



# WHI Newsletter

**pANCA  
Participants  
Update Deadline  
15<sup>th</sup> Oct!!!**



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**Listen without  
prejudice and  
speak without  
antagonism**

## *Issue Twenty-one*

### **Viewpoint**

By now I hope that all our readers will be aware of the next big WHI event; our seminar, "Breed the Perfect Puppy" in February 2012 (full details on pages 5 & 6)

The steering Group started discussing the focus of our next event almost as soon as we completed our last; celebrating the completion of the sampling sessions for the pANCA Project.

Our role in the collection of data for the pANCA Project continues over the coming years but we felt the need to respond to the many serious problems facing the dog world in general, which the press report on a daily basis.

The issue of poorly bred and raised dogs appears to be a fairly constant theme and, for me, things came to a head with two situations, in which I became involved.

The first started off innocuously, as one of those general puppy enquiries that appear in the inbox on a regular basis. I replied with my stock response (Hopefully warm and friendly but nevertheless, carrying informative and cautionary advice!) with the additional suggestion that their next step should be to contact the relevant person within the SCWT Club of GB and register their interest in adding their names to the puppy list. I also offered any additional support if they had any further questions.

Their reply was immediate and thereafter followed a dialogue over some months, during which I got to know them quite well. I told them I would also keep an ear open for any responsible breeder who might have plans for a litter.

I urged them to be patient and assured them that the right puppy would be worth waiting for.

A couple of litters came to my attention but in both cases, the puppies were already spoken for. However, I had been told by one of the breeders that there was a possibility of another litter, later in the year and I contacted the couple to let them know.

Imagine my dismay when I heard



that only a couple of weeks before, they had taken matters into their own hands, having heard from their good friends living in Yorkshire, of a litter of Wheatens, advertised locally in the Doncaster area by a "very knowledgeable and experienced" breeder.

Alarm bells rang but their joy in acquiring their new "pedigree" puppy was something I could not sully so I simply settled for assuring them of my continued help if they needed anything.

Over the following weeks they were in touch on a fairly regular basis; the puppy was carrying a huge worm burden, discovered at its first vet check and a more serious internal parasitic infestation requiring extensive veterinary treatment.

The puppy was over 4 months old when they got her. Fortunately she was happy in the company of people, but terrified of traffic and many everyday situations which pointed to a profound lack of effective socialization and appropriate experiences in her early puppyhood.

House-training was a difficult task for them, as she had no understanding of going outdoors to toilet and would just relieve herself wherever she happened to be. I had talked to them about the need for training classes but she found the presence of the other dogs too distracting and they ultimately opted for one-to-one classes with the trainer (more expense!)

They sent me a copy of the puppy's "Pedigree Certificate", which they fully believed was proof of her "pure" Irish blood lines. Unfortunately it was simply a 3 generation registration form from the "Dog Lovers Registration Club" and I doubt that all or indeed any of the

*October 2011*

names are accurate – in fact

some appear to be border terriers.

A fundamental flaw in the system is the confusion that exists about the word "pedigree"; many do not understand that a pedigree is just a list of ancestors, pure-bred or not.

However, this couple are devoted to their little puppy and they are doing everything they can to make sure she has a good and happy life. But I am just so angry that they and others like them, whose worst crime can best be described as naivety, are being taken in by people like the seller of this puppy.

I refuse to use the word "breeder" to describe this individual because there is no similarity between this person and those of us who do absolutely everything in our power to breed responsibly. In fact, it would appear there is no legitimate claim to that title anyway, because it seems that some, if not all, the puppies that are sold (from numerous breeds) may be simply bought in from other sources for re-sale.

Those of us, who want to do the right thing, are being constantly undermined by puppy farmers like this one, stepping in to supply the demand for supposedly "pedigree" puppies.

We don't have a chance of redressing the balance or changing the public's perception of us, as being guilty of the same feckless and negligent attitude to breeding dogs, as highlighted in programmes such as "Pedigree Dogs Exposed"

I do hope the Kennel Club's "Assured Breeder Scheme" may help in this respect although I fear it may not be enough on its own and perhaps appropriate legislation is also needed. Your viewpoints are welcome on this matter for a future edition of the Newsletter.

The second issue occurred concurrently with the latter and involved a couple local to me, who had acquired a "rescue" Wheaten from an internet advertisement! They were asked to pay £300 for him.



## Viewpoint (cont)

This male was still relatively young and was being re-homed by his original owners because they felt, "...they did not have enough time to look after him properly".

The couple who took him on were not novice dog owners, although they had not had a Wheaten before but they ran into difficulties almost immediately.

The couple had bonded with this boy from the start, notwithstanding the fact that his first attack on them had occurred on the morning after they brought him home!

Eventually, as luck would have it, they approached a dog-trainer friend of mine for advice and she suggested they contact me for help from a breed perspective.

By the time they spoke to me their hearts were thoroughly engaged but they were also becoming fearful of moving around in their own home. The attacks were unpredictable and severe – not just a growl or even a snap but something much more worrying.

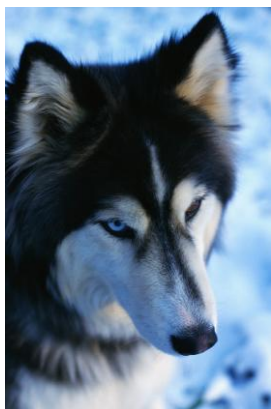
The wife described how her husband had been greeting the dog one morning and then bent down to pick up the post. The dog leaped forward and bit his arm and "shook it like a rag doll" inflicting considerable damage.

This wasn't the only occasion and she also described how she had tried to walk past the dog in the house and he had become very still and fixed her with a stare which she described as unnerving; "His eyes were really black and fixed" and she felt if she moved suddenly he would attack her. She backed slowly out of the room and closed the door and waited until her husband came home, by which time the dog seemed alright again.

She admitted they were becoming more and more fearful about what he might do next, although, "...He can be so loving and sweet the next minute, we keep making excuses for him." They were at the end of their tether and just did not know what to do for the best.

Trying to establish who was the breeder of the dog to inform him/her of what was occurring proved problematic; the original

owners had claimed they had lost the dog's papers and couldn't provide any details as to where he had come from. I reported the whole situation to the SCWT Club Secretary but without any clear knowledge of the origins of the dog, there is little that can be done.



The couple discussed long and hard about what was the right course of action to take. They spoke to the previous owners, their Vet and the dog trainer as well as asking my advice. They discussed taking the dog back to his first home but feared he would simply be re-homed again through the internet.

Ultimately they decided they could not take the risk that he might be re-homed with another family, perhaps with young children, where he might attack again, with more disastrous consequences.

They felt enough responsibility for him, although he had been with them a relatively short time, that they could not take that risk and they took him to be euthanased. What a remarkably brave and responsible couple they were.

Some weeks later we arranged for them to come and spend some time with us and our dogs. They said they needed to get some sort of perspective on what they had been through and although they might not take a Wheaten into their home again, they wanted to meet examples of the breed in different circumstances and try to put their experience into some sort of context.

I had arranged a carefully structured day for them as I knew from our telephone conversations that they were still very upset and traumatised by

what had happened. I knew that five Wheatens in the joyous rapture of greeting new visitors might be a step too far for this situation! So we began with our almost fifteen year old and worked on from there, to walking the dogs in pairs and finally settling down with all five, for coffee and a chat.

By then the couple were happily sharing their laps with whichever dog needed love and a hug and, after the wife's initial wariness at the start of the visit, the sound of her giggling as she was subjected to one of Cameron's very special, lick, face washes, was music to my ears.

Now I have no way of knowing whether this particular Wheaten was bred by a caring breeder or not but even if he were, that breeder was apparently not in contact with the original owners. I do appreciate keeping contact going with puppy owners is really difficult on occasions; it can often seem a very one-sided process (unless the owner has a problem, of course!) But it is essential to do so, if you want to make informed breeding choices.

