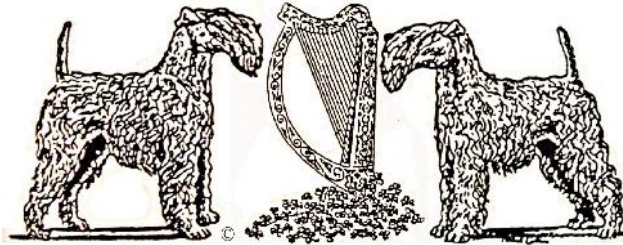


Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club Of Ireland

THE WHEATEN NEWS



Newsletter
May 2016 ©

Annual Champion For 2015



Photo courtesy of Jean Lawless of Our Dogs Ireland

The Annual Champion Award for Top Wheaten from the Irish Kennel Club was awarded to Kris, CH Hobel La Nollag An Ch 15 & 14, CW-15, CJW11, Jun Ch owned and bred by Deborah Evans-Barry

In the Dr Clauder's 2015 Top Breeder Challenge, Deborah was awarded Top Breeder for the fourth consecutive year.

Secretary's Corner



Hello Everyone.

I am delighted to be writing another report for our newsletter. A huge thank you to Deborah who compiles it and gives it such a professional look and to our editor Eileen, who oversees the content and puts articles together for us. As you can see from this bumper edition we have been very busy. There is a real excitement around the Native Breeds in Ireland at the moment. December saw the book launch of Native Irish Dogs by Shane McCoy and Colin White. This is a lovely picture book which features many dogs belonging to our Club members. The book has been a huge success and another great record of the quality of the Native Irish Breeds in Ireland at the moment.

Huge thanks to the committee and members for their continued support of the Club, it is much appreciated. Our Facebook page is very active with nearly 700 members and regular photos of lively Wheatens being posted from all over the world.

Jennifer Kealy
Honorary Secretary

Editor's Notes

Happy Spring Everyone!

How lovely to see all the Spring flowers and blossom enjoying the warmth of the sun but evenings are still quite chilly. Now the first buds and flowers of Summer are appearing. My dogs are now coming inside with green feet from the mown grass but a much nicer problem to have than wet mud and rain!

We held our Annual Championship Show in May and results and photos will be included in our next issue, so watch this space!

A little reminder please if you would like to see the Newsletter continuing, as mentioned before in previous Newsletters, we NEED your contributions! Any article no matter how small is very much appreciated. Thank you to those who have already sent articles for inclusion.

Our cover for this edition features Maureen Holmes and is very pertinent this year as it marks 20 years since her passing. A lovely photograph of her complete with her beloved Wheatens is a fitting tribute to a lady who really put Wheatens on the map in Ireland.

Enjoy the nicer weather and milder temperatures and may I take this opportunity to wish all our readers good luck at shows and safe travelling wherever you may venture. Have a lovely Summer.

Eileen
Editor



Susan Kealy, our Chairperson, manning the Wheaten stand at the Pet Expo held in March at the Show Grounds in Dublin with Reesha and daughter Nutmeg

Wheaten Walk

Jackie Cunningham kindly organised a Wheaten Walk in the north of the country at Crawfordsburn Country Park on Sunday 24th April. The weather was kind with the sun shining although a little chilly. Many thanks to Jackie for organising this and for the lovely wheaten cup cakes.



Hotel Inquiry

I think every human should get a chance to read this!!!!



"Dogs Welcome"

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a Midwest town he planned to visit on his vacation.

He wrote:

“I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well-groomed and very well behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?”

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who wrote:

“Sir, I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly. And I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill.

Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel. And, if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too.”



Be Aware

I have recently heard of a mystery illness causing major problems in various parts of England.

Experts think the disease is similar to Alabama Rot. Alabama Rot is the common name for "diopathic renal glomerular vasculopathy"

As Wheatens have, in their history, some renal related issues, I think it is important for owners to be extra vigilant if any of the symptoms appear. It is a disease of the blood vessels that can lead to cell death and affect the dog's skin and kidneys. Initial common symptoms are loss of appetite, becoming unusually quiet and lethargic and vomiting. It is believed to be caused by a rare form of E coli bacteria. Do be alert if any of the above symptoms appear. As the above is not a common occurrence it will probably be an upset stomach but better to be safe than sorry later.

What should I look out for?

The skin lesions are a symptom of the disease rather than being traumatic wounds from an injury.

Typically the skin lesions have been below the knee or elbow although they are occasionally seen on the face or bottom of the chest or abdomen.

They may present as a focal swelling, a patch of red skin or a defect in the skin (like an ulcer).

Over the subsequent 2 to 10 days the affected dog/s may develop clinical signs of kidney failure which can include vomiting, reduced appetite and tiredness.

What should I do?

If you are concerned about your dog speak to your local vet. If your dog is affected early recognition of the disease and aggressive management is likely to lead to the best outcome.

Ticks are another major problem, when out walking check your dog later for any ticks that may have jumped on board for a free meal!

