

ASCWTA

The Prairie Wheaten

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Canine Dental Health by Carolyn Fox

Dental Care Quiz

Adult Dogs have:

- 28 teeth
- 42 teeth
- 36 teeth

The most common disease in dogs is:

- Cancer
- Parvovirus
- Periodontal Disease

Good dental care can add 2 - 6 years to the life span of your pet:

- True
- False

How did you do? The answers to these questions are found in the next paragraph.

Canine dental care is one of the most important, yet least understood, aspects of our pet's health. Untreated dental disease is the most common disease in dogs and furthermore, research shows that infection from periodontal disease can spread to the heart, liver, kidneys, intestinal tract and joints, predisposing a pet to an early death. Next only to providing a healthy diet, dental health is one factor that you can control to add to the quality and life span of your pet. Puppies have 30 primary teeth; adult dogs have 42 permanent teeth. They depend on us to keep all 42 of those teeth clean, healthy and "permanently" in their mouths. Our pets do not reap the benefits their ancestors did when tearing into its prey with the teeth. Abrasive cutting and chewing of hides and bones kept their teeth sparkling white. In contrast, by the age of three years, up to 80 percent of our domesticated dogs show some signs of dental disease. We must maintain our pet's dental health to help prevent the following dental diseases.

Gingivitis

Soft, sticky plaque forms on our pet's teeth everyday. A single milligram of plaque contains one trillion bacteria. Within hours, plaque begins to harden or mineralize into cement-like tartar that can form a wedge separating the tooth from the gum. The gums become inflamed, red and they bleed easily. This phase of dental disease is treatable and can be reversed.

Periodontal Disease

Periodontal disease is a step beyond gingivitis. Tartar buildup left to harden between the teeth and gums can lead to infection with pus forming along the gum line then spreading to the root of the tooth. As this infection spreads, the tissues around the tooth are destroyed, the bony socket holding the



tooth erodes and the tooth falls out. Gum infection can also lead to bone infection which can produce tumor-like swellings in the mouth. These low grade infections can sap away at your dog's energy level. Periodontal Disease can be prevented but once your dog is affected, it cannot be cured. However, with professional help, further damage can be slowed or stopped.

Signs of Periodontal disease:

- Yellow/brownish colored teeth
- Swollen, red, bleeding gums
- Persistent bad breath
- Loose teeth, loss of teeth
- Pus between gums and teeth
- Broken teeth
- Unusual growth in mouth
- Reluctance to play with chew toys or drink cold water
- Yellow-brown crust of tartar at gum line
- Receded/eroded gums
- Infected teeth
- Change in eating habits
- Pawing at mouth or face

Endodontic Disease

This is a disease of the soft tissue, or pulp, inside the tooth. It is very painful and provides a conduit for infection to spread through the bloodstream and attack the heart, liver and kidneys with potential life threatening diseases.

Signs of Endodontic disease:

- Any of the signs of periodontal disease
- Avoidance of chewing in one area of mouth
- Changes to shape of the crowns of teeth
- Chronic discharges from the nose or eyes

Oral Tumors

Squamous cell carcinoma, fibrosarcoma and melanoma tumors are malignant and require aggressive therapy. Although they account for only five percent of all tumors they can be nasty to treat and sometimes return after surgery.

Signs of oral tumors:

- Changes in the shape of the structures of the mouth
- Any abnormal growths

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Identifying Dental Disease

Dogs can feel dental pain but they are stoic and do not complain. They adapt by not eating on a sore spot or not chewing at all. Natural selection has taught dogs to live life without complaint because in the wild an animal showing weakness or distress would be at risk of attack. Examine your dog's teeth and mouth regularly, looking for any of the signs of dental disease. In a healthy mouth you should see clean, smooth white teeth surrounded by firm pink gum tissue. The following method will help you identify dental disease without requiring you to open the mouth:

1. Select a quiet location.
2. Be gentle and patient.
3. For back teeth on the left - place index finger of left hand on top of muzzle and place left thumb below bottom jaw to prevent him from opening his mouth.
4. Use right thumb and index finger to lift lips.
5. Pay attention to the large teeth in back where tartar and plaque collect.
6. Try pressing on each tooth, if pet permits, to check for looseness.
7. Move hands to front of mouth; separate upper, lower lips with thumbs and index finger. Look for red line where gums join tooth (an indication of infection, gingivitis, or periodontal disease). White pus coming from gums shows that there is infection already present.
8. Repeat procedure to examine right back teeth.

Getting on track

If there is inflammation, halitosis, bleeding, damaged or loose teeth, swelling or pus near the gums or any other signs of dental disease in your dog's mouth, a visit to your veterinarian would be advised. Annual dental checkups should follow. A professional dental cleaning may be required. During a cleaning, done under general anesthetic, tartar is removed from the crowns of the teeth and the tooth roots with special instruments. The teeth are then polished to make the enamel surface smooth as tartar pits the tooth. Any fractured or loose teeth are extracted. With painful teeth removed and infection curtailed, a dog may emerge from the process with renewed energy. Do keep in mind that the use of general anesthetics is always accompanied by a small risk of death, so be absolutely sure your dog needs a professional cleaning before agreeing to it. A health checkup and blood test is required before general anesthetic is given. Intravenous fluids may be given during the anesthetic procedure to maintain adequate kidney blood flow. Total cost of a basic professional cleaning with blood tests and I.V. fluids is in the \$300 range.

Toothpaste and a tooth brush are cheaper

Keeping your dog's teeth clean and healthy is one of the most beneficial things you can do for his health. Start early to get

your puppy to accept a brushing every day, or a minimum of twice a week, to remove dental plaque before it becomes mineralized. It is never too late to begin canine dental hygiene. Older dogs too can become used to the daily routine. Brushing teeth with a toothpaste specially formulated for dogs is the single most important part of dental and oral health. Do not use human toothpaste. Pets dislike the foaming action and the fluoride in human paste can damage a pet's liver when swallowed. Toothpaste for dogs contains enzymes that help kill the bacteria that damage teeth and is safe when swallowed. It come in flavors such as beef, poultry or bacon. Your dog will have a healthier, sweeter smile and clean 'meaty' breath. Instructions for brushing a dog's teeth are on page 4.

Other ways to ensure dental hygiene

There are several products including textured chews, rawhide bones or strips with dental enzymes, and toys on the market that claim to promote clean teeth. Read the ingredients list carefully and use common sense. For example, one popular dental chew contains propylene glycol (related to antifreeze), BHA and BHT, all on the "nasty substances" list in Linda Slobodian's article "Pet foods you wouldn't feed your dog" in the Fall 2003 issue of *The Prairie Wheaten*. Another, a dental chew ring referred to as "the toothbrush dogs use themselves", has 'dense fiber board' listed as its first ingredient.

