



The Poodle Papers

Official Publication of "The Poodle Club of America"
Fall 2003



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many of us will be enjoying the Texas Brand of hospitality at the Poodle Club of America's Regional-Hosted by the Bluebonnet Club. Kudos to all involved in the planning and running of the Major Poodle Weekend--300 poodles at a Regional--what a wonderful entry.

Hope I will have seen you there-

Anne Rogers Clark

Coming Specialties

P.C.A. AFFILIATE CLUB SHOWS

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* NOTE THIS LISTING COMES FROM DIANN ELLIS

2003

OCTOBER 7, 2003 POODLE CLUB OF AMERICA REGIONAL

BREED: TOY: MICHELLE BILLINGS
MINIATURE: DANA PLONKEY
STANDARD: DANIEL AUGUSTUS
INTERVARIETY: HELEN SOKOPP
OBEDIENCE: LAURACUNNINGHAM
AGILITY: RENE FITCH
WC/WCX: JAMES & LEW DAVIS

OCTOBER 8, 2003 BLUEBONNET POODLE CLUB

BREED:: TOY: DANA PLONKEY
MINIATURE: HELEN SOKOPP
STANDARD: MICHELLE BILLINGS
INTERVARIETY: DANIEL

AUGUSTUS

OBEDIENCE: DON YOUNG
WC/WCX: DOUG NELSON & VICKY

CHRISTENSON

AGILITY: RENE FITCH
SWEEPSTAKES: KAY O'BRYANT

OCTOBER 9, 2003 BLUEBONNET POODLE CLUB

BREED:TOY: DANIEL AUGUSTUS
MINIATURES: MICHELLE BILLINGS
STANDARD: HELEN SOKOPP
INTERVARIETY: DANA PLONKEY
OBEDIENCE: JOE HARPER
VETERAN SWEEPSTAKES: SANDY

MALICOTE

OCTOBER 9, 2003 GREENSPRING POODLE CLUB

BREED:MRS. JOAN P. SCOTT
OBEDIENCE: MR. GEORGE H. DAVIS

OCTOBER 10, 2003, WASHINGTON POODLE CLUB

BREED:: MRS. ELLEN MACNEILLE

CHARLES

OBEDIENCE: MR. MERRILL COHEN

OCTOBER 17, 2003 VALLEY OF THE SUN POODLE CLUB, INC.

BREED: MRS. NORMA J. STRAIT

OCTOBER 17, 2003, MISSION TRAIL POODLE CLUB, INC.

BREED:: MRS. NANCY HAFNER
OBEDIENCE: MR. C.Z. PAT ALVAREZ

OCTOBER 18 2003 THE POODLE CLUB OF OKLAHOMA CITY, INC.

BREED:: DANA PLONKEY

OCTOBER 18, 2003:POODLE CLUB OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

BREED: JACK MACGILLIVRAY
OBEDIENCE: KENNETH BLANCHARD

OCTOBER 29, 2003 TIDELANDS POODLE CLUB OF VIRGINIA, INC.

BREED: MRS. DOROTHY F. MARTIN
OCTOBER 30, 2003,POODLE CLUB OF TULSA, INC.

BREED CHARLES TROTTER

OBEDIENCE: GAIL BROWN

SWEEPSTAKES: KAY O'BRYANT

NOVEMBER 13, 2003,CENTRAL CAROLINA PC

BREED: MRS. ANNA WANNER

OBEDIENCE: MRS. CAROL ANN KLEIN

SWEEPSTAKES: MR. P.J. MINTON

NOVEMBER 16 THE POODLE CLUB OF HAWAII

BREED: HELEN TOMB-TAYLOR

OBEDIENCE: WINSTON KUPAU

NOVEMBER 20 THE POODLE CLUB OF ALABAMA, INC.

BREED:: HELEN TOMB-TAYLOR

SWEEPSTAKES: MALCOLM E. MOORE

NOV 28,;P C OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

BREED: ANDY ROSETTO

OBEDIENCE: SHARON REDMER

NOV 29, , KEY TO THE SEA POODLE

JUDGES: N/A

DEC 5, ,HUB POODLE CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY

JUDGES: N/A

DECEMBER 5 POODLE CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS

BREED: INGEBORG SEMENSCHIN

DECEMBER 11 ORLANDO POODLE CLUB, INC.

BREED:DANNY J. MOORE - CONFORMATION

OBEDIENCE-DIANE SCHULTZ

SWEEPSTAKES-ELAINE J. LESSIG

DEC 12, THE POODLE CLUB OF LEHIGH VALLEY,

BREED: MR. FRANK SABELLA

DEC 13 THE POODLE CLUB OF LEHIGH VALLEY, .

OBEDIENCE: MRS. JOAN HORKY

2004

JAN 2 SAN BERNARDINO RIVERSIDE PC

BREED:: DANA PLONKEY

JAN. 2:TWIN CITIES POODLE CLUB, INC.

BREED: MRS. LESLEY-ANNE HOWARD

JAN 15COLUMBIA POODLE CLUB

BREED:PATTI STRAND - CONFORMATION

OBEDIENCE CAROL CALLAHAN

JAN 16 COLUMBIA POODLE CLUB

BREED: MYCKI FULDA

JAN. 31 HEART OF AMERICA POODLE CLUB

BREED: MRS. BILLIE KNEALE

SWEEPSTAKES: CARL GOMES

FEB. 6 POODLE CLUB OF CENTRAL INDIANA,

BREED: MRS. HELEN TOMB-TAYLOR

OBEDIENCE: MRS. CATHERINE M. THOMPSON

MARCH 12BLUEBONNET POODLE CLUB

BREED:MRS. INGEBORG E. SEMENSCHIN

OBEDIENCE-MS. BONNIE BAKER -

MARCH 26KEY TO THE SEA POODLE CLUB, INC.

JUDGES: N/A

MARCH 27 KEY TO THE SEA POODLE CLUB, INC.

JUDGES: N/A

* NOTE THIS LISTING COMES FROM DIANN ELLIS

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RESCUE REFERRAL: Holly Corbett, 612-722-8736

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RESCUE REFERRAL: Kathy Norris, 317-257-8112

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PRESIDENT: Antoinette Woods, 17817 LaSalle Ave., Gardena, CA 90276 310-323-0811
SECRETARY: Dorothy Cangson, 10821 Vickers Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92840 714-530-1826
BREEDER REFERRAL: Dorothy Cangson, 714-530-1826

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PRESIDENT: Marlene Farkas, 2122 Birchard, Toledo, OH 43605 419-693-1228
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BREEDER REFERRAL: Joyce Wilson, 419-866-5622
RESCUE REFERRAL: Marlene Farkas, 419-693-1228

Spirit of Saint Louis Poodle Club Officers

Dear Helen,

I hope all is well with you and that you've recovered from your trip to PCA. It always seems like there's so much to do there and so little time in which to do it.

I'll follow up with a hard copy via snail mail but we thought you should have the current list of officers of the SSLPC as soon as possible. Effective immediately they are:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| President | greenwyn@earthlink.net |
| Lisa Brazil-Lindsay | Treasurer |
| 7137 Stanford | Evelyn B. Pellegrin |
| St. Louis, MO 63130 | 17460 Bridle Trails West |
| 314-862-9028 | Wildwood, MO 63038 |
| brazillindsay@yahoo.com | 636-458-2069 |
| Vice-President | Breeder Referral |
| Janet Lange | Connie Green |
| 2446 HWY Z | 314-991-1825 |
| Wentzville, MO 63385 | greenwyn@earthlink.net |
| 636-332-8075 | |
| reignon@aol.com | |
| Secretary | |
| Connie Green | |
| 33 Ladue Terrace | |
| St. Louis, MO 63124 | |
| 314-991-1825 | |

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Connie Green

Show Chairman's Report
September, 2003

Many lucky Poodle owners, breeders, handlers and fanciers are preparing for the important rendezvous in Texas for PCA Regional, 2003. This event has been meticulously planned, and I hate the thought of missing it which I must. Good luck to all in Texas and have a wonderful time.

PCA, 2004 dates are:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| WC/WCX | Saturday, June 5, 2004 |
| Agility | Monday, June 7, 2004 |
| Obedience | Tuesday, June 8, 2004 |
| Breed | Wednesday – Friday, June 9-11, 2004 |

The Board is considering moving WC/WCX to Sunday, June 6, 2004. We'll update this right after the Board meeting in Texas in October.

