

Tulsapaps Newsletter

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Member Focus.....

Angel: a story by Elizabeth Pyatte

Genetically Inherited Diseases

Pick of the Litter

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Sherry Anderson of Sher-Mi Labradors/Papillons held Tag, **Ch. La Pacir Amica Tag You're It**, out for a year to mature after took his first win WD/BOW and a 5 point major from the 9-12 month class at the Tulsa Specialty in 2004. When he returned to the ring in 2005, Tag placed third at the Papillon Club of America National in Omaha and finished soon after with another 5 point major.



Letter from the President



As I write this, we are finishing up what was a very trying and uncomfortable winter. Let's hope for a much kinder Spring show season.

Speaking of show seasons, it's not long before our 2010 Specialty in Tulsa. We're back at the huge Expo Square, one of the largest clear-span buildings in the world. This is an opportunity to attend SIX shows in 5 days and will, most likely, all be majors for Papillons. Our two Specialty shows are on May 27th and the following 4 days include all-breed shows, over the Memorial Day Weekend. Remember that we are limited to 100 entries per show because both shows are held on the same day.

Soon, I will be asking for help from members during our shows. We will be needing a Chief Ring Steward and stewards both inside ring and outside ring. In addition, we need someone to help with snacks/refreshments and someone to insure that the judges are supplied with their desired refreshments, paper towels, tissues, etc. Katherine Auger is handling the raffle but we need some assistance with that.

Also, be sure to remember the raffle items to donate. We had a great raffle last year and hope for the same again. We are asking everyone to bring raffle items at the next club meeting to be held at the Claremore show on Saturday, April 3rd.

Dates & Places to Remember

PCT meetings are scheduled throughout the year and include socials PLUS get together at numerous nearby dog shows. Our goal is for our PCT members to easily network and play an active part in the club. From the increased size in attendance, this strategy must be working. Our next meeting after the Saturday Claremore show, April 3rd, will be our [Two PCT Specialties in one day](#), held Thursday, May 27th at the. The PCT shows will be followed by four all-breed shows, May 28th through May 31st held by Seminole Kennel Club and Mid-Continent KC Of Tulsa. Great way to have fun and get to show your dogs a lot!!! See you there;



Noah, BISS Ch. Sher-Mi Front Runner, JH



Ch. Gail's Hellcat Of CL loved to show and showed like a model walking down a



'Tag' relaxing at home with his Lab buddy.

Despite years of experience, top breeders pick out show potential early but wait for maturity to determine show quality.

There are two jobs do the first seven days of a puppy's life that has impact.

On the Cover: Sher-Mi Labradors/Papillons

Sherry Anderson has been in the world of dogs for many many years, living with/traveling with/handling and many breeds. Her main breed was the Labrador Retriever. Because of their popularity, competition is very stiff in the Labrador ring but Sherry was able to take one of her males, Noah, to a rank of #6 in 2009. When she started looking for a Papillon, she was hoping her experience, reputation and references from peers would allow her the ability to get something really nice.

Because she admired Elyse Vandermolen of Clearlake Papillons, she visited with and was approved for a nice male to show. Sherry let her know that he would be a much loved pet and not to worry about him with her Labradors because of the good temperament she'd bred.

A friend of Elyse's was having health issues and needed to rehome some dogs which proved fortunate for Sherry. It allowed nine month old Tag, **Ch. La Pacir Amica Tag You're It**, to come into her life in Sept. '04. His first weekend, a few months later, was in Tulsa where she met her first papillon breeders, Don and Marilyn Bauer. They noted Tag hanging out in his x-pen and came over to admire him. Kind and encouraging to this Papillon newbie, Don told her that she was more than likely going to have a lot of fun with her boy and was he right! From the 9-12 month class that day, Tag took his first win WD/BOW for a 5 pt major and, within two months time, needed only two single points to finish his Championship. Sherry now wanted to attend and exhibit him at her first Papillon National but felt that he was quite young and not ready for the breed lineup. So, she didn't show him again until National '05 in Ohio where he took third in his class and finished up his Championship title right after that with another 5pt major.

