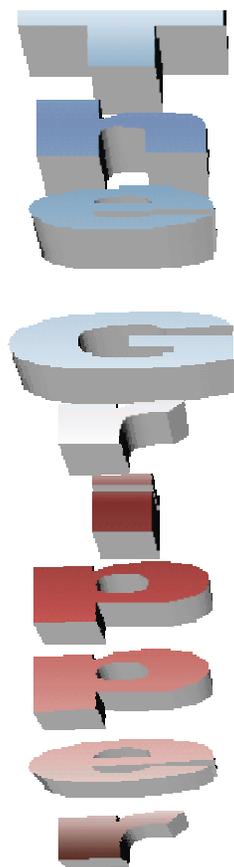


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The Official Publication of the
United Perro de Presa Canario Club

Contents: April 2004

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New Club Members

Rob & Ruth Ann Combe West Haven, Utah	Eric Lewis Chicago, Illinois
Keelan Payne Chicago, Illinois	Chris Hardesty Palm Bay, Florida
Tyson Scott Topeka, Kansas	Navidia Jackson Miami, Florida
Thomas A. Rignola Brooklyn, New York	Rusty Ungeheuer Topeka, Kansas
Todd Gregory Blas White Rock, British Columbia	Richardson Ellersdon Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Rhett Enzor Crestview, Florida	Kelvin Brown Sacramento, California
Jason Arcidiacono Houston, Texas	John Graves Gulfport, Mississippi
Scott McDonald Vonore, Tennessee	Jamie & Laura Storey Thonotosassa, Florida
Tony B. Watson Alexandria, Virginia	Tyrone Clark Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Celeste E. Walker Social Circle, Georgia	Rodney Lerner Missouri City, Texas
Tommy Joe Riley North Augusta, South Carolina	Bernice Garth Indianapolis, Indiana
Rick & Maria Carlton Homosassa, Florida	David Page Bowie, Maryland

With the enrollment of these 24 new club members, the UPPCC membership now stands at 278 and continues to grow. We welcome everyone wishing to become a member who expresses a sincere interest in furthering the development of the Presa Canario breed according to the UKC / UPPCC - Standard and Code of Ethics.

New Presa Names

AKCM Romeo	AKCM Bi Bi
AKCM Grace Jones	All Mighty Big Debo
BDK Abora	BCK Apollo
BCK Bronson	BCK Cadon
BCK Calida	BCK Catina
BCK Chunk	BCK Congo
BCK Jazzy	BCK Kato
BCK Kira Girl	BCK Rock
BCK Roxy	BCK Scar
BCK Stormy Weather	BCK Tundra
BCK Zorra	Brook Bekochvili
Choas	Concrete Kennel's Zoro
Dalton de Camus	ECPC Chavez
ECPC El Diablo	ECPC Gilespie
ECPC Maximus	ECPC Varanus

G.A. Bronco	G.A. Cerberus
G.A. Grandicy	G.A. Guapo
G.A. Lily	G.A. K.D.
G.A. Sanguaro	G.H. Moto
G.H. Yasheda	GK Repo
Heartlands Brandy Rose	Heartlands Brutus
Heartlands Medusa Sue	Heartlands Princess Ann
Heartlands Spike	Kautz's Hector Benito
MK Maka	MK Kia
MK Brutus	Madison Farr
Mango Hanna Alexis	Mock's Bruno
Murphy	New Renaissance Brutus
PGK Lily	PGK Diesel
Pride Rock's Hemi	Richardson's Perfect Mink
Rocky Mountain Che' de Hierro	Rocky Mountain Lladrio de Hierro
S.S. Busta	S.S. Darkcidius
S.S. Diva	S.S. Gizmo
S.S. Justinian	S.S. Sharona
S.S. Torquemada	S.S. Trima
S.S. Xena II	Shaka
Southern Rock-Presa	Top Notch Athina
Top Notch Bo	Top Notch Canaan
Top Notch Gabrelle	Top Notch Jolie
Top Notch Junior	Top Notch KoJack
Top Notch Nino	Top Notch Shani
Top Notch Sheba	Top Notch Symba
Top Notch Tanebaum	Top Notch Tiger
Top Notch Virtue's Villain	Tall Oaks A'ja
Tall Oaks Atilla	Tall Oaks Bear
Tall Oaks Catarina of CC	Tall Oaks Precious
Tall Oaks Shayla	Urbo's Madasia
Vito de Alacant-Bull	Wilson's Madam Medusa

