

# Perro Post

## In This Issue:

Hunting  
Waterfowl in  
SE Virginia

Health Testing  
as a Tool in  
Breeding

Life with  
Physically  
Challenged  
Puppy

Spani-Antics

Dock Diving

Westminster:  
Phoebe Wins!

National  
Specialty:  
Phoebe Wins!

Meet the  
Feldmans and  
Marion

Sophie ❤️

*Summer 2022*



## The SWD Quarterly Journal

# Spanish Water Dog Club of America

Quarterly Newsletter

## Contents

From the Editor	3
SWDs at Work	4
Putting the "Water" Back in Spanish Water Dog	
Breeders Digest	7
Health Testing as a Tool	
SWD Pupdate	9
Update on Bu: Puppy with Hypoplasia	
Spani-Antics	10
Triple Threat Gazette: Performance Events	11
Keep Cool Dock Diving!	
Conformation Corner	14
Westminster 2022	
Que Pasa Perro de Agua: Events	16
National Specialty Held in Monroe, MI	
Upcoming Regional Events	
Upcoming Supported Entries	
Member Noticias:	19
Member Spotlight: David and Felicia Feldman	
New Member Welcome: Marion Birch	
Membership Map/Trivia	
Belly Rub Roster: Happy Woofday	23
Forever in Our Hearts	24
Remembering Sophie	
Cords and Capers	26
Cover Dog Photo Runners-Up	
Photo Gallery	
Our Staff and Contributors	29
SWDCA Officers and Committees	31
New Board Members for 2022-4 Terms	
Spotlight: Judges Education Committee	
SWDCA Code of Ethics	32
AKC Code of Sportsmanship	34

## Newsletter Staff

Editor	Donna Perone
SWDs at Work	Donna Perone
Breeders	Lisa Harper
Pupdate	Chris Evans
Health and Wellness	Lisa Harper
Conformation	open
Breed Education	Lisa Harper
Performance Events	Sarah Spinler
Companion Events	open
Events	Cindy Woodling
Senior Dogs	Donna Perone
Webinar News	Donna Perone
AKC News	open
Book Review	open
Spani-Antics	open
Photos	Cindy Woodling
Member Spotlight	Trish Byron
New Member Profiles	James Coliz
Membership Map, Trivia	Donna Perone
Woofday	Donna Perone
Forever in Our Hearts	Denise Velasquez
Awards and Recognition	Sarah Spindler
SWDCA Page, Spotlight	Donna Perone
Proofreader, Reviewer	Meg Normand

### New Staff Members/Guest Contributors:

Art Morgan, new staff member  
Ruth Milstein, contributor

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:** Fundy Bay Gypsy Snow, aka Snow, bred by the Peckfords, is a 7 years young, all around farm dog and proud mom of 32 pups (retired). She loves water work, boating, fun and her family! She shows off for visitors and loves to hang with her kiddos when they come to visit. - Rob Driscoll, owner



# From the Editor

In this Issue



## From the Editor

I hope everyone is enjoying an active summer with their favorite canines. Please remember to hydrate (you and your dogs!) and be mindful of the impact of scorching hot roads and sidewalks on paw pads.

This issue of the *Perro Post* begins with an article by new staff member, Art Morgan, in an interview with Craig Pope, a name many long-time members may remember from the early days of the breed in North America. Art and Craig talk about Craig's experiences using SWDs in hunting waterfowl.

Hunting is one of the big three activities for which the breed was historically used in Spain. While the SWD breed demonstrates strong herding instincts and herding temperaments, the breed was used extensively in Spain for hunting and they demonstrate excellent natural abilities for the job.

Although SWDs are officially in the Herding Group with the American Kennel Club, they could have easily gone into other groups, with their affinity for so many jobs. The club continues to promote examples of the versatility of the breed as they prove to us their incredible aptitudes for all three of their primary historical jobs: herding, hunting and waterwork. This triad of jobs is the basis for the term "Triple Threat" being used for our performance events column, to use a common sports term.

The "SWDs at Work" column strives to focus on highlighting a wide variety of real-life activities in which SWDs engage. We have covered: Bella, who is a service dog for a girl with Autism; herding dogs used by David Sang; Bingo and Goldie, who work on a cattle ranch; and a full-time therapy dog named Reese at a drug rehab facility. Search and Rescue and a dog who "speaks" via a button pad are coming soon. We would love to hear about other talented dogs who do unusual things. Please contact me if you know of any interesting prospects for future issues. Note: Club membership is not required.

We introduce a new column in this issue called "Spani-Antics." Our goal is to capture some of the stories and/or photos of SWDs just being themselves ... and making us laugh in the process. Do you have a silly "Spani" that you'd like to share? Please keep those emails coming [swdca.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:swdca.secretary@gmail.com) with your funny photos and stories and we will continue to run them in future issues.

This issue brings us lots of other interesting reads. Read "Breeders Digest" for insights on linking a solid health-testing strategy with breeding programs. We also get a feel for the life of a dog with physical challenges in the "Pupdate" column. It's nice to have a happy report from Bu's new owner on how he is adapting to life with the canine equivalent of Cerebral Palsy. (We heard about Bu last issue — *Spring 2022* — in the "Breeders" column).

For another example in this issue of SWDs demonstrating one of their "Triple Threats" talents, be sure to read the article about the ins and outs of Dock Diving. We get a view of the Westminster experience from Cindy in her "Conformation Corner" article. The "Que Pasa" section provides a full summary of happenings at the club's National Specialty weekend in Monroe, Michigan, as well as a reminder about two regional gatherings coming up in August. Even if you did not register for any events, those attending would love to see other SWD owners come to say hello and meet club members. Contacts are listed if you want more information.

We invite you to meet Felicia and David Feldman in our member spotlight and to meet new member Marion Birch. In the "Forever in Our Hearts" column, we honor Sophie, a special girl who helped the SWD community understand early onset PRA and how to live life to its fullest. I am so glad we crossed paths, Sophie. You showed us all how to handle relentless adversity with grace and dignity.

Donna Perone, Editor  
Murray, 🐾 Assistant Editor

# SWDs at Work

## Waterfowl Hunting



### *Putting the “Water” Back in Spanish Water Dog*

*by Art Morgan*

*All photos by Craig Pope*

Anyone who has researched the history of Spanish Water Dogs in North America has probably heard the name Craig Pope. Craig first became a Spanish Water Dog aficionado while living in Spain in the late 1990s. He returned to the U.S. in 2000, and started de Chesapeake Kennel with four SWDs. Craig is an avid hunter, and is arguably North America’s leading expert on raising and training SWDs for waterfowl retrieving. We caught up with Craig in late June, and he shared his thoughts about SWDs as waterfowl retrievers, along with tips on how we can help our own SWDs become better water dogs.

**Perro Post:** Why are SWDs great waterfowl retrievers?

**Craig Pope:** They’re just as good at retrieving as the dogs that people typically think of when they think of retrievers, like labs and goldens, but they’re much lighter than those breeds, which makes it easier to pull them back into a boat. Plus they are very agile – they’re like cats, which also helps on

boats. Also, I’ve never seen an SWD that didn’t have a soft mouth, meaning they carry the birds that they retrieve gently, without crushing them.

**PP:** Why do you think there aren’t more waterfowl hunters with Spanish Water Dogs?

**CP:** A lot of people today are looking for mellow, quiet dogs. SWDs aren’t quiet. I think that’s a good thing, because they can help guard your property and your catch. However, you do need to work at socializing them well when they’re young, so that they get along well with other dogs, and they’re familiar with your environment.

**PP:** What do you recommend to people who want to get started training their SWDs for waterfowl retrieving?

**CP:** First, go to a field trial or hunting test in your area to get a vision in your mind of what a “finished” dog looks like. Then you can use books and videos to guide your training. Break down the things that you are training into smaller tasks, and keep a log of what you work on each day. SWDs will pick this stuff up really quickly, once you’ve earned their trust. If I can train them, anyone can!



Continued next page



# SWDs at Work

## Waterfowl Hunting



**PP:** You're being very modest! I agree that SWDs are easy to train, but some waterfowl hunting skills are complicated to train for. For example, I've seen some retrievers that are really amazing at following directional hand signals from their handlers. Can you explain why hand signals are important, and how to train those skills?

**CP:** Hand signals is a very important skill. Here's an example: when I go duck hunting in the Chesapeake Bay, my dog may see where a bird falls, but then I may not be able to send her out to retrieve it for another five minutes or more, because more birds are coming in. In the meantime the tide may have carried the bird to a different place. I know where the bird has drifted to, but the dog's instinct is to head to where it saw it fall. Once you've trained

your dog to follow your hand signals, you can guide her to the right location, and correct her path from a distance, if she goes off course.

To teach this, you start on land with a setup like a baseball diamond. You stand at home base, and your dog is on the pitcher's mound. Put cones at first, second, and third base. You teach your dog to sit and face you when you blow a long single whistle, waiting for the next command. You put up your right arm and say "over" to send your dog to first base, or your left arm to send her to third base. Second base is "back," with your hand above your head motioning back. With these three directional commands, and a strong recall, you can guide your dog to the right area.



**PP:** And this works in the water as well?

**CP:** Right, once they have a solid foundation on land, they can learn to do it in water as well. Instead of sitting, your dog will turn and face you and tread water waiting for the next signal.

