

ASCWTA

The Prairie Wheaten

Vol. 11 No. 1 / Spring 2005

The Easter sWheatie Is On His Rounds...



And Wishes All A Happy Easter!!!

Thanks to Shelagh Kelsey of Bullseye/Carluk Wheatens,
Milford Station, NS for the super Easter drawing.

Inside

Your Urban Carnivore	Page 2
The Power of Play	Page 4
From a Breeder's Point of View	Page 6
Craft Corner	Page 8
President's Report	Page 10
National Director's Report	Page 10
Recipes for Dog Treats	Page 11
Celebrating Saskatchewan's 100th Birthday	Page 13
Letter from the Editor	Page 14

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Your Urban Carnivore

By Robert Hamilton

What do dogs eat? It's a simple question. The proper answer is meat, right? But actually dogs in Canada generally eat between 70 and 90% Rice or Corn. That's not a natural or healthy diet for a dog but if you are a typical dog owner in Canada that's what's for supper tonight for man's best friend.

Check your dog food bag. Does it list beef or some type of meat as the #1 ingredient? That would mean that the majority of the food in the bag is meat, right? Not a chance. Meat is NEVER the #1 ingredient in any commercial dog food. If you have 10 lbs. of chicken meal and 25 lbs. of rice, which should appear first on the label? Chicken of course! (if you want people to buy the stuff).

Here's the trick – break up the rice into it's components until Chicken rises to the #1 spot. 1st- CHICKEN MEAL, 2nd- GROUND RICE, 3rd- RICE BRAN, 4th- RICE GLUTEN. Sneaky, deceptive... but legal.

Now who in his right mind would pay \$35 for a bag of rice with "bacon grease" and artificial flavor and feed it to a sick dog? Yet when you read the small type on the bag, this is the prescription dog food sold to my mother by her vet when her dog came down with kidney stones. Unbelievable!

Prescription dog food is often just as bad or worse than any other dog food on the market. Vets and Vet schools are well paid to endorse these products but they are frequently garbage! While many vets are experts at treating disease they often know precious little about nutrition.

While dog foods are often labeled as "complete" or "balanced" they are little more than corn meal, preservatives and artificial flavor. They are anything but complete or balanced.

If you want more info on the tricks of the Dog food trade, check out this web site:

http://www.adoredbeast.com/Ten_Secrets.html

Tory, my beautiful long tailed Wheaten, has often had minor skin eruptions under her fur. Doggy Acne. Nothing serious but it's itchy for her and I'm always using antibiotic creams on her. She also has had a few ear problems. The vet had mentioned it could be a food allergy but the problem persisted with every food we have tried.

Wheatens do seem to have more than their share of skin and digestive problems. There is some thought that even PLN and PLE may be related at least in part to diet. I knew it was time for some serious changes.

So what should an Urban Carnivore eat? There have been many excellent articles printed in these pages on the Bones and Raw Food Diet. Personally I'm just too lazy to gather up the food, grind it, chop it, freeze it and I don't have the space to store it. There HAD to be a better solution for a lazy guy like me. Isn't there someone willing to do all the work and just deliver it to my house? Amazingly the answer is YES!

New Years Eve I was attending a party. The owners had a Wheaten and brought out his evening meal. I was amazed! Were they really feeding this dog ground steak? Nope. I was introduced to an amazing dog food from a company called Urban Carnivore. (Thanks PL & James!)

The food comes in 4 lb boxes with 8 frozen patties in each box. All types of meat are available. They are from top quality naturally raised animals with no antibiotics or hormones. The whole animal minus the hide is used for these patties. The patties contain ground bone which is nice and soft and rich in calcium BUT you can not cook the meat – the bone fragments become hard and sharp when cooked.



To serve, first defrost the patties then break them up and serve them raw. It looks disgusting but what a healthy meal for your dog!

The Urban Carnivore patties cost between \$10.69 a box for chicken and \$20.36 for goat. Beef costs \$11.95. Chicken doesn't go over very well so stick with beef. The recommended feeding for a typical Wheaten is between 1 and 1½ patties each day.

