

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 1

# WHEATEN WORDS



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Greetings,☺

Time flies! I cannot believe this year is already coming to an end. We held a general meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, via zoom, which included an open discussion with animal behaviorist, Conni Borwick. It was a wonderful and informative event. I wish more of our members would have been able to join.☺

There has been discussion amongst the board members regarding our required annual meeting to be held during the first quarter of next year. We have not had enough interest in the past year to hold a picnic. Your feedback is welcomed if you feel this is not the case. Suggestions for alternative options are encouraged. Our member's geographic distance makes it very difficult for many to attend events. If it is determined to continue holding the meetings via zoom, your feedback on topics of interest is welcome and appreciated.☺

☺

Lastly, I am currently in the possession of all the boutique and silent auction items and would love to find them new homes. Suggestions on how to "unload" these items would be of great help. If someone would like to put together an online auction, or has other ideas along that line, please let me know. ☺

☺

Wishing you a very happy holiday season!

Thank you for your continued support and love of our very special breed.☺

Cindy Jacuk☺

President☺

Official Newsletter of The Soft Coated Wheaten  
Terrier Club of Greater Tampa Bay  
[www.flwheatenclub.org](http://www.flwheatenclub.org)



## NEW MEMBERS

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

Karrol & Harold Davison



**The Board of the SCWTCGTB would like to  
thank the following members and friends for  
donating to our Health, Murffy and/or  
Rescue funds.**

Carol Ryder

Susan Howlett

Lenny & Susie Pruyne

NPBC Jewish Community Center

Mary Kay Perez

Patricia Guard

and Amazon Smile!

Keep shopping!



When shopping on Amazon, please go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select our Rescue -  
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club Of Greater Tampa Bay Inc.  
You use your existing Amazon user name and password. Many of your purchases result in a  
small donation to our Rescue!

# The Aging Wheaten

by Susie Blackledge

Aging is just another stage in our dogs' lives, not one that we look forward to but one where we can still enjoy and promote the best quality of life for our pets. The Average lifespan of a Wheaten is 12-15 years. So, how can we tell when they are senior? There are lots of physical signs we will notice such as cloudy looking eyes. Vision and hearing loss can result in your dog being easily startled. The use of body language and physical touch to communicate can be most valuable.

Slowing down or difficulty getting around may occur possibly due to arthritis. Just like with us, helping to keep our dogs moving will help keep them active for as long as possible. If the dogs' legs are super weak, a support and lifting harness/ sling can be quite helpful. When using it, the dog can still walk and you can assist as needed, and this can also help them on stairs, getting into cars, etc.

Some Wheatens are prone to lumps and bumps. Always good to have your Vet check these out as they can be cancerous. Bad breath and Dental disease can be helped by brushing and dental treats. I am liking the CET VeggieDents right now, but they may be too hard for some senior dogs.

Changes in weight. With decreased activity you may need to decrease your dogs' food intake. If my dog is hungry but it is not yet time to eat, I know he will eat veggies like green beans, carrots, and cauliflower. An older dog may not be able to chew well so these may need to be cooked and soft.

Some dogs develop incontinence in their upper years. This can be managed with wraps for boys and panties for girls. Also you could consider an indoor potty areas with pads and/or the fake grass stations they make now. But discuss any changes with your Vet to rule out physical causes for changes in elimination. One of my senior dogs forgot what door he was supposed to go out, so sometimes he would be standing at the wrong door and I had to put two and two together.

In addition to physical changes, you will see mental and behavioral changes. For one thing older dogs might seem a little grumpy. It's important to check with your Vet if this might be due to a physical problem such as pain.

Changes in Behavior may also be due to Canine Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome. CCDS. Similar to Dementia, it can bring about many behavioral changes in your pet. Changes can include fear of familiar people and things, not sleeping through the night, forgetting commands, house soiling, anxiety, confusion, and disorientation.

