More about natural feeding  
None – well done WHI, keep up the good work  
Everything was great, thank you  
None, had a very enjoyable day, thanks

'Other comments' received were:

Perfect day, well organised, thoroughly enjoyed it, well done WHI Very well organised, had a great day  
Very informative - from someone 'not in Wheatens' - an excellent day  
Very helpful and enjoyable  
Another event soon please



## PUPPY TRAINING by Shirley Barton

I have been privileged to have recently completed a course in puppy training with the well known behaviourist, Gwen Bailey. In recent years, Gwen has set up Puppy School, which aims to provide a national network of puppy training classes, involving the whole family, which will provide fair and kind training to puppies in a very positive way. I am thrilled to be a puppy tutor and part of Puppy School, which, to date, has trained over 5,000 puppies and I would like to share with you some easy training exercises to do with your puppy.

### Training sessions

The golden rule is making it fun for both of you. Have a good supply of different treats and toys to train with. If you use the same things each time it will become boring for him. Find out what motivates him. Most will work for food or a game. All need praise. Be exciting when you are training your puppy. Make your voice exciting and interesting by using a high pitched tone to encourage him to take notice of you.

Use different levels of food rewards depending on how complex the task is you want him to do. The harder the task the better the treat he should be rewarded with for succeeding.

Puppies have a very short attention span so keep sessions short. Three minutes at a time and then a break is a good rule when you train your pup. Make sure you end on a success, for example if your puppy is not catching on to what you want him to do, end the session with something you know he can and will do and reward him for that.

Don't train your puppy when either of you are too tired as you won't get the best results.

Don't train each time in the same room or your puppy may well perform there but when you ask him to do it somewhere else he will not associate that with what you want him to do. Train him inside and out and in different places.

Please, don't compare your puppy to any other puppy. They are all individual and learn at different rates.

Making learning fun for both of you and enjoy your puppy, he will grow up far too soon.

### Attention

To train your puppy you will need to get his attention. To do this you will need to be the most exciting thing in his world. Talk to him in a silly voice and don't be afraid to act silly, he won't laugh at you, I promise!

Practice doing this and see how fast you can make his tail wag. Teach your puppy to watch you and not be afraid of people staring at him.

Have your puppy on a loose lead. Have a tit bit and place it under your chin and call your puppy. When he looks into your eyes (and only then) feed him the treat at once. Keep repeating, lengthening the time before feeding the treat so that you can keep eye contact with him for the count of 3.

Once he is used to watching you he will be easier to train.

### The Sit

Call your puppy to you or have him on a loose lead. Get his attention by calling his name. Have a tit bit in your hand. Show the puppy the tit bit and hold it slightly above and slightly behind his nose. He should automatically put his bottom on the ground. As soon as he does this feed him the tit bit. Do not use words at this stage.

Keep practicing and when he is sitting every time you can start to add a hand signal. Do this by using an exaggerated movement of your hand similar to that of the food lure. He will soon catch on to what you want him to do.  
In time add a voice cue.

### The Down

Have your puppy in a sit. Place a treat in front of his nose. Trace in down his chest and between his paws. With luck he will follow it and go down. If he does, reward him. If you find your puppy is not able to catch on to this, sit on the floor and form an arc with your knees. Have your pup on a lead at one side of the arc and hold the treat at the other side. He should try and reach under your knees for the treat and will have to bend down to get it. Feed and reward well.

Again, once he is going down regularly start to use a hand signal instead and when he is doing this every time you can add a voice cue.

## The Stand

Place your pup in the sit and hold the treat just in front and level with his nose. He will need to stand up to get the treat. Reward him as soon as he does this.

Again, once he is doing this on a regular basis use a hand signal instead and later on a voice cue.

## Coming when called

It is best when you first start calling your puppy to come back to have someone to help you. Have them hold your puppy's collar. Go up to your puppy with a treat. Show him the treat and run backwards calling him in an excited manner and the other person should let go of the puppy so that he runs to you. When he reaches you don't grab his collar from the back of his neck, get hold of his collar gently from underneath and then feed the treat.

