



**Spanish  
Water  
Dog  
Club**

## Summer 2012 Newsletter



### Notes from the Chair

*Sheryl Gaines*



First, I would like to commend our members for getting involved in our club!

Beginning June 27, 2012, the Spanish Water Dog was able to enter the Miscellaneous

Class, which is the next step before we are fully recognized. We have had many folks participate in shows this summer and even had a supported entry! I am very proud of the people in our club. Many of the judges have commented how consistent the breed is for the stage that we are at and how positive it is to see so many SWD out there showing.

We have accomplished so much this past quarter. Rescue efforts were very active and our Rescue Coordinators really pulled through. We held our first AKC Supported Entry in July, and

David Sang organized a successful weekend herding clinic. One of the requirements of a Parent Club is to write a standard. Although we have an FCI Standard, AKC requires that we write a standard which conforms to their format. We had a very hard-working committee which consisted of several club members and several judges.

We also had a very hard-working committee that had to review and revise our bylaws, and as of this writing, we are very close to having them accepted by AKC. The next step will be for the members to vote to accept them or not. Please watch your mailboxes for ballots.

Still another committee that is hard at work is the Judge's Education Committee which is in charge of developing a Club-approved Judge's Education presentation.

Thank you all for your hard work!!  
Until next time.....

### SWD Club Board of Directors:

Sheryl Gaines, *Chair*

Jacqueline Nazzaro, *Parliamentarian*

Sara Adkins-Blanch, *Secretary*

Nancy Valley, *Treasurer*

Lisa Harper, *AKC Liaison*

David Sang, *Member at Large*

Lynn Ward, *Member at Large*

*(This is the new Board, elected during the Sept. 9, 2012 general membership meeting.)*

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*Thank you to the contributors of this newsletter:*

*Articles:* David Sang, Lisa Harper, Sheryl Gaines

*Acting editors:* Lisa Harper and Sara Adkins-Blanch

*Newsletter Board Liaison:* Lisa Harper

## Herding Corner: Herding Clinic

David Sang, SWD Club member, and S.H.I.T (Sheep Herder in Training)

Hey Y'all;

Here's a little rundown of our unofficial annual Spanish Water Dog herding clinic at Outback Farm. Diane Sobel-Meyer, owner and herding instructor/clinician of Outback Farm, Branchville, NJ, was kind enough to allow for early SWD entries for her August 25-26 herding clinic. Diane is recognized for many accomplishments in herding and breeds and owns high ranking trial and farm Australian Shepherds. Diane also invites other big hat herding clinicians to her farm for her students to benefit learning from. I have personally enjoyed training with Diane for the past six years and consider her a friend and mentor.

On day one of the clinic, Diane texted me at 6:30 am requesting that I bring Dunkin Donuts for the hungry troops. I arrived to the farm shortly after 8:00 and was greeted by Andrea and Nipo, Sarah and Cali, TJ and Toby, and Denise and Carmen arrived later. On day two, Nancy and Rudi joined us to participate in the clinic and Sheryl with Rancho showed up for moral support along with Samantha and Richard. Diane's clinic's typically include each dog receiving a morning lesson and an afternoon lesson each day. We break for lunch midday. Saturday featured two types of goulash, hot and mild, bow tie noodles, salads and a Peanut Butter Chocolate Pie. On Sunday, Jeff, Diane's husband, grilled hotdogs and hamburgers.

The more experienced teams worked in a large outdoor area with light sheep both days. Other breeds that were included in the clinic were Border Collies, Aussies, Briards, English Shepherds, Shelties, Australian Cattle dogs and a cool Kelpie Border Collies mix.

Rizo, Baylaa, and I worked in the big field with light sheep both days. There were obstacles set up, such as a pens, Y chutes, cross panels etc. We ran through the obstacles using driving and fetching techniques. We also did our best to not lose our sheep to the draw. My lessons with Diane are different than with

new students. She gives me a lot of freedom to do whatever I want until I screw up and then she gets on me real good. Also, I help Diane with the farm chores which teaches me to care for my own sheep.

Now, on to the puppies and mostly new to herding handlers...



Sarah and Cali only have a handful of herding lessons from Diane under their belt. Cali is a good natured, happy little girl that bounces

around like a kangaroo. By the end of day two, Sarah and Cali were able to walk sheep back and forth in a controlled manner. It should be noted for the record, that Sarah is accomplishing all this while herding in a skirt.

