

# Wh-e-mail

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



Bridie and Mac's pup  
"Blondie"

### Recent Events

**Oct 11th - The 10th Annual Wheaten Picnic.** We had at least 23 Wheatens, varying in age from 9 weeks to 8+ years, accompanied by about 40 human friends and family. We all had a pleasant walk by the Yarra River, then it was time to cut the 10th Anniversary cake (very yummy). Unfortunately, it then started to rain, so the games and grooming demo were cancelled. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all. Thanks must go to the SCWTC of Vic committee who organised the event, and to all who attended. (by Angela HT)

**Oct 31st - Point Lonsdale Dog Beach.** We didn't go. The prospect of exceptionally high tides (no beach!) and roadworks all the way, convinced us to postpone this trip.

### Do wheatens think like 2 year olds?



All MINE! (and they were!)



ME too?



Where's MINE?

I have been in touch with Stephanie from Auckland, who has a Wheaten called Merry Heart. (because that is what she is.) Stephanie writes: "When she was a puppy I wrote a diary about her to send to my daughter who was overseas at the time. I am now publishing that diary in instalments at <http://www.wheatenstories.com> If you are a puppy lover then you might like to take a peep."

The audience for these wheaten stories is growing. Stephanie has captured the spirit of Merry (and all wheatens) superbly. Read Merry's letters and remember why you chose a wheaten.

### Useful contacts:

Secretary-Phyllis: [vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom](mailto:vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom) Membership enquiries-Julie: [positivepawsatbigponddotcom](mailto:positivepawsatbigponddotcom)

For activities or events to go on the Calendar, contact Phyllis by email: [vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom](mailto:vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom)

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

## Travelling with Wheatens by Julie Barber / Positive Paws (2008)

Wheatens who come to live in our household invariably become well-seasoned travellers. Our family car is considered the Mobile Kennel! However, a recent road trip from Melbourne to Sydney highlighted a few flaws in our planning, so it was time to go back and review.

Interstate trips with dogs need to be well planned. Accommodation should be booked well in advance, and plans need to account for the unexpected. On this occasion we encountered heat, rain, severe storms, blackouts, heat, rabbits a-plenty, fireworks, noisy parties. Oh, and did I mention the heat?



Max (aka Volmar Irish Wanderer) on the road, again.

### Before you leave:

- Start your list of what you need to take well in advance. Keep it in a handy place and keep adding to it as you think of things. Try to think through some of the routines, and how you might manage them. What will you need to remain stress-free?
- Research your accommodation options, and book in advance. Just because you've used the same place for the last four trips to Sydney, doesn't mean that particular motel is STILL pet-friendly. I usually send an email saying that we are travelling with <insert number> dogs that are quiet, well trained and crate-trained. A lot of the 'pet-friendly' venues on websites tend to be located in holiday destinations so if travelling outside of these places, be prepared for some knockbacks! I like to know that the accommodation is going to work well for us, so I often ask for photos to be emailed, if they aren't on a website. I'm looking for a veranda or balcony where I can set up crates. I'm also looking for something that has a bit of space between units, although this isn't always possible.
- Ensure vaccinations and worming schedules are up to date- and take your vaccination certificates with you. In an emergency, you may need to leave your dogs in boarding kennels. As we were travelling to Sydney, we needed to medicate for Paralysis Tick which must be done a fortnight before leaving.
- Get temporary identification tags for your dogs with your mobile phone details. Should the unthinkable happen and you and your dog part company, there's no point in the finder leaving messages on your voicemail back home!
- Think about how your dogs will travel in the car. Crating is the safest, but often you may not have enough space to do so. The next best option is tethering your dogs on the back seat to a harness, not a collar. Try this out before you leave to make sure your dogs travel comfortably. They should be able to change positions and turn around easily, and be comfortable in both lying and sitting position. In my experience there are some attachments on the market that don't enable dogs to do this easily so you may need to experiment a bit.
- Teach your dogs "On Your Mat" if they don't already know it. When travelling, it can act as a portable 'safe' zone for your dogs and in my experience they often settle more quickly on a familiar mat.
- One of the best things you can teach your dog is to go to the toilet on a verbal cue or signal. Some roadside stops are not places where you want to hang around, or it may be very hot and you don't want to wait for your dog to evaluate each potential pee-spot!
- Crate train your dog. Even if you plan for your dogs to sleep in the car, this may not always be possible eg. extreme heat.

### Packing:

- Take any medications for dogs- not just the daily ones, but any that might be used for thunderstorms.
- Put together a first aid kit for your dogs. This can be a supplement to your First Aid kit for humans. We take a couple of rolls of vet wrap, Betadine and other lotions 'n potions including Rescue Remedy (for me!). Okay, I'll admit that taking the Elizabethan Collar on our last trip was a tad obsessive!
- Necessary grooming gear, including scissors for emergencies. It's a good idea to include a doggie 'perfume' because things can get wiffy by the end of the trip!
- Food: for obvious reasons, feeding dry food when you are on the road is easier to manage, however you need to ensure the dogs remain well hydrated. Don't be surprised if your dogs don't eat as much as they would at home.
- Leads. I suggest you purchase one that has a clip on the handle end that makes tethering easy. Black Dog [www.blackdog.net.au](http://www.blackdog.net.au) make these. Without this, you'd be surprised how much tying and untying of dogs you will do in a day on the road!

