

**Newsletter of the  
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier  
Club of Southern California  
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**DEDICATED TO PEOPLE IN RESCUE  
Author Unknown**

As I walked along the seashore  
This young boy greeted me  
He was tossing stranded starfish  
Back to the Deep Blue Sea.  
I said, "Tell me why you bother,  
Why you waste your time this way  
There's a million stranded Starfish  
Does it matter, anyway?"

As he said, "It matters to this one,  
It deserves a chance to grow.  
It matters to this one  
I can't save them all I know.  
But it matters to this one,  
And it matters to me."

I walked into another Shelter  
And a volunteer greeted me  
She was helping Misty learn to trust  
She was struggling I could see.  
I said, "Tell me why you bother,  
Why you waste your time this way.  
Misty's only one of thousands  
Does it matter anyway?"

And she said, "It matters to this one,  
She deserves a chance to grow.  
It matters to this one  
I can't save them all I know.  
But it matters to this one  
I'll help her be what she can be  
It matters to this one  
And it matters to me."

Reprinted from the Internet



## INCLUDE A PHOTO ON YOUR WHEATEN'S OFA RECORD

You can now add a digital photo to your OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) record! Now people using the OFA website can not only see health test results on your Wheaten, they can see a photograph of the actual dog.

There is a fee for this service of \$10.00. However the OFA is donating 100% of the fee to the AKC Canine Health Foundation Endowment fund. Also, through 2005 the AKC-CHF is matching funds—so each photo will be a \$20 donation to help canine health issues.

Remember that most show photos are copyrighted. Please ask permission before using a photo you did not take. OFA has already obtained permission from a limited number of photographers. These are listed on the OFA website.

OFA has set guidelines for the type and size of photos that will be accepted. OFA has prepared a set of photo preparation tips to help you get your photos ready prior to submitting them.

To see more about adding a photo, go here:

**[www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)**

You will need to know your dog's registration or OFA number. Another simple way to add the photo is to look up your Wheaten on the OFA website then click on the photo icon to the right of his or her name. That will take you to the same page.

Have fun, make a donation. And show off your Wheaten!

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*May the lilt of lush laughter lighten every road,  
May the midst of Irish magic shorten every road.  
May you taste the sweetest pleasures  
that fortune ever bestowed,  
And may all your friends remember  
all the favors you are owed.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MERRILLEE FORD

Love may make the world go round, but it is friends that keep the engine oiled and greased so we even care that it's going round and round. There are several level at which we all operate. Friends that we car-pooled the kids with, see once in a while and like...or not. Friends on a level that we can ask a favor or two of and we might do a favor for. Ones we occasionally dine or go to movies with. Ones we may ask for advice once in a blue moon and ones we know we can always count on. Friends we can rely on when the world comes crashing down around us. They all play an important part of our life. One of the reasons we all belong to a club is the things we share—the bond that ties us together and the things we all love...our dogs in this case. For some they may be the only reason we find to get up in the morning, or to come home to after a long, hard day at work. For some they are an extension of our self and perhaps we take a bit more pride in them than we do in ourselves. Our club lost a long-time member this past month. Some knew her well and some not at all. But we are all tied together through the dogs that love us and I hope we send a happy thought and memory to Dorothy Larrabee on her way to new horizons and her daughter, Jackie Whitham, and all her many, many friends. May we all live as long and well as she did.

Best wishes as Spring, and hopefully drier weather, is certainly coming soon, Merrillee

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## IN THE KITCHEN WITH KARLA

\*Reminder: these are for your dogs to enjoy!

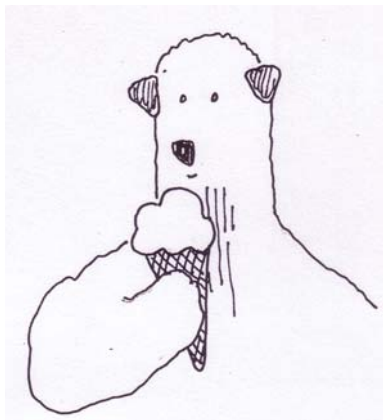
### SESAME-PEANUT BUTTER BISCUITS

#### Batter

2 1/4 cups whole wheat flour  
3/4 cup wheat bran  
1/4 cup peanut butter  
1/4 cup milk  
1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce  
2 eggs

#### Topping

1 egg  
Pinch of salt  
1 tablespoon sesame seeds



Preheat oven to 350°

Combine flour and wheat bran in a large mixing bowl. In a food processor, mix together peanut butter and milk until the peanut butter is liquified. Add applesauce and eggs. Add this to the dry ingredients and mix well. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Roll to 1/4 to 1/2 inch thickness. Use cookie cutters to cut into shapes. Place on a foil-covered baking sheet. Make the topping by beating the egg with a pinch of salt. Brush each biscuit with the beaten egg mix and sprinkle with sesame seeds.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes, until tops and bottoms brown. Store at room temperature in a covered container.

