

wheaten TERRIER

BREED COMPENDIUM FOR THE SWEDISH WHEATEN TERRIER CLUB • MAY2B/2008



Breed standard with comments

Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

BREED COMPENDIUM



IRISH SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER

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Country of origin: Ireland FCI 40 group 3

Original standard : 27.01.2001.

FCI-standard no 40 : 2001-04-25; GB

SKK:s standard committee: 2001-12-06

SWTK:s comments on the breed standard: 2008-05-26

Breed standard with comments

Introduction

- This compendium is written at the request of the Swedish Wheaten Terrier Club for the Judges' Conference in 2008. The compendium is partly based upon earlier compendia but in many respects it's a new edition with a new layout.
- A first draft was presented at the breeders meeting in Jönköping on September 23, 2007 with Hans Forsell as discussion leader. The text and illustrations have been adjusted in accordance with the comments made during this meeting.
- All dogs, with one exception, presented in the compendium are typical Irish Soft Coated Wheaten terriers. The exception is the dog with the incorrect coat type presented on page 15. The photos included are taken by dog owners and sent to SWTK to be used in the document. Photos marked with the photographers name are taken by professional photographers. The drawings are made by Maud Montgomery Bjurhult.
- It is our hope that this compendium will be a guide to judges as well as breeders of the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.

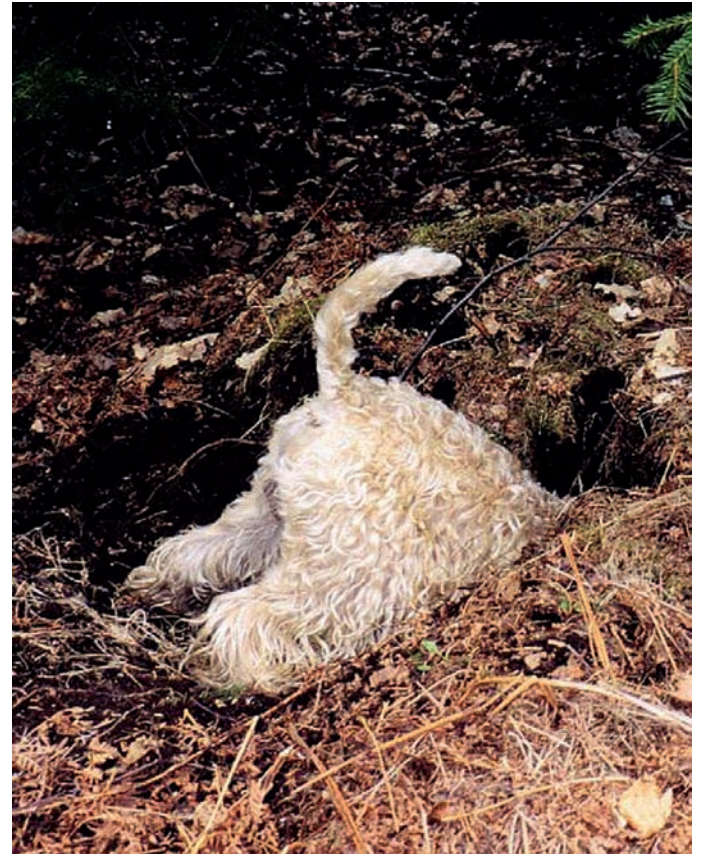
Text and selection of pictures: Kickie Norrby and Ingrid Olsen

Layout: Ingrid Olsen

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The history of the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier has been somewhat obscured by its closeness to the other Irish terrier breeds. The Wheaten is probably the oldest of the four breeds. Its existence for at least 200 years can be inferred from textual references to "soft-coated" dogs. The relation of the modern Irish terrier to the Wheaten, though less well documented, appears to have been the result of deliberate breeding experiments. So the humble Wheaten probably has a fairly mixed ancestry.

Despite the long history of the Wheaten, it wasn't until 1937, that the Soft Coated Wheaten was officially recognised by the Irish Kennel Club. The breed has grown steadily in popularity since and is now well known world-wide.



