

ASCWTA

# The Prairie Wheaten

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## Great Things You Can Do With Your Dog

by Carolyn Fox

There are many great things you can do with your dog. Some activities, such as taking a walk, going on a road trip, relaxing at the lake, or playing “fetch” require little work or preparation. Others, like a few of the ones listed here, may involve hours and hours of training and bonding with your dog. But as one Internet site stated, “People who play with their dog, stay with their dog”.

Bob and Tori spend time together relaxing and developing a special bond while floating on a tube at the cottage. Looks like a great thing to do with your dog on a hot summer day!



### Obedience

One of the best things an owner can do for themselves and their puppy is to enroll in an Obedience training class to learn the basics. It can be the foundation for solving almost any problem. With a line of communication opened up between owner and dog almost anything can be taught from “stay” to “sit” to “off”. The training should be fun and rewarding. It can make living together more enjoyable. An owner may wish to take their Obedience training a step further by entering competitions. Obedience competitions begin in the Novice class with exercises that attest to the dog’s good manners – walking on a leash at the owner’s side, standing to be touched by a stranger, sitting and lying down with distractions, and coming when called. Advanced classes involve exercises such as fetching a dumbbell, jumping different obstacles, obeying commands in an instant, and finding items touched by the owner. The goal is to create a working team, a partnership with both human and canine working in sync. Read more about obedience at: [http://www.101-dog-training-tips.com/Dog\\_Obedience\\_Training.shtml](http://www.101-dog-training-tips.com/Dog_Obedience_Training.shtml)

### Agility



Spencer from Saskatoon is jumping over a hurdle at an Agility Competition. Sharon and Spencer spent many hours of work and training to develop the special bond, mutual respect, and trust necessary for this demanding but exciting teamwork.

Agility is a competitive race against time with a handler directing a dog through a set of obstacles including a see-saw, an A-frame, pipe tunnel, collapsed tunnel, weave poles, tire or hoop jump and various other jumps. For spectators at Agility events there is the excitement of getting caught up in the enthusiasm of handler and dog in their race against the clock. For the handler and dog there is fun, camaraderie, teamwork and trust built up through the many hours of training and competing. Some basic obedience training is recommended before a dog starts in Agility because the dog works off lead. Each obstacle must be learned separately and assigned a command so the dog will recognize it. At an Agility event the obstacles are arranged in different course configurations. The handler must direct the dog around the course in the sequence set out by the judge. Handlers may give an unlimited number of commands or hand signals to their unleashed dogs, but cannot touch either the dog or equipment. Faults are assigned for taking down a jump bar, taking the obstacles out of sequence or exceeding the time limit. A beginner dog starts in a Standard Class and as qualifying scores are earned they move to successively higher levels of course complexity where split second timing and coordination is required to finish the course in the set time. Learn more about Agility and see photos and diagrams of the equipment at:

<http://members.shaw.ca/canadianagilityteam/aboutagility.htm>

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## Flyball

Flyball is an exciting competitive team sport invented in California in the late 70's. It consists of a relay race with four eager dogs to a team. The course is made up of a starting line, four hurdles spaced 10 feet apart, and a box. The first hurdle is 6 feet from the starting line and the box is 15 feet from the last hurdle for an overall length of 51 feet. Each dog in turn jumps the hurdles then steps on the spring loaded box. Out shoots a tennis ball. The dog catches the tennis ball then runs back over the four hurdles. Watch the fur fly! As the dog crosses the starting line the next dog goes. The first team to have all four dogs finish without any errors wins the heat. Tournaments can be organized in a double elimination or a round robin format. Read more about Flyball at: <http://www.flyballdogs.com/>



The exciting sport of Flyball was demonstrated by Regina's Kaos Dogsports members to a crowd of enthusiastic spectators as part of the Canada Day activities in Wascana Park on July 1, 2004.

## Rally

Rally is a fairly new sport, held in conjunction with Obedience. It has been approved to become a titling event in the United States beginning January 1, 2005. It is run similar to Rally Car Racing where the dog and handler proceed through a course of designated stations. The dog and handler heel from station to station, stopping to perform the exercise illustrated on a sign at each station. Performing each exercise correctly is what matters. In Rally the times are important only in the case of a run off or tie unlike Agility where speed matters. Read more about Rally at: <http://www.akc.org/dic/events/obedience/rally.cfm>

## Tracking

Dog owners who become involved in tracking may do so because it is an enjoyable way to enjoy nature and spend time with their dog at the same time. Tracking involves a dog following the scent trail left by a human or other animal. It can be a hobby just for fun, or a sport to earn titles. The purpose of a tracking test according to the American Kennel club is "is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind. Tracking, by nature, is a vigorous, noncompetitive outdoor sport. Tracking tests demonstrate the willingness and enjoyment of the dog in its work, and should always represent the best in sportsmanship and camaraderie by the people involved." Tracking is a good way to keep both you and your dog in good shape as walking up steep hills, passing through fields and woods, climbing over fences and hopping over ditches may be involved. Read more about tracking at: <http://personal.cfw.com/~dtratnac/>

## Herding

There is an increased interest in herding by those wanting to work with and spend time with their dog. Competitive herding trials have been increasing in number, reflecting this interest. If a dog has a penchant for herding this may be the sport for you. Herding provides the opportunity for real teamwork between dog and handler. While a dog must cooperate with the handler, he must also use his own initiative and judgment and show a gentle strength when dealing with a stubborn animal. For interested dog owners, individual lessons are best. Clinics are also helpful. Herding as a sport must be taken seriously as it is not merely a weekend sport. As well as working with the dog, the owner must spend time learning about herding and stock behavior and care. The Canadian Kennel Club has an all-breed herding program whereby titles may be earned by CKC registered dogs. There is a test level and three trial levels on arena courses using sheep, ducks or cattle. Read more about herding at:

<http://www.downriver.org/ckcrules.htm>



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## Dog Shows

The conformation part of a dog show is an event where dogs are judged as to how closely each conforms to the breed standard. Each breed's national parent organization has agreed upon an official description of perfection, a written standard of excellence describing the functional, temperamental, and physical attributes. A Best In Show award is given to the ONE dog who, at the end of the show, has successfully defeated all other dogs of all breeds entered that day. The Best In Show dog has been judged to be the dog who, on that day, is considered to be the most closely conforming to its own breed's standard. Most reliable dog breeders like to have a championship(s) on their breeding stock to help prove that their dogs conform to the standard of the breed. A stud dog who does a lot of winning at a dog show can be in great demand because other breeders then want to use him to improve upon their breeding program. 15 points are necessary to finish an American championship. Canadian championships are awarded after a dog wins 10 points. Most dog clubs hold handling classes so an owner can learn how to show their own dog or a professional handler can be hired. Some shows are accompanied by Obedience Trials, Junior Showmanship and non-regular classes such as sweepstakes or Canine Good Citizen tests. For more information on what goes on at a dog show see: <http://www.showdogsupersite.com/actualshow/dogshoh.html>



Canadian American Champion Gleanngay Maximilian, "Max", owned by Alan and Carolyn Fox and bred by Gay H. Dunlap of Santa Fe, New Mexico is shown after winning a 5 point major as Best of Winners at the Beverly Hills California Kennel Club Show in June 1997. Max was handled by Bill and Taffe McFadden, who showed him in Chicago, Los Angeles and Oregon to win the 15 points for his American Championship in three weekends of showing.

## Therapy

Therapy dogs are special animals who accompany their caring owners to visit nursing homes, hospitals and schools, or work with the mentally and physically handicapped. They provide comfort and companionship, and bring happiness and cheer to those who need something to hold and love. Therapy dogs can bring joy to a sterile environment, rekindle memories of previously owned pets and provide topics of conversation. Friendly therapy dogs may be effective in reaching people and children who have withdrawn from the world. A stroke patient might lift his "useless" arm to pet a furry visitor. A patient who needs exercise may enjoy a walk with a dog along a corridor while holding a dog's lead. Even a completely paralyzed patient may happily be able to cuddle a small dog on their bed. Since dogs are nonjudgmental they freely accept human illness, handicap, disfigurement, and confusion. They can distract a patient from their pain, calm someone who is distressed, or comfort a despondent soul. Therapy dogs can be purebred pedigreed dogs or a mixed breed pound puppy. A dog and owner must pass a screening process, a temperament evaluation, take a course, then pass a test to become a visiting therapy team. One group that provides training is St. John Ambulance Canada.

Read more at: [http://www.sja.ca/english/volunteer/therapy\\_dog\\_program/index.asp](http://www.sja.ca/english/volunteer/therapy_dog_program/index.asp)

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## SIT STAY READ Program

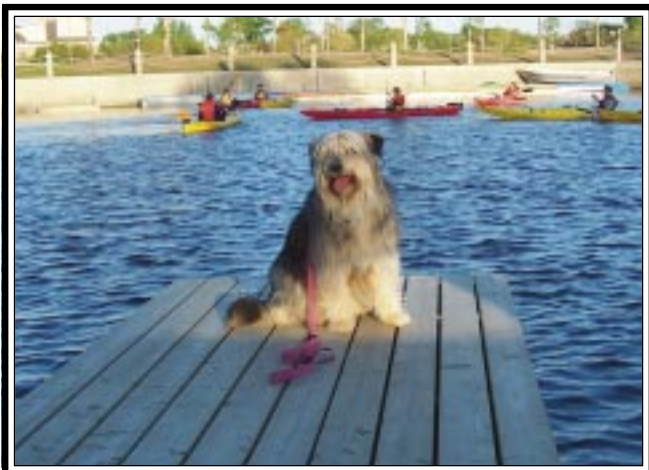
Children reading to dogs is a growing phenomenon in the United States. Reading skills can improve and self-esteem grow when children read aloud to a specially trained therapy dog. Children who stumble over new words know their furry friends will not make fun of them. In Chicago this volunteer literacy organization is called the SIT STAY READ program. In Salt Lake City and Waco, Texas the program is called R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs). New Orleans has the Reading to Rover program while in Avondale, Alabama it is called Hand In Paw. In each program the dog and human partner go through a training course where the dogs are taught to look at the children's faces or at the books they are reading so it appears they are listening. The human partner is given instruction on how to use their canine companions as literacy mentors. For example, instead of asking a child what a word means, the handler may say: "Rover doesn't know what that word means. Can you tell him?" Speaking on behalf of the dog takes the pressure off the child if he or she does not know the answer. As their web site says, learning while having fun is what makes SIT STAY READ successful. See *Books to Bark About* on page 8 and read more at: <http://www.sitstayread.org/Welcome.aspx>



"Alice Bea", one of Margaret Stewardson's breeding, is part of the SIT STAY READ program in Chicago. Alice Bea, on the left, is pictured with her student readers. All the reading therapy dogs are wearing their special 'reading' bandanas.

## Specialized Classes

The Dog's Den Training School in Regina, "Specializing in Pet Manners through Gentle Training Methods", offers special group or individual classes for you and your dog to learn and enjoy time together. Classes include: Smart Puppy, Family Dog Manners, Around Town Manners, Puppy Agility, Agility, Tricks and Clicks, and Confidence Class. Group classes, with family participation encouraged, are limited to six dogs. Barbara Lloyd will also do one-on-one training sessions in your home. She also provides Behavior Consultations to help solve problems with aggression, biting, chewing, barking, separation anxiety or puppy problems. Read more about The Dog's Den Training School at: <http://www.sasktelwebsite.net/annais/>



Logan is in a 'Sit Stay' position on a floating wharf in the marina of Wascana Lake waiting for Sue to call her to 'Come'. Neither the rocking and rolling of the wharf nor the kayakers or the others in the Around Town Manners Class could distract Logan from the task at hand. Good Girl, Logan!



Ditka is in a 'Down Stay' on a footbridge in Wascana Park as part of his Around Town Manners class. He is waiting for Nina to give him the command to 'Come'. Neither the ducks quacking on the lake nor walkers or bikers passing by could distract Ditka from the task at hand. Good Boy, Ditka!

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## Musical Freestyle - Dancing

This is a relatively new sport that combines dog obedience and dance resulting in a visually exciting display of handler and canine teamwork while performing dance-oriented footwork in time to music. A costume worn by the handler, and perhaps even by the dog, helps enhance the interpretation of the music and gets the spectators involved in the spirit of the music. Musical freestyle is a competitive sport where routines are judged for their technical execution and artistic impression. Also taken into account are the difficulty of the movements, the precision in execution of movements by dog and handler, and the dog's attitude and enthusiasm. Artistic impression focuses on choreography, interpretation of the music by the handler, synchronization of the handler's and dog's movements with the music. Read more about dancing at: <http://www.canine-freestyle.org>

## Canine Camps

In recent years a variety of camps for humans and their dogs have sprung up across America and Europe. One example is Camp Gone to the Dogs in Putney, Vermont. The camp offers more than 120 classes including obedience training, agility, herding, swimming, boat safety, hiking, as well as a dog/owner talent show, costume party and evening educational classes for humans only. Dogs can learn to jump rope, skateboard, square dance, or paint pictures (wearing special boots with sponges velcroed to the bottom). Campers earn Dog Scout badges for every skill they master. Competitive Edge Sports Camp in Cornwall on the Hudson, N.Y., provides week-long agility training sessions in which serious canine competitors scale ramps, run through tunnels, and traverse seesaws. Couch potatoes are not allowed at The Dog's Camp in Weaverville, North Carolina. This sports camp is devoted to canine athletes and their owners. They offer flyball, freestyle dancing, tracking, herding, lure coursing, agility, and obedience. An award-winning photographer shares secrets on taking perfect photos and a talent scout gives canine acting lessons. Classes on animal massage and communication are also held. In the evening lectures are given on animal health and behavior. Enjoy those dog days of summer and take your dog to a canine camp. Read about a Dog Scout Camp at:

<http://www.dogscouts.com/brochure.shtml>

## Off-Leash Parks

Dog-friendly parks where pets can run free off-leash are becoming popular across North America. These parks provide a wonderful opportunity for your dog to play with you, exercise and socialize with other canines. In some communities the parks are open to all sizes and ages of dog. Others have areas set aside for small and elderly dogs. Some are merely fenced in areas of dirt while others are landscaped with benches, a water source, shade structures, agility apparatus and toys. High Park in Toronto has a two to three acre leash-free field and several kilometers of leash-free trail that circles past a stream and ponds. Most off-leash parks have rules and regulations. The Kew Beach off-leash park in Toronto has the Toronto Parks and Recreation Code of Conduct posted at the entrance. It states that while in the designated area you must comply with boundary and/or time restrictions, make sure your dog does not leave the area, keep your dog under voice control and within sight, promptly pick up feces deposited by your dog and place in a trash can, always carry a leash and so on. The city of Calgary has 144 off-leash parks listed on their web site. Regina has finally been given the go-ahead from City Council for its first such park. The committee still has to raise money for fencing but they hope to have the park open sometime in 2005. Donna Beck says that Saskatoon has a couple of off-leash parks. One is on the north side of Agro Grain off 11th St. W. and the other area is in Dundonald off Junor Ave one mile north of 37th St. West. Danny MacLennan tells me that there are no "official" off-leash parks in Prince Albert.

These lively pups are having a great time chasing each other and playing fetch in Lake Ontario at Kew Beach off-leash park in Toronto.





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## Out On the Town

The world is growing more dog friendly. Dogs are already allowed to shop in most pet stores but now in many big cities they are also welcomed in some specialty shops, boutiques, bookstores, and even Holt Renfrew in Toronto. They can ride on the subway and on streetcars. Coffee Houses with sidewalk tables often welcome dogs. A bowl of water is usually available for them. A few restaurants, cafes, pubs and bistros with patios or courtyards even allow you to dine al fresco with your dog. Some provide special dog treats. The House of Blues in Chicago is initiating a “Yappy Hour”. While out on the town with your pooch, a stop at a bakery such as Three Dog Bakery is a must. Fido can pick up his PupCakes, Scottie Biscotti, Ruffles and Boxer Brownies for the week. Then stop in at a pet accessory boutique for doggy perfume, Doggles (dog goggles), a rhinestone collar, or a new designer outfit.

