



# Spanish Water Dog Club of America

[www.SWDClub.org](http://www.SWDClub.org)

## SPRING/SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

### **SWD Club Board of Directors**

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Well, the long, cold, snowy winter that held those of us in the northeast captive is now a distant memory and has given way to “the dog days of summer.” The Club continues to move in a forward direction as we get closer to obtaining full recognition with AKC, which will happen on January 1, 2015. As of then, we will be competing in the Herding Group.

On June 7, we had our supported entry with the Greenwich Kennel Club, and we held a Breed Education Seminar and Workshop at the Longshore Southport Kennel Club on June 8. We have stepped up our Breed Education to accommodate judges who will judge our breed in the Herding Group.

Club members continue to obtain CM titles on their Spanish Water Dogs. In addition, we have members competing in and getting new titles on their Spanish Water Dogs in other events – Obedience, Herding, Agility, Rally and the newest AKC event, “Dock Diving.”

Since our last newsletter, we lost a very valuable Board member. Due to increasing family and career demands, Jackie Nazzaro resigned as Vice President. We wish her the best as she works toward her PhD. She continues in her position as East Coast Rescue Chair, and we are happy that she remains an active member. Lisa Harper was kind enough to fill Jackie’s spot until our Nominating Committee could nominate a Vice President. Effective October 1, I am happy to welcome Sarah Spinler as our new Vice President. Also accepting the nominations for their current respective positions are Nancy Valley as our Treasurer, Lisa Harper as our AKC Liaison and Lynn Ward as our Member at Large-West. Sarah’s position as Vice President will create a vacancy on the Board of Directors for the position of Member at Large-East, and the Nominating Committee put forth a wonderful recommendation to fill that position. Per our by-laws, any vacancy must be filled by the Board, so please stay tuned for the announcement at the beginning of October.

Finally, we are introducing a new feature beginning with this newsletter. Each issue will highlight a member’s contributions and accomplishments on behalf of the breed and the Club.

Here’s to a relaxing rest of the summer and a cool crisp fall . . . Till the next time . . .

Sheryl Gaines  
President  
SWD Club of America, Inc.



# HELSINKI & THE WORLD DOG SHOW 2014

by Marnie Harrison

In a conversation with Wanda Tait many months ago, she mentioned attending the World Dog Show in Helsinki to see the Spanish Water Dogs and meet some European breeders. A seed was planted, tickets booked, and Glenda Kealey and I were very excited to learn in mid-July that there would be 90 SWDs being exhibited.

We arrived in Helsinki on Wednesday, August 6, a day later than expected (our luggage followed a day later; thank goodness we had not shipped a dog!), and Raimo Tuomela (Kennel Concurrido) met us at the airport. We overnighted with Raimo, his wife Sanna and their nine female SWDs ranging in age from four months to 15 years. We met several other dogs of their breeding, the highlight of which for me was my Chase's sire, Concurrido Zoco.

Sanna is a high-level agility competitor in Europe and dogs over 43 cm (17") must jump 70 cm (27.5"), compared to 16" in the US and Canada. As a result, a focus of some of their breeding is for a very compact, sound and athletic dog. Their dogs also have wonderful temperaments. Despite their high drive for agility, they are a calm group in the house, and very welcoming of the two visiting Canadians.

Friday morning we were off to the Messukeskus Convention Centre for the Spanish Water Dog breed competition at 9 am. The judge, Rafael Malo Alcrudo of Spain, had a wonderful manner both in his handling of the dogs and management of

his ring. All rings were completely matted and had no fencing or other barriers around the perimeter, but instead benches placed at intervals for spectators to sit *right there*. We staked our claim to one, and it was our vantage point for the next five hours!

The judging in this setting was a joy to watch. As in North America, the entire class entered the ring, circled once or twice as a group and the handlers set up their dogs. Then, however, everyone relaxed during the judging of individual dogs. One at a time, each handler brought his/her dog out to present it to the judge, and then moved it according to his instructions, usually a down-and-back and then a go-around. Sr. Malo Alcrudo had a pleasant smile for all and worked with handlers to get the best from each dog. He made it clear that he did not want to see tight leashes, and asked that some of the dogs be moved at a slightly slower pace rather than really stretching the dog out. He seemed to want quite natural rather than exaggerated movement.

