



(Founded 2003)

WHEATEN HEALTH INITIATIVE

Newsletter 16

January 2009



*Join us for our 6th Birthday Event
Full details inside*



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

"Never fear shadows, they simply mean there's a light shining somewhere nearby"
Ruth E. Renkei

Contacting us

Chairman	Ian Carter	01793 765253
Secretary	Karen Francis	02086 692255
Treasurer	Malcolm Jeffries	01246 554742

Carole Barnes-Davies	01245 231434
Lynn Carter	01793 765253
Barbara Penney	01179 324297
Jan Thackray	01132 525206
Lynne Witheyman	02380 614508
Kate & Sarah Watkins	01543 684864

Write: Mrs. Karen Francis
Secretary
Wheaten Health Initiative
23 Osmond Gardens,
Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8SX

Email: wheatenhealth@hotmail.com
Website: www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com

Contents

Page 3	Editorial
Page 5	Acute Cystitis - A Case History
Page 8	Birthday Event
Page 10	Kate's Korner
Page 12	Information
Page 13	Fundraising - Silent Auction
Page 14	Publications

Cover Photo – Dermot (*Dermot Delight*)

EDITORIAL

Barbara Penney
11 Sheridan Way
Longwell Green
BRISTOL BS30 9UE
Email: penney@btinternet.com



*“When a good opportunity comes along, think about it.
You don’t get a second chance”*

I must first of all offer apologies from the Steering Group for not getting a Newsletter out to everyone earlier. We have all been very much involved in the pANCA Project and with personal commitments as well time has just passed so quickly. Nevertheless, here it is with the promise that they will appear on your doorstep more regularly in future.

Our 6th Birthday Event is taking place on the 22nd February - full details will be found in the centrefold of this publication. A flyer is enclosed with a tear-off slip to obtain tickets. This promises to be a very interesting and informative day and we are very grateful to Dr. Allenspach for giving her time to come along to talk on Digestive Disorders in dogs. She will also give an update on the pANCA Research Project which will give you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

We have been asked to include an article on ‘Chicken Intolerance’ in our Newsletter, something a few Wheatens appear to have a problem with. This will be covered in Dr. Allenspach’s talk.

A pANCA sampling session was held at Highworth, Wiltshire, on Sunday 11th January when 20 of the Wheatens participating in the longitudinal study attended, a full contingent for the day. Many thanks to Lynn and Ian Carter who were on the spot early to organise everything and provided a wonderful soup with crusty bread, added to by Polly Morrow who brought along her home-made lemon drizzle cake. Thanks Polly. My Blousey-Brown and Karrick are not good when it comes to missing breakfast, followed by the indignity of needles, but Zoe Carter took them in hand and once again they were perfectly behaved – I had worried unnecessarily. They are both probably getting used to it by now!



I had time to chat with Dr. Barbara Wieland med.vet.PhD, who said that the Project will continue for as long as funds are available, and I am sure that with health issues to the fore at present, the Kennel Club will be more than happy to supplement this Project. Barbara said it was thanks to WHI for the help and assistance given that everything is going so well.

I was very disappointed at not being able to attend the session held the following Sunday at Weedon Bec, the only one I have missed. I understand that a very relaxed and informal day was again spent in the furtherance of this Project with 44 Wheatens attending. The RVC team are gentle with the dogs which greatly helps any concerned owners. Delicious cakes were once again available and I hope these will be repeated at our Birthday event! Maria Rigby was, as always, a welcome addition to both sessions with her Aloe Vera products. Thanks Maria.

On behalf of the Steering Group and the RVC team, I would like to say thank you to all of you who are unable to attend these sessions but continue to take part and support this Project through your own vet, this is very much appreciated. Further sessions in the longitudinal study will take place during the summer.

Wheaten owner Lisa Gosling of '*Daisy's Dog Deli*', the Bakery dedicated to dogs, owned and run by Lisa, brought along an assortment of her nutritious baked dog treats to the sampling sessions. She makes these using only natural ingredients and, as always, they went down well with the dogs. The appeal to the owners was very obvious as the Terrier shape, rather than the bones, disappeared from the box first, which just goes to prove that sales of dog products are *always* aimed at owners!! For those of you that have attended pANCA sessions & WHI events your Wheatens will probably have sampled Lisa's delicious offerings which she has freely donated.