Judges for Breed are:

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Toys | Dr. Richard Martinez |
| Miniatures | Mr. Luc Boileau |
| Standards | Mr. William Cunningham |
| InterVariety | Mrs. Janice Pardue |

Junior Showmanship and Veterans Sweepstakes judges have not been decided.

Judges for Obedience are:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Open A, Novice B | Mrs. Phyllis Broderick |
| Utility A, Utility B | Mr. George Davis |
| Novice B | Mrs. Nancy Withers |
| Open B | Mr. James Ashton |

Agility Judge: Mr. Greg Beck

As far as I know, headquarters hotel will again be the Radisson in Annapolis – telephone 410-224-3150.

Enjoy your Poodles!

Glenna Carlson
National Show Chairman
The Poodle Club of America, Inc.

Report from Michael Wahlig

Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia and Early Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation; Mucopolysaccharidosis in Dogs; Probiotics to Boost Immune Systems - these are a few of the presentations at the recent 2003 National Parent Club Canine Conference sponsored by The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation and Nestle Purina.

Although the titles sound daunting, the real value of this conference is that the presenters are chosen for their ability to translate these complex issues into easy to understand and fun presentations.

The most exciting focus of the program was the current effort to sequence the dog genome. While the human genome took 10 years to complete and the mouse genome took 2 years, the lessons learned from those efforts will allow the dog genome to be completed by June 2004, approximately 1 year from beginning to completion.

The selection of the dog species as the third species to be sequenced is truly exciting and opens tremendous opportunities to make great advances in genetic research for dog diseases. The sequencing project is a collaboration of a number of private and public organizations around the world.

Interestingly, the first release of the initial sequencing work was based on the Standard Poodle. After this initial work was done it was decided that the quickest and best way to proceed was to use the most inbred dog they could find. Eventually they settled on a female Boxer who became the subject of all subsequent work.

In order to explore the genetic variance in dog breeds, the scientists sought additional money to do further work on the 10 breeds (the entire project will cost approximately \$40 million and the additional 10 breeds will cost about \$1 million - thanks to the National Institute of Health for the funding). Because the initial work was done on a Standard Poodle, it was decided that the Standard should automatically be one of the ten.

This should be a real benefit for future research focused on Poodles. The decision to choose the dog species as the third species to be sequenced was made after heavy competition among scientists promoting various species. The decision was based on the fact that much work on

dogs can inform future work on human beings. The similarity in the genetics between dog and man as well as the preliminary work that had been done on the dog genome led to the selection of the dog as the third species to be sequenced.

It is clear that amazing progress is being made at lightning fast speed. While genetic research is never easy, the completion of the genome will present exciting opportunities that PCA, PCAF and everyone else interested in Poodle health needs to prepare for beginning now. In order to be ready for what is clearly coming, PCAF will soon release a health survey that will be used to order the future research it will promote.

In addition to the heavy scientific presentations and the exciting news on the dog genome the conference also focused on issues such as conducting proper health surveys and the efforts of AKCCHF and The Orthopedic Foundation For Animals to support the development of databases and to recognize breeders and owners who participate in the databases whether or not the results are positive or negative.

The program to recognize such breeders and owners is called the CHIC program. A certificate is issued to breeders and owners whose participation in registries meets certain predetermined criteria. PCA is in the final stages of the effort necessary to participate in CHIC and will announce the details of the program shortly.

A major announcement at the conference was the proposed collaboration between AKCCHF, OFA and the University of Missouri to establish a DNA bank that will receive, prepare and store genetic material from all breeds for future research efforts. The formal announcement of the collaboration will be made in the near future.

This event is always an opportunity for sharing and collaboration between parent clubs and the top research scientists in the nation. The presentations are important, but not nearly as important as the opportunity to visit informally. It brings real benefits not only for the breed representatives, but clearly gives the scientists new perspectives on the work they are undertaking.

Please visit the AKCCHF web site to learn more about the details of the conference.

Michael Wahlig

Sent in by Ann Kennedy

Dear Dogs,

When I say to move, it means go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two dogs in the way.

The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw print in the middle of my plate and food does not stake a claim for it becoming your food and dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by Nascar and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help, because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. Look at videos of dogs sleeping, they can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but doggy sarcasm.

My compact discs are not miniature Frisbees.

For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bath-

room. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, try to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. In addition, I have been using bathrooms for years, canine attendance is not mandatory.

The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dogs butt. I cannot stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you.

Rules for non pet owners who visit and like to complain about our pets.

1. The dog lives here. You don't.
2. If you don't want dog hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture.
3. I like my dog a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, she's a dog. To me, she's an adopted daughter who is hairy, walks on all fours and doesn't speak clearly.
5. Dogs are better than kids. They eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive your car, don't hang out with drug-using friends, don't smoke or drink, don't worry about buying the latest fashions, don't wear your clothes, and don't need a gazillion dollars for college.

“Unknown”

PCA Foundation

Why not start the Fall out right with a donation to the PCA Foundation. You can contribute to this worthy cause by simply filling out the form below. The Foundation acknowledges all contributions.

I wish to contribute \$ _____ to the Poodle Club of America Foundation, Inc., in the name of _____. This contribution is made in memory/ honor of _____

I wish this contribution to be used for _____
(Please specify a specific area, i.e. PRA, Hips, SA, vWD, or to the General Fund)

Mail your check to : (note Donations are Tax Deductible)
The Poodle Club of America Foundation, inc.
2945 James town Rd., Long Lake, Mn. 55356



Delegate's Report

Although many of us feel that voting to change AKC By Laws should only be voted at the Annual Meeting in March, the Delegates were forced to vote on a change in the date of the annual December meeting in the June 2003 meeting. They defeated the change and so now the AKC Board has asked for another vote on a similar change in Dec 2003. The vote will certainly not be representative of the true Delegate body as so many Delegates are unable to attend this meeting since this meeting has been scheduled for the Thanksgiving Weekend. Rumor has it that, all of this is about a particular personal feud rather than the reasons that we are being given for the prospective change in dates. This will surely continue to leave open changes in dates that will be a real hardship for many when meetings may be called on reasonably short notice at the whim of the AKC Board so that the Delegate votes can be badly slanted. *For details on the change, see your AKC Gazette.*

•Mark your calendars for 2004. The AKC Parent Club Committee Conference is scheduled to be held in Ohio on Oct. 22,23 and 24, 2004

•Spoke to Bill Speck (Field Events) about admitting the poodle into the Retriever tests. A loud NO. The poodle people have not proved that it really has a great interest in the sport, despite all the furious letter writing by some vocal people. Our entries in the field events are minimal and we have only one Master dog. So, for the time being, we have to be content with what we have.

Barbara

The Membership Roster

is at the printer and should be in the mail following the Regional. Added to the Roster is a section of forms, this include a:

1. PCA Foundation donation form
2. Poodle in America Order Blank
3. PCA Foundation Seminar Video Order Form
4. Affiliate Club Instructions Show and Medallion Application.

HTT

The Purina Program in 2002 donated \$600.00+ to our Genetic Anomalies foundation and a matching amount went to AKC's Canine Health Foundation. So if you do use Purina, Please participate

Regional Update!

We have 307 entries for the Regional. We are going to have a country western band with Texas Cloggers. I would like to thank everyone for their entries. They are the ones who really make this thing work. The trophy donations and catalogue ads were phenomenal. Thanks to the PCA board and all the former Regional Host for there help and support. Glenna thank you. A special thanks to you who have volunteered your help when you get here. I can't wait, I feel like we are going to have a great time. I want to thank the handlers also , they have supported me the past couple of years. Thanks for your words of encouragement and your support.

Richard

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Spotlite on a P.C.A. Member

This Edition of the Poodle Papers shines it's spotlight on Doris Grant

Doris was born in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, where she grew up .

As a child Doris was busy with Brownies, Girl Scouts and all the usual things that young girls do. She had always wanted a dog, spending alot of her time at neighbors homes that had dogs.

Doris is married happily for 42 years. She has 2 children, Chris and Joanne. Doris is also the Grandmother of two Grand kids.

Doris is semi retired after teaching cooking courses for a local School Board. Doris has also operated a Boarding and Grooming Business for a number of years.

She spends Summers in a small rural community about 20 minutes south of Ottawa, the capital of Canada., Here is Florida, Doris's husband, a retired High School Administrator; breeds and shows Sheep. Here Doris and her husband live on a 40 acre farm in which they run this operation.

Doris bought her first Poodle in 1962, then bought another one a year later. In retrospect , Doris felt neither was a good specimens of the breed , thus were not bred, They were her beloved pets for 14 and almost 17 years.