One lovely bitch in the Junior Class clearly caught his eye, and he repeatedly coached the handler on errors she was making in moving and stacking the dog. The handler seemed unable to get it right, and not being able to see the dog to his satisfaction, Sr. Malo Alcrudo ultimately awarded her third in class.

Once a dog's movement had been seen, it was then set up for a thorough examination. Teeth were examined for proper dentition as well as bite. Coat texture was carefully considered, and on more than one occasion, a tape measure was used to accurately



Zemi, 11 months



check height, proportions and even in some instances, length of shoulder. After completing his examination, the judge moved to his table where a scribe recorded his comments about each dog on a duplicate form. These remarks were made up of detailed and explicit phrases such as “excellent compact format,” “strong neck,” “a little short/long in the loin,” “needs more front angulation,” “needs higher withers,” and so on. As each handler left the ring, he or she was handed a folder with their copy of the report on their dog. At that point, another person held up a colored card indicating the level of the dog’s quality. While there are several colors, only red (Excellent) and blue (Good) were awarded. Once the entire class had been judged, all of those rated Excellent returned to the ring for the class placements, first to fourth.

For me, this was the highlight of the show. For most of the judging, I stood close to the judge’s table so that I could observe each dog’s movement and then easily listen to the appraisal of each dog by the judge. It would be a great addition to AKC and CKC shows for owners to receive such clear feedback regarding their dogs.

Very few dogs were presented in what I would describe as “full cords.” While the judge was very attentive to coat quality, length seemed of little consequence. There were many dogs with 3” to 4” of coat that demonstrated the beginnings of nicely formed cords, and then those in shorter coats with good curls, but none that were really long. When I spoke with exhibitors afterwards, they confirmed this saying that at least 3 cm (1.2”) is necessary, but beyond that, owners decide based on what length they feel looks best on their dog. Most dogs are shaved once or twice yearly, preferably with a #4 blade, and can be back in the ring in as few as three months. Essentially, cords are not better or worse, if the judge knows the breed, they are immaterial.

There appeared to be tails on about 50% of the dogs at this point, not surprising for an event held in Finland where docking has been banned for more than a decade. Tail carriage varied a great deal, and there was a general feeling among exhibitors that, being from Spain, the judge was more accustomed to dogs with short tails and therefore favored them somewhat. When stacking their dogs, many handlers would hold a long tail so that it was not visible to the judge.

Probably the most remarkable quality of the dogs we saw, both at the show and elsewhere, was the friendly and open temperaments. Before approaching any dog, I would check with the owner, and in every instance I was invited to interact with the dog. At worst they were simply not interested in a stranger, but more often than not, the dogs were responsive and appreciative of the attention. One young dog even enthusiastically ran out to the end of its leash to jump up on the judge!

We spent our final evening with Juuso Koivusaari and Kia Laurila (a young woman with remarkable knowledge of the breed), visiting dogs from Zorrazo, Tigidas and Weewaddle Kennels. We discussed breed issues including puppies exhibiting “roof tooth,” facial hair loss in adult dogs and hip dysphasia. Opinions were similar – that none of these are preferred, but that “roof tooth” almost always resolves itself. Facial hair irregularity is like any other minor fault, and we will work to breed away from it; the dogs can almost always be shown. We all agreed that poor hips do not impact this breed as significantly as larger dogs, and while continuing to be vigilant about this condition, some dogs with poor hips may have other qualities that make it a worthy breeding individual.



It was very interesting to talk to Scandinavian breeders, particularly those from Finland. The Finnish Kennel Club maintains an incredible database on any dog that is registered with them. Anyone in the world can access this information (in English) and find pedigrees, health clearance information, litters and offspring of breeding stock and more. When I suggested that a breeder could easily dock puppy tails at birth if they were so inclined, the response was that the kennel club would notice that natural bobtails were not appearing elsewhere in the line, dogs could be DNA tested and the breeder sanctioned. At this point, this attention to health and temperament over time has resulted in multiple generations of dogs with a deep genetic background in healthy attributes and very agreeable temperaments. Accessing dogs from this gene pool for breeding stock in North America could strongly support breed progress here, particularly in the realm of temperament.