## Packing (contd.)

- Long-line: At home I mostly walk my dogs off lead, but in a place I don't know, I use a long line until I've had a chance to assess the environment and I'm confident that it is safe.
- Sheets & throwovers- you can never have enough of them! These are multi-functional and can be used for sitting on, draping over crates, creating visual barriers when needed (handy if you find yourself opposite a paddock of horses!). They can be also used to create a cooling effect in hot weather. Include a waterproof sheet or 'blue' tarp for use in wet weather.
- Stakes and a hammer- are useful when you need to access shade, or tether your dogs in places where there is nothing to anchor them to. Beware where you are hammering as many electrical, water and telecommunications cables may be lurking only 300 mm underground!
- Crate and bedding- while the new soft crates are much lighter to carry, and take less room in the car, I personally find them a bit fiddly to put together, and there is no accounting for peace of mind when it comes to the security of your dogs when travelling. Even though my dogs are happy in their crates, I was worried that they could 'break out' if the unexpected happened. The unexpected did indeed happen when we found ourselves amidst fireworks, however the dogs, thankfully, stayed put.
- Old towels- I never seem to pack enough. Decades ago I purchased one of those moisture-sucking camping towels specifically for the purpose of travelling. While I add it to 'The List' every time, not once has it actually been located during the packing stage, so it's suitability for the purpose remains untested to this day!
- Portable shade. You can leave the marquee at home. The little beach shelters work fine and take up much less room.
- Torch/lantern- fully charged.
- Backpack with a good supply of baggies, treats, and some familiar toys.
- Benching chain per dog: A lifesaver for me is the humble benching chain. It is always the right length (or can be adjusted to be), is strong, has clips in the right spot and will keep dogs from becoming wrapped around poles.
- An esky packed with the things you want to eat and drink on the road, if the Fast Food Chains are not your thing.

## On the road:

- Start the day with a good brisk exercise, and then take a break at least every two hours. This is good not only for the dogs, but for the driver. Try to establish and maintain a routine for the duration of the trip.
- Keep the air-conditioning on. I have found my dogs seem to travel better at a cooler temperature, so it is easier for me to adjust my clothing accordingly.
- Keep water bowl and bottles of water in an easy-to-get-at spot. Incidentally, I've ditched the portable, fold-up-and-keep-in-your-pocket style water bowls as dismal failures on all counts, and reverted back to the stainless steel standards.

## And finally.....

- Take a map, and don't trust the GPS- they really can lead you up the garden path!

Happy travelling!

Useful websites:

<http://www.dogsonline.com.au/accommodation/>

<http://www.holidayingwithdogs.com.au>

<http://www.dogsonholidays.com.au>

<http://www.doggyholiday.com>

<http://www.petplaces.com.au>

<http://www.stayz.com.au/pet-friendly-accommodation>

<http://www.petsplayground.com.au>

<http://www.wotif.com> have a filter to search for pet friendly accommodation

as do <http://www.racv.com.au>

Caravan Parks

<http://www.familyparks.com.au>

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.



## Dog Attacks by Angela HT

Do you ever have your dog off lead out the front of your house? For example, walking down to the front gate to bring in the local paper, hopping into or out of the car after a nice walk in the park, or seeing off some visitors, or even a quick illegal off leash walk down the street?

How safe do you think your dog is, and how safe do you think passersby are? Bet it is not something you think about much. Your dog is perfect, of course. But consider the following survey results.

Over a two year period, six Melbourne Councils collected detailed information on 700 dog attack and menace incidents. The Bureau of Animal Welfare analysed the data to help identify the factors involved in dog attacks in public places.

61% of dog aggression incidents involved an attack or bite, and 39% involved a rush or chase. Prior to the incident, 51% of the dogs were either inadequately confined on or near their property. In most cases, the dogs were either in their front yard or wandering close by their owner's property prior to the incident (maybe just checking the mailbox, or pulling up some weeds out the front), and 31% were wandering at large (maybe their front garden was not interesting enough, so they've gone further afield). This means over 80% of dog attack or menace incidents in public places occurred due to dogs not being adequately confined to their property.

58% of dog attacks in public places occurred on the footpath or road bordering their property, due to dogs displaying aggression towards passersby (this may be territorial, but not an excuse for an attack). Summing up, the survey found that the footpath or road bordering the attacking dog's property is the most common location of dog attacks in public places. If dogs were adequately confined, up to 80% of dog attack incidents in public places could be prevented.

Attacking and menacing is a major problem, but it is not the only concern with dogs off lead out the front. Your dog could be hit by a car chasing a cat, or a dog at large could attack your dog. Even the best, most obedient dogs can make mistakes.

So, remember to put on your dog's lead before he leaves the house. We'd hate to see him appear as the bad guy in a council survey.



All dogs, including wheatens, are capable of inflicting a nasty bite, or killing a small animal. You don't believe it? Ask any 200 year old Irish mouse, rat, or badger, about their experiences with wheatens! Or you could ask the grieving parents of two blackbird fledglings who met sticky ends in two incidents in our backyard. I have decided to interpret this as "providing protection for the native birds".

### Calendar of Events 2009 (For November & December)

Date	Activity/Event	Location	Time
Sunday November 15	Walk our Wheatens Beach Walk Coffee or lunch after at North Point Cafe email the club	Brighton Dog Beach [Between Sandown St and Bay St. Melway Ref 67 B9]	11.15 am
Sunday November 29	Annual General Meeting email the club	Angela's place [559 Neerim Road, Hughesdale.] Please bring a plate of afternoon tea.	3.30 pm
Sunday December 13	Big Day Out for Dogs email the club	K.C.C. Park [655 Westernport Highway, Skye. Melway Ref 128 J12]	From 10.30 am
Various Weekdays	Available on some weekdays for an informal play session or quiet walk? email the club	Variety of dog friendly venues around Melbourne's inner and middle suburbs.	Various