Doris early days of showing started out with showing in Obedience with her first two dogs and put a CDX on one and a CD on the other. It was not until after Doris's children went to school full time that she began seriously showing and breeding dogs.

She breeds primarily Standards, in fact she has bred over 50 Champion, and have finished dogs in Canada, USA and Bermuda. Doris has also finished 15 white or cream Miniatures in Canada and USA. Under the Dorian Reg'd (PERM) prefix.

Anne Griggs of Griggswood Kennels, is credited as being Doris's mentor and dear friend that helped her get her start in Poodles well over 40 plus years ago.

Doris has always been very active in the various Kennel Clubs in which she belongs to. She always believes that you need to be active in whatever Kennel Club you belong to and she is a wonderful example of that belief. Between being a ring steward , and on various Boards she remains very active in her clubs.

Doris also enjoys Traveling around the country. She also finds time to enjoy Cooking and entertaining her friends. She has picked up a new hobby of working with stained Glass. Her she is able to further her creative skills once again.

Welcome New Members

New Members for Poodle Club of America
June Meeting 2003

Judy Martin

761 South County Road 21
Hawthorne, Fl 32640
Kennel Name: Sunnup
Phone 352-546-4354
Fax 352-546-2978
Email sunnup@earthlink.net

Linda Blackie

Wisperwind STD Poodles
613 Mountain Ave.
Altoona, PA 16602
Kennel Name: Wisperwind
Phone 814-944-5100
Email WHISPRWND1@aol.com

Mrs. Angela Riegert

212 4th Street
Southampton, NJ 08088
Kennel Name: Eden
Phone 609-859-8702

Optigen Update

Poodles tested the 2nd quarter of 2003 (4/1/03 to 6/30/03): Total Poodles tested - 321

Total Miniature - 145

Pattern A - 89

Pattern B - 49

Pattern C - 7

Total Toy - 176

Pattern A - 117

Pattern B - 51

Pattern C - 8

The numbers below reflect the number of dogs tested by OptiGen between 7/1/03 and 9/15/03.

Total tested - 322

Total Miniature - 164

Pattern A - 98

Pattern B - 59

Pattern C - 7

Total Toy - 158

Pattern A - 81

Pattern B - 62

Pattern C - 15

Countries testing US, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Finland, The Netherlands, UK, Australia & Japan.

Sincerely,

Becky Iddings

Administrative Support Associate

OptiGen, LLC

Cornell Business & Technology Park

767 Warren Road, Suite 300

Ithaca, NY 14850

phone: 607-257-0301

fax: 607-257-0353

email: genetest@optigen.com

web: www.optigen.com

Cont. from page 3

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BREEDER REFERRAL: Linda Howard, 732-262-3649

RESCUE REFERRAL: Lyn Ashman, 212-772-0481

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SECRETARY: ARLENE DERR, 13223 SE HAROLD, PORTLAND, OR 97236 503-761-3500

BREEDER REFERRAL: NONE PRESENTLY

RESCUE REFERRAL: NONE PRESENTLY

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SECRETARY: Alice Herd, 5711 Sugar Hill Dr., Apt 19, Houston, TX 77057 713-784-5915

BREEDER REFERRAL: Guinette Peebles, 281-890-9090

RESCUE REFERRAL: Guinette Peebles, 281-890-9090

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SECRETARY: Anne Thorne, 1008 Ridge Point Cove, Longwood, FL 32750 407-339-6140

BREEDER REFERRAL: Sondi Michel, 407-892-3468

RESCUE REFERRAL: Florida Poodle Rescue, St. Petersburg, FL

POODLE CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS

PRESIDENT: ANDREW KRESS, 21 SAWIN ST., SHERBORN, MA 01770 508-655-8137

SECRETARY: DARREL FRITZ, 112 HUMPHREY ST., MARBLEHEAD, MA 09145 781-639-0230

BREEDER REFERRAL: JOAN KRESS, 508-655-8137

RESCUE REFERRAL: MERRILEA AGOSTINO, 508-877-7285

Thorough Testing Needed to Determine Thyroid Conditions

Thyroid health conditions are the most commonly seen endocrine disorders in dogs. Since the thyroid is important in controlling metabolic rate, a malfunctioning thyroid system can affect the whole body, including body weight, skin and coat condition, and behavior.

The thyroid gland secretes two hormones, triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4), that are essential for proper cell function. When the thyroid gland fails to secrete the proper amounts of either hormone, it may result in hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism. Both types can have a big impact on quality of life.

Though Poodles are not among the breeds with the highest incidence of hypothyroidism, or underactive thyroid, it does occur and more commonly in Standard Poodles, according to data collected by the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health. Hyperthyroidism, which is an overactive thyroid, is rare in dogs in general.

W. Jean Dodds, D.V.M., an immunologist/hematologist and president of Hemopet in Garden Grove, Calif., also keeps data on thyroid conditions. She maintains her databank from blood samples submitted from dog owners for analysis and interpretation at Hemopet. With more data on Standard Poodles than Miniature or Toy Poodles, Dodds believes that thyroid problems are of less concern to owners and breeders of Toys and Miniatures and thus these varieties are tested less frequently for thyroid conditions. While thyroid conditions don't seem to be as common in the smaller varieties, they're "still prevalent in an unacceptable amount," Dodds says.

Hypothyroidism vs. Thyroiditis

Many canine hypothyroid conditions are caused by autoimmune thyroiditis, an inheritable

condition, says Raymond Nachreiner, D.V.M., Ph.D., of the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at Michigan State University. In fact, at least 50 percent of thyroid problems are characterized as autoimmune thyroiditis.

Idiopathic thyroid atrophy makes up most of the remaining hypothyroidism cases with pituitary tumors accounting for about 5 percent. According to Nachreiner, there is some evidence that idiopathic thyroid atrophy may actually be the end stages of autoimmune thyroiditis.

A dog with autoimmune thyroiditis should have a positive titer for the thyroglobulin autoantibody (TgAA); whereas, in idiopathic hypothyroidism, the TgAA is negative. This may be simply because the condition has progressed to the point where the thyroid gland is no longer producing the precursor protein, thyroglobulin, for the body to form antibodies against it, he says. If this theory proves to be true, then the vast majority of thyroid problems may be genetic conditions, making thyroid testing before breeding very important.

Testing for Hypothyroidism

The formation of antithyroid antibodies (TgAA) is the marker for autoimmune thyroiditis. Testing an asymptomatic dog for the presence of TgAA can help breeders make responsible breeding decisions. If the dog tests positive, consideration should be given to removing the dog from the breeding program. If a dog with positive TgAA has already been bred, Dodds says, the puppies should be tested annually after puberty and before breeding. They may be 3 to 4 years old before several negative tests indicate their likelihood of being truly free of the problem.

The size of the gene pool should be taken into consideration before removing an otherwise healthy dog from breeding, Nachreiner says, since hypothyroidism isn't usually life-threatening and can be treated with daily veterinary-prescribed medication. Since thyroiditis is an autoimmune disease,

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the autoantibodies may develop later in life, so repeated testing after a negative result is important.

TgAA usually won't show up before the dog is a year old and the peak incidence is between the ages of 2 and 4, Nachreiner says. "So certainly a negative at 1 year of age doesn't mean a whole lot." A negative titer each year at the ages of 1, 2, 3 and 4 is another matter. "The odds of it ever showing the disease after those four negative tests is pretty slim," he says.

Testing should be done when a female is between heat cycles – 12 weeks from the onset of the last heat cycle, Dodds says. Bitches should be initially tested during the anestrus period (12 to 16 weeks typically) after the beginning of their first heat, and male dogs around 10 to 14 months old after reaching sexual maturity. This early testing allows for a baseline thyroid profile.

A dog may be TgAA positive long before showing any clinical signs of hypothyroidism. "Just what induces the disease, we don't know," Nachreiner says. Diet and vaccinations could be factors.

While the TgAA titer is important in making breeding decisions, more thyroid tests must be run to determine whether a dog's thyroid function has become insufficient. A complete thyroid panel — including total T3, total T4, free T3, free T4, circulating T3 and T4 autoantibodies, TgAA and perhaps TSH — are necessary for proper diagnosis, Dodds says.

One of the reasons that hypothyroidism can be difficult to diagnose is the common practice of doing only one thyroid blood test, the one that measures T4 levels, Dodds says. "You have to do the complete one up front. Otherwise you might miss an accurate diagnosis." The presence of T4AA, for example, can make an otherwise sub-normal T4 look normal, she says.

