



# Wh-e-mail

## The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Victoria Inc.

Greeting Cards for sale: Produced by the Club. All proceeds to the Wheaten Health Australia Project. The cost is \$20.00 per set plus postage if required. See the full details and request an Order Form on the [Victorian Club webpage](#) or ask a committee member for more information.

Edition 2: April 2009

### Recent Events

**March 8th Walk and Picnic with Neil O'Sullivan.** We had a perfect Melbourne Autumn day. 17 dogs and their owners came for at least part of the day. Dogs, adults and children all enjoyed themselves with a good walk, good food and good company. I have a group photo of those who were present at the time Sarah took it. It's a bit large for wh-e-mail, but if you'd like a copy, contact Phyllis.

Who was there? Rosie & *Marley*; Andrew and son & *Pat*; Melissa, Hayden & *Cara*; Sarah & *Shaemus* & *Nellie*; Diana, Chris and children & *Ned*; Julie & *Bridie*, *Cushy* & *Max*; Phyllis & *Derry*; Melva, Brett & *Caoimhe* & *Redmond*; Monica, Neil & *Priscilla*; Amanda, Rob and children & *Murphy*; Margaret, Norman & *Pirate* & *Hazel*, Kerrie & *Teddy Robinson*.

**April 5th Brighton Dog Beach.** It rained AGAIN! Victoria doesn't need a desalination plant. It just needs us to organise a beach walk - it's guaranteed to rain. Those hardy individuals, human and dog, who braved the weather were: Rosie, John & *Marley*; Murray & *Fletch*; Jane & *Murphy*; Phyllis & *Derry*; Angela & *Diva*; Andrew and his wife & *Pat*. Being cold, damp and sandy, we decided to give lunch a miss. As we were leaving, we met Kerrie and her mother & *Teddy Robinson*. They had been waiting, warm and dry, at North Point cafe and decided to walk down to the beach to look for us.



### Why do Wheatens do that?

When we say wheatens have a tendency to stand up on their hind legs - we MEAN it!



L to R Ailish, Kash and Tawny

The three in this photo, in a typical wheaten pose, belong to Bev Knight from NZ. I don't know why they do it. I can speculate that it gives them a better view and that suits the 'stickybeak' nature of most wheatens. It allows them to reach things normally too high up: food, people's noses etc. It may originally have helped them develop strong hindquarters to deal with large vermin such as badgers, although many breeds needed this strength, but are not notorious for standing on two legs! Perhaps they do it because it's always good for a laugh. "Let's entertain the humans." It is a big asset in agility activities and probably in dog dancing. It's certainly a breed characteristic. And it's almost impossible to stop them doing it, even when they're old or injured. Does anyone have the definitive answer? Why do wheatens do that?

### Useful contacts:

Secretary - Phyllis: [vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom](mailto:vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom)

Membership enquiries - Julie: [positivepawsatbigponddotcom](mailto:positivepawsatbigponddotcom)

<http://www.wheatensaustraliasia.org/vic> General information - Committee: [vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom](mailto:vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom)

### My experiences as a 'raw feeder.'

About 6½ years ago, at the end of a particularly bad training session, when Derry had been like a kid on red cordial, my trainer mentioned the BARF diet. The rest of our group seemed to know all about it, so I nodded wisely and hurried home to check on the net. I read Dr Billingham's books on the BARF diet, sourced the ingredients and started making my version of his raw food patties. While the advice is usually to introduce a new diet slowly, I was desperate and Derry had never been a picky eater. She went Cold Turkey. No more dry food, no matter how expensive the brand or how high the quality. I was a bit obsessive.

**So, what effect did it have?** The first surprise was Derry's attitude to food. Overnight, she went from food = fuel for the body, to being vitally interested in different tastes and textures. Give her two things on the plate and it's "what will I have first?" "Chicken wings taste different to mushy vegies." "I like this. I don't like that. I looove this". She observes everything that goes into and comes out of the fridge. I told a friend that I felt like a 'good mother.' I enjoy planning what to buy, what to feed her today, what to put in the patties. She gets such pleasure out of the business of eating. Within about two weeks, people at training were commenting on the difference, without knowing that I had changed her diet. She will always be an 'excitable' dog, but she was more focussed and she developed an off switch - these days I can calm her down. At 7½ she has no signs of food allergies, arthritis, weight problems or dental issues. Her teeth have never needed to be descaled by the vet.

**What have I learned?** Not to be so obsessive about her diet. I don't follow one approach and exclude all others. My two rules are: feed as wide a variety of raw food as I can over a cycle of about a week, avoid artificial preservatives, flavourings and colourings as much as possible. These days, I can buy BARF patties, so I do. She has one about every fourth or fifth meal. She has a small number of items that are cooked: Brunswick sardines, takeaway vegetable tempura and mashed potato with parsnip or pumpkin or sweet potato. My butcher is outstanding, but he thinks I eat a lot of meat. (I don't tell him that three quarters of my order is for the dog.) I have an equally outstanding green grocer. Derry gets the soft fruit. I like mine less ripe. We make a social outing of food shopping. Everyone knows Derry.

If you'd like some more information about raw feeding, email Phyllis at [vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom](mailto:vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom)

### Resources:

BARF Diet: Dr Ian Billingham <http://www.barfaustralia.com>  
Raw Meaty Bones: Tom Lonsdale <http://www.rawmeatybones.com>  
Vet's All Natural: Dr Bruce Syme <http://www.vetsallnatural.com.au>  
Raw Feeding Forum(with videos!!!) <http://www.boxerworld.com/forums> (scroll down to raw feeding forum)

### Calendar of Events 2009 (Up to June 30th)

Date	Activity/Event	Location	Time
Sunday May 17	The Million Paws Walk RSPCA Fund Raiser Contact: email the club	Around Albert Park Lake [Meet on the West side of Beaufort Pavilion, facing Oval 20, Melway Ref 2K G10]	By 9.45am
Monday June 8	Open Show & Rare Breeds Championship Show organised by The Sporting Terrier Club - Bring or buy lunch Contact: 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. Organised frequently, arranged at 3 or 4 days notice. Contact: email the club	Variety of dog friendly venues around Melbourne's inner and middle suburbs.	Various
Planned for July	"A Dinner without Dogs" Just Dog Owners and an entertaining Guest Speaker.	Date and Venue to be finalised.	