Some ticks can carry a nasty disease and your dog may end up quite poorly. There is a tick carrying Babesia Canis parasite which can cause serious problems if left untreated. The parasite enters the bloodstream after feeding on the blood and invades the cells. The dog responds by trying to kill the parasite but in so doing can destroy its own blood cells thus becoming very anaemic.

These are both extreme cases and the majority of dogs will just have fun and enjoy their walks. But just pay a little more attention if your dog exhibits any unusual behaviour.

By far the easiest, safest and most effective way to remove a tick from your pet is by means of a tool called a 'tick twister.' These are small plastic picks with a claw-shaped head which slots between the body of the tick and your pet, giving you the leverage to twist the tick harmlessly and effectively out of your pet's skin in one piece. If you've ever taken your pet to the vet to have a tick removed, this is almost certainly the tool which your vet or veterinary nurse will have used. Most vets sell tick twisters over the counter, or you can order one from a variety of retailers online. It's a handy piece of kit to have in reserve!

Or, use a pair of blunt needle-nose tweezers to remove the tick. Grasp the tick as close to your pet's skin as you can- do not take hold of the body of the tick or squeeze the body, as this can kill the tick, leaving the front part of the head embedded under the skin releasing toxins. Then gently and with a consistent pressure, twist and lever the tick away from the skin. Do not apply too much force, because as mentioned, you do not want the head of the tick to break off under the skin.

Look for the 'tick twister' on EBay and Amazon or good Pet Shops



South Coast Register

Monday June 2, 2014

Aubrey is a Nowra dog making a difference

By ADAM WRIGHT

May 30, 2014, 1:54 p.m.



Therapy dog, Aubrey with owner Jeanette Grayston from North Nowra at the launch of the book *Dogs That Make A Difference*.

Aubrey, possibly the most-loved dog in the Shoalhaven, was recently included in a book.

Each week for the past three years his owner, Jeanette Grayston from North Nowra, has taken him to visit the residents of Osborne House nursing home.

Aubrey is a Delta Dog used in pet therapy, a role that suits him perfectly. Mrs Grayston, a Delta Dog volunteer, said the residents of Osborne House had each claimed Aubrey as their own.

“They all say, ‘He’s my dog’ and Aubrey loves it,” she said.

Delta Dogs must have certain qualities and a love of being close to people is one of them. They should not bark and should take food gently. They must also be able to ignore food.

“I remember the first time I took Aubrey to Osborne House, he was wandering around, going up to people and they were patting him. Then he came to a man on the lounge and jumped up next to him. I called him off and said, ‘No you can’t jump up on the furniture here’. The man said ‘That’s alright, I’m blind’. It was as if Aubrey knew the man could not see him, so he jumped up to get close to him. He loves being close to people,” Mrs Grayston said.

The Delta Society recently launched a book titled Dogs that Make a Difference.

The society asked its hundreds of volunteers around Australia to send in anecdotes about their dogs.

The book contains about 60 of those stories and one features Aubrey.

The book was launched recently in Sydney and at Dean Swift Books in Nowra on Friday. Aubrey was a special guest at the launch and turned out to be a major drawcard for the store

Diary Dates

A WEEK OF EVENTS CELEBRATING THE DOGS, PONIES AND HAWKS NATIVE TO IRELAND

This event is being hosted by the Irish Breeds Society

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:

- 12th & 13th Nov - 2 FCI International Dog Shows (Dublin)
- 12th & 13th Nov - 2 FCI International Field Trial for Pointers & Setters (Moate, Co. Westmeath)
- 13th to 16th Nov - Hawks in Co. Kerry
- 16th Nov - Connemara Ponies, Culture and Craic event in Co. Westmeath
- 17th Nov - Demonstration of Hawks and Setters working on Snipe (Moate, Co. Westmeath)
- 17th Nov - Official opening ceremony and Costumed Irish Breeds Pageant (Moate, Co. Westmeath)
- 18th Nov - Field Trial confined to Irish Red and Irish Red & White Setters
- 18th Nov - World Conference for Irish Native Dog Breeds (Moate, Co. Westmeath)
- 19th Nov - Irish Breeds Society Championship Dog Show (confined to the dog breeds of Irish origin) and celebration Dinner in The Grand Hotel, Moate, Co. Westmeath

All week there will be many touristic packets and opportunities with social and music nights and an opportunity to share your passion for the dogs, ponies and hawks.

CEAD MILE FAILTE

Recipe

Mince Beef Balls

A simple one this time, that even the children can do.

