

SOFT-COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS

HELPFUL HINTS & TIPS



Remember we are only a phone call away please ring if you have **ANY** concerns, no matter how trivial or silly you think they might be. **Never, ever**, let a small problem become a big one. We want contact with you, so please let us know how the pup is getting on in your household.

Please ring!

TAKING HOME YOUR PUPPY:

Arrange a suitable time to pick up your puppy; aim to get home in time for your puppy to settle down before bedtime. When he/she leaves the breeder's home, his/her Mum and his/her litter mates he/she might feel frightened.

Bring with you the following for your journey home:

Two people ideally are required; one to drive and one to hold the puppy
(unless you have a crate)

Newspapers (in case puppy needs to toilet on the way home)

Old towel (to place on your knee)

Kitchen Roll & Hand wipes (in case of accidents)

Bowl and fresh water

Bags to put 'rubbish' in you need to dispose of

On arrival home do not let puppy become overwhelmed by lots of noise and visitors. If you have children please ensure they are calm and quiet. If the puppy is scared it might run away and hide, **do not** let the puppy find a hiding place or 'bolt hole'. Carry him/her in your arms and show him/her each room he/she is allowed to go into. Then settle him/her on his/her bed. Let him/her rest then give him/her a meal. Ensure he/she has fresh water available at all times.

HOUSE RULES & SAFETY:



A puppy is like a new baby - it requires a lot of sleep, although not necessarily at the same time as you! Put the puppy bed/crate in a quiet draught free corner that it knows is **its own** safe place.

If you have children make sure they allow the puppy to rest, puppies grow when they're sleeping!



NEVER LEAVE A PUPPY OR ADULT DOG AND CHILDREN UNATTENDED!

LEADING THE PACK:

We believe the following quoted paragraph taken from the Roberta Vesley book, "The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Coat of Honey - Heart of Gold" is very important for human owners to understand.

".....the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier is a pack animal and looks to you to establish yourself as his/her leader. If you do not establish yourself as the "alpha" or head dog, you are unlikely to have a satisfactory relationship with a Wheaten. Wheatens will press to make themselves the

dominant pack member, but they will readily accept you as the leader if you are firm consistent and fair."



DO NOT shout and yell at your dog, it isn't deaf and this could make it fearful. The **TONE** of **your voice** when giving commands, or talking to your puppy is enough to teach the puppy when you are pleased or cross. Most importantly be firm from the beginning, all the household, **including children** and visitors, should know what the limitations are regarding the puppy, e.g. which rooms puppy is allowed in, whether it is allowed on the furniture etc., be aware if you allow the puppy up on the furniture just once, it will be very hard for you to reverse this

action. If he/she does climb onto the furniture say '**No**', and place him/her back onto the floor, use distraction i.e. a toy if necessary.

It's best to not start a bad habit in the first place. All of the household should try to use the same words of command, e.g. stand; sit; stay; wait; down etc (see the verbal commands leaflet in your puppy pack.)

Make sure that **your home is as safe as possible** preferably check this prior to taking puppy home, i.e. no electric wires to chew or poisonous substances left around.

Owning a puppy is like having an active, inquisitive toddler running around. Where your pup stays/sleeps when you are out, or in bed, must be **VERY** safe, (see Playpen, 'The Perfect Puppy' page 45). **Do not** play 'tug' or rough games with your puppy, 'tug' can ruin the puppy teeth alignment and can get the puppy over excited! Only buy quality toys, it is false economy to buy some of the cheaper ones, a terrier can destroy cheap ones in less than 5 minutes. These toys could prove dangerous if swallowed! Be careful with sticks, they can get lodged in the roof of the mouth or down a puppy and adult dog's throat. If, you do want to throw something get a Frisbee or a ball on a rope.

The puppy is a living being **NOT** a toy, do not let it become **over excited** and out of control. **Like children, puppies do not know when to stop!**

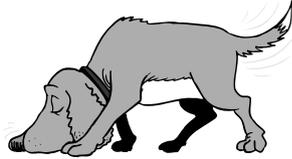


Try not to pick up the pup too much, (especially the children) he/she will soon be too heavy to do this comfortably. Do not let the puppy keep jumping up, say '**down**' or '**sit**' and praise and treat when he/she behaves correctly.