How could we know whether this dog had siblings who were similarly affected or whether the same sire or dam has produced other progeny with these traits? Knowing this might greatly add to our understanding of why this dog behaved as it did and whether there might be a hereditary nature to his problem. These and similar situations which we are aware of and in some cases, our own personal experiences, helped to shape our themes for the coming seminar.

We want prospective owners to be much more aware, when looking for their puppy, of the differences between breeders who care and those who are motivated solely by profit. The KC has produced some clear information (see page 13) but somehow that message is just not getting through to all who need it.

We would like all who are breeding litters to be fully aware of all the resources available to help inform breeding decisions, for example the KC's "Mate Select" programme (See page 9 for further details).

We hope to encourage the use

of testing methods to ensure the health of breeding stock and also encourage the development of genetic tests to help reduce the incidence of heritable diseases (See pages 15 & 16 for further information from the United States).

We seek greater understanding for all of us; breeders and owners alike, of the vital role that early socialisation and puppyhood experiences play in ensuring the development of a well-balanced, sociable adult dog.

Lynn Carter



Please join us:

**"Breed the Perfect Puppy"**  
4<sup>th</sup> February, 2012  
at  
Weedon Bec Village Hall  
Northants

(See pages 5&6 for full details)

*My little old dog: a heart-beat at my feet.*

Edith Wharton





We are all familiar with the cartoon image of an owner throwing a stick for his dog to retrieve. BUT have you ever stopped to think of the possible consequences?

I hadn't – until at dog training class one evening, I heard this dreadful tale.

Our trainer is an ex-police dog handler with thirty years' experience. He told us how, after a training session, he had always thrown a stick into the lake for his dog to swim out to retrieve.

One fateful evening, he threw the stick for his dog but it did not reach the water, it landed upright in the soft mud at the edge of the lake. His dog raced after it, pounced on the stick which went straight through the back of the dog's mouth, killing it almost instantly.



A truly dreadful story, which I hope you will pass on, so that no other dog suffers the same fate.

Even toys sold in pet shops, specifically for dogs, can be dangerous. Terriers in particular, have a very strong bite and will destroy even those toys advertised as 'indestructible'.

- Always keep an eye on your dog when he is playing, small, bitten-off pieces of toy can be a choking hazard or if the dog swallows enough of them, can block the intestines.

*If your dog thinks you're the greatest person in the world, don't seek a second opinion.*

*Jim Fiebig*

## A Dangerous Game

- If you use a ball when playing with your dog, always use one which is larger than your dog's throat. A small ball can be dangerous if the dog is on the move when he catches it.

At speed the ball can become lodged in the back of the mouth, blocking the airway. Balls with a rope attached give you something to pull on if they do get stuck in the dog's mouth or throat.

*(Editor's note: This happened to a very good friend of mine who had to stand helplessly by while her young German Shepherd choked to death in front of her)*

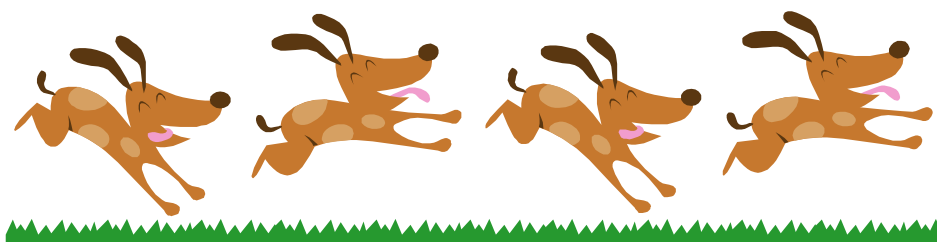
- Rawhide dog chews are another danger; when the dog has chewed them for long enough, they become sticky and pliable and could get stuck in his throat if he tries to swallow it. Dogs love them but keep an eye on the chew and when it becomes soggy, take it away.
- If you have to leave your dog for any length of time or when you go to bed at night, you should put away any toys which may be hazardous. Also, unless you crate your dog, it's a good idea to put mobile phones, TV remotes, shoes etc. out of reach. If you're going out for several hours and want to leave something to keep him

occupied, a Kong stuffed with tasty nibbles usually keeps a dog quiet for a good while. My dogs eventually manage to rip their Kong into small pieces but it does take several hours of determined chewing!!

- Soft toys are usually a no-go area for terriers although I do know some who will just play with it 'nicely'. Again, keep a check on the toy and remove it once the dog has bitten any holes where the stuffing can be pulled through and eaten.
- Squeaky toys – the most annoying of the lot, particularly as most terriers have the instinct to bite until it stops squeaking. They are dangerous if the dog bites through to the squeaker and manages to swallow it.
- Always check the label on the toy, if there is one. Many cheap toys manufactured in countries like China and Taiwan, are made from dubious materials and could be dangerous if your pet eats or sucks part of them.

Dangerously high levels of lead have been found in the paint used and there have been reports on the internet about dog chews, manufactured in Asia, which contained poisonous ingredients, causing kidney damage!!

KATE WATKINS





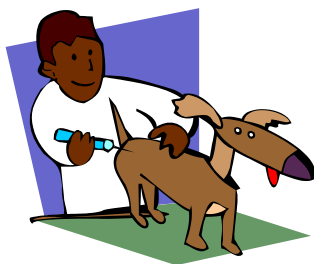
## Annual Vaccination – Is It Really Necessary?

If you are one of the growing number of people who have concerns over the need for yearly booster vaccinations you may already opt for titre testing which measures the level of antibodies in your dog's blood and indicates whether there is a need for a booster.

There is now a new tool to help you make that decision. A product that can assist in reducing over-vaccination of our dogs is now available for vets to use.

The ImmunoComb Canine VacciCheck is intended to be used as a diagnostic tool to detect antibodies in whole blood or serum to the core vaccination or infection by Parvovirus, Distemper and Adenovirus (Hepatitis).

It is a unique and patented technology, and the kits are also available for cats.



The test is cheap and easy to carry out in-house, using a small sample of your dog's blood, with results available in approximately 20 minutes

The results will show the antibody levels for each of the three diseases, allowing you to make an informed decision whether or not to re-vaccinate.

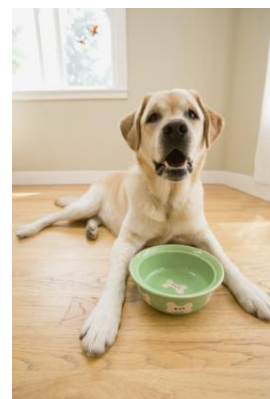
The test can also be used as a diagnostic tool when infection by one of these diseases is suspected.

When an animal's vaccination history is unknown, for instance, when a dog is being rehomed, the VacciCheck would prevent unnecessary vaccination.

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association states that vaccines should not be given needlessly as they may cause adverse reactions.

If you are worried about the consequences of over vaccination, ask your vet if he knows about the VacciCheck from Biogal. It is available in the UK from:

Complete Veterinary Care  
[www.cvcgroup.co.uk](http://www.cvcgroup.co.uk)  
 Tel: 01923 470010



*Dachshunds are ideal dogs for small children, as they are already stretched and pulled to such a length that the child cannot do much harm one way or the other.*

*Robert Benchley*

## Animal Health Trust Proposes New World-Leading Cancer Centre

The Animal Health Trust has released plans for a new centre, enabling them to provide all three treatment options for cancer; surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, on one site.

They believe this will consolidate their reputation as a centre of excellence in the treatment of and research into cancer.