Kennel Identification

G.A.	Guardian Angels Kennel
ECPC	East Coast Presa Canario Kennel
S.S.	Show Stopper Kennels
MK	Mokan Kennel
AKCM	Mango Kennels
Tall Oaks	Tall Oaks Kennel
PGK	Premier Grand Kennel
BDK	Big Dog Kennel
Pride Rock's	Pride Rock's Kennel
RMP	Rocky Mountain Presa

PP	Platinum Presa Kennel
TNK	Top Notch Kennels
J.J.'s	J.J.'s Kennel
PK	Patriotic Kennel
TRK	Timber Ridge Kennel
BCK	Breeders Choice Kennel
SRK	Southern Rock Kennel

Beginning January 1, 2004 through April 30, the UPPCC has recorded one thousand five hundred ninety nine (1,599) Presa Canario dogs, the results of 180 recorded litters.

Dog Geared *Parking on a hill near a supermarket, a woman got out of her car, locked the door and gave a parting command to her dog, who was lying low on the rear seat. "STAY!" she said loudly. Unable to see the dog, a bystander watched with amused interest. "Hey," he called out to the woman. "Why don't you try putting on the emergency brake?"*

J.M. Stewart

Show News

To Show or not to Show, that is the question?

There are those who profess to believe that those aficionado who show their dogs are guilty of altering every breed of dog ever shown. This statement is moot, we could argue both sides of the equation without either side giving ground. While there are many examples of specific breeds being corrupted over the last few decades, one must consider the cause and effect of evolution on canines in general. There are breeders who are greatly influenced by show judge's remarks, and the public's cry for refined, controllable pets. These same breeders then strive to create a breed of dog to satisfy the demand. This is just business.

Of all the affiliated UPPCC - Presa Canario breeders there are none known to be Show Kennels, producing only show dogs, lacking temperament, size and stability. As a matter of fact, there are more American Presa Canario being produced exhibiting their true function and characteristics. You've seen or read about which kennels, which bloodlines, are producing Presa that work cattle, catch hogs, kill coyotes, fight off cougars, and chase black bear, do tracking and bomb detection. These same Presas have earned their CGC titles, perform at agility and obedience events; successfully compete in weight-pulls and have earned their temperament test title (TT). There are Presa who are being Protection trained for competition, who at the completion of training will run and play with small children. This is the proof of stable, confident dogs being produced by UPPCC / UKC breeders.

To all Presa owners, do not allow the opinions of the anti-show establishment to prevent you from enhancing the value of your dog by achieving a conformation CHAMPIONSHIP title. Showing your dog is not an attempt to alter the breed, as many would have you believe, but rather it's a way to affirm that your dog meets the criteria of the breed standard, that it has correct conformation, expression and movement and can now be considered a valued contributor to the breeds overall gene pool. Besides, showing can be a fun thing and should be an event to be shared with the family. Come out and support the UKC and the other show organizations that have recognized our breed - the Presa Canario.