This trip was an incredible learning opportunity. Everyone loves to talk about their dogs, and by asking questions, listening and looking closely at dogs, we experienced serious SWD brain overload! Next June – Milan!

# SWD Club Titles and Invitations

**The following are titles and invitations earned by SWD Club members in the last year:**

Brasenia Concurrido Chasin Ewe – First SWD in Canada to achieve a **CKC** AGMXV; PADNV  
Owner: Marnie Harrison

Casa de Rancho's Melodia Alegra – **CKC** PADN; AIJ; AGI  
Owner: Marnie Harrison

Ariosa Fundy Bay It's A Wonderfullife – **AKC** BN  
Owner: Colleen Nolan

Ariosa Fundy Bay Captain America Baxter – **AKC** CM  
Owner: Lisa Harper

Casa de Rancho's Cali – **AKC** PT; DS; **NADD** DS ; Invitation to DockDogs® Worlds in Lap Dog Division  
Owner: Sarah Spinler

Casa de Rancho's Mona – First SWD to achieve an **AKC** CM3  
Owner: Sheryl Gaines

Timber Oaks Jingo Jango – **AKC** CM  
Owner: Faith Ott

MACH Orange Blossoms Admiral ("Tipo") – **AKC** MGA  
Owner: Jeff & Neida Abel

Gordomorad de Ubrique Pacho – **AKC** DS; **NADD** DS  
Owner: Lynn Ward

## HELPFUL LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.dockdogs.com](http://www.dockdogs.com)

[www.splashdogs.com](http://www.splashdogs.com)

[www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm](http://www.akc.org/akctherapydog/organizations.cfm)

[www.worlddogshow2014.fi](http://www.worlddogshow2014.fi)



Terri Kieffer – [key4prints.com](http://key4prints.com)



## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Activity Mentors Group and Board are working to develop a mentorship program to link members who have questions about performance sports, conformation, health or breeding with experienced member mentors. If you are interested in serving as a mentor in any of the following areas or would like to propose to be a mentor in a new area that is not listed, please contact Sarah Spinler at [Spinler@comcast.net](mailto:Spinler@comcast.net).

Activities: agility, barn hunt, breeding, competition obedience, conformation showing, dock jumping, flyball, herding, lure coursing, nose work/tracking, Service Dogs of America, rally obedience or whelping.

# Making a Splash

by Lynn Ward

While visiting San Diego in July 2008, friends and I attended “Wags for Wishes” – a Make-a-Wish Foundation fundraiser. This three-day event included agility, disc dog, flyball, lure coursing and dock jumping. I had entered my 2-year-old SWD, Pacho, in agility. While there, we decided to check out the area where Splash Dogs were having dock jumping. It looked like a lot of fun and a good way to cool him off and tire him out, so we gave it a try. The rest is history.

Several groups, including Splash Dogs, DockDogs, Ultimate Air Dogs, X-treme AirDogs, American Diving Dogs, the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge and, most recently, the AKC-sanctioned North American Diving Dogs all sponsor Dock Diving events. The main competition involves having the handler throw a floating object and the dog running down a dock and jumping into a pool. The distance is then measured by either the base of the tail or by the furthest point the dog lands in the pool. Originally, 25-foot long pools were used; however, due to the fact that several dogs jump over 30 feet(!) 40-50-foot-long pools are now used. Other disciplines include Extreme Vertical or Super Vertical, Fetch-It or Air Retrieve, Speed Retrieve and Catch-It.

Pacho and I have covered a lot of ground over the past six years, competing at events in five states. This July we are adding North Carolina to our list. We have competed in Splash Dogs Nationals twice, as well as two DockDogs World Competitions in Dubuque, Iowa. Last June, at DockDogs Western Regionals, Pacho jumped his personal best of 20 feet, seven inches. Last month we were the second Spanish Water Dog to earn the new AKC dock diving title with North American Diving Dogs, right behind Sarah Spinler and Cali. Next up, we hope to earn our Air Retrieve title in the near future. Although Pacho is eight years old and considered a veteran in the sport, he still loves to jump and I look forward to many more years of dock diving.



