

Winter – 2005

Volume - 36

# ***The Gripper***

*The Official Publication of the United Perro de Presa Canario Club*

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**December –2005**

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# ***New UPPCC Members***

**Luis F. Soto**  
Gloversville, New York

**Kellie McNutt**  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Brandon L. Smith**  
Tonganoxie, Kansas

**Charles Ellison**  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Carlton M. Gray**  
Capital Heights, Maryland

**Michael Barwis**  
Brucetop Mills, West Virginia

**Rob Salvator**  
Bloomington, Illinois

**Matt Summers**  
Adrian, Michigan

**Craig Doane**  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

**Morris & Annie Churchill**  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Scott Nadel**  
Warren, New Jersey

**Marcello Stinson**  
Chicago, Illinois

**Ed Boles**  
Gloversville, New York

**Darrell Franklin**  
Newark, New Jersey

**Anthony J. Dixon**  
San Francisco, California

**Michael Benson**  
Topeka, Kansas

**Phil & Kate Lerner**  
Melville, New York

**Reese S. Germany**  
Kansas City, Kansas

**Jeffrey Healy**  
Yonkers, New York

**Kevin Exner**  
Chulusta, Florida

**Vincent DiIorio**  
Pierre Fonds, Quebec, Canada

**Richard Newland**  
Gahanna, Ohio

**Robert Contento**  
Spring Hill, Florida

All officers, directors and current members extend a warm welcome to these 23 new members. Their enrollment extends the UPPCC membership to: 385

# ***New Presa Names***

Crown Presa-Mock  
Crown Presa-Brutus  
Crown Presa-Shiraz  
Crown Presa-Game  
Crown Presa-Sassy  
Crown Presa-Polo

MVP Presa – Kaya  
MVP Presa – Kali  
MVP – Bree  
MVP – Pepper  
MVP – Skrappi  
MVP – Tigger  
MVP – Jadda

G.A. La Podera  
G.A. El Poder of Tall Oaks  
G.A. Tierra  
G.A. Diablo  
G.A. La Cazadora  
G.A. Romanaski  
G.A. Andora

S.S. G'Karla of Tall Oaks  
S.S. G'Karlee  
S.S. Maximus Healy  
S.S. G'Ronamo  
S.S. Furio  
S.S. G'Nean  
S.S. G'Katia  
S.S. Kyra

GBK – Candy  
Lola Canna  
King Canna  
“Gentle Ben”  
LK – Vlad  
MW - Butch

MK – Gonzo  
MK – Pelon  
MK – Mamacita  
MK – Big Joe  
BCK II – Xena  
SRK – Brooke  
Hades

AKCM – Frizbee  
JJ's – Blue Bullet  
JJ's – Kona  
JJ's – Wrangler  
JJ's – Navajo  
JJ's – Bogy  
Porky

S.S. Capone  
S.S. Jax  
S.S. Reina II  
S.S. Prima Donna  
S.S. G'Kytera  
S.S. G'Alyssa  
S.S. Erin  
S.S. Lilania

Tina de Irema Curto  
Russo de Irema Curto  
Above Par – Lord Vader  
Above Par – Carlos Santana  
Hurricane the Great

Dixon's "Big Sonny Boy"  
Zapa de Barnacan Bull  
Sgt.Maj. Sabre Passing esq.  
Southern Rock's Hera II  
Lacey Jane

Night Trains She's so Vain  
Isis Hail Storm  
Zeus Stinson

Top Gun Zeus  
Tall Oaks Kirby  
Tall Oaks Koko  
Tall Oaks Princess Akasha  
Letalone Creek "GiGi"

RSPC - Nala  
RSPC - Baby  
RSPC - Athena  
RSPC - Onyx  
RSPC – Shinobe

Katrina Vazquez  
Tess Ann Weiser

**The UPPCC litter registration has reached 278 since 1992 and has of now recorded 2476 Presa Canario dogs.**

# *Show News*

**UPPCC Southern Regional Specialty:** will be held on January 28, 2006 in Ocala, Florida. The Specialty will be conducted in conjunction with the American Rare Breed Association (ARBA) – “Orange Blossom Classic”, a 2-day, 4-show event. This is a great opportunity to exhibit your UPPCC registered Presa, compete for Championship points and meet with other Presa owners who share the same interests in this wonderful breed. For detailed information, please contact the show secretary: Greg Coleman at: (352) 688-1658 or e-mail [presabreeder@yahoo.com](mailto:presabreeder@yahoo.com)

You will find dog shows closest to your location by reviewing the 2006 ARBA Show schedule and searching the websites of other dog show organizations: UKC, Rarities, and IABCA. I know there are many outstanding Presas out there that deserve to be recognized as CHAMPIONS. Let's add to the growing list of UPPCC Champions.

