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The Gripper

The Official Publication of the
United Perro de Presa Canario Club

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New UPPCC Members

Charles & Teresa Ballard

Penndel, Pennsylvania

Sam Nelson

Belleville, Illinois

Mose Huggis Jr.

Topeka, Kansas

Aron Woolman

Chicago, Illinois

Howard N. Brock

Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Walter Appelle

Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey

Peter Quintana

Readington, New Jersey

Michael Giampapa

Lorton, Virginia

Daniel E. Ahl

Stockbridge, Georgia

Aaron Z. Lomac

San Diego, California

Brian & Amaya Stoltz

Stewartstown, Pennsylvania

Tom Kautz

Atchison, Kansas

Russell H. Tice

Circleville, New York

Karen Clifford

Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania

Raymond Kay

Lakeside, California

Douglas Glover

Homosassa Springs, Florida

Aldolfo Sanchez

Frederick, Maryland

Michael Rzepecki

Romulus, Michigan

Sean Sweeny

Souder, Missouri

Jose Rivera

Plantation, Florida

Earl Brown
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mark Gumola
Lexington, South Carolina

Cindy Ashton
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Mark Hopkins
Greenbelt, Maryland

Jay Kim
Silver Springs, Maryland

Rob Heimbagt
Baltimore, Maryland

Eugene Acevedo & Katherine Rivera
Brooklyn, New York

Joe Lobrutto
Astoria, New York

Timothy Barber
Kankakee, Illinois

Greg Mock
Lansing, Michigan

Damon W. Richardson
Glen Dale, Maryland

Eugene Mizell Jr.
Linden, New Jersey

Larry McCall
Topeka, Kansas

Kara Bosch
St.Louis, Missouri

This elect group of 34 new club members is the largest enrollment in any single Trimester, since the inception of the founding club, the NPPCC, starting in 1990. The breed club now known as the "United Perro de Presa Canario Club (UPPCC) extends a hearty welcome to this outstanding group of Presa Canario owners. Our membership now stands at 248 and is growing rapidly and is represented in 34 contiguous states and several foreign countries.

Thought: A man and his dog were walking along a road, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and the dog walking with him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading. ".Soon he was standing before a magnificent gate in a tall archway with a street of gold leading to the pearly gate. He and the dog walked towards the gate and saw a man at a desk. He asked, "where are we?" "This is heaven, sir" the man answered. "Wow! Would you happen to have some water?" the man asked. "Of coarse, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up." "Can my friend," gesturing towards his dog, "come in too?" the traveler asked. "I'm sorry sir, but we don't accept pets." The man thought a moment and then turned back towards the road and continued on the way he had been going with his dog. After a long walk along a dirt road, he came to a farm with a gate that looked as if it had never been closed. As he approached the gate, he saw a man, leaning against a tree and reading a book. "Excuse me!" he called to the man. "Do you have any water?" "Yeah, sure, there's a pump over yonder." "Come on in." "How about my dog?" "There's a bowl by the pump," the man said. They went through the gate and sure enough there was an old fashioned pump with a bowl beside it. After quenching their thirst, the man and dog walked back towards the man by the tree and asked, "What do you call this place?" "This is Heaven" was the answer. "Well that's confusing" the traveler said. "The man down the road said that was Heaven too." "Oh you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's Hell." "Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?" The man answered, "No. I can see how you might think so, but we're just happy that they screen out the folks who'll leave their best friends behind."

Jean Pickel

New Presa Names

Asia de Irema Curto
BCK - El Zorro
BCK - Tera
Cast's Sir Guru Gigante
Congo
Conquistador - Roberto
D.D. Diablo Ellepola - Stoltz
Digi Digi Caesar

BCK - Bruno Acevedo
BCK - Kira
Cast's Shasha Girl
China
Conquistador Bruno
D.D. Bruno
Digi Digi Brindy
Digi Digi Erdely Andrassi