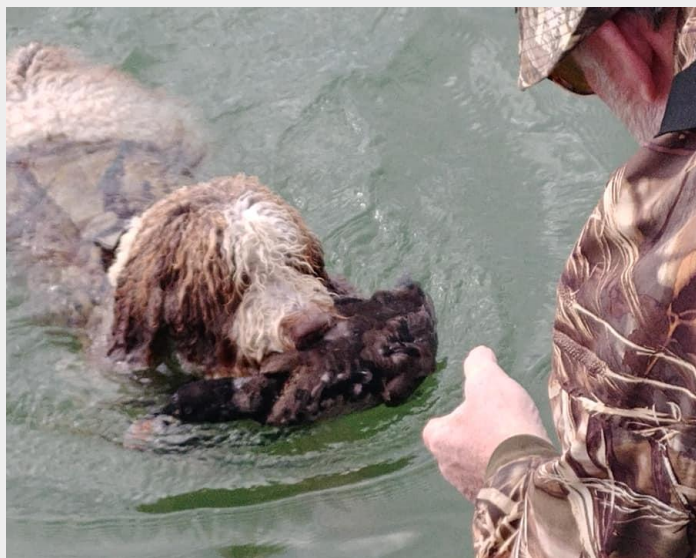
Continued next page

# SWDs at Work

## Waterfowl Hunting



**PP:** Wow. What else do we need to teach, that may not come naturally?



**CP:** Hold conditioning is another important skill that requires training for pretty much any dog. When they get out of the water their first instinct is to shake, and they'll often drop what they retrieved. Hold conditioning is sometimes called "force fetching," and there are lots of ways to teach it. Some of the older methods would be considered cruel these days, but there are ways to teach the hold command without being cruel. The concept is to teach them not to drop whatever it is that they've retrieved, and instead hold it in their mouth until you give them a command. Teach your dog to hold onto a dummy after a retrieve, maybe do a heel and sit, and then give them a command to release it to your hand. Make the time of the hold longer and longer until they really get the concept. Teaching a solid hold will prevent a lot of problems when you get in the field, especially in the water.

**PP:** It sounds like these skills are valuable not just for waterfowl hunters, but for anyone who wants to have safe, quality time with their Spanish Water Dogs on boats and in the water.

**CP:** Absolutely. If you know people who are looking for dogs with these instincts and are willing to put in the training time, send them my way. I breed for good water and hunting instincts, and then select puppies based on the needs and lifestyle of the family.

**PP:** Thanks for sharing your wisdom. Hopefully we can get out on the water together with our dogs some day!

-----

More information about Craig Pope and his Spanish Water Dogs is available on the web at [spanishwaterdog.com](http://spanishwaterdog.com), or on Facebook at @USASWD.





# Breeders Digest

News for and about breeders



## Health Testing as a Tool

by Lisa Harper

Primary to breeding better dogs is the understanding that there is no perfect dog, and yet always striving to achieve that goal. Every breeder should have a hierarchy of needs in his breeding program. For me, it's an ever-changing ratio of happy, healthy, typey, beautiful working dogs. But for this article, I will focus only on the health aspects addressed by what are commonly referred to as health tests.

Generally speaking, when one asks if a dog has completed its health testing, it is understood this refers to the requisite tests one must do on one's breeding stock. In our breed, those tests are constantly updated on the CHIC (Canine Health Information Center)'s website (<https://ofa.org/chic-programs/browse-by-breed/?breed=SWD>). The dog is not required to *pass* every test; it is only required to have *taken* every test and *publicly reported* the results on the OFA website. Doing so earns the dog a CHIC number and allows community knowledge to grow.

Health tests can be broken down into two types: DNA and non-DNA. Other than the natural bobtail T-Box gene (simple dominant), all of the genetic conditions in Spanish Water Dogs with DNA tests are simple recessive. Subjects are identified as Affected (two disease alleles), Carrier (one disease allele, one normal allele), or Clear / Normal (two normal alleles). These are black-and-white test results, and it's easy enough to figure out what you can use for a mate.

The non-DNA health tests are a little trickier. Hip development is not only polygenetic but greatly influenced by environmental factors. Eye health is the same. Thyroid issues are heavily suspected to be familially related, but how they are passed

continues to be a mystery. Breeders must look to family health (up, down, and sideways) to glean as much knowledge as possible when making breeding decisions.

To make matters more muddled, not included in 'health testing' are such issues such as allergies, reproductive issues, late-onset weaknesses that don't appear in a dam or stud until long after their litters have gone to their new homes, and genetic conditions that we have yet to identify in the breed. One hopes – nay, *expects* – that the owners of any breeding dogs will be open and honest with each other. To find out after the breeding that a stud had irritable bowel syndrome would be really heartbreaking.

### Purposes of health testing:

1. Better understand what your own breeding stock brings to the table
2. Increase knowledge of health issues in the breed
3. Select complimentary mates to prevent progeny from developing health conditions leading to a decreased quality of life
4. Intelligently prevent narrowing of the gene pool

**What your dog brings to the table.** Being realistic about what your bitch or stud has to offer keeps you from being "kennel blind." We all love our dogs, it's true. But Patchett tells us on average every dog carries six defective alleles. And if one of those is for a disease we are able to identify, shouldn't we want to know that? Especially if it could affect our beloved pet or the puppies we put so much heart into producing? Statistics tell us roughly 25% of SWDs are prcd-PRA carriers. It's not a lethal disease, and it's easily controlled through educated breeding. Why wouldn't you want to know?

# Breeders Digest (cont.)

News for and about breeders



**Increase Knowledge of Health Issues in the Breed.** Did you know that OFA keeps statistics for all of the conditions reported to them? If you click here, you can see the most current statistics SWD: <https://ofa.org/chic-programs/browse-by-breed/?breed=SWD>. By sharing information openly, we can better understand what conditions exist in the breed, where we need to improve, and where we need to invest time and money in research, if necessary.

**Select complimentary mates to prevent progeny from developing health conditions.** The best bitches produce even better than themselves. You can stack the odds in their favor by knowing what genetics they bring to the table, choosing a complimentary mate, and genetically testing the offspring to choose which to keep in your breeding program.

Example 1: Your bitch is a carrier of prcd-PRA. You now know you can only consider prcd-PRA normal studs, narrowing your search dramatically. No puppy can develop prcd-PRA. When the puppies are three weeks old, swab the pups for DNA and send in tests for prcd-PRA. By the time the pups are 8 weeks old, you should have the results back. Make informed decisions on where to place the puppies.

Example 2: Your bitch is CHG clear, and you have had your eye on a male that is a CHG carrier. They are perfect for each other temperamentally, conformationally, and in breed type. And in breeding them together, no puppy can develop CHG. When the puppies are three weeks old, swab the pups for DNA and send in tests for CHG. By the time the pups are 8 weeks old, you should have the results back. Make informed decisions on where to place the puppies.

**Intelligently prevent narrowing of the gene pool.**  
There has been recent talk about eliminating the

carriers of eo-PRA from the gene pool. The disease is newly identified and the thought is that if we eliminate the carriers and affected dogs from the gene pool, the disease can be eradicated.

Let us take a lesson from our cousins the Portuguese Water Dogs. Many decades ago, there was an attempt to eradicate prcd-PRA in Portuguese Water Dogs. Carriers and Affected dogs were voluntarily eliminated from the gene pool. What they did not know was two-fold: 1) the test they were using was not 100% correct and it identified many normal dogs as affected. These dogs were removed from the gene pool, doubly narrowing an already shallow gene pool. 2) The dogs that were clear of prcd-PRA (a non-lethal disease) coincidentally were carriers of a lethal disease. In the end, neither disease was eradicated and a great deal of genetic material was lost.

Using testing as a tool, conditions can be controlled or bred out within a few generations. In both scenarios above, the breeder uses test results to choose the best match to produce the best puppies, preserve genetic material for future generations, increase the chances of any progeny leading healthy lives, and better place puppies into appropriate homes.

*Click here for SWDCA  
Breeders List*



# SWD Pupdate

All About Puppies!

Bu at 8 weeks



## Update on Bu: Puppy with Hypoplasia

by Chris Evans

**B**uadhesh (Bu) is my puppy born with cerebellar hypoplasia or cerebral palsy in dogs, caused by an infection in his mother's uterus before he was born. Affecting intentional movement, his physical coordination and development has been slow. His condition is assessed to impact physical movement only, no mental impacts. No extra vet visits are required for his challenges, however rugs on the floor are a must. Slippery floors are a problem with his condition.

I recently talked with his owner Tina, who has had him since he was 12 weeks old. Tina is a friend who has worked as a dog trainer. She owns a nursery (plants, not kids). She has an older dog who doesn't play with Bu but accepts him. Bu also plays with Tina's cats and they tolerate him.



Tina and Bu at 4 weeks

Tina calls Bu a "Sunday morning dog" who sleeps in her bed and has to be urged to get up in the morning. He is house broken and will also go outside for short periods to lay in the grass or on the porch.

Bu's limitations are noticeable when he moves. The front part of his body moves well, but the rear has difficulty coordinating with his front. When he's excited, his front walks or runs but his rear hops, giving him a rocking horse motion. He leans against the wall for balance when walking down steps, but needs no help going up. He pees without lifting his leg.

Bu's favorite toy is a long, soft, knotted rope. In a game of tug, he sometimes has difficulty hanging on, so a long rope gives him opportunity to grab it again. Other times he has a strong steady grip. (As a side note, when he was nursing he frequently had difficulty latching on, sometimes not a problem.) He lays down to eat with his dish between his paws, but eats and drinks normally. Bu affectionately licks Tina but slowly.

Bu is "right footed," the way most people are right handed. Tina says his balance is best using his right foot to scratch at the door. He cannot swim. We put him in a small kiddie pool and he immediately sank to the bottom with his head underwater and had to be grabbed and rescued. No being a water dog for him!

Bu frequently comes here to visit us. He plays with his sister, first running and pouncing, then when he



Tina and Bu at 10 months

is tired, they lay down and tussle. He remembers us all and is always happy to see us. And I am always very happy to see Bu.

He has limitations, but at 10 months of age, there

is room to hope he will continue to improve as he grows older. P.S.: Tina just told me that Bu walked down the steps last night in "regular" fashion.



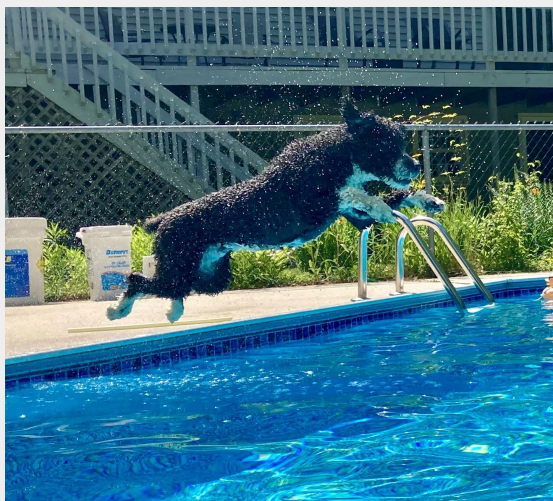
# Spani-Antics

Funny Pics and Stories about Our Comedic Canines

## *Sharing comical moments with our favorite breed*



According to Ken and Darlene Miller, Mickey and Maggie, aka his “knuckleheads,” look forward to helping Darlene clean up after dinner. Ken says Darlene will warn them to be careful if there are knives in the washer... as if they understand. Ha, ha!



