

# *Perro Post*

Summer 2021



The SWD Quarterly Journal

# Spanish Water Dog Club of America

Quarterly Newsletter

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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](mailto:swdca.secretary@gmail.com)

**On the cover:** Ariosa Praderia Quintessential Bay Breez de Fiesta "Quinn" is a sweet girl who lives with Gina and Scott Peckford near the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia. She loves playing with the other SWDs in her pack and is always ready for a cuddle with her people. She hasn't done much formal training yet, but she has the best recall of any dog ever. Hoping she will have her first litter of pups in 2022.

# From the Editor

In this Issue



## From the Editor

The Newsletter team has managed to pack in quite an assortment of topics in this issue. Our Working Dog column has settled in as a particularly interesting column as we learn about one of the segments of our membership a lot of us don't hear as much about, probably because they are so busy! This issue we hear about a working farm dog that focuses on controlling livestock.

Raw food diets have become very popular among many dog owners. Our health and wellness column takes a look at the risks of raw food diets to make sure those who choose that option know the dangers to which they may expose themselves and their dogs. Yes, we are sure (respectful) dialog on the member forum will soon follow.

Speaking of food, be sure to read the Pupdate column even if you don't have a puppy. Moving on from puppy food can be a challenge and those food labels can be a bit confusing. We give you excerpts from the FDA to break down the gibberish on dog food labels that everyone might find useful.

Pet/companion dog owners: you might not want to just skip over the conformation column this time. (Yes, we know you do that!) We explain why the club seems so focused on it and why every SWD owner should be glad they stay that way. It is worth taking a minute to read even if your dog show future only involves surfing by shows with your remote.

Speaking of dog shows, we included an overview of the Morris and Essex show coming up in October. This event is like no other and is worth coming out for even just to watch and hang out with other SWD folks. It only happens every five years and many of the exhibitors dress in clothing styles they would have worn when the show first started (1920s or '30's). If you are able to spend a day to either enter your dog or just come enjoy an afternoon outdoors

and people-watch, this is a definite to put on your calendar.

We also have a summary of our west coast event held in June. The club has seen a lot of growth on the west coast recently and we are excited to see members beginning to make connections. We hope this is the beginning of many SWD friendships.

Be sure to read the Member Spotlight on Jesse Salcedo and his dog Manchás where we introduce you to a SWD and owner who hang out with rock stars. I'm guessing this will be the only teepee setter-upper/ stage smudger we will likely encounter in the club as well. We also profile six new members you should get to know.

Breed education takes us on a tour of SWD heads while our breeders column takes a very close look at teeth and what to do about base-narrow canines.

Our active columns this issue focus on agility and FastCAT. If you have been wondering what they are about, check out these columns. We can connect you to a mentor if you want to help to get started.

We have introduced our Senior dogs column in this issue. I am looking forward to hearing more from those of you with older dogs who are showing us all that age is just a number. Send me your stories and we will include them in future issues.

Read any good dog books lately? Marnie Harrison would love to hear from you. We also introduce our book review column in this issue.

Be sure to catch the spotlight on the Sunshine Committee. It's scope might surprise you.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Feedback and ideas for future articles are enthusiastically welcomed.

*Donna Perone*, Editor  
*Murray*, 🐾 Assistant Editor

# SWDs at Work

## The Itinerant Farmer



Photo By Marnie Harrison

### *The Itinerant Farmer*

**D**avid Sang doesn't have a farm and yet he has years of experience using Spanish Water Dogs as working farm dogs. He loves working farms so much that he makes arrangements with other farmers to keep his livestock on their farms in return for his work with their own livestock as a farm hand. It all started about 15 years ago when David was in search of the perfect working dog.

We interviewed David to learn more about how SWDs perform as working farm dogs.

**Perro Post:** How did you get interested in herding?

**David Sang:** I tried conformation and agility first and it just wasn't my thing. Then someone suggested herding. The first two herding instructors I found in my area wouldn't take SWDs because they had never heard of them. The third one, Diane Sobel-Meyer, became my mentor and I ended up becoming a member of her elite group, meeting every Sunday for herding work days. Diane also brought in top notch herding clinicians, Cappy Pruett and Kyle Smith, who studied under the legendary Bob Vest.



Baylaa outrun. Click to see [video](#)

**PP:** So how did you come to have three actively working SWD farm dogs without actually having a farm?

**DS:** I ultimately had two dogs competing at the advanced level at trials but found that I was enjoying the real farm-work type of herding we were doing at practices on Sundays the most. Getting more ribbons just wasn't rewarding. I was fortunate in being able to find a farm where I could keep my own sheep in return for being a farm hand for their ducks, chickens, horses, and goats. In addition to my work as a farm hand, my dogs were responsible for getting rid of vermin and protecting the chickens from stray animals and foxes. It allowed me to continue learning what my dogs could do.



Ruby versus the goat

**PP:** How do you use the SWDs on the farm?

**SD:** In the morning, the dogs drive the flock from the barn to the proper places to graze. I need to go about my day doing farm-hand work. Since sheep and goats are flock animals, they tend to want to be around me as I am working, which doesn't work. So the SWDs are constantly pushing the sheep and goats away from me. At the end of the day, the dogs gather, fetch, separate, and pen the stock in their proper areas. Again, as flock animals,

Continued next page

# SWDs at Work (cont.)

## The Itinerant Farmer



Ruby versus the goat part 2

sheep are often flocked around the horses. So the dogs have to “shed,” or separate, them away from the horses to bring them in. Interestingly, I never trained the SWDs to do the shedding; they just did it instinctively.

They actually showed me their ability to shed sheep the very first day I had my first flock delivered to me. After the sheep were on the ground and the truck left, the sheep all bolted and ended up at a neighboring farm mixed in with another flock. The dogs were able to help me separate my sheep from the other flock.

**PP:** How did you learn about SWDs and why did you pick this breed?

**DS:** I originally thought of Border Collies and Aussies, but my wife is allergic. So about 15 years ago, I looked on the internet and found Sheryl



Rizo penning sheep. Click here to see the [Video](#)

Gaines’ name. After talking with her and learning about the pros and cons of the breed, I realized this was exactly the breed I wanted. What really appealed to me is that this breed is such an all-around working farm dog. A herding breed has to be smart or they will get hurt, but this breed is also just good all around.



David and Ruby

*David Sang joined the club in 2011. He continues to herd whenever he gets a chance and is currently in the process of finding a new itinerant farm arrangement. He is a full time musician with a jazz and blues band called The*

*Mighty Burners (which you can follow them on Facebook or Instagram). He and his wife, Kathy, currently have a five-year-old SWD named Ruby.*

### Editor’s Note:

In the Spring of 2020, a new committee was formed in the club to promote member engagement by making sure each segment of the membership was receiving value: new puppy owners, companion/pet owners, breeders, active sports enthusiasts, and our critical banner bearers. We realized while doing the Spring issue of the *Perro Post* that the committee overlooked our busiest members: the workers — those who use SWDs to do some specific kind of work.

We want to correct that. We are making a point of trying to track down and highlight the world in which SWDs are doing their job, and that the rest of us may not even know about. We would like to encourage everyone to let us know who else is out there with working SWDs or SWDs in special situations.

– by Donna Perone

# Breed Education

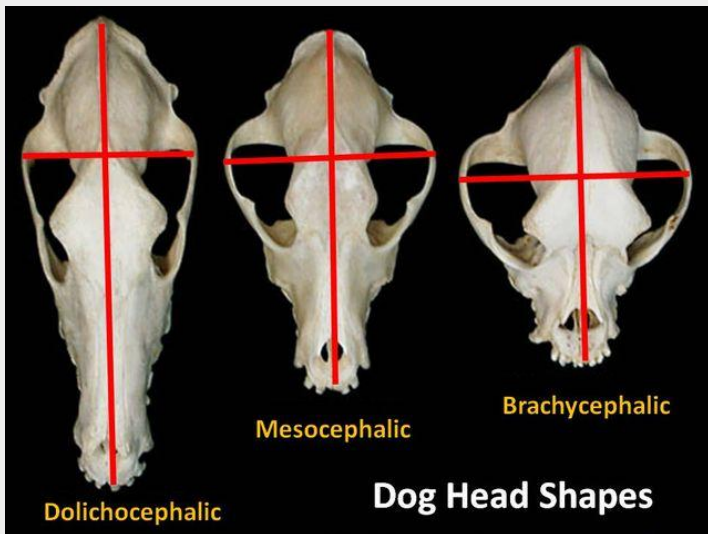
Breed Info for Those in the Know



## *Lost in Translation?*

The American Kennel Club standard for Spanish Water Dogs is written to closely reflect the standard established by the Federation Cynologique International (an international federation of kennel clubs) in order to keep our population as true to the original dogs from Spain as possible. Sometimes even the best translations miss the target. Case in point, use of “dolichocephalic” in the FCI standard’s official English translation to describe the SWD’s head.

The Merriam-Webster definition of dolichocephalic is “having a relatively long head with a cephalic index of less than 75.” In mathematical terms, the cephalic index = (head length)/(head width)\*100.



Source: SC Psychological Enterprises Ltd.

Looking at these head shapes, the SWD is mesocephalic, not dolichocephalic.

When the club was writing the new AKC standard, all committee members agreed that the FCI translator was attempting to describe not the *length of the head*, but rather the *abruptness of stop*, or the transitional area between the top skull and the muzzle. In general, the longer the head, the more gentle the stop.

Does the stop have an impact on the dog’s ability to see? Severe stops allow the eyes to be placed in a very frontal position. The more gentle the stop, the more the eyes need to wrap obliquely on the skull.



In Gilbert and Brown’s *K-9 Structure & Terminology*, “A deep stop allows good frontal vision. Lack of a stop restricts vision of each eye to the side.” Certainly one would think our multi-purpose breed used for shepherding, hunting and working on the seas would benefit from good frontal vision!

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# Breed Education

Breed Info for Those in the Know



The AKC Spanish Water Dog standard reads, “Stop is apparent but not abrupt.” In other words, we do have a stop, but it is gentle.

