Fall – 2007 Volume - 41

The GRIPPER

The Official Publication of the United Perro de Presa Canario Club

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UPPCC – National Specialty Results

This event was held in conjunction with the UKC – "Old Line State Dog Club" in Bel Air, Maryland on October 13. There were 28 Presa Canario entries along with seven (7) Junior Handlers. Most of the dogs (18) were represented from four (4) major kennels: Tall Oaks Kennel, Bowling Green, Virginia, C&C Kennel, Mineral, Virginia, Concrete Kennel, Point Pleasant, New Jersey and Show Stopper Kennels, Middlesex, New Jersey. Bravo's Kennel, Brooklyn, New York and JJ's Kennel, Altha, Florida, each brought one dog. Larry McCall of Crown Presa Kennel, Topeka, Kansas traveled to the event as a spectator.

The junior handlers were divided into two age groups – Pee Wee handlers under the age of 12 years with five entries and junior handlers (12 to 18 yrs.) with two.

UKC – Judge: Fred Lanting **Ring Steward: Patricia Hamilton**

Pee Wee Handlers:

First Place – Jasmine Powell
Second Place – Kayla DeNapoli
Third Place – Luca Iacampo
Fourth Place – Trinity Gillison

Junior Handlers:

First Place – Ashley Kelly
Second Place – Dale Powell Jr.

Junior Puppy (3 – 6 mo.) - males

First Place: S.S. Avatar **Owner: Richard Kelly**
Second Place: CCK – "Leo" **Owner: Dale Powell**
Third Place: JJ's Coo Joe – Brazzi **Owner: Luigi Iacampo**

Junior Puppy (3 – 6 mo.) – females

First Place: Tall Oaks – Mystique **Owner: Tyrone Jenkins**
Second Place: Tall Oaks Kabuki of C&C **Owner: Connie Gillison**

Best of Opposite Jr. Puppy

Tall Oaks Mystique **Owner: Tyrone Jenkins**

Puppy (6 – 9 mo.) – female

First Place: Tall Oaks – Brianna **Owner: Tyrone Jenkins**

Puppy (9 – 12 mo.) – male

First Place: Ritalin of Tall Oaks Owner: Tyrone Jenkins
Second Place: Tall Oaks – Kaos of C&C Owner: Connie Gillison

Puppy (9 – 12 mo.) – female

First Place: Tall Oaks - Lakota Owner: Beverly Shupe

Stud Dog (with two of his get)

Winner: Ch. G'Kar de Alacant-Bull TT Owner: Richard Kelly
(Get) : Ch. S.S. G'Llaila TT and Ch. S.S. Syrianna TT

Brood Bitch (with two of her get)

Winner: S.S. Ileida Owner: Richard Kelly
(Get) : Ch. S.S. G'Llaila TT and Ch. S.S. Syrianna TT

Bred by Exhibitor - male

First Place: CCK's Lion King Owner: Dale Powell
Second Place: CCK's Little Zorro Owner: Dale Powell

Bred by Exhibitor – female

First Place: Ch. Bravo's Nay-Na Owner: Beau Hadden

American Bred – males

First Place: C&C Diablo Owner: Connie Gillison
Second Place: Tiger De king Cooke Owner: Shawn Cooke
Third Place: S.S. Cougar aka – Zhuky Owner: Igor Vaysman

Open Class – males

First Place: Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks Owner: Beverly Shupe
Second Place: S.S. Germanicus TT Owner: Ken Morino
Third Place: LK – Bear Owner: Gary Goolsby

Winners Dog: Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks
Reserve Winners: S.S. Germanicus TT

Winners Bitch: Tall Oaks Lakota
Reserve Winners: Tall Oaks Brianna

Veterans Class – male

Winner: Ch. G'Kar de Alacant-Bull TT

Breed Club Champions Class

(D) Gr. Ch. Tall Oaks Makato TT	**Owner: Beverly Shupe**
(D) Ch. C&C Cidius	**Owner: Connie Gillison**
(B) Ch. S.S. G'Llaila TT	**Owner: Richard Kelly**
(B) Ch. S.S. Syrianna TT	**Owner: Richard Kelly**

Best of Breed: Ch. S.S. G'Llaila TT **Owner: Richard Kelly**

Best of Opposite: Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks **Owner: Beverly Shupe**

Best of Winners: Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks **Owner: Beverly Shupe**

Best Junior Puppy: S.S. Avatar **Owner: Richard Kelly**

Best Veteran: Ch. G'Kar de Alacant-Bull TT **Owner: Richard Kelly**

Let it be known; the costs of putting together a National Specialty and Temperament Test are overwhelming. Due to the low turn-out of entries, the fees collected do not come close to covering the overall costs. Coming to the rescue of the club; several of our associate breeders and club members voluntarily contributed funds to help offset the club's deficit.

