

**SPRING**

**VOLUME 42**

# ***The GRIPPER***

**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED PERRO DE PRESA CANARIO CLUB  
FOUNDED 1990 – UKC & AKC/FSS RECOGNIZED**

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## ***MEMORIAL TO A GREAT PRESA CANARIO***

Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, was a very dark day for the Kelly family and for Show Stopper Kennels. Champion G'Kar de Alacant-Bull T.T. succumbed to the ravages of liver cancer. He died this day at 10AM.

G'Kar was a one of a kind Presa; he was a kind dog, a gentle giant; and one of the greatest ambassadors for the Presa Canario breed. Of the thousands of people who had the opportunity and privilege of meeting him in person; would stand in awe of his size, conformation and overall demeanor. Many would stare with apprehension as he would approach them and then their hearts would soften as he would sidle up to them and sit at their feet waiting to be petted. G'Kar was Richard Kelly's best salesman. Many a sale was clinched after the prospective buyer met this unique dog.

G'Kar came from Alacant-Bull Kennels, coming directly from Alicante, Spain at the age of 8 weeks. He closely resembled his father – Arcan de Los Cardones who was an outstanding specimen. Several of G'Kar's sons come close to matching him, but still fall short in certain areas. G'Kar has proven himself by earning his conformation Championship and by passing his Temperament Test. He has strongly contributed in setting the benchmark for future dogs to conform to the breed standard, such as: big bone, heavily muscled, even tempered and extremely confident.

Beverly Shupe of Tall Oaks Kennel writes: "Richard, I'm so sorry for your loss of G'Kar. I can't imagine what you're going through. You know I have you and G'Kar to thank for my beautiful dogs. It is your and G'Kar's legacy. As far as I'm concerned I would not have the quality of Presa's in my kennel without your help and G'Kar's and the great line breeding we have on him. Thank you, Richard. My thoughts and prayers are with you."

The Kelly family wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who offered their sincere condolences and flowers. Just knowing so many people knew of this great dog brings much comfort to those of us who truly loved him. He will be sorely missed. Thankfully, many of his get will continue to contribute to his legacy.

We would like to make part of this GRIPPER a tribute to "G'Kar" by sharing some of his photo's as a membership keepsake.

# *Newly Registered Presa Names*

*Above Par – Chaka Khan*  
*Above Par – Pablo*  
*Above Par – Rocco Fella*  
*All Presa's – Matilda*

*Bravo's – Anise*  
*Bravo's – Chulo*  
*Bravo's – Colosus Ajax*  
*Bravo's – Comet*  
*Bravo's – Mya*  
*Bravo's – Pretty Boy*  
*Bravo's – Star*  
*Bravo's – Tiburon*  
*Bravo's – Tigatias*

*C&C – Athena*  
*C&C – Brawly*  
*C&C – Chino of True Pride*  
*C&C – Gypsy*  
*C&C – Jughead*  
*C&C – Katie*  
*C&C – Shiva*

*DiMillo's – Apollo T. Bull*  
*DiMillo's – Buddy*  
*DiMillo's – Charlie Brown*  
*DiMillo's – Duke Turner*  
*DiMillo's – Kendall Raine Bergin*  
*DiMillo's – Meka*  
*DiMillo's – Miley Persinger*  
*DiMillo's – Mya*  
*DiMillo's Zoe Jain*

*Lone Star – Bucephalos*  
*Lone Star – Cheyene*  
*Lone Star – Hamilicar*  
*Lone Star - Jada*

*AKCM – Tyson*  
*AKCM – Zeta*  
*Askari's – Moose*  
*All Presa's – Zaida*

*BB – Frita*  
*BB – Jesus De Carlo*  
*BB - Justice*  
*BB – Lupas*  
*BB – Pablo*

*Bailey De Shizzy Merchant*  
*Barnetts Blaze of Shogun Knls.*

*Crown Presa Chingon*  
*Crown Presa Myla*  
*Crown Presa Roxy II*

*Ca.Presa – OCK Tank*

*DeGuello's – Ginger*  
*DeGuello's – Lea*  
*DeGuello's - Baker*  
*DeGuello's Zeus*  
*Duke Capone De Castle Muniz*  
*Eegypt*  
*Elektra de Shogun Knls.*