Since even carnivores need a certain amount of vegetables, you may wish to buy some of the supplemental patties available from this company. A less expensive alternative would be to defrost and add some frozen mixed vegetables from the local grocery store. Urban Carnivore also sells raw meaty bones and additional vitamin supplements. NOW we are talking complete and balanced!

I'm not suggesting this is the only product available. In fact there are many companies that provide good quality B.A.R.F. type diets for your dog and naturally you can make your own a lot cheaper.

The Prairie Wheaten



Personally, I find the Urban Carnivore prepared patties are far more convenient than the 6 lb frozen blocks sold by Mountain Dog Food. Then again, I am only feeding one Wheaten. If I had three or four, I would

probably consider other alternatives.

I ordered my Urban Carnivore patties from Fido and Felix Foods at (306) 731-3268. Paddy Thompson, the owner, delivers right to your door at no extra charge! Although I find her service excellent, it is not your only source for this product in Saskatchewan. Check the Urban Carnivore web site at <http://www.urbancarnivore.com/> for more information about the product and dealers in your area.

Day one – my patties arrived. I had ordered one box of Chicken and one box of Beef. I proudly presented this delicious meal to Tory and stood back so I wouldn't lose a finger when she devoured the tasty treat. I was so disappointed when she sniffed it and walked away.

Patty Thompson suggested I be strong. Wrap up the meal and put it in the refrigerator and offer it again later. This is one major drawback with the Urban Carnivore diet. While dry dog food, drenched in preservatives, can sit for months and perhaps decades without going bad, a few hours in the sun will turn your raw meat treat into a deadly last meal. Bowls need to be cleaned daily and the product must be kept frozen or refrigerated. Uneaten food must be refrigerated or disposed of.

Day two – still not interested. Commercial dog foods often have corn syrup or other sweeteners and added flavors. If your dog is clamoring for a bowl of rice or corn you KNOW something weird is going on. Some dog foods really are addictive!

Day three – Tory took a few nibbles and turned up her nose. I should mention that her two 4lb Yorkie brothers tore into the food on day 1. They also kill mice at the lake and once killed a gopher in the park. Don't be fooled by the 4lbs of dog – they are 100% killers. Hunter, my wife's 4.5lb Yorkie, once chased an 8 point buck for half a mile! I'm sure given a step ladder he could have brought the buck down. But I digress.

After 4 days with nothing to eat, Tory was ready to try her new diet. Good thing too because I doubt I could have held off

another day. Our vet told us that dogs, especially in low activity winter months, can easily survive for 3 or 4 days without food. My advice is not to panic and bail out. If you plan to switch to a new diet just stay strong. Your dog will adapt. If they can learn to eat corn and rice they can certainly learn to eat healthy meat! Once they have adapted to the new diet and they will be much happier and healthier.

Tory started slowly then faster and finally she proved that she was indeed descended from wolves. She stuck her head all the way into the bowl, snuffing, snorting and ripping away at her raw meat treat. When she was finished with her "kill" she burped and looked very satisfied.



Now that Tory is eating the raw meat patties so well, we have started mixing in peas, carrots and a few other veggies. I give her half a patty before noon and another half around supper. She actually walks on her hind feet (well... more of a hopping dance really) so she can get a sniff of the bowl as I bring it over for her. She was never this enthusiastic about her meals before.

Because the food is of higher quality she requires less quantity. On her previous diet she had occasional diarrhea. So far there have been no episodes of diarrhea with the new diet. She is producing less stool which is a nice side effect. While I'm no expert in the aesthetics of stool, it appears to be firmer and a better color.

It's only been a couple of weeks so far but Tory has never looked back. Her skin has totally cleared up and her ears are looking great! Any dog owner should really consider a raw meat diet. Urban Carnivore makes it easy and quite affordable. Give it a try!

You can read more about dog foods in The Pet Food Issue of *The Prairie Wheaten*, Volume 7 Number 1- Spring 2001. Roz Bacon and Carolyn Fox wrote a seven page article on pet food concerns. Several owners turned to raw food for their dogs after reading the section about the BARF or "Biologically Appropriate Raw Food" program and the success Roz Bacon has feeding her adults and new puppies a raw diet. You can find this article at <http://afox1.sasktelwebsite.net/>

The Power of Play

by Gillian Ridgeway, AHT

Nothing is more delightful to dog owners than seeing their pet engage in lighthearted play activity, whether it be just a game for game's sake, or for exercise. While playful dogs may seem pleasing, the actual power of this play is highly underrated!