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I'm looking for a four-leaf clover that I overlooked before.  
One leaf is sunshine, the second is rain,  
Third is the roses that live down the lane.  
No need explaining the one remaining is somebody I adore.  
I'm looking for a four-leaf clover that I overlooked before.

Dear Mom,

We have a dog that gets carsick every time she goes for a car ride. She ends up vomiting, whether it's a short or long trip, even if she hasn't eaten anything. What can I do to settle her stomach? I don't want her to hate the car every time she needs to go someplace.

Thanks, Bumpy Ride

Dear Bumpy,

There are several things you can do to help diminish your dog's carsickness. First, safely confine her in a secured crate in the car. Some carsick dogs do better in the front seat, but the rear of your car provides more protection from bouncing off the windshield, if you have an accident. Then, ensure she has an empty stomach before the ride (no food or water for four to six hours prior). You can acclimate your dog to car rides by taking her for frequent, short trips such as around the block. Take along a favorite chew toy to distract her. Consider covering the crate with a towel or blanket so she can't see out. Watching the scenery fly by can contribute to the nausea. Be sure, however, that she gets plenty of fresh air while riding. If these steps don't help talk to your veterinarian about medications that might help. Make frequent stops (at least every two hours) if you are taking a long trip to allow her to get out of the car and get a bit of exercise. Offer small amounts of water during these stops so she doesn't get dehydrated. Stop more often if you see signs of nausea, such as drooling or burping. An old, but perhaps wise tale is to give your dog a ginger snap before a car ride. Ginger is a good stomach settler, and it can't hurt to try at this point.

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### What is a B Match?

Our next B Match will be April 10th at Arcadia Park in Arcadia. The idea of a match is to give people and their dogs some ring experience: to learn ring procedure, to give dogs show experience, to give people a chance to learn to steward, to give others an opportunity to judge, etc., but most important is it should be fun. Fun for the dogs and fun for the people. So come on out and join the fun. In the afternoon the Great Western Terrier Association has their match at the same park. There is a great lunch, raffle items to take a chance on and best of all, more puppies to watch in the ring.

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"There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy  
licking your face." Ben Williams

## MOTHER KNOWS BEST



Dear Mom,

We are having trouble with wet spots on the floor and a wet, drippy beard when our dog gets a drink from her bowl. Any ideas that could help keep our floor from resembling a spa site?

Thanks, Soggy Doggy

Dear Soggy,

Mom uses travel water bowls in her kitchen. You can find them in most dog catalogs, at dog supply stores, and at show vendors that sell supplies for dogs. There are various makes and brands. The type we use is called a Water Hole. It is a 2 quart bowl with a snap on lid. This makes the hole for actually drinking smaller and seems to push the dog's beard aside so it stays dry. You can also use them in your car as they are pretty tip-proof.

Dear Mom,

I understand Wheatens Jump Up for Joy when they meet and greet me and other people. How do I keep this natural behavior at a reasonable level. It's cute now as she is still little and we don't want it to get out of hand.

Thanks, Future Olympian High Jumper

Dear High,

This is one trait that most Wheatens seem to come programmed to do. You are right to be concerned and to try and keep it manageable. It's perfectly natural for your puppy to jump up in excitement and put his paws on you when he greets you (and other people). After all, she is happy to see you. But although this is cute when the puppy is little, it's not so cute when she's grown up. Teach your puppy to greet people calmly right from the start. Rather than punishing this behavior, teach her to sit whenever you come in the door or when a friend approaches her. Give her praise or a treat every time she sits, and simply ignore her when she jumps—this way, she'll figure out pretty quickly which behavior is more rewarding. Training your puppy and raising her to be the well-behaved, happy companion you hoped for involves a serious commitment of your time, effort, and attention. There may be ups and downs along the way, but sharing your life with this loving (and loved) family member is worth it.

