

ASCWTA

The Prairie Wheaten

Vol 6 No. 4 / Winter 2000



Waiting for Santa's Arrival

Inside

The Vaccination Controversy	Page 2
National Director's Report	Page 3
Greetings from Our President	Page 4
Show Your Wheaten a Very Merry Christmas ...	Page 5
Book Report	Page 6
Tess's Ten	Page 10
Wheaten Walk - Fall 2000	Page 11

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The Prairie Wheaten

Health Concern by Roz Bacon and Carolyn Fox

The Vaccination Controversy

....something to think about



In recent years there has been some controversy about yearly booster shots for our dogs. Some veterinarians, researchers, breeders and pet owners are questioning the value of booster inoculations. Do vaccines cause more diseases than they cure? Why are humans covered for life by their childhood vaccinations while pets require annual booster shots?

Vets are taught at Veterinarian School that these are to be done annually. Pharmaceutical companies do not want to lose the millions of dollars generated by annual booster shots. Researchers cannot agree with each other. One third to one half of a Vet's income comes from these annual boosters. All of these issues make the problem a difficult one to pursue. However, we believe it is something you should pursue and think about for the sake of your Wheaten's health.

The book, Natural Immunity by Pat McKay explains with a series of essays and articles by various experts why you should not vaccinate. She, and others, believe that most skin allergies, skin diseases and skin tumours, cancer, arthritis, respiratory problems, inflammatory bowel disease, and autoimmune diseases are the result of repeated annual vaccinations. It is possible that routinely vaccinated dogs are developing autoantibodies to their own biochemicals causing the dog to attack their own body. The autoimmune diseases Protein-Losing Nephropathy (PLN), Protein-Losing Enteropathy (PLE), and Addison's Disease are a major concern in Wheatens. Skin diseases, bowel problems and cancer are also common in Wheatens.

We all need to give thought to these concerns before the next reminder comes from our Vet's office saying that "Max's" or "Willow's" annual booster shots are due. It is not known how long these vaccines last, but in some cases blood tests show antibodies still present at least six years after the last booster shot. Some believe the dog is immune for life. Is it necessary for us to subject our dogs to this mixture of, as Pat McKay puts it, "decayed

animals, diseased blood, sera, bacteria, viruses, fungi, mucous, pus, urine, feces, antibiotics, formaldehyde, mercury derivatives, acetone, aluminum and carbolic acid" each and every year?

The most radical view is no vaccinations at all. There is also the status quo. After all, many dogs live to a ripe old age despite the yearly booster. A middle-of-the-road viewpoint seems to be the most popular at this time. This view varies but many think that booster shots should be maintained as usual until the age of two (another viewpoint - until twelve to seventeen months) followed by booster shots every two or three years. Some think distemper and parvo shots are unnecessary for most dogs after the two year annual vaccination. There is a three year rabies vaccine available now so DO make sure you take advantage of that. A three year rabies certificate is all that is required to cross into the United States. Some experts suggest the rabies vaccine be administered a few months after the other booster shots to help prevent vaccine overload on a dog's system. If Lepto and Lyme vaccines are necessary for a particular area of the country they are still not recommended as adverse reactions have been known to occur in Wheatens. Dogs should not be vaccinated within thirty days of a female's heat cycle or during heat, during pregnancy, during lactation, during cortisone treatment, or if the dog is stressed or ill. Vaccination may even be eliminated in a dog over ten years of age. A breeder we know advocates no vaccinations after the one year booster. Each vaccine is given separately at one week intervals and rabies only after six months of age if the dog has to travel or it is required by law. Some owners choose to have their dog's immunity levels checked with a blood test before revaccinating.