Back in the 1980's, the game of tug-of-war was touted as a pastime that could promote and even create aggression in dogs. Many people bought into this premise and, in fact, some still do. The old saying, "When you know better, you do better", has never been more appropriately used than in this circumstance.

As we all watched the popularity of dog sports grow, it became more noticeable that many of these high-energy dogs were playing tug as a reward for their behaviour. Border Collies in particular seem to enjoy this game and were willing to run entire agility courses not only for the fun of the course, but on the promise of a game of tug with their owner upon completion. For me, this was definitely the start of a new way of thinking.

Search and rescue handlers and their dogs got in on the action and, using tug toys as an aid, these dogs are motivated to maximum ability in order to play a game of tug at the end. The power of this game seems to be quite successful.

Surely, if this game caused aggression, we would be seeing a lot more aggressive dogs, but the opposite seems to be happening. The dogs focus a lot more and seem more willing to work for their handlers.

Upon observation, it was never the game of tug that was the problem. It was only a problem if the dog would not drop the toy. To avoid this problem, when teaching a dog to play tug, it is important that you also teach a "drop it" on command. Say the word "Drop" and offer your dog a treat. As he drops the toy to get the treat, remove the toy. The trick to this is that you must offer the toy back to your dog with the words "Take it". By performing a number of repetitions of "Drop" and "Take it", you're enforcing the idea to your dog that it is okay to give up the toy. Not only does he get a treat, he'll often get the toy back.

Tug toys come in many varieties. You can use anything that allows you to be on one end and your dog to pull at the other end. Long, braided toys made out of fun fur seem to be quite popular. Cut the fabric into three strips, tie a knot at one end and braid it tightly. Tie another knot at the other end. For additional strength, tie an extra knot into the middle of the braid. Of course, if your middle name isn't Martha, you may find that it's easier just to purchase a tug toy!

The toy should be stored out of your dog's sight and reach. The top of the refrigerator is a perfect location. The toy doesn't belong to your dog - it belongs to you. You start the game and you end the game. This is the primary rule. The winner of the game is the one left holding the toy at the end.

Most of the time, this will be you. Occasionally, it is fine to let the dog win. The old wives' tale that you should always win is just that... a tale. If this idea were true, you would find that many dogs will give up on the game and become disinterested.

While you're playing tug with your dog, you may hear him growl a little bit. This does not seem to be a problem, although it may alarm some dog owners. It has been my experience, as well as that of many other dog trainers, that growling may be just a function of play.

The only potential concern you should have is if your dog doesn't drop the toy on command. In saying this, I'm referring especially to a dog who is aggressive by nature. If this is the case, you may not be comfortable playing tug, as it may be difficult to turn your dog off when the game is finished. We are now seeing a lot of dogs, trained with tugging games, showing virtually no impact on the dogs' nature. Yes, the occasional dog will have difficulty relinquishing his toy or becoming a little too zealous when playing tug. In this case, tug may not be the right game for your dog.

Tug games are often used to help shy or under-confident dogs gain some self-worth. These dogs need special consideration. By letting this type of dog win the game, you're helping to build the confidence needed to explore other opportunities in life.

So, how do you get started? First, if you push a toy into your dog's face, it will often make him back away. It's best to play hard to get. Keep the toy in a handy drawer for a week or so. For the first few days, take the toy out and play with it by yourself. Toss it in the air and show interest in it, then put it back in the drawer. About a week later, begin to let your dog occasionally get the toy as you toss it around. The majority of the time, the toy will be yours to keep! Then allow him to have it half the time, gradually increasing his time with the toy. Before you know it, he will be anxious to play.

The power of play has many other sides. How about playing simply for the fun of it? Many dog owners do not know how to interact in games with their dogs. Sure, they know how to instruct the dog and how to ruffle his head, but when asked to play with him, they're often at a loss. Having fun with your dog is the name of the game. Teach him fun activities and enjoy yourself. After all, isn't this the main reason you got a dog?

