

The GRIPPER

The Official Publication of the
United Perro de Presa Canario Club

Contents: May 2005

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A real miracle?

A little girl went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. the total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes. Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall's Drug Store. She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention but he was too busy at that moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffling noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said without waiting for a reply to his question. "Well, I want to talk to you about my brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick...and I want to buy a miracle." I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist. "His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?" "We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little. "Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a, well dressed, man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?" "I don't know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up with tears. "I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money." "How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago. "One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered barely audible. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to." "Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents---the exact price of a miracle for little brothers." He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the miracle you need."

The well dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neuro- surgery. The operation was completed free of charge and it wasn't long before Andrew was home again and doing well.

Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place. "That surgery," her Mom whispered, "was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?" Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost...one dollar and eleven cents...plus the faith of a little child.

In our lives, we never know how many miracles we will need. A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law.

New Club Members

Lucas Miller
Topeka, Kansas

Eldridge J. Smith
Beaverdam, Virginia

Connie Gillison
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Michael & Claudia Knight
Tampa, Florida

Darrell Lucas
Seatonville, Illinois

Noah Lipper
Palm Bay, Florida

Tara Harp
Kalispell, Montana

Jason Martino
Randolph, New Jersey

Deborah Vigil
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Richard Denton
Plant City, Florida

Tyler Smith
Holiday, Florida

Chantette M. Stallworth
East Boston, Massachusetts

Mathew & Denise Shaffer
Bel Alton, Virginia

Tomas Rodriquez
Oglesby, Illinois

Christine Cummings
Seatonville, Illinois

Joseph Whitaker III
Baltimore, Maryland

Frank Radice
Franklin Square, New York

Olivia Burnett
Holton, Kansas

Bennie Nesbitt
Washington, District of Columbia

Brian R. Clute
Grosse Point Woods, Michigan

Chris Garcia
Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Juan Carlos de Zubeldia
Phoenix, Arizona

The UPPCC welcomes these 22 new club members and thanking them for propelling the club towards its highest membership total of 346 to date. We encourage all our members to share any story or incident that they may have experienced concerning their Presas to be published in the club's newsletter **The Gripper**.

New Presa Names

Above Par Jigga
Above Par Santana of Tall Oaks
AKCM Achilles
AKCM Banion
AKCM Juliet
AKCM Pooh Bear
AKCM Shaqaree
AKCM Vitruvius
Allegro Momacita
BDK Persephone
C & C Security Bell
C & C Ronan
C.W. Hanabo

Above Par Lady Di
Above Par Selene of Tall Oaks
AKCM Arturus
AKCM Hero
AKCM Lola
AKCM Quintus Sertorius
AKCM Spice Posh
AKCM Volva
Antonio's Pablo
C & C Medusa of Bella
C & C Cruz of Ware
C.W. Duces
C.W. Akhillis of Asad

Catara Angelique	Concrete Kennel Mia
Concrete Kennel Zena	Cookie Milton
Daisy's Flashing Jin	Dra'Kar Elegante
ECPC Mosse	ECPC Patience
ECPC Tilly	ECPC Tusan
ECPC Ze'	Elite Reese Bowden
GBK Sarge	GBK Cha Cha
Garita	Goldenboy Ali-Bear
Goldenboy Bishop	Goldenboy Bow
Goldenboy Budha	Goldenboy CeCe
Goldenboy Debo	Goldenboy Hannibal
Goldenboy Miss Xena	Goldenboy Quijada
Goldenboy Sasha Grew	Goldenboy Talitha
Goldenboy Tyson	JJ's Mr. Boaz
JJ's Co Co	JJ's Dixie Bell
JJ's Axle	JJ's Rebel
JJ's Cletus	JJ's Gator
J.R. Zeus	J.R. Luna
J.R. Star	J.R. Bully
J.R. Blade	J.R. Rebel
J.R. Lady	J.R. Santino
J.R. Big Foot	J.R. Tiger
J.R. Princess	Kara de Irema Curto
Lockdowns El Tigre	Letalone Creek's Mando
Lexi Cummings	Luke's Lucas
MK Duechess D'Niva Smith	MK Mujere Linda
MK Tango	Mace
Maya Artemis	Maya De Ronda
OGK Trouble	Patriot Bo
Patriot Corpse	Patriot Diamond
Patriot Lojack	Patriot Loki
Patriot Meesha	Patriot Sadie
Patriot Spirit	Prada de Irema Curto
RL Adama of Cerberus	RL Cartman of Cerberus
RL Sheba	Red Star Guapo
Romulus Augustus	Rosario's Xeus
Rosario's Kato	Rosario's Havoc
Rosario's Drago "Heart of the Dragon"	Ruger Hamilton
S.S. Iron Mike	Saladene Soladado La Verdad
Southern Rock's Achilles	Southern Rock's Bossco
Southern Rock's Carters Chino	Southern Rock's Elektra Mala
Southern Rock's Frado	Southern Rock's Harley
Southern Rock's Isis	Southern Rock's Karara
Southern Rock's Koas	Southern Rock's Little Mako
Southern Rock's Massina	Southern Rock's Tufani
Southern Rock's Zeus	Tall Oaks Kato
Tall Oaks Magnus	Tall Oaks Zorro
Tall Oaks Diesel	Tall Oaks Diesel II
Tall Oaks Zeus of Perry	Tall Oaks Nakomis
Tall Oaks Mankato	Tall Oaks Titan
Tall Oaks Ollie Bull	Tiki
Titan de Alacant-Bull	TOK El Comandante Cortez
Unbroken Proof of Pudding	UPK Asja
UPK Baby	UPK Cus D' Mato
UPK Gabiel	UPK India Fatu
Veijo Amarillo	W.K. Tysa Bella of C & C

