

Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Ireland

THE WHEATEN NEWS



Newsletter

Christmas 2021

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS



Welcome to another edition of THE WHEATEN NEWS, the 2021 Christmas Newsletter. Thank you to all who worked on preparing this edition, the Secretary, Jennifer, our Editor Eileen and Kaare Hegrum who makes it all look so professional. Thanks also go to all who provided news, articles and photographs.

We have an interesting Breeder's Interview with Richard Dalton (Dalstar) "reeling in the years" with good memories of times past, the advantage he has of being in the Breed since childhood! We must not forget the work and dedication of the breeders long before us and continue to safeguard the legacy they left us, we are only the current custodians of the breed. We must ensure that we pass on our Breed in as good a state as possible, concentrating on health and temperament and making sure to breed to the Breed Standard in all respects.

We can be very proud of our Native Irish Breeds and thankful to The Irish Kennel Club for all their efforts to achieve Heritage Status, our nine native breeds are acknowledged worldwide as breeds unique to Ireland. 2022 will be the Centenary of The Irish Kennel Club and we hope there will be opportunity to celebrate in a fitting manner.

As I said this time last year, this has been a year like no other, little did I imagine that once again in 2021 we would have no shows and no A.G.M. We were fortunate to be able to manage some Wheaten Walks, as usual very enjoyable and with good weather to enjoy our beautiful countryside. Photographs and description are included in this edition. Well done to all who attended, many travelling quite a distance to join in, it's lovely to have so many Wheatens with us, it's quite a sight and attracts attention and compliments.

This year has been very difficult for many families affected by Covid 19 and sadly many deaths, including Club Patron Mrs. Hannah Ryan, widow of Dan Ryan.

As we look forward to Christmas 2021 I wish all our Members very best wishes and I hope 2022 turns out to be a better year and that we get back to our normal lives.

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes to all.

Susan Kealy
Chairperson



Secretary's Corner



Season's Greetings to All !

I hope this finds you all well! It has been an extremely quiet year in Ireland, with the majority of it spent in some sort of lock down. We look forward to returning to a more normal life without limits, but unfortunately for the time being we have to be guided by government guidelines. Most of the events early in the year took place online through Facebook. We are aware that not everyone uses this form of social media, but it is the most effective way for us to interact with people. We had our Virtual Wheaten Valentines Walk on Valentine's Day, where we asked everyone to walk at 1pm their local time and wear something pink or red. We will run this event again in 2022, so if you are not on Facebook but would like your pictures included, please email them to me by the 18th February. As you can see from photos it was great fun. We also ran the Wheaten Academy Awards, which was a great idea, created by Tomás Rosengrave. We have a winner selection on YouTube. You can access the link here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZKdNmJ3h2E>. We would also like to run this event again, so hopefully the link inspires you to create your own clips too. We really enjoy seeing the clips, so please take part to make it a bigger event next year.

We had our first Wheaten walk of 2021 on the 25th October. We met at Trim Castle car park, and it was great to see so many people turn up. We also had 4 Irish Terriers 2 Airedales and 2 Poodles to join our Wheaten gang. We definitely drew some attention! We are hoping to have another walk before Christmas at a Christmas market, but with the situation in Ireland, I am not sure that will be possible. If you are interested in joining us, if we can go ahead email me at wheatenclubofireland@gmail.com or keep an eye on our website <https://www.iscwtclubireland.com/> If you do look at website you will notice huge changes. I would like to say a huge thank you to our newest member, Katie Burke who has created this site and made it look so professional. We are still working on it, so bear with us. But you would have to agree what has been done so far looks amazing. A big thank you to all those who have sent me pictures for the website, and apologies that I couldn't use them all. But it will be an evolving website.

A big Thank You to you all, for your work on the Newsletter!

We waived our membership subscriptions for 2020/21. Our membership fees are now due for 2021/2022. If you wish you could renew using our PayPal account, which is linked to our address.

I wish you and your family and friends a safe and Happy Christmas.

Jennifer
Honorary Secretary



Editor's Notes



Hello Everyone,

Well what can I say? What horrible times we are living in right now. With Global Warming dangers and the seemingly never ending Pandemic it makes us all realize the importance of our roles in the World and Society. But you all know that so I shall not bore you with more of the same. I think we are all tired of hearing about restrictions etc. I must admit to being a little confused by some at times as there appeared to be no logic in some decisions but I am not a Medic or in Power!

Although hardly any Dog Shows were held this year or Club meetings, I am happy to report that our Secretary Jennifer managed to organize another Wheaten Walk last month. I believe even the Weather was good so it must have been a lovely chance for some Members to get together and catch up. Even the dogs must have enjoyed it too. I was unable to join in the fun due to prior family commitments. More details of the walks are included later in this issue.

Last month I finally got to venture farther afield managing a short trip to UK where I met my eldest daughter for a real HUG! One of the highlights of my visit was an appointment with my hairdresser. For all you ladies out there you will know how wonderful that feels! I had not had my hair cut for almost 18 months. When the neighborhood children called at Halloween, I did not need a costume as with long grey hair I already looked like a witch! When I returned from UK Clodo did a very quick double take I swear! Now I also understand how she must feel on her day at the groomers. She comes out strutting her stuff with head held high as if in the ring! A real exhilarating experience.

I love this time of year when the houses are all lit with twinkling lights and festive trees. Outdoor lighting in gardens and warm houses. Makes the gloomy evenings so much nicer and this year gives an appearance of some sort of normality.

Hands Up! I know I said I would try not to mention the Pandemic but it has had such a huge impact on us all in so many different ways. Our annual Club Show could not take place and our Club AGM could not be held either. In fact, the IKC had to cancel their planned AGM recently and as IKC Representative, I was hoping I would have something to report. But not to be.

It is very important to abide by all the current guidelines to try to prevent further infections. The Medics are doing their best and have learnt how to better manage patient care but we also have to do our bit too. Let us hope this may be our last Christmas with restrictions and look to a happier 2022.

I wish all our Members a very safe and healthy Christmas.

Eileen Collins-Kennedy.
Editor.



Club News



Club Officers and Committee members 2021-2022

Due to Covid-19 and government restrictions we were unable to hold our annual general meeting. We decided to avail of the rollover option offered by the Irish Kennel Club to allow outgoing officers to be returned for 2022. I would like to thank the officers and committee who agreed to go forward again and hope that come 2022 we will be returning to normality. Looking forward to working with you all again.