Question: Why would the working SWD sacrifice a deep stop with the benefits of good frontal vision for a more gentle stop?

The key lies in what environment and how the dog works. The SWD is a mesocephalic dog, along with many herding and hunting dogs that also have less marked stops than the Newfoundland pictured above. The Newfoundland works in open water. He would have contended with waves and shipwreck debris, and he would have used his body mass to power through or dive underneath.

Herding dogs require gentler stops, allowing flying hooves and low branches to slide over the head rather than come to abrupt, catastrophic break against the eyeballs or braincase.

Marshland waterfowl retrievers need to slide through reeds and other aquatic plants. Upland game flusher/retrievers will have grasses and brush to contend with. Oblique eyes and a gentle stop are definitely boons to this type of work.

And so, while the term “dolichocephalic” (meaning the proportions of the head) may be incorrect for our breed, some of the attributes associated with the trait are spot on.

Do acquaint yourself with the FCI standard for our breed. ([Click here for link to FCI Standard.](#)) Just remember that translation is an art and not an exact science. Sometimes you need to look for the intent of a phrase instead of holding it up as gospel.

– by Lisa Harper

*Spanish Water Dog*  
**AKC Breed Standard**

# Conformation Corner

Info for the Fancier



## *There's a Reason We Do It*

Why do we, as the parent club for the Spanish Water Dog breed in the US, care so much about what happens at dog shows? Does it matter which dog wins except to the people involved there that day? For the average dog owner, does it really matter that shows even happen? Yes it does, and here's why.

All fanciers of SWDs owe it to the breed to be knowledgeable of the standard and the reasons why it contains the details it does, as we are all SWD ambassadors. We all need to learn a bit about conformation even if we never enter the ring. Conformation is about more than if a dog looks "good." Conformation is about how the structure of the dog allows it to fulfill its main purpose in life. In the case of Spanish Water Dogs, they were bred for three primary purposes: herding, hunting, and support for watermen. Their demeanor and physical structure (size, bone structure, musculature, eyes, head shape, coat, feet, etc.) should therefore be all business and directed to those activities. Any departure from the structure and temperament they have achieved in centuries of breeding to this point impacts their ability to perform their primary functions. If we drift from the standard, we effectively have a different dog.

Dog shows were started as a way to share what the canine gene pool looked like (they didn't use those words back then but stay with me here.) It was like a livestock show so that people could see which other dogs were available for breeding. Breeders could then make better decisions as they aimed for puppies with the ideal physical and behavioral attributes, as documented in breed standards.

Breed standards represent the backbone of the conformation/dog show system. They provide an anchor to help keep breeds from drifting away from their intended function. If you look at old photos of

dogs from early years of shows, you can see that many breeds have [changed in appearance](#) over the years in spite of having standards in place. Imagine what a mess we would have with some breeds today if those standards were not developed.

Here is a link to the AKC [SWD breed standard](#). There are many details listed, and some are in the process of being updated for clarification, but the breed can be generally described as a medium build, multi-purpose farm dog that is slightly longer than tall (9:8 ratio), evenly matched height of chest to legs (50:50), with efficient movement and a distinctively curly, wooly coat.

When writing the breed standard in the AKC format, the SWDCA's Standard Committee tried to follow the FCI standard written in Spain to try to keep our gene pool consistent with the rest of the world.

Adherence to the breed standard should ensure a dog shown today and a dog shown in 20 years should retain the same key attributes and breed type. When breeders, owners, and dog show judges are educated on the important details, the key physical attributes that make a Spanish Water Dog a Spanish Water Dog are retained.

All of the Spanish Water Dog breed standards around the world share several important measurements and proportions. Our standard says that heads, for example are thus: Ratio of cranium to muzzle is 3:2. Let's say a dog with slightly short muzzle, more like a cocker spaniel, is introduced by a big-named person in our breed. He's widely promoted. People in our breed think, "So-and-so says he's perfect, and he's winning, so he must be!" Judges see others putting him up and assume he must be correct. Over time, people start to think maybe that is what is actually "right" and so they aim for that look in their breeding program.

Continued next page



# Conformation Corner

Info for the Fancier



And over time, what was a slightly shorter muzzle becomes a pug face. Now we have a major drift from the standard.

So how do we make sure that people respect the standard? Dog shows! Well, actually the answer is education and consistent messaging. But how can we deliver the education and consistent messaging? Breed education, judges education and—you guessed it—dog shows! Where is the one place that judges, breeders, exhibitors, and the fancier community come together in groups around specific breeds? Dog shows. Dog shows are the one place where people can go to see many exhibits of the same breed in one place at the same time and can share and gain information with other people knowledgeable about that specific breed. Dog shows are where for at least some period of time each day, everything going on in one location is only about that one breed. On top of that, all that time sitting around, waiting for ring time, allows people to exchange valuable information that is so hard to share any other way. That is why dog shows matter and why having an active and effective parent club to promote education is so important.

Here is what you can do if you are thinking about showing your dog/bitch. First, find a mentor. We have many people in the club who would be very happy to share their knowledge of the breed with you.

Secondly, learn everything you can. Read the AKC standard and learn the breed history. Our multi-purpose breed is all about work and loyalty. It has an intensity of focus characteristic of herding breeds. Respect the dog for what it is meant to be and be an advocate.

Third, understand there is no perfect dog. The standard is a description of “perfection” in the breed, and every dog will stray from one aspect

or another in some way. Work with your mentor to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your exhibit (i.e. your dog). Then practice your handling so you can highlight your exhibit's strengths and minimize any weaknesses.

Fourth, know that you are paying for a judge's opinion on that day. Each day of showing will bring a new judgement. A dog with a breed championship has accumulated awards from many different judges.

Finally, when you're ready to attend your first dog show, be a good ambassador. Train your dog to be confident and well-behaved around other dogs and people. Present your dog with a clean coat that meets the standard (correct length to show coat quality, one length all over, no brushout/blowdry/contoured trimming), clean teeth, eyes and ears, nails clipped, and mentally prepared to have judge examine them (newbies are expected to have a learning curve but there should have been training done before you arrive for both you and the dog). And it goes without saying that you should always show courtesy in the ring and be a good representative for our breed.

While most dogs are unlikely to go into the ring, it is important for us a club to support those who do. We can all be ambassadors for our breed whether we ever enter a ring or not. We should all make every effort to learn about SWDs structure and temperaments and then continue to hammer home the history of the breed and their important attributes every chance we get. That is the most critical impact we can have as a club as the breed expands in North America. Let's keep the Spanish Water Dog the special and unique breed that it is and deserves to remain. Our dogs are counting on us.

– by Donna Perone and Lisa Harper

# Companion Events

Agility Obedience Rally Tracking Trick Dog



## *Jumps and Weaves with Edie*

Agility has become an extremely popular dog sport in recent years. Let me tell you how Edie and I got involved.



It all started with puppy classes and obedience classes at a local training facility (Ohkom Farms Training Center). As we all know from our breeders that socialization of these SWD's is of the utmost priority. Our class had some small agility equipment that we played on and Edie, even at 6 months old, loved to play on it and it just seemed like we found our calling.

After a few agility lessons with our trainer from puppy class we attended our first CPE agility trial. Edie was now 16 months old and full of energy. We were informed that CPE was a little more user-friendly than the AKC trials that we could attend locally. We did very well at these first couple of trials.



We then decided to take this a little further and we looked up another training facility (Westmoreland County Obedience Training) near us that offered more advance agility training. Classes were offered at four different levels, and we again advanced quickly through these and started competing at AKC events.



Our trainer at WCOTC (Sandy Crighton) had been involved with the sport for many years with her Brittans and suggested that we attend classes with another trainer (Donna Rohaus), a very successful competitor and trainer that would help us to compete at a higher level.

There is a lot to this sport, and it takes a lot of hard work from both the handler and the dog to continue to advance. For the last 2 ½ years Edie and I have had class two nights a week at two different facilities. On Wednesday evening we train with Donna Rohaus and Thursdays we still train at

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# Companion Events

Agility Obedience Rally Tracking Trick Dog



WCOTC. We compete at every AKC event that is local to us. Usually at least one a month.

There are plenty of activities that you can do with your dog, but I will say that agility is all about connecting with your dog. When Edie and I are out on the turf she is completely focused on me.



She does whatever I ask her to do, right or wrong. Sometimes it's wrong and it is on me. Once the dogs learn the equipment most of the work is up to the handler. These dogs get this stuff. They are very smart and love to please their



owners. The classes are more for the handler than the dog. I learn something new with every class. I will say that most folks that we compete with have never seen a SWD before and are amazed at how smart Edie is and that she is already running at the masters level at only three years old.

We really did just fall into this sport due to trying to socialize Edie and I am extremely glad we did. We have a lot of fun with this, and it is extremely competitive. I did not even know what an agility trial was three years ago.



Invites to the AKC agility invitational are due out soon; as of right now I believe Edie is in the number-one spot. We may go if we get the invitation. Who doesn't want to go to Orlando in December when you live in Pittsburgh?

Editor's note: Edie and Mark did <sup>by Mark Stape</sup> qualify for AKC Agility Invitational as #1 SWD. Congrats!

# Triple Threat Gazette: *herd, hunt, swim*

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



## Does Your Dog Like to Chase Squirrels?

If they like to chase squirrels, they may like Fast CAT. AKC Fast CAT – or Coursing Ability Test – started in 2016 as a spin off of lure coursing. In Fast CAT, a dog chases a lure, either a drag lure (often a squeaky type toy) or continuous lure (white plastic bag) in a straight line for 100 yards. So basically, it's the 100-yard dash for dogs. As with any AKC "Test" a dog that completes the course gets a "Q" or qualifying ribbon. A dog can run two events in one day with one run in each event. Dogs must be at least 1 year of age to compete. The start line is within a 10-foot start box from the timing poles and the "catch" pen is a minimum of 30 yards, 2 feet (preferably much longer) following the finish-line timing poles. Dogs must start with at least their front feet within the start box. A holder holds the dog at the start line and a catcher catches the dog in the catch pen. The Huntmaster is at the start line with the holder, checks to make sure the lure operator and holder are ready then says "Tally Ho" for the lure operator to start and holder to release. The goal is to keep the dog following the lure and complete the 100 yards.

