



**Spanish
Water
Dog
Club**

Autumn 2011 Newsletter



Notes from the Chair, by Sheryl Gaines

It has been a very exciting year! We started in August 2010 with a combined Specialty which led to the merging of the SWDAA and the SWD Club, Inc. Since then, the

function and history, and together, we accomplished our goal!

With a year of major accomplishments, it is time to move on to the future of our breed and our club. This year will bring recognition in the Miscellaneous class for the SWD which means we can participate in AKC shows. We are in the process of redoing the Standard, getting together a world wide health organization, having a new Newsletter and planning for next year's Specialty. It is only with the help of our membership that we can accomplish our goals. I ask you to please consider volunteering for one of the committees. It is a great way to get involved in the future of the SWD. Whether you can volunteer for a few minutes a week, or a few hours, every little bit helps.

I am looking forward to serving you for the next two years. Together we can take the SWD into the future with the American Kennel Club!

SWD Club, Inc. has been chosen by AKC as the Parent Club for the Spanish Water Dog. Probably the most exciting news is that the AKC has officially moved the Spanish Water Dog into the Herding Group. With all of the historical documentation required and a club vote that was nearly unanimous, the Board of Directors of AKC voted to change our designation from Sporting to Herding without objection. Both the former SWDAA and the SWD Club have been working hard to get the SWD into the group that represents its primary

SWD Club Board of Directors:

- Sheryl Gaines, *Chair*
- Cindy Clark, *Parliamentarian*
- Sara Adkins-Blanch, *Secretary*
- Nancy Valley, *Treasurer*
- Lisa Harper, *AKC Liaison*
- Jacqueline Nazzaro, *Member at Large*
- Lynn Ward, *Member at Large*

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Nispero's Spanish Word of the Quarter:

granada (grah-nah-dah) pomegranate



fun fact The city of Granada was named for this strange fruit. Even today, all of the manhole covers in the city have at least one *granada* on them!

Welcome New and Returning Members!

Felicia Feldman
 Jenny Garris
 Brent Hughes
 Todd Russell
 Darek Jezierski
 Lauren Dominick
 Jennifer Tesoro
 David Valley
 Lisa Ellis
 Steve Nazzaro
 Andrew Anzardo
 Michael Ellis
 Meg Nielson
 David J. Vanderheide
 Linda Scheele
 Deborah Lee Miller-Riley
 Jenny Bloomfield
 Bernard Sobotor
 Vickie Miller
 Rose Smith
 Susan Jewett
 Ernesto Hernandez
 Gretchen Hernandez
 Elizabeth Nelson
 Alexis Kashar
 Rosmarijn Sales
 Monica Woodham
 Gary Kashar
 Maggie Buckley
 Caroline George

AKC Notes, Lisa Harper, AKC Liaison

On the 13th of April of this year, we at last received the long-awaited news: the Spanish Water Dog Club was selected as official Parent Club. From that moment forth, our club became the guardian of the SWD and keeper of the breed standard in the USA.

Within days of receiving the news, the Spanish Water Dog Club petitioned the AKC Board of Directors on two counts:

1. To accept the Spanish Water Dog into the Miscellaneous Class
2. To change the eventual Group placement from Sporting to Herding.

These requests were discussed by the AKC Board, and we received confirmation that the Spanish Water Dog would enter the Miscellaneous Class on June 27, 2012.

The matter of Group placement was a bit more complicated, however. While the AKC Board wholeheartedly agreed that our breed did not belong in the Sporting Group, the question arose as to whether the breed belonged in the Herding or Working Group.

The club's voting membership was formally balloted as to preference of

Group (Herding, Working, Sporting). Of 91 voting members, 65 ballots were returned—a return rate of 75%.

Final tally was:

- Herding: 60 votes
- Working: 4 votes
- Sporting: 1 vote
- Blank ballot: 1

Our petition included other pieces of information such as an in-depth history (including sources and photographs) of the SWD as a herding dog, a letter from Antonio García Pérez dated 2004 discussing the breed's roots as a herding and hunting dog, notes from a breed lecture given by Antonio García Pérez in which he explains the breed is primarily a herding breed, and a video of Spanish dogs herding goats, cattle, and pigs.

On October 11, 2012, Mari-Beth O'Neill informed us that the AKC Board approved our petition, and that the breed would be moved to the Herding Group. Additionally, each registered SWD with a registration prefix of "S" will receive a new registration number to reflect Herding instead of Sporting. New registration numbers will be issued as time permits, so owners should watch their mailboxes!

Thank you to the contributors of this newsletter:

Articles: Beth Laws, Dr. John C. Fyfe, Lisa Harper, Lori Munoz, Sandi Pensinger, Sheryl Gaines

Specialty Photos: Jodi Haley, Sara Adkins-Blanch

Puzzles: Andrea Valley

Editor: Beth McCanlies

Dam: CH Rosa de Tejas CGC, TD
 PennHip: 889038, LDI .53, RDI .54, 70th percentile
 CERF: SWD 156/2010--20
 PRA: Obligate clear
 OFA Thyroid: May develop comp. thyroiditis
 Sire: selection in process

Boston Spanish Water Dogs
 2012 Spring Breeding Planned

Kaher and Patricia
 First Photography

bostonspanishwaterdog.com

2011 National Specialty

The 2011 National Specialty was the first Specialty after the merger of the SWDAA and SWD Club. This merger was enabled by the successful joint 2010 Specialty/Jamboree after which the Boards of each respective club voted to merge the clubs, followed by the members of each club voting for the merger.