Interpreting the Tests

Interpreting thyroid test results can be

trickier than simply looking to see whether the numbers fall into the "normal" range, Dodds says. "The reference ranges that laboratories print out are simply guidelines," she says. "They may not apply to a given animal." When Dodds interprets laboratory results, she targets the interpretation to the individual animal, taking into account the age, breed, size and sexual status of the animal. As a result, Dodds has found that the "normal" levels can vary depending upon these factors.

For example, puppies and Toy dogs have faster metabolisms and therefore higher normal thyroid levels. Sighthounds, on the other hand, have lower normals. Dodds encourages dog owners and breeders to have a clinical pathologist veterinarian help interpret laboratory results, rather than simply relying on the laboratory's computerized test results.

Treatment for Hypothyroidism

Once a dog has been diagnosed with hypothyroidism, management consists of administration of a veterinary-prescribed synthetic version of the T-4 hormone, l-thyroxine, and blood testing throughout the dog's life. While this medication is relatively inexpensive, Michigan State University estimates that the cost of caring for a 40-pound dog that develops clinical hypothyroidism at the age of 4 to be about \$1,400 for the lifetime of the dog.

(Sidebar)

Hyperthyroidism is Rare in Dogs

An overactive thyroid, known as hyperthyroidism, is rare in dogs, including Poodles. Of the 10,000 canine thyroid tests that the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at Michigan State University conducts every month, no more than one is a case of canine hyperthyroid-

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ism, says Raymond Nachreiner, D.V.M., Ph.D.

When a dog's thyroid tests indicate hyperthyroidism, the cause may be thyroid cancer, an overdose of thyroid medication, or a misinterpretation of the test results, says W. Jean Dodds, D.V.M, an immunologist/hematologist and president of Hemopet in Garden Grove, Calif. Young puppies, for example, naturally have a higher T4, so if an adult reference range is used, the T4 level may look high. In addition, the thyroid autoantibody can make an adult dog's T4 look high when it isn't, she says. Just as in diagnosing hypothyroidism, the T4 should not be the sole test run.

Signs of hyperthyroidism are the opposite of those of hypothyroidism. They include:

- Panting
- Restlessness
- Pacing
- Weight loss
- Increased water intake

If a dog's complete thyroid panel indicates hyperthyroidism, the test results should be interpreted by an endocrinologist or clinical pathologist and a reason for the condition should be sought, Dodds says.

(Sidebar)

Signs of Hypothyroidism

Since a malfunctioning thyroid system can affect the whole body, the signs can be highly variable and nonspecific. The most common signs of hypothyroidism are:

- Abnormalities in skin and haircoat
- Lethargy
- Weight gain
- Change in coat texture
- Change in behavior: the dog feels blah, tired; can have seizures; or be aggressive and unpredictable
- Chronic urinary tract or ear infections, chronic gastrointestinal disorders

Some dogs display behavior changes, like uncharacteristic aggression or submission and disorientation, says W. Jean Dodds, D.V.M., an immunologist/hematologist and president of Hemopet in Garden Grove, Calif. Not all hypothyroid dogs will have all these symptoms, of course. A dog need not be clinically hypothyroid to have a positive TgAA (autoimmune thyroiditis), which can be passed on in a breeding program. Thus all dogs, including Poodles, that are being considered for breeding should be tested for the TgAA prior to breeding.

Used with permission from the *Purina Pro Club Poodle Update*, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company.

Barbara Yount
Manager, Pet Influential Communications
Nestlé Purina PetCare Company

Congrats to Joann Neal and Betty!

Betty's accomplishments now include the addition of a TD (Tracking Dog) title. This automatically gives her also an AKC VCD2 (Versatile Companion Dog 2) title. So she is now:

CH OTCH MACH Braylane Betty's Bein' Bad UDX TD VCD2

Not ready to retire, she added the TD title in January at the age of 11.

CHIC

The Canine Health Information Center

The Canine Health Information Center, also known as CHIC, is a centralized canine health database jointly sponsored by the AKC/Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

Mission Statement

To provide a source of health information for owners, breeders, and scientists, that will assist in breeding healthy dogs.

CHIC Goals

- To work with parent clubs in the identification of health issues for which a central information system should be established.
- To establish and maintain a central health information system in a manner that will support research into canine disease and provide health information to owners and breeders.
- To establish scientifically valid diagnostic criteria for the acceptance of information into the database.
- To base the availability of information on individually identified dogs at the consent of the owner.

CHIC Benefits

Once in place and accepted within the dog breeding community, the CHIC program offers benefits to breeders, buyers, parent clubs, and researchers.

- For breeders, CHIC provides a reliable source of information regarding dogs they may use in their breeding programs. In the future, breeders can begin to analyze the pedigrees of a proposed breeding for health strengths and weaknesses as well the traditional analysis of conformation, type, and performance strengths and weaknesses.
- For buyers, the CHIC program provides accurate information about the results of a breeder's health testing. For diseases that are limited to phenotypic evaluations, there are no guarantees. However, the probability that an animal will develop an inherited disease is reduced when its ancestry has been tested normal. Further, as more DNA tests become available and the results are entered into CHIC, the CHIC database will be able to establish whether progeny will be clear, carriers, or affected.
- For parent clubs considering establishment of health databases on their own, CHIC provides the answer with no upfront investment required by the club. The CHIC infrastructure is supplied and maintained by the OFA. The data is maintained in a secure environment by trained staff. The services are not subject to the time, technology, and

resource constraints that parent clubs might face on their own. This frees parent clubs to focus on their core strengths of identifying health concerns, educating their membership, and encouraging participation in the CHIC program.

- For researchers, CHIC provides confidential and accurate aggregate information on multiple generations of dogs. CHIC information will also be useful for epidemiological studies enhancing our knowledge of health issues affecting all breeds of dogs.

- For everyone interested in canine health issues, CHIC is a tool to monitor disease prevalence and measure progress.

CHIC Policies and Guidelines

The CHIC database is a tool that collects health information on individual animals from multiple sources. This centralized pool of data is maintained to assist breeders in making more informed breeding choices, and for scientists in conducting research. In order for data to be included in CHIC, test results must be based on scientifically valid diagnostic criteria.

Breed Specific

Core to the CHIC philosophy is the realization that each breed has different health concerns. Not all diseases have known modes of inheritance, nor do all diseases have screening tests. Some screening tests are based on phenotypic evaluation, others on genetic testing. With all these variables, a key element of CHIC is to customize or tailor the CHIC requirements to the needs of each breed. These unique requirements are established through input from the parent club prior to the breed's entry into the CHIC program. Breed specific requirements typically consist of the inherited diseases that are of the greatest concern and for which some screening test is available. Each parent club also drives specific screening protocols. As an example, one parent club may allow cardiac exams to be performed by a general practitioner. Another parent club may require the exam to be performed by a board certified cardiologist. A club may also use the CHIC program to maintain information on other health issues for anecdotal purposes. Later, as screening tests become available, the disease may be added to the breed specific requirements. Identification Regardless of breed, each dog must be permanently identified in order to have test results included in CHIC. Permanent identification may be in the form of DNA profile, microchip, or tattoo.

Informed Consent

CHIC operates an informed consent database. All information regarding test results remains confidential unless the owner specifically authorizes release of the information into the public domain. Owners are encouraged to release all test results realizing it is in the ultimate health

interests of the breed and the information greatly increases the depth and breadth of any resulting pedigree analysis. For those not quite ready to accept open sharing of information, there is still value in submitting their results. All test information entered into the database is available in aggregate for research and statistical reporting purposes, but does not disclose identification of individual dogs. This results in improved information on the prevalence of the disease, as well as information regarding progress in reducing the incidence of the disease.

CHIC Numbers and CHIC Reports

A CHIC number is issued when test results are entered into the database satisfying each breed specific requirement, and when the owner of the dog has opted to release the results into the public domain. The CHIC number itself does not imply normal test results, only that all the required breed specific tests were performed and the results made publicly available. A CHIC report is issued at the same time as the CHIC number. The CHIC report is a consolidated listing of the tests performed, the age of the dog when the tests were performed, and the corresponding test results. As new results are recorded, updated CHIC reports reflecting the additional information will be generated. For example, if a breed requires annual CERF examinations, an updated CHIC report will be generated every time updated CERF results are entered. Another potential example is as new DNA tests are developed and added to the breed specific requirements, updated CHIC reports will be generated as the test results are entered.