**Paying Tribute.** In this winter edition of the “GRIPPER” we have featured the total known listing of all UPPCC Titled Presas as well as paying tribute to those Presas and their owners who recently accomplished their Championship Titles with the UPPCC and UKC as well as listing the show results from August through December, 2005. We apologize to those members whose name and dogs name were omitted from this listing, but we require information based on certified documentation before publication. We keenly advise those members whose dogs have earned titles in any venue, to provide documentation to the club in order to receive their earned recognition.

# *Quips & Quotes*

Hi! My name is Rachel Stycznski. I am writing because my husband and I are interested in another Presa. We currently own a Presa rescue. Not a top quality looking dog as far as the standards go, but to us he is so handsome and we truly love his temperament. Apparently his previous owners wanted a more aggressive dog, and "Brutus" is not aggressive, but he can be very protective. The only time he barks is when he is alone in the room with our little girl and someone comes to the house door. The previous owner admitted the dog got loose one day and they never bothered to look for him. While running loose he...well...ate a lamb. A local farmer tried to scare him off by shooting him with a BB gun, but he didn't budge. As the farmer got closer he realized the dog was starving, feeling bad he brought him to the SPCA, where they removed the BB's from his skull and he was fine. Then we came along and instantly fell in love.. The previous owners were contacted by the SPCA and said they no longer wanted him, and provided us with all his papers. We've noticed "Brutus" is VERY, VERY friendly with other dogs with an exception. I was working at a vet's office and had a drop-off female pit-bull that we were trying to find a new home. She always seemed so sweet. I would bring "Brutus" in and they would play all the time. One day there were puppy treats that had fallen on the floor and the Pit began eating them just as "Brutus" walked by, she immediately attacked him. He didn't fight back, and she was tearing at his face badly and he was bleeding profusely. So out of pure reaction and stupidity I tried to grab her (thinking I knew her better than I did), well in a split second she turned and went at me latching onto my hand. In a flash "Brutus" grabbed her by the neck and shook and she went instantly limp. That was 3 years ago and I often think, "If I hadn't grabbed her she would have probably stopped biting Brutus and he would have walked away a little beat up, but she would be alive". On the other hand, we found out how food aggressive she was and the danger that existed had she been placed in a home with children. I am so proud of my boy in his defense of me. That's why we are searching for a quality female presa from a reputable breeder. Thank you for allowing me to share my story with your membership.

A letter sent from one breeder to another, “I hate to bring you this news, but Sheba died about a month ago. I had three pens the size of back yards each right next to each other with two Presas in each. Everyone got along well. I had electric along the bottom of all the pens. One day I discovered the power went out during the night and two dogs had dug a hole into an adjoining pen and with 4 presas in one pen, poor sweet little Sheba ended up dead. My vet can verify this because I brought her there to be cremated. This is the first accident like this that I have ever experienced and I am taking steps to prevent any future occurrence. IMHO – two presas together is an accident just waiting to happen.

## **Top 10 Reasons why your dog’s Haircut Costs More Than Your**

10. Your hairdresser doesn’t wash and clean your rear end.
9. You don’t go 8 weeks without washing and brushing your hair.
8. Your hairdresser doesn’t have to give you a sanitary trim
7. Your hairdresser doesn’t have to clean your ears.
6. Your hairdresser doesn’t have to clean boogies from your eyes.
5. You sit still for your hairdresser.
4. Your haircut doesn’t include a manicure or pedicure.
3. Your hairdresser only washes and cuts the hair on your head.
2. You bite or scratch your hairdresser. (I hope not)
1. The likelihood of you pooping or peeing while your hair is being cut is extremely slim

### **An old story often repeated: “Will my Presa protect me?”**

Tomas Rodriquez of TRADIONAL PRESA KENNEL had those same thoughts until a recent event took place in his household. As is typical of most brothers there is usually some kind of horseplay instigated by one or the other and that’s how Tomas’s question was answered, “Would my Presa protect me?” His brother who stands 6’2” began rough housing with Tomas. Suddenly his 9-month old male presa appears and sees the brothers fighting, he immediately charges big brother slamming him behind the knee causing him to collapse to the ground and just as quick he leaps for big brothers throat. Reacting quickly, Tomas grabbed the dog before any damage was done. After peace was once more restored the dog again expressed his acceptance and affection of the big brother as he had in the past – just don’t touch Tomas.