ECPC - Sumo	Eric's Shasha
Faith	Fina de Irema Curto
Hector	Isis II
JDC - Miss Taboo	G.A. Angelina
G.A. Bruno	G.A. Buka
G.A. Daddy Fat Sacks	G.A. Gotti
G.A. Julius	G.A. Maxmillion
G.A. Nina de Top Notch	G.A. Ruckus Humbles
G.A. Teka	GCK - Buster
Kay's Chica Bella	King Kong
Kudo	Letalone Creek Jordan T. oak
Max Bantay Birtha	Maximus - Kim
MK - Bomhoff's Black Silk	MK - Jade
MK - Ninja	MK - Pac
MK - Princess Cocoa	Mock's Eva
Ranger Nora B of Tall Oaks	P.G. Tapanga
Patriot Scott	Princess Cut Diamond
S.S. Annika	S.S. Arippa
S.S. Ada	S.S. Euryale
S.S. Gius Caesar	S.S. Kaela
S.S. Niobe	S.S. Rilya
S.S. Tiberius	S.S. Tyson
Sin Garcia	Sledge Hammer 2K3
Top Notch Valor	Torey's Onyx
Untouchable	Urbo's Lynx
Urbo's Teegra	W.K. Jove of Tall Oaks
	X.S. Hera

At the end of September - 2003, the UPPCC has recorded one thousand four hundred sixty eight, (1,468) Presa Canario dogs. This figure includes the 134 pups/dogs recorded in this last trimester. The club registry is comprised of 165 litters, registered by our affiliated club breeders and club members who are located throughout 40 of the 50 states as well as in 17 foreign countries.

Be carefull what you wish for! A bus carrying only ugly people crashes into an oncoming truck, and everyone inside dies. They then get to meet their maker, and because of the grief they have experienced; the Lord decides to grant them one wish each, before they enter Paradise. They're all lined up, and God asks the first person what their wish is. "I want to be gorgeous," and so God snaps his finger, and it is done. The second one in line hears this and says, "I want to be gorgeous too." Another snap of His finger and the wish is granted. This goes on for a while, with everyone wishing to be gorgeous, but when God is halfway down the line, He notices the last guy in line starting to laugh. When there only 10 people left to go, this guy is rolling on the floor laughing hysterically. Finally, God reaches the guy and asks him what his wish will be. The guy calms down and says: "Make'em all ugly again!"

Jean Plckel

Special Notice
Special Notice

Foundation Stock Breeds Approved for Competition As noted in the October issue of Dog World Magazine, the American Kennel Club (AKC) has approved Foundation Stock breeds (FSS) to compete in AKC Companion events, including Obedience, Tracking, and Agility, effective Jan. 01, 2004. One of the seventeen approved breeds is our own Perro de Presa Canario. This outstanding decision by the AKC, will afford every Presa Canario owner, an opportunity to work towards titling their Presas, in all AKC events. If your Presa is not registered with the AKC/FSS, you should e-mail the AKC Foundation Stock Service at: fss@akc.org or call 919/816-3766 and speak with Customer Service representative. In any event, both AKC/FSS & UKC require a breed club pedigree be sent along with your application for registry. The pedigree can be obtained by contacting Richard Kelly, UPPCC, 239 Raritan Ave., Middlesex, NJ. 08846-1025. This AKC announcement coupled with the approved United Kennel Clubs (UKC) acceptance of our breed as Perro de Presa Canario, now offers our club (UPPCC) and our breed, the national exposure needed to elevate the historical Perro de Presa Canario to its highest status.

Kennel Club Books Inc. has just released the newest, 155-page, hardcover book, Perro de Presa Canario by Manuel Curto Gracia. The book is a comprehensive series of full-color breed specific dog photos as well as sections on breed-specific health concerns, training considerations and puppy selection. This book retails for \$24.95. Kennel Club Books offers the United Perro de Presa Canario Club an opportunity to purchase this book at a 50% discount based on the purchase of full cartons of 20 books per case. This book would make for a really nice customer gift or to even resell for a nominal fee of \$15. If you wish additional information you may call Kennel Club Books at: 877/536-2582 or E-mail: dcalhoun@kennelclubbooks.com

UPPCC - First Annual Board of Directors Meeting held on September 12, 2003, at the Best Western Diamond Inn, Gray Summit, Missouri. One of the new orders of business was to enhance our board of directors by voting out those who were unable to provide the needed support due to extenuating circumstances. Three new directors were unanimously voted into office, they are: Sam Nelson, Belleville, Illinois, Mose Huggis Jr., Topeka, Kansas and Jack Pickel, Williamstown, New Jersey. Congratulations to each of these men and we look forward to their future contributions. The UPPCC now has a full complement of four officers and ten directors.