Titles that can be earned are the BCAT, DCAT and FCAT with the FCAT then proceeding in multiples FCAT2, FCAT3, etc. What do the letters B, D and F stand for? No one knows. Titles are earned by accumulating points: BCAT = 150 Points, DCAT = 500 points, FCAT = 1,000 points with FCAT followed by a number (e.g. FCAT2) for every additional 500 points. The suffix titles follow a dog's pedigree name with the higher title superseding a lower title.

Photo by Linda Klepp



Z gets the lure

The method to determine points is

The dog's time in seconds (to the hundredth place) is converted to miles per hour (MPH) via the following formula:

FORMULA:  $204.545 / \text{RUN TIME} = \text{MPH}$

The MPH is converted to points (rounded to the nearest 0.01) using the following scale (or handicap)

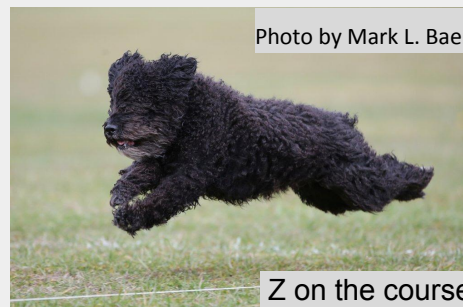
- Dogs 18" or greater: MPH multiplied by 1.0
- Dogs 12" up to less than 18": MPH multiplied by 1.5
- Dogs below 12": MPH multiplied by 2.0

Height is measured at the withers using a wicket. Spanish Water Dogs are either medium or large.

There is a lot of controversy surrounding this points system as some large dogs run the same speed as small dogs and must complete more runs to earn a title.

The top 20 dogs by breed ranking may be found at [https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/fastcat\\_ranking/](https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/fastcat_ranking/) and is determined by the average speed of a dog's three fastest runs in a year. There is also a list for "lifetime" for a dog's three fastest runs.

Photo by Mark L. Baer



Z on the course

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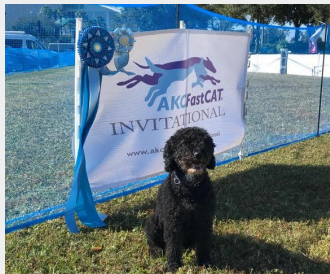
# Triple Threat Gazette: *herd, hunt, swim*

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



Some AKC clubs offer placements of the top 3 or 4 dogs by height in each event. Some clubs also give a “Turtle Award” for the slowest dog to complete the course.

Last year, the AKC hosted an Invitational Event December 2020 in Orlando, Florida for the fastest-ranked dog in each breed at end-of-year rankings, 2019. Member Colleen



Nolan represented our breed with Z and came home with a Top 25 finish in Pure Speed (overall regardless of height or breed). Plans for a 2021 AKC Invitational have not been announced yet.

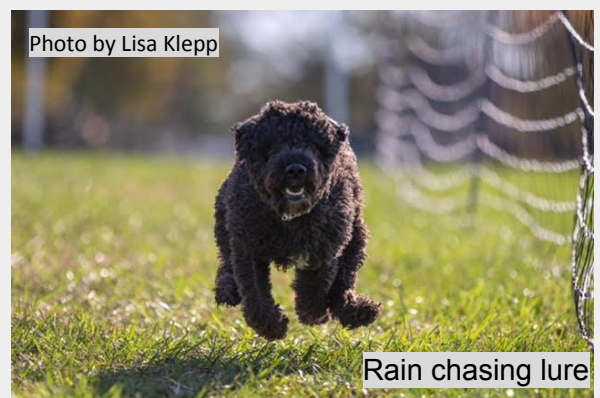
Colleen has been competing with her dogs since 2016. She says that in her experience, dogs either have prey drive or they don't. It's not really a sport to train for. But it's one her dogs go crazy for. The FCAT ribbons are huge! FCAT awards are often rosettes 11 inches across with tail ribbons 3 feet in length.

Ching-Yao Yu is the one of the most experienced lure course operators on the East Coast. Events where he is the trial secretary and lure operator sell out within minutes of opening at his online site SugarLoafMountingRacing.com. The sport has grown so large so fast that Ching quit his full-time job in 2018 to become a Fast CAT (and sometimes CAT) lure operator for clubs in the Mid-Atlantic region. His Cairn Terrier Willow has earned her FCAT52. Ching says you can tell if your dog has aptitude for Fast CAT if they chase small animals in the yard.

He says that most Spanish Water Dogs run about 8~8.5 seconds (about 24 to 25.6 MPH) “except Cali; she runs what she wants to.” He knows my dog. He advises that the person who does the training and feeding be the catcher. One of the best things a new competitor can do is to read the premium thoroughly. There's a lot of good information. Events are run in “block” scheduling, which means they are two sanctioned events that run concurrently. Dogs run once in event one and once in event two, both within a one-hour time. Therefore the two events can start between 7 and 8 AM and complete by 11 AM to 12 PM, with 90 dogs running in each event.

Ching took this video of some dogs doing a “fun run” after an event this summer. Check out the second dog, my dog Indigo, playing the game: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avBtyllann8>. You will see the Huntmaster give the signal to start and you'll get a good idea of the course and lure.

You can find all of the rules and more information at <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/regulations/>.



– by Sarah Spinler

# Health Bulletin

Health and Wellness News

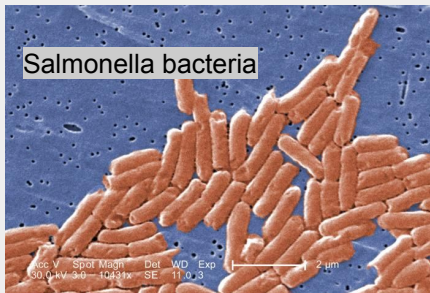


## Raw Food Alert

Pet owners who feed raw meat products to their pets may be risking their own health.

Owners may not be aware of the potential harm to themselves as well as their pets. Feeding dogs and cats meat, bones, and organs, both frozen and fresh, has been criticized by scientists, who say it often contains bacteria and parasites that could pose dangers to both pets and their owners.

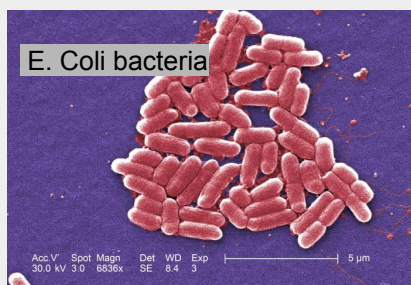
A 2006 USA study of 20 commercially available raw meat diets found that 7.1% contained a type of salmonella.



*E. coli* bacteria were found in 59.6% of raw-meat diets. These bacteria can also be shed

in the feces, leading to a potential source of human exposure and infection.

“We see that more and more people are feeding [their pets] this kind of product and we know that meat is infected with



bacteria and parasites,” said Paul Overgaauw, co-author of the new research from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Overgaauw noted that while parasites are rendered harmless by freezing, bacteria are not. Both posed a risk in home-prepared raw-meat diets – not only to the

<http://www.fci.be/nomenclature/Standards/336g08-en.pdf> of cross-contamination of human food, or through exposure to pathogens shed by the animals.

In researching this topic, I found one of our members even had a story to share from her experience with feeding raw food. Here is what Lisa Harper shared with me:

“Years ago I owned a dog training facility and carried lots of foods including a very expensive Canadian-made raw food sold in chubs. My business partner was big into the BARF (bones and raw food) diet. I had no interest in making my own food, so the Canadian food seemed perfect. Let me tell you, the dogs LOVED eating raw. Be it chicken, lamb, or beef, the dogs practically inhaled it. Their water consumption went down, their coats were glorious, and their stools were small and didn't stink. There was just one problem: I kept coming down with food poisoning. Despite my best attempts, after a few bouts I finally reverted back to kibble. If you feed raw, do not slack on the handwashing or disinfectant of your prep area, bowls, refrigerator handles, sink faucet, or dish towels!”



Lisa at her former training facility



Continued next page

# Health Bulletin

Health and Wellness News

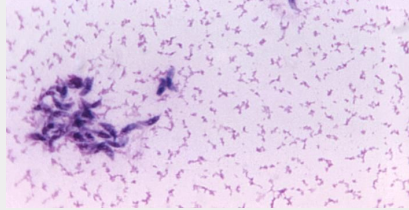


Writing in the journal *Veterinary Record*, the researchers analyzed samples from 35 raw-meat diet products across eight brands available in the Netherlands – a country where more than half of dog owners are thought to feed their dog, at least in part, with raw meat. After thawing the meat, the scientists looked for the presence of salmonella, listeria, *E. coli* and antibiotic-resistant *E. coli*, as well as two types of parasites:

species of *Sarcocystis* and *Toxoplasma*

*gondii* – a parasite that, among its risks can cause problems in babies. The

tachyzoites of the *Toxoplasma gondii* parasite



results reveal that 23% of the products tested contained a type of *E. coli* that can cause renal failure in humans, while 80% of products across seven brands contained antibiotic-resistant *E. coli*. Moreover, species of listeria were found in more than half of products, while salmonella species were found in 20%, species of sarcocystis in 23% and *Toxoplasma gondii* in 6%.

Among the ideas fueling the raw-food movement is that these diets are more “natural” for pets, avoid problems of additives or contamination in processed food, and can help to tackle issues like skin problems and allergies. But researchers have pushed back, saying there is no evidence of such health benefits and that raw-meat diets can cause dental and gut injuries as well as growth problems in pets – the latter a result of a deficiency in certain nutrients, a particular issue with home-prepared raw-meat diets.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has also issued a guidance statement because of

the health risks of a raw-meat diet:

“The FDA does not believe raw-meat foods for animals are consistent with the goal of protecting the public from significant health risks, particularly when such products are brought into the home and/or used to feed domestic pets.”