Until your puppy has had his/her vaccinations do not let him/her walk in public places other than your garden, or a friends/relatives home. Carry the puppy around until the vaccination regime is complete. This will help him/her overcome fears in the safety of your arms and it will then not seem so scary when the puppy can walk outside. Practice lead training in the garden prior to this. Puppies can meet other dogs if you know they **are vaccinated, not ill, and more importantly friendly**, keep the pup in your arms until you are sure that the other dog is okay.

Puppies must have good experiences. Never reassure a fear or the puppy/adult dog will think it is okay to be frightened.

TOILET TRAINING:



If you see the puppy sniffing the floor or turning around this could be a sign it wants to toilet - so take it outside. On waking, before being put to rest, after play, and after meals, before you go out, when you come home, make sure puppy has a chance to do its toilet. Take puppy in the garden (initially the same spot in the garden), and say '**be quick**' or '**do toilets**', then praise it when it responds, this will help it become clean very quickly. Reprimanding an 'accident' after the event is of no use and could make your puppy nervous of 'performing'! However, if you catch the puppy toileting in the wrong place, then firmly say '**NO**', lift it and place puppy in the garden and tell it to '**be quick**' etc., as explained above. At night or when you are out put newspaper down so it has somewhere to go in case it cannot manage to wait until you get up or come home. Wherever and whenever your puppy sleeps and you hear it whimper during the **night or day**, take it out straight away in case it needs the toilet. This will not last for many weeks but will teach your puppy the right place to defecate.

EXERCISE:

Do not **over exercise** your pup in the first 6 months. A pup should only require a 10 minute walk, twice daily until 6 months. An occasional longer walk will not harm him/her, but be aware if the puppy is tired, you may need to carry it. If a pup is over exercised then it will produce long thin bone, instead of solid compact bone, this could produce problems in later life, so be aware of over exercise at a young age. **Do not let puppy run up and down stairs too much.**

MOUTHING:

If the pup starts 'mouthing' say '**NO**' very firmly and don't forget to praise when he/she stops. At present the teeth are sharp 'like little needles', do not snatch your hand away or you will get badly scratched. Make sure children do not let the pup 'mouth' their hands, or play rough games! This is one of the most important parts of **your puppy** and **your** training. If you do not stop 'mouthing/nipping' in a young pup, you will end up with a dog that habitually bites. Remember he/she will grow into a strong, big, terrier, whose ancestors could kill badgers and foxes, so **do not underestimate** the strength of the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier jaw!!

TRAINING CLASSES:

After inoculations - If there is puppy socialisation classes available in your area attend the classes, it is **very important** to socialise your puppy with **other dogs and people**. After the initial socialisation classes attend obedience classes.

If there isn't a puppy socialisation class in your area then join a puppy obedience class **as soon as possible** and make sure it is a dog training club with a good reputation. A well-behaved dog is a pleasure to own, this can only be achieved by training and good socialisation.

Always have your Wheaten on a **lead** when near traffic. Wheaten's have no road sense, and **never** develop it! **Be wary of open doors** for the same reasons as above

If you are intending to show your puppy, teach it to stand and use the word command 'stand' for a few seconds each day.

Be a responsible dog owner and pick up your dog mess! Nappy sacks are good and cheap shop around.

BEDS & SLEEPING:

It is entirely up to you where or what you want your puppy to sleep in, both during the day and at night. Ideally the pup should have a crate or bed in a quiet corner which it learns is his/her safe, quiet place. There are many trains of thought as to where a puppy should sleep at night. Your puppy may cry when left, *especially* at night. They usually accustom themselves within a week or so. **Be prepared for some sleepless nights.** (See 'How Not To Have A Sleepless First Night With Your Puppy' ...' written by: Jan Thackray and included in the puppy pack.

PUPPY PENS: If you have room a puppy pen can be extremely useful. You can place either a plastic or soft bed and water inside this and put newspaper down inside half the pen in case of accidents. A puppy pen ensures your pup is confined to a safe area whether it is to sleep or whilst you are out or busy. Once the puppy has grown and is house trained the pen can be taken away. (See Playpen, 'The Perfect Puppy' page 45).