Jennifer

Patron: 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, Brid Brophy

IKC Representative: Eileen Collins-Kennedy

Auditor: Nicky White





How RBP4 was found

A short history of my background in the breed: Kennel Geijes was founded in 1943 by my grandmother Eva Corander (1900-1980). She bred Airedale, Dachshund, Kerry Blues and in 1963 she imported the first Irish Soft Coated Wheaten terrier to Scandinavia from Ireland. From the third Wheaten litter that was born in Finland Geijes Wheaten Crecora moved in to our family 1966.

Together with my sister Mia we continued breeding kennel Geijes, she Kerry Blues and I Wheatens. I had my first litter in 1986 my goal has never been to breed a large amount of dogs or choose combinations to get show dogs.

I don't remember a day without a Wheaten in the house, here I am over 50 years later still the same lines running around me.

- That is perhaps the reason why, I personally, have never felt the need to hide any aspect of my breeding because I've always put the future of the breed first.

- It's become my life's work to preserve the breed for future generations to enjoy.

In the early 80s I was a kennel girl for 2 summers in Germany, I saw the beginning of all European Wheatens. I also heard the very first time that a litter had been born with blind puppies. I was told that there was just one puppy with normal eyes. It was speculated that the puppies had not been raised in the best environment. This healthy dog later got lovely healthy puppies. Since then I have had it in my mind what caused it!

My grandmother never mentioned anything about any eye diseases in Wheatens. Back then, we didn't have the same resources as today.

About 10 years later in 1990's a litter with abnormal eyes was born in Finland. I saw it with my own eyes for the first time. I will never forget the puppies running against me. They were as happy as all the others but it was heartbreaking to see them.

About the same time there were other litters in Europe. Again came the thoughts of what can it be. Many of us cooperated to try to figure out what the reason was. Was it collie eye, pesticides, what you put on fields? Rat poison, some sort of parasite, some incompatible medicine. Also some disease from cats was discussed/considered! Checking pedigrees made no sense, they were so different.

There was no Google or other easy way to find out things by yourself. At that time I worked with people who had special needs and at my work we had a library with a lot of books about hereditary diseases where I spent a lot of time. My opinion was that it was hereditary and it was microphthalmia. But quite naturally few believed the same.

None of the veterinarians had a clue what it was, they were very interested to find out but unfortunately without result. But with eye checking you could see what major defects or completely blind dogs it could be. So they told us to test eyes before 9 week of age. After the age of 9 weeks the pigmentation will cover some defects





20 years later I decided back then that if this ever happened to me, I would not keep quiet about it, and I would do everything I could to find out what the reason behind it was.

I can tell you that waiting for the eyes to open in every litter was a nightmare and sleepless nights for me since that litter. Now, in retrospect, I know that I have had litters with high risk. But because I usually only have one litter per bitch, I've been lucky that none of the males have been carriers that I used with females that could have given me sick puppies.

I also listened to the vets so I have had my litters eye tested before 9 weeks, unofficial but done. It showed later that this resulted in the gene being found. Then 21.5.2011 my sick litter was born. This litter with 3+3 puppies made a huge change for me in many respects. My puppies in the litter were normal size. The litter was born with cesarean and I almost lost the bitch. First days were hellish. But finally all turned well for the bitch and the puppies. All puppies grew normally and everything looked well. I could have explained the abnormal eyes because of all troubles and medicine, but I knew it wasn't the case. I had it in my whelping box for the first time. When the puppies were 3 weeks I went for the first time to the eye specialist vet. He thought I over reacted, the puppies will be great pet dogs. I breed pet/home dogs but they have to be healthy and of good quality. I said this is not normal. He said if you want to check come again when they are 6 weeks.

No one who visited the puppies saw that anything was wrong until I told them. That also tells how easy a very slight version of this disease may have slipped past. I once visited a kennel with puppies and that breeder had no idea that the puppies had some eye problems. She was actually very angry at me for telling such rubbish. As recently as 2021, a sick litter was born with an established breeder. The breeder did not recognize it; I had my suspicions from pictures of the puppies, which later turned out to be correct. I really hope this shows the importance to test every dog before breeding.



I knew when I left home when they were 6 weeks that I will just have 3 back home. Eye examination showed that 3 were normal and 3 were almost or already blind with many eye problems microphthalmia and coloboma. Why I didn't keep the 3 was that I also knew that microphthalmia can have other serious diseases on various organs. I discussed with the vet what to do that so we don't lose the genetic information from these sick puppies. I had heard about 20 litters at that time. 2011 the Lohi:s Canine genetic studies had just begun in Helsinki. We took blood samples and they were sent to them. I personally contacted Lohi the next day with my story and actually got a response. I told them what I knew, and they became interested in the issue. Then my regular contact with Lohi started for 7 years, first with researcher Saija Ahonen and then with researcher Maria Kaukonen. I'm sure I tried her patience, when I kept contacting her whenever I found something indicative of the illness. I had done my own studies, often they were completely unofficial but at Lohi they believed in my statements because I was so open about all diseases and I had so long experience of the breed.

I've gathered pedigrees and managed to convince people to join the project. I've organized blood sample days. I've written dozens of emails, and played detective whenever I've found some interesting pictures, FB was a good place to look for them. It was not easy; I have heard the most different excuses why breeders' couldn't take part of it. I also heard that they were not interested to help (in helping?) me with my dogs and breeding. I contacted clubs and breeders in many countries, but the interest was quite uninterested.





During this project I received messages from Wheaten owners asking for advice, they believed their dog had it. I also received pedigrees and some pictures, and I was convinced that there were more cases like this. But, as in earlier cases, the breeders were refusing to believe that it is an inherited illness. At this time I already knew that the RBP4 gene was found. But it was top secret.

The 30 of May 2018 was release day for the research it was made by Canine Genetics Research Group at the University of Helsinki, Finland. The test was for the congenital eye disease mutation.

Samples from almost 300 Wheaten Terriers were included from around the world, there were 20 affected puppies from four litters.