The nice thing about showing your dog at any UKC event is the following statement taken from the Official UKC Conformation Rulebook: I. Prohibition against professional handlers in conformation shows. United Kennel Club events are intended to be family-oriented recreation for owners of UKC-registered dogs. Accordingly, UKC encourages the promotion of the owner/breeder handler and prohibits the use of professional handlers in conformation events. For those interested in showing, it would be beneficial to order the UKC Conformation Rulebook. Call: 269 / 343-9020 or check their web - <http://www.ukcdogs.com>

Additional - UKC show information

- All entries must be submitted on the official UKC Entry Form
- Use separate entry form for each dog to be entered in a club's event

- All dogs entering UKC events must be permanently registered have a valid Temporary Listing Number, or a Limited Privilege Number for performance events
- Dogs not UKC registered? Apply for a "Temporary Listing Number" (TL) on line. TL numbers are valid for 60 days - fee \$15.00 (Fees are non-transferable and do not apply to the cost of permanent registration.
- Mail all completed entry forms to the Event Secretary listed under the event, unless otherwise specified
- Make all fees payable to the host club
- Obedience Trials, Agility Trials and Weight Pull events are open to all UKC recognized breeds and mixed bred dogs with a valid Limited Privilege number

American Rare Breed Association - ARBA held its Texas Classic on March 13, with Cedal Rogers, of Top Notch Kennels, in attendance. Cedal's Presa Canario - TNK - Kobe won three (3) BEST of BREED and earned one group two and two group three placements. Kobe is just one win away from earning his ARBA Championship title. With these wins he had enough points to be awarded his UPPCC CHAMPIONSHIP. Check out his certificate.

Congratulations!

Fern Hill Winter Classic Joe Brown reports back from the first two days of weight pulling in Tacoma, Washington. "This was an IWPA pull and was done on Sam Nelsons cart. Everybody loved the cart and he received several inquiries about it. The biggest surprise of the day was "Bessie", who pulled 2,200 lbs. earning third place. The first place dog pulled 2,400 lbs. This was the number one ranked dog in the United States. Bessie made her last pull in 1:06, pulling with all her might the entire distance. She really impressed a lot of people and there were plenty of new Presa fans in the audience. I was really proud of my girl this day." We are all proud of your accomplishments with Bessie.

Future UKC Champion The owners of TOP NOTCH VALOR attended their first UKC dog show in Texas and were ecstatic over Valors winning Best of Breed in his age class and for winning a Group two placement. Valor defeated two champions of record! With his earned points he is halfway to receiving his UKC Championship. Just for the record, his daddy was Ch.El Zorro de Alacant-Bull. Valors owner is Larke Legan from Pflugerville, Texas who reports: Top Notch Valor received his Jungsten Championat, a puppy championship from IABC (International All Breed Canine Association). He won three BEST of BREED awards, all SG-1, the highest rating possible and received three written critiques from three different judges, all were marked excellent. Next step is to finish Valor's UKC - championship.

Outstanding!

Hog Catching News! January - 2004. Mark Gumola, a UPPCC breeder and partner in Premier Grand Kennels writes about the results of the Manning show in South Carolina. PGK - Zain took 9th place out of a field of 35 dogs, made up mostly of APBT's and American Bulldogs. Zain was the biggest dog there and working in a sandy base on a 160-foot field caught his hog in 6.9 seconds. I received a lot of compliments on the way Zain had the hog under control compared to all the other dogs.

Another hog-catching event held at Art Parkers place produced the following results: 36 dogs competed in the Open Class which was made up mainly with Pits, American Bulldogs and Presa Canario. Mark Gumola's UPPCC registered Presa , PGK - Zain, took a 5th place out of 36 dogs with a catch time of 6.25 seconds. UPPCC registered Digi Digi Reina took another FIRST place with an incredible time of 3.89 seconds and set a new pen record. Mark feels that these were the toughest hogs he had seen at any time in the past. All hogs were tested and tagged.

UPPCC - 2004 Presa Canario gathering! There is a planned event scheduled for September 4th & 5th, to be held in West Haven, Utah. This location is about 40 mins. north of Salt Lake City. The Conformation portion will be officiated by a certified judge, plus there will be a weight pulling contest, a UPPCC temperament test and a protection seminar conducted by: Butch Cappel. For more detailed info, contact Dave Espinoza at 602 / 576-3454 or e-mail: azespo42@hotmail.com . From what we've read on the El Presa forum there could be as many as 20 to 30 Presas in attendance. For those of you who are within driving distance of this event do come and participate.

