

ASCWTA

# The Prairie Wheaten

Vol 9 No. 1 / Spring 2003



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### Pet First Aid Kits - Carolyn Fox

A pet first aid kit enables you to be prepared for an emergency. Ideally you should have one in your car when you travel and one at home. Get prepared now as it will be too late if you wait until an emergency occurs. The primary objectives of first aid are to relieve suffering, save your dog's life and prevent further physical or psychological injuries until you can reach or be reached by qualified health care personnel. Keep those objectives in mind when purchasing a ready-made kit or assembling your own.

#### Making your own first aid kit:

Consider all possible emergencies then customize your kit to suit your purposes. A fishing tackle-type box, tool box or a waterproof plastic container with tight fitting lid would be appropriate. Gather your supplies first so you will know what size container you need. Most items can be purchased at a drug store, pet store, veterinary supply store and/or from your veterinarian. On the outside of your container, label "First Aid" on all sides with a permanent marker. In an emergency someone else may have to locate and use this kit. Go through your kit at least once a year to replace expired medications and replace used supplies. Update your kit before taking your dogs on a vacation.

On the inside of the lid tape a card with the following information:

- ✓ your name, address and phone number.
- ✓ name and phone number of someone to contact, in an emergency, who will take care of your dogs if you are incapacitated.
- ✓ your dog's names and any information about medications they take, any allergies or significant medical conditions they have.
- ✓ name and phone number of your vet.
- ✓ phone number of poison control center.
- ✓ snapshot and written description of pet including any tattoos or microchips.



Also tape inside the kit a card with a list of the medications you've included, their general dosages and the specific dose for the weights of your own dogs. Before you give any animal medication consult your veterinarian about dosages and side effects. These medications and dosages are only guidelines and are for dogs only unless otherwise stated.

1. Buffered Aspirin - 5 mg per pound every 12 hours for pain relief; antiinflammatory.  
**Note** - acetaminophen and ibuprofen are poisonous to dogs.
2. Pepto Bismol - 1 tsp. per 5 pounds every 6 hours for relief of vomiting, stomach gas or diarrhea.
3. Kaopectate - 1 ml per 1 pound every 2 hours for diarrhea.
4. Mineral Oil - up to 4 tbsp. daily to eliminate constipation.
5. Imodium - 1 mg per 15 pounds 1-2 times daily.
6. Benadryl - up to 1-2 mg per pound every 8 hours to treat allergies, itching, etc.
7. Dramamine - up to 50 mg every 8 hours to reduce motion sickness.
8. Hydrogen Peroxide to induce vomiting- 1-3 tsp. every 10 minutes until dog vomits.

Check expiry dates and update these medications as required. If symptoms persist, consult your veterinarian as the problem might be more serious than you think.

#### Items You May Want to Put in Your First Aid Kit

- cotton gauze bandage wrap - 1.5 inch and 3 inch width
- Vetwrap self adhesive support bandage - 2 inch width
- Vetwrap self adhesive support bandage - 4 inch width
- first aid tape to secure bandages
- adhesive foam (cushion foot pads before bandaging)
- cotton gauze pads
- regular band-aids
- cotton swabs or Q-tips
- Benadryl
- Buffered Aspirin
- Pepto Bismol
- Kaopectate or Imodium
- Mineral Oil
- Dramamine
- antibiotic ointment for wounds
- antibacterial soap for cleaning skin or wounds
- eye rinsing solution (simple mild eye wash)
- small bottle of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- small bottle of isopropyl rubbing alcohol
- alcohol or antiseptic wipes in small individual packets
- styptic powder to stop bleeding
- topical medication for insect bites
- oral syringes for administering liquid oral medicines or getting ear drying solution into ears...
- needle and thread

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- ♦ safety pins in several sizes
- ♦ razor blade (paper wrapped for protection)
- ♦ matches
- ♦ tweezers
- ♦ hemostat for pulling ticks, thorns, large splinters
- ♦ small blunt end scissors for cutting hair away from wounds
- ♦ bandage scissors
- ♦ zip and tie-close plastic bags for specimen collecting and storage
- ♦ canine rectal thermometer (one made specifically for dogs)
- ♦ small jar of Vaseline to lubricate thermometer
- ♦ stockingette (or sock) to protect bandage on foot or leg
- ♦ commercial muzzle or length of fabric to make one
- ♦ large exam quality vinyl gloves
- ♦ specific medications YOUR dog may need
- ♦ Pet First Aid Handbook
- ♦ splint
- ♦ Iodine tablets if you hike and camp in areas where stream water may not be safe for consumption without treating with Iodine or boiling
- ♦ burn relief gel pack
- ♦ burn cream
- ♦ 6 foot leash
- ♦ blanket
- ♦ clean towel
- ♦ homeopathic calming drops
- ♦ penlight

### First Aid Books

A good book for a home library is The First Aid Companion For Dogs and Cats by Amy D. Shojai it covers over 150 everyday accidents and emergencies 439 pages Rodale Inc. ISBN 1-57954-365-0 paperback \$29.95 in Canada ( I found this book at Chapters.)

The booklet provided in Sue Luchuck's first aid kit is: First Aid For Dogs & Cats by Dr. Jean Albright, DMV a step by step first care guide for pet owners 32 pages Published by Type-Com, Inc (This book is available at The Albert North Veterinary Clinic in Regina for \$5.00 plus tax. Other clinics may have first aid manuals for sale as well.)

