



The Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Great Britain Established 1955

The Annual General Meeting

Sunday 15th April 2018 at 10.30am (Venue will be open from 10am)
BULKINGTON VILLAGE CENTRE, SCHOOL ROAD, BULKINGTON, WARKS. CV12 9JB

AGENDA

1. Apologies
 2. Approval of Minutes of AGM 2017 (Summer Bulletin No. 166 pages 54-67)
 3. Matters Arising
 4. Chairwoman's Report – Jane Charleton
 5. Treasurer's Report – Alison Fallon
 6. Health Report – Judy Creswick
 7. Rehome Report – Rob Watkins
 8. Judges' Subcommittee Report – Margaret House
 9. Annual Awards for Top Dog etc., Crufts Trophies, & Findarcy Award
 10. Lifetime Achievement & Diamond Awards
 11. Presentation of Janeyjimjams Award
12. **The Committee** proposes an amendment to the Club's Code of Ethics, Section 26a – Brood Bitches – 5th point.
From *"I will not allow my bitches to **whelp** before the age of two."*
To *"I will not allow my bitches to **be mated** before the age of two."*
13. **The Committee** proposes that the SCWT Club of GB shall put forward the request to The Kennel Club, that there should be a recommendation, made by the KC to Assured Breeders of SCWTs, that they should not mate bitches before the age of two years.
14. **Kate Watkins** would like to propose, and **Tracy Hammond** second, the following: -
- a) The SCWT Club of GB conduct and finance a breed health survey in order to test for the true prevalence of the affected allele responsible for the development of Degenerative Myelopathy.
 - b) The Club's Health Fund should be used to pay for the project which would be of great importance to the breed, its future health and genetic diversity. The participating dogs would be asked to provide a sample of DNA for testing at Laboklin, the cost being met from the Health Fund. The dogs should be at least eight years of age.
 - c) As part of the project, the owners of the dogs would also be asked to agree to take part in a longitudinal study to monitor the health of the dog donating DNA, particularly the development of any symptoms which may indicate DM. I propose this project as a proper and appropriate use of the Health Fund which will be beneficial to the future health and genetic diversity of the SCWT.
- The reasoning behind this proposal is: -
- DM is a late onset disease, typically between 8 and 14 years of age. We do not know the true incidence of affected SCWT because dogs can die from other causes before symptoms become apparent. We do know from scientific studies that the number of dogs identified with one or two copies of the affected allele does not correlate with the smaller number of dogs which go on to develop symptoms.
- We do not see significant numbers of SCWT developing DM and finding the true prevalence of the gene in the UK population will help breeders make informed decisions, enabling them to maintain genetic diversity whilst working to reduce the prevalence of the affected allele. Those UK breeders and owners already testing their dogs are likely to be confining this to younger dogs of breeding age. I am proposing we test older dogs because, in order to get a true representation of the population, we need to test across all age groups. I hope that if the SCWT Club of GB finance this prevalence study, we will get a sufficient number of older dogs tested and expand our knowledge about the significance of this gene and the way in which it affects our breed.
- We know from the experience of other breeds, that poorly informed use of genetic tests when making breeding decisions, can seriously affect genetic diversity and cause new health issues. We do not yet know the value or validity of the test for DM. There is a real danger that if breeders are already using the results of PLN tests to exclude dogs from their breeding programmes and then further restrict their choice because of the DM status of a dog, they may inadvertently bring other genetic problems forward.
15. **The Committee** proposes a discussion and vote on whether, or not to include Champion Classes at our Club's Championship shows during the Kennel Club's 3-year trial period.
16. Postal ballot results for Committee vacancies, and Judges for the 2021 & 2022 Championship Shows.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 10AM

PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH.