

WINTER 2003, VOLUME 30

The Gripper

The Official Publication of the
United Perro de Presa Canario Club

Contents: December 2003

- New Club Members
- New Presa Names
- Show News
- National Specialty Commentary
- New Breed Standard
- Quips & Quotes
- Gripper Gripe
- Health Notes

New Club Members

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Wertman
Northampton, Pennsylvania

Jane Paton
Iver, United Kingdom

Steve Wilson
Layton, Utah

Gary L. Goolsby
Thonotosassa, Florida

David Edwards
Buffalo, New York

George Becker
South Bend, Indiana

The United Perro de Presa Canario Club, it's Officers, Directors and members, welcomes these newest members to an organization dedicated to the continued development of the Presa Canario according to the UKC/UPPCC breed standard and Code of Ethics. Membership is currently at 254 and is represented in 35 contiguous states and in several foreign countries.

New Presa Names

BDK - Shadow	Circe of Cerberus
Digi Digi Sahdew	Digi Digi Sampson
Déjà vu	Dorite's Juno
G.A. Garoutte's Game Girl 1	G.A. Congo
G.K.-Redman	Gary's Zoe
Great Lakes Poison Ivy	Hill's - Sugar
Homer of Cerberus	Kola de Genghis Khan
Madelyn	Malo
PGK - Ginger	PGK - Emma
PGK - Nino	PGK - Livid
PGK - Mosomo	PGK - Sheba
PGK - Sheba II	Sumo
Top Notch Kaya	Urbo's Jinx

By years end - 2003, the UPPCC has recorded one thousand five hundred fifteen (1,515) Presa Canario dogs, emanating from 170 recorded litters.

Show News

November 1st & 2nd Mark Clemens of Mango Kennels, Highlandville, Missouri, exhibited two of his many Presa Canario at the International All-Breed Canine Association (IABCA). There were three AKC judges and one Australian judge in attendance. S.S. Lilith won two of the three puppy working groups, defeating 18 and 15 dogs. Ch. Marcus Aurelius took Best of Breed - Adult Male and won overall Reserve Winner. Congratulations Mark!

Outstanding Weight Pull Results Presa Canario owner Joe Brown proudly reports the successes of his dog- Pride Rock's Elizabeth II, aka. BESSIE. Well, Bess finished her IWPA-WDS at the Apple Days weight pull in Cashmere, Washington. She weighed in at 94 lbs. and pulled 2,440 lbs. This placed her fourth in a field of 14 dogs in the 90-100 lb. class.

In November-2003, Lil Miss Bess hit a personal milestone at the Petsmart weight pull in Union Gap, Washington. There were 46 dogs in attendance, 11 were in the 81-100 lb. category. Bess weighed in at 95 lbs. and finished fourth out of a class of 11 dogs, with a final wheeled pull of 3,000 lbs. Mind you; there were NO PRESAS at any of these pulls other than BESS.

There are three types of weight pulls: RAILS, WHEELS and SNOW. Snow is the most difficult. So far, BESS is the only known Presa Canario doing Weight Pulls.

Great news! Joe and Bess competed in the Cascade American Pit Bull Terrier-Club's snow pull in Kirkland, Washington. There were 30

dogs in attendance and Pride Rock's Elizabeth II (BESSIE) achieved 2nd place in the heavyweight division.

The United Kennel Club (UKC) will be starting in 2004, an all-star weight pull competition, awarding national points in APBT, AB, and other breed classes. The results will be published in the UKC-Bloodlines magazine. At year-end, there will be a national invitational for the top 25 dogs in each weight group.

We suggest subscribing to the BLOODLINES magazine to keep posted as to when and where competition events (Conformation, Agility, Obedience, & Weight Pull) are being held in the state(s) nearest your location. Call UKC at (269) 343-9020

2003 - National Specialty

UPPCC Secretary Joseph Brown reports Purina Farms, Gray Summit, Missouri, was the site of the first annual United Perro de Presa Canario Club's National Specialty, held on September 12 - 14th. The show grounds were primo and the Purina personal were most obliging. Even with rain, everyone was well protected under huge canvass tents. The show site was an easy drive from the show hotel.

On Friday evening, members gathered at the show hotel. It was wonderful to finally put faces to names and to meet the people we've only come to know via e-mail and phone. Many members drove thousands of miles to be here supporting the show. It was wonderful to see so many Presas, and all behaving so well.