First Aid for Dogs - the essential quick-reference guide by Tim Hawcroft BVSc, MACVSc, MRCVS 96 pages Published by Howell Book House, Maxwell Macmillan Publishing ISBN 0-87605-546-3 \$12.95 in Canada (I purchased this book at J's Book Outlet, 2425 Quance St. E., Regina, for \$2.99)

### Sue Luchuck's First Aid Kit



Sue attended a first aid class given by the Albert North Veterinary Clinic in Regina. Here is a list of items in the kit she purchased at the class:

- ♦ First Aid Handbook
- ♦ Pet antiseptic wipes
- ♦ 10cm by 10cm absorbent gauze pads
- ♦ 5cm by 5cm non-adherent absorbent dressing
- ♦ Sterile "ouchless" non-adherent pad
- ♦ Roll of gauze
- ♦ Gauze pads
- ♦ Absorbent cotton
- ♦ Roll of white adhesive tape
- ♦ Tweezers
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Thermometer
- ♦ Latex gloves
- ♦ Syringe
- ♦ 3M Vetwrap bandaging tape
  - 100mm by 4.5 meters
  - 50mm by 4.5 meters
- ♦ Hydrogen peroxide USP 3%/10 volume topical antiseptic for minor wounds. (To induce vomiting give orally 1 tsp per 15-20 pounds of body weight).
- ♦ Hibitane liquid Skin Cleanser (Chlorhexidine gluconate 4% antibacteria)
- ♦ Hibitane Veterinary ointment in tube
- ♦ Charcoal powder - activated. (To induce vomiting 2 tbsp in 4oz. water per 30 pounds of body weight).

### First Aid Basics - Carolyn Fox

In an emergency situation would you know what to do? Here I will present a few simple emergency techniques. Being prepared **before** an emergency occurs is important. Although First Aid is not a substitute for veterinary care, knowledge of basic first aid could save your pet's life until qualified help is reached. Have your vet's number on your emergency phone list. When an emergency situation arises try to remain calm as your pet will tend to stay quieter if you do not panic. Keep in mind that your objectives are to save a life, prevent further injury, pain or distress, and to help promote recovery.

It is impossible to present all pet first aid emergencies in a newsletter. It would be wise to take a course, have a book on hand, or both. These basics of first aid are best learned in a class or by reading details in a good book:

- artificial respiration
- heart massage (CPR)
- cleaning major wounds
- applying bandages, splints, tourniquets and Elizabethan collars
- lifting and transporting ill or injured dogs

#### How To Apply a Temporary Muzzle for Dogs

Even the most docile animal, when injured, may bite. Whenever handling injured dogs take precautions to prevent being bitten or scratched. A 2-3 foot length of soft strong material - ie gauze bandage, neck tie, torn sheet - makes a good emergency muzzle.

1. Make a loop large enough to slip over the dog's muzzle.
2. Quickly slip this over the dog's muzzle and tighten. Do not tie a knot.
3. Cross the tie under the muzzle and wrap behind the dog's ears. Tie a secure bow.

Allow the pet to pant after handling by loosening or removing the muzzle. Do not use a muzzle in case of vomiting.

#### How To Give The Heimlich Maneuver

1. Place your pet in an upright position with its back towards you.
2. Place both hands, one on top of the other, beneath the rib cage.
3. Forcefully lift up one or more times to try and eject the object from the windpipe.

#### How To Treat a Nose Bleed

1. Restrain pet in a blanket or towel.
2. Place a piece of cotton, gauze, or cloth firmly under the top lip, just beneath the nose.
3. Apply pressure for at least five minutes. If nose bleed persists for more than ten minutes, go to the veterinarian.



#### Bleeding

1. Apply firm direct pressure over the bleeding area until the bleeding stops.
2. Hold the pressure for at least 10 straight minutes - continually releasing pressure to check wound hampers clotting. Avoid bandages that cut off circulation.

#### Bite Wounds

1. Approach animal carefully to avoid getting bitten.
2. Muzzle the animal.
3. Check the wound for contamination or debris. If significant debris is present then clean the wound with cleanser if available. If not, regular water could be used.
4. Wrap large open wounds to keep them clean.
5. Apply pressure to profusely bleeding wounds.
6. Do not use a tourniquet.
7. Wear gloves when possible.

Bite wounds sometimes become infected and need professional care. Call your veterinarian.

#### Removing a Tick

1. Apply tick powder or spray over tick; or lay gauze soaked in alcohol or mineral oil over tick.
2. If tick is not detached, use tweezers or fingernails and grasp tick as close to skin as possible.
3. Remove the complete tick making certain to remove all mouthparts.
4. Clean bite area thoroughly with alcohol or antiseptic solution.
5. Contact veterinarian if animal chews or bites excessively or signs of weakness are seen as allergies or tick paralysis or anemia could be indicated.



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## Porcupine Quills

1. Muzzle animal and restrain securely.
2. With pliers or hemostats, grab a quill as close to the skin as possible and steadily pull the quill out. Examine your pet's entire body for quills. If quills are not removed they can travel through the body and cause injury to internal organs.
3. If numerous quills are present, the inside of the mouth is involved, or you can feel quills buried under the skin, contact a veterinarian who will anesthetize your pet to remove quills.
4. Quills embedded in the eyeball should not be removed before transporting pet to a veterinarian.

## Removing Skunk Odor

Mix: 1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide  
¼ cup baking soda (sodium bicarbonate)  
1 teaspoon liquid soap

1. Wet your pet down and work the mixture through the pet's hair. Do not get mixture in the eyes. Place protective ophthalmic ointment in the eyes. Leave mixture on hair on for 3 - 4 minutes then rinse.
2. Repeat several times.
3. Contact veterinarian if the eyes are severely affected or the pet continues to vomit or retch.

## Minor Burns

These are usually caused by spilling hot or caustic liquids on pets. Other causes include biting electric cords or cables. Major burns may be accompanied by shock - learn how to treat shock in your first aid manual or at a course.

1. If an offending substance is still on your pet, wash it off with cold water.
2. Apply an antiseptic ointment or use a burn relief gel pack.
3. Contact a veterinarian.