Ingredients:

Minced beef – whatever you have

1 beaten egg

Rolled oats – enough to blend in with the beef

1 teaspoon of garlic powder (optional)

To make:

To a bowl add the minced beef

Add the beaten egg and mix together

Add the oats and garlic powder

Mix well together

Take small amounts of the mixture and roll into balls

Place on a greased flat tin

Cook in the oven low for 35 to 45 minutes until hard and crunchy

Allow to cool

Store in an airtight container in the fridge

Alternatives:

Minced lamb, turkey or chicken

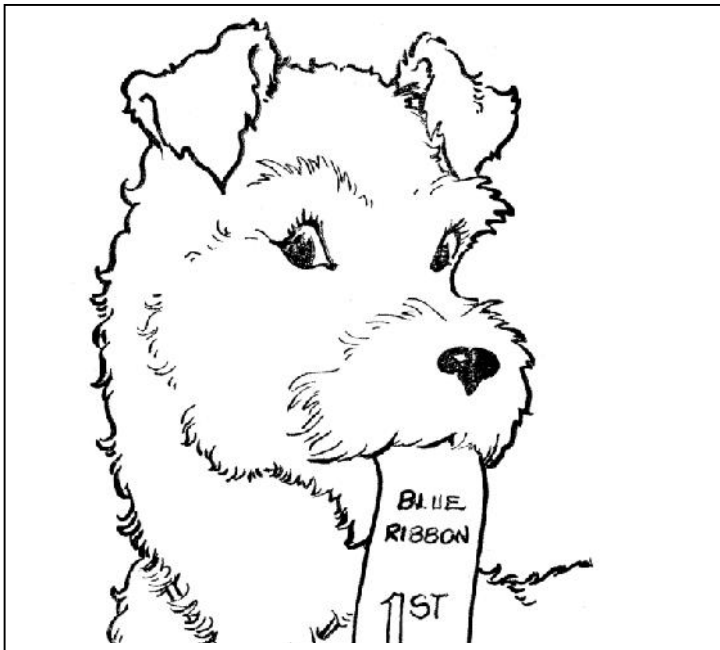
Junior Corner

I would love to hear stories about your Wheatens, pictures of your Wheatens, jokes, poems etc in fact anything you can tell us. So get your crayons, paints and pens and send me something to include in our next issue. You can email them to eilocollins@hotmail.com





Drawing by Anoushka Collins-Wrobel aged 6 years



Views From Breeders Around The World

This issue – Rob Hubner – Camacha, Holland

1. What first attracted you to ISCWT? How many years have you been involved with the breed? Are Wheatens your original breed?

After having several Jack Russells and Parson Russells, Monique wanted a breed which was more owner orientated. The Jacks were used for hunting rats, mice and wild cats so they had plenty of hunting instinct which was sometimes hard to handle in a big city as Amsterdam, where we lived at that time. So we decided to look for another terrier breed. We wanted to have a breed that was a bit more 'boss minded'. We did find the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier and gave a call to the Club for a puppy. We were lucky because the next weekend there was a Club Match (1994) in de Bilt. We went there and the first dog we saw was just what we were looking for. Nice warm colour with curls all over him. So we asked the owner who bred/owned that dog. It was Marianne Baas Becking (Feanaro Kennel). At that time she had no plans for breeding and she pointed us to Ben Rikhof whose bitch was almost ready to deliver her pups.

So we started with Bailehannah Ceara (Fenian O'Connor x Wheaten Volunteers Celtic Ceres) She was our foundation bitch. We had no clue about the brushing and combing of the wheaten so we had to travel a lot to Ben for instructions. The more we learned, the more we fell in love with the breed.

2. In your opinion which is the best wheaten owned or bred by you?

The first one that comes into my mind is Camacha Nevan (Uactaran Upon Knockmeal Down x Bailehannah Eibhilin). But his father Camacha Gildray Naoimh (Camacha Nevan x Camacha Tara) was as good as his son. These were only the male dogs. I also have a few favourites in my bitch lines. Camacha Proinnseas (Killian Brugh na Boinne x Bailehannah Eibhilin) and Camacha Zonne (Strongbow's Eamonn Diarmaid x Camacha Tara). Lately Camacha Jolijne (Camacha Gildray Naoimh x Camacha Firinne). All these dogs are excellent movers and have great quality of coat, both in colour and in structure.



NDL CH Camacha Nevan

3. Other than those you have been personally involved with, which two or three Wheatens would you describe as the best ones you have seen and why?

Easy one this question. Tim (Ballysax Berg) caught my eye at the World show in Sweden. I saw him amongst so many others and he was a real eye-catcher; a terrier all over. So much presence on that day, I fell for him. I tried to mate him to one of my bitches but that failed unfortunately. When I see his offspring, I know he is in the pedigree.

Neala from the Soft Estate of Drogheda, she was imported to Holland by Ben Rikhof. I remember most her size and body and great spring of rib and excellent pigmentation all over.

Iriana Xantos, a dog that was perhaps a bit too big but with excellent coat and temperament. I was allowed to use him twice and had great pups from him who all had the correct size.

4. What kennel within or outside of the breed has impressed you and why?

That has to be the Feanaro kennel. Marianne bred for so many years and her Wheatens still look the same after all those years. No matter if a Wheaten is trimmed or untrimmed, you can see it is one of Marianne's Wheatens. She had a clear opinion about breeding and kept to that plan.

5. If you could incorporate just one dog from the past, into your breeding programme, who would it be and why?

Well that would be difficult to pick just one out of the long row of great dogs. I think it is more important to breed from dogs that have never been used. Some lines will disappear if we don't pay enough attention to some pedigrees.