The influx of these many notable Presa Canario names raises the UPPCC registry count to (2,196). This achievement to date is accomplished through the recording of (240) Presa Canario litters produced from our associated club breeders, many of which can be found listed in our new club website <http://www.uppcc.net>

Show News

The United Kennel Club (UKC) will be hosting their 12th Annual Premier on June 17, 18 & 19, 2005, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. There will be Three UKC licensed All-Breed Dog Shows

- Two Agility Trials
- One Dog Sport Trial
- Two Obedience Trials
- Two Terrier Races
- Two Weight-Pulls.

In addition, there will be a Special Judging of the Top Ten Dogs Ranked in each UKC recognized breed class, to be conducted on June 16th. This event is by invitation only to select the overall BEST TOP DOG for the year 2004. For those who may be interested in exhibiting their Presa, there is an entry form within this issue of the Gripper. We'll be there. Hope to see you there.

ARBA - Orange Blossom Classic held in Ocala, Florida on February 20. Jamie Storey of Southern Rock Presas along with his 11-year old daughter Jessica, aka: Jessebug, entered their first ever dog show and had an outstanding day. S.S. Kronus won two Best of Breed, two Winners Dog, two Best of Winners and a Group 3 win. Eight month old, SRK Princess Judy took two First Place Puppy, two Best of Opposite and two Winners Bitch in the 6 to 9 month puppy class. Big time kudos to the Storey family!!

The first UPPCC Eastern Regional Specialty was held on April 23, 2005 in Bel Air, Maryland. This event was held in conjunction with the UKC Old Line State Dog Club, which conducted their show events on Friday, June 22nd, Saturday the 23rd and Sunday the 24th. The results for both events are printed below.

UKC Old Line State Dog Club (April - 22, 23, 24) Bel Air, Md

Friday PM - Guard Group: Open Class

Dog - G'Kar de Alacant-Bull - First Place Owner: Richard Kelly

Best Male

Reserve Winner

(6 to 9 puppy class)

Bitch - S.S. G' Llaila - First Place Owner: Richard Kelly

Best Female

Best of Winners

Best of Breed

Group 1

Saturday AM - Guard Group: Open Class

Dog - G'Kar de Alacant-Bull - First Place Owner: Richard Kelly

Best Male

Best of Winners

Best of Breed

Group 3

(6 to 9 puppy class)

Bitch - S.S. G' Llaila - First Place Owner: Richard Kelly

Best Female

Reserve Winner

Saturday PM - Guard Group: Open Class

Dog - G'Kar de Alacant-Bull - First Place Owner: Richard Kelly

Best Male
Best of Winners
Best of Breed
Group 3

(6 to 9 mo. puppy class)

Bitch - S.S. G'Llaila - First Place Owner: Richard Kelly

Best Female
Reserve Winner

Sunday AM - Guard Group: Junior Dog

Dog - S.S. Cuba Nigel - First Place Owner: Kevin Cunningham

Best Male
Best of Winners
Best of Breed
GROUP 1

G'Kar de Alacant-Bull - Second Place Owner: Richard Kelly

(6 to 9 puppy class)