## Conclusion

Prevention is better than cure. The best way to avoid injury is by prevention. When outdoors be aware of your surroundings, potentially hazardous plants, dangerous situations, animals your dog may encounter, and exposure to the elements. Around the home watch for hazards such as dangling electrical cords and toxic substances such as dish washer detergent, garden sprays or weed killers. Read the article in this newsletter on "Trust". Keeping your pet on a leash could save him from injury or even death. When heading out on long hikes with rough terrain, paw and pad lacerations could be prevented with the use of "booties" for your dog. Dehydration can be prevented by realizing that if you are hot and thirsty your dog probably is too. Provide fresh water for your dog so he does not get sick from drinking contaminated water. When travelling carry a kit that matches the duration of time away from

immediate assistance and your exposure to the elements. The worst time to learn about assisting an injured pet is when it happens. Become familiar with your first aid kit and have a basic knowledge of first aid techniques.

## First Aid Class

The Albert North Vet Clinic, 216 McIntyre Street, Regina, will once again be holding a First Aid Class. The Class will be held Wednesday, April 16 from 7 to 9 PM. Seating will be restricted to the first twenty to sign up so if you are interested, please register as soon as possible by phoning 545-7211. There will be a \$10.00 registration fee.

## References and Further Reading:

### Web Sites:

- First Aid Kit and Emergency Care for Your Pet - Columbia Animal Hospitals web site  
[www.cah.com/library/fstaid.html](http://www.cah.com/library/fstaid.html)
- Pet First Aid Tips and treatment - American Animal Hospital Association web site  
[www.healthypet.com/firstaid.html](http://www.healthypet.com/firstaid.html)
- What to put in Your Canine First Aid Kit by Anne V. McGuire [www.golden-retriever.com/first\\_aid\\_kit.htm](http://www.golden-retriever.com/first_aid_kit.htm)

### Books:

Amazon.com has 56 books available on their Internet site. I would suggest a small handbook to carry in your first aid kit and perhaps a larger more comprehensive book for your home library.

A good book for a home library is The First Aid Companion For Dogs and Cats by Amy D. Shojai it covers over 150 everyday accidents and emergencies 439 pages Rodale Inc. ISBN 1-57954-365-0 paperback \$29.95 in Canada (I found this book at Chapters.)

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## From A Breeder's Point of View

By Barbara Osborne, Wicklow Wheatens

Most of you reading this article likely did not breed the dog living with you. Chances are, after you did all that research to help you choose the breed of dog that best suits you and your family's lifestyle, you contacted several dog breeders. You likely discussed all the positive and negative characteristics of the breed, health issues concerning the breed, contracts, price, availability of puppies, etc. You probably made an appointment to visit the breeder and see his/her dogs if the breeder lived in your community. To summarize, you likely spent many, many hours going through this process to ensure the chosen breed of dog was the right decision for you and your family.

As a good owner, you did all the right things if you followed the basic process outlined above. But did you ever wonder what actually goes into a breeding program? Did you ask the breeder what he/she hopes to achieve in their breeding program? Did you ask the breeder why he/she breeds dogs? As breeders of Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers, I can tell you that we are not asked these questions very often.

Over the next several issues of *The Prairie Wheaten*, I intend to provide you with some insight into breeders and their breeding program. I hope to answer the questions noted above, as well as other issues that I feel are relevant. As with all articles in *The Prairie Wheaten*, these are the opinions of the writer and may not represent all breeders. However, I intend to keep my articles general enough so that you can gain some insight into dog breeders as a whole.

Before we tackle some of the questions noted above, let's review the different kinds of breeders. Strictly speaking, anyone who arranges a mating between a male dog and a female dog can be

called a 'breeder'. Technically, they don't even have to be the same breed of dog to get this title. With such a vague definition that covers a lot of territory, each breeding program needs to be looked at separately to determine their individual goals and what they hope to achieve with their program.

Generally speaking, breeders fall into one of the following three categories: a responsible, reputable breeder, a 'back yard' breeder or worse yet, a 'puppy mill' breeder. Definitions from the SCWTAC National Club website are as follows:

**Responsible, reputable breeder** – A committed breeder views his/her dogs as a serious hobby. They work actively with their dogs including having some success in the show ring. This allows them the opportunity to assess the physical and mental characteristics of their dogs prior to deciding to breed that dog. They breed for sound dogs with good temperament with show ring success being secondary to healthy puppies. The committed breeder is eager to share information about the breed and will be very interested in you and your lifestyle. They aren't naturally nosy but have the interest of their dogs in mind. They will also welcome you into their home to see their dogs and the environment they are raised in. Find a breeder that will be willing to discuss the problems that are prevalent in the breed and what they are doing to correct them. They recognize that all breeds have their problems but an informed buyer is a happy buyer. A committed breeder will recognize the importance of good socialization of your dog and should readily discuss this



with you. They will spend time each day working with their pups to get them used to household activities and noises. They will handle the pups frequently. They will not place the pups in their new homes until at least seven weeks of age. Finally, they will choose a pup for you. These breeders have spent numerous hours working with the puppies and assessing their temperaments. At the same time, they have attempted to determine your needs for a pup and are in the best position to match the two.

A committed breeder researches his/her dogs and their pedigree. They seek to determine any latent genetic concerns that may be in their dog's background. These same breeders test their dogs for all genetic problems that are of concern to the breed. Genetic concerns will still show up from time to time. Some of these problems may not have any prior history and are completely unexpected. This is all part of breeding but working with a reputable breeder is your best defence. It will reduce the odds of this type of problem occurring.

The welfare of their dogs is of the utmost interest to the committed breeder. These breeders will include

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guarantees in their contract that are in the best interest of their dogs. These guarantees should include a clause that assures the pup can be returned should there be health or temperament concerns. The breeder should never be hesitant to take their pup back or look out for its best interest. All dogs that are not intended for breeding should be sold on non-breeding contracts and the sales contract should incorporate a spay/neuter clause for all non-breeding dogs. If this is not the case you may not be dealing with a committed breeder.

**Back yard breeder** - Backyard breeders are also of concern. Backyard breeders are often well-meaning pet owners that have a nice dog and want to breed so that others will have a chance to own a nice dog like theirs. If breeding were as easy as putting two nice dogs together, the world would be full of happy, healthy, nice pups.

