

## Tracy Hammond's Bio

I bought my first Wheaten, Callan, in 1985 – so will be celebrating 40 years of being Wheatowned in 2025. In the years that followed I have learned that I simply am not and never will be a hairdresser! Also that every snip I do wrong – the dog will sulk – BUT in 2 weeks, coat has grown and no one will see the trimming blooper I committed !! So now I feel fully able to support my owners and provide buddying assistance for the Wheaten Grooming Days I attend.

For me Wheatens are simply the best dogs and the perfect partners for our Italian Spinone too. In the Spinone we have a laidback HPR gundog, steady at 3 years old providing you put the work in and kind, consistent training. Then in the Wheatens we consider ourselves very lucky to have them steady by 10 yrs old . They are such a fun loving breed – just testing enough and then oh so loving and affectionate.

In 1998 we bought Flynn – he was the cheekiest, noisiest and handsomest chap with a coat of glowing wheaten tresses..... He showed and made up to a Champion but he was always our funny, chatty lad.

We bred our first Wheaten litter in 2001 having spent 16 years ensuring we had a clue what to do. At this point we knew that we would primarily focus on health and temperament and if we got those and one pretty enough to show – we would show!

Flynn accidentally procreated to Dixie when he was 11.3yrs old (my Mum was mortified as it happened on her watch) and we just had to keep his daughter Rooga. She was his double for woofing and wooing – and a best friend of mine until she passed in 2022.

We've shared our life with so many Wheatens and they are all special. Totty became the breeds first AI (artificial insemination) Champion and was such a special girl – her and Boodles have certainly left their mark in our house and their offspring and now grand-pups are still bringing happiness to us and those who share the joy.

The joy we get from breeding is so special. Showring accolades are great – but there is nothing better than planning a new life and watching those puppies develop and go on to flourish by creating both havoc and joy for families who own them and become friends.