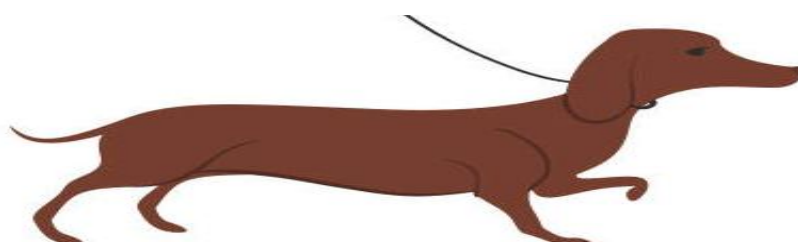
Having all three options for treatment gathered in one centre means that the AHT will be able to offer every patient the very best options for treatment according to their specific case.

Horses, dogs and cats will be treated at the centre but the AHT also anticipates that the work carried out there will have benefits for cancer

research in humans. Cancer is the most common cause of death in dogs and the second most common cause in cats.

The AHT is appealing for donations from the public to enable them to complete this new, state-of-the-art centre.

For further details visit: [www.aht.org.uk](http://www.aht.org.uk)



Thinking of  
breeding a  
litter?

**4th February 2012**

**Weedon Bec Village Hall**  
Northamptonshire  
NN7 4QU

Suitable for all breeds

**Booking essential**

Early Bird Discount available  
for limited period

Thinking of  
getting  
a puppy

**Breed the "Perfect"  
Puppy**

with

**Dr Jeff Sampson**

and

**Gwen Bailey**

For further details visit our website:

e-mail: [wheatenhealth@aol.com](mailto:wheatenhealth@aol.com) or

[www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com](http://www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com)

phone: 01246 55 47 42



## Our Speakers

When we began the process of putting together this seminar, several names came up in conversation, as we clarified our aims and objectives and discussed the kind of issues we hoped to be able to address.

We pinpointed the two most fundamental concerns of every dog owner; "Is my dog healthy?" and "Is my dog a pleasure to live with?"

This encapsulated for us the basic material we needed to cover.

Without a doubt the two speaker's names which featured at the top of everyone's list were Dr Jeff Sampson and Gwen Bailey.

I well remember the comment that was made at the time; something along the lines of:

"If we could get either one of them that would be fantastic but I can't believe we could be lucky enough to have both!"

Well it just shows what can be achieved when you set your mind to it and have such helpful and enthusiastic professionals prepared and willing to help us.

*Things that upset a terrier may pass virtually unnoticed by a Great Dane.*

*Smiley Blanton*

### Gwen Bailey



**Gwen Bailey** (BSc Hons) pioneered the use of animal behaviour knowledge in the rehoming of unwanted pets while working for a large animal welfare charity where she was Head of Animal Behaviour for 12 years.

In June 2002, Gwen set up Puppy School ([www.puppyschool.co.uk](http://www.puppyschool.co.uk)), a UK network of puppy class tutors trained in animal

behaviour and offering socialisation and reward-based training classes run to a very high standard.

Gwen lectures at national and international conferences, runs training courses and has written 10 books.

She is a member and past Chairman of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors

and a Trustee for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

Gwen's presentation will cover the socialization and training of puppies from birth to six months.

She will also examine the effects of such experiences on the well-being of the dog in later life.

### Dr Jeff Sampson

The afternoon features **Dr Jeff Sampson**, (BSc. DPhil) the Kennel Club's Genetics Consultant.

Dr Jeff Sampson is a molecular biologist, who also has experience as a dog owner and exhibitor of Schipperkes.

In April 1998, he was based at Leicester University, and contributed to the mapping of the canine genome. Following this he was appointed as the Kennel Club Canine Genetics Co-ordinator.

He is well known and respected by the scientific community as well as the many members of the public who have had the opportunity to attend his presentations and gain an understanding of the basic genetics of the dog.

Dr Sampson will talk about the advances in genetic understanding, particularly through the work of the Kennel Club's Genetic Centre at the Animal Health Trust, which is allowing the identification of the genes which cause disease.

More than 30 DNA tests have been developed so far, which means that breeders are increasingly able to benefit from this knowledge when planning litters, making appropriate and informed breeding choices.

Dr Sampson will also look at the technological advances where systems such as the Kennel Club's "[Mate Select](#)" (See page 9) can enable breeders to plan their breeding programmes according to the impact that it will have on genetic diversity.



*'The longer you can look back, the further you can look forward.'*

*Winston Churchill*





## The Stud Dog's Lament

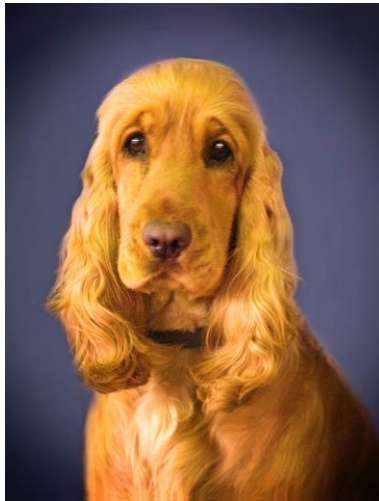
My job is making puppies,  
and I get two tries at  
that.  
They pat me on the head  
and say,  
'Good Boy' and that is  
that.

It's half my job to give  
'em teeth  
And topline, fronts and  
others,  
Remember it's just  
HALF my job, they also  
have a MOTHER.

It's not my job to carry  
pups  
And make 'em grow and  
nurse 'em  
And feed and clean and  
teach 'em,  
That's for Mother and a  
person.

It's not my job to wean  
and feed  
The calcium and food.  
And stack and gait and  
housebreak  
And make 'em a showing  
brood

It's not my job to plan  
the  
breeding  
and learn what produces  
well.  
To study pedigrees and  
learn what's there,  
and pick out those to  
sell.



It's not my job to  
guarantee champs.  
The breeder picks the  
pair,  
to mate and whelp  
and feed and show and  
HOPE the champ is  
there.

It's not my job to be on  
hand  
When points are given  
out,  
the breeder, owner, dam  
and friends  
Take credit with a shout.

It's not my job to  
deliver a winner,  
It's only genes I sell.  
But let the puppies turn  
out bad  
and guess who catches  
HELL?

Author - Auld Terrier  
Man

### Calling all pANCA Participants!

Did you attend at least one of the  
Longitudinal Study Sampling sessions?

Have you **completed** your 6 monthly Update  
Form?

**This must be done by the 15<sup>th</sup> October**

Do it on-line at  
[www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com](http://www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com)

### A Vet's Tale

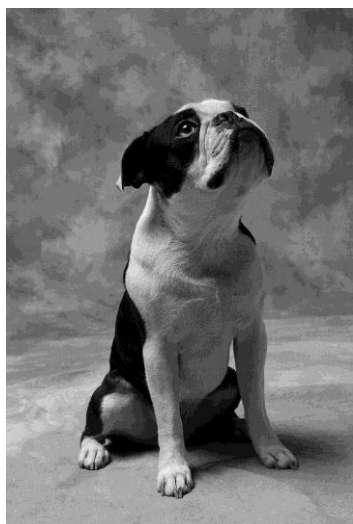
*A client brought a litter of  
golden retriever puppies to my  
veterinary clinic for inoculations  
and worming. As the look-alike  
pups squirmed over and under  
one another in their box, I  
realized it would be difficult to  
tell the treated ones from the  
rest. So, I turned on the water  
faucet, wet my fingers, and  
moistened each dog's head when  
I had finished. After the  
fourth puppy, I noticed  
my talkative client had grown  
silent. As I sprinkled the last  
pup's head, the woman leaned  
forward and whispered,*

*"I didn't know they had to be  
baptized, too."*

*Martha Hardison*



## Human Medicines and Dogs



When your dog is in pain your first instinct as a caring owner will be to try and relieve him of it.

If you know that a simple muscle strain or bruising is the problem, you may be reluctant to pay for a veterinary consultation.