## Vacation

The travel industry is finally tapping into the notion that pets are not possessions or playthings but true companions who are part of a family. New and exciting ways are being designed for pets to join the family on their vacation. At Colorado Canine Adventure Trips, dogs and owners raft and camp in the Rocky Mountain Brown’s Canyon. Pets are welcomed at the Aquarium in Key West, Florida. The Great Lakes Schooner Company allows dogs on their tall ship cruises along the Toronto waterfront. Octagon House, an 1848 Bed and Breakfast Home in historic New Bedford, Massachusetts, welcomes dogs. You can explore the water-front, local museums and antique shops, and nearby Gooseberry Island, the “loveliest off-leash beach in New England.” Near the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont, the Paw House Inn (circa 1786) is a unique bed and breakfast designed for dog lovers.

More hotels are accepting pets ... and pampering them. World-renowned, five-star chefs are even getting into the act. The sous-chef at Loews Hotel Beverly Hills will delicately slice scallions and carrots, flambé prime filet mignon, and scramble eggs with rice in a clarified butter sauce. He will then slice the steak into bite-size chunks before sending the meal to the pampered pooch in Room 16. Hotel Monaco in San Francisco offers a Bone-A-Petit Package that includes bottled water, dog towels, and a complimentary pet walking service. Peninsula Hotel Beverly Hills has guests complete a pet profile form so that hotel personnel can create a customized program for the dog. Pets are also provided with a Beautyrest mattress on a wrought-iron bed frame. Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto has a special check in station to welcome dogs as official VIPs (Very Important Pooches). The VIP welcome package includes a doggy blanket, water and food bowls, Evian



water, dog towels, a pillow, an assortment of Three Dog Bakery treats, mouth wash, toothbrush, and toothpaste. At the Ritz-Carlton Coconut Grove in Florida a “bow wow butler” will walk, feed and pamper a pet.

Start saving your money to take that beloved pet on a well deserved vacation. To get you and your pet there with a minimum of stress or separation anxiety, take him on one of the small specialty airlines that are allowing dogs to fly in the cabin. Pet Pilots, “because your pet is not a parcel”, based in Toronto, is one such airline. Find out more at:

<http://www.petpilots.com/?pageid=1>



Check with your local dog sport clubs or training centers to find classes for many of these activities. If you have a suggestion for a “great thing you can do with your dog” please send it to me to include in the next newsletter.

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## Books to Bark About

Stories for children to share with their dogs

by Carolyn Fox

In some schools and libraries children are reading to dogs. See “SIT, STAY, READ” on page 5. These children enjoy reading to a dog because it does not criticize their reading or make fun of them if they have trouble sounding out a word. Although reading therapy dogs are trained to sit nicely, pay attention and “listen”, you may wish to try reading stories to your own dog. Do not try reading to him when he is in a very playful mood. Wait until he is quiet and relaxed so he will enjoy staying beside you. Your dog may even want to lay his head on your lap while you read. Find a quiet place where there are no distractions. If my Wheaten heard the refrigerator door opening while I was reading to him he would probably run off to see if he could get food. Try to make your story exciting so your dog will not be bored but do not feel sad if he falls asleep while you are reading to him. Here is a list of books that your dog would enjoy. If your dog does not cooperate, do not worry, you will probably enjoy these books too. Some of the books can be found at bookstores but all of them, and many more about dogs, are available at: <http://www.amazon.ca> in Canada and <http://www.amazon.com> in the United States.

### Shiloh

by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

#### Shiloh Season

#### Saving Shiloh

Ages 8 - 12 Shiloh, 1992 Newbery Medal winning book, tells the story of 11 year old Marty Preston who finds an abused Beagle pup. Find out how he saves him and the adventures that follow in this series of three books about Shiloh.

### Walter the Farting Dog

by William Kotzwinkle and Glenn Murray

#### Walter the Farting Dog: Trouble at the Yard Sale

#### Walter the Farting Dog: Rough Weather Ahead coming soon

Ages 5 - 8 The family that brings Walter home from the pound quickly discovers his problem. He has incurable gas so his family decides to return him. Before they do, two burglars break into their home, and Walter’s liability becomes his asset. The first Walter book, based on a true Canadian story, has sold over half a million copies and was on the New York Times best selling list for 38 weeks. A movie and sequels are in the works.

### Dog Breath: The Horrible Trouble With Hally Tosis

By Dav Pilkey

Ages 5 - 8 Hally Tosis, has breath so bad that even skunks avoid her. Mr. and Mrs. Tosis plan to give Hally away until burglars break in and she licks their faces. The burglars pass out cold and Hally becomes a heroine.



You are never too young to start reading to your dogs.

### Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog

by Sara Swan Miller

Ages 4 - 8 These easy-to-read stories can be read to dogs in one, two, or three sessions, depending on the animal’s attention span. The stories are about things dogs understand best - barking at a burglar, burying bones and pretending to be a “wild dog”.

### Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Dog

by Sara Swan Miller

Ages 4 - 8 Here are three more humorous stories that share a hilariously expressive dog hero. The adventures include going to the vet, finding a strange rock (a turtle) and taking a bath, all told from a dog’s point of view.

### The Bravest Dog Ever: the True Story of Balto

by Natalie Standiford and Donald Cook

Ages 5 - 8 This is a true 1925 adventure story of Balto, a sled dog who led his team through snow and ice over 53 miles of northern Alaska wilderness to deliver medications during an outbreak of diphtheria.

### Biscuit

Written by Alyssa Satin Capucilli; Illustrated by Pat Schories

#### Biscuit’s New Trick

#### Biscuit Finds a Friend

#### Bathtime for Biscuit

#### Biscuit Wins a Prize

#### Biscuit’s Big Friend

Ages 5 - 7 These easy-to-read books introduce a small yellow puppy named Biscuit, who makes his needs known by barking, “Woof! Woof!” His young owner thinks she can interpret his barks, but often Biscuit has his own ideas.



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## Clifford the Big Red Dog

and the entire Clifford Series

by Norman Bridwell

Ages 3 - 6 Clifford the Big Red Dog is the “biggest, reddest dog” on the block. He is an oversize pet with unusual tricks.



## Digby and Kate

Written by Barbara Baker; Illustrated by Marsha Winborn

Ages 4 - 7 Digby, a perky puppy dog and best friend Kate, a cute and lively kitten are inseparable. The book includes six lively adventures including Kate’s pursuit of a mouse, preparing and serving lunch, painting Digby’s house, and a game of let’s pretend.

## The Old Woman Who Named Things

by Cynthia Rylant

Ages 5 - 9 A lonely old woman gives names to all her belongings. An armchair is named Fred and a bed is named Roxanne. Her house is named Franklin. One day a stray puppy appears. Read to find out why she is reluctant to give the puppy a name.

## Harry the Dirty Dog

Written by Gene Zion; Illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham

Ages 3 - 8 Harry the Dirty Dog, first published in 1956, has now been rereleased with splashes of color added by the artist herself. Harry was a white dog with black spots who hated baths. His messy runaway adventures transform him “from a white dog with black spots to a black dog with white spots”, unrecognized by his family. Find out how Harry finally persuades his family to bath him.

## Harry and the Lady Next Door

Written by Gene Zion; Illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham

Ages 3 - 8 Harry the dog goes to fantastic lengths to make his neighbour stop singing.

## Superdog: The Heart of a Hero

by Caralyn Buehner

Ages 4 - 8 Dexter the dachshund decides to stop dreaming of being a hero and devote his life to becoming one. He finally achieves his goal, dons a Superdog suit, and uses his hard-earned prowess for the good of all.

## Martha and Skits

by Meddaugh

**Perfectly Martha**  
**Martha Blah Blah**

**Martha Calling**  
**Martha Speaks**

Ages 5 - 8 Martha, a mutt, begins to speak after she eats a bowl of alphabet soup. She speaks, and speaks, and speaks, until her young owner begins to complain, “Sometimes I wish you had never learned to talk.” Read about Martha and her “speaking” antics in the Martha series.

## Dear Mrs. La Rue: Letters From Obedience School

by Mark Teague

Ages 4 - 8, but adults like it too. This book contains a series of guilt-inducing letters sent home to the “cruel” Mrs. LaRue who has “imprisoned” Ike LaRue at the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy (“We Aim to Tame”!) for repeatedly terrorizing the neighbours’ cats and stealing one snack too many from the kitchen counter. Ike misses the comforts of home so writes weepy letters to his owner that stretch the truth hoping she will come to her senses and spring him from obedience school.

## Show Dog

by Meghan McCarthy

Ages 5 - 8 Princess, the Poodle is a show dog with perfect posture, shiny teeth and a pom-pom tail. The Hubble family think their Ed would make a good show dog even though he is dirty and drools. The results are not good when they mimic the preparations of Princess’s owners on Ed. Things only becomes worse at the show.