To read more detailed information about pet-food labeling from where these excerpts were sourced, you can go to this link:

<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/animal-health-literacy/pet-food-labels-general>.

The FDA is not alone in advising against raw-food diets for pets. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has this to say: “The AVMA discourages the feeding to cats and dogs of any animal-source protein that has not first been subjected to a process to eliminate pathogens because of the risk of illness to cats and dogs as well as humans. Cooking or pasteurization through the application of heat until the protein reaches an internal temperature adequate to destroy pathogenic organisms has been the traditional method used to eliminate pathogens in animal-source protein, although the AVMA recognizes that newer technologies and other methods such as irradiation are constantly being developed and implemented.”

Sources: [US Food and Drug Administration](#), [dog food American Veterinary Medical Association Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) [The Guardian, July 10, 2021](#)

– by Chris Evans

# SWD Pupdate

All About Puppies!



## Read the Label

As a new puppy owner, there is so much to learn about. Food is one of the most important. Breeders send pups home with the brand of puppy food they have been eating, but the protein-rich puppy food is only meant for those fast-growing early months. Then what? Moving from puppy food to adult food means doing your research on which options are best for your SWD. We can't pick the brand for you but we can help you with translating the labels.

Here are some excerpts from the US Food and Drug Administration on dog food labeling:

### Product Name

Because many consumers purchase a product based on the presence of a specific ingredient, many product names incorporate the name of an ingredient to highlight its inclusion in the product. The percentages of named ingredients in the total product are dictated by four AAFCO (Association of American Feed Control Officials) rules.

The "95%" rule applies to products consisting primarily of very few ingredients. They have simple names, such as "Beef for Dogs." At least 95% of the product must be the named ingredient (beef), not counting the water added for processing and "condiments." Counting the added water, the named ingredient still must comprise 70% of the product. Because ingredient lists must be declared in the proper order of predominance by weight, "beef" should be the first ingredient listed, followed often by water, and then other components. If the name includes a combination of ingredients, such as "Chicken 'n Liver Dog Food," the two named ingredients together must comprise 95% of the total weight. The first ingredient named in the product name must be the one of higher predominance in the product.

The "25%" or "dinner" rule applies if the named ingredients comprise at least 25% of the product (not counting the water for processing), but less than 95%. Then the name must include a qualifying

descriptive term, such as "Dinner," "Platter," "Entree," "Nuggets" or "Formula."

Counting the added water, the named ingredients still must comprise 10% of the product. Because the primary ingredient is not always the named

ingredient and may in fact be an ingredient that the consumer does not wish to feed, the ingredient list should always be checked.



### Nutritional Adequacy Statement

An AAFCO nutritional adequacy statement is one of the most important aspects of a dog food label. A "complete and balanced" pet food must be substantiated for nutritional adequacy by one of two means.

The first method is for the pet food to contain ingredients formulated to provide levels of nutrients that meet an established profile. Presently, the AAFCO Dog or Cat Food Nutrient Profiles are used.

The alternative is for the product to be tested using the appropriate AAFCO Feeding Trial Protocol(s). This means that the Product, or "lead" member of a "family" of products, has been fed to dogs or cats under strict guidelines and found to provide proper nutrition. These products should bear the



Continued next page



# SWD Pupdate

## All About Puppies!



nutritional adequacy statement "Animal feeding tests using AAFCO procedures substantiate that (name of product) provides complete and balanced nutrition."

### Other Label Claims

Products labeled as premium or gourmet are not required to contain any different or higher quality ingredients, nor are they held up to any higher nutritional standards than are any other complete and balanced products.

"Natural" can be construed as equivalent to a lack of artificial flavors, colors, preservatives in the product. Artificial flavors are rarely employed anyway. Color additives are not really necessary, except to please the pet owner's eye. Especially for high-fat dry products, some form of preservative must be used to prevent rancidity. Natural-source preservatives, such as mixed tocopherols (a source of vitamin E), can be used in place of artificial preservatives. However, they may not be as effective. "Natural" is not the same as "organic."

Many state regulations require a pet food to guarantee the minimum percentages of crude protein and crude fat, and the maximum percentages of crude fiber and moisture. The "crude" term refers to the specific method of testing the product, not to the quality of the nutrient itself.

### Ingredient List

All ingredients are required to be listed in order of predominance by weight. The weights of ingredients are determined as they are added in the formulation, including their inherent water content. This latter fact is important when evaluating relative quantity claims, especially when ingredients of different moisture

contents are compared.

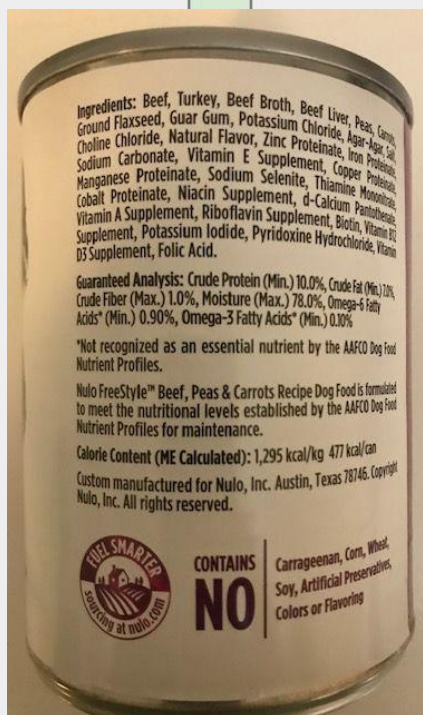
For example, one pet food may list "meat" as its first ingredient, and "corn" as the second ingredient. The

manufacturer doesn't hesitate to point out that its competitor lists "corn" first ("meat meal" is second), suggesting the competitor's product has less animal-source protein than its own. However, meat is very high in moisture (approximately 75% water). On the other hand, water and fat are removed from meat meal, so it is only 10% moisture (what's left is mostly protein and minerals). If we could compare both products on a dry matter basis (mathematically "remove" the water from both ingredients), one could see that the second product had more animal-source protein from meat meal than the first product had from meat, even though the ingredient list suggests otherwise.

That is not to say that the second product has more "meat" than the first, or in fact, any meat at all. Meat meal is not meat per se, since most of the fat and water have been removed by rendering. Ingredients must be listed by their "common or usual" name. Most ingredients on pet food labels have a corresponding definition in the AAFCO Official Publication. For example, "meat" is defined as the "clean flesh of slaughtered mammals ..." On the other hand, "meat meal" is "the rendered product from mammal tissues, exclusive of any added blood, hair, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents." Thus, in addition to the processing, it could also contain parts of animals one would not think of as "meat."

Sources: US Food and Drug Administration, dog foods,

– by Chris Evans



Continued next page

# Breeders Digest

News For and About Breeders



## *It's Time to Track the Teeth*

I still remember when Pat Hastings evaluated my first Spanish Water Dog litter. “What are you going to do about the teeth?” she asked. I was dumbfounded because all of the pups had scissors bites. I’d never seen or even heard about base-narrow canines in puppies. Sure enough, there they were: the lower puppy canines jutting straight up and poking into the upper gums.



Palate contact points caused by base narrow canine



Base narrow canine striking the palate

(images from Veterinary Dental Center  
<https://www.veterinarydentalcenter.com/oral-conditions/misaligned-teeth/base-narrow-canine/>)

Marnie Harrison recently wrote an excellent article on base-narrow canines in our breed for the AKC Gazette. She and I don't necessarily agree on how to handle them when they occur, we both agree that they occur far too often in our breed. Back in 2004 I spoke to Antonio Garcia Perez at length about base-narrow canines, and he assured me they were common and not a problem. Since then, I've allowed myself to become rather complacent about tracking them in my line. I write down every puppy that has them, but that's as far as I get.

In my experience, no matter what course of action you take (pulling them, blunting the tips—not recommended, rubber ball therapy, or doing absolutely nothing), they always resolve themselves. So, on the list of health concerns to worry about when picking a puppy or planning a breeding, they're small potatoes. Or are they?

I'd like to see all of our breeders actively track the occurrence of base-narrow canines in their lines and make a concerted effort to breed up.

Did your own dog have base-narrow canines as a pup and did you do any intervention? How many pups in that dog's litter had the condition? Can we lessen the occurrence through selective breeding of (normal x normal) or (normal x affected)? Is there another piece of skull anatomy, such as fill of lower jaw, that impacts the occurrence?

— by Lisa Harper

*Click below for SWDCA  
**Breeders List***

# Senior Perros

Active Old Timers

## Luca Brasi



Luca turned 13 years old on July 6th. His birthday present was a three-day hike on the Appalachian Trail along the North Carolina/Tennessee border, from Carvers Gap to SR 19. He did fantastic... he has always been a fantastic trail mate but I was concerned because of his age and major elevation changes, but we prepped well and his coat was sheared with a 10 blade. We struggled on the major climb up Hump Mountain, but rocked on the rest of the trail... he still has it!

After the long hike, Luca's reward was a whitewater rafting trip down the Tuckasegee River in North Carolina. He stayed in the boat during the rapids and did some swimming during the



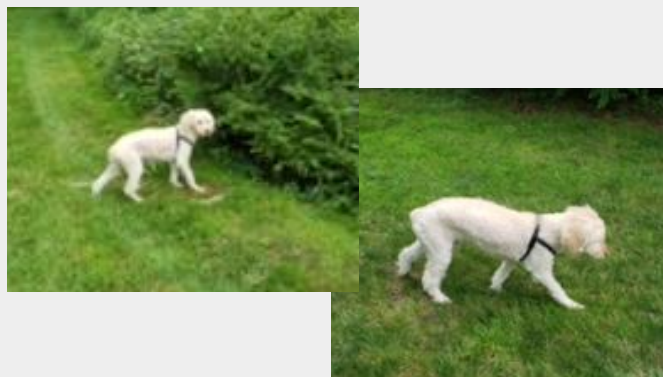
lulls. (Shout out to the new owner at Tuckasegee Outfitters that changed the rules and now allows dogs to go down the river with experienced paddlers.)

