

Breed presentation from Norway



REGISTRATIONS: Over the last 7-8 years, an average of about 175 Wheaten Terriers have been registered in Norway. The lowest was in 2006 with 129, while 2004 peaked at 217 registrations. Except in 2006, we have been on the list of the top 50 most popular breeds in Norway, with the top placing in 2004 with 34th place. Last year we were placed 49th with 177 registered dogs. Of these, 19 were imports, and the balance born in Norway. Nearly every puppy in Norway will be registered in The Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK).

IMPORT/EXPORT: 19 imports were registered in 2007, 18 from Sweden and the last one from Finland. Since 1998 a total of 130 Wheatens were imported and registered in NKK, the vast majority (125) from Sweden, and the rest from Ireland, England, the Netherlands and Finland. The number of imports may be higher as some imported dogs are not re-registered. It is hard to give exact numbers for exported dogs, but we know dogs have been sold to Sweden, Denmark, Austria, England and USA.

THE BREED CLUB IN NORWAY, The Irish Softcoated Wheaten Terrier Klubben (ISWTK), currently has about 400 members. The membership has been stable over the last years. The Club was founded in 1988 and celebrated its 20th anniversary last month with a weekend gathering for social interaction and a major official dog show. ISWTK is a group under the Norwegian Terrier Club (NTK), which in turn falls under the NKK. The Club has its own website www.wheatenklubben.com, and a quarterly magazine. The Club arranges trimming courses, trips and gatherings as well as an annual weekend event with a show each summer. District representatives will arrange additional activities for local wheaten dog owners.

HEALTH: The Club has a Health Committee to maintain good health for the breed. In 1998 the Committee carried out a major health survey in cooperation with the Norwegian Veterinary School. Some 500 Wheaten owners responded to questions about their dogs' mental and physical health. A full 93% concluded that their dogs had good or excellent health. 5% reported

medium health while only 3% found that their dog had poor health. Two problems that were reported during the survey was aggression - mainly towards other dogs, and skin and itching problems. The Health Committee invites each autumn to a breeder seminar, and has raised these problems at some seminars. We find that breeders have done well in fighting these problems and improvements are seen in both areas. A few other problems have also been reported, including a couple of incidents of PLE/PLN, some caused of urinary incontinence, and several cases of low to medium hip dysplasia (HD). The Health Committee is presently preparing a new survey, hoping again to cooperate with the Norwegian Veterinary School. This time the survey will probably be web-based, which hopefully will result in an ever higher response rate.

BREEDERS: A total of about 40 wheaten breeders are currently registered as members of the breed club. There are in addition a few breeders that are not members. Last year 26 breeders produced 31 litters. One can find a list of the breeders on the breed club's website.

BREEDING RESTRICTIONS: All dogs used for breeding must be in good mental and physical health. They shall not suffer from any known heritable diseases. They shall have appeared at official shows and been awarded at least one first prize. They must have been x-rayed free for hip dysplasia, and be over two years at first mating. Inbreeding should not exceed 5% when calculated over ten generations. NKK guidelines for bitches state that a bitch can have a maximum of five litters registered, and the last mating must take place before she reaches nine years. ISWTK is aiming at the lowest possible inbreeding, with an average inbreeding in 2007 of 2-3%.

PRICES: The mating fee in Norway is around NOK 1000 plus NOK 1000 per puppy. The price of a puppy is about NOK 12 000. Breeders who are members of the club and follow its recommendations can advertise their litter on the club's website. Many breeders find they do not need to advertise since the demand for puppies is great and many have waiting lists.

Statistics:

WHEATEN TERRIER - NORWAY:

Registered:		Hip x-ray	A+B	C	D	E	Exhibited	In breeding
1988-2006:	2755	825	737	60	25	3	1028	335
Percent		29,9	89,0	7,0	3,0	0,4	37,3	12,2

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