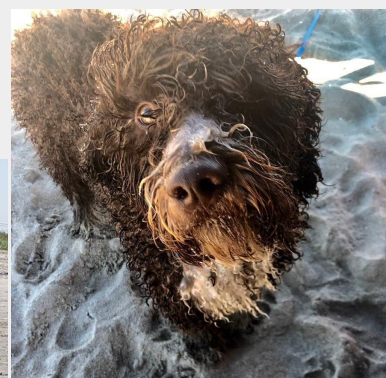
Pat Fahey: Archie shows us how Spanish WATER Dogs deal with dog days of summer.

This is where Stu goes when he needs to escape his humans. Karen Diaz tells us that Stu has been hiding behind clothes hanging in the closet from the beginning. Peekaboo!



Beach Indi part 1: Is Indi asking Sarah Spinler to make sure she has on enough sunscreen? Sarah says nope, “he wants me to get up off the chair and go back in the water.”

Beach Indi part 2: Beach hair, don't care!

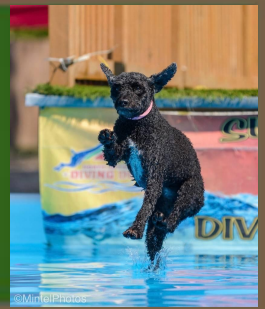


Beach Indi part 3: Anybody see a frisbee go this way?



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

## Performance Events



### ***Keep Cool Dock Diving!***

*by Sarah Spinler*

**D**ock diving, also called dock jumping, is a dog sport that began 25 years ago with the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge. DockDogs, started in 2000, was the first organization that held a series of organized events that culminated in a “Worlds” national dock-diving competition event. Because of the increasing popularity of dock diving, facilities or “clubs” were forming around the country and holding various competitions sanctioned by organizations such as Splash Dogs and Ultimate Air Dogs in the early 2000s. For a period of time between 2008 and 2018, the UKC recognized dock diving titles earned with Ultimate Air Dogs. In 2013, North American Diving Dogs (NADD), was founded by Debra Marquardt owner of the dock diving club Dallas Air Dogs who partnered with AKC for a title recognition program. As of May 2014, owners earning titles with NADD can submit them to AKC, to have them recognized on a dog’s pedigree name.



There are three disciplines within NADD dock diving: distance, air retrieve and hydro dash.

The AKC will

record the two highest distance and air retrieve titles and the highest hydro dash title earned. We have Club members who participated in all three disciplines held by the Great Lakes Mobile Dock at our recent Specialty in Monroe, MI.

Distance is the farthest jump off the dock, scored at the base of the tail (or where the tail should be in the case of NB), in two back to back attempts. The handler uses one of two methods: “chase” method where they place the dog at the back of the dock, move to the end of the dock and throw a toy of their choosing that can float; or the “place and send” method where they throw the toy into the pool while holding the dog, then bring the dog to the back of the dock and release the dog to then jump off in front of the owner. The distance discipline is similar to that in DockDogs except that the jumps are not consecutive, each group of up to ten dogs at a time



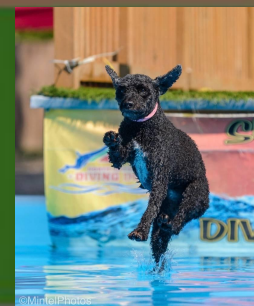
in DockDogs takes one turn each and then back in line for the second. Also in NADD dock diving, two handlers can be on the dock with their dog during the dog’s turn. For example, one person can hold the dog and the other can throw the toy for distance. In NADD, one splash consists of an optional practice jump followed by two attempts in a four-minute maximum time period.

Most pools are 40 foot in length but some owners are now installing 50-foot docks, as the distance

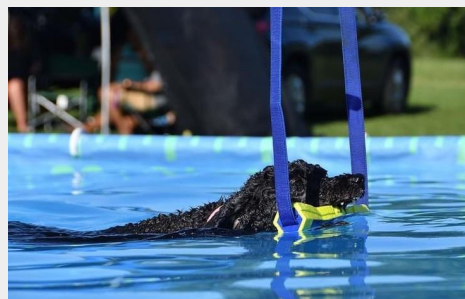
Continued next page

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

## Performance Events



records are being broken every year. The current NADD record is 36 feet, 11 inches held by a Whippet. In the NADD discipline of air retrieve, a special bumper (competition stick) is suspended four feet above the water. Dogs are held by their handler on the dock and then attempt to jump up in the air to seize the bumper before landing in the water. A successful jump is one that knocks the bumper off, whether or not the dog grabs it. The bumper is moved father out in one-foot increments. Again, the dog gets two attempts at each distance and the turn ends when the dog has two consecutive misses at the same distance.



Hydro dash is a speed swimming discipline. In hydro dash, the dog uses only the last ten feet of the dock to jump off and swim to the 30-foot mark, where the NADD competition stick is suspended about two inches above the water. The time starts when the dog leaves the dock and ends when the dog returns back to the ten-foot mark. The dog must pull the bumper off but does not need to bring it back to the ten-foot mark. The dog gets two attempts and the fastest time is recorded. Title division distances, times and complete rules may be found at the NADD website:

<https://northamericadivingdogs.com/content/view/full/21/Divisions>. Some of the first-in-breed titles may be found on the club's website.

In 2020, NADD started using a Regional Qualifier method to determine who was allowed to go to the National Event. Starting in 2021, the event was moved from Orlando (associated with Royal Canin) in December to Missouri, held in October. A dog may qualify for Regionals by earning an Advanced or Excellent title in a discipline or by earning a top-three finish in a Regional Qualifier event held at facility (club) or at mobile dock event. In NADD, facilities are not permitted to be closer than 100 miles away and cannot have more than five events per year. Each event is about 3-4 days in length and offers about four distance "splashes" and one special splash, either air retrieve or hydro dash, each day. A dog can do no more than 12 splashes in each event. Splashes cost between \$23 and \$30 per "jump."



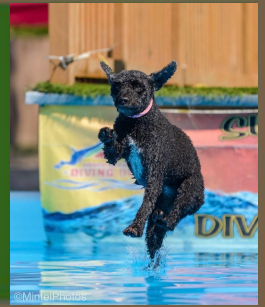
Several Regionals events on mobile docks are held throughout the United States and Canada to qualify for the annual National Event. Previously the number-one ranked dog by breed in distance received an automatic invitation to Nationals each year. However, that practice was discontinued in 2022, possibly because the size of the event would not accommodate the more than 200 breeds AKC, CKC, or other purebred registries recognize.

Continued next page



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

## Performance Events



Dogs do not need to be registered as a purebred to participate, as AKC PAL and Canine Partners can participate in NADD.

More than 40 Spanish Water Dogs have participated in NADD dock jumping. Information on each dog can be found here:

<https://northamericadivingdogs.com/Pages/breedList/breedid/148>. The current distance record held by a Spanish Water Dog is 26 feet, 3 inches and the current air retrieve and hydro dash records are 18 feet and 19.176 seconds (estimated based on available records), respectively. At the time of this writing, four dogs have earned Regionals qualifying spots in distance, air retrieve, and/or hydro dash: Cali and Indigo owned by Sarah Spinler, B (or Bella) owned by Mary Kinsler, and Rudi owned by Nancy Valley. Cali and Sarah have been jumping with NADD since the first event (NADD's second event ever) held on the East Coast in May 2014. Rudi and Cali are brother and sister out of the Casa de Rancho kennel. They are considered "veterans," as they are above the age of 8 years (currently 10.5 years old). The best Veteran dog in each discipline in each division can also qualify for Regionals at a Regional Qualifier.



Photo: [Beckytimegregory.smugmug.com](https://beckytimegregory.smugmug.com)

Valor Shoop

Sarah is considered a "NADDict" with Cali having completed 342 NADD splashes at the time of this writing. Sarah also competes regularly with



DockDogs and is a member of DelMarva DockDogs, Chesapeake DockDogs, and Keystone DockDogs. She recently joined International Dog Sports (IDS) dock diving, which is a group of facility docks that are unaffiliated with other organizations.

If you ask any owner who has participated in dock diving, they will tell you that the dogs love it and the events are fun. Many facilities offer "try its" during events or something called "open dock" practice held during certain hours where you can just show up to try the sport. There are many docks throughout the United States that offer open dock as well as private lessons. A list of NADD-affiliated docks may be found here:

<https://northamericadivingdogs.com/Facility/facilityList>.

You can find out more about dock diving in these Facebook groups: NADD Fan Page, DockDogs WorldWide, Dockside Dogs, The Inside Scoop on DockDiving Events, Dock Diving Dog Lovers, Ultimate Air Dogs. Each NADD facility and mobile dock also have their own Facebook group.

# Conformation Corner

For the Fancier

## Westminster 2022

by Cindy Woodling

*P*sst...I've been keeping a secret. Being invited to Westminster was terrifying for me! No, it wasn't only because I would have to drive across a bridge to get from Pennsylvania to Tarrytown, NY. Knowing that we (myself and Canjico) were one of five teams who were officially invited and that we had the least amount of conformation experience was very humbling. We did work very hard to get that invite in 2021, going from a Class dog to a Grand Champion in one season. And we were going to be in the company of my closest mentors, which created a tremendous amount of pressure initially.

Receiving the postponement announcement in January provided an opportunity to get my uncertainty under control. The five-month delay allowed me to plan our dog goals for the year and within the plan was a stated goal to have fun and learn at Westminster. And that is exactly what I did with my dog.

Our day started early; at 6:00 am we loaded the dog up and heading off to meet up with our local owners: Ken Miller with Maggie Mae and Susan DeAngelo, our breeder. Ken had recently had bypass surgery and Sue had agreed to take Maggie Mae into the ring. Ken generously hired a car and driver to take us all to Tarrytown. By 6:30 we were headed east to New York and Ken was sure to razz me about my bridge phobia the entire trip!

