

M A R C H 2 0 1 9

WHEATEN WORDS



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Ann McCormick

Vice President

Linda Robison

Treasurer

Cindy Jacuk

Recording Secretary

Susie Blackledge

Corresponding Secretary

Sherri Kase-McKenzie

Board Members

Michelle Cadden

Lois Hiers

Maureen McSweeney

Pat Weese

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president for three years now. We've made a few changes in these years, and we have tried to continue the events you have liked in the past, distributed across the year.

Beginning with our bylaws, we updated them using language consistent with current Florida law, clarifying procedures to reflect current practice, and dividing our board into two classes all with 2 year terms expiring in alternate years to give better continuity to our board. We provided you copies of the proposed changes and held a series of membership meetings in locations near both coasts to discuss, amend, and finally adopt the changes. Our board meets primarily by telephone conference now. With officers and directors scattered across the state, we found it a more efficient way for all of us to participate without lengthy and expensive travel that interfered with attendance. We see each other face to face at the events we plan for you.

Our Annual Membership Meeting, Dinner, and Rescue Fundraiser was rescheduled in 2016 from November to January. This was necessary because another event, a dog show, that brought together a large number of our voting members, is no longer held in November. Therefore we moved our event to January to coincide with the well attended Brooksville dog shows. We do need to find a new restaurant for the future, Southern Hills Plantation is a private club and the member who sponsored us has moved.

We tried holding the picnic in October, a busy month for many of you. From feedback I've received it seems we might have better attendance for this outdoor event in November. The big pavilion at Twin Lakes Park gives better protection from unexpected weather, but many prefer the more convenient parking at Lake Seminole Park.

Education Day, held during the warmer Florida months, is an indoor event. We thank Father Bob Evancho for making his parish hall available to us. It's an all around dog day covering a variety of topics, some of them activities with your dog, and others concerning your pet's health, safety, pet grooming, etc. At each of the above three events we also hold a General Membership Meeting.

(continued on next page)

Official Newsletter of The Soft Coated Wheaten
Terrier Club of Greater Tampa Bay
www.flwheatenclub.org



President's Message Continued

Another educational event, in conjunction with Sheer Magic's Feelin' Groomy has been an annual grooming seminar geared for professional groomers and owners interested in learning to groom their dog for show. We always have members who either attend themselves or pay for their groomer to attend. The event also generates new membership applications. All funds raised from the tuition in excess of expenses are donated to our rescue.

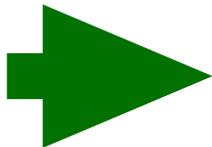
The AKC National Championship Dog Show has been held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando for several years in December, and the contract for it runs for a few more years. We coordinate and staff the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier booth for the Meet the Breed feature of the show for SCWTCA, who provides us with educational materials and banners to educate the public on responsible dog ownership. Decorating the booth is our responsibility. Kudos to Maureen MacSweeney for a magnificent job in creating an Irish farmstead to showcase our breed this year! Thank you also to all the Wheaten owners who brought their dogs to meet the public.

I look forward to assuming the role of Past President on April 1st, and passing the gavel to Cindy Jacuk who we elected in January.

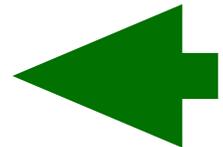
Warmest regards,
Ann McCormick, President



NEWSLETTER DEADLINES



Photos of adorable Wheatens
Articles for future newsletters
Braggs
Senior Wheatens (13 yo or older)
Show Results
Rescue updates



Next Newsletter Deadline
May 31, 2019

All braggs and show results must have occurred between
March 1 and May 31, 2019!

LITTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GCH Sandcastle's Aingeal in Disguise
"Neala"**

Sherri Kase-McKenzie

**GCHB Sundance's Finnegan's Wake Me
When the Dream is Over
"Finn"**

Maureen MacSweeney

February 21, 2019

5 males, 1 female

Bred by: Sherri Kase-McKenzie



**CH Reyem's Eeny Meenie Mighty Moe "Moe"
and
GCHB Ainle Gift of the Gab "Marlie"**

December 10, 2018

2 males and 2 females

Bred by: Kathi Elliot



SCWTCGTB Board of Directors

Effective 4-1-19

President:

Cindy Jacuk

Vice President

Maureen MacSweeney

Treasurer

Michele Cadden

Recording Secretary

Susie Blackledge

Corresponding Secretary

Lois Hiers

Board Members

Dr. Peggy Gainey

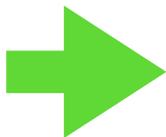
Lisa Jaye Shore

McKenzie Sherri Kase-

Debie Scurr

Past President/Advisor

Ann McCormick





Rally and Us!

by Susie Blackledge

I never knew how much I would like Rally until we tried it! After doing fast paced agility for so many years, slower moving Rally just didn't have the appeal. Until we tried it. And now I have found out what so many others already knew! Rally is a very fun sport for you and your dog to work together as a team!



Rally initially started in 2005 as something Pet owners could do instead of the more serious obedience. Rally has taken off so well that even the Obedience folks now are participating in it. It is more flexible and to the delight of all, you can talk as much as you want to to your dog.

Basically, you go around a ring with your dog and perform skills at each station. You are graded on execution of the stations, speed, and working together. In the beginning, you start out at Novice level on a leash and then later on you graduate to off leash. The courses are designed by the Rally Judge - 10 - 20 signs per course, depending on your level. The course includes various turns and commands such as sit, down, stay, etc. As you move up in the classes, the degree of difficulty increases.

Another thing I like about Rally is that it doesn't require as much expensive equipment as agility does. Most of the exercises can be practiced at home in your living room with just you and your dog! So for us it is the perfect activity when it is too hot or rainy to go outside. When you first start, remember that your dog is usually on your left and the stations on the right. Start teaching your dog to heel on your left on a loose lead (you want to see a "J" on the leash between you and your dog). Look for a class based on positive training methods in your area. If they are pulling harshly on the leashes, using choke chains, or talking in a negative way, that is not the class for you. Wheatens love positive encouragement and will work much better for you that way! Once you have learned the Novice moves, then you will be ready to trial! My Wheaten Connor and I earned our Novice Rally Title when he was only 16 months old! But that is not the best part. The best part is practicing with my buddy and the friends we have met along the way. RALLY ON!

Resources:

AKC Rally <https://www.akc.org/sports/rally/>

AKC Rally YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOmnrKKiM2kcaowVI35XeVQ>

Phone Apps K9Rally is free and Pocket Rally is \$1.99

Have fun! Susie Blackledge & Connor



RESCUE REPORT

I rescued my Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



Seven year old Hunny was in a Foster to Adopt home in Sarasota and was adopted permanently at the end of the year 😊

At the beginning of February, six year old Willie's person in Boynton Beach contacted us. They adored Willie but he was a little food aggressive. The family has two sons, 10 and 13, and lots of activity in the home. They reluctantly decided to relinquish Willie to Rescue. Bruce Borger in Ft. Lauderdale fostered Willie and fell in love. Bruce says he thinks he "got the perfect dog. Incredibly well behaved, sweet, smart..." Willie is now Azi Shemini and is Bruce's boy



Apollo/Aidan from Longwood was boarded at the vet's office during the end of 2018 until we could find him a forever home. He went to a wonderful family in Nokomis at the beginning of January.

In February, nine year old Dulce from Wesley Chapel found her new home with Maria Padron in Port St. Lucie. We had been looking for a few months because her previous owner wanted the perfect home for her, and this is it!



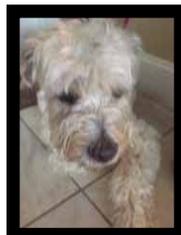
We were contacted by 11 1/2 year old Lucy's family. Lucy was living in an assisted living home with her person, but Lucy was becoming incontinent and the owner did not have the where with all to deal with that. This is such a sad story because she was the world to her person. Our wonderful colleague Rick Michael in Port Orange has taken Lucy in. He will deal with her issues and forever foster her if needed.

Murphy, one of our Karma K-9 residents, went home at the end of February. His new family is in St. Augustine so they will be taking him back to Karma for additional training.