Always hold your pup's collar before giving him the treat. Praise him well.

## Walking on a loose lead

It is important your puppy does not learn to pull on the lead. Use a good length lead. Hold it in the opposite hand to the side you want your puppy to walk on. Pull the lead into your tummy. Use a food treat (held in the hand that is on the same side as the puppy) as a lure to get your puppy into position at your side. Do not bend down to your puppy. Take a step forward and if your puppy comes with you feed him the treat. The instant he starts to pull and get out of position stop. Use a food lure to get him into position and start again. This is a slow process but will work. If you allow him to pull and think you can stop him later you are making a mistake.

## Leave it / Off

It is important that your puppy learns to leave things in case he attempts to pick something up he shouldn't. Show puppy a treat and then hold it firmly in your hand between your finger and thumb, close your hand so that only a very tiny bit is showing. Keep your hand very still.

Puppy will try and get it (you may have to be brave as he has sharp teeth!). Say "Off" and only when he stops trying to get the treat and there is space between your hand and his mouth feed it at once. Keep repeating and you will soon find that the time between him leaving your hand decreases.

## Handling

Puppies need to get used to being handled. This must be done gradually. Some puppies may well have been handled a lot by their breeders, others not. You should start by using very slow gentle strokes to the sides of the body. Stroking the head can be scary as it affects the sensory organs, such as eyes and ears. If your puppy seems scared, go slower. Always have tit bits to give to him so he sees it as pleasurable. Handle him for a few minutes several times a day and gradually build up the time and the places you stroke him. When he is used to you handling him all over (including picking up his feet) start to ask strangers to do the same to him, but using the same method of slow strokes on the side of the body at first with plenty of rewards. It is important that he gets

used to being handled all over so that when he has to see the vet he is not afraid.

## Hands come to give not to take

It is important that your puppy does not learn to guard his toys and food. Give your puppy a toy or chew stick. When he is chewing it approach him with a very tasty tit bit. Feed him the tit bit and he will drop the toy. Gently take the toy or chew and when he has finished the treat praise him and return his toy or chew stick. He will soon learn that although you remove things from him he gets something better and still gets his toy back at the end. He will know that hands come to give and not to take.

When your puppy is eating from his bowl add something very tasty to it like chicken with your hands. He will soon learn that when hands are coming to his bowl they are not coming to take, but to give. Get all the family to do this.

You may also need to be able to touch your dog whilst he is eating. When he is eating as you add the extra special tit bit to his food, just touch him very gently on the side and praise him well. Gradually build up so that you can stroke your pup for a few seconds whilst he is eating. But, go slowly.

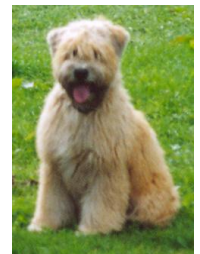
You also need to be able to pick his bowl off the floor, start by gently turning the bowl a little while he eats.

If you practice these things you will find your puppy has no interest in guarding his food bowl and gets used to people approaching and touching both him and his bowl while he eats and that they are no threat at all to his food supply.

I would strongly recommend that every puppy attends a puppy class of some kind which is based on similar methods. I would also suggest that you go and watch a class before you enrol your puppy.

Information about Puppy School can be found at [www.puppyschool.co.uk](http://www.puppyschool.co.uk)

There is also a book to go with the Puppy School course (Bailey G P (2004) 'Puppy School: 7 steps to a perfect puppy' published by Hamlyn ISBN 0 600 61081 0)



Do enjoy your puppy and have fun with him. The hard work you put in when he is young will give you the reward of a happy adult dog that is a joy to live with and a very valued family member.