The 2011 Specialty was held this year from August 26 - 28 in southern Massachusetts.

A Judges' Seminar was held Friday evening at the Clark's farm in Holland, Massachusetts. This seminar helps AKC judges gain accreditation in judging Spanish Water Dogs.

Conformation activities followed the Judges Seminar on Friday evening. They were led by AKC judge Dr. Thomas M. Davies. Originally scheduled for Sunday morning, the event was moved up due to Irene, the impending hurricane. Three non-standard classes were judged: Veteran (any SWD 7 years and older), Altered, and Baby Puppy (any SWD ages 3 - 6 months). Non-standard class winners are not eligible for Best In Specialty Show. Four standard classes were judged: Puppy (any SWD ages 6 - 12 months), Young Adult (any SWD ages 12 - 18 months), Bred by



followed by a sorting activity. Sheep were color coded into three different groups with spray paint. Lots of fun for the kids in attendance who got to do the spraying! One at a time, each sheep was then driven through a sorter into one of three holding pens. Once the sheep were properly sorted, Colleen held short private herding lessons with any participant wanting further herding instruction and/or practice. Participants were able to work on sheep and/or ducks and even the puppies got into the action. Later in the day, Colleen set up a ranch dog course which shuffled three groups of sheep among four pens, driving one group down a narrow alley through a Y and Z chute, and then driving the sheep into a far field.



Exhibitor, and Open. Winners of the standard classes competed for Best in Specialty Show and Reserve Best in Specialty Show.

Colleen Cody gave a Ranch Dog Herding Seminar Saturday at Two Shadows Farm in New Braintree, Massachusetts. The seminar focused on tasks performed on a ranch or farm, beginning Saturday morning with a brief introduction to herding

The SWD Club general meeting was held Saturday afternoon at Two Shadows Farm. The membership voted to fund the creation of the Spanish Water Dog Health Foundation. Sheryl Gaines led the presentation of a special plaque from the membership to our outgoing chair, Lisa Harper. The plaque read, "To Lisa Harper With Great Appreciation and Gratitude for Her Tireless Work and Effort on Behalf of the Spanish Water Dog Club, Inc. and the Spanish Water Dog Breed in



The SWDClub holds a National Specialty at least once year. The National Specialty is at least two days long with a conformation show, a herding activity, and a water activity. Other activities can be included such as agility, judges education, tracking, and Canine Good Citizen. Various educational activities such as grooming seminars and handling lessons can also be included. The National Specialty is also the venue for the general membership meeting.

the United States.” Sheryl Gaines was voted to the Chair of the Board of Directors and she closed the meeting as the new Chairperson.

Raffle prizes were awarded after the general meeting. The nearly \$500 raised in raffle funds went in support of Dr. Fyfe’s research on Congenital Hypothyroidism with Goiter in Spanish Water Dogs. (Read more about Dr. Fyfe’s work in this newsletter in his article “Congenital Hypothyroidism with Goiter in Spanish Water Dogs.”)

Agility activities were held Saturday afternoon on a course set up by Lisa Harper. Hurricane Irene was descending on the area — and a downpour started at the beginning of the agility work. Some participants headed home mid-Saturday in order to be able to return home while roads were still passable. The remaining participants did their best to run the agility course in an extreme downpour. Visibility was poor and the ground was slick. Some chose to drop out after doing only one run



and course times were recorded as accurately as possible.

As evening descended, and Hurricane Irene picked up in intensity, more participants headed home. Back at the Clark’s farm, the Specialty wrapped up with dinner and a presentation by Kris Cofiell. Kris showed participants how puppy evaluations are performed, providing a Basic Conformation and Evaluation Process on Nancy Valley’s Casa de los Duendes litter. Kris Cofiell is a PWDCA board member and a long-time PWD breeder.

The planned class Introduction to Water Work and a Junior Water Dog test to be held at the US Army Corp



of Engineer Gate in Fiskdale, Massachusetts and to be judged by

was cancelled due to increasing Hurricane Irene activity.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Clark and Laws families for pulling this Specialty together!