GOLD Contributor ($100 +) ---------- Bravo's Kennel
" " " ---------- C&C Kennel
" " " ---------- Show Stopper Kennel
" " " ---------- Tall Oaks Kennel
Silver Contributor ($50+)

Bronze Contributor (< $50) ---------- Lisa Gonzalez
" " " ---------- James Marshall

The UPPCC extends its most grateful thanks to these, our most generous club supporters.

The Constitution: They keep talking about drafting a Constitution for Iraq. Why don't we just give them ours? It was written by a lot of really smart men, it has worked for over 200 years, and we're not using it anymore!

American Temperament Test Results

The UPPCC was the host club sponsoring the approved test conducted by the licensed testers of the American Temperament Test Society on Saturday – October 13th at the Heavenly Waters Equestrian Center in Bel Air, Maryland. The Chief Tester was Frances Farrell and her three assistant testers, Glenn E. Pollock, Tammy Vreeland and Donna Schiding. Barry Burton was the Test secretary. Our special thanks to the station sub-testers, Justice Young, Tony Watson, Floyd Hughes, Chris Gillison, William Taylor and Wynard Belton. Without the help from all these individuals there would not have been a successfully conducted test. A very special thanks to Chris Gillison for building the required test blinds.

There were a total of 20 entries, 10 of which were Presa Canario dogs. Seventeen dogs completed the course with 16 dogs passing the test and who will soon receive their certificates allowing each dog to carry the letters "TT" after their name, indicating they were evaluated as confident / stable dogs. Eight Presas were tested, with seven certified as passing. Listed below are the dogs and owners name:

James Henry – Temple Hills, Maryland
Kenneth Morino - Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania - w/ S.S. Germanicus TT
Igor Vaysman – Brooklyn, New York - w/ S.S. Cougar TT
Richard Kelly – Middlesex, New Jersey - w/ Ch. S.S. G'Llaila TT
Richard Kelly – Middlesex, New Jersey - w/ Ch. S.S. Syrianna TT
Connie Gillison – Mineral, Virginia - w/ LK – Rosco TT
Beverly Shupe – Bowling Green, Virginia - w/ Gr.Ch. Tall Oaks Mankato TT

New UPPCC Club Members

Ryan Haskins
Dayton, Ohio

Kresimir Pavelko
Milford, Conneticut

Marc Korenberg
West Chester, Pennsylvania

Yani Stratigakis
Astoria Queens, New York

Karimadeen Burke
Manhattan, New York

Lisa Gonzalez
Garfield, New Jersey

Ronald & Jennifer Sellers
Fort Deposit, Alabama

Paul D. Smith Jr.
Redwood City, California

Igor Vaysman
Brooklyn, New York

Andre' T. Sewell
Seagoville, Texas

James Marshall
Coalville, Utah

Kacy England
Lexington, Kentucky

Stacy Parker
Mechanicville, New York

Tony Johnson
Westbury, New York

James C. Weaver
Severn, Maryland

Jason Pearce
New Castle, Delaware

Joe & Sylvia Hall
Havanna, Florida

Kenny Miller
Leesburg, Georgia

Michael Allen
Venice, Florida

Patricia Hamilton
Midland, Texas

Newly registered Presa Names

Tall Oaks – Lord Cyrus
Tall Oaks – Mystique
Tall Oaks – Simone of OSK
Tall Oaks – Boosco
Tall Oaks – Kabuki of C&C
Tall Oaks – Baltazar
Tall Oaks – Brianna
Tall Oaks – Chandra
Tall oaks – Cyrus
Tall Oaks – Tonka
Tall Oaks - Kilo
Tall Oaks – Macho
Tall Oaks – Mia
Tall Oaks – Zita
Tall Oaks – Kota
Tall Oaks – Petty Cash
Tall Oaks – Bura
Tall Oaks – Thor of Darby
Tall Oaks Magnum

DeGuello's – Lucy
DeGuello's – JJ's Diesel
DeGuello's – Jake
DeGuello's – Sea'mus Marshall
DeGuello's Reyna
DeGuello's – Dante
DeGuello's – Hannibal
DeGuello's – Hera

S.S. A.J. "Jazz"
S.S. Leonardo Adonis
S.S. Boston
S.S. Asima
S.S. Bella Bella
S.S. Avatar
S.S. Leonidas
S.S. Rahim's Indian Princess
S.S. Xerxes
S.S. Muffin

Crown Presa – Azlan Cuevas
Crown Presa – Rocky
Crown Presa – Weezer
Crown Presa – Capone
Crown Presa – Chico
Crown Presa – Tyson
Crown Presa – Brandy
Crown Presa – Havoc
Crown Presa – Bone
Crown Presa – Narnia
Crown Presa – Roxy
Crown Presa – Joda
Crown Presa – Maya de Martinez