You now have some thinking to do! Talk to your vet. Check with your breeder for an opinion. Do your own

Continued on page 3

The Prairie Wheaten

research. The Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital web site (listed below) says there are 1700 different vaccination recommendations for dogs across the United States. There is little consensus. It will be up to you, the owner, to make the final decision. At the VERY least, we want you to ask one question of your vet before the next booster shots: ARE YOU GIVING A THREE YEAR RABIES SHOT TO MY DOG ON AN ANNUAL BASIS? This IS happening in Regina to some Wheatens in the year 2000!!

Sources for Research:

NATURAL IMMUNITY

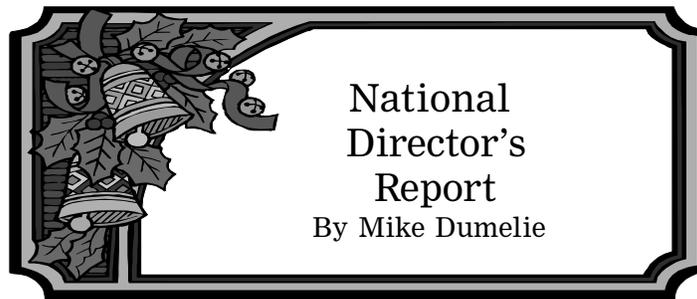
..... Why You Should Not Vaccinate!

a book by Pat McKay

Oscar Publications, June 1997

THE VACCINE CONTROVERSY /
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
SMALL ANIMAL VACCINATION PROTOCOL
- a comprehensive discussion of the various
controversial aspects of vaccines for your pet,
along with their protocol for immunization.
by Susan Thorpe Vargas MS, Ph.D.
www.msu.edu/~silvar/avax.htm

Look up "Vaccination Protocol" on the search engine of your computer for many other points of view.



Well another Winter appears to be on us. Unfortunately, it caught us without draining our sprinklers so we may be looking forward to some serious work in the Spring. My last report was quite lengthy so to balance the Universe I will try to keep this fairly short. There are two main issues to report on at the National level.

The results are out regarding our changes to the Breed Standard. Much like the US election it was too close to call and every vote did indeed count. Unfortunately for those who put so much effort into redeveloping our standard, the final result was the majority of the owners in Canada who responded were in favour of the changes but we were short by two votes on achieving the percentage necessary to declare a new standard. Fortunately, Pat Cooper, the Chair of the Breed Standard Committee, has agreed to press on and see the changes eventually implemented. I hope all will consider the impact their votes may have on future versions of the standard and will participate. Thanks to all who did!

As most of you probably know, we have a National Club website targeted at potential owners of Wheaten Terriers. The only thing we have not had on the website is a list of recognized breeders. While we have always had a paper-based list of breeders available to potential owners, it was determined by the Board that all breeders must sign a form requesting their name to be placed on the website. In addition, there will be a cost of \$10 per year. If you are interested in being on the website, please complete the form with your National Club renewal form with your next Wheaten Wags publication.

If you haven't seen the website yet take a look at it at www.jb-ccs.com/scwtac. It is a great resource for you and your friends.

Have a Merry Christmas from Barb, Chelsea, Sadie, Chinzia, Lexi and me! We'll talk to you again in the New Year.

Greetings From Our President

It doesn't seem possible that yet another year is almost over, we are REALLY into a whole new century, and our National Specialty is now just a memory. I wish you all a joy filled season with renewed hopes and happiness to close out the year and bring in the new year. It was wonderful spending time with many of you this year - the meetings, the walks, the Specialty.

From my house and Myshawns Wheatens I would like to send best wishes for the Holiday Season and the New Year. Thank you for your support throughout the year. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year and again sharing Wheaten moments.

Cheers! Margaret Stewardson



Raw fruit and veggie treats

Treat your dog to chunks of raw apple to stimulate the immune system, provide roughage, detoxify the liver, and promote youthfulness.

Carrots, grated or in chunks, are nutritious snacks as well. Carrots are high in Vitamin C, beta carotene, potassium, and calcium. Raw carrot chunks also help scrub away plaque from the teeth.