*Leunitus*  
*Lexus Estate's - Dana*  
*Lance's - Shyla*

*MK – Andre*  
*MK – Bebe*  
*MK – Bella*  
*MK – Blackie*  
*MK – Domi*  
*MK – Floyd*  
*MK – Keela*  
*MK – Joe*  
*MK – Lady*  
*MK – Lee*  
*MK – Onzo*

*Matador Kenls. – Cojedora*  
*Matador Kenls. – Chupa Sangre*  
*Matador Kenls. Gorilla*  
*Matador Kenls. – Tabitha*

*Purdy's - Achilleez*  
*Purdy's – Firefly*  
*Purdy's – Harlow*  
*Purdy's – Lakota Fasthorse*  
*Purdy's – Mac Gruff*  
*Purdy's – Tiny Bubba*  
*Purdy's – Wednesdays Fire*  
*Purdy's – Wicked Jester*  
*Purdy's – Xzavier*

*Queen Khebe Moore*  
*Rob's – Caesar*

*S.S. - Bonzai*  
*S.S. - Juice de Lind*  
*S.S. – K'Bar*  
*S.S. – Seraphina of Tall Oaks*

*TNT's – Urbo Tigres*  
*Thorney Rogue – Eliana*  
*Tank D*

*MK – Sebastian*  
*MK - Simba De General*  
*MK - Scubbi*  
*MK – Shira Shadie Marshall*  
*MK – Tiger*  
*MK – Mira*  
*MK – Missy*  
*MK – Rime*  
*MK – Rocco*  
*MK - Roo*  
*MK – Zeppelin*

*MBM – Bato of Shogun Knls.*  
*Mitchel's – Onex*

*NB – Money Crawford*

*Prominents – Pettinger*  
*Prominents Pedro Pyroneous*  
*Prominents – Sonora Sound*  
*PK – Bella II*  
*PK - Milo*  
*PK – Vito*  
*Peace of Heavens Akasha*  
*Peace of Heaven's Katana*  
*Pure Presa Perfection Jewels*

*Rex De La Mar*

*Snider's – Glock Booten*  
*Sheena*  
*S.S. – KO McDonald*  
*S.S. – Pandora's Beauty*

*Tres Alida Czenzi*  
*Thorney Rogue – Hood*

*Tall Oaks – Achilles*  
*Tall Oaks – Brunner Baby Girl*  
*Tall Oaks – Chico*  
*Tall Oaks – Kaiser*  
*Tall Oaks – Latifah of C&C*  
*Tall Oaks – Monstro*  
*Tall Oaks – Olivia*  
*Tall Oaks – Zeus All Mighty*

*Tall Oaks – Bear*  
*Tall Oaks – Brixton Square*  
*Tall Oaks – Cocoa*  
*Tall Oaks – Kona*  
*Tall Oaks – Meena*  
*Tall Oaks – Nova*  
*Tall Oaks – Zeus Blocker*

## New UPPCC Club Members

**Wynard Belton  
Clinton, Maryland**

**Barry Lamar  
Laurel, Maryland**

**Anthony Bartolotta  
New York City, New York**

**Jacob Owens  
Reno, Nevada**

**Subhi (Sam) Al-Khamaiseh  
Summerville, South Carolina**

**Robert E. Rafalko  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**Timothy & Traci Valentine  
Cheltenham, Maryland**

**David Algarin  
Brooklyn, New York**

**Robert Terrell  
Ft. Washington, Maryland**

**Donna F. Salem  
Guthrie, Oklahoma**

**Dwight Hicks  
Redford Township, Michigan**

**Gregory DiBenedetto  
Brooklyn, New York**

**Krystal D. Wright  
Richmond, Virginia**

**Pete Cranstan  
Coppell, Texas**

**DeVaughn Cobb  
Richmond, Virginia**

**Nashone Howard  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Dwayne Dotson Jr.  
San Diego, California**

**Chris Kowalewski  
Massapequa Park, New York**

**Brian A. Kelly  
New York City, New York**

**Jennifer Beckwith**  
**Lincoln, Nebraska**

**Promise Lee**  
**Colorado Springs, Colorado**

**Dwayne Adams**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

**Ricardo Brewer**  
**Hot Springs, Arkansas**

# Show Results

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## **DCCA Regional Specialty, Franklin, Virginia – October 20, 2007 (2 – Shows)**