CRATES: Most dogs like a crate, they feel safe and secure. You can also buy water bowls that hook on the side of the crate, place a piece of vet bed or a pad which fits the crate bottom so the dog has something warm and soft to sleep on. A crate needs to measure approximately 31"L x 21" W x 27"H (79x53x61cm). This crate will be large enough to allow an adult Wheaten to stand up and turn around. Dogs in the wild would live in a hole/cave, a crate gives them this feeling. It can also be used for your dog to travel safely in the car.

If you decide to show your dog this crate will be invaluable, it is referred to as 'bench size'.

PLASTIC OR SOFT BED: A plastic or soft bed with a piece of soft bedding to lie on and with access to fresh water.

GROOMING:



It might help if two people are on hand to start with, one to hold puppy and one to comb.

Grooming is one of the most important **DAILY** disciplines you and your Wheaten will ever learn. If you do not teach your puppy **from day one** to stand, and/or lay on its back whilst it is being groomed, you will have **BIG PROBLEMS** as the puppy grows. It is much easier to control a small puppy than an adult dog. It is important to groom the entire coat right down to skin level as this is where mats form especially when the hair grows longer. Don't expect your dog's coat to settle into maturity of colour and texture until about 2 to 2 1/2 years.

We have supplied you with a comb, later you might want to add a de-matting comb and scissors. There are two videos to teach you how to groom the Wheaten Terrier (see separate sheet).

Coat - at first the puppy won't seem as if he/she needs to be groomed, puppy certainly won't like it but you must persevere, using firmness and kindness the puppy will learn to enjoy the attention you give him/her during the daily grooming session. Speak quietly and reassuringly to the puppy, telling him/her 'what a beautiful boy/girl you are'. When he/she wriggles or protests, a firm 'No', then return to grooming. Use the word 'stand' this will encourage puppy to stand whilst you run the comb down his/her back, sides and legs. Also, encourage puppy to lay on his/her back and comb the tummy area. I can guarantee and promise you this will pay dividends later on when the puppy coat matures.

Eyes - need to be cleaned **every day** as there can be a build up of 'sleepy stuff' in the corner of each eye, if left this could cause sore eyes and possibly infection. The fan of hair under the eye will grow rapidly and dirt can sometimes collect in the corner, so if it needs to be encouraged to lie flat smear a **thin** application of Vaseline to the hair until it grows long enough to lie down under its own weight. Do not be tempted to cut this hair it will lay flat once it has grown enough.

Ears - need to be checked daily, are they nice and pink, do they smell clean? Pluck the hair out of the ears if it is growing too thick.

Feet - Wheatens tend to have tickly **feet**, get the puppy used to you handling his/her feet.

Bottom - check the pups bottom area is clean, Wheatens hate dirty bottoms, so if you see your puppy scooting around, or crying check its bottom! As hair grows very carefully trim excess hair away from around the anal region to keep this area clean and hygienic.

Teeth - get your pup used to having his/her **mouth** checked, get him/her used to having teeth cleaned, clean the back and side of teeth before the front of the mouth as this part is more sensitive. At the moment the mouth is sore due to teething, so, be gentle. Toothbrushes and toothpaste are available from pet shops or vets. As you look at the mouth say 'teeth'. At about 12-14 weeks old pups lose their first set of teeth and produce their adult set. **Remember your dog's adult teeth** which are in place at around 6 months have to last him/her a lifetime and therefore need care.

Nails - check your dog's nails regularly **and keep them trimmed**.

Encouragement - always end grooming on a positive note - try not to lose your patience and always end by cuddling and stroking the pup if it has been good. Treats can be used when the pup is **behaving** not when it is naughty and be careful not to give too many.

GENERAL TIPS:

Be aware if you use SHAKE & VAC or similar products as they may cause an allergic reaction on your puppy's skin.

All good training methods are in '**The New Wheaten Owner's Guide**', and '**The Perfect Puppy**' and ALL the fact sheets provided in your Puppy Pack, please **read and refer** to these.

The **daily routine** set out in 'The Perfect Puppy', page 50, is excellent to follow, remember the times are approximate and fit these around to suit **your** lifestyle.

Over the coming weeks and months **you** will require **infinite patience**.

Be kind, firm and consistent in your training. **DO NOT** forget to praise **GOOD** behaviour.

The main word in your vocabulary over many months will be '**NO!**'

Physical reprimand should **never** be used.

Never use a choke chain to train your Wheaten and don't let anyone try to persuade you to do so!

Think 'dog, pack, animal', **you** are the leader!

Good Luck!