

Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Ireland

THE WHEATEN NEWS



When is this Mr. Claus coming?



Newsletter

Christmas 2019

Secretary's Corner



Greetings to you all,

I hope our latest Newsletter finds you well. Christmas is nearly upon us and it's amazing how quickly the year flies by. We held our AGM on the 31st October which Fergus and Tomás kindly hosted for us in their home. Our members were welcomed warmly to their home with a Boeuf Bourguignon which was very welcome on a cold day. Our Officers and Committee were returned. Thank you to all those who continue to support the Club.

I would like to send a thank you to Brid who has been working on our website. We have more to do but we are continuing to update the content.

Well done to Sonia Ferris who represented Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers at the Belfast Expo and also managed to get photos in the paper. See her report inside.

Furthermore, we had a lovely walk in Ardgillan House and luckily the rain held off (see report inside). Our next walk is planned for the 8th December to coincide with the Christmas market which will be held in Castletown House that day. We attended this event last year and it was really enjoyable with many of the members asking to return this year so looking forward to that.

Thank you to Marion who has shared some of her lovely recipes with us. I'm looking forward to baking them - especially the carrot cake. Please send your recipes in for inclusion in forthcoming newsletters.

I appeal to our greater membership for content for the newsletter. I know many of you have interesting stories about your Wheatens and we would love to hear them.

Many thanks
Jennifer
Honorary Secretary

*We wish all our members and their dogs
A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year!*



Editor's Notes



Hello Everyone,

Can you all believe how quickly another year has flown by? 2019 seemed to come and go in a flash! Well I know not quite over yet but almost! It has been another successful year for our Club and we finish this year ready for the next. 2020 will prove to be eventful in many ways but none more so than how Brexit will affect us. Most of us travel via UK when going to shows or on vacation so we need to be aware of any changes that happen. At the moment we are left wondering as nobody seems able to advise until decisions are made.

As I also hold the position of Club Treasurer I can report that for a numerically small breed club we are in a healthy position. Although our shows do not make profits we are still able to sustain a healthy bank balance thanks to our membership renewals and sale of Christmas cards and books. We do also receive small donations too so thank you to all for renewing your membership and to those who made donations.

So far the weather has been kind with no real cold snaps but we have had our fair share of rain! On a recent trip to Killarney I noticed many fields flooded and rivers looking quite angry.

I am still transitioning from my home in Wicklow to a smaller suburban house. It takes time but getting there at last. My poor Clodo seemed to be very miserable leaving her large garden of 3 acres to a very much smaller area in Dublin. But there is light at the end of the tunnel for her as only yesterday we were visited by her favourite creature, a squirrel! So many times she has tried to catch one of these and has never been successful but it is a chase she seems to enjoy! So once again the tail is wagging and she is alert and watchful. My youngest daughter also does a swap some mornings. My grandson aged 2years for Clodo! Joanna my daughter enjoys a run and Clodo used to go running with my late husband so 2 satisfied customers!

So as this year draws to a close I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and very best wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Eileen.
Editor.

PS. May I also ask for contributions of any sort from our readers? It is difficult to find fresh ideas etc for each edition of Newsletter. If we cannot get content then unfortunately we may only be able to produce a single Newsletter in a year. Thank you.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019/2020



At the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Ireland held at Phibsborough Dublin, the following committee members were voted in:

Patrons: Hannah Ryan, Ann White

President: Eithne Brady

Vice Presidents: Michael Brady, Marion Finney, Evelyn & Jay Rutherford

Chairperson: Susan Kealy

Vice Chairperson: Nicky White

Secretary: Jennifer Kealy

Treasurer: Eileen Collins-Kennedy

Committee Members:

Deborah Evans-Barry

Bernadette Moynihan

Fergus O'Sullivan

Tomás Rosengrave

Anne Finn

Aneta Minczewska

Brid Brophy

IKC Representative:

Eileen Collins-Kennedy

Auditor:

Nicky White



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Avoiding Christmas Disasters!



Christmas time is an exciting time with plenty of extra foods including chocolate, nuts etc. It is also a time for visitors, gifts and decorations.

With so much extra food in the house it is essential to keep it well away from pets. Rich foods can lead to upset tummies and unfortunate accidents. But be especially aware of raisins in puddings and pies since they can be very toxic to the kidneys. Chocolate is another festive favourite but only a very small amount can be fatal in the smaller breeds. Turkey meat in moderation is fine but do not give turkey bones as these can cause dangerous intestinal blockages.