**Ch. Bravo's Nay Na** 2 x First Place  
**Owner: Beau Hadden** 2 x Best Youth  
1 x Best in Show

## **RARITIES – October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 - (2 Shows)**

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

## **RARITIES “Harford Classic” - October 28 & 29 - (5 Shows)**

**Ch. Bravo's Nay Na** 5 x Best of Breed  
**Owner: Beau Hadden** 1 x Group 2  
1 x Group 4

## **RARITIES “Year End Specialty” – Woodstown, New Jersey November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – (4 Shows)**

**Grand Champion Bravo's Nay Na CGC** 4 x Best of Breed  
**Owner: Beau Hadden** 1 x Group 2  
1 x Group 3  
2 x Group 4

## **UKC – Shenandoah Belgian Shepherd Dog Association (5 Shows)**

### **Warrenton, Virginia - December 14, 15, & 16, 2007 - (10 Presas)**

**( 6 to < 1 Yr.) – Male – (12/15/07)**

**S.S. Avatar** 2 x First Place  
**Owner: Richard Kelly** 2 x Best Male  
1 x Best of Winners

**Tall Oaks Brianna** 1 x First Place  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe** 1 x Reserve

**Ch. Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**

**1 x Reserve Winners**

**Gr.Ch. Tall Oaks Mankato TT**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**

**1 x Best of Breed**  
**1 x Group 1**

**RARITIES “Gator Classic” Kissimmee, Florida**  
**January 5&6, 2008 5 - Shows**

**Master Champion OGK Luna CGC**  
**Owner: Beau Hadden**

**3 x Best of Breed**  
**2 x Group 3**  
**1 x Group 4**

**Grand Champion Bravo’s Nay Na CGC**  
**Owner: Beau Hadden**

**2 x Best of Breed**  
**1 x Group 3**  
**1 x Group 4**

**UKC – New Kent, Virginia January 4,5,6. 2008 5 Shows (14 Presa)**

**Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> PM Show**

**Tall Oaks Brianna**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**

**1 x Best Female**  
**1 x Best of Breed**  
**1 x Group 1**

**Ch. Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**

**Won Ch. Class Winner**

**Grand Ch. Tall Oaks Mankato TT**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**

**Won Gr.Ch. Class Winner**

**Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> - AM Show**

**Tall Oaks Brianna**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**

**1 x Best Female**  
**1 x Best of Winners**

**Tall Oak’s Ritalin**  
**Owner: Tyrone Jinkins**

**1 x Best Male**

**Ch. Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**

**1 x Best of Breed**  
**1 x Group 1**  
**Won Ch. Class**

**Gr.Ch. Rosario's Wadaba**  
**Owners: Monica & Cleveland Person**

**Won Gr.Ch. Class**

**Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> - PM Show**

**Tall Oak's Ritalin**  
**Owner: Tyrone Jinkins**

**1 x Winners Dog**  
**1 x Best of Winners**

**Tall Oaks Kabuki of C&C**  
**Owner: Connie Gillison**

**1 x Winners Bitch**

**Ch. Above Par Magnus of Tall Oaks**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**  
**Finished his Grand Championship**

**1 x Best of Breed**  
**1 x Group 1**

**Gr.Ch. Tall Oaks Mankato TT**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**

**Won Gr.Ch. Class**

**Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> - AM Show**

**Ch. Tall Oaks Brianna**  
**Owner: Beverly Shupe**

**Won Ch. Class**

**Gr.Ch. Rosario's Wadaba**  
**Owners: Monica & Cleveland Person**

**1 x Best of Breed**  
**1 x Group 1**  
**Won Gr.Ch. Class**

**Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> - PM Show**

**Tall Oaks Riddlin**  
**Owner: Tyrone Jinkins**

**1 x Winners Dog**  
**1 x Best of Winners**

**Tall Oaks Mystique**  
**Owner: Tyrone Jinkins**

**1 x Winners Bitch**

Ch. C&C Cidius  
Owner: Connie Gillison

1 x Best of Breed  
1 x Group 1  
Won Ch. Class

Gr.Ch. Tall Oaks Mankato TT

Won Gr.Ch. Class

**I.A.B.C.A. All Breed Dog Show - Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> (7 Presas)**  
**Columbia, Missouri**