With all this going on how can we help our dogs enjoy their golden years?

Most important, keep in touch with your Vet to make sure none of these changes have an underlying medical cause. Routine labs can identify issues like anemia and kidney disease.

Changes around the house can help make things easier. I had to put throw rugs all over on the laminate for my Darby to keep her from slipping. There is also a product called Toe Grips you might want to try. Soft orthopedic bedding and Ramps can also be helpful. 🐾

Avoid stress like large noisy crowds with an older dog. Consult your Vet about providing Supplements such as fish oil and glucosamine for joints, probiotics for stomach issues, and CBD oils from a good source. Anti-Inflammatories and Pain Meds may also be appropriate to keep your dog comfy. There are medications that can reduce stress and you can try essential oils. Raised Dog bowls will be easier on your pet's neck and digestion. 🐾

Stimulate your dogs' brain with new sights, smells, and things to do such as food puzzles. Daily massages, short walks, and maintaining a positive outlook will also help. 🐾

Having to make a decision regarding end of life is a dog owners' greatest fear. If you just don't know I would ask for a 'quality of life' evaluation with your Vet. Nothing beat professional guidance. With my girl the Vet told me to just come in when I felt it was time. And when we did, she looked at me and said, "I knew you would know". That meant the world to me. No one knows your pet better than you. And when you look at them and can see that they are no longer enjoying life then you know. Your dog will tell you. Signs can be things like not wanting to move from one place to another and a lack of interest in drinking and eating. How much time you have left is not as important as how you spend that time. So don't stress too much over your dog getting older. This is the time to continue to make wonderful memories together. Cuddles, Special treats like cheeseburgers and ice-cream, enjoying the sunset and just treasuring all the moments you still can spend with your senior dog. 🐾



# RESCUE REPORT



In September, a long time Club member and supporter passed away. Her three dogs Abby, Gabby and Cooper ended up at Pinellas County Animal Services, who agreed to hold the dogs for Rescue. Her granddaughter sprang the dogs and Sarah Ryckis took all three to foster. She got them vetted and groomed, much thanks to Sarah! Ann Kendall in West Palm Beach adopted Abby and Gabby (now Zoe). Sarah fell in love with the older Wheaten Cooper and will be keeping him.



The same month another Club member passed away. Her 10 year old Wheaten Ellie needed a home. She was adopted by the Howlett's in Hollywood who love her dearly already.

We adopted one year old Bella out about two years ago. Her person's life changed drastically, she went through a divorce and started working very long hours. She realized that Bella was not having a good life so she sadly and reluctantly gave Bella back in October. Steve and Melissa Nelson met her on Alligator Alley and drove her to her new owner in Plantation, where she is thriving.



We got three year old Finley in October. His owner did not have enough time for him. Finley was adopted by a retired gentleman living in downtown Miami in Brickell. Lino drove all the way to St Pete to get Finley.

Finally, we have the sad little tale of Annie. Annie's mom had dementia and passed away in her home in Inverness. When the funeral director went to get her, the adult children told him that they did not want Annie and did not want to make any arrangements for her. The man took Annie home and posted her on social media, and a Schnauzer rescue lady took her in for one night. She called Wheaten Rescue and Melissa called Lisa Alexander. Gordy and Lisa dropped everything and immediately went and got Annie. Annie was in terrible shape, with ear and eye infections and terribly skinny. Lisa got her vetted and she is improving daily. We do think that she is almost 15 years old. She was to be a foster, but once again Lisa and Gordy, who are angels on earth, took her in as their own. As they say, ten dogs is a nice even number!

This year again has been a very quiet year for Rescue. Thanks to everyone who supports and helps our mission. Have a wonderful holiday season and hug your Wheatens!