Two years later the ever lovely, Gia, **Ch. Gail's Hellcat Of CL** came into her life. This girl, like Tag, also, her first weekend out took the wins both days for her first 4pt major and 2 points from the 9 -12 month class and finished in very short order with multiple group placements. Gia was showy and made you look at her, truly like a model walking down a runway showing you this side of her and then the other. She developed quite a few admirers, the biggest of course was Sherry.

Education: Pick of the Litter by Dr Caroline Coile

Dr. Coile, breeder/owner/handler of top-winning Saluki's, interviewed some of the top breeders in the United States and found that they have different ways of picking their future champions. Most agreed that experience helped, but deciding whether a puppy is show quality is best served by waiting until the puppy is a year and already performing in the ring. Since many make their choice of whether to pet the puppy earlier, she did find these interesting facts to help decide how your dog will look as an adult:

- 1) It is "not uncommon for the front and rear legs to grow at different rates, with the rear legs usually outpacing the front so that the puppy has periods of being higher in the rear," which usually corrects itself by adulthood.
- 2) "Puppies tend to carry their tails higher than adults do."
- 3) The lower jaw tends to grow slightly more than the upper so that a slightly overshot bite and may correct itself; whereas, a slightly undershot bite may become more undershot. [For more info see May 09 Dog World, pp 44-47]

Education: Puppy Care (the first 7 days) by Caroline Coile, Ph.D.

1) Although newborns feel pain, remove dew claws in the first 3 days because they seem to get over it quickly. Otherwise, wait until the puppies are several months old and have surgery under anesthesia.

2) Some studies suggest that handling newborns 3 minutes or more a day may have long-lasting effects on their emotional reactivity later in life.

[For more information on those first 7 weeks, read January '10 DogWorld, pp 28-31]

You've heard, don't lose your front end; it's the hardest to get back. Well now, it's don't lose the round rib cage.

Education: Better Breeding by Patricia Trotter

Judges and breeders have been concerned with the loss of functional front-end assemblies, which seems difficult to keep in a gene pool and all too easy to lose. Now another important component of the skeleton is being scrutinized, the chest and the relationship between the correct rib cage and loin. The usual rib cage tends to be oval shaped. Many judges feel that the loin is getting far too long while the rib cage is less capacious, compromising the housing capacity of the organs.

[For more information see the February '10 AKC Gazette, pp 14-15]

Education: Fiction about Dental Health by Marcia King

1) A large study in the 1990s found canned food performed similarly to dry foods in the degree of plaque and calculus that accumulated. (Journal of Veterinary Dentistry, Aug, 1994 64-70)

2) Dogs feel pain but are by nature, stoic. As a pack animal, they evolved to not show pain in order to remain top dog.

3) While tempting to save a few dollars by having your dog's teeth professionally cleaned with anesthesia, most veterinary dentists say it's a bad idea because you can miss or ignore many dental lesions says Dr. William Krug, DVM, Dipl AVDC at North Carolina State (p37, 60). "Animals that are truly unfit for anesthesia probably have a disease with a prognosis that makes dental problems irrelevant."

[For more info read "Facts Versus Fiction: Dental Health" in Feb '10 DogWorld, pp 36-37, 60]

Canine dental truths.

True: Dental diets can help clean teeth.

True: Dogs can, but rarely do, get cavities.

True: Daily brushing is ideal.

True: Teeth can be realigned with braces.

Special Interest: Genetically Inherited Diseases: PRA

If you are interested in an illustration showing how genetic problems are passed along from generation to generation, you may want to read the following article on the Papillon Club of America's site " RECESSIVE GENE INHERITANCE PATTERN " written by Genetic Health Committee Chair, Leona Domino [www.papillonclub.org/PapillonHealth] and briefly summarized below.

Papillons are affected with a slowly progressive degeneration that causes blindness at seven to eight years old. At present there is no cure and no treatment to arrest the course of degeneration in the affected dogs. Each time the carrier is used for breeding, a percentage of more "little-carriers" are added to the breeding population. As time goes on the more carriers there are within a breed, the greater chances are that affected dogs will ultimately be produced by breeding two "hidden" carriers together.