At 7p.m. the UPPCC officers and directors held their official board meeting. It was a good meeting, taking care of a lot of business. The board is enthusiastic and proud of our many accomplishments, especially our relationship with the United Kennel Club.

The Saturday events consisted of two conformation segments (the Sweeps and the National Specialty) officiated by judge J. Ray Johnson, followed by a special written critique by judge Fred Lanting, and finally an ATTS evaluation by Carl Herkstroeter. Nineteen Presas entered the Conformation events, fourteen were critiqued and confirmed, and eight of nine Presas passed their Temperament Test, which was put on by the American Temperament Test Society.

Mark Threlfall from the United Kennel Club came to observe the Conformation event. We were truly honored and pleased to see him there.. Mark talked with several of the group about how important it is to provide education to Presa owners. He stressed that this was our central task, and the UKC is there to help us.

On Saturday evening we had our association meeting and dinner at a local restaurant. Everyone dressed nicely. We were treated to an after dinner lecture by Fred Lanting, on **Canine Hip Dysplasia and other Orthopedic Disorders**. Fred's talk was very informative and appreciated by all in attendance

On Sunday, we put on demonstrations in weight pull and personal protection. Mr. Fred Lanting also presented his hands-on lecture **Analytical Approach to Evaluating Dogs**, describing how to choose studs, pick puppies and judge dogs in the show ring and from ringside based on gait and structure.

Board of Director's meeting

The meeting was held at Gray Summit, Missouri, on Friday, September 12th.

Members present

Sam Nelson
Mose Huggis
Jack Pickel
Mark Clemens
Cedal Rogers
David Espinoza
Richard Kelly
Joseph Brown

President Richard Kelly called the meeting to order at 7pm. Richard led us on a review of the history of the club and the Presa Canario in America, and discussed our mission and relationship with the United Kennel Club. We then went around the room and introduced ourselves.

Mose Huggis of Mogan Kennels, Topeka, Kansas, expressed his pride in his association with the UPPCC, and his deep admiration for Richard Kelly and Bill Thyfault of Guardian Angels Kennel, and also expressed his thanks to Cedal Rogers. Mose is a professional dog trainer with 14-year experience.

Jack Pickel of Breeders Choice Kennel, Williamstown, New Jersey, was attending in place of his wife Jean. He has been interested in the Presa breed for six years and actively involved for two and a half. He talked about his experiences in conformation, and the off-leash obedience training of his dogs: Zena & Gabby. He breeds a line of SS/Curto dogs.

Cedal Rogers of Top Notch Kennel, Dayton, Texas, has been showing dogs for six months, and is interested in Obedience, Personal Protection, and Catch Work. He has had Pit Bulls and Rottweillers. Cedal feels he has very good Presa stock, and is excited in being involved with this breed and our club.

Richard Kelly of Show Stopper Kennels, Middlesex, New Jersey, has been involved with the Presa Canario for 14 years. His first dog was Bad Mamba Jamba. He has had a long time friendship with charter member - Bill Thyfault of Guardian Angels Kennel, Louisburg, Missouri. When he became involved with the Presa there were only two breeders in the country. Richard developed a line that bred true, with good temperament, character, and meeting a goal to produce confident, stable companion guardian dogs. When he started breeding Presas, the Spanish standard allowed 40% white on the dog, and when the standard was changed to reduce the white coloration to 20%, he altered his program to comply. He was the founder of the National Perro de Presa Canario Club (NPPCC) beginning in 1990 which has now become the United Perro de Presa Canario Club in 2002 in order to develop a relationship with the United Kennel Club (UKC) and continue its mission as the official breed club in the US. The club now represents 23 associated breeders. He discussed the obligations of these breeders as well as the benefits of developing a networking group with a positive focus to improving the breed.

Joseph Brown of Seattle, Washington, discussed his involvement with the breed and his experiences in outdoor activities, training, and certified competition with his dog - Bessie.

David Espinoza of Phoenix, Arizona, believes the strength of the club is in supporting all activities. He believes in the value of Personal Protection, and is concerned about the proper mental state of a dog when its called upon to act as a guardian. He believes we can be judged by whom we associate with, and feels those of good character and moral fibre know we are judged by what we do, not what we say. He expressed his many thanks to Richard Kelly, and believes our chief motives should always ensure a positive public perception of our breed.

