



Wh-e-mail

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Victoria Inc.

Recent Activities: A small number of club members went to the St Patrick's Family Festival with their wheaten on Sunday 13th March. It's probably fair to say that the event attracted only a small audience, and the festivities ended early when a severe storm hit just after 3.00pm.

Coming up soon: A reminder that the Million Paws Walk is on Sunday 15th May (see the Calendar). We have booked the Herding Trial for Sunday 29th May at Nyora. We hope to have lots of "*in-ter-est-ing*" photos of the day for the next wh-e-mail. The irresistible force (an excited wheaten) meets the immovable object (a stubborn ewe).

Wheatens will be competing at The Sporting Terrier Club Shows over the Queen's Birthday weekend. Club members will be there for lunch on Monday 13th June (see the Calendar).

Wheaten Health

Since the story of Derry's diagnosis, I've been asked to provide some information about the symptoms of the most serious inheritable conditions which may affect wheatens. **The first thing to note**, is that wheatens are regarded as a sturdy breed, with few major health issues. The following table is taken from a UK survey.

The Kennel Club/British Small Animal Veterinary Association Committee's Summary Results of the Purebred Dog Health Survey for SCWTs (2006)

Mortality Data

(frequency per number of deaths in proportion to population): A total of 111 deaths were reported.

Causes of Death	Number of Dogs	Median Age
Cancer	29 dogs (26.1%)	10.5 years
Old Age	23 dogs (20.7%)	13.75 years
Unspecified	10 dogs (9.0%)	13.75 years
Urologic (kidney failure, PLN, glomerulonephritis, incontinence)	9 dogs (8.1%)	12.6 years
Combinations	8 dogs (7.2%)	12.6 years
Neurologic (seizures, myelopathy, spinal paralysis)	5 dogs (4.5%)	12.75 years

Other causes include everything from aggression, to heart attacks and road accidents.

Median age of death for SCWTs was 12 years and 6 months, (ranging over the 111 dogs reported from 6 months to 17 years). This is higher than the overall ALL Breeds median of 11 years and 3 months.

824 Forms were sent out to SCWT UK Club members. 380 returned, representing 505 live dogs (46.1% response rate). 45% of the SCWT were neutered with slightly more bitches being neutered than males. The full report is available at: www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/570 click on Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.

The second thing to note, is that Renal Dysplasia (RD), Protein Losing Nephropathy (PLN), Protein Losing Enteropathy (PLE), and Addison's Disease are difficult to diagnose, and each has a collection of quite common symptoms with a lot of overlap between the various conditions.

The following comparative tables are from the Wheaten Health Initiative www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com Used with permission. © Wheaten Health Initiative & Roni Andrews Sept.2009.

Comparison of Symptoms

RD	PLN ¹	PLE	Addison's ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased water consumption • Increased urination (dilute urine) • "Poor doer" • Decreased appetite • Vomiting • Possibly prone to urinary tract infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listlessness/depression • Decreased appetite, vomiting, weight loss • Ascites, edema, pleural effusion [accumulation of fluid] • Increased water consumption • Increased urination (less common) • Thromboembolic phenomena [eg. blood clot] and hypertension (less common) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting • Diarrhoea • Weight loss • Ascites • Edema • Pleural effusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listlessness/depression • Decreased appetite, vomiting, weight loss • Inability to handle stress • Sudden collapse • Slow heart rate

¹PLE and PLN are difficult to diagnose. The initial stages of the disease may be mistaken for liver, glandular or other enteric or kidney diseases. Wheatens with PLE and/or PLN may have serious thromboembolic events (such as pulmonary embolism) before symptoms or renal failure start, even before there is increased serum creatinine or BUN. ²The clinical signs of Addison's Disease are often non-specific and can mimic those of multiple other medical disorders.

