



Spanish Water Dog Club of America

www.SWDClub.org

MARCH 2014 | NEWSLETTER

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Message from the President

Winter 2014

Happy New Year – and then some! A lot has happened since our last newsletter and I am glad for the opportunity to let everyone know how all of the continued efforts on behalf of the Club are being rewarded.

It is easier to list each area with a brief update, so here goes:

The Club voted on a name change, taking into consideration that AKC requires clubs to have either “America” or “United States” in our name. Accordingly, the Club chose the “Spanish Water Dog Club of America.”

We continue to work through the process needed to complete the requirements for full recognition. As of this writing, five dogs belonging to club members have earned their Certificates of Merit, and at least 300 dogs are registered with three-generation pedigrees. As noted below, we completed our Open Show in October and continue to expand our Club’s membership. All of this allowed us to petition AKC, via a written request, asking for full recognition.



We received notice on February 10, 2014, that we will be entering the Herding Group as of January, 2015! What this means is that the SWD will be able to compete in conformation at any AKC show and be eligible to compete in the Herding Group. We will continue to be able to compete in all other AKC activities.

Together with the Bergamasco Sheepdog Club of America, we hosted an awesome Open Show in Fort Monmouth Park this past October. We were pleased to see so many of the FSS and Miscellaneous breeds represented among the 47 entries. In addition, as Marnie Harrison highlights in her piece for this newsletter, we had an Open Show in Portland, Ore. at the Rose City Classic in January, which was well attended by both FSS and Miscellaneous breeds.

In other news, we said goodbye to David Sang as a valuable Board Member and welcomed Sarah Spinler, whose local involvement brings a different perspective to our group.

Here’s to a speedy end to the winter and a beautiful spring! Till the next time . . .

Sheryl Gaines
President
SWD Club of America, Inc.

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Spanish Water Dog approved for full recognition in the Herding Group as of January 1, 2015.

It's official! The AKC Board approved the Spanish Water Dog for full recognition in the Herding Group as of January 1, 2015. The first Westminster after will be in February of 2016. After 14 years of working toward AKC recognition, this moment is bliss, indeed.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Mari-Beth O'Neill
Assistant Vice President
Special Services

February 10, 2014

Sheryl Gaines, President
Spanish Water Dog Club of America
34 Kenwood Road
Tenafly, NJ 07670

Dear Sheryl,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that at the February 2014 Board meeting, the AKC Board of Directors approved the Spanish Water Dog to be eligible to compete in the Herding Group effective January 1, 2015.

The club will need to provide the educational information and photographs to the Judging Operations Department for use in a Judges Guide that will be added to the AKC Web site. This is the link to where this will be posted for you to review what other clubs have developed.

<http://www.akc.org/judges/guides/index.cfm>

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions. I look forward to working with you as the breed becomes eligible to compete in Conformation Events.

Sincerely,

Mari-Beth O'Neill

cc Timothy Thomas

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

by *Richard Reynolds*

On January 1, 2015 the Spanish Water Dog will join the AKC recognized breeds that comprise the Herding Group. Despite getting some of our dogs out to show in the Miscellaneous Group and despite a few seminars for Breed Education, the showing and judging of Spanish Water Dogs will take a whole new track.

As the breed is shown on a regular basis to experienced Herding Group judges, we (and this means, owners, handlers, breeders and judges alike) can expect to see a few individuals rewarded more frequently than others. We can expect to see some dogs shown that may or may not have been in the Miscellaneous classes and we can expect to see more experienced owner-handlers or professional handlers at the end of the lead. We can expect to see a broader range of “type” and a very wide range of quality as owners begin the effort to make up Champions and Grand Champions.

This whole process brings a degree of hardship and responsibility to owners, handlers and judges alike. It takes a considerable amount of time, often years, for what we call “breed type” to stabilize. Later this year, people who judge the entire Herding Group will receive a 25-question, open book examination, and having passed that, will be able to judge SWDs at the breed level. The stark reality is that very few of us have the innate ability to judge a breed well the first few times we see it. There will likely be a wide disparity of type. Which one to choose? What are the structural priorities? What is the essence of the breed? As exhibitors we can expect our share of disappointments along with our triumphs.