Sam Nelson is a professional Bull-rider who hails from Belleville, Illinois, and owns a four year old presa male, named Gotti, and a two year old female (Isis), both out of Guardian Angels line. The female was born in Japan. Sam has always looked for an all-around dog to replace a St. Bernard he once owned. He likes the "farm dog", a do-anything dog that's "big, neat, good looking....an additional bonus". He says the Presa is as good in Catch-work as is the American Bulldog, and is looking forward to the day when the presa community is focused on competing with other breeds, not other breeders. Sam told about taking his female to Dom Donovan for testing.

Mark Clemens of Mango Kennels, Highlandville, Missouri, discussed his awe with a dog named, S.S. Mongo, owned by Jennifer Chandler. He has always had and loved dogs, especially big strong ones. He feels fortunate to live near Guardian Angels Kennel. Then to finally have met Richard Kelly, whom he feels breeds amazing dogs, and says this is not something everyone can do. He sold a sporting goods store and bought a 100-acre farm to start MANGO KENNELS.

Richard Kelly then closed the meeting by saying he was extremely pleased with our board of directors and believes we are held together by our mutual love of the Presa, and the dedication to work towards improving the breed.

Official U.K.C. & UPPEC Breed Standard

History The ancestors of the Perro de Presa Canario were probably brought to the Canary Islands by the Spanish Conquistadors, and coexisted with indigenous cattle dogs from the beginning of the fifteenth century. These dogs served many purposes. They guarded the farms, helped catch and hold cattle, and exterminated wild or stray dogs. In the 1940s, the breed began to decline in numbers. It was revived again in the 1970s, when reputable breeders developed and bred Presas true to their original size and character.

The Perro de Presa Canario was recognized; by the United Kennel Club on January 1, 2003.

General Appearance The Presa Canario is a moderately large, powerfully constructed dog with a harsh textured, flat coat. The head is massive and cuboid. Ears are set just above the line of the eye and may be cropped, naturally pendent or rose. The body of the Presa Canario is slightly longer than its height at the withers, with a broad, deep chest, but females may be slightly longer and possess somewhat less rib spring than the males. Skin is thick and elastic. The distance from the withers to the elbow is roughly equal to the distance from the elbow to the ground. The tail is very thick at the base, and tapers to a point. The tail is moderately high and reaches to the hock. The overall impression is that of an imposing, solid guard dog.

Characteristics The essential characteristics of the Presa Canario are those; which enable it to drive and hold cattle, and to guard its home and family. These tasks require a powerful, agile, courageous dog with a large head and powerful jaws. The presa is extremely affectionate, docile and well behaved with its owner and family, but is wary of strangers and aggressive with other dogs.

Serious Fault: Unstable temperament

Head The head is massive, cuboid in shape. When viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are roughly parallel to one another, and are joined by a well-defined, but not abrupt, stop. When the dog is alert, the skin forms several symmetrical wrinkles in the medium furrow.

Fault: Excessive wrinkling.

Serious Faults: Skull and muzzle not in correct proportion, abrupt stop.

Skull The skull is cube-shaped, broad and slightly domed, but without occipital protuberance. The width of the skull is about 3/5 of the length from occiput to nose. Zygomatic arch is very pronounced and there is a deep medium furrow that diminishes in depth from the stop to the occiput. Cheek muscles are well developed without being pronounced.

Muzzle The muzzle forms a smaller cube that tapers just slightly from stop to nose. The length of the muzzle is roughly 2/5 of the length of the head, while the width is about 2/3 as wide as the skull. The bridge of the muzzle is flat and straight. Lips are moderately thick and pendulous with black pigment. The top lip should fall naturally over the lower without excessive flews. Viewed from the front, the lips form an inverted "V" where they join.

Teeth The Perro de Presa Canario has a complete set of evenly spaced teeth, set in a wide jaw. A scissors or reverse scissors bite is preferred. A level or slightly undershot bite is acceptable.

Fault: Missing any tooth other than the first premolar.

Serious Fault: Excessively, undershot bite.

Disqualification: Overshot bite.

Nose The nose is wide and black. In profile, the nose fits cleanly into the square formed by the nasal bone and the front plane of the muzzle. The nose does not protrude beyond the front plane of the muzzle, which would give a snipey look to the head.

Eyes Eyes are slightly oval, set level and wide apart, and range in color from medium to dark brown, in accordance with coat color. Eyelids are close fitting and black.

Serious Fault: Light eyes, droopy eyelids, eyes set close together or obliquely.