**“In God We Trust”** You may have heard in the news that a couple of Post Offices in Texas have been forced to take down small posters that say “**In God We Trust,**” the law, they say, is being violated.

Anyway, I heard proposed on a radio station show, that we (all 86 percent of Americans believe in God) should all write “**In God We Trust**” on the back of our mail. After all, that is our national motto, and it’s on all the money we use to buy those stamps sold at the Post Office. We must take back our nation from all the people who think that anything that offends them should be removed. Whatever happened to the concept “The Majority Rules.”  
Could it be that WE just need to take action and tell the 14 percent to “sit down and shut up?”  
**I’M HAVING MY STAMP MADE TODAY!**

**“In Memorial.”** This is a sad year for several of our associate breeders who lost their long time friends and key members of their kennel breeding programs. A few dogs died in the prime years of life, others fulfilled a lifetime of service and memories. One of said dogs was “CATON de IREMA CURTO”, 3 years, 11 months old, who passed away on Friday – November 25<sup>th</sup>. Owner: Jack Pickel noticed one morning, Caton’s rear legs were paralyzed and he couldn’t get up. By the time Jack rushed his dog to the vet it became obvious the front legs had also become paralyzed. The prognosis wasn’t favorable, concluding with the possibility of a brain tumor and ultimately causing his death. This magnificent stud dog sired several outstanding litters and will be sorely missed by Jean and Jack.

Mark Clemens of Mango Kennel reports the loss of one of his young stud dogs “G.A. Julius” who died on November 27<sup>th</sup> who would have been 3 years old in January- 2006. Mark noticed Julius suffering with labored breathing and immediately drove 120 miles to the University where he felt his dog stood the best chance of determining the cause and effect of his dogs condition. It was found there was excessive bleeding in the lungs. The vets began draining the fluid but it was too late, he died during the procedure. It was determined Julius ingested some “*Foxtail*” (a grass with barbs along its stalk) into his airway where it eventually found its way into his lungs and began causing a massive infection. By the time his respiration condition was noted the infection was so advanced that nothing could be done. This was one of GiGi’s and Mark’s favorite Presas.

Guardian Angels Kennel owner and longtime friend – Bill Thyfault, just lost his first and oldest Presa dam: “S.S. Sarabi.” She had just turned ten years old and decided to just close her eyes and go to the forever sleep. It was only months ago that Bill lost another of his foundation brood bitches – “S.S. Nandi” at nine years of age.

Our sympathy and prayers go out these good folks in the hopes that the memories of their dogs will overshadow the grief that they presently feel.

### **“Great Truths About Growing Old”**

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while your down there.
- 4) You’re getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It’s frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it’s a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone

*“True friends are those who really know you but love you anyway.”*

*Edna Buchanan*

# **GRIPPER GRIPE**

## **“PETA employees charged with killing pets in North Carolina”**

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals – whose members primly pride themselves as protectors and saviors of animals – finds itself in serious trouble these days, as a result of highly disturbing charges against two of its acolytes working in North Carolina.

According to an October 14 article in the Herald Sun of Durham, N.C. two PETA employees were served with 22 felony charges of animal cruelty and 3 felony charges of obtaining property by false pretense.

Both PETA employees have been charged with killing and dumping cats and dogs in an Ahoskie, N.C. garbage bin. The pets were killed by injections of pentobarbital. Both individuals were released on \$35,000 bail, and PETA is paying their legal fees.

These charges grew from a police investigation after carcasses of cats and dogs in plastic bags were found in a supermarket garbage bin every Wednesday for four consecutive weeks. At least 80 animals were found.

From my point of view, the interesting thing about this episode in North Carolina is that PETA and its members portray themselves as the “holier than thou” crowd and if only they were in charge of the nations pets and livestock, animals would live long and stress-free lives in some kind of animal heaven.