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Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

## AKC EVENTS ELIGIBILITY

AKC events offer a little bit of everything in the world of dog events. Some demonstrate the dogs breeding ability such as conformation. The performance events that demonstrate the dog's athletic abilities and the teamwork of dog and handler to perform the ancient skills of hunting, tracking, and field events.

**Agility Trials:** All breeds registered with the AKC. Agility is an amazing fast-paced sport that tests a handler and dog's ability to navigate a sequence of obstacles in a given time. Spayed and neutered dogs are eligible to compete.

**Conformation Shows:** All breeds registered with the AKC. At dog shows the focus is on canine form and structure. Dogs are examined by a judge and placed according to how well—in the judge's opinion—they conform to the breed's standard of perfection. This includes **Junior Sportsmanship**, a national program in which 10-to-18-year-olds learn about and take part in dog shows and events.

**Coonhound Events:** Black and Tan Coonhound, Bluetick, English Hound, Plott, Redbone, Treeing Walker are eligible to compete. The dog follows a raccoon's scent in night hunts and field trials.

**Earthdog Tests:** Terriers: Australian, Bedlington, Border, Cairn, Dandie Dinmont, Fox (Smooth and Wire), Parson (formerly known as Jack Russell, Lakeland, Norfolk, Norwich, Scottish, Sealyham, Silky, Skye, Welsh, West Highland White; Dachshunds; demonstrate the instinctive ability to "go to ground," or pursue quarry in dens or tunnels.

**Field Trials:** Basset Hound, Beagle, Dachshund, all Sporting Group Breeds assist the sportsman in the pursuit of game. At field trials, dogs compete against each other.

**Herding Tests and Trials:** Rottweiler, Samoyed, all Herding Group Breeds demonstrate activities with ancient origins. In a herding test, the dogs herd small animals, such as ducks, through a simple course. Herding trials are more challenging—in these the dog must guide cattle or sheep through a more complicated setting. The handler and dog work as a team.

**Hunting Tests:** All Sporting Group breeds, Standard Poodle. At hunting tests, dogs are judged individually against a standard of performance as the dogs assist the sportsman in the pursuit of game.

**Lure Coursing:** Afghan Hound, Basenji, Borzoi, Greyhound, Ibizan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Italian Greyhound, Pharaoh Hound, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Saluki, Scottish Deerhound, Whippet are all sighthounds. These are dogs whose keen vision and lightning speed helped them find and run down game generations ago. Today these breeds are used seldom for hunting; instead, they chase an artificial lure around a laid-out course—but the chase is just as intense.

**Obedience/Rally Trials:** All breeds registered with the AKC.

**Tracking Events:** All breeds registered with the AKC.

While you and your dog may not be interested in showing in any of these venues there is always **Therapy Dog**. Regardless of size, shape, or breed, dogs can excel at therapy work. It is fulfilling, at times challenging, but has immeasurable benefits. To train your dog in canine therapy he will need to be awarded his Canine Good Citizen certificate, as well as have some training in obedience. He needs to get along with other dogs, be obedient, and enjoy visiting children, patients in hospitals or care facilities, be comfortable with people in wheelchairs or bedridden, and in general love people. For more information you can get more information from the Delta Society ([www.deltasociety.org](http://www.deltasociety.org) or 425-226-7357), Therapy Dogs International ([www.tdi.org](http://www.tdi.org) or 973-252-9800), or Love on a Leash (760-740-2326).

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## WASHINGTON DOG PHONES 911 FOR FALLEN OWNER

**Richland, Washington** — Faith, the service dog, phoned 911 when her owner fell out of her wheelchair and barked urgently into the receiver until a dispatcher sent help. Then the 4-year-old Rottweiler unlocked the front door so the responding police officer could come in.

“I sensed there was a problem on the other end of the 911 call,” said dispatcher Jenny Buchanan, who answered the call from Faith.

“The dog was too persistent in barking directly into the phone receiver,” Buchanan said at Benton County’s Southeast Communications center. “I knew she was trying to tell me something.”

Faith is trained to summon help by pushing a speed-dial button on the phone with her nose after taking the receiver off the hook, said her owner, Leana Beasley, 45, who suffers grand mal seizures.

Guided by experts at the Assistance Dog Club of Puget Sound, Beasley helped train Faith herself.