# One Year and Counting – Confessions of a First-Time SWD Owner

by Colleen Nolan



Memorial Day Weekend 2013, Z (Ariosa Fundy Bay It's A Wonderfullife BN) joined my family. Z may not be my first dog, but she is my first Spanish Water Dog. Like some of you I grew up with dogs (Australian Shepherds and Border Collies); but others – a terrier mix adopted from the streets of San Antonio, a basset/lab/terrier from an unplanned mating of a friend's dog and a border collie/lab that survived Hurricane Rita – found their way into my life in San Antonio. My first exposure to SWDs was after my move to West Virginia when I met Roy and then Vera, Carol and Jeff Plautz's two happy, loving SWDs. Meeting the two of them convinced me this could be the dog for me. In November 2012 I lost my basset/lab/terrier mix and while my family was incomplete, I wasn't ready to bring another dog home just yet. In the spring of 2013 I talked with Carol about finding a Spanish Water Dog puppy and she and Jeff pointed me to the SWD club website. I found a wonderful list of breeders and started looking for one with puppies to place. Much to my dismay there weren't many at that time, but I found one kennel looking to place two remaining puppies. It turns out that there was only one puppy left, a beautiful black girl with some white on her chin, throat and chest. After some email exchanges and, for me, what seemed like an eternity, Lisa Harper asked me if I was interested in being Z's guardian.

Since I had raised puppies before, I had a good idea of what to expect for the first few weeks. Little did I know how Z would change my life. The drive home included Z getting carsick and spending most of the time riding in my lap in the passenger seat. She lost her "puppy card" early on when she tried to take food from Kea (my now-blind border collie/lab) but the two became fast friends. Potty training was easy as Z was quick to learn and gave me clear signals as to when she wanted out. While I had read about how devoted SWDs were to their owners, I was truly surprised when Z became and remains my "Velcro dog." Walking on a leash was an adventure as Z was interested in everything and had both stubborn and protective streaks that I needed to address – time to look into obedience classes. Unfortunately, in the rural area I live in, finding a trainer was a challenge. Numerous emails back and forth with Lisa for suggestions for an SWD newbie helped me make some, but not enough, progress. After finding a trainer in the area in late January, Z and I were on the road to both better manners and Competitive Obedience. In May we were at our first Obedience Trial and in July we earned our first title (Beginner Novice) and we are now working toward our second title (Novice). Along the way we entered our first Conformation Shows and met other SWD owners, learning about the camaraderie that exists within the SWD Club of America beyond the message board. We take time to walk, hike, play ball and travel. Every chance we get we try to be good breed ambassadors by answering questions about what type of dog Z is and what SWDs are like. When other Obedience folks ask me why I say it is easy to work with Z, my response is always the same – Z wants to work for me and to make me happy.

Looking back on the past year, many things have helped us to grow. Staying in contact with Lisa was, and still is, very important. The SWD message board remains an inspiration – reading what others do with their dogs, congratulatory messages, pictures, questions and answers. Finding what the two of us could do together and play, play, play was critical. Most importantly it was learning to understand that Z is a Spanish Water Dog just as "advertised" on the club web page. Quite frankly, I wouldn't have it any other way.

# SWDs as Therapy Dogs *by Denise Velasquez*

In the spring of 2006 in Colorado after we'd had our Spanish Water Dog, Max, for a year, I saw an article about doing therapy dog work. I was curious. I looked at the definition of a therapy dog on Wikipedia: "A therapy dog is a dog trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, hospices, disaster areas and to people with learning difficulties."

I wondered, "Did interactions with a dog really make that big of a difference in people's lives?" Then I thought about how much my life had changed in a year, realizing how Max had taught me more about loving and being loved than I had learned in a good long time.

I had taken Max to several puppy classes and worked diligently to ensure he was very socialized. He was calm and well mannered. He was affectionate with my daughter and he loved being out and about. So we researched the therapy dog volunteer opportunities and groups in our area. We settled on getting certified through Therapy Dogs Incorporated and volunteering at a local hospice. The process was far less laborious than I had anticipated. They wanted dogs who were well mannered and gregarious like Max. It certainly helps when you have your Canine Good Citizen certification, but it is often not required. Max went through an obedience test with a coordinator. He also had to have several supervised visits before he was able to be certified. We worked through the process, and on the other end, he came out a certified

therapy dog with a little heart on his collar that said, "I am a Therapy Dog, Registered Therapy Dog TD Inc." Max wore his new tag with pride.

