

The Gripper

The Official Publication of the
National Perro de Presa Canario Club

Contents: September 2002

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New NPPCC Members

Johnathan Krudzo
Toronto, Canada

John Alexander Moya
Hoboken, New Jersey

Justin O. Ross
Houston, Texas

Charles R. Quarles
Roanoke, Virginia

Kyle Clouette
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Marianna Stiglitz
Toronto, Canada

Chad Larkins
Bowie, Maryland

Richard Bell
Media, Pennsylvania

David Butler
Bronx, New York

Derek Wolfe
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The club officers and its membership wish to extend a warm welcome to these new members, who have elected to become affiliated with all those whose expressed desire is to seek the recognition of the Presa Canario breed by a duly sanctioned American registry, namely, the United Kennel Club, through the efforts of the NPPCC, and the newly created Presa Canario Club known as the "United Perro de Presa Canario Club," aka: UPPCC. These 10 new members increase the ranks of our membership to 179.

New Presa Names

P.P. Konan II

P.P. Silent Storm

P.P. Zenya
P.P. Centari
Tirma
S.S. Zimbabwe
S.S. Oo LaLa
S.S. Sasha Hughes
ACKM Jezebell
ACKM Luna de Luna
Poppus Maximus
MK Megan
Cloie
B.E.G. Mena
G.A. Zoe Belle

P.P. Zoe
P.P. Gika
Nicodemus Syed
S.S. Nikka G'Kar
S.S. Sasha G'Kar
Letalone Creek Dingo
ACKM Brando
ACKM Socrates
Ranger Cujo
Tyson
Saedi
B.E.G. Rey Diego
G.A. JuJu Ako

Show Results

Hear ye! Hear ye! Mark Clemens of Highlandville, Missouri, Presa breeder and owner of "A Kennel called Mango", exhibited his presa – G.A. Marcus Aurelius at the annual I.A.B.C.A. – Purina Farms, 2 day, 3 show event, held in Gray Summit, Missouri on June 22nd & 23rd. The confirmation events were made up of AKC & Rare Breed dogs. MARCUS won Best of Breed, two out of three shows and defeated the the Spanish 5½ yr. old import – Tigotan in all 3 shows, who is owned by Jennifer Chandler. As Mark tells us, Jennifer did make an effort to personally compliment Mark on what a good looking presa was his Marcus. Mark thanked her and righteously responded "Yes, he's not bad for a Ban Dog". Marcus is out of Godo de Honto-Bull & S.S. Binti Jua.

International Catch Dog Association of Fort Lawrence, South Carolina held their QUICK CATCH competition on Saturday, June 29th. There were 13 American Bulldogs and one Presa Canario entered in the event. The winner with the best time of 4.5 seconds in catching and holding a 300 lb. Boar was the 85 lb., 15 month old female presa owned by Tyrone Brown of Digi Digi Kennel, Thorofare, New Jersey. Reina is out of Hino de Irema Curto & S.S. Valeta de Hibernia. Tyrone was proud to mention that not only did Reina win the prize money, but; she left behind some 13 stunned Bulldog owners.

We would like to extend our congratulations to one of our newest club members, Chad Larkins of Bowie, Maryland, whose black brindle female won her first ARBA-CAC in the puppy group of 6 to 9 months, at the ARBA Liberty Bell Classic, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 13th.

Dear members, please review the enclosed instructions for earning a NPPCC Championship tittle. Since the National Perro de Presa Canario Show Sheet must be completed for each and every show, and for each and every dog entered, feel free to make as many photocopies as needed. Upon achievement completion, we will issue a certificate of Championship worthy of framing.