Once included in the CHIC program, the breed specific requirements are dynamic. As health priorities within a breed change, or as new screening tests become available, the breed specific requirements can be modified to reflect the current environment. If the breed specific requirements are modified, existing CHIC numbers are not revoked. Again, the CHIC number is issued to a dog that completed all required tests at a given point in time. CHIC will provide the parent club quarterly reports consisting of both aggregate numbers and specific dogs who have been issued CHIC numbers.

CHIC Fee Structure

Existing test results from the OFA and CERF, as well as owner's selections whether or not to release results, are shared automatically with the CHIC program. There is no fee to enter test results from either of the OFA or CERF, and there is no requirement to fill out any additional forms.

To enter results into CHIC from another source such as PennHIP, GDC, OVC, or parent club maintained databases, there is a one time per dog fee of \$25.00. To enter results

from any of these organizations, the CHIC Application To Enter Test Results must be completed. The completed form, test result documentation, and fee should be sent to the OFA. Any additional results after the one time fee is paid are recorded at no charge. Additionally, there is no charge when entering results on an affected animal from a non-CERF/OFA source.

CHIC Website

The CHIC website is located at www.caninehealthinfo.org. The website contains basic information on CHIC such as its mission and goals, and maintains a listing of the participating breeds and approved breed specific test protocols. Forms such as the Parent Club Application and Application To Enter Test Results are available as downloads. The CHIC website also provides a search engine to locate dogs who have been issued CHIC numbers, their test dates, and the results of their tests.

Participation

Any parent club interested in participating in the CHIC program should contact either the OFA or the AKC/CHF to discuss the program, entry requirements, answer any questions, or to request application forms.

Each breed should have a health committee and survey results which determine the major health concerns within the breed. The club should select one person from the health committee to be the CHIC liaison, and to work with the club's membership in determining what health tests should be considered for participation in the CHIC program. Questions to be considered are: what tests are currently available and being used, and at what age are the tests appropriate and reliable. Staff members from the OFA and the AKC/CHF will assist parent clubs during this phase of requirement and protocol definition.

The following list of breed specific requirements for Labrador Retrievers and Bull Terriers illustrates how CHIC has tailored specific test requirements to the health issues facing each breed:

- Labrador Retrievers
 - o Hip Dysplasia
 - o Elbow Dysplasia
 - o Eye Disease
- Bull Terriers
 - o Congenital Cardiac Disease
 - o Congenital Deafness
 - o Patella Luxation
 - o Kidney Disease

Contacts

Questions regarding the CHIC program may be addressed to:

Eddie Dziuk or Dr. Greg Keller
Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc.

cont. from page 14

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 Debbie Lynch
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 251 West Garfield Rd., Suite 160
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 (888) 682-9696
 Email: akcchf@aol.com, Website: www.akcchf.org

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) foundation formed in 1966 with the following objectives:

1. To collate and disseminate information concerning orthopedic and genetic diseases of animals.
2. To advise, encourage and establish control programs to lower the incidence of orthopedic and genetic diseases.
3. To encourage and finance research in orthopedic and genetic disease in animals.
4. To receive funds and make grants to carry out these objectives.

The AKC/Canine Health Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 1995 with the following mission: To develop significant resources for basic and applied health programs with emphasis on canine genetics to improve the quality of life for dogs and their owners. The AKC/Canine Health Foundation is the largest funder of exclusively canine health research in the world.

Have you PRCD tested your Toys or Minis yet ?
Clinics coming up.....
October 13 - 16 - ACD Specialty 20/20 - In conjunction with the ACDCA's National Specialty in Belton, TX. Details for onsite blood draw TBA. For more information please contact Denise Frick at acdca2020@dogzonline.com.
October 18 - Durham Kennel Club's 20/20 - In conjunction with the Durham Kennel Club's fall show to be held at the Triangle Life Science Building at the intersection of Highway 54 & Alexander Drive in Durham, NC. For more information or to participate please contact Jan Gray at workingdogs@earthlink.net.

CONT. FROM PAGE 2

- APRIL 1 GREATER WICHITA POODLE CLUB, INC.
 BREED: MRS. BARBARA H. FURBUSH
 APRILS 3 POODLE OBEDIENCE TRAINING CLUB OF GREATER NY
 OBEDIENCE NOV A-B & OPEN B: JOHN LANDIS
 OBEDIENCE UTIL A-B & OPEN A: JERRY IERMIERO
 MAY 8 HUB POODLE CLUB OF ORANGE COUNTY
 BREED: MRS. MAUREEN RUSSO

CERF Data Now Available on OFA Website

To help breeders locate important screening information with less effort, the Canine Eye Registry Foundation (CERF) has graciously agreed to allow the OFA to display some of its data. In order for CERF results to appear on the OFA site each dog must have:

1. An existing OFA record
2. A current CERF exam
3. Identical registration name and number information registered with each organization (in order to establish the database links).

CERF will transmit this data to the OFA on a monthly basis. There will be a brief lag between the time the CERF exam is conducted, the time the results appear on the CERF website, and the time they appear on the OFA website.

The OFA will only accept CERF results directly from CERF. No owner submissions will be accepted. The addition of this information is designed to provide a maximum amount of health screening information in a single location. Please refer to the CERF website itself if questions arise regarding the existence or validity of a particular dog's CERF number. The CERF website address is www.vet.purdue.edu/~yshen/cerf.html.

Humane or insane?

Importation of foreign stray animals into US shelters threatens health, sustains 'overpopulation'

*Patti L. Strand, President
National Animal Interest Alliance*

- * *The flies in the ointment*
- * *Health matters*
- * *Footnotes*

If you don't know what's happening at your local animal shelter, or what local pet rescue groups are doing, it's time to find out! Dangerous practices are emerging that threaten public health, sustain 'pet overpopulation' and undermine responsible dog ownership and breeding.

Finding out what's happening in the world of animal sheltering and rescuing, however, is not that easy. Although most shelters use the issue of 'pet overpopulation' to fundraise, it turns out that few of them have sufficient records to support the term. In fact, a major impediment to solving the US stray and surplus pet problems is the lack of reliable shelter statistics.¹

Many shelters combine dog and cat statistics, thus making it impossible to track dog or cat trends individually. Shelters also tend to lump together all shelter deaths regardless of the reason for euthanasia, even though their data would be of far greater statistical value if categorized, such as: 1) owner requested due to health, temperament or old age; 2) shelter mandated because the animal was judged too sick or too dangerous to be rehabilitated and placed; 3) and, shelter mandated because insufficient resources existed to continue maintaining an animal even though it was healthy and adoptable. Of these three categories, only the last, the adoptable pet that died for lack of a home, signifies a surplus animal problem. But muddled euthanasia statistics combined with fundraising campaigns to stop 'pet overpopulation' encourage the public to believe that all shelter deaths are part of a massive 'pet overpopulation' problem.

The practice of relocating pets from a crowded shelter to one with empty runs within the same community also leads to confusion if the source of the animals is not reported. The practice itself may be reasonable and humane if it increases adoptions, but too often all participating shelters count the same animals in their totals inflating the number of shelter animals reported for a given community.

Over-representing shelter impounds hinders the development of an accurate baseline for shelter populations. Without an accurate baseline it's impossible to get a handle on pet population trends and difficult to identify remaining problems, much less to plan appropriate strategies to solve them. Over-representing shelter impounds or shelter euthanasia statistics has few negative consequences, while higher numbers and the appearance of a crisis buoy donations and budgets.

Another confusing factor is that the actual number of euthanized adoptable dogs (surplus dogs) varies enormously from one region to another and from rural to urban areas within states and regions. Generally speaking, many of the larger cities in the Pacific Northwest, New England and the Great Lakes region have dog population dynamics that are in balance, meaning that the demand for dogs equals or nearly equals the supply of dogs in their regions. This may seem incredible to people living in cities or regions where shelters are still brimming with surplus animals, as in the farm belt states, parts of the South and in the rural areas of most states – but it is true.

In many US cities today, campaigns to end 'pet overpopulation' have been so successful that the demand for dogs far outstrips supply. In fact, shelters in many of these cities would have a significant percentage of empty dog runs were it not for the mushrooming practice of moving dogs around from one region to another and from one shelter to another within regions, an activity known somewhat euphemistically as humane relocation.

Humane relocation began as a common sense method for helping animals to get adopted through cooperative efforts among city shelters. It made no sense for the humane society to euthanize dogs for lack of room while the local animal control agency had the space and resources to help get them adopted. Over time, as the number of surplus dogs in some cities continued to drop, they began taking in animals from greater distances. For example, some shelters in the greater Portland metropolitan area routinely accept dogs from other counties in Oregon, Washington and sometimes from states as far away as Hawaii.