UKC Premiere! The United Kennel Club is holding their 11th Annual Premier on June 11,12 & 13, 2004, at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan. This event is comparable in status as the AKC - Westminster show. There will be three UKC licensed All-breed dog shows, Two Agility Trials, Two Obedience Trials, Two Weight pulls. Also, there will be a SPECIAL JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP COMPETITION. As best we can determine we will have the following kennels to help provide representation of our newly recognized breed, the Perro de Presa Canario, at this special event: J.J.'s Kennel, Top Notch Kennel, Patriotic Kennel, Mango Kennel and Show Stopper Kennels. What a great opportunity to introduce our dogs to one of the largest group of dog owners and breeders in the country. We encourage everyone living within driving distance to come and share the comradery at this special event.

Pet Quote: *"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated"*

Mahatma Gandhi

Quips & Quotes

In Memorial The Presa Canario community suffered a tremendous loss with the death of UPPCC registered GOTTI. What better tribute can be given to Gotti than to allow his owner - Sam Nelson, to espouse the many kudos of this magnificent companion / guardian.

Of all the dogs that I have owned, used or been around, Gotti was three things, he was the toughest, most athletic and in general a good hearted dog, I have experienced, and experience is what being around him was like from the first time I ever saw him, up to the last time. I am blessed enough to live on a working farm with rodeo bulls, beef cattle and horses, and I got to experience this male presa perform what I imagine are the normal duties of this breed of dog, that is, work cattle, protect the farm and all its inhabitants from all threats, without regard for his own well-being. I never saw him cower to anything, be it man, beast or machine. If he was capable of fear I don't know that anyone ever saw it.

Gotti, never once let me down in backing up my words when I told someone just what he could do. If you have ever bragged about your dog and then had them punk-out you know what I mean.

On the lighter side, I once told a guy that Gotti could jump in and out of a pickup with the tailgate up. He did it six times and the closest he got to touching the tailgate was 6 inches. All I did was say; "Gotti in...Gotti out", six times, no begging or hoping he would do it, he just did it.

On the medium side, his dispatching of stray dogs and coyotes was unequalled by any other dog I have owned. This was because he had the speed to catch them, ALL of them. Our farm is on a big hill and oversees our land, from this vantage point various breeds of dogs we have owned can see trespassers from a distance, but not all the dogs had the speed to catch what they could see, and the smaller dogs that could catch the intruder, couldn't always kill the rougher ones. Gotti was the finest marriage of size, speed and power I have ever seen in a dog. On the flip side, I have watched him take at least 20 bites from a big male bird-dog just because I told him to "Be sweet, Gotti" (I didn't want him to kill my friends "bad" bird-dog). He wouldn't bite if I told him to be sweet, (I have tried to not say that too much).

On the heavier side, his first full day of catching cattle was on some two-year old rodeo bulls we raised on our farm. One of the first few bull he caught, stuck a horn in his ear and drove Gotti's head into the ground, the force from the horn in his ear and the bull trying to crush his skull, caused his head to dig a shallow rut in the ground, devoid of all the grass for two feet. This is the only time I ever heard Gotti howl in pain (who could blame him). When the bull finally let him up, Gotti stepped back and looked at me then at the bull. All I said was, "Well, GET HIM!" and that he did, he caught the bulls left ear and was promptly bounced off every steel panel and barn wall the bull could find.

Gotti never let go and the bull just stood there bellowing until I walked up and tailed him. Gotti bled from every orifice and a couple of new ones that day. He thought that was the greatest game a dog could ever play and engaged in it every chance he could.

As a family guard dog he was great with children. He watched and played with the kids from mom's child-care business. If they were at the playground, he and his daughter ISIS II would stand guard, if the kids moved over to the swings, the dogs would move over and resume their guarding duties. We would take the kids for walks in the woods and Gotti would always stay with whatever kids wandered the farthest out. He would never think of messing in the house or car when left unattended. He never chewed up anything I didn't want chewed up.