It is quite common to hear people say that it is okay to give your dog human medicine such as painkillers, so long as you give a child's dose or less.

However, this misassumption could sentence your dog to permanent damage to his organs or even a painful and unnecessary death.

Common painkillers such as Paracetamol, Aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medications such as Ibuprofen, are all capable of causing great harm if given to dogs and other pets.

Ibuprofen is particularly dangerous for dogs and a dose which would be safe for a human would cause toxicity in a dog.

Canine and human physiologies are not the same and medicines are metabolised in different ways.

Ibuprofen has a longer half-life in dogs, staying in the dog's body for longer than it does in man. As a result, the toxic effects to the dog are significantly increased.

Ibuprofen works by inhibiting the production of prostaglandins, thereby reducing pain and inflammation. Prostaglandins are needed for normal bowel function and help to maintain the sensitive cells lining the stomach and bowel wall.

Taken by a human over a long period of time or in high doses, Ibuprofen can cause stomach problems and constipation due to the reduction in prostaglandin and its protective effects.

If Ibuprofen is given to a dog, or the dog manages to get hold of some around the home, the effects are much more disastrous; a dose which would not harm a human may be catastrophic to a dog.

The commonest effect of an overdose is intense ulceration of the stomach wall and intestinal tract, with perforation of the stomach also being common in acute cases.

Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea (both showing signs of blood staining) and excessive thirst and urination as the dog's body tries to rid itself of the poison.

However, if the dog has reached the stage of showing these symptoms, it is often too late and if the patient does survive, kidney damage will almost certainly have occurred.

If you suspect that your dog has eaten Ibuprofen, and even one tablet can cause problems, seek veterinary help immediately.

To try and reduce the toxic impact of the Ibuprofen, treatment begins with an emetic such as Apomorphine to remove as much of the stomach contents as possible.

Activated charcoal is given to absorb the drug in the stomach and bowel and the dog will usually need to be kept in overnight for observation with an intravenous drip to try and reduce the possibility of kidney damage.

All this needs to be done within a few hours at most but if the dog has ingested a large dose, seizures, kidney failure and serious gastric and intestinal ulceration will occur. The use of Apomorphine to induce vomiting in the dog illustrates the danger of assuming human and veterinary medicines are interchangeable.

In his column in Dog World, Kennel Club Chairman and

Veterinary Surgeon, Steve Dean recently related a story about a break in at a veterinary surgery.

The villains of the piece were, of course, after drugs. They stole some Apomorphine and quickly found a quiet spot to inject themselves, what they didn't realise was that the 'Apo' prefix to the name means it actively stimulates the vomiting reflex. The local police were able to catch the thieves not very far away, being violently sick!

Kate Watkins

[www.veterinarymedicine.dvm360.com](http://www.veterinarymedicine.dvm360.com) [www.merckvetmanual.com](http://www.merckvetmanual.com)



*The pug is living proof that God has a sense of humor.*

*Margot Kaufman*



*If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them.*

*Phil Pastoret*





## The Kennel Club's "Mate Select" Online Services



In an attempt to aid dog breeders to ensure future generations of dogs are bred responsibly, the Kennel Club has launched its new "Mate Select" service. From the "Mate Select" Home page, it is possible to access a number of guides and information on such things as, maintaining genetic diversity, health screening schemes and breed information.

The KC website also displays the coefficient of inbreeding (COI) for any individual breed. The inbreeding coefficient is a calculation of the probability that two copies of the same

gene would be inherited from a common ancestor i.e. an ancestor that is common to both parents;

*"The lower the inbreeding coefficient, the lower the probability (risk) that this will happen".*

<http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk/services/public/mateselect/>

The current COI for the Soft Coated Wheaten breed is given as 7.1%; probably a reflection of our relatively small gene pool. However, it is also possible through the KC website to calculate the COI for any existing individual

dog, or for the puppies produced from a hypothetical mating.

If a proposed mating had a COI of 12.5%, there would be a 1 in 8 chance that a puppy would inherit the same version of a gene from an ancestor common to both the sire and the dam of the litter. If this gene should carry a defect, then obviously there would be an increased risk of the puppy inheriting it. Litters born as a result of mother to son, father to daughter or brother to sister matings are no longer registered by the KC because the COI would be at least 25%.

Lynn Carter

## The PDSA to Limit the Number of Pedigree Dogs Treated

Dog World recently reported that the PDSA is going to limit the number of pedigree dogs and cats which receive free veterinary treatment in its branches. Owners in receipt of benefits will still be allowed to have free treatment for a maximum of three crossbreeds, but may only have free treatment for one pedigree dog or cat.

The charity claims they are not discriminating against purebred dogs or cats and that the primary reason is not financial, although it says it has evidence that pedigree animals are more costly to care for.

Perhaps it may be argued that if a person can afford to buy an expensive dog, why should that person then be eligible for free veterinary care. However, 'designer' dogs such as Labradoodles will not be excluded in the new rules, so one of the charity's clients could own three of this type of crossbreed, and still be eligible for free treatment even though such dogs can be sold for in the region of £1,200 each.

A PDSA spokesman was reported as saying, "Purebred animals often need high levels of veterinary care due to inherited illnesses and breed-related conditions as a result of irresponsible breeding associated with certain

pedigree matings." and "Generally, non-pedigree dogs and cats don't have the same health issues as pedigree breeds."

The charity's spokesperson said, "Our new policy does not stop clients from owning a pedigree pet but it does ensure that PDSA services are allocated appropriately.

PDSA exists to help owners when they are most in need, and we are no longer able to support people who actively acquire multiple pedigree pets without being able to commit to their long-term health and welfare needs."

Director of veterinary services for the PDSA, Richard Hooker, said, "Yes, sometimes keeping three large crossbreeds would be more expensive than a small, healthy pedigree dog, but we are talking about averages."

He added, "... the fact is, whether we like it or not, on average pedigree pets need a greater amount of veterinary care because of illnesses that they might be predisposed to, caused by severe conformational problems and genetic defects."

When asked whether more purebred dogs might go into rescue as a result of the PDSA's new rules, the Deputy Veterinary Director, Paula

Boyden said, "Time will tell, but hopefully if there is an impact it will be limited."

This struck a chord with me, because in the area in which I live, are several older people caring for dogs of various pedigree breeds. In each case they have taken their animal from rescue organisations – often they are animals in their declining years, which have less appeal for young families.

At the rescue centre for geriatric animals where my daughter works, the vast majority of people who take on one of the dogs or cats in need of a home are also elderly and sometimes the animals are pedigrees.

It made me wonder how the knock-on effect of the PDSA's new ruling might impact upon those with limited funds who were previously willing to take on an older pedigree animal in rescue. I also wondered how the PDSA would establish whether an animal was a Pedigree or a Crossbreed.

Dog World reported the Kennel Club's response, which was to say. "While we do not like to think of any dog going untreated, we fully understand the PDSA's desire to discourage multiple dog ownership if the owner cannot afford veterinary fees," said spokesman Caroline Kisko. "However, if this is the principle on which the PDSA

crossbreeds, mongrels and purebred dogs can all get ill and require veterinary care.

"In order to minimise the possibility of needing prolonged veterinary care throughout a purebred dog's life, the KC encourages people to always buy from an accredited\* breeder, who will ensure that they give their dogs the appropriate health checks for their breed, so that they and their offspring stand the best chance of leading a healthy life.

"There are too many dogs that are being bought from backstreet breeders who put profit above the health and welfare of their dogs and this translates into expensive veterinary fees further down the line.

"We urge people to think carefully about whether they can afford a dog, of any type, before they buy."