Backyard breeders generally have one or two dogs that they love. They do very little if any dog related activities such as showing in conformation competitions, obedience or other training. They

generally don't belong to the related breed clubs or other dog training clubs. They know little, if anything, about the genetic concerns and are unaware of currently recommended testing procedures. They know nothing about the breed standard or the pedigree of their breeding stock.

These people may be very caring individuals but their lack of background can be a serious shortcoming. Their puppies may be less expensive precisely because they may not have invested as heavily in screening for health and in studying pedigrees and breeding stock for soundness. One health problem, that could have been avoided, and the economic benefit will pale in comparison.

**Puppy mill breeder** - Numerous exposes have been carried out by newsmagazine programs such as 20/20 and 60 Minutes and magazines such as Time Magazine and Reader's Digest about this type of disreputable breeder. In puppy mills, adult dogs and pups alike are raised in filthy, unhealthy environments with no opportunity for socialization. Little planning goes into the breeding of

these animals which can result in an inordinate amount of genetic health problems. Pups are exposed to numerous viruses and often arrive unhealthy at the local pet store.

Do not be fooled. A reputable breeder will not sell his/her puppies to a pet store. These breeders want to know where their puppies are going and are very concerned that you are the right person for their puppy.

Pet stores tend to highlight the fact that their dogs are AKC registered. This is no assurance of quality or health. These cute little puppies in the cages pull at your heart strings. You should remember that this cage will not stay empty for long after you take that pup home. Every pup that is sold this way creates a market that these disreputable breeders are willing to fill. Ignore your impulse to rescue this one puppy. This is the most effective way to discourage the production of such unfortunate puppies. The best rule is to avoid pet store pups altogether.

For the purposes of my articles, I will only concentrate on the breeding programs of responsible, reputable breeders. As puppy mill breeders do not have an ongoing interest in their pups, breeding stock or the future of the breed, there is no point discussing their goals in these articles. These breeders are only in it for the money. And, although back yard breeders may be well meaning and have good intentions, I will not concentrate on their breeding programs either.

In upcoming editions of *The Prairie Wheaten*, I will write more specifically about what actually goes into a breeding program. I will discuss our responsibilities as breeders, costs of breeding, including both financial and emotional, basic genetics, health, phenotypes, genotypes, choosing studs, whelping litters and challenges facing today's breeders.





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## How Do You Define a “Really Great Owner”? by Mike Dumelie

Barb and I have been breeding Wheatens for many years. In that time, we have met some of the most outstanding people you could ever imagine. Our owners are consistently motivated to: do all of their reading; prepare for when their pups come home; take them to puppy kindergarten and love their dogs throughout their life. These are very “Good Owners”. You can always count on them to look out for the physical, mental and emotional health of their Wheatens.

In the past few weeks I have experienced owners who have taken this love to the next level. Unfortunately, two couples who are very close friends have had experiences with their Wheatens that are devastating. In both cases, their dogs were diagnosed with terminal illnesses that were not going to improve. Both couples did all that they could to fight the conditions. They went the extra mile to look at all alternatives for treating their wonderful dogs. In the end, it was not meant to be.

The focus then shifted to making the dogs as comfortable as they could as they waited for

the final days. I know it was trying watching their favourite friend, who gave them unconditional love, slowly deteriorate. No money that could be spent would save them from their inevitable end. It is at this point the “Really Great Owners” are separated.

Our dogs spend their lives providing unconditional love. They are there when you have a lousy day at work or are under some form of stress. They make you laugh and frustrate you to no end as they chase a squirrel. They enrich our lives in so many ways. It is only natural for us to want to prolong this wonderful experience for as long as we possibly can. Our friends resisted the temptation to push for “just a few more days” but instead allowed their wonderful friends to pass on with dignity before the pain became too unbearable.

I have never had more respect for anyone than I have at this point for these people. They are “Really Great Owners”. While my heart goes out to them, my hat is off to them at the same time. This is the definition of true love of a companion. It taught me a lot about the true

responsibility of owning a Wheaten.

This is a very timely lesson for Barb and I. Our 10 year old Wheaten Chinzia was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer. She is my girl and I can’t imagine a day without her. She is very special to me. I know that I would do anything to get rid of this awful condition. Any amount of money would be spent if there were options that could cure her. She is too young to leave us.

Seeing the class that our friends displayed has inspired me to “do the right thing” when the time comes. I pray that on that day, I can live up to the standard of our wonderful friends. It is only then that I can live up to the title of “Really Great Owner”. There will come a time when keeping Chinzia alive will be for me and not her. I have promised our girl that I won’t allow her to suffer. It is only through the inspiration of our friends and club members that I am sure I can live up to my responsibility



## National Director’s Report by Mike Dumelie

I hope that by the time this reaches you we will be heading out of the deep freeze. I am truly sick of the brutally cold weather.

Our National Executive continues to be a truly effective team. The use of the internet as a communication vehicle has worked well and all members are acting very professionally and in the best interest of the breed. This has led to the beginning of many positive initiatives during the past couple of years. I must congratulate this group for their effectiveness.

Current initiatives include planning of the next National Specialty by the Eastern Ontario local section club and the development of National Specialty guidelines to assist future clubs in carrying out this amazing event. The Eastern Ontario club will be hosting the National Specialty this Summer in Carp, Ontario, just outside of Ottawa. For those who missed the last time they hosted the Specialty, I highly recommend that you don’t miss this one. The hospitality of the Ottawa group is amazing and the quality of the show outstanding. Last time we were there, I nearly ruined a suit during the torrential downpour during the National Specialty. On the upside, my dog stayed as dry as possible under the tent while the full contents of the tent top drained on my head. Make plans to attend this year. You will regret it if you don’t.