MK – Rossi
MK – Burser
MK – Kiara
MK – Filoso
MK – Bishop
MoKan Kennels Cheena

BB – Mufasa Rahim
BB – Chopper
BB – Star
BB – Geronomo
BB – Hank – Tank Burnash
BB - Sarnia

On Guard – Rena

On Guard – Hugo

C&C – Matrix
C&C – Shaka of MFC
C&C – Argento

Biggie's – Armageddon's Diesel
Biggie's Bray's black Beauty
Biggie's presa – Chi Chi
Biggie's Presa – Maggie
Biggie's Presa – Diesel
Biggie's – Princess "Jewels"

Quebec Presa's – Fury
Quebec Presa's – Baci
Quebec Presa's – Bella Weaver
Quebec Presa's – Bella
Quebec Presa's – Molly

Az.Presa's – Zeus
Az.Presa's – Kira
Az.Presa's – Baby
Az.Presa's – Mia
Az.Presa's – Dixie

All Presa's – Roseanne
All Presa's – Midnight
Az.Presa's – Princess Sadie
All presa's – King Zeus
All Presa's – Miss Magic

JJ's – Sinclair
JJ's – Roman
JJ's – Kama Kura
JJ's – Coo Joe Brazzi
JJ's – Moxie
JJ's – samara Marshall
CCK – "Leo"
CCK – "Lama"
Nitro DiMillo
Raja DiMillo

Shack's – Kato
Shack's – Mona
Shack's – Nikka

G.A. Tanya
Ca.Presa - Chica
Thomson's - Patara
Cozby Gonzalez
Thorpe's Heavy
GBK's - Keno

LK – Brutus Buckeye
Mitchell's – Tank de Weaver
Mid-West - Sarah
Action Presa - Daphine
Mac Kusanre Livs

Echo Mitchell
Shawn's Gotti Da Russo
Thorpe's – Tanzania - Smith
Tiger De king Cooke
Sain James Marshall

Alcatraz
KiKi
Moet
Nice
Samson

Serenity Jain Marshall
Kaemon
Konrad
Mauwah
Mango
Brinda
Fergie
Zero
Cane
Duke

Show Results

ARBA – Turnpike Classic – New Jersey – May 19,2007

(Bred by Exhibitor Class)

Bravo's Nay-Na (F)	4 x First Place
Owner: Beau Hadden	2 x Winners Bitch
	1 x Reserve Winners
	2 x Best of Opposite

(Best of Breed Class)

Ch. Bravo's Diva	2 x First Place
Owner: John Stratigakis	2 x Winners Bitch
	2 x Best of Opposite

Sup.Gr.Ch. OGK – Bandito	4 x Best of Breed
Owner: Beau Hadden	1 x Group 1
	2 x Group 2
	1 x Group 3

Arba – Garden State Classic – (4 shows) – June 2nd.

(6 – 9 mo. Puppy Class)

Bravo's Nay-Na	4 x Winners Bitch
Owner: Beau Hadden	4 x Best of Opposite

Sup.Gr.Ch. OGK – Bandito	4 x Best of Breed
Owner: Beau Hadden	1 x Group 1
	2 x Group 2
	1 x Group 3

UKC – Northeastern Multi-Breed Obedience Club-Inc Freehold, New Jersey – 6/30/07

Ch. S.S. Andorra (B)	3 x Best of Breed
Owner: Richard Kelly	1 x Group 1
	1 x Group 2
	1 x Group 3

RARITIES – Riverview Classic – 5 shows -6/30 & 7/01 Pennsville, New Jersey

(6 – 9 mo. Puppy Class)

Ch. Bravo's – Diva (B)	**2 x Best Jr. Puppy of Breed**
Owner: John Stratigakis	**1 x Group 1**
	1 x Best of Breed (Adult)
	1 x Group 3
Mstr.Ch. OGK – Luna	**1 x Best of Breed**
Owner: Beau Hadden	**1 x Group 3**

ARBA – Empire Classic – 6 shows – July 7th. Buffalo, New York

Ch. Bravo's Nay-Na	**6 x Winners Bitch**
Owner: Beau Hadden	**1 x Best of Opposite**
Mstr.Ch. OGK—Luna CGC	**1 x Best of Breed**
Owner: Beau Hadden	**5 x Best of Opposite**
	1 x Group 3
Sup.Ch. OGK – Bandito CGC	**5 x Best of Breed**
Owner: Beau Hadden	**1 x Best of Opposite**
	2 x Group 1
	3 x Group 2
	1 – Reserve Best of Show

ARBA – Liberty BELL Classic – 5 shows – July 14 Neshaminy Park, Pennsylvania

(9 – 15 mo. Puppy Class)