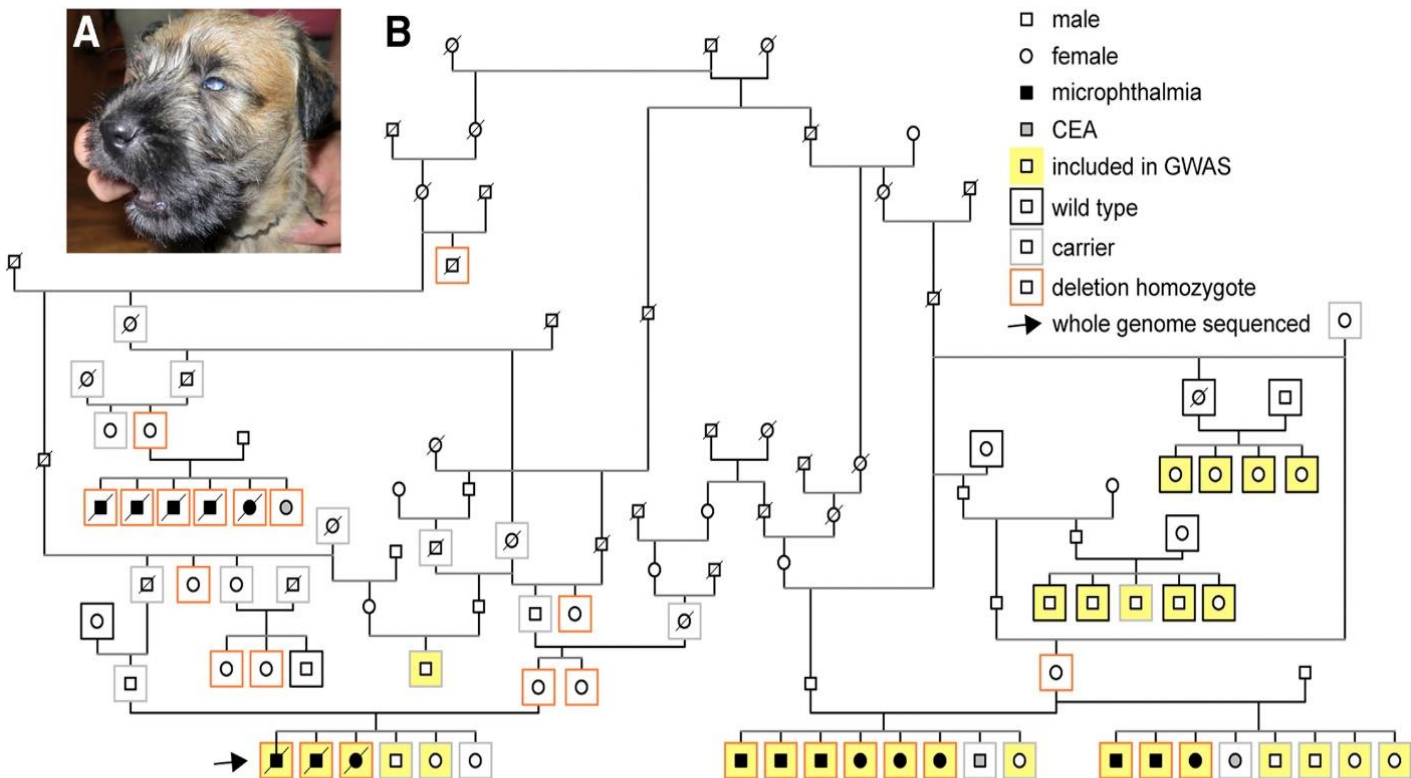
Disease is caused by a mutation in the RBP4 gene and 22% of the tested Wheaten Terriers carried the mutation.

RBP4 encodes a protein that delivers vitamin A from hepatic to other organs. During pregnancy, the mother's vitamin A is transported with RBP through placenta to the developing puppy. Because of the mutation the result is that puppies suffer from vitamin A deficiency, which is a well-known risk factor for developmental diseases. It cannot be cured by feeding vitamin A supplement, as the affected dogs do not have the crucial carrier protein to transfer dietary vitamin A.

NEW MATERNAL INHERITANCE MODEL

It was found that the disease shows only if both the dam and the puppy have two defective gene copies! In other words were homozygous for the mutation. Inheritance is therefore autosomal recessive with special maternal effect.

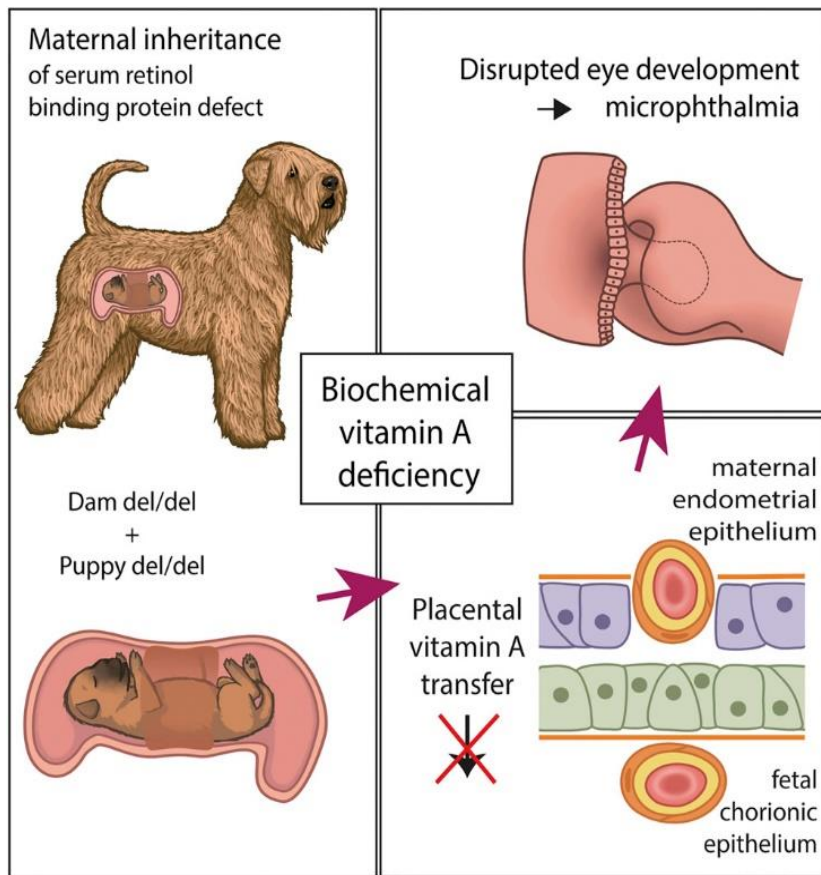
This kind of maternal inheritance differs from the usual recessive mode of inheritance, in which the individual's own genes define its risk for hereditary diseases. If the dam was homozygous for the mutation and the puppy was a carrier, the puppies had increased risk for milder form of the disease (coloboma or choroideal hypoplasia), but they did not have microphthalmia and they were not blind. Therefore, the dam's genes define whether the puppy will be affected and the puppy's own genes how severe disease it will have.