Andrea and Nipo have some herding experience. Nipo shows good herding instincts with a desire to please. Diane gave this team challenging tasks based on their experience. It was nice to see and hear Nipo working quietly towards day two. Andrea and Nipo are a good team and can go a long way. If I didn't have two dogs when Nipo was a pup, he would have been in the back of my truck.

Denise and Carmen came and went in a flash. Carmen looked good for the short amount of time that we got to see her. Denise figured out real quick that herding wasn't her bag and they rode off into the sunset with everybody asking...What happened to Denise?

Nancy and Rudi were a sight. Nancy was cheerleading and Rudi was searching for the point of all this. Rudi may need time to mature or get over whatever fear period he is experiencing. We are quite sure that he is a late bloomer and will come

back and show us his stuff. Nancy is such a good sport....rah rah...

TJ and Toby have never herded before and they were very impressive. In fact, I have never seen a new to herding team pick it up so quickly. TJ shook the barn when he yelled down, which he claims is his normal voice. Once Toby got into his comfort zone, he really shined. Some dogs are round and like to circle stock while others are straight and like to drive stock. Toby is straight and I believe with a little more experience he could drive stock all day long. Toby had long hair and looked like a grizzly bear. TJ and Toby celebrated with grizzly grunts and wrestling at the end of each



session. Toby is a determined little guy that handles pressure well.

The beginners herded in the indoor 40 x 90 indoor barn. Three dog broke sheep or ducks were used. The beginner dogs were on a line of some sort just in case they needed support and to help the handler focus on the stock and not on the dog.

All of the teams showed marked improvements from day one compared to day two. The dogs showed good herding instincts, sustained interest and biddableness. This was a terrific weekend and I believe that we all learned a lot while having fun. My hopes are that we can get together for future herding events to preserve the breeds working aspects.

Thanks for reading this.

### Stud Dogs Available



**“Chase”** Cdn CH Brasenia Concurrido Chasin Ewe  
CD RN HSAD OA OAJ NF, Cdn CD RN HST AGX AGIJ CGN, ASCA STDs

DOB: 01/09/2007, Brown  
Breeder: Bethany Clark  
Sire: Concurrido Recoveco  
Dam: C-Caramelito de Benamaina  
Hips: OFA SWD-44G24M-VPI  
Elbows: OFA SWD-EL18M24-VPI  
CERF: 956000001417312  
PRA: OptiGen SWD-PRA17/13M-NOPI  
Thyroid: OFA 2009, TgAA positive  
Thyroid: Lab 2011, TgAA negative  
CHG: (Fyfe) Normal

Chase is a handsome, energetic, athletic and very biddable dog. Through success in a variety of venues, he has demonstrated great versatility, and is the first of the breed to earn titles in many of those venues in both the United States (AKC) and Canada (CKC), including his Canadian Show Championship with multiple group placements. Although reserved with strangers, he is accepting of them and is never aggressive with people. Chase is a wonderful family dog, always willing to play or cuddle on the couch.

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**“Diego”** UKC CH Timber Oaks Leandro of Lija

DOB: 02/232009, Beige w/brown nose  
Breeders: Linda Kardonis, Dale Huelin  
Sire: Unkashikic de Ubrique  
Dam: Lija Timber Oaks Cheka  
Hips: OFA SWD-58G24M-VPI  
Elbows: OFA SWD-EL22M24-VPI  
CERF: SWD-155  
PRA: OptiGen SWD-PRA55/25M-VPI  
CHG: (Fyfe) Normal  
Thyroid: OFA positive autoimmune thyroiditis

Diego LOVES all people and is very focused in agility. He has no trouble in the house, and he plays in the yard with three non neutered males. However, he does not like strange dogs in his space, which to him is about a three foot circle. My other SWDs are not like that, and sometimes I think it is because he was a singleton puppy and never learned how to interact with litter mates. He is beige and carries brown and bi color. He is 19 inches at the shoulder and 45 pounds. He has a beautiful head and side gait.



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## Showing in Miscellaneous Class

Sheryl Gaines

I am not new to showing Spanish Water Dogs.