Lisa was the winner of the UK wide 'Make Your Mark' competition in 2008, a unique business competition to help find the next big independent retail talent. This was judged by a panel of UK business leaders, including Tim Campbell, founder of The Bright Ideas Trust who was a winner 'hired' by tycoon Sir Alan Sugar on the reality TV show 'The Apprentice'. The contest was set up by The Mall and supported by the Royal Bank of Scotland and government-backed enterprise agency 'Make Your Mark'. Daisy's Dog Deli fought off stiff competition to win 6 months free trade in Lisas local Mall, a business mentor from RBS and a place at the prestigious Oxford Keble College Retail Summer School. Lisa's pet bakery business beat over 140 other nationwide entries and 22 finalists to win the competition, a first of its kind, giving hope and support to local and small businesses. Lisa said she is so honoured to have won this competition and started 'Daisy's Dog Deli' because dogs and their food are her passion and she saw a gap in the ever expanding pet market for wholesome healthy treats and food and went for it. Log on to see the great assortment of wholesome, natural, healthy food treats available from a Wheaten owning cook, on www.daisysdogdeli.co.uk

Lisa owns two Wheatens, Daisy and Holly who are the 'Chief Testers' for her products. The 'Second in Command Tester' and resident 'thief' in the business is Dempsey who lives locally with Lisa's Mum. Congratulations Lisa, this is a wonderful achievement and our Wheatens, and in fact all dogs, are privileged to be able to enjoy these delicacies. I wonder how many have been sampled by owners?

The Wheaten has sometimes been said to be difficult to train, so it was a real boost for the breed when Mollie, Juenel Golden Girl became the first 'Wheaten Support Dog'. She was a year old in July last year and is owned by Pat Williams who has MS. Mollie started her training immediately after her arrival at Pat's home and received early vaccinations so she could attend training school as soon as possible. Pat said the test covered three long and tense days which Mollie thought was all very exciting and she qualified on the 28th November last. The following day she wore her blue 'Qualified' Support Jacket in Sainsbury's, Chesterfield, then attended the AGM and her graduation presentation. This is wonderful news and another first for Wheaten Records.

I read recently that within a day of putting a battery operated aerosol in the room where there were dogs, a young pup had such a bad adverse reaction that it was thought they would lose him. It was only swift thinking and heart massage that saved him. Air fresheners and also flea collars can affect me, so for my sake and the dogs, I do not use them.

The Kennel Club has established a programme aimed at giving veterinary students a broader introduction to the world of dogs. The KC invited more than 500 students to Crufts in 2008 where they met Chairman Mr. Ronald Irving and Prof. Steve Dean who is a member of the KC's General Committee. The students came from veterinary schools all over the country. This has just got to be a very good idea, as when I was able to attend the Veterinary Nurses Conference in 2006, at that time under the cloak of the Native Vulnerable Breeds, it was amazing how many didn't know what a Wheaten, or even some of the other breeds attending, were.

I always felt puppies were ready to leave for their new homes at 7 weeks, definitely not before, but having recently taken on a puppy at 8 weeks and seeing how quickly he settled in, has made me feel this is a much better time. Hard for the breeder as that last week does take its toll, especially if it is a big litter, but I am sure that at 8 weeks they have had more than enough of their litter mates and need to have that one to one relationship with their new owner. On our puppy's first visit to the vet it was interesting to note he suggested that rather than taking out insurance, put money into a separate account instead, my thoughts entirely. Unless you are really unlucky, you will probably end up in pocket. However, Third Party cover is essential and by becoming a member of an organisation such as 'Dogs Trust', you can be covered for a nominal yearly amount and helping their funds as well.

I would like to thank Yvette Andrewartha for sharing the Case History of her Dandie Dinmont bitch who suffered Acute Cystitis. It is wonderful to know that Purdie made such a good recovery after being so ill.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has given donations to help with our work, and I would like to give a special mention to Jenny and Neville Goff who sent a donation in memory of their dear Holly.

I cannot believe it is 6 years since the inauguration of WHI. Who would have thought then how much could have been achieved in that time. It is thanks to all of you who have supported us along the way and helped us to keep our heads above water at times. You are all so very much appreciated by all the Steering Group.

My very best wishes to everyone for 2009 and I look forward to seeing you at our Birthday Event on the 22nd February.