Research is being conducted at Michigan State University (Michigan, USA) to find the marker on the gene that would result in breeders having a test that would tell them the genetic state of the breeding dog. Dr. Simon Petersen-Jones is the scientist working on this project. The Papillon Club of America (PCA) is assisting with getting a colony of affected dogs available to the doctor to use in his research.

Eye exams by a veterinary ophthalmologist should start by 2 years when the condition can be seen and be yearly until 8-9 years of age. Just keep in mind that blindness can occur before they are eight years old. Until a test is found, the genetics committee recommendations include: 1) have your dogs examined by a veterinary ophthalmologist (VO), 2) record the finding with CERF and 3) stay vigilant regarding your dog's vision, keeping in mind that night blindness or dim night vision is the first sign (see Ms Domino's article to learn how a night blindness test can be done on young dogs when the night vision of affected puppies will be faulty, though not noticeable by the VO's slit lamp) and, lastly, 4) do not breed to a dog that has produced an affected puppy or that has not been cleared by an eye exam.

The PCA has a need to have access to sperm from a proven, affected male. This will assist the research program to have additional affected colony dogs thereby helping to find the genetic markers for PRA. If you can help, contact Ms. Domino by email: ldomino309@aol.com and Dr. Petersen-Jones by email: peter315@cvm.msu.edu/ If you discover you have an AFFECTED dog, please do not neuter until you contact Dr. Petersen-Jones or call Leona Domino at 330-608-2547.

There are no cures or treatments to arrest the progressive blindness that PRA causes. Michigan State University is looking for genetic markers to develop a test and is asking for help in finding affected dogs.

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We're on the Web!
at
www.tulsapaps.org

**Upcoming
Events . . .**

The **next PCT meeting** will be held on **Saturday, April 3rd, at the Will Rogers Downs/Cherokee Casino east of Claremore OK. The show will be limited to 800 dogs this year; so, get your entries in early.**

On the Road: Angel by Elizabeth Pyette

They named me *Look Homeward Angel*, because they didn't think I was going to make it. Nobody did. At 6 weeks old, I weighed only 9 ounces, had pneumonia, and my skull didn't close. I was the only puppy in the litter, and my mom didn't have any milk. Every hour, they tried to give me a magic solution to keep me alive, but it was just too hard to open my mouth.

All I wanted to do was sleep. In fact "putting me to sleep" sounded very good, but then my human mom on *what was to be my last night* took me out on the balcony and showed me all the wonders of the earth that I'd be missing...the stars, the moon, & the ocean. And, then she said a heartfelt prayer for me.

Everyone thinks that was the turning point! The very next morning when I was scheduled to be "put to sleep," Dr. Swift got down on the floor, held me in her hands, looked into my eyes and said, "**You know, for the first time, I see a little bit of a sparkle in her eyes. I don't think that today is her day. Let's give her just a little more time.**" And, I'm so glad that they did. Not only did I live to see the beautiful moon-lit Destin Gulf and all the glories of this earth, I decided right then and there, in Dr. Swift's arms, that I'd be a Very Special Papillon. And look at me now!

Who would have thought that I'd overcome all odds and not only live, but grow to be an amazingly beautiful show dog! And do I love to show! When I'm in the ring, magic happens: everybody stops and turns. "Look at her," they say, "What a beauty! She's so cute, intelligent, and bright-eyed. And what a personality!" And they're right! It's because I know that life is worth living. And I want to show & tell the world just how one little "failure to thrive" puppy can grow to be a miraculous spirit, if given half the chance.

Thank you Dr. Swift for seeing the twinkle in my eye and giving me the chance to live such a wonderful life. When I finish being a show dog, I've got aspirations to be a therapy dog for senior citizens! Who best to give spirit to life than I, an amazing "failure to thrive" who made it to be *Miss America!*

[We are grateful to Elizabeth and Jeff Pyette of Kings Edition Papillons, who are having to slow down due to health issues. Always available to assist with any issues, they and their insight will be missed but most likely a phone call away. Thanks goes to Don Colvard of Calivar Papillons, for submitting this touching story].

