



**Spanish
Water
Dog
Club**

Spring 2012 Newsletter



Notes from the Chair

Sheryl Gaines



More exciting times are ahead. On June 27, 2012, the Spanish Water Dog entered Miscellaneous Class, which is the next step before we are a fully recognized AKC club. What

makes me most happy, is that folks in our club are beginning to get more involved in the organized dog world. We have many members who are now showing their dogs in the available venues. We have more people participating in Agility, Rally and Obedience trials, and we have more dogs competing in Herding trials.

As of this summer, we will be able to compete in any AKC show in the USA, in the Miscellaneous Class. This is a huge stepping stone to where we want to take the breed in this country. I

encourage everyone to participate as much as they can in any AKC event, as AKC is “watching” us to see how seriously we wish to be fully recognized.

On another note, we still have committees on various topics, and I would encourage each member to get involved in any way they can.

The Board has decided to try to increase members’ participation in our discussions. From now on, you will be notified of the board meetings, which we do by conference call. They occur the second Tuesday of each month. Two weeks before the monthly meeting, we will post the agenda, so that our members will have an opportunity to have input in our discussions. The minutes will continue to be posted on the Yahoo Group soon after each board meeting.

I am looking forward to a productive quarter! Until next time.....

SWD Club Board of Directors:

Sheryl Gaines, *Chair*

Cindy Clark,
Parliamentarian

Sara Adkins-Blanch,
Secretary

Nancy Valley, *Treasurer*

Lisa Harper , *AKC Representative*

Jacqueline Nazzaro,
Member at Large

Lynn Ward, *Member at Large*

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Herding Corner: Getting Herding Started with Your Spanish Water Dog

David Sang, SWD Club member

Hey Y'all.

David Sang here with my trusty team of herding dogs, Rizo and Baylaa.

So you are interested in getting started herding with your Spanish Water dog? Here are a few things that might help:

- ◆ Educate yourself about the breed and its herding background.

We've all been educated and understand that although the name is misleading, history shows that the Spanish Water Dog's primary function has always been herding and have been herding for many years. I've been told that if you travel to some areas of Spain today, you will see Spanish Water Dogs moving livestock from field to field and even on streets as they are bred to be all around farm dogs. Ask questions of the SWD Club.

- ◆ Ask yourself why do you want to start herding with your Spanish Water Dog

Maybe it is important to for you to carry on the tradition of herding with Spanish Water dogs. Maybe you want to pay somewhat of a tribute to the farmers of Spain who have used the breed for their work. Maybe you just want to have fun and are looking for a new hobby. Maybe you want to build a stronger bond with your dog. Maybe you want to compete in herding trials.

- ◆ Read a few books, join a herding group list, and view a few DVD's on herding.

There are a bunch of good books to read. Pope Robertson wrote a good one called *Anybody Can Do It*. Jean Barrett wrote a nice book called the *Herding Primer*. YouTube has some videos on line and there are also DVDs by some big-hat herding people that are available. Don't worry about understanding everything in the books and DVDs when you start. A lot will be over your head in the beginning. Join Yahoo herding lists. They are free and provide good information. Try the AHBA and Sheepdog list. Also, if you subscribe to Stockdog Journal magazine and write an article that is accepted, the subscription is free.



Don't get discouraged about the lack of Spanish Water dogs in the herding world. Consider yourself part of the Spanish Water Dogs working future.

- ◆ Start screening herding instructors.

See if the instructors program is something you want to get involved with. Be open minded and try to find someone that you will enjoy working with.

- ◆ Sign up for a Herding Lesson.

Instructors usually charge north of \$50.00/hour for a lesson. Ask the instructor if you can come early and watch the lesson before you. After your lesson, ask if you can stay and watch the next lesson. A great deal of learning comes from watching others.

- ◆ Sign up for a Herding Clinic.

Clinics are a great way to learn and meet other herding people. A clinic will usually cost at least \$85.00 for two 20-minute sessions. Again, watch the other students work there dogs and learn.

- ◆ So Far, So Good, You Like Herding.