## TRAIN DON’T COMPLAIN

Puppies don’t come equipped with house manners. You must teach them. Perhaps the most effective way is with obedience training, which gives you and your dog a common language.

Fortunately your little pup is like a little sponge, ready to soak up all you can teach him. Your goal is to turn him into a mature well-behaved adult who is a pleasure to live with and is welcome almost everywhere. In fact, every time you interact with your dog you are training him.

It’s never too early for a puppy to learn the basic obedience commands, but you should remember that puppies have short attention spans. Keep your training sessions brief—about 15 minutes each—and playful. Motivational tools and rewards, like toys, bits of food, and lots of praise, make training fun for a puppy.

Most of today’s prominent trainers believe that you should never use any physically painful corrections. You want to set up a relationship of trust.

Touching a dog is good, as long as it’s gentle or playful. You want him to get used to being touched. You can even physically manipulate him into the proper positions for some of the exercises. This will make you aware of any negative reactions he has to being touched.

**COME** is the one command word that could someday save your dog’s life. Start in a quiet room with no distractions. Squat down, open your arms, and say, “Come,” then praise immediately, on the assumption he will obey. Don’t wait to see what he will do; set a positive tone.

When he comes, don’t grab at him. Instead, let him come up to you, and lightly scratch his chest. Scoop him up and tell him what a wonderful dog he is.

To practice this outdoors do so in a safe, enclosed area. Make a game of it by hiding from your puppy and calling him. Or walk away from him and quietly call him.

If he doesn’t come, go slowly to him, put the leash on him, and guide him back to where you called him from, praising the whole time. This tells him what he has to do but that you aren’t angry. Never scold him if he comes too slowly, as this will only teach him to avoid you in the future.

This is an important command for your dog to learn. He may bolt when you are walking and a good “COME” command can keep him out of the road or other danger. I never use this when the dog is being groomed, about to have a bath, or some other activity they may not enjoy. Reinforce it with treats as the dog gets older and practice it occasionally to keep the dog’s skills fresh. This is one command you may use daily and by practicing the dog will get used to hearing it. In time, the word will act as a cue to the dog.

## WHAT'S THE HARM IN A FEW FRENCH FRIES?

Your Wheaten is your treasure, your own personal pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, and a cherished member of your family. They can also be born con artists, so skillful at this they can scam you even when you know you're being scammed. It takes a will of iron to resist those big brown eyes, and pathetic whimper—the tools of thier trade. To help stiffen your resolve, remember: The “cute” behaviors you reinforce in puppyhood can become obnoxious habits your dog will have for the rest of her life.

Nowhere is this more true than in begging for scraps. What begins as an innocent scrap of meatloaf under the table can become an ingrained behavior—and an awful nuisance. It can also harm your dog's health and temperament.

**A steady diet of table scraps can create a serious nutritional imbalance.** The good you do by feeding premium food is undone by supplementing it with pizza crusts and scraps from your sandwich.

**The canine stomach was not built for “people food.”** Spices we may take for granted in our favorite dishes can cause gastrointestinal upset in puppies. Some foods, especially chocolate, are actually toxic to dogs.

**A puppy regularly fed table food is more likely to become overweight.** Obesity in dogs, as in humans, is a contributing factor in a long list of diseases and orthopedic problems.

**Dogs are pack animals, and a pack can only have one leader.** The question is, “Will it be you or her?” When you give in to your pup and feed her at the table, you seriously undermine your “top dog” status. This may make training difficult and lead to a range of inappropriate canine behaviors.

So what do you do when those big brown eyes keep staring at you while you are trying to enjoy that little ole fry? According to animal behaviorists, the answer is to simply ignore her. Don't even look at her. It will take self-control and patience on your part, but eventually she will get the message.

A dog will consistently repeat learned behavior only when it is reinforced by rewards. Cut off the rewards, and you cut off the behavior. Even if your dog is a pro at mooching, if you hold firm an old dog can learn new tricks.



Abridged from AKC publication, **Family Dog**

The day of the fall, Faith “had been acting very clingy, wanting to be touching me all day long,” Beasley said.

The dog, who sensitive nose can detect changes in Beasley's body chemistry, is trained to alert her owner to impending seizures before they happen.

But that wasn't what happened on this day, and Faith apparently was not sure how to communicate the problem. During Beasley's subsequent three-week hospital stay, doctors determined her liver was not properly processing her medication for the seizures.