Quips & Quotes

Onneke Shaff writes: "We just came back from the vets (had our "big dog" shots & microchip inserted). I thought I'd rattle off a quick note to let you know how S.S. Oo La La, aka: GRETA is doing. She's about 4 months old now and weighed in at 50 lbs. Her tiger colors have come in beautifully and Miss America couldn't turn as many heads as she does! Of coarse she's been hard at work. It hasn't been easy for her to teach an old dog (me) new tricks, but, slowly she is seeing some progress! She rewards me with lots of kisses and one of

the most wonderful tail wiggles that can be imagined! She's taken me through puppy preschool and we'll start obedience classes in earnest in a couple of weeks. What a pleasure she is. She had a big day yesterday. I took my 12-year old nephew to a soccer camp at one of the local universities. Greta had a blast, everyone that passed, from adults on down to the real little ones, had to stop and pet her. She gently lick the children's faces, no jumping, no puppy nibbles. It's like she sensed just how she should act. Needless to say, she soaked up all the attention like a little sponge. So far she has exceeded my expectations. After almost 25 years of owning Pit bulls, it has taken less than a week to make a convert out of me. Thank you again for this marvelous puppy!"

"Happiness is not a station you arrive at, but a manner of traveling" M.L. Runbeck

Joe Brown, UPPCC secty. writes, " we had an interesting experience in training the other day and I thought I'd share it. I've been training Bess for Sch.BH, a certificate that allows you to go onto regular competition at the United Schutzhund Club (<http://www.bigskyschutzhund.bizland.com/bhbook.htm>). This involves attention heel (FOOS), sit & down in motion, turns, long downs, etc. The BH test covers everything you need for a SCH I, except for the dumbbell retrieve. Ok! We've been at this training for two – three months, with halting progress. Once or twice I thought about giving up. I had put everything else aside, Agility which I love, even Scootering. We were getting nowhere. Finally I decided to get back into everything. I went to a Scooter run, I signed up for Agility, sent away for a weight pull harness, all in the same day. The next evening after dinner, I began watching TV and drinking a glass of wine when Bess comes up to me, sits at attention and STARES and STARES and STARES. It was starting to bug me, and then I had a thought. This is exactly the attention I needed for my Schutzhund program. I immediately stop everything and went outside with her. Bess bounded after me and we had our best training session ever. Left and right turns, two 30 pace attention heels with two about face, a long down and a perfect HEIR! Next day she went to Agility, first time in almost four months. She ran a complete novice course, including weave poles, flawlessly. Day after that she had two perfect runs on an advanced Agility course, 18 obstacles. Not sure what the moral is, except to train when your dog is ready. Learn their rhythms, adjust and work with them. Break up the routine; don't train in just one thing. Don't sell your dog short. Just when you're ready to quit, you'll have a breakthrough moment.

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time just as I am."

Hi every one, my name is Vince Alain, I'm one of the two Canadians on the UPPCC Board of Directors. I also run PLATINUM PRESA KENNELS, a small kennel still in its early stages of development. I feel my whole life has been building towards this point. I've always been passionate about dogs. I first realized in 7th grade this strong passion for dogs and my English teacher discovered I had chosen dogs as my school project for 3 years. Growing up my family was involved with raising Airdale Terriers. Five years ago I started on a quest to find the perfect dog as a pet and to start a breeding kennel. In the past I've owned a German shepherd, a Rottweiler, a Collie, a Boxer-mix, and a few Pit bulls. I originally wanted to become a dog trainer but changed my mind when I realized the majority of the dog training was really training people (which are way to stubborn). Three years ago I was smitten by, the Presa Canario. This is the most amazing breed of dog I have ever been in contact with and I believe we are only skimming the surface of it's potential. It excels in its agility, loyalty, resilience, power and intelligence. Not a day goes by that one of my dogs doesn't impress me by learning a new command or pulling off some gravity-defying leap through the air. My first presa was D.F. Mercy the Merciful. She's undergone agility training and had started her Search & Rescue class when it was cut short because the trainer was sent to the Middle East. My goal as a breeder is to produce a presa that is healthy, intelligent and with good type.

Bob Wood of Missouri called presa breeder Bill Thyfault of Guardian Angel Kennel and told him of an incident concerning his pet quality presa called Bo. Bobs wife noticed two dogs in their pasture bothering the cattle. One was a Rottweiler, the other appeared to be nothing more than a mutt. She told her husband who then gathered up his presa and both jumped into the pickup truck and headed off to the field. Upon approaching the two strays, Bob opened the door of his truck and immediately Bo was in pursuit of the now scampering dogs. The mutt being the faster of the two now left the Rotti to fend for himself. What happened next is what Bob couldn't believe. Bo caught the Rotti by the back of the neck and with a thrust of his head; Bo threw the Rotti six feet in the air. As soon as Bob got close enough he was able to call his presa off and back into the truck and the Rotti took off for parts unknown. This is the same presa that would go into the field and lie down with the calf whenever its mother would leave to get a drink.