As long as participating shelters publicly disclose what they are doing so that taxpayers and donors can assess the risks and benefits, and as long as exporting municipalities and shelters increase their commitment to the responsible pet ownership programs in their areas, humane relocation can be a helpful tool. However, if exporting regions do not increase spay/neuter and public education programs, humane relocation could amount to little more than a constant re-

shuffling of dogs and resources and would not lead to further reductions of surplus animals. Irresponsibly used, humane relocation could be used for maintaining the status quo and making money instead of solving long-term shelter problems.

The flies in the ointment

Unfortunately, humane relocation is not being conducted responsibly by a small but growing number of shelters and rescue groups. The answer for some shelters with empty runs has not been to contact shelters in their own regions or in other areas of the continental US, but to institute programs of importation from other countries and territories. According to their own records, one foundation, the Save a Sato² program championed by PeTA, has already sent 14,000 dogs to the US. Satos (a slang term for mixed-breed street dogs in Puerto Rico) arrive in US cities practically every day. Dozens of shelters are involved. Some of the shelters NAIA is tracking bring in 100-200 dogs each month and are placing them for \$200-\$250 each.³

From Florida, Texas and Michigan to New England⁴ and the Pacific Northwest, more and younger Puerto Rican dogs and puppies are finding their way into American shelters every month. Massachusetts in particular is a magnet and a distribution center⁵ for relocated surplus pets and strays, but other states with empty shelter runs are picking up the cause as well. This is not a phenomenon that can be brushed off lightly as a passing phase. If you examine the evidence and connect the dots, the steady influx of foreign strays reveals an evolving plan.

Interested in hosting a Regional ?

Contacted Diann Ellis for all the details.

E-mail: ragtime@involved.com

Bring the Poodle World close to your home.

New 501(c)3 charities devoted to rescuing dogs from distant lands are popping up in states across the US. They are not forming to place only Puerto Rican dogs, but also to save dogs from as far away as Taiwan⁶ and other Asian countries. Several shelters and rescue groups in the Northwest knowingly accept dogs from Taiwan, Puerto Rico or Mexico.

There is another disturbing pattern developing, a trend toward importing progressively younger dogs. Two years ago when NAIA first began researching the issue, the foreign imports depicted on shelter websites were of varied ages. Today, most of them are puppies. It is easy to speculate that if no one is capturing and altering the illusive strays that produce these orphans, then enterprising rescuers and shelter directors could help developing countries become breeding grounds for stocking US shelters. Long-term flooding of US cities with mixed-breed, foreign dogs has unavoidable implications for pet population dynamics in the US. The practice of importing dogs from developing countries not only prevents us from making further progress against 'pet overpopulation,' in time it could also diminish the responsible breeding and placement of well-bred, healthy dogs and cats. Many conscientious dog breeders are so concerned about 'pet overpopulation' they have already accepted the idea that a good breeder is one who seldom breeds. The problem with this conclusion is that it does not recognize the basic marketplace reality that demand drives supply. When responsible breeders quit breeding, it means only that in the future someone else will supply the public with the dogs or cats they want. In this specific case, it also means that the public will have fewer reliable sources for healthy, well bred and socialized purebred dogs.

In the two years since introducing the subject of stray importation, (see <http://www.naiaonline.org/body/articles/archives/redefining.htm>) the practice has taken off, with the result that some animal shelters are clearly operating as pet stores today. Whether they acquire their inventory from distant states or foreign countries or territories, they operate like commercial businesses, not charities formed to serve the public good.

They acquire their stock at little or no cost⁷, advertise their product using time-tested campaigns against 'pet overpopulation,' rotate inventory quickly, restock immediately and bring in staggering amounts of money. Projecting from figures on the website of one active shelter, gross revenues from imports that include a constant supply of satos, will total more than \$500,000 this year alone!

It is also disturbing to see the animal rights party line being used against breeders to justify importation. The following quote was taken from the website of the Humane Society of Snohomish County, a Seattle-area importer of dogs from Taiwan.

"By saving Taiwan dogs, we do not feel this takes away from saving a dog at our own shelters. The majority of dogs from Taiwan are small and our own shelters do not have many small dogs. At this time we have over 38 people on our waiting list for small dogs. We feel it is better to bring small dogs in from another part of the world than to have these people going to a breeder. Many people, sadly, still do after they have been on our waiting list for an extended period."

The Buddy Dog Humane Society⁸ in Massachusetts shares the anti-breeder sentiment and offers a similar rationale on their website: "Many people ask why we are taking dogs from Puerto Rico. The answer for us is simple. Most of the dogs are small, usually under 30 pounds, thus enabling Buddy Dog to find many adopters looking for a smaller dog, a new companion, without going to a pet store or breeder. At the same time we are helping homeless dogs get off the streets and into a caring home."

A certain picture begins to emerge when reviewing Buddy Dog's statement of priorities: 1) to have the right product to fill consumer demands; 2) to prevent the public from getting a dog that was deliberately bred, whether from a pet store or a private breeder; and 3) to help a homeless dog.

When coupled with the stated goal of the animal rights agenda⁹ to eliminate the purposeful breeding of dogs and cats, the anti-breeder mantra echoed throughout this enterprise should convince even the most skeptical of readers that stray importation is only part of a far more ambitious plan. The oft-repeated vision for pet ownership espoused by PeTA's founder, Ingrid Newkirk makes humane relocation a moral imperative. "If people had companion animals in their homes, those animals would have to be refugees from the animal shelters and the streets."

Eliot Katz, president of In Defense of Animals¹⁰ and the foremost advocate of 'guardianship,' states a similar goal, "to convince people to rescue and adopt instead of buying or selling animals, to disavow the language and concept of animal ownership." IDA's leader says that it is essential for people to understand that, "an owner buys, a guardian adopts or rescues." Katz is currently leading the campaign to get Los Angeles to adopt 'guardian' in all of its municipal codes.

NAIA unequivocally opposes the importation of stray dogs (and more recently cats) into the US for adoption. Importing strays is a dangerous and irresponsible practice and should be outlawed immediately. The only reason that laws don't already exist to prevent such destructive rescue activities is that no reasonable person could have imagined a scenario in which anyone would be irrational enough to do it.

Health matters

Even before considering the health issues, it is a reckless and indefensible practice to import stray animals into a country that pours hundreds of millions of public and private dollars annually, (and has for decades) into animal control and 'pet overpopulation' problems! Imports from other countries displace American shelter dogs that need homes, too. The importation of strays does not save lives, it sustains overpopulation and assures that adoptable dogs in US shelters will be euthanized.

The current scale of importation also poses significant public health risks. These animals, destined to be domestic pets, are from countries where the standards of veterinary medicine are not as high as they are in the US. Diseases and parasites that are not found here may be endemic in poor or tropical countries. If the fundraising materials accurately describe the rescued dogs, they are not pets from private homes but strays from the streets and therefore are among the most likely reservoirs for parasites and diseases. In addition, they are bringing them into communal shelters where they are most likely to pass on whatever diseases or parasites they have to other companion animals or to their caregivers.

Some diseases and parasites pose serious health risks for human health as well as for dogs and other species. Dogs are a leading vector for rabies¹¹ in many poor countries. Currently, the only thing required for a dog to enter the US is a health certificate and proof of a rabies shot. Given the incubation period for rabies, from five days to several years, with 20-60 days being the norm, unquarantined importation of street dogs from poor countries with low rates of vaccination for rabies, is a disaster waiting to happen. Exotic parasites, worms, protozoa and certain ticks pose significant risks as well.

Living in a country where it is difficult to get a banana through customs, (especially since 9-11) and where livestock importation is strictly regulated and animal protection groups seek ever-tighter regulation of dogs from breed en-

thusiasts along with commercial breeders, it is a sick and intolerable paradox that poorly bred, often diseased, foreign-bred dogs enter our country by the thousands with the barest of regulation – often on airlines that fly them to the US at no charge to help out the ‘cause.’ Seemingly, the only unregulated operators in the animal world today are the ‘animal dealers’ working in the animal protection groups that fundraise on overpopulation while importing dogs from overseas. Indeed, the only thing that puts the madness into perspective is the fact that importing groups and the national animal rights groups that support them are still fundraising on the issue of ‘pet overpopulation!’