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## NEWS REPORTS AND INFORMATION

A health and safety email has been circulated by a West Highland White Terrier owner, since he received a call about a five-year-old GSD who was put to sleep due to liver failure. The dog was previously completely healthy and soon after the dog's death, two cats also died of liver failure through the same circumstances. Apparently a floor cleaning agent had been used at the homes, which the manufacturers confirmed contained a compound one molecule away from antifreeze. The cleaning agent container did have a warning label in very small print "may be harmful to small children and animals". The owners of the dog had a necropsy done, which revealed unbelievable liver levels as if the dog had ingested poison of some kind. Small children and animals who play on floors and then lick either their fingers or their paws, are equally in danger from these type of solutions.

Please take heed, read cleaning agent caution labels before you buy, or use them to avoid further distress. Pass this information on to your doggie friends.

WHWT Breed Notes Dog World 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.2007.

### Safe And Sound

There have been some sad incidents recently of attacks on children by dogs. Are you aware that the Kennel Club has a Safe and Sound Award Scheme to promote the safe interaction between children and dogs. The scheme can be accessed by clicking on the following link – [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk) Under 'Caring for Dogs' click on 'Safe And Sound'.

The scheme focuses on the education issues connected with staying safe. It can never be taken for granted that any dog will be 100% safe with everyone all of the time and children have to be taught how to behave in the company of even the best trained dog.

The Safety Factor Challenge game, encouraging children to consider the right course of action to take in a number of dog-related scenarios, is available to play through the Safe And Sound website, as well as through the Safe and Sound CD ROM that is available to order from the Online Shop. Safety Stars are awarded for good decisions, bite marks when they make the wrong choice. Upon successful completion of the game a personalized certificate is available to print out.

### Cherry Pip Warning

The Winter Newsletter from Burns Pet Nutrition carried a warning about Cherry pips being a danger to dogs. A Labrador had chewed and eaten pips whilst in the garden and it was estimated that the ground-up pips were 'fermenting' in her gut for a week, by which time she had become very lethargic, stopped eating and was drooling and vomiting thick, copious amounts of phlegm.

The vet initially thought she had developed a heart condition as her heart rate was irregular and the cherry pips she had vomited were a red herring. She was severely dehydrated, and so an infusion was commenced, but x-rays showed no abnormality with her heart.

It was after giving the Poisons Unit at Guys the history of the dog that a diagnosis of cyanide poisoning was made as it is apparently found in ground-up cherry pips. After receiving the

antidote and spending the night at the vets, a few weeks later the dog made a full recovery.

**Pear Pips** too can be highly dangerous, so if you have a Wheaten who loves fruit, beware of pear windfalls.

### Potting Soil

An email message from the US pointed out the dangers of potting soil around a potted Chrysanthemum. While the dirt wasn't a problem, the perlite and vermiculite in the mix swelled up in the intestines and emergency surgery was necessary to save the dog's life.

### How active is your dog?

You can now obtain a Petometer to see how far your dog runs. It is believed that they go at least six times as far as we do, so now is the chance to prove it. The unit is quick and easy, just clips onto the collar, personalised to your dog's stride length, determines steps taken, distance travelled and calories consumed, and all for a cost of around £8. See website [www.petometer.eu](http://www.petometer.eu)

### How healthy is pet food?

A Burns Newsletter also mentioned an article which appeared in a newspaper column about a comparison being made between pet food (in this case moist food) and human convenience food which concluded that the pet food was 'healthier' in terms of fat and protein content. The article stated that laboratory tests found that a premium brand of canned cat meat contained 2.9g of fat per 100g, one eighth the level of KFC chicken pieces and less than a third that of a McDonald's Big Mac or a Pizza Hut pizza. A similar small can of premium dog food contained 4.4g of fat per 100g; higher than the cat meat but still much lower than fast foods. Levels of salt and sugar in the pet food were also substantially lower than in the human meals.