I was recently contacted by Jan Cunningham, a member of the committee to develop the guidelines for our National Specialty. She was seeking feedback on the content of the guidelines they are developing. For those who remember our last Specialty, you might have experienced the problems we had dealing with the National Executive. This was mostly due to a lack of continuity on the

Executive and the inability of the board to come up with their own guidelines. One of the most significant recommendations I made was to document and transfer whatever is decided. Good or bad, it is only worse if we don’t have it clearly documented.

Other recommendations I made included:

1. Limit the control of the National Board to items of significance to the breed such as training events. The primary responsibility should rest with the local club putting on the event.
2. Provide an advisory group to the Specialty committees who can review the planning of the committee and provide advice, where requested by the local club.
3. Provide funding to support a training event at each specialty. It is a national event and a good opportunity to improve the stewardship of the breed. Currently, the National Club pays a small amount towards the cost of the Specialty. In our case it was close to 2% of our total budget. Their money would be better spent supporting additional events during the weekend to make it a complete event.

These were the major points. I am interested in other points of view. If you would like to share your opinions please contact us at (306) 584-7673 or [wicklow@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:wicklow@sk.sympatico.ca).

Have a great Spring! Hope to see you at our next Wheaten walk.



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## Trust - A Deadly Disease - Author Unknown

There is a deadly disease stalking your dog, a hideous, stealthy thing just waiting its chance to steal your beloved friend. It is not a new disease, or one for which there are inoculations. The disease is called "Trust".

You knew before you ever took your puppy home that it could not be trusted. The breeder who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head. Puppies steal off counters, destroy anything expensive, chase cats, take forever to house train, and must never be allowed off lead!!

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice of the breeder, you escorted your puppy to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand.

At home the house was "puppy-proofed". Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage stowed on top of the refrigerator, cats separated, and a gate placed across the living room to keep at least one part of the house puddle free. All windows and doors had been properly secured, and signs placed in all strategic points reminding all to "Close the door!"

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes nine tenths of a second after it was opened and that it is really latched. "Don't let the dog out" is your second most verbalized expression. (The first is "No!")

You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about who you love most, your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment might lose him to you forever.

And so the weeks and months pass, with your puppy becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less destruction, less breakage. Almost before you know it, your gangly, slurpy puppy has turned into an elegant, dignified friend.

Now that he is a more reliable, sedate companion, you take him more places. No longer does he chew the steering wheel when left in the car. And darned if that cake wasn't still on the counter this morning. And, oh yes, wasn't that the cat he was sleeping with so cozily on your pillow last night?

At this point you are beginning to become infected, the disease is spreading its roots deep into your mind.

And then one of your friends suggest obedience classes, and, after a time you even let him run loose from the car into the house when you get home. Why not, he always runs straight to the door, dancing a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in. And, remember he comes every time he is called. You know he is the exception that disproves the rule. (And sometimes late at night, you even let him slip out the front door to go potty and then right back in.)

Years pass - it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was a puppy. He would never think of running out the door left open while you bring in the packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out the window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful long walks at dawn, it only takes one whistle to send him racing back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes too close to the highway. (He still gets in the garbage, but nobody is perfect!)

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, but often it takes much longer.

He spies the neighbour dog across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping out doors, jumping out windows or coming when called due to traffic. Perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running...

Stopped in an instant. Stilled forever - your heart is broken at the sight of his still beautiful body.

The disease is trust. The final outcome, hit by a car.

Every morning my dog bounced around off lead exploring. Every morning for seven years he came back when he was called. He was perfectly obedient, perfectly trustworthy. He died fourteen hours after being hit by a car.

Please do not risk your friend and your heart. Save the trust for things that do not matter.

Please read this every year on your puppy's birthday, lest we forget.

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# The Prairie Wheaten

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## A MESSAGE FROM MAX

by J.D.Ellis 2001

My name is Max and I have a little something I'd like to whisper in your ear. I know that you humans lead busy lives. Some have to work, some have children to raise.

It always seems like you are running here and there, often much too fast, often never noticing the truly grand things in life.

Look down at me now, while you sit there at your computer. See the way my dark brown eyes look at yours? They are slightly cloudy now, that comes with age. The gray hairs are beginning to ring my soft muzzle. You smile at me; I see love in your eyes. What do you see in mine?

Do you see a spirit, a soul inside who loves you as no other could in the world? A spirit that would forgive all trespasses of prior wrong doing for just a simple moment of your time?

That is all I ask. To slow down if even for a few minutes to be with me.

So many times you have been saddened by the news you hear of others of my kind passing. Sometimes we die young and oh so quickly, sometimes so suddenly it wrenches your heart out of your throat.

Sometimes we age so slowly before your eyes that you do not even seem to know, until the very end, when we look at you with grizzled muzzles and cataract clouded eyes. Still the love is always there, even when we take that long sleep, to run free in distant lands.

I may not be here tomorrow; I may not be here next week. Someday you will shed the waters from your eyes, that humans have when deep grief fills their souls, and you will be angry at yourself that you did not have just "One more day" with me.

Because I love you so, your sorrow touches my spirit and grieves me. We have now, together. So come, sit down here next to me on the floor. And look deep into my eyes. What do you see? If you look hard and deep enough we will talk, you and I, heart to heart. Come to me not as "alpha" or as a "trainer" or even a "Mom or Dad", come to me as a living soul and stroke my fur and let us look deep into one another's eyes, and talk. I may tell you something about the fun of chasing a tennis ball, or I may tell you something profound about myself, or even life in general. You decided to have me in your life (I hope) because you wanted a soul to share just such things with.

Someone very different from you, and here I am. I am a dog, but I am alive. I feel emotion, I feel physical senses, and I can revel in the differences of our spirits and souls. I do not think of you as a "Dog on two feet" - I know what you are. You are human, in all your quirkiness, and I love you still.

Now, come sit with me, on the floor. Enter my world, and let time slow down if even for only 15 minutes. Look deep in my eyes, and whisper to my ears.

Speak with your heart, with your joy and I will know your true self.

We may not have tomorrow, and life is oh so very short.