## There is a Wheaten in this Canadian Book

### Sir Cassie to the Rescue

Written by Linda Smith of Grande Prairie, Alberta

Illustrated by Karen Patkau of Toronto, Ontario

Published by Orca Book Publishers of Victoria BC

Ages 4-9 Towser, the family Wheaten Terrier, participates in this story about an imaginative brother and sister who build a castle in their living room after reading a story about a brave knight. Cassie becomes the good knight. Trevor, the brother, refuses to be a damsel in distress but finally agrees to be a dragon. They argue when he refuses to be slain. Amanda, the baby, awakes to join in the fun along with their mother, “The Queen”. This book takes a look at the imagination of children and the relationship between siblings. The pictures are bright and light hearted and Towser the Wheaten is very handsome.

To order *Sir Cassie to the Rescue* please call Orca Book Publishers at 1-800-210-5277



## Estate planning should include a “Pet Provision”

by Sandra Bolan

And to Fluffy, I bequeath...

- ◆ In 1968, Eleanor Ritchley, Quaker State Oil heiress, left \$4.2 million to Auburn University for the care of her 150 dogs
- ◆ In 1996, Sydney Altman of California, left \$1 million to his Cocker Spaniel, “Samantha”
- ◆ “Blackie”, the last cat in a household of 15 cats, was left \$25 million by its owner, Ben Reya
- ◆ In 1931, Ella Wendell of New York left \$15 million to her Standard Poodle, “Toby”

A pet’s owner is the sole advocate of their dog or cat’s health and safety. But what happens when that owner is no longer able to care for the animal? How does the pet’s health and safety remain protected?

It’s a topic that no one wants to think about, let alone discuss, which explains why only about half of Canadians over the age of 18 have a will, according to Sandra Foster, president of Headspring Consulting Inc. and author of “You Can’t Take It With You”.

“I believe it’s really important to do an estate plan because it allows you to put your instructions and wishes in writing,” said Foster. “If done properly, that means they’ll be carried out the way you want after you pass on.”

Owners treat their pets like family members, but from the Canadian legal perspective, pets are considered to be property. “Although, in my mind, they are perpetual 2-year olds, which is the reason we love them so much,” said Foster.

According to a 1999 USA Today poll, 80% of pet owners brag about their pets to others; 79% allow them to sleep in bed with them; 37% carry photos of their pets in their wallets; 31% take time off work to stay home with sick pets, and 20% have altered romantic relationships over pet-related issues.

Despite being viewed as property by the law, pets require immediate care - unlike a car or home - in order to survive, which is why pet owners should consider including special provisions for them in their wills.

“It’s often done very informally in Canada,” says Barry Seltzer, a Toronto-based barrister and solicitor who has a preferred area of practice in estate planning. “If you don’t do anything, you’re

leaving it up to the beneficiaries or the people who are administering your estate, and it doesn’t always end up the way you would have wanted.”

A pet provision is the simplest way to make your wishes known to your will’s executor. According to Seltzer, “It’s a guideline in the form of a non-legal binding letter or memo that you’re giving the person to whom you’re delivering the pet. It wouldn’t be legally binding on them but, morally, it would be. To make it legally binding, you’d have to include it in your will and then there would have to be some sort of mechanism for enforcement, like the executor.”

A pet provision outlines who is to take ownership of your pets upon your death. It also includes the pet’s medical history, the name of the pet’s veterinarian, and any other important information that only the pet owner would know.

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges in putting together a pet provision, but arguably the most important, is choosing the person who will take care of your pets. Questions pet owners need to ask themselves when deciding upon that person should include: “Does that person really love dogs - not just animals - but dogs? Do they have the space? Do they have the physical abilities to attend to the dog’s physical needs?” said Foster. “You can’t necessarily say this person’s going to be able to take care of your pet for the rest of its natural life. But if it’s the right kind of person, he or she will look after your pet’s best interest.”

And always ask the person chosen as the pet caretaker before naming them in a will. “You might find that the reason why they don’t have a dog right now is because they have an allergy you don’t know about,” said Foster. “They might say, ‘Thanks, we’ll do it in a pinch, but don’t make us first on your list.’”

The pet provision should also note alternative caretakers in case the first person’s circumstances change and he/she is no longer able to care for the pet. But what happens when nobody is interested or able to take care of your pet? According to Foster, “In that situation, I think it’s a good idea to talk to your local Humane Society to see what options are available in your community. You don’t want to be in a situation where there is no one who would be willing to take care of the dog.”

Once the caretaker is chosen, another issue that needs to be considered for inclusion in the pet provision is whether or not

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## The Prairie Wheaten

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the pet owner wants to leave money to that person for the care and maintenance of the dog. If a sum of money is to be left for the pet's caretaker, the amount should be enough to cover the cost of food, grooming, toys, and other items regularly purchased for the pet.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Assoc., the average annual veterinary expenditure, per household, is \$186 for dogs, \$147 for cats, \$11 for birds and \$226 for horses. (Costs are in U.S. funds.)

If the owner has pet insurance, they should also think about whether or not it is to be paid in full upon their death, or if the appointed caretaker is to continue paying the premiums with the funds left to them.

"How far do you want people to go in life saving measures for your pet?" says Seltzer. "Also, final arrangements... do you want to make those decisions before you go, and include them in a separate document to give the person who is your pet caretaker? Or do you want to put them as a formal requirement in your will?"

Not only should pet owners plan for their pet's life once the owner is gone, but according to Seltzer, plans should also be in place in case the owner becomes unable to care for the pet while still alive. What happens if an owner becomes incompetent and hasn't provided for his or her pet? Whoever you have selected as your legal representative during that time will deal with all your property, including your pet. So you may want to make a

separate provision for that as well. Almost like a power of attorney," he says.

According to Gerry Beyer, a law professor at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas, there are two other steps pet owners should take to ensure the continued care of their pets. One: carry a card which contains information about the pet, including its name, type, special instructions and emergency contact information. "If the owner is killed or injured, emergency personnel will recognize that an animal is relying on the owner's return for care and may notify the named person or take other steps to locate and provide for the animal," says Beyer. Secondly, Beyer suggests that owners should post signage on entrances to their dwelling to indicate there are pets residing at that location.

According to Foster, "There is no standard procedure. You have to do what you feel is most appropriate for your situation."

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Sandra Bolan is a freelance writer and professional dog walker. She lives in Newmarket, Ontario with her dog, "Wally".

### Editor's Note:

You can read more about planning for your pets in your will at <http://www.abcny.org/pub-provforpet.html>

### When I Got My New Dog

I asked for strength that I might rear him perfectly;  
I was given weakness that I might feed him more treats.

I asked for good health that I might rest easy;  
I was given a "special needs" dog that I might know nurturing.

I asked for an obedient dog that I might feel proud;  
I was given stubbornness that I might feel humble.

I asked for compliance that I might feel masterful;  
I was given a clown that I might laugh.

I asked for a companion that I might not feel lonely;  
I was given a best friend that I would feel loved.

I got nothing I asked for,  
But everything that I needed.

Unknown





## The Making of a Top Show Dog!

Have you ever wondered if the top show dogs are really the top show dogs? Maybe they are or maybe they are not! What about your own dog in the backyard? Could it have been a top show dog? How do these dogs become a top show dog? .

Your puppy is evaluated for the most part between 7-12 weeks. This is the time your breeder becomes almost infallible (supposedly), because this is when they decide this is a potential show dog and this is only pet quality. The breeder may have decided that one of these puppies could be the best dog in the country but without large amounts of money you will not have a top show dog.

This is how many of the top dogs become top show dogs:

- 1 . You must then have a groomer/handler which costs money (\$100/day).
- 2 . You must be able to afford to have the money for entries(approx \$23/day).
- 3 . If you want to watch your beloved dog winning you must travel (car,air,etc).
- 4 . You must find motel rooms(approx \$100/night) plus eating out for 3 – 4 days.
- 5 . You must advertise your beautiful show dog (approx \$300 a page per issue).

