

The Gripper

The Official Publication of the National Perro de Presa Canario Club

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Marbles

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement shack with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it.

I turned the dial up in the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business.

He was telling whomever he was talking with something about a "thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say. "Well, Tom, it sure sounds like your busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. To bad you missed your daughter's dance recital"he continued, "Let me tell you something Tom, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities."And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years. Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their lifetime." "Now, stick with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part." "It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about this in any detail"; he went on, "and by that time I had lived through twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy."

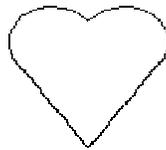
"So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up with the needed 1,100 marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container. Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away."

"I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focus more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here, on this earth, run out to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time." "It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. 75 year old man, this is K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet with a few hams to work on my next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey! Can we stop at a toy store while were out? I need to buy some, MARBLES..."

Francine Pickel



"If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you."

- Winnie the Pooh

New NPPCC Members

Steve Weiner

Cliffwood, New Jersey

Katrina Kennel of Kansas

Stanley Swistak & Realeen Rivers
Mulvane, Kansas

Daniel Meehan

Ridley Park, Pennsylvania

Harold & Carol Fulkerson

Rancho Codova, California

Sean & Cleta Sweeney

Souder, Missouri

Nick Copeland

Springfield, Missouri

Donna Perry

Merlin, Oregon

Black Diamond Kennel

Skip & Lorna Hamilton
Olney, Maryland

Joseph D. Brown

Seattle, Washington

Kyle Latreille

Ottawa, Canada

Danny Vega

Elboron, New Jersey

Shannon Abbott

New York City, New York

Heartland Kennel

Ron Schulte
Marion, Illinois

The induction of these fifteen new NPPCC members raises the club membership to one hundred thirty nine. All club officers express a warm welcome to our newest members, and encourage one and all to participate in the development of future newsletters, by sharing photos of their Presas as well as any interesting stories.

Newly Registered Presa Names

Ranger's Genghis Khan
S.S. Morado
G.A. Staczek Gomani
G.A. Prince Negro de Zeus I
R.K. Mandingo
Peni de Irema Curto
K.K. Champion Zion Davis
Pride Rock's Kona Max

C.G. Kuma
G.A. Katrina Ann
Simba II
G.A. Gunny
G.A. Kiya
Cujo
Rbl. Gahzoo
Rbl. Khandi

As of August 31, 2001, the NPPCC has recorded 906 Presa Canario Dogs. The registry to date is derived from 95 litters, consisting of 41 litters from Show Stopper Kennels, and 54 litters from 14 other club associates, duly recognized as Presa Canario breeders.

SHOW RESULTS

May 20th, Paducah Kennel Club, Paducah, Kentucky, held their combined AKC/RARE BREED dog show. Presa owners, Mark Clemens and Dr. GiGi Baker were so ecstatic with the results they had achieved at this event they just had to call their Presa breeder: Bill Thyfault of Guardian Angels Kennel and exclaim with joy G.A. Nikki had won puppy BEST in SHOW in both events, (AKC & RARE BREED). All five judges harmoniously awarded "Nikki", Best in Show. This win was over eleven other breeds. **Outstanding!!**

June 2nd & 3rd, Mount Holly, New Jersey, the RARITIES held their two-day dog show. They purposely brought over, from Spain, two FCI judges: Aldolfo Martinez Noguera & Rafael Escar Taguena. It was here that Tom Pickel of Philadelphia had entered his two Presas, (Marko & Penni). Both were confirmed by the judges as suitable for breeding. Marko de Irema Curto won Best of Breed twice and Penni de Irema Curto won Best of Breed once.

Congratulations to Tom & Francine!

August 3rd & 4th, Hillsboro, Oregon The IABCA All Breed Dog Show sponsored this two-day event. Joseph Brown, of Seattle, entered his young Presa – Pride Rock's Elizabeth II, aka: Bessie, in the JUNGSTEN class at eight months of age in three shows. She received three SG-1 ratings, qualifying her for a JU.A Championship. She also won third in the working group in two shows, edged out by a Boxer, and Rottweiler, and in one show by a Doberman. Joe tells us, "Bessie's ears are un-cropped, but they are charmingly expressive, and attractive, and I believe they helped her place in the Group events. **Well-done Joe!** For the record, Bessie is out of: Pride Rock's Kira II by S.S. Sulton.

Quips & Quotes

This is a sojourn through the development, successes, goals and special attributes, which make the Presa Canario such a unique companion- guardian, as told by their proud and loving owners.

Seattle, Washington Joseph Brown wrote to us in June, touting the success of his female Presa, Bessie, aka, Pride Rock's Elizabeth II. She had completed seven weeks of Puppy Manners and Basic Obedience, is now in her third week of Advanced Obedience. I am looking into the CGC class, Therapy dog certification, Formal Obedience, and Agility. Bessie is also a client of LaPawSpa, in Redmond, Wa. She's a good swimmer. She enjoys going to the dog parks and mountain climbing. (See photo). In August, Bessie completed 21 weeks of Obedience and has started training in **Sheep herding**. She is a natural herder, very fast and aggressive, but also controlled and disciplined. She enjoys the work very much and works the sheep enthusiastically. We worked very hard on her socialization as well. Bessie is developing a strong guardian instinct, and is very protective of her home. I couldn't be happier with her...