Since 2004, I have been showing in whatever venue was available for the SWD: ARBA, Rarities/NAKC, UKC, and AKC "B" Matches. I have always attended shows once or twice a month during "show season" which is usually between April and November. The majority of shows were outdoors and rather small, from 20-200 dogs total with the majority of shows being between 50 and 100 entries. All of these venues allow day-of-show entries, therefore, there is no schedule available before the day of the show. I would arrive at the show site about 8:30 in the morning, and usually finish anywhere from 2:00 in the afternoon to 8:00 in the evening. The SWD was always able to compete in Group (Gun Dog in UKC, Sporting in ARBA and Herding in Rarities/NAKC) and in Best in Show. Even if we didn't have any competition in Breed, we had competition in Group in NAKC (Herding) and UKC (Gun Dog), and always had competition in Best in Show. We were able to finish Championships and beyond in all of the above venues in a reasonable amount of time.

On June 27, 2012, the SWD became eligible to compete at AKC shows in the Miscellaneous Group. In the Miscellaneous Group, the SWD competes against the other breeds in Miscellaneous, but does not move on the regular Group or Best in Show.

AKC also does not allow for day-of-show entries, so you have "ring times" at least a week in advance. This is a very nice feature, as you can be in and out of a show in an hour or so.

I have entered an AKC show every weekend since my first show in Upstate New York on June 28, 2012, except for one weekend that I was away with my family. There have been a few shows where we had competition in breed, but most of the time Mona is the only SWD. We then go on to compete in the Miscellaneous Class. There have been anywhere from one other breed to three other breeds at any given show.

The only title that Miscellaneous breeds are eligible for is the Certificate of Merit (CM), which is an introductory suffix title (which means it goes at the end of the dog's name, rather than the beginning). In order to get the CM, you have to have competition, and the number of points earned is dependent on the number of dogs defeated.

I am enjoying showing in AKC shows, as there are many judges and exhibitors who ask many questions about the SWD. Attending shows is not just about showing your dog and winning ribbons, it is about educating folks about the breed.

Would love for some of you to join me!



Attendees at the SWD Club's first AKC Supported entry. *Left photo:* Andrea Valley with Nipo, Nancy Valley with Rudi and Cookie, Jackie Nazzaro with Frisco and Rosa, Amanda Smith with Ivy, and Sheryl Gaines with Mona. Not pictured was Lisa Harper and Maya. *Right photo:* Sheryl and Mona and Amanda and Ivy.



## Members and Their Perros: Achievements and Awards

- ◆ **TJ Mesler and Toby:** Toby was the first SWD shown in AKC on June 28th at the Kanadasaga Kennel Club in Bainbridge, New York.
- ◆ **Sheryl (Gaines) and Mona:** Sheryl and Mona have been diligently showing almost every weekend this summer to help judges get to know our breed. In June, Mona finished her UKC Grand Championship. More importantly, Mona also garnered the first AKC Certificate of Merit in our breed in early September, after winning 12 Best in Miscellaneous.
- ◆ **Marnie (Harrison) and Chase:** Since June, Chase and Marnie earned his AKC agility titles in Open Standard, Open Jumpers with Weaves, and Novice Fast. Over the border in Canada, Chase also earned his CKC Standard Excellent title.
- ◆ **David (Sang), Rizo and Bayla:** David and his four-legged companions have been working hard in herding this year. David masterminded the weekend herding seminar at Outback Farm. Rizo earned the first AKC title in Started A-Course sheep. Bayla wrapped up her PT title, the first of many, we're sure.
- ◆ **Andrea (Valley) and Nipo:** Not surprising to the rest of us, Nipo passed his Herding Instinct Test this summer. Andrea was unable to provide a photograph. Her recollection is that it was a blur of dog, sheep and rake.
- ◆ **Linda (Scheele) and Carlos:** Linda sent Carlos-Timber Oaks Go For The Gold all the way from Michigan to West Springfield, MA, to participate in our first AKC Supported Entry on July 7th with the Farmington Valley Kennel Club. He also won Best of Breed and Best in Miscellaneous Class on July 6th at Kennilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut .
- ◆ **Jackie (Nazzaro) and Frisco:** Ariosa Francisco RRey de Bostón won Best of Breed and Best in Miscellaneous on July 8th at the Holyoke Kennel Club in West Springfield, MA, and he earned his CGC in September.
- ◆ **Lisa (Harper), Maya and Ave:** Lisa and Maya had a good time making Ave's AKC debut on July 5th at the Naugatuck Kennel Club in West Springfield, MA, where Maya took a Best in Breed and Best in Miscellaneous. Housemate Ave and her lovely cords endured the fawning and photos of a couple thousand folks at the AKC Meet-the-Breed/Responsible Dog Owner booth at the Eastern States Exposition.



**Congratulations, Mona, on  
obtaining the first AKC  
Certificate of Merit in  
the breed!!!**