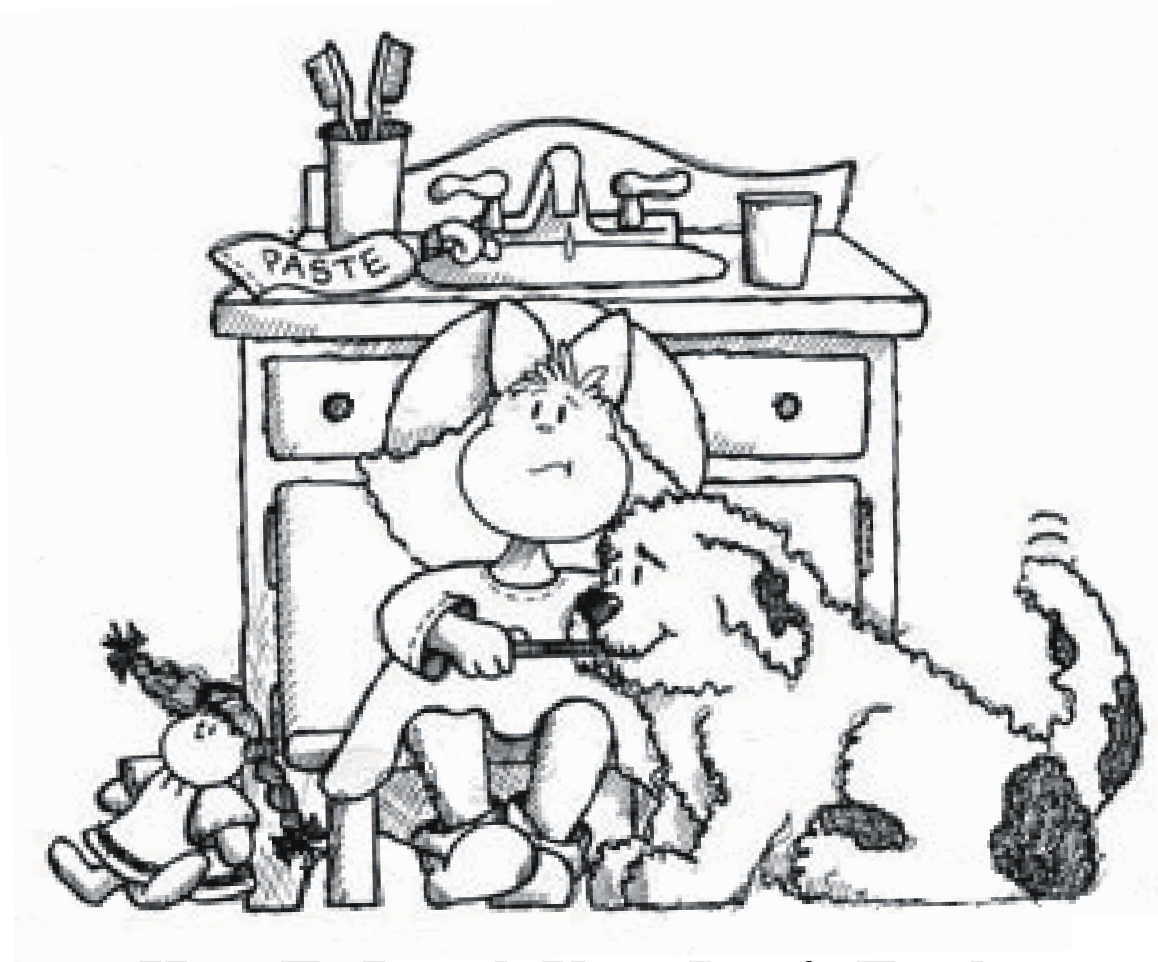
There are prescription diets available from your veterinarian that claim to reduce plaque and tartar. Once again, check that ingredient label. A hard, crunchy healthy food will scrape against the teeth and help keep them cleaner than canned or a soft diet. Real bones can help keep teeth clean but should be chewed with supervision. There is a "mouthwash" type formula available to squirt between the teeth and gums for daily antibacterial and antiplaque control. A gel formula can be applied to stay on the teeth to fight bacteria and plaque for 24 hours. Your veterinarian can apply a prophyl barrier sealant after a professional cleaning if you are willing to keep up with the once or twice weekly applications required. The special sealant leaves a thin barrier on the tooth surface that prevents plaque and bacteria from attaching to the tooth. Your veterinarian can help you choose the method that is right for your situation.

References:

PETS Magazine January/February 2004 article: Dental Care Guide

All Pets Dental web site <http://www.dentalvet.com/> this site has plenty of articles and pictures showing many aspects of dental disease..

American Animal Hospital Association web site "Brushing Your Pet's Teeth Can be as Easy as A-B-C, 1-2-3" <http://healthypet.com/Library/prevent-14.html>



How To Brush Your Dog's Teeth

Take an active role in the care of your dog's teeth to help reduce dental disease, bad breath and potential life threatening heart, liver and kidney disease.

1. Select an appropriate time - find a quiet convenient time when both you and your dog are relaxed.
2. Acquaint your dog with the process - for the first few sessions don't even use a toothbrush. Gently stroke the outside of his cheeks with your finger. When he is comfortable with that, place a dab of toothpaste on your finger and let him taste it. Purchase a toothpaste specifically formulated for dogs as they will swallow it. Human toothpaste could cause irritation to their stomachs and cause liver damage.
3. Introduce the toothbrush - Place a small amount of toothpaste on a soft bristled brush made specially for dogs or on a finger toothbrush that fits over the tip of your finger. In a slow circular or oval motion with the bristles at a 45 degree angle to the teeth and gums, brush one or two teeth and the gum line.
4. Begin brushing - over the next few days gradually increase the number of teeth brushed. It is important to eventually brush the big teeth way in the back where more plaque and tartar may accumulate. Go slowly and gently. Build up to about 30 seconds per side. Dogs don't get much tartar on the inside surfaces of their teeth, so concentrate on the outside surface. Praise your dog at the end of each brushing.

Acupuncture and your animal

Magdalena Petz, DVM



Acupuncture has developed in China thousands of years ago. Traditional Chinese Medicine views health as the unobstructed and unhindered flow of QI, the body's energy, through channels or meridians that run along the body surface as well as internally and are intimately connected with each other and all the organs.

The flow of QI can be disturbed by many things: the climate, environmental pollution, parasites, bacteria and viruses, physical and mental stress, an unhealthy lifestyle, including not enough or too much exercise, an unbalanced diet or inappropriate rest. There is also the possibility that poor genetics give an individual a difficult start in life.

Traditional Chinese Medicine, which acupuncture together with dietary and herbal components is a part of, takes a holistic, or whole, approach to health. The obvious health problem is not treated by itself, but the reasons that caused the problem to occur in the first place are sought out and if possible, eliminated.

Insertion of Acupuncture needles at certain points along the meridians sends a stimulus via ascending nerves to the spinal cord and on to the brain. Many of the substances released as a consequence of the treatment can be measured. For example, endorphins and enkephalins, responsible for alleviating pain, are increased after acupuncture, explaining its success in treating chronic arthritic conditions.

Acupuncture treatments consist of inserting sterile stainless steel, silver or gold needles into certain points along the meridians in an effort to rebalance the body and normalize the flow of QI. They differ from hypodermic needles in that they are solid, very fine and flexible. Animal patients usually tolerate needle insertion very well. Many relax after the needles are inserted, lie down and get sleepy.

Numerous variations of the above described method of needling are possible. Depending on patient and condition, one of the following might be selected:

- **Aquapuncture:** injection of liquid into the points. This can be sterile water, physiological saline or B- Vitamins.
- **Gold implants:** implantation of small gold beads in acupuncture points. This is a surgical procedure indicated in some form of chronic arthritis.
- **Moxibustion:** treating acupuncture points with heat.
- **Electrostimulation:** applying low voltage electric current to selected points.

After initial assessment of the patient, the actual treatment length can vary from just one minute to 30 minutes.

Complications are possible, but rare:

Broken needles: Can usually be recovered via minor surgery.

Bruising: Uncommon and will disappear within a few days.

Hematoma formation: pooling of blood at point of needle insertion.