Westminster-experienced exhibitors had said that we would have it easy being outdoors versus in

the Garden. I would agree that the Lydenhurst grounds were a relaxed and visually calming venue. Our tickets were checked at the gate and we were allowed to unload adjacent to the grooming tent. My dog needs to be crated while waiting to show and I quickly set him up and joined our group at ringside while enjoying a cup of coffee. I was pleasantly surprised to see judge Linda Clark, who was our breed judge at Morris & Essex in the fall of 2021 sitting ringside watching the judging of breeds prior to our Spanish Water Dogs. Distracted by a large crowd clapping, I wandered over to see what the excitement was about.

Judging in that ring was Juan Miranda, who had been our breed judge for the AKC National



Lisa Harper and BOB Winner Phoebe in the ring for Herding Group judging

Continued next page



# Conformation Corner

For the Fancier

Championship in Orlando in December of last year. His charisma and love of judging is apparent to all in and around his ring. Growing up with Afghans in Mexico, it was amazing to watch him judge his own breed and if you haven't had an opportunity to watch that recorded ring video or to see him judge in person, I encourage you to seek him out! It will be well worth your time.

Still having time to kill before our ring time I gathered up my dog and took him for a little run



Maggie Mae with owner/handler Ken Miller, breeder Susan DeAngelo, and judge Ms. Janina K. Laurin.

around the grounds. Winding through the property toward the Hudson River and the castle, I saw a contingent of SWD owners in the parking lot. On our return up the path we were able to introduce ourselves and our dogs to each other. (Does "meet new friends and keep the old" sound familiar?)

We had competed against each other in Orlando but had not spent much time talking. It was good to put faces with names.

Returning to the tents, it was time to go ringside with my dog. Surrounded by the competing teams, I was able to get a good look at the competition. They all looked well groomed, both handlers and exhibits. Quickly we were called by the steward into the ring and to my surprise my dog decided he was going to squat down with his rear in the initial line up. It was then that I know I needed to meet my dog where he was and support him through his apparent meltdown. Oh well, my goal was to go and have fun and our exam and go around the Westminster ring was completed before I knew it.

The winner of Best of Breed went to Pheobe, who is co-owned by Lisa Harper and Colleen Nolan. Lisa had done an awesome job in the ring; I was extremely happy for them. The judge chose Ken Miller's Maggie Mae, handled by Susan DeAngelo, for an Award of Merit. Ken was the person who had led me to the SWD breed and Sue was our breeder, so I was extremely happy for the three of them! After all the requisite photos were taken, we loaded up and made the short drive home, which continued with bridge jokes coming from Ken.

In the end my goals were met by going to Westminster. We had fun and learned a lot, which I will apply forever more. Hopefully next year. One question remains -- Will Westminster ever return to the Garden? Lots of conversation in the dog world but only time will tell.

# Que Pasa Perro de Agua

Comings ... and Goings (Events!)

## *SWD gathering in Colorado - August 18-22, 2022*

SWDCA member, Art Morgan, is pulling together a gathering of all interested SWD owners for some SWD fun in Greeley, Colorado. There is a large cluster of shows there in mid-August and Art would like to not only try his younger SWD out in the conformation show ring, but also wants to organize some SWD specific fun activities as well.

Art has two SWDs, Paco, age 3, and Izzy, 7 months. He says he loves the breed, and is doing his best to learn more about them, and allow them to show off their natural talents. Art also has some exposure to herding, as his mother is a long-time Collie breeder and Herding Group judge, and has many friends who train herding dogs.

Some possible activities for the gathering include:

- The **all breed shows** are August 19-22 at the Island Grove Regional Park in Greeley (where the Greeley Stampede Rodeo is held). There are several breeds holding their national specialties there on August 18.
- In conjunction with the shows, there will be many of the AKC and AKC-adjacent events, such as **obedience, rally, dock diving, and barn hunt**.
- There is a lake in Loveland called Boyd Lake where we could reserve an area to do a **water-work workshop** to help do some hands-on training.
- Art's mother knows a herding trainer in Ft. Collins who has geese, goats, and sheep, and she could give **herding instinct tests**.
- An **informal demo** to each other some of the things we've trained our SWDs to do is an option as well.

Contact Art at [art.morgan@gmail.com](mailto:art.morgan@gmail.com) if you're interested, and indicate what activities you might like. He will make arrangements according to level of interest.

## *SWD gathering in Pennsylvania August 15, 2022*

Coordinated by club member Sarah Spinler, August 15 will see a gathering of SWDs and their owners in Central Pennsylvania to participate in a herding clinic.

A **herding clinic** will be held in Scarletts Mill, which is a 1 hour and 12 minute drive east from Harrisburg, PA, near Reading, PA. The no-experience-necessary seminar will be held on August 15, from 7:00am to 12:00pm and the cost per dog will be based on the number of participants. The clinician is Terry Wofford, AKC herding judge. Herding sticks and long lines will be provided for those who don't own their own. Depending on weather, we may venture over to French Creek State Park for a **swim**.

Please confirm your spot for the PA gathering by emailing Sarah at [Spinler@comcast.net](mailto:Spinler@comcast.net)



## Upcoming Supported Entries

Timberland Valley Dog Fanciers Association on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> in Chehalis, WA. Entries close 8/31/2022.

Rose City Classic on January 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 in Portland, OR.

Andrea Valley Paskiewicz is sponsoring an award at the North East Stockdog Association's Labor Day Herding Trial for the Highest Combined Score for a SWD.



# Que Pasa Perro de Agua

Comings ... and Goings

## 2022 SWDCA Nationals by Cindy Woodling and Sarah Spinler

The 2022 SWDCA Nationals were held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds in Michigan on July 9 and 10, 2022. In conjunction with the Ann Arbor Kennel Club, SWDCA held Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes, our Specialty, and Supported Entry Conformation competitions over the course of the weekend. Also



Nancy, Rudi, Cali & Sarah

available for entry were performance events; FastCAT, CAT, Dock Diving, and trials in Rally and Obedience. Various health services were available over the weekend as well. Club members and their guests took advantage of the club's sponsored tent, which

was shaded by a huge tree and provided a welcome breeze throughout the weekend.

The club tent was the hub of activity, with attendees crating and grooming their dogs and gathering before and after competing in various event. It was also where the spaghetti dinner made by Nancy Valley, Specialty Chair, on Saturday evening. Over the course of the weekend Nancy was assisted by Sam Normand and other club members (our personal thanks to everyone that lent a hand to Nancy!).



Nancy Valley and Rudi

Nancy and Sam were also responsible for coordinating awards at the Conformation events and at the dinner. Club members who placed in events were rewarded with beautiful pottery, commissioned by the club and made by [MeganCassidy Clayworks](#), and with rosettes and ribbons from the club.

Beginning at 9am on Saturday, the Sweepstakes entries were judged by Robette Johns.

Two puppies and two veterans competed for awards and monetary prizes. Immediately following the Sweepstakes, the designated specialty began under AKC judge Andrew Ritter. By Cindy's count, nine exhibits competed over the various entry categories, with Phoebe handled by Lisa Harper and co-owned with Colleen Nolan winning Best of Breed and moving onto Variety Groups on Saturday afternoon.



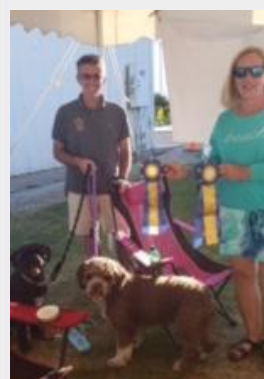
Big day in ring for Lisa Harper

Members and their dogs participated in various events over the course of the day, with Mary Kinsler and her girl Marley earning High Triple awards in Rally. Fast CAT was enjoyed by Canjico (owned by Cindy Woodling) and Teodoro (co-owned by Cindy Woodling and Lisa Harper), and



Mary and Marley

Indi & Cali (owned by Sarah Spinler) with Indi earning the Michigan Gazehound Club's High in Trial Mug Award for the fastest Fast CAT run of the day. Paco (owned by Art Morgan),



Sarah, Jim, Cali, Indi

Rudi (owned by Nancy Valley), Bianca (owned by Mary Kinsler), and Indi and Cali (owned by Sarah Spinler) all



Art and Paco

Continued next page

# Que Pasa Perro de Agua

Comings ... and Goings



Best Working Dog: Indi

participated in the NADD Regional Dock Diving Qualifying Event sponsored by the Great Lakes Mobile Dock. Awards for dock diving included: Cali earning a qualification to Regionals in the Hydro Dash Novice; Indi, a Club High in Trial Award for

being the fastest male in the Hydro Dash; Bianca, a Club High in Trial for the longest distance by a female and longest Air Retrieve jump, as well as NADD Regional Qualifying in Distance Senior.

It was very exciting when Lisa took an OH1 under Judge William Daugherty and then earned an Owner Handled Best in Show under judge Mrs. Nena Dee on Saturday night! [Catalog results for Saturday.](#)

Big Congrats to Lisa and Phoebe: National Specialty Best of Breed & Best in Show - Owner Handled!



William Daugherty was the breed judge on Sunday and the Club's supported entry started bright and early with an 8am ring time and nine SWD exhibits. Mr. Daugherty loved the breed movement and took the time after judging to speak with the exhibitors and encouraged the focus on preserving movement in breeding programs. The winning conformation team was Canjico handled by Cindy Woodling. Dog and owner teams continued to participate in the performance events throughout the day with CAT added to the previous days' performance offerings.

Teodoro, co-owned and handled by Cindy Woodling earned (pending AKC verification) his CA title from the sponsoring club, the Raisin River Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, and was a very happy boy to run, run, run! Sarah and Jim Spinlers' dog, Indi, also ran in the CAT.