Presents under the Christmas tree can also be very tempting! Dogs have extremely sensitive noses and can sniff out exactly which gifts are edible and the wrappings and ribbons will not do their tummies any good either! Glasses of alcohol left unattended can also be tempting, particularly glasses of beer!

Christmas is a time for families and our homes are often full of visitors celebrating. Many pets will enjoy this extra attention but some may find it quite stressful. If your pet is more shy than sociable make sure they have a safe place they can retreat to undisturbed.

If we are lucky to have a white Christmas and we go for a walk to try and keep those extra pounds at bay from all the rich foods, take care of your dogs paws. Snow and ice can ball up between their toes, especially on furry feet and road grit/salt can also cause nasty sores if not washed off once you are home.

Also, make sure the decorations and the tree are either well out of reach or securely fastened down. Watch out for younger dogs chewing the electric cord on tree lights.

Take this time to give your pet more attention, as our lives are so busy these days that we can easily miss or overlook indications of a potential problem. A little extra grooming or hands on can give an early warning.

Just a little thought to try and prevent any of the above will ensure you all have a very happy Christmas.



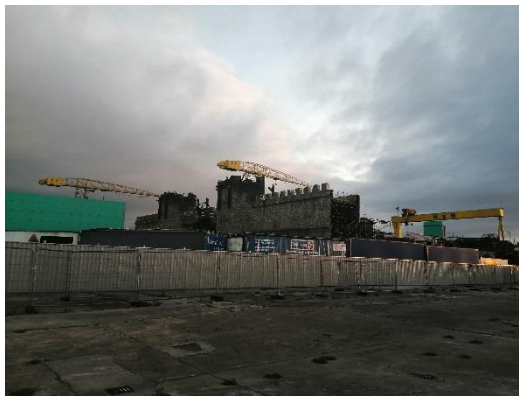
Belfast Pet Expo Report

By Sonia Ferris



July 2019 saw us achieve our Native Heritage Status, firmly securing the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers as one of the 9 Native Breeds – a huge accolade to our country and to be recognised as such was truly momentous. So, it was a double honour for our family to represent the ISCWT Breed at the Belfast Pet Expo recently.

Our setting was no other than at our own “Game of Thrones” location – Titanic Exhibition Centre, beside Titanic Studios, Belfast. If anyone is a fan of Game of Thrones, they will appreciate the significance of being so close to Samson and Goliath (Harland & Wolff).



Friday 15th November 2019 – setting up the stands at the Dog’s Village. We, specifically the 9 Native Breeds were next to each other on one side of the hall with the other Breeds opposite us.



ISCWT stand on Friday



Me and Frank on Friday

The crowds of people that visited on Saturday and Sunday with their dogs was absolutely amazing. There was a great atmosphere on both days and an enthusiastic buzz with everyone. People very cleverly took their time walking around the Centre initially and then again at a slower pace to stop at every stand to converse and have a hands-on approach with the dogs.

All the stands had a different layout, from Hollywood Glamour to huge Tapestries, Posters, Rosettes, Silverware, Visual media and Photographs, but more importantly, full interaction with our dogs.

Chanel, Chopin, Charlotte and Chaniece settled very comfortably into their new location, surrounded by their Duvet, cuddly toys and treats. They are well socialised furbabies and were not fazed in any way with the various noises or the constant hum of activity. They were curious and when people came over to see them, they were standing to attention, tails wagging, ready to ear lick anybody who was brave enough to get the wash!

One by one they took turns to jump and sit onto the grooming table section for everyone to feel their curls and were more than happy to be fussed over. Their Malteaser eyes are very loving and so many commented on their long eyelashes. People had an opportunity to comb their hair, pet them, give them treats and also get their photograph taken with them. In fact, people with their own small dogs were very happy to put their own dog on our grooming table to be handled and receive some attention.



Newtownards couple



Hairy pawter couple



Schnauzer couple

It was such a pleasure to talk to people about our breed, providing them with their history, their characteristics and promoting our website www.iscwtclubireland.com

We were extremely lucky to have Ruth and Oscar Nesbitt join us and embrace the whole experience in such style. Oscar was very handsome in his Christmas Jumper, which matched Ruth's attire – let's just say that they rocked the genius combo. Ruth did an amazing job representing our Breed and she was accompanied by my wonderful Aunt Mary who had the stand in ship shape order. Whilst Mary is a "Schnauzer" lady, she was a fantastic asset to the ISCWT stand.