Many Kudos, Joe. Bessie is the first Presa we've known to exhibit these instincts. Thank you for sharing your many accomplishments with "Bessie." We're anxiously waiting to hear more about her continued development.

Jerry Pervale of Newark, New Jersey, has been successfully working his Presa, S.S. Kojack (140 lbs.), for the last two years. While Kojack is hard-hitting and aggressive on the sleeve, Jerry always wondered in the back of his mind whether Kojack would exhibit the same tenaciousness if someone were to break and enter his home. To put any doubts to rest, Jerry arranged for a knowledgeable friend, dressed in protective gear, and who had never met Kojack, to attempt to enter his home unannounced. Well, as Jerry tells us, "his friend had no sooner begun turning the door handle when Kojack was up on his feet and at the front door just as his friend step through the door, and in a flash, Kojack had the stranger in a full bite, violently- shaking his arm to such a degree he knocked the poor man off balance and Jerry was quick to his rescue. Afterward, Jerry admitted he is now 110% a believer in the Presas ability to protect. This is the same dog that he takes to the local park where Kojack loves to play tag with all the children. Kojack is a Medusa x Mufasa son.

Jamie Ramiscal of Los Angeles writes Show Stoppers, "Dear Richard, thank you so very much for the great puppy. He is smart, intelligent and an obedient dog. He enlivens our company. We love him a lot. His ears are almost healed. Enclosed are some photos. Included are the most recent one's. Everybody who sees Mo is amazed. He is a testament to your knowledge and expertise in propagating this breed. He epitomizes the ideal dog (w/some mischief) HaHaHa. Best Wishes.

As you all can tell by just looking at the photos of S.S. Movado, he is being well loved, if in fact, being spoiled. For the record, this pup is from a breeding of: S.S. Valeta de Hibernia x Hino de Irema Curto. We can't wait to see what "Mo" looks like at 6 or 8 months...

Fairfield, Pa Home of Patt & John Brunner, owners of S.S. Pojosa, and now the proud owners of a just rescued fawn male presa, Cujo aka Simba 2nd, who now weighs, 68 lbs.at 6 months of age. He is out of ARICO (Nala x Arico de los Cardones) and KIOBA (Nala x Ch. Urco). The breeder was Leon Penate Kennels, in the Gran Canaries, and Show Stoppers was the rescuer We know this pup will be a welcome addition to the Brunner family, in fact, we later learned that "Cujo" is to be John's dog. We wish them all the best and thank them for having such a loving heart.

The Posner's, Arthur & Frieda, of Fort Plains, NY, drove 4½ hrs to visit Show Stopper Kennels and meet the prospective bridegroom – Ch. G'Kar de Alacant-Bull, all 140 lbs., as the sire to a probable breeding with their Presa S.S. Victoria Posner. You can see Vicki watching over her domain in the photo gallery. Take notice of the wood frame structure directly behind her, that's her heated sleeping quarters within a 50 -foot fenced in compound. Talk about spoiling your Presa. Three-year old Victoria is out of Gr.Ch. S.S. Medusa TT x Gr.Ch. S.S. Mufasa TT.

We believe this should make for a match.

Quick comment from Bob: "a few months ago I rescued a one year old female Presa here in the Kansas City area. I'm not sure about the mother but the father comes from Show Stoppers. I'm 99% sure that the Grandfather is S.S. Posiden TT, aka: BULL. Comparing Photos they look the same. Anyway, aside from all the BS on the web about you guys, I am one happy Presa owner and want to thank you. All your hard work shows in my dog. I am now searching for a trainer or club in the Kansas City area to help me get started in protection training. My desire is to enhance what she was born with, not create a monster.

Brad Martin of Dallas Texas writes, I have a Presa female, "CG. Kuma." She is a daughter of S.S. Mongo, out of S.S. Maleetah. She weighs 110 lbs. at 6 months of age.

Kathy Hurst, Greenup, Kentucky, is the owner & breeder of Presa Canario as well as Rat Terriers. Her Presa female, Rbl Tsunami, recently had 13 pups sired by Ch. G'Kar. Strangely enough, one of Kathy's Rat Terriers had a litter at the same time and what was truly interesting was to watch these 6- week old Presa & Terrier pups interacting with each other. Those Terriers, while one- third the Presa weight, were equally as tenacious as the Presas. Coarse, in a few months the little guys would just be a snack for the big guys. We wish to extend a hearty welcome and much continued success, to both Kathy and hubby-Buddy, as one of our newest Presa Canario breeders.