National Specialty Contributors Special thanks for the generosity of Mark Clemens and GiGi Baker of Mango Kennels and their \$210 donation to help offset the clubs deficit. Also, we would like to thank Show Stopper Kennels for donating the Best in Show & Best of Opposite trophies.

Show News

Joe Brown of Seattle, Washington proudly exhibits his Bessie's temperament test certificate. Notice her titles of: IABCA JuA, Ju, Ch. Pride Rock's Elizabeth II, TT-3-PC.

Congratulations!

Houston, Texas The American rare Breed Association (ARBA) held 4 dog shows on May 17th. Cedal Rogers & Deitre Harris of Top Notch Kennels entered their, 7 month, 120 lb. black brindle male pup, TNK - Kobe, who proceeded to win 4 - Best of Breed & 4-CACs, then won 3 group 1 & a group 2, and finally finished with a BEST of SHOW RESERVE. This was Cedals and Deitre very first attempt at exhibiting at a dog show. It's apparent they did quite well. Congratulations and well done! For the record, KOBE is out of S.S. Pulp Fiction by Ch. G'Kar TT.

ISRAEL - June 3rd. Presa Canario owner - Shimi Atar, owner of M.K. Don, a two year old presa out of S.S. Zorro II & G.A. Salsa, competed in his first show and won his first Best of Breed along with his first CAC. The Presa Canario breeder in Israel is Meir Kashani.

Manalapan, New Jersey On June 7th, ARBA held their Classic dog show. Jack & Jean Pickel of Breeders Choice Kennel entered their female Presa - Rbl. BCK Zena in the two open classes and won 2 Best of Breed and a major Group 3 win. This completed her requirements for both an ARBA championship and her UPPCC championship. She is now known as: ARBA, UPPCC Ch. Rbl. BCK Zena CGC,TT.

S.S. Silent Storm, aka Dante, owned by Alex Moya of Hoboken, New Jersey, competed in the New Jersey ARBA dog show, on June 7th. Dante was entered in the 9 to 12 month puppy classes where he won one Best of Breed and one Best of Opposite. This was a first time

exhibition for both Alex and Dante. We would like to extend a hearty congratulations and look forward to their future competition.

South Carolina, "Hog Catch Event" A special catch event was held on September 13/14. Digi Digi Kennel entered two presa, Cirvantes and Reina. Both dogs placed 2nd and 3rd respectively out of the five presas entered. This is quite an achievement, for Tyrone Brown, Rashan Cummings and John Peponakis.

UKC - Weight Pull Event Joe Brown entered his presa Bessie in the UKC pulling event and picked up some more points toward her United Weight Pull Championship (UWPC). Bess's best pull was 3,600 lbs. Not bad for a female presa weighing 95 lbs. Bess was psyched out and spent most of her time in the chute screaming at me, then, in the last 10 seconds she would hurl the cart to the end. The brakeman kept ribbing me about getting her to slow down. Everybody is a comedian.

Snappy Answer The cop got out of his patrol car and approached the kid who was stopped for speeding as he rolled down his window. "I've been waiting for you all day," the cop said. The kid replied, "Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could." When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

National Specialty National Specialty

Purina Farms, Gray Summit, Missouri, was the site of the UPPCC first Annual National event, held on September 12,13 &14. The show grounds were primo and the Purina personnel were most obliging. Even with the rain, everyone was well protected under huge canvass tents. The location was an easy drive from the show hotel (about 1 mile). Friday evening, the UPPCC officers and Directors held their official club meeting. The Saturday events consisted of two confirmation segments, the Sweeps and the National Specialty officiated by Judge J.Ray Johnson, this was followed by a special written critique of the dogs entered by Judge Fred Lanting, the next event to follow was the Temperament Test administrated by the AMERICAN TEMPERAMENT TEST SOCIETY. UKC representative - Mark Threlfall was on hand to observe the specialty and to prepare an article for the December issue of their magazine - BLOODLINES. The conclusion to the Saturday events was a special dinner featuring guest speaker & renowned author Fred Lanting. Freds lecture on Canine Hip Dysplasia and other orthopedic problems was quite informing and appreciated by all in attendance. On Sunday, the membership along with their presas put on weight pulling and protection demonstrations. Fred Lanting then lectured and demonstrated the "Analytical Approach to Evaluating Dogs: describing how to chose studs, pick puppies and judging dogs in the ring or from ringside based on gait and structure. Sadly, it was then time to part with newly made friends and travel the long journey home. Nineteen Presas entered the Confirmation events, fourteen dogs were critiqued and confirmed, and eight of nine presas (18 months & older) passed their Temperament Test and were certified. Following are the individual results:

SWEEPS WINNERS	Judge: J. Ray Johnson
3 to 6 month puppy	S.S. Euryale Joseph Hughes
3 to 6 month bitch	Guardian Angels Angelina Bill Thyfault Guardian Angels Kennel
6 to 9 month dog	G.A. Julius Ceaser Mark Clemens & GiGi Baker Mango Kennels
6 to 9 month bitch	S.S. Lilith Mark Clemens & GiGi Baker Mango Kennels
9 to 12 month dog	TNK Kobe Cedal Rogers & Deitre Harris Top Notch Kennels
9 to 12 month bitch	TNK G'Mia Cedal Rogers & Deitre Harris Top Notch Kennels
Winners Dog	TNK Kobe Cedal Rogers & Deitre Harris Top Notch Kennels

Winners Bitch S.S. Lilith
 Mark Clemens & GiGi Baker
 Mango Kennels
BEST of BREED TNK Kobe
BEST of OPPOSITE S.S. Lilith

STUD DOG Ch.G'Kar, TT

NATIONAL SPECIALTY WINNERS **Judge:** J. Ray Johnson
Jr.Puppy Bitch (3 to 6) Guardian Angels Angelina
 Bill Thyfault
6 to 9 month dog G.A. Julius Ceaser
 Mark Clemens & GiGi Baker
 Mango Kennels
9 to 12 month dog TNK Kobe
 Cedal Rogers & Deitre Harris
9 to 12 month bitch S.S. Lilith
 G.A. Julius Ceaser
 Mark Clemens & GiGi Baker
 Mango Kennels
Bred by Exhibitor AKCM Brando
 Mark Clemens & GiGi Baker
 Mango Kennels
Open Dog Sancho de Espinoza
 David Espinoza
Open Bitch Pride Rock's Elizabeth II
 Joe Brown
Champion Dog G.A. Marcus AureliusMark Clemens & GiGi Baker
 Mango Kennels
Champion Bitch Rbl. BCK Zena
 Jack & Jean Pickel
 Breeders Choice Kennel
Winners Dog TNK Kobe
Reserve Winners Dog Sancho de Espinoza
Winners Bitch S.S. Lilith
Reserve Winners Bitch Pride Rock's Elizabeth II
BEST of BREED TNK Kobe
BEST of OPPOSITE Rbl. BCK Zena

Adult Dogs Confirmed **Judge:** Fred Lanting

1	Pride rock's Elizabeth II	Very Good
2	TNK Kobe	Excellent
3	Ch. G'Kar	Excellent
4	S.S. Llith	Excellent
5	G.A. Marcus Aurelius	Excellent
6	Rbl. BCK Zena	Excellent
7	G.A. Maxmillion Mose Hugghis Jr. Mokan kennels	Very Good
8	Marco de Irema Curto Tom Pickel East Coast Presa Canario Kennel	Excellent
9	Sancho de Espinoza	Excellent

Puppies Critiqued **Judge:** Fred Lanting

1	G.A. Julius Ceaser	Very Promising
2	Guardian Angels Angelina	Promising
3	S.S. Euryale	Good
4	Patriot	Very Promising
5	Guardian Angels Congo Steve Craig	Promising

Temperament Test Certification Administrator: Carl Herkstroeter

- 1** Ch. G'Kar, TT
Richard Kelly
Show Stopper Kennels
- 2** G.A. Flo Jo, TT
Mark Clemens & GiGi Baker
Mango Kennels
- 3** G.A. Marcus Aurelius, TT
- 4** G.A. Maxmillion, TT
- 5** G.A. Shack, TT
Cedal Rogers & Deitre Harris
Top Notch Kennels
- 6** Sancho de Espinoza, TT

Comments:

The Specialty was truly amazing! I made many new friends, seen some great dogs and met some of the nicest people. I am so glad that I made the effort and went to the first UPPCC Specialty.