Ruth and Oscar



Sonia and Ruth and dogs



Mary and Ruth

We were further joined by Catherine Waterworth and her 2 beautiful ISCWTs Lexi and Hamish and Ashley Houston with her gorgeous poodle, Scarlett – she had the best boots ever!



Catherine, Sonia and dogs



Ashley and Cath with dogs

The Pet Expo was truly a wonderful experience. The huge Waffles from Wowfulls were totally delicious and meeting some of the business exhibitors eg. Images in Wood, Graham Crichton Photography, Dogs Trust, Hemp Hero's and Red Mills was extremely informative and very welcoming. Other exhibits were the exotic creatures from Phil Farms and Mid Antrim Animal Sanctuary. On our walk about our Wheatens enjoyed the attention from the Red Mill ladies and were fascinated with the other animals and were not in any way scared of the snakes! In fact only Charlotte displayed a readiness to investigate and an alertness to stare out the Llamas! The rest of them were very chilled.



Snake



Charlotte, Llama tails



Red Mills Ladies

We had a wonderful display of all the dog breeds in the Show Ring which was extremely well organised and promoted by our compere Eddie Patterson. Our native breeds had the opportunity to be presented first and foremost and were fittingly represented. It was a brilliant gathering of breeds and we all were very supportive of each other. This gave the public a better opportunity to actually see our breeds, meet them outside the ring and ask important questions.

It was just the best experience ever to have our Wheaten family with us and promote the brilliant work of the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Ireland. We couldn't stress enough the importance of preserving the breed, acquiring the right breeder, the significance of health testing and great communication when asking about puppies, growing up, lifestyle and characteristics. In fact I was very honoured to be conversing with Tommy Conway (Glen of Inaal) who shared stories and history with me, especially his knowledge of our ISCWT and the legendary Maureen Holmes.



Sonia with family



Sonia and Mary and wheatens.
Courtesy of Belfast Telegraph



Sonia and Tommy Conway

Finally, our 9 native breeds – courtesy of Linda Christie and the final shot of the day was taken by Alexander Douglas, from the Belfast Telegraph depicting all 9 in a line!



Glen Of Imaal Terrier



Kerry Beagle



Irish Water Spaniel



Kerry Blue Terrier



Irish Terrier



Irish Wolfhound



Irish Red Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Softcoated Wheaten Terrier



Group photo of the native breeds.
Courtesy of A. Douglas, Belfast Telegraph

Thank you Jennifer and the ISCWT Committee for permitting me to represent you at my very first Pet Expo – I would be honoured to reciprocate it again. Thank you Catherine/Ashley for bringing Lexi and Hartley to meet the gang a lot of Wheaten love. Thank you to my native breed neighbours, where the craic was 90 and our shared vision to help promote our breeds was overwhelming. Special thanks to Ruth and Oscar, for their support and knowledge, my family for their unwavering love of my passion and lastly my Aunt Mary who devoted her time, patience and overfilled picnic basket for the 2 days.

We didn't quite make it to the Cattery though!!!.....



Dog quotes

"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."

-Unknown

"I've seen a look in dogs' eyes, a quickly vanishing look of amazed contempt, and I am convinced that basically dogs think humans are nuts."

-John Steinbeck

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. It is the principal difference between a dog and a man."

-Mark Twain

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue"

-Anonymous

"Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job."

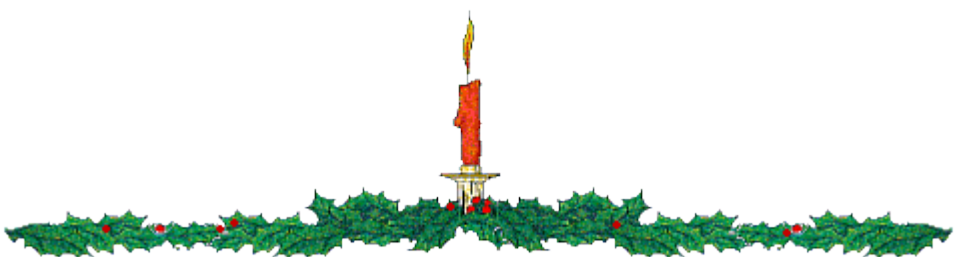
-Franklin P.