From panther729@webtv.net Although I have never been near one of these rare dogs, I read the Dog Fancy article and just wanted to say "Good for you" for defending this obviously noble breed from the breed specific bans. I have never agreed with them as a groomer and vet assistant in training. I love dogs of all types and feel it's the people who need regulating as to whether or not they are qualified to own a dog. I hope your kennel (Show Stoppers) overcomes this bad publicity and that ignorant and belligerent dog owners don't make things worse for you. "Amy in Maine"

A Sunday school teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

"Thou shall not steal" Greg Johnson of Groves, Texas is the owner of four Presa Canarios. Well he did have four for a while, seems he had his 9- month old female stolen by a local Pit bull gang. This group had visited Greg's kennel earlier and when he returned home from work he discovered the female pup was missing. As he began checking on the other dogs he noticed evidence that the group

attempted to steal one of presa males. Skid marks in the mud near the dogs gate were a strong indication that the group got more than they bargained for in their failed attempt to take the male presa. Greg was so rankled by this groups arrogance that he made it his mission to find them and his dog. It didn't take him long to discover the groups hideaway and notify police, who raided the groups home, recovering the missing presa, and arresting the group, charging them a felony crime. Unfortunately, while Greg was happy to get his dog back, he noticed scarring about her head and a change in her overall demeanor. It appears the thieves had already begun to fight her. Greg's parting comment to this episode: "I hope they apply Texas justice and hang'um high."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw an opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait." Kevin turned to his brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

"In the Life" - Nancy Swartz, producer of, "In the Life Media, inc." located in New York City, contacted Show Stopper Kennels and asked if she could meet with Richard and one of his Presa Canarios. Nancy said, "We are doing a follow up story to the San Francisco incident and would like to show the breed as the stable, confident dog that they are and that the incident was initiated by irresponsible, ignorant dog owners, not the dogs. Richard and his poster boy – Ch. G'Kar de Alacant-Bull met with the film crew on July 22nd at Johnsons Park, New Brunswick, New Jersey, for 1 hour. You can be assured G'Kar was a perfect gentleman and a perfect representative of the breed. A special segment will air sometime during the month of September on the PBS - Sunday program, "In the Life."

Court TV – Fox Broadcasting, will air a 1-hour special during the month of November. This program will be produced by, Anderson Productions Ltd. of New York City. Brian Peter Falk, the Senior Producer/Director made arrangements to visit the Show Stopper Kennels and meet with Presa Canario breeder – Richard Kelly on July 23rd. The interview and filming of all the dogs lasted 3 hours and was an excellent opportunity to portray the breed in a positive light as opposed to the bad press given to the San Francisco incident. This special is a follow up to the Marjorie Knoeller story.

A father was at the beach with his children when the four year old ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore, where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went up to heaven," the dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

Top Notch Kennels located in Dayton, Texas, and owned by Cedal Rogers. He is the father to a twelve-year old son, and the fiancée of a loving woman, Deitre. The Rogers family shares a deep love for dogs, and last year decided to do what he had always dreamed of doing: starting a dog kennel. With the help of Richard Kelly and Bill Thyfault, Cedal has built a professional kennel, with ten – 20' x 25' runs, now occupied by seven presas, GK Shack (Gate Keepers), Little Nika, Peaches, Leta Lynn, Sugar Mama (all AKCM), S.S. Nirvana and S.S. Pulp Fiction, who has just returned from being bred with Ch. G'Kar de Alacant-Bull. It won't be long before Cedal experiences the joy of his first litter. Cedal had always loved Pit bulls but became intrigued by the Presa Canario. He researched several kennels and while visiting MoKan Kennels, owned by Mose Huggis of Topeka, Kansas, he saw and fell in love with GK Shack. "It was like looking at two different breeds", says Cedal. I knew I had to have this dog. Shack stands 25" and weighs a lean 98 lbs. Another promising youngster was purchased from Mango Kennel, she was Mango Little Nika, daughter of Mango Nika, winner of the 2002 AKC/IABAC Purina Classic. When asked about the question of "Psuedo-presas", Cedal said, "I don't pay much attention to it." He is utterly sold on the Mufasa/Medusa lines and says, "I wouldn't buy anything not out of those lines."