Tom Pickel

What a GREAT turnout for the first UPPCC NATIONAL SPECIALTY, lots of quality dogs and great people from all over the USA. Joe Brown drove from Seattle, Washington, Dave Espinoza and family drove from Phoenix, Az., Cedal & Deitre with their entire entourage coming from Houston, Bill Thyfault, Mose Huggis and friends from Kansas and let's not forget the Pickel brothers from New Jersey. Many members put forth an extraordinary effort to help make this event a success. All the officers and directors extend our thanks to the Purina Farms staff, to our wonderful judges and ring steward, and to all the exhibitors. All I can say is "What a show and WHAT A RIDE!"

Jack Pickel

From LuvMyPresas What a great trip! The weather was great going and coming, that's always a plus. Gosh! I don't know where to begin but I'll try. TNK G'Mia - I'm sure you've seen the picture that Joe posted of me, and Trey rubbing some ones tummy? Well that was G'Mia. What a sweetheart. I asked if we could pet her, "sure" says Cedal. So I approach her, pet her for a second, then plop, she went on her back with legs up ready for a tummy rub. Well, I rubbed her tummy while she licked Treys face. Then after a few minutes she got up.... But wait...ummm...she decided she wasn't done and plopped right back down for more tummy rubs. She's not spoiled! MUCH! What an angel.

Ch. G'Kar - WOW! How do I describe this beautiful big beast. Check the picture of me, and Trey petting G'Kar on the El Presa forum. When I started petting him he placed his weight up against me, I fell instantly in love with this loveable, mushy, awesome dog. That was it I immediately started looking for room in our truck to take him home. He's got an awesome temperament. Even when he was in his kennel, Trey and I would make sure to visit and pet him and he would position his body tight to the kennel wire so that he could feel us petting him. I hope that everyone someday has an opportunity to meet G'Kar. I know that Joe's Bessie sure was flirting with him. It was so obvious it just cracked us up. Sancho was also flirting with G'Mia. We'll have to wait and see how these long distance relationships last.

Marko and Zena pictures do not do them justice, they are more beautiful in person and have great temperaments. Of course, Trey and I made the rounds and had to pet Marko in his kennel also, an awesome dog. It was nice to meet Tom and Jack Pickel.

Mark Clemens had six Presas on site. Obviously I didn't get to pet them all, but you can be sure I won't miss any next time. Mark and his wife, GiGi, sure were busy.

Ciro de Irema Curto just wanted to play with the big dogs. His colors are beautiful. I can't wait to see him when he matures.

Joe Brown and Bessie, she is the coolest dog! Joe showed us what she learned doing Shutzhund. She's good. I was pretty impressed to see a dog crawl on command. All she wanted to do was plat with Trey at the hotel. I'm glad I finally met Bessie and to meet Joe, the man who keeps Dave up at nights laughing!

To all the others I missed - Thank you for sharing your nice Presas! I think I died and went to Presa heaven!

Richard Kelly - You are very special to me and I'm sure to a lot of other people for many reasons. I owe you and your wife a big thank

you for all you have done for us. It was a Pleasure meeting you!

Louise

Read each sentence slowly and think about it:

- Love starts with a smile, grows with a kiss, and ends with a tear
- Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget
- BEST FRIENDS are the siblings God forgot to give us
- When it hurts to look back, and you're scared to look ahead, you can look beside you and your BEST
- Friend will be there
- Don't let the past hold you back you're missing the good stuff
- REMEMBER, every minute spent angry is sixty seconds of happiness wasted

Quips & Quotes

Maureen Haviland shares some insight with Loraine Kelly. She reminded Loraine that they had spoken on the phone a few weeks ago about her little Cocker Spaniel/Jack Russell terrier who was picking fights with their presa - Klea. You were very helpful. As it turns out, Klea has handled the situation herself. The little guy challenged her once again, and we watched carefully, ready to intervene if necessary! What Klea did was to pin him down under her paws, as he began snarling, barking, and trying to bite her. She just held him down until he calmed himself. Now he is acting very respectful of her! At the pet store, they told me this is how the mother dog would discipline an unruly pup. Our vet was very impressed that Klea handled the confrontation so maturely, considering she is only 9 months old. We are cautiously optimistic that the little will be able to stay!

