

Perro Post

Spring 2021



The SWD Quarterly Journal

Spanish Water Dog Club of America

Quarterly Newsletter

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Newsletter Staff

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Publishing Editor | Donna Perone |
| SWDs at Work Editor | Donna Perone |
| Breeders Editor | Lisa Harper |
| Pupdate Editor | Chris Evans |
| Health Editor | Lisa Harper |
| Conformation Editor | Donna Perone |
| Breed Education Editor | Lisa Harper |
| Performance Events Editor | Sarah Spinler |
| Companion Events Editor | open |
| Webinar Editor | Donna Perone |
| AKC News Editor | open |
| Book Review Editor | open |
| Photo Editor | Susan Smith |
| Selected Member and New Member Profiles | Trish Byron James Coliz |
| Poochday Editor | Donna Perone |
| Forever in Our Hearts Editor | Denise Velasquez |
| Recognition Editor | open |
| SWDCA Page | open |
| Proofreader | Meg Normand |

Contributing Authors/Columnists:

Meg Normand: "Dressing for the Ring",
Colleen Nolan: "A New Recognition Program"

If you would like to join the fun on the newsletter staff, want to contribute an article, have an idea, or have feedback, contact Donna at swdca.secretary@gmail.com

On the cover: GCH CH Angel Mauricio El Chistoso RN OA OAJ CA DCAT ACT2 THD CGC TKA "Murray". His favorite things in the world are being with his owners at all possible times, chasing geese and ducks from the dock, getting rubbed in his favorite places, and of course finding the perfect stick!

Que Pasa Perro de Agua

From the Editor

Events



From the Editor

Welcome, Dear Readers, to our newly resurrected newsletter for the Spanish Water Dog Club of America. It has been quite a while since we were able to pull together something that could pass as a newsletter. I hope you will be pleased with how this one turned out. It is a first step and will hopefully become a useful way for us to convey some of the comings and goings of our active members and our club as a whole to the Spanish Water Dog Community at large.

You will find the newsletter organized into “columns” by topic. Some will repeat more than others. We hope to have something of interest for all members of our club and the SWD Community: the classic pet and companion dog owners, the breeders, the trial and show enthusiasts, the judges, the working dog owners, and the standard bearers (those guardians of the breed who carry the burden of collecting and sharing knowledge to keep the breed true to its true history and standard). It’s a wide spectrum of interests, many people wearing multiple hats, with one common thread: we just love our Spanish Water Dogs!

A newsletter is meant to be an informal means of communication. This is not a slick magazine, despite the editor’s awesome formatting. 😊 It does not require Pulitzer Prize level writing skills (obviously, if you refer to some of the author’s articles that follow). So we welcome any snippets you care to send us. This is “our” newsletter, so join in. Pass along an idea for an article, tell us a story about your dog, tell about a recent gathering,

send us your photos, send us a book review, interview your vet about something you have always wanted to know more about and share it, or join our staff. Share feedback. Every little bit helps. It is an easy way to stay involved and get to know more people in the club.

We had a contest to determine what we should call our new publication. We learned that have some creative members. While we had to select one name, we have tried to use as many of the other suggestions as we could throughout the newsletter. Thanks for all who participated; it was fun seeing your creativity in action.

We hope you like your newsletter.

Donna Perone, Editor

Events

Supported Entry and Sweepstakes

June 24-27, 2021
Canby, Oregon

Morris & Essex

October 6, 2021
Colonial Park, NJ

2022 National Specialty and Annual Meeting

First weekend in August, 2022
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

2023 National Specialty and Annual Meeting

July 7-9, 2023
Ann Arbor, Michigan

If you want to organized a regional event, use this form to get supporting funds: [Fun Event Form](#)

SWDs at Work

Bella at Your Service



Bella At Your Service

July 3, 2015 is a day that changed the lives of Claire, Peter and Lucy Ellender; that was the day Bella came home. Bella is a beautiful Spanish Water Dog from the De Lago Kennel in Florida. She is like most other SWDs except that she was sought out for one very specific job: she was selected to be a service dog.

Claire and Peter's daughter Lucy, then 5 years old, is autistic. Those on the autism spectrum can express a variety of mannerisms and behaviors, many of which can be quite dangerous. Bella's job is to provide a safety net.

The Perro Post interviewed Claire about her family's experiences with Bella and Lucy.

Perro Post: Is Bella a fully certified Service Dog? What does that mean?

Claire Ellender: Yes, Bella performs significant duties beyond emotional support so she is a full Service Dog*. I carry her papers with me and she has her designated vest. Bella is afforded all the rights granted a Service Dog under the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, I have been certified as Bella's official Service Handler since Lucy is under 18 and cannot legally take responsibility for the dog. This means that I am able to take Bella with me as a Service Dog even when Lucy is not with us. This is useful so that I can transport to her to where she needs to be or train her.

PP: What drew you to considering a Spanish Water Dog for this job?

CE: We wanted a very smart dog that was attentive. We also wanted a non-shedder that would not be as large as some of the traditional service dogs. And we wanted one that wasn't too high strung.

PP: How is Bella used as a service dog for Lucy?

CE: Bella has been taught a number of commands for her job with Lucy but the primary one requires her to watch Lucy constantly. For example, she makes sure Lucy is settled in at night. She follows her in the yard outside and "herds" her away from areas where she is not supposed to go, such as in the dense bushes. She closely monitors her play around the pool and will jump in to "rescue" her if she yells too much while in the water. She stays by her side when we are walking around and is to be always with her. She helps find Lucy if Lucy somehow slips away. She is Lucy's "watcher".

Bella has many other jobs too. She provides compression therapy for Lucy. This is a therapeutic use of weight to relieve stress and panic that is common with autism and sensory processing disorders. Bella has been trained how and when and where to apply her weight on Lucy to help calm her and help her avoid emotional outbursts.



Bella doing compression therapy

Bella also interrupts self-destructive behavior Lucy may do, such as hitting herself in the head or mouth. Bella uses her head and body to get between Lucy's arms/hands and her head and pushes her arms down toward the sides of her body, out of harm's way.

Continued next page

SWDs at Work (cont.)

Bella at Your Service



Bella also provides tactile stimulation for Lucy by licking her skin and by allowing Lucy to repetitively stroke the softer parts of her coat. The licking is an alternative for a sensory brushing therapy that is a commonly used tactile stimulus technique. The stroking of Bella's soft coat is soothing to Lucy, who can stroke Bella for extended periods without a single complaint from Bella.

PP: How did you train her for all of this?

CE: We had her certified with her Canine Good Citizen title first. Then we sent Bella away to Rachel's Dog Training for two months of basic training. She came home for the Christmas holidays, and then went back to Rachel's for another three months of 6 hours a day, intensive training. We were required to go visit every weekend to work with her as part of the training .

But the training didn't stop there. Bella is comfortable in stores, shops, festival grounds. We have the need to travel with Lucy so we needed to train Bella for airports and other public spaces. We have taken 17 trips now and we consider ourselves relative experts on where all the dog-friendly airports are in the south and southwest parts of the country. Indoor pet relief stations are in airports, but you must ***find*** them. There may be only one indoor pet relief station in the entire airport, so you may have to shuttle to a different terminal to allow your dog relief. You have no idea how difficult it can be to have a child in a car



seat in an airport stroller in a non-dog-friendly airport. Having to let your dog relieve themselves just outside a door that requires everyone to go back through security again is shameful thing for any airport to require of service dog travelers.