– by Wendy Mussoline

## Floyd



Our old Floyd is 15 and will be 16 in November. He has slowed down due to arthritis and cataracts, but is still active with his walks and sniff trips in the National Park trails here. He likes to snuggle more now which is a plus!



– Bernard & Sarmite Sobotor

# Que Pasa Perro de Agua

Events: **Comings** ... and Goings



## *Morris & Essex Kennel Club Returns*

When the sun rises over Colonial Park in Somerset, New Jersey on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 it will be greeted by 4455 dogs, each vying for a big win at the Morris & Essex Kennel Club event. The show is held only once every five years (six years this time due to Covid) and is the largest one-day show in America. The Spanish Water Dog Club of America, like more than 100 other parent clubs, supports the entry of our breed at this grand event.

The current show is a recreation of the very grand Morris & Essex show hosted from 1927 until 1957 by Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge.



Like the original, the current version will feature a free box lunch (and time to eat it) for each exhibitor, silver bowls for each Best of Breed, and terrific floral pieces throughout the grounds. This year's show will have nearly a mile of 40' wide tenting and three miles of cable will bring free electricity for each exhibitor from remote generators rented by the club.



Exhibitors and guests are encouraged to keep the spirit alive with period dress and most especially

a hat worthy of the occasion. Antique cars are on display to provide a backdrop for those great candid photos. Well-manicured lawns are assured by the club, which works with the park management between shows to finance and manage care of the turf. The current edition features improved traffic flow and parking.

Regular classes for SWDs will be judged by Charles Trotter and puppy and veteran sweepstakes by our own Lisa Harper. James Moses will judge the Herding Group and Desi Murphy officiates for Best in Show. Majors are almost guaranteed and Grand Champion points will be plentiful. A Premium List (the world's largest) can be obtained from MB-F, the show superintendent.

The great week continues with nearby all-breed shows Thursday through Saturday and the Montgomery County Kennel Club's Terrier Group show on Sunday. You won't want to miss this extravaganza celebrating purebred dogs (and SWDs in particular).

– by Sheryl Gaines

## *Events*

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

# Que Pasa Perro de Agua

Events: Comings ... and Goings



## West Coast Weekend

The club hosted a Supported Entry and weekend of SWD fun on June 25-26, 2021 in the Portland, Oregon area. In attendance were 40+ people and 15+ Spanish Water Dogs. Activities included:

Friday: Workshops and Seminar at Brigand's Hideout in Battle Ground, WA

- Scent Work workshop led by Colleen Nolan
- Rally workshop led by Colleen Nolan, David Milstein
- Agility workshop led by Cher Levenson
- Conformation workshop led by David Milstein, Colleen Nolan, Lisa Harper
- Jr. Handling led by Rob Driscoll
- Private evaluations with Pat Hastings
- Pat Hastings seminar: A Glimpse of Structure in Action

Saturday: Conformation in Canby, OR

- SWDCA Sweepstakes, Judge Mrs. Hildegard Morgan
  - Puppy: (7) entries
    - BIS Ariosa Praderia Seamist Songbird de Fiesta
  - Veteran: (1) entry
    - BIS Concurrado Vivencia
- SWDCA Supported Entry, Judge Mrs. Nancy Simmons
  - (14) Exhibitors
  - Results:
    - BOB Ariosa Praderia Seamist Songbird de Fiesta
    - BOS Copper's O'Yeah Der Hey
    - Select Bitch: Angel's Miss American Pied RI FDC DCAT CGC
- Dinner in Tualatin, OR hosted by Ruth and David Milstein

Big thank you to everyone involved in making this event happen. Planning and executing something of this complexity in normal times is a challenge. Doing it during a pandemic takes superhero skills. So extra special thank you to the committee which included:

Susan DeAngelo  
Rob Driscoll  
Lisa Harper, chair  
Marnie Harrison  
Cher Levenson  
Ande Martin  
Annette Martin  
Mark Martina

David Milstein  
Ruth Milstein  
Colleen Nolan  
Linda Perkins  
Sarah Spinler  
Wanda Tait  
Denise Velasquez

Thank you also to those who supported the club by donating awards

## BREED AWARDS

*Best of Breed* – grooming bag and products, hat, bandana and Dalia McWaters artist bowl – offered by Rob Driscoll in honor of Antonio Garcia Perez who started my SWD journey with “Koke.”



Dalia McWaters bowl

*Best Opposite Sex* – grooming bag and products, hat, bandana – offered by Donna Perone and “Murray.”

*Best of Winners* – cinch bag, hat, bandana - offered by Linda Fellows, Liebenhaus Kennel, Alaska.

*Select Dog* – cinch bag – offered by Donna Perone and “Murray.”

Continued next page

# Que Pasa Perro de Agua

Events: Comings ... and Goings



*Select Bitch* – cinch bag – offered by Sam Normand in memory of “Nita.”

*Winners Dog* – cinch bag, bandana – offered by Cindy Woodling.

*Winners Bitch* – cinch bag, bandana – offered by Ruth and David Milstein, Plantation Acres Kennel.

*Best Puppy* – cinch bag, bandana – offered by Wanda Tait Oberland SWD, Canada.

*Best Bred By Exhibitor* – cinch bag, bandana – offered by Wanda Tait, Oberland SWD, Canada.

## CLASS AWARDS

*Puppy Dog 6-9 months* – toy, bandana – offered by Linda Fellows, Liebenhaus Kennel, Alaska.

*Puppy Bitch 6-9 months* – toy, bandana – offered by Nancy Valley, Duendes Kennel.

*Puppy Dog 9-12 months* – toy, bandana – offered by Rob Driscoll dedicated to “Snow.”

*Novice Dog 12-18 months* – toy, bandana – offered by Cindy Woodling.

*Novice Bitch 12-18 months* – toy, bandana – offered by Ken Miller in memory of “Presley.”

*Amateur Owner-Handler Dog* – hat – offered by Cindy Woodling.

*Amateur Owner-Handler Bitch* – hat – offered by Lisa Harper, Ariosia Kennel.

*Bred by Exhibitor Dog* – toy, bandana – offered by Linda Fellows, Liebenhaus Kennel, Alaska.

*Bred by Exhibitor Bitch* – toy, bandana – offered by Lisa Harper, Ariosia Kennel.

*American-Bred Dog* – toy, bandana – offered by Linda Fellows, Liebenhaus Kennel, Alaska.

*American-Bred Bitch* – toy, bandana – offered by Nancy Valley, Duendes Kennel.

*Open Dog* – toy, bandana – offered by Linda Perkins, Culduneon, Olympia, WA.

*Open Bitch* – toy, bandana – offered by Linda Fellows, Liebenhaus Kennel, Alaska.

## SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

*Best Puppy in Sweepstakes* – hat, bandana – offered by Linda Perkins, Culduneon, Olympia, WA.

*Best Opposite Sex Puppy In Sweepstakes* – hat, bandana – offered by Linda Fellows, Liebenhaus Kennel, Alaska.

*Puppy 6-9 months* – toy – offered by Ken Miller in memory of “Presley.”

*Puppy 9-12 months* – toy – offered by Cindy Woodling.

*Junior Puppy 12-18 months* – toy – offered by Linda Perkins, Culduneon, Olympia, WA.

*Best of Veterans in Sweepstakes* – cinch bag – offered by Lisa Harper, Ariosia Kennel.

*Veteran 7-9 years* – hat – offered by Nancy Valley, Duendes Kennel.

*Veteran 9-11 years* – hat – offered by Robin Hoch, Weeping Locks, Alvarado, TX.

*Veteran 11+ years* – hat – offered by Robin Hoch, Weeping Locks, Alvarado, TX.



# Que Pasa Perro de Agua

Events: Comings ... and Goings



## Dogs Share Canby and Ramblings

It's Sunday, 6/27/2021 and I'm reflecting on our Western "Supported Entry and Sweepstakes." Standing outside sweating in 105° weather at a dog show caused me to daydream about a dock-diving competition instead of conformation and I'm pretty sure I overheard the dogs talking.

Paco asked Snow on Friday in the barn, "Why are we in full coats still in this heat?"

Snow: "Rob thinks it might help him to win a prize tomorrow."

Paco: "Let's go steal those fans from Linda's dog!"

Holly confided in Noodle: "We're eight months old and they want us on

good behavior in this heat, forget it! No one can make me do nothing that I don't want; I'll show them!"

And she did as Pat Hastings pointed out in her evaluation (Wild and Out of Control!).



Speaking of Pat Hastings, a fine seminar from a real pro. I purchased her four books and now I have my summer reading ready to go for relaxing at the lake. I think these books are a great addition to reference material

for all breeders, owners, and prospective owners.

Nonetheless, I'm pretty sure I heard Lita comment to Donde during seminar, "in this warm barn, I'm not surprised to see so many dozing off, dogs and

people alike. I hope they don't embarrass themselves by snoring."

I walked Snow around the agility ring when the morning was cool and we first entered the barn. I was pretty sure she'd be excited to remind her kids that she isn't that old. After all, it was only eight months ago when Holly, Uli, and Noodle were running through the tunnel on the daily, not giving her a chance to join in the fun with all their clamoring in and out. This would be her day! But, as the cool morning shifted to 90° and it was time to show her stuff, Snow just looked at the tunnel and then she looked at me. "Why do you want me to go in there? You've got to be kidding! Jump over the bar, OK, but no tunnels today." Her buddy Bella commented later to Snow, "did you see me? I love agility, so happy they had it set up. I'll do this anytime!"

I noticed that I wasn't the only one hearing the dogs. Sebastian and Lucas Barberra with Uli, provided dog tricks at noon. Sebastian commented to mom, after practicing all week, "Uli is a mess, he didn't do all the tricks I practiced." Uli seemed to respond to Sebastian, "It's now 102° in the shade, we practiced indoors in air conditioning. You lay down and crawl on 80° pavement."