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More Great Things You Can Do With Your Dog

by Carolyn Fox

In the Fall 2004 issue I featured many great things you can do with your dog. Here are a few more. As you read in the preceding article "The Power of Play" by Gillian Ridgeway, play is an important way you can interact with your dog. Learn to play with your dog - your dog will love you for it. Here are a few games and tricks to get you started, along with web sites containing more ideas.

Games

Find the Treat

Put your dog on a "down" stay. Put treats in a variety of hiding places. Have your dog wait until all you have finished hiding them. When you say "GO!" your dog can run around trying to find each treat.

Hide and Seek

You can have fun playing hide and seek with your dog. Put him in a sit or down wait. While he is waiting, you hide. When ready, call him. Watch out sometimes they peek!

Soccer

Get your dog to play soccer. Each dog will come up with a different way of moving the ball around because it is too big to get in their jaws. They will learn to use their nose or paws to handle the ball. You could get several people playing soccer with the dog.

Find more games at:

<http://www.wagntain.com/Games.htm>

Off-Leash Parks update

Regina is to get its first-ever off leash park this Spring. The park, to be named the Cathy Lauritsen Memorial Off-Leash Park, will be located on an 18 acre site south of 13th Avenue and just northwest of the Caledonian Curling Club. Cathy Lauritsen, who was the executive director of the Regina Humane Society, dreamed of an off-leash park for our city. She died of cancer in 2002. The city has donated the land for the park and a fundraising campaign is collecting money to buy various amenities including fences and garbage receptacles. Dog owners will have another great thing to do with their dogs.

Tricks

Teach your dog to "give a kiss" or "hug" - your dog gives you a wet kiss or puts his paws on your shoulder.

Teach your dog to "sing." Some dogs will sing along if they hear high tones. Try different songs and tones until your dog joins in the fun. In the 80's we were always pleased when our two Wheatens, Patty and BJ, would "sing" along when our family sang the Happy Birthday song but perhaps they were just protesting our bad singing!

Teach your dog to "speak." Some dogs can be trained to "speak" on command. They can also be trained to bark loudly or more quietly.

Find many more tricks you can teach your dog at:

http://www.hut.fi/%7Emtt/belg_tricks.html

Campus Vets - TV series filmed in Saskatoon

Campus Vets is a reality-based TV series about veterinary students shown on the Life Network. The series is filmed at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. The series features students learning how to save the lives of animals or improve their health. Each episode is viewed for accuracy by the hospital director and his assistant directors. At the B.C. Film industry's 2004 Leo Awards *Campus Vets* won "Best Information Series". A diverse cast of clients, veterinarians and animals is featured in each episode. Two of the half hour episodes in March featured oral surgery on a reluctant Chihuahua, saving the lives of newborn calves, tending to a serious injury of a mare's tongue, a respiratory procedure on a terrier, and dealing with a puppy who has swallowed its owner's underwear. As of mid March, viewing times are: Thursday at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm CST, Friday at 1:00 am CST, and Sunday at 8:30 am CST.

See more at: http://www.lifenetnetwork.ca/tv/shows/titledetails/title_84318.asp

The Prairie Wheaten

From a Breeder's Point of View

by Barb Osborne

In the past few issues of The Prairie Wheaten, I have attempted to enlighten you with some articles about the various elements of a breeding program. I have introduced you to the different types of breeders (reputable, backyard and puppy mill), different ways of breeding (line breeding, inbreeding and outcross), the purpose of breed standards and breed type, and in the last issue, the basic concepts of genetics (dominant and recessive genes, genotype and phenotype). In this issue, I will be writing about the importance of a good brood bitch and finding the proper stud for that brood bitch.

The future success of any breeding program depends heavily on the quality of the brood bitch. After all, she will lay the foundation for all future breedings used in that breeding program. The foundation bitch may not be a flashy, showy bitch that is winning multiple 'Best in Shows' in the dog show ring. In fact, quite often, she is the 'plain Jane' sister that may have enjoyed only moderate success in the show ring. She must, however, meet the following criteria:

- come from a line where the females consistently produce animals that are strong and vigorous from birth, and reach maturity with a minimum of problems;
- come from a line of free whelpers;
- be devoted to her pups and nourish them both mentally and physically;
- come from a line that has been dedicated to eliminating mediocrity over the generations, resulting in good to outstanding offspring;
- be of good type with respect to the breed character, silhouette, head/expression, movement and coat; and
- through the proper selection of a stud dog to breed her to, she's proven that her shortcomings can be corrected fairly easily.