PP: What attributes of the SWD do you feel make the breed especially good for this kind of service work?

CE: Their herding instincts work particularly well in this role. They are so focused on their job and are extremely diligent about keeping watch. Bella has no problem with using the "nose poke" to move Lucy right back to where she thinks she should be. SWDs are very focused and it serves them well for this.

PP: For what other service work would you suggest SWDs be considered or be avoided?

CE: They are not large enough for use where they need to support a person's body weight, such as transferring from a wheelchair, or supporting a person who is unsteady. I think they would work well with a paraplegic in fetching articles, pushing buttons, etc. I think they would also do well with epileptics and similar work since they are so in tune with what is happening with the person they are servicing.

PP: After five years now, do you feel like you made the right choice in selecting a SWD for Lucy's Service Dog?

CE: Absolutely. We have already decided that we will get another SWD. Bella has made such a difference in our lives. Just the freedom to be able to leave Lucy in a room for a few minutes and know that she is fine because I know Bella is watching her. I trust Bella will bark if there is any kind of problem at all with Lucy.

Continued next page

SWDs at Work (cont.)

Bella at Your Service



And Bella brings so much love and caring with her into her job as a service dog and as a member of our family.

PP: Thank you Ellender family for sharing your story and being an example to the SWD community of the versatility of this special breed. Bella is a special girl indeed and seems to have found her calling in life.

About the Ellenders:

Claire Ellender joined the SWD club in 2015 when the family purchased Bella. She is a Physician Assistant and a Clinical Professor at Christian Brothers University Physician Assistant program in Memphis. Peter is a Paralegal and a Business Manager of a legal firm. They also own an all-natural BBQ Sauce and Spice company called Bootsie's Delta Funk. Claire and Peter started the company so that if anything happened to them and Lucy were unable to work, Lucy would have passive income from the business.



Lucy and Claire celebrate Bella's birthday

***Service Dogs** are animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities such as guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling wheelchairs, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, or performing other special tasks like calling 911. The Americans with Disabilities Act has a specific definition of a disability, and it states essentially that a disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual. A Service Dog is a working animal, not a pet.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), businesses and organizations that serve the public must allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals into all areas of the facility where customers are normally allowed to go. This federal law applies to all businesses open to the public, including restaurants, hotels, taxis and shuttles, grocery and department stores, hospitals and medical offices, theaters, health clubs, parks, and zoos. Businesses may ask if an animal is a service animal or ask what tasks the animal has been trained to perform, but cannot require special ID cards for the animal or ask about the person's disability.

– Contributed by Donna Perone

About the Contributing Editor

Donna has been a member of the club since 2014 when she brought home her BFF Murray. They currently live in Virginia and enjoy spending time together swimming, doing a long list of performance and companion activities, and spending time with husband Vince on walks in the neighborhood. Donna is currently Corresponding Secretary for the club as well as chair for the Membership Committee and Member Connect subcommittee.



Breeders Digest

News for and about breeders



The Drawing Board

Question: What is the role of conformation championships in your Breeding Program?

Name: Wanda Tait

Kennel name: "Oberland" Permanent Registered

Years breeding dogs: 41 years

Years in SWDs: 6 years



Frankly, it has no role whatsoever in my actual breeding program, however, that said, it has a tremendous role in my efforts towards being a responsible and proactive breeder for the following reasons:

- Showing our dogs in conformation and attaining conformation championships is a great opportunity to introduce the breed to the public.
- It also provides another opportunity to educate prospective puppy owners.
- It is a great opportunity to socialize and train our dogs in a variety of situations.

- It is yet another opportunity to assess the degree to which each dog meets the standard for the breed.
- It offers a 2nd opinion (often many more) and helps to prevent kennel blindness.
- As a relatively rare breed in North America it is an opportunity to expose judges to the breed and provide some ongoing education.
- It is a great way to meet other breed fanciers and engage in the social aspects of the dog community.
- It is an opportunity to compare breeding goals and interpretations of the standard with other exhibitors/breeders.
- It contributes to my own knowledge of type, movement and temperament in the breed.
- It is an opportunity to network with other owners and breeders to establish the means of cooperation towards improvements in the breed.
- It is one way to separate the "backyard breeders" and puppy mills from the serious canine enthusiast and preservation breeders.

Name: Rob Driscoll

Kennel Name: Spanish Water Dog Northwest

Years Breeding Dogs: 20

Years in SWDs: 21

In 2000 I started breeding SWDs based on the written "standard" at that time. I soon discovered "conformation" is the official name for comparing and evaluation of breeding stock at a dog show.

Continued next page

Breeders Digest (cont.)

News for and about breeders



As Wikipedia defines it: “**Conformation** in dogs refers solely to the externally visible details of a dog's structure and appearance, as defined in detail by each dog breed's written breed standard. A dog that *conforms* to most of the items of description in its individual breed standard is said to have *good conformation*.” Over the years my dogs have always conformed to the standard with good or excellent conformation.



The only way a championship in conformation is determined is attending a dog show and how your dog conforms to your breed externally. Anyone that has shown knows this is a subjective opinion of a judge that may or may not know the SWD standard in detail. A championship at a dog show is a wonderful achievement for any SWD breeder's pedigree and I deeply appreciate the dedication and commitment it involves. However, the role a championship plays in my breeding program is secondary to the health and temperament of my stock. While a dog wins at a dog show it does not confirm the dog's internal health and in my opinion these details should be disclosed. Yes, I appreciate and applaud a

championship in conformation, however, I prize positive health and look for other titles SWDs can achieve in their pedigrees as well as a championship.

The main reason I planned not to show as a breeder is simple, "life happens" and priorities of faith, family, finances, farming, raising a teen (baseball), breeding, fishing and fun did not allow for 2-3 weekend days for dog shows. I am all about breeding a better dog to the standard, with fine health and temperament and vet my owners carefully, some of which might show because of my breeding stock. I breed to provide others the joy of experiencing a SWD and all they are capable of. I look forward to the show in Canby, Oregon this June, where my pups will enter the ring.

— Contributed by Lisa Harper

About the Contributing Editor:

Lisa Harper lives on her grandfather's farm in Connecticut with five SWDs, an assortment of chickens, bats, occasional predatory visitors and her husband and fellow SWD club



member Raimo. Lisa is currently the club Vice President, chair of the Health and Wellness Committee and has been involved with the breed since 2000. She is the breed's first Breeder of Merit and a true standard-bearer for the breed.

Click below for SWDCA
[Breeders List](#)

Health Bulletin

Health and Wellness News



CHIC Requirements Updated for Breeding

Requirements for health testing have been updated with AKC's Canine Health Information Center (CHIC). The DNA tests for eo-PRA (our second form of PRA) and CHG (Congenital Hypothyroidism with Goiter) are now mandatory. Testing for NAD (Neuroaxonal Dystrophy) is now added as an optional test. This brings our testing protocols for each breeding animal to seven tests. Estimated total cost per dog is \$550-\$700, depending on veterinary rates in your area.

Results of the tests must be submitted to OFA with permission for results to be made public on the OFA website www.ofa.org in order for a dog to receive a CHIC number. A passing or normal grade is not required.