**Puppy Class:**

Thorney Rogue Hood – E (Male)  
Owner: Larry McCall  
Crown Presa Kennel

2 x First Place  
2 x Best of Breed Puppy  
1 x Group 2

Crown Presa – Chingon (Male)  
Owner: Larry McCall

2 x First Place  
2 x Best of Breed Puppy  
1 x Group 2

Thorney Rogue Elina (Female)  
Owner: Larry McCall

3 x First Place

**Adult Class:**

Crown Presa – Pango (Male)  
Owner: Larry McCall

1 x Best of Breed  
1 x Group 3

**UKC Dog Show – Beltsville, Maryland – Jan.12, 2008**

Tall Oak's Cyrus  
Tall Oaks Grimaldo  
Tall Oak's Chandra

Best Male  
First Place  
Best of Breed

**UKC Dog Shows – New Kent, Virginia – Feb. 01,02,03**

**1<sup>st</sup> show:**

Tall Oaks Cyrus  
Tall Oaks Chandra  
Gr.Ch. Tall Oaks Mankato TT

Best Male  
Best of Winners  
Best of Breed  
1 x Group placement

**2nd Show:**

**Tall Oaks Cyrus**

**Best of Breed**

**Group 3**

**Tall Oaks Chandra**

**Best Female**

**Gr.Ch. Tall Oaks Mankato TT**

**Won the Grand Ch. Class**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Show:**

**Tall Oaks Cyrus (Finished Championship At 9 mos.)**

**Best Male**

**Tall Oaks Chandra**

**Best of Breed**

**(Finished Championship at 9 mos.)**

**Group 4**

**Tall Oaks Grimaldo of C&C**

**Best of Winners**

**Owned by: Connie Gillison & Beverly Shupe**

**Tall Oaks Kabuke Of C&C**

**Best Female**

**Owner: Connie Gillison**

**Tall Oaks Cyrus**

**Won the Champion Class**

**4<sup>th</sup> Show:**

**Tall Oaks Grimaldo of C&C**

**Best of Winners**

**Owners: Connie Gillison & Beverly Shupe**

**Tall Oaks Brianna**

**Best of Breed**

**Group 3**

**Won the Champion Class**

**Tall Oaks Kabuke of C7C**

**Best Female**

**UKC – Warrenton Kennel Club, Warrenton, Virginia (2/09)**

**Tall Oaks Grimaldo of C&C**

**Best Male**

**Owners: Connie Gillison & Beverly Shupe**

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**Beau Hadden of Bravo's Kennel, Brooklyn, New York** is developing a dog handling program for some of his clients. It's a special workshop to teach the fundamentals of how to show their dog in the show ring; motivating everyone in attendance to be able to earn a CHAMPIONSHIP Title on their dog. This effort will certainly encourage others to follow suit and will help advance the Presa in the dog world. A detailed description of Beau's program should be forthcoming. Congratulations Beau!

# Quips & Quotes

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## **How Intuitive is the Presa Canario?**

Many breeds of dogs, if not all, possess some degree of intuitiveness when it comes down to discerning the degree of a threat and are able to immediately foretell whether a confronted human is a good or bad person. This characteristic appears to be quite prevalent in the working guardians breeds and especially so in the Presa Canario.

I cannot explain the how and why of the Presa's ability to react towards someone of a questionable character; but after observing many of my personal dogs through the years it never ceases to amaze me as to their accuracy. I typically classify people as good or evil; good folks at times make occasional dumb misjudgments; whereas those who are truly evil thrive on constantly doing bad deeds; it's here that the Presa excels in differentiating between the two categories of human traits.

As an example, at her very first outing, a 9 month old Presa female was being walked around a dog show site during which time she was constantly being approached and touched by several hundred people (young & old) without incident until someone who I would classify as an evil doer tried to approach her. This individual got no closer than 6 feet when the females demeanor and posture quickly changed. Her head was erect, chest out, up on her toes, tail up; while emitting a low menacing growl and never altering her stare at this person. Needless to say, the man stopped, turned and quickly left the area. How did this inexperienced dog know this was one of the bad guys?

Another such incident took place at a local Pet Exposition .During the 4 day event my 145 lb. male Presa (G'Kar) was constantly being surrounded, touched and stared at by many thousands of spectators; small children would walk up and pet him as I tried to take him for a walk; all this time there was never so much as bark or growl on his part until one individual bent down and peered into G'Kar's crate (as did many other people), but on the occasion the dog sensed something and he hit the crate door with a tremendous force while emitting a ferocious growl towards that person. The man got up and left immediately, never to be seen again.

What triggered his action towards this man? Only the dog knows. There were no other incidents during the 4 day event.

