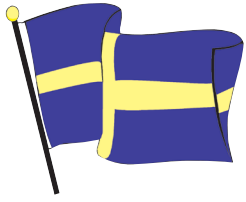


Breed presentation from Sweden



IN 2007, we had 571 new registrations; 6 of these were imports and the rest were puppies born in Sweden. In the last ten years, numbers have ranged from 550 to 787. We believe that almost all wheaten puppies born in Sweden are registered in the Swedish kennel club. Wheatens terriers were ranked as the 29th most popular breed in 2007. It is, however, becoming increasingly difficult to find buyers for all puppies, especially for the males.

IN THE LAST 5 YEARS, a total of 59 wheatens, imported from 11 different countries, became registered in the Swedish kennel club. 32 of these came from Ireland, 6 from the Netherlands, and 4 from Finland. Number of exported wheatens is probably much larger; dogs for breeding are sold to most of the European countries and to North America, and occasionally to other parts of the world. Pet dogs are sold especially to our neighbouring countries; Denmark and Norway.

WE HAVE A BREED CLUB, SWTK, which is open to everyone who pays the membership fee. Currently the breed club has approx. 1700 members. The breed club has activities for both breeders and pet owners, like grooming seminars, obedience courses, show handling etc. The club also arranges 1–2 breeders' seminars each year, and 5–7 dog shows. There is a newsletter (4 issues per year), a yearbook with information about winners (agility, conformation, obedience etc) and some breeding statistics, and a much visited and appreciated website: www.swtk.se

ACCORDING TO THE SWEDISH KENNEL CLUB, there are approx. 140 wheaten breeders with a registered kennel name. Only a handful of these are not club members. Each year around 75–80 breeders together produce 90–100 litters. 10–15 of these breeders have not yet a kennel name (a kennel name is required when registering your third litter).

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR BREEDING are issued by the kennel club (e.g. a maximum of 5 litters for a female). In addition, the breed club regulations require the dogs to be at least two years old when bred, to have been shown at least once (with quality class '2' as a minimum) and cannot have an RD (renal dysplasia) producer as parent or sibling. Hip scores are recommended, as well as a mentality testing. Dogs with a PLE/PLN diagnosed parent should not be used for breeding. After 5 litters, stud dogs must have their get evaluated before siring more litters. Average inbreeding coefficient (over 5 generations) was 1.4 in 2007. Coefficients are published for each litter in the year book. The kennel club recommends breeders to stay below 6%.

AVERAGE STUD DOG fee is 1000–1200 SwCr for the breeding itself, and for each puppy in the resulting litter. Potential stud dogs are showcased on the breed club website. Average puppy price is 10,000 SwCr. Litters can be entered on the breed club website provided that the parents fulfill all breeding requirements. More than half of all litters in the breed appear on this list.

A HEALTH SURVEY WAS RECENTLY CONDUCTED by the dog insurance company Agria. Major, possibly heritable causes for death were in descending order: 'renal disease', 'change in behaviour', 'progressive nephropathy' (RD), 'temperamental faults', 'lymphoma/sarcoma', 'disk hernia' and 'epilepsy' (wheatens were below the all-breed average for the last three diagnoses). Data for hip and elbow x-raying and for eye testing are available on the Swedish kennel club web site, and also published in the year books. All litters with a diagnosed RD-case are published in the year books, as also dogs diagnosed with PLE/PLN.