Over time, with the improvement of our written breed standard, the expansion of the available gene pool, the recognition of structural priorities and the education of breeders, exhibitors and judges, breed type will stabilize and we will all be better equipped to recognize a winner.

We have all long awaited full recognition of Spanish Water Dogs, but it is actually a time to increase our momentum. We need to learn how to become good handlers. We need to clarify our written standard. We need to accelerate our efforts at Breed Education Seminars (note the change in nomenclature) and urge the attendance of everyone: breeders, exhibitors, performance people and pet owners – not just aspiring judges.

Many clubs use this period to develop and publish an illustrated and annotated adjunct publication to the standard itself, utilizing art or computer generated images to illustrate faults and virtues. Most judges appreciate seeing the illustration of a fault as much as a virtue. We should consider doing one, but it is a daunting task.

We can expect that the first year of recognition, for better or worse, will produce a few champions of record and perhaps a group or Best in Show winner. We will encounter some good experiences and some bad ones. None of that, however, is as important as using our new status to perfect and stabilize the breed and ensure future generations of healthy and functional Spanish Water Dogs shown, worked and loved to their best advantage.

While many of us have already begun work on some of these awesome tasks, it truly “takes a village.” I hope all of us, particularly those who breed, will recognize our obligations as pioneers of the Spanish Water Dog in America.

RESCUE UPDATE “Spanish”

by *Felicia Feldman*



You may remember that last summer David and I fostered a SWD rescued from a shelter in New Hampshire. With Jackie’s help, we were fortunate enough to place him a month later with a member of the New Hampshire State Trooper K-9 unit and his wife, along with their household of three other dogs.

I am pleased to tell everyone that this couple has done a fantastic job with Spanish. He has become a perfect gentleman and is now their shadow, following them from room to room and outside. And he loves riding in the car! His trip to the groomer’s was rated an A+ and they thought he was wonderful and fun! The biggest accomplishment is that he socializes appropriately with large groups of people (10+) on property (this was a dog that went after our landscaper and our tree man). In short, Spanish has become a loyal and wonderful companion!

As I said previously, all rescue stories don’t come with a happy ending. It goes back to how the pup was raised (socialization, socialization, socialization!!!) and whether the behaviors instilled over time can be changed. Most importantly, having a handler who knows how to address aggression head on and puts bite behavior into a specific framework is essential for a dog’s rehabilitation. Spanish is indeed a very lucky dog!

SWD Club Titles and Invitations

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

Cdn CH: Brasenia Concurrido Chasin Ewe (Chase) **CKC:** RA **AAC:** AADC SGDC; Invited to the 2013 Eukanuba Agility Invitionals

Owner: Marnie Harrison

Casa de Rancho's Melodia Alegra (Maddy) **AKC:** OA OAJ NF, **CKC:** RN AGN, AGNJ, **AAC:** ADC

Owner: Marnie Harrison

Casa de Rancho's Cali **AKC:** HT; Dock Diving JJR

Owner: Sarah Spinler

Casa de Rancho's Mona: First SWD to achieve a CM2

Owner: Sheryl Gaines

Nispero de los Duendes (Nipo): PT

Owner: Andrea Paskiewicz

Orange Blossom's Admiral (Tipo): Invited to the 2014 Westminster Kennel Club Agility Trials

Owner: Jeff Abel

HELPFUL LINKS FOR TITLE INFORMATION:

AHBA: <http://www.ahba-herding.org>

AKC: <http://www.akc.org/events/titles.cfm?page=2>

ASCA: <http://www.asca.org/programs/ascatitles>

CKC: <http://www.ckc.ca/en/Portals/0/pdf/Rule-Books/325-01-05%20Agility.pdf>



Running in Circles (Herding with my Spanish Water Dog)

by Andrea Paskiewicz



As I watched our first (and only) litter of Spanish Water Dog puppies run and play, one goal among many stood out: I wanted a herding dog – a dog with the drive and desire to herd with me. For years I had watched my mother work hard to find the herding spirit in her dogs: attending clinics and lessons, taking notes, watching others. I had even tried to work them myself (long story short: it's really hard to get a Spanish Water Dog who isn't yours to work for you). Now it was my turn.