Now, that seems reasonable. Are there other things to becoming a top show dog? Yes, by choosing the top handlers you are starting in the right direction. There are handlers and then there are the right handlers. Some of us say some handlers could take a 3 legged dog in the ring and win with it. Then there are the judges. Yes, the judges. People travel across much of this country to find their favourite judge. You certainly don't show your dog to the judge who you don't think will like your dog. So, in a calculated way you judge the judges. Then you must advertise your wins so other judges know you have won so



they have an imprint of your wins and who has placed your dog. Does it sound political? Of course it is!

I will just give you a quick example of my weekend at the National Specialty. I knew the Specialty judge would not like what I had because of the coat and both of my dogs were veterans (over 7 years of age). They both have "North American" coats which this judge would not have liked. I knew that going into the show!

It cost me approx \$100/night motel. To have two dogs shown in four shows was \$478 plus \$100 to bath them for the show, \$100 per day to show them and then the handlers expense! On top of all that, there is your food/beverage costs. The total cost of this one weekend was over \$800.

To have a top show dog you must be out on the road many weekends. Could I afford these expenses repeatedly, no matter how good my dogs are? No. So, are the top show dogs really the top show dogs or are they sitting in somebody's backyard - you be the judge!

Margaret A Stewardson  
Myshawn Wheatens

## *God and Dog*

On the first day of creation, God created the dog.

On the second day, God created man to serve the dog.

On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth (especially the horse) to serve as potential food for the dog.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labour for the good of the dog.

On the fifth day, God created the tennis ball so that dog might, or might not, retrieve it.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the dog healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but He had to walk the dog.

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# The Prairie Wheaten

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## From a Breeder's Point of View

by Barbara Osborne, Wicklow Wheatens

In this edition of *The Prairie Wheaten*, I have decided to write about the fundamentals of genetics. I am telling you this right up front because I am sure that some of you will cringe at the thought of reading about genetics. (Does it bring back memories of Grade XII biology?) For those of you who rank genetics right up there with calculus or physics, here is your chance to opt out and find another article to read. For those of you who plan to read on, I will do my best to explain and define some of the terminology used in this somewhat difficult topic.

Perhaps one of the most difficult tasks as a breeder is looking at a dog and determining if what we see is what we might get if that dog was used in a breeding program. In other words, will that stud dog with the silky, soft coat, dark eyes, beautiful gait, correct height and stunning head reproduce itself in its offspring? Or, will that dog produce light eyed, oversized, curly coated puppies? The only way we know for sure is to breed to that dog and evaluate the puppies. (For those of us who are evaluating long coated breeds, such as wheaten terriers, the ability to accurately assess the dog's breeding potential is that much more difficult because expert grooming can easily hide various faults.)

When a breeder chooses a stud dog to be used in their breeding program, the breeder must not only evaluate the dog's *phenotype* but also its *genotype*. These terms are described as follows:

**Phenotype:** This term refers to what one can see or measure when looking at a dog with a naked eye. This includes the dog's movement, structure, eye color, coat colour, coat texture, height, weight, size of head, length of back, etc.

**Genotype:** This refers to the dog's genetic make up, which is not always visible to the naked eye. What we see, such as dark eyes, may not necessarily

equate to what the dog is capable of producing. The converse holds true as well, in that we may not be able to see what the dog is capable of producing. Just because a dog has a phenotype of a black nose does not mean the genotype will always produce a black nose. There could be another color nose lurking in the dog's genes that we can not see.

Consider the following:

Chinzia, our foundation bitch, came from a breeding line of dark pigmentation, meaning she had a black nose, dark eyes, grey muzzle and ears, and dark eye rims. She was bred to a dog with very similar, dark colouring. Is it possible that mating these two dogs could produce puppies with brown rather than black noses, who were also lacking dark eye rims? The answer is yes. In fact, in that litter, two of the five pups were born with improper Wheaten Terrier colouring. (These two pups were still great dogs, they just could not be shown in a dog show.) How did this happen?

In order for this situation to occur, this means that the brown gene rather than the black gene dictating nose and eye rim colour had been passed down many generations from both Chinzia's line and that of the stud dog. Until this litter, the brown gene had always been hidden, but not eliminated by the black *dominant* gene. In this example, and with all *recessive* genes, the brown gene can be passed on undetected for many generations. A recessive gene can not work unless it is present in duplicate, meaning that the recessive genes must come from both parents in order to be expressed in the offspring. Therefore, both Chinzia and the stud dog were carrying the brown recessive gene, which became evident in



this litter. (Note – In all animal breedings, the offspring receive their genes from both parents, whether it is a recessive gene or a dominant gene. It is the combination of these dominant and recessive genes that determines what the animal will look like.)

Simple recessives reveal themselves on a ratio of 3:1. This means that, on average, for every four puppies that are born from a mating where both parents are carrying the same recessive gene, one of the puppies will express the recessive trait. The other three pups, on average, will present the dominant gene. If only one of the parents is carrying the recessive gene, then it is scientifically impossible for the recessive trait to be visibly present in any of the offspring. All the puppies will always present the dominant trait.

Overall, genetics is a very complex subject. I have only provided a very simple example to help present some of the basic terms used in this science. In reality, reproduction of animals is controlled by countless genes and combinations of genes whose presence and combinations affect the degree to which they make themselves apparent in the offspring.

I trust I have provided some insight into basic genetics.

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# The Prairie Wheaten

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## STAMP OF APPROVAL!

by Jim and Trina Fallows

On October 1, 2004, Canada Post issued a series of four stamps depicting kids and their pets. The stamps include fish, cats, a rabbit and a dog. The breed of dog is not specified, however it appears to be a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier! Given that it is supposed to represent the importance of dogs in the lives of Canadian children, what better choice than a Wheaten? OK, so maybe we are just a little bit biased.

The dog stamps cannot be purchased separately. Instead, the 49 cent stamps are sold in packs of eight, with two of each of the four types of stamps in each pack. The stamps are the self-adhesive variety (i.e., like stickers) instead of the more traditional perforated stamps that must be torn from a sheet and licked to be affixed to an envelope.

Canada Post has produced a total of 625,000 booklets of eight stamps, with each booklet selling for \$3.92 at your nearest postal outlet. Stamps are generally on sale for at least six months, however popular issues can sell out. Also, note that inventories will vary by postal outlet, so if your nearest postal outlet is out of stock, one option is to telephone other outlets to see whether they have the stamps available. Alternatively, stamps can be purchased on-line at <http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/collecting/petstamp>, or by calling 1-800-565-4362 and citing product number 413582111.

In addition to the stamps, Canada Post has also produced a series of related products:

- a deck of playing cards that depict the four stamps (\$4.50);
- a "pets letter writing kit" that consists of 16 circular stickers (four images of each stamp), five envelopes for mailing letters (with dog paw prints across the front) and ten pieces of stationery (\$3.99); and
- stuffed toys (\$9.99).



Copyright Canada Post

Be forewarned that the stuffed toys are quite ugly. The cat and the rabbit look like mutant rodents, and the Wheaten appears to be an attempt at a West Highland White Terrier.

Canada Post is also sponsoring a contest in conjunction with the stamp issue. Ballots are available at Canada Post retail outlets or on-line, with a limit of one entry per day. A total of 350 prizes will be awarded, with the grand prize being a digital photography package with a retail value of \$2,300. The contest closes on October 31.

The hoopla surrounding this particular stamp issue is an attempt by Canada Post to raise awareness of stamp collecting among children. The hobby of stamp collecting is quite lucrative for Canada Post, however it has been in severe decline for the past several years because the use of electronic mail and postage meters means that most households rarely receive interesting commemorative stamps.

In recognition of the commercial benefits of using the pictures of the animals, Canada Post has donated \$5,000 to the Humane Society of Canada. This is just another example of Wheatens making the world a little bit brighter for all of us!

Dear God,

Are there mailmen in Heaven?

If there are, will I have to apologize?

~The Dog





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# The Prairie Wheaten

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## Vaccination Views

by Carolyn Fox

For many years taking a pet for his annual vaccination was considered to be the hallmark of responsible pet care. In the last decade some Veterinarians, some pet owners and many researchers have begun questioning whether yearly boosters are necessary or safe. Over-vaccination may be a contributing factor in the increase of chronic health problems in our pets. Here are a few viewpoints on vaccinations.