CASA DE RANCHO SPANISH WATER DOGS

SHERYL AND SAMANTHA GAINES

201-568-0487

hdsdgg@aol.com

www.spanishwaterdogpuppy.com

MBISS Ch (E, P, UKC) Rancholunac de Ubrique CGC, TDI
Ch Gordomoraf de Ubrique, CGC
MBISS Ch Casa de Rancho's Mona

HOME OF

2011 National Specialty Results

Conformation Results: (Dr. Thomas Davies, judge)

- Best in Show: Casa de Rancho's Mona
- Reserve Best in Show: Weber's Encanta de Ariosa
- Best Veteran: Rancholunac de Ubrique
- Best Altered: Casa de Rancho's Dobbi
- Best Puppy: Ariosa Francisco Rey de Bostón

Herding Results: (Colleen Cody, instructor)

1. Beloved Pretty in Pink de Ariosa
2. Casa de Rancho's Dobbi
3. Tucker Cordero

Agility Results: (timed)

1. Avefaro Galleta de Ariosa
2. Beloved Pretty in Pink de Ariosa
3. Avefaro Dama Danielle de Ariosa

Water Work: (Kris Cofeill) Cancelled due to incoming hurricane

2011 Super Dog: Beloved Pretty In Pink de Ariosa

Thank You To All Who Contributed Specialty Award Donations:

- Super Dog — Scott and Gina Peckford
- Best in Show — TJ Messler, in memory of Chica; Marnie Harrison
- Reserve Best in Show — Sheryl Gaines
- Best Puppy — Jodi Haley
- Best Veteran — Misty Elmore
- Best Altered — Ashael Cooke
- Herding — Lisa Harper
- Agility — Linda Scheele
- Water Work — Jackie Nazarro



Best in Show: Casa De Rancho's Mona



Reserve Best in Show: Weber's Encanta de Ariosa

Sancho's Rescue Story, by Lori Munoz

Friday September 9th was going to be a long day for me, my son was scheduled for major surgery that afternoon and sleep was not on my side.

When I checked my email that morning, I received an email from Jackie Nazzaro titled "Rescue Needed Any help for this poor baby?" with a picture of a SWD in a tiny shelter cage. The poor baby needing rescue was right here in the Chicago area, less than an hour from our home, at a city-operated shelter.

I immediately emailed Jackie to say I was the closest but with my son's surgery, I wasn't sure when I could get him. Alycia from the shelter had told me that Sancho had been in the cage since August 30th, never let out of the cage and was very lethargic and depressed. He was turned into the shelter stating he had allergies so he needed special food and that he barked too much and was defecating in the house every other day.

Jackie contacted the shelter and over the next few hours Jackie, Alycia and I

had a plan to get Sancho picked up on Sunday afternoon. We had no idea what we were getting into with this rescue as this was the first time we had been to such a facility — and we hope to never have to go back. Not a happy place.

When we arrived at the shelter to meet Sancho, I put my hand into the cage and he licked me. Once he saw the leash, he put his head down to allow us to put it on him and he was off for the doors. Once outside the poor boy relieved himself about 5 times — who knows how long he had been holding it in. He was extremely smelly and dirty with some patches of hair missing. We took him to an outside dog run where I was able to give him a quick bath; I got kisses during his bath. The poor baby was just skin and bones. I ran my hand down his back and I could feel his whole spine. It was very hard to see. His rear end was so boney, he had a hard time sitting and when he laid down he would sit on all his paws as a cushion. Once we got him a little cleaned up and signed the paperwork, we headed for our van. We had

brought a cage with us since we didn't know how he would ride in the car. Sancho jumped right in, laid in the cage and took a nap. We left the door open and he came out during the drive home, laid behind my seat and slept the whole ride home.

Once home, we took him down the block a bit and I went inside to get our 2-year-old female Chalula to have a meet and greet. Chalula took to Sancho right away. He was still very stinky and looked pretty bad, but she welcomed him into her home. Sancho came into our yard and you could tell he felt he was safe. He learned to use the doggie door after only watching Chalula a few times. He checked out the

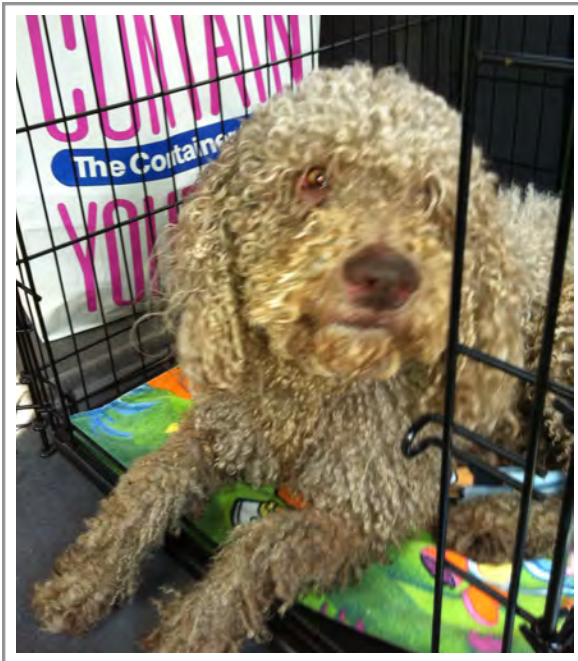
house and the kids and then laid down and took a nap. I put some blankets on the floor for him to help cushion his poor boney body.

On Monday morning, Sancho had his first vet visit. He got shots, a chip, blood work, etc. He had a parasite, an infection, a broken tooth, a few chipped teeth, eye infection, bad ear infection and was very underweight. He weighed 34.6 pounds. He had a cyst on his back and some sores on his elbows. He did great at the vet and behaved well with no barking or growling at all. He will need surgery to remove the tooth and check the other teeth. He will also need to be neutered, and with a non-descended testicle, the surgery is a little more complicated.