Those trash bins in North Carolina show PETA has serious problems and need to be held accountable.

*Frank Rhinehart*

## **“10 Things Your Veterinarian Won’t Tell You” by Kelly Barron**

1. These days veterinary medicine can be every bit as sophisticated as human health care – and the costs reflect it. Animal lovers spent \$19 billion on veterinary care in 2001, the most recent figure available, up from \$7.2 billion a decade earlier and per-visit costs are skyrocketing: Between 1991 and 2001, the average cost of a veterinary visit for a dog nearly doubled, from \$50 to \$99. Why the steep price hikes? Vets are happily obliging owners who want to keep their pets alive at all costs.

2. “Vaccinating your pet may do more harm than good.” For years the primary reason for seeing a vet was to get your pet vaccinated against a host of diseases ranging from distemper to rabies. Indeed, annual vaccinations have been an economic bulwark for many vet practices, but some veterinarians say they’re not only unnecessary, but they can actually be harmful in some cases. Some vets report seeing a range of vaccination-related reactions in animals, everything from cancerous sarcomas to epilepsy. Another reason to think twice about certain vaccines: The immunity provided by some of them can last well beyond a year, even as long as the pet’s lifetime – negating the need for some annual shots.

3. **"I have more Complaints filed against me than a used-car lot – not that you'll ever know about it."** Tracking complaints against vets often requires a bit of detective work. Some state veterinary boards list disciplinary actions against vets, while others do not. And complaints typically aren't disclosed until a board investigation and judicial ruling have determined a case of wrongdoing.

4. **"Sure, I can do a root canal on your pup – real dentists are for people."** How do you know whether your pet is in the hands of a skilled specialist? The AMVA list 20 specialties for veterinarians, ranging from anaesthesiology to dermatology. Legitimate specialists have done graduate work in their specialty and been certified by an industry medical board. Ask your vet how many specialized procedures he performs annually

5. **"Surgery's a cinch. It's the overnight stay you should be worried about."** If you think your pet will be tenderly nurtured through the night after surgery at a veterinary office or hospital, think again. Many vets don't staff their offices overnight, so it's important to ask about what happens in the wee hours. If the facility doesn't have a night attendant, or if you don't trust his or her credentials – you should find a facility where a licensed vet stays over.

6. **"Personally, I think declawing & ear cropping or tail docking is inhumane. But, hey, it's your dime."** Animal activists have long held that cosmetic and so-called convenience surgeries are unnecessary and cruel. The American Animal Hospital Association now recommends that its members inform clients about the risks of non-vital surgeries and alternatives. "A lot of vets still feel they should do what the client wants."

7. **"Go ahead and sue – it'll hurt you more than it hurts me."** Suing a veterinarian is at best a dodgy financial undertaking. The reason is that under the law pets are considered property, that means; court awards are for the straight market value of the pet. If your pet becomes the victim of a medical mishap, know that your legal recourse is anything but guaranteed.

8. **"The key to my thriving practice? Location, location, location."** While a referral is probably the best way to select a veterinarian, many people pick one simply because the office is around the corner. That could be a mistake. One should check out the facility. Is the staff friendly? Is the place clean? Look into the vets educational background, and board certification. Study the veterinarian's body language with animals. Make sure they greet animals in a friendly way, approaching them slowly and touching them gently.

9. **"I haven't the foggiest idea why your dog's acting crazy."** The study of animal behavior is a relatively new specialty in veterinary medicine. Not all vets will make the extra effort to diagnose a behavioral problem, which entails taking a complete medical and behavioral history and spending hours with a pet. Ask your vet if he has experience with behavioral issues. If not, request a referral.

10. **"Our technology may be state of the art, but our industry regulations are still in the dark ages."** Under Federal law, human hospitals must be inspected, but it's possible for a veterinary hospital to operate for years and never undergo an independent inspection. The American Animal Hospital Association does accredit animal hospitals, assessing them on more than 900 different standards ranging from organization of medical records to diagnostic capabilities. But only roughly one in seven pet hospitals in the U.S. have been accredited by this organization.