Love,  
Max (on behalf of all canines everywhere)



## In Memoriam



Roz, Greg and Tyler Bacon's "Duff"  
**Ch. Wheatndale's Ace in the Holweit**  
April 13, 1994 to February 18, 2003

Our thoughts and our sympathy goes out to  
Roz, Greg and Tyler on the loss of their wonderful  
Wheaten.

# Mailbag



### Letter to Editor - Jan Reinson

*It was so interesting to read the Fallow's article, "Are Two Wheatens Better Than One?" [Editor: see Vol 8 No.2 Fall 2002] I'd have to say that we experienced many of the same things they mentioned when we brought our second Wheaten, Andy, into our home nine years ago. At the time Kate was 7 years old and Andy was a bitter pill for her to swallow!*

*I'm thinking now though of the reverse situation which we recently faced. That is, having two dogs (i.e. Kate & Andy) and suddenly there's only one — how hard that situation is for the remaining dog to cope with. In our case, Andy grieved terribly for 3 months and it was very heartbreaking to see him so depressed. He wouldn't eat, he lost about 8 lbs. (which didn't hurt him!) and generally was in a funk. We discovered that he didn't know how to "ask" to go outdoors to take care of business. Kate had always been the one to go to the door and bark, and then Andy quickly lined up with her and out the two of them went. Same thing for treats! Kate would bark at the pantry door where she knew the treats were kept and when Andy heard her bark, he lined up quickly beside her to get his treat fix as well! Anyway, by summer he came around, learned to fend for himself, and reverted back to his old bouncy self. Now, I think, he is quite pleased to be the one and only, and actually he's become quite bossy! One has to be part doggie psychologist at times!*

We appreciate receiving correspondence from our readers. All viewpoints, questions, article ideas, photos and "In Memoriams" are welcome. The Editor needs your ideas to keep this newsletter in production.



## President's Message

Hi Folks,

Well, all I can say is BRRRRR to the weather - there may be a need to hug your Wheaten just to keep warm. I hope by the time this reaches you and we have celebrated St. Patrick's Day that all of us will be enjoying Spring like weather!

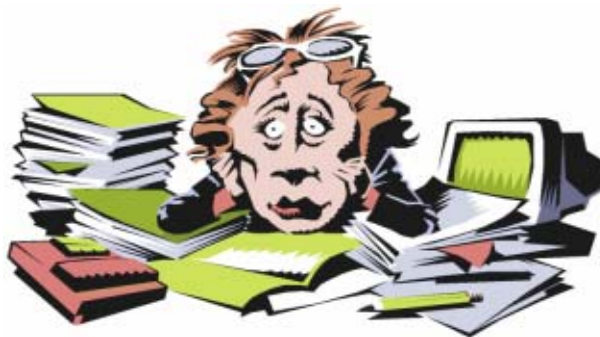
This year marks the 25th anniversary of Wheatens being accepted into the show ring. SO, the Ottawa National Specialty will be a very exciting event for all Wheaten owners. This is to be held in the Fall - you could plan to attend - it should be fun.

As with all my messages - I know of some of you who are struggling with the loss of your pet - I can only say that you are in all of our thoughts! I hope that all of you will continue to test your young dogs for health concerns - there are many new procedures and advances being made!

I look forward to seeing you at our next event and to share your Wheaten stories!  
Happy St Patrick's Day and bring on Spring!!!!!!

Margaret Ann Stewardson

## Questions for the Editor



Dear Editor,

My Wheaten recently refused to eat the food I have been feeding him for over two years. He has always eagerly dived into his bowl and finished it off in no time. Do you have any advice? By the way, his refusal to eat coincided with the opening of a newly purchased bag of food.  
Confused.

Dear Confused,

Sometimes our dogs are smarter than we think. Your dog may realize that something is not quite right about your recently purchased bag of food. It could be rancid and past its shelf date or something may have gone wrong in production. Let me give you a couple of examples. Some friends in Regina couldn't figure out why their Wheatens weren't eating well. When they all started hacking with a sore throat, it was realized they had a bad bag of food. Another Regina Wheaten ate sparingly at a new bag of expensive prescription diet (available only from veterinarians). He had happily devoured bowls full of the food from the previous bag. When he developed diarrhea his owner phoned the food company and discovered that this batch of food had been missed in a company recall. This Wheaten's health was severely compromised by eating the bad batch which had been over-saturated in fat. Much of his hair fell out and a blood test showed that his albumin level had fallen to a critical level. We'd like to believe that dog food companies have better quality control, especially in an expensive prescription diet, but it seems not to be so. Sometimes our dogs know best. If your dog has no desire to eat from a new bag of food and has side effects such as diarrhea, a change in stools, or a hacking cough take that bag of food back for replacement.



Dear Editor,

My 14 week old Wheaten puppy loves to dig holes in the back yard. How can I get him to stop digging?  
"Holey" Terrier Owner

Dear "Holey" Terrier Owner,

Many dogs love to dig. They may do it to cool off, to chase rodents, bury and retrieve bones, escape confinement, or just for the fun of it. Providing stimulating chew toys, increased play and exercise time may help deter the digging. Saying "No" and moving the puppy to a new activity may do the trick. A remote punishment such as turning on a sprinkler or pulling on an extended leash sometimes helps. Tossing a tin can filled with small pebbles near the puppy, not at it, may scare the puppy and stop the behavior.



Continued on page 13



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## The Prairie Wheaten

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Dear Editor,

My Wheaten, who used to love his daily walks, has recently lost the desire and excitement he once showed at walk time. Where once he would bound to the door at the sight of his collar and leash, he now retreats to a hiding place or backs away from the door. Exercise is good for dogs. Should I force my dog to walk with me?

Walking Alone.

