

Views from Breeders around the World

This issue – Neil O' Sullivan – Geragold, USA

1. What first attracted you to ISCWT?

I became involved with Wheatens after meeting Gerard Thompson (Geragold), and his mentors, Maureen Prokosch & Late Jean Peterson (Newkilber). The Wheaten temperament is so endearing.

2. How many years have you been involved with the breed?

31 years

3. Are Wheatens your original breed?

Great Danes are my original breed, got my first Great Dane 40 years ago, and still live, love and show this breed also. We have also owned and shown Kerry Blue Terriers and Briards.

4. In your opinion which is the best Wheaten owned or bred by you?

Am Ch Geragold Lady Lavery. (She was the mother to a great producer Am Can Ir Ch Geragold Orla Finlandia).



Am Ch Geragold Lady Lavery



Am Ch Geragold Lady Lavery.

5. Other than those you have been personally involved with, which two or three wheaten dogs would you describe as the best ones you have seen and why?

Ch Holmenocks Honey Bee, she was the right size, the correct shape, moved well and had a gorgeous flowing wavy warm wheat coloured coat. Ch Newkilber The Quiet Man, he was a stallion of dog, owned the ground he stood over, with the most superb movement.



Ch Holmenock Honey Bee



Ch Newkilber The Quiet Man

6. What kennel within or outside of the breed has impressed you and why?

Edbrios Kerry Blue Terriers. The dedication to producing better and better Kerry Blues each generation is awesome. Kerries were already a high standard before Philip and Jarka turned their attention to this breed but they have put their stamp on this breed and very much breed to the standard.

7. If you could incorporate just one dog from the past, into your breeding programme, who would it be and why?

Ch Danterri Wheaten Master Marco, for his longevity, his superior temperament and his soundness.

8. Who has been your greatest mentor in the breed?

Both Maureen and Jean of Newkilber fame. They were always keen to see breeders do right by the breed and their dogs.

9. Since you began in Wheatens have you seen many changes within the breed?

Yes

10. If yes please explain.

The quality in the Irish lines has gotten better and better, the overly shy dogs of the past are no longer commonly seen. The long and low dogs are fewer now, bites and coats are now a lot more consistent. The movement to show them without a Terrier outline must be haunting Maureen Holmes in her grave. This is a trimmed breed.

11. Do you believe the quality has improved or declined since you first became involved?

Improved a great deal, breeders hard work is paying off with a breed that is looking more uniform in the ring, with the drag of the breed in the old days (long and low Wheatens) rarely seen today.

12. What in your opinion is the greatest hurdle that is now facing the breed?

Breeders are divided too much around the world. An Irish coated Wheaten is still at a significant disadvantage in the ring in North America, and in UK. This divide between the people who favour a heavy coat and those that favour an Irish coat has held the breed back.

13. What needs to be done to protect the breed into the future?

Breeders should continue to avail themselves of all the breed appropriate health testing and use any good reliable gene testing to further the health of our beloved breed.

Neil
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