Sebastian won first place and brother Lucas a close second, for being such good dog trainers.

Congratulations!



Continued next page

# Que Pasa Perro de Agua

Events: Comings ... and Goings



I really like Ruth Milstein's comment Saturday morning as we chatted, "Rob, you're not wearing a t-shirt, shorts, and flip flops for the show, are you? Sam [Normand] would be terribly upset." While seriously considering, I changed into a dog-show-acceptable outfit. Speaking of outfits, thank you to all participants for the Sam-acceptable fashions, especially not dressing up your rustic SWD dog pre-show, with a sequin or flashy cloak.

Observations, tips and what I learned from Fridays gathering and my second dog show:

- Good decision not to have hot coffee and donuts.
- Do not park where they tell you to, figure out how to get to the staging area and park close. Carrying a kennel, chair, and stuff back and forth causes the deodorant to start working early.
- Buy battery fans; one for your dog and another for yourself.
- What fun watching the scent, rally, and agility seminars; some

very impressive dogs and members showing their skills. Many thanks to Colleen Nolan and Cher Levenson for taking the time to



show us more of what we can do with our dogs.

- Find a local AKC dog club to continue or Google "Dock Diving" for hot days. Wish the farm had a pool or lake and we could have allowed the dogs some free time to play.
- The food was delicious.
- I missed the conformation seminar with David Milstein, Colleen Nolan and Lisa Harper. and I could have used it. I understand it was highly informative. It's no wonder, Lisa won on Saturday and placed third in Group on Sunday.

She knows her stuff and was so generous to share her expertise with all.

- News flash: the demographics are interesting in the dog and SWD world. We need more kiddos participating. That's why it was so important that we encourage Sebastian and Lucas.
- What a pleasure to meet so many wonderful owners and all the individuals that had never met a SWD or perhaps seen them in action. Thank you for attending. I hope you are convinced that a SWD is a dog for your home and also see the value of belonging to the club.
- A dog show is a great place to discover your RV. But for those that like sleeping outside and want to save some money, buy a Paco pad, travel light, use the fairground facilities (showers), and see the stars as you slip away to humming generators.
- Park and camp close to your ring, or buy a wagon to schlepp all the gear; it's amazing what you need for a show. But remember: no sequined costumes allowed for SWDs.
- Dog shows are a serious sport and while I would like a *Best in Show II* made, I appreciated all who made the journey demonstrating their love for the breed.
- For this breeder, it's about the dog.

The Friday and Saturday Western gathering proved unquestionably that this club rocks. Thanks to all who organized and participated. We all have new friends, especially our perros.

– by Rob Driscoll





# Member Noticias

## Member Profile

### **Member Profile: Jesse Salcedo**

“I first saw a Spanish Water Dog during a trip to Spain in 1998,” says 72-year-old Vietnam veteran, Jesse Salcedo. “We stayed at a bed and breakfast in the middle of nowhere in Molino. There was a water-powered mill for crushing grain into flour. There was ringing in the distance. We saw one Spanish Water Dog herding a flock of about 30 sheep down the road. I’d seen a lot of dogs but never one like this! We had eye-to-eye contact. I fell in love with the eyes. This dog had the most beautiful eyes – a cross between olive and yellow-green. I started doing research to find out more about the breed.”

Jesse worked as a carpenter then as a general contractor, working on his first house in 1971. He retired in 2007. The Palo Alto area was home for Jesse and his family for over 30 years. He currently lives on 35 acres, about 45 minutes from Yosemite National Park in the northern California Mountains. His property



includes a lake. Teepees are set up on the property to accommodate guests.

Jesse has had a number of dogs in his life including a German Short Hair, the first Manchas.” (Manchas roughly translated to English means “spots” or “smudges.”) His current dog, a SWD also named Manchas, was a

birthday gift from his wife Nancy, who passed away after a long illness. Manchas is from a Sheryl Gaines litter and was born on Cinco de Mayo. She’s 12 years old.

There have been two other Spanish Water Dogs in Jesse’s life, Zoey and “Aranxia”, named after a Spanish tennis player. Zoey came from a breeder in Brussels, Belgium who requested that the dog’s name start with a “Z”. “She flew on Swiss Air to the San Francisco airport.

She was crying. When I picked her up, she was my dog immediately, for the rest of her life.” Prior to getting Zoey, Jesse was in contact with a breeder in Spain who was looking to introduce the Spanish Water Dog to California. Jesse

Continued next page

# Member Noticias

## Member Profile: Jesse Salcedo (con't)

opted out of this arrangement but someone else in the US accepted. Later Aranzia, the dog from Spain, now 2 years old, was offered for adoption in the US. Jesse and family adopted her.

Despite having bad hips she lived until 2016. "I'm an advocate for testing and responsible breeding."

"Manchas is my constant companion. She goes with me just about everywhere including on the road. I set up teepees for celebrities prior to events. I also smudge the stage before concerts. Manchas has met many celebrities this way, they all know her – Neil Young, Dave Matthews, and Willie Nelson. I've been doing this for about 20 years. She went to Farm Aide in 2019 in Wisconsin. We've driven to Montana. She's my road dog. She's adjusted to my lifestyle."

"I rototill around my property due to fire dangers.



She loves to roll in the dirt!" She also enjoys swimming in the lake and fetching sticks. She likes going "downtown" (population 127 people). "Everyone knows her and pets her."

"My involvement with the Club has mostly been through having the dogs I've had. My wife and I did go to Florida to visit with Ken Mann and his wife around 2008. That was around the time the AKC movement started." Jesse says, "Spanish Water Dogs are intelligent at a different level. They're good with people. They make their presence known. It's an enduring relationship." "Nancy and I lived life to the fullest all the way to the end and that's what I'm doing now,

as much as I can. I think I've achieved what I've worked for all of my life. Manchas is a big part of my life."

– by Trish Byron

# Member Noticias

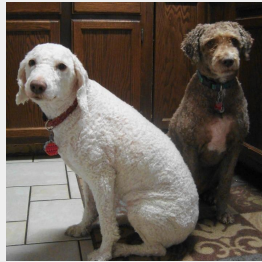
New Member Welcome



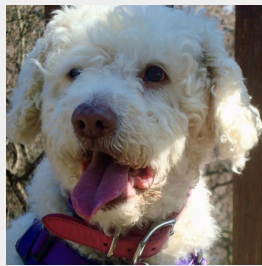
## Welcome New Members

### Cathy Moyer, Altoona, PA

Cathy Moyer shares her home with three SWD's: Roxie, Teddy, and Loulie. Having fostered 34 dogs in the last decade, she knows them from every angle! Roxie is the "little sweetheart, daredevil, and ball-chaser." Teddy is her "guardian and Velcro boy." Loulie is the household connoisseur of "short walks and long car rides."



Among her many contributions to the dog-loving public, you may find the Mid-Atlantic English Springer Spaniel Rescue Training Library to be especially valuable. It's open to the public to borrow books, DVDs, and CDs. She recommends, "Many of the books on general training and behavioral issues are on the recommended reading list by the APDT. Any book in our library would be great to add to the club's list of resources."



### Camilla and Stuart Hannig, CA

Are Camilla and Stuart Hannig the first couple to have a SWD as the ring-bearer at their wedding? He sure looks stunning in those photos! Bernie (now age 3) shares the family home with his brother, Dick Tracy, an 11-year-old Savannah Cat, as well as six Silkie Chickens.

They love taking Bernie out for adventures. Whether to the coffee shop, hiking, swimming, or travels to visit family, he's with them every step of the way.



Asked about the breed, Camilla tells us, "We became most interested in the Spanish Water Dog because of their unique, curly coat and loyalty. Of course, we also love their infrequent shedding!"

### Art and Nia Morgan, San Mateo, CA

Art and Mia share their joy of Spanish Water Dogs with daughter Nia, 25. Art recalls first seeing a Spanish Water Dog on a trip to Spain, over 20 years ago. "He had long cords, and he was jumping over logs and retrieving balls in the park. I had grown up with dogs, but I thought he was the coolest dog I'd ever seen!"

They love everything outdoors with their dog, Paco (age 2). "We take him to swim and retrieve in the water whenever we have the chance – in the Pacific, the San Francisco Bay, and many rivers and lakes, from California to Chicago."



They are training Paco to be a gundog, having taken him on upland hunting outings earlier, with waterfowl hunting to come in the fall. They recommend the book, *Sporting Dog and Retriever Training* for anyone interested in following the same path..

Continued next page

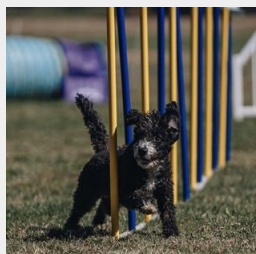
# Member Noticias

New Member Welcome (cont.)



## **Brian and Jessica Fanslau, Niles, MI**

Brian and Jessica Fanslau love hiking, agility, and swimming their 3 dogs: Taken (8-year-old Sheltie), and SWD's Lumi (3) & Savu (2). Along with cats Poe and Vinnie, that's a full household of black-and-white animals!



They first discovered the breed at a European Open Agility event in France. There they met Dennis and Åsa Emanuelsson, with their dog Alma, the fearless competitor. Jessica tells us,

"We saw them run. She was amazing, but Alma was just chilling out ring side like it was no big deal. Brian decided this was the breed he wanted." A few years later they brought first Lumi and then Savu home from Finland. Now, Jessica tells us, she has become a big fan of their goofy personalities and their coats!

## **Kathy Fish, Camas, WA**

Kathy Fish and her husband Ken live on 15 acres in beautiful southwest Washington state with their SWD Vivaracho Explocion TD. We are all proud of her dog, the first SWD awarded a Tracking Title!

She explains, "Two of my daughters and I are involved in breeding, showing and competing with our dogs. Emily, Jenny and I have raised Border Collies since 1998 and Emily and I have had

Cardigan Welsh Corgis since 1995. I have also raised Papillon's in the past. We do all types of dog sports, but my personal favorite is tracking."