Breeders who want to create and maintain an effective producing line must know what their foundation bitch is all about. The breeder must understand what the bitch can offer to a breeding program but just as importantly, the breeder must be able to identify her shortcomings. In other words, what can be improved upon in her offspring. Once this is understood, then a proper mate for that bitch can be selected.



As with the brood bitch, the stud dog must meet certain criteria, including the following:

- be of correct type; and
- have the ability to consistently reproduce what is typical of himself and his ancestors.

As stated previously, the breeder must choose a proper mate for their bitch. This requires doing one's homework as the proper mate is not necessarily this year's top dog. Rather, the breeder should choose a mate that is consistently producing the desired characteristics that are either missing or inferior in the breeder's breeding program. To quote a well known Bichon Frise breeder, Richard G. Beauchamp, the proper mate is "a dog that has the potential of taking a breeding program up another notch, of adding or improving that illusive characteristic or combination of characteristics that's missing". He adds that "the great sire is the dog that raises the bar to such an extent that it becomes more difficult to have what is bred qualify as a success he's the dog that adds to what the breeder has so painstakingly achieved".

With a good foundation bitch and a proper stud dog in place, this is not a guaranteed recipe for success. However, it is a really good start to launching a successful breeding program.

Summer is Coming

by Carolyn Fox

Here are some accessories and ideas to help you and your dog make it through the summer.



Doggles

Doggles are “goggles” for dogs. They have shatterproof anti-fog lenses that block 100% of UV light. They keep out wind and debris. The wrap around frames completely enclose the eyes. Stray light or foreign objects cannot get to the eye. Doggles are kept on securely during any activity by two adjustable elastic straps. The web site <http://store.yahoo.com/doggles/home.html> also features lens cleaner, coloured lenses, and a carrying case.

An Informative Web Site

<http://www.petswelcome.com> is the Internet’s largest pet/travel resource. There are listings for over 25,000 hotels, B&Bs, ski resorts, campgrounds, and beaches that are pet-friendly. There is a Travel Tips section to learn how to take your pet anywhere. Visit their Info Xchange to find answers from millions of other sophisticated travelers like yourself.

Recipes for Summer Coolers

Frosty Paws

- 1 32 oz container of plain yogurt
- 1 large jar of baby food (suggest strawberry/banana)
- 2 tbsp of honey
- 2 tbsp creamy peanut butter

1. Mix together and put in 3 oz Dixie cups.
2. Cover with foil and freeze. The recipe makes about 12 - 3 oz cups.

Pupsicles

- 1 cup (250 ml) unsweetened fruit juice
- 1 cup (250 ml) water

1. Mix ingredients
2. Pour into ice cube trays.
3. Give a cube to your dog periodically on a hot day



Tips on keeping your Pet “Cool” in Summer

- ◆ Always provide plenty of fresh water. Do not let your dog drink from pools, streams or the ocean.
- ◆ Never leave your dog in a parked car. On a warm day the temperature in a vehicle can rise to dangerous levels in minutes. This is the number one cause of heatstroke. Signs of heatstroke are rapid panting, hot skin, twitching muscles and a dazed look. Wrap your dog with a towel soaked with cool water or place him in a tub filled with cool (not cold) water.
- ◆ Sensitive paws burn easily so watch for hot pavement, cement or sandy beaches.
- ◆ Be cautious and keep your pets away from pesticides, herbicides and other lawn chemicals.
- ◆ Do not encourage exercise during the heat of the day.
- ◆ Provide shade outdoors and a child-proof fan or air conditioning indoors.