Holiday Anticipation



Watching for Santa



Hoping for cookies



Waiting for gifts



Show Your Wheaten a Very Merry Christmas

Make your Wheaten a Christmas bandana

Cut a square of favourite Christmas fabric 53 cm. x 53cm (21" x 21") if you wish to hem your bandana. Cut it 51cm. X 51 cm. (20" x 20") if you wish to use pinking shears to create an INSTANT bandana. To make the hem, press under a 1/4 inch hem allowance, then again a further 3/8 inch on all edges. Stitch hem in place. Fold in half to create a triangle and tie around Wheaten's neck. If you have a puppy or a Wheaten smaller than 42 pound Max you may need to start with a smaller square.



Max in his red and green plaid Christmas bandana



Easy Dog Treats

Bake these EASY Treats

100 ml (3 1/2 oz.) Jar liver, beef or chicken baby food
1/3 cup Wheat germ
2/3 cup Non-fat dry milk
2 tsp ground flax seed - optional

Mix baby food, wheat germ, dry milk and flax. Add a little water if too thick. Drop by teaspoon-full onto a greased cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated 350°F oven for 7-10 minutes. Let cool before giving to your dog. Refrigerate in a closed container. Makes about 18 treats.

Picture this!

Have your pet's picture taken with Santa at The Regina Humane Society. Other communities may have a similar program. \$10 provides a photo package that includes an instant picture, a 35mm photo, and a treat. Dates in Regina are as follows:

Sunday, December 3: 1 - 4 pm by appointment only
Saturday, December 9: 12 - 4 pm come & go
Sunday, December 10: 4 - 7 pm by appointment only
Sunday, December 17: 12 - 4 pm come & go
For appointments phone (306) 543-6363

Help the Society by taking a gift. They can use pet toys, rawhides, and treats. Laundry detergent, used towels and blankets are always needed. Polaroid and 35 mm film can be used in the Investigation Dept.

Wheatens like to receive gifts at Christmas

Fill a stocking with chew toys, dog treats or a new tennis ball. Wrap a gift - a box of biscuits or a toy - to put under the tree.

Holiday Hazards

Avoid hanging edible decorations on the tree. Strings of popcorn or chocolate decorations are too tempting to most dogs! Use only nontoxic tree-water preservatives or artificial snow. Keep electrical cords and batteries out of reach of curious pets. Remember that poinsettias, azalea, holly, ivy, and mistletoe are poisonous plants. Dogs can get sick or even die if they eat them.

Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home

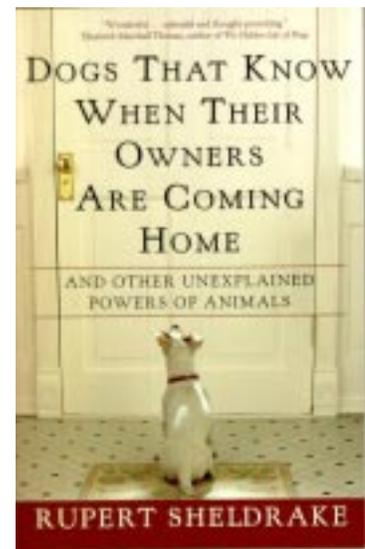
and other unexplained powers of animals

by Rupert Sheldrake

Three Rivers Press, New York, New York 1999

A Book Report by Carolyn Fox

Here is a book that explores the many aspects of animal behavior and animal/human bonds that baffle animal lovers and scientists alike. Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home isn't only about dogs. It also investigates many incidents of unusual insights in cats, sheep, horses, parrots, homing pigeons, schools of fish, chimpanzees, migrating birds and Monarch Butterflies as well as humans. How DOES a pet know that his owner is on the way home? How do some pets know it's the day to visit the vet and are no where to be found when it's time to go? Why do some pets obey a person's "thought" command better than a voice command? When a pet finds itself lost far from home or sold to a new home, how does it find the way back to its original home? How do pets comfort and heal, or predict oncoming epileptic seizures, earthquakes, storms, or air raids? How do some pets know a loved one is dying? It was this last question that prompted me to read this book