The purpose of testing is not to eliminate dogs from the gene pool, but rather to help select suitable mates for your dog that will improve the health of future generations.

The tests listed here are only for the conditions our Health and Wellness Committee knows about in our breed which have occurred frequently enough in our gene pool to warrant a mandatory testing.

- **Hip Dysplasia** (One of the following)
OFA Evaluation ↗
PennHIP Evaluation
- **Eye Examination. Gonioscopy recommended as part of the eye exam.**
Eye Examination by a boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist ↗

- **Autoimmune thyroiditis**
Evaluation from an approved lab. Results registered with OFA
Minimum age of 2 years at evaluation ↗
- **prcd-PRA DNA Test**
DNA based test from an approved lab.
Results registered with OFA ↗
- **Congenital Hypothyroidism with Goiter**
DNA based test from an approved laboratory ↗
- **Early-Onset PRA**
DNA-based eo-PRA test from an approved lab. Results registered with OFA
- **Elbow Dysplasia** (Optional)
OFA Evaluation ↗
- **Neuroaxonal Dystrophy** (Optional)
DNA-based NAD test from an approved lab.
Results registered with OFA

SIDEBAR:

DNA testing laboratories we know of that offer tests for our breed:

<https://www.swdclub.org/dnalaboratories.html>

Eo-PRA Webinar Review

Dr. Paige Smith presented her paper on early-onset PRA in Spanish Water Dogs, recorded October 2020 and available to watch online (see links below).

Participants called in from the USA, Canada, Spain, Belgium, Germany and the UK. A member of the Löwchen Club of America also participated as they have an undiagnosed form of PRA in their breed.

Continued next page

Health Bulletin

Health and Wellness News



Since then, eo-PRA has been added to the CHIC protocol of tests for North American SWDs and is offered by Laboklin in Europe. A handful of carrier and affected dogs have been identified worldwide in these early days of testing.

North American laboratories currently offering eo-PRA testing can be found here:

<https://www.swdclub.org/dnalaboratories.html>

- [Watch the eo-PRA Webinar, recorded 10/20](#)
- [Download Dr. Paige Smith's paper here.](#)

The October 2020 webinar was presented by the SWDCA's Health & Wellness Committee and hosted by the SWDCA Online Learning Committee. (Other Learning Committee webinars are reviewed in the Tail Spins column later in the newsletter.)

Health Statistics

Sometimes it's hard to remember we're still in the infancy of our breed in North America. Indeed, even in health knowledge *worldwide* we are just learning what is hidden in our breed. When I started in Spanish Water Dogs in 2000, the breed was touted as "disease free," Even free of hip dysplasia. Imagine that!

My dogs were the very first to have their hip scores recorded by OFA. That was in 2001. Since then, OFA

reports about 300 SWDs have reported hip evaluations*. Passing scores: 14.63% "Excellent"; 46.49% "Good"; 15.28% "Fair". Not passing: 2.01% "Borderline"; 17.06% "Mild"; 8.03 "Moderate"; and 0.67% "Severe." It is modernly believed that hip development is both hereditary AND environmentally impacted. (*Note: PennHIP results are only included in the statistics if the owners send them in.)

This chart shows the health statistics reported to OFA for our breed from 2001 to December 2020. Some reported tests, such as the cardiac evaluations, are not standard for our breed, but it's good to see the results here. Hyperuricosuria (a genetic predisposition to excessive amounts of uric acid in urine) is part of the DNA panel put together for our breed by PawPrint Genetics and thus far all tested dogs have been "normal" for that disease.

– Contributed by Lisa Harper

| SPANISH WATER DOG | | Evaluations through December 2020 | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Registry | Evaluations | Normal | Carrier | Abnormal | Equivocal |
| Advanced Cardiac Evaluation | 1 | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Basic Cardiac Evaluation | 1 | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Congenital Cardiac Evaluation | 13 | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Degenerative Myelopathy | 5 | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Elbow Evaluation | 100 | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| CERF/OFA Eye Examination | 175 | 98.30% | 0.00% | 1.70% | 0.00% |
| OFA Hip Evaluation | 299 | 72.20% | 0.00% | 25.80% | 2.00% |
| Hyperuricosuria (DNA) | 5 | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Neuroaxonal Dystrophy (DNA) | 6 | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| OFA Patella Evaluation | 11 | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| procd-PRA (DNA) | 146 | 68.50% | 30.80% | 0.70% | 0.00% |
| Shoulder Evaluation | 3 | 100.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| OFA Thyroid Panel | 156 | 82.70% | 0.00% | 12.80% | 4.50% |

Conformation Corner

Dressing for the Ring



Dressing for the Ring

There's a rule-of-thumb about choosing an outfit for the conformation show ring (besides you must be able to move in it): use the color of your clothes to emphasize or de-emphasize your dog's topline.

With so many good dogs in the ring, you want to give your dog every chance to impress. You can help (or hinder) that impression with your ring outfit. The first thing to do is take a look at your dog the way the audience or judge might see him or her. Have someone hold your dog several feet away, in "typical" indoor and outdoor ring lighting. Notice how different the texture and colors of your dog's coat looks in different ring lighting. Most people will see the overall look of your dog, not the close-up view you are so familiar with.

Where you may dress to impress for other occasions, in the ring you should make your outfit a picture frame to make your *dog* stand out. It is quite possible that you wind up with outfits you only wear in the ring, and that's okay. While you're shopping (or sewing), think "picture frame."



Spanish Water Dogs (SWDs) have particular breed characteristics which need to be taken into account when planning your ring outfit:

- They stand approximately 15" and 20" at the withers, which comes to about knee or high-shin high on the average-height person, with the head about thigh or knee high.
- They have either a shorter curly (low highlights and shadows) or a heavily-textured corded coat (high highlights and shadows).
- Some have white feet that contrast with their coat color.
- Coat color may change with age.

Topline and Feet Color

Because of their height, what you wear for slacks or skirt, socks or tights, and shoes are what's important. They show as the background frame for your dog.



First, choose clothing you can move around in to show off your dog's action and conformation, without so much swing that it distracts (and with pockets for bait). Second, choose solids or subtle prints or weaves. Third, choose colors that work for your dog (more about that later). Fourth, choose textures that are matte and fairly smooth, with little or no sparkles, high shine, or heavy textures or trims. (Save that for your top or shirt, if that's your style.)

So, it's not just your slacks or skirt; your socks, tights, bare legs, and shoes are important too. They show as background for your dog, especially when you trot or bend to stack your dog.

In general, wear socks or tights and shoes which match your slacks or skirt, to keep a simple, clean frame behind your dog. If you have on a dark suit or dress, wear dark socks/tights and shoes, and vice versa. Particularly if your dog has white feet, you want to wear dark colors to show off the "flash" when he or she moves. You put in all that effort getting those feet sparking white, so show them off.



Color and Curl Need Contrast

To create the best picture frame for your dog, wear colors and textures that quietly contrast your dog's coat. Since your SWD's coat can change a lot, you may find you need more than one outfit to create the best effect.

- The color and texture of your puppy's coat is different than when he or she is mature.
- The texture of the coat in a shorter curly cut is different than when shown corded.

Continued next page

Conformation Corner (cont'd)

Dressing for the Ring



- The underline of the coat in a shorter curly cut is very different than when shown corded.

Choosing an Outfit for a Short Coat

When your dog is a puppy or has a shorter cut, the coat



has a soft, curly texture with little highlights and shadows. Young dogs may have deeper colors that will fade and grow more varied over time. Choose colors to wear which compliment the main color of the topline and of the feet, if a different color. A rich color such deep red is a good choice. With this coat, the texture of your ring

outfit is not as important, is the coat itself has a "medium" texture.

Choosing an Outfit for a Corded Coat

When your adult dog has a corded coat there is a strong contrast between highlights on the tops of the cords and shadows on the bottoms of them. Look carefully at the highlight and shadow colors in various ring lighting. Does your dog's coat have a warm tone to it or a cool one? Is there a reddish cast or a pure black one? Do the white areas look very white, creamy white, or greyish white?

With this highly textured coat, stay away from very textured tweed, knit, or lace fabrics and heavy trims and fringe. Wool suiting, cotton, smooth knits, and linen are all good choices. Choose smooth shoes in a single color.



Consider Topline and Underline

SWDs have a dark, light, or bi-color topline, with the most light shining here on the coat. The underline is more shadowed. With a corded coat, the underline is considerably lower and straighter than with a short coat, and has a lovely swinging action when moving out. If your dog has white feet, wearing dark socks or tights and shoes make them stand out. However, dark colors for your slacks or skirt may not show off a dog's dark topline to best advantage. Try several different

combinations of all dark, all light, or dark slacks/skirt and light socks/tights and shoes to see what works best for your dog.

Some Colors to Try

Every dog's coat is different, but there are some general colors to try when selecting a ring outfit to compliment your dog:

- If your dog's black coat has faded to dark charcoal as an adult, look at the lightest color in that charcoal (the highlights). Does it look like a lighter shade of gray or does it have a slightly brown tone? Try taupe, brick red, olive, or lavender.
- If your dog has a "liver" brown coat with a slightly orange cast, consider burgundy, cinnamon brown, dark pumpkin orange, or deep pink.
- If your dog has a "chocolate" brown coat with a slightly black or red cast, consider royal, turquoise, teal, or robin's egg blue or try a medium forest, kelly, olive, or apple green.
- For white coats or white patches, try black, dark charcoal, navy or royal blue, dark coffee or chocolate brown, dark forest green, and most shades of red.



Accessories Count Too

The color of your dog's lead and bait bag also matter when in the ring. Use the same color considerations which you use when selecting an outfit. If you don't find a color which suits, accessories can be sewn to match.

Showcase Your Dog

To dress for success in the ring, create a picture frame for your dog, even if the outfit is not what you might normally wear. Remember, it's your dog's day to shine and get the attention she or he deserves.

- Contributed by Meg Normand

About the Contributor

After years in theatrical costuming, Meg loves to critique ring outfits while watching dog shows.

Triple Threat Gazette: *herd, hunt, swim*

Herding · FastCAT · CAT · Scent Work · Dock Diving · **Barn Hunt**



Rosie

Rats!

Spanish Water Dogs have great hunting traditions. A great way to let them exercise their natural hunting instinct in a controlled way is through an event called Barn Hunt.

In Barn Hunt, the dog and handler work as a team to find rats. Don't worry -- they're pets. The dog must discriminate between a live rat in a small (about 14 inch) ventilated PVC dog-proof tube from PVC tubes with only rat litter and from empty tubes. The tubes are hidden near, behind or on top of bales of straw and all are covered with straw or hay in a closed off space. The challenge for the handler is to learn how your dog signals how it finds the rat, as they must call out "Rat!"

when their dog tells them it has found one. Your dog may signal you of a rat in a variety of ways such as tail wagging, digging out or pawing the tube, barking, or even just staring at it. Part of the fun is learning to read your dog's signal.



Willow

Competitors are divided by group for the same course set by the judge and wait in the "blind" for their turn. All dogs run "naked" without collar or leash. In the "ring" with the handler and dog are the judge and a "rat wrangler" to collect rat tubes found by the dog and to remove them from the ring. Rat wranglers are also in place to make sure the rats are treated humanely.

All of this must be done under time constraints with higher levels requiring higher skills such as more rats and more discrimination between litter and empty tubes. During their run, dogs must go through a straw bale tunnel one bale high (about 20-22

inches) and 18 inches wide, of varying length depending on the level at which you are competing and also climb up on a straw bale. No matter the dog's size, it must tunnel and climb. There is usually a step for the tiny dogs but the very large dogs, like Great Dane, must still tunnel. No rats are hidden in the tunnels.

There is an instinct test level where your dog can review three uncovered tubes and indicate where the rat is. The Novice level requires three "Qs" of finding one rat (discriminated with a litter and empty tubes) in 2 minutes. Higher levels add tubes with more combinations of rats, litter and empty tubes with increased time limits. At the Masters level, courses have an unknown number of rats, and your dog will need to be able to tell you they have thoroughly searched and no more rats can be found. It keeps things exciting the moment when calling "Il clear" because there is always fear that there is still one rat hidden somewhere on the course.

Trial placements and "High in Trial" Awards are given for the fastest times based on dogs' size with three levels. SWDs would be medium (up to 18 inches) or large (above 18 inches).

Some parts of the county have clubs that have "practice" where you can get advice from experienced ratters and learn to read your dog's signals. The AKC has recognized titles earned at events sanctioned by the Barn Hunt Association since 2013. For more information on finding and registering for a trial, check out BarnHunt.com.

– Contributed by Sarah Spinler

About the contributing editor



Sarah has owned SWDs since 2012. She and her dogs Cali and Indi enjoy Dock Diving, Conformation, Agility, Sheep Herding, Barn Hunt, Fast CAT, and CAT and Dock Dogs (because the events are often held at

wineries). She works as a college faculty Dept. Chair of Pharmacy Practice to support her dogs sports.

SWD Pupdate

All About Puppies!



Puppy Basic Obedience

Mary Kay Keenan has owned Keeshonds for 34 years and has titled Kees in Agility, Fast Cat, Rally, CAT, and Obedience. For 17 years, Mary Kay offered Puppy Kindergarten classes, teaching basic obedience lessons to puppies of approximately 25-30 different breeds. I always took my puppies to her classes until she retired.

I asked her what a new puppy should learn, and how to teach them. This is her response.

Training should be fun, fast and rewarding (praise and treats). A puppy from a responsible breeder should be at least 8 weeks old. Though still babies, they have minds like sponges. Puppies will learn new things day and night; it might as well be what you want them to learn. Teaching a puppy also helps develop your bond with that special furry friend.

To teach **Come**:

1. Roll a treat away from you. Let the puppy chase, capture and eat it.
2. Using puppy's name, call puppy back to you and give another treat.
3. Repeat until puppy reliably comes.
4. Then, with a partner, call puppy back and forth between you with treats at both ends. Don't let the puppy "freelance"; hold the collar while he eats until the next call.

If puppy gets loose ...

1. Do NOT chase your puppy, screaming its name. The puppy will run faster as you are now playing chase. Instead..
2. Run in the opposite direction (or in a safer direction) while you are making "Having a loud party" happy sounds. "come on *pup's name*, whoopee! haha, wheel!"
3. Puppies are curious and love fun. They will chase after you.