Many people come to visit our kennel to meet the Presas. For some this is their first exposure to the breed, and they are usually quite apprehensive about meeting the dogs. We would bring out each dog to be seen and handled. The visitors would stand in awe as each dog approached; presenting itself to be touched and petted. It would be just a short matter of time when everyone visiting would proclaim their love of the breed. Mind you, we have had incidents where certain people would come to view the dogs and the dogs upon seeing these people would become highly agitated and impossible to calm down. In these rare cases, the visitors were politely asked to leave. Again, what did the dogs perceive that we hadn't ?

On one particular occasion a doctor and his wife made arrangements to come and see the dogs. A young (16 month) female was led up to where the couple, were standing. As we got within five feet of where the doctor stood this female locked up, stared hard at the man; became erect, extremely vigilant of his every move and began sending a low growl. The dog was brought over to the wife and there was no problem except that the dog never lost focus of the man. This female truly sensed something about this doctor that made her uncomfortable. So, we tried bringing a younger male to the doctor, once again the 9 month old dog would not approach the man but would cozy up to the woman. Something was really puzzling us. What caused this sudden change in the dogs loving behavior to that of defensive guardians? After the couple left we had to determine the cause for this untypical behavior toward people that exhibited no visible threat to us or the dogs. We began doing a little detective work and soon learned the doctor was a practicing Abortionist; certainly this profession is the epitome of evil. Once again we asked ourselves, "How did the dogs know?"

Perhaps as Presa Canario owners you may have experienced similar scenario and never realized your dog was trying to give you warning. Trust the intuitiveness of the Presa, they have yet been proven to be wrong.

**Wisdomisms:** "If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the news paper you are misinformed."

*Mark Twain*

## ***“A time to reflect, and count our Blessings!”***

Dana Childers of Pride Rock's Kennel, Medford, Oregon writes to Richard Kelly, “We just lost S.S. Mercedes, aka: “CASEY” on Monday, November 19, 2007. She would have been 12 years old in March! She was the ultimate Presa! The perfect combination of companion and family protector! She was loved and will be missed!” For those members who may not remember; this female attacked a cougar on two separate occasions when it entered the family backyard. I'm certain we all express our condolences to the Childers family for their loss of a great dog.

Presa owner, David Rodriguez writes, “My female S.S. Fairlady was 9 years, 1 month and 1 week old when she passed away at 11:30pm on January 31, 2008. Fairlady spent 3 years in Japan with David while he was stationed there serving in the military. She will never be forgotten. We always took good care of her and loved her so very much. She was residing in Florida at the time of her passing.”

Breeders Choice Kennel just learned that one of their foundation dogs Ch. Rbl.BCK Zena CGC has bone cancer. This diagnosis was learned after Zena slammed into a door defending the home against an intruder. Shortly after the incident she began limping and was immediately taken to the vet to determine the extent of her injury. Where upon examination they found she had cancer. She was put on a regimen of medication back in February of this year. We can only hope for the best and offer our sincere prayer for an extended life free of pain.

**Connie Gillison of C&C Kennels, Mineral, Virginia**, has a heart as big as a mountain when it comes to caring about animals. She recently had the opportunity to rescue a purebred Presa Canario and what's written here are her words: “I would like to share with you “Katie's” story. She is now 13 months old. From her original breeder to previous owner; she lived 8 months on a tie out 5 feet long, and the rest of her time was spent in a crate.; having no one to play with. No dogs, no people. As she continued to grow the owner asked, herself “am I doing right by the dog???” As she began to read up on this breed she discovered many, many things that she was never informed about Katie. She decided to find Katie a more suitable home, which was done immediately after speaking to several highly respected Presa Canario breeders; it was made clear the overall damage was done. Katie had no obedience training, no manners, no prior dog interaction, no socialization, not to mention the bottled in aggravation of never being able to run and play. My whole reason for even sharing this is so to make all potential Presa buyers aware of the importance of learning every aspect of owning a Presa. It is especially critical that the Presa breeder fully understands the necessity to educate each prospective buyer as to the Do's & Don'ts of owning a Presa Canario. It breaks my heart to know this situation exists more than we believe or are told about. “Katie” is doing just wonderful, has learned her basic obedience and is currently learning how to interact with other animals. Now she has a chance to stretch out those long puppy legs every day. While this story ends on a happy note, I would like

to focus on preventing as many of these cases as possible. Kudo's to Katie for being a great girl through all this. So say Connie, Chris, and the Girls. Kudo's from the UPPCC membership to the Gillison family for their unselfish devotion to help animals in need.