6. Who has been your greatest mentor in the breed?

There was not just one person but a few. I remember the hours I spent in the car with Louise Borst driving to Denmark, Germany and Belgium. She knows so much and I wanted to know it too. We still have long talks on the phone. Also Ben Rikhof started to inform me in the beginning (1994/1995). Later on it became easier to find information because of the internet. I also have to mention Marianne again. She had a great memory about all the dogs she had ever seen and could share all that information with you (if you wanted!). Lydia Kearney knows so much about all pedigrees. It makes me feel like I am a small child.

Together with Angelique (Aranmore kennel) we are the 'older' breeders of our new club and the new breeders start to ask for information from us. So I hope I am an inspirer for new breeders.



INT/NDL CH Camacha Proinnseas

7. Since you began in Wheatens have you seen many changes within the breed? If yes please explain.

Yes, I have seen many changes, for better and for worse. We entered the wheaten world during the big ‘discussion’ about the correct type in Holland. At that time there were several types of Wheatens. With woolly coats, black ears and beards; Wheatens with very short backs and so on. To me the ones that are/were responsible are the judges. There is only ONE Standard and judging needs to be according to the Standard, from the country of origin. But it is difficult to follow your own breeding plan if judges, not knowing anything about the breed, place untypical dogs in winning positions.

I am glad we have judges in Holland who are judging according to the Standard. Even abroad they judge this way. These judges take care of the breed. Just like we do with our breeding plans.

These judges helped the proper Irish type Wheaten breeders in Holland to preserve a good amount of dogs. We were also lucky to have several breeders, so we had a big diversity of gene pool to pick from. The quality level goes up and down. But, to me, we have overall a better quality of Wheatens than a few years ago. It is important for a breeder to believe in his breeding plan and not to be disappointed when a judge does not reward him in the show ring. It also helps to have some breeders assess your litter at 7 weeks and listen to their critiques which are helpful when keeping the best puppy out of the litter.



Camacha Mion

8. Do you believe the quality has improved or declined since you first became involved?

9. What in your opinion is the greatest hurdle that is now facing the breed?

Easy question again. We need to keep the true type, which means to me dogs that can do their job. So “fit for function” with enough bone and not too much angulation. A working terrier and not a fluffy show thing. I know that is difficult because not every dog is a dog that can win at a show. But a good breeder looks to the future and sees how his offspring develops.

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

There needs to be a strong guideline/instruction from the Irish Kennel Club to preserve their legacy. Dogs that are not according to the Standard should be penalised. Judges should be informed by the IKC not to give these dogs Green Stars or championship points.



INT/NDL CH Camacha Proinnseas - Minke

Muzzled Dogs

I picked up a flier when visiting Wexford Council Offices recently. It contains some valuable information regarding responsible dog ownership etc and I learnt more about which breeds have to wear a Muzzle when out and about. Some breeds I knew already but I was surprised that Staffordshire Bull Terriers are also included in the list!

Underneath the list of breeds is printed that this also applies to every dog known as a Ban Dog or Bandog and every other strain or cross of any breed listed above!

This applies to:

- a. American Pit Bull Terrier
- b. Bull Mastiff
- c. Doberman Pinscher
- d. English Bull Terrier
- e. German Shepherd (Alsatian)
- f. Japanese Akita
- g. Japanese Tosa
- h. Rhodesian Ridgeback
- i. Rottweiler
- j. Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Microchipping

A reminder to you all, that as of the 31st March this year it is now a legal requirement that your dog is microchipped. The microchipping must be carried out by a vet or a duly authorized person and your details must then be registered with a dog identification database. The Statute named Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015 also states that upon the passing of your dog the details of the cause of death, date and place must also be recorded.

Full details at <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/si/63/made/en/pdf>

Dogs In Society Today – Part 2

Continuing the huge benefits that owning a dog or having contact with a dog can bring. I mentioned Aubrey the Delta Dog in Australia. This is his story.

Aubrey (Aust. Ch.Ballinvounig Sunshine) was born at Killowen House, Killowen Upper, in Ireland on 4 April 2003, one of seven puppies.

Aubrey and his sister, Cozi, were quite naughty and were the first to discover the pantry! Their first toy was the lid of a jam jar, and they had lots of fun pushing it around on the stone floor. And, believe it or not, Aubrey still has that lid.

We collected Aubrey when he was nine weeks old. We spent the first day of our trip to Ireland visiting Avoca, the town where our favourite television programme, “Ballykissangel”, was filmed. We then spent a day getting to know Aubrey and had a lovely time with his family. The next morning we were up early, and after breakfast and we packed the car, ready for our journey back to Geneva, Switzerland. Graham decided to sit in the back and keep Aubrey company. Initially there were a few whimpers from Aubrey in his little carry bag, but once I put on a classical CD, it wasn't long before all I could see in the rear vision mirror, were two people fast asleep.