Diagnosing: RD; PLN & PLE & Addison's Disease

	RD	PLN	PLE	Addison's
Age of Onset	<1-3years	Mean ~ 6 years	Mean ~ 4.5 years	Young (in general)
Sex Predilection	None noted	Female: male=1.6	Female: male=1.7	Female (in general)
Polyuria/Polydipsia	Yes	Only 25% had PU/PD	No, unless on steroids	Yes
Vomiting/Diarrhoea	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ascites/Edema	No	Possibly	Possibly	No
Azotemia	Yes	Eventually	No	Possibly (pre-renal)
Kidney Size	Small	May be normal	Normal	Normal
Hypoalbuminemia	No	Yes	Yes	Possibly (melena)
Hypoglobulinemia	No	No	Yes	Possibly (melena)
Hypercholesterolemia	No	Yes	Hypocholesterolemia	No
Low Na/K ratio	Not noted	Rarely (~10%)	Rarely (~10%)	Yes
Urine Specific Gravity	Isosthenuria	Mean 1.023	Mean 1.033	Low (medullary washout)
Proteinuria	None or mild	Yes	No	No
Histopathology K = kidney I = intestine	Foetal Glomeruli, Foetal mesenchyme (K)	Glomerulonephritis, Glomerulosclerosis (K)	IBD, lymphangiectasia, lymphangitis (I)	No

Source 1999 ACVIM PROCEEDINGS Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier PLE-PLN;
Meryl P. Littman VMD DACVIM, Philadelphia PA

Other important Lab. findings

RD	PLE	PLN ¹	Addison's ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevated Creatinine Elevated BUN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eosinophilia Lymphopenia Low total protein 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevated Serum Creatinine Elevated BUN Elevated Urine Protein Creatinine Ratio* <i>*very important!</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevated Serum Creatinine Elevated BUN

The third thing to note, is that by the time symptoms become obvious, much of the damage has been done. A full blood and urine analysis at least annually, in combination with a very observant owner and an alert vet, is the only way, at the present time, to identify these health issues before extensive damage produces obvious symptoms.

Remember: diagnosis of PLE/PLN, RD, or Addison's is dependent on evaluating everything – test results, clinical signs and symptoms.

If the results show any abnormalities, you and your vet need to take immediate action.

- You need to contact your breeder immediately. He/she will want to know in order to help you and to take action on other dogs in their breeding program.
- Your vet should contact one of the key researchers for further advice on diagnosis and treatment.

For more information and a copy of the annual testing protocols:

Contact the club secretary or the committee vic.wheatenatgmaildotcom

or check the SCWT Club of America website <http://www.scwtca.org/health/protocol-own.htm>

or the Wheaten Health Initiative website <http://www.wheatenhealthinitiative.com>

Calendar of Events to June 30 2011

Date	Activity/Event	Location	Time
Sunday 15 May	The Million Paws Walk RSPCA Fund Raiser ~ \$15.00 per dog [direct deposit to Sarah or pay her on the day] email the club	Around Albert Park Lake Meet on the West side of Beaurepaire Pavilion, facing Oval 20,C1 [Melway Ref 2K G10]	9.15 am
Sunday 29 May	Herding Day for Beginners \$40 for one dog and handler. Covers herding lecture, at least 3 runs with sheep, morning tea and lunch. Spectators (no dog) \$5.00. email the club	Double K Herding Training, 960 Mt Lyall Road, Nyora [Melway Ref 612 S9]	9.00 am
Monday 13 June	Championship Show organised by The Sporting Terrier Club - Bring or buy lunch email the club	KCC Park 655 Westernport Highway, Skye, [Melway Ref 128 J12]	Noon
Various weekdays	Available on some weekdays? Bring your dog for an informal play session or quiet walk. email the club	Variety of dog friendly venues around Melbourne's inner and middle suburbs	Various
To be confirmed for July	Mid-winter Walk and Lunch at Daylesford email the club Yes. We are gluttons for punishment!	Daylesford To be confirmed	11.00am

Useful contacts:

Secretary-Phyllis: vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom Membership enquiries-Julie: positivepawsatbigponddotcom