Our Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier, Can. Am. Ch. Finnigan's Flamboyant Fellow C.D. "B.J." (April 1979 - November 1989) had a special bond with his breeder, Jan Linscheid. Jan was a dear friend to the whole family - Alan, Pamela, Suzanne, me and our other Wheaten, Patty. BJ was a gift to our family from Jan and he always remained close to her. Each time we drove the 500 miles to Enderlin, North Dakota to visit Jan and her husband Jim, BJ emerged from wherever he was snoozing in our van and showed signs of excitement at least 12 miles before we got there. Somehow he would know we were approaching Enderlin and Jan. After a three year battle with cancer, Jan's condition worsened in the summer of 1982. On September 15, 1982 we spoke with Jim and were told that Jan would probably live only another month. Mid morning of the next day, BJ became agitated and behaved in a peculiar manner, as never before and never after. He barked and howled at the back of our yard until I forced him into the house. Inside, he ran up and down the hall and jumped at the back door until I let him out. Patty, our female Wheaten, was just as mystified about BJ's behavior as I was. BJ's noisy agitation continued. It had all been so unusual that I even considered phoning the vet. He was in, then out, in, then out, until early afternoon. Then he settled down and was calm the rest of the day. Late that afternoon, Jim phoned to tell us that Jan had died that morning. For eighteen years I've wondered what occurred that morning. Could BJ really have known that Jan was dying in a hospital in Fargo, North Dakota, five hundred miles away? I hoped the book could shed some light on this mystery.

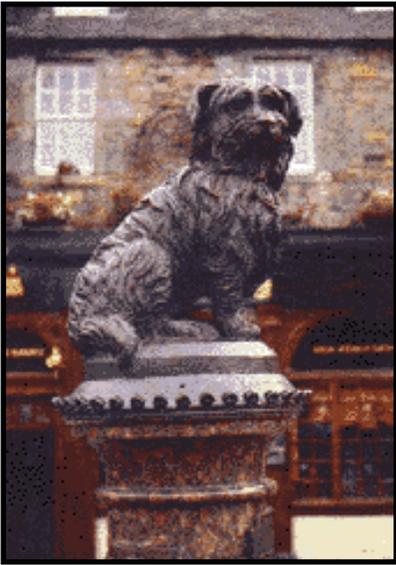
The author, Rupert Sheldrake, who studied natural sciences at Cambridge, philosophy at Harvard and has a Ph.D in biochemistry from Cambridge, lives in London, England. In his database, Dr. Sheldrake has forty accounts detailing the reactions of dogs to the death of an absent person to

Continued on page 7

The Prairie Wheaten

whom they were attached. Thirty six of these involved vocal responses similar to BJ's while four were upset, shivering or distressed. In one case the dog was in England while his beloved young soldier was in a ship that sank near The Falkland Islands 6,000 miles away. Suddenly our BJ had company and by reading this book I hoped to find out what had occurred.

Dr. Sheldrake explains his theory on how he thinks that telepathy, empathy, and homing is accomplished. This is the part where BJ is involved. He believes "morphic fields" connect a social group. Packs of wolves and certain tribes in Africa and India are used as examples of the



Greymfriar Bobby's Monument

telepathic ability of each in the group, when even far away, to know when others are in trouble or know when a successful hunt has taken place. These morphic fields can stretch much like an elastic band, connecting one being to another, even at a distance. This strong emotional connection to a loved one, he believes, is how some dogs know their owner is on the way home, or injured or dying, no matter how far the morphic field has stretched. A "morphic field" must have connected BJ to Jan allowing him to know when he was nearing her home and to know when she was dying.