We started out visiting the hospice. I was nervous about visiting people in the last days of their lives, but that concern quickly lifted as the faces of the staff and patients lit up when we entered the building. It was wonderful to visit the patients to whom I'd been assigned, but I found myself wandering the halls before and after our hospice visits. Max was like a ray of sunshine in the corridor. As he appeared around every corner, the patients smiled with delight. People who hadn't engaged in days were smiling and petting Max. People would call us from their rooms to request that we come in and say hello. The whole experience made me feel great about life, great about Max, and great about the work we were doing.

A little while after we started volunteering with Max, we got his little sister, Izze. Izze was a little bit different than Max. She was well trained, but she was much higher energy and her enthusiasm and joy were infectious. When she turned one, we got her certified, too, and they both enjoyed visiting the nursing homes and hospice patients. Max would calmly sidle up to a patient's bed or wheelchair, sit and allow himself to be petted. Izze, interestingly, would do the same, but she seemed to understand when someone was sad or in pain and she would engage them, nuzzle her head into their hand or give them a couple of soft little licks on their hand. Everyone was delighted with them both.

I worried when I moved to Washington, DC, that I would struggle to find a new place to work with Max and Izze, but in this new city, we discovered a new therapy dog group. Most therapy dogs groups are local, and you must be certified by the one in your area. In DC, we discovered a group called People Animals Love (PAL) who were engaged in a variety of different places, including nursing homes and schools. We got involved in volunteering at the Armed Forces Retirement Center initially. The certification process took place in that facility. It was nice because visiting a nursing home was familiar. But I'd always wanted to do something with children, and I was a little bit saddened by working in hospice, which had been hard on me emotionally. About a year into our time in DC, we got involved in the PAL Club in Southeast DC.

Southeast DC is the 22nd most dangerous neighborhood in the US. We started volunteering at Stanton Elementary, which is the lowest performing elementary school in the area. Many of the children in the school had never spent time with animals. Since children are naturally curious about animals, PAL Club offers them the chance to explore and learn about them. They meet and care for dogs, rabbits and reptiles. Children read books about squirrels, habitats and the environment. They go bird-watching and bug-catching. They visit the zoo, the Smithsonian museum and canoe on the Anacostia River. For low-income children struggling with gaps in their academic, social and emotional skills, the animal-centric PAL Club and Camp builds on the



children's natural affinity for animals to stimulate scientific inquiry, improve reading and math and reward good behavior. And, most importantly, the children practice animal-friendly behavior – talking quietly, listening closely and petting softly.

Our beautiful dogs, Max and Izze both love being in this environment. The kids are delighted to be spending time with them. The teachers are enthusiastic about the energy the dogs bring to their classrooms. In this program, we have been interviewed by Voice of America, as well as local high school students about our participation in the program. The videos below feature Max and Izze working with students at Stanton.

Ballou High School video featuring Max:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIHkPTojqMo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIHkPTojqMo)

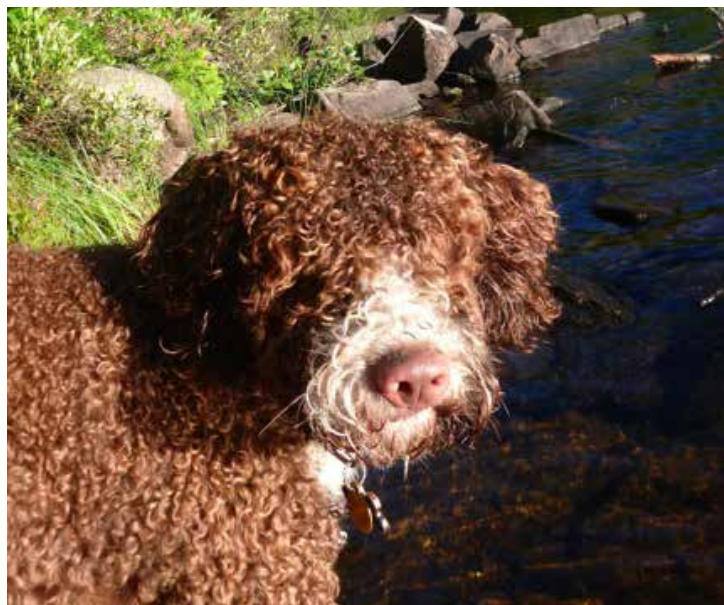
Voice of America video featuring Izze:  
[www.voanews.com/media/video/1455353.html](http://www.voanews.com/media/video/1455353.html)