“So my whole system was not working right,” she said.

Faith “was just very concerned,” Beasley recalled. “She wouldn't let me out of her sight. She wanted to be touchy-feely.

After her adult son left for the graveyard shift, Beasley tried to go to sleep. But Faith kept jumping up on the bed, which is off limits.

“It's kind of hard to sleep when you've got an 80-pound dog running around in circles on your bed,” she said.

So Beasley got up and checked to make sure all the doors were locked and that there was no one outside. She made another attempt at sleep, but Faith would have none of it. “Within five minutes she was doing the same thing all over again.”

So Beasley decided to get up again and to make some hot chocolate. The last thing she remembers is reaching for the teakettle. “I didn't feel anything,” she said. “I just went unconscious.”

After the call from Faith, Buchanan dispatched Richland Police Cpl. Scott Morrell. He arrived to see Faith and her predecessor, now-retired service dog Bronson, peering at him from Beasley's front window.

Morrell knocked, and then realized the door was unlocked.

“Faith had already opened the door for him,” Beasley said. The dog had been trained to recognize police officers, firefighters and medical personnel as “special friends with cookies.”

Inside, Morrell found Beasley on the kitchen floor—unconscious after striking her head in the fall and suffering a seizure—and called for medical assistance.

Faith watched intently while a paramedic tended Beasley and at one point tired to tell him that another seizure was imminent. He didn't recognize the signal, but minutes mattered, “Boom, I went into another seizure,” Beasley said.

She woke up in the hospital several days later. Faith joined her after her transfer to the Veterans Administration hospital in Walla Walla.

Authorities learned about Faith's intervention when Beasley stopped by to thank Buchanan and Morrell after her release from the hospital.

Taken from the internet via the Associated Press.

## HISTORY OF THE SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER

Dating back to prehistoric times, Irish legend and folklore are filled with references to the native dogs of the island. The ancient Romans prized canines from the Emerald Isle and reproduced them on coins, musical instruments, and tapestries. The dogs so admired were the hounds and hunting dogs of the nobility. Early travelers also spoke of the "cotters' dogs." These were smaller, all-purpose, easy-to-keep animals, and no doubt, included early terriers. As quoted in The Dogs of Ireland by Anna Redlich, the law of William III in 1698 stated that "only persons owning an estate of freehold of the yearly value of 40 pounds, at least, or a personal estate of 1,000 pounds shall keep any hound, beagle, greyhound, or land-spaniel other than whelps under the age of twelve months." The sporting or hunting dogs were reserved for the gentry; the terrier was the poor man's dog.

The farmers of the counties of Munster— Tipperary, Clare, Cork, Waterford, Limerick, and Kerry—used terriers as general farm dogs. They protected people and property, worked cattle and sheep, kept down vermin, hunted badgers and foxes, and were even used as gun dogs. While the exact history is unknown, it seems clear that the three long-legged terriers of Ireland— the Wheaten, the Irish, and the Kerry Blue— all share a common background. The Wheaten was late in being recognized as a distinct breed. The breed was recognized by the Irish Kennel Club in 1937.

Lydia Vogel of Massachusetts brought the first Wheatens to the United States in the 1940's, but real activity in the breed in this county did not begin until the late 1950's when the O'Connors and Arnolds imported their dogs. Wheatens were exhibited in the AKC Miscellaneous Class until October 1973 when they became recognized and exhibited in regular classes.

Taken from the SCWTCA website, [www.scwtca.org](http://www.scwtca.org)

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May your pockets be heavy,  
Your hearts be light,  
And may good luck pursue you  
Each morning and night.

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveler filled the bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree.

"What do you call this place?" the traveler asked.

"This is Heaven," he answered.

"Well, that's confusing," the traveler said. "The man down the road said that was Heaven, too."

"Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's Hell."

"Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?"

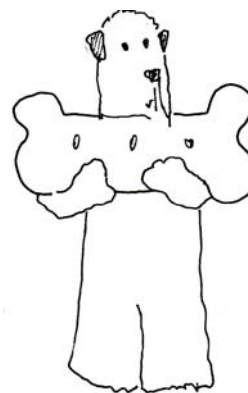
"No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind."