COMMENTS

The Irish Soft Coated Wheaten terrier is often called Wheaten or Wheaten terrier as a shortening.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A hardy, active, short coupled dog, well built, giving the idea of strength. Not too leggy nor too low to the ground.

COMMENTS

The general appearance should be of a happy and active dog. The key word for a typical Wheaten terrier is “natural” and “without exaggeration” in construction and temperament.

A well built Wheaten should give a square impression though being a bit longer than the height.

The body is covered by an abundant shiny and silky, wavy and loose curly wheaten coloured coat that flows when the dog moves. The characteristic coat differentiates the wheaten from all other terriers.



BEHAVIOUR / TEMPERAMENT

Spirited and game. Good tempered. Most affectionate and loyal to his owners. Most intelligent. A trusty, faithful friend, defensive without aggression.

COMMENTS

The Wheaten terrier should be positive and responsive to people. A Wheaten is interested in its surrounding, friendly, steady and trustworthy.

All kinds of aggressiveness or fear of people is untypical of a Wheaten terrier.



HEAD

In general powerful without being coarse. Long, in good proportion to the body. Hair same colour as on body.

Skull : Flat and clean between ears, not too wide.

Stop : Defined.

Nose : Black and well developed.

Muzzle : Foreface not longer than skull.



COMMENTS

The stop should be neither flat nor deep. A Wheaten should have a more powerful head than a Kerry Blue, but not like an Airedale terrier, that has got a longer muzzle and a less pronounced stop. It is important that the head is flat between the ears to give the right expression. The muzzle should be well filled with a substantial and well defined lower jaw. The skull and the foreface should have the same length and be parallel seen from the side. The lips and the eye rims preferably black. The large black nose is one of the breeds characteristics and the colour shall be black.

A powerful masculine head

HEAD

Teeth : Teeth large, regular; scissor or level bite (i.e. edge to edge) neither undershot nor overshot.

Cheeks : Bones not prominent.

Eyes : Dark, dark hazel, not too large, not prominent, well placed.

Ears : Small to medium, carried in front, level with skull. Dark shading on base of ear allowed and not uncommon, accompanied by a light wheaten coloured overlay. This is the only area of the dog where under-coat is allowed. "Rose" or "flying" ears are objectionable.

COMMENTS

The eyes should be placed in an equilateral triangle drawn between the outer corners of the eyes and the nose.

Note: Yellow eyes are an eliminating fault.

The ear should have the shape of a V. The ear should be set at level of the skull. Important to point out is that the tip of the ear should point forward and not sideways. High set ears or ears hanging down the cheek are not desirable and take away the correct expression of a Wheaten terrier.

One can sometimes see an adult Wheaten terrier with such a narrow lower jaw that the lower canine teeth are pressed up into the palate. Please note that this has a negative effect on the function of the dog and is not desirable.

All dogs are expected to show a complete set of teeth.