"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

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion."

- Unknown



Wheaten walk.



Our last walk took place on the 26th October in Ardgillan Castle and Demesne, one of Ireland's hidden gems. Set in spectacular parklands overlooking the Irish Sea with a magnificent view of the Mourne Mountains. As well as the castle, the demesne features a walled and rose garden both of which present an orderly profusion of colour which is where we took a lot of our photos and spent time chatting. Pixie Clarke ran around the walled garden chatting to everyone and making it into every photo if only sometimes as a blur of blonde hair. We were very pleased to welcome two new families and their Wheatens and hope they can join us on our next walk which will take place in Castletown House on the 8th December in conjunction with their Christmas market.

Ardgillan Park consists of 194 acres of rolling open grassland, mixed woodland and gardens. We were really lucky on the day to have great views of the Mourne Mountains in the north and Lambay Island to the south-east which you can see in our photos. It really is a fabulous facility with a good circular walk with a few options. Derek led the pack on this occasion. Luckily the rain held off and we had a very enjoyable walk followed by a lovely lunch outside. Our wheaten friends were well catered for by the café with fresh water and bowls and of course plenty of treats from their human companions. It was really a lovely day and I think we all very much enjoy the walks and the time to chat to new wheaten friends while catching up with some older ones. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the update of the next walk.



All ready for walking!



Derek and Sennan



There are lots of interesting smells in the forest!



It is a good walk both for dogs and humans!



Mourne Mountains in the distance



Gathering in the car park



Wheatens as diabetic alert dogs

By Aya Lundsten, Finland

Diabetes is a group of metabolic disorders causing the pancreas to stop producing insulin or the cells to not responding to insulin. Patients suffering from diabetes cannot regulate their blood sugar levels without medical assistance. Despite good care sometimes the blood sugar levels can unexpectedly drop or rise to dangerously low (hypoglycemia) or high (hyperglycemia) levels very fast. Diabetic alert dogs are trained to detect changes in the blood sugar levels and alert their owner to take the appropriate steps.

Diabetic alert dogs are first trained to differentiate between different scents. Once the dog can reliably identify a chosen scent, they can move on to learning to identify the hypoglycemic scent of the person the dog is trained for. This is done by using scent samples on fabric collected during hypoglycemia and stored in the freezer. The dogs are trained to react at very specific blood sugar levels to allow time for the diabetic to respond and to raise their blood sugar levels.

Diabetic alert dogs are also taught to retrieve food e.g. glucose tablets or juice. Furthermore, the dogs learn to alert e.g. family members if the hypoglycemia is too severe and the diabetic is unresponsive. The training method is solely based on positive reinforcement (i.e. by rewarding correct behavior and ignoring undesirable behavior) and the training program is divided into several small steps. Once the dog has passed a test for a specific task during the training period it can move on to learn the next task. A diabetic alert dog must show that they can function in public places by passing a behavioral test and the dogs train a lot in difficult environments as they must be able to work in shopping centers, public transport etc.. In Finland the dog enters a follow-up period when all the exams are completed during which the dog's performance is reviewed for six months. Dogs that during this period are able to correctly identify 80 % of their owner's low blood sugars qualify for their final exams. After finals they get the status of official diabetic alert dogs in Finland. In Finland diabetic alert dogs can accompany their owner to food stores, restaurants, the cinema and some other public places and can be recognized by their blue vest.

Geijes Irish Ivorwen (Iris) was one year old when her owner was diagnosed with diabetes and Iris was quickly enrolled into the training program. As her classmates were mostly of typical working dog breeds such as Golden and Labrador Retrievers we felt a bit insecure how the training process would work out with an independent-minded terrier. Iris learned the scent detection very fast just as we had expected. Much to our surprise our wheaten excelled in retrieving. The real challenge in training Iris and possibly any wheaten lies in their independence. A diabetic alert dog must continuously monitor their owner's blood sugar levels and wheaten may not feel need to check up on their owner all the time. We had to make sure that her interest in her owner was constantly being rewarded. Iris is a calm dog and had no problems with passing the behavioral test. Iris has been taught to poke her owner in the thigh using her nose when the blood sugar is low. Lately she has also become very vocal when alerting which wakes up most of the family and even a soundly sleeping teenager. The wheaten spirit can be seen in Iris that she has found her own way of working, instead of just repeating what she has been taught. She made e.g. a new stash of food closer to her owner's room probably to save some time and effort and also alerts other diabetics' low blood sugars than just her owner's. We firmly believe that wheatens make great diabetic alert dogs and wish anyone who is training their wheaten to any kind of service dog the best of luck.