Sancho did seem to bark a lot when he first got home, almost like he couldn't hear and would just bark at random sounds or at nothing at all. I'm glad to say that his barking is much less these days. We have a neighbor dog who sits in the yard and barks all day. At first Sancho would bark all day with her, but now he doesn't bark anymore, so it is much quieter around here, which is great since Chalula is not a barker.

Over the next several weeks, Sancho has adjusted great to being in his new home. He sleeps in a cage at night with no hesitation. He has free roam of the house and yard most of the day and is learning to play and interact with our Chalula more each day. He loves to play catch with a tennis ball and has played tug-of-war with Chalula a few times. Sancho is happy to just be in the room with us humans and is a big cuddler — he likes to be on the couch next to us. If our hand is resting on him, he is all that much happier!

His health has improved greatly over the past several weeks. He has gained 5 pounds, his eye infection is gone, and



Sancho at the Shelter

his ears have cleared up nicely. His parasite is gone and blood work shows all his counts are back to normal. On Oct. 17th he had surgery to neuter him and find his non-descended testicle. Surgery was very long but successful. He had 3 incisions as they finally found the testicle high up in his abdomen, but he is recovering nicely so far.

He is a very sweet, happy dog. He gets excited when he sees his leash, loves riding in the car (which is great because we are a very active family). And if he has a ball near him, he is just as happy as can be. Sancho and Chalula have accepted that they are stuck with each other and are playing more, but still learning about each other. Sancho

eats well, sleeps like a baby, and has never had an accident in the house.

We are truly blessed that Sancho is such a wonderful dog and that he has adjusted well to our family. He still has a long road ahead of him but so far he has handled the merge with our home like a trooper. He is on his way to a full health recovery and we can't imagine how this sweet boy ended up in the condition that he was.

We are so lucky to be part of such a wonderful, caring group. Our dogs are just our pets, not herding or show dogs like so many of you out there. But the knowledge and information we gain from the emails is priceless. We are proud to be the owners (or them of us) of two great SWD's.

I know this rescue touched so many of you. It was very hard on us to see this poor boy in such a condition, but such a joy to see how he has turned around in the weeks that we have had him. This rescue was a very good one, lots of hard work, worry and concern, but so far, Sancho is amazing and we just love him.

Thank you for all the continued help, kind words and thoughts. We will keep the group updated on Sancho and hope one day to attend a specialty and meet some of you and all your wonderful *perros*.

*Adolf, Lori, Faustino, Samantha,
Chalula and Sancho Munoz*



Sancho with Chalula on the right

Reprinted from an email sent by Marnie Harrison on Sept. 22, with the SWD Club Board's approval.

[...] Typically the Club would help out with rescue expenses, but not adoption expenses. So, while this started out as a rescue, the dog stole the family's collective heart and quickly became an adoption. Many of us are following this saga with great gratitude and respect for Lori and her family and how they have simply taken on whatever needs to be done for this dog. The bills are mounting (\$900 so far with two surgeries pending), and I for one have been so taken by the progress reports that we are all following eagerly, and with no complaints or regrets by Lori.

So, with the BOD's "okay," I will simply provide mailing information for Lori for anyone who feels inclined to offer financial support for the ongoing care of Sancho: Lori Munoz, 415 S. Maple Street, Itasca, IL 60143, or P.O. Box 397, Itasca, IL 60143.

*Regards,
Marnie*

Report from the Canine Health Conference, by Beth Laws

The AKC Canine Health Foundation hosts an educational conference every two years that is open to delegates from the various National Parent Clubs. Because the SWD Club holds National Parent Club status, we were invited to join the event in St. Louis, Missouri this year. Over a three-day span in August, a diverse group of participants were immersed in various aspects of canine health and deluged with new and exciting research findings. All participants were dog fanciers, but ranged in background from veterinarians and students to nurses and physicians to breeders of all levels of educational and professional backgrounds — I'm pretty sure there was even a plumber.

While there were over 15 seminars in the first 2 days alone, there were two overarching themes that kept repeating themselves. The first was an emphasis on the importance of pure bred dogs to research. We all know that there are more breeds of dogs than ever with more being announced all the time. The process of selectively pairing dogs to develop or maintain a given "breed" allows for certain genetic information to be emphasized — the reason that a Chihuahua is so different from a Great Dane. Because of the wide variation of breeds, researchers are able to hone in on specific traits expressed by specific breeds to learn more about what makes them unique and how those genes may play a role in the bigger picture.

The second predominant theme was the importance of "translational medicine." Simply put, translation medicine is applying something that was discovered in one species and applying it to another. In other words, when a new genetic discovery or treatment option is made in the canine world it may have huge implications and application to the world of human medicine (and vice versa). This applies to other species encompassed by veterinary medicine, but given that this was a canine health conference, I'm sure you can guess the focus.

