

Dear Wheaten Owners

As Health Chairman for the SCWTCA, Inc., I am devoted to both finding the latest health information for our breed as well as to preserving the history of its health for future owners/breeders/ researchers. Recently the Soft Coated Wheaten database (www.scwtddb.org) has become available worldwide. Currently there are more than 75,000 dogs in the database with varying degrees of information. Continuing to expand the information on that database is one of my personal missions.

Health information found in public records (such as results listed on ofa.org) have been transferred – or can be readily transferred – to the database. Those that are come from a closed database or other private entities can only be entered with written proof from the Wheaten owner. Gathering more of that information is the reason for my email today.

When Dr. Littman began to gather DNA swabs from owners, she guaranteed that the results would be private. Today many owners have posted those results for dogs in the database, but many have not. I would like to ask that you consider sending me the PLN results for any dog you many have tested and received results. That is as easy as forwarding me the email from Penn – either from Dr. Littman or Dr. Henthorn, or any other reputable lab that does this testing. I would then post that information in the database. By sharing your test results, we can begin to see a larger picture of how this disease has affected our dogs. It also can help breeders find dogs who would fit in certain breeding programs where that dog's availability might not have been previously known. This can be done by going to the database at www.scwtddb.org. Once you have agreed to the policies, you can enter the website. On the home page you click on “reports” and do several types of searches, including looking for a stud dogs that have no markers, or running a trial pedigree. Additionally, researchers would have access to a wealth of data to work with.

Likewise, GB Eye results as well as DM (Degenerative Myelopathy) ones are private, but if you are willing to share with the database, email a written copy of the report and it will be added to the database.

Finally, if you would like me to check your dog's health records to see what is included in the database and would like me to update any information from a public database, I will be happy to do that for you. This includes hip results from the British Veterinary Association (BVA).

Your response to this letter– whether you agree to share private information or not, will be kept confidential by me. I am not compiling any list from responses.

I hope you consider sharing information for the database so that that we have a more complete record of our breed.

And PLEASE post photos of your dog! The photos do NOT have to be professional ones, and you can post several if you like.

Molly O'Connell
SCWTCA Health Chair

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