We took a short walk on arrival at Dublin Airport so that Aubrey could go to the toilet. But guess who did a little puddle as soon as we got to the check-in counter for our flight to Zurich? The Aer Lingus staff were wonderful and told us not to worry. A puddle was the least of their worries. Our stop-over in Zurich was short, and it wasn't long before we were landing in Geneva. When I went to get out of my seat, one of the stewards, wanting to help us with our hand baggage, picked up the little black carry bag containing Aubrey. Since all the weight went to one end of the bag, he asked what he had in it, and so we showed him Aubrey – we still have Aubrey's airline ticket and his carry bag. He was amazed that our little man hadn't uttered a sound throughout the journey. Then a Customs official quickly checked to make sure Aubrey didn't have a docked tail and then we were on our way home where Aubrey would spend the next six years of his life.

From the very beginning, Aubrey slept through the night with us and has never changed his sleeping pattern. In fact, I think sleeping is his favourite occupation, and we joke that in the mornings when we get up, he puts up a **Do Not Disturb** sign and doesn't come to life until he hears me collect my bag when we are ready to go out for his walk.

Aubrey attended obedience school once a week in a small village in the hills about 30 minutes by car from Geneva. No matter the weather – rain, wind, snow – we went to school, and Aubrey just adored his teacher Lindsay. As soon as he was allowed out of the car, he ran to Lindsay and leapt into her arms – she called him her Irish baby.



We usually had about six dogs in our class and started working off-lead after the first week. Class started with 10 minutes of playtime so that the dogs could get to know one another, and then it was time for learning. Aubrey was always full of fun and eager to learn, and he loved everyone, a quality which has endeared him to all who meet him. I recall one day when a German Shepherd called Zina who had anxiety problems came to observe our class. We were told to ignore her and her owner, and had to make sure our dogs didn't approach them. But guess who trotted off bold as brass to say hello? Zina immediately fell for Aubrey and they became great buddies, but she was frightened of all the other dogs in the class.

Aubrey was two when he started agility training. So we had a busy week: obedience on Monday afternoons and agility on Thursday afternoons.

Aubrey competed in his first agility competition in September 2005, and I was very nervous. The ground was slippery as it had been raining, and I was ready to pull out. However, our teacher said that there would not be a problem and that we could do it. All I had to do was to give Aubrey clear hand signals and remain focused.

And guess what? Aubrey came second. He was so excited that he jumped into my arms at the end of the run, and I ended up on my back in the mud, with everyone laughing and clapping. This was how the world reacted to Aubrey – with a smile.

In 2008 we left Geneva and retired to Australia. We did house-sits for nearly two years, trying to decide where to live and looking for a dog-friendly town.

Aubrey attended his first pedigree dog show in September 2011 and we decided to try to get his title. Graham helped him and was always there to support us. In March 2012 Aubrey received a 1st prize Blue Ribbon at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and then on 12 August the same year he got his Australian title.

During our travels we came across Delta Dogs, and we decided that Aubrey would make a great Delta Dog because he has coped with moving from one country to another, learning a new language and making new friends. He loved everybody. People would walk towards him with glum looks on their faces, but when they saw him, they smiled and he helped them forget their worries. He has been the rock in our lives and has helped us get through some very difficult times. He has had an amazing life, and we adore him.

So we studied hard, and in October 2011 he became a Delta Dog. Unfortunately, there were no facilities where we lived that believed in the benefits of therapy dogs, so we decided just to put Delta tins in dog-friendly cafes. By 30 June 2012 we had raised \$400, and finally in August 2012 we were invited to visit an aged care facility in Nowra.

For three years we visited the facility every week and became great friends with the residents. They loved Aubrey, looked forward to his visits and remembered his name. He wore the Delta bandana and I wore my Delta red shirt.

Aubrey and I were rather nervous on our first visit, as we wanted to make a good impression. We were shown into the lounge and I walked round introducing Aubrey to all the residents, encouraging them to pat him. I noticed a man sitting alone on a sofa; we walked over to him (his name is Lloyd) and I introduced Aubrey, who immediately jumped onto the sofa and sat very close to him. One

of the nurses then said, “You can’t sit on the furniture, Aubrey”, and Lloyd replied, “It’s OK. I’m blind, and Aubrey has sensed that and knows he should come to me because I can’t see him”. I felt very proud of Aubrey. Lloyd is now 101.

There was also a lady who said she didn’t like dogs and told me to keep Aubrey away from her. But Aubrey succeeded in winning her heart, and soon she greeted us and always offered to get Aubrey a biscuit!

Some weeks we just sat and chatted with the residents, while other weeks we joined in the musical entertainment for them. Sometimes Aubrey did a bit of yodelling, which made everyone laugh. The residents in the care facility loved Aubrey and on Valentine’s Day they made him card.



One week one of the resident ladies was eating a cheese biscuit. Aubrey adored cheese and promptly seated himself in front of the lady. He fluttered his eyes at her and whimpered and whimpered, but she just ignored him. Eventually, she said to Aubrey in a very loud voice, “Be quiet, Aubrey!” He sat down immediately, and I was sad because she had been so nasty to him.

However, all was not lost. The other residents were very upset. Eileen said that Aubrey was their friend and that the other lady was being nasty to him and should go and have her afternoon tea elsewhere. Then Anthony sprang to Aubrey's defence. He told the lady that Aubrey was his hero and that she wasn't allowed to be mean to him. The nurses were listening and laughed at the thought of Aubrey arousing such feeling and causing a mutiny among the residents. I finished our visit feeling very happy because Aubrey's friends had defended him in his hour of need.

Aubrey loved all the residents, and one of his favourites was Anthony. They chatted to each other all the time; sometimes Anthony sang to Aubrey, and Aubrey howled along with him.

And one more tale about Aubrey and Anthony. One week there was a sing-a-long. Aubrey went into the entertainment room and walked around saying hello to his friends, and then to Karina, one of the staff (see photo). At the end of the entertainment, the hosts asked if anyone had a special request; Anthony said he wanted a song for Aubrey, and all the residents sang "*How much is that doggie in the window*". Karina made the barking sounds, and it was amazing to see the look on Aubrey's face. At first, he was quite sure Karina was making the sounds, but then he wasn't so sure and looked all round the room to see if there was another dog. The residents loved it all, and applauded Aubrey. Then we headed downstairs for Aubrey to see his other friends and to receive his weekly milk arrowroot biscuit!



Aubrey brought joy to the lives of the residents – he made the residents laugh and they loved him.

In May 2014 Delta Australia launched a book entitled *Dogs that Make a Difference*. It asked its hundreds of volunteers around Australia to send in anecdotes about their dogs. The book contains about 60 of those stories, and one features Aubrey.

Aubrey was very lucky when David Slaven, the owner of our local bookshop Dean Swift Books in Nowra offered to host a launch on 30 May. Aubrey was a special guest and proved to be a major drawcard for the bookshop; indeed, he was described in the local newspaper as “the most-loved dog in the Shoalhaven”.

Aubrey has been one of the reasons why we have met so many wonderful people over the years and made so many friends. We looked forward to our weekly visits with Aubrey. The residents loved to hear about his exploits in the show ring, his appearances at Celtic festivals and Dogs NSW promotional events, but most of all they loved to hear about his exploits with the ladies in his life and to see photos of the puppies.

On 24 December Aubrey slipped a disc in his neck and on 26 December had spinal surgery. He was in hospital at the Sydney University Veterinary Teaching Hospital for eight days and after a long period of rest and recovery is now doing well. Unfortunately, after his injury we decided that it was time for Aubrey to retire from Delta. These days we go on one long walk a day, followed by a coffee, and then go home to rest.

Aubrey turned 13 on 4 April, and we hope he will live for many more years, bringing much happiness to people and making them smile — we don’t want to think of life without him. He has given us so much joy that we owe it to him to let him have a peaceful retirement.

In summary, Aubrey is an amazing little dog:

- He passed his exams in obedience and agility in Switzerland.
- He received the Swiss Canine Good Citizen Certificate.
- He has coped with learning another language, with moving from one country to another, and then with our many moves and the animals we cared for during our two-year search for a house to buy.
- He has the ability to make friends with everybody he meets.
- He loved the residents at the aged-care facility he visited; he brought them joy and happiness, and they took a great interest in all his activities.
- He made people smile and forget their worries.
- He has been our rock and helped us get through some very difficult times.

I hope you have enjoyed reading Aubrey's story.

If you have some spare time, perhaps you too will enrol your dog in a therapy dog programme and join all the hundreds of volunteers in bringing a glimmer of sunshine on a rainy day, hope where there is none, consolation which no words can provide, and the touch of a cold nose and silky coat to rekindle lost memories and joys forgotten. Therapy dogs really know how to HEAL.

Jeanette, Graham and Aubrey Grayston

April 2015



Susan is happy to report that two of her recent Wheaten litter, Macy and Nutmeg, have qualified to become members of Peata. Recently Susan took them to University and schools to enable closer contact with students. The following is Susan's story.

Peata Therapy Dogs

I have been a member of Peata for many years, formerly as Hon. Treasurer and lately as supporter, happy to attend their dog walk and the wonderful Carol Concert at Christchurch Cathedral in early December. Dozens of dogs and their owners assemble there and residents from many institutions love to see all the therapy dogs and enjoy the carols and mince pies! The role of therapy dogs has expanded to include visiting 3rd level colleges for 'de-stressing' days. These are part of the events organised by the students for themselves. Another area is attending schools to encourage students to read aloud, apparently the company of a dog relaxes some young people who find reading a bit difficult.

I was asked to help with these activities and to come with my dogs for assessment. Much to my surprise Macy, Nutmeg and I all passed! Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers are ideal, soft and strokeable and a good size.