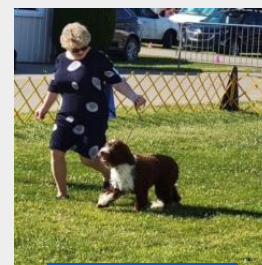
All had a good laugh when Cindy's boys declined the catchers at the pen in the FastCAT event, instead returning to the starting Line. Okay, maybe the catchers weren't laughing but Cindy was. Later in the



Cindy and Canjico

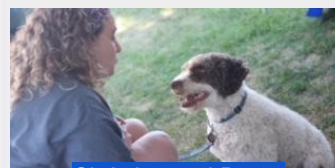
afternoon Canjico and Cindy participated in conformation groups where they earned a pull in a very competitive Variety group and took an OH2 under Judge Dr. Jill Warren. [Catalog results for Sunday.](#)

More thoughts from Cindy: Returning to the club tent, it appeared that SWDCA members had dispersed and headed toward home. I was surprised to see Nancy and Sam strolling down the fairgrounds returning from... honestly, I don't remember



Diane and Sophie

where. I was glad to see Nancy to express my appreciation for all the planning and effort she, Sam, and all the members of the Specialty Committee expended over the weekend. THANK YOU!!! It had been a very fun and worthwhile trip to Michigan,



Christine and Bruno

round trip 1K miles for me, two nights sleeping in the Walmart parking lot (coming and going), two nights in a hotel and a carload of wonderful memories of our first, but not last, SWDCA National's weekend. Keeping with my mantra: Meet new friends and keep the old...I hope to see you all next year in Harrisburg.



# Member Noticias

## Member Spotlight



Nocci and Iggy taking a break

### **David and Felicia Feldman** *by Trish Byron and Felicia Feldman*

David and Felicia Feldman are passionate about dogs and especially their Spanish Water Dogs, 11 year-old Nocci and Iggy, aged 9. "We didn't have dogs for a very long time because the demands of our jobs didn't align with dog ownership. When we first started looking we were living in an apartment in Manhattan." The Feldman's attended the 2010 Meet the Breeds in New York where they met Nancy Valley and Sheryl Gaines. "The following week, we followed up with Sheryl, Nancy and Jackie Nazzarro at another event in Hartford." Felicia described Rancho crawling into her lap and being smitten!

Nocci, from the Valley litter, arrived in 2011. Her name comes from David's favorite gelato flavor, hazelnut, which in Italian is nocciola. Nocci literally translates to "nut," a sometimes apt descriptor. As Felicia explains it, "I had retired, so caring for this puppy that we had waited so long for became my new full-time job." She also notes that she "worked harder" on Nancy's puppy application than on her college application! One thing that Felicia and David did not factor into Nocci's development was that apartment living was such a plus for socialization. She had celebrity status. "We'd get off of the elevator in the morning, and between people headed to work and children in strollers on their way out, it took ten minutes to get through the lobby. And she LOVED it! She is a great ambassador for the breed and loves to say Hi to everyone." Both dogs are friendly - Nocci exceptionally so. When the doorbell rings, they bark as if a serial killer has arrived, but within a few minutes they are cuddling up to guests.



Iggy giving a big smile for the camera

Iggy is short for Ignacio. "We wanted a Spanish name." Bred by Jackie, Iggy is a more typical SWD. Iggy is very good with people, but doesn't have much time for other dogs. He's very happy being around Nocci and has yet to meet a ball he doesn't like to chase, indoors or out!

The Feldmans currently reside in mid-coast Maine. After first visiting in 2000, they developed a 20-year plan to relocate, and had the good fortune to realize the plan in half the time. David notes that "When we first came to Maine, we were consultants; we've now placed our energies into local volunteer work." David is a regular volunteer at the local Habitat for Humanity chapter and the area food pantry. Felicia volunteers at the local public library and sits on the board of a local 501c3 organization.

Because of the bond that working together forges, Felicia strongly encourages SWD owners to participate in activities with their dog. "Shortly after turning one, each dog began herding instruction with Suzanne White at her farm in Appleton, conveniently located around 20 minutes from their home. "We started with sheep, then switched to ducks." David chimed in that the local sheep are Katahdin sheep



photo by Pat Marron

Nocci and Iggy duck herding

that weigh about 170 pounds. In addition to the bond, it really helped with obedience. "Nocci has the best down!" By the time they stopped herding, due in part to the

pandemic, Nocci was adept at completing an "A" course.

Currently, the dogs have a standing weekly appointment at a canine aquatic center, Water

Continued next page

# Member Noticias

## Member Spotlight



Bark Wellness, which offers a 25-minute private swim in an 84-degree saltwater pool. Both dogs have always worn life jackets, whether swimming or when



Nocchi and Iggy at their weekly swim

out on a boat. As David explains it, the jackets keep their heads out of the water,

which limits the amount they “drink” while swimming. The jackets also triple their endurance “because the jackets lift the back end of the dog’s body closer to the surface of the water, thereby supporting the dog’s overall form.” In addition, when swimming in open water, David and Felicia keep drag lines on the dogs for added safety.

Continuing that theme, David is an avid proponent of dog car safety. “In an accident a loose dog in a car has the potential to become a projectile. Stories of first responders refusing to open the car door if there’s an aggressive dog inside, or opening the car door and having an unrestrained dog, frightened and confused, bolt and be lost!” are far too common.



Iggy riding shotgun with David, harnessed and tethered

David was on the board and now volunteers at the local animal shelter. The stories he has heard and rescue situations witnessed are too numerous to count. “People have no idea how many dogs are brought in with out-of-date information, and no microchip or tags. It’s incredibly important that dogs are either securely crated in the vehicle or strapped in with a seat belt and harness. Dogs should be secured just like people. We actually factor a car’s ability to fit two crates into our

requirements when purchasing a car.” Since our pickup truck does not lend itself to a crate, Iggy sometimes gets to ride shotgun with David, harnessed and tethered to the seat belt receiver. A job, they both note, that Iggy takes very seriously!

Regarding club involvement, Felicia was Club newsletter editor back in 2012 and served on the Board. “Our involvement has changed over the life cycle of our dogs. We try to be ambassadors for the breed even though we’re not as active. We think the Club has made tremendous progress over the 12 years we’ve been involved with it. The health and wellness committee does a great job. It’s important to stay current with health issues and trends that were unknown in 2010. Last year, Nocchi was diagnosed with goniodysgenesis. “Thanks to Nancy’s expedient and full disclosure of her experience with Cookie (Nocchi’s mom), we were able to seek the proper diagnostic approach and subsequent care. We do our best to share back what we learn. Felicia and David are strong proponents of moving ahead with a ‘Bernese-like’ database. When it was first proposed all those years ago, our breed health profile was far less diverse than it is now, so there wasn’t much appetite; this information is now more vital than ever, not only for our current SWD population, but for breeding future generations.”

David and Felicia offer this advice for new owners/club members. Enroll in puppy and intermediate classes – and beyond. Don’t think the training and socialization ever ends. You cannot over-socialize this breed. Also, find something to do with your dog where you build the connection and learn along with the dog. And if the first thing isn’t a good fit for you and or the dog, try something else!!! “It has been the best experience owning these dogs. I would not exchange it for anything,” says Felicia. David adds, “We waited a long time for these dogs and we made a good selection. Our lives are all the better because Nocchi and Iggy share it with us.”



# Member Noticias

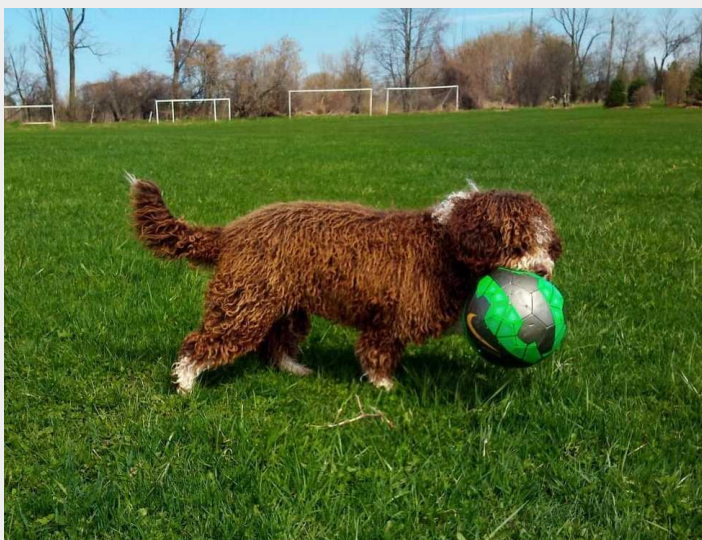
## New Member Welcome

### *Welcome New Members*

*By James Coliz*

#### *Marion Birch, Collingwood, Ontario*

Marion Birch joins us from the beautiful four-season resort town of Collingwood, Ontario, with her dog Praderia's Kaleidoscope (Kaeli). Their town, situated north of Toronto on the Georgian Bay, boasts myriad hiking trails and a 5-minute walk to the water. As Marion tells us, "Kaeli gets a pretty dream life of experiencing all of it."



Marion describes Kaeli this way, "My girl has an amazing personality: outgoing, super friendly, joyful, sweet, and honestly the easiest dog I've ever had to train. Yes, she can be cheeky and challenge me on occasion, though it's rare. Usually it's her trying to tell me I'm doing it wrong."