Disqualification: Blue, gray, or yellow eyes, non-matching eyes.

Ears Ears are of medium size, set just above the line of the eye and wide apart, and covered with short, fine hair. Ears may be natural or cropped. The natural ears may be pendent or rose. Pendent ears drop effortlessly to the sides of the head, and rose ears are close fitting. Cropped ears are erect.

Fault: High set ears.

Neck The neck is cylindrical, thick, well muscled, and slightly shorter than the length of the head. Loose folds of skin at the throat form a slight dewlap.

Serious Faults: Excessive dewlap, long or weak neck.

Forequarters Shoulders are muscular and well laid back. The upper arm is of good length and well angled so that the front legs are set well behind the point of the shoulder. The elbows set slightly out from the body. Front legs are straight, well muscled, and heavy boned. Pasterns are strong, short, and nearly vertical.

Body A properly proportioned Presa is about 20% longer (measured from prosternum to point of buttocks) than tall (measured from the withers to the ground), and length of the front leg (measured from point of elbow to the ground) should be approximately equal to one-half the dog's height. Females may be slightly longer in body. The withers are slightly elevated. The back and loin are strong but without prominent musculature. The back line ascends slightly towards the croup which is just slightly higher than the withers. The croup is of medium length, wide and slightly sloping. Females normally have slightly wider croups. The loin is moderately short, muscular and deep, with moderate tuck-up. The ribs are well arched. The brisket extends to the elbow. The chest is broad and deep with well developed pectoral muscles. Ideally, the circumference of the deepest part of the chest should equal almost 1½ times the dog's height at the withers.

Serious Faults: Shallow chest, croup and withers of equal height, body too short, swayback, roach back.

Disqualification: Croup lower than withers.

Hindquarters Hindquarters are powerful and well muscled. In profile, the croup is sloping. The angulation of the hindquarters is moderate. When the dog is standing, the rear pasterns are short, perpendicular to the ground, and viewed from the rear, parallel to one another.

Serious Faults: Overangulation, sickle hocks, cow hocks.

Feet Feet are round, compact, cat-like. Rear feet are slightly longer than the front. Pads are well-developed, tight, black, not splayed. Nails are solid color, white or black depending on coat color of toes.

Fault: Splayed feet.

Tail The tail is a natural extension of the top line, set moderately high. It is thick and muscular at the base, tapers to a point. A tail of the correct length extends to the hock but never below. Tail carriage ranges from a pump handle tail when the dog is relaxed to a sabre tail when the dog is alert.

Serious Faults: Fine tail, curly or blunt tail.

Disqualification: Docked tail.

Coat The Presa has a short, flat, single coat that is harsh in texture. It is very short and fine on the ears and slightly longer on the withers and on the back of the rear hindquarters.

Serious Faults: Satiny, fine coat.

Color Any shade of fawn, black, and brindle in any combination of these colors. The face must have a black or dark brown mask that does not extend over the eyes, with or without a white blaze or patch on the head. Minimal white markings may appear anywhere between the chest and the throat, or on the toes.

Serious Faults: Mask that extends over the eyes.

Disqualifications: Absence of dark mask, white markings covering more than 20% of the dog, coat color or pattern other described above.

Size Desirable height at the withers for a mature male is 23 - 26 inches. Desirable height at withers for a mature female is 22 - 25 inches. Minimum weight for a mature male is 100 pounds and for a mature female is 85 pounds.

Gait When trotting, the stride is long, effortless and well coordinated and the tail is carried above the backline.

Disqualifications: Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid. Viciousness or extreme shyness. Overshot bite. Blue, gray or yellow eyes. Croup lower than withers. Docked tail. Absence of dark mask. White markings covering more than 20% of the dog. Coat color or pattern other than described in **Color** paragraph above. Albinism.

Quips & Quotes

A Memorial to GOTTI Born 02/26/99, and died in November, 2003. The Sam Nelson family will sorely miss this outstanding Presa. This was the gentle guardian and companion to the Nelson children, and was the watchful protector over the young farm livestock. He would catch and kill a coyote and lay the remains at the feet of the family then go and sit with the children. If a bull or cattle were acting up, he would jump up and grab hold of the brutes until Sam commanded him to release. All too often we hear of dogs losing their lives by chasing game out into the roadway, this was not the case with Gotti. He was struck by an errant driver who veered off the road and struck him, as was standing on his property. Our prayers go out to the Nelson family in the time of their loss.