They tell us to do as following in our breeding program: Because of the mode of inheritance, a homozygous dam should not be used for breeding, even if it was healthy in eye examination as its puppies would have increased risk for congenital eye disease. If the dog from this combination is genetically affected, but it is free of the eye disease, its dam has most probably been carrier of the mutation and not homozygous



In this case the gene is found in our breed and we should not leave out the carriers because that would reduce the gene pool even more. This has been my greatest achievement as a breeder. I'm sure I'll never achieve anything like this again in my breeding career. With breeding dogs I helped to find out a gene to help humanity and of course our own breed. That it happens to be a disease with a new material inheritance model was extra exciting. I remember when Maria called me and said: tomorrow it will be published as a world success on the cover of an international journal.



I have made it possible to use carriers in breeding, I did not expect such a thank you that I got. The father of my sick litter was used in total secret a short time after the gene was found. I have an agreement that I want to know if Geijes dogs are asked for breeding. I hope and suppose that every breeder wants to know who would like to use one's breeding. My story is evidence that a breeder has information that cannot always be directly informed.

Visit the Dog Genetics Research group of Hannes Lohi
<https://www.koirangeenit.fi/english/>

Information on testing below hyper links <https://laboklin.com/en/vetinfo/genetic-testing/>

<https://mydogdna.com/>

Aya Lundsten

Finland

Kennel Geijes





Dog Crates, Heaven or Hell, Safe Haven or Prison Cell?

The use of dog crates/cages can be a touchy subject. The subject can spark a conversation of lot's of different opinions ranging from a "dog crates can be the most important thing you buy for your pup" to "it is cruel to put your dog in a cage". So whether you think a dog crate is a safe haven or a prison cell the question you need to ask yourself is what is best for your dog?

It is my opinion that dog crates are vital for your dog's welfare and if introduced correctly to your pup it can in fact become one of your dog's favorite places. Your bed or sofa excluded obviously.

I am a dog lover all my life and I am a firm believer that your dog is not just a pet but a member of the family. So why the advocating for the use of dog crates, why would I want to put my precious pup (family member) into a cage I hear you ask.

My background is that I am in my 17th year as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Dublin Fire Brigade which runs a dual fire and EMS (Emergency Medical Service) in Dublin City. That means one day I am on a fire engine and the next day I am on an ambulance. So as you can imagine I have seen a lot in my time, small fires, big fires and everything from a sore toe to delivering babies to fatal accidents. If you put a dog in the mix incidents are naturally more complicated. Nobody plans to have an accident or emergency it just happens. Firstly let's talk about your car, if you have a crate in your car and you put your pup in the crate and take them on a small journey at first to a fun place "the park etc." with lots of praise and play and positive reinforcement the pup will soon associate the car crate with fun family days out. This crate in the car is now a happy safe place for your dog because if you do have an accident it is in the crate protected. If you need to be brought to hospital the dog is safe in the crate for the Guards to take into their protection. However if you think my little dog doesn't need a crate and can be held in the car or even worse sit on the passenger seat, please consider this. Your dog is now a distraction, the dog sees something that excites it, you get distracted and crash the car. The best you could hope for is a small low speed rear end collision which results in no injury, minor body damage to your car and the other car involved, the obvious inconvenience of getting the car fixed and maybe an increase on your insurance policy (if even valid with an unrestrained pet in the vehicle). Or worst case you get distracted by your beloved canine passenger and collide with a pedestrian, cyclist or fatally injuring a child. Need I say more. Now let's consider a high-speed collision on a motorway. If your dog is not in a crate, your dog now becomes a projectile to be launched around your vehicle or ejected from your vehicle. You may as well be driving around with a concrete block on the back seat. Your dog could now fatally injure you, your children or any one in your car. If you need to be extricated from the vehicle or need urgent medical attention, your dog protecting you in the car is going to delay this. The other scenario is that you are trapped or unconscious and your dog leaves the car and starts running scared around the motorway. Your dog will probably be run over and killed or cause a fatal accident.

Now let's think about the value of a dog crate in the home. If like me you believe your dog should have the freedom of the house and the comfiest bed possible you might think you don't need a crate in the house. But consider this I have entered thousands of people's homes to give emergency medical treatment only to be greeted by the family dog, some friendly, some not so friendly it's not the dogs fault it's scared and protecting its owner. Usually the dog is put out in the back garden in the cold and the rain. Wouldn't it be better if the dog could be put in it's crate where it feels safe and if you need to be brought to hospital would you not feel better knowing your dog was safe inside. We must also consider if your house went on fire your dog would naturally look for you, but if they couldn't get to you they will hide. They will be scared, hearing noises and seeing things they have never experienced before. In my experience they will hide under a bed, in a wardrobe, under clothes, cushions or children's teddy's. But if they had a crate near the back door that they associated as their safe happy place that is where they would go, easy to find and ultimately easy to rescue. The crate in the house should be a happy place for your dog and as a pup if you spend time with your pup at the crate playing or giving extra long tummy rubs etc., your pup will enjoy the crate and see it as its own space to enjoy. Please note that the crate in the house should never be used as a punishment as you can very easily undo all the good work you have done to make your dog accept the crate as a happy safe place.

Thank you for listening to my experience on this matter and it is only my opinion that dog crates are essential to keep your dog safe. The dog's welfare and safety is all that matters. I hope this helps in your decision when you ask yourself the question Dog crates are they Heaven or Hell, a safe haven or a prison cell?

Kind Regards,

Simon Tobin





Your Dog and the Autumn/Winter



While puppies with their inquisitive nature will chew on leaves, twigs and nuts, it is rare for dogs to be adversely affected by plants in the garden. However, there are some that may be toxic and cause harm if ingested.



Chestnuts and Acorns

Acorns, the fruits of the oak tree, may be poisonous if a large quantity is eaten by your dog, causing vomiting, diarrhoea and drowsiness. The kidneys may be affected with symptoms appearing after several days.

We love walking our dogs in the woods and collecting chestnuts at this time of year. However, don't let your dog chew them as they can cause gastrointestinal upset or choking due to their size.



