

The Official Publication of the
National Perro de Presa Canario Club

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New Club Members

Adrienne N. Bucket
Livermore, California

Jeremy Bennett
Missoula, Montana

Christian P. Dorfmeierv
Fresno, California

Jessie Williams
Copperas Cove, Texas

Horace Bugg Sr.
Littleton, North Carolina

Steven Mandolfo
Red Bluff, California

Anthony J. Ruta
Little Ferry, New Jersey

Walt Wayne
Davie, Florida

Ruben Mendizabal
Champaign, Illinois

Judith & Michael Bunten
Mt. Shasta, California

Twenty-eight new members joined this fraternal organization during 1999. This now brings the clubs total, to eighty-five active, paying members. It's this kind of participation and support, that allows the club and newsletter to continue moving forward. Let's all extend a special welcome to these, newest members and Presa owners.

New Presa Names

S.S. Mensa Snow

S.S. Simba Bodacious

S.S. Valeta de Hibernia

Primo Canario

Queen Tania

Zita of Bavarian Presas

S.S. LaNina

Pride Rock's miss Behaven

Catia de Casa del Presa

S.S. Mulan

Rocky II

Peacemakers Sophie

Pride Rock's Wynona

Pride Rock's Samson

G.A. Adolf Vaugn Rasp

Laica R. Bentaiga

Pride Rock's Auggie

Pride Rock's Zena

Cora de Casa del Presa

As of January 14, 2000, the NPPCC has registered 609 Presa Canario!

**A Tribute To The Dearly Departed Presa Canario
Saying that last goodbye to a beloved animal friend**

Dogs don't have souls, do they?

I remember bringing you home. You were so small and cuddly with your tiny paws and soft fur. You bounced around the room with eyes flashing. Once in a while you'd let out a little yelp just to let me know this was your territory. Making a mess of the house and chewing on everything in sight became a passion, and when I scolded you, you just put your head down and looked up with those innocent eyes, as if to say, "I'm sorry, but I'll do it again as soon as you're not watching." As you got older, you protected me by looking out the window and barking at everyone who walked by. When I had a tough day at work you would be waiting for me with your tail wagging, just to say, "Welcome home. I missed you." You never had a bad day, and I could always count on you to be there for me. When I sat down to read the paper and watch TV, you would hop on my lap, looking for attention. You never asked for anything more than to have me pat your head so you could go to sleep with your head over my leg. As you got older, you moved around more slowly. Then, one day, old age finally took its toll, and you couldn't stand on those wobbly legs anymore. I knelt down and patted you lying there, trying to make you young again. You just looked up at me as if to say that you were old and tired and after all these years of not asking for anything, you had to ask me for one favor. With tears in my eyes, I drove you one last time to the vet. One last time, you were lying next to me. For some strange reason, you were able to stand up in the animal hospital; perhaps it was a sense of pride. As the vet led you away, you stopped an instant, turned your head and looked at me as if to say, "Thank you for taking care of me." I thought, "No, thank you for taking care of me." Chuck Wells

As fate would have it, two of our dearest club members lost their Presas, in 1999. Diane Henshaw, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania lost her young male, "S.S. Jadakiss" (see photo), D.O.B. 12.22.98. Jay died of an aneurysm. Diane Writes,

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I'm very sad to inform you of the death of my beloved "J". He was just nine months old, 27" & 125 lbs., with a beautiful coat and personality to match. " He was loved by everyone. People stopped me everywhere I went and they all remarked, "He is so big and beautiful." I haven't been able to eat or sleep without "J". He made my house a happy home and he knew it. When my son went to school, "J" stayed right by my side. We had breakfast and dinner together every day. "J" was my life. I don't know if I'll ever understand why God took my sweet, so young. My life is empty without him. I'm not sure if you'll ever have another puppy as big and beautiful as "J", but when you think you do please let me know.

Dr. Sheldon Nassberg, of Coral Springs, Florida, sadly informed us of the loss this month of his best friend, "S.S. Buster." Buster died of Canine Malignant lymphoma. Dr. Nassberg spared no expense or effort to stem the spread of cancer, including weekly treatments of Chemotherapy. As Sheldon tells us, "I was so proud of Buster's behavior while in the veterinarians office during his treatments. Buster was born on October 1rst, 1995; he was out of S.S. Elektra and S.S. Calybos. He achieved renowned status by being featured in the color brochure of Show Stopper Kennels sitting on the lap of the good doctor.

All the club officers express our deepest sympathy to Diane and Sheldon on the loss of their friends. We offer our prayers to ease their suffering.

QUIPS & QUOTES

1999 was not a very good year for some of our members and officers, especially for Show Stopper kennels and the Kelly family. In April, of 1999, it was medically determined that Richard Kelly was experiencing muscle degeneration and loss of strength in his left hand and arm. Major surgery was required in June to stem the tide of muscle loss. The operation was successful, but the net result is permanent disability to his left hand and arm.

As is this wasn't enough of a test of courage and stamina, the Show Stopper kennel and Kelly household were flooded over during tropical storm "Floyd" on September 17, 1999. The entire kennel area was wiped out and the entire lower living level of their home was

flooded with eight feet of contaminated water (see photos). Richard gives much credit to his wife's intuitiveness, when she suggested renting a twenty- two' Avis truck in the early hours of the 16th. Acting on her instincts, all the dogs were loaded into the truck along with crates, food and whatever other items could be stored. By noontime, the creek at the rear of their property crested (six feet of water). At 5pm, the water reached the rear of the house (thirteen feet of water), and at 1am, the entire family had to evacuated by boat. This effort included saving seven children, Loraine & Richard and son-in-law Barry. The depth of the water was now 23' foot above flood stage. The photos show the effects after the waters began to recede on the 18th.