Bitch - S.S. G'Llaila - First Place Owner: Richard Kelly

Best Female
Reserve Winner

UPPCC Eastern Regional Specialty - April 23, 2005

While the weather was inclement during this eventful Saturday, all participants were well protected within the covered pavilions. Perhaps the rain may have had a bearing on the light turnout of exhibitors. In any event, there were 23 Presas on site with 17 Presa Canario (10 males & 7 females) entered in the program and the results of their accomplishments are posted below. The club wishes to especially thank Jack & Jean Pickel, and Beverly Shupe for their time and effort in making this event noteworthy. A special, thanks, to all those who gave of their time, effort and expense to help the club achieve success in this special event. For those who had planned to attend and didn't, it was a missed opportunity to establish new Presa friends. It was truly amazing that with all those Presas so closely quartered there were no incidents, well almost none, except, one of our young members who after leaving the show site had an accident at her hotel. While walking her young Presa, she tripped/slipped and fell, as she tried to break her fall she broke her thumb. OW! Did it hurt when they reset it. Deborah Vigil, please heal quickly. We look forward to hearing about many future success stories to be generated by the many young dogs that were exhibited at this specialty.

Sweepstakes

3 to 6 mo. Dog	1st Place	#23	Rosario's Drago Heart of the Dragon
3 to 6 mo. Bitch	1st Place	#33	UPK India Fatu
6 to 9 mo. Dog	1st Place	#26	S.S. Samurai
	2nd Place	#28	S.S. El Jefe
	3rd Place	#29	ECPC Escobar
6 to 9 mo. Bitch	1st Place	#30	OGK Luna
	2nd Place	#31	Parker & Orange Mya
	3rd Place	#18	S.S. G'Llaila
	4th Place	#27	ECPC Lady Nykira
12 to 15 mo. Dog	1st Place	#25	Mezzon de Irema Curto
Best in Sweeps		#25	Mezzon de Irema Curto, owner: Eugenia Baryshuikova

Best of Opposite		#30	OGK "Luna", owner: Beau Hadden
Stud Dog	1st Place	#19	G'Kar de Alacant-Bull, owner: Richard Kelly
Junior Handler	1st Place	#33	Carlos Cunningham, 11 years old

Specialty

Junior Puppy

3 to 6 mo. Dog	1st Place	#21	Tall Oaks Mankato, owner: Beverly Shupe
	2nd Place	#23	Rosario's Drago, owner: Deborah Vigil
3 to 6 mo. Bitch	1st Place	#22	Tall Oaks Nakomis, owner: Beverly Shupe

Puppy

6 to 9 mo. Dog	1st Place	#26	S.S. Samurai, owner: Henry Samuels
	2nd Place	#28	S.S. El Jefe, owner: Ed Falto
6 to 9 mo. Bitch	1st Place	#30	OGK Luna, owner: Beau Hadden
	2nd Place	#27	ECPC Lady Nykira, owner: Deborah Vigil
American Bred	1st Place	#18	S.S. G'Llaila, Owner: Richard Kelly
Open Class - Dog	1st Place	#34	S.S. Cuba Nigel, owner: Kevin Cunningham
	2nd Place	#24	S.S. Arcan, owner: Beverly Shupe
	3rd Place	#25	Mezzon de Irema Curto, owner: Eugenia Baryshuikova
	4th Place	#35	
	5th Place	#32	Kudo, owner: Vincent Alain (Canada)

WINNERS Dog #34 S.S. Cuba Nigel, owner: Kevin Cunningham

RESERVE WINNERS #24 S.S. Arcan, owner: Beverly Shupe

Open Class - Bitch 1st Place #20 Nora of Tall Oaks, owner: Beverly & William Shupe