Having quite a broad experience with many breeds, she was attracted to SWDs because of their size, trainability, and non-shedding coat.

## **Elizabeth Woodliffe, Red Deer, AB**

Elizabeth Woodliffe lives in Red Deer, Alberta with her adult son, Charles, and 2-year-old SWD Tilly. Her sister, Catherine, manufactures and sells a raw dog food mix (Urban Wolf) that Tilly is doing very well on. Making homemade food is a bit of an effort, she tells us, but very rewarding to know that her dog is eating well.

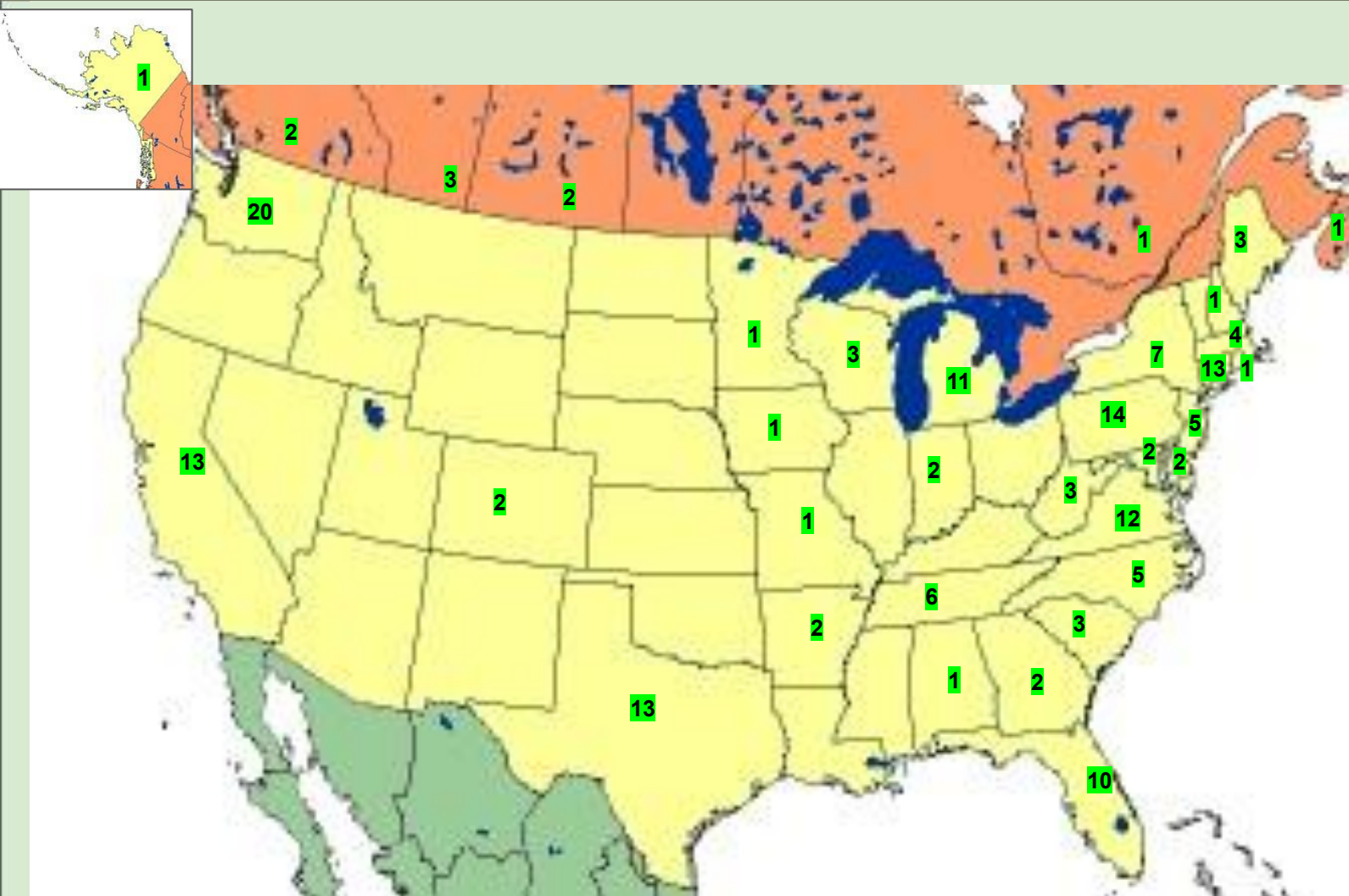


Asked about the club, Elizabeth tells us, "I was fortunate to be introduced to Marnie Harrison in March and she recommended the SWDCA as a great way to connect with other SWD owners. As a 'newbie' owner I've really enjoyed the articles, chats, and the conformation webinar. I have taken a few handling classes with Tilly and would like to try my hand at conformation showing later in August - September."

– by James Coliz

# Member Noticias

## 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:

**Question:** Our club members have some creative call names for their SWDs. Which one do you think is the most popular?

**Answer:** There isn't a Spot or Fido in the bunch but we do have six pairs of SWDs sharing the same name: there are two named Bo, Holly, Ivy, Kobe, Lita and Luna. We also have two pairs of close calls: Noodle/Noodles and Roxy/Roxie. But the winner by far in the popularity contest is ... Bella! We have a total of six Bellas in the club plus one Belle. The beautiful Bellas win this contest by a mile.

# 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](mailto: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!*

*Happy birthday to our SWDs born August - October:*

### August

- 2 Peach (Praderia's Golden Peach of Areturo)
- 5 Hudson (Zorrazo Xplorer)
- 7 Luna (Fundy Bay's Lia de Luna)
- 15 Aarre (Zorrazo Ever So Bright)
- 17 Xavi
- 26 Sevi (Blue Morning's Sevillian Water Garden Kiss)
- 30 Kobe (Copper's Cobe Cholo)

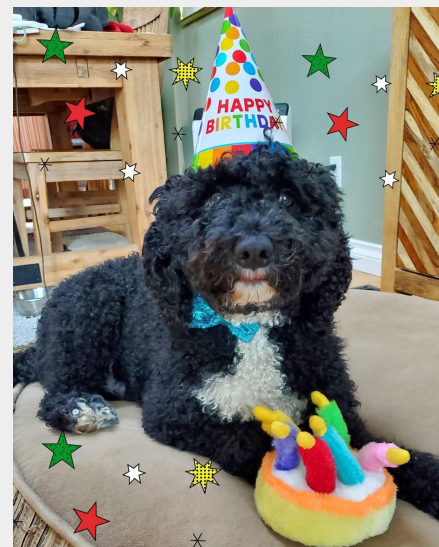
### September

- 1 Bella (Isabella de Fabio)
- 2 Sophie (Sophie Es Linda)
- 3 Lita (Lita Spanish Water Dog Northwest)
- 4 Stuart (Copper E Stuart Johnson Diaz)
- 6 Buddy
- 8 Olly (Dólar del Turco Andaluz)
- 12 Pippa (Highview's La Marquesa Chismosa)
- 15 Vitsi (Zorrazo Witch Hazel)
- 23 Dusty (O'Reilly's Dusty Is a Blazing Ducks)



### October

- 2 Coco (Catalina De Casa Hidalgo)
- 3 Canjico (Angels Cinnamon Sugar De Praderia)
- 3 Jack (Angel's Licorice Bear de Praderia)
- 4 Cookie (Avefaro Galetta de Ariosa)
- 5 Pasi (FiveNinePlus Pasionaria)
- 6 Holly (SWDPNW Sea-Holly)
- 6 Lita (FiveNinePlus Puntillitas)
- 7 Holly (Holly Spanish Water Dog Northwest)
- 7 Noodle (Noodle Spanish Water Dog Northwest)
- 7 Pancho (Angel Mauricio El Chistoso)
- 7 Viki (Concurrido Impavido)
- 10 Seron (Titanium De Guadalteba)
- 17 Edie (Coppers Kindred Spirit Edie)
- 22 Bogey
- 26 Bianca (Copper's Laci)
- 26 Koko
- 26 Storm (Copper's Good Gracious a Dog Gone Storm a Looming)
- 30 Mojito (Copper's Mojito on the Rocks)
- 31 Tallulah (Tallulah)



# SWD Review

## Book Reviews



### *For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend*

Our dogs have been a mainstay of social contact and emotional support for us during the pandemic shutdown. Now that we're returning to walks, dog parks, shows, and having other people back in our homes, the book *For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend* by Patricia B. McConnell is particularly relevant. It guides the reader through an understanding of the behavior of dogs, and effective communication with them, which is great for a safe and happy return to socializing as usual.

While there are terrific training tips in the book, its main purpose is to help people understand their dogs' behavior—why they act and feel certain ways, and how to read their behavioral cues. Once a dog owner can objectively read his/her dog's behavior and what triggers it, more effective communication occurs.

Both humans and dogs have rich emotional lives, the author explains, but we don't always think and behave in the same ways. "Forgetting that other mammals are not furry people with paws is a mistake that dog lovers frequently make." For example, "Humans hug as a sign of affection while a dog's version of hugging is a display of social status. Dogs may love to be stroked and massaged, but hugging around the shoulders and

chest is something most dogs only tolerate in exchange for cozy couches and a guaranteed dinner."

The book offers many insights on reading the emotional state of dogs, including some key indicators, such as whether the mouth is relaxed and slightly open (a happy dog), or closed and tense (a focussed or upset dog), or "the freeze." While freezing in place briefly is normal, "If a dog's mouth is closed *and* his entire body is frozen in place, you'd better pay attention... Because if you ignore it, there's a possibility you're going to get bitten." Additionally, "Dogs are brilliant at reading the emotional state of their humans," according to the author, so we should be alert to *our* behavior and those of other people around our dogs. Dogs pay close attention to body language in both humans and dogs.

