

NEWS BUOY



Fall 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Fall Edition of the News Buoy. Thank you to our very hard-working Editors, Shannon and Margaret for compiling all the information that you will find regarding our most recent activities, the National Specialty held in Frankenmuth, MI, our annual PWDCA Sanctioned Water Trials, and our Annual Meeting and Picnic held at Core Creek State Park.

I was unable to attend the PWDCA National Specialty held in Frankenmuth, MI this year, but having attended many National Specialties over the years I can assure you that it is a huge celebration of our breed. Besides conformation, there are agility, obedience, scent work, and water competitions as well as Canine Good Citizen tests and Trick Dog competition. Our dogs excel in all these venues. Also, please be sure to read the article on AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award, which was awarded to our own Jane McEwen at the National Specialty.

I did attend our water trial in September. The weather was very nice and there were so many entries that we added a second judge and a second trial site. The water trial is held over two days and entrants have two chances to compete, once each day. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our water trial committee and specifically to our Water Trial Chair, Bob Caruso and Water Trial Secretary, Joan Klingler. I know that Bob's wife Sandra also worked to assist both Bob and Joan with the catalog. So thank you all.

The Annual Meeting and Picnic was organized by our Events Chair Barb Weisman and I would like to thank her on behalf of the membership for a lovely event. This was one of our best attended club events thanks to her efforts. Besides the catered food, there was a costume contest and CGC test by an AKC CGC Evaluation and a Trick Dog test also.

Please be sure to reach out to any member of the Board of Directors if there are any activities or events you would like to see us provide.

—Judy Murray

Ghouls, Goblins, and PWDs

The rain held off long enough for the Keystone Portuguese Water Dog Club to hold its Halloween costume parade, annual meeting, and picnic on October 23, 2022. The club secured the large pavilion at Core Creek Park, in Langhorne, PA, which allowed lunch to be sit-down, members to gather, and to browse the inviting baskets lined up for a raffle. The afternoon was a mix of enthusiastic members, many just starting in the breed and seasoned members. There was lively conversation as well as an agility course to try, a nice lunch and delicious desserts complete with cider donuts to carry home. President Judy Murray led the annual meeting, which installed the new officers and board. One highlight of the afternoon



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Ghouls, Goblins, and PWDs

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besides the hot dogs was the PWD Halloween parade complete with dogs dressed as witches, pumpkins, a shark, a geisha girl and a taco to name a few! What a fun line up and large turn out! Wow!

Another afternoon activity was the raffle baskets all done with carefully chosen gifts. Everyone had fun at the raffle and several member and family members went

home with a cherished treasure. Judy Murray's grandchildren were delighted with their win as was everyone.

This event has been building each year to a really fun afternoon for all the members to come out with their dogs and families to enjoy. I know I for one look forward to next year!

Thank you to the officers, board and members who made this event so special!

—Susan Soviero

Barclay and I had the best time at the Keystone Portuguese Water Dog Club Meeting and Picnic on Sunday October 23 in Langhorne, PA at Core Creek Park.

Barclay dressed as a Philadelphia Philly baseball player with an official MLB Phillies cap. I brushed him in the morning and told him we were going to a party. We drove to Core Creek Park from West Chester, PA. It was a grey and slightly rainy day. We left here at 11:44 and got there at 12:55.

We found the park and the club had it beautifully signed to direct everyone to the location in the park. As we approached the picnic site Barclay became excited inside the car before even reaching the parking lot. We parked, gathered our treats and raffle gift, got out and encountered Janice Cohen with two of her Porties named Millie and Moo all dressed as witches. We chatted and all headed to the photo shoot area which everyone LOVES!

After the photo shoot we looked for the raffle person because we brought a toy for the raffle. We were excited to see who would win it! We met some nice women and spoke to them about a lot of different PWD-related topics

that were all interesting to me, especially learning about Agility. I signed us up to learn more. We are excited about it after Barclay did the jumps in the Agility course, the weave poles, and his first attempt going through the tunnel. He has never been in a dog show or anything competitive. It was so great to see him taking an interest in the Agility course!"