WINNERS Bitch: #30 OGK Luna, owner: Beau Hadden

RESERVE WINNERS: #18 S.S. G'Llaila, owner: Richard Kelly

BEST of BREED: #34 S.S. Cuba Nigel, owner: Kevin Cunningham

BEST of OPPOSITE: #30 OGK Luna, owner: Beau Hadden

BEST of WINNERS: #34 S.S. Cuba Nigel, owner: Kevin Cunningham

Quips & Quotes

Canton, Ohio Jennifer Rush writes about her two Presa Canario kids - S.S. Treacherous, who turned 10 years old on 4/17/05 and S.S. Pandora, who will be 10 years old on 10/01/05. "My kids are getting old!" I know that S.S. Mufasa turned 10 on New Years Day - 2005, but I was wondering who is the oldest lived Presa here in the U.S.? Does anyone know? I will certainly miss these two when they're gone and I don't look forward to those days ahead. If I had to pick "one" as my favorite....Well, I don't know if I'll ever be blessed to have another dog with "Treach's" personality. He does the funniest things and makes the weirdest noises when communicating....he has always been super friendly and everyone who's met him has fallen in love with him. "Panda" on the other hand has been dubbed "Crazy" by those who don't know her, because of her attitude when strangers approach the fence separating her from them, she becomes the Queen of Protectors! (I really think she gets her kicks from scaring people), but when you introduce her to the folks up close she becomes a different dog, never showing aggression or snapping at anyone. Never the less I love them both dearly, and hope we don't have to part for a few more good years. P.S. "Treach" is out of S.S. Calybos x S.S. Bad Mamba Jamba and "Pandora" is out of S.S. Calybos and S.S. Elektra. "Women and cats will do as they please, men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea." Bowling Green, Virginia. Beverly Shupe of Tall Oaks Kennel holds the distinction of having the 2,000th Presa Canario registered with the UPPCC. It won't be long before someone will be recognized for having the 3,000th registered Presa Canario.

Momma says: "Sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason."

In Memorial There is nothing so heart wrenching than losing your long time pet, your companion, your best friend. It saddens us to announce the loss of two such pets: S.S. Pulp Fiction of Top Notch Kennel passed away in early January - 2005. She was 9 years old, her sire was; S.S. Posiden, the dam was S.S. Cassiopeia. She was the mother to Cedal Roger's featured stud dog "Top Notch Kobe"

Bill Thyfault of Guardian Angels Kennel lost one of his foundation brood bitches, S.S. Nandi on January 2nd, 2005. She died in her sleep at 8 years of age. Her sire was S.S. Posiden and the dam was S.S. Andromina. We respectfully express our condolences to both breeders on their loss.

No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as does the dog."

Brooklyn, New York Eddy Falto, owner of S.S. El Jeffe, aka: Mufasa, was taking his 5 month old Presa Canario for his morning walk. As they were passing the building next door, two neighbors came forward and exclaimed they recognized his dog as a Presa since they were both from the Canary Islands. They immediately begged Eddy to bring his 5 month old, 90 lb. pup into their Child Care Center and allow the children to meet and socialize with this exceptionally large puppy. All went well with the children. Eddy and Mufasa have graduated to the local dog park, where he became the focal point of attention of all the other dog owners, who could not believe the dexterity of this now 110 lb., 7 month old Presa Canario pup. The pup is out of S.S. Ileida by Ch. G'Kar de Alacant-Bull TT.

Momma says: " It is better to have a glass of beer with friends, than Champagne with strangers."

Vancouver, British Columbia Shannon writes to Gary Goolsby of JJ's Kennel, Thonotosassa, Florida, reminding him of the fawn female (JJ's - Bella) that she purchased from him last June. She is doing really well and at 10 months weighs 78 lbs.. "Bella" has a ton of energy, loves to swim and chase sticks, toys and dogs who run away from her. Of course she is the boss of our male. The two of them make a great pair. She is very athletic, lots of prey drive (she is obsessed with laser pointers, rope toys, and will fetch a stick for hours), likes people and kids, and has no interest in other dogs unless there is a fight going on. Our male, "Jupiter" is just the opposite. He is pretty laid back most of the time and when we take him for walks all he wants to do is play with other dogs. He usually gets snapped at by the other dogs because of his size, so far he has never even growled back. However, he is starting to show some protectiveness around "Bella", so we will have to be on guard. Bella is out of "Gary's Zoe" by "Digi Digi Shadew."

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself."

UPPCC Membership Since the aforementioned story was directed to Gary Goolsby, it's only fitting that we mention Gary's exceptional

strategy to increase the clubs (UPPCC) membership. Gary automatically adds the fee to the price of each pup sold, thereby recovering his cost to register each pup and mandatorily enrolls each customer as a UPPCC member. Gary claims he has had no negative response to his initiative. We could certainly use the same approach from the rest of our associate breeders to help defray the operating costs to produce the three yearly issues of the "GRIPPER". In fact, with our breeder support doing as Gary has done, our membership would be between 500 to 600 club members. The club wishes to extend its thanks to Gary for his conscientious support.

This is from Jenner Fischer-Rau in Germany Hi Mr. Kelly, I write to you, because I have seen you on German TV (in some kind of law show / concerning the homicide case with the Presa dogs). I was just snapping on all the channels and then I recognized you and your nice dog (it was a big dark brindle male). I'm the proud owner of an Alano or if you prefer to call a "Canary dog", I don't see the big difference. I think that you breed in the right direction and have the right attitude about this breed. I am not happy about the direction breeding takes place in Spain, the dogs often look sick and not sporty any more.