One example covered in the book is polite greetings from a dog's point of view. For humans, a polite greeting is to go directly up to a person, shake their hand, stay relatively still, and look them straight in the eye. In dog society, it's basically the opposite. "In dog language, that direct stare and forward movement is a stopping signal." Polite dogs "approach one another from the side, curving their line of approach and avoid eye contact." The author advocates approaching a dog in an arc, with your body sideways, not getting too close at first, and staying "loose so you don't lock up yourself and inadvertently send out signal of potential aggression."

Continued next page

# SWD Review (cont'd)

## Book Reviews



She also advises to be aware that shy dogs are often nervous of deep voices, large bodies (or hats or coats), and sunglasses. "There is no question that sunglasses, looking like huge, rounded eyes with completely dilated pupils, are particularly scary to dogs."

The book spends time on the importance of mental stimulation, both for puppies during crucial developmental stages, and adult dogs. Environmental stimulation and activities such as "sit" and "wait" can help dogs handle stress, develop self-control, and burn off energy. As a person with herding dogs on a working farm, the author's information is particularly relevant for Spanish Water Dogs:

"This is vital information for those of us who need an arctic outfitter to walk our dogs in January, or who have high-energy dogs of herding breed and yet no flock of sheep in the garage. You can spend a half an hour teaching your dog some new tricks and get almost the same effect as if you've walked her for an hour. Keep it lighthearted and fun, use lots of positive reinforcement, and try hard to motivate your dog to want to learn. Of course, your dog is still going to need some physical exercise, but the combination of the two will go a long way to keep Maggie from munching your couch or bouncing off your walls."

"When she's learning something new... she has to use her brain's energy-guzzling cortex, so a little bit of something new can tire her out as much as a long walk around the neighborhood. If that's the only thing you learn from this book, it still might be worthwhile, because so many of our dogs have excess energy that gets them into trouble. Dogs need mental and physical exercise."

Humans and dogs are both social creatures that share a rich emotional life and "they seem to be as attracted to us as we are to them." But to deepen that connection and help create a happy environment for humans and dogs alike, "Our dogs need us to understand that they are dogs, and that they don't speak English. They're not born reading our minds or understanding what we want just because we want it." We have to pay attention to what they have to say and communicate in ways that make sense to *them*.

The effort is well worth it, the author explains, "Dogs remind us that we are being heard, without the additional weight of words. What a gift. No wonder we love them so much." This is a truly useful book for helping people and dogs understand one another from an expert in the field. It's a terrific book to read right now, as we once again expand our and our dogs' social circles.

– by Meg Normand



# Tail Spins

## Webinar Reviews and News



### *Conformation Soup to Nuts*

*Sheryl Gaines, Chris Evans, Lisa Harper, Sam Normand,  
Donna Perone*

The Online Learning Committee hosted a webinar on April 15 aimed at covering all the details of showing a dog that are hard to learn about from just doing a Google search.

Donna Perone opened with some details on where to look for shows. Sheryl Gaines explained more about registering, selecting events, and explaining some lingo. Chris Evans gave us a summary of must-have items to buy in advance, as well as items to make sure to pack up the day of the event. She also covered how to prepare your dog for showing, both long-term as well as right before you go. Chris continued with the next section, which covered things to do once you arrive at the show from the time you start to unload until close to ring time.

Next we transitioned to actual time in the ring. Sheryl began with a section of an overall summary of how things work in the ring and who is supposed to be doing what jobs. She went through typical ring routines, stacking ins and outs, order of show classes, and what the handler needs to do at certain times during their time in the ring.

Lisa Harper presented the next section and began with a review of the purpose of dog shows and their history. She went on to describe what makes a good "Exhibit" in terms of how your dog should be presented in coat, cleanliness, etc. She described several levels of showing in conformation, beginning with learning the basics as the handler is getting started and focusing on making sure the dog and handler are both enjoying it. As you continue to learn, Lisa explained the importance of understanding the breed and knowing the hallmarks of the Spanish Water Dog.

Moving to the next level, Lisa explained the need to honestly evaluate your dog and know your dog's strengths and weaknesses so you can make sure the strengths are shown in the best light. Moving on to the National Owner Handler Series will allow the handler to practice skills at the group level with only other NOHS handlers and without professional handlers being in the ring. Finally, Lisa gave some advice when you are going for the big guns at the regular group level.

Our next section was a very quick review of ring attire by Sam Normand. Key was making sure you can move comfortably and remembering that it is more important that you are dressing to make the dog look good than yourself. Make your dog pop out from the background!

We finished with a summary of dog-show etiquette by Donna Perone, as well as tips on some things to watch out for and other things to consider.

[Click here to see slides of presentation](#)

– by Donna Perone

### *Webinars on the Horizon*

Look for webinars coming up soon on these topics:

**Ask A Vet: Allergies and Ear Infections** - an interview with a veterinarian focusing on two common issues

**Grooming Fundamentals for SWDs** - a panel on the ins and outs of how to manage all that hair!

**Coat Color Genetics** - an explanation of how we end up with all those great coat colors

**Digging Into SWD History** - Translation of Flores article

# Cords & Capers

Photo Gallery

Susan



# Our Staff and Contributors

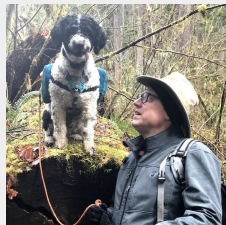
## **Trish Byron, Columnist**

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. 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 2020 at the age of 16.



## **James Colitz, Columnist**

James Colitz 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.



## **Rob Driscoll, Guest Columnist**

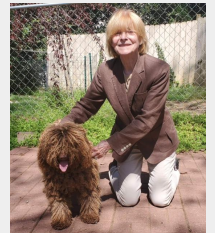
Rob and wife Beth live on a small farm in Cheney, WA and home on Ashley Lake, MT. A journey to Spain in 2000 to meet the breed convinced me, this would be my final breed. As an old guy, I have owned Airedales, Kerry Blues, Old English, Griffons, Poodles and bred Border Collies and Labs. Over twenty years of breeding SWDs and numerous perros, I am more excited now than when I left de Ubique, Spain in 2000. Currently Snow is retired after three litters and waiting for new pups to swim and dock dive, retrieve, hike and hang out with. Staying in touch



with her litters owners brings great joy and reinforces the why I breed. We recently started bicycling together for both our health.

## **Chris Evans, Columnist**

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.



## **Sheryl Gaines, Guest Columnist**



Sheryl Gaines got her first SWD, Gaucho, in 2001 and Curly, Rancho, and Stella soon followed. The former long-term club President has a long list of accomplishments for her and her SWDs, Sheryl lives in NYC with her husband and her last SWD, Mona, and gets to walk in Central Park with the Doodles every day.

## **Lisa Harper, Columnist**

Lisa Harper lives on her grandparents' farm in Connecticut with five SWDs, an assortment of chickens, bats, occasional predatory visitors, and her husband and fellow SWD club member Raimo Tuomela.



Lisa is currently the club Vice President, and chair of the Health and Wellness, Judges Education, and Standard Committees. She's been involved with the breed since 2000. She was the breed's first Breeder of Merit and is a true standard-bearer for the breed.

Continued next page

# Our Staff and Contributors

## ***Marnie Harrison, Columnist***

Marnie lives in Calgary Alberta. As a teenager, she and “Max,” her Chesapeake Bay Retriever competed in both Conformation and Obedience. She got her first Spanish Water Dog “Goli” in 2003, followed by the multi-talented Chase, and now her current dogs Hudson, Meg, Oro, and Jade. Marnie writes the AKC Breed Column 4 times per year on behalf of the SWDCA, and is active in Conformation, Agility, and occasionally herding. She also breeds under the “Praderia” prefix. Her husband Barry is a talented banjo player with whom Oro loves to “howl” along.



## ***Meg Normand, Guest Columnist, Proofer***

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

## ***Donna Perone, Editor, Columnist***

Donna Perone and her SWD Murray enjoy swimming and assorted performance and companion activities. Murray’s main job is chasing geese off the dock and making sure he knows the whereabouts of Donna and her husband at all times.



## ***Susan Smith, Photos***

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.

## ***Wendy Mussoline, Contributor***

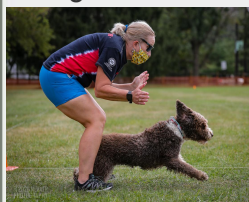
Residing in Florida, Wendy has been a club member since 2011.

## ***Bernard and Sarmite Sobotor, Contributors***

Residing in Pennsylvania, Bernard and Sramite have been club members since 2012.

## ***Sarah Spinler, Columnist***

Sarah has owned SWDs since 2011. 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.



## ***Mark Stape, Guest Columnist***

Mark Stape and his wife Jennifer live in Jeannette, PA with their two SWDs, Edie and Amapola. Two very different dogs, Edie is all go and very competitive and Amapola is our sweet little lap dog.



## ***Denise Velasquez, Columnist***

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.



# 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](http://swdclub.org)

[Code of Ethics](#)

[Become a member](#)



### Committee Spotlight: Sunshine

The Sunshine Committee, under the leadership of Denise Velasquez, sends condolences by reaching out to someone who is recently bereaved and offers words of comfort or sympathy for the loss of their Spanish Water Dog or a close family member, be it human or canine. As a club, we want to acknowledge our grieving members and show that we care about them.

The committee was established in 2018 when the Club identified the need. Depending upon a number of factors, the Sunshine Committee may send a message via social media, a card and/or gift, from the Club. If a gift is sent, it is, typically, a plant, flowers or an ornament by EHMworks (example shown here).



The club also reaches out to non-club members via the Sunshine committee when it comes to our attention via social media that a Spanish Water Dog or a dog of another breed owned by a Spanish Water Dog member has passed. We send condolences on behalf of our club to show that we understand that we are all part of one Spanish Water Dog community.

In addition, the Sunshine Committee also contacts members who have lost their Spanish Water Dog and works with them to provide a short memorial statement for the newsletter. This is a touching addition to the committee responsibilities that has been recently added with the newly set newsletter format.

Anyone interested in participating on the Sunshine committee should contact Donna Perone at [swdca.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:swdca.secretary@gmail.com).

– by Denise Velasquez