Craft Corner

by Carolyn Fox

Paw Print Stepping Stones - made from a kit

Make a personalized paw print stepping stone for your yard or garden with an easy-to-use kit purchased from a craft store. I found my kits at Michaels where they also have a variety of glass and ceramic decorative items. The kits come with complete instructions ... except how to control your pet while imprinting his paw. It is a good idea to have a second person helping with the paw imprint unless you want cement slopped all over the floor, the dog and you. One person can hold the dog's body, the other can press the paw into the cement. Apply Vaseline to the paw before imprinting. If you need to repeat the paw print, immediately use a moistened mixing stick or spatula to smooth the surface of the cement then try again. It took us three tries before I was happy with Max's paw print! MacDuff needed only one try.

Choose your decorations and design prior to mixing the cement. Designing it on a pattern of your stepping stone, traced using the mold, is a good idea. Be creative. Try seashells, marbles, beach glass, mosaic tiles, buttons, small toys, or mementos. Avoid wooden items as they don't stick into the concrete very well. Once the cement is poured into the mold it can crack if moved. I found that placing the mold on a wooden tray allowed me to put it on the floor for paw printing then move it to a safe location without the cement cracking. Let your stepping stones set in the mold for 3 days before removing. Wait a week before placing them outside or stepping on them.



Max's stepping stone has flat green glass ovals pressed into the wet cement in the shape of shamrocks. Light green ceramic hearts finish off the design.



MacDuff's stepping stone has blue glass stars pressed into the wet cement. Sea shells at each corner finish off this stepping stone.

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

The Prairie Wheaten

Tess, A Top Producer



Eight year old Tess belongs to Roz Bacon. Tess has had five litters in her lifetime and is about to go into a well deserved retirement. In those five litters Tess produced an amazing forty seven puppies! Although most of her litters consisted of ten puppies, Tess remained a wonderful and caring mother to ALL of them. Tess loved motherhood and with Roz's help produced some amazing puppies. She has produced a Best Puppy in Specialty, a Best in Sweepstakes puppy and multiple Group placing offspring plus many happy and contented family pets. As well as being a great mother, Tess is also a wonderful pet who has brought Roz, Greg and Tyler much pleasure. She will bring them much more joy in the years of retirement ahead. Tess also looks forward to taking some time out to help raise her grandpuppies.

Web Sites of Interest

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Association of Canada

<http://www.jb-ccs.com/scwtac/>

Dog Owners Guide

The online magazine for **all** pet and showdog owners. This site contains all kinds of information about living with and loving dogs.

<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/index.html>

The Senior Dogs Project

"Looking Out for Older Dogs"

<http://www.srdogs.com/Pages/links.html>

Pet Food Recipes from Recipezaar

There are 5 pages of pet food recipes listed - mainly for dogs but also for hamsters, horses, birds and cats. Also an ear cleaning solution recipe.

<http://www.recipezaar.com/r/256/pg=1>

How to Love Your Dog

A kid's guide to Dog Care

<http://www.kidsanddogs.bravepages.com/>

Your Purebred Puppy

Advice you can trust:

Vaccinations ... Needed or Not?

<http://www.yourpurebredpuppy.com/health/common/vaccinations.html>

Veterinary Partner.com

Answers your questions about animal health, medications, therapies, surgery, behavior and safety.

<http://www.veterinarypartners.com/>

The Poop Pantry

Many interesting recipes for you to try.

<http://www.thepoop.com/pooppantry/default.asp>

and, don't forget, back issues of *The Prairie Wheaten* and updated copies of our *Recipe Booklet* can be found at <http://afox1.sasktelwebsite.net/>

President's Report

by Barb Osborne

Here we are, with Spring just around the corner. You know what that means, don't you? No, I am not referring to Spring cleaning where you have to clean up all those little frozen treats in your yard left behind by your Wheaten over the Winter. I am referring to the Wheaten Walk!

Soon it will be time for the first walk of 2005, around Wascana Lake in Regina. We usually plan the first walk some time in May so stay tuned for further details.