\* Since this press release the KC's "Accredited Breeder Scheme" has been renamed the "Assured Breeder Scheme"

Lynn Carter



# ATCHOOOOOOOOOO!

## Hypoallergenic dogs – Fantasy or Fact



The Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit recently published a Press Release detailing the results of a study in which researchers sought to evaluate whether the claims that certain types of dogs were "hypoallergenic", i.e. having lower household allergen levels than other dogs, was founded on fact or not. Hypoallergenic dogs are suggested to produce less dander and saliva and shed less fur. The study was funded by National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"We found no scientific basis to the claim hypoallergenic dogs have less allergen," says Christine Cole Johnson,

Ph.D., MPH, chair of Henry Ford's Department of Public Health Sciences and senior author of the study.

Previous studies at the Hospital had established that exposure to a dog early in life, provided some protection against developing an allergy to dogs in the future but that the notion that a certain type or breed of dog, would cause less allergy problems for someone who already had developed an allergic response, was found not to be borne out by the study.

Based on public web site claims of hypoallergenic breeds, dogs were classified as hypoallergenic using one of four "schemes" based on their breed, for comparing allergen levels. Sixty dog breeds were involved in the study, 11 of which are considered hypoallergenic dogs (including the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier) and only homes with one dog were involved.

The researchers analyzed dust samples collected from 173 homes, one month after a newborn baby was brought home. The dust samples

were collected from the carpet or floor in the baby's bedroom and analyzed for the dog allergen Can f 1.

Researchers found no significant differences in allergen levels between hypoallergenic dogs compared to non-hypoallergenic dogs, whether pure-bred or crossbred.

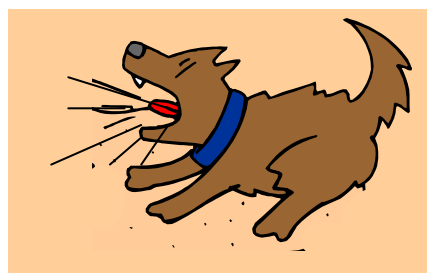
In homes where the dog was not allowed in the baby's bedroom, the allergen level for hypoallergenic dogs was slightly higher compared to allergen levels of non-hypoallergenic dogs.

While researchers acknowledged limitations in their study; for example, amongst other things, the amount of time the dog spent in the baby's bedroom was not recorded, they say parents should not rely on dogs classified as hypoallergenic.

*The findings are to be published in the American Journal of Rhinology and Allergy. The study will be available at <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/ocean/ajra>*

*A well-trained dog will make no attempt to share your lunch. He will just make you feel so guilty that you cannot enjoy it.*

*Helen Thomson*



*Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing right in your ear.*

*Dave Barry*



## Animal Health Trust Issues Another Warning About Seasonal Canine Illness

Since the start of September, focusing its investigations on once again there appears to be an increase in cases; the Sandringham Estate and Thetford Forest in Norfolk and Clumber Park the term coined by the AHT and Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire although illness, which has previously cases have also been caused death in some dogs. reported in Sussex.

Although the symptoms are relatively generalised; of cases, there have been no vomiting, diarrhoea and fatalities but the AHT has lethargy, the characteristic asked that any owner that defines this syndrome, is experiencing this in their dog the fact that the onset begins should contact them, within a few hours of the "Because dog owners, or dogs having been walked in vets treating the animals, woodland. The AHT is have contacted us as soon

as the dogs have been taken ill, we've been able to identify specific areas where these dogs have been walked. This is helping to focus our investigations on smaller geographical areas, hopefully, meaning that we're getting closer to the culprit."



## New Organisation Formed to Campaign Against Puppy Farming

Cariad is the name of a new group formed to coincide with "Puppy Awareness Day", which took place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The group takes its name from the Welsh word for 'beloved'. It stands for Care And Respect Includes All Dogs.

The group says its aim is to combat "...a puppy farming problem which has reached epidemic proportions and is damaging to the reputation of Wales." They also say that the campaign is the first time that so many animal charities, campaigners and welfare organisations have united to work together "with one voice

and with a common goal. It is hoped that this combination of strength in numbers, and wide representation of interested groups, should ensure that this campaign will have a major impact on puppy farming in Wales."

This follows the widely reported case of a farmer in Carmarthen who applied for retrospective planning permission for his farm as a dog-breeding establishment, making it the largest of its type in Wales. This was approved by Carmarthenshire County Council almost unanimously (only one vote against and one abstention).

Mr Dylan Jones of Beili Bedw Farm, Pencader, has been given planning permission for nearly 200 dogs, to be kept in pens in concrete-floored, ex-cowsheds (it appears there are no runs planned for the dogs).

Mr Jones lives at the farm with his wife who is a teacher and has one full time and one part time employee. The farm also has approximately 1,000 sheep to be attended to. It was reported that there will be an automated feeding system for the dogs.

For more information about the C.A.R.I.A.D. campaign please contact:  
[hello@guardiancampaign.co.uk](mailto:hello@guardiancampaign.co.uk)



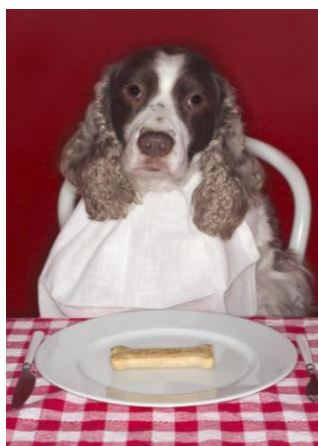
For more information about puppy farming in the UK please contact:  
[admin@puppylovecampaigns.org](mailto:admin@puppylovecampaigns.org)

## Settling an Upset Tummy

### BISCUIT RECIPE

14 Tbsp potato flour  
Chopped Turkey  
¼ tsp Turmeric (especially good for IB conditions)  
2 beaten egg yolks

Mix all ingredients, together with 2-3 tbsp of water to make a stodgy dough. Roll out to about 1/8 in thickness and score into appropriate portions. Bake at 200 degrees for 20-25 mins. Turn off oven and leave biscuits in to crisp up.



This item was prompted by a recent "bug" picked up by one of my dogs at a show and gradually transmitted to most of the others. All I seemed to do for days was mop and disinfectant the floor!!

Bouts of sickness and/or diarrhoea must be one of the most common ailments we find ourselves dealing with and yet it can still create a lot of anxiety in owners – particularly where the dog in question is either very young, or, as in my case with Jasmine, very old.

My tried and tested route is usually a day of fasting (with plenty of fluids to keep the hydration levels up) and then the gradual introduction of a "light" meal, perhaps cooked white fish or chicken with well-boiled rice in gradually increasing amounts whilst I watch the dog carefully to see how it deals with it.

Any return to problems or additional signs such as raised temperature or signs of dehydration sees me hot-footing it to the vet's - fortunately this has happened very rarely over the years.

However, both of the vets in my practice are of the opinion that fasting may not be appropriate for the very young puppy or elderly dog and in these cases some of the following suggestions, together with a very light diet of small but more frequent meals may be useful.

Dehydration can be judged by looking at the gums, to see how

moist they are, and pressing briefly with a finger to see that the immediate "blanching" that occurs is quickly reversed when the pressure is removed (the normal colour should return within 2 seconds).

The lining of the lower eyelid can also be examined by gentle pressure below the eye. What you want to see is a healthy pink colour; my vet tells me that brick-red linings are a sign that all is not well with the gut; equally, very pale or yellowish linings are also an indication that the dog needs to see a vet.

In a recent article in Dog World by Jane Lilley, she addressed more serious stomach upsets, using as a case study, an eight year old dog that had been diagnosed with IBD at the age of five. Apparently the dog had vomited every day and also produced "jellied" diarrhoea containing mucous.

Antibiotics worked as long as they were being taken but as soon as the prescribed course had finished, the dog went back to its previous state.

The dog was also allergic to chicken so it was suggested that he be given "Chappie", which seemed to be effective and then he went on to the fish version, to which was added a little chopped turkey. He was given three or four small meals a day and was much improved on this diet. The owner also found things such as Treebarks Powder from Dorwest

Herbs and also Slippery Elm from a healthfood shop helped him.