Dear Walking Alone,

A reluctance to go for a walk may indicate that your dog is ill or injured. Arthritis may be affecting your dog's joints. The development of a disease may be causing weakness. There could be acute or chronic health problems or a spinal misalignment. Perhaps he is just under the weather for a few days. If your dog's enthusiasm does not return after a break from daily walks, a visit to your veterinarian might be wise. One dog who hesitated and then declined to perform commands in an obedience event was not pushed or forced into it by her perceptive owner. The dog was later diagnosed and soon after died from numerous tumors. A Wheaten we knew and loved started hiding at walk time. He would obediently come when coaxed, but would want to lie down in the park and not move on. A couple of months later he suffered a slipped disk that paralyzed his back legs. It was only then that we realized he had been suffering from the early signs of spinal problems. Our dogs can't tell us their problems or explain their aches and pains but their reluctance to take part in previously enjoyable activities may be a subtle sign for us to take heed.



**Caution:** The answers expressed here are the thoughts of the editor and since she is not a veterinarian or trained expert, application of these opinions are taken at your own risk.



All trees have bark.  
All dogs bark.  
Therefore, all dogs are trees.  
The fallacy of barking up the  
wrong tree.  
- Unknown

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## The Prairie Wheaten

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### Celebrating the Wheaten's Irish Heritage

The Native Dog Breeds of Ireland are:

- ♣ Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
- ♣ Irish Wolfhound
- ♣ Kerry Beagle
- ♣ Irish Red & White Setter
- ♣ Irish Red Setter
- ♣ Irish Water Spaniel
- ♣ Irish Terrier
- ♣ Kerry Blue
- ♣ Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier

What better time to remember our Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier's Irish heritage than in March, the month in which St. Patrick's Day is celebrated. The following is taken from the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Standard.

#### UTILIZATION:

Wheaten Terriers were always used by small farmers to kill vermin or help with the work about the farm. They were used for a long time in the difficult job of hunting badgers and otters.



Kiss me, I'm Irish!



Kiss me too!!

#### BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

The history of the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier has been somewhat obscured by its closeness to the other Irish Terrier breeds. The Wheaten is probably the oldest of the four breeds. Its existence for at least 200 years can be inferred from textual references to "soft-coated" dogs. The relation of the modern Irish Terrier to the Wheaten, though less well documented, appears to have been the result of deliberate breeding experiments. So the humble Wheaten probably has a fairly mixed ancestry. Despite the long history of the Wheaten, it wasn't until 1937 that the Soft Coated Wheaten was officially recognised by the Irish Kennel Club. The breed has grown steadily in popularity since and is now well known world-wide.

You can read the entire Irish Wheaten Terrier standard at The Irish Kennel Club web site:

<http://www.ikc.ie/nswt.html>



## If Dogs Sent Letters to God

from the Internet

Dear God,

Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another? Where are their priorities?

~~~~~

Dear God,

When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it the same old story?

~~~~~

Dear God,

Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We dogs love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?

~~~~~

Dear God,

If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

~~~~~

Dear God,

If we come back as humans, is that good or bad?

~~~~~

Dear God,

More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

~~~~~

Dear God,

When we get to the Pearly Gates, do we have to shake hands to get in?

~~~~~

Dear God,

Are there dogs on other planets or are we alone? I have been howling at the moon and stars for a long time, but all I ever hear back is the Schnauzer across the street.

~~~~~

Dear God,

Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

~~~~~

Dear God,

We dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?