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human, because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that, "Jonah was swallowed by a whale." The teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to Heaven, I will ask Jonah." The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to Hell?" The little girl replied, "then you ask him!"

Alex Moya writes: "Hi Richard, Just wanted to shoot you a message to share some thoughts on the things I've been reading and observing in the Presa world. First and saddest, I am amazed at the way some of the professed breeders behave and speak. The things they say, the way that they say them, and the attitudes that they portray. I find their actions more detrimental to the future perception of the Presa canario breed than any of the unfortunate acts of rouge animals. These people are an insult to the sport." Alex is a new NPPCC member and is the proud owner of P.P. Silent Storm (Dante), purchased from Vincent Alain's Platinum Presa kennel in Ontario, Canada. "Dante" is out of Ch. G'Kar de Alacant-Bull and D.F. Mercy the Merciful. He's a (F5) black brindle Presa Canario with 286 known ancestors and weighs in at 84 lbs. At 5 months of age.

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Snoqualmie Tunnel Run Joe Brown writes, " Today we went on another fun run with the Seattle Area Scooter Club. There were a dozen or so teams in attendance, a large number of Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Malamutes. This time we went to the Snoqualmie Pass railroad tunnel, built in 1912 and now part of the Cascade Mountain trail system. It's located near what is now Interstate 90, along the last mountain pass before you reach the coast.

It was an unusually mild day, 65 in Seattle and probably another 10 degrees cooler at the Snoqualmie summit. We followed a trail towards the tunnel, which was bored into the side of a large mountain, towering several thousand feet above us. Rounding the corner you notice just as the mouth of the tunnel comes into view a very cold blast of air, as though you're approaching a glacier or the world's biggest freezer. The tunnel is 2.3 miles long and the air is a constant 40 degrees, cold enough to see your breath. We assembled the teams and suddenly we're off. A bicycle led the way followed by two of the Huskies. "Bess" charged ahead full speed to pass as we entered the tunnel, going about 15 mph.

Now something you know about tunnels but give little thought is that tunnels are dark! Pitch pure inky undiluted blackness. Another thing is they're wet! Fountains of icy water pour out at odd spots throughout the tunnel, from the ceiling arching some 40' overhead. So here you are rushing into an inky black tunnel out of the bright daylight, with nothing but a dim little miner's light, on a gravel trail, crowding past other teams, cold water hitting you in the face, blasts of cold air.... And you're flying into nothingness.

This goes on for quite some time. 2.3 miles in the cold wet dark is a dam long ways. Dog starts darting from side to side as your eyes struggle to adjust and as a column of water passes inches from your face and you're starting to get annoyed with the dog that you realize she can see the dangers ahead and is avoiding them – she's keeping you dry. Trust the dog. Stay off the brakes. Keep moving. Voices start to dim. You're more and more alone. Eyes adjust, the beam casts pitifully ahead the penumbra barely lighting the sides. For the first half-mile, you have the eerie feeling you're going to crash into the wall. Trust the Dog!

Eyes continue to adjust and the beam of the headlamp gives you the weird feeling your head is stuck in a cone and your blanketed by a palpable nothingness, real enough to touch and feel. It presses on you and your head sticks out ridiculously into this little cone ahead of you. Around a bend now and a mile and a half away is the light at the end of the tunnel, a mere pinprick of daylight. Ten minutes later it's just where it was before, no bigger or brighter, a sick practical joke. Dog pants on at 8 mph.

You enter a weird kind of hallucinatory, lucid state. The spot of daylight so far ahead for some reason reminds one of the ocean and you feel.. nothing, there is just that spot, your lamp, dog panting, crush of gravel under your tires, ears getting cold, the wind, and the pathetic dark. Another mile and the end of the tunnel is still fingernail size.