At NAIA we salute anyone working to improve the welfare of animals so long as they conduct themselves responsibly. If groups such as PeTA that support importation of strays want to help animals in poor and developing countries, though, we recommend that they take a fraction of their millions and fund spay and neuter clinics or launch public education campaigns. Those initiatives might actually help. Importing Satos or Taiwan strays, on the other hand, does little more than displace US shelter animals with ones that are more suitable for fundraising.

NAIA recognizes that most people working in animal shelters and rescue conduct themselves honorably while performing a difficult and often thankless job. This article is not intended to tar the whole sheltering community with the irresponsible actions of a few. Even so, if the good people who work in animal control and protection remain silent on the issue, they are culpable as well. For too long, extreme groups like PeTA have co-opted the animal movement and brought shame to the cause of animal protection. It’s time for reasonable people in animal welfare to separate themselves from the corrupt and radical fringe and bring respect back to their cause. The public needs to know that being humane doesn’t have to mean being insane!

For more information on this and other issues affecting dog and cat owners and breeders, visit the NAIA website at www.naiaonline.org. NAIA and NAIA Trust will continue to work on the issue of stray imports. NAIA will pursue researching and reporting on the subject and NAIA Trust will set out an agenda for dealing with it legislatively and legally. If you have information on the subject, please contact naia@involved.com If you would like to work with NAIA Trust on this issue, contact naiatruster@involved.com.

Footnotes

1. <http://www.petpopulation.org>
2. <http://www.saveasato.org>

3. <http://www.daws.org/sato.htm>
4. <http://www.northeastanimalshelter.org/special.html>
5. <http://www.sterlingshelter.org>
6. <http://www.geocities.com/~t-aarf/main.html>
7. <http://www.humanityforanimals.org/howyoucanhelp.html>
8. <http://www.buddydoghs.com/html/satoInfo.html>
9. <http://www.naiaonline.org/body/articles/archives/aragenda.htm>
10. <http://www.idausa.org>
11. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/osh/info/rage_e.html
12. <http://www.ddc.com/rescue/special.html>

Note: The synopsis below was taken from the following link:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/osh/info/rage_e.html

“The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that more deaths occur worldwide from rabies than from other common infections such as dengue fever, polio, meningococcal meningitis or Japanese encephalitis. Of the 50,000 human rabies deaths reported annually, it is estimated that over 30,000 deaths occur in the Indian Sub-Continent with most of the remaining cases occurring in South-East Asia (particularly, the Philippines), Africa and Latin America...In most countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, infected dogs are responsible for most of the rabies deaths...In Bangkok it is estimated that one in 10 stray dogs is infected.”

Author’s note: NAIA thanks Charlotte McGowan for her tremendous help on this project. Her researching efforts have been invaluable.

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New Poodle Judges

Dr Albert P. Bianchi- Chesapeake, Va

Mrs. Elaine Lindhorst- St Charles, Mo

Mrs Dorothy Taylor-Nashua, NH

Norman Herbel- Putman Ok

Ms Grace Smoth Kosub- Laredo, Tx

Ms. Barbara Ann Langlois-Chalmette, La

Mrs. Jacqueline M. Rayner- Hamilton, NJ

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By Sheree Melancon

The following is the second in a series of articles about hunting and retrieving with your poodles. The author, Sheree Melancon, put WC and WCX titles on her Standard, Bounce 'N Deaux Rey at the PCA National, June 2003 in Cheltenham, MD.

Here in Texas things are looking great for Regionals in October. Word has it that we will have a mini in the WC/WCX. We are all very excited down here to be hosting such a wonderful event.

I don't know about where everybody else lives, but we have had an unbelievable heat wave this summer – and that brings me to something that everyone needs to keep in mind when working your Poodle. Be careful not to overheat him. Most people are aware that when working your Poodle on land you can overheat him, but you may not be aware that you can overheat him just as well in the water.. Keep in mind that the water is already warm, and your dog will start to warm up from swimming. Things can become critical fast, so during the summer it's important to keep an ice chest of cold water handy.

When I talk to people in general about Poodles I can never stress enough how versatile the breed really is. There is a size and color for everyone, and the option to participate in any sport you choose. How you select a puppy can possibly save you some time down the road if you are looking for a puppy to hunt with or to do Hunt Testing. You should still follow the standard guide that PCA has set for this breed.

While the Standard does demonstrate its' importance when retrieving on land, it is even more obvious when retrieving in the water. For example, a Poodle that is ewe necked has a tendency to swim low in the water. Poodles that have poor rib spring swim lower and slower in the water also. The spring of the ribs help displace the water, making the Poodle more buoyant and more lung capacity in the chest allows the Poodle to set higher in the water, making it easier for him to swim. That's not to say that every dog with a correct neck and rib spread will always set higher in the water, but generally, they will. Another thing to keep in mind when choosing a puppy is "Does he want to fetch?". My male Poodle loved to play fetch at six weeks when I brought him home – that is until I brought

my bitch home when she was nine weeks and my male Poodle was never allowed (by her) to bring me anything again. I have to put her in a sit-stay so he can get his own fetch time in.

Because my two Poodles are quite a bit different in height, Poodle and non-Poodle people ask me if how tall a Poodle is matters when hunting or Hunt Testing. Well, that has a "Yes" and "No" answer. If a Poodle is in tall grass a hundred yards away, a taller Poodle has the advantage in seeing you and a long mark. If your dog is short and thin, don't be discouraged. Remember the movie "Rocky II? Rocky's trainer, Mic, tells Rocky "You've got the heart but not the tools – but Rocky goes to Russia and beats the Russian to become Champion of the World. My point is that it is hard to measure heart. Heart can take your Poodle a long way.

So...let's assume you have the Poodle you wish to do WC/WCX with. Here is a list of things to do right off:

- › Join a local Retriever Club
- › Seek out a Pro Trainer
- › Buy a couple of books on Retrievers
- › Purchase the necessary equipment
- › Ensure proper health care

Joining a local Retriever Club is the best place to start with your Poodle. The hardest thing about training a Retriever is having ample land, water, and ample help. By joining a Retriever Club you get to meet people like yourself, who are willing to give up a Saturday or Sunday to train dogs. If a Club doesn't have a lease for a property to train on, they usually have people who will donate their property for the Club to use. Most Clubs conduct their own Hunt Tests. The Club here in Houston conducts 2 AKC Tests and 1 UKC Test each year. You can learn a lot about Hunt Testing by volunteering your time.

If you don't have a Club in your area then a Pro Trainer can be the next best thing. Although a Trainer will cost more than a Club Membership it's never money poorly spent. Even if you are lucky enough to have a club in your area you may want to use a Trainer. I would advise consulting with several Trainers before making a choice. I would also avoid jumping from Trainer to Trainer. Doing this can only confuse your Poodle. Talk in depth with the Trainers before making

a choice. Remember, his time is how he makes his money, so I would recommend paying him for his time, even if your dog is not left with him.

As for buying books on the subject, I would suggest that the first book to be read is "Retriever Training" by Robert Milner (A Back to Basics Approach; Pub. Ducks Unlimited, 208 pages; about \$27 new on Amazon). He teaches you to use your dog's natural instincts and tendencies instead of using force to train. If your dog does not respond to his methods I would buy "Top Dog: Training the Hunting Retriever for Waterfowl and Upland Game" by Joseph Middleton (Pub. Dutton Books, 173 pages; \$19 on Amazon). This book covers the use of the "E-Collar" (electronic collar) to force fetching. To help you understand training for Hunt Tests read "Retriever Training Tests" by James B. Spencer (Pub. Alpine Pub; 216 pages, \$19 new on Amazon).

The most important pieces of equipment are bumpers, birds, and whistles. In the beginning it is always best to use white bumpers because that helps the dog mark. After that you can integrate black and white colored bumpers. You can also choose to use Doken Ducks. My dogs prefer Doken Ducks, but the Ducks cost bucks! Not everyone agrees with scenting the bumpers, but I think it helps develop the nose. The introduction of live birds is a necessity. The sooner your dog is introduced the better. Most people will agree that a little chase time with a pigeon or a duck with clipped wings really helps to make your dog birdie. A Dog Club or Trainer can usually put you in touch with someone who raises birds.

You will also need a Port-A-Kennel. The Port-A-Kennel is designed for safety as much as it is designed for confinement. It is important to be sure that the dog has plenty of room for movement in the Kennel. Any Poodle who participates in a Hunt Test will spend some time in a Port-A-Kennel. I have a friend whose dogs' lives were saved by their Port-A-Kennel when she had a serious collision on her way to a Hunt Test.