Melissa Nelson  
Rescue Co-coordinator

# Annie's Story

by Lisa Jetland Alexander

If you had asked me earlier, I would have told you we have an attrition strategy. No more new animals for us, I would have said. It is the practical answer, given our age bracket and the age range of those creatures in our care. The size of our herd and our pack will slowly diminish as life takes its course, which it inevitably will, though with eleven horses and donkeys and nine dogs, we have a long way to go. I am comfortable with that. But, I am not comfortable saying no to an animal in need and so little Miss Annie snuck in the back door as an emergency foster. I thought we would stress her out since we are in such contrast to the life she was leading before us, but she has shown us otherwise, fitting in and coming alive. So now, we are inviting Annie to stay with us in permanent residency. We rationalized our decision based on her age, she is almost 15, and her weeness, she is only 17 pounds. Really though, it has nothing to do with things that can be counted or measured. The heart persists in bursting the limits your mind thinks it can put on it. And, anyway, ten is a lovely number.



UPDATE I: Annie is sleeping right out in the open and by that I mean she is just like the other dogs in the household. It wasn't supposed to be this easy and it wasn't at first. When she came, she was anxious about finding her spots, the places where she declared herself safe, and those spots were all tucked away spaces. We moved dog beds into nooks and corners to give her choices that suited. At night, she sleeps in a cozy little dog nest by the side of our bed, but now during the day you may find her anywhere, right out in the open, like she lives here and all the space is hers. You may think I'm crazy, but I see that as the echo of an act of kindness, what happens when you say yes to an animal, because "yes" is an energy that cuts through all sorts of sorry stuff that can leave that animal, or a person, all tangled up. Say yes. Whenever you can, say yes.

UPDATE II: Annie has been with us a month now and we are becoming "experts" on her personality and idiosyncrasies. She sleeps a lot and when she sleeps it is very soundly, with eyes that don't fully close. Next week, she will be having much needed dental surgery — an event that carries some trepidation, given her age. She wanders the house in great looping circuits at night, but has settled well during the daylight hours. She follows her people around and has mostly acclimated to our

incessant efforts to pick her up and snuggle. We are still working on perfecting that whole house training thing; she is quite stubborn about that. In all regards, Annie is the poster child for what to expect when adopting a senior dog. Still, cuteness counts and Annie brings her "A" game there. She is waifish and heart-melting in this Little Orphan Annie (get it) sort of way. Also, if you recalibrate your expectations, you can see her efforts, her improvements in behavior. She is doing the best she can, given where she is coming from. All that touches my heart. Being old and a touch confused is not a crime; it is a full part of the life cycle and Annie is living hers with us. We are all right where we belong.





*GCH CH Inishkeen's Pillow Full O'Petals CGC*

*"Sachet"*

*4/11/2009-10/13/2021*

*CH Robins Crest Lil Cloud Nine CGC x GCH CH Inishkeen's Maille of VanBeard CGC*

*Owned and Bred by Jim and Ann McCormick*

We said goodbye to our beautiful Sachet shortly before 11 am on that morning in October as William Shatner was rocketing into space. Sachet probably crossed paths with Capt. Kirk and the new starship on her way to the Rainbow Bridge to find her parents, McDuffie and Maille. We celebrated her 12.5 year birthday two days before, recalling the tiny warm wet puppy whelped on Jim's down pillow as we napped with her mother. She completed her AKC Championship with all but one puppy point from the Bred By Exhibitor Class. I learned to never enter a best puppy competition with a BBE competitor! Then she finished her Grand Championship the day after her mother's. In June 2012 we were devastated to learn that our beautiful girl carried two PLN markers, we were relieved when testing on Buxx, the dog we planned to breed her to came back with no markers. Four of her six grandpuppies are PLN clear, two are carriers. Sachet was the dam of two beautiful litters, and loving granddam to her daughter Aoife's puppies as well, even as she fought bladder cancer these past 28 months. Her quality of life was very good until this summer, chemo and radiation therapies controlled the cancer for two years; when she could no longer tolerate the treatments the tumor began to grow toward her healthy kidneys and metastasized to a lymph node, causing urinary tract and lymphatic obstructions. We chose the 8th anniversary of her dad's death to say goodbye while she could still walk and play with us on a leg with rapidly worsening lymphedema. Sweet Sachet, you enriched our lives tremendously.

