

The Gripper

The Official Publication of the
National Perro de Presa Canario Club

Contents: December 2002

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New NPPCC Members

Keith & Theresa Nesbit
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Max Haviland
Lincoln, Massachusetts

Beverly S. Shupe
Bowling Green, Virginia

Cheyenne Scearce
Salisbury, Maryland

Hajime Kubo
Darby, Pennsylvania

Jerry L. Carpenter & Kristin L. Medford
Oxford, North Carolina

Rolando Rodgers
Charleston, Missouri

Thomas Golden
Woodbridge, New Jersey

Joseph Farquhar
Toronto, Canada

Julia S. Carver
Bloomington, Illinois

Joe Ennis
Stoughton, Massachusetts

Peter Manni
New York City, New York

Ryann Cornell Perry
Melvindale, Michigan

Askari Morris
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Lori Kassay
Eugene, Oregon

The NPPCC and all its members extend a hearty welcome to these new members who have chosen to become part of a select group who were instrumental in obtaining recognition of the Presa Canario by the UNITED KENNEL CLUB – UKC. These fifteen new members have now increased the clubs membership to: 194. Notice to all members – During the year 2003, the National Perro de Presa Canario Club (NPPCC) will become the newly formed representative breed club known as the: "United Perro de Presa Canario Club" (UPPCC). All NPPCC members will automatically be grand-fathered into the new UPPCC club.

New Presa Names

Aja	AP - Houston
AP - Cheyenne	AP - Shiloh
AP - Selena	AP - Dallas
AP - Gabrielle	Conquistador Luci
DD - Cervantes	DD - Elbe
Dama de Noche de Gran Tenerife	Escobar
G.A. Ruckus	Caton de Irema Curto
Conquistador Chanta	L.K. Baby Girl
L.K. Rasco	P.P. Nala "Queen of Paradise"
Peacemaker's Above the Law	Peacemaker's Almost Heaven
Pride Rock's La Fem Nakita	Ranger Pepper
S.S. Cochise	S.S. Germanicus
S.S. Klea	S.S. Lilith
S.S. Malcolm	S.S. Maximus
S.S. Maximus Ennis	S.S. Magnum Force
S.S. Merlin	S.S. Merlin II
S.S. Octavia	S.S. Poison
Southern Dixie Girl	Texas Daisy
UPK - Bishop Nesbitt	UPK - Diamond
UPK - Silver	Zain

As of December, 2002, the NPPCC has recorded one thousand two hundred forty five 1,245 Presa Canario dogs. This clubs registry to date is derived from 139 litters, 44 litters from Show Stopper Kennels, and 95 litters from club affiliated Presa Canario breeders.

Quips & Quotes

Nice day training Joe Brown took his Presa to the park for the first time in a few weeks and went to an area where we do our pull-sprints. There was a large group of kids at the other end of the park having some kind of field trip. Got "Bess" harnessed and hooked up to the tire, then had her pull it to the other end of the field. As we approached where the kids were, I heard one of the teachers say, "look at that dog!" suddenly the kids came over to see what we doing. They swarmed around Bess, petting her all over. She took it well, just stood there with a pathetic look "just how long must I endure this, Dad?". I had to explain to the group over and over, "it's weight pulling, a competitive sport, to see who's the strongest dog." They all yelled, "she must be strong and she's very nice." Then they started jumping on the tire wanting sleigh rides. Finally, I let the kids try to pull the tire around. They soon tired and Bess lead me into the

woods for her personal relief. I dropped the tire by an old log and when we came back we got swarmed again, but this time it was by BEES! I had inadvertently set the tire and harness right on top of their nest. Boy! did we ever run. Unfortunately, Bess got stung twice before we got up steam and traveled the 3 miles around the park. She set a tough pace and was not even panting, but I was a mess, feeling sore but righteous.

Hello everyone I would like to share with you a short story about my 10 month old male Presa. I was in my house sleeping about one o'clock in the morning when I heard my male Nikko out in the yard barking and going crazy. I quickly got up to see what was the matter and I saw a person trying to break into my truck. This individual took off running when he spotted me coming. Now let me say I have never taught "Nikko" anything about guarding, but I am a true believer that if he had gotten out of the yard, that thief would have been very sorry.