Another dog reported in Jane Lilley's column had suffered a gastric torsion and was subsequently fed on Royal Canin's Sensitivity Control.

Following Jasmine's tummy bug my vet prescribed the Royal Canin's tinned gastrointestinal food for a couple of days and, although I am an avid fan of natural feeding, I can't deny that she really loved it as she gradually readjusted to her normal diet

A young Setter described as having a long-term problem with a "rumbly" tummy, was also successfully treated with the Dorwest Treebarks powder and now no longer needs it at all. Apparently Jane also received several positive reports of dogs with digestive issues responding very well to a change to a "Natural Instincts" diet.

The owner of the dog diagnosed with IBD, identified that he was also intolerant to wheat gluten, beef and lamb and found that she had great difficulty in finding a suitable biscuit treat. The owner devised the recipe which you will find on this page.

My gratitude goes to Jane and to Dog World for permission to include this information.







*We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made*

**M. Facklam**

## Thundershirt Update

In the last edition I saw a message from Lynn Carter on the excellent results she had using a Thundershirt with her dog Cameron and how it had made his experience of travelling in the car far better for him.

This struck a chord with me as my youngster Gibbs, whilst not a bad traveller, had the tendency to drool quite a bit, which suggested to me he was still a little anxious when travelling on his own without any other members of the pack being with him. I decided to give the Thundershirt a try. Well, I had nothing to lose and, if it did have a calming effect on him, Gibbs had everything to gain.

When it arrived I decided to try it on him in the house for a couple of short sessions (10-15 minutes) to make sure he wasn't too bothered by it, before trying it on a journey in the car. He wasn't fazed one bit – though he did look a bit weird to be honest as there was this thin grey body (the colour of the Thundershirt not the dog!) and big fluffy wheaten coloured tail, legs and head sticking out from it! Though

he, of course, thought he was the bees' knees!

However, the difference it made for him was amazing from the first journey. NO MORE DROOLING. This for me can only mean a calmer, happier dog, which is the most important thing. Though there is also the added bonus of Gibbs having a dry chest and legs when we arrived at a show.

As it had worked so well on Gibbs, I wondered if it would also work on my old boy Seamus and calm him too. He isn't a "drooler", but he can be very vocal when you first set off on a journey, which can be annoying sometimes. Instant success here too. He was far less vocal immediately, to the point of virtually nothing now. Amazing!

I mentioned the success I had had to a couple of friends locally – one a canine hydro and physio therapist and the other an independent pet store owner. They both read up on it and how it could be used, and since then have both decided to sell them – great for the dogs and their owners in my area who had not

after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January are that the dog must be microchipped, have a Pet Passport, have been vaccinated against Rabies and have had a waiting period of twenty-one days after the Rabies vaccination.

Not only should this make things easier as far as the movement of adult dogs between countries is concerned but as puppies may be vaccinated against Rabies from the age of 3 months, it would seem likely that the changes to the Pet Passport scheme may lessen some of the problems that have previously existed over importing a puppy into the country.

Previously, the choice was whether to allow a young puppy to endure quarantine, or to wait until the puppy was almost an adult before it could be imported, by which time adapting to life with new owners in a strange country could be problematical.

The KC sounded a note of caution, with Caroline Kisko,

their Communications Director commenting, "Whilst this potentially represents a significant cost saving for dog owners, it could lead to serious health problems if owners stop treating their dogs for ticks and tapeworms. The Pet Travel Scheme was originally set up to protect human health but it is also vital to ensure that owners continue to protect their dogs' health by carrying out both of these treatments.

"Tapeworms and ticks can lead to serious illness in dogs – illnesses which are not currently found in the UK. To this end the Kennel Club will be producing help and advice to dog owners whilst continuing to discuss this issue with DEFRA."

It will be interesting to see the effect of the new rules as next year unfolds.

For further information visit:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/travel/>

heard about Thundershirts before.

The feedback they are getting from their customers is amazing. Dogs that were stressed out when visitors came are suddenly much calmer and more relaxed around strangers. Another owner said that her dog was in a frantic state because of the loud noises coming from next door who had the builders in. Within just a couple of days using a Thundershirt, the dog became relaxed and began to ignore the noises and the builders.

The principle of the Thundershirt is the same as swaddling a baby. The firm wrap-around effect makes the dog feel safer, calmer and happier. I would certainly say give it a go if your dog does have any travel anxieties or any other fears such as loud noises. In my experience it's simple and above all it works.

*(By the way – if you don't have a local stockist so you can't try on for size and you are ordering on the internet, the MEDIUM seems to be the best fit for Wheaties.)*

Denise Pascoe



## Viewpoint

*The front page article has been re-named as "Viewpoint" because we would very much like it to be used to represent the thoughts and opinions of a wider selection of those who read this newsletter. If you have an issue you want to air or simply a tale to tell, please contact us.*



## Having Fun and Raising Funds – Dogs Unleashed!

Over the weekend of June 18th and 19th the third "Dogs Unleashed" extravaganza was held at Bakewell showground in Derbyshire and I was asked, along with a couple of friends, to run various activities at this year's event. Only after we had said "yes", and our ideas began to grow, did we realize that we would need A LOT of helpers.

Looking back, we could not have done a fraction of what we did without the hard work and willingness of friends from within the Wheaten world, and their friends and families too, so you can see what I mean by A LOT!

All of these people deserve a mention, Maureen and Robert Hodkin who own Orliswyt Esmereldaisy and their friend Julia, who would have a Wheaten if she didn't have to work. Sue Gent and Rob who own Lynton Le Praz Darbello Lad and their friend Alison and her daughter Hayley. Theo Stuart and his mum Shelley and sister Eva. Mary Plowes, who owns Stevelyn If I can Dream and Stevelyn Venus in Furs together with her friend Carol and daughter Katie. Pam and Steve from our Agility class, Sarah Gibbons, Andrea who owns and trains Orliswyt Bobbin Along, and I mustn't forget my ever patient and very supportive husband Phil, who was on dog walking and entertaining duties as well as being the drinks machine.

Between us we ran the "Have a Go Agility Ring" and "Have a Go Flyball" and the queue for these two activities never went down for the whole of the 2 days of the show.

The Wheaten stand ran a "Tombola" and "Find the Flea" competition; someone had the most amazing idea when they came up with this

money raiser, as it appeals to young and old alike, and people just loved it.

We sold 330 squares at £1 each although the 'two Robs' had to work their socks off accosting people as they tried to walk past our stand! The prize was a portrait in pastels of the winner's own dog to be done by Andrea and the lucky winner was Mr Essex and his terrier cross, Jimmy, from near Chesterfield.

We also managed to sell all the Tombola tickets, so a huge 'thank you' to those who donated prizes, and a plea to everyone reading this to save suitable items and donate them for next year; books, jigsaws, talking books, DVDs, CDs, soft toys, dog bowls, leads, collars, chocolates, slippers, gloves, bath salts, body lotion, mugs etc. are all very acceptable; the more the merrier, as the more prizes we have the greater the odds of winning and the more tickets we sell.

Remember us when you get a gift that you don't really need, or when you see a bargain in the sales – we will put all your donations to good use.

What we really need for next year though, is more people to get involved, because this year most of us didn't get a break to look round the show on either day as we were so busy.

You know that saying "Many hands make light work" but it won't be like work, because it is just such fun. Bakewell is beautiful and the camping over the weekend is very reasonable, especially if you are on the Wheaten Stand with us. If you enjoy Agility or Flyball there are competitions on both days so you can combine your hobby with a weekend away in one of the country's most

beautiful areas whilst doing a good deed and helping us on the stand too.