Red Bluff, California Steve Mandolfo questions the UPPCC if there is an area close by to have his presa temperament tested. I would love to put my presa through some testing. My phone number is 530/529-4548. By the way my 145 lb. male presa (Primo) has everything a dog could ask for. Many acres to roam, great bed, quality food, and his own watering trough, a pond to cool off in (he is a black brindle and it gets hot here), some companion dogs to play with, and a family that loves him. His day consists of laying around, swimming, laying around, wrestling other dogs, laying around, chasing ground squirrels, laying around, truck rides and oh yea, laying around. I admit he has it rough. To tell a short story about people who think big presas are slow clumsy dogs. I have turkeys. One day I was in the turkey pasture with a mama turkey that was being very protective about her new babies. She was rushing the fence where I was standing with Primonth She was only trying to ward off the nearby dogs. But in the presas eyes she was exhibiting aggression and I could see he was getting angry and frustrated that he couldn't get through the fence to get her. It was then the neighbors 1 year-old, 70lb., Lab/Pit cross, jumped the fence and began chasing after the many turkeys. I jumped the fence and subdued the dog. During this process Primo was so agitated by the threatening turkeys he slipped by me as I opened the gate to get out and focused his attention on a male turkey. Within nano seconds he ran about 150 feet and pinned the turkey on its back. My immediate reaction was anger that he charged the bird, but then proud to see such speed. When I reached the pair I gave him the out command, which he did. Funny thing is this mean turkey would never let anyone touch him and here he was frozen on his back allowing me to pick him up and set him on his feet. Other than a few lost feathers the bird was unharmed.

Snappy Answers A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asks a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" The stock boy replies, "No ma'am, they're dead."

S.S. Malcomb stopped by for a visit. At 7 ½ months his weight is now 124 lbs. of solid muscle. Owner Karen Clifford testifies his conditioning is from his daily regimen of swimming in the lake. Lucky dog!

Health Notes

Degenerative Joint Disease Approximately 25 - 30% of family pets suffer from osteoarthritis. The stiffness, pain and swelling in a pet with arthritis is essentially no different than what you, as a human would experience. Arthritis in pets, as in humans, is a debilitating disease that greatly affects your pet's health and well being. With the onset of arthritis, also known as DEGENERATIVE JOINT DISEASE, a healthy, happy playful animal can quickly turn listless and pain ridden.

Supplements such as GLUCOSAMINE and CHONDROITIN are quickly becoming the most widely used supplements in dogs' diets. The reason is this: arthritis in dogs is one of the most common health problems seen by veterinarians. These substances have proven to be significant contributors to easing the discomfort of arthritis in dogs. Not to mention they actually promote healing and tissue repair. NuJoint Plus is a natural anti-inflammatory hip and joint therapy formulated with the finest pharmaceutical human-grade ingredients such as:

Glucosamine provides the joints with the building blocks needed to repair the damage caused by osteoarthritis. Acting as a catalyst, Glucosamine helps animals synthesize new cartilage needed to replace damaged cartilage caused by wear and tear. Hip dysplasia occurs when wear and tear breaks down cartilage.

MSM supplies biologically active sulfur to animal's joints. Use of MSM has been shown to reduce the rigidity of cells in the soft tissue of the body. By reducing this rigidity, fluids are able to pass more freely from the cell and this helps to reduce cell pressure thereby reducing inflammation and pain.

Chondroitin attracts and holds fluid within cartilage tissue helping to lubricate joints, increase mobility and reduce discomfort caused by hip dysplasia. Chondroitin neutralizes the destructive enzymes that are known to damage and destroy cartilage. Chondroitin aids the entry of Glucosamine into inflamed joints. Vitamin C promotes cartilage growth and tissue repair.

To order, contact: NuVet Labs at 1/800-474-7044 - order code: 56221

What's weighing down your pet?

You've seen them - dogs with saggy, draggy tummies. Maybe your pet fits that dismal description. The big difference between plump people and chubby pets is that we have total control over their eating habits, even if we can't control our own. Until your dog figures out how to open the refrigerator or cupboard, we have only ourselves to blame, unless hypothyroidism (sluggish thyroid) is diagnosed.

Once hypothyroidism has been ruled out, the solution is simple. You must feed less. Instead of high-caloric treats, substitute fruits and veggies. Many dogs chomp on a raw carrot with the same glee as a chunk of steak. Presas loves ripe bananas.

Veterinarian medical research indicates overweight dogs manifest more visible signs of aging, such as graying muzzles, impaired gait and reduced activity levels, at an earlier age than lean animals. Obesity also leads to lameness, diabetes mellitus and skin conditions, and puts a strain on internal organs as well.