Ask your instructor if you can help with farm chores. Real farm chores will benefit you and your dog.

- ◆ Sign up for herding trials.

Herding trials can help you measure how you are progressing and it is a great way to meet people with the same interests as you.



Farmers love to barter. Use the barter system to save cash.

◆Find Mentors.

Having mentors helps when it comes to problem solving and to keep your head in the game.

I would love to help anyone get started in herding with there Spanish Water Dogs. My e-mail address is davidrsang@aol.com

Thanks for reading this...Happy herding...

◆Uh Oh, You Find Yourself Addicted to Herding.

Subscribe to a hobby farm magazine. Join a livestock Yahoo group list. Rent space at a farm. You can rent farm space for as little as \$500.00 per year for example, here in New Jersey. Buy or borrow some livestock. Sheep cost around \$85.00 per head. You can also help sheep farmers by taking some of their sheep to your pasture if they are being weaned or to fatten them up.

Miscellaneous: The Next Step

Lisa Harper, AKC Liaison

Just as we near the end of June 2012, our breed is making the momentous step of entering AKC's Miscellaneous Class. This is a half-way point on the path towards full recognition. The Miscellaneous Class is a part of the Foundation Stock Service (FSS) program. Like teenagers, we are given some privileges, but not the full gamut.

What We Can Do

1. Continue competing in companion events (agility, obedience, rally obedience, tracking, etc.)
2. Continue competing in herding events
3. Enter Junior Handling events (yeah, finally!)
4. Show in Miscellaneous Class conformation events, earning points towards a suffix-title of Certificate of Merit (CM)
5. Continue to register individual dogs through group submission by the club

What We Cannot Do

1. Compete for Best In Show against fully recognized breeds
2. Earn points toward a conformation championship

Movement forward to full recognition is not a given. A breed remains in the Miscellaneous Class for 1-3 years. During this time, the breed must show national breed club growth (events, membership) and an increase of registrations in the FSS stud book.

The AKC has been tinkering with FSS criteria for the last few years. The minimum number of registered dogs in 2008 was 1,000; I believe that has now been reduced to 400.

Keeping Up Appearances

Lisa Harper

Anatomy of a Cord

To understand cording, you need to know hair. Each hair is made up of billions of layered scales. The size, uniformity, curvature, and lift of those scales determines the texture and curl of the hair. As hairs pass each other, two lifted scales may hook together. Over time, more passing hairs are captured, eventually causing a mat. Agitation (washing), rubbing (towel drying) and petting all create opportunity for hairs to mat together. And the same things that cause a wool sweater to shrink will also cause a mat to shrink: heat, agitation, strong soap that lifts the scales and strips oils from the hairs.

The Spanish Water Dog standard calls for a coat of woolly texture. As someone who spins yarn, I will tell you that each breed of wool-bearing species has its own texture--some are scratchy, some are spongy, some are light and fine. Still, when we touch a garment, we can easily differentiate between wool, silk and rayon. SWD hair should be curly and have the feel of wool.

Terminology

The SWD is never to be brushed, and therefore can be found in six different coat stages. It should be noted that, as with other woolly-coated animals--an SWD may have several different textured areas on its body, and therefore may be in several different stages at once.

Clipped. Clipping is traditionally done once or twice per year, at the same times as the sheering of the flock. The clip is strictly utilitarian, done uniformly to one length all over the body.

Curly. As the coat grows, it forms into curls. Some dogs have tight spring-sproingy curls perhaps 1/4" in width. Others have slightly looser curls. The tighter the curl, the easier it is to cord. Looser curls tend to take longer to form into mature cords.

Staples. This is a sheep-wool term, where just a few hairs cross several curls or crimps and a section will move together. These are not cords--just sections that move together.



Mats. This is a small area of hair that is connected more sufficiently than a tangle. It's often shapeless.