Geijes Irish Ivorwen «Iris», in different situations, with her owner Emilia Hagner.

Photos: Krista Hagner, Finland



Sniffing

A long, long time ago, all the dogs in the world were in constant quarrel with each other. They were fighting day and night, and there were no peace in the dog world.

Then some of the wiser dogs found out that if they all had a king to rule them, the earth would be a more peaceful place to live in for all the dogs.

So they sent out a call for a big meeting, to agree upon who should be their king and ruler. And dogs came from far and near to this meeting. There were big dogs and small dogs. There were mongrels and pedigree dogs. There were old and wise dogs and there were young ones. And both sexes were equally represented.

There were discussions, quarrelling, debating and occasional fighting, but they could not agree upon who should be their king.

This went on for a whole week. Then an old dog, full of wisdom, rose, shook his coat and said in a loud voice “Listen friends! It seems that we can’t agree upon who shall be our king that easy. However we could agree that our new king should have a good smell”.

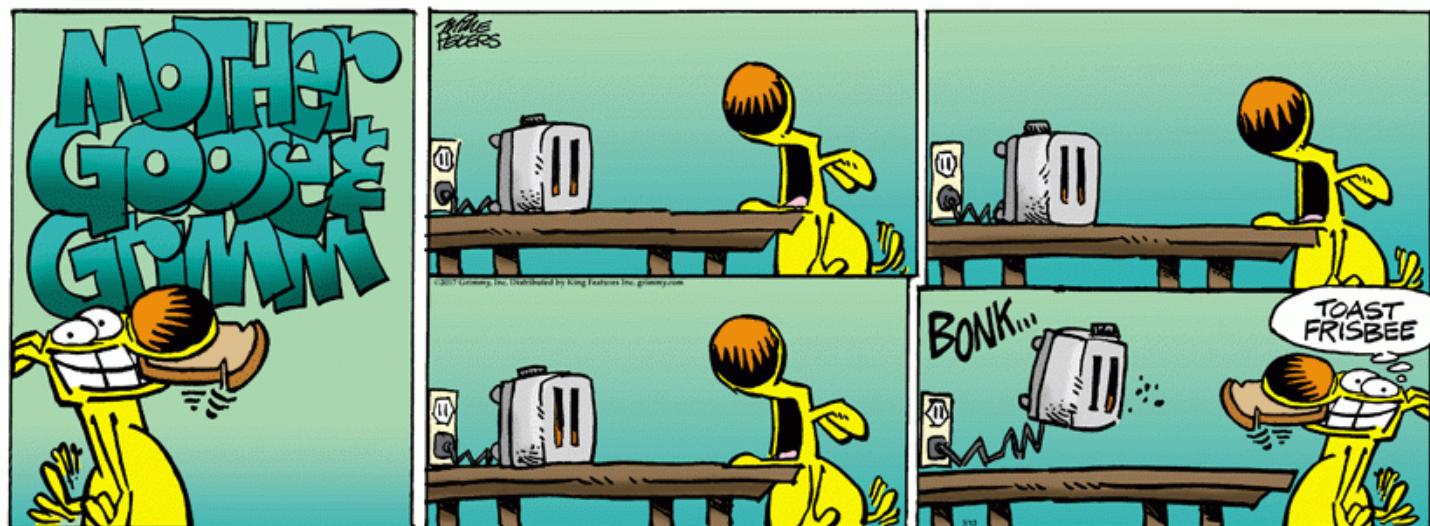
“Yea, yea” barked all the dogs. “That is a good idea”!

“Well then” the old dog said. “Then we have to sniff under the tail of all the dogs, and the one that has the best smell shall be our king”.

“Super, super” barked all the dogs, and started to sniff each other under the tail in order to find the one with the best smell.

That is why all dogs sniff each other under the tail when they meet, because they still have not found their king.....!