Would you believe!! A stranger calls Show Stoppers at 12:45 am claiming he had dilemma, Richard having answered the call says "you certainly do, we're closed and we were asleep, good-night. Early next morning, this individual calls back with apologies and explains he has a litter of, seven Presa pups and when he left them with their mother and his two children, ages 6 & 4, everything was fine. When he returned, the mother had eaten the largest female. Could we explain why? After getting my heart going, I asked, "Was this your first litter?" He answered, "yes." Had he ever raised any litters of any breed? "No" he responded Well, the first thing to do is to remove your children from the whelping area and consider yourself fortunate that your children were not killed or severely mauled. Whelping dogs are prone to exhibit their primitive instinct to protect their young against anyone and everyone and have been known to severely injure their bonded owners. We advised him to search out his breeder and his local vet to help him through this ongoing situation. Some people just don't have a clue about breeding dogs!

Stranger then it seems! Bill Thyfault of Guardian Angels Kennel sold a pet quality Presa to a farmer located 6 miles from his kennel.

Just the other day the farmer called Bill and told him he observed the strangest sight he has ever seen. He had a cow grazing out in one of the fields, with her was a young calf, and when she would leave the calf to go get a drink of water, the Presa Bo would go and lay down beside the calf. When the cow would return, the Presa would get up and leave. This scene happened several times that the farmer witnessed. The old farmer told Bill these are truly unique and wonderful dogs.

Black Diamond Kennel, Maryland Skip and Lorna Hamilton write, "Dear Mr. Kelly, I want to thank you for your continued efforts in the preservation and development of the Perro de Presa Canario. It is your dedication and loyalty to the breed that has brought me to the point of following your traditions. I also wish to thank you for taking the time in working with Ross Poole of Elite Guardian Kennels, for without his ferocity in the breeding program as well as his dedication and friendship I would have not been able to become part of this organization as fast, or should I say have the desire to become a club member so soon. Either way you slice it, it is still an honor to know you and your finished dog "G'Kar", who made a lasting impression on my children and wife. We will work hard to keep the standards of the breed as directed by the NPPCC, and adhere to the clubs Code of Ethics.

Anthony & Michelle Ruta write: "We are sorry it has taken so long to send you pictures of S.S. Naya, but our recent wedding and new home has taken up a lot of our time. Anyway, we want you to know that Naya is in good hands and that she is growing steadily. She is almost 8 months old and weighs just over 80 lbs. She is a treat to be around and makes us laugh often. She is very strong and has been showing the Presa traits and characteristics since six months. We are very pleased!! We also believe that she scared a burglar from our property, because one night while in bed, Naya shot straight up off the ground and started barking loudly. This was the first time we ever saw her do that and it was a sight to see. The muscles in her chest and legs were pumped and were bulging beautifully. She was urging to go outside, so we let her go. While on the leash she stayed close and her eyes and ears were constantly moving with intensity. At this time, we did not know what had set her off. We later found out that someone attempted to break into the house next door. We believe that Naya's actions scared the burglar away and at the very least made him think twice about breaking into our home. (Check out the photos, of Naya). She is out of Zula de Alacant-Bull x Ch. G'Kar de Alacant-Bull.

HEALTH NOTES

Penn Hip Info: This information was presented at the 2000 Veterinary Orthopedic Society meeting. A survey of 260 dogs radio-graphed at Pennsylvania for a Penn Hip score. The results were also submitted to OFA for the score showed the following:

- 53% of OFA "Excellent were looser than 0.3 DI
- 77% of OFA "Goods were looser than 0.3 DI. The loosest good had a DI of 0.77
- 93% of OFA "Fair were looser than 0.3 DI

"I will leave to all of you to draw what conclusions you may, as I would consider this open to interpretation". Penn Hip's point was to acknowledge the discrepancies in the results and the disappointment breeders may have at the differences. Penn Hip wished to remind us: (Penn Hip certified vets), to remind our clients of the greater usefulness of DI over OFA ratings in selecting breeding stock. "The uniformly higher values of inheritability of DI indicates that a DI is a better predictor of genotype than that of OFA".

Lisa Kaylene Powell, DVM

Joe Brown of Seattle, Washington, reports: My female Presa – Bessie, scored a 0.48 DI rating in her Penn Hip exam, with a ranking of 80th percentile for those Presa Canarios that have been tested. This score ties with that of the only Presa ever to receive an OFA Excellent. Her veterinarian said her score was very good, and that he knows she will pass her OFA at age two. Besides good breeding, I think getting lots of exercise and a raw diet helped achieve a good score. Bessie gets a raw stew consisting of 1 ¼ lb. Gizzards and ¾ lb. Pureed vegetables daily, plus a half fryer (about 2 lbs.), and a cooked yam daily, plus yogurt, herbal supplements, flax seed oil and glucosamine. She hikes once or twice a week, usually 3-4 miles and climbs to elevations of 1,500 to 3,500 vertical feet. At 8 ½ months, she is a trim 75 lbs.

Dana Childers of Pride Rock's Kennel writes: Hi, just wanted to let you know that "Miss Behaven"(S.S. Mercedes x S.S. Sul-ton) was rated OFA Good. She is the fawn, 2 year old that I was going to sell, but I backed out of the sale because I liked her so much. Check out her photos.