Infection at the site of needling: Unlikely, since sterile single use needles are used.

Piercing of an internal organ: Very rarely occurs and is possible only when needling very deep.

Response to treatment varies. Most animals appear to be quiet and want to rest, others can get hyperactive. These or no responses in the hours following the treatment are of no concern. It is important to realize that the condition treated can worsen in the 48 to 72 hours following the treatment. Chronic conditions elicit many reflexes in the body in an attempt to compensate for pathology. The treatment, trying to rebalance the body, can undo some of these mechanisms resulting in a temporary worsening of the symptoms. As a rule the patient will improve dramatically after this 48 to 72 hour window has passed.

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Strenuous exercise, lots of excitement and heavy meals should be avoided for about 3 hours before and after an acupuncture treatment. Give your animal the chance to rest after acupuncture.

Five treatments, usually between 5 to 10 days apart, are done to be able to gauge the effect of acupuncture on the condition. Chronic diseases may well take many treatments before they improve or may need “tune ups” every few weeks or months. Some animals respond very quickly to treatment and may improve dramatically after the first or second treatment.

Acupuncture can treat a variety of conditions. Sometimes we will make recommendations for supplements, diet change or even exercise programs to augment the effect of the treatment.

This treatment modality has proven successful in numerous conditions:

- Dermatologic problems: skin disorders related to allergy, lick granulomas
- Musculoskeletal Conditions: chronic arthritis, hip dysplasia, intervertebral disc disease, strains and sprains, tendonitis
- Respiratory Conditions: sinusitis and rhinitis, asthma
- Gastrointestinal Complaints: gastritis, colitis, megacolon, chronic diarrhea, vomiting
- Urinary Tract Disorders: incontinence, cystitis
- Endocrine and Reproductive Problems: ovarian cysts, retained placenta, dystocia, hepatitis, diabetes
- Neurological Conditions: epilepsy, vestibular syndrome, peripheral nerve paralysis

Thorough diagnostic work-up and patient assessment is absolutely crucial to success. Diagnostics such as laboratory tests or radiographs may be indicated.

An extensive amount of training to acquire the specialized knowledge to practice Acupuncture is necessary. Veterinary Acupuncturists are currently trained and certified by WAS (International Veterinary Acupuncture Society).

Postscript by Carolyn Fox

This article by Dr. Magdalena Petz is a condensed version of her presentation, “Traditional Chinese Medications and Acupuncture” given last November. Roz Bacon, Sharon Lang (who drove from Saskatoon to attend) and I attended this informative seminar. Dr. Petz recommended some references to learn more about Acupuncture.

On the Internet:

<http://www.ivas.org> - International Veterinary Acupuncture Society

<http://www.avac.ca> - Association of Veterinary Acupuncturists of Canada.

The following books:

Four Paws, Five Directions by Cheryl Schwartz

From Ancient Art to Modern Medicine by Allan Schoen

The Web That Has No Weaver by Ted J. Kaptchuk

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From a Breeder's Point of View

by Barbara Osborne, Wicklow Wheatens

In recent issues of *The Prairie Wheaten*, I have introduced you to various aspects of a breeding program. I have defined the different types of breeders, and in the last issue we discussed breed type and breed standards. To refresh your memory, a breed standard sets out in writing the essence of the breed. This includes the general appearance of the dog, size, coat, color, gait, temperament and specific proportions and features of the dog's head, neck, topline and body. Breed type refers to breed character, silhouette, head, expression, movement and coat. The better the dog conforms to the breed standard as well as scoring high in all elements of breed type, the better the dog will be able to perform in the manner for which the breed was created.

In this issue of the *Prairie Wheaten*, I am going to discuss the different ways of breeding. These include inbreeding, linebreeding and outcrossing. Each type of breeding assumes that the breeding is between two dogs of the same breed. However, the degree to which the dogs are related determines the type of breeding.

Although all three types of breeding methods are acceptable, they are not appropriate for all breeders in all situations. The following provides a definition of each type of breeding method and explains when each type of breeding is appropriate to use.

Inbreeding: Inbreeding is defined as the breeding together of closely related animals; more closely related than the average of the population they came from. The following matings are considered inbreedings:

- father bred to daughter
- son bred to mother
- full brother bred to full sister
- half brother bred to half sister

Most people not familiar with the breeding programs often think that

inbreeding is taboo and is the root of all health and temperament problems that exist in popular breeds. To believe this infers that inbreeding is capable of creating health or temperament problems out of the blue. This is incorrect. Rather, problems are caused by breeders who lack the indepth knowledge and understanding of what exists in the mating dogs' backgrounds and are therefore making uniformed decisions.

Consider the following. Every dog has good and bad points. Breeding closely related dogs (ie inbreeding) will only increase the likelihood that these points, both good and bad, will be present in the offspring. An experienced breeder, however, will recognize a poor specimen of the breed, and will not breed it. By doing so, the informed breeder begins to purge the line of the known problem(s) and seeks to retain a breeding line that is free from health and temperament problems.

Although the above breeding practices may sound somewhat simple, speaking from experience, they are not. Understanding all the complex health problems and unravelling the mysteries behind intricate gene structures are not easy tasks. It takes years of learning and first hand experience to know all there is to know. Therefore, inbreeding should be left to the experienced and dedicated breeder, never by those who lack the knowledge of the breed.

Linebreeding: Linebreeding is a form of inbreeding in that it involves the breeding of closely related animals. However, the degree to which the linebred animals are related is less than those who are inbred. Examples include:



- grandparent bred to grandchild
- uncle bred to niece
- aunt bred to nephew
- cousin bred to cousin

As with inbreeding, linebreeding should only be practiced by knowledgeable breeders.

As stated in the inbreeding section, both linebreeding and inbreeding increase the chances of producing both good and bad traits in the offspring. Although great danger can result when faulty, related specimens are bred together, by the same token, the duplication of good traits can also be doubled with linebreeding. It can be said then, that linebreeding is the most effective way to concentrate the favorable traits possessed by certain outstanding specimens of the breed without running the risks inherent with inbreeding. Although the probability of getting the desired results is not as great as through inbreeding, neither is the risk of producing undesirable traits.

Outcrossing: Outcrossing refers to any mating of two dogs of the same breed that are totally unrelated, as least as far as their five generation pedigree's indicate. (Pedigrees typically only show five generations.) A *true* outcross is unlikely, as common ancestors are likely to be found in most breeds where the

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breeders are all working within the same bloodlines. This is true for Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier breeders. If you were to review many of the pedigrees that belong to Wheatens in North America, you would likely find that many have common ancestors. In large part, this is due to two factors:

- While the breed was becoming established in the 1960's, very few Wheatens were in North America. This resulted in a very small gene pool used for breeding purposes.
- Many dog breeders, including Wheaten breeders, tend to all want to breed to the dog or dogs that are winning at the dog shows. Consequently, the breed runs the risk of being influenced by a few dogs and eventually, many dogs in the breed have a least a touch of the popular line in their pedigree.

For these two reasons, true outcrosses are rare.

When a breeder chooses to outcross, they do so to select a mate that should contribute what is lacking in the breeder's line. However, to increase the chances of obtaining the desired outcome, the trait that the breeder is hoping to obtain must be heavily concentrated in that line either through inbreeding or line-breeding. Otherwise, the breeder may be introducing more problems from unknown factors that could easily outweigh the gains. A breeder may also choose to outcross in an attempt to move away from or remove an undesirable trait, including health concerns and temperament problems.