S.S. Andorra (B)	**1 x First Place**
Owner: Richard Kelly	**1 x Reserve Winners**

(Open Class)

Ch. Bravo's – Diva	**1 x Best of Winners**
Owner: john Stratigakis	**3 x Winners Bitch**
	1 x Best of Breed
	2 x Best of Opposite
	1 x Group 3

(Bred by Exhibitor Class)

Ch. Bravo's Nay-Na **Owner: Beau Hadden**	**1 x Best of Breed** **1 x Best of Opposite**
Sup.Ch. OGK – Bandito CGC **Owner: Beau Hadden**	**4 x Best of Breed** **1 x Best of Opposite** **1 x Group 4**

Hampton Roads Weight Pull Club – (4 shows) Aug.4/5 Hampton, Virginia

C&C Diablo (D) **Owner: Connie Gillison**	**1 x First Place** **1 x Best Male**
C&C Cidius **Owner: Connie Gillison**	**1 x First Place** **1 x Best male** **1 x Best of Winners**

RARITIES – Haddam Classic (4 shows) – Aug. 11 & 12 Haddam, Conneticut

Ch. Bravo's Nay-Na (B) **Owner: Beau Hadden**	**2 x Best Jr. Pup of Breed** **1 x Group 1** **1 x Group 3**
Ch. Bravo's Diva (B) **Owner: John Stratigakis**	**2 x Best Jr. Pup of Breed** **1 x Best of Breed (Adult)** **1 x Best of Opposite (Adult)** **1 x Group 3**
Mstr.Ch. OGK – Luna CGC **Owner: Beau Hadden**	**1 x Best of Breed** **1 x Best of Opposite** **1 x Group 3**
Sup,Ch. Bravo's Diva CGC **Owner: Beau Hadden**	**2 x Best of Breed** **2 x Best Of Opposite** **1 x Group 2**

RARITIES – Labor Day Showdown 5 shows Sept.1/2

Ch. Bravo's Diva (B) **Owner: John Stratigakis**	**2 x Best of Breed** **2 x Group 4**
OGK – Attila	**2 x Best of Opposite**
Ch. Bravo's Nay-Na **Owner: Beau Hadden**	**3 x Best of Breed** **2 x Group 3** **1 x Group 4**

RARITIES – Virginia Classic – 5 shows – Sept.15 Bull Run Battlefield Park

Ch. Bravo's Nay-Na (B) **Owner: Beau Hadden**	**5 x Best of Breed** **5 Group 3**

UKC – Garden State Kennel Club – 2 shows – 9/27/07 Bridgeton, New Jersey

Ch. S.S. Andorra (B) **Owner: Richard Kelly**	**1 x Best Female** **1 x Best of Winners**
Ch. S.S. G'Llaila (B) **Owner: Richard Kelly**	**2 x Reserve Champion**
Gr.Ch. Tall Oaks Mankato (D) **Owner: Beverly Shupe**	**2 x Best of Breed** **1 x Group 1** **1 x Group 3**
Ch. Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks **Owner: Beverly Shupe**	**2 x Winners Dog** **1 x Best of Winners**
Above Par Margo Rules of Tall Oaks **Owner: Beverly Shupe**	**1 x Reserve** **1 x Winners Bitch**

ARBA – Turnpike Classic – 4 shows – Oct.6th

Ch. Bravo's Nay-Na **Sup.Gr.Ch. OGK – Bandito** **Owner: Beau Hadden**	**4 x Best of Opposite** **4 x Best of Breed** **3 x Group 3**

RARITIES – Seashore Classic – 4 shows – Oct. 7th
Parvin State Park, New Jersey

Ch. Bravo's Nay-Na (B)	**4 x Best of Breed**
Owner: Beau Hadden	**1 x Group 2**
	1 x Group 3
	1 x Group 4

UKC - Old Line State United Dog Club – 4 shows
Oct.13 & 14 – bel Air, Maryland

Gr.Ch. tall Oaks Mankato TT	**2 x Best of Breed**
Owner; Beverly Shupe	**1 x Group 2**
	1 x Group 3
Ch. Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks	**1 x Best of Breed**
Owner: Beverly Shupe	**1 x Group 1**
	2 x Winners Dog
	1 x Best of Winners
Tall Oaks Lakota	**3 x Winners Bitch**
Tall Oaks Brianna	**1 x Reserve Winners Bitch**
Owner: Beverly Shupe	
C&C Cidius	**1 x Champion of Champion**
C&C Diablo	**1 x Reserve**
Owner: Connie Gillison	
Ch. S.S. G'Llaila TT	**1 x Champion of Champion**
Ch. S.S. Syrianna TT	**1 x Reserve**
Owner: Richard Kelly	