Fungi

Some fungi are edible, while others are extremely poisonous, and unfortunately it is not always easy to tell the difference between the two unless you are an expert. Toxic effects include vomiting, neurological disorder, organ failure, and sometimes death. Symptoms can be rapid or take several days to weeks to appear.

Holly and Ivy

While holly with its prickly leaves is unlikely to be eaten, the berries can cause vomiting and diarrhoea.

The common ivy plant may cause gastrointestinal issues if ingested. The leaves and stems can also cause allergic contact dermatitis





The Cherry Family

If the stones of cherries, plums or damsons are chewed and swallowed, it can have serious consequences as the kernels of these fruits contain cyanide. Stones swallowed whole are less toxic but may still cause a gastric upset or obstruction.

Fireworks at New Years Eve

Apart from the stress to your dog caused by the noise of fireworks, old or spent fireworks contain hazardous chemicals. Check your garden around this time for any fireworks that may have landed there.



Hellebores/Christmas Rose

These beautiful flowered plants can be poisonous to dogs if eaten in large quantities.

Mistletoe

While your pet is unlikely to ingest this plant while it is growing on its host tree, when we bring it in to the house at Christmas it could cause a gastric upset if eaten and the berries can be fatal to puppies. So don't kiss your dog under it!



Spring bulbs

Autumn and early winter is the season for planting spring bulbs such as daffodils, crocus and tulips. However, many people don't realise that these bulbs can be toxic to dogs. Daffodils in particular can cause vomiting, drowsiness and in some cases fits and heart issues. When planting, make sure to either keep your dog out of reach, or keep the bulbs in a sealed container.

Happy gardening!





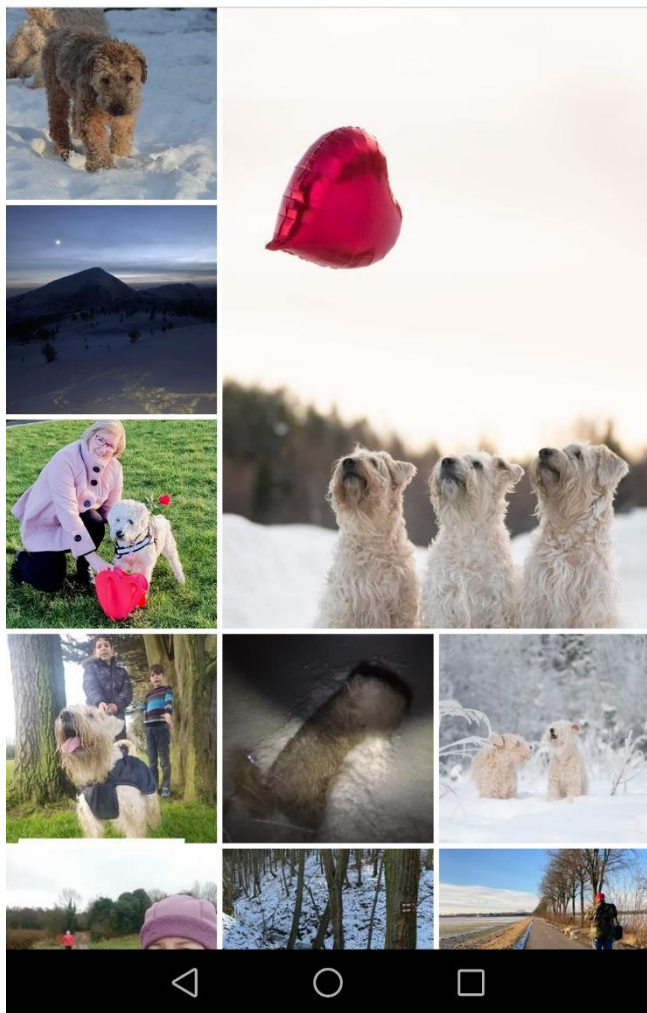
Virtual Wheaten Valentine Walk

Ireland has been in lockdown or some form of restrictions since early 2020. As I am writing this now in September 2021, we are beginning to return to a more normal life. However with all dog shows cancelled since March 2020 and no opportunity to meet up at our shows, also due to government restrictions we were not allowed to meet up in groups which meant our walks were not possible this year either. So I thought a nice way for us to keep in touch in some form was to create an event that we could partake in online using Facebook as a medium. With over 2.4k members it is a very active club page so we created the Virtual Wheaten Valentine Walk where we asked everybody to walk at 1pm their local time and wear something red or pink and post their photos. We had a huge reaction. It was really lovely to see everyone's photos and comments which are still available to see in the events section of our Facebook page. Especially as they came in from all over the world so they ranged from sunny beach shots to snowy shots, and a few rainy ones too. Huge thank you to Brid Brophy who put together all the photo collages. Hopefully if people are interested it will become an annual event and I hope you enjoy looking at the photos as much as I did.

A couple of open or breed shows have now taken place in Ireland in the last couple of weeks. The IKC are running the first championship show in Navan in November. It will be run over 2 days to keep the numbers low. Looking forward to being able to welcome people back to the Wheaten Club Show 2022 which will be held in conjunction with Bray and District on 2nd July.

vodafone IE 80% 12:19

← Valentine Wheaten Virtual Walk



vodafone IE 80% 12:21

← Valentine Wheaten Virtual Walk



The Wheaten Academy Awards



Wheaten Terrier Club of Ireland

On behalf of the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club, I would like to thank everyone who submitted movie clips featuring their wheaten stars for this inaugural Wheaten Academy Awards. We would have loved to have given everyone an award. But with very difficult decisions to make, the judges have finally made up their minds and at 8 pm tonight, will be announcing the Wheaten Academy Award winners in the 10 following categories: Best Picture; Best Director; Best Cinematography; Best Script; Best Action Movie; Best Comedy; Best Clip to Music; Best Wheaten Actor; Best Supporting Actor; Best Little Rising Star. Thanks again to all who participated - it was great fun to see all the clips!

<https://youtu.be/OZKdNmJ3h2E>

The 1st Annual
Wheaten
Academy
Awards



Best Picture - Alix Paul

The 1st Annual
Wheaten
Academy
Awards



Best Director - Petra Erdmann

The 1st Annual
Wheaten
Academy
Awards



Best Cinematography
Rachel Hickey

The 1st Annual
Wheaten
Academy
Awards



Best Script - Margaret Fox

The 1st Annual
Wheaten
Academy
Awards



Best Action Movie
Tiina Helena Salmivuori

The 1st Annual
Wheaten
Academy
Awards



Best Comedy
Dagmar L. Jones Jr.