I hope I have provided you with some insight in to the different ways to breed. As I stated in the introduction, all methods are perfectly acceptable to use, but it requires an experienced breeder to know what method is most appropriate for their given situation.



President's Report

By Barbara Osborne

Spring is in the air. I know it. It has to be. Why else would my dogs, 'the girls', want in and out of my house every two seconds? Perhaps they are enjoying the warmer air and the longer days, or maybe they are bound and determined to get that squirrel that has come out of its winter hibernation. Whatever it is, some days my girls just drive me crazy! What could possibly be outside now that wasn't there two seconds ago??? Oh well, they are just being dogs and that is why I love them. I love how they 'smell' the Spring air, strutting around, nose held high, or how they have that extra hop in their step, as if they know that Spring is just around the corner. Even though our girls love the winter with its fresh snow and cool air, I know they are ready for a change. Just like their masters of the house, we are all waiting for Spring to arrive.

With Spring in sight, it means that it is time to start planning the Wheaten Walks. Although no dates have been selected, chances are the first walk around Wascana Lake in Regina will be in the latter half of May. I am sure that all the reconstruction to the lake will be complete by then, so it will give us a chance to check it out. Everyone is welcome to the Wheaten Walks, including our non-Wheaten, four-legged friends.

The Regina members of the club are also just days away from hosting a St. Patrick's Day pot luck dinner. Aaron and Bob Hamilton have graciously offered their home. This event has been held in the past, attracting a number of members to come out for an evening of casual conversation and good food. A similar pot luck dinner was held this past Christmas at our house, which was well attended. We tried some great new food, including an awesome Scandinavian dessert prepared by Donna Nicurity and delicious hot pepper jellies from Cheryl Mogg. To have a little extra fun, Carolyn Fox and I donated six Wheaten items for a silent auction, where we raised \$85. The group in attendance all agreed that we should donate the silent auction proceeds to the Regina Humane Society.

Well, that's about it for now. Stay tuned to hear of our upcoming events, whether it is a walk around the park or a pot luck dinner. If you can think of any other event you would like the club to host, please let us know. We are always open to new ideas.

Happy Spring Everyone!

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Hippy New Age Dog Training

By Robert Hamilton



With a snap of the wrist and a harsh word the leash grows taught and yanks your dog firmly backwards. The startled gagging animal has just been “corrected” but the trainer says “yank harder! Knock her off her feet!”. Chances are if you took your dog to obedience training that’s the kind of advice you would have been given. And no doubt this training does get results. In just a few short weeks your dog will sit when you stop, walk when you walk and stay on command.

I feel all dogs need at least a basic manners training class. There is nothing more annoying than an unruly animal which will not come when called and can’t walk on a leash. They are simply no fun to own and can be annoying to others. Keely and Winnie both underwent this training however I was a bit worried about some of the side effects. For instance, Keely would come on command but would grovel at my feet in fear and urinate in front of me. “Oh that’s just her way of showing submission” I was told. More like her way of showing abject terror was my impression.

This fearful behavior started during her obedience training and slowly faded once the class ended. Now that I have my beautiful rare long tailed Soft Coated Wheaten, Tori, I wanted her to learn some manners but I certainly didn’t want to crush her spirit. She is a wonderful friendly dog but very sensitive. One harsh word and she acts like she has been beaten. There is no way I could subject Tori to the controlled terror that passes for obedience training in Regina. I thought there just HAS to be another way.

Enter Pawzitive Attitudes Canine Training Centre run by Hank and Elsie Wesdyk who run Weskeys Kennels (345-2475 <http://www.imagewireless.ca/myweb/weskeys/>). The first day of classes we were told we would not be using tight leashes, harsh words or corrections of any kind. That sounds a bit like a Hippy New Age Dog Training class minus the love beads but the owners are very salt of the earth types. Like me, they became discouraged by the harsh techniques employed in traditional obedience training and sought out an alternative. After some research they started Pawzitive Attitudes.

“What have I gotten myself into?” I wondered. To say the least I was very skeptical. How could an unruly Wheaten be taught anything without at least a bit of a yank on the leash or an occasional “NO!”. And yet by the end of week two Tori could sit and down with voice or hand signals. That is much faster than Keely or Winnie ever learned - all without so much as raising my voice and not a drop of submissive urine to be found.

The basic approach is very simple. Dogs are highly motivated by food and praise – but mainly by food. When a dog does something right you give them food. Otherwise no food. If that sounds simple, it is. Of course there are a lot of tricks to speed along the process. Hank and Elsie were there to guide us along step by step. We started with a simple game to get your dog’s attention. You can’t do much in the way of training if your dog ignores you. The process is very simple – just wait for the dog to look at you then reward him with a small treat. In a few moments Tori’s eyes were glued to me. All of the Pawzitive techniques are presented in the form of games and enjoyable exercises which emphasize treats and praise.

One of the hardest things for a Wheaten is to walk on a leash without pulling. To this day Tori has occasional trouble, especially if she sees another dog. Being an old school obedience graduate I have a lot of trouble refraining from giving a sharp correction on the leash. But this is not the way of the New Age Hippy Dog Trainer. Grab your holistic crystals, bite down on your love beads and be Pawzitive.

To properly train our dog using only the Pawzitive way we hold the leash close to our body and when the dog pulls we stop walking and slowly take a few steps back. This is frustrating to a dog who wants to get somewhere. She will probably pull harder. We don’t say anything and we don’t snap the leash. Eventually she will come to us to see why we are stupidly walking backwards and the moment she does, she is given a treat. When she walks close to us, pays attention to us and acts in a calm and orderly manner she is given a treat – plus she gets to go somewhere.

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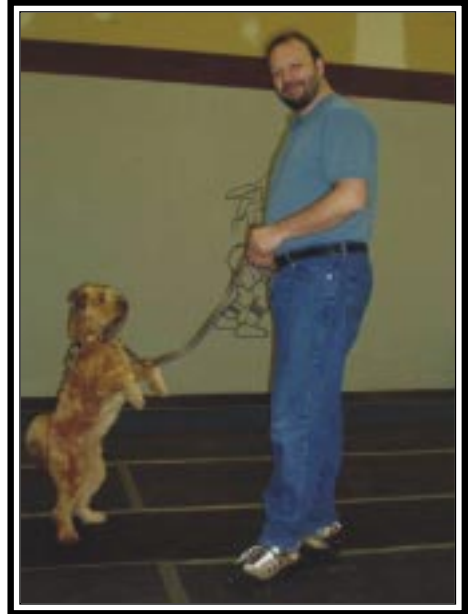
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One of our tasks for graduation day on week 6 was to train our dog to do a trick using the Pawzitive approach on our own time. In a few moments at home I had Tori dancing on her hind legs while I dangled a treat over her nose. No trick there. After a few more minutes I had her dance for my fingers then give her a treat with the other hand when the trick was finished. Finally she would dance at the wiggle of my fingers or on the verbal command "Dance". Now we had a trick!

Using similar techniques I taught her to slowly crawl on all 4's. Combining her class training to Down and Stay I taught her to sit and whine while looking at a piece of food and lunge for it on the command "Free". I felt we had enough for graduation.

At the end of week six, Tori will come when I call – even outside in the park and off leash (shush... don't tell the authorities). She has learned to fetch which is a very difficult task for a Wheaten. She can sit and stay and down while I walk away and will instantly zoom to me when I give the order. Some day her ability to stop in her tracks and come when called could save her life. At the very least her

ability to sit and down will make her a more enjoyable pet and a bit less of a nuisance.