Dogs and Disease Dogs are really man's best friend some may be able to smell cancer or even predict seizures. British doctors had three cocker spaniels, a Labradore, a Papillon and a mutt sniff urine samples of 144 people, 36 of whom had bladder cancer. The dogs - trained to lie down as a signal - identified samples with cancer 41% of the time. (By chance alone, they would have gotten it right 14% of the time.) The researchers theorize that cancerous cells give off a distinct order recognizable by dogs. If the dogs can identify substances in urine that give off odors, doctors can then develop a screening test. And, in a small preliminary Canadian survey of 62 dog -owning families of epileptic children, 42% of the dogs reacted to a seizure with behavior such as barking or licking. And 41% of these dogs were able to detect and warn of an oncoming seizure. Calling Dr. Doggy Readers Digest

Things said in 1957: If things keep going up it will be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20. The drive in restaurant is convenient in nice weather but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on. I guess taking a vacation is out of the question; it costs \$15 a night to stay in a hotel.

A Message to Jackel Pickel, of Breeders Choice kennel "Hi Jack, we just wanted to let you now that BCK - Magnus is absolutely wonderful!!! He is the best dog. Everyone that has ever met loves him! He plays at the park with all other types of dogs and has zero aggression. whenever he sees a woman or a child he lays down, without command and stays in that position while being petted. With men he stays sitting and is more playful, but very well behaved. He sleeps all day on our couch - which is also his bed!! He cannot play with any plush toys, he destroys them within two minutes. He does best with rawhide. He also has a frosty paw everyday (the doggie ice cream). He currently weighs 125 lbs. and is quite healthy. He even LOVES going to the Vet! When he walks into the office the entire staff comes out to play with him. If the vet gives him any shots or anything that most dogs hate, he kisses him during the procedure. "Magnus" LOVES to give kisses. Thank you for such an amazing dog that we are totally in love with!" Jeff and Andrea McEvoy

Momma says: "Hold a true friend with both hands."

Stockbridge, Georgia Congratulations are in order. Today S.S. Iron Mike, aka: Tyson, passed his Temperament Test. He has also earned his CGC. Maybe he can accomplish the TDI. Wouldn't that be something for a protection trained Presa? The day before the TT we did protection work and he bit through the sleeve. He is hitting Hard. I truly feel he'll do anything I ask him to do. Now we are concentrating our efforts towards the show ring to achieve his conformation championship title. I think he will win big. Congratulations to owner: Daniel Ahl for his outstanding accomplishments with his Presa Canario.

Momma says: " It's the friends that you call at 4am that matter."

DOGS LIFE A dog had followed his young owner to school. His owner was in the fourth grade at a public elementary school. When the bell rang, the dog sidled along side his owner inside the building and made it all the way to the child's classroom before a teacher noticed him and shoo'ed him back outside, closing the door behind him. The dog sat down outside the door, whimpering and staring at the closed doors and not understanding in the least as to why he was refused entry. Just then - God appeared beside the dog, patted him on the head to comfort him, and said, "Don't feel bad fella'... they won't let ME in there either."

Circleville, New York Russell Tice, owner of S.S. Torquemada, often wondered whether "Torq" would protect him if the situation warranted such action, especially since he was never formally protection trained. He exhibited protection for Russ's mother and girlfriend but never him until this one eventful evening. Five of Russ's friends were all gathered in his family room watching the fights on TV. One of the group, was sitting on the floor petting "Torq" and Russ, was lounging on the couch. One of the friends had left the room and upon returning this 6'3", 350 lb. giant, trips and stumbles into the room partially landing on Russ. As quick as a heartbeat, "Torq" was airborne, snarling while attacking this monstrous threat, half lying on his owner. Russ was quick to recover his composure and intercept his charging guardian. It goes without saying that after this incident Russ is a firm believer that "Torq" would certainly come to his defense.

Momma says: "Even the church mouse will steal the cheese."

From EJ & Mela Last week I took Mela out to piddle at 6am, at the same time from across the street a neighbor was being dragged out

of his garage by his untrained frustrated monster of a dog. The dog was barking, snapping and generally making a scene. "Mela", hackles up, charges down my driveway, full-speed, I yelled "NO SIT". He stopped and sat on a dime. I slapped my leg and told him to heel, he came right to my left leg and did a perfect heel back into the house. I know its not much of a story but it's a big deal when you find out how well your dog listens under stress. Last night "Mela" went from puppy tug to a bite sleeve, I've been waiting months to see what he'd do. He bit hard and often, the trainers quote was "He's gonna be a hard ----- dog." The decoy, who; had been working him all along said he doesn't want to be in the suit when its his turn, he's already got bruising from the sleeve.