"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him." Dereke Bruce, Taipei, Taiwan

Quick note Peter Manni of New York City writes Show Stoppers, "Hi Richard, just wanted to say 12 week old S.S. Cochise is doing really well. I love him to death. Presa's are the best! The city noise didn't bother him at all and bigger dogs don't seem to affect him. He's been to the vet for his continued shots. I noticed Presas don't keep that cute little puppy look to long. I'll send a picture when he gets a little bigger. For the record, Cochise is out of S.S. Lleida by Ch. G'Kar.

A satisfied Presa Canario owner Hi! Richard, I wanted to wish one and all a wonderful holiday season and share a couple of pics of S.S. Oo La La, aka, "Greta" and her buddy Grady. She's almost eight months and is up to 90 lbs. All of sudden my big Pit isn't so big anymore. She gets better & better each day. "Greta's protective instincts are starting to show. She barked at a strange noise outside the other day. It made Grady and I jump... such a big bark out of a puppy! She is blossoming! What a wonderful dog. Thank you once again. Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year. Warmest wishes, Onneke Shaff

Kangaroo legs Got the nicest compliment from our trainer the other day. We're preparing for the (SchH BH), and putting the final touches on our Sitz& Platz in motion. "Bess" is sitting squarely now, but doesn't like to set her jewels down on the cold wet grass, her butt sort of hovers an inch above the ground. The trainer said, "Well, we can spend a month drilling on getting her butt down and probably backslide on other things, or we can just let it go. Worst case is you lose a point. Most likely with those big KANGAROO LEGS the judge will just figure that's the way she sits! Kangaroo legs, heh! heh!..."

Blondes and K-9 humour Returning home from work, a blonde was shocked to find her house was ransacked and burglarized. She telephones the police and reports the crime. The police dispatcher broadcasts the call on all channels, and a K-9 unit patrolling nearby was the first to respond. As the K-9 officer approached the house with his dog on a leash, the blonde running out onto the porch to greet the police, stops abruptly, shudders, drops down on the steps with her face in her hands, crying, "I can't believe this! I come home and find all my possessions stolen," "I call the police for help, and they send me a BLIND cop."

Proud of Bagheera Dave Espinoza of Phoenix, Arizona, tells about receiving a phone call from James, the owner of a male Presa called Bagheera De Sancho. He was so excited that I became noticeably nervous so he quickly assured me everything was OK and began relating the following story. Darlene (James wife) baby-sits a couple of young children. Well the other day their Mom came over to pick up the kids while Bagheera was in the backyard. Everything was status quo until the children's Father showed up. The kids Mom had picked them up at our house plenty of times without incident since Bagheera was quite familiar with her presence, but Bagheera had never seen good ole Dad. Well as Dad came into the house and picked up his child, "Bagheera" defensive instincts kicked in and she jumped through a window screen and began barking and growling at the now frozen Dad. Yelling for help at the top of his voice brought Darlene to his rescue, where she quickly removed Bagheera from the area. I asked James if the Father was nervous having such a dog in the house where his children stayed? He said, "No", in fact he commented, "he felt more secure knowing his children were protected by such a guardian."

AWESOME!!

Dogs have given us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe, we are the focus of their love and faith and trust. They serve us in return for scraps. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made...

Roger Cara

Dayton, Texas Deitre Harris of TOP NOTCH KENNELS proudly tell how her male Presa -Shack exhibited his protection of her during a strained confrontation with a stranger. Deitre had been jogging with Shack one morning and was walking back towards the direction of the kennel, when she spotted a man on a bike riding towards her. She became a little guarded since Shack was off leash. As the stranger on the bike began to pass her by, he stopped and began questioning her as to whether she had seen a certain individual he was looking for. She replied she had not seen anyone. Now the man began loudly yelling at her in a very belligerent menacing manner. All this while Deitre had been restraining 17 month old Shack between her legs and now her dog sensing a threat against her began making low

guttural growls at this man and was pulling forward, straining to get at this threat. Deitre pleaded with the man to quickly leave as he had provoked her dog and she had no leash to hold him back. Sizing up the situation, the stranger on the bike left the scene in a hurry. Cedal & Deitre were so pleased to see how their Presa came to her defense in a difficult situation. For further info contact: cedalrogers@msn.com

The one question most often asked of any Presa breeder is: Do Presas like children? One response overheard at a particular breeder was: "Yes! Presa like children, we feed them one every day!"