**Show Stopper Kennels had the distinction of having the first Presa Canario born at one minute past mid-night New Years day – 2008, out of Ch. S.S. Syrianna T.T.**

**Kis Pavelko** writes to Beverly Shupe of Tall Oaks Kennel, "Hope all is well in the New Year. I thought I'd update you on our "Bura". As you know he will be 9 months old and is the sweetest puppy anyone has ever known. He is well over 100 lbs., all of which are lovable and kind. "Bura" loves people, other dogs, and especially children. Everyone he meets comments on his great temperament. I almost began to think he had no aggression at all until about a week ago. We were walking through the park when a couple came unexpectedly out through some bushes. We were startled, but Bura became alert, growling and positioning himself between me and the two people. I was amazed and quite pleased. All turned out well, the couple had just wandered off the path into the woods and left the area quietly. Once again, Thanks for Bura!"

**Dear Richard and Loraine,** my son Marc brought home a Presa pup from your kennel at the beginning of July, 2007. The pups name is "Boston." Although we have never met, I thought I'd share some insight as to how Boston is adjusting to his new environment. He is now socializing with an 8lb. Maltese, several horses weighing over 1,200lbs. each ,and three other dogs of various breeding. Desensitizing and acceptance without dominance is a big thing in our little group...of course I try to maintain the alpha status, but only time will tell....it's an amazing process and an amazing group that interacts together without incident...yet... Boston is doing very well, learns easily , a very happy guy and so far no aggression...He's developed a great calm demeanor and when becoming excited he could knock over a sizable lamp or whatever comes in contact with his tail action. He now weighs around 70 lbs. at 6 months is becoming somewhat taller and fuller. His color (brindle) is well defined and is quite striking with his white feet and chest. Thanks for such a great dog. David Korenberg

### **Wisdomisms:**

**Government is like a baby's *alimentary canal*, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other.**

Ronald Reagan

**Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner.**

*James Bovard, Civil Libertarian (1994)*

# Health News

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**The Liver: Versatile, yet Vulnerable:** *Inflammation, poisoning, infection or cancer can present a life-threatening challenge to your dog. Here's what you should know.*

Because of the hundreds of life-sustaining tasks that it performs, the liver is an indispensable component of your dog's anatomy. Among its many important functions is its vital role in filtering blood from the digestive tract preventing harmful ingested substances from flowing freely throughout an animal's system.

The liver is divided into several sections (lobes), each of which contains thousands of tiny units called lobules. Every portion of the liver is able to carry out all of the organ's countless chores. These include, the production of blood components that enable clotting; the metabolism of proteins, fats and carbohydrates as well as drugs and hormones; the storage of vitamins and other nutrients and of blood that can be rushed into circulation if needed in an emergency; the conversion of ammonia – a potentially harmful byproduct of digestion – into a less toxic substance called urea; and the secretion of bile, a fluid that is discharged into the small intestine to aid in the digestive process.

The liver also plays a vital role in detoxification – the mitigation of harmful substances that have entered the bloodstream. After blood has moved through the intestines, it passes through the portal vein to the liver and then to the rest of the body. In a healthy animal's body, these substances are rendered harmless; after which the cleansed blood flows back to the heart and is then safely re-circulated.

The most frequently observed liver disorders may be classified as inflammatory, toxic, infectious or neo-plastic (cancerous). Among all canine liver conditions the most frequently observed is chronic hepatitis, an inflammatory disorder that is most often diagnosed in middle-aged dogs ( six to eight years of age) *Chronic hepatitis* is particularly dangerous because affected dogs do not show signs of illness, such as loss of appetite and weight loss, until the disease has reached an advanced stage. As a result, some animals die within a short time following veterinary diagnosis.

*Toxic insult* to the liver results from the ingestion of harmful substances such as; poisonous plants, mushrooms, polluted water, spoiled food or garbage and human medications, such as Tylenol. **Only last year, owners and veterinarians were stunned to discover that canine liver failure was being caused by ingestion of dog food tainted with highly poisonous substances called aflatoxins.**

*Infectious liver disease, (Leptospirosis)* - a condition resulting from a bacterial infection. Because of the liver's location within the body and the animal's blood flow, it is very often involved with and affected by a wide variety of infectious diseases.