I consider this Mary Kay's most important lesson, because this is the information that can save your dog's life. It's hard to make yourself turn away, because it seems counterproductive. But it works. I had to use it once, when my dog got spooked in a crowded parking lot. She immediately turned and ran after me.

To teach **Sit/Stand/Down**:

1. Pup is standing. Start with treat at the nose and move up and back between the ears as you say "sit!"
2. Pup will raise his nose while following the treat and should sit. If pup backs up rather than sits, do exercise in front of a wall or corner so they are stopped from backing up.
3. Teach sit, then stand, then down. Don't try to teach down from sit. It's awkward for the hindquarters of a dog to go from sit to down.

To train for **Bite Inhibition**:

1. Puppies learn not to bite too hard from playing with littermates. They must learn that from people, also.
2. If a puppy bites you (and we are talking play biting not fear, etc.) don't jerk your hand away. Instead yelp as another puppy would. Or growl. I found that to work when milder yelps did not.
3. Don't tap or play with muzzle or face. This encourages the puppy to grab your hand.

Mary Kay's closing thoughts ...

Puppies do not willfully disobey, instead they don't understand what you are asking them to do. Adults/teenagers who don't obey, don't realize they have to do what you are asking for. So go back to the very beginning, when she/he was a puppy. You will advance very quickly but you still start with the basics while giving tons of praise and treats.

– Contributed by Chris Evans*

* see about the contributing editor on next page

Belly Rub Roster

SWD celebrations



Happy Poochday

We celebrate our furry friends on their special days. If you do not see your dog listed, please make sure to send your info to swdca.secretary@gmail.com. Keep that info up to date and don't forget to send in info for new puppies and dogs you adopt so we can add them to the list! Also, get those close ups ready -- we are hoping to add photos at a future time.

Happy birthday to our SWDs born May - July:

- May 2** Benny (LIJA-Highview's It's Showtime)
4 Tallie (LIJA-Highview's Patent Pending)
5 Isa (Isadora del Pipa Casita)
9 Tilly (Katia De Fillobull)
10 Mona (Casa de Rancho's Mona)
11 Kobe (O'Reilly's Kobe Bryant of Bothell)
13 Roy
16 Bo (Bo de Chesapeake)
16 Bhumi (Bhumi de Chesapeake)
21 Leela (Copper's H Leela Pania Mills)
28 Chacha (Txakoli del Rabadan)

- June 5** Roxie
6 Quito
7 Halle (Praderia's Hallelujah)
7 Indi
7 Lonny (Praderia Bird on a Wire)
7 River (Senna Serenita Del Corazoncito)
8 Burton (Praderia's Scandal and Concern)
8 Glory (Praderia's Sandpiper)
8 Tano (Amigo Gitano Dorado de Vinjay)
11 Mora (Andana de los llanos del valle)
14 Reesie (Lots of Zorazzo Vom Lissfeld)
25 Libby (Lija's It Takes A Village!)
29 Nocci (Nocciola De Los Duendes)
29 Toby (Tobias De Los Duendes)

- July 4** Betsy (Angel's Miss American Pied)
4 Poppy (Angel's Lucky Liberty)
6 Luca Brasi (Ashley Four Koke de Montana)
13 Pili (FiveNinePlus Azpilicueta)
18 Hilda (Fundy Bay's Harmony Hill)
18 Kai (Angel Kiss the S'Kai de Ariosa)
18 Maggie (Our Little Angels Maggie Mae)
18 Murray (Angel Mauricio El Chistoso)
18 Willow (Will O' The Angels)
19 Lucy (Lucy de Chesapeake)
22 Rain (Ariosa Concurrido Chasin Fiesta's Midnight Rain)
23 Rosie (Spanish Rose of the Angels)
25 Gunner (Lijas by design showgun sir gunner of the island)
26 Chaco (Praderia el Futuro de Zorrazo)
26 Luna (Ariosa Concurrido Chasin' the Moon)
27 Brody (Timber Oaks Brody)
27 Nina (Timber Oaks Nina Angelica)
27 Ocho (Timber Oaks Lady Ocho)
30 Mickey (Perfetti Punkin Patch Basilio)



About the SWD Pupdate Contributing Editor

(from previous page)

Chris Evans lives in South Carolina with her four SWDs Ramona, River, Seron, and Tut. She has a long history with Komondors and especially enjoys conformation.



Member Noticias

Member Profile

Selected Member Profile

Each quarter, one member will be selected to be profiled by newer members and presented to the club. Our first member profile is **TJ Mester**.

TJ, short for Thomas James, has been a member of the Spanish Water Dog Club since shortly after acquiring his first SWD, Chica in 2003, and he has served on the Club nominating committee. The family's current SWD, Toby, is a product of the 2011 Valley litter. He's part of a very active household that includes TJ's wife, Deborah, two athletically active and academically talented teen girls, Summer and Lily, and a host of other animals. The family resides on a rural 170 acre property with "ponds, creeks and lots of room to run".



Toby and TJ

Chica was the family's first dog. TJ says that he got a SWD for all the wrong reasons. "My wife was very allergic; I had no idea what I was doing or getting in to". He credits the guidance of club members with getting him through some early rough spots. "I really had to learn about the herding instinct with SWDs. If a bike went by, Chica would take off after it, right through the invisible fence. She always wanted the bike to go in a different direction than it was headed. It took a while to understand why she was doing this." After doing obedience with her, which I never mastered, I got involved in agility. That really strengthened the bond between us."

In addition to support from club members, TJ also worked with a trainer. "When I got Toby in 2011, I had a better idea of how to handle things. I felt better prepared. It's important to have a trainer you can work with. I'm a fan of clicker training, always positive." TJ added, "Socialization is important, beginning with the breeder. Toby got a lot of socialization with the Valley family."

Toby was the first SWD ever shown in AKC conformation after the breed was first admitted to AKC. "We were the first to show but it was really about doing something different, kind of celebrating all the hard work others in the club had done to get the SWD recognized by the AKC, and seeing what conformation was all about."



Toby

TJ says Toby does a funny thing where he lays on his side and moves his legs, as if he were running – and he's awake while he's doing this! He also talks "in voices". He reportedly inherited these "tricks" from mama, Cookie.

He reports that off leash recall is Toby's greatest training challenge. "But, the sound of the 4-wheeler engine and movement of the vehicle makes him come running. He doesn't want to be left behind!" TJ uses a radio collar to track Toby on the property. "I just use the GPS locator part of the collar (Garmin Alpha)."

Toby's favorite thing to do is run down to the pond and fetch a stick. "He can go all day!" He didn't win in conformation but TJ has bestowed on him the official title of the Squirrel Chasing King. "I'm really hooked on the breed." TJ's advice to new owners, "Join the Club. Don't be afraid to ask questions."

Member Noticias (cont.)

New Member Welcome



New Members

We would like to introduce you to our members from the most recent quarter as interviewed by some of the members from 2020.

Mary Beth Hughes, Richmond, VA

Mary Beth and Mike travel extensively with 3-year-old Bo, which makes him a super "up for anything" kind of happy-go-lucky dog. They were looking for a fun, active dog that likes to swim and would enjoy being out on their boat. Low shedding was also important.

Mary Beth describes him as, "a loving sweet boy who enjoys all other dogs. He's super friendly to all strangers and just an absolute kind-hearted guy. He has a kind, sensitive demeanor and wish we could clone him!!!"