But as John Burns pointed out, when comparing the analysis of different foods one has to allow for varying water content. Comparisons should be made on a dry matter basis. The dog food in the test contained 4.4% fat and 10% protein in 81% moisture which equates to 26.3% fat and 52.6% protein on a dry matter basis. Few veterinary surgeons would consider these levels to be healthy. Reasonable amounts would be 10% fat and 20% protein on a dry matter basis. The salt level is given as 0.4% which is 2.1% on a dry matter basis whereas a low level would be 0.5% i.e. this is 4 times a reasonable level. As for sugar, there is no call for a pet food to have any sugar. The same arguments apply to the cat food. In both cases the manufacturer's recommended feeding amounts provide 5-6 times the needs of a dog or cat.

### Padlocks on Car Cages

A road traffic accident resulted in a car being crushed and the driver taken to hospital. The dogs were in padlocked car cages and the keys in the ambulance with the owner which had left the scene. Luckily by taking the back seats out of the car the escape doors could be opened and the dogs released. The story didn't end there. Although the owner was in the AA Relay, once contacted they declined to relay her car as it was now not a 'car' but a 'write-off'. Evidently, they only take you home if the car has broken down, not if it is squashed beyond recognition. The moral of the story – remove padlocks on all dog crates before you start a



journey, and also check the small print in your relay/breakdown service to see whether they will get you and your dogs home should your car ever be written off.

### Slippery Floors

Other Breed Notes in the dog papers can be so useful and several have reported that slippery floors cause many problems for dogs who have strained muscles or wrenched ligaments in back or front leg with skating on what constitutes thin ice for a dog. Although modern shiny floors may look great and appear to be more hygienic, are they safe? What about old dogs who are not too good on their legs? Non-slip mats are relatively inexpensive and non-slip flooring is available although may be more expensive. Carpets are definitely the safest option, and as Eileen Geeson mentioned in a Dog World article, could save owners pounds in vet bills.



### Phones 4 AHT!

The Animal Health Trust are very pleased to announce that, following the success of the inkjet recycling scheme, they are now **recycling MOBILE PHONES** which will raise additional valuable funds for the AHT and also address the very important 'green' agenda.

On average each workable phone received is worth £6 to the AHT. To donate your mobile, remove your sim card and place the phone in a freepost envelope as used for the inkjet recycling scheme. Please do not include mobile chargers. The envelope will hold up to 3 handsets so why not ask friends and family to donate too? Please make sure the envelope is secure. **(Envelopes or larger bags are obtainable from EAH Recycling on 01473 658161)**

The inkjet recycling scheme continues and to date nearly £1,000 has been raised. Please keep up the good work by sending your empty cartridges to EAH Recycling – every cartridge is much appreciated.

### Xylitol

Xylitol is a sugar substitute and the Dogue de Bordeaux Breed notes gave a warning to dog owners of this commonly used sweetener that may cause liver failure in dogs. The US Veterinary Medical Journal gave a report stating there is a link between xylitol, thought to make dogs sick and possible liver failure. Xylitol is found in many sugar-free chewing gums, candies, baked goods and toothpaste. Ingesting even a small amount can trigger a significant insulin release which drops the blood sugar and can be fatal. A 22lb (10kg) dog who consumes one gram (0.03 ounces) of xylitol should be treated.



## HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATIONAL HANDBOOKS and SOFTWARE

### 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.

For those of you who already have Sections 1 & 2, Section 3 is now available, covering Cushing's Disease, Ectopic Ureter & Vulvovaginal Stenosis, Eyes, Deafness, Luxating Patella & Skin Conditions.

### 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 laboratory format is required.

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

## 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 30,000 Wheatens of global ancestry at present on this database, giving information on Wheatens from the early 1930s to the present day.

**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*

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

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)

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

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Any of the foregoing can be obtained for a minimum donation as shown. (Please make cheques payable to WHI)

<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)

## 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)*

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### Contacting us:

#### Telephone:

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Karen Francis	02086 692255
Malcolm Jeffries	01246 554742
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#### Write:



Wheaten Health Initiative  
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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*

**'Chasing your tail gets you nowhere . . . except back to where you started'**

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### STOP PRESS

We are very pleased to welcome Kate and Sarah Watkins who have joined us as members of the Steering Group