Nípo was a challenge from the start. At five weeks, he would run up to our nine year old, flipping on his back in front of her as she growled and snapped, only to take off running after her when she turned and left. I should have known, but, he was my pick, my boy. His herding career started with lessons at 12 weeks – we put him on ducks. Two lessons later, we graduated to sheep (ducks can only take so much push). Lesson learned? Two years later, we're still learning.

I've dabbled in other dog sports, but never one that has taught me so much as herding has about my dog or myself. I've learned that he's not as stubborn as I first thought. I understand now that he wants to please me and becomes frustrated when he doesn't understand what I want. I know that he needs to work on his self control and that I need to toughen up and be more consistent with him. There is no greater joy or feeling in the world when we have a breakthrough lesson. It's also heartbreaking when we get stuck on something. It's about the only thing that will get me up at 5 a.m. to drive two hours to spend all day out in a field at -4°F, just to be able to spend an hour with a clinician.

So what's next for us? Our plan is to move up to "Started Class" in the AKC (Started is the lowest class with fewer restrictions on where the handler can go on the course). He won't be ready this year (his outrun needs work), but I think next year will be our year..

Andrea P's Spotter's Glossary to Herding Trial Terms (in no particular order):

Handler: the human being who is supposed to be in charge. This includes giving flanks (both correct and incorrect), holding up their side of stock, and saying "Down!" a lot.

Dog: the tool by which the handler hopes to accomplish whatever herding tasks s/he wishes to do. Note: This tool may or may not be the one actually running the show.



Stock: the unfortunate animal partners in this venture. They are often “volunteered” for this duty and will often do just about anything they can to go back in the door they came out of, especially on Day 3 of a trial.

A Run: the allotted time in which all of this good stuff is supposed to happen.

Course: the prescribed route that the stock is supposed to take during a run. Note: The course in theory and the course in practice may look very different.

Judge: the human being who decides how well the run followed the course and attaches a score to it.

Flanks: the method by which the handler moves the tool around the stock. There are two: “Go By” sends the tool clockwise around the stock and “Away to Me” sends the tool counter-clockwise around the stock.



Down: the best trick you can teach the tool EVER.

Balance: where the tool has to be in order to keep the run looking smooth and calm and to keep the stock from going to the draw. This changes greatly from situation to situation.

Draw: where the stock would very much like to go.

Obstacle: something that the stock has to interact with, whether they need to pass through it in a particular way, go into it, etc.

Thank You! The sign that the run is over. Note: If the “Thank You!” comes from the judge, your run is over. Now.

Group Profile: North East Stockdog Association

The North East Stockdog Association, or NESAs, is a group of herding enthusiasts affiliated with the American Kennel Club. The group generally sponsors three herding trials in the New England area per year: one in May, September and October. As groups go, they are very welcoming and understanding with beginners. They host several herding-related events for those just starting out, including a Herding Fun Day and Herding Instinct Test. Persons wishing to join will need two sponsors from the group’s existing membership. For more information or a list of herding activities in North East, please visit their website: www.northeastherdinginfo.com/.



Rose City Classic 2014

by Marnie Harrison



Late last spring, while chatting with Sheryl Gaines and lamenting the lack of events for our breed and club in the West, the seed was planted for the SWDCA to host an Open Show at the Rose City Classic. Held annually in Portland, Ore. in mid January, this remarkable cluster of shows is on a grand scale. For four days, seven huge exhibition halls are transformed into over 300,000 square feet of dog show mecca, offering Conformation, Obedience, Rally Obedience and Agility competition (to say nothing of the vendors!). As well as being a major west coast Conformation event, the Agility Trials are a significant competition as well. Classes offered include International Sweepstakes Courses (ISC) for competitors hoping to qualify for the U.S. World Team tryouts later in the year, resulting in some very high level competitors being in attendance. These shows and trials create unique community involvement with good media coverage, a student art competition and a well attended field trip destination for local school groups.



