

Breed presentation from Denmark

DENMARK IS A SMALL COUNTRY, also in the world of wheatens; only 40–45 wheaten puppies are registered each year. The first wheatens arrived from Ireland in 1978–79, followed by two dogs from England in 1979–80. In the following years, 1–2 dogs arrived each year, mostly from Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland and the US. Danish wheatens are being exported mainly to Germany, Canada, The Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, France, Italy, Spain and the US. In some periods of the year, there may be a shortage of puppies and in other periods an overproduction but in general there seems to be a good balance.

THERE IS NO BREED CLUB IN DENMARK. You have to be a member of the Danish Kennel Club (DKK) in order to obtain a kennel prefix. In addition, you need to be a member also of the Danish Terrier Club (DTK) if you wish to have some influence in breed-related matters. Presently, 51 of the DTK members are registered as wheaten owners. These members elect one (or two) breed representative(s). Due to the low number of registered wheaten owners, it is difficult to organize wheaten-related events. Still, there are some meetings and, e.g., grooming seminars.

DTK HAS A HEALTH COMMITTEE for all the terrier breeds, and work has recently started with developing breed-specific breeding strategies for each of the terrier breeds. In connection with this work, a health survey is being planned for wheatens. Breed-related information is disseminated through the monthly magazine Terrier Nyt and through the official website of the breed (www.irish-wheaten.dk).

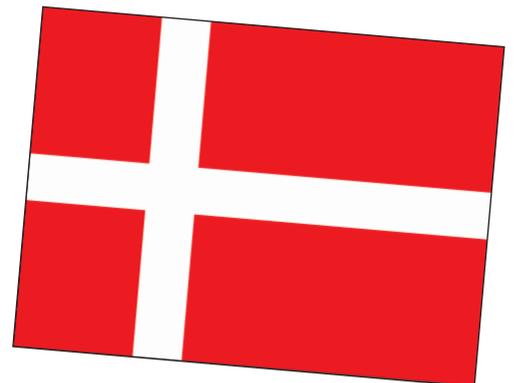
THERE ARE PRESENTLY 9 WHEATEN breeders with a kennel name, 7 of these are members in both DKK and DTK. In addition, a few litters are raised by owners that have not acquired a kennel name. The most successful breeders (in alphabetical order) during the last

decade have been Danterri, Gaelic-Wheatens and Hopla.

THERE ARE SOME ETHICAL DKK RULES for breeding, like females having a maximum of 5 litters, and no litters after 8 years of age. For stud dogs, the total number of produced puppies should not be higher than 25% of the average number of yearly registrations (based on the last 10 years). In a small breed like wheatens, this means approx. 11 puppies in total which is of course very low. The inbreeding coefficient can be calculated at the DKK website, and should stay below 6.25%.

STUD DOGS of any breed need to either have been entered at a show, or to have a certified testicle status. There are no requirements for wheatens to have been shown or to have hip x-rays. Efforts have been made to put together a stud register for wheatens but there has been little interest, possibly because of the low number of litters allowed for each stud dog anyway.

THE STUD FEE IS USUALLY EQUIVALENT to the price of a puppy, and this is, in its turn, 7000–10000 Danish crowns. Lists of litters with available puppies are kept by both DKK and DTK. The only requirement for entering a litter on those lists, is that the breeder is a member of the club.



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