Presa Behavior Have you ever noticed the many, varied posture changes that take place when two or more Presas are either playing, stalking, protecting and teaching one another. Notice when two adversaries face each other in a stare down, one will suddenly rear upwards on its hind-legs, holding that balance for seconds before lunging forward to the attack or when running, dogs stop and face each other, several feet apart, one or two will drop into a cat-like crouch (Head and shoulders dropped low) staring straight ahead at their opponent waiting for some movement, then suddenly the single dog charges at maximum speed, singling out one of the group and almost at the moment of contact both dogs will leap upwards, slamming their bodies together, the momentum of the charging dog gives it the advantage to knock the other dog off his feet exposing his throat to the attacker. Through the opportunity of watching these fantastic dogs one sees just how they protected the farmers cattle and controlled all intruders, whether man or beast

Things To Do

Thinking about a Dog sport?

So, you have a dog and you want to compete in some sort of dog sport. There are quite a few events out there. You can do anything from dog dancing, agility, obedience, fly ball, retrieving, pier jumping, weight pulling, hog hunting, protection sports and others too numerous to mention. Wherever your interests lie, you can find something related to do with your dog. Whichever you choose, you can have many enjoyable, and sometimes frustrating, hours training and working with your partner. Here's a quick synopsis of some of the venues available.

AMERICAN STREET RING (ASR) offers very good real life surprise scenarios. Small groups with limited number of trials, which are mainly held in Florida. Time to train a competitive dog, one to two years.

CANINE CIVIL DEFENSE LEAGUE (CCDL) Small Personal Protection group based in New York with a limited number of trials. Muzzles used in trials. Strong defensive drive required. They stress dogs as family companions and Pet Protectors. Time to train a competitive dog is at one year.

FRENCH RING Very difficult, and challenging. Leg bites are favored. Began as a Breed Evaluation Test for the Belgium Malinois. Headquartered and ran from France. Involves many different exercises, including broad jump, hurdles, and palisade. Time to train a competitive dog, two to three years.

K-9 PRO SPORTS This is the original American created protection dog sport. Now offers competitions in Europe as well as across the USA. Contains obedience and protection phases in trials. Exercises don't focus as much on high prey drives as most other venues. All decoy work done in Bite Suits, dogs not equipment oriented. It has two divisions, Personal and Professional Protection Dog with two titles available in each. The exercises do not seem breed specific as some others. Time to train a competitive dog, one to two years.

PERSONAL PROTECTION SPORTS ASSOCIATION (PPDA) Created in Illinois in 1997. Small Personal Protection group with limited number of trials. Muzzles used in trials. Strong defensive drive required. Offers three obedience and three protection titles as well as trainer and handler certification titles. Time it takes to train a competitive dog, one year.

PROTECTION SPORTS ASSOCIATION (PSA) Created in the USA in 2001. Trials are widespread across the USA. Offers four titles: PSA TC, PSA 1, PSA 2, and PSA 3, as well as a non-sport title: the PDC. Trials have PDC, TC, two divisions in PSA 1, Novice and Open, PSA 2 and PSA 3 include surprise scenarios, gunshots, etc. Strong prey drives required seem to favor herder breeds. Time to train a competitive dog, one to two years.

MONDO RING Created in Europe in the late 1980's, combining disciplines from French Ring, and Belgium Ring, IPO (SchH) and KNPV.

This is probably the most difficult and challenging of the protection sports. Disciplines include food refusal, retrievals, search for objects, prisoner escort, defense of object, long jump, palisade, send away and others. Decoy work done in bite suit. Time to train a competitive dog, one to three years.

Ron Ackerman

Health Notes

Harshness of the outdoors can shorten life of domesticated animals

With the conclusion of the winter cold and the onset of the summer heat, pet owner's need to be mindful about their pets living or spending too much time outdoors during these severe seasons of climatic conditions.

Dogs are "companion" animals - domesticated - and as such, were never intended to live outside. Their coats and fur are not sufficient covering to live outdoors all the time in extreme temperatures. Many adverse health effects are found in dogs who, live in harsh weather zones, including liver damage, hypothermia, frostbite and heatstroke. These ailments can go unnoticed for some time, until it is too late. Especially prone to danger is the elderly dog. Just as with older humans, the blood circulation of an aged pet is far from normal and can cause hypothermia in a very short period of time. Remember, Presas require large quantities of fresh water - daily!

Companion animals are just that: animals who were initially bred to live with humans in the human's environment and mostly indoors. In addition, dogs as pack animals can thrive only when they live with others. Just like humans, they need the warmth of a family to remain healthy and to survive to old age. The older dog is especially prone to these dangers.