There were so many fun things to do at the picnic! The people food was great, the dogs received nice homemade chicken liver and peanut butter treats, there were Halloween treat bags for kids and adults, everyone loved the raffle with really great prizes! Most of all I loved watching Barclay engage with other Porties of all ages and seeing him feel comfortable even with the younger puppies. He also fell in LOVE and was smitten with Cruella. He laid down in front of her and put all his weight to the ground to stay with her and kiss her paws. She looked adorable in her new Halloween raffle-prize custom-made coat that was spectacular, or should I say Spook-tacular!

Looking forward to attending the next Keystone events!

—Louanne James





KEYSTONE CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC

Keystone held its Annual Picnic at Core Creek Park on Sunday October 23, 2022. This year's theme was Halloween Fall Fun. All I can say is, Wow! The rain held off it and it was a fun-filled day. We had about 80 members in attendance and at least 50 of our four-legged family members. This was our best turnout ever. It was fun to watch families mingle, try to find puppy siblings, and not to mention all the adorable puppies that came this year.

As always, Liz Hoffman, an AKC Judge, did another excellent job with our four-legged members. There were six dogs who tested and passed the Canine Good Citizen Exam. We also had six dogs who did AKC Trick Testing. All dogs can do Trick Testing. Go to the AKC website to see all the tricks that you can teach your dog and next year, you can have fun working with your dog. They also earned beautiful ribbons.

The agility set-up was perfect it is always fun to watch the seasoned dogs do agility. It was also great to see new dogs give it a try. Because of the demonstration, we had 12 families sign up to learn more about agility and begin having fun with their dogs. Look for an Agility workshop in the near future.

The most fun part of the picnic this year was to see so many dogs in costume—they all looked great and even a couple of two-legged family members decided to join in the fun.

We want to thank all of the members for coming and making this such a fun event. Already plans are underway for next year with a few new surprises. We hope to see all of you at the 2023 Annual Picnic!

—Barbara Weisman

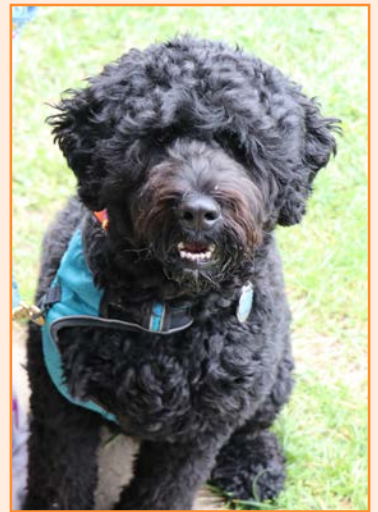
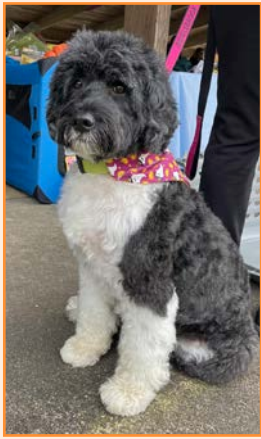


























AKC OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

For those members who don't know what an honor this is, let me try and explain. The American Kennel Club allows every sanctioned club to award once a year a AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award to one of their deserving members.

Taken directly from the PWDCA website: "This award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition, who have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, who embody the AKC CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP. . . ."

The 2022 PWDCA recipient of the AKC OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD was awarded to our own Jane McEwen as a result of her efforts on behalf of the PWDCA Health and Litter Log and many years of service to PWDCA.

Jane has worked tirelessly for both PWDCA and Keystone as a past president, vice-president and board member and we thank Jane for all of her efforts on behalf of PWDCA and our club.

Jane's fellow club members wanted to personally celebrate this prestigious award and we



were able to do that at the Annual Meeting and Picnic with a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Jane and a cake to commemorate the award.

—Judy Murray



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

JOIN A KEYSTONE COMMITTEE!