Barbara

ACUTE CYSTITIS - A Case History

In March 2008 my 3 year old Dandie bitch had a litter of 4 healthy puppies and they left for new homes 9 weeks later. Having pups of her own had a deep effect on the bitch who was a much happier, self confident dog afterwards.

She came into season at the end of July 2008. I noticed on the Friday that she was trying to urinate very frequently but seemingly little coming out. I spoke to my homeopathic vet who prescribed cantharis which I gave to the bitch on the Saturday. She was quiet but very bright and happy. I was keeping her hydrated by regular small doses of water and parsley tea.

On the Sunday morning I came down to a kitchen where there was a massive amount of urine. The water bowl was empty. I took this to be a good sign as the concern with cystitis is that the bowel gets obstructed and the bitch can't pass urine – this certainly wasn't the case. I expected a rapid improvement. I checked her temperature and gums - all were fine.

By 1.30 pm however she hadn't improved and we made an appointment to see the vet. About the time she was due to go to the vets she went downhill very quickly – there was a significant bloody discharge from her back end and her gum colour was very pale. We rushed her to the vets – the vet was convinced that it was a pyometra and that I had mistaken a season for a pyo

An X-ray showed 4 tiny bladder stones. The decision was made to operate and we left her on that basis. An hour later the decision was made to delay as the tests showed her vitals were too poor to operate. They managed to get a catheter in which provided a great deal of relief. The intent was to stabilise her overnight and operate the next morning. Her urea results were 37.8 (normal 9.8) and 235 (normal 235) and her potassium results were normal which was a good sign. At this stage post-renal failure was a possibility.

The Monday morning brought no good news – she was very depressed, had produced little urine overnight, blood results were worsening and there were raised kidney parameters.

By the afternoon they had no option but to operate and the vet said he was pretty sure that it was pyometra. By 4 o/c she was out of surgery – there had been no pyo but large amounts of gunk and blood in the bladder. Stones had been removed and the bladder thoroughly cleaned. The vets were unsure as to what had been the problem – the best outcome was that it was an infection which had caused an acute aggressive cystitis and not something more sinister. They had taken a biopsy of the bladder wall and would also assess the removed stones. Bladder stones do not normally in themselves cause this kind of acute problem. She was going to be in the hospital for some time before well enough to come home.

By Wednesday however she was a different dog and came home armed with metacam to be used if she seemed to be in pain. The vet explained that she would want to be quiet and so to keep the gang away until she was ready to meet everyone..... well, the problem I had was to stop her joining in the normal games of the pack. The quiet corner I had set up was used to keep her quiet rather than to keep the rest of the gang disturbing her. The metacam returned unused to the vets.

The stones have been diagnosed as struvites. My vet did not recommend a change to the diet – I feed an organic BARF diet – however we are to monitor her urine on a regular basis.

I have consulted with two homeopathic vets since the event. As a result she was treated with Merc corr soon after the incident. Her recovery had been swift and she was busting with energy. I was waiting for some more detailed results on the stones from a research study in the US – this was extremely long in coming and I suspect the sample was lost. So I then contacted a specialist homeopathic vet who recommended a short course of homeopathic berberis 30 and lycopodium 30 plus regular cranberry, dandelion and parsley as herbs added to the diet.

Since then she has had a first check of her urine which was shown to have no crystals present. I intend to have the urine checks done every 3 months for as long as it is considered necessary.

My view of the incident is that it is a one off infection rather than a longer term diet issue.

It was a very stressful period and I did at times think I would lose her. The vets and their support staff, were great and they showed immense care and dedication. They were amazed at her stoical nature, her tolerance while they did all manner of tests on her and were won over by her charm and good nature. There were some kindnesses which they showed me which were deeply appreciated – allowing me to visit Purdie in the hospital and spending much time talking through the problems with me and respecting my views on the management of my dogs.

Best of all I have my girl back home fit and well.