Ultimate Presa Kennel Kimneich & Kevin Cunningham, are new young Presa breeders who have quickly learned the importance of early socialization of one's presa pup. Their business philosophy is to provide obedience training to every presa they sell and to encourage their new puppy owners to participate in this training exercise, all this mind you is done free of charge – no fee. Kevin feels it's his obligation to ensure there will be no unruly conduct from any dog he sells within his community and state. We have been privileged to see a video documenting his skill and dedication working with the Presas and their owners. OUTSTANDING!! Feel free to contact them for more info at: ultimatepresa@aol.com Check out the photos page.

Happy Thanksgiving! Well it's been a week and 3 month old S.S. Malcolm is getting along real well with everyone. He's starting to get the routine he's been sleeping all night, and playing real well with the other dogs. He just adores my Mastiff – Angus, he follows him everywhere. I can't believe he's almost housebroken he goes to the door when he has to go. We LOVE him. He's great! Oh yeah, we get a lot of snow up here and does he love the snow! He runs around and rolls in it, sticks his nose in it and eats it. He's real funny, when he's done playing outside, he runs to the door and waits to come in. Malcolm has already made up his mind he's an indoor dog! He is sleeping on the couch right now. Boy, did he learn real quick how to climb up onto the couch. Once again thank you for Malcolm, he's perfect. Karen, Brent, Angus, Kita, and Malcolm.

Herding? A Presa was taken to a sheep herding school called "Ewetopia" where it was learned just about any dog, will herd, it's all based on instinct. While other dogs were observed herding, the Presa got up against a fence and started vocalizing like it was going nuts. When the Presa was brought into the field holding the sheep, it exploded and started chasing the sheep in circles around its handler. Finally, when the dog slowed down the trainer said, "Reach out and touch one of the sheep" and when the handler did as instructed the Presa lunged into the sheep. Needless to say the Presa wasn't considered a herding dog. The Presa Canario is described in the RSCE – Spanish breed standard as guarding and steering cattle.

"Dogs come when called, cats say leave a message and I'll get back to you."

Do you get it? This is an article from "Bloodlines Magazine", <http://www.ukcdogs.com/bloodlines>

National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors, Inc, the NADOI member and recording secretary- Margery West wrote the following article and gives permission for its reprinting.

There are some things in dog training you just have to understand in order to get the best results. The following are very basic concepts:

- A dog will repeat an action that is rewarded. Letting the dog know exactly what action is being rewarded is a matter of timing. The timing of the reward is very precise. Giving food treats without thinking or for doing nothing will either reinforce the wrong action, confuse the dog, teach him to manipulate you, or simply make him fat. Either you get it or you don't.
- "Motivation" and "reward," are not the same thing. Motivation is used to stimulate or focus the dog. It is something that prompts or gives incentive for the dog to behave a certain way. Playing chase-the-toy or tug games before, between, and after exercises is an excellent way to stimulate and motivate your dog. Rewards are used only in response to the action or behavior we want repeated. This can be a food reward or play precisely timed. This needs to be very clear in your mind in order in order to "get" number one.
- Actions have consequences. Sometimes it's positive, like a reward of your approval, and sometimes it's negative, like you stopping an action – such as stepping on the line when the dog is headed for the street A good trainer always manages their interactions with their dog so the consequences are mostly positive, but is always prepared to use their body or the drag line for control. When the dog is allowed to run amok with no control, he creates his own consequences. Either you "get" the fact that dogs must be controlled through management while being trained, or you don't.
- If you haven't taught control, don't expect the dog to do things that require control. When the time comes to do things where wearing a leash or line is dangerous, such as advanced jumping or obstacles, be sure you have taught the control (Come, or a good random down) very thoroughly first. These activities should be fun. Control is not negative when taught properly. If you lose control of your dog and haven't done the foundation work, you create a negative experience for both you and your dog.
- Make sure the puppy understands one step before moving on to the next progression. Skipping ahead or moving too fast amounts to asking for failure. It's the very nature of training to have to back up a step now and then, so be ready to accept that. But skipping steps just because "he does it at home" is asking for trouble.