Finnegan Niles Nelson was adopted from Miami-Dade Animal Services. Mostly likely wheaten mix. Young and sweet and smart. He's a Foster failure!

During 2018, we adopted out twenty eight dogs - so things were slower last year than the prior two years. That is not necessarily a bad thing! Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helps our Rescue mission in so many ways!



Melissa Nelson
Rescue Co-Coordinator

We still have sweet little Wheaten mix Oliver being fostered with Jody, and Charlie is in foster with Cindy Leigh in West Palm Beach. Charlie is currently going through heart worm treatment 🙄

We still have **Bodhi** and **Dylan** at Karma, as well as **Trevor**. Trevor was adopted last spring, but he and the resident dog were not getting along - not necessarily Trevor's fault.

Dylan is very sweet indeed with people but has some dog aggression issues so he needs to be an only dog.





Meet our Senior Wheatens!

Rusty Shore

DOB 5/1/2004. Gotcha Day 9/30/2017

Rusty was surrendered because he attempted to bite his former owner's grown son. While fostering, he also attempted to bite me a few times. Because of his age and health, I couldn't see sending him to yet another home. So he became another Foster Failure. Like many aging Wheatens, he is covered with growths, lumps and bumps. He has arthritis but nothing a little Rimadyl and Dasuquin isn't curing! He even participated in our Meet The Breed booth in Orlando! He is a very smart boy and his bursts of energy are amazing and make me smile! Lisa Jaye Shore



Millie Lachterman

DOB 2/14/06. Gotcha day 1/28/07

Millie is our very precious girl who turned 13 on February 14th of this year! I have told her she might get put on the senior page in the newsletter ❤️ She did not seem very happy as she thinks she is still a young pup. 😊 We rescued her with the help of Melissa, and she is such a joy to our family. She has had a few health scares that we have battled through (most recently another cancer lump) but she is so loved and we could not imagine not having her greet us at the door with her favorite ball! Amanda Lachterman

Lucky Starewicz

DOB 12/19/05

Lucky is our 13 year old Wheaten Terrier. I am a retired school psychologist originally from Indiana and have been doing classroom presentations and volunteer activities with Lucky for 11 years. I've written several books about her and she demonstrates many of the Lucky Lessons Like patience to kids and adults alike! We are regular Hospice volunteers in Sun City Center and also help with a grief support group. Follow along with Lucky's Blog at luckylessons.blogspot.com
Nancy Starewicz





IN THE KITCHEN WITH BRANDI

ST. PATRICK'S DAY HOLIDAY HASH COOKIES

1/2 cup rice flour
1/3 cup potato flakes
1 tsp kale (and/or wheatgrass) powder
1 egg
1/4 cup water
1/3 cup finely chopped dog-safe jerky or crushed kibble

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine the rice flour, potato flakes and kale powder (alternatively wheatgrass powder, or a mix of both) in a mixing bowl.

Stir through the egg, then incrementally add water to form a nice workable dough.

Mix through the chopped jerky.

Roll into small bite-sized balls, place on

a prepared baking sheet, then flatten gently with a fork.

Bake for 10-15 minutes.

Cool before serving and storage.

- These treats can be frozen if you would like to freeze extras or make a larger batch for later.
- The treats can be broken for smaller dogs, or made bigger/smaller - just keep an eye on your cooking time - the smaller the cookie, the shorter the baking time.
- Any baked treat can be left in the cooling oven for a slightly crisper texture, or if you want to get things extra crunchy without overbaking/burning, you can place the baked treats in the dehydrator (fresh from the oven or later) and dry them out. Totally optional, of course!



SHOW RESULTS

What do all these initials mean?