Bylaws

Events

Health and Wellness

Membership

Mentor

Merchandise

Newsletter

Rescue

Sunshine

Supported Entry

Water

Web Admin - Social Media



V P R P X N H C F U N S E V A E L K Y G L
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| APPLE CIDER | FOOTBALL | RED |
| APPLE PIE | FREINDS | REDDISH BROWN |
| AUTUMN | GOURD | SLEEP |
| BLESSINGS | HARVEST | SQUIRELL |
| BONFIRE | HAYRIDE | SWEATERS |
| BROWN | HOT CHOCOLATE | SWEATSHIRT |
| CARAMEL APPLES | JACKET | THANKFUL |
| COOL | LEAVES | THANKFULNESS |
| CORN | MEMORIES | THANKSGIVING |
| CORN MAZE | NOVEMBER | TRADITION |
| CRISP | ORANGE | TREES |
| CROW | OWL | TURKEY |
| DESSERT | PECAN PIE | WHEAT |
| FAMILY | POTATO | WIND |
| FEAST | PRAYER | YELLOW |
| FESTIVAL | PUMPKIN | |

Hello Autumn Word Search

HOW TO HAVE A PET-SAFE THANKSGIVING

FOOD SAFETY

Thanksgiving food rocks, but it's not always great for pets. These are some foods that make dangerous treats.

- TURKEY BONES**
- CHOCOLATE**
- ONIONS & GARLIC**
- ALCOHOL**

GUARD THE TRASH

The trash smells tasty when it's full of turkey gristle, but make sure they don't sample!

GIVE 'EM A GETAWAY

A full house might stress your pets out, so set a room aside for them to be alone.

CHECK I.D.

Holiday stress can make pets run away. Be safe and make sure they are tagged.

GOT TOYS?

Take their mind off the bird with a chew toy or some catnip.

PetCareRx
Happier, Healthier Pets





2022 KPWDC WATER TRIALS

On Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18 the Keystone Portuguese Water Dog Club held its annual water trials at Codorus State Park. Similar to last year, we received a record number of entries and were able to offer two trial sites. Teams came from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The weekend weather was beautiful and general park visitation was low making conditions ideal for the dogs and their handlers. The club was honored to have Alan Reisdorf from Athens, Georgia, and Greg Illchuk from Nanaimo, British Columbia, as our judges. Both Alan and Greg were fair, patient, and encouraging during all 101 runs

over the weekend. On Saturday there were 15 qualifying teams and on Sunday 16 qualifiers.

It was great to see familiar faces from a variety of other PWDC regional clubs and to meet some first-time trial participants. A big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers and members of Keystone's Water Committee in addition to Joan Klingler (Trial Secretary), Judy Murray (Chief Steward), Sandy Costello (Raffle), Barb Weisman and Frann Dyer (Merchandise), and Sandra Caruso for assisting Joan with the ever changing catalogs. Additionally, a special thank you to Peter and Anne Paige for towing the DelMarVa PWDC boats to the trial.

Congratulations to all the qualifying teams!

—Bob Caruso

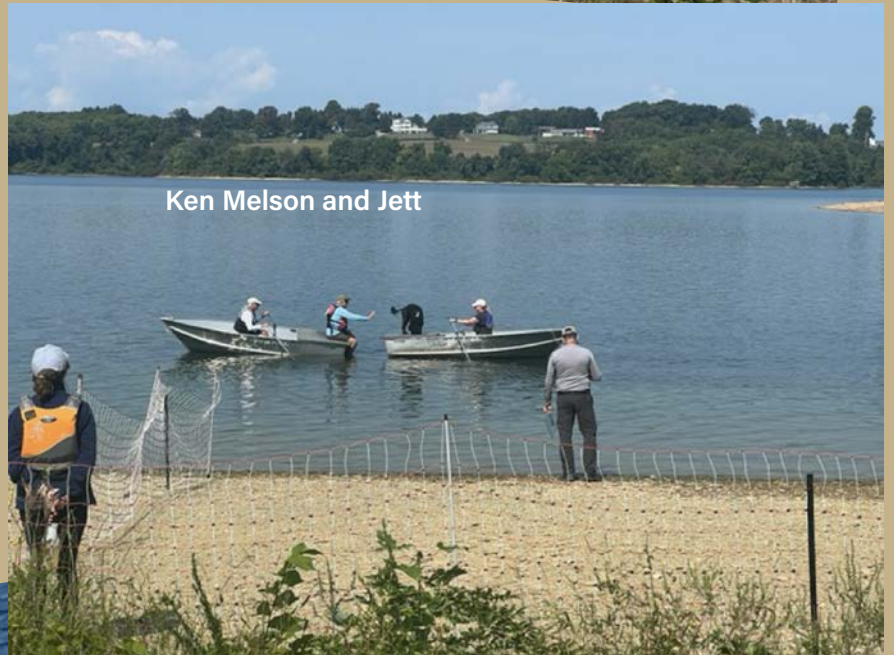
SATURDAY 9/17/22	SUNDAY 9/18/22
APPRENTICE	JUNIOR
Harry Saltzer with Rico	Rachel Landis with Moby
Judy Murray with Eva	APPRENTICE
Carol Mattingley with Rita	Sarah Hackman with Pepper
WORKING	John Brock with Ace
Cindy Miner with Kiki	WORKING
Louann Tracy with Woodford	Kelley Dimke with Seamus
Kelley Dimke with Eden	Judy Murray with Eva
John Brock with Ace	Cindy Miner with Kiki (Leg 2)
Diana Schaub with Zora (Leg 2)	Kelley Dimke with Eden (Leg 2)
COURIER	WORKING EXCELLENT
Sarah Brock with Scout	Diana Schaub with Zora
Sue Augat with Tally (Leg 2)	Elle Brunner with Lola
MASTER	COURIER EXCELLENT
Vickie Baker with Crew	Sue Augat with Tally
Diana Schaub with Perry (Leg 12)	MASTER
Vickie Baker with Zoey (Leg 18)	Amanda Ellery with Harvey (Leg 34)
Jen Mobley with Sizzle (Leg 2)	Vickie Baker with Crew (Leg 11)
Catherine Tinaglia with B	Diana Schaub with Perry (Leg 13)
	Jen Mobley with Sizzle (Leg 3)
	Jill Flebotte with Myia
	Ashley Cook with Cher