E-Collar – the electronic or shock collar creates a lot of controversy even when the issue is just raised. I suggest that if you decide that you need an E-Collar that you get proper instruction from a professional before you even start using one. The improper use of this device could really devastate your Poodle. Dogs can be reinforced for bad behavior instead of good behavior if YOU are improperly trained.

And then there are the whistles. Always have at least two whistles around your neck. I never leave the house without them, even if it is just to walk the dogs around the block. This is an excellent way to communicate with your dog once he is trained to follow whistle commands.

A duck call is yet another important piece of equipment. In my opinion a single reed duck call will suffice, because a double reed duck call is much harder to blow and is usually used by people who are actual duck hunters. The single reeds are only around six dollars, and really serve their purpose.

Health care is an important issue also. Contact your Vet and advise him on what the plan is with your Poodle. If your Vet is not familiar with Sporting Dogs it might be wise to look for one who is familiar with Sporting Dogs. Prevention can save you and your Poodle a lot of grief. What I mean by that is that there are things you can do to help assure your Poodles' safety. Always walk the grounds that you are training your dog on. Check out the water to make sure there is nothing hidden just below the surface. Things to look for would be things like old rolls of wire, T-posts or wooden sticks poking up. Not only can these things hurt your Poodle physically, but he can become frightened and refuse to get back in the water.

I hope my suggestions encourage you to participate in the Hunt Test or the WC/WCX. One other thing you need to remember that I have not mentioned – and it is very important. Get a Rule Book. Which ever Test you are planning to participate in make sure you know the Rules. It is so disheartening to see a dog perform brilliantly and fail the Test because the handler did not know the Rules. Never heed the advice of anyone who is dictating Rules other than the Rule Book itself. Make sure you take it with you to the Tests in case there is ever a question – you have it in black and white

Hope everyone makes it to the Regional!
Poodle Up!!

- until next time - Sheree

I have asked Mary Lebet to do a cover rescue in different affiliate clubs. We will spotlight the efforts of different clubs rescue programs each issue. If you have a particular rescue story you would like to share. Please contact Mary at hoodpond@attbi.com
Leslie.

One of the authentic virtues of Poodle Rescue in the United States is the diversity of ways compassionate people have found to help Poodles who are lost, abandoned or looking for a new home. I am particularly in awe of those creative types who look at a new technology and see a way it can be adapted to meet a need and/or solve a problem.

Many thanks to our columnist this quarter, Diane Whitehouse, of Casual Country Poodles - the Webmaster (I think that's the appropriate term) of the Poodles to Adopt web pages. Read on and you will find a fascinating account of how the World Wide Web expanded the ways in which Poodle Rescue is able to reach out to Poodles needing to be re-homed and people able to offer a Rescue Poodle that new home.

Eight or ten years ago Dianne Zeifman, a fellow Poodle email list member, enjoyed creating Poodle-topic web pages such as Portrait of the Poodle <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/6784/portrait.html> and Smitten by the Poodle (page since deleted). She received several requests from people trying to locate a Poodle or a Poodle rescue, saw the need and created both the Poodle Rescue Contacts and Poodles to Adopt web pages, each with world-wide coverage. This was an independent act of care and concern on her part as she was and is simply a Poodle lover with two pet Poodles of her own.

She was kind enough to dedicate the Rescue Contacts web page to me, knowing my Poodles were rescues. Both sites were and are available for listings by individuals and organizations and remain independent of any official affiliations. Dianne Z. maintained both sites until the early spring of 2001 when she convinced me I should take over the Adoption page. I, in turn, found yet another PSG (Poodle Support Group) email list member, Kristi Murdock, to take on

maintaining the Rescue Contacts page. Since then, I've also been fortunate in arranging a backup for the Adoption Page in the person of Diane Pinko, yet another Poodle lover and pet Poodle owner.

Being a computer dimwit, my greatest initial concern was figuring out how to create and update a web page. If you are computer-challenged and ever face the same daunting task, might I highly recommend www.geocities.com and their Page Builder? I believe it's designed with 4 year olds and 'mature' computer dimwits in mind. Even then, it took longer than I'd care to admit to figure it out.

During the many years Diane Z. maintained the Adoption page I'm sure hundreds of Poodles found new homes. I had planned on keeping track of the number of Poodles I listed, but soon found I had plenty to do just keeping the listings posted and current.

We are not involved in 'hands on' rescue through the Adoption Page. Its purpose is to allow organizations and individuals to publicize Poodles needing a new home for whatever reason. While official Rescue Organizations are welcome to list Poodles and charge adoption fees, an individual owner must be placing his or her Poodle at no charge. The page is not intended for use *selling* Poodles in any way, shape or form.

The internet gives dog people a tremendous tool for communication, education, and rescue. I am happy to say almost all of the Poodle email lists have welcomed announcements and reminders about the Poodles to Adopt and Rescue Contacts web pages. Members of various lists have referred people to me when someone asks about how to place their Poodle. Happily, list members also refer many potential adopting families to the page and Poodles listed.

As www.petfinder.com becomes more and more widely known, most of the larger rescue organizations are listing their available Poodles on Petfinder. The Poodles to Adopt web page is not as busy as it was in the past, but still provides a real service to the smaller rescues/individual Poodle rescuers and to all the individual owners who really care about the Poodle they need to place. I believe they take some comfort in keeping that precious Poodle with them while doing the interviews and making the final

cont. on page 23

selection of a new home themselves.

Right now, I'd estimate 3 or 4 Poodles are listed and placed per month. Over the last month, the page has averaged 38 'hits' per day.

The oddest type of inquiry I've received, and this was not a one-time event, is someone writing: "I want a Poodle. You forgot to put your address. I want to come look at all the Poodles to be sure I pick the best one." Do people picture a huge warehouse full of potential new Poodle family members? I also receive the inquiries where someone sees one of the permanent photos included to illustrate what beautiful Poodles often come through rescue, such as Miss Lily (Texas). The 'before' and 'after' photos of Phoebe, at the bottom of the page, also serve as an example of how a "stripped naked" rescue Poodle can blossom. Phoebe joined my own family as a 'very mature' Poodle and enjoyed being dearly loved and somewhat spoiled the last 3 years of her life.

When responding to people looking for the warehouse full of Poodles from which to choose, I try to explain how rescue and fostering normally works and advise them to get in touch with the contacts for any of the listed Poodles who might fit their wants and needs.

To list a Poodle, individuals and rescue groups simply email the postings to me on Poodles they'd like listed. While we sometimes do a bit of editing, we try to leave the listing as much in their words as possible. They are also encouraged to send a small .jpg photo as the old adage "a picture is worth a thousand words" is definitely true. Listings include the owner's or group's contact information. Interested parties get in touch with the rescue organization or owner directly and they do all screening and final selection of a new home.

The web page has a list of suggested items to cover in a listing:

"Please include Rescue Listing in the Subject line and provide as much of the following as possible, plus anything else you think pertinent: Size, age, sex (spayed/neutered), name, color, health, special needs, history, location and contact information. If you are sending a photo, be sure it is a *small* .jpg."

From my perspective, the best part of keeping the page is being notified a Poodle has been placed and

we can remove the listing.

Diane Whitehouse

Poodles to Adopt web page:

http://www.geocities.com/di_cassie/poodleadopt.html

Poodle Rescue Contacts:

<http://www.centralpoodlerescue.homestead.com/Index.html>

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Diane and the Casual Country Poodles, Sophie, Cassie, Angie, Mandy, and Pshanel

Mary the Nag, here – reminding you to make plans to attend the 2004 Rescue meeting at the PCA National Specialty in Upper Marlboro, MD.

- is your Club or organization making plans to have a representative at the meeting? – If not – why not?
- There is a treasure trove of information and tips available from all the Poodle Rescue groups in the United States and Canada - and the meeting is an opportunity to share knowledge and gain insight. You can share the "lessons learned" by your Club or Group – any fund raising super suggestions? – What has your organization learned about pre-adoption interviews? – Insurance? – Follow-up visits? - What does your Group's Rescue effort need that PCA could assist you with? Bring your Rescue organization and its protocols to the 2004 Rescue meeting!

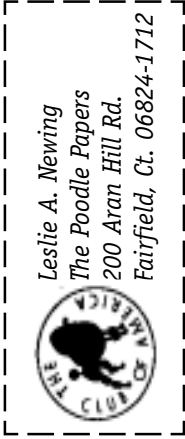
Westminster Judges:

Poodles Mr. Ken Falconi

Non Sporting Group: Ms. Betty Regina Leininger

Toy Group: Mrs. Dawn Vick Hansen

BIS: Mr. Burton J. Yamada



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