Information presented in the conference largely focused on cancer research, but there were a few seminars worth mentioning. The first notable presentation was given by Arleigh Reynolds, DVM, PhD. Dr. Reynolds performs research in immune function and nutritional approaches to coping with stress in Alaskan sled dogs. His passion for the working dogs, living and training in harsh conditions, has led him to study various biological markers of stress and to develop novel nutritional approaches to mediate the stress response. The long and short of his research is that probiotics have been shown to decrease biological markers of stress. With respect to the show dog or family pet, the use of probiotics may be helpful in times of increased physical or emotional stress (heavy training for competition, travel, etc.) to prevent illness. Data from his canine research has also been replicated in the field of human immunology.

Another notable presentation was by Joan Coates, DVM, MS. Dr. Coates is performing research in the area of Canine Degenerative Myelopathy (DM). DM is a neurodegenerative disease that has been identified in dogs since 1973. Due to its prevalence in Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Boxers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, German Shepherd Dogs, and Rhodesian Ridgebacks, specific genetic mutations have been identified. While it is great news for these breeds, the discovery of the genetic mutations holds wondrous potential for humans suffering with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Again, this is an example of translational medicine — research done with dogs is having significant implications in the world of human medicine.

I could go on and on about the presentations at the conference. It was a great experience and a lovely surprise to see so many breed clubs represented and actively engaged in research. It is worth reminding the membership that our club has become an ACORN sponsor of Dr. John Fyfe's research on the Molecular Basis of Congenital Hypothyroidism with goiter in Spanish Water Dogs (see article by Dr. Fyfe next in this newsletter). All in all it was a lovely and informative conference and the Health and Wellness Committee looks forward to sending a representative in 2013!

Congenital Hypothyroidism with Goiter in Spanish Water Dogs, by Dr. John C. Fyfe

A cooperative effort of SWD breeders, the SWD Club, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, local veterinarians, and a canine genetics researcher at the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine has recently culminated in discovery of the genetic basis of congenital hypothyroidism with goiter (CHG) in SWD. A reliable, DNA-based carrier test is now available. Thyroid hormone is essential for normal development and metabolism in dogs, especially in the rapid growth period that puppies experience. In the past couple of years, breeders have been aware that pups as described below have been born occasionally, but correct diagnosis was delayed as was realization that the disorder is inherited. At this time it is apparent that CHG carriers have been obtained as breeding stock from kennels in the United States as well as imported from Europe. We do not know whether affected pups have been produced in Europe.

Pups affected with CHG are abnormal prior to weaning, the growth delay typically becoming apparent at



about 2 weeks of age. They may not move around as much as normal pups, and when normal litter mates experience a growth spurt at about 2 weeks, the affected pups stop developing. An affected pup may have a seizure and die in that period. Some

may die or be euthanized without diagnosis. The photo shows an SWD litter at 3 weeks of age. The brown pup and the small black one next to it are CHG affected. The brown one died suddenly a day after the photo. With nursing care CHG affected pups can survive, but opening of the eyes and ear canals is substantially delayed. Hearing and cognition are quite impaired in the long term. Paired swellings develop on the underside of the neck and continue to enlarge with time, although the curly SWD hair coat may hide them for some time. The swellings are the enlarged thyroid glands (goiter) and may be mistaken for lymph nodes in making an incorrect diagnosis of puppy strangles. If X-rays are taken, it is apparent that the bones do not lengthen appropriately. Delay in lengthening of bones in the legs and spine causes irreversible dwarfism in longer term survivors. Most abnormalities are alleviated by early diagnosis (4-8 weeks of age) and oral administration of thyroid hormone replacement daily thereafter, but this will not make the goiter disappear. Even with treatment, CHG pups do not achieve normal weight and stature, and lifelong treatment of affected pups is not a good solution to the problem. The only reasonable solution is prevention.

Recent studies have demonstrated that the disorder is inherited as a simple autosomal recessive trait. For a puppy to have CHG, it must receive the mutated copy (allele) of the disease gene from **both** parents,

and male and female puppies are equally affected. The parents of affected pups show no outward signs of disease, but they are obligate carriers, by definition. In a breeding program, both male and female carriers will pass on their mutant

alleles to 50% of all their offspring, on average. When two carriers are inadvertently mated, on average 25% of the puppies will have CHG. That means that in litters from such matings, there may be some combination of CHG and normal pups, all CHG puppies, or all normal puppies. Unidentified carriers in breeding programs continue to spread the mutant allele throughout the SWD breed.

CHG in SWD is caused by lack of thyroid peroxidase (TPO), an enzyme in the thyroid gland responsible for adding iodine to a protein called thyroglobulin. A mutation in the TPO gene prevents production of the enzyme and the consequent inability to produce thyroid hormones. Identification of the TPO mutation has allowed us to design a laboratory test to detect the mutation in DNA from blood, cheek cells, and semen. DNA isolated from samples is subjected to a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify the portion of the TPO gene harboring the mutation. Normal and mutant alleles are differentiated by sequencing the products of PCR amplification. Therefore, carrier dogs can be positively identified in the laboratory on the basis of the presence of the mutant allele in their DNA.