Bo enjoys exploring the many secluded beaches of the Chesapeake Bay or hiking along the many trails of the Blue Ridge. He recently started agility training, so wish him luck!

Doug and Charlene Altenberg, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Doug & Charlene are the proud owners of 10-month-old Tano, from Vince & Janice Hill, and Marnie Harrison. Tano sure loved all

that Saskatchewan snow this winter, though soon

he will turn his attention to boating, swimming and time at the lake. If that's not enough to keep him occupied, surely his obedience work, scent training, long walks, and dog puzzles will do the trick!

Charlene tells us, "We were looking for a medium size, non-shedding dog that likes the outdoors, going for walks, and would enjoy spending summers at the lake, with us and our grandkids."

They have appreciated the club's breed webinars, as well as the connection with other SWD owners.

Estelle Klein, Aurora, CO

Estelle is the proud mom of 2-year-old SWD Mia. Mia is lucky to have her litter-mate Emma nearby, who belongs to Estelle's brother. Together they enjoy a very close-knit bond, partaking in a full life of very long walks, hikes, agility, and swimming. Perhaps this summer the girls will learn to ride the SUP!

You can see a picture here of Mia with her communication buttons. Curious to learn more? Read about them at www.theycantalk.org. I asked



Estelle how it's going for them. "She's great and sometimes drives me crazy by 'talking too much'. I call it 'button bashing' when she gets frustrated and

I'm not giving her what she asks for."

Gracie & Mark Helm, Wenatchee, WA

Gracie & Mark brought Noodle home in December 2020 to Wenatchee, Washington, the Apple Capital of the World.

Continued next page

Member Noticias (cont.)

New Member Welcome (cont.)



They are thrilled to experience Noodle's new milestones every week while discovering her evolving personality. She loves the snow, is anxious to fetch anything, and jumps in the river or the bathtub every time she gets a chance.

Gracie tells us, "We look forward to traveling and will be first-time grandparents this November! Noodle enjoys hopping in the motorhome and has traveled well so far." Be sure to connect with them at the Supported Entry in Canby! "We are excited to meet more owners and anxious to learn all we can."



Rachel Cooper & Adrian Dornford-Smith, *Northern Ireland*

Rachel & Adrian are "FiveNinePlus", Kennel Club Assured Breeders in the UK. Rachel is the Breed Health Co-Ordinator for the UK SWD Club, while Adrian is the Club Chair. They are both English, living in the green Northern Irish countryside with their dogs Cockle the Tibetan Terrier (13), and SWDs Lita (11), Loli (6), Pasi (5), and Pili (2). Rachel is a teacher, trained in Modern Languages and Adrian is a theoretical physicist, now a self-employed Computer Consultant.



Asked about their collaboration with the US club, Rachel says, "We look forward to working 'across the pond' with our friends in the US, we have already much to thank the SWDCA for, including several fascinating online webinars you have put on and also the research to bring us a DNA test for eo-PRA, which the SWD Club (UK) has already adopted as a recommendation to breeders."

Alison Wallace, Stow, MA

Alison and Mark live with their two boys Shawn (17) and Ryan (14), plus their four-legged boy Stanley (3). As big hockey fans, it's no surprise Alison and Mark have a dog named after the Stanley Cup, hockey's biggest trophy. Stanley loves to take Stanley for long walks at different nearby conservation areas, as well as some daily quality time with a tennis ball. We can all relate to that, right?



Asked about the Club, Alison says, "Everyone I have met has been so welcoming and shared some great tips with me. I look forward to meeting some of the members once COVID allows!"

About our Contributing Editors:

James Coliz lives in Seattle, WA, with his wife Sheila, two teenage children, and 16-month-old SWD Roxy. Roxy loves action in all forms, though her favorites are swimming, long hikes, beach-combing, obedience training, and of course high-intensity fetch. James and Roxy are training as a Search Dog team with the county sheriff's Search and Rescue unit.

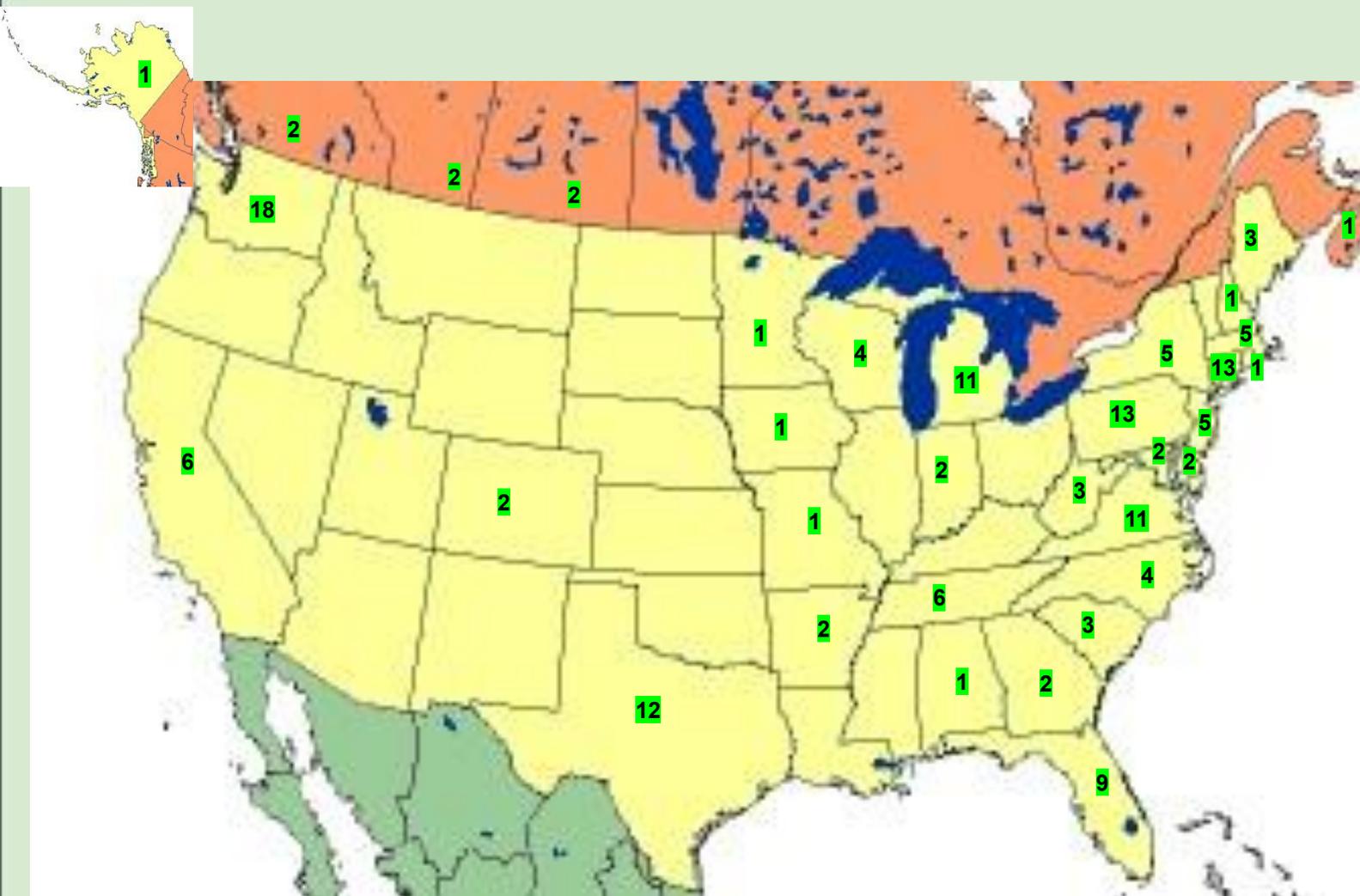


Dogs have always been a part of Dave and Trish Byron's household. During a trip to Tanglewood they were introduced to a Spanish water dog. (Their 12-year-old chocolate lab had crossed the rainbow bridge a few months earlier and they were thinking about a new dog.) It was love at first sight. After some research, Trish applied to the rescue committee. A few months later, they made the trip to meet Bob, then four years old. After a long and happy life together, Bob passed away in January of 2020 at the age of 16. Rudy, their 12 year old black lab, is currently happy being an only dog.