Kaare M. Hegrum, Norway



How old is your dog?

Puppy



Age of Dog

3 months
6 months
9 months

Human Equivalent

Small	Med	Large
3 years	3 years	5 years
6 years	7 years	9 years
9 years	11 years	14 years

Junior



Age of Dog

12 months
18 months
2 years

Human Equivalent

Small	Med	Large
12 years	14 years	18 years
18 years	20 years	22 years
24 years	25 years	26 years

Adult



Age of Dog

3 years
4 years
5 years
6 years

Human Equivalent

Small	Med	Large
30 years	32 years	36 years
36 years	38 years	42 years
40 years	42 years	48 years
46 years	48 years	56 years

Mature



Age of Dog

7 years
8 years
9 years
10 years

Human Equivalent

Small	Med	Large
51 years	54 years	62 years
56 years	60 years	68 years
61 years	66 years	75 years
66 years	72 years	82 years

Senior



Age of Dog

11 years
12 years
13 years
14 years

Human Equivalent

Small	Med	Large
71 years	78 years	90 years
76 years	84 years	96 years
81 years	90 years	102 years
86 years	96 years	108 years

Super Senior



Age of Dog

15 years
16 years
17 years +

Human Equivalent

Small	Med	Large
91 years	102 years	114 years
96 years	108 years	120 years
102 years+	114 years+	126 years+

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In this issue we have some recipes from Marion Finney. Read, make and enjoy!



One of my favourite Christmas recipes.

Mince meat Muffins with Eggnog Icing!!

Prep time about 20 mins

A muffin or good size bun tray lined with paper cases.

Bake time 20 to 25 mins Oven 180 Gas mark 4.

200g {7 ozs} Butter

150g {5 ozs} Castor sugar.

4 eggs

200g {7 ozs} plain flour

1 tsp baking powder.

175g {6 ozs} Mince meat homemade {if bought add a dash or 2 of rum or brandy }

Cream butter and add sugar. Beat until light and fluffy. Whisk eggs add gradually to creamed butter and sugar. Gently then fold in flour and add baking powder and mince meat.

Pour the batter into the muffin cases not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Place in pre heated oven .When ready they should be springy to touch and lightly browned on top .When cooked place on wire rack to cool down.

Icing

4 egg yolks

1 tsp cornflour

50g {2 ozs} castor sugar

25ml {1 fl ozs} brandy

100ml {3.5 fl ozs} double cream

$\frac{1}{2}$ finely grated nutmeg for dusting

Whisk together all the icing ingredients place in a saucepan and bring to boil stirring all the time be careful it can burn easily or curl. Remove from heat and place in a bowl and using an electric food mixer beat for a few minutes.

When thick and cooled ice the muffins with this delicious icing and decorate as festive as you like...

Enjoy...





Carrot Cake with a twist...

Pre- heat oven to 150 OR Gas mark 2.

Line a 2lb loaf tin with a greaseproof liner or greaseproof paper.

This cake freezes really well, so I normally double the recipe and put 1 cake in the freezer un-iced.

2 Eggs

150 ml sunflower oil – I use Flora.

200g {7ozs} soft brown sugar

300g {11ozs} grated carrots {weighed when grated}

75g {3ozs} chopped Walnuts.

175 {6ozs} Self Raising Flour

½ tsp Bicarbonate of Soda.

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1 tsp mixed spice.

Pinch of salt

35 g of Raisins and 2 tablespoons rum or other spirits.

Place in saucepan and bring to the boil so the fruit soaks up the alcohol, let it cool before adding to cake mix.

Whisk the eggs in a large bowl add oil, grated carrots, sugar and chopped nuts. Sift in the remaining dry ingredients and gently fold in together.

Place into the lined loaf tin smooth the top. And bake for approx. 1 hour or until a skewer comes out clean from the centre of the cake.

Leave in tin until cool place on serving plate and prepare icing.

150 g {5ozs} cream cheese { drained from any liquid in its packet}

Grated rind from half an orange

50g {2ozs} icing sugar

1/2tsp Vanilla essence.

Mix all together and using a palette knife spread over the top of the cooled cake and decorate as you wish.

Keep in fridge wrapped in cling film. But it's so popular it doesn't last long.