# ***Health Notes***

## **Vets, owners brace for spread of DOG FLU.**

A kennel was forced to close for three weeks after more than 100 dogs began showing signs of a new disease, ***Canine Influenza Virus***, also known as Dog Flu. Experts say the flu is spreading steadily through the dog population, unchecked by antibodies or a vaccine. Perhaps 5 percent of its victims are dying. Researchers recently found that the virus crossed over from horses to dogs. Now the influenza has been found in pets around the country. “One hundred percent of dogs will be susceptible,” said Edward Dubovi, director of the animal virology lab at Cornell University.

Cynda Crawford, a veterinary immunologist at the University of Florida said researchers are getting 30 to 40 percent positive readings on the blood and tissue samples sent in by veterinarians who think they might be treating a dog with influenza. The symptoms include a cough, low-grade fever and a nasal discharge. She says she sees reports of dogs deaths on a daily basis. Crawford said that while newborn, sickly and elderly dogs would seem to be the most vulnerable “Many of the dogs that have died from complications of this disease have been young, healthy dogs.”

Confusing for pet owners and veterinarians, some of the symptoms mimic a common, less dangerous bacterial infection known as “*Kennel Cough*.” As with human influenza, it is easiest to contract dog flu in gathering places – Kennels, dog shows, animal shelters, even outdoor dog runs in parks. Just barring dogs from these locations won’t work because 20 percent of those with the virus don’t show the symptoms but can spread it.

Dubovi said researchers are at work on a vaccine “and the question is how fast we can get it out there and how effective it is, it might be as long as eight months.” In short term, some vets feel there’s a possibility of another upswing in cases at the Christmas holidays as many people go away and leave their dogs in boarding kennels.

## **“Great Truths Adults Have Learned.”**

- 1) **Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.**
- 2) **Wrinkles don’t hurt.**
- 3) **Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.**
- 4) **Today’s mighty oak is just yesterday’s nut that held its ground.**
- 5) **Laughing is good exercise. It’s like jogging on the inside.**
- 6) **Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.**

## ***“Always Wash it First!”***

**A stock clerk was sent to clean up a storeroom in Maui, Hawaii. When he got back, he was complaining that the storeroom was filthy and that he noticed dried mouse or rat droppings in some areas. A couple of days later, he started to feel like he was coming down with a stomach flu and complained of sore joints and headaches, and began to vomit. He went to bed and never got up again. Within two days he was severely ill and very weak. His blood sugar count was down to 66, and his face and eyeballs were yellow. He was rushed to the emergency hospital at Pali-Momi, where he was diagnosed to be suffering from massive organ failure. He died shortly before midnight.**

**No one would have made the connection between his job and his death, had it not been for a doctor who specifically asked if he had been in a warehouse or exposed to dried rat or mouse droppings at any time, they said there is a virus (much like Hanta virus) that lives in dried rat and mouse droppings. Once dried, these droppings are like dust and can be easily breathed in or ingested if a person does not wear protective gear or fails to wash their face and hands thoroughly. An autopsy was performed and confirmed the doctors suspicions.**

**This is why it is extremely important to ALWAYS carefully rinse off the tops of canned sodas or foods, and to wipe off pasta packaging, cereal boxes, and so on. Almost everything you buy in a supermarket was stored in a warehouse at one time or another, and stores themselves often have rodents. Most of us remember to wash vegetables and fruits but never think of boxes and cans. The ugly truth is, even the most modern, upper class, super store have rats and mice and their warehouses most assuredly do! Whenever you buy any canned soft drink, please make sure that you wash the top with running water and soap or, if that is not possible, drink with a straw. The investigations of soda cans by the *Center for Disease Control* in Atlanta discovered that the tops of soda cans might be encrusted with dried rat’s urine, which is so toxic it can be lethal. Canned drinks and other foodstuffs are Rarely if ever cleaned before shipping to retail outlets. User beware.**

**“The tail of tales.” As goes your dog’s tail, so goes your dog. If your dog’s tail is up and the tail of the other dog he is greeting is in the down position, your dog is the dominant one. If it’s the other way around, he is the submissive one. If both tails are up, it is undecided who’s who and a fight may be seconds away. A tucked tail is attached to a frightened dog. A tail with a low, easy wag belongs to a relaxed dog. Straight up and stiff signals tension! Once you know how to read the tail sets, you can then predict what is likely to happen.**

### **The Four stages of Life:**

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus
- 2) You don’t believe in Santa Claus
- 3) You are Santa Claus
- 4) You look like Santa Claus