Nutmeg attends a Dublin secondary school, usually one day a week for an hour or so and 2 or 3 students come down to the library for individual reading. She is so well behaved and seems to enjoy it, greeting the student and then settling down beside them to listen as they read aloud! The teachers say that she has made a difference, both in relaxing the children and giving them more confidence. They chat about their own dogs and little stories about themselves. Nutmeg knows where we are going when her Peata jacket comes out and she charges into the school to meet her new friends!

Macy has started at the top, visiting several universities at this stage and she seems happy with gangs of young (mostly) girls who descend on the dogs, greeting her with the same enthusiastic greeting that she gives them!

Susan Kealy

Another aspect is the importance that dogs play following disasters or lost persons. Search and Rescue dogs are invaluable when it comes to finding missing persons. The following is a most informative article from Sabine.

The Wheaten As A Rescue Dog

It all started in 2004 with a dream, the dream of training a Wheaten as a rescue dog. Robin, (Von der schoenen Lausitz Brian O’Kelly) was the foundation stone for me of the “Rescue Wheaten”, who made this dream come true. He was my partner for 10 years and along with him I passed several examinations and deployments. Unfortunately, he was only able to enjoy his retirement for one year before he died in June 2015.



Robin

TJ (Newkdara Irial Keep Irish Dreams) joined us in 2011. TJ is the first Wheaten from Ireland, as far as I know, who is being trained in this type of work. Since this year, I am now also training my first bitch – Lisa (Jacintha von der schoenen Lausitz). The training is by no means easy. It takes double the length of time, approximately 4 years, to train a Wheaten

as to train the well-known breeds. Of course, this is all in a voluntary capacity and alongside one's work. As a team, it is a tough test. The Wheaten does not allow himself to be pressed when working and one has to become firm, in particular against prejudices, such as the breed's appearance, for example, to simply follow one's aims and to learn to understand the Wheaten's way of thinking and of working. Even after 11 years, I am still learning.

"I thought he only had to look handsome"! It is not beauty but functionality which is required. In principle, any healthy, physically powerful dog with a solid temperament and capable of working well with his nose is suitable for this type of work. Breed-specific differences in olfactory predisposition definitely exist. It is also a fact that our terriers have better prerequisites for this olfactory work than other breeds. Anatomical factors and instincts too form the basis for every olfactory predisposition. It is well-known that greyhounds bred for hundred of years for coursing do not possess such a developed olfactory ability. It should not be forgotten that the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier was, is and will remain a working dog!



TJ

But what exactly do rescue dogs do? Dogs are altogether superior to humans as regards following a scent. Due to their pronounced sense of smell they are capable of detecting human scent from a very great distance. We search for people missing for a variety of reasons, for example, missing children, people buried alive, injured riders or also individuals intent on committing suicide. Operational areas include forests, fields, river banks and lakesides, ruins or wreckage following explosions or train accidents.



K. Goldman

Robin and Sabine working

Training starts by learning the basic skills through play. This means searching first for one's own owner and then for strangers. The dog learns that finding human scent is always positive for him. So discovering human scent also when deployed will always remain something positive and a game of "hide and seek". However, our dogs do not signal everybody located in the search area, only those who are clearly in a helpless and atypical position, such as sitting on the ground, lying in ruins. Barking is one of the possible means of alerting when the individual sought has been found. The dog barks beside the individual until the dog trainer arrives on the scene. The dog behaves passively towards the individual, he remains at an appropriate distance and remains neutral.



In addition, dogs must learn to run across machinery and ruins, they must be obedient and react to audible and/or visible commands. We are all used to this standard comment “He cannot see anything”, but our Wheatens cope much better with this than some people think. My dogs are trimmed in a so-called show cut and respond just as well to visual commands alone as short-haired dogs do. They are also trained to expect the most varied behaviour from individuals who are found, such as shouting, eating, crawling etc.

However, it is not just the dog which is important. A good rescue team consists of a dog and the dog’s trainer. Accordingly, the individual at the end of the lead is also important. He or she has to be able to work under pressure and above all to be a good team player. The requirements for deployments are high and are checked every 18 months by examination. During a search the dog trainer has additional tasks besides just looking after his or her dog. Radio communication, orientation, the terrain, communication with other dog trainers and his own search occupy him sufficiently. In addition, a dog trainer correctly assesses danger, senses his dog’s performance limits and is skilled in map reading and using a compass.

However the foundation and the most important thing of all is the mutual trust. This is the only way that I and my dogs can continue to exist as a team. I have to know each of my dogs very well.



Robin searching

Innumerable situations can arise during deployment and in training which can only be coped with because of this foundation. I must be capable of interpreting the minutest physical movement my dog makes. What is the position of the tail, of the ears in certain situations? Sometimes I can reassure my dog solely by the sound of my voice. This mutual trust does not come about instantaneously. It has to be developed and consolidated over time, so that together we always cope with our missions.

Of course we and our dogs are not perfect searchers, numerous other factors, such as the weather, for example, play a big role in this. Nevertheless, we try to prepare ourselves and our dogs as well as possible during our regular training for all deployment eventualities so that we can conclude the deployment positively and help other people.