I couldn't have asked a better protector. In one instance, he hit a foul-mouthed trespasser up against a tree so hard I thought it would kill the idiot. Gotti stood on his hind legs and pushed the guy, chest to chest, placing his nose about 3 inches from the guys face and just stared at him. This was his favorite way of knocking people down. I was holding ISIS, and called Gotti off the guy from 15 feet away. When Gotti backed off the guy's chest and started to walk back towards me, the idiot started to lower his hands, I guess too quickly for Gotti's taste, because he wheeled around and slammed him up against the tree again, before finally coming over to me reluctantly.

Our family has missed Gotti greatly. Our little girl Sammy has asked about him everyday. I buried him on our hill by three other great dogs that have been in my life. All are buried, looking down our rock road, "Looking for cototes", as Sammy would say.

Gotti was killed by an errant driver who ran off the roadway and struck Gotti.

S.S. Mercedes gets her second cougar! S.S. Mercedes, aka, "Casey" cornered her second cougar in a residential neighborhood. A few months earlier, her first encounter with the cougar left her with 4 stitches in her nose, but the cougar was shot. In her second meeting with a cougar she had some help with her counter part - Pride Rock's Britt. They both were able to hold the cougar at bay in the middle of the yard, barking and circling around and confusing the cat, trying to bite when each one got behind the cat. The presas didn't back down one bit. When a warning shot was fired the cat ran away with Britt in hot pursuit. She quickly returned so nobody knows what had happened. Both dogs had no fear and did not hesitate to attack! I would be really surprised if the second cat ever came back! Here Kitty, kitty.....What's truly amazing is the fact that "Casey" turned 9 years old this March and is still a picture of health! I couldn't have asked for a better foundation bitch. Thanks Show Stoppers!!!

Circleville, New York Russell Tice writes about his new presa "S.S. Torquemada". He's doing great and when we go to the vets office the entire staff comes out to see him. I have given Show Stoppers web site out at least 10 times so far. I couldn't believe the scale at the vets office, Torque has gone from 30 lbs. at three months to 47 ½ lbs in 15 weeks. He is still a goofy puppy most of the time, playing non-stop, playing with my kittens and friends. He loves the snow and visiting with my parents (who honestly believe he is the grandson they have not yet received) and who spoil him rotten. You have to see him with puppies, cats and small dogs. He's truly fantastic. What's really amazing is the change in his demeanor as soon as a dominant-attitude dog approaches, he won't back down for anything. He stood in front of my mother at 3 months of age, when a 95 lb. Samoyed barked in her direction. He stays fairly silent, but WOW, when he growls or barks, it rattles the windows. He's great and I love him.

Bomb Certified! UPPCC registered Presa Canario Breeder/owner and K9 trainer Tyson Scott of Patriotic Kennel, Topeka, Kansas, reports he has the first Bomb certified detection Presa Canario. He is now working towards having the first certified Search & Rescue Presa as well as the first certified Cadaver Presa. If anyone can accomplish these goals it will be Tyson.

Untrained protection!!! I rescued my presa from an awful breeder (post San Francisco case) while I was living in Colorado. His name is Boston and he is perfect, a fawn with an adorable face. He has always been a people dog. Because of my long work hours at an emergency veterinary clinic I had to bring him to work with me. In the process, he became very used to people, cats, other dogs, men, women, strange noises, excitement etc. He has always been very welcoming of strangers.

The other night I was bringing him home from the bar (yes... he is allowed in the small bar in my small town... frankly, he is a big hit) and when we got close to the house there began a definite rumble emanating from my trusted friend. I looked down at him, pulled his leash a bit, noticed that his hair was all raised up, so I stood back and looked around. Sure enough... someone was walking through my backyard.... Roughly 20 yards away and blocked from view by a 4-car garage. I would never have noticed him if it weren't for Boston.