Deciding on a male or female dog is a personal decision. Each sex has its own merits. Von Stephanitz preferred bitches. He felt that the female had a greater sensitivity to her handler and was more amenable to training. He felt she was "more independent, more reliable and more careful in nature and work." He continued, "It is easier to train her, she grasps more quickly, her memory is more retentive, and she will, at least with an understanding leader, work more willingly and more carefully than a dog. A good bitch can be keen and sharp like a dog." Others consider the male to have greater independence and self-reliance. Many military trainers emphasize concentrating on obtaining the best prospect for protection work whether it is male or female. We have observed that, in general, it is more common to find males with the strength of character for Schutzhund than it is to find females of equal quality. This is one reason that a truly good bitch is so seldom for sale. However, a powerful male can sometimes be a difficult animal to live with and train, whereas even an extremely good bitch is normally a little sensitive to her handler and therefore relatively easily controlled.

Susan Barwig & Stewart Hillard

Ma was in the kitchen fiddling around when she hollers out..."Pa! You need to go out and fix the outhouse!" Pa replies, "There ain't nothing wrong with the outhouse." Ma yells back, "Yes there is, now git out there and fix it." So... Pa mosies out to the outhouse; looks around and yells back, "Ma! There ain't nothing wrong with the outhouse!" Ma replies, "Stick yur head in the hole!" Pa yells back, "I ain't stickin my head in that hole!" Ma says, "Ya have to stick your head in the hole to see what to fix." So with that, Pa sticks his head in the hole, looks around and yells back, "Ma! There ain't nothing wrong with outhouse!" Ma hollers back, "Now take your head out of the hole!" Pa proceeds to pull his head out of the hole, then he starts yelling, "Ma! Help! My beard is stuck in the cracks in the toilet seat!" To which Ma replies, "HURT's, DON'T IT?!"

Gripper Gripe

The breed of Presa Canario is not as it seems to most people. This breed needs a lot of help in regards to its FUNCTIONALITY as a working breed.

I will share a little personal knowledge that will explain in great detail why I have come to this conclusion.

First lets go over what many people (people of almost working breed) believe to be the correct way to go about creating/founding a working breed.

First and foremost the most important aspect of the breed should be FUNCTIONALITY. By this I mean that the dog should be physically sound and possess the correct temperament to perform its prescribed duties. FUNCTIONALITY will also be achieved when the dog has the correct physical morphology, (style, size, etc.) to perform their pre-determined tasks.

In the process of creating a truly functional working breed of dog, one must breed for the aforementioned qualities above all others, the process of refining and solidifying the breed is a slow and tedious one, but one that has been achieved by nearly all founders of working breeds.

I say this because in dog breeding and especially in the process of creating breeds, health issues such as HD and hips, as well as temperament issues such as nerves and drives are much more difficult to manipulate than the physical phenotype of the dog, do to a lower heritability rate. Meaning it is much easier to achieve a look that you want as opposed to achieving a truly functional dog, with

sound health, and functional temperament.

Unfortunately the Presa Canario in my opinion is a working breed, that was not formed as it should have been...in fact I believe it was not truly formed as a working breed at all. Now don't get me wrong I'm not bagging on the breed itself, just in the way the founders went about it....

A few years back I was in the PCCA (now the DCCA), I was member #4. When I was a member, FCI breed recognition was still a few years away. Anyhow, our club flew in the CEPRC President Antonio Gomez, and a well-respected judge, Augustin Melo Lopez. These gentlemen were brought in to assist American breeders and to offer the opportunity for American Presa Canario breeders/owners to obtain Spanish RSCE papers on their non-registered or unconfirmed dogs. By obtaining these papers the dogs would be included in the genepool of the Official FCI Presa (now Dogo Canario). The alliance between these clubs in my opinion was to monopolize the OFFICIALITY of the breed, even though the registro process was open to all Presa owners, regardless of club affiliation.

This planned event appeared to be a great thing to me at first glance and still is thought to have been a great thing by some people, but not me.

A few things I noticed while sitting on the sidelines were these: I saw a dog fail, this was expected since it was a registro process but this dogs daughter passed. The male failed on what in my opinion were minor fancy type issues, and even though the mother was a non-typical color of blue (silver fawn from Deer Run lines), and who was not presented for registro, the offspring that I saw were not very far off from what the Presa should be.