Go to <https://images.akc.org/pdf/events/conformation/GESHW1.pdf>
and read all about "A Beginner's Guide to Dog Shows"

CH Dromara's Perfect Treble Maker RN
CGC TKN
"Connor"
NEW CHAMPION



3 BOB, 4 BW, 3 RES, 1 W
RB (Rally Novice)
Owners: Maggie Snow & Susie Blackledge
Breeder: Maggie Snow

CH Keepsake's Riptide
"Maui"
NEW CHAMPION



2 W, 2 RES, 1 BW
Owners: Jane Cook, Sydney Robinson, Shari
Robinson
Breeders: Sydney Robinson, Shari Robinson

GCH CH Sundance's Kajun Ball of Fire
"Lorcan"
NEW GRAND CHAMPION



1 BOB
Owners: Sandy Settoon, Susan Wuerz
Breeders, Susan Wuerz, Maureen
McSweeney

Sandcastle's Buzzard's Bay
"Buzz"



1 BOB
Owners: Jack and Kathie Firestone,
Sherri Kase McKenzie
Breeder: Sherri Kase McKenzie

CH Ainle Ain't No Saint
"Higgins"



3BOB, 2 SEL
Owners: Marsha Zeagler & Kathi Elliot
Bred by: Kathi Elliot

**GCHS CH Pinehome Merrimoor
Cametodance CDX RN CA RATN
"Spicy"
NEW GRAND CHAMPION SILVER**



3 BOS, 4 SEL
Barn Hunt - 1 1st place, 1 2nd place
Obedience - 1 1st place Open
Owner: Linda Hallas
Breeder: Peggy Gale

**GCH Sandcastle's Aingeal in Disguise
"Neala"**



2 BOS
Owner: Sherri Kase-McKenzie
Breeder: Sherri Kase-McKenzie

**Sandcastle's JunkInTheTrunk
"Penelope"**



1 W, 1 BW, 2 BOS, 2 OH BOB,
1 OH G3, 1 OH G4
Owners: Richard Owen, Brian Gossett,
Sherri Kase McKenzie
Breeder: Sherri Kase McKenzie

**GCHG CH CDN CH Ainle Villanova Mouth
of the South CGC
"Gabby"**



Royal Canin AKC Nationals
Best Veteran, Award of Merit
Owner: Kathi Elliot
Breeder: Cindy Phelps

**GCHP CH AINLE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT
"BOGIE"**

Bogie retired as the #2 wheaten breed and all-breed for calendar year 2018. He was number 1 all-breed and #2 breed for 2017. The second Wheaten in history to achieve platinum grand champion status in October 2018. Was Select Dog at the AKC National Championship dog show in Orlando and retired on such date - December 17, 2018. He is now into Fast Cat and Obedience!

Owner: Linda Robison
Breeder: Kathi Elliot
Handled Exclusively: Brian Tuel, PHA



THE HEARTBREAK OF DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY

Here is the story of Denise and Jim Hansen and their dog, Charles, whom they rescued. They provided him a life he could never have imagined. Unfortunately, Charles developed Degenerative Myelopathy, a disease much like Lou Gehrig's Disease in which the central nervous system is impaired to the point of paralysis followed by death. Determining a dog has DM is a diagnosis by elimination; that is, when everything else is ruled out, the diagnosis is DM. Only a necropsy of the spinal cord is definitive, and most people do not choose to do that. There is no known cure for DM, but there is a simple, inexpensive genetic test that can show the risk of DM in breeding pairs BEFORE puppies are born. Please read Charles' story:

Charles was rescued

In August 2015, we rescued Charles from Southern California and brought him to Alaska at six years old. He was abandoned in a field of foxtails before being saved by the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California (SCWTCS). His few remaining teeth were broken, he was thin, his hair was brown in many areas, his belly was very much discolored, and he was in pain.

Coming to Alaska meant a future of healing, fresh air, healthy food, crazy wheaten playmates and finally the "24/7" love Charles deserved. His potential seemed endless! His first year was a period of learning how to trust people, settling into his new life, understanding what it meant to be a dog and getting healthy. Then for the next year Charles finally experienced the true joy of being a dog before signs of DM appeared. But in that one year I saw enough courage, determination, and strength to last me a lifetime.

A typical wheaten, a typical life, so what makes Charles' story so different? What makes this story so important to tell? It's how a typical life and story can change when you hear the words "degenerative myelopathy."