### Vets issue animal vaccine warning

From the BBC Web site - April 2004

British Veterinarians say dog owners are spending millions on unnecessary vaccines. Veterinary surgeons are warning that cat and dog owners are spending tens of millions of pounds on unnecessary and sometimes dangerous vaccines. More than 30 veterinarians have signed an open letter warning that many vaccines for pets given in yearly doses last much longer. These veterinarians are warning the pharmaceutical industry and their own profession about the issue. They have accused the pharmaceutical industry of "fraud by misrepresentation, fraud by silence and theft by deception". Drug companies responded by saying they are bound by rules from licensing authorities. Because of a lack of research they can only give a minimum period of immunity - usually 12 months.

### View from Colorado State University

Several years ago the Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine became the first veterinary college to issue a vaccination schedule that recommended against annual vaccinations. Their new protocol included the following, "We are making this change after years of concern about the lack of scientific evidence to support the current practice of annual vaccination and the increasing documentation that over vaccinating has been associated with harmful side effects. Of particular note in this regard has been the association of autoimmune hemolytic anemia with vaccination in dogs and vaccine-associated sarcomas in cats ... both of which are often fatal."

### Change in Vaccination Protocol

Lakewood Animal Hospital in Regina has switched their vaccination protocol to a three year cycle.

### Titer Testing

For those needing proof of vaccinations for a boarding kennel, a daycare or a dog event there may be an option. We were preparing MacDuff, the Basset Hound, for a stay in a boarding kennel. Most boarding facilities require an up-to-date annual vaccination record. We chose K-Lane Kennels near Kronau,

not only because we had heard good reports on them but also because they allow antibody titer tests to replace the usual proof of vaccination. K-Lane Kennels are also more lenient on the annual vaccinations rule taking into account that Lakewood Animal Hospital in Regina has switched their protocol to a three year cycle.

MacDuff had not been vaccinated for four years. At 9½ years of age, and with a few minor health problems, both we and our Veterinarian were reluctant to vaccinate him. Instead, a blood sample was taken and sent away for antibody titer testing to measure whether or not MacDuff was still immune to disease. The results came back showing that antibodies were still protecting him and vaccination was not required. We were reassured to know that MacDuff did not have to face the risks of over-vaccination.

## Information on Grooming Your Wheaten

**"Help Me Groom My Wheaten":** The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America web site offers this excellent page with information on grooming a Wheaten. Here you will find the right tools to use, how to get your Wheaten to behave while you are grooming him, how to brush and comb the Wheaten coat, and how to do ears and nails. The section on trimming the fall (hair on forehead over the eyes) will "show you or your groomer how to handle one of the trickier problems with trimming your Wheaten ... how to see more eye without losing the distinctive Wheaten look." Find all of this information at: <http://www.scwtca.org/helpme/groom.html>

**Grooming Guide:** You can print out these five informative pages illustrating the basic trim and grooming technique for the companion dog. Notes on show trimming are included. These are the same pages that were mailed out with *The Prairie Wheaten* in Fall 2001. They can be accessed from the above page or by going directly to: <http://www.scwtca.org/helpme/guide.pdf>

**Pet Trims:** Directions with photos showing the "comfort clip" and the "buddy trim" can be accessed from the grooming page or directly at: <http://www.scwtca.org/helpme/trimpet.html>

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# The Prairie Wheaten

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## “Jasmine’s” Story

It all started when a friend alerted Alan to the fact that a Wheaten was about to be surrendered to the Regina Humane Society. The following e-mail went out to all online Saskatchewan Wheaten owners the evening of Thursday, September 29th.

### **Three year old female Wheaten needs new home**

*Jasmine is a three year old spayed curly coated Wheaten. As a typical Wheaten she has lots of energy, is happy and loves attention. The mother of this Wheaten’s family babysits small children so Jasmine has to stay outside all day but is let in at night. She gets along with older children but is too energetic around younger ones. This busy family “no longer has time for Jasmine”. They planned to take her to the Humane Society but our rescue coordinator, Margaret Stewardson has persuaded them to keep her while we try to find her a loving new home. Margaret has visited the home and Jasmine leapt onto her lap several times draping herself around her neck for kisses.*

*The family has several dogs including a Golden and a Yorkie with newborn puppies. Margaret heard a wonderful story how Jasmine alerts the family of their Golden’s oncoming seizures then stands over the dog protecting it. Jasmine has some allergies, particularly on her feet after chewing rawhides. (I think this could be cured by not giving her rawhides!)*

*Jasmine is of good weight and Margaret has her file from the Victoria Avenue Vet Clinic. This loving little girl needs a home with no young children. Her new owners should be aware of her high energy, perhaps be willing to take her for walks, and want to give her the attention she craves.*

*This great little Wheaten needs a new home. Let’s try to find her one and keep her from being surrendered to The Humane Society.*

Friday morning the calls started coming in. The response was overwhelming. Jim and Marilyn Turanich, accompanied by Margaret Stewardson, went to visit Jasmine that very evening. They immediately fell in love with her and she happily

headed to their home near Fort Qu’Appelle with them. Those of us who know Jim and Marilyn agree that we could not have hand picked a better home for Jasmine.

We have since found out her name is spelled Jazmyn.



### **One week later Jazmyn writes:**

I went to stay with my new family Marilyn and Jim Turanich on September 30th after a call went out from Wheaten rescue for a possible home. Jim and Marilyn lost Kerry, their 14½ year old Wheaten Terrier, this summer. Friends and family sent them several copies of the email saying I needed a new home. I wasn’t used to traveling in a car and it seemed to be a long way to their place. I was a bit timid and rolled over every time they wanted to pet me. I don’t do that anymore. At bedtime, I got a treat and scratches before going to my new spot. They can’t believe how well behaved I am. Well, let me tell you, have they been trained easily! All I have to do is jump on their laps or anywhere near them and I immediately get the attention I need. We go for walks and last night I even played with dog toys, ripping and tearing around the house. It’s sure nice to be the only “child”. I simply walk under Jim’s hand and get petted right away but he hasn’t taught me to bark at cows yet. Signed, Jazmyn – 3 year old Wheaten

### **A note from Marilyn and Jim**

Jazmyn has filled a large hole in our hearts and home. She appears to be a typical Wheaten - happy, bouncy. We’re having lots of fun finding out her little tricks and traits. She desperately needed to be groomed as her coat was matted to the skin. Jaz behaves very well on the grooming table. It’s wonderful to have an inquisitive, lively and loving Wheaten in the house again. Every day she gains more confidence and is getting used to her new home and our routine.

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# The Prairie Wheaten

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## Pet Photography Tips

by Carolyn Fox

There are two types of pet photography: a pet portrait that you set up which requires patience and perseverance, or the spontaneous photo you take of your pet. Luck plays a big part in both types.

Always keep your camera handy. Some of the best photos are spontaneous. Dogs do not always make your favourite expression or action right on cue.

Use natural lighting when possible. Photographing outdoors is ideal as it gives room for the dogs to be playful and happy and provides you with natural lighting. A bright but overcast day is perfect. A soft light or late afternoon sun can make a shiny coat of fur look at its best. Using a flash can cause red-eye or give your dog that devil-eyed look.

Think about the background. Keep it simple. The outdoors can provide a great backdrop for your photo but watch for human limbs, lawn furniture, stray toys and debris that may distract from the subject or does not add to the photo. When indoors remove clutter, dirty socks or newspapers from the scene.

Get down on the floor or on the ground so you are at eye level with your dog. This camera positioning shows you the world from the dog's perspective and can give you extra creative spark.

An assistant can be helpful for holding an enticing treat or for making a shrill noise to get your dog's attention, to perk up his ears, or tilt his head to the side.



MacDuff, taken with the camera at eye level.  
A sleeping dog makes a perfect subject.

Take as many shots as possible. It usually takes many to get one special photo.

Be prepared for sudden movement. Use a shutter speed of about 1/125th so you don't end up with a blur of fur. Use ISO 400 or 800 film if you are indoors with minimal natural lighting. A digital camera set to "sportsmode" will give you clear crisp photos even if your dog is on the run.

When photographing a group of puppies place them in one place such as a basket, tub or box so you can contain them in one area.

Send your photos to the editor of *The Prairie Wheaten* for publication in future issues.



A posed photo of Max taken in our backyard.



A spontaneous photo of BJ after a romp in the waves on the Oregon Coast in 1981.





## In Memoriam

Our thoughts and our sympathy goes out to all families who have lost their Wheaten.