This event was disturbing to me due to the fact that lines of these dogs were producing sound healthy dogs, of functional temperament, and were not throwing many of the visible faults of dogs higher up in the pedigree.

I also saw two dogs judged from the same litter, in which one was deemed by the judges to be a typical Presa, and the other was said not to be a Presa Canario. Go figure!

We also held a Temperament Test, that was written by Red Star Kennels, and was considered the official test of the PCCA at that time. I noticed the CEPRC representatives were impressed with the test as they saw the first lot of dogs passing the test. Then when they saw several dogs failing the test, especially dogs directly imported from CEPRC members, it was decided the test was too harsh. They suggested the decoy/agitator should remain a distance away from the tested dogs. This in my opinion was due to the fact that some of the dogs showed well when the aggressor kept his distance, but failed miserably when confronted by the agitator. So it was easy just to change the TT, just as easy as it was to tweak the phenotypical issues of the standard to fit the bulk of CEPRC dogs.

Although the TT was mainly for the PCCA membership and was a great test, it just was not used in the registro process. This process was based solely on the physical phenotype, with no concern given to health or functional temperament.

It is my belief that for the most part this is how the breed itself was formed. I'm not saying all Spanish breeders did this, as I know of some who did test for true functionality. There were several clubs in Spain before the CEPRC took control of the officiality of the breed. These clubs were then forced to accept the CEPRC or they would not receive RSCE papers or FCI recognition. One club that I know of was testing their dogs working ability, and this club was based on mainland Spain. Many American importers got their dogs from breeders such as these. Many of today's Presa that are descendents of these early imports are not considered Presa Canario by today's OFFICIALITY, but are great Presa in my opinion.

Anyone who breeds dogs and knows genetics, knows that complex traits such as HD, health issues and temperament are much harder to breed for than to breed for physical type (Looks).

A working breed should be founded on functional, sound animals possessing physical traits close to what the founders desired. The phenotypical issues are then honed and tweaked by using the genepool created from these sound animals to achieve the so-called end product, which is the consistent desired specific type that is needed for true breed recognition. This process is a lot of work, and the selective breeding that is undergone takes time and diligence.

I personally believe that the Presa Canario breed was created for the most part in a backward fashion. This is a re-created breed for intensive purposes and was created the fast, quick way. This was done in my opinion to achieve FCI recognition and marketability worldwide to the show dog enthusiasts. This is a crying shame, considering the Presa was a longstanding functional working breed, never bred for fancy point issues, a breed that did not ever have a written standard until its so-called recovery.

When at a registro in Ohio, I saw a dog come limping out of a kennel. This dog was purchased from the CEPRC president. The dog was limping due to severe HD, he could hardly move around. I will give credit where its due, the breeder who had purchased the dog did have him neutered. The truly disturbing point was not the fact the dog had HD, but what the reaction was of the CEPRC president when he became aware that the dog had been neutered. He literally turned red and was fuming about this fact. When it was explained to him

that the dog had a genetic disease and was neutered because he was not suitable for breeding. He said, and I quote, "Look at that head, in Spain that dog would be a champion."

After the show I gave the 3 visiting Spanish CEPRC representatives a ride to their hotel, and we chatted at length about the breed. When I questioned the methodology of the foundation process and expressed a view that recognition should be put off until some type of testing (X-ray & TT) could be done on the existing gene pool, I received a hearty laugh along with their reply, " First we fix type, and then we go back and fix hips and temperament.

I knew that this would be difficult to do, and would nearly impossible once recognition occurred and the breeding books were officially closed, as they soon were.

So here's where we are now, the OFFICIAL books are closed and a lot of great dogs were eliminated from possible use towards improving the breed. I'm certain the Spanish breeders are pulling funny business in the paperwork in order to improve the breed by using some better dogs that may not have been certified at the time of recognition, but this is not a luxury we can use if we would like to be part of the officiality of the breed.

I believe the process used to form the foundation of this breed was a disgrace to the breed's heritage. It will take a lot of work by conscientious breeders to help turn the breed into something I feel it deserves, based on the history and description of just what is a Presa Canario.

I think it is paramount that breeders at a bare minimum x-ray their breeding stock, and use some form of Temperament Test to help insure the breeds true working ability (guard & catch dogs), while maintaining the other characteristics such as: Confidence, Stability, Structure, Size, and function.

I also believe that breeding for exact phenotype and fancy point issues without regard to temperament will lead to downfall of the breed.....