This test is offered to SWD breeders through the Laboratory of Comparative Medical Genetics at Michigan State University in hopes that it will be used to eliminate CHG from SWD breeding programs. This type of carrier testing will facilitate elimination of the mutant gene from SWD without unduly selecting against the good traits of any particular line, reducing variability of the SWD gene pool, or inadvertently selecting for some other inherited disorder. Though the laboratory will happily receive whole blood samples (0.2-0.4 cc in a purple top tube), most convenient sample for an owner to obtain for testing is a brushing of cheek cells. For a cheek brush sampling kit with

submission form and instructions, please contact Dr. Fyfe by email: fyfe@cvm.msu.edu or at the address below. Give your own mailing address, and indicate how many dogs you wish to test. At present, the test is offered at \$85 per dog. All samples should be mailed to the following address: Dr. John C. Fyfe, Laboratory of Comparative Medical Genetics, 2209 Biomedical Physical Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824 (517) 884-5348. Test results are confidential and will be returned only to the dog owner.

Frequently Asked Questions

How could such a disorder like CHG get established in SWD?

Inherited disorders occur in all dog and other animal breeds. In many inherited disorders of dogs, there is what is called a 'founder effect'. Typically, a popular sire that is an undetected carrier of a recessive disease produces a lot of puppies, half of which are also carriers. This is even more of a problem with the advent of shipping chilled semen, thereby increasing the "productivity" of some dogs. After a few more generations, carriers are inadvertently mated in one or more kennels and the disorder 'suddenly' appears, usually in several places almost at once. That scenario appears to have happened with CHG in the SWD. It would certainly be interesting to learn how many SWD breeders have seen affected pups over recent years.

While many inherited disorders are relatively rare when considered across all breeds, when a genetic disease gains a foothold in a breed, the carrier prevalence can become quite high, and the disease becomes rather common in that breed. A good example is that prior to the availability of genetic testing for carriers of GM1 gangliosidosis in Portuguese water dogs, 20% of PWDs were carriers. Of course, that extreme carrier rate has dropped in the years since then because they can now be identified by

DNA testing. We only hope that we can prevent the CHG carrier rate from rising higher in SWD as breeders begin to use the available genetic test. It is our wish to put the testing program out of business, so to speak.

Should all SWD breeders be concerned?

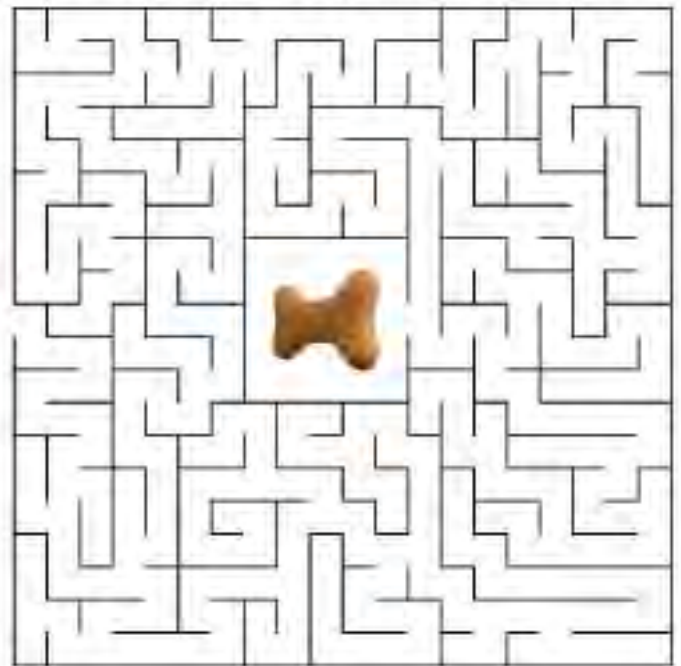
When we speak of eliminating CHG from the SWD breed, we are speaking of individual kennels and the responsibilities of individual breeders. As for any breed-specific disorder, the concerned breeders are those who have experienced the problem, those with related dogs, and those who wish to avoid future problems. Really, there are two things that responsible breeders wish to avoid and which the CHG test makes possible. No one wants to produce affected puppies, and no one wants to increase the number of carriers in the breed. Any breeder can test their breeding stock, and if they only breed non-carriers thereafter, they will never have a problem with CHG. CHG tests should become one criterion upon which SWD breeders choose dogs to which they will breed their own. We can test frozen semen of an already deceased dog prior to insemination of a bitch, and we can

test dogs being considered for shipping of chilled semen.

It is important, however, to realize that long-term investments in a particular line of SWD need not be abandoned just because your prized dog or bitch tests as a CHG carrier. If one has a CHG carrier that has many other good traits and is not also a carrier of other disorders, such as PRA, then one may breed the dog to another SWD that has tested clear of the CHG mutation. None of the pups produced in such a mating will be affected, and one can then pick puppies that exhibit desired traits to carry on the line. The pups chosen to establish the next generation should be tested to ensure they are not carriers too. This is a "test and replace" approach to eliminate a disease allele from one's breeding program. The remaining puppies of such a litter that will not go into one's own or other breeding programs need not be tested because the carrier state has no effect on health. This method will maintain the desired variation in the SWD gene pool and prevent an inadvertent selection for some other problems.

Is this showing up as a recessive trait when inbreeding is done?

Help the Spanish Water Dog puppy find her biscuit!