Quips & Quotes

In loving memory - June 6th is a date usually remembered as D-DAY (World War II) the invasion of Normandy, but to the Kelly family this date of June 6th, 2007 will always be remembered as the day their beloved 13 ½ year old Presa Canario Grand Champion S.S. Mufasa TT expired. His island call name was "Balu". He was 9 months old when he left his island home in La Laguna, Tenerife, in the Canary Islands and traveled back with Richard Kelly to his new home at Show Stopper Kennels. "Balu" was an accomplished show dog earning eight different conformation titles plus passing his temperament test as well as being a proven stud; siring many litters. Please take note of the special commemorative graphic by *"CORINNE"* - bfitnstrong@verizon.net

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania: Mary Beth Adams writes Show Stopper Kennels about their Presa "SS Rudolph Valentino. "Dear Richard and Loraine, I just wanted to let you know "*Rudy*" (of Posiden & Pulp Fiction) died on September 13, 2007 just 2 months shy of his 10th birthday. I am just devastated. I cannot believe how much his death has affected me and Gary. I cannot give him enough praise of being the perfect pet for our family. *Rudy* had such a sweet temperament that his death affected our neighbors and extended family members. I wrote you months after we got *Rudy* to thank you for breeding "GENTLE GIANTS" and I want to thank you again for *Rudy."*
Mary Beth Adams

Sgt. Ron Portillo, US Army. I have just come back from being wounded in Falluja Iraq. A year and a half ago I was given a Presa puppy. We named her *"Sonya"*, we took her everywhere with us; to work; to eat; just everywhere. I would spend all my time with her. Before long, it was time for me to go and fight a war. I left this past January for Iraq and 3 months into my tour on March 13, 2007 I was hit by an IED blast (a roadside bomb). I suffered a traumatic brain injury among other problems associated with being hit by a bomb. Now that I'm home from the war I am experiencing difficulty in walking, talking, balancing and hearing. When I arrived home and first walked into my home *"Sonya"* greeted me with her tail wagging as if I had never been away. She approached me slowly as if she knew I was wounded. Now she never leaves my side. I now use her as my service dog for walking and balance. She has changed my life in dealing with my everyday activities. I firmly believe if she wasn't here for me that I would be depressed and still be in my wheelchair. She has changed me so much that I started my own foundation for getting service dogs for US Soldiers and Marines that are wounded:
www.caninesforcombatwounded.org

The Ten Commandments: The real reason that we can't have the Ten Commandments posted in a courthouse is this: You cannot post "THOU SHALT NOT STEAL," " "THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," and " THOU SHALT NOT LIE" in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians. It creates a hostile work environment!

Best regards Bev Shupe of Tall Oaks Kennel: Just a quick update on our new Presa Pup *"Bura"*. He is an amazing pup, he is mostly housebroken, he's been sleeping through the night since the first day we had him. He is exceptionally curious about everything. The noise from the July 4th celebrations did not bother him at all. He ventures out into the yard on his own and most of all he loves to tease our 80 lb. Lab. We just came from the Vet where he got his final Distemper shot. He is friendly with people and other dogs. By the way his ears have come up and standing nicely. The Vet weighed him at 25 lbs. and his appetite seems to be increasing daily. We are so pleased with him and thoroughly love watching him grow. Regards, Kris Pavelko

COWS: Is it just me, or does anyone else find it amazing that our Government can track a single cow born in Canada almost three years ago, right to the stall where she sleeps in the State of Washington just in case she has MAD COW DISEASE? And, they track her calves right to their stalls. BUT, they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around the country. Maybe we should give each of them a cow!

C&C Kennel, Mineral, Virginia: Presa owner and breeder – Connie Gillison describes her home and kennel location as *Boon-dock country;* lots of trees, mountains, streams and SNAKES! Snakes have a nasty habit of trying to move into her house-garage. This is where one section was converted into a safe / secure whelping area; or so Connie thought. The incident described happened only a few weeks ago. Connie heard a tremendous commotion coming from the whelping area where she knew a mother Presa was with her 12 new born pups. The dog's instinct to protect her young was sorely tested by what had been a 4 foot black snake; at least that was the determined size after gathering the pieces of the snake. Unfortunately, in the melee of trashing the snake, mamma Presa inadvertently stepped on 5 of her pups ending their lives as was the snakes. It should go without saying "Never test the measure of a Presa with her pups."

To God from the Dog.

Dear God:
Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever smell one another?
When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it still the same old story?
Why are there cars named after the Jaguar, the Cougar, the Mustang, the Colt, the Stingray, and the Rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog? How often do you see a Cougar riding around in a car? We do love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the "Chrysler Eagle" the "Chrysler Beagle"?
If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?
We dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?
More meatballs, less spaghetti, please
Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?
Dear God, thank you for lending me your ear. "So says the Dog."