The 1st Annual

Wheaten Academy Awards



Best Clip to Music
Barbro Risberg

The 1st Annual

Wheaten Academy Awards



Best Wheaten Actor
Karolina Pudas Lindqvist

The 1st Annual

Wheaten Academy Awards



Best Supporting Actor
Ingrid Thorbjornsrud

The 1st Annual

Wheaten Academy Awards



Best Little Rising Star
Wheaten Barn



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What you see



What a reactive dog sees

"It's okay... he's friendly!"

No. It's not okay. If you see a dog on a leash - call your dog away.

If your off-lead dog doesn't have good enough recall to be called away from an on-leash dog - don't let them off and take the time to train them.

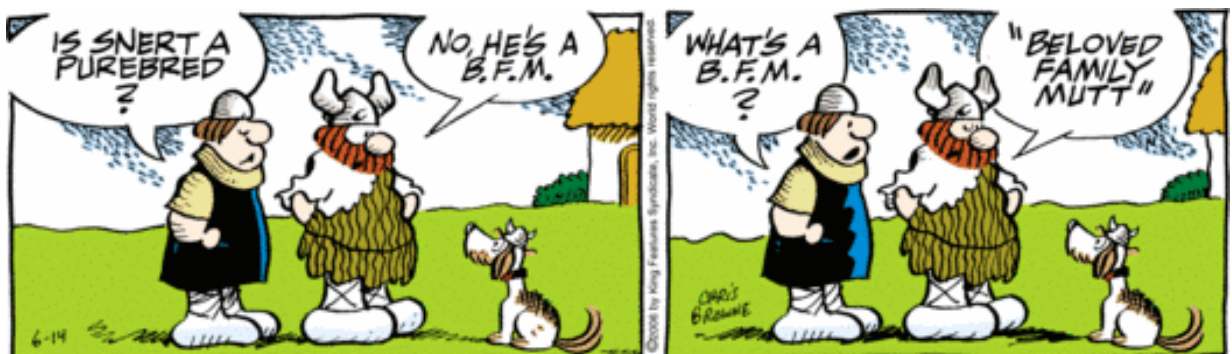
Please think about the other dogs, not just your own.

Dogs can be on-leash for all sorts of reasons, not just because they are fearful of other dogs. Some reasons to recall your dog away:

- recovering from surgery
- elderly / sick
- restricted exercise
- poor recall
- new rescue dog
- young puppy

Protect your dog: dogs who have poor recall can get into all sorts of trouble. If your dog is bitten (even just once) this could lead to your own dog becoming fearful.

If you need help, send us a message @





Richard Dalton, Dalstar



Ch & GB Ch Feanaro Niallan Naomhain

Ch & GB Ch Fëanáro Niallán Naomhán, Crufts BOB 2010

Thank you for the opportunity to do this interview, I do not consider myself a breeder as I have only bred a handful of litters over the years I have been involved in the breed.

1. What fascinated you most about the ISCWT? For how many years have you been dealing with the breed? Are wheatens your original breed?

My Dad had a wheaten when he was a child, who he got from a family relative Bertie Byrne. My Dad who is a "non doggy person" would always speak about this dog called Rowdy and the antics he would get up to with him.

After years of pestering my parents, I finally got my first wheaten in 1991. Ballyfoyle Rust (Briankeen Jr x Brayson Betty) bred by Tommy Conway. Later joined by Ardymon Kelly (Newkilber Gypsy Baron x Ch Ballysax Bon Bomie) bred by Art O'Neill and Ch Ballysax Bogue (Holmenocks Harper x Ballysax Begley), bred by Anna Butler. I would have been active on the show scene up to around 1999 with my own dogs or handling for Eithne Brady and Kirsty Reid.

Due to work commitments I took a break from showing and breeding until 2006, Ch Feanaro Niallan Naomhain arrived in 2007 and later joined by Ch Fëanáro Rionagh Tegwin (Ch Geijes Teanaro Finnen x Fëanáro Luraiche Luth Cliodhna)

Wheatens are my first breed. They were later joined by Kerry Blues in 2006.



Ch & GB Ch Fëanáro Niallán Naomhán





Ch Fëanáro Rionagh Tegwin

2 What do you think is the best Wheaten you have owned or have bred?

This would have to be Ch & GB Ch Feanaro Niallan Naomhain (Ch Camacha Nevan x Ch Feanaro Inishannon Dervla) bred by Marianne Baas Becking in The Netherlands. Known as Nevan junior (as his father was also called Nevan), he has over 50 best of breeds at championship level in Ireland, Crufts best of breed winner 2010. Terrier group wins and champion stakes winner. He was a born showman. He was quite a difficult dog to show, as he had so much enthusiasm, power and energy. At shows I would always arrive early and spend up to half an hour running around an empty show ring with him trying to burn off his energy before competing in the ring later in the morning. His Crufts BOB critique by judge Zena Thorn Andrews I think describes his temperament really well: "Smashing dog, a real 'here I am' & 'what are you going to give me'. Super for size, proportions of head, ears, neck & front all first class, great coat, great mover & what an attitude. CC & BOB"



Ch & GB Ch Fëanáro Niallán Naomhán





Ch Dalstar True Grit



Dalstar Avatar at 12 months old





Ch Dalstar Giselle 6 months



Am Ch Dalstar Ace Ventura as a puppy



3 Apart from the wheatens you were dealing with, which 2 or 3 wheatens would you describe as the best you saw and why?

NL Ch Camacha Nevan, (bred by Rob and Monique Hubner) also his son NL Ch Camacha Gildray Naoimh, who I gave Best of Breed to at the wheaten club show in the Netherlands 2015. Both these dogs in my opinion ooze breed type, excellent structure, with fantastic movement.



NL Ch Camacha Gildray Naoimh

Dogs from the past that impressed me, were Ch Ballysax Bertie, his daughters Ch Brayson Briony & Ch Maroc Dara. Holmenocks Hofftoff & Killykeen Sandyman.

4 Which kennel inside and outside the breed impressed you and why?

The kennel which has impressed me most is the the Edbrios kerry blue kennel of Philip O'Brien and Jarka Poulouva. They have consistently produced top quality dogs that have had huge success all over the world. They are good friends of mine and I have seen at first hand the hard work and dedication they have put into their breed.