This is not to say our training went perfectly. While I am a convert to the Pawzitive approach, there was certainly room for improvement in our classes. The physical space was much smaller than some of the other classes available in town – offset to a large degree by the smaller class sizes. There were some long periods of talk with little action and Tori became bored at times. The trainers were 20 minutes late for one class due to a train. Another class was cancelled and rescheduled due to heating problems in the building. The majority of our class did not attend the last two sessions – possibly because the classes were the week before and after Christmas. Or perhaps this class is not for everyone. We may have had just a few cases of bad luck – your

sessions may go smooth as silk.

I should mention that there are alternatives to Pawzitive Attitudes. I have spoken to owners who are quite enthusiastic about "Clicker" classes, also offered by Hank and Elsie. I'm told a small noise maker somehow provides positive feedback. There may well be other approaches available as well. Perhaps some day I will have a chance to try these other methods and be able to report on them. For now all I can say is you don't have to settle for old school training methods if you have a sensitive animal. There are alternatives and they actually do work.

Graduation Day: To the left you can see that the training has paid off. Tori pauses to read the instructions which clearly state "Sit" while her handler wanders off. Such is the frustration for the well trained Wheaten but Tori knows not to give a well earned correction to her owner.

If you are looking for something a bit different from traditional obedience and are prepared to do a bit more work at home then this might just be the solution for you. Personally I'm sold!



How Safe is Your Wheaten in the Car?

By Linda Hybschmann, Photos by Nick Hybschmann

If your sWheatie is like most, he loves car rides. It amazes me how often we see dogs of all breeds happily motoring down the highway, sitting untethered on the driver's or passenger's lap, with their heads hanging out the car window, the breeze blowing through their fur... or dogs sitting happily in the open back of a pick-up truck.. with obviously no consideration being given by the driver to the dog's safety.

Now, many of us know that we should not let our dogs hang out the window, that airborne dust and particles can cause eye irritation and injuries. We know that we should not leave Fido in a parked car when it is warm outside, even in the shade, since the temperature inside the car can heat up to dangerous levels within minutes causing deadly heat stroke. We know that during extended car trips, it is important to take regular breaks so that Fido can have a drink, a stretch, and an opportunity to relieve himself. We even know that during long trips, we should bring water from home (or bottled water or a Brita filter) to avoid canine tummy upsets from unfamiliar water.

But how safe is your Wheaten in the car, really?

Most of us buckle up when we get into the car and we ensure that our children are secure in their own seatbelts or car seats. Yet, we often let Fido sit unrestrained in the car and not give that a second thought. Many people fail to realize that a loose dog in the car presents a very real danger, not only to himself, but to the driver and other passengers. At the very least, an unsecured dog in the car can be a distraction to the driver and has the potential to be hurt or frightened by the lurching associated with sudden starts and/or stops. But what if the driver needs to brake hard in an emergency, or worse, the car is involved in a collision? Even at a modest *city* speed of 50 km per hour (30 mph), an unrestrained dog will go flying - becoming a potentially lethal projectile. A driver hit by a flying dog will very likely lose control of the vehicle and has the potential to be seriously injured if not killed by the resulting impact. In a sudden stop or crash, when not restrained, a small dog can become a canine cannonball, while a larger dog can be catapulted with the force of a small elephant into a front seat occupant, dashboard, or the windshield. Either way, the dog is unlikely to survive the impact. We've all seen what happens to a crash test dummy when a car hits a wall at 30 miles an hour.



The best way to ensure everyone's safety is to secure your dog in the car using a safety harness — “doggy seatbelt” — that is attached to the car seatbelt. This type of restraint is relatively cheap (ours cost a modest \$15.00), is convenient, and it is easily attached to a vehicle's lap or shoulder belt. In an accident or during heavy braking/turning, the dog's weight is absorbed by the strong straps and the system prevents the dog from hurtling forward and potentially injuring himself or others in the car. This type of restraint is also very comfortable for the dog, allowing him flexibility and freedom of movement so that he can sit up or lie down on the seat, or look out the window. It also prevents the possibility of escape if the car is stopped and the door is opened.

A crate, if securely attached to the vehicle, may also be used to restrain the dog, but is thought by some to be less preferable to a harness. For one thing, a crate will confine rather than restrain a dog, so that during a sudden stop, the dog may be propelled into the side of the crate. In researching this article, I came across cases in which the crate reportedly exploded in the impact of a crash. In other cases, crates were damaged and came open during a collision, allowing some terrified dogs to escape onto a busy highway. Although these may very well be rare instances, they do bear consideration. In any event, the vehicle must be able to accommodate a

Continued on next page

The Prairie Wheaten

crate and the crate must be securely attached so that it doesn't move at all. Our own preference is for the doggy seatbelt. We like the freedom of movement that Baxter has while being secure in his safety system, and the kids love that he can be right there beside them (or on them) and within easy petting distance. During our 6000+ km road trip last summer, our three-year-old Baxter spent most of the time happily snuggled up between the two school-aged kids in the back seat. All three of them were comfortable and happily occupied. Never once did we hear that dreaded question, "Are we there yet?" Oh, and even securely restrained in his doggy seatbelt, we do not recommend you let your Wheaten drive.



In Memoriam

Our thoughts and sympathies go out to the following:

Roz, Greg and Tyler Bacon on the loss of their beloved 10 year old Willow in November 2003.

Pat and Mark Mulatz on the death of their beloved 14 year old Murphy in December 2003.



We Have A Secret - Author Unknown

We have a secret, you and I
that no one else shall know,
for who but I can see you lie
each night in fire glow?
And who but I can reach my hand
before we go to bed
and feel the living warmth of you
and touch your silken head?
And only I walk woodland paths
and see ahead of me,
your small form racing with the wind
so young again, and free.
And only I can see you swim
in every brook I pass
and when I call, no one but I
can see the bending grass.



Willow

**Wheatndales Will O The Wisp
February 12, 1993 - November 9, 2003**

Saskatchewan Director's Report

By Mike Dumelie

The new year brings changes in the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Association of Canada (SCWTAC). Beginning January 1, 2004 the National Executive, which includes our regional directors, is now elected by the membership. Only members of the SCWTAC are eligible to vote for the regional director. With the limited number of members of the National club in Saskatchewan there is a possibility of losing our director position in the future. This position keeps us in touch with the national direction and allows us to influence the stewardship of the breed. Our position on the board allows us the opportunity to host National Specialties and/or breed boosters. I encourage our local

section club members to consider supporting the SCWTAC. In addition to retaining our director position and influence on the board, you will receive our publication, *Wheaten Wags* and will help us to support events such as our National Specialty.*

Planning for the National Specialty in Winnipeg is well on its way. Our National club website has a printable information package that provides all of the details of this outstanding weekend of events. Our website is located at <http://www.jb-ccs.com/scwtac>. The Specialty will run from August 5-8th and will include two Specialties as well as four all breed shows. If you want to see

some of the best Wheaten Terriers in North America, Winnipeg is the place to be in August.

Our Breedlines Committee has now prepared a draft of guidelines for publishing in the *Dogs In Canada* publication, a magazine produced by the Canadian Kennel Club. We hope to be able to share those guidelines with members shortly. We will be looking for contributions from all Wheaten owners that will help to educate dog enthusiasts in the experience of owning a Wheaten.

Have a great Spring. We look forward to seeing you at the next Wheaten walk or potluck.