J. Houkes, The Netherlands: From the information you sent my secretary, Miss Valk, I gathered, that the president of the UPPCC and the owner of Show Stopper Kennels is one and the same. Before buying "Zero" I naturally tried to get as much information about the Presa Canario as possible and of course I stumbled upon your website. I can tell you I was most impressed and one of the points that made decide to buy from Miss Eubanks (Uey's Kennel) was the fact she used Show Stopper dogs for breeding. This however, is not the main reason for sending this e-mail. Being an ex-military man in the "Royal Fusileers"- This is the Dutch unit that is fighting in Afghanistan at the moment. I would like to express my respect for the difficult but necessary job the US Army is doing in Iraq and Afghanistan. I can assure you, that, contrary to the impression created by some parts of the Dutch press, the majority of the Dutch know and support the important "Job" the United States have done and are doing globally.

Induction of New UPPCC Club Officers

The UPPCC wishes to thank Mark Clemens and Gary Goolsby for their past services as club officers. But, now is the time to help the breed and club advance into the twenty first century by introducing two new officers: Beverly Shupe and Connie Gillison.

Beverly Shupe of Tall Oaks Kennel presently accepts the position of UPPCC vice-president. She brings 32 years experience in breeding and showing dogs, having started out with German shepherds & Cardigan Welsh corgi's in 1975. Then in 1985, she began to breed and show Bullmastiffs and in the year 2000 she got her first of now 20 Presa Canario. As Bev exclaims, the Presa is her breed. Over the years she has had 15 AKC Champions and now has a Grand Champion Presa TT along with 5 other champion Presas. Beverly believes in OFA certifying and Thyroid clearing her breeding stock. She; has protection trained several German shepherds, titled in SCH II and SCH III. What she intends to bring to the UPPCC is her knowledge, understanding, and love for our breed. Planning to better educate people about the Presa and encourage more to become involved as club members and show exhibitors. Also, to promote the true characteristics of the Presa and overcome the negative images conceived by the public. Lastly, to have breeders and members adhere to the UPPCC "Code of Ethics."

Connie Gilison of C&C Kennel presently accepts the position of UPPCC secretary. Connie was born & raised around dogs all her life, and started competing in Obedience around 10 years of age. She began breeding 13 years ago with Neapolitan mastiffs and Fila Brasileiro. In 2002, she began to accumulate several Presa Canario dogs after falling in love with the breed and started her Presa breeding program 5 years ago. Presently, she lives on 5 acres in the country with her three young girls and 12 Presas. Connie states: "we promote good health with our dogs with annual exams, correct diet, Nu-vet, OFA screening and proper exercise. We believe in showing our dogs in the conformation ring as well as temp testing their confidence and stability. My husband (Chris) and I are currently working on becoming certified Chief Testers for the American Temperament Test Society. As the club secretary, I plan to devote all of my passion, enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism to the UPPCC and the advancement of our breed – the Presa Canario. We are proud to be members of a club & registry that was instrumental in gaining breed recognition for the Presa Canario by the United Kennel Club (UKC) and recorded by the American Kennel Club under their Foundation Stock Service (AKC/FSS)."

Health News

What is Canine Epilepsy? Canine epilepsy is a chronic condition characterized by recurrent seizures. Although seizures are always abnormal events, not all seizures in dogs are caused by canine epilepsy.

Canine Epilepsy is a disorder of the brain where abnormal electrical activity triggers further uncoordinated nerve transmission. This nerve tissue activity scrambles messages to the muscles of your dog's body and the coordinated use of the muscles is then inhibited.

Because there are many causes of chronic recurrent seizures in dogs, canine epilepsy is not a specific disease or even a single syndrome, but rather a diverse category of disorders. Canine Epilepsy is broadly divided into Idiopathic and symptomatic disorders. Idiopathic Epilepsy, also called primary epilepsy, means that there is no identifiable brain abnormality other than seizures.. Symptomatic epilepsy, aka: secondary epilepsy is seizures that are the consequence of an identifiable lesion or other specific cause.

There are two types of seizures, generalized and partial. The generalized seizure begins with contraction of all skeletal muscles and loss of consciousness. This is the tonic portion of the seizure. The dog usually falls to his side with the legs outstretched and the head back. Sometimes the dog will vocalize or have facial twitching. Vocalizations are involuntary and do not indicate pain. Often the dog will drool excessively, urinate, defecate or eliminate his anal glands. The tonic portion of the seizure is usually very brief and gives way to the clonic phase of the seizure. Once this begins the dog will exhibit rhythmic movements. Typically this consists of clamping the jaw and jerking or running movements of the legs.