- Don't expect reliability on control commands until the puppy is seven to ten months old, and then only when the pup has spent his whole life learning the control step by step.

It isn't enough to read this and say, "Yes, I understand" and then have all sorts of reasons why you can't or won't do it. This means you really don't get it. Make no mistake – your dog will be trained whether you "get it" or not. It's what the dog learns to do that is the question. A good portion of training a dog is timing. That has to be learned and practiced. Equally important is consistency. You can't take a dog on outings with the line attached and other times with no line. That teaches the dog exactly when you can control him and when you can't. You are the responsible part of your dog/trainer team. Will you be responsible enough to consistently question yourself and what you are doing? Will you find a way to make yourself use rewards properly? Will you do what you need to do to control your dog during training? If you are willing to do this, then you really get it.

Show News

Fort Dallas "Pull Results" Joe Brown of Seattle, Washington, owner of "Pride Rock's Elizabeth II, aka: "Bessie" is involved in so many performance events that it has become virtually impossible to keep track of his comings and goings. His presa has pulled a scooter in competition, performed in obedience, confirmation, agility and recently earned her TT, and now he's learning to compete in weight-pulling.. He just got back from his second sanctioned weight-pull, sponsored by the IWPA, held in Fort Dalles, Oregon. Bess did great against some fierce competition considering her inexperience going against the best dogs in the region including some up and coming contenders. 95 lb. Bess managed a pull of 2,000 lbs! Coolest thing observed was a 40 lb. Female Pit-bull pulling 1,890 lbs., a 60 lb. Pulling 2,500 lbs., an 80 lb.female Bulldog pulled 3,350 lbs. and a 162 lb. Malamute ("Chunnka") pulled 4,950 lbs. The other handlers there said Bess has great form and a lot of potential. This was a great pull because it had all the hard-core pullers there. One guy helped me adjust my harness and everyone was really friendly and seemed interested in Bess and truly wanted to get to know us. Advice I got from all the handlers was the same: Don't train your dog with too much weight, concentrate on form and style, use just enough weight in practice to build the dog's confidence and enthusiasm.

UPPCC Secretary – Joe Brown, plans to put on a Weight-pulling demonstration at the UPPCC Nationals to be held in Gray Summit, Missouri in late 2003.

Hog Catch Quick Catch! The event was held in Fort Lawrence, South Carolina. Tyrone Brown and Rshan Cummings of "Digi Digi Kennel" were there for the competition. There were 19 dogs entered and the group was made up of American Bulldog, Pit bull and Presa Canario, although there was reportedly one dogo Canario in attendance (Oso). The results of the Saturday event were:

1st place	American Bulldog	Time:	4 seconds
2nd place	Pit bull	Time:	4.37 seconds
3rd place	Pit bull	Time:	5.02 seconds
4th place	Presa Canario (Digi Digi Reina)	Time:	5.09 seconds

Tyrone & Rshan were congratulated for the great work their Presas did on the Hog Hunt on November 16th. The group got two hogs, both nice boars. During the capture of the second hog a third dog was biting Tyrone's D.D. Escabar, aka: Rough-house while he was in hold and Escabar never even flinched... even while being bitten through his eye. Tough dogs! As Tyrone likes to say, "the Curto x Show Stopper cross is his favorite mix. He's got a litter on the ground now out of S.S. Valeta (S.S. Medusa x S.S. Mufasa) and D.D. Cervantes (Kyra de Irema Curto x Hino de Irema Curto). All of Tyrone's dogs are on the database. Check it out for more pedigree information.