For your information: Angel's Daily Struggle to Survive

Jeff and Elizabeth Pyatte maintained a weight chart, documenting Angel's slow effort to stay alive which will be given to those at the next club meeting on Saturday at the Claremore shows. After losing nearly 20% of her body weight those first three days, Angel went from a low of 3.1 to 9 oz. in six weeks, the date when "Today is Not Her Day." It took nine weeks to reach 1.# [If you are unable to attend and would like a copy, email me at marilyn@bauermail.com and I will get it to you.]



Birth of a New Judge: Sherry Anderson in the First Person

I've had dogs my whole life. I grew up athletic with dogs, cats and working quarter horses. Once entering the world of the show dog, I quickly learned, I had a knack for handling and soon learned also, I seemed to have an eye for a quality dog. For several years, I handled and finished all my own dogs plus showed and finished dogs for others. The pro handlers were always asking for my assistance when needed and I was always willing to help them too.

When I started in the show world, I jumped in head first. I wanted to learn everything and anything about shows/dogs/handling/grooming...just everything that went along with it. I started stewarding, became show chairman for several years for an all breed club and, when asked, gave conformation classes, judged sanctioned matches and sweeps for National and regional clubs. I enjoyed myself immensely and loved seeing and putting my hands on all the quality dogs. Of course through the years, I kept all my books and information, etc.

Labrador breeder friends and others started asking me when I was going to start judging. At the time, it was something I thought about for the future but not then. I was too busy showing and going everywhere. Little did I know at the time how handy keeping all of my books and information would be when I decided to start applying. And thank heavens, I kept good records, because they will be reviewed through the years. including all judging and stewarding books.

With hubby close to retirement, I slowed down with breeding and showing; it just seemed the time to take that next step in the world of dogs.....judging. It's not for everyone. You'll need some broad shoulders and certainly some thick skin. You and your dogs will get talked about and not always in a nice way; you'll be talked about because there will always be someone that didn't like what you did.

Unlike it was years back, the criteria to become judges is harder and more extensive with much more paperwork and time involved. Much of what I had known and done numerous times didn't count anymore. For example, AKC now wants six ring steward assignments at large shows, making all the years of running a ring both inside and out at the same time didn't count many times. So I had to hustle to get the new stipulations met.

I will begin judging very soon and am very excited about this next chapter in my life with dogs. Since I first applied, it has taken about one year to get every requirement completed. Some of the delay was due to changes in applying that were required by AKC and to field reps not being available at some of the shows that I could go for interviews. Another, was AKC never received some of the paperwork I had sent them. So, now, I make sure to copy everything I do and send. There are many open book tests to take. However, it is of my opinion that you aren't knowledgeable enough to be applying to judge yet that if you have to use books to answer the breed questions, the dog anatomy questions so I worked towards that goal.

If you truly enjoy quality dogs, their people and all that goes with it, judging just might be for you! But, remember, be true to the breed(s). Your purpose as a judge is and should be the choosing of breeding stock!

Special Interest: Papillon Club of America Health & Genetics Committee is supporting research on **PRA** (Progressive Retinal Atrophy, a genetic condition in Papillons that causes blindness) and **NAD** (Neuroaxonal Dystrophy, a progressive neurological disease that effects Papillon at an early age).

1- If you are sending blood from an affected or known carrier (has produced PRA) it is prepared and sent to Michigan State---Dr. Petersen-Jones.

2- If you are sending blood from dogs related to the Neuroaxonal Dystrophy (NAD) the preparation is the same but the address is:

Dr. URS Giger,
School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
3900 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010
phone 215 898 8830

For more information, email Leona Domino ~ Chair, Genetic Research at ldomino309@aol.com

**Important PCA Genetics information can be found at www.papillonclub.org/
Click on PCA Genetics for current articles related to PRA & NAD.**