Partial seizures also called focal seizures may stay localized or may expand to the whole brain and cause a tonic-clonic seizure. Because this seizure starts in only a part of the brain, an underlying disease or injury is highly suspected. A partial seizure may remain localized or spread to other parts of the cerebral cortex producing a sequential involvement of other body parts. In a simple partial seizure, the area of the brain that is affected is the area that controls movement. Usually the face is affected, resulting in twitching or blinking. This is usually limited to one side of the face. The dog is usually alert and aware of his surroundings.

A complex partial seizure will originate in the area of the brain that control behavior and is sometimes called a psychomotor seizure. During this type of seizure, a dog's consciousness is altered and he exhibit bizarre behavior such as un-provoked aggression or extreme irrational fear. He may run uncontrollably, engage in senseless, repetitive behavior or have fly-snapping episodes where he appears to be biting imaginary flies around his head.

Seizures: Their causes and treatment

Seizures are the result of muscle responses to an abnormal nerve-signal burst from the brain. They are the symptom of an underlying neurological dysfunction. Toxic substances, metabolic or electrolyte abnormalities and/or imbalances caused by uncoordinated firing of neurons in the cerebrum of the brain, creating seizures from mild "*petit mal"* to severe "*grand mal."*

Stages of seizures:

~ The *Prodome:* may precede the seizure by hours or days. It is characterized by changes in mood or behavior.
~ The *Aura:* signals the start of a seizure. Nervousness, whining, trembling, salivation, affection, wandering, restlessness, hiding and apprehension are all signals.
~ The *Ictus:* the actual seizure. A period of intense physical activity, usually, lasting 45 seconds to 3 minutes. The dog may lose consciousness and fall to the ground. There may be teeth gnashing, frantic thrashing of limbs, excessive drooling, vocalizing, paddling of feet, uncontrollable urination and defecation.
~ The *Post Ictus:* after the seizure the dog may pace endlessly, appear blind and deaf and eat or drink excessively.

Causes:

The cause can be anything that disrupts normal brain circuitry:
~ *Idiopathic Epilepsy*, meaning "No known cause" and possibly inherited. This is also referred to as *Primary Epilepsy.* Check history or pedigree and make sure your veterinarian has looked for possible underlying factors. Seizures caused by underlying factors are referred to as *Secondary Epilepsy*.

~ Congenital Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar)
~ Hypothyroidism (low thyroid Function)
~ Infections causing brain damage (such as canine distemper, cryptococcosis)
~ Ingestion of toxins (such as lead paint chips, insecticides)
~ Brain tumors
~ Portosystemic shunts (improperly routed intestinal blood vessels bypass the liver – one of the body's important waste – product detoxifiers)\
~ Vaccinations

Types of Seizures:

~ Mild (Petit Mal) can be as simple as momentarily staring into space or upward eye movement.

~ Moderate (Grand Mal) occurs when the dog falls down, loses consciousness and extends its limbs rigidly. Paddling of limbs, salivation followed by possible loss of control of bladder and bowels and vocalization (blood curdling scream) may follow. This may last for 1 – 3 minutes and is most often followed by a period of restlessness, pacing, bumping into objects and loss of balance. Great care must be taken to prevent the dog from injuring itself at this time.

~ Status Epilepticus can occur as one continuous seizure lasting 10 minutes or more or as a series of multiple seizures in a short time with no period of normal consciousness intervening. *This may be life threatening.*

~Cluster Seizures are multiple seizures within 24 hour period time. *This may also be life threatening.* It is often difficult to distinguish between the two types and veterinarian assistance is imperative. Rectal Valium is extremely useful in breaking cluster seizures.

Post Seizure Treatments:

~ To reduce Post Ictus Pacing: As soon as your dog has regained consciousness and can safely eat, feeding a small amount of "Breyers All Natural" vanilla ice cream (two tablespoons for large dogs) can restore normal blood sugar levels. A seizure may drop blood sugar levels and low blood sugar can cause more seizures. Feeding a small amount of carbohydrates every hour will help keep blood sugar levels stable. The use of Bachs Flower Essence rescue remedy (Found in health food stores) has been found to be extremely useful. Simply put four drops of the Essence into the dog's mouth after the seizure has finished.

Medications (listed by trade and generic name):

~ Phenobarbital (pb or phb)
~ Potassium Bromide (KBr)
~ Phenobarbital & Potassium Bromide
~ Valium (diazepam)
~ Dilantin (phenytoin)
~ Neurontin (gabapentin)

Most dogs can be controlled by using Phenobarbital or Phenobarbital and potassium bromide. Potassium bromide is used alone if the dog's liver has become damaged by Phenobarbital. ***Important:*** Dogs on Phenobarbital need to have their liver enzymes tested every three to four months to make sure the drug has not caused liver damage. Valium, an injectable administered rectally and oral tablets, are a good choice to halt a cluster seizure or interrupt status epilepticus. Dilantin is currently not recommended for use. Gabapentin is a newer drug being used on humans. It offers exciting possibilities for dogs as it is only partially metabolized by the liver.