American Temperament Test Society Joe Brown reports his Pride Rock's Elizabeth II, aka: "Bess" just earned her TT title through the American Temperament Test Society. Three Presa Canarios have taken the test so far, and all have passed. Thought I'd pass along what I've learned and just how the test.

First, the title TT is copyrighted by the ATTS, so it's the only temperament test that can assign the title "TT". They're a non-profit organization based in St. Louis. The ATTS has tested 22,000 dogs, and 80% have passed. Tests are held nationwide and the cost to test is \$25 per dog. To hold a sanctioned test requires a minimum of 30 test participants. The UPPCC has contacted one of the ATTS administrators and plan to conduct a special temperament test at our upcoming "Nationals" in Sept./Oct. 2003.

The test consists of 10 stations, each 35 feet apart. You walk through the course and are evaluated by three judges scoring on a 0 to 10 basis, with 5 being a "good" neutral score. At no time are you allowed to talk to or interact with your dog!

- The first station is meeting an approaching stranger who talks to you and shakes your hand. Your dog should ideally check him out and show interest.
- The second station is a friendly stranger who fawns over your dog. Your dog should be watchful & confident while being touched.
- The third station is hidden noise. A person behind a blind rattles a metal bucket with a chain inside, then sets it in your path. Your dog should move forward to investigate.
- The fourth station was about the same – gunshots from behind a blind.
- The fifth station is a visual stimuli, a seated person opens a spring-loaded umbrella just as you're walking by. The dog must inspect the umbrella.
- The sixth and seventh stations were tactile stimuli, where there are two sections of unusual footings, a plastic sheet and wire mesh. Dog must traverse with confidence.
- The eighth thru tenth stations were: a drunk in a trench coat and hat become progressively more & more threatening. From 38' he's muttering loudly, then at 28' he's yelling loudly at us. From there to 18' he's directly charging, hitting the ground with a switch and challenging both you and your dog. Dog must stand it's ground and not back down.

This test is to determine the dog's alertness to an unusual situation and to evaluate the dog's protective instincts. The point of the exercise is to test for unprovoked aggression, panic without recovery, or strong avoidance.

Scoring is from 0 to 10, 5 and is ranked a neutral reaction (ideal), below 5 are weak reactions, above 5 are strong reactions. "Bessies" score averaged 5!

Congratulations to Joe and his Pride Rock's Elizabeth II TT (Bess).

Health Notes

Pet proof your Holidays! 'Tis the season of good cheer, celebration and visitors of all ages filling your home, which means it is also the season of confused pets, nervous owners and potential for problems. It need not be. A little planning and supervision can ensure that your holiday stays fun for all, from start to finish. Here are some tips:

- Create a safe haven. Dogs can become anxious or even protective around boisterous people. Those of us who adore our pets may want them by our side, but it's often better for your pet to give it a sanctuary instead. This might be in a crate or quiet bedroom. A good regimen to follow is to play with or exercise your pet vigorously before visitors arrive, then set the animal up in a safe spot with a favorite toy, a radio or TV turned on to help muffle the unusual sounds. Putting a worn T-shirt in the sleeping zone can be quite comforting.
- Prepare your home. Before visitors arrive, put away objects your dog may covet, such as its toy or food bowl. A dog's tendency to guard what it sees as its possessions can be addressed by training, but that takes time. Meanwhile, you don't want Rover going nose-to-nose with a toddler over a ball.
- Be ready to step in. Be prepared to intervene on your pet's behalf. You can do it with a smile, but do it – even if it creates momentary family friction. If cousin Bob gets a kick out of slowly stalking your dog until it starts to bark in fright, STOP HIM! Never allow your animal to be chased or cornered.
- Watch for signs of stress. In dogs, these include yawning, hiding, clinging, panting rapidly, becoming motionless or trembling. If your dog closes his mouth as someone approaches and/or licks his lips/nose, he's saying, "I'm nervous about this!"