We had such a fantastic time, and it was good to meet so many Wheatens and their families that we'd never met before and to share information about WHI and the SCWT Club. It would have been good if we had been able to give grooming advice too, and this is one area where we would like to expand next year, so helpers able to do this would be really welcome. We also talked to many prospective owners and introduced them to our dogs, but sadly because we were so busy making money we couldn't spend as much time with them as we would have liked. So please join us next year to enable us to give even more help, advice and time to our visitors.

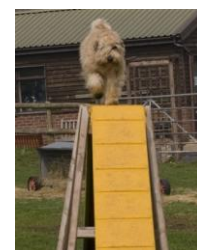
To conclude, yes, we were very busy and we worked hard, but we all enjoyed ourselves as well, and are already planning for next year. Thanks again everyone, we couldn't have done it without you, and new volunteers will be welcomed with open arms, to join in the fun.

Linda Salisbury

**Editor's note:** Linda Salisbury and her helpers, have given WHI a donation of just over £252 from the money they raised on the day, for which we are very grateful.

If you wish to contact Linda, please use the [wheatenhealth@aol.com](mailto:wheatenhealth@aol.com) address and we will forward your message to her.

### Wheatens LOVE Agility



## What Can I Do To Ensure I Don't Buy From A Puppy Farm?

If you were to see a puppy farmer's premises you would probably find it quite easy to see that the conditions are not adequate or acceptable, particularly if you asked to see their kennelling conditions. However, most puppy farmers will transport their puppies across the country to dealers, who then sell them from the internet, pet shops, free newspapers or even motorway service stations and this makes it a lot more difficult to identify where the puppy originated from. But there are some simple steps you can follow, to help you ensure you do not help fuel this cruel trade:

### DO

- Ask to see the puppy's mother, which should be present.
- See the puppy in its breeding environment and ask to look at the kennelling conditions, if they were not raised within the breeder's house. If you suspect the conditions are not right, then do not buy the puppy.
- For a pedigree puppy *always* go to a reliable and reputable [Kennel Club Assured Breeders](#). [Click here](#) for more information, or call 0844 463 3980.
- Be prepared to be put on a waiting list – a healthy puppy is well-worth waiting for.
- Ask if you can return the puppy if things don't work out. Responsible and reputable breeders will always say yes.
- Be suspicious of a breeder selling more than one (maximum two) breeds, unless you are sure of their credentials.
- Consider alternatives to buying a pedigree puppy like getting a rescue dog or pup. [Click here](#) to find a breed rescue puppy.

### DON'T

- Buy a puppy from a pet shop – these have often come from puppy farms.
- Pick your puppy up from a 'neutral location' such as a car park or motorway service station. This is a common tactic used by puppy farm dealers.
- Buy a puppy because you feel like you're rescuing it. You'll only be making space available for another poorly pup to fill.
- Be fooled by a Kennel Club pedigree certificate. These are often faked by puppy farmers who are already operating illegally and have no qualms about forging paperwork.

The majority of puppy farmers will not really register their litters with the Kennel Club. Even if the certificate is genuine, this is not a guarantee about the conditions the puppy has been raised in, but a registration of the puppy's birth and parentage. It shows that if you buy a Boxer dog, for example, you are buying a genuine Boxer. The Kennel Club does not have any powers to enforce good breeding, except under its own Assured Breeder Scheme. Enforcement of health & welfare standards is the responsibility of the local authority which licenses the breeder's premises. The local authority can investigate and prosecute those whose breeding standards are not satisfactory (and the Kennel Club will act accordingly, on the basis of a relevant court prosecution). Unfortunately though, this system is not always effective and there are breeders that will slip through the net.

In order to help ensure that the breeder you buy from is following quality breeding practice, buy from a Kennel Club Assured Breeder.

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## Encouraging News - Dr Littman's Report to the Board of the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America

June 2011

Dr. Littman exclaims . . . "I'll preface this report by saying: This is an exciting year!"

I. DNA Bank, Geriatric Dog, Informative Family, AKC-CHF Grant

Our first set of SNP chip data last year showed a statistically supported hotspot for PLN! The painstaking work of gene sequencing the many candidate genes in the portion of the genome corresponding to the hotspot was done last summer by Penn veterinary student Claire Wiley, under the direction of our geneticist guru, Dr. Paula Henthorn, here at PennVet. The team identified 2 genes that are very close together on one chromosome, with each gene containing a DNA change (mutation) that alters the protein sequence encoded by that gene. The protein-altering DNA mutations are usually inherited together.

Our data supports the hypothesis that one or both of the mutations, which each cause an amino acid change that leads to an altered protein, predisposes the dog to getting PLN in its lifetime. The highest incidence of PLN was found in homozygous mutant dogs (dogs with 2 copies of each mutation), with lower incidence of PLN in dogs that are heterozygous (with 1 copy of each mutation) or homozygous wildtype (normal, with no mutations).

Our examination of DNA of additional dogs indicated that these specific mutations are rarely seen in other breeds. In fact, after testing hundreds of samples of DNA for these mutations in other breeds, we have only found these mutations in 2 Airedales and 1 Bloodhound. Claire presented her work at

Phi Zeta Day here in March, and she was awarded first prize (among her peer group) from the PennVet research faculty judges! We are so proud of her and so thrilled that she is working hard on Wheaten issues! Claire was also awarded funding from the NIH/Merial Summer Research Program and will continue important Wheaten work with us this summer!

During the last half of 2011 we will study a second set of samples (this set will be mostly from geriatric dogs and dogs affected with PLN) for genome-wide association by SNP chip analysis, with the hope that when

we add more data, a statistically significant hotspot will reveal itself for PLN. Then we plan to do the fine mapping for that hotspot. We will also analyze all of our available geriatric samples and PLN samples to get a better estimation of the predictive value of the protein-altering DNA changes we have identified. This will help with recommendations concerning genetic counseling. We will need to educate everybody to make sure that DNA testing is used in a manner that does NOT lead to loss of genetic diversity in the Wheaten breed. Other breed clubs with other genetic diseases have sometimes removed all carriers from their breeding programs, sometimes with deleterious results.

Breeders have asked if they can get their dogs tested for the PLN mutations we found. In addition to analyzing additional DNA samples to better understand the associations of the mutations with disease, Dr. Henthorn is now developing the specific laboratory protocols for detecting the mutations, and setting up the necessary software programs, requisitions, and instructions for sample submission and record keeping. Concurrently we are developing directions for sample submission. Soon we will invite the Wheaten community to submit pilot samples to test the process.

### II. Renal Biopsies

We are always looking for cases with non-endstage PLN that may be candidates for ultrasound-guided renal biopsies. When biopsies are taken during life (rather than after death), we have the opportunity to manage the case more appropriately for the individual dog. It also helps the whole Wheaten community to understand more about how genetic PLN subtypes look and should be treated. During 2011 there is funding to help owners defray the costs of getting renal biopsies performed from three sources, if the case is chosen as a good candidate.

A. The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) will pay \$495 (if an acceptable PLN candidate) for the renal biopsy interpretation when sent to the TVRPS (Texas Veterinary Renal Pathology Service) where the samples are examined by electron microscopy,

immunofluorescence, and thin section light microscopy. B. The SCWTCA Endowment and the SCWT Genetic Research Foundation agreed to split costs for renal biopsies.