In addition to PAL Club, we've had the opportunity to volunteer at schools in Virginia where Max visits children in the library and helps them read. "How does a dog help a child read?" you might wonder. Max is particularly adept at lying lazily while a child reads to him the latest Elephant and Piggie book. The animals, obviously, are not helping the children read, but they do an amazing job at building a child's confidence in reading. The dog listens. He is an impartial listener who is only there to be affectionate and loving in the way that only dogs are. As dog owners, we understand that animals bring meaning to human life. Children find pleasure and connection in the enthusiasm, kindness and affection that animals give freely.

Since Izze was more high energy, we eventually settled on a volunteer opportunity at an inner city school where the children were challenged. We meet the children once a week out on the lawn. The staff at the facility uses the time with the dogs as a reward for good behavior. Izze adores playing fetch with these children. They appreciate her energy and enthusiasm. It is wonderful to see the children soak up the sheer joy she exudes when she plays.

In addition to the volunteering we've done at elementary schools and nursing homes, Max and Izze also spend time at local colleges helping the students survive finals week. At first, this idea seemed amusing to me, but then I thought back to finals week when I was in college and how the stress was off the charts. They've spent time at the Georgetown Law School, Howard University and Catholic University campuses.

Over the years healthcare professionals have noticed the therapeutic effect of animal companionship, such as relieving stress, lowering blood pressure and raising spirits, and the demand for therapy dogs continues to grow. I'd encourage you to research local therapy dog organizations and opportunities in your area. Spanish Water Dogs, with their intelligence and attitude as working dogs, are ideally suited to the task.





# CANINE SOCIALIZATION PERIODS

by Lisa Harper

There are so many factors to consider and integrate into raising a puppy. From neurological stimulation to socialization to maturation, a puppy's world begins with complete dependence on its mother for survival, and then transitions to its owner for structure, safety and security. The following article provides an overview of a dog's maturation from birth to two years.

## Neonatal Period, Days 1-14

Puppies are born in a fully dependent state. Their eyes and ears are closed, and they require maternal stimulation to eliminate. Pups are heat-seeking and are unable to identify their dam by smell. Brain waves and EEG readings show no difference between the sleeping and waking states; puppies have no sense of self.

For the first five days, the pups are unable to form long-term memories of pain, making this the window for tail docking. While puppies feel the surgery as it is happening, they retain no memory of the event.

During the neonatal period, many breeders will conduct early neurological stimulation programs designed to produce dogs that better recover from stressful situations. Dr. Carmen Battaglia describes the methodology here: [breedingbetterdogs.com/pdfFiles/articles/early\\_neurological\\_stimulation\\_en.pdf](http://breedingbetterdogs.com/pdfFiles/articles/early_neurological_stimulation_en.pdf) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G31N\\_gmUkE0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G31N_gmUkE0)

## Transition Period, Days 15-21

The amazing Transitional Period – or as I fondly call it, the Frankenpuppy stage – begins with the first opening of the eyes and lasts until the ears open at approximately Day 21. The eyes are unable to focus but perceive movement, shadows, light and color. Crawling becomes unsteady walking with purpose, although pups often end up in different places than intended!

The puppies are given a little more room to begin wandering a foot or so from the nest. Placing gentle obstacles in the pen provides an opportunity for the pups to understand navigating over, around and under items with intent. They begin investigating objects (including siblings) with their mouths, and may well try to nurse on your nose or fingers.

## Primary Socialization Period, Weeks 3-4

This period is marked by the opening of the ears and first auditory startle response, which one can test for by banging on a metal pot. Over the next few weeks, the breeder should try to elicit startle responses in just about any way he or she can – flapping garbage bags open; playing CDs of thunderstorms and fireworks; children crying and screaming; dogs barking; running the vacuum cleaner; keeping a radio or television on during the day; and cap-guns during feeding times for dogs that will hunt. As in the Canine Good Citizen test much later in life, it's OK for the pup to startle and experience fear. What we're looking for is rapid recovery.