Reproduced by kind permission of Yvette Andrewartha

'Jamie'
(Sanzerena Special Harmony)



An invitation from Wheaten Health Initiative



to join us for our
6th Birthday Event

to be held on the

22nd February 2009
at Weedon Bec Village Hall. Weedon Bec,
Nr. Daventry, Northants. NN7 4PQ
From 10.30 am - 4.30 pm

Tickets - £8
To include refreshments and Buffet Lunch

Available from

Barbara Penney, 11 Sheridan Way, Longwell Green,
Bristol, BS30 9UE
Tel: 0117 9324297 Email: penney@btinternet.com
or wheatenhealth@hotmail.com

programme for the day

Our speaker for the morning session is

Dr. Karin Allenspach
med.vet. FVH Dipl. ECVIM-CA PhD MRCVS

who will be giving a talk on

'Digestive Disorders in Dogs and their Possible Causes'

*This will include an update on the pANCA Research Project
by Dr. Allenspach, leader of the Project,
and be followed by a Q & A session*

Following its success at a previous birthday event, the afternoon session will again involve active Workshop/Discussion groups where several experienced breeder/owners will be on hand to offer information, help and assistance for the health and well-being of your dog.

Topics will include:

Natural Feeding.
Basic everyday Grooming.
Puppy care & Training.
First Aid.
Advice on Natural Remedies.

This promises to be a very stimulating day that will be of interest to owners of all Breeds and will have something for both experienced owners and those who are new to dogs.

If the lack of a dog sitter may prevent you from attending, there is a small area for crated dogs.

Problems? - If you have any, we will try to help where we can
'You are never alone with a Wheaten and never on your own with a problem'

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

KATE'S KORNER

CAN DOGS DETECT CANCER?

As part of our responsibilities as a dog owner, we need to be aware and observant of our pet's health. We need to make sure they are fed a nutritious diet and that they always have a supply of clean drinking water, a warm, safe place to sleep and plenty of exercise and love. So what do we get back? Well if current developments turn out to be true, a lot more than you realise.

One man's life was recently saved by his dog. His Rottweiler had always been interested in a mole on the man's chest, sniffing and licking whenever his owner was bare-chested. As time went by, he became increasingly fanatical about licking it, pushing his nose inside the man's shirt if he was wearing one. This was not normal licking but 'rough scouring'. The licking began to spread until it included the man's armpit but when the dog started to sit in front of him and stare intently into his eyes, the man's partner insisted he visit the doctor. After some tests, it was diagnosed as a malignant melanoma, requiring immediate surgery to remove it. He is now waiting to have the lymph glands in his armpit removed. The actions of the dog almost certainly saved his life.

A research project is underway in America to discover the effectiveness of using dogs in this way. Trained sniffer dogs already expert at detecting drugs and explosives are being taught to sniff out cancers. After only three weeks of training, the dogs are detecting 88 - 97% of lung and breast cancers.

The next part of the research is to discover if all types of dogs can be taught to do this, or is it just those highly trainable types used in working situations. Maybe in the future, all doctor's surgeries will have a dog on the team!



SMELLY DOG REMEDY

Our Lakeland Terrier, Norman, likes to roll in all sorts of things, there's no telling just what will take his fancy. When one of my sons puts on aftershave, Norman's there, waiting for some to splash on the floor, then its shoulders down and a good old roll around in it. Anything with a spicy or pungent smell makes him want to splash it all over. He'll roll in spilt pepper, curry power, gravy browning (*I'm a messy cook*), his favourite thing is black pudding, not to eat of course, but to roll in. Give him a bit of

black pudding and he's in heaven. He throws himself on it, squirming about to cover as much of his back and shoulders as possible. But looking on the bright side, at least these funny habits don't create too much smell and DO wash off if he's going to a show. (*We should have known he was trouble when, at six months of age, he climbed up a chimney the day before a show and reappeared covered in black soot!*)

It's a completely different matter when he decides to have a roll about in badger or fox poo. If any of you have a dog that does this, and our three Wheatens all like to join Norman in the fun, then you will know that the smell is indescribable and VERY hard

to get rid of. An excellent remedy is to rub tomato ketchup or juice into the affected coat and leave for a while before rinsing off. This really does the job, it seems that the acidic content of the tomatoes neutralises the smell.

Kate Watkins



Who? Me?



INFORMATION

Check out your Vet

Finding a decent Vet is not easy if you are a first time owner. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) has launched a 'Practice Standards Scheme' which should make choosing a little easier. It is a voluntary initiative to accredit veterinary practices in the UK. To gain accreditation, practices volunteer for rigorous inspection every four years and will have met a range of minimum standards including hygiene, 24 hour emergency cover, staff training and they will also be subject to spot checks in between inspections. There are three levels of accreditation, with tier 3, generally referred to as veterinary hospitals, having a wider range of equipment and services. To check if a practice near you has accreditation, visit www.findavet.org.uk

In 'Safe Hands'

If you are a pet owner, there has to be a consideration for your pet's welfare should you suddenly not be there to care for them.