Charles' year of Degenerative Myelopathy begins

We first saw signs of Charles' lameness and dragging his back leg in November 2017 when we returned from my mother's funeral. Signs of Charles' lameness were evident on the snow-covered deck: three clear paw prints and a "drag." But his personality was not diminished! Based on an exam, observations and x-rays, our veterinarian suspected diskospondylitis. Given his history with foxtails, this seemed like a plausible diagnosis. We treated him with powerful antibiotics and anti-inflammatories, restricted his activity, purchased a dog carriage so he could join his family on walks, and waited patiently for the suspected infection and inflammation to heal. We knew it was a six-to-eight-week treatment plan.

After six weeks, we saw no signs of improvement. By chance a wheaten mother in Canada, whose dog was tested positive for DM, recommended taking a DNA test for Degenerative Myelopathy - a simple (cheek swab), inexpensive (\$40-48) genetic test done through a laboratory. We opted to use DDC Veterinary; however, GenSol and Orthopedic Foundation for Animals offer saliva tests to screen for the mutated gene as well. On January 30, 2018 the test results came back "At Risk (2 copies of the DM mutation)". Our hearts sank but our hopes remained high.

The next step was to confer with a neurologist and have an MRI exclude all other possibilities. The newly created "Team Charles" went off to Seattle in March 2018.

All signs pointed to a generally healthy spine and the neurologist broke the sad news and prognosis to us. The words "no cure" hit us like a ton of bricks and ring in my head to this day. Rehab techniques such as hydrotherapy, massage, and short but frequent walks were recommended to slow the progression of the disease. Ultimately a harness, some booties, and then a wheelchair would be required. The neurologist pointed out that each parent makes the decision at various stages of this disease where quality of life stops and when the parent has had "enough." We were in it for the long run!

The Heartbreak of Degenerative Myelopathy - Continued

One day in early summer we noticed the lameness progressed to affect both back legs. The disease was spreading despite our efforts. His determination, spirit, energy, and positive attitude remained boundless! Because of Charles' reactivity and the progression of the disease, he was in the harness 24/7. Living in the harness made it difficult to massage him, pet him, scratch his belly, and rolling over ceased to happen. While helpful for movement, elimination, and exercise, his life was changing. Behaviors often associated with a happy playful Wheaten were stripped away.

In July 2018 it was evident that Charles' needed a wheelchair. His backend was completely paralyzed. After considerable research, we selected Eddies Wheels. We found them to have great experience with a focus on quality. Eddies Wheels is pricier than others, but Charles was worth it! Their products provided an added feature of adjustability when the DM began to impact the front legs. We provided over two dozen measurements to Eddie's Wheels and placed our order!

We had such high hopes that Charles would take to his wheels and gain a whole new lease on life! His mobility would allow him to run freely and be a dog! Fitting Charles into his new wheelchair required a trip to Anchorage and our friends at VSA. Charles was his usual reactive self so after a few hours, medication, cones, towels, two technicians and repeat attempts over two days, we had a good enough fit to return to Homer and continue introducing him to this contraption. This did not go well, so we prioritized Charles' comfort and peace over the anxiety associated with the wheelchair.

The good, the bad and the ugly of Degenerative Myelopathy

We explored all avenues, we exhausted all possibilities, we were frustrated and disappointed some options were not available to us, we did everything we could, and decided watching television, eating snacks and loving Charles was a good life. And that good life continued till November 5, 2018. His front legs were getting weaker, the sparkle in his eyes was dimming, and his quality of life significantly diminished. Charles was ready to go and on the one-year anniversary of my mother's passing, we set Charles free. The Big One, Backseat Barker, Charles Barkley barked the whole way to the Rainbow Bridge.



You see your dog enjoying life, and then in a blink of an eye, you see ataxia or loss of coordination in his hind legs. Then his other hind leg drags only months later. Your dog is alert but wonders what is happening with his back end. CBD oil, lavender, and other over-the-counter supplements only slightly eased his anxiety. The struggle to move becomes more difficult. Your dog works so hard to motor and that takes a toll on his muscles. The cruel disease slowly progresses up his spine until he drops his front legs. There's no easy mobility. Your dog becomes handicapped. His fate is sealed. Breathing becomes difficult and swallowing gets tougher. His bark goes from deep and throaty to squeaky. Yes, DM even takes a dog's bark - the most fundamental of his communication and expression.