Member Noticias (cont.)

Membership Map



- England - 1
- Finland - 1
- Germany - 1
- New Zealand - 1
- Northern Ireland - 2
- Spain - 2

Spanish Water Dog Club of America Trivia Question of the Month:

Which month of the year represents the most popular month for club members' dogs to be born?

Answer: If you noticed all the Poochdays in July on page 16, you are very observant. July just barely edges out October as our most popular month for birthdays for pups in our club. At least, for now. It's a moving target!

Turko Times

Forever in Our Hearts



Forever in our Hearts



Bella

November 2005 we were united with a puppy from a Rancho (Sheryl Gaines)/Trinity (Linda Kardonis) litter. She was beautiful so from that day forward she was known as Bella.



Through the years Bella became our playmate, protector, comforter, indeed a key member of our family. Whether it was playing catch with her pig, going for walks or just lying next to you, her love was something we could never get enough of. Her soulful eyes always saw what was needed and Bella was more than willing to provide it.

A few weeks ago we had to say goodbye to our beloved "Bella Bella." Her presence, loyalty, companionship and endless love will be with us always. Thank you Sheryl and Linda for providing us with such a joy known as Bella.

Bernie Dapkevich

"Sweet P"

Pia, I thank you for sharing your life with Lynn & me. You were a unique once in a lifetime treasure. WOW, were we blessed! We love you and miss you terribly.



You were already spoken for to another when I contacted the breeder. I was informed all puppies were spoken for... but later we learned that person was having some doubts about getting a puppy. I received a call that you were available, accepted immediately and the rest is history. It was God intervening and putting you in our lives. What a perfect match.

I'm sure that you did some things that I was not pleased with, but for the life of me I cannot remember them. All I have is the fondest memories of the "best dog ever"! You were so unselfish by giving us your love and attention. When my spirit was not at it's best, you would make a point to just sit quietly beside me. I often did not realize I was in the "funk," but you knew. Thank you.

Enjoy your time with your brother Ringo. Be sure to show off your grace & athleticism when you fly high and catch your ball. Be a good girl... I'll meet you at the Rainbow Bridge.

Lynn & Steve

Nita

Nita was an exceptional personality. She was the smartest dog I have ever known. She had remarkable skills, but loved the water most (well, other than food). She would sail with my father-in-law and would cliff dive and slide into the lake. She was not cuddly and mostly hid during the day. She might have excelled at herding if she did not acquire an affinity for excrement. We miss her daily.



When she first arrived in 2002 from Spain (the old country), she was the size of a guinea pig. Cute as a button. She always had the cutest face. I particularly liked her nub. It was so short that it could disappear altogether. She took to Preston like a big brother and the two got on famously. Always competitive, she would try to beat him to the ball, especially when thrown in the lake. This is where she honed her cliff diving skills. She would also try to play "Ball" on the deck with Preston and me, but never got the rules straight. Instead of soccer playing the ball past me, she would corner it and lick it.

She was always very smart and often devious. She learned to push a chair away from the table so she

Continued next page

Turko Times (cont.)

Forever in Our Hearts



could use it to get to the butter dish. She would cause a commotion at the far end of the house to get the other dogs to rush over barking while she ate their food.

She was a master tracker. Nancy, Andrea and I would play hide and seek. (OK, Nita was always it.). We had a silly song we would sing loudly while covering Nita's eyes. A person would have about ten seconds to hide and we would release her. She would tear all over the house, eventually using her nose to find us. The song would always get her riled up.

She came on New Year's walks until she was too old to complete them. Her energy (and herding skills) were evident when she would run from the front of the line to the back to make sure everyone was accounted for (or at least her family). She probably did five times the length of the walk that we did.

Nita was amazingly tolerant of having things put on her. She posed (with rolled eyes for the most part) for a series of photos with different hats. This particular shown one made it in the *Shoreline Times* as a vaccinate your dog promo. She was four when the picture was taken. Her dressing up did not end with hats. Nancy would make costumes for her at Halloween and she even appeared on stage in Pippin. She was a black lamb. Nancy trimmed her sheep-like and tied her ears. She hated every minute of it. She was never a people dog. Shy and reclusive, she would most likely hide when guests came over. Nancy learned a lot about the importance of socialization from her.

Nita has always been the smallest SWD I have ever seen. I have always preferred her size and my nickname for her was "The Baby." Her size became important when her hips began to give out and she needed to be picked up and carried.

It is hard to sum up 18 years in a few paragraphs, but I hope I have caught the highlights. Good-bye

"Misspinita." You will always have a place in my heart.
David and Nancy Valley

Molly



In June of 2004 I flew to Norfolk VA to pick up our first SWD from the Kennel de Ubrique (Craig Pope). From that day on, Molly had her place in our family, keeping our three kids (9, 6 and 3) safe and in line.

I could not have ever wished for a companion as great as her. She was a part of our life for over 16 years before passing away last July. She was almost totally deaf, partially blind and was finding it harder and harder to walk, but it never slowed down her spirit or amazing love for her family. She spent her final days in our Lake Tahoe cabin, where she loved both the snow in the winter and the nature "smells" in the summer. So thankful for the advice I got early on when searching for the right dog for our family (Lisa Harper) and the selection of the perfect dog for us by Craig.

Molly, you will always remain in our hearts!

Brent Hughes

About the Contributing Editor

Long time SWD lover, Denise Velasquez is responsible for the SWD Club Sunshine Committee and doing her best to recognize and memorialize the loss of beloved pups.

She also leads the PR/Marketing team working to enhance SWD social media presence and provide custom merchandise for the club.