5. If you could just put a dog from the past into your breeding program, what would that be and why?

I am going to name a few.

Geijes Kilmore, bred by Aya Lundsten in Finland. unfortunately never got to see him in the flesh, (seen videos of him) he was held in very high regard by people whose opinion I value. Years ago Maureen Holmes sent me a photograph of him with the words, "this is what you have to aim to produce". His type is what I try to produce in my own breeding.



Geijes Kilmore

Another dog is Kdara Fancy, from seeing his offspring, he consistently produced excellent offspring. He really excelled as a stud dog.

Camacha Nevan, bred by Rob & Monique Hubner in the Netherlands, this dog has produced some very top quality offspring and has done so to different lines. I think his true value as a stud dog was not realised by other breeders.



Camacha Nevan



6. Who was your biggest mentor?

I am lucky to have had more than one Mentor.

Maureen Holmes. I spent countless hours visiting her or speaking on the phone and learning about the breed. Her enthusiasm for the breed rubbed off on me. I am always grateful that she took the time to answer my countless questions about the breed and dogs of the past.

Another mentor is Marianne Baas Becking (Feanaro). I was given a Dutch Wheaten club newsletter by Maureen Holmes, and she had a hand written note beside each of the breeders advertisement e.g. good, bad etc. Beside the Feanaro advertisement she has one word "lovely". Years later I contacted Marianne to get a puppy. We would have had email contact nearly on a daily basis until she passed in 2014.

Another mentor(s) is Philip O'Brien and Jarka Poulova (Edbrios Kerry Blues). I thought I knew about dogs and showing them until I met Philip and Jarka. Philip taught me all about preparation, presentation and training for the show ring. I would not have had one quarter of the success in the show ring with my Wheatens and Kerry Blues without the help and guidance of Philip and Jarka. Their advice and opinions are greatly appreciated when assessing litters, I think to have this from people who are knowledgeable about the breed but not emotionally attached is priceless.

7. Ever since you started the Wheaten, have you seen many changes in the breed?

In Ireland, generally, type has not changed. We have far less breeders now in Ireland than there were when I started with the breed. I worry for the future of the breed here in Ireland.



Ch Dalstar True Grit

8. Has the quality deteriorated or improved since you became involved in the breed?

I find that quality comes and goes in cycles, the quality had improved for a number of years, with the BOB's being competitive in the terrier group. I think in the last couple of years (prior to COVID) the quality has reduced somewhat. We are not a large numerical breed in Ireland and only have a handful of breeders. We need to encourage new owners and breeders to get involved.



9. In your opinion, what is the biggest hurdle for the breed?

I think the biggest hurdle facing the breed is from the judges that do not judge to the standard and put up incorrect type, they seem to want a generic terrier, long narrow head, long neck, short back with over angulated rear end with an incorrect coat that can be stylised to cover up structural faults.

Another seems to be the words "Irish Coat" and "heavy Coat", which I see being used purposely by some breeders within the breed. This gives the impression to the uneducated in the breed or outside the breed that there are different coat types. I have heard breeders say that they like "both coat types". This is wrong, there is no such thing as an "Irish Coat" or a "heavy Coat". It is either correct or incorrect. You will have various degrees of quality to the correct coat.

I don't understand why breeders will take a breed and actively try and change it and ignore the standard. Wheatens are not a kennel dog and breeders are limited to the amount of dogs they can keep, so you could be unlucky and end up with something when it matures that might not be as close to the standard as you would like, but that is where the art of breeding comes into play, to breed away from this and to get back to as close to the standard as possible. Why breed actively for something that doesn't fit any breed standard?

10. What needs to be done to protect the breed in the future?

To protect this breed, we really need to educate the judges. These are the people that will "shape" the breed going into the future. What wins in the show ring, usually dictates what happens in the (majority) of whelping boxes.

Breeders need to breed to the correct standard, in some countries around the world that is a lonely road to take. We as breeders need to evaluate our breeding stock honestly. We all need to improve the quality of our dogs, to improve the overall dog and not to breed for specific points to the detriment to the rest of the dog. Breed dogs of such quality (with correct breed type), train and prepare them for the ring, so that judges have no choice but to award them the top prizes.



A son of Ch & GB Ch Fëanáro Niallán Naomhám,
NO Ch & FI Ch Ballinvounig Charowleen (Murphy), 9 years old,
(Ch & GB Ch Fëanáro Niallán Naomhám x Ch Ballinvounig Bonne Chance)
was BOS for judge Frank Kane, GB,
at an International show in Norway in October 2021



Wheaten walk in Trim

After an extended break due to Covid and strict restrictions in Ireland, we finally met up with our Wheaten friends again for a walk on 25th October in Trim, Co. Meath to do the Newtown Abbey Loop Walk. It was well attended especially given the circumstances and it was great to see our old Wheaten friends and even welcome some new ones too. We had great weather as you can see from the photos. It really is a lovely time of year to walk in Ireland and I would highly recommend this walk in the shadows of Trim Castle. I am sure we will be back for another walk there. I would like to thank everyone who came along on the day.



Wheaten walk in December



Traditionally, we would have had a walk at Castletown House and its Christmas market. Unfortunately, they weren't running a market this year so the search was on to find an alternative. For many of the markets it was uncertain if they were going ahead. I happened to come across a market in Carlow which was held in Lisnavagh House and Gardens. We arrived again to another dry day but with a crisp chill in the air. We were a small group this time including a couple who were researching the breed to see if it would be a suitable dog for their family. It was great that they could meet some Wheatens and even get the opportunity to walk one. After the walk, we enjoyed hot drinks and cake around the fire pit. It was a very sociable day and thank you to all who attended.





A trick – and some stories to go with it.

I guess we all have experienced that when our beloved Wheaten is in the period of changing from baby teeth to normal teeth, they gnaw on everything. And that can be a bit irritating at times!

The first time I experienced this, was when I got Charlie. When he came to that age, he did put his bite on to the legs of my kitchen chairs. They were made out of wood, and to him the perfect gnawing sticks! I tried many things to get him off this habit, and spent quite a bit of money on sprays, etc. that should stop this habit. All in vain! I never managed to catch him in the act, but every time I came into the kitchen, there were a pile of small splinters by the chairs. As if a beaver had been on work there! And he was in his bed, looking at me with innocent eyes!