Finally we made it out, third team, and it's noticeably colder than the interior side of the mountain, you realize between you and the pass is two miles of solid granite and the only way back is the way you came. Going back the other way you now feel like an old hand. The tunnel is now familiar and you stop once or twice. For just a while, try to ride in the dark, no headlamp. Can't see your hand in front of your face as the dog slows, bike weaves, never realized how much you rely on your sight to stay balanced. Back on the other side we went another mile or so to an alpine lake and let the dogs have a swim. Peaks on all sides are capped with snow that never melts, clouds rolling in, weather breaks and it gently starts to rain. "Bess" sleeps all the way home.

Snoring: A couple has a dog that snores. Annoyed because she can't sleep, the wife goes to the vet to see if he can help. The vet tells the woman to tie a ribbon around the dog's testicles and it will stop snoring. That night the dog begins to snore as usual. The wife tosses and turns unable to sleep. Unable to take it anymore, she goes to the closet and grabs a piece of ribbon and ties it carefully around the snoring dog's testicles. Sure enough, the dog stops snoring! The woman is amazed!

Later that night, her husband returns home very drunk from a night out with the boys. He climbs into bed, falls fast asleep, and begins snoring loudly. All of this racket wakes the wife from her sleep. She now wonders if maybe the ribbon will work on him as well. So she goes to the closet again, grabs a piece of ribbon, and ties it around her husband's testicles. Amazingly, it also works on him! The woman goes soundly to sleep. The husband wakes from a drunken stupor and stumbles into the bathroom. Standing in front of the toilet, he glances in the mirror and sees a blue ribbon attached to his testicles. He is very confused, and as he walks back into the bedroom, he sees a red ribbon attached to his dog's testicles. He looks at the dog and says, "I don't know where we were or what we did, but by God we got first and second place."

Mondio Ring Seminar: On Sept. 21 & 22, the Southern Ontario Ring Enthusiasts will be hosting a Mondio Ring Seminar. "Mondio" is a sport that was designed to bring all the European dog sports together and allow them to compete on one field. It is similar to the Belgian and French ring with aspects of Obedience, Agility and Protection. For more information please e-mail at: davidiodavid@hotmail.com

Hutchinson Cancer Research Heidi G. Parker of the Clinical Research Division, Seattle, Washington, writes: Dear Richard & Loraine Kelly, Thank you for participating in the "Canine Phylogeny Study" at the Fred Hutchinson cancer Research Center and agreeing to collect additional samples from breeders and owners in your area. I think the interest in a study like this is strong right now and everyone I have talked to in the Perro de Presa Canario community has been very helpful. The phlogenetic study will do two things for us – it will establish our breed's role as canine research locates the genes responsible for a host of genetic diseases and almost as important it will spell out the genetic distance between our dogs and other breeds. A similar study has been done on Spanish breeds earlier.

parkerh@fred.fhccr.org

Media, Pennsylvania: Richard Bell writes: Poppus Maximus, aka, Poppy is a Presa Canario that now lives with me. You wouldn't think to look at him now that he was found abandoned in the wetlands near the Philadelphia airport. According to eyewitness accounts, he was hunting for his own food, and occasionally hanging out with the airport fire crews, eating doughnuts and beef jerky. I came to know him because members of the Rare- Molosser e-group asked me to visit the Delaware County SPCA where "Poppy" was being held. Since there was no support paper work on the dog, Richard contacted the NPPCC and asked for an evaluation and an opportunity for registration. The conclusion was because of the close similarity to another Presa (Gr.Ch. S.S. Medusa TT) (see the photo page), and the fact that Poppy was neutered, the NPPCC issued a Limited Registration. After a dental exam by the University of Pennsylvania Vet Hospital it was determined he was close to 2 years of age. He now weighs 110 lbs. and is steadily gaining.

Poppy recently proved his ability as a protector in a real life situation. In the early hours of the morning (4 – 5am), I was walking him when I encountered a very unpleasant man driving a truck. The driver stopped his vehicle alongside of us and became verbally abusive. Poppy immediately reacted by jumping through the truck's open window. I physically had to drag Poppy back from the truck. The driver panicked and quickly fled the scene. While being removed from the truck, its wing mirror was broken off, and Poppy picked it up and carried this trophy all the way home. Luckily no one was injured. Poppy's reaction may have saved me from an unpleasant altercation. Am I ever glad that I rescued this wonderful companion – guardian.