George "Joby" Becker

Health Notes

Killing Staff Infection Naturally Every dog home should have Apple Cider Vinegar. It's a remedy with uses for dogs: alleviating allergies, arthritis, establishing correct PH balance.

The following was written; in 1997 by Wendy Volhard:

"If your dog has itchy skin, the beginnings of a hot spot, incessantly washes its feet, has smelly ears, or is picky about his food, the application of Apple Cider Vinegar may change things. For poor appetite, use it in the food - 1 tablespoon, two times a day for a 50 lb.-dog. For itchy skin or the beginning of hot spots, put ACV into a spray bottle, part the hair of the affected area and spray on. Any skin eruption will dry up in 24 hours and will save you from having to shave the dog. If the skin is already broken, dilute ACV with an equal amount of water and spray on.

Taken internally, ACV is credited with maintaining the acid/alkaline balance of the digestive tract. To check your dog's PH balance, pick up some PH strips at the drug store, and first thing in the morning test the dogs urine. If it reads anywhere from 6.2 - 6.5, your dogs system is exactly where it should be. If it is 7.5 or higher, the diet you are feeding is too alkaline, and ACV will re-establish the correct balance.

If you have a dog that has clear, watery discharge from the eyes, a runny nose or coughs with a liquid sound, use ACV in his or her food. One teaspoon twice a day for a 50 lb. dog will do the job.

After your weekly grooming sessions, use a few drops in the dogs ears after cleaning them to avoid ear infections. Other uses for ACV are the prevention of muscle weakness, cramps, feeling the cold, calluses, twitching of facial muscles, sore joints, arthritis and pus in the urine. There are also reports that it is useful in the prevention of bladder and kidney stones.

Fleas, flies, ticks and bacteria, external parasites, ring worm, fungus, staphylococcus, streptococcus, pneumococcus, mange, etc., are unlikely to inhabit a dog whose system is acidic inside and out. Should you ever experience any of these with your dog, bathe the dog with a nice gentle herbal shampoo--- one that you would use on your own hair--- rinse thoroughly, and the sponge on ACV diluted with equal amounts of warm water. Allow your dog to drip dry. It is not necessary to use harsh chemicals for minor flea infestations. All fleas drown in soapy water and the ACV rinse makes the skin too acidic for re-infestation. If you are worried about picking up fleas when you take your dog away from home, keep some ACV in a spray bottle, and spray your dog before leave home, and when you get back. Take some with you and keep it in the car, just in case you need it anytime. Obviously for major infestations, more drastic measures are necessary. ACV normalizes the PH levels of the skin, makes your dog unpalatable to even the nastiest of bacteria and you have a dog that smells like a salad, a small price to pay!"

For Hot Spots A better remedy is to apply the gel from a fresh aloe leaf clipping as soon as you notice your dog may be getting a hot spot. The bitter taste of the aloe deters dogs from licking the affected area and as such the hot spot heals extraordinarily fast. Info from: <http://www.healers-network.com/Remedies/acvfordogs.html>

For Conjunctivitis If you cut an onion into small pieces near face (do this often 5 - 10 times), this will kill off pink eye. Wash your hands with a bacterial soap, hygiene is very important to prevent cross-contamination.

Garlic Kills Germs! The stinky compound in garlic, called allicin, has been demonstrated as being a highly effective antibiotic. Other tests have confirmed that garlic is an even more powerful germ-killer than either penicillin or tetracycline. The list of microbes that garlic can slay includes botulism, tuberculosis, diarrhea, staph, dysentery, pneumonia, sepsis, and typhoid. Reports list 72 separate bugs garlic can bump off; bacteria, yeast, fungus, parasites and protozoa all yield to garlic. Cooking neutralizes allicin, so you need raw garlic for its antibiotic properties. Many doctors will tell you that a compress of mashed garlic can keep cuts and wounds clean and free of infection. There are some reports that applying garlic directly to skin cancers makes the tumor disappear within weeks.