A young male dog, head with excellent details, the coat has not yet matured

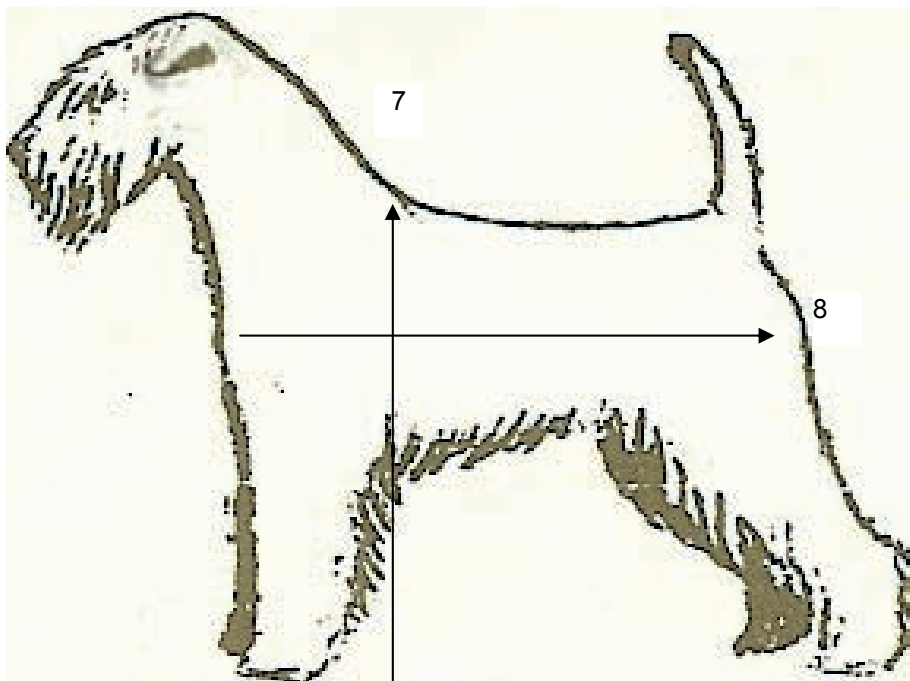
NECK AND BODY

NECK: Moderately long and strong but not throaty.

BODY : Not too long. Length from withers to base of tail approximately the same as from ground to withers.

Back : Strong and level with even top line.

Loins: Short, powerful.



COMMENTS

The neck should be long enough to show strength and muscularity but is not be “swan-like”. On the other hand it must not be so short that the impression is that the head rests upon the shoulders. The crest or arch of the neck should, from the neck down to the shoulder, show a smooth transition into the level back which gives the dog a balanced top line.

A Wheaten should have a square appearance but if one measures from the front (point of shoulder) to the rump (point of the pelvis) and from the withers to the ground the relation should be 8 to 7.

CHEST

Chest : Deep, ribs well sprung.



COMMENTS

The depth of chest should reach down to the elbows.

Watch out for a "barrel-formed" chest or a too narrow chest.

TAIL

TAIL : Well set, not too thick. Carried gaily but never over the back. The tail is docked so that two thirds of its original length remains assuming it is in proportion to the dog. An undocked tail is permitted.

DOCKING OF TAIL IS NOT ALLOWED IN SWEDEN



COMMENTS

The Wheaten terrier normally carries its tail straight up or in a slight arch with the tip pointing towards the neck. When the dog gets excited the tip can reach the back.

The base of the tail should be at 90 degrees to the topline when the tail is carried erect.

The rump (point of the pelvis) should be clearly pronounced behind the tail line.

Be aware of tails that curl or lie flat on the back.

A male dog of excellent type with a correct placed and carried tail

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders : Fine, well laid back, muscular.

Forelegs : Perfectly straight viewed from any angle. Good bone and muscle.

FEET : Small, not spreading. Toenails preferably black but varying dark colours allowed.



COMMENTS

The Wheaten terrier should give the impression of standing on its toes. Note that the feet should be well closed to give support when moving. The pads should be thick and black.

Look out for weak pasterns of the feet with long and flat paws. Note that a profuse coat on the legs can mislead the impression and hide the fault.

Be aware of protruding shoulders, open angle of the shoulders and a straight and/or short upper arm.

*A correct angled shoulder/upper arm
(picture from an old archive)*

HINDQUARTERS

HINDQUARTERS : Well developed with powerful muscle.

Thighs : Strong and muscular.

Stifles : Bent.

Hocks : Well let down, turned neither in nor out. Hind dewclaws should be removed.



COMMENTS

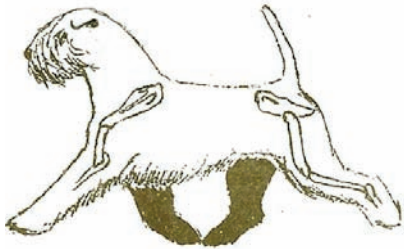
The loin and the croup should be short, wide and well muscled, which makes the back steady in movement. The angle of the croup towards the backline, shall not be more than 30 degrees.

It is very important that the hind leg muscles are well developed and the hindquarters are not over angulated.

Pay special attention that the front and rear angulations are in balance.