* **Note from the Editor:** to become a member of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Association of Canada (SCWTAC) fill out the application found at: http://www.jb-ccs.com/scwtac/scwtac_application_forms.htm.

Four Types of Dog Vomit

YELLOW URKA-GURKA

Dog runs around the house and hides under furniture while making a prolonged 'uuuurka-guuuurka, uurka-guurka' noise. (This noise is the only thing guaranteed to wake up a true dog lover who is hung over from a post dog-show celebration at 3:30 a.m.) After mad scrambling to capture the dog and drag him outside, the episode ends with an inaudible ten yard slimy yellow froth from the living room rug to the back door.

BLAP DISEASE

Dog exercises hard and (a) eats large mouthfuls of snow (winter Blap Disease) or (b) drinks a bucket of water (Summer Blap Disease). Within two minutes of returning inside, the dog spews out large amounts of clear slimy liquid while making a distinctive 'blap' sound and a sharp percussive noise as it hits the linoleum.

GARKS

Dog suddenly clears his throat with loud and dramatic 'gggaark, gggark' noises generally followed by prolonged 'iiiksss' and then loud satisfied smacking noises. There is nothing on the rug. Don't investigate, you don't want to know.

RALFS

Apropos of nothing, the dog strolls into the dining room and waits till the innocent dinner guests are all watching him. Then, with a single deep gut wrenching 'raaaalff' dislodges the entire weeks' contents of his stomach on the dining room rug.

Variation: Then he eats it.

In all the above events the dog is entirely healthy and indeed deeply pleased with himself.

Pet Store Boycotts

Unscrupulous puppy mill owners raise thousands of puppies in miserable unhealthy conditions to sell in pet stores. You can help make an impact on puppy mills by boycotting pet stores that sell live puppies. Buy nothing from that store, not even a toy. Certainly, never buy a puppy from a pet store. That puppy may look cute and adorable but could be genetically defective and have numerous lifelong health issues. Let the store know why you are not shopping there. Take your business to pet stores that refuse to sell live animals or ones that have adoption centers for homeless pets from rescue shelters. Perhaps we can make an impact on the cruel reality of puppy mills. Read more about puppy mills at: <http://www.nopupmillsCanada.ca>

A useful web site to bookmark:

<http://www.veterinarypartner.com>

Maybe you're in search of more information about a medication your pet is taking, or want to research an animal medical condition. You may have questions about proper nutrition for your pet, or caring for your pet's teeth. First aid and emergency preparedness, behavior, or fleas might be on your mind! Whatever you're looking for, if it's information that will make your pet happier and healthier, you'll find it on this site!

VeterinaryPartner.com is available to support your veterinarian and you in the care of your companion animals by providing reliable, up-to-date animal health information from the veterinarians and experts of the Veterinary Information Network (VIN), the world's first and largest online veterinary database and community.

Want more? Try browsing around in the Pet Connection with nationally syndicated pet expert and author Gina Spadafori. If you still haven't found what you need, you can submit your question to "Ask a Vet".

This information is taken from site.

Letter to the Editor:

A comment, a request and a question:

I would like to thank the folks who put so much hard work into making the newsletter happen. It is looking great these days. And also, a big thank you to the contributors. I have really enjoyed the articles and found them very pertinent and most helpful.

I have been looking for a recipe for biscuits with canned salmon and have not been able to find one as yet. I was wondering if you could publish one in an upcoming newsletter.

Lastly, I am wondering how that Jack Russell Terrier keeps getting his photo in a Wheaten newsletter????!!!!!!

Keep up the good work!

Val Bacon
Edmonton AB

Dear Val,

Thank you for the kind comments on the Prairie Wheaten. I agree with you that the articles from contributors help make this newsletter the informative publication that it is.

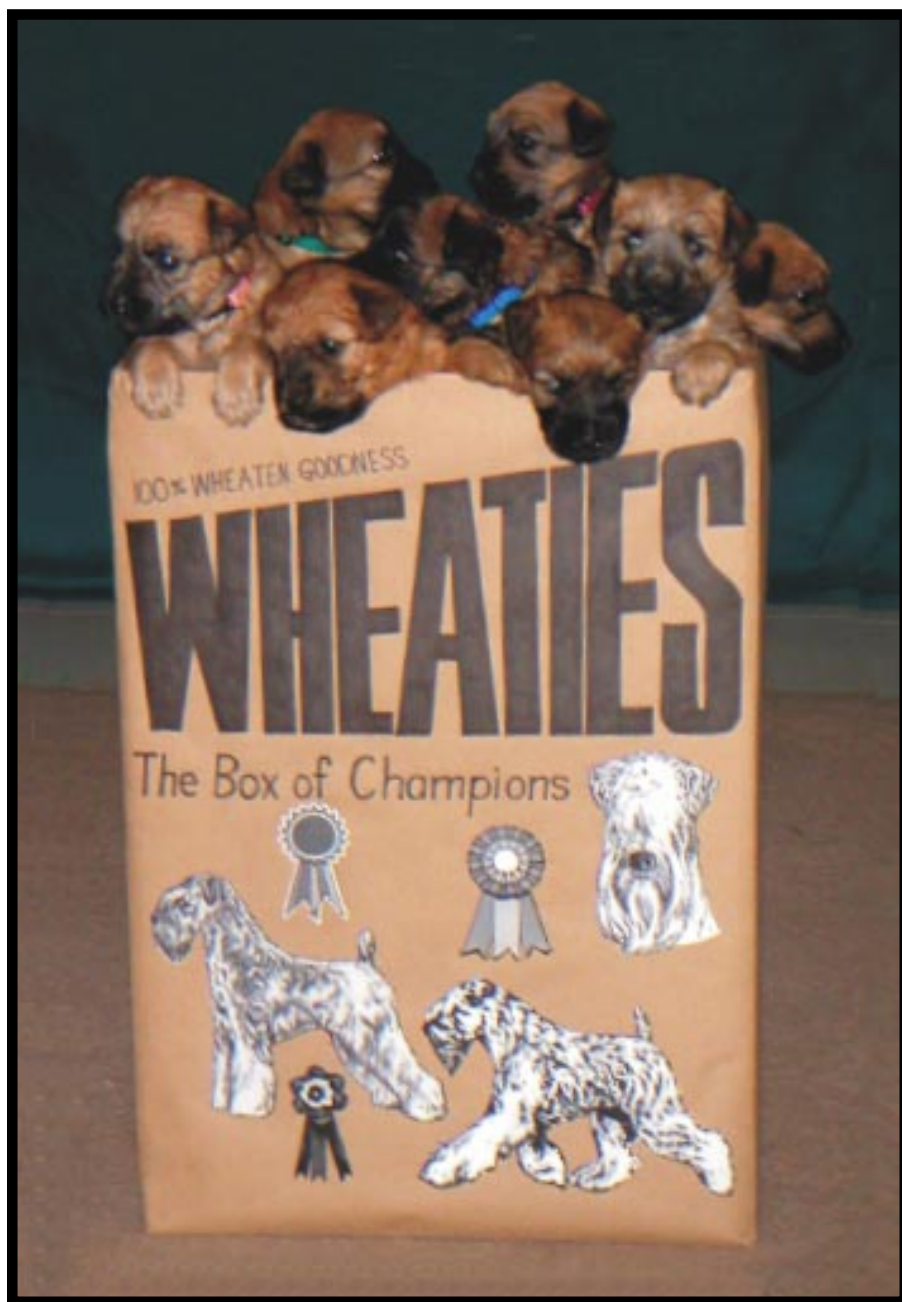
I think you will find that "Grandpaw Spot's Salmon Patties" in our recipe section will fit the bill for biscuits using canned salmon. Your Wheatens will find them irresistible.