Introducing the UPPCC Board of Directors (2002 –2004). Dave Espinoza writes: Well, it took us a month to put this group together. I am proud to be associated with such great people. All are serious about the future of the "Perro de Presa Canario". We have a lot of talented people with valuable skills. Let us work together to help all presa owners become responsible, knowledgeable dog owners and/or breeders. UKC recognition will provide presa owners all over the country with opportunities to compete in sanctioned dog events, and possibly earning certified titles on their dogs. Thank everyone for their willingness to help. We are entering this new phase with over 100 members who represent hundreds of dogs from various kennels. Allow me to introduce our UPPCC officers and Board of Director members:

Richard Kelly

Show Stopper Kennels
President

Dave Espinoza

Presa owner
Vice President

Joseph Brown

Presa owner
Secretary, Agility, weight-pulling & Pedigree data

Loraine Kelly

Show Stopper Kennel
Treasurer

Mark Govani

Desert Sky Canine
Training (West)

Vance Macthamais

Civil K9
Training (East)

Tyrone Brown

DigiDigi Kennel
Catchdogs

Alex Moya

Presa owner
Advertising & PR

Dana Childers

Pride Rock Kennels
Confirmation (West)

Mark Clemens

Mango Kennels
Confirmation (East)

Cedal Rogers

Top Notch Kennels
Asst. to the Exec. Board

Joe Farquhar

El Presa BB Admin.
Nutrition/Research/Supply

Vincent Alain

Platimun Presa Kennels
Search & Rescue

Jean Meader

Breeders Choice Kennel
Confirmation



Why is UKC recognition so important? We are all enthusiasts of the Perro de Presa Canario, a breed touted as being created in the 1960's to 1970's, having genetic ties to just a few breeding pairs. Many people in the United States have been under the impression that, "There were only a few real presas left, and that a group of dedicated breeders used them to recover the breed." There is some major POO linked to this belief. The people involved with the Presa Canario in those early days were not worried about anything other than selling dogs. These breeders saw an opportunity to exploit this rare breed and begin to cross Neo's, Pit bulls & Bulldogs, in various configurations and began selling them as Perro de Presa Canario. Next a few clubs were formed to provide an air of legitimacy to the scam. We all know the sad results of these early crossings; some of them are still with us and are being promoted as some sort of "Special" working dogs. We have a cancer amongst us, namely, the Dogo Canario Club of America, formerly known as the Presa Canario Club of America.

This group has a sad and dismal record of falsifying documents to obtain "proper" paperwork, breeding and using dogs with known health and temperament issues in their attempt to get show wins. They have lied about the identity and origination of their breeding stock, while failing to give credit to the breeders who created them. They make excuses and discredit people as normal behavior. They make slanderous accusations without providing factual documented proof. They will discredit anybody not affiliated with them. I can provide specific instances of everything I have stated. It is all FACT. They are now attempting to discredit the UKC/Presa database. Tracy Hennings says, "Joe Brown stole the pedigrees from the net and all data is inaccurate. The beautiful thing is there are pedigrees listed of dogs from all over the country, and the only ones reporting discrepancies to date are the moaners and groaners who have tried to sell this country a bag of "Poo" about the, "recovery of an ancient breed." When you have so many pedigrees from Spain that corroborate one another, you must consider the Spanish breeders are lying or they are in fact true. I have no doubt that many pedigrees are erroneous, back four or five generations. That's reality. The important thing is to have a starting place where the foggy past emerges to an illuminated future of maintaining accurate records. I believe the formation of the UPPCC along with the UKC recognition will accomplish this goal. DAVE ESPINOZA