Exactly! CHG in SWD is inherited as a simple autosomal recessive trait. From our studies, it clear that the disease-causing mutation has been around for at least a decade. It is just now that folks are enough aware of it and talking about it. One thing that has slowed recognition of the disorder is that it occurs in very young pups; they can seem to fade away by a few weeks of age. The swelling in the neck has even been misinterpreted by some veterinarians as swollen lymph nodes, or in some cases the swelling is missed because the curly hair covers it. SWD in general are not highly inbred, but the maintenance of "purebred" dogs and the line breeding that may produce desirable traits is a form of inbreeding that can also lead to recessive disease showing up.

As an autosomal recessive trait, male and female offspring are equally affected by CHG, and the parents of litters with affected offspring are obligate carriers. Carriers are completely healthy and normal looking. For a puppy to be affected it must get the disease gene from both sire and dam, so to produce an affected pup two carriers must be mated. You may have been fortunate enough to have not bred two carriers so far. If a carrier is bred to a non carrier, none of the puppies will have the disease, but one half (on average) of the pups will get the disease gene from the carrier parent and will be carriers themselves. So, while the disease can skip many generations it can come back whenever two carriers are mated.

That is not to say that the carrier state can skip generations. Affected puppies can only come from carrier parents. The carriers show no signs of disease so without a carrier test they stay in breeding programs and produce more carriers like themselves. When a carrier dog becomes a popular sire, he can produce a lot of carrier offspring all over the country before carriers are inadvertently bred to each other and

produce affected offspring that catch someone's attention.

Should all of the carrier dogs be neutered or spayed at this time? Could I breed a carrier to a non carrier and then test the litter to cull out any new carriers from that matting?

Neutering is one (rather drastic) option, but now that a definitive carrier test is available, mass neutering is not necessary. Many breeders like yourself have a lot of time, money and sweat invested in your particular lines. Simply test the dogs you are going to sell into breeding programs so the purchasers don't end up with carriers. For your own dogs, tests the ones you want to keep in your breeding program. If a dog tests normal, you will have no CHG problems from it, and it will not produce more carriers. A dog cannot be a carrier if **both of its parents** have tested as normal, so with a little testing at the beginning, a breeder can get to a secure position of knowing that none of the future dogs produced is a carriers. If a dog tests as a carrier, but it has important characteristics you want to maintain, you can breed it to a non-carrier, which won't produce affected pups, but then test the pups from that litter which carry on the traits you want to keep in our program. Dog breeding has always been a procedure of selective breeding; we simply have a new criterion upon which to select.

Some of my dogs have tested as CHG carriers. Do you think that there is more of it in other lines of which we are not aware but are just now beginning testing?

Dogs from your line have not shown up as carriers much more than some others. It is already clear that the disease gene has come from dogs several generations behind yours including European imports, and it was transmitted into a number of lines in addition to yours. We will learn more as more dogs are tested, if the

breeders sending samples continue to submit pedigrees too.

Are the test results on the dogs published or do you keep them completely confidential?

The test results and the pedigrees people send are kept completely confidential in the Laboratory of Comparative Medical Genetics. No one but my technician and me has access to them. We send the results directly to the person who sent in the sample (that does not mean the veterinarian who drew blood), whether that is the dog's owner or not, though it almost always is the owner. However, if you arrange to have some of your dogs tested who are now owned by other people and you pay for the test, we send you the results. Each dog tested receives a certificate indicating the result.

Any knowledge that people have of testing results of other peoples' dogs is because the owners have chosen to share that information. It has not gone from the testing laboratory to anyone but the owner. From what I can tell, it appears that people are pretty open and are sharing their test results, now that there is something concrete one can do about it. Some breed clubs have chosen to maintain a database of DNA test results, but that is up to the club, and dog owners must approve release of their results to the database or provide the results themselves.

What is the procedure for the test?

The test is a DNA based PCR detection of the mutation which causes CHG in SWD. The mutation and, therefore, the test is different from those that cause CHG in toy fox or Tenterfield terriers. We isolate the dog's DNA from the submitted blood or cheek brush sample and amplify the portion of DNA where the mutation occurs. In the last step we sequence the amplified DNA. This test is only for a specific mutation, so it is applicable only to CHG and only in SWD.

Where is it sent and how?

0.2-0.4 cc of whole blood should be collected in a purple top (EDTA) tube so that it will not clot. Alternatively, cheek brush samples can be collected at home. Either sample can be sent in the mail, but if it is blood, be sure to pad the tubes against breakage. There is no need to send samples on ice or cold packs, but if there is a delay in mailing, keep blood samples in the refrigerator (not the freezer). Contact the laboratory for submission forms

and/or a cheek brush sampling kit, specifying the number of dogs you wish to test and your postal mailing address. Mail samples to: John C. Fyfe, Laboratory of Comparative Medical Genetics, 2209 Biomedical Physical Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

What is the cost per dog, and is there a cut rate for several at once?

Please send a check made out to *Michigan State University (CHG testing)*

for \$85/sample. There is no bulk rate. We have kept the cost to a minimum, and \$85 is our cost to provide the test. Personal checks are fine, but we ask that submissions from outside the United States be accompanied by a postal money order in USD. Include the payment in the package with the sample(s) and submission form(s). Sorry, but we do not accept credit cards or electronic payments.