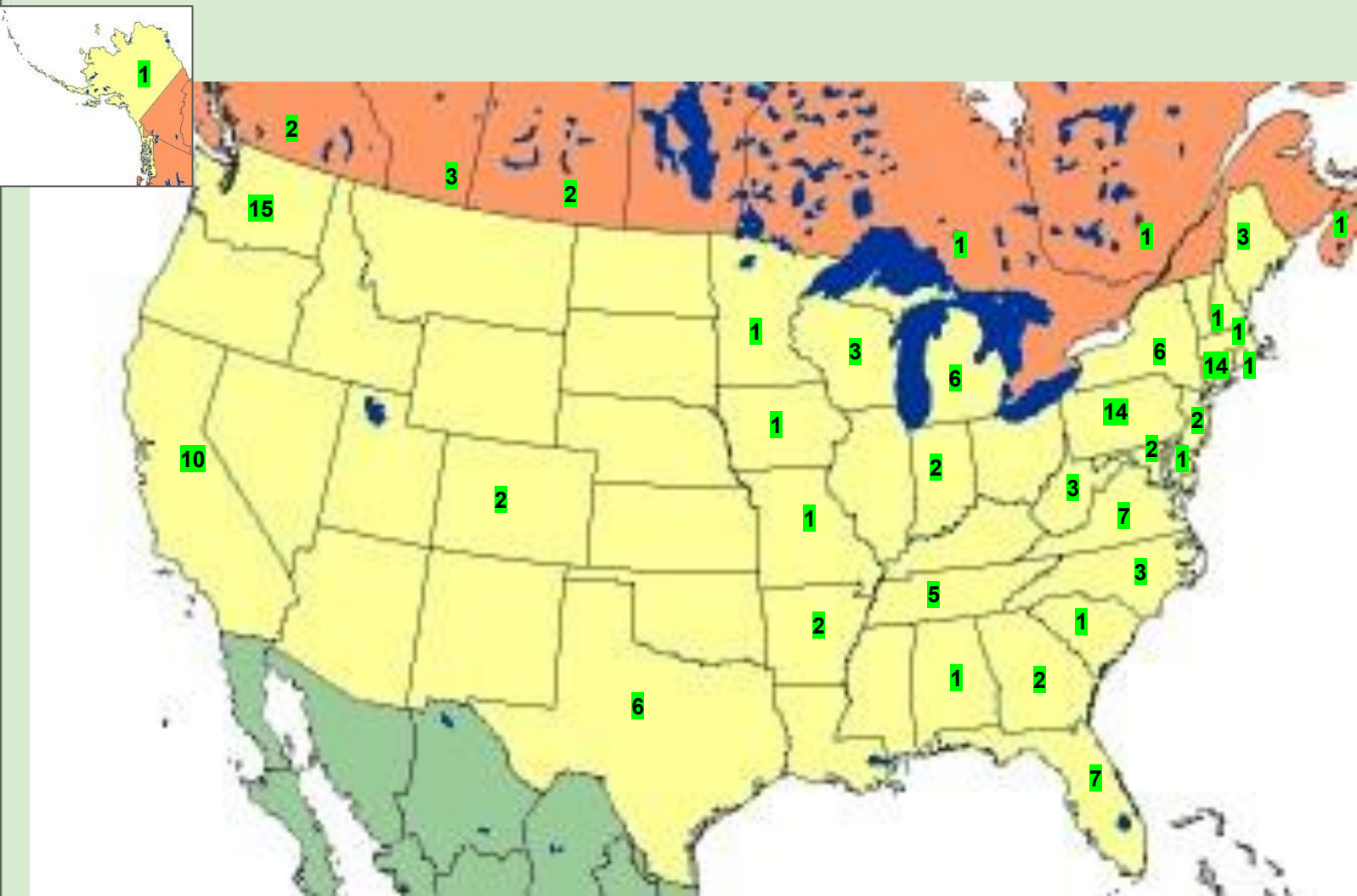
Having shown horses prior to retirement, Marion's well-accustomed to success on the show circuit. Thus, it's no surprise that Kaeli took home a 3<sup>rd</sup> place award in Canada's 2021 Conformation Top Dog competition for SWDs.

Marion also enjoys training Kaeli for Agility, already passing level 3. What's next for this pup? She'll start training for [CKC Sprinter](#) events in the coming fall. Run, Kaeli, run!



# 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 171 currently registered SWDs in the club, what kennels appear most often in their names?

**Answer:** It's a tie - Praderia and Ariosa both occur 16 times in the list of names. Angel and Copper both occur 10 times, followed by Concurrido (9), Lija (8), and both Fundy Bay and Zorrazo at 7. Breeders, time to get your puppy owners to register. Members, don't forget to let us know when you get a new pup. 😊



# Belly Rub Roster

SWD Celebrations



## Happy Woofday

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

*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). And don't forget to send in info for new puppies or older dogs you adopt so we can add them to the list!*

### August

**8/2/19** Peach (Praderia's Golden Peach of Areturo)  
**8/7/20** Luna (Fundy Bay's Lia de Luna)  
**8/17/15** Xavi  
**8/22/13** Viki (Concurrido Impavido)  
**8/31/11** Vaquera (Vaquera de Lago)

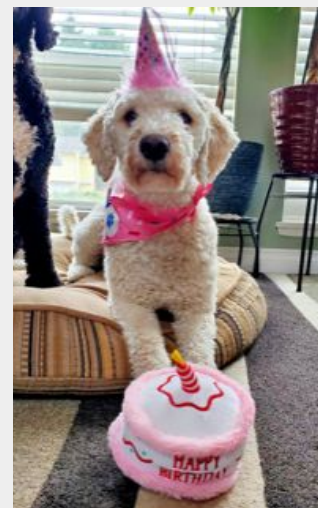
### September

**9/3/19** Lita (Lita Spanish Water Dog Northwest)  
**9/4/16** Stuart (Copper E Stuart Johnson Diaz)  
**9/7/21** Izzy (DGS Abeja Reina)  
**9/8/15** Olly (Dólar del Turco Andaluz)  
**9/12/13** Pippa (Highview's La Marquesa Chismosa)  
**9/15/13** Vitsi (Zorrado Witch Hazel)  
**9/21/21** Bruny (Mopdogs Brunhilde)  
**9/24/21** Rico (Coppers Remember Rico Suave)



### October

**10/3/21** Bella  
**10/3/19** Canjico (Angels Cinnamon Sugar De Praderia)  
**10/3/19** Jack (Angel's Licorice Bear de Praderia)  
**10/4/07** Cookie (Avefaro Galleta de Ariosa)  
**10/5/15** Pasi (FiveNinePlus Pasionaria)  
**10/6/20** Holly (SWDPNW Sea-Holly)  
**10/6/09** Lita (FiveNinePlus Puntillitas)  
**10/7/20** Holly (Holly Spanish Water Dog Northwest)  
**10/7/20** Noodle (Noodle Spanish Water Dog Northwest)  
**10/7/20** Pancho  
**10/8/07** Mocha (Solana Avefaro de Ariosa)  
**10/10/17** Seron (Titanium De Guadalupe)  
**10/17/17** Edie (Coppers Kindred Spirt Edie)  
**10/22/19** Bogey  
**10/26/17** Bianca (Copper's Laci)  
**10/26/20** Storm (Copper's Good Gracious a Dog Gone Storm a Looming)  
**10/30/17** Mojito (Copper's Mojito on the Rocks)  
**10/31/18** Tallulah (Tallulah)

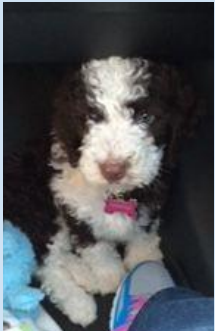


# Turko Times

Forever in Our Hearts



## Remembering Sophie by Denise Velasquez and Ruth Milstein



As David did his research when looking for our next addition, he found Linda Scheele. She was having a litter soon and David and she spoke, and we were on the list! She originally told David we would be picking up our pup in VA, but it turned out to be Traverse City, MI at the home of Cathy Wheeler, as Linda died when Sophie was three

weeks old. We talked to Cathy several times and she knew that we wanted a female that we could show and do other activities with. When we arrived at Cathy's house, it was full of puppies. There had been two litters born a week apart and each had 11 pups, plus the moms and all of Cathy's own dogs. It was quite a houseful. She showed us two females that had been evaluated as probable show pups and we picked Sophie.

As Sophie grew and fit right into our household, I noticed that there were some things that troubled me. I had eye issues myself and Sophie seemed to react like I did. When walking at dusk, she would get a little spooked by the mailboxes and garbage cans. When I came home from work, she had to get close to me in the driveway before she realized it was me. When she was almost 15 months old, David finally had her tested. David went to a dog show eye clinic and was told that Sophie had PRA and was going blind. We were devastated. I called Cathy Winkler right away and it turned out we were the second pup in the litter to be diagnosed. Later we found out that out of the 11 puppies, six are blind. This was the third mating of her parents and there were blind dogs in both other litters. At first, we stopped showing her and partaking



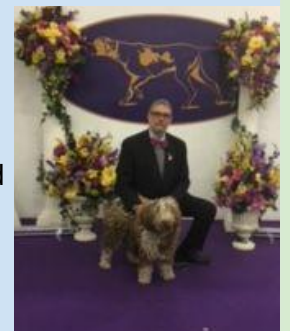
So, Sophie began showing again and winning. She did dock diving, barn hunt, lure coursing, and Fast CAT. She went to herding classes. She obtained her CGC and her Farm Dog certification.

in other AKC sports. Sophie made it abundantly clear that she was not done.



We took our clues from Sophie, and she didn't want to stop. She embraced life and stayed very active. She even was shown at Westminster. We had her eyes checked every few months and she was progressing into blindness, but she was still extremely active. By about the age of four, Sophie was completely blind. She would no longer compete, but she was still very active at home, swimming, diving, and of course catching her ball. She only bumped into things when running to fast.

Sophie's blindness was not what held her back. She developed hypothyroid, then glaucoma and cataracts, then she had auto-immune generated meningitis and was left with a head tilt. She was still her sweet and loving self and still quite active. She learned our new house in Oregon quickly but was more comfortable when we were in our Florida home. She was a trooper as we traveled back and forth across the country. She was then diagnosed with Atypical Addison's. So many medications every night and every morning. But she still stayed her sweet, loving, and active self. She did refuse most



Continued next page



# Turko Times (cont.)

Forever in Our Hearts



days to go with the gang on their long walks but took some short ones with her dad.

Sophie loved to cuddle and spoon with you. She loved her Betsy, who took on the role of her seeing-eye dog. Betsy would help her find her toys when we would throw them. She seemed to know that little Izzy was the boss and missed her when she crossed the Rainbow bridge.

Windy she tolerated, not sure she ever really loved her, and Tango and Myrtle were not her favorites. But they all seemed to understand that she couldn't see and helped her out or stayed out of her way. She was most comfortable in either of the houses but did occasionally like a car ride.



Sophie was an elegant dog, and she stayed that way till the end. She had a presence in the ring when she was showing and earned her Championship in just three weekends (once we could find a major). Everyone easily fell in love with Sophie. But to Sophie, the sun rose and set on her dad and sometimes on me. (I was second best without a doubt.)



Sophie was cuddling with Dad on the couch on a Saturday afternoon just after we had a litter of Chinese crested pups, when suddenly, out of nowhere she had a Grand Mal seizure. Off to the ER, where all her labs and neuro exam was normal. They hoped it was just a one-time thing but sent us home with meds.

Unfortunately, it was not a one-time thing and she had seven more seizures in the next 24 hours. We made the difficult decision that at 7 ½, Sophie had been through enough. Compassionate Care came to our home that Sunday evening and Sophie was surrounded by her family and her doggy family as she lovingly crossed the Rainbow Bridge. This was May 29, 2022. We miss her all the time but know she is no longer suffering and is running freely with sight.

