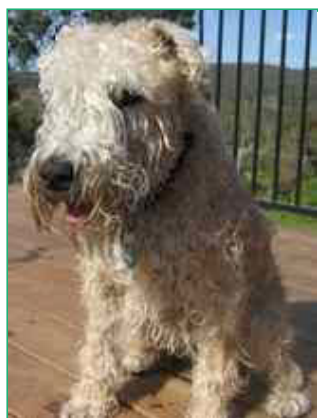




Wh-e-mail

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Victoria Inc.



Marley
"I'm a goin' swimmin'!"

Recent Events

Nov 29th - The 2nd Annual General Meeting. The officebearers elected for 2009/2010 are: President - Monica O'Kelly, Vice President - Angela Hervey-Tennyson, Treasurer - Melva Blackley, Secretary - Phyllis Morgan, Membership Secretary - Julie Barber, Committee Members - Rosie Cass, Margaret Gray, and Sarah Lowe.

Dec 10th - Dulcie's 16th Birthday. Julie Barber's Dulcie (Larnook Original Sin) celebrated her 16th birthday.

Dec 13th - Big Day Out For Dogs. Several members and dogs attended. The crowd was certainly bigger this year, but I felt there were more demonstrations with fewer opportunities to participate. I might be wrong!

A Wheaten Christmas Tree

This story comes from Mrs Jo Dowdy of Denzilly SCWTs in the UK.



I took a call last night from one of my puppy owners (well 20 months now). They rang to say their boy had got stuck in the Christmas Tree - he started at the top - clung on for grim death - then slid slowly downwards, taking all the decorations and lights with him. His mum said it took quite a while to untangle the mess!

And how did this happen? He had attempted his usual flying launch onto the sofa. Unfortunately, the sofa had been moved along about a metre, to accommodate the tree!

Definitely not the brightest button in the wheaten button box!

A Chance to Win!!!

I love this story. I think it could be turned into a brilliant Christmas card for the club. So, I'm running a competition, open to anyone who reads Wh-e-mail. You can submit a 'picture' (any medium as long as it can be reproduced on a card 105 x 148mm) Or, if you prefer to write, create a 'verse'. It doesn't have to rhyme. (must be able to be reproduced on a card 105 x 148mm)

The main thing is to capture the spirit of the story.

Winning entries will be selected by a panel of three judges: a club member, the secretary, and a representative from the card printers. We'll award prizes for the winning picture and the winning verse. NB. The winning entries will become the property of The SCWT Club of Victoria Inc.

Entries to the Secretary by March 15th 2010.

Hot Weather and Wheatens: The fact is, most wheatens seem to prefer snow to a heatwave. Here are some tips to help your wheaten cope. Allow them a cool place to lie - bare concrete, polished boards, ceramic tiles or a cotton floor rug are good. Provide fresh water nearby. If they have to walk to it, they sometimes can't be bothered. In our house, the bathroom floor is the coolest, as long as the central skylight is covered before the sun rises. I had a piece of high density foam rubber cut to fit and covered it with blackout curtain lining. It gets pushed into place with the hair broom! I also made a blackout cover to fit the transparent, west facing, dog door flap. Velcro is your friend! Limit the exercise to early morning or evening, and don't make it too vigorous. Leave out 'iceblocks' of food or extra water. If you're home, use a wet towel over the dog, like a 'saddle cloth'. This is especially good for cooling the belly and the back of the neck. Some dogs like a fan blowing on them - some don't! Many wheatens love a swim, but not in the heat of the day. Don't leave a dog in a car on a hot day, ever, for any reason, whether the windows are open or not. It's a terrible way to die!

Useful contacts:

Secretary-Phyllis:vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom Membership enquiries-Julie: positivepawsatbigponddotcom

<http://www.wheatensaustralasia.org/vic> General information-Committee: vicdotwheatenatgmaildotcom

Tips for Dealing With A Carsick Puppy

Most Wheatens travel well, however if you are experiencing carsickness with a puppy, trainer Ann Jeffree makes a few suggestions.

Train your pup around the stationary car - sits, downs, come, stay, fetch, tricks, etc. Start at a distance where the pup is still unafraid. As the pup becomes interested in the game of training and forgets about the presence of the car, gradually move closer to the car, varying the distance back and forth. Using lots of rewards with food, praise, pats and toys, make the presence of the car a happy time for your pup.

Let the pup dictate your progress, and approach the car at their own pace. Forcing your pup to get closer will probably only increase their anxiety, and retard your progress. Once your pup is comfortable being right next to the car, open the doors and continue training as before. As their confidence grows, sit in the car and continue training with the pup outside the car on the ground.

Encourage your pup to place their front paws in the car, and reward. Repeat this until the pup is very enthusiastic about this step. Move on to throwing toys and/or food onto the floor of the car for the pup to retrieve. Allow your pup to escape if they feel they need to, so that their anxiety level remains low. Keep the atmosphere relaxed and happy.

Feed your pup their meals in the stationary car. Start with it on the floor near the door, and over the next few days move it to the middle of the back seat, leaving the doors open.

Once your pup is confident eating their meal on the back seat, close the doors. Repeat this several times, and when your pup is confident with this, do the same and start the engine, remaining in the front seat as your pup eats.

Once your pup is relaxed about this step, it's time for a drive - just to the end of the driveway. Let your pup finish their meal, then come out of the car to have some fun and games on the front lawn.

Slowly extend the length of the trips you make - to the end of the street, round the block, down to the corner shop, etc. Make each arrival at a destination a reward - the park, a visit with a friend. You could send someone the pup loves down the road, and then drive the pup to catch up with them and have a joyful reunion.

Note: Particularly anxious dogs may benefit from the use of Rescue Remedy if car travel is absolutely necessary before retraining is completed. Other things to try are to fit an anti-static strap to the car, avoid feeding your pup for several hours before any car trip and try the Travel Calm ginger based tablets, or feed a gingerbread biscuit to the pup before starting your journey. Reducing the air in the tyres a little may help some dogs.

Other pups may do better confined in a crate or in a different area of the car, so you may need to experiment a little.

With thanks to Julie Barber.

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.