Lastly, Val Bacon, sister and sister in law of Greg and Roz Bacon who own the Jack Russell Terrier whose photo often graces our publication ... let me explain. Much as a child who was raised with wolves may believe he is part wolf, "Jack", who was raised with Wheatens assumes he is an "honorary" Wheaten. As a matter of fact, Jack actually thinks he is superior to Wheatens and has taken on the job of being their chief supervisor. Because he is part of the Wheaten family, namely, an honorary Wheaten, Jack appears in our newsletter from time to time. (a Basset Hound who thinks he is part Wheaten often appears as well).



Jack supervises the naps of Tess's two week old Wheaten puppies. Oops! Yet another photo of a Jack Russell Terrier in a Wheaten newsletter!! ☺

The Prairie Wheaten



WHEATIES - The Box of **“Future”** Champions. This box of WHEATIES contains 100% Whole Wheaten Goodness. Each lively fun-loving little body of pure delight comes with a soft furry coating. Starting the day with WHEATIES is good for your health. These affectionate bundles of joy contain all the potential necessary to become champions. With love, care and special attention you too could have a champion a champion of your heart, a champion of your spirit, a champion of Obedience or Agility events, or a Dog Show Champion. **“Future”** champion WHEATIES are available from reliable breeders. They are sold individually, not by the box. Life is better with WHEATIES!

This fun project, a take-off on WHEATIES, the Breakfast of Champions cereal, is brought to you by Carolyn Fox, Roz Bacon and Alan Fox.

The Prairie Wheaten

Senior Dog Has More Advice for Young Pups

Old Dog has more wise rules and advice for puppies to take to heart. Listen up young pups!

Commit the following Ten Commandments of Toys to memory. Repeat them over and over until they are part of your very soul:

1. Everything is a toy.
2. If it's on the floor, it's a toy.
3. If it's on the floor, it's mine.
4. If it's in my mouth, it's mine. And you can't have it back.
5. If I can get it away from you. It's mine.
6. If I've got it chewed up. All the pieces are mine.
7. If it's under the bed, it's mine.
8. If it's a ball. It's mine. All of them. You can throw it and I'll chase it, but you can't have it back unless I want you to throw it again. The same applies to the flat flying thing.
9. If I can carry it, tug on it, chew it, or bury it, it's a toy. And it's mine.
10. If it's a sock. It's mine. But you can wear it for awhile.



Three classic games:

1. Chase the human and jump on them. (Muddy paws are a nice plus here.)
2. Human chases the dog around the neighborhood. (If you've escaped from the house or yard, so much the better.)
3. Chase the human on the bicycle. Barking makes them go even faster.

Squeaky toys are fun to chew on. Make sure you sit near your human and make the squeaky sound over and over. And over.

Howling at sirens is always fulfilling.

Howling along with your human is fun and makes them happy.

Flowers are always good to dig up and chew. When you're a pup you can usually get away with this.

Occasionally bark insanely at the window even though there is nothing really there.

Make sure you ready tennis balls for play by chewing on them until they are slick with spit.

The more kids you can find to play with, the better.

Run! The faster, the better.

The more dogs you can get barking at the same time, the better.

Size doesn't matter. Little guys have just as much fun as big guys.

It is possible to play with some cats, but who would want to?

Stuffed toys are fun. Tear them apart and scatter the pieces all over the house.

A fence is the enemy of fun.



The Prairie Wheaten

While your human is explaining to you why you shouldn't be eating something, try to look as if you care. It makes them feel better.

Doing tricks for treats is not demeaning if the treats are good enough.

The Eight Greatest Things to Eat:

1. Real bones
2. Meat
3. Ice Cream
4. All fast foods
5. Anything fried
6. Ice cubes
7. Small live animals
8. Toes



Snow is great for cleaning beards and faces. Sofas and bedskirts provide a reasonable substitute.

Snow is good to eat, but you can eat a ton of it and all it does is make you pee.

Stand near them when they cook. They always drop good food on the floor.

Be patient. Bide your time. Humans always drop or spill something.

They usually drop at least one kernel of popcorn. Usually more.

Sleeping fills the time nicely between playing and eating.

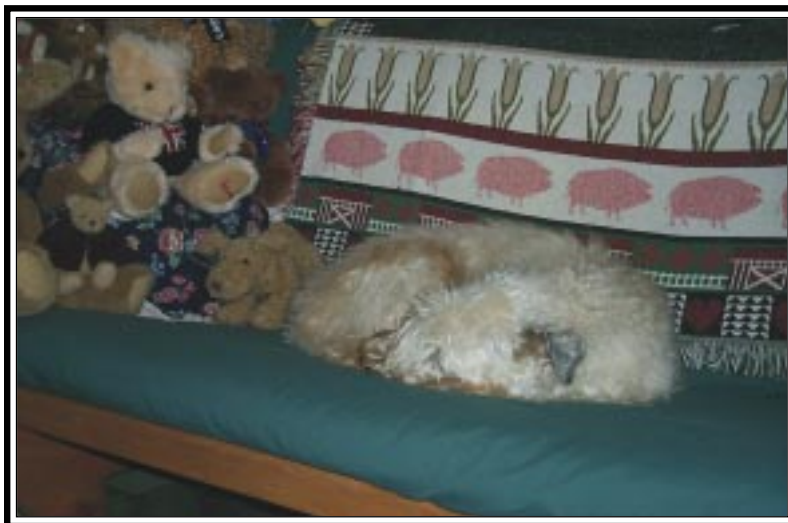
Your human will feel guilty when you lie around and sleep all day. This is good as they will then play with you. Don't ever let them find out that we enjoy sleeping all day.

When they leave you alone, just go to sleep. They'll come back, they always do.

After a few years, if you are sleeping when the human gets home it is not necessary to leap up to greet them.



Always remember, when Old Dog is sleeping, do not bother him!



Recipes For Dog Treats

Barb Osborne and Carolyn Fox offer some recipes that are sure to be winners with your dogs. All of these treats have been baked by Barb or Carolyn and taste tested by their dogs and their dog's friends. All were given a two paws up. As usual, most recipes can be adapted to your dog's needs. For example, if your dog is on a low fat diet, leave out any oil and replace with an equal amount of water. Wheat flour may be substituted with rye, rice or barley flours. A small amount of kelp, alfalfa or rosemary powder may be added to most recipes for extra nutrition.



Doggie Spice Cookies

Makes about 25 delicious cookies.
Humans can enjoy these too!

½ cup honey
¾ cup unsweetened applesauce
1 spoonful orange marmalade
¼ cup molasses
1 egg
1¼ cup white flour
1 cup barley, rye or whole wheat flour
2 tsp baking soda
1 teaspoon ginger
1 tsp cinnamon
½ tsp dried cloves
½ cup chopped peanuts or shelled sunflower seeds

Preheat oven to 350°
Mix together first five ingredients.
In a separate bowl, mix remaining ingredients, then stir into the moist mixture.
Drop a spoonful of the mixture onto a greased baking sheet.
Bake for 8 to 10 minutes then cool on a rack before serving. Store in an airtight container.