We love you!



# IN THE KITCHEN

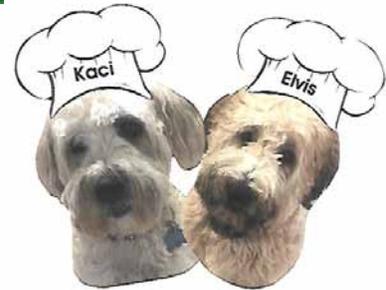
## KACI & ELVIS



### Crunchy dog treats .

#### Ingredients:

1 cup blueberries, fresh, frozen or dried  
3/4 cup oats  
2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour  
2 eggs  
3 tablespoons peanut butter, be sure it does not have xylitol in it.  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/8-1/2 cup warm water adjust the water depending on the texture of the dough after mixing



#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Give berries a rough chop add to mixing bowl.  
Add oats and mash with blueberries.  
Add flour, eggs, peanut butter and cinnamon.  
Mix until combined, it will be a bit dry and crumbly.  
Add about 1/8 cup warm water, mix until it sticks together in a ball. If dough seems dry continue adding water in 1/8 cup increments.  
Flour a clean surface and roll out the dough about 1/2 inch thick, cut using your favorite cookie cutter shape.  
Line cookie sheet with parchment paper or non stick baking sheet, space where they are not touching  
Bake for 40 minutes ,until they are hard/ crunchy  
Cook, cool , share with your favorite pup.

Recipe submitted by  
Gail Cox, Kaci & Elvis





# SHOW RESULTS

**GCH CH Adako Villanova Deja Vu  
"Miss Boo"**



Was awarded her grand championship  
on Nov. 19, 2021.  
Bred by Brittany Phelps and Ray and  
Melissa Pickett  
Owned by Linda Robison

**BIS, RBIS, MBISS, GCHP CH AM,  
CH CAN  
Ainle Something To Talk About**



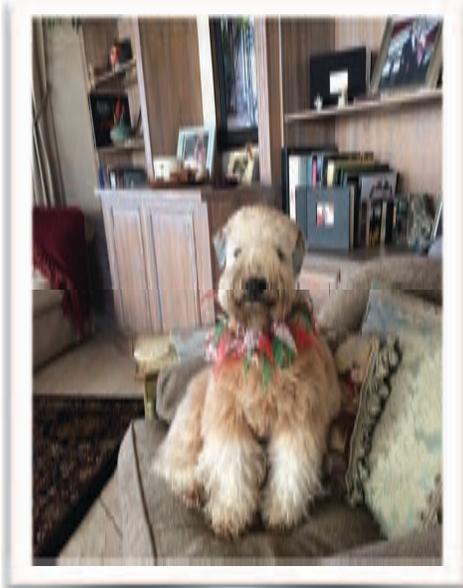
"Bogie" wins Best Veteran and 1st  
Award of Merit at MCKC - Nov.  
2021.  
Bred by Kathi Elliot  
Owned by Linda Robinson

# PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Farm Dog Certified  
FDC on 10/16/21  
CH Dromara's Perfect Treble Maker CD BN  
RE OA NAJ OF BCAT CGC TKA  
Owned by Susie & Robert Blackledge



# Holiday Photos







**SCWTCGTB**

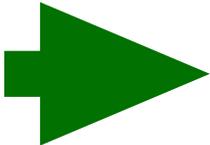
**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Watch for more information  
coming to your email!**



## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

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



Next Newsletter Deadline  
February 28, 2022

All braggs and show results must have occurred between  
December 1, 2021 and February 28, 2022!

Email Debie at [flwheaten@gmail.com](mailto:flwheaten@gmail.com) with your information!