Teeth begin to erupt and the pups naturally begin to chew. Some breeders will put down Pablum or softened kibble to allow pups to practice eating. Nursing still provides most of the pups' nutrition. Pups begin to leave the nest to eliminate.

First clumsy play with siblings begins, including some play bowing, barking, growling, yelping and tail wagging. Investigative behavior begins, so pups should again be given more area and stimuli to investigate. I like to put down electric interactive toddler toys that light up and play music when a big button is accidentally pressed. Hang some wind chimes above the pen. Rotate through different textures in the pen – examples include a cement paver, a cookie pan of warm water, or a piece of vinyl flooring.



Studies show that handling at three weeks is critical. Puppies not handled until five weeks or later tend to be fearful of humans, and inadequate handling by seven weeks produces pups which require a great deal more socialization throughout their lives. (Freedman, King and Elliot, 1961).

### Secondary Socialization Period, Weeks 5-12

This is the most critical period for development of social behavior. Puppies imprint on their owners and create long-lasting positive and negative associations with a host of stimuli: people, other animals in the home, places, sights, sounds, flavors, textures, etc. Good examples of this are dogs of different colors and sizes, those with tails and without tails, and others with prick ears and hound ears. Introduce your pup to as diverse a population as possible: people of many skin colors, heights, lengths of hair, facial hair and hats. Let your pup experience walking on sand, brick, pebbles, wet marble, vinyl and other surfaces.

At this stage, puppy kindergarten classes are a far safer place to socialize than the dog park. Additionally, playing with pups of a similar age helps teach puppies bite inhibition, self-control and doggy social skills. Dogs are xenophobic and are more likely to attack others that have not learned to “speak dog” as a puppy.

Complicating these changes is the pups’ first Fear Imprint stage, which in my experience begins between 6-7 weeks in SWDs and generally ends after they have gone to their new homes, at about 12 weeks. The pups look to their elders for input on how to react to new stimuli. It is important to introduce your SWD to as many varieties of an element as possible, and always in a fun way. Puppies that are not given these opportunities are very likely to develop avoidance behaviors, fear and even aggression towards unfamiliar stimuli.

### Juvenile Period, Months 3-6

This is a fun period, when pups are learning survival skills – what works and what doesn’t – and setting habits of behavior. Want to break a pup of jumping up? This is the best time to introduce “sit for attention” games. For those who enjoy fetching, teach this behavior prior to 16 weeks.

The Juvenile Period is also an important stage for brain development. Neurons in the brain finally have full myelin sheathing, allowing faster communication between nerves and neurons. Pups are able to learn more quickly than in earlier stages.

### Adolescent Period, 6 Months-2 Years

Just as with human children, adolescent pups test the rules. Counter-surfing and jumping on forbidden furniture are hallmarks of this period. “Puppy Passports” expire and adult dogs discipline pups for non-adult behavior. Sexual hormones surge. With a full complement of myelin and approaching adulthood, pups begin to store memories in a different way. When they look at you with confusion over a command they used to know “cold,” they honestly may not remember! Re-train the behavior so the pup can acquire new adult memories.

Most puppies also go through a second fear period. My experience has been that Spanish Water Dogs tend to enter this period around 9-10 months. The dogs suddenly become more aware of their surroundings at large, and objects they pass every day (for example, a fire hydrant) may suddenly become dangerous objects. This is a normal phase. This period requires a calm, assertive and fair owner to guide them from fear to knowledge.

#### *For further reading:*

Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog: The Classic Study (John Paul Scott and John L. Fuller, The University of Chicago Press, 1965)





## NANCY SALCEDO

April 27, 1952 – August 14, 2014

When Nancy and Jesse Salcedo visited Spain in the late 1990s, they saw a Spanish Water Dog herding goats and fell in love with the breed. They have been involved with Spanish Water Dogs in the US since 2000 when they imported their first SWD, Zoe, from Belgium.