For those of you who have not attended this event in the past, you don't know what you are missing. Not only is it a good form of exercise for you and your dog(s), it is also an afternoon of great camaraderie with fellow Wheaten enthusiasts. You will see Wheatens of all ages, from young pups to distinguished veterans. You will see a variety of Wheaten haircuts, from the short, easy to maintain look to the one snip away from entering the dog show ring look, and everything else in between. You will see littermates, housemates, playmates, stud dogs, brood bitches and their progeny. You will also see short ones, tall ones, athletic ones and slightly overweight ones. Some will have a curly coat while others will have a soft, gentle wave. Some will be barking, jumping and just acting crazy, while others – well, okay, I guess all of the Wheatens will be acting this way, but the point is, no matter what your Wheaten looks like, it will fit right in. Heck, we even have Wheaten wannabe's show up at our walks, and they fit right in! Your Wheaten and any other four legged creature will enjoy the outing in the park and I guarantee you will too. I know that I always do. I hope to see you there.

National Director's Report

by Mike Dumelie

We continue to have a well-functioning national board for the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Association of Canada. At this point we have three primary items occurring at the National level: planning for the National Specialty in Halifax; preparing for our next board election in late 2005; and updating our website with our constitution and information related to the national show in Halifax.

The National Specialty is the primary dog show of the Wheaten Terrier in Canada. It is a roving specialty that travels across Canada, moving each year. This year marks the first time that the show has been in the Maritime provinces. The group has been planning this event for many years. They appear to be extremely well prepared. Information regarding this year's event will be posted on the National Club website in the next short while. Please go to <http://www.jb-ccs.com/scwtac> to sponsor an award or get further information related to this year's show.

We will be having another election in 2005 for our National Board. Positions from National President to Director will be available later this year. Please consider volunteering with our organization this year. Some new blood and ideas will be valuable to our organization.

Finally, we are currently discussing putting our Constitution on-line to join our breed standard and our Puppy Buyer's Guide. We are currently getting a legal opinion on the version we can publish. Look for that update in the near future.

Have a great Spring and we look forward to seeing you at the Wheaten Walk.



In Memoriam

It has come to our attention that this Wheaten passed away last August.

Richard and Helen Ingold's Haley

Our thoughts and our sympathy goes out to the loved ones of this wonderful Wheaten.

Recipes for Dog Treats

Thanks to Barb Osborne for sharing these recipes.

Low Fat Muffins

- 2 tbsp honey
- 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups water
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup unsweetened applesauce
- $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp vanilla
- 1 egg
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup barley flour
- 1 cup rye flour
- 1 cup dried apple chips
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 1 tbsp nutmeg

- preheat oven to 350 degrees
- combine first five ingredients in a large bowl
- in a separate bowl, combine the remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly
- add wet to dry ingredients and mix well
- spoon into greased muffin pans so that each cup is three-quarters full
- bake for about one hour
- cool on a rack and store in a sealed container



Sophie's Choice Cookies

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 egg
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup crunchy peanut butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups water
- 3 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cup barley flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cornmeal
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup quick-cook oats
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup unsalted shelled sunflower seeds

- preheat oven to 350 degrees
- combine first five ingredients in large bowl
- combine remaining ingredients in another bowl
- add dry ingredients to wet and mix well
- turn dough onto a floured surface and knead until thoroughly mixed together
- roll out dough until $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick and cut into shapes
- place on greased baking sheet and bake for about 45 minutes
- cool on a rack and store in a sealed container



In Memoriam



Am. Can. Ch. Gleanngay Maximilian
Champion in the show ring



Max
Champion of our hearts

February 5, 1996 - November 8, 2004

It is with great sadness we announce the death of Max at age 8 after a long battle with PLN. Our thanks go out to Gay Dunlap of Santa Fe, New Mexico for sending us the tenacious little pup who grew up to be a loving but tenacious adult. Max was our loyal companion, faithful friend and guardian. He was also our mischievous imp and sock thief - he could steal socks right off our feet! Max was a champion in the show ring and a handsome ambassador for the breed. He is missed so very much by Carolyn and Alan Fox.



MacDuff - Touchstone's Cab Calloway
January 1, 1995 - December 22, 2004

We sadly announce the death of MacDuff, our beloved Basset Hound who was also an honorary Wheaten. MacDuff had a great love for food, sunbeams and for people, especially those who wanted to give him belly rubs or feed him. He will be remembered by many for his gentle loving ways, his sad eyes and his very long ears - he once won a Basset Hound longest ear contest. He will be especially remembered with loving thoughts and many fond memories by Pamela, Carolyn and Alan Fox .