The SWD Club is proud to sponsor Dr. Fyfe's research through an AKC Canine Health Foundation ACORN grant.



Photo by Sarah Jackson

**MBISS CH Avefaro Dama Danielle de Ariosa NJ, AWD, CGC
Super Dog 2009**

Owned by Lisa Harper
Bred by: Lisa Harper and Annette Martin
DOB, Oct 4 2007
Sire, Concurrido Soneto
Dam, CH Avefaro Squirrel Chasin' Beaver

Hips, OFA SWD-50G26F-VPI
CERF, Normal 2009, 10
PRA, OptiGen SWD-PRA11/46F-VPI-CAR
Thyroid, OFA SWD-TH20/46F-VPI

How to Deal with Puppy Nipping and Mouthing, by Sandi Pensinger

Puppies teeth until they're about six months old, which usually creates some physical discomfort. It can take up to four months after the puppy teeth are lost for the adult teeth to mature. Chewing not only facilitates teething, but also makes sore gums feel better.



So it's perfectly normal for a puppy to chew on furniture, shoes, rocks, paper, shrubbery, etc. These behaviors can be a problem for you, however, and a puppy won't magically "outgrow" them as he matures. Instead, you must shape your puppy's behaviors and teach him which ones are appropriate and which aren't.

Start by encouraging acceptable behavior. You can redirect your puppy's chewing onto acceptable object by offering her a small chew bone or stuffed food toy whenever you pet her. This technique is especially effective for children who want to pet her. As you or the child reaches out to scratch the pup behind the ears (not over the head) with one hand, offer the chew bone with the other. This helps your puppy learn that people and petting are wonderful and keeps her mouth busy while she's being petted. It's a good idea to alternate which hand does the petting and which one has the chew bone.

Here are some other training and management tips for mouthy pups:

- Puppy proof your home - pick up the socks, shoes, paper and valuable.
- Supervise or manage your pup so she can't get into dangerous places. Close the doors of the rooms where she can't shouldn't wander. Baby gates also can be very helpful in managing puppy's access.
- Crate train your pup. A crate can become a dog's private refuge if he is trained properly, providing down time for both of you.
- A time out can be very helpful in teaching a pup not to nip, as it allows you to walk away without the puppy following you, biting your shoes or pant hems as you go.
- Don't give your puppy objects to play with such as old socks, old shoes, or old children's toys that closely resemble items that are off limits. Puppies can't tell the difference!

It is essential to teach your puppy to be gentle with hands. This can be done by demonstrating that nipping results in unpleasant consequences for her, such as "turning off" any attention, eye contact, or pleasant social interaction with you.

After a nip, look your puppy right in the eye and say "OUCH" as though you've been mortally wounded, then ignore her and remain aloof without eye contact for a while. Leave the room or put the pup in her crate or on a time out, if you must. The key is to ignore her until she's calm, then try the chew bone and petting method again. (Note: If you have a resilient pup, you can say "OUCH!" in a louder tone. If your pup is shy, anxious, or easily over aroused, you may want to play it down.)

Here are some pointers for discouraging nipping and biting as it occurs:

- If the puppy bites your feet, shoes, or clothing, yelp, freeze and remain aloof for a few minutes.
- When your puppy bites or roughly mouths your hand, hold your hand still or gently push it into the puppy's mouth rather than retracting it. When an object moves away from a dog, his instinct is to chase it.
- Pat the top of you puppy's head repeatedly while the pup is nipping. Most dogs do not like being patted on the top of the head and will turn and walk away.
- Put your finger gently over the top of the bridge of her nose for a few seconds. A mama dog will often gently take the pup's muzzle in her mouth for a short time to let her know when she has had enough or to teach bit inhibition.
- Another alternative is to wear cotton gloves coated with a substance with an unpleasant taste such as "Bitter Apple." In this way, your puppy will learn that "hands in mouth taste bad." For this method to work, every time she nips your hand she must experience this bad taste. One disadvantage to this method is that your puppy may learn "hands with gloves taste bad while those without gloves don't." Uh-oh.



Food can be your ally when training your pup not to bite. Try Peanut Butter Therapy. Allow your pup to lick peanut or almond butter off your hands and praise her lavishly as long as she is not using her teeth. Another great technique to try is to offer treats in a metal spoon while saying "Easy" in a

soft tone. The pup will most likely take the treats with her lips and tongue rather than chomping down on the hard metal. Next time she takes treats from your hand, say "Easy" to remind him not to use her teeth.

Effectively teaching bit inhibition is crucial to a happy life with your dog. If you don't feel comfortable using these training techniques on your own, contact a positive-methods trainer who can help you achieve this very important goal.

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Sandi Pensinger is the owner and training director at Living with Dogs in the Santa Cruz, California area, which offers group classes in Family Dog Manners, Puppy Preschool, Agility, Treibball, Lure Coursing, Earthdog, and Dock Diving. Sandi is the author of the Treibball Handbook for the new exciting canine sport of Treibball. Visit www.livingwithdogs.us for details.



Cities of Southern Spain

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