- Supervise - especially around children. Even if your dog is good with kids, excited children may inadvertently scare or hurt your pet, something unwanted can happen. Do not assume that any animal will be endlessly tolerant of kids playing with it.
- Often, we unintentionally teach our pets behavior that can lead to trouble. If the dog is allowed to grab a treat every time you hold one a face level, you have "taught" the dog to snatch food from young children who hold food at that level. If you play with your puppy by getting down on the floor, making excited sounds and moving quickly, you can expect your pup to playfully bounce onto a toddler who is doing the same things.
- There are easy ways to teach your dog to behave calmly around children, but it can't be done overnight. Make a promise to train your pet, so you'll both be ready to fully enjoy the festivities.
- Pledge to do what it takes to keep both your pet and your guests comfortable and safe this year.

Information on a couple of the unique ingredients found only in NuVet Plus...

"The Benefits of Blue Green Algae": is the fundamental basis of the entire food chain! It is important to us because our soil is becoming depleted of minerals that makes it nearly impossible for our animals to get the nutrition they need from their foods. Natural ingredients found in blue green algae are: vitamins, minerals, chlorophyll (an excellent blood detoxifier), beta carotene which helps the body "deactivate" free radicals, by removing them from the body before they can pollute healthy cells. It helps the body produce it's own vitamin A (which is completely non-toxic), proteins and amino acids. Without the proper quantities of amino acids, our pets would be unable to maintain good health.

Selenium in the Millennium. Selenium's principal function is to inhibit the oxidation of lipids (fats). It is a vital antioxidant, especially when combined with vitamin E, as it is found in NuVet Plus. It protects the immune system by preventing the formation of free radicals. It has also been found to function as a preventative agent against the formation of certain types of tumors.

Selenium and vitamin E act synergistically to aid in the production of antibodies and help to maintain a healthy heart and liver. A deficiency in Selenium has been linked, not only to cancer and heart disease, but also with exhaustion, growth impairment, high cholesterol levels, infections, liver impairment, pancreatic insufficiency and sterility.

Pine Bark. This is one of the special ingredients in NuVet Plus that is not commonly heard of, however, the medicinal uses of this plant are numerous. Today among Americans, Pine Bark has been used primarily for its Proanthocyanidin content. Proanthocyanidin has demonstrated anti-oxidant properties to neutralize damaging free radicals. Pine Bark, is taken by some people as a treatment: for arthritis, bruises, gum disease, ulcers, varicose veins, and other vascular problems.

It has shown tremendous results in the treatment of allergies, as Pine Bark works as nature's antihistamine. It is thought to strengthen and protect connective tissues as well as stabilizing collagen and elastin. In our companion pets, Pine Bark has proven to be just as beneficial and effective in treating the complaints and complications mentioned above as well as helping to slow the aging process.

Signs of Trouble: Allergies plague dogs!

Food allergy symptoms:

- Rubbing of face or ears on floor, rugs or furniture after eating.
- Scooting on the behind; biting, chewing or licking rear area.
- Onset of symptoms before a year old.

Atopy symptoms:

- Recurrent skin infections, especially on abdominal area, between hind legs.
- Persistent scratching, chewing, licking and biting feet and legs.
- Frequent recurring ear infections.
- Excessive grooming.



Recognition! In November, 2002, the UNITED KENNEL CLUB (UKC) has officially recognized the rare breed "Presa Canario" by its historic name of "El Perro de Presa Canario".

Thanks to the efforts of several NPPCC/UPPCC officers and the proffering of the NPPCC stud books and its Presa Canario registry, and their club membership to the UKC officials. The UKC announced they would make a one time special offering to all Presa owners registered with the NPPCC to join the UKC and register their dogs with them at a special discount. Normally, UKC dog registration costs \$16, but as a special introduction they will accept a new registration fee of \$10 for each Presa. A letter of invitation will be forthcoming from the UKC within the next two months. Starting in January, 2003, Presa Canarios will be able to compete in all sanctioned UKC performance events (Obedience, Agility, weight-pulling & PP). Check your Dog magazines for events scheduled in your areas or check the UKC web site for additional information.