GAIT / MOVEMENT

GAIT / MOVEMENT : Straight action fore and aft, going and coming. Elbows tucked in.
Side view : free, light co-ordinated movement..



COMMENTS

The dog must be able to cover a maximum amount of ground with a minimum of effort i.e. take long flowing strides. The dog should move easily with good reach and without exaggeration; compare with the efficient movement of a trotting horse.

Efficient movement of the hind legs should not be mixed up with high stepping. In the show ring the dog shows itself with confidence and with the tail carried proudly erect. The top line should be in straight line with no rolling or weaving.

Hind legs with knees turning out and/or hocks turning in can be found in the breed. This causes short, stilted steps and is nothing we want to see in the breed.

Be aware of badly constructed stifle joints and unstable hind movements.

Correct movements

COAT

HAIR : A single coated dog. Texture soft and silky to feel and not harsh. Young dogs excluded from this. Trimming permitted.



COMMENTS

The correct coat of an adult dog is of single type, i.e. it lacks a woolly undercoat. It is abundant with a shiny sheen and falls in waves or loose curls.

The structure resembles human hair and the coat feels cool when touched. There must be no trace of wool or coarseness in the coat nor should it be frizzy or cotton like.

The coat has normally not reached its mature stage regarding abundance, colour or structure until the dog is about 2 -3 years of age.

COAT

HAIR : A single coated dog. Texture soft and silky to feel and not harsh. Young dogs excluded from this. Trimming permitted.



COMMENTS

A coat that is soft but not silky is not a correct coat, as well as a coat without shine or a coat that lacks the characteristic waves or curls. The coat must show clear waves or curls. One can find coats with relatively small curls (in contradiction to large loose ones). This can be accepted if the coat is shiny and has a lustre but not if it appears to be dry and lacks shine. Watch out for the frizzy coat which is a serious fault.

Many Wheatens of today have a so-called double coat where the correct coat is blended with a woolly coat. This coat has got a certain shine and waviness especially when the coat is moisturized. This coat is not correct.

A woolly coat structure of an adult dog will never turn into a correct coat.

A correctly built grown up dog with an incorrect coat.

COAT; trimmed dogs

Trimmed dogs : Coat cut close at neck, chest and skull, and left especially long over eyes and under jaw. Whiskers encouraged. Profuse feathering on legs. Body coat trimmed to follow the outline of the dog but not sculpted. Tail trimmed close and neatly tapered.



COMMENTS

The key words "natural" and "without exaggerations" are also valid for trimmed Wheaten terriers. This means that the dog should not really look trimmed.

The dogs in the show ring should be presented with the typical terrier character with a coat that must be long enough to give the feeling of a flowing coat.

An excellent type with beautiful correct coat and presentation

COAT; untrimmed dogs

Untrimmed dogs : The coat at its longest not to exceed five inches (12,7 cm). Soft, wavy or loosely curled with the sheen of silk. Under no circumstances should the coat be "fluffed out" like a Poodle or an Old English Sheepdog. Dogs shown in this condition should be heavily penalised as they give a wrong impression of type and breed.



COMMENTS

The coat should never give the impression of having been cut with a clipper anywhere on the body. The coat must be blended between the shorter and longer sections so that there are no visible differences. A Wheaten must not be as tightly cut as i.e. a Kerry Blue terrier.

The fall of the forelock must not be cut square as this gives the dog the wrong expression. The expression of a Wheaten terrier should be bright and alert but never look sharp.

The key words are also in this respect "natural" and "without exaggerations".

Excellent type beautiful correct coat

COAT; puppies and young dogs

Special attention is drawn to puppy coat development. Pups are seldom born with the correct coat of maturity, care must be taken when assessing this point. They go through several changes of colour and texture before developing the mature adult coat. This usually occurs between 18 months and 2½ years.



COMMENTS

The puppy and the young dog can show big differences in coat regarding quality and amount, from a coarse, straggling and relatively sparse coat to a soft, woolly and abundant coat.

The coarse coat grows very slowly until the dog is 12-18 months and during this time the dog will almost look like an Irish terrier! This is normal and indicates that a correct coat is on its way.