**“ALIE”**

Wicklow’s Holweit Alley Cat  
May 11, 1997- Sept. 20, 2004

With great sadness we announce the passing of our girl “Alie” of kidney failure. She is very sadly missed and we have so many wonderful memories of our beloved friend and companion. She will be forever in our hearts.

Sherry, Bob, Parker, Taylor, and Spencer Halfinger

### Fragile Circle

We who choose to surround ourselves with lives even more temporary than our own, live within a fragile circle, easily and often breached. Unable to accept its awful gaps, we still would live no other way. We cherish memory as the only certain immortality, never fully understanding the necessary plan.

- Irving Townsend.



**“Darby”**

Barbrook’s Darby’s Irish Creme  
April 6, 1989 - September 2, 2004

Donna and Don Beck mourn the loss of their beloved 15 year old Darby.



**“Murphy”**

Allegra’s Murphy Heather O’Mogg  
Nov 8, 1989 - Oct 4, 2004

She was the sweetest, gentlest soul, loved by all who met her. Sadly missed by Cheryl and Reilly but gladly greeted by Casey at the Rainbow Bridge.

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## The Prairie Wheaten

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### Max, a Wheaten from Singapore



This is Max, a Wheaten who lives in Singapore. It is a very rare breed in Singapore because there are no Wheaten breeders living there. Max's owner, Darny, had him shipped in on an eight hour flight from Australia. Despite the long flight, three month old Max was bouncy and jovial on his arrival. Darny reads *The Prairie Wheaten* online. He finds it very interesting, containing lots of useful information. If you are a long-distance reader of *The Prairie Wheaten*, we'd love to hear from you too.



I love this little house because  
It offers after dark  
A pause for rest, a rest for paws,  
A place to moor my bark.

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## The Prairie Wheaten

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The snow always looks whiter  
on the other side.



**Margaret Stewardson proudly presents her Chicago pup, Alice Bea, who was Olly’s Kingdom Pet Salon’s “Pet of the Month” earlier this year:**

### **Alice Bea: Therapy Dog Extraordinaire!**

Alice Bea, a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, is special for many reasons. First, is her sweet disposition and good looks. Second, her “Mom” Mary Kay is an artist and Alice Bea is a featured character in a local comic strip! And last, but definitely not least, Alice Bea is a therapy dog. We’ll let Mary Kay tell us about that experience:

“Alice has done several nursing home visits, but my ‘pet’ program (okay, that was a very bad pun) is called Sit Stay Read. Al passed their test recently and will be starting her work this summer in public libraries around the city.

Right now I am working with the program as a book buddy and it is the most rewarding volunteer experience I have ever known. I absolutely love being in the classroom with the second grade kids and seeing them interact with the dogs in ways that improves their reading and writing skills. I am watching the program work by really engaging the kids. They LOVE the dogs. And that makes them start to love reading to and about dogs.”

Wow! Kudos to Alice Bea and Mary Kay Czerwicz



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# The Prairie Wheaten

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## Spring Wheaten Walk a Washout



On June 6th, 2004, 10 people, 11 Wheatens, 1 Jack Russell Terrier and 1 Basset Hound gathered for our Spring Walk. The heavens opened and the rain poured down. It was our first ever rained out walk. Here is the group gathered under an overhang of the parkade keeping dry while visiting. The disappointed dogs had a few thoughts about this sad turn of events:



Can't we just go for a "little" walk?



C'mon, we really, really, really want to walk.



I am so sad .... there is no consoling me.



Let me walk or I'll jump!

## Autumn Wheaten Walk



September 26th, 2004 was a perfect day for a walk around Wascana Lake. The Autumn foliage was at its peak; the weather was warm but not too hot. Twenty-five people, thirteen Wheatens, one Basset Hound and one Sheltie came out to walk. The award for making the longest trip to attend once again goes to Danny, Judy and their Wheaten Darby from Prince Albert.





## Blessing of the Animals



A Blessing of the Animals service was held at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Regina on September 12, 2004. Blessings such as this take place in Christian communities around the world to honour the love of a pet and in remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi's love for all God's creatures. Flute music, scripture readings, a short reflection, prayers and hymns comprised the forty minute service. Each pet was blessed by a Franciscan Friar, a United Church minister, or by the Rector or a member of the cathedral pastoral team. Pets included dogs, cats, birds, bunnies, and a gerbil. Max and MacDuff were blessed as was Felix, another Regina Wheaten. This was such a popular service that the cathedral believes it may become an annual event.

### A Prayer for Animals

by Albert Schweitzer

Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends, the animals, especially for those who are suffering; for any that are lost or deserted or frightened or hungry. We entreat for them all Thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the merciful.

Animal Shelters care for deserted, abused and frightened animals. Although they can use your prayers they need much much more. Here are some items you can donate to help them:

Donations of money  
Blankets, towels, bathmats (new or used)  
Medical supplies (Hibitane, cotton balls, Polysporin salve)  
Chain leashes with large clasps  
Heavy duty retractable leads  
Dog and cat shampoo  
Heavy duty garbage bags  
Rubber gloves

Bandages  
Laundry detergent  
Stainless steel dog dishes  
"Canadian Tire money"  
Cat litter  
Latex gloves  
Hard dog toys (can be sterilized)  
Dry pet food



# Recipes for Dog Treats

From meaty goodness, to fruity flavors, to veggie variety, this assortment of nutritious recipes is sure to have your dog salivating. As usual they have been tested in Carolyn's kitchen and taste-tested by the faithful kitchen assistants Max and MacDuff. In some cases, particularly with the Fabulous Meatballs, the assistants were waiting with eager anticipation as meaty garlicky scents wafted from the oven.

An excellent product to have on hand for making dog biscuits is Rogers 9 Grain. It contains nine different natural whole grains: oat flakes, wheat flakes, wheat bran, barley flakes, rye flakes, triticale flakes, millet, cornmeal, flax seed, sunflower seed, and wheat germ. It is natural, has no additives and is a rich source of fiber. When a recipe such as Trail Mix Tail Waggers calls for "barley flakes", 9 Grain could be substituted. In some recipes a portion of the flour could be replaced with 9 Grain.

### Carrot Cookies

2 cups carrots - boiled and pureed  
2 eggs  
1 teaspoon parsley flakes  
2 cups rye, rice or barley flour  
1 cup rolled oats or Rogers 9 Grain  
¼ cup wheat germ

Combine carrots, eggs and parsley. Mix until smooth. Add dry ingredients. Roll out on heavily floured surface and cut into bars or desired shapes. Bake at 300° for 45 minutes or to desired crunchiness. The centers will continue to harden as they cool. Brush with egg white before baking for a glossy finish. Store in a covered container in the refrigerator or freezer.

### Chicken Tarragon Treats

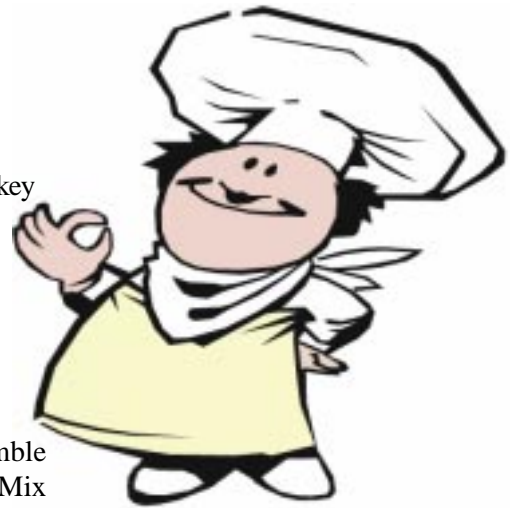
1 cup ground chicken or ground turkey  
2 cups various flours  
1 cup cornmeal  
1 egg  
3 tablespoons oil  
¾ cup water  
2 teaspoons tarragon leaves

Cook ground chicken and crumble into bowl with wet ingredients. Mix the dry ingredients into a separate bowl. Add the dry ingredients to the wet and mix thoroughly. Turn out on a cornmeal covered surface and roll or pat to ½ inch thick. Use bone cutters or cut into squares with a sharp knife. Place on greased baking sheets; bake at 375° for 15 to 20 minutes. Cool on racks. Store in a covered container in the refrigerator or freezer.

