

Breed presentation from Russia

OVER 14 YEARS HAVE PASSED since the birth of the first Wheaten litter in Russia, and a total of about 120 litters have now been born, with an average of 6 pups/litter. Only in the last 4 years have we seen as much as about 20 litters/year. However, we are not sure that we have information about every Wheaten litter born.

WHEATEN TERRIERS are not a very popular breed. This has at least one positive aspect, namely the lack of a feverish demand for pups, and thoughtless breeding to meet this demand. Actually, the "dog market" in Russia in general is stagnant and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find buyers for puppies of all the breeds, especially for the males.

DURING THE WHOLE PERIOD of Wheaten breeding in Russia, only about 12 wheatens have been imported (from Finland, Sweden and Germany). The number of imported wheatens is probably somewhat larger but those 12 are dogs seen at dog shows and contributing to the breeding stock (or are expected to be used in breeding). Our export has been small, and restricted mainly to CIS countries (Ukraine, Byelorussia, Baltic countries) and Israel; however, the last years have seen an increased export activity: Russian Wheatens have been sold also to Italy, Greece, Finland, Sweden, Romania and even to North America.

WE HAVE A WHEATEN NATIONAL BREED CLUB which is open to everyone who submits an application for membership; no entrance or membership fee is charged. The WNBC activities are overseen by our National superior body, the Russian Kynological Federation (RKF) which receives and accumulates the breeding data (the litters are registered directly in the RKF). The National Breed Club can only arrange Specialties within the framework of All-Russian Shows and informal events (Derby, Wheaten walks, participation in the St. Patrick's Day marching arranged by the Irish House in Moscow). Besides, we put

effort into popularization of the breed using internet sites, one of them being an official website of the breed club proper and 2 unofficial sites of the Russian Wheaten community (with forums to discuss important issues or just for exchange of views and collective search for best solutions). We also have a "Pshenik" magazine and we issue breed calendars.

ACCORDING TO OUR DATA, there are approx. 20 wheaten breeders with a registered kennel name (or what we refer to as "breeder's prefix", the difference between the two being purely legal). Not all of them are club members. Some of the breeders do not have their own kennel name; they either join an existing kennel or sell their pups without a breeder's prefix.

OUR BREEDERS ARE EXPECTED TO follow the general regulations issued by the RKF: e.g., the age when a dog/bitch is allowed for breeding (15 months); a maximum of 6 litters for a female, but no restrictions imposed on the number of litters to be produced from a stud dog; the quality class 'very good' as a minimum; organization of paperwork, etc., and possible exceptions. Any breed club is allowed to issue recommendations with regard to special features of the breed but these recommendations are never binding for the breeders.

AVERAGE STUD DOG FEE IS 400 EUROS, and the average puppy price is 500 euros. Litters are usually advertised by the breeder on any dog-oriented website provided with an advertisement board.



NATALIA SIDORCHUK