~~~~~

Dear God,

May I have my testicles back?

~~~~~

Dear God,

These are just some of the things I must remember (in order to keep my present living arrangements)

- The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
- I do not need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.
- I will not roll my toys behind the fridge, behind the sofa or under the bed.
- I must shake the rainwater out of my fur 'before' entering the house.
- I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up.
- I will stop trying to find the few remaining pieces of clean carpet in the house when I am about to get sick.
- I will not throw up in the car.

Continued on page 16

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## The Prairie Wheaten

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- I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell.
- I will not munch on “leftovers” in the kitty litter box; although they are tasty, they are not food.
- I will not eat any more Kleenex or napkins and then redeposit them in the backyard after processing.
- The diaper pail is not a cookie jar.
- I will not chew my humans’ toothbrushes and not tell them.
- I will not chew crayons or pens, especially not the red ones, or my people will think I am hemorrhaging.
- When in the car, I will not insist on having the window rolled down when it’s raining outside.
- We do not have a doorbell. I will not bark each time I hear one on television.
- I will not steal my Mom’s underwear and dance all over the back yard with them.
- The sofa is not a face towel; neither are Mom and Dad’s laps.
- My head does not belong in the refrigerator.
- I will not bite the officer’s hand when he reaches in for Mom’s driver’s license and registration.
- I will not play tug-of-war with Dad’s underwear when he’s on the toilet.
- I will not roll around in the dirt right after getting a bath.
- Sticking my nose into someone’s crotch is not an acceptable way of saying ‘hello.’
- I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt across the carpet.
- The toilet bowl is not a never-ending water supply, and just because the water is blue, doesn’t mean it’s cleaner.
- I will not sit in the middle of the living room and lick my crotch when company is over.
- I will remember that suddenly turning around and smelling my rear end can quickly clear a room.
- The cat is not a squeaky toy; so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it’s usually not a good thing.



### BEST IN SHOW

Congratulations to “Paxton”, CH. Wicklow’s Jonaire Kataxin E-male for his BEST IN SHOW win October 14, 2002 in Fort Garry, Manitoba. Paxton was bred by Regina’s Barb Osborne and Mike Dumelie, is owned by Joanne Racey deJong and Geri Mozel, and was handled by agent Leanne MacIver.



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## The Prairie Wheaten

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### You know you're a dog person WHEN:

You have a kiddie wading pool in the yard, but no small children.

You have baby gates permanently installed at strategic places around the house, but no babies.

The trash basket is more or less permanently installed in the kitchen sink, to keep the dog out of it while you're at work.

You can't see out the passenger side of the windshield because there are nose-prints all over the inside.

Poop has become a source of conversation for you and your significant other.

You refer to yourselves as Mommy and Daddy.

Your dog sleeps with you.

You have 32 different names for your dog. Most make no sense, but she understands.

You like people who like your dog. You despise people who don't.

You carry dog biscuits in your purse or pocket at all times.

You talk about your dog the way other people talk about their kid.

You sign and send birthday/anniversary/Christmas cards from your dog.

You put an extra blanket on the bed so your dog can be comfortable.

You'd rather stay home on Saturday night and cuddle your dog than go to the movies with your sweetie.

You go to the pet supply store every Saturday because it's one of the very few places that lets you bring your dog inside, and your dog loves to go with you.

You open your purse, and that big bunch of baggies you use for pick-ups pops out.

You get an extra-long hose on your shower-massage just so you can use it to wash your dog in the tub, without making the dog sit hip-deep in water.

You don't think it's the least bit strange to stand in the back yard chirping "Meg, pee!" over and over again, while Meg tends to play and forget what she's out there for (but what your neighbors think of your behavior is yet another story).



You skip breakfast so you can walk your dog in the morning before work.

You and the dog come down with something like flu on the same day. Your dog sees the vet while you settle for an over-the-counter remedy from the drugstore.

Your dog is getting old and arthritic, so you go buy lumber and build her a small staircase so she can climb onto the bed by herself.

You have your dog's picture on your office desk (but no one else's).

You lecture people on responsible dog ownership every chance you get.

You hang around the dog section of your local bookstore.

You are the only idiot walking in the pouring rain because your dog needs her walk.

You don't go to happy hours with co-workers any more because you need to go home and see your dog.

Your parents refer to your pet as their granddog.

Your friend's dog acts as Best Dog at your wedding.

Your weekend activities are planned around taking your dog for a hike (both days).

You keep an extra water dish in your second-floor bedroom, in case your dog gets thirsty at night (after all, her other dish is way down on the first floor...).

You never completely finish a piece of steak or chicken (so your dog gets a taste, too).

Continued on page 18

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# The Prairie Wheaten

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Your freezer contains more dog bones than anything else.

You bake biscuits for your dog using healthy ingredients but buy cookies containing artificial flavors and colors for the family.

You shovel a zig-zag path in the back yard snow so your dog can reach all her favorite spots.

You avoid vacuuming the house as long as possible because your dog is afraid of the vacuum cleaner.

You keep eating even after finding a dog hair in your pasta.

You make popcorn just to play catch with your dog.

You carry pictures of your dog in your wallet instead of pictures of your parents, siblings, significant other, or anyone else remotely human.

You have taken a comprehensive pet first aid course but don't have a clue how to deal with any injuries of your family members.

You have a well stocked pet first aid kit but can't find a band aid when you need one.

And the number one reason you know you're a dog person:

Your dog is the star of your World Wide Web site!



Oh, and by the way:

Visit Max and MacDuff at <http://wheatenguy.tripod.com>

Visit Wheatndale puppies at

<http://www.imagewireless.ca/myweb/wheatndale/>

Visit Wicklow Wheatens at

<http://www.jb-ccs.com/dumelie/>

Visit Myshawwn Wheatens at

<http://www.geocities.com/myshawwns/>



## VACCINATION NEWSFLASH by Dr. Ihor Basko

I would like to make you aware that all 27 veterinary schools in North America are in the process of changing their protocols for vaccinating dogs and cats. Some of this information will present an ethical & economic challenge to vets, and there will be skeptics. Some organizations have come up with a political compromise suggesting vaccinations every 3 years to appease those who fear loss of income vs. those concerned about potential side effects. Politics, traditions, or the doctor's economic well-being should not be a factor in medical decision.

## VETERINARIANS ARE CHARGING \$36 MILLION A YEAR FOR UNNECESSARY VACCINATIONS, SAY DR. BOB ROGERS, DVM.

Vets are fighting the label change in order not to lose a source of revenue. The vaccine program is a carrot to get you in the door for annual exams. Evidence suggests vaccines can trigger fatal cancer in cats and deadly blood disorder in dogs. Immune reactions in dogs develop in some, rejecting their own blood.

The latest veterinary research challenges the notion that pets need to be vaccinated every 12 months. These are some of the findings:

Dog Vaccine/Minimum duration of immunity from 1 shot

- Rabies: 3 year
- Parainfluenza: 3 years
- Distemper: 5 years
- Kennel Cough: 7 years
- Parvo: 7 years

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# The Prairie Wheaten

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## Help Us Cut Costs

Help us cut paper and postage costs. Receive your newsletter, in colour, by e-mail. All you need is Adobe Acrobat Reader (available free of charge at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)). Send your e-mail address (and any address updates) to [acfox@canada.com](mailto:acfox@canada.com)

Back issues can be viewed and downloaded at:

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

## Programs at Sherwood Village Library

6121 Rochdale Boulevard,  
Regina (306) 777 6088

### Maintaining Your Pet's Health

Wednesday, April 2

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Learn about traditional and preventative homeopathic options for maintaining your pet's health. Join Dr. Marilyn Sthamann, a veterinarian with 15 years experience, as she explains these alternative approaches. Nutrition will also be discussed.

### Bite Free

Wednesday, April 9

7:00-8:30 pm

Why do dogs bite? How can people avoid bites? What are your legal rights if you are bitten? Learn dog-safe behavior for yourself and to teach to your children. This session will appeal to adults and young adults. Facilitator: Regina Humane Society Education Co-ordinator and Animal Protection Officer.

### Grooming News

Lydia Overton, a Professional Pet Groomer who specializes in Cockers, Poodles and Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, has relocated from Petcetera to 4-Paws U-Bath and Daycare at 639 Adams St. in Regina (306) 721-7297.



## \*\*\*\*\* DEADLINES \*\*\*\*\*

### Deadline for submissions for the next issue is September 10

Please make your submissions to:

Carolyn or Alan Fox

74 Cooper Crescent

Regina, SK S4R 4J7

or email at [c.fox@sasktel.net](mailto:c.fox@sasktel.net)

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