### Pumpkin Dog Biscuits

4 eggs  
1 cup canned pumpkin  
1 teaspoon salt  
4 tablespoons powdered milk  
5 cups flour  
water

Blend eggs and pumpkin together; add salt, dry milk, and flour. Add water as needed to make a workable dough. Roll to ½ inch thick. Cut into shapes - pumpkin shapes would be fun for Halloween or Thanksgiving. Place 1" apart on lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 30 to 40 minutes. Cool and let harden. Store in covered containers in the refrigerator or freezer.



### Apple Cinnamon Biscuits

4 cups assorted flours (barley, rye, whole wheat)  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
1 cup water  
¾ cup chopped cored apple  
2 tbsp canola oil  
2 tbsp blackstrap molasses  
1 large egg

Combine flours and cinnamon in a large bowl. In a food processor or a blender, combine water, apple, oil, molasses, and egg. Puree until smooth. Pour over dry ingredients and mix well.

Knead the dough in the bowl until it holds together. Transfer to a lightly floured surface and roll out dough to a ¼ inch thickness. Use a cookie cutter or cut into bite-size squares with a sharp knife. Use a fork to poke holes in the surface of each biscuit. Place about ½ inch apart on nonstick baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until firm. Place pans on racks until completely cool. Reduce oven to 300° and bake for 30 minutes longer or until hard. Transfer biscuits to rack to cool completely. Store in refrigerator or freezer.

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# The Prairie Wheaten

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## Trail Mix Tail Waggers

1 cup chicken broth  
¾ cup variety of nuts and seeds:  
peanuts, sunflower, pumpkin  
¾ cup chopped naturally dried fruit:  
bananas, apples, prunes, apricots, pears  
3 cups dark rye flour  
¾ cup barley flakes or Rogers 9 Grain  
6 tbsps safflower oil

In a bowl combine nuts, seeds, chopped dried fruit, oil and broth. Add barley flakes then slowly add flour until you have a until a workable dough. Flour cutting board and roll or pat dough to a ½ inch thickness. Use bone shaped cutters or a knife to cut into squares. Press firmly to cut clean edges through the soft fruit. Bake for 20 minutes at 375°. Turn oven down to 200° for about 30 minutes and let bones dry naturally until hard. Refrigerate or freeze in a covered container.

## Fabulous Meatballs

1 pound ground beef  
¾ cup grated cheddar cheese  
2 carrots, shredded  
1 cup whole grain bread crumbs  
2 eggs whisked  
2 tsp garlic powder  
2 tsp tomato paste  
Optional additions: kelp powder, alfalfa powder, ground flax seed, rosemary, oregano leaves

Combine all ingredients in a bowl until well mixed. Scoop out by the spoonful and roll into mini-size meatballs. Place the meatballs on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 15 to 20 minutes. When cool, sharpen your dog's fetching skills by tossing him a few meatballs. Store the remaining in the refrigerator or freezer in a covered container.

## Veggie Cheese Treats

1 cup grated cheddar or mozzarella cheese  
6 tablespoons vegetable oil  
6 teaspoons applesauce  
1 cup finely chopped vegetables (broccoli, carrot, celery, green pepper, red pepper)  
2 cloves of garlic, minced  
2 cups whole-wheat or other flour  
½ cup milk (approximate)

Mix cheese, oil, and applesauce. Add veggies, garlic, and flour. Combine thoroughly. Add just enough milk to form a ball (about ½ cup). Cover and chill for half an hour. Roll onto floured surface to ¼ inch thick. Cut into shapes. Bake at 375° on greased baking sheet for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on racks. Store in a covered container in the refrigerator or freezer.



Dog topiaries at Ladew Topiary Gardens near Monkton, Maryland.

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## What I Did On My Summer Vacation

By Max Fox

I went on a long road trip with Carolyn and Alan in August to visit my family, Pamela in Baltimore and Suzanne and Joe in Toronto. There is a big world out there and I found out that dogs can have a lot of fun in the big city ... and on the way there.



My main duty on the trip was to protect motel rooms from strangers and strange noises. I had similar duties while in the van.



In Annapolis, Maryland we went out on Chesapeake Bay on The Harbor Queen. I got to sail free of charge.



The nice girl at the bar filled my portable dish with water for me. When the boat started to toss on the waves it made me feel a little unsteady on my feet. This was the best place for me to be.



The crew of The Harbor Queen invited me into the wheel house for a visit. After the boat ride we shopped in Annapolis. Many stores love dogs so much that they put dishes of water and treats near their front doors.





# The Prairie Wheaten



In Toronto I rode on the subway and the streetcar. Riding on escalators took a little getting used to. Elevators are better. Many shops, boutiques and big bookstores let me go in to shop. I liked visiting with other dogs who were also “shopping”. There were lots of pet food stores with very healthy dog foods where I got special treats and samples.



Dog Bakeries are fun to visit because they give dogs free goodies. One pet boutique had a bakery and lots of accessories too. I was glad I did not have to get a rhinestone collar, a pair of “Doggles” or perfume. Thankfully I am too big to fit in the designer carry bags or the fancy beds that cost hundreds of dollars or the tiny zippered boots that cost \$118.



I got to sail on the tall ship “Kajama” on Lake Ontario from the Toronto Harbor. The girl at the concession filled my water dish for me and I relaxed and had a good sail. Thank goodness I did not volunteer to help raise the sails with Alan and Joe. They were exhausted! After the sail we went to an outdoor harbor restaurant. Lots of people walking by stopped to visit with me.



Alan removed my leash at Kew Beach Off-Leash Park but I was not sure what to do. This puppy and some others came over to try and get me play with them but I was a little shy and felt old around those young boisterous pups. They sure seemed to have fun running into the lake, fetching, and chasing one another around the park.

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## Memo To The Family Dogs

Dear Dogs,

When I say to move, it means go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two of you in the way.

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help, because I fall faster than you can run.

I can not buy anything bigger than a king size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. Look at videos of dogs sleeping; they can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but doggy sarcasm.

When I am playing on the computer, jumping up and trying to type for me is not helpful.

Barking at me because I'm not helping you achieve your goal does not win you any extra brownie points.

I have not buried your toys in my flower pots!

My compact discs are not miniature Frisbees.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, and try to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. In addition, I have been using bathrooms for years; canine attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me, and then go sniff the other dogs. I can not stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you guys to make.

Dog Mom



### Dogs have four different types of stride:

**The walk** - right front foot forward, then left hind, followed by the left front foot forward, then right hind, etc.

**The trot** - right front and left hind at the same time followed by left front and right hind, etc.

**The amble** - two right feet at same time followed by two left feet at same time, etc.

**The run** - all four feet at the same time.

**That's some feat!**



If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.

- Will Rogers



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Thank you to everyone for the kind words about the Spring 2004 newsletter. A special thanks to all who contributed items to this newsletter. Thank you as well, for the donations to offset costs. Anyone else wishing to make a donation may do so by sending a check to our treasurer, Sue Luchuck, at the address listed on the first page.

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Most people now receive the newsletter by e-mail. It is of a better quality than can be produced with a copier AND the photos are in colour. This method also saves the club money that would have been spent on paper, envelopes and postage. All we ask is that you tell us when you change your e-mail address. Past copies of *The Prairie Wheaten* and the Special Issue cookbook can be found at <http://afox1.sasktelwebsite.net/>

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How well can a dog smell? It is thought that a dog's sense of smell is generally 10,000 to 100,000 times better than a human's. The olfactory area, the nasal membranes that detect smell, of a human is about one-half-square inch. The average dog's olfactory area is almost twenty square inches. Put a drop of vinegar in a tub of 220 gallons of water and mix it up. Then take a drop of that and mix it in 220 gallons of water. Some dogs can still smell it.

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The common belief that dogs are color blind is false. Dogs can see color, but it is not as vivid a color scheme as we see. They distinguish between blue, yellow, and gray, but probably do not see red and green. This is much like our vision at twilight. Dogs' eyes have large pupils and a wide field of vision, making them really good at following moving objects. They also see well in fairly low light.

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Dog owners see doctors twenty percent fewer times than dogless people. Take two puppies and call me in the morning!



This Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier "Wanted" poster is an enlarged photo of a refrigerator magnet purchased on e-Bay.

\*\*\*\*\* **DEADLINES** \*\*\*\*\*

**Deadline for submissions for the next issue is March 1st**

Please make your submissions to:

Carolyn or Alan Fox

74 Cooper Crescent

Regina, SK S4R 4J7

or email to [carolynfox@sasktel.net](mailto:carolynfox@sasktel.net)

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