The Kelly homestead has since been renovated. A new dog kennel (14' x 40'), housing twelve Presas, was quickly constructed in Pennsylvania. The New Jersey facility now houses only four Presa. As Richard says, "We've experienced many set backs in our lifetime and each time we come back a little stronger - we are survivors."

We received word from KAY GAWTHROP of Waldorf, Maryland, about her Champion, male presa, "Ch. S.S. Maximillian TT," aka: Max. Kay says, "Hi guys! Wasn't sure if you had seen the article from the "El Presa" website. Max was featured as Presa of the month, December, 1999. My baby is so handsome! Also, Max is now an official ARBA CHAMPION!!! My boy accomplished quite a lot in 1999. I'm so very proud of him. I hope the year 2000 will bring us more good times.

Thanks to Show Stopper Kennels for giving me the honor of having such a wonderful dog.

To summarize, NPPCC, ARBA Ch. S.S. Maximillian TT, has passed the PCCA Registro, was OFA'd certified - Good, passed the PCCA temperament test, earned two championship titles, was chosen Presa of the month and became an official proven stud dog. Check out the photos of Kay's pups sired by Max.

Is there any doubt that Presas are protective guardians? Well we received another report of the Presas ability to intimidate and protect. Bill Thyfault, of Guardian Angels Kennel sold a Presa to a female probation officer, whose area of responsibility required her to travel into some questionable zones of St. Louis. Bill had assured this client the presa would be both companion and guardian. It wasn't long before Bill heard back from this client. She told Bill, " that on two separate occasions, Pit bulls were let loose on her and her Presa. Her dog performed exactly as Bill had predicted. As you can imagine, there were no further such incidents upon her or her Presa. In fact, the general populace gives her and her protector a wide berth. Especially since the Presa walks along side her, OFF LEASH!

Will they ever learn? Some dog owners believe their pets should be playmates with a presa or they feel their dog is superior to any presa. Unfortunately, what many dog owners neglect to learn or understand is the fact that the presa is territorial, defensive and protective of his owner and his domain. Now for the rest of the story, in October 1999, an owner of a rather large presa, who will remain nameless, was taking his dog for his daily constitutional. On this occasion, a local resident who was walking his Doberman, began tracking directly behind the five year old presa and it's owner. Apparently, the Dobi owner was attempting to have both dogs meet and play together. The presa owner began taking repeated evasive measures to avoid contact, but to no avail. No matter which direction the presas owner turned, the Doberman and his owner were close behind. Finally in desperation, the presa owner turned onto a golf course, in the hopes of dissuading the pursuing party. This was not to be. The presa owner stopped, turned and warned the Dobermans handler that his dog was becoming highly agitated and that the presa had perceived his dog as a threat. Just at that moment, the presa lunged towards the other dog snapping his leash. He charged the Doberman, grabbing him by the throat causing a severe laceration. After what seemed like an eternity, the owners were able to separate the dogs. The net result of this confrontation was the presa owner paying a \$400 suturing bill and the "Dobi" owner sadly learning Presa are not a dog to challenge or threaten.

Andreas Koufiotis of Pallini, Greece sends his season greetings to his American friends and Presa owners. He also sends a seasonal card from his male Presa "Dias". We quote: " My favorite male presa is S.S. Dias, as you can see from the photo. "Dias" is the principal of my brand "EDWIN JEANS" in Greece. Thank you from all your American friends for sharing this great picture of "Dias."

Richard Cranmore of Prattville, Alabama, sends photos and a progress report on his presa, "S.S. Mucho Moch Man" (Max). At 4 1/2 months, he weighs 95 lbs. I am very happy with Max. He is everything we were told he would be and more. I will continue to keep you posted. Just for the record, two of Max's female littermates weigh 96 & 78 lbs. These pups are out of Grand Ch.S.S. Medusa TT and Grand Ch.S.S. Mufasa TT.

The Gripper Gripe

"White, White, white and more White," is the never ending cry from those few ignorant Presa aficionados of the PCCA. This small group, constantly harps about Presas with white markings and contends they are impure, less than desirable and are manufactured by all breeders not associated with their group.

Enough is enough of these erroneous remarks. Let the attached photo copies speak for themselves. What's the old cliché? " A picture is worth a thousand words." These copied photos were taken from a Spanish book, "El Presa Canario," authored by: Presa Judge and breeder, "Manuel Martin Bethencourt," and from the August, 1997, issue of, "El Mundo del Presa" which featured an in-depth article about the Presa Canario.

You can readily see these Presas have varied markings of white coloration on their snout, muzzle, face, head, collar, toes, feet, legs, chest and body. Somehow these dogs are recognized as Presas from their country of origin, from Spain and from renowned Presa breeders. How can this be? You might well ask! Could it be that a small group of individuals are unaware of the existence of such beautiful Presa. Perhaps, this group (PCCA & CEPRC) are of a mind-set to change the overall appearance of the Presa by removing the genetic white coloration at the expense of losing the dog's characteristic temperament.

Remember Dear Members," the white coloration within the Presa Canario breed comes from genetic infusion of the Olde Bull Baiting Bull-dog & Cordoba. Like it or not, the white gene being dominant, will over time manifest itself as a recessive gene, in the form of a mostly white bodied dog or with white markings on the Presa as previously described. Please note the coloration of the pups in the basket along side the small child."

Our point to this expose - don't let anyone try to intimidate you into believing that any Presa with White Markings is impure. One has only to use ones eyes or travel to the Gran Canary Islands or to Spain to observe first hand evidence of Presa Canario dogs with varied white markings. Let the truth stand on it's own merits