Even after death an animal may remain devoted and connected to its owner. One of the most famous is Greymfriars Bobby who would not leave his master's grave in Edinburgh, Scotland except for a visit to the nearby pub each day for his bone and a bit of company. A book was written and a movie made about "Bobby". A monument was built in 1873 near Greymfriar's Pub to honour his memory.

The world of human/animal connections is a mysterious one that can defy understanding by even the most esteemed scientists. However, there are so many similar animal stories from all parts of the world that it is hard to refute these behaviors. There are many case histories of unusual animal behaviors in his data base, but the author, a true scientist, conducts some experiments to examine what is happening.

Experimentation can prove difficult because not many animal lovers want to leave their pet far from home to see if it can find the way back or to be personally injured at a distant location to find out if his pet felt their pain. The most intensive experimentation, detailed in the book with explanations and graphs, was done with a video camera trained on the French window where "Jaytee", a mixed-breed terrier in Manchester, England waits for his owner, Pam Smart, to come home. On 85 of 100 occasions Jaytee was waiting for Pam at the window - he could be distracted if sick, or frightened or by a neighbourhood bitch in heat. No matter what time or direction Pam approached or via what mode of transportation used or distance traveled, Jaytee's reactions were related to the time she physically set off for home. As Pam headed home, Jaytee ran to the window to wait.

Continued on page 8

The Prairie Wheaten

Another experiment, this one involving the homing instinct, involved Clive Rudkin's "Pepsi", a Border Collie-terrier cross in Leicester, England who had a remarkable talent for escaping and finding her way to Clive's relative's homes. Clive felt relatively sure enough of Pepsi's road savvy to allow her to be set free two miles from home early one morning with a Global Positioning System in a pouch on her back. Clive and the author waited at home expecting Pepsi to arrive within two hours. After four hours had passed they began to worry as she had not turned up there or at his parents' house. Finally they found Pepsi "lying calmly on the grass in the back garden" of his sister's house. Pepsi had been to this house but had never made her own way to it before. This house was only one mile from where Pepsi had been released so she "homed" in on it. A map in the book shows Pepsi's route and explains how she spent eight minutes pacing back and forth in the surrounding streets to get her bearings before heading in the direction of the closer house.

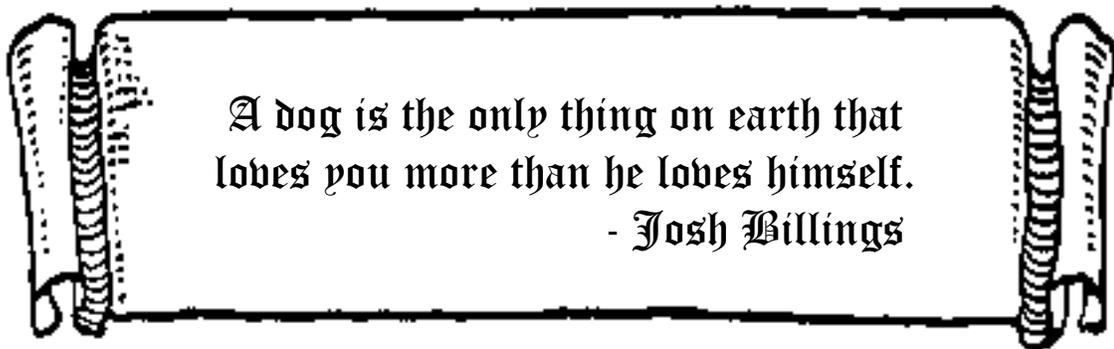
Can. Am. Ch. Finnigan's Flamboyant Fellow C.D.

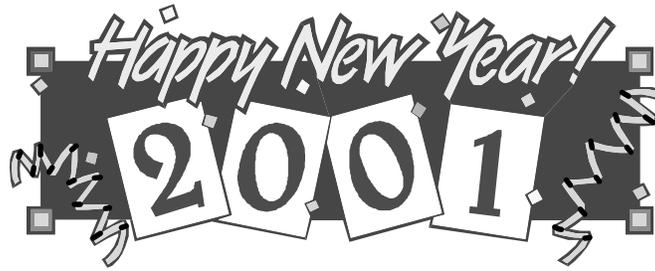


How did BJ know that Jan was dying in a hospital 500 miles away?