Spotlight on PINE BARK

Pine Bark contains a natural blend of bioflavonoids and is considered a " SUPER ANTIOXIDANT" because it stimulates cells to double their antioxidative power and it catches free radicals in the blood stream. The proanthocyanidids in Pine Bark have been shown in clinical studies to be 20 times more effective than Vitamin C and 50 times more effective than Vitamin E as an antioxidant.

Where does Pine Bark come from? The brand of Pine Bark extract used in NuVet Plus is PYCNOGENOL. It is extracted from the bark of the French maritime pine tree, which grows in Les Landes, located in south-west France.

How does it help? As one of the most potent natural scavengers of free radicals, Pycnogenol mops-up all kinds of aggressive radicals, before they cause any damage by oxidative stress. it boosts the immune system and it strengthens blood vessel walls and capillaries. It supports a better circulation by preventing stress-induced constriction of arteries and blood clotting.

Free Radicals - Why fight them? Pine Bark's remarkable ability to "seek & destroy" free radicals is a tremendous benefit to our pets. By reducing oxidative damage to cells and vital tissues, what we recognize as aging (stiff joints, wrinkled skin, degenerative disease problems like arthritis, circulatory disorders, diabetes, heart disease, etc.) is held to a subdued rate.

To order NuVet Plus call: 800-474-7044, use order code: 56221

Potty Problems!

Thousands of frustrated dog owners, finally out of patience with their pet that seems to urinate everywhere but outdoors, have taken their dogs to animal shelters. It's a painful admission that elimination problems can seem insurmountable.

Submissive Urination As long as it's not leaving puddles on your floor, submissive urination is a fascinating feature of normal canine social behavior. Dogs live in a hierarchy. When two dogs of different status greet each other, the lowest-ranking canine squats and urinates. The squatting dog is indicating that he will be submissive and not challenge the top dog. It's a show of respect. Puppies who don't know better sometimes greet people the same way. Fortunately, most pups outgrow the problem.

Keep in mind:

- Submissive urination is not a house-training problem, so don't punish the your dog for the behavior. Dogs susceptible to the problem tend to be sweet natured and do their best to please.
- Men tend to trigger the behavior more often than women. A deeper voice is more intimidating, so your puppy may quickly try to show his respect.
- To try to correct the problem, ignore your dog for 15 minutes after you enter the house. If there's no face-to-face greeting, the behavior isn't triggered. If you have a deep voice, try talking in a higher tone and kneel so you're on the dog's level. This reduces the sense of dominance.

Urinary Tract Infections: can also cause indoor puddles. These infections irritate a dog's bladder, resulting in more frequent trips outdoors. Sometimes, though, a dog will dribble urine between urinations. Other signs associated with urinary tract infections include reddish urine and straining while urinating. Here are three things every dog owner should know about urinary problems:

- Call your veterinarian if you notice changes in your pet's urinary habits.
- Prompt treatment is vital. Some urinary tract infections can cause more serious problems, such as kidney infections and bladder stones.
- The treatment varies. Some veterinarians prescribe antibiotics, while others recommend dietary change.

Incontinence Dogs often leak urine while sleeping or making movements, such as walking up stairs. Not surprisingly, the problem is more common in middle-aged and senior dogs. However, even young dogs are susceptible to the problem. Although some people believe older dogs who suffer from incontinence need to be euthanized, that's not true. There are medications that can help many of these animals.

Here are some facts you should know:

- Incontinence is more common in female dogs than in male dogs. Spayed females are even more prone to this condition. They have less estrogen than non-altered dogs; estrogen helps squeeze the neck of the bladder shut, thereby preventing urine from leaking out the bladder and down the urethra. The medical benefits to spaying, however, greatly outweigh the possibility of incontinence.
- Some diseases increase the amount of urine the body produces, which triggers the incontinence. The large volumes of urine can over-whelm the bladder's storage capacity and cause urine to leak out. In the early stages, Diabetes, Liver disease and Kidney disease can make an appearance as incontinence.

Don't take chances with your dog's health. If he has difficulty controlling his bladder, see your veterinarian. A checkup and urinalysis should be done before any type of treatment is started. With patience and loving care, your home can stay dry - and your dog can stay home.