Diet:

Diet plays an important role in the management of Canine Epilepsy. It is very important to feed a kibble that is preservative-free. Preservatives such as ethoxquin, BHT, and BHA should be avoided as they can cause seizures. Many 'supermarket" foods are loaded with chemical dyes, and preservatives. Dog food recipes can be found in Dr. Pitcairn's "Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats." If your dog is taking potassium bromide, be very careful when you switch dog foods. Try to make sure the sodium content is the same as the previous food. Change over slowly so that the absorption rate of the potassium bromide remains constant.

Environment:

It is important to keep your epileptic dog as free from chemical pollution as possible. Do you use chemical sprays on your lawn? How about the cleaner you use for the floor? There are many things that lower a dog's seizure threshold. Note anything you have done or anything that the dog could have come in contact with which would trigger a seizure. It is also a noted phenomenon that some dogs have seizures around the time of a full moon.

Vaccinations:

Vaccinations can lower a dog's seizure threshold and trigger a seizure. If you feel that this is the case for your dog, ask the vet to split the shots and give them separately. Ask your vet if he / she knows about the new three-year protocol being used.

Treating Canine epilepsy

Goals of Therapy:

The ultimate goal in treating canine epilepsy is to restore a normal life for you and your epileptic dog through complete control of seizures with no side effects. However this is frequently not possible and a more realistic goal would be to reduce the frequency and severity of the seizures without creating unacceptable side effects from the medication given.

When to start treatment:

If your dog has a single seizure or infrequent seizures medication is generally not required. However, studies show dog's treated with medication early in the course of epilepsy have better long term control of their seizures, compared to dogs that are allowed to have many seizures before anti-seizure medication is started. The decision to begin medication should be made between the owner and veterinarian.

Guardian Angels

Gastric Bloat and Torsion: DANGER!

Large and extra large dogs naturally have large and extra large stomachs; this leads to extra-large appetites for food - unless their owners prevent it – they tend to gulp their meals down and to cap off the occasion with a big serving of water. If such an overstuffed animal then decide to take a vigorous romp outdoors, it could find itself in the throes of gastric bloat and torsion, a dire digestive system condition that is among the most common disorders requiring emergency care, usually within six to 12 hours following its onset.

Gastric bloat is the severe expansion (dilatation) of the stomach. The inflation of the stomach is caused by a combination of food, liquid and air intake that, when blended with normal secretions, yields an intolerably high amount of gas and abdominal pressure. Torsion occurs when the distended stomach then twists upon itself. If it twists more than 180 degrees on its long axis, the condition is called *volvulus.*

When the stomach twists, it closes off the sphincters that control the passage of ingested matter from the esophagus to the stomach and from the stomach to the small intestine. Consequently, despite the dog's futile attempts to belch, vomit or defecate, the stomach becomes increasingly distended with gas. As the gas accumulates, it puts great pressure on the walls of the stomach. The stomach becomes taut and its wall is stretched very thin. The blood supply to the stomach wall is severely compromised, resulting in tissue death (necrosis) causing the release of toxins. Bacteria can then proliferate in the stomach wall and pass into the animal's bloodstream. Additionally, the distended stomach blocks the blood flow from the abdomen to the heart, and this, combined with the formation of blood clots in the stomach, can cause the dog to go into shock.

If the oxygen supply to the stomach is not restored quickly and the bloating continues, the stomach wall will deteriorate rapidly and may rupture. Within a short period of a few hours or so, the suffering dog may die from a combination of factors: tissue damage, a ruptured stomach, kidney failure, respiratory insufficiency, cardiac failure and shock.

Emergency Treatment:

A veterinarian will first treat the animal for shock. Then a tube will be inserted into the animals mouth and gently fed into its stomach in an attempt to draw out the build-up of gas. An x-ray may be taken to confirm the gastric torsion. Next, the dog will be anesthetized, and the surgeon will open the abdomen, decompress the stomach, and then untwist it by hand back to its normal position. If it looks healthy, wonderful! But if it's been twisted for a long enough period of time, portions of the stomach tissue may have died, and any dead sections must be removed. To insure that the stomach can never twist again a *gastroplexy* will be performed – a procedure in which part of the stomach is sutured to the abdominal wall preventing any future stomach twisting.

The risk of gastric bloat can be greatly reduced by feeding two or three small meals a day to a large dog, rather than one large meal. Also, its recommended dogs in general not be allowed to consume large amounts of water or engage in strenuous exercise for at least two hours following a meal. *Dog Watch – Oct. 2007*