Editorial: "Thoughts on UKC recognition." I am very pleased and excited about the Perro de Presa Canario being recognized by the UNITED KENNEL CLUB. I would like to thank them for their vision. Recognition will benefit hundreds of owners all around the country. They will be able to join the UPPCC and the UKC and participate in fun activities with their presas.

From day one, when I was contacted by UPPCC secretary – Joe Brown, I knew that achieving breed recognition was a task that needed to be done. It has been said that if you could just get six people to agree on everything you could rule the world. Well we got three people to agree on some things and changed the dog world. Richard Kelly is owed a debt of gratitude. He has been unselfish in providing us with all his records and his guidance, gained through years of experience. Joe Brown has worked tirelessly on this project and was the instrument in developing a Presa Canario pedigree database.

The Presa Canario is a magnificent breed and deserved better representation than what was being given in the United States, especially in protecting its historic name. We have taken a small step towards erasing any negativity and perception of the general public regarding the Presa Canario.

What better way to display this breed than have obedient, social, and competing dogs. We still have much to do in the future. We need to educate our membership about responsible ownership.

It will be the clubs responsibility to provide materials and seminars on Obedience, Agility, Conformation, Protection, and weight-pulling activities. We all need to get involved with our local UKC clubs to learn about participation and procedures. We have to develop a breed rescue so that we can be absolutely certain the rescued will go to deserving, qualified homes, thereby giving the dogs a second chance. For those dogs identified as flawed and/or dangerous to be removed from any further human contact.

We need to develop a cooperative program amongst breeders to swap and exchange stock to improve our genetic breeding base. We need to educate our members to the pitfalls of irresponsible breeding. We need to do a comprehensive breed survey, collecting breed information and posted onto our database, so that we can identify potential health problems.

We need to encourage all owners/breeders to get their dogs hips certified, neutering all those showing defective health problems. We have a lot to do in the future in order to preserve the quality of the "Presa Canario." I am confident that this can be accomplished and I'm looking forward to working with all our members. We must avoid becoming mired in silly arguments, infighting and negativity. I look forward to our first planned National Specialty Show of the UPPCC to be held in Gray Summit, Missouri around late September, early October, 2003, and meeting every board member as well as many of our club members in attendance.

Mark Clemens, our East Coast Conformation Director has taken the responsibility of organizing this special event. It's an awesome job to coordinate the show dates along with contracting qualified judges both for the Conformation and the Temperament Testing. There are planned seminars to be held on "Weight-pulling, Protection & Obedience" with how-to- brochures given to those in attendance. There is a planned banquet to be held one night giving everyone an opportunity for spirited fellowship. We are trying very hard to have in attendance, a guest speaker, who is an important figure in the history and development of the Presa Canario. He would speak at our banquet and offer a written critique on each presa entered for conformation.

We our striving to increase our club membership, tell your fellow presa owners to join ranks with a very exclusive group. The National Perro de Presa Canario Club (NPPCC) will soon convert to the new United Perro de Presa Canario Club (UPPCC), just use the NPPCC application and join. All NPPCC members will be grandfathered into the new UPPCC.

In summary, recognition of the Perro de Presa Canario by the United Kennel Club was a positive first step for bringing our breed into the mainstream dog world.

David "Espo" Espinoza, Vice-President
United Perro de Presa Canario Club
azespo42@hotmail.com or 623/516-0662

Visit us at the "El Presa Community" – www.ezboard.com

UKC Fact: The United Kennel Club is the second oldest and second largest all-breed dog registry in the United States. Founded in 1898 by Chauncey Z. Bennett, it has 250,000 registrations annually. The performance programs of the UKC include Conformation Shows, Obedience Trials, Agility Trials, Coonhound Field Trials, Water Races, Nite Hunts and Bench Shows, Hunting tests for the retrieving breeds, Beagle events including Hunts and Bench Shows, also for Cur and Feist Squirrel and Coon Events.

For more info: <http://www.uppcc.net>

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