Now... at this point, let me say that Boston does not bark. I had only heard his bark once or twice and when he did bark I almost peed myself. Apparently, the intruder must have been scared because he changed course immediately and went off in another direction. The next morning I had police at my door. A woman living a few doors down had been robbed at gunpoint coming home from the same bar. The thief took her entire paycheck (\$500) and beat her up as well. At the time I thought Boston was just being weird, but under the circumstances, he obviously had better instincts than I.

Boston is now considered a hero for possibly saving my butt. He got a certificate from Andy's, the local bar, for one hot dog / fries combo every week for a year!!! Lucky Dog!!

The Joy of Tracking During our first training session and the director specified the importance of correctly introducing your dog to the steps of tracking during its first experience as it sets the stage for all future work. It's a lot harder to unlearn a bad motor pattern than to teach it right the first time.

What we call tracking is actually three things. Tracking, trailing, and air scenting. They are all natural for the dog. In SchH tracking and AKC tracking is ground tracking, where the dog keeps its nose in the trail, scenting each footstep precisely, with no casting about. If your Presa has a 3-generation FSS pedigree, you can compete for your AKC TR titles (see <http://www.akc.org/dic/events/tracking/index.cfm>). "Expert Obedience Training for Dogs" by Winifred Strickland is a great introduction for the AKC style.

Something the Presas do very well is track! Though the clucking hens will tell you that the Presa in all of the canine world lacks the ability to smell human adrenaline (adrenaline and skin flakes are what a dogs track), it can be told they are in fact great trackers. They have the wide muzzle and a superior sense of smell. Combine this with a hard food drive and you have a dog that is an excellent tracking candidate.

Joe Brown's - Bessie is a complete chow hound. She could have a whole chicken in her belly and would knock down concrete barriers to get at a hot dog. If your Presa acts like this, than you can channel this energy into tracking. But let me remind you to read books on how to lay your first scent tracks. Do it right the first time and you won't have to back track correcting your dog.

To begin setting a scent pad, roughly stamp out a 1-meter square, then walk back and forth out on the line you're going to take. Choose two objects in the distance and line them up - keep them aligned and you will walk in a straight line. Heading out, you first set a trail from where you have the dog (who has smelled the bait and is watching you intently), right up to the place you will put your scent pad. Then moving out, scuff each footstep hard into the grass. The best turf to practice on should be un-mowed, maybe ankle deep. Scuff your foot, move it back, place a treat at the toe position of your mark, now move on to the next step. The best treats are hot dogs or roll-ups, which you can purchase at the pet store. They are really stinky and motivate your dog. The ideal amount to use in a practice is about 1 lb. this replaces a dogs meal. You want the dog to be hungry.

Lay the track in view of your dog. Your first tracks will only be 50 to 100 ft., maybe 30 paces out. The next time, make your steps larger and place the treat at every other step. When you're ready, introduce a turn or two. Scuff the track well and use markers so you know where the turns are. In the beginning, the best time to practice is in the early morning, when there's dew on the grass.

You want to keep the dog's nose right IN THE TRACK! They need to associate the footsteps with the treats so they learn to follow the track precisely, scenting it fully. They learn quickly if you lay the track correctly and HANDLE the dog well. At first, you will walk sideways a foot step ahead of the dog, keeping their nose down and in the track. Do not allow your dog to leave the track, this could lead to developing a bad habit known as casting off track. Good luck with your practice.

Joe Brown

The Lord Works in Myterious Ways!

An atheist professor was teaching a college class and he told the class that he was going to prove that there is no God. He said, "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!"

Ten minutes went by. He kept taunting God, saying, "Here I am, God. I'm still waiting." He got down to the last couple of minutes and a Marine just released from active duty and newly registered in the class walked up to the professor, hit him full force in the face, and sent him flying off from his platform. The professor struggled up, obviously shaken and yelled, "What's the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

The Marine replied, "God was busy; He sent me."



Dog Bite Law - Dog Bite Statistics (<http://www.dogbitelaw.com>)

The dog bite epidemic: a primer

The number of dogs There are approximately 68 million owned dogs in the United States. 40% of US households own a dog. 24% of owners own two dogs, and 13% own three or more.