Doing renal biopsies on dogs with PLN is important to characterize the subtype of PLN, so that we can understand the diversity or sameness of this disease in Wheatens, to see if immunotherapy is warranted for the individual, and to validate which treatments work best for which type of PLN. Many owners have not chosen for renal biopsies to be taken because of the expense (which we now can help with) and the potential risks of anesthesia and bleeding from the biopsy site. There is very little anesthesia risk and the risk of bleeding complications is minimized by using the newest techniques as well as desmopressin (as in humans). For more information, refer to Benchmarks, December 2010, pp. 6-9 and/or Wheaten Health Newsletter, Summer/Fall 2010, pp. 10-13

### III. Open Registry

While Claire and Paula will be working on the DNA projects to help future generations of Wheatens, Sarah Paumier (my new summer veterinary student) and I will be working with past and current generations by updating the Open Registry for the October 2011 update and by continuing consultations for the diagnosis and management of sick dogs. We are currently still not charging fees for the consultations, but asking for donations to be made to the "Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania" with a note that the donation be used for Wheaten research.

Sarah's tasks and responsibilities include:

- Learning about the diseases listed on the Open Registry; the recommended screening tests; and interpretation of blood, urine, and histopathology test results.
- Contacting veterinarians of case consultations to obtain complete documentation for characterization of the phenotypes (diagnosis).
- Contacting owners and breeders for clinical updates, pedigrees, and for permission to list affected dogs on the Open Registry.

(Continued on next page)



*Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog*

**Franklin P. Jones**



## Encouraging News - Dr Littman's Report (Continued)

• Assisting with the submission of samples for histopathology and for the SCWT DNA bank.

The Open Registry remains an important way for breeders, owners, and researchers to see which dogs have been documented to have which disease, and to identify the breadth of the problems among SCWTs. The Open Registry has helped educate veterinarians, owners, and breeders; helped with funding; and has drawn the interest of other researchers to work on Wheaten problems, as it shows the commitment for sharing information and the use of strict criteria for phenotypic characterization.

### IV. Dissemination of Findings

Our findings are important in the medical world, not just the veterinary world. We are collaborating with research faculty at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where they can utilize special staining techniques on the renal tissue we have been saving for many years from geriatric dogs and dogs with PLN, whose genotypes are now known. As the year progresses, we will submit to a peer reviewed journal our findings describing in detail the mutations we have discovered and how they cause PLN.

### 2011 Goals (ongoing)

1. Publish an October revision to the Open Registry.
2. Get as much information as possible from the DNA samples we already have, including Informative and Cooperative Families, by SNP chip GWA analysis and gene sequencing.
3. Continue giving consultations/advice, but ask for donations until a new fee is instituted for all but Informative Family members.
4. Replenish the Penn Wheaten fund with reimbursement annually from the SCWTCA Health Fund to cover costs of shipping necropsy samples and histopathology.
5. Facilitate SCWTA Endowment and Soft Coated Wheaten Genetic Research Foundation reimbursement for all kidney biopsies conducted pursuant to AKC-CHF grant #01485.
6. Study a second set of samples, mostly geriatric dogs and PLE affected dogs with PLE, for genome-wide association by SNP chip analysis.
7. Identify appropriate outlets to disseminate findings and submit a manuscript for publication in a peer reviewed journal.

8. Prepare a Q&A manuscript for distribution in the Health Newsletter and Benchmarks to address the significance and possible application of our findings.

*This article was reprinted with the kind permission of Dr Littman and the Editor of the SCWTCA Benchmarks magazine (Sept 2011).*

*In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.*

**Dereke Bruce**



## Staying Green

What amazing changes of weather our lawns have had to cope with this year? I wonder how yours are faring.

When you add into the mix the amount of damage that can be wrought by just one dog using it as a toilet, I was despairing with the effects of my multiple dog household – 'The green, green grass of home' is definitely more on the yellow side in this garden!

As you will probably know the problem is due to the nitrogen that is a main constituent of dog urine. Of course nitrogen is a key fertilizer, too but too much can cause the grass to 'burn', so ensure you use a low-nitrogen lawn feed. Urine can also alter the pH balance of the soil and that can cause problems too, if the soil becomes too acidic or too alkaline

I thought I would do some research and these are the top tips I came up with:

1. Top of the list was "Train your dog to use just one small area of your garden" Apparently clover is a good ground covering plant which is not affected in the same way as grass.  
Hmmm – sounds a bit like a full-time job with my lot!
2. Follow your dog every time it goes out with a watering can and douse the area it has peed or pooped on with copious amounts of water.

Yes – you guessed it - another full time job.

3. Go round the yellow spots

periodically and sprinkle sugar over the spot and water it well in.

3. Give your dog a product which is designed to neutralise the nitrogen it produces in its waste:

These varied from products to put in the dog's water bowl such as "Dog Rocks", to giving the dog bread made with yeast every day, to tomato juice (or ketchup) in its food or even a pinch of sodium bicarbonate in its water bowl every day to proprietary remedies, such as Nutri-vet Green-grass, chewable, liver-flavoured tablets

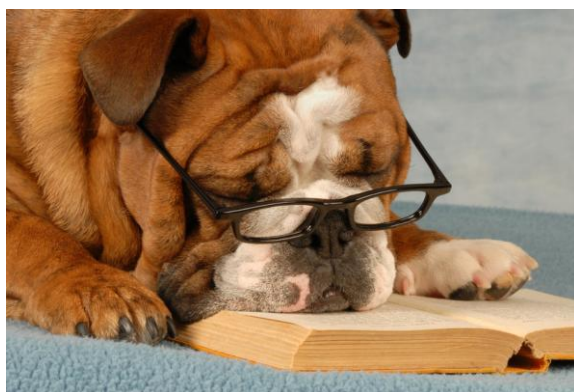
But without doubt – this is the one I am **definitely** going to try:

Here is a great mixture to use on your lawn to renew spots follow the instructions carefully

### Must be done during the heat of summer!

- 1 Sprinkle 1 Cup Baking Soda on the spot.
- 2 Sprinkle . 2 Cups Sugar on the spot
- 3 Sprinkle 2 tbs baking powder on the spot
- 4 Crack two eggs on the spot
- 5 1 tsp of vanilla
- 6 Half a cup of flour
- 7 Water the area with 5 fl oz.

In just 1 month, not only will the grass be green again but beside the spot will be **six cupcakes!!**



*When a man's best friend is his dog,  
that dog has a problem.*

**Edward Abbey**





## Auction News !

We are so very pleased to be able to tell you that the incomparable Ann Ryan, who produced the stunning quilt for us, which we auctioned last year, has been hard at work again!

So for all those of you who missed out last time, there is another chance to make your

Christmas extra special this year – either by buying a wonderful present for your nearest and dearest or even spoiling yourself!!

Below are some pictures to whet your appetite, but they cannot accurately convey the beauty of this item.

The auction will run for **only**

**10 days** so be sure not to miss your chance to own this unique piece.

Visit our website [www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com](http://www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com) on the 20<sup>th</sup> October and start bidding!

**GOOD LUCK!**



## We need your help.....

We are always pleased to hear from our readers and a theme that has been suggested to us for our next Newsletter is the issues which elderly dogs sometimes have, both from the perspective of the physical changes they go through and the behavioural ones, and how best to manage them. We would love to hear from you if you have experiences to share, tips on what has worked for your dog or questions you would like us to try and find the answers to.



Talking of Christmas – did you know you can help raise funds for WHI – at no cost to you???

If you are buying something from Amazon, all you have to do is start by going to the WHI website and follow the Amazon link in the centre of the home page. Once you are on the Amazon website you can search for anything that you want – but because you started off from the WHI site, we get something called third party commission. It isn't a huge amount but if everyone buying from Amazon did this throughout the year, it would soon add up!





## Wheaten Health Initiative

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

*If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons.*

*James Thurber*

Please remember, your pANCA update form is due by 15<sup>th</sup> October

If you attended ANY of the sampling sessions held after 2007, you **are** a participant in the Longitudinal Study and your data is needed!

Do not worry if you have missed any of the six monthly updates so far, the important thing is to complete the one which is due NOW!

VISIT [www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com](http://www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com) and follow the pANCA Update link

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'Nothing is so exhilarating as to be shot at without result.'  
Winston Churchill