Research carried out by the PDSA has revealed that only 18% of pet owners have made provision for the ongoing care of their pet in their will. This is, more often, not a cause of being irresponsible, but merely being uncomfortable with thoughts of death.

To help people over this emotional hurdle the PDSA is offering a caring solution to owners who leave a gift in their will to the PDSA – the PDSA *Safe hands* re-homing service. If the worst did happen, the PDSA would find your pet a loving and suitable new home by matching them to an owner who will care for them and guarantee them comfort and security for the rest of their life.

To find out more about the Safe hands re-homing service, please ring the PDSA Legacy team on **freephone 0800 591248**.

Rubber Toys

Be careful with hard rubber toys with holes in either end such as a dumbbell to put treats etc. into. One was given to a 7 month old puppy who after five minutes was scrabbling on the floor with his tongue caught in the hole by the vacuum it had caused. His tongue was swelling and he was beginning to choke. It couldn't be cut off as the rubber was too thick and he was panicking. He was rushed to the vet to be sedated while the vet cut him free. Had he been left alone with this kind of toy he would have died.

Sat-Nav technology and missing pets

Dog owners are now able to deploy sat-nav technology to track down a missing pet. The lockable collar, on sale from July last year, is made of anti-cut material to deter thieves and sends texts to the owner's mobile phone if the dog crosses a pre-set boundary. The owner can log on to a website where, using the sat-nav technology of the collar, they can pinpoint the animal's location. The collar costs £200, together with a monthly fee, but its makers, Retrieva, say it is worth every penny. The company's director said "We believe that dog theft is not high on the list of police priorities . . . if a dog gets lost, it's a traumatic experience".

Danger from Raisins, Grapes & other foods toxic to Dogs

The danger of giving raisins, grapes, chocolate, etc. to dogs is cropping up regularly. There is a very good article - '*Grapes, raisins and sultanas, and other foods toxic to dogs*', by Alexander Campbell BSc, VPIS, Medical Toxicology Unit in London, and published in UK Vet - January 2007. This states that raisin poisoning in dogs is one of the more striking poisonings to have emerged as a potential concern over the last few years. A foodstuff thought unlikely to cause problems in the past, it may well be that significant exposures had been wrongly diagnosed for many years. Assuming the

incidence of ingestions has not changed much over the years, then there is certainly increased awareness and reporting of such occurrences if the call enquiry data to the Veterinary Poisons Information Service (VPIS) are analysed. This article outlines the current knowledge based on both the literature reports and the VPIS experience and to offer some guidance as to an appropriate case management strategy. In addition, there is a brief reminder about other foodstuffs with the potential to cause intoxication in dogs. You can access this on -

www.ukvet.co.uk/ukvet/articles/toxicology%20-%20raisins.pdf

(The VPIS is a **subscription only** service available to vet practices in the UK).

Tea Bags

Most of us are aware of the danger to dogs of theobromine in chocolate, but are you aware that this is also present in tea. The accidental ingestion of an echinacea and green tea teabag by a dog, caused it weeks of misery and almost led to death before the right diagnosis and treatment were arrived at.



Useful Contact

SCWT Club of America www.scwtca.org where you will be able to access copies of their 'Wheaten Health News'.

"Information understood is knowledge, knowledge understood is wisdom"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Fundraising

Throughout the pANCA sampling session
at Weedon Bec on the 18th January,
a Silent Auction 'PREVIEW' took place

During the next two weeks all items will be
displayed on the WHI website where you can
place your bids, and will remain there until
12 noon on the 1st March 2009
when the Auction will close

www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com

A not so Silent Auction!



Publications

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.

Other medical conditions which, as far as we are aware, are not hereditary but have occasionally been known to affect the SCWT, are also included.

This booklet is obtainable for a minimum donation of £5.50 from Barbara Penney, address on Page 1

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. If you do not already have a sample of your dog's blood stored at the AHT, your vet can take a little more at the next Blood and Urine test and that sample can then be sent for storage at the AHT. The necessary forms are included in this booklet.

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.

This booklet is obtainable for a minimum donation of £2.50 from Barbara Penney, address on Page 1