Dogs are also vulnerable to the development of liver tumors, which can either arise in the organ or metastasize to the liver from elsewhere in the body. Among all canine liver diseases, those with the poorest prognosis are end-stage cirrhosis, a condition in which functioning liver cells are replaced by scar tissue, and toxic insult caused by the ingestion of certain poisonous substances.

**Clinical Signs** are similar for all types of, advanced liver disease. These include food avoidance, weight loss, vomiting, lethargy, a noticeable buildup of abdominal fluid and jaundice. Early diagnosis relies on a thorough physical examination, blood chemistry analysis, urinalysis, liver function test, ultrasound imaging of the abdomen and possibly x-rays. Treatment methods and their outcomes will depend on the type of liver disease that is diagnosed and the stage of progression.

There is no absolute way to protect your dog from some types of liver disease, but owners should consider having their animals undergo a thorough physical examination at least once a year that includes a blood chemistry panel and urinalysis.

*Tom Ewing – Dog Watch*

## Spend a Day at the Dog Park--- Safely

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From San Francisco to Staten Island, off-leash dog parks are *de rigueur* for many Americans and their canine companions. Leash-free areas allow you and your dog to bond over a game of Frisbee or fetch as well as ensure that you're both getting some much-needed exercise and social time with other humans and canine pals. According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, 75 million companion dogs reside in the United States. It's no surprise, then, that demand for off-leash dog parks is greater than ever. But with open space and community parks at a premium in many areas, and accounts of dog bites in the news almost weekly, off-leash recreation is often controversial and costly.

**What People Fear Most:** Community leaders, park managers and dog owners worry that misbehaving canines might frighten people and other dogs, while parents of toddlers fear that unleashed dogs will roam into children's play areas. Fencing a designated off-leash area can help keep dogs in and potential problems out but may be cost prohibitive for many communities. Add in the expense of maintenance, supplies and staff, it's no wonder that many dog parks are never

constructed. To help solve the problem, dog lovers are joining together to raise funds to create and manage dog parks for their four-legged residents.

**Dog Park Do's and Don'ts:** Before you unleash your dog to cavort with other canines at a dog park, there are some safety issues that you should be aware of. You should always be cognizant of diseases lurking at dog parks. Anywhere animals congregate there is an increased risk of transmission of diseases, such as: external parasites (fleas, ticks and mites), viral diseases (the wart virus and parvovirus) and ringworm. Also, if the park has long grass or an uncut field, foxtails can be a concern. Warm, humid weather will cause fleas, ticks and other parasites (such as chiggers) to proliferate. Be sure your dog is up-to-date on all his vaccinations; examine him frequently for fleas, ticks and foxtails; and seek veterinary care if he exhibits any signs of illness or discomfort.

**Safety Concerns:** The old adage “prevention is the best medicine” certainly holds true when it comes to dog parks. You can avoid many problems by first making a trip to the park without your dog and evaluate the premises.

- Is the fencing well-maintained, without gaps where dogs can escape?
- Is there adequate shade for the dogs to rest in on hot days?
- Are there bags and trash cans available for dog waste?
- Do other dogs appear well-behaved and healthy?
- Is there staff available to oversee the operation and report any problems?
- Are there areas where your dog might become trapped and unable to get away from another dog?
- Are there separate areas for large and small dogs?
- Are there hazards such as broken glass or cigarette butts littering the ground? (if so, pick another park.)

**Behavior Considerations:** Notice how your dog reacts to other people and animals in a familiar setting such as your neighborhood before letting him loose at a dog park. If your dog exhibits aggression (growling or lunging), an off-leash park may not be the right place for him. I is recommended that your dog received obedience training before going to a dog park. It's very important that you have a dog that comes when you call; this will avoid a lot of problems. A lot of dogs cannot successfully go to a dog park due to their behavior; they are either, aggressive, fearful or unable to communicate properly with other dogs or read their body language. This does not indicate that a dog is “BAD”; it simply means that he may be a n inappropriate candidate for a dog park. Owners should not bring puppies to a park. In addition to not being fully vaccinated, a puppy might develop lifelong fears as a result of exposure to aggression or other intimidating behaviors from adult dogs in the park. Off-leash dog parks can offer adult dogs a safe and secure environment in which to roam and socialize.