TAKEN FROM THE INTERNET

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Paddy went to a pet shop and asked how many budgies were in stock. "We have 99" replied the shop owner. "Give us the lot," said Paddy. He paid for them and left. We then went to the tailor's shop and had 99 pockets sewn into a jacket. He put a budgie in each pocket, went up to the Post Office Tower and jumped off.

He hit the ground with an almighty smack and lay there groaning until a passer-by came and asked him what happened. "I don't know, sir" he replied, "but that's the last time I try that budgie jumping."



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Lucky stars above you,  
Sunshine on your way,  
Many friends to love you,  
Joy in work and play—  
Laughter to outweigh each care,  
In your heart a song—  
And gladness waiting everywhere  
All your whole life long!

## FUN FACTS ABOUT DOGS

### A HEAVENLY WALK

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight.

When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When he was close enough, he called out, "Excuse me, where are we?"

"This is Heaven, sir," the man at the gate answered.

"Wow! Would you happen to have some water?" the traveler asked.

"Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up." The man gestured, and the gate began to open.

"Can my friend," gesturing toward his dog, "come in, too?" the traveler asked.

"I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets."

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog. After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

"Excuse me!" he called to the man. "Do you have any water?"

"Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in."

"How about my friend here?" the traveler gestured to the dog.

"There should be a bowl by the pump."

**TOP DOG:** The Saint Bernard is the heaviest breed of dog, followed by the English Mastiff and the Newfoundland.

**DOG LOVER WITH A BIG HEART AND A LOT OF EXTRA ROOM:** Dog lovers frequently own more than one dog, but the record for owning the most dogs belongs to the thirteenth-century emperor Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan. He owned a grand total of five thousand mastiffs, give or take a few pups.

**DOGS AND RAIN:** Dogs often hesitate before venturing into the rain. It's not because they are afraid of getting wet, but because the rain amplifies sound and hurts their sensitive ears.

**DOGS IN THE MILITARY:** During World War I, Airedale terriers worked twelve hours a day on strict rations carrying messages to and from the front line.

**HOW MANY DOGS ARE THERE:** There are 150 million dogs worldwide; 40 million in this country. In the United States, the Southwest is the area with the most dogs. And California, boasting a population of 5.7 million dogs, is the state with the most canines.

**HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR DOG'S AGE:** The old formula for obtaining the age of your dog was to multiply every year of a dog's life by seven human years. But that's not accurate. A dog is full grown at twelve months, which would be age eighteen in human terms. From this point on to calculate the true age of your dog, figure that every dog year is the equivalent of five human years. Thus a ten year old dog is sixty three years of age in human terms, calculated this way. The first year of a dog's life counts as eighteen; then add five years for every additional year. Since there are nine additional years, add forty five to the eighteen to arrive at sixty three.

**VACATIONING DOGS:** According to a survey by the American Hospital Association, 53 percent of pet owners travel with their pets.

Taken from:

"Fun Facts From Dogs", by Richard Torregrossa

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Don't cry because it's over;  
Smile because it happened.

## HAVE YOU HERD?

The AKC has a licensed herding program for all herding breeding dogs (and Rottweilers and Samoyeds) licensed in the AKC to participate in it. The popularity is growing in leaps and bounds. The Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) has a licensed herding program that has existed much longer than the AKC program, and is very active. In addition to the AKC and ASCA, the American Herding Breed Association (AHBA) (which was founded in California), is another well-known herding program. These programs are designed for all herding breeds and are better suited for some beginning herding dogs than the International Stock Dog Society (ISDS) trials, which are for highly advanced and competitive dogs. These trials can consist of four-hundred yard runs (trials such as these have been held for centuries — in the United Kingdom, and now in the United States).

Dogs possess various attributes which enable them to move and control stock. Wheatens are not a herding breed and therefore are not eligible to trial at AKC sponsored herding events. They were bred to be companion working dogs and many do have natural herding instincts. If you have ever been to the Mission Circuit Dog Shows you may have even taken your dog in the ring to participate in a test that gauges their level of herding instinct. One dog member of our club and her owners have taken this a step further and have taken not only the instinct test, but have trialed their dog at ASCA events. Viviana and Ron Hetherington and their Wheaten, CH Claddaghs Star Studed Ceili, known to many as Ceili, (who lives with R.J. the German Shepherd dog that often accompanies her to conformation shows) have both been training to be herding champs too.

Here are a few photos of their runs that might inspire a few more of you to try your hand at herding with your Wheaten.