The number of victims Dogs bite nearly 2% of the US population, that's more than 4.7 million people annually. Almost 800,000 bites per year—one out of every 6—are serious enough to require medical attention. Bites to children represent more than 50% of the total cases-- 26% of child-victims—compared with 12% of the adults. Every year 2,851 letter carriers are bitten. An American has a one in 50 chance of being bitten by a dog each year.

The number of fatalities In the US from 1979 to 1996, 304 people died from dog attacks, including 30 in California. The average number of deaths was 17. Most of the deceased were children. The chances that the victim of a fatal dog attack will be a burglar are one in 177; the odds that it will be a child are 7 out of 10. However, fatalities are highly unusual. For every fatal dog bite in the US, there are 230,000 bites that are not treated by a physician.

The financial impact of dog bites Dog attack victims in the US suffer over \$1 billion in monetary losses every year. State Farm Insurance paid \$70 million on 11,000 claims and estimated that the total annual insurance cost for dog bites was about \$2 billion. One

in three homeowner insurance claims pertain to a dog bite.

Dog bites are on the rise Although the number of dogs in the United States increased by only 2% between 1986 and 1996, the number of dog bite injuries requiring medical treatment rose by 37%.

The scene of attacks The majority of dog attacks (61%) happen at home or in a familiar place.

Dogs bite family and friends The vast majority of biting dogs (77%) belong to the victim's family or friend.

The dogs most likely to bite The Centers for Disease Control study dog bite incidents, including types of dogs most likely to bite. The breeds considered the highest risk are: Pit bulls, Rottweilers, German shepherds, Huskies, Alaskan malamutes, Doberman pinschers, Chows, Great Danes, St. Bernards and Akitas. Owners of such dogs should be aware that if their dogs attack a person, the attacks may be scrutinized by law enforcement. The reason is that irresponsible behavior with or towards a dog whose breed is known to bite has caused a rising and unacceptable injury and death toll, which authorities are determined to stem

"Irresponsible behavior" is defined differently from State to State. In California, for example, it can be a felony for a person to possess a dog trained to fight, attack or kill. There is an 8 out of 10 chance that a biting dog is a male.

In all fairness, it must be noted that:

- Any dog, treated harshly or trained to attack, may bite a person. Any dog can be turned into a dangerous dog. The owner most often is responsible—not the breed and not the dog
- An irresponsible owner or dog handler might create a situation that places another person in danger by a dog, without the dog itself being dangerous, as in the case of a Pomeranian that killed an infant
- Any individual dog may be a good, loving pet, even though its breed is considered to be likely to bite. A responsible owner can win the love and respect of a dog, no matter its breed. One cannot look at an individual dog, recognize its breed, and then state whether or not it is going to attack

Children are the most frequent targets of dog bites.

- The medium age of patients bitten was 15 years, with children; especially boys aged 5 to 9 years, having the highest incidence rate
- The odds that a bite victim will be a child are 3.2 to 1
- Children seen in emergency departments were more likely than older persons to be bitten on the face, neck and head. 77% of injuries to children under 10 years are facial
- Severe injuries occur almost exclusively in children less than 10 years of age
- The majority of dog attacks (61%) happen at home or a familiar place
- The vast majority of biting dogs (77%) belong to the victim's family or friend
- When a child less than 4 years old is the victim, the family dog was the attacker half the time (47%), and the attack almost always happened in the family home

The face is the most frequent target.

- Dog bites result in approximately 44,000 facial injuries in US hospitals each year

This represents between 0.5% and 1.5% of all emergency visits.

- The face is the most frequent target (77%)
- The central target area for the face includes the lips, nose, and cheek

Legislative Update: Every State has pending Senate or House bills pending or in force, here are but a few:

Iowa SF446 The dangerous dog bill declares any dog that enters another person's property may be seized and destroyed immediately by the property owner without that property owner facing liability.

New Jersey A2906 Requires a special license for all Pit bulls, and any dog determined to be a Pit bull type. Violators would be subjected to fines of up to \$1,000 per day.