Sophie left an amazing legacy. Our parent club, the SWDCA created Project Sophie. The researchers at Michigan State University were able to find the gene for her blindness in record time thanks to so many wonderful people from our club who sent in DNA samples. No dog needs to go blind from EO-PRA anymore if breeders test their pups for this. Sophie taught us how resilient she was throughout all her illnesses. Until the day of the seizures, she stayed true to herself. She was always active, demanded attention and loved to cuddle during downtime. She loved being in Daddy's arms and that is how she left this world. She is truly missed.



*You came into my heart one day,  
So beautiful and smart.  
My dear and sweet companion,  
I loved you from the start.  
And though I knew the time would come  
When we would have to part,  
You'll never be forgotten.  
You left pawprints on my heart.*

*author unknown*



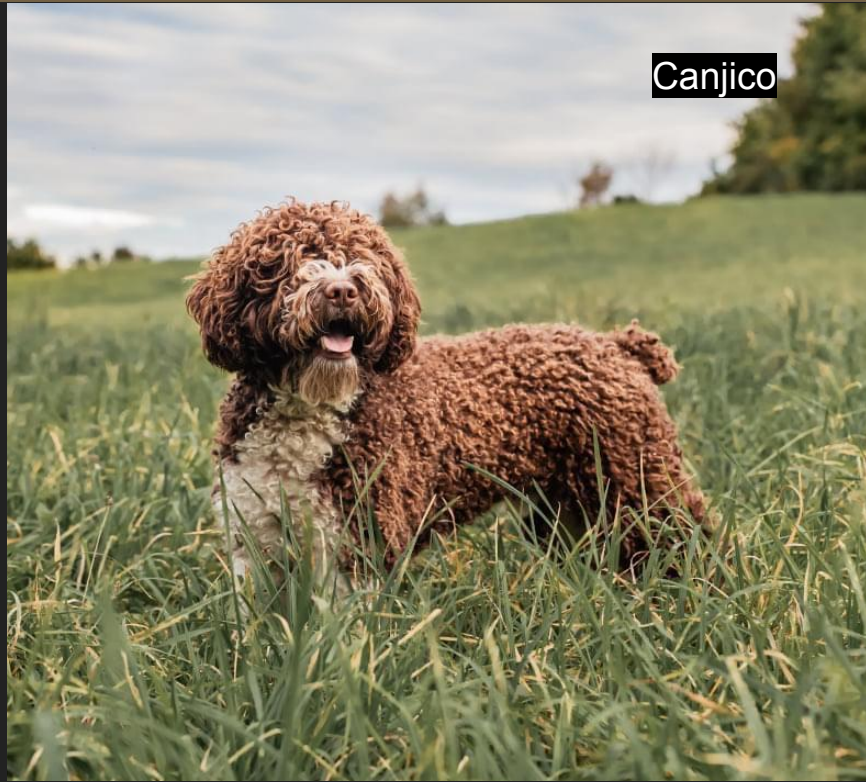
# *Cords & Capers*

Photo Gallery

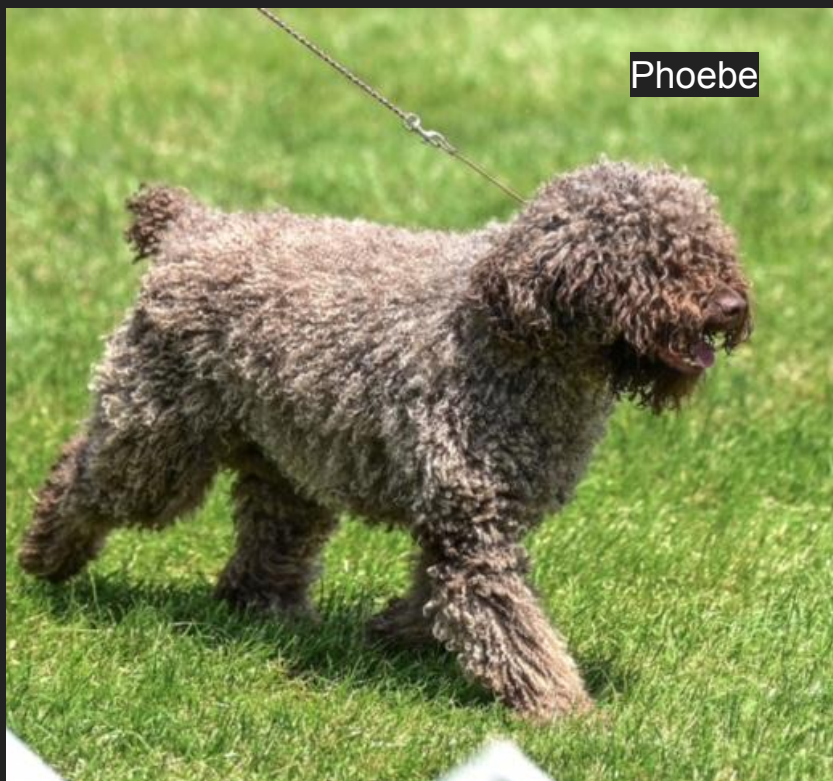
Cover Photo  
Runners-Up



Bosley



Canjico



Phoebe



# Cords & Capers

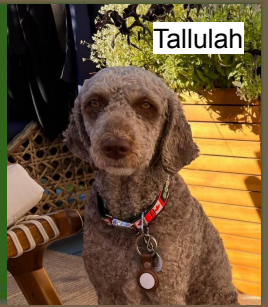
Photo Gallery





# Cords & Capers

## Photo Gallery



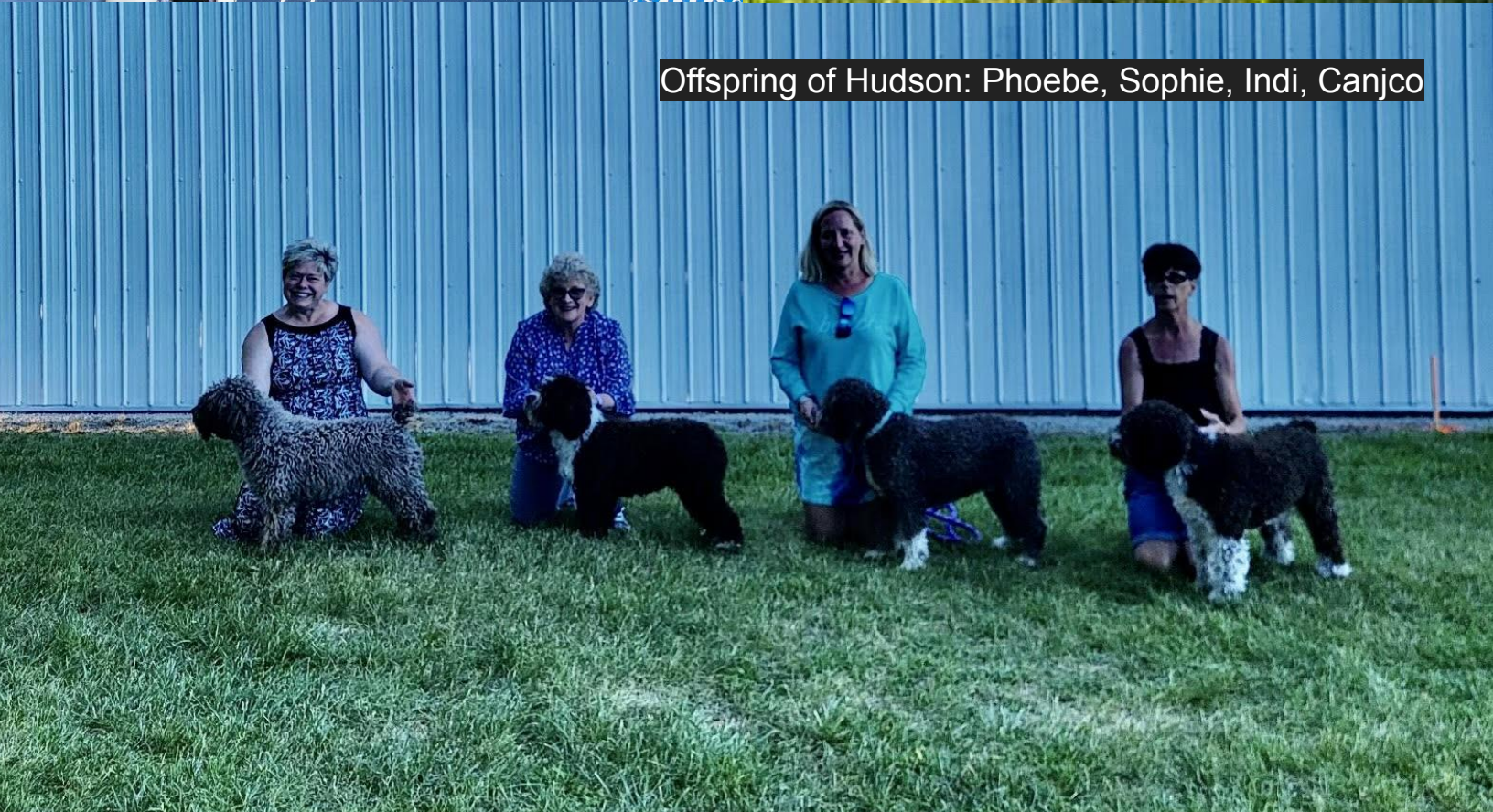
Tallulah



Teodoro



Sophie



Offspring of Hudson: Phoebe, Sophie, Indi, Canjco



# Our Staff and Contributors

## *Trish Byron, Columnist*

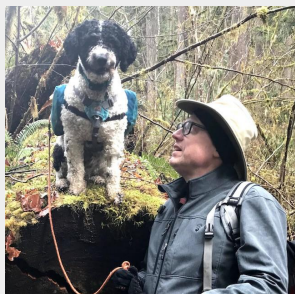
Dogs have always been a part of Dave and Trish Byron's household. During a trip to Tanglewood they were introduced to a Spanish Water Dog. It was love at first sight. After some research, Trish applied to the Rescue Committee. A few months later, they made the trip to meet Bob, then four years old. After 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 two-year old SWD, Roxy. Roxy loves action in all forms, though her favorites are swimming, long hikes, beachcombing, 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.