The Nutritional role of Glucosamine

Glucosamine is an element that occurs naturally in the bodies of dogs and humans. Its principal functions within the body center around building, repairing and maintaining healthy cartilage, particularly within the joints. The body produces glucosamine through a chemical reaction involving glucose and glutamine. Unfortunately, the body only produces glucosamine at a constant rate. The destructive effects of arthritis tear apart and destroy cartilage faster than the body can produce the needed glucosamine for cartilage repair. Over time, the cartilage is destroyed and the joints become extremely inflamed and painful. To prevent the onset of such a condition one should consider a protocol of using a product to reverse and heal the devastating effects of osteoarthritis and major hip and joint problems including non-genetic dysplasia. When it comes to supplements, NuJoint Plus contains these ingredients plus the beneficial ingredient "MSN" (also known as Methsulfonmethane.) MSN is a sulfur compound which is a vital ingredient in all human and animal diets, since both require sulfur to do such things as produce Immunoglobulin, promote the formation of Keratin and Collagen, and neutralize toxins in the body. In the case of dogs, MSN has been shown to make their bodies' cells more permeable. This increases their ability to absorb blood sugar. Which spurs the animal's body to produce it's own glucosamine.

Toxoplasmosis is caused by a single-celled parasite called *Toxoplasma gondii* and is found throughout the world, in fact, more than 60 million people may be infected as well as many of our canine friends. The disease is past along by infected cats shedding the organism in its feces. Your pet or breeding stock can become infected, by coming in contact with tainted soil, eating contaminated raw or partly cooked meat, especially pork, lamb, or venison. The effects on your dog being infected with this parasite could alter the menstrual cycle of the females especially those who may have a compromised immune system. If you notice any change in your dog's inability to conceive, then have your veterinarian do a blood titer to determine if your dog is infected with this parasite, especially if there are cats within your vicinity. Infected cats may pass the parasite along in their feces deposited in gardens, and sandboxes. Wash your hands well with soap and water after outdoor activities. When preparing raw meats, wash the cutting board, sink and utensils that may have touched the raw meat. Cook all meat thoroughly; that is, to an internal temperature of 160 degrees. Wear gloves when cleaning the kitty box daily. Do not bring a new cat into your home or kennel that may have spent time out of doors or might have been fed raw meat.

Staying Put!

Your dog wants to be where the action is. It's your job to teach him to stay seated. If your dog seems a bundle of energy - reluctant to sit still despite your best efforts - chalk it up to his genes. That doesn't mean you can't train your friend to just stay put.

The importance of stay: Learning to stay helps your dog learn to focus and concentrate - two skills that are the foundation of any successful training program. By nature, dogs move towards things that capture their attention. When you master the "stay" command, your pet will focus on you. The end result is a more trust worthy pet. And the more control you have over your pet, the safer he'll be.

Teaching your dog to "Stay": Praise and patience are the secrets to teaching your dog the "stay" command. Start slowly, with 5 to 15 minute training sessions. Keep distractions to a minimum.

- Stand one or two feet in front of your dog. If he knows how to sit, give him a "Sit" command followed by praise.
- Hold the leash in one hand, then, slowly extend your free arm with your palm facing your dogs face. Your extended arm represents a physical boundary. Don't get your palm closer than 12 inches to your dog's face in the beginning.
- When your arm is extended, give the "Stay" command, then, bring your arm back to the leash. The command should be given clearly and firmly.
- When your dogs looks at you, move a few steps to the right and then back to the center. If he starts to look elsewhere, regain his attention with a sudden sound or movement.
- Each time you give the "Stay" command, wait for 30-seconds before you give your dog permission to move. When you do give him the "okay" to move, pivot to the side, praising him as you move. Increase the time by 15-second increments until he can stay for one minute. After he masters the one-minute stay, move further back and to the sides while he stays in position.
- Vary the routine by moving around him - even skipping. Your dog is now allowed to turn his head but not his body.
- When he can stay for three minutes while you move around him, move to a more challenging place, such as a park. Increase your distance from him in three-foot increments by using a 50-foot leash or line. When the stay is solid, start working toward off-leash control in a fenced area.

Patience Pays Off: Every dog adapts differently to training and every situation holds its own unique temptations. Regardless of how well your dog adapts to training, keep the sessions short and always end them on a positive note. In fact, a positive attitude - along with plenty of patience and praise - are keys to teaching your canine student.

Rocks lead to operation! If you notice your Presa continuously digging in the soil be concerned, they could be finding and eating delicious rocks or worse. Such was the case when "Top Notch Harlie", a fourteen-month old female, became noticeably lethargic and was spewing bile in her sleeping crate. Wasting no time in rushing her to the vets office where x-rays were quickly taken and readily showed two sizable rocks lodged in her stomach and intestine. An operation was performed immediately with the prognosis she was up and running full bore three days after surgery. Mind you, the rocks were dug up from within her outdoor kennel and so to prevent any further mishap, her outdoor kennel is now a solid slab of concrete. Let her try digging through that!