Then I put my thinking hat on, and had a close look into my cupboard. There I found some very strong Chilli oil. (3 drops in 1 liter of soup, and you really feel it)! Then I found some strong Cayenne pepper. I took these two ingredients and mixed them to a thin paste. Then I smeared a little bit of this stuff on each chair leg. Charlie came into the kitchen and just SNIFFED one leg once. He did not lick it, just sniffed it turned around and went. After that, I had no problems with gnawing on chair legs! He never touched the legs again!

Some years later, he and me where visiting my previous breeder. Someone was sitting in a rocking chair, and Charlie got the very tip of his tail under the glider. He yelled out, and blood started to come from the tip of his tail. We tried to calm him down, and he started to wag his tail. This resulted in a splatter of blood in the ceiling! We eventually managed to stop the blood, and put on a bandage. Some days after, when we were back home, I changed the bandage. That went well, and I went for a nap after dinner. When I woke up, I had a dog with a 2-meter long tail! His natural tail plus the gas bandage, which still where attached with one end to his tail by some Band-Aid. I put a new bandage on his tail, mixed up my special paste again, and put a little bit of it on the bandage on the tail. He sniffed it once, and never touched the bandage again until the wound was totally healed!

When I got Owain some years later, he started to be literary interested when he came to that particular age. He started to gnaw on the back of books in the bookshelf! I did not fancy this, so I mixed up the paste again, and put it on pieces of paper, hanging down on the books in the lower shelf. One sniff, and books were not of interest anymore!

When Séamus came to my house, and was in that particular age, he got a gnawing interest in the legs of a chest of drawers. Once again, I made the paste and put some of it on its legs. One sniff, and that was of no interest anymore!

I have told this trick to a number of friends that have had puppies with a gnawing interest on furniture. And they have tried it, and had success with it.

Therefore, if your puppy is starting to gnaw on things you don't want it to gnaw on, take strong Chilli oil and mix it with Cayenne pepper to a thin paste. Put a bit of this on to the thing, and it will be of no interest to the puppy anymore!

Kaare Hegrum, Norway





At the local vet.

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE

CAUSE IF ALL THE DOCTORS
AND NURSES GET SICK, IT
WILL BE US VETS AND VET
NURSES WHO HAVE TO LOOK
AFTER YOU.

AND YOU KNOW HOW WE
TAKE TEMPERATURES, RIGHT
!!

WISHING GOOD HEALTH TO ALL OUR CLIENTS
AND THEIR FAMILIES.

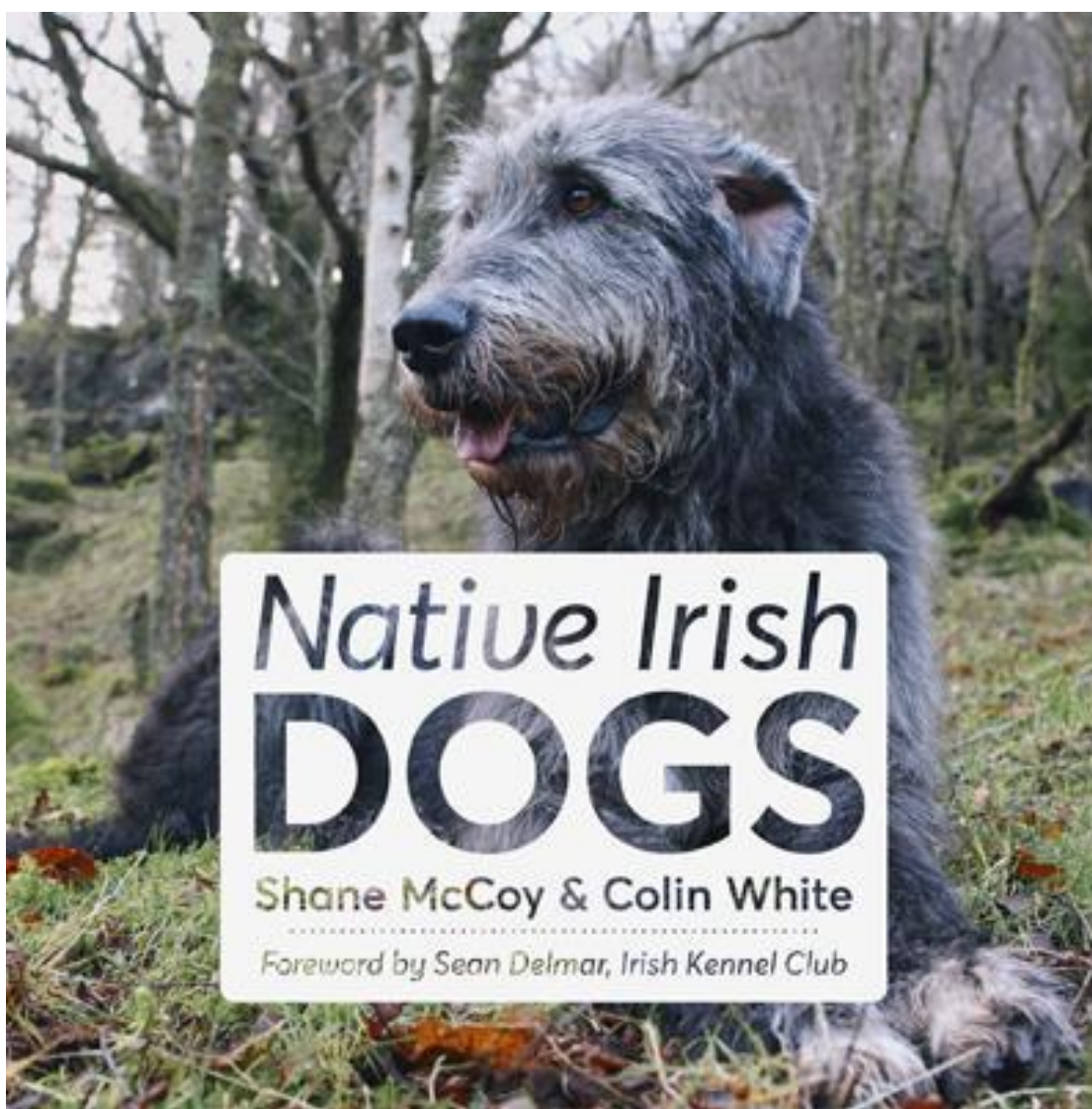


Tail Ends

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/>

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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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