## *Chris Evans, Columnist*

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



## *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.

## *Art Morgan, Columnist (New)*

Art Morgan lives in San Mateo, CA, with his wife Mie and two SWDs, Paco and Izzy. Paco is a bird dog who lives to retrieve, especially in the water. Izzy is still a pup, but she definitely is showing the instincts to follow in Paco's footsteps. Art's adult daughter Nia also owns an SWD in Chicago.



Continued next page

# Our Staff and Contributors

## ***Ruth Milstein, Contributor***



Ruth and husband David started in SWD's in 2014. They live in Plantation, FL and Portland, Oregon. Ruth works as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner when not busy with the dogs. She and David do conformation, dock diving, barn hunt, and Fast Cat which keeps them busy. They love their SWD's and hope to add more to the family. They recently began training their grandson in Junior Handling with his/their SWD.

## ***Meg Normand, Reviewer/Proofer***

After years in theatrical costuming, Meg Normand loves to critique ring outfits while watching dog shows and never tires of seeing SWDs in action.

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

Donna Perone and her SWD, Murray, are BFFs. They enjoy swimming and hiking and all sorts of canine sports and activities. Murray's main job is making sure he knows the whereabouts of Donna at all



Times. His favorite activity is chasing geese around, but he is game for trying anything that looks fun, especially if there might be a treat involved.

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

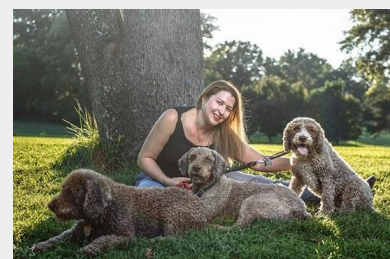
Sarah has owned SWDs since 2011. She and her dogs Cali and Indi enjoy Dock Diving, Conformation, Agility, Sheep Herding, Barn Hunt, Fast CAT, and CAT, and Dock Dogs (because the events are often held at wineries). She works as a college faculty Dept. Chair of Pharmacy Practice to support her dogs sports.



## ***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.



## ***Cindy Woodling, Columnist***



Cindy Woodling is a semi-retired College Administrator and first-time dog owner. Having lived the majority of her life in the Pocono region of Pennsylvania, she enjoys gardening, reading, and sewing, when she has time. Owning her first SWD was so rewarding that she recently added a second to her empty- nest home.



# 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	open
Website	Lisa Harper

**Club Website:** [swdclub.org](http://swdclub.org)

[Become a member](#)

### New Officers

The club will recognize the following Board of Directors positions effective October 1, 2022:

AKC Liaison - Lisa Harper  
Director West - Art Morgan  
Treasurer - Nancy Valley  
Vice President - Donna Perone



### Committee Spotlight: Judges Education

The Judges Education Committee works with judges and judges associations, training judges how to assess a Spanish Water Dog against the breed standard in the conformation ring. As a multi- purpose dog, the SWD has many physical traits specific to its many duties as a herder, hunter and diving/fisherman's assistant which are essential to breed type. The SWD was bred over the centuries to be able to perform all the many specific actions their duties entailed, which led to development of key attributes of the dog – both physical and intellectually – which are captured in the breed standard. Since the SWD is a recent addition to the AKC recognized breed list and is such a versatile breed, with its own unique characteristics, the role for the Judges Education committee is especially important at this stage of SWD expansion in the US.

#### Next Judges Education Program:

**Oregon Dog Judges Advanced Institute**  
**Rose City Classic, Portland, Oregon**  
**Herding Breeds**

**January 19-22, 2023**

**Presenters: Lisa Harper and Marnie Harrison**

Any judge or Judges Association may contact Lisa at [ariosaswds@gmail.com](mailto:ariosaswds@gmail.com) to arrange Judges Education presentations, mentorship, kennel visits and/or ring-side mentoring with AKC- or club-approved mentors.

# Spanish Water Dog Club of America

## SWDCA Code of Ethics

### *SWDCA Code of Ethics*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Below you will find the most current revision of the Code of Ethics of the Spanish Water Dog Club of America (SWDCA). The Code's nature is not punitive, rather it serves as a guideline that is informational and states the Spanish Water Dog Club of America's accepted norm.

Recommendations that have changed from prior versions of this Code of Ethics are intended to be applied in a forward-looking manner. For example, previous screening examinations performed in accordance with a prior Code of Ethics while in effect will remain acceptable. In all such circumstances, every reasonable effort should be made to parallel as closely as possible the spirit of the most current Code.

This Code will appear on the SWDCA website and in the new member packets. New members, by their application, agree to abide by and follow the guidelines outlined in the Code of Ethics. Current members, by their annual renewal, reaffirm their agreement to follow the guidelines of this Code. The Spanish Water Dog Club of America endorses the following Code of Ethics for its members.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES AS A DOG OWNER**

Members must ensure that their dogs are kept safe and under control at all times. Members should properly train their dogs so that they are an asset to their community and not a nuisance. Dogs must be maintained with their safety and good health in mind at all times. This includes adequate and appropriate attention, socialization, grooming, feeding, veterinary care, housing, and exercise.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MEMBER OF SWDCA**

Members should keep in mind that they and their dogs represent the breed, SWDCA, and the sport of purebred dogs in general. They are expected to maintain good sportsmanship at all events and competitions, abiding by the applicable rules and regulations. Members' conduct should always be in accordance with the objectives and intent of the SWDCA Bylaws (available at [www.swdclub.org](http://www.swdclub.org)).

Members are urged to accept the Spanish Water Dog Breed Standard as approved by the American Kennel Club (AKC), as the description of the ideal temperament and physical qualities by which the breed is to be judged. Members are also encouraged to take opportunities when available to educate the public about the breed and the SWDCA.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES AS A BREEDER**

##### **General Guidelines**

##### **I. Overview**

SWDCA members who breed Spanish Water Dogs are encouraged to maintain the purpose of the breed; that is:

Recognizing that the Spanish Water Dog breed was developed as a multi-purpose farm dog, to encourage improvement by careful and selective breeding of Spanish Water Dogs that possess the appearance, structure, soundness, temperament, natural ability, and personality that are characterized in the standard of the breed, and to do all possible to advance and promote these qualities. Breeders should not knowingly breed any dog who has genetic defects which are life-changing disorders. These include seizures caused by epilepsy, genetic orthopedic disorders such as hip dysplasia, and temperament issues. Not only do these disorders require lifetime management, but they impact the dog's health, alter the lifestyle of the dog and owner, and often shorten the dog's life expectancy.

##### **II. Dealing with Others**

Owners of dogs involved in a breeding or sale should ensure that appropriate documentation is readily available to the public regarding results of screening as recommended by CHIC (Canine Health Information Center). If any such examinations have not been done, this should be stated; and any past or present health or temperament concerns should be disclosed. Submission of health information, both normal and abnormal, to the OFA online database is encouraged.

##### **III. Responsibilities to the Dogs**

Members who breed should sell puppies, permit stud service, and/or lease dogs only to individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will give proper care and attention to the dogs concerned, and who may be expected to act within the intent of the statements of



# Spanish Water Dog Club of America

## SWDCA Code of Ethics (cont.)

this Code of Ethics. Members should not sell dogs at auction, or to brokers or commercial dealers. Breeders should understand that they may need to take back, or assist in finding a new home for any dog they produce at any time in its life, if requested to do so.

### IV. Record keeping

SWDCA members are encouraged to follow AKC requirements for record keeping, identification of dogs, and registration procedures. They should use clear, concise, written contracts to document the sale of dogs, use of stud dogs, and lease arrangements; including the use, when appropriate, of non-breeding agreements and/or Limited Registration. All litters should be registered with the American Kennel Club

### General Breeding Guidelines

#### I. Dogs selected for breeding should:

1. Ideally, be of temperament typical of the breed, i.e., stable, trainable, and willing to work. Temperament is of utmost importance to the breed and must never be neglected or altered from the Standard.
  2. Be of conformation typical of the breed.
  3. Be in overall good health, and be physically and mentally mature (which is generally not until two years of age).
  4. Possess examination reports and certifications as outlined below.
- II. The following reports are acceptable:**

#### Recommended tests as of 4/13/2015

1. Hips – a report from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) at 24 months of age or older; or PennHIP at 4 months of age or older; or OVC.
2. Eyes – a report from a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology. Examinations should be done within 12 months prior to a breeding. Dogs that produce offspring should continue to have ophthalmology examinations on a yearly basis for their lifetime.
3. *prcd* –PRA—a report from OptiGen
4. Compensative Autoimmune Thyroiditis— full OFA thyroid report from an approved laboratory at 24 months of age or older.

#### Optional tests as of 4/13/2015

1. Elbows – a report from the OFA at 24 months of age or older.
2. Congenital Hypothyroidism with Goiter (CHG)—DNA panel through Dr. John Fyfe, Michigan State University.

**\*\*** Any dog residing outside of the United States used for breeding should parallel as closely as possible the most up to date health evaluations as recommended by the SWDCA.

### DNA Tests

DNA tests are available for several diseases that affect Spanish Water Dogs (such as for *prcd*-PRA, CHG), and more will certainly be added over time. The SWDCA Health & Wellness Committee anticipates releasing advisory statements as new DNA tests become available. However, in a general sense, the decision to test or not should include considerations such as: the seriousness of the disease, the reliability of the test, the prevalence of the disease in the breed, and the presence of affected or carrier dogs in the vertical pedigree. The ideal use of DNA tests is to prevent producing affected puppies, while at the same time maintaining genetic diversity and gradually decreasing the prevalence of the disease gene(s) in the breed.

### Other Considerations

Consideration should also be given to other conditions that may have a genetic component, including but not limited to: cancer, epilepsy, skin disorders, allergies, longevity, swallowing disorders, and orthopedic disorders. Good breeding decisions must balance many factors, recognizing that no dog is genetically perfect; that maintaining a rich and diverse gene pool is important for the long-term health of the breed. It is suggested that breeders give the highest health priority to selection against heritable disorders that significantly decrease quality of life and that have the greatest likelihood for improvement through careful breeding decisions. SWDCA members' highest motivation is their love for their dogs, and difficult decisions should be resolved in a manner that places the best interests of the dogs and the breed at the forefront.

# American Kennel Club Code

AKC Code of Sportsmanship: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

## AKC Code of Sportsmanship

*PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companionship. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.*

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

GSSPT2 (11/16)