No breeder should ever want one of his/her puppies to experience even one horrific symptom of DM; no dog should ever experience that which is DM; no parent should ever have to endure the heartbreak of seeing their dog struggle with DM, especially when a simple, inexpensive, cheek swab test is available. I would appreciate the breeders adding that simple, inexpensive test to their responsible breeding practices. And to thank those who already do!!

For Charles' complete story, contact:

Denise P. Hansen

Jimaloha1@gmail.com

PO Box 3108

Homer Alaska 99603

571-218-5538

Reprinted with permission from: SCWTCA, Inc, Benchmarks, Volume 47, Number 1, March 2019

Presented by: Molly O'Connell, HNL Editor and Health Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Soft
Coated Wheaten Terrier
Club of Greater Tampa
Bay

Diane & Chet
Stephens

Sue Levis



SCWTCGTB 2018 Annual Awards

Congratulations to the following recipients of our Annual Awards:

Rescue Award

Jody Greene

Jackie Kase Award

Ann McCormick

Special Award

Maureen MacSweeney for the
Meet the Breed Booth



A Message from our President-Elect

I would like to begin by thanking our outgoing President, Ann McCormick, for the time and effort she has dedicated over the past three years. We look forward to your continued efforts towards the club while serving in the advisory role of past President.

As your incoming President it is my intention to focus on you: the members. Over the past few years there has been a noticeable drop in club membership. It's the lifeblood of this organization. In order to help our club grow and thrive we need to find ways to improve the numbers. As well, attendance of club events has seen a decline.

Again, I would like to find ways to help grow in that area as well. The board can't accomplish this alone. We need your help.

Your feedback is critical. I would like to pose some questions for you to think about. Please provide us with any feedback you feel would be helpful.

- Why are you a member?
- What do you expect from the club?
- What would entice you to attend the events?

Please remember that we are here for you. More importantly, we are here for the Wheatens. Thank you and I look forward to serving you as board President.

Cindy Jacuk
President-Elect



In addition to Early Neurological Stimulation, responsible breeders provide enrichment opportunities to help puppies learn about their environment. I give my newborn puppies a variety of surfaces to experience. The whelping box has a thick fleece pad that gives good traction for moving about. The area where their mother chooses to nest them is covered with a large towel or terry bathmat, easy to change out when soiled, and another texture for their feet to move about on, alternated with the smoother surface of a quilted mattress protector. By one week of age they are finding their way into and through a couple of 5 inch PVC plumbing connectors, hard surfaces which provide containment, and sometimes sleeping in them.



Between 12 and 16 days of age their eyes have opened and they also begin to react to noises in their environment. They find the artificial turf (another texture) potty box in the corner of the whelping box and begin some elimination near it about the time they begin trying to stand at three weeks of age. In the next week more interesting surfaces appear, berber and seagrass carpeting on a cat scratching tunnel to climb through and over. They are all walking and learning to eat from a bowl. Toys are rotated in and out of their enclosure and they play together with them.

At 5 weeks they are ready for bigger spaces and graduate to a puppy playpen with higher sides and an attached exercise area for play. The mat on the floor is slippery at first, they learn quickly to walk on it. They have long outgrown those 5 inch pipes and soon get a 13 inch tunnel with crinkly lining to play in. Then it will be time to learn about the big outdoors! We ring the jingle bells as we go through gates and doorways to the yard with opportunities to run and play in the grass, on gravel, stones, and bricks. It takes several days, watching Mom, and lots of praise when it happens, to figure out that the real grass is a good place to poop. A week or two before they go home the puppies begin learning to sleep at night in individual crates. They each have a crate pad, toy, and blanket for comfort. They are allowed to nurse or when completely weaned each gets a small bowl of warm goats milk at bedtime. Lavender or Peace and Calming essential oils are diffused in the room, and soft music by Brahms is played.