Felting. This is a large, flat mat, generally tight to the skin. Areas that felt first tend to be the neck and back of legs and for many dogs marks the time to tearing cords. Felting is a groomer's worst nightmare: it's next to impossible to get anything but a surgical blade between the felting and the skin. The felting can become so tight that the hair can rip out of the skin, causing sores and hotspots. Additionally, damp felting is a great place for mold and mildew to grow. If your felted dog begins to smell, cut a section open. If there is white powder, your dog is mildewed. Clip the dog and start over, or wash with Betadine or Listerine to kill the mildew and dry the dog thoroughly in the sun, or in a crate with a box drier.

Cords. Cords are organized mats, torn down into



fat-pencil to pencil-width cords. Cords should be torn all the way down to the skin, allowing for air flow. Cords can also mildew, so be sure you dry the dog thoroughly.

Staples

Members and Their Perros: Updates

◆ Sheryl Gaines, “Mona”, New Jersey

At the June 7th Greenwich Kennel Club, we participated in activities which included a judges seminar (Sheryl Gaines and Richard Reynolds), *Meet the Breed* (Sheryl Gaines and Andrea Valley), and Parade of FSS and Misc breeds (Sheryl Gaines). There were 5 dogs at the judges seminar, 2 at *Meet the Breed*, and 1 for the Parade. We also attended at an AKC B match this past Saturday in Westbury (Westbury Kennel Club).

◆ Marnie Harrison, “Chase” and “Maddy”, Alberta Canada

Participated in both AKC and CKC agility trials this spring (and of course off to more over the summer). Tried Dock Diving but Chase was NOT impressed (could it have been the blizzard?). We also participated in Calgary's Pet Expo with the training facility where I volunteer. Chase and Maddy did meet and greet there until they were completely exhausted.

◆ Andrea Valley, Nancy Valley, “Nipo”, “Rudi” and “Cookie”, Connecticut

Nancy and Andrea with Nipo and Rudi participated in the AKC Greenwich Kennel Club bonanza and NESA AKC Instinct Test, although only Nipo with Andrea competed.

Nancy and Cookie also participated at the Greenwich Kennel Club's obedience match.

◆ Linda Scheele, “Diego” et. al., Michigan

Diego has his first leg in NA (hadn't done a trial since December) and will get his NA and jumpers by Fall. Four of my Spanish are UKC Champions: Carlos is entered in Mass. in the Misc class as a puppy.

◆ Jeff Abel, “Tipo”, Pennsylvania

You know about Tipo. Always competing on the AKC agility circuit. He's halfway there for his MACH 2. We competed at the USDAA Regionals a month ago. He received a bye to the semi final round of Grand Prix at the National Event. In addition, he qualified for the National Team event--my BC, Snafu, was supposed to go, but he suffered a soft tissue injury a week before the competition and as he wasn't completely healed Tipo was his substitute. That dog completely amazes me.

◆ Lynn Ward, “Pacho”, Nevada

Dock jumping/diving: Splash Dogs senior title 5-10; DockDogs national Big Air title senior 2-12; Dockdogs regional Big Air title senior 10-11; DockDogs ISE Las Vegas 2-12; Big Air Amateur Finals-3rd place; Paws for a Wish - Splash Dogs 1-12

Frisbee events: Atomic Blast Off-UFO local event-toss and fetch novice 4th place (disc dog) 4-12; Kathy Miller Skyhoundz Regional Qualifier 2nd place novice freestyle 5-12; Skyhoundz Discdogathon-participant 5-12

Flyball: Title-Top Flight Elite, Winter Warm Up U-Fli tournament- Atomic Dogs team member 2-12; Need4Speed III u-fli tournament- Atomic Dogs team member 5-12

◆ Lisa Harper, “Pink”, “Ave”, and “Maya”, Connecticut

We have been having a lot of fun, mostly doing education programs. We did a *Meet the Breed* here in Portland and walked in the Memorial Day Parade with the South Windsor Kennel Club. We also did a couple of AKC B-matches (South Windsor KC and Kenilworth KC). Pink took Best in Group one day, Ave took Best in Group the other. Both of them also ran in a Rally Obedience B-match, in which (shockingly) Ave won a first place in Novice.