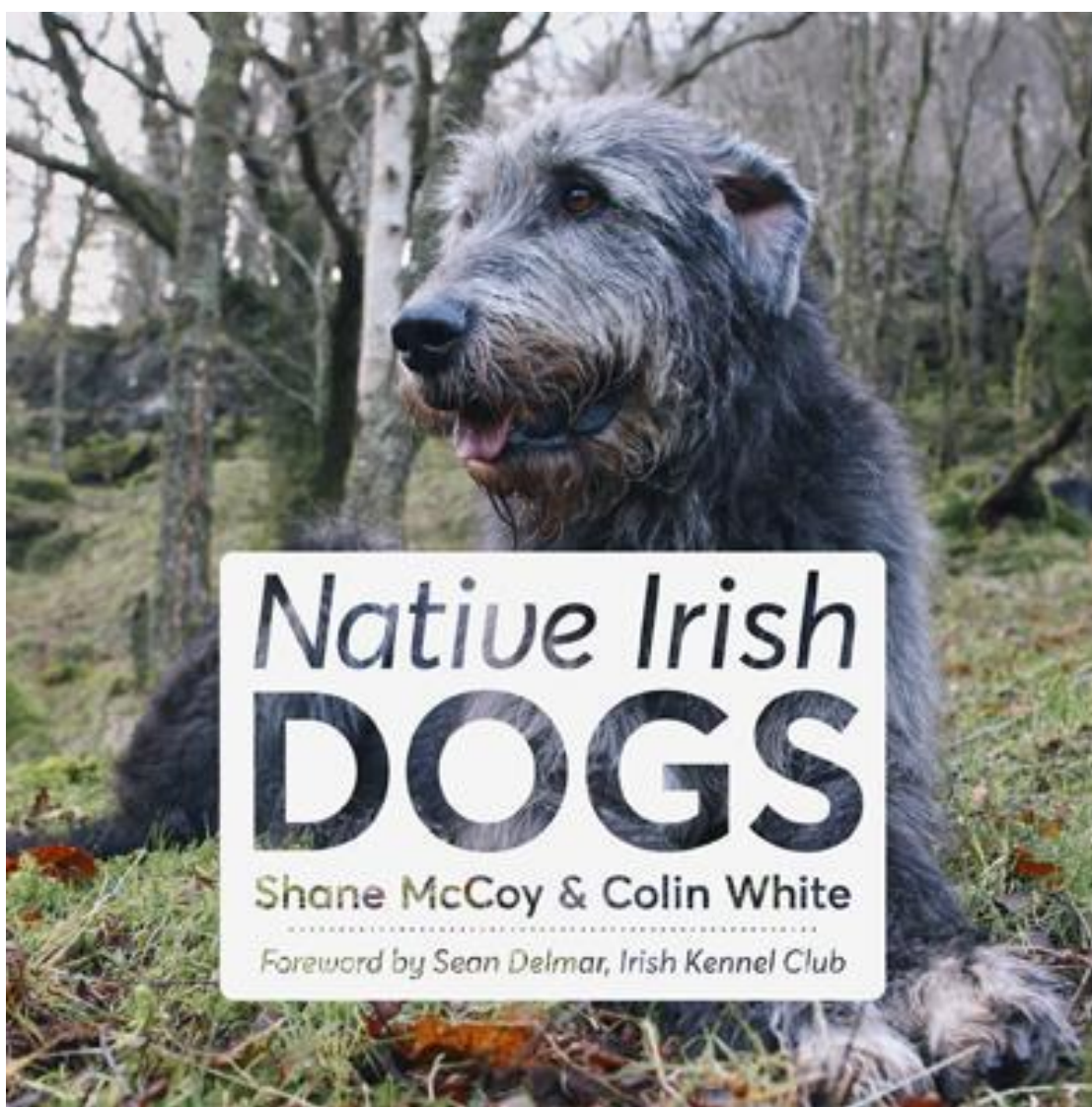


Tail Ends

Native Irish dogs

We have some copies of the paperback version of this great book available normal price €16.99. Club members can enjoy a special price of €15.00.

Please email me at wheatenclubofireland@gmail.com



Club's Web Site: www.iscwtclubireland.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/558587157604743/>

Secretary: Jennifer Kealy – wheatenclubofireland@gmail.com

Application forms for Club Membership, National and Overseas, are available from the web site or contact Hon. Sec. Jennifer Kealy at above.

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