Grandpaw Spot's Salmon Patties

Here's a simple bake at home recipe from Three Dog Bakery's Tummy Rub Club "guaranteed to be quite a howlin' hit with canines both old AND young. Their soft texture makes them especially droolish for those old dog choppers. Even after they're baked, these stay nice and soft and chewy. Salmon provides great omega3 fatty acids for vibrant, healthy skin and coat."

3 cups all purpose flour
1 large egg
3 tablespoons cornmeal (omit, if desired, and increase flour by two tablespoons)
6 oz. (213g) can of salmon, packed in water, drained (tuna can be substituted)
¼ cup parmesan cheese
1 tsp. oregano
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 clove garlic, minced
¾ cup water

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine all dry ingredients. Add wet ingredients and mix well. Roll into quarter-size balls, then flatten lightly between the hands. Place on baking sheet sprayed with a non-stick cooking spray. Bake for 30 minutes. Cool on baking sheet. Should still be soft after cooling. Store in a sealed container and refrigerate. Yield 24 patties.

Max's Veggie Biscuits

4 cups assorted flours
1 tsp dried basil leaves
1 tsp dried oregano leaves
½ tsp ground kelp
½ tsp ground rosemary
½ tsp garlic powder
¾ cup chopped carrots
¼ cup cut green beans
2 tbsp tomato paste
¾ cup water
2 tbsp canola oil

In a large bowl combine flours (whole wheat, barley, rye...) basil, oregano, kelp, rosemary, and garlic. In a food processor or blender, combine carrots, green beans, tomato paste, oil and water. Puree contents until smooth. Pour into bowl with dry ingredients and mix well. Knead until dough holds together. Add more water if necessary. Roll out dough. Use a pizza cutter or knife to cut dough into bite-size rectangles or squares. Bone shaped cutters could also be used. Place on baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Place pans on racks until completely cool. Reduce oven to 300°. Bake for 20 - 30 minutes more or until hard. Transfer biscuits to rack and let cool completely before serving.

Note: Biscuits can be stored in tightly sealed container for up to 30 days. For a low-fat version of this recipe replace oil with 2 tbsp of water.

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Banana-Rama Delights

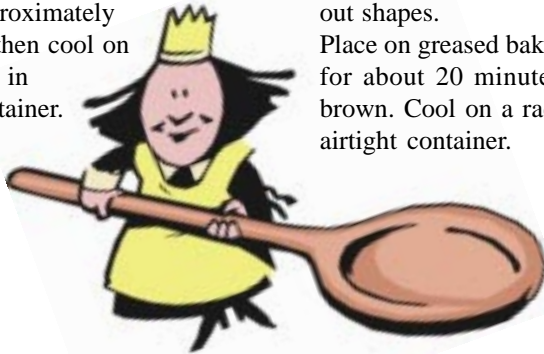
1½ cups ripe mashed bananas
½ tsp vanilla
3 cups oats
½ cup chopped peanuts or shelled sunflower seeds
¼ cup unsweetened applesauce

Preheat oven to 350°.

Mix all ingredients together.

Drop spoonfuls of the mixture on ungreased baking sheet and press down with a fork.

Bake for approximately 15 minutes, then cool on a rack. Store in airtight container.



Birthday Bones

2 cups whole wheat flour
1 tbsp baking powder
1 cup crunchy peanut butter
1 cup milk

Preheat oven to 350°.

In one bowl, combine dry ingredients. In another bowl, combine peanut butter and milk.

Add wet mixture to dry, and mix well.

On a lightly floured surface, knead the dough. Roll out to ¼ inch thick and cut out shapes.

Place on greased baking sheet and bake for about 20 minutes or until lightly brown. Cool on a rack and store in an airtight container.

Ginger Snaps

½ cup molasses
2 tbsp honey
½ cup water
¼ cup vegetable oil
2 cups white flour
1 cup whole wheat or barley flour
1 tsp baking soda
¼ tsp cinnamon
½ tsp ground cloves
2 tbsp ground ginger
¼ cup raisins
¼ cup shelled sunflower seeds

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a bowl, combine molasses, honey, water and oil.

Mix remaining ingredients in another bowl. Stir dry mixture into wet and mix well.

Knead dough on a lightly floured surface and roll out to ¼ inch thick. Cut into shapes.

Place on greased baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes. Cool on rack and then seal in airtight container.



“Dogs are our link to paradise. They don’t know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring—it was peace.” - Milan Kundera

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways ...

I love thee agreeably — enough to let your stinky dog hide on the bed after a run through damp leaves, mud and slug infested gardens.

I love thee steadfastly — enough to devote a year to raising you from a wobbly speck into a strong healthy adult (who promptly attempts to seize control).

I love thee passionately — despite your repeated efforts to probe my ears, eyes and mouth with the same tongue you use for various other atrocities.



I love thee well — despite the amazing odors you produce.

I love thee deeply — though you use me as a napkin at every opportunity.

I love thee madly — despite the various bodily functions you have performed at inappropriate moments and in inappropriate places.

I love thee constantly — despite the dog “bladder curfew” I have lived by for many years.

I love thee truly — despite the “doggie land mines” hidden in the grass.

I love thee absolutely — because you never (well, hardly ever) hog the remote control.



I love thee gratefully — because you stay by my side (or on my side).

I love thee devotedly — more than clean carpeting, clothing, furniture, floors or walls.

I love thee bravely — enough to battle the indomitable flea on your behalf.

I love thee monetarily — enough to put the vet’s children through college.

I love thee openly — I will bear any embarrassment for your furry sake.

I love thee totally — more than free time, excess cash or a predictable life.

(author unknown)





DOGS LIVE HERE

by D. Lester

If you don't want to be greeted with paws and swinging tails,
don't come inside because Dogs live here.

If you don't like the feel of a cold nose or wet tongue
don't come inside because Dogs live here.

If you don't want to step over many scattered toys,
don't come inside because Dogs live here.

If you think that a home ought to smell of perfume,
don't come inside because Dogs live here.

But if you don't mind all of this....

you will be instantly loved when you come inside because Dogs live here.

The Prairie Wheaten

Change of address

Please let us know if you change your address or e-mail. Remember that the newsletter is available via e-mail. It saves the club the expenses of postage, paper and envelopes and you get the newsletter in colour. Let Alan Fox at acfox2002@yahoo.ca know if you'd like to be added to the newsletter e-mail list. Back issues can be viewed and downloaded at:

<http://wheatenguy.tripod.com/prairie.html>

If you do not have a computer, donations to the club to cover the cost of mailing your newsletters would be appreciated. Donations can be sent to our treasurer, Sue Luchuck, at the address listed on front cover.

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue. - Winston Churchill

We give dogs time we can spare, space we can spare and love we can spare. And in return, dogs give us their all. It's the best deal man has ever made. -Punch Imlach

Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events. The ground is a giant dog newspaper, containing all kinds of late breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent, are often continued in the next yard. - Sam Donaldson

You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, Wow, you're right! I never would've thought of that! -Bill Murray

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. -Roger Caras



**“Whoever said you can’t buy happiness forgot little puppies.”
- Gene Hill**

***** **DEADLINES** *****

Deadline for submissions for the next issue is September 15

Please make your submissions to:

Carolyn or Alan Fox

74 Cooper Crescent

Regina, SK S4R 4J7

or email at c.fox@sasktel.net

The Prairie Wheaten is the official publication of the Assiniboine Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Association. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editor. The editor reserves the right to reasonably edit all material submitted for publication. Permission to reprint is granted, provided proper credit is given to the author, ASCWTA and *The Prairie Wheaten*.