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So a huge thank you to those who contributed their stories as part of my article. I have only touched on some aspects that our beloved dogs can do for us and the important roles they perform in our very busy schedules of today. I have found it fascinating and most interesting compiling it and hope you enjoy reading their stories. So while the majority of us have ‘just pets’ or ‘just show dogs’ there are some that truly play an important role in Society today.

Wheaten Weekend

The Open Show, which was judged by Mrs. Kickie Norrby of Villa Rosa Kennels, was well attended with a paper entry of 28 dogs. Kickie also kindly wrote critiques for each dog she judged which were given out on the day. The Club has kept a copy of these as we are building a record of the various judges' opinions from our Championship shows and now this Open show.

It was the first Open Show the club has run that I can remember and it was a great honour to have Kickie officiate at it.

Richard Dalton's CH & GB CH Feanaro Niallan Naomhan took the top award of Best in Show on the day and received a beautiful Swedish glass plate that Kickie had donated.



Photo courtesy of Lesley Porter

Best Bitch went to Jennifer Kealy's Kealdale Nutmeg who was also awarded a lovely piece of Swedish glass, a candle stick holder donated by Kickie.



Photo courtesy of Lesley Porter

Best Puppy in show went to Bev Hanna's Celtannia Extra Confident at Kinaelan.



Photo courtesy of Jean Lawless of Our Dogs Ireland

Best Veteran went to Bev Hanna with her CH & GB CH Kinaelan Quietly Confident CW-09 & 12, EW-09



Photo courtesy of Jean Lawless of Our Dogs Ireland



Lesley Porter with Hobel If I Give My Heart To You – Junior Bitch Winner

All entrants received some Happy Dog samples to try so I would like to thank Jackie Stubbs and his team at Happy Dog for their continued support of the Wheaten Club it is much appreciated by us all.

There was a great atmosphere at the show and I would like to take this opportunity to extend a thank you to all the committee members who worked hard to make the show a success.



CH & GB CH Feanaro Niallan Naomhan with his offspring –
photo courtesy of Lesley Porter

We also had several entries for the fun show. Thank you to all who came on the day and took part in the fun.



Line up for The Best Coat Class – *photo courtesy of Lesley Porter*

The Show was also very well supported by our overseas visitors so to those that were able to travel, thank you very much. I would also like to thank Bernadette Moynihan who crafted a beautiful shawl to present to our judge and to Susan White who donated rosettes to the Club and who acted as ring steward along with Kay Donnelly.



Kickie with the shawl that Bernadette kindly presented to her –
photo courtesy of Rob Hubner

Photo Competition

We also ran a photo competition on the day which was a great success as we had just over 150 entries, so a huge thank you to all who entered.

Cons Camera shop kindly sponsored us which meant we were able to have all the photos mounted which we stuck up on the wall and it was a great talking point, helping people who did not know anyone to get chatting to others.



Photos courtesy of Rob Hubner

The famous Artist Louisa Nally and Our Dogs Ireland Photographer Jean Lawless judged the photos. The Seven Category winners were

1. Portrait - Ruth Nesbitt
2. Wheaten enjoying the view - Lesley Porter
3. Wheatens and water - Lesley Porter
4. Mischievous Wheaten - Brid Brophy
5. Movement - Louise Borst
6. Look at what I did - Pam Clarke
7. Sweet puppy - Deborah Evans-Barry

Bob and Michael from Cons Camera judged the overall winners from all of the entries so we could have the canvas ready to present on the day; which they also sponsored for our club. We could not have run the event without their generosity. They chose Erica Petrie and Anne Griffiths as their overall winners.



All Terrier Association Seminar

On Sunday the All Terrier Association held a seminar with Ann Ingram speaking in the morning on Judging Dogs and after lunch Kickie, our judge from the Open Show, on Wheaten Terriers. It was well attended by participants from various countries including Germany, Holland, England etc. The Seminar was most interesting and Kickie showed many slides of Wheatens which most of us had never seen and it was lovely to hear of names from the past. Her presentation was also very beneficial to several judges who attended. Wheatens can be difficult to judge as there are so many variations in their coats.



Later that day there was an IKC accredited "hands on" judging experience which Ms Susan Kealy kindly officiated.

We would like to thank the Secretary, Fionnuala Malone and the All Terrier Committee for organising this as it was a superb success and enjoyed by all who attended.

Finally

If you haven't paid your subs for 2015/2016 you can do so via our PayPal page you will find details of it through our email address:

wheatenclubofireland@gmail.com

I hope you have enjoyed the latest newsletter
Many Thanks
Jennifer

Eithne Brady is the lady who had the foresight to create the “Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier” DVD which features an interview with Tony Killykeen-Doyle and a video, taken by Wallie Ladd, of the rehearsal of Maureen Holmes preparing for the world congress. Unfortunately Maureen did not get to give her presentation so it is particularly pertinent that we have this historical record. We have a limited number of these available so if you require one please email

wheatenclubofireland@gmail.com

Tail Ends



Club's Web Site: www.iscwtclubofireland.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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