Plans for our Open Show progressed through the summer and into the fall. With some pleading and wheedling, we were able to convince Richard Reynolds to be our Show Chairman, along with Judy Siebert in the arduous role of Show Secretary (huge thanks to both of them for their many hours of work making this event possible). Thanks also goes out to Faith and Bill Ott for their generous donation making cash prizes possible for all dogs placing in Group, as well as for Best in Show.

Our show was held Friday evening and while people were tired, once underway, enthusiasm picked up, and a great time was had by participants and observers alike. The handlers were a wonderful, friendly group of dog fanciers. We chatted informally at ringside, sharing information about our relatively unknown breeds, and took the time to watch and appreciate each other's dogs. After a long day of judging in the all breed show, Judge Janina Lauren remained cheerful and patient with inexperienced handlers and dogs, taking the time to be thorough in her examination of all of the dogs. Richard was busy keeping the Judge's table in order, and Judy managed the exhibitors at ringside to keep the show moving along.



We were very pleased with our overall numbers for the Open Show and had a good variety of Miscellaneous and FSS breeds. Although we had a small entry of three Spanish Water Dogs, we had the BEST cheering squad! As well as local support from the Martins, Lori Cook and Judy Pugh, we had the wonderful addition of the contingent from the East. I am so grateful to Felicia, Nancy and Sheryl for making the trip to Portland to support the Open Show and our breed. Having Sheryl there to be the expert handler also resulted in the added bonus of Maddy taking Best in Miscellaneous Group, a huge thrill for me! With the official photographer having long since left the building, Lori became the de facto show photographer, and graciously took pictures of a number of owners/handlers with their dogs and the judge.

Saturday morning had us all back in action for Meet the Breeds, and with the spayed girls who hadn't be entered in the show, we had six SWDs in attendance to meet and greet the public – always a fun and worthwhile event. Again, how nice to have a community of breed people with whom to visit, and to share our collective



New & Returning Members

Cathy Linsk, Stockton, NJ
Lynn Postma, Lentwood, MI
Kimberly & John Koger, Dedham, MA
Neal Ferraro, Granada Hills, CA
Trisha McElroy, Jamestown, RI
Susan Currie, Bedford, NS
Kristi Murray, Huntington Beach, CA
Jo-Ann Brock, Halifax, NS
Nicole Desroche, Eilerslie, PEI
Lori Manos, New Glasgow, NS
Rae Boratto, Beachburg, Ontario
Nader Azrak, Montreal, Quebec
Nancy Amos, High Point, NC
Cheryl Rodriguez, Okotoks, AB
Dennis Kasprowski, Belmont, OH
David Salama, Huntington Woods, MI
Greg Ligenza, Macungie, PA
Heidi Larson, Mattoon, IL
Monica Snow, Winnipeg, MB
Janet Rahn, Ridgeland, SC
Rainer Paskiewicz, Branford, CT

knowledge and experiences with this breed. It is interesting to note that our dogs were perfectly well behaved and the Great Danes in the next booth had three noisy scuffles.

Chase, Maddy and I had a somewhat inconsistent weekend in agility. Too many distractions for the handler perhaps, but Maddy finished a couple of titles, Chase got a Double Q and they both had some nice runs in Time 2 Beat and Fast. As always, we learned from the weekend, and certainly enjoyed running a very nice array of courses.

All in all, thanks to everyone who made this a great weekend in the West for Spanish Water Dogs!

For more information on the Rose City Classic, please visit: rosecityclassic.org.

For more information on the different types of dog shows, please visit: <http://classic.akc.org/events/conformation/beginners.cfm>.

For more information on agility, please visit: <https://classic.akc.org/events/agility/index.cfm>.