August 16, 2002 A quote from UPPCC, Secretary, Joseph Brown, "It's been hard to stay positive these past six months working on the UKC/Presa recognition Program. I see claims from the Dogo board we're puppy peddlers, "breeding puppies to make more puppies". How poften has this happened? Once? Twice? Out of how many litters? 120 plus? Then I check the OFA database and see the breeder who's repeating this ad nauseam is breeding males at 14 months and getting the OFS results back AFTER the litters are produced. I read that a dog must have FCI papers. Then I learn the dog papers are shuffled through Puerto Rico and there's no such thing as FCI papers, and it's a federal crime to falsify the origin of a dog by putting foreign numbers on domestically produced animals. I hear we "choose" not to be confirmed by impartial judges. Yet at one of their PCCA specialties (with their Spanish judges) we learn one of our members own dog took "Best Adult", and all of the others who showed were confirmed but NEVER received their papers. Then worst of all, I see all over the inter-net that one of our prominent Presa breeders has produced 50 rescue dogs, half being destroyed. Think about it. 50 rescue dogs, 25% of the breeding program. Out of every litter, two rescues with one being destroyed. It's a bald faced lie and the people spreading this malicious slander on message boards and online articles know it. Where is the proof? Present the names, addresses of the original owners, the date of the rescue, the name and registration number of the rescued dog, name the sire & dam of the rescued dog, present the names of the individuals or groups that provided the rescue, give the location & name of the party giving a home to the 25 rescued dogs and provide documentation as to who was responsible for destroying 25 live animals!!!!

Still as a dedicated group of Presa Canario owners and breeders we now have adopted the most comprehensive constitution and bylaws ever produced by a Presa society. We've drafted the most strict and encompassing set of breeder requirements ever put forward to a major registry – the UKC. We have the largest Board of Directors, the most comprehensive Code of Ethics, the support of the oldest and largest Presa registry in the U.S. (NPPCC), and our two founding charter members have between them 75 years of breeding experience, which they've shared freely with all of us for the past twelve years.

Despite all this, short of falling on our swords, nothing will please these adverse people. We have chosen to ignore them and accomplish what we've set out to do. There's still a long way to go, but we've taken that first step on the journey to achieving our mission, "Recognition of the Presa Canario by the United Kennel Club". Learn more about our initiatives, visit the UPPCChome page at: <http://www.uppcc.net>

Health Notes

Pet's old age needn't be an ordeal. Aging can be the pits for pets, or they can sail through it. It's up to us. Remember, as we reach senior status, we decide what goes in our stomachs and whether to join a gym or just vegetate. The only decisions our pets have is to balk at what we feed them; otherwise they are totally dependent on us. That may be stating the obvious, but it's to emphasize the commitment to our pets, which intensifies as our pets age.

Dogs can enjoy active and healthy lifestyles well into advanced years, with proper exercise, proactive veterinary care and a diet formulated for their unique nutritional needs. Age 7 or 8 is when dogs reach their golden years – earlier for very large breeds.

Dogs have always been prone to arthritis, but there wasn't much to alleviate symptoms until January-1987, when Pifzer Animal Health launched "Rimadyl", an oral non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drug that curtails arthritic pain. Before administering any medication, it is imperative to get an accurate diagnosis.

Other concerns for aging; dogs are subject to cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, liver, thyroid and kidney diseases. "watch for a sudden increase in water intake and a correspondingly large volume of urine, decreased appetite, weight loss, lethargy and vomiting." Many of these symptoms manifest in other diseases. Don't guess. Consult a vet. When caught early, there are effective treatments. And don't panic if cancer is diagnosed. Dogs seem to tolerate chemotherapy better than humans.

To do list: When pets reach age 7, continue daily moderate exercise for fitness; schedule annual veterinary check-ups; routinely check for lumps and bumps; most are benign but don't take a chance; have your vet clean the teeth periodically; gum disease can cause internal diseases; change to a senior diet.

Some thoughts from Arizona

Since the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer are not allowed in most public schools anymore because the word "God" is mentioned, a child in Arizona wrote the following new school prayer:

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule.
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of him very odd.
If scripture now the class recites
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.
Our hair can be purple, orange or green
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific the law is precise
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.
For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate
God's name is prohibited by the state.
We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but first the Bible
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.
We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen
And the unwed daddy the Senior King.
It's inappropriate to teach right from wrong
We're taught that such judgments do not belong.
We can get our condoms and birth controls
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles.
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed
No word of God must reach this crowd.
It's scary here I must confess
When chaos reigns the schools a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make
Should I be shot; my soul please take.
Amen.

Jesus said, "if you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you before my Father."