Some animals can predict earthquakes. Rats leave town, snakes leave their crevices, cows become agitated. Some can warn their owner that a epileptic seizure will take place a half hour before it does, allowing that person to find a safe place or get home. Others will take any means possible to keep their loved ones from danger. A cat made a woman stop her car just before a tree crashed onto the road ahead. A poodle howled and put his paws on his master's shoulders to stop him from driving - as he slowed down and rounded the corner he saw the deep precipice in the road where it had been washed away. That portion of the book you will have to read for yourself. I cannot summarize all the theories for premonition in this space. There are several theories and it takes some thinking to wrap the brain around them.

After reading this book I have a new appreciation for the wonder of animals. I'll never view a flock of starlings in the same way, as they flit in one direction then the other, as one mass, without one bird crashing into another. I'll always be ready to "listen" to an animal's warning. I also think I understand a little bit more about our BJ's recognition and reaction to Jan's death. What I do know for sure is that on that September morning with BJ, I was witness to one of life's great mysteries.





Make a New Year's Resolution to be more like your dog

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
Take naps and stretch before rising.
Run, romp, and play daily.
Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shady tree.
When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout, run right back and make friends.
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.
Be loyal.
Never pretend to be something you're not.
If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
And MOST of all...

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.



Rawhide Chews and Pig's Ears

Buy only genuine 100% rawhide bones from a respectable pet supply retailer. Inexpensive rawhide bones from flea markets or "Dollar" stores may have traces of arsenic from the curing process used in some parts of the world. Cheap rawhides may also be contaminated with insect eggs or have been washed in water with high levels of mercury. Always pick up small "leftover" end pieces of your dog's rawhide that may be swallowed and cause choking or digestion problems. Because rawhides can pose a choking hazard, give them to your dog only under supervision.

Pigs ears can cause problems. They are almost all fat so can't be digested fast enough. Pieces of pig's ear may be forced out of the stomach into the intestines where they could cause a blockage. When the normal movement of the intestines stop, toxins build up and can poison the dog's body. Surgery is usually required to remove such a blockage. As well, there have been recalls on contaminated pig's ears recently.

TESS'S TEN

These ten puppies born September 29, 2000 were a real handful for both Tess (Holweit's Sirius Sensation) and owner Roz Bacon.



Tess with one week old puppies.



It's getting crowded at feeding time.



A place of one's own.



An escape attempt.



There's always someone to tussle with.



This box makes a great bed.

WHEATEN WALK

Sunday, September 24, 2000 - a beautiful autumn day for our Wheaten Walk.



The Prairie Wheaten

Winter Warning

The sweet taste of antifreeze that may drip from a leaky hose or radiator is attractive to pets. Two ounces can kill a dog. Sidewalk ice melters are also toxic. Both can get on pets' paws only to be licked off later!



Stranded on a deserted island?

In a survey conducted by the American Animal Hospital Association, over half of the respondents said they would choose the company of their animal companion over another person, if deserted on an island.

79% of respondents in this survey reported they give their pets holiday or birthday presents.

Who receives this newsletter?

All known Wheaten owners in Saskatchewan receive this newsletter. There are approximately 80 on our list. If you know a Wheaten owner we've missed please contact us so we can add them to our mailing list. We also send a newsletter to all Directors and Executive of the National Club.



**Life is better when you have a
Wheaten guarding over it**

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

Deadline for submissions for the next issue is March 15

Please make your submissions
(preferably on disk or good clear hardcopy) to:

Carolyn or Alan Fox
74 Cooper Crescent
Regina, SK S4R 4J7

or email at c.fox@dlcwest.com

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