1905 - 2005 Saskatchewan Celebrates its 100th Birthday
Happy Birthday to our diverse and beautiful province.



Saskatchewan, the breadbasket of Canada



The Great Sand Hills in southeastern Saskatchewan



Beautiful Candle Lake in north central Saskatchewan



Along the 49th parallel
Max is in Saskatchewan; MacDuff is in Montana



Pamela, Max and MacDuff on a bale near Moose Jaw



Alan and Max at Nicole Flats near Buffalo Pound Lake

DECORATING WITH DOGS

Decorating when you have pets can provide unique opportunities to express your own personal style and taste. Here are some tips you may find useful:

1. Bare floors, without carpet or throw rugs, can give a nice open feeling to a room. It can provide a soothing balance when you have many art objects that reflect your love of animals.
2. Paw prints and nose smudges on glass doors and windows break up glare and soften the light in a room.
3. Dog crates, when stacked three high, can add height to a room and pull the eye up. If fastened securely to the wall, the top can provide a safe and dramatic place for exotic plants or statuary that otherwise might be molested by your pets. An up light can make it a real focal point. Cats love to inhabit the upper crates, leaving the lower ones for the dogs.
4. Old towels and blankets thrown casually on upholstered furniture can add a wonderful homey, country-quilt look to an otherwise bland room.
5. Common smooth upholstery fabrics can look almost velvety when lightly textured with pet hair.
6. Vari-kennels, placed end to end and topped with plate glass can create an unusual coffee table, one your friends will really remember.
7. Doggie beds, randomly placed around a room, can add color and texture, much as throw pillows do.
8. Shredded or chewed books and magazines send a message to guests that they are free to relax and feel at home.
9. Dog crates can make versatile end tables, and can be slip covered to match any room decor.
10. There is absolutely nothing that makes a guest feel as welcome as three friendly dogs hopping in his lap as soon as he sits down.

So throw away those videos by Martha and others, and express your own unique tastes. Your home should reflect what YOU like!



Letter from the Editor

After writing articles, baking numerous dog treat recipes, and editing sixteen newsletters in the past six years I had already been thinking it was about time to retire. Then a close brush with death in November, followed by brain surgery in December to remove a tumour, clinched my decision to pass the job on to someone else. The fact that we no longer have a Wheaten in our home since Max died of PLN last November adds further credence to that decision. In December MacDuff died. The two faithful taste testers are gone and I have neither the desire or ambition to continue.

Alan, who has published thirty two newsletters in the last eleven years, feels it is time for someone else to step up to the plate. Both Alan and I will help the new editor and publisher get started in any way we can.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me with the newsletter since 1999. Back in 2001 Roz Bacon gave me the courage to tackle controversial topics like vaccinations and pet foods. She helped me write articles on the food issue, Holistic medicine, Arthritis, then PLE and PLN. Thanks Roz! Thank you also to Danny Maclellan, Bob Hamilton, Barb Osborne, Mike Dumelie, Margaret Stewardson, Christine Mirka, Jim and Trina Fallows, Sharon Lang, Jacki Stein and Helen Larson for their contributions as well as all others who granted me permission to reprint their articles. A very big thanks to Alan who always made the publication look good and put up with my many "tweaking" suggestions.

Thank you to friends in our club and Wheaten friends across Canada and the United States who supported Alan, visited me in the hospital during those long 40 days, brought flowers and gifts, and phoned or e-mailed to inquire about me. A very special thanks to Roz and Greg for taking such good care of MacDuff for the first fifteen days of my hospitalization. You have all been wonderful.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Fox

"No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich." - Louis Sabin

WANTED

Editor and Publisher for *The Prairie Wheaten*

The Prairie Wheaten, the publication of the ASCWTA, with a circulation of about 130 people, is sent out to all Wheaten owners in Saskatchewan as well as to the executive of the National Club and area club directors across Canada. It is also posted online for the benefit of interested internet users around the world.

We need a new editor and publisher. Please advise our president, Barb Osborne if you are willing to volunteer.

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