Cords & Capers

Cover Photo Runners Up



Mojito
Copper's Mojito on the Rocks

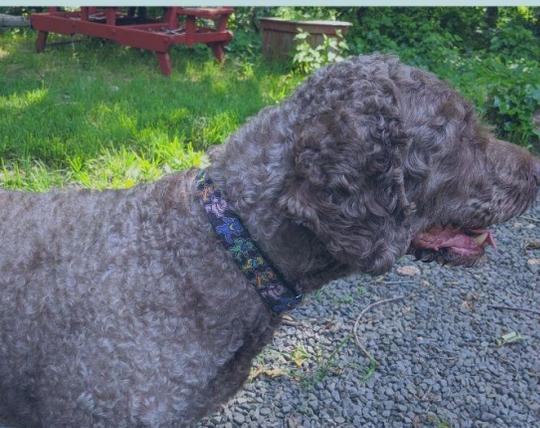
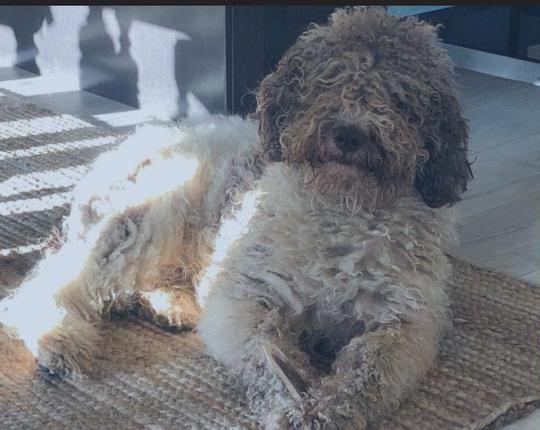


Cali
Casa de Rancho's Cali

Photo by Frances Axsmith, Crimson Chow Studio

Cords & Capers

Photo Gallery



About the Photo Editor

Susan Smith lives in upstate New York with two SWDs, Kepa and Mojito. She enjoys taking the boys hiking, trail riding and competing in agility.



Tail Spins

Webinar Reviews and News



Form Follows Function

Lisa Harper presented “Form Follows Function” on June 4, 2020 and again on Feb 17, 2021. It was a 1-hour webinar that explored our breed’s three major functions: Spanish culture, terrain and environment and functional necessities that make up our breed.

Videos and graphics fleshed out each function: herding, hunting, and fisherman’s assistant. Participants were able to see the dogs at work and demonstrating specific skills. At the end of each session, participants worked out which physical traits would be important for each function. Medium size, low hocks for endurance, a strong neck and prosternum, and an oval chest with good spring of rib and ample room for lung capacity were common traits to all three functions.

Conflicting traits included color (white for water, dark for herding), and bite (strong for herding or swimming boat lines, soft for retrieving game or fish).

Participants included both club members and non-club members and both North American and European participants.

– Contributed by Lisa Harper

An Evening with Dr. Carmen Battaglia

November 12, 2020, thirty plus members and guests tuned into a Zoom meeting with author, lecturer and AKC Board Member, Dr. Carmen Battaglia. The first book I read, *Breeding Better Dogs* introduced me to Carmen and since then his advice and counsel has been, like the webinar he provided to all in attendance, invaluable.

Highlights included his discovery and now proven process of *neo-natal stimulation* for newborn puppies. Google it if you are unfamiliar, especially if you are in the process of acquiring a new pup. It is a great question to ask your breeder about: *neo-natal stimulation*. In another study shared, feeding pregnant females and then the litter DHA during first six months has shown an increase in dog intelligence by 40% versus the pups not receiving DHA. Nutrition is always a hot topic and Carmen suggested certain dog food brands with years of scientific and continuing research and indicated these brand are his chosen dog foods. He was cautious about all the designer brands on the market and quality control in research and manufacturing processes.

His website Breedingbetterdogs.com is filled with free articles and research papers. Two articles in particular, on extending your dog’s life from nutrition and the breed extinction article, are very timely for the SWD owner.

– Contributed by Rob Driscoll

Webinars on the Horizon

The Online Learning Team is always working on the next several programs to be presented. At this time, programs being considered within the next few months include a session called “Conformation Soup to Nuts”, which will take people who have never touched a show lead or attempted to even register for a show through to tips of best ways to show a SWD to its fullest potential. Other topics being considered include a training case study, a recently translated article from Spain and the genetics of coat color.

Recognition Register

Brag, Titles, Awards



A New Recognition Program

AKC and other titles, what an alphabet soup – CGC, CH, UD, MACH, RM, DCAT, CAA, DS, RATN, HSA and many, many more!! Sometimes it's hard to know what they all mean. But they all have one thing in common: they signify achievement on the part of a dog and their handler.

In 2020 the SWDCA inaugurated a new program celebrating the achievements of club members and their dogs. This program started as an idea in 2015, spurred on by what other breed and training clubs do to recognize the accomplishments of dogs and their people. It took over a year to go through approval, planning and implementation.

The AKC issues a Title Report which was used to determine which members had earned titles. Since the report included only registered names, a call to the membership was sent out for call names or to verify call names that were known.

While it was a long time coming, in March twenty-six members received specially designed crate tag tags and title charms to celebrate the accomplishments of their SWDs. The special achievements of 49 different dogs earning 152 titles since the first titles were awarded in 2004 were sent.

While the pandemic may have hampered the ability for people to do things with their dogs, we're hopeful that more people will be out in 2021 and we can award more crate tags and updated title charms.

A little bit about the crate tags and title charms. The colors of the crate tag (red) and title charms (yellow) pay homage to the Spanish flag. The smiling face of a corded SWD graces the center of the crate tag.

There are 10 rings on the tag for hanging charms. You can easily replace the lower level charm as your dog earns a new title in each event,

New crate tags and charms will be provided by the club on an annual schedule using the AKC report and a procedure defined for non-AKC titles (such as CKC titles). There is often a lag in processing at AKC so if title information does not get reported in time for one round of tags and charms, they will be provided in the next round.



[Click here to view list of titles recognized by the program so far: charms](#)

Spanish Water Dog Club of America

About Our Club

Club Officers and Committees

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| President | Vickie Miller |
| Vice President | Lisa Harper |
| Corresponding Secretary | Donna Perone |
| Recording Secretary | Andrea Paskiewicz |
| Treasurer | Nancy Valley |
| Director East | David Milstein |
| Director West | Annette Martin |
| AKC Liaison | Colleen Nolan |

Committees chairs:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bylaws | Vickie Miller |
| Events | Nancy Valley |
| Health and Wellness | Lisa Harper |
| Mentorship | open |
| Rescue | Annette Martin and David Milstein |
| Standard | Lisa Harper |
| Judges Education | Lisa Harper |
| Membership | Donna Perone |
| Sunshine | Denise Velasquez |
| Versatility | Sarah Spinler |
| Website | Lisa Harper |

Club Website: swdclub.org

[Code of Ethics](#)

[Become a member](#)



Committee Spotlight

Each quarter, we will highlight one club board position or committee at random and describe the function, the level of time required, and any skills that are helpful to the position or committee. This issue, we are focusing on the **Mentorship Committee**.

The Mentorship Committee matches experienced members with members who are interested in learning more about a specific aspect of SWD performance or training. Mentors can help support members who may want to begin a new type of activity with their SWD. Having someone to guide you through the early stages of training, registration, and preparation can go a long way to ensuring long term success.

What are the skills needed to lead this committee? The chair should have some general knowledge of what kinds of activities SWDs are doing but not necessarily in depth skills in any particular ones; and a willingness to reach out to contact people you may not know (yet). On a scale of 1 to 10 for amount of time required, this committee would probably be about a 3 initially and then less over time.

The Mentorship Committee is currently in need of an energetic leader to reorganize its operation and pull together to team who have volunteered to mentor. The club has ample resources across a broad spectrum of skills who are willing to volunteer their time to assist others in learning and succeeding in the vast array of activities in which SWDs are known to excel. All they need is the process to connect them to the people who want a coach in their corner or a gentle nudge here and there to help them on their way. Contact any board member if you are interested.