Nancy was always an advocate for the SWD. She spoke with intelligence, compassion, reason and logic. She was a vocal member of the “Spanish-Water-Dog-L” Yahoo discussion list, and then the “Spanish-Water-Dog-USA-L” where she was a strong proponent of recognizing the SWD as a herding dog. Nancy became a supporter of the SWDAA and then the SWDCA. She supported the Rescue program of both clubs in honor of their second SWD, Lady, who was a rescue.

In 2009, the Salcedos lost their beloved Zoe to an aggressive cancer and they became the “parents” of Manchas, seen with them in the photo at left.

Nancy had struggled with respiratory issues for the last several years. She had trouble leaving her house and she had difficulty speaking for long periods of time but she always had the time and energy to talk to me when I called. She had been struggling for a long time, but tried to stay strong for her husband, Jesse, and daughter, Vanessa. I had the great fortune of speaking with her about two weeks ago, and although she sounded winded and very weak, she tried very hard to stay positive.

I would like to quote Jesse, her loving husband, who so eloquently described her passing, “We made it all the way up the long winding road and up the steep incline. We traveled as far as I could accompany her, we said our goodbyes. Nancy continued on without me. Rest in peace, my Sweetheart”

Rest in peace, Nancy. Your legacy lives on through those who knew you and whose lives you touched.

Sheryl



# THE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP MAP



## New & Returning Members

- Monica Snow, Winnipeg, Canada
- Janet Rahn, Ridgeland, SC
- Rainer Paskiewicz, Branford, CT
- Leighton Wildrick & Tanna Wagenmann, St. Paul, MN
- Elena LaDue & Phil Mandelbaum, Lake Katrine, NY
- Donald Ouellette, Vernon, VT
- Jeff Boyer, Denver, CO
- Cathy Winkler, Traverse City, MI
- Wanda Tait, Edmonton, AB, Canada
- Nancy Durkee, Newburyport, MA



# Dog's Best Friend *by Faith Ott*

They say a dog is man's best friend. As someone who has loved dogs my entire life, I can certainly attest to that sentiment. Recently, however, I have met someone who I can say is a dog's best friend. I have met many wonderful dog people in my 53 years, but this person stands head and shoulders above the rest. This person is the one person I can safely say deserves the accolade of "Dog's Best Friend." That person is Linda Scheele.

Linda's kennel, Timber Oaks, is one of the country's most trusted breeders of Portuguese Water Dogs. To my great joy, Linda began breeding Spanish Water Dogs eight years ago – including our beloved Jango – and once again established herself as a top national breeder.

Linda is also renowned in the dog show world in conformation with Carlos who has achieved great recognition, is an accomplished Certificate of Merit winner and has helped to create awareness for the SWD breed among AKC judges nationally. Linda has also achieved great success in agility with Diego, often showing him herself.

Linda's commitment to the breed goes well beyond running a successful kennel and receiving high accolades in the conformation and agility rings. Linda is focused on what is best for the breed. She breeds for temperament, in addition to working, agility and conformation traits for the SWD breed, and she has always been a focused advocate of all health testing.

To sum up Linda's philosophy best, using her own and often stated words, "The key to developing a successful and well-rounded breed is about temperament first and foremost. While a beautiful dog that meets the breed standards is important, possessing the right temperament is vitally essential to ensuring we are positively perpetuating the Spanish Water Dog in the United States."

No one is more deserving of the title Dog's Best Friend than Linda, and from my perspective, she has earned another title: "Pet Owner's Best Friend." Linda always gives careful attention to the placement of SWD puppies. She makes sure they are placed in the right homes, provides the necessary education to families to ensure they are able to properly care for and successfully raise the dogs, and remains actively connected to her Timber Oaks puppies to ensure her matches are still good fits. In the rare occasions when they are not, Linda does whatever it takes to find those pups better-fitting homes.

Personally, Linda has helped Janet and me in countless ways. She has taught us everything she knows about the breed – from proper grooming to general overall well-being tips for our beloved SWDs. She has also encouraged us to accomplish success in conformation, agility and herding.

There have been many wonderful people who have helped to enhance the growth, popularity and awareness of the SWD breed here in the United States. In future issues we will recognize those folks and we say now thank you to each and everyone!

But for this first recognition, we applaud Linda Scheele and Timber Oaks Kennels. Thank you, Linda, for all you have done to move the SWD breed forward and for truly being "Dog's Best Friend!"