A soft puppy coat often turns very abundant on a young dog but will hardly ever turn into the correct, shiny and silky structure.

It can be very difficult to assess if a puppy or a youngster will get the correct silky coat as an adult dog. The shiny silky coat normally appears at first on the head and the legs and can be noticed when the dog is at the end of its youngster period.

Typical youngster and junior

Coat; colour

COLOUR : A good clear wheaten of shades from light wheaten to a golden reddish hue.



COMMENTS

The correct colour can be described as all shades from pale honey to warm gold. The colour of the coat is never stable but varies in shade during the whole life of the dog. One can often see a deeper shade close to the skin. On closer inspection one can find white, red or black single hairs in the coat but the overall impression should be a wheaten colour. No other colours are allowed with the exception of a darker shade of wheaten on the ears and the beard. The adult dog should never have a grey, white or red coat. A dark red-brown patch in the coat indicates however that the dog has injured the skin. This patch will disappear with time.

Please note that patches with grey or black coat anywhere on the body on an adult dog is not acceptable.

*Dogs with a rather pale but still typical colour of the coat in an “everyday condition”.
Example of variations in coat colour, see photo gallery*

Coat; colour /puppies

Pups: Are seldom born with the correct colour or texture coat. They come reddish, greyish and sometimes clear wheaten. The masks are generally black. Sometimes there is a black streak down the centre back or black tips to the body coat. These dark markings clear away with growth.



Please note!



COMMENTS

The coat is the hallmark of the breed and should never be overlooked.

A well built dog with good movements but lacking the coat that is typical for the breed is not a correct Irish Softcoated Wheaten terrier.

A winning Wheaten should have a sound typical construction according to the breed and a correct typical Wheaten coat.

Even the name of the breed underlines the importance of the coat.

Please note that dull, thick, woolly or cottony textured hair and white or brown coat are eliminating faults.

Beautiful bitch with a gorgeous expression and shine in the coat (photo from old archive)

Size and height

Height at the withers : Dogs 18-19 inches (46-48 cm). Bitches somewhat less.

Weight : Dogs 40-45 lbs (18- 20, 5 kg). Bitches somewhat less.



COMMENTS

There is a tendency towards tallness, mainly within the male dogs.

Be aware of the size!

Faults and eliminating faults

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

Nervousness. Viciousness.

Nose any colour other than black.

Undershot mouth. Overshot mouth.

Overall mature coat not clear wheaten colour.

ELIMINATING FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy.
- Yellow eyes.
- Dull, thick, woolly or cottony textured hair.
- White coat. Brown coat.
- Dogs carrying any of the above eliminating faults should never be bred from.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioral abnormalities shall be disqualified.

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

Typical head and expression, young dogs



A group of typical young Wheaten of different ages!



Typical head and expression, male dogs



Typical head and expression, bitches



Typical male dogs



Typical male dogs



Typical bitches



Typical bitches

(The photo down to the right shows a young bitch with an immature coat)



A study of Wheaten in various actions





Swedish Wheaten Terrier Club

www.swtk.se

Subdivisions

Region Nord

www.nord.swtk.se

Region Syd

www.syd.swtk.se

Region Öst

www.ost.swtk.se

Region Väst

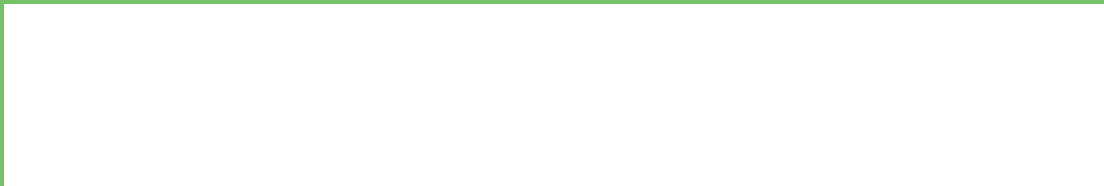
www.vast.swtk.se

Region Nordväst

www.nordvast.swtk.se

Region Stockholm

www.stockholm.swtk.se



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