Pennsylvania Bill 613 If a dangerous dog exhibits reckless or negligent conduct by attacking a person or domestic animal, the owner is guilty of a misdemeanor in the second degree and the dog shall be confiscated immediately.

Ohio House Bill 195 Requires a person who sells a dog to provide the buyer with a notice of the buyer's rights; a buyer of a dog that is

not older than 15 months of age can return, exchange, or request reimbursement for veterinary fees if the dog has a congenital defect or common hereditary disorder.

Washington Sub house Bill 1257 Any person who owns, possesses, keeps, or trains any animal for the purpose of inflicting harm on other animals or on persons will be found guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Minnesota 35.69 Unmuzzled dogs are not permitted to run at large. A person may kill any such dog running at large and the dog's owner will have no claim against the person who killed the dog.

Dog owners, review your state laws and local municipalities governing dog ownership and liability.

What's that tail wag mean?

A dog plays with you, then walks away and lies down under the table.

Meaning: "Leave me alone." Dogs get tired of endless games and retreats to a den-like zone, which is his way of telling you not to pursue him.

A dog comes toward you, mouth closed, tail up, stiff, and wagging fast.

Meaning: "I'm not sure about you." A wagging tail is something like a human smile - often friendly but not always. Tail position is a good indicator. A straight-up and stiff tail says, "I'm alert, confident and bold." A tucked under tail indicates a dog that's fearful, anxious and stressed. A tail held at spine level is neutral: rover is at ease and relaxed.

A dog comes up to you, seems to be friendly, but then flashes his teeth.

Meaning: "Howdy!" A grin by any other name is still a grin. A dog with ears back, head and tail low, wiggling and grinning is usually a friendly, polite dog who is just saying "Hello." If this were a threat, the head and tail would likely be up, the fur along the neck & spine would be up, and the dog would be barking or growling.

A dog is standing still, tail raised, mouth closed, staring at you but not barking.

Meaning: "Beware." In general, when a dog is very, very still, It is focused on something - like a squirrel or a leaf blowing by. When that something is you, however, total stillness is cause to pause. Likewise, dogs who stop chewing a toy or eating when you approach are warning you. If your dog does this, get help from a professional trainer. If it's someone else's dog, back off and tell the owner.

A dog puts its front end on the ground with its rear in the air and barks at you.

Meaning: "Come on, let's romp!" This is called a "play bow," this is an invitation by your dog to let the games begin.

Sarah Wilson and Brian Kilcommons

"Whoever said money can't buy happiness forgot about puppies"

Gene Hill

Health Notes

Tis the season for the dreaded Flea and Tick!!!

This is the time of year that two tiny creatures begin to affect not just our pets health, but ours as well. These two little pests are: FLEAS and TICKS!!!!

These pests prefer moderate temperatures, and humidity of 75% to 85%. Our pets most often get infested with these little guys through contact with other infested animals, or direct contact with them in the environment.

Flea bites can cause itching for your pet and for you. For sensitive or flea allergic animals, this can lead to quite severe skin infections, inflammation, open sores, hair loss, and tapeworms (if your pet happens to swallow a flea). If your pet is sensitive to the flea's saliva, they could itch everywhere on their body from just one single flea bite.

Ticks, the other pesky bug. Ticks are small rounded arachnids that cling to one spot and don't move. They insert their head under the skin, and gorge themselves on blood. All the while transmitting communicable diseases to our pets and us. Ticks run a close second to mosquitoes in the transmission of arthropod borne human and animal diseases.

Some of the diseases that ticks can cause are:

- Anemia (due to blood loss)
- Dermatitis
- Ascending Tick Paralysis
- Rocky Mountain Fever
- Spotted Fever
- East Coast Fever
- Relapsing Fever
- Babesiosis
- Lyme Disease

We need to protect our families and ourselves from these pests, and one of the best ways to do that is to protect our pets from them. Flea and Tick treatments are the way to go. Consult your veterinarian for recommended methods.