Eucalyptus Janet Valnet, M.D. maintains that solution of 2% eucalyptus oil sprayed in the air will kill 70% of the airborne staph micro-organisms. Eucalyptus oil contains eucalyptol, which has been found to be antibacterial, antitarrhal, anti-fungal, antiseptic, anti-viral, an expectorant, and mucolytic. Specifically this oil has been found to have an antimicrobial action, antibacterial against staph, strep, pneumonia, and antifungal against candida. It has been used for arthritis, bronchitis, decongestant, respiratory infections, catarrh, cold sores, colds, coughing, fever, flu, inflammation of the ear, eye, and sinus, cystitis, poor circulation, skin infection, sores, wounds, aches and pains, ulcers, endometriosis, acne, allergies, rheumatism, increasing energy, burns, gonorrhoea, vaginitis, sinusitis, malaria, throat infection, and to aid the respiratory system. SAFETY: This is a strong oil that should be diluted when used on sensitive skin. DO NOT TAKE INTERNALLY!

Dogs need to be in shape before exercise Your dog seems the perfect choice for a running partner. You both need exercise, so why not turn his walk into your run? Just consider your pet's needs first: While your weekend warrior habit may leave you limping, it can be fatal to an unconditioned dog. You need to know your dog and know its limitations. Visit the vet: Dogs, like humans; should be checked by a doctor before beginning an exercise program. If your dog is overweight, asthmatic, has allergies or has any heart, lung or joint problems, jogging might not be the best idea. And although puppies display boundless energy, don't take them on runs longer than a half-mile until their skeletal and muscular system is fully developed. Too much exercise too soon can cause joint problems and stunted growth. Bones; can be traumatized by early and severe exercise programs. Run on grass or a soft but firm surface as opposed to running on concrete or asphalt. Pack clean water, it's crucial for keeping your running mate cool. Stash a collapsible dog bowl and a water bottle in your fanny pack. But don't let your pup drink its fill at one time, too much water too quick could cause dangerous stomach bloating. Consider offering your pet a drink every 5 to 10 minutes. And never run your dog in hot weather.

Goats Milk and Yogurt Good for Dogs!

Goat milk versus Cow milk:

- Nutrient content of goat milk is slightly less than cow milk but goat milk is more digestible because the fat molecules are one-fifth the size of those from cow milk—making it easily tolerated by those with compromised digestive systems
- 72% of the milk used throughout the world is from goats. It is one-third richer than cow milk, and more nourishing and easier to digest
- The flavor of goat milk is comparable to that of cow milk. Goat milk has a milder taste
- Goat milk has no cream separation because of smaller fat molecules
- Goat milk contains pre-formed Vitamin A in the milk fat that allows it to be readily available for use by the body
- Goat milk contains a more highly-evolved cholesterol than cow milk, making it more available for absorption to the brain and body
- Goat milk is closer to human milk and is therefore easily accepted by those young and frail
- Goat milk has an alkaline reaction the same as Mothers milk, cow milk has an acid reaction

- Goat milk contains more chlorine, fluorine and silicon than any other domestic livestock. Chlorine & fluorine are natural germicides and fluorine assists in preventing diabetes
- Goat milk contains 2% curd, which precipitates in the stomach. Cow milk is 10% curd
- Goats are naturally immune to diseases, such as tuberculosis, and are used in the third-world to actually cure this disease because of its inherent antibodies
- Goat milk has the ability to "sweeten" the intestinal tract and assist with constipation
- Goat milk contains a higher evolved carotene (pro-Vitamin A). Researchers have found this to have cancer-preventing properties
- Goats milk is the perfect supplement for puppies

NuVet Plus ingredients Blue Green Algae - It has been scientifically proven to stimulate the immune system, boosting brainpower and guarding against diseases. This super food has a soft cell glucose wall, making it extremely easy for the body to digest; this allows for rapid absorption and assimilation of vital nutrients. This wild form of Blue Green Algae is completely free of artificial, synthetic influences. Not only does this main ingredient in NU Vet Plus strengthen the immune system, it purifies the blood and assists in smooth operation of the brain and nervous system. Blue Green Algae is higher in protein than any other whole food. It is very rich in chlorophyll and has been shown to enhance the health of the entire body, strengthen the immune production and helps promote intestinal regularity and the healing of wounds, boosts hemoglobin production and helps purify the blood.

Alfalfa is one of the ingredients unique in the NuVet Plus canine formula. It has been linked to aiding in healing allergies, stomach ailments and bad breath. While it aids in digestions it cleanses the kidneys and removes poisons that could buildup in the body. It improves appetite and aids in assimilation of protein and calcium. Alfalfa is a source of nutritional fiber.

Call for more information or to order product from NuVet Labs call: 1-800 / 474-4044, order code: 56221 <http://www.nuvet.com>