Cindy Miner and Kiki



Ken Melson and Jett

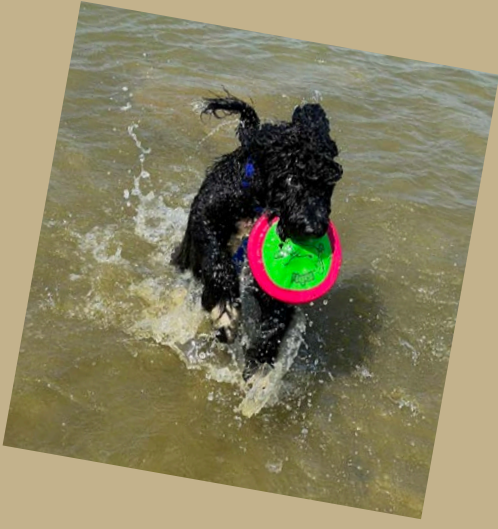


Louann Tracy and Woodford

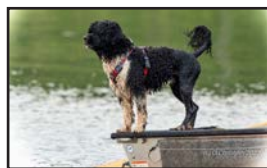
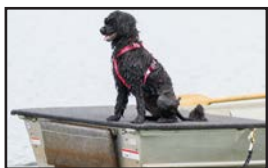


Bob Caruso and Judy Murray





★ BRAGS ★



I would like to Thank Keystone for a wonderful Water Trial.
CREW — Calypso's Northern Star achieved his Master Water Dog 2 (MWD2) and passed legs 10 and 11 and **ZOEY** — Sisu's Skinny Dippin Diva achieved her 18th Master Water Dog Leg.
 —Vickie Baker



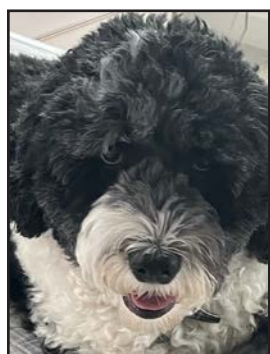
Sea Angels' **GIO** – Giovanni "Gio" passed his therapy dog test with flying colors two weeks ago and is now certified therapy dog with TDI (Therapy Dog International) and my funeral home DeJohn Funeral Homes. The toughest part of the test for Gio was when the evaluator put a McDonald hamburger and fries in the middle of the floor and Gio had to walk by it without going for it with my command of "Leave It." But he did well and passed all of the required test for his certification. Gio now will become the third PWD at DeJohn Funeral Homes to serve families as a therapy dog during their time of grief. Family and friends love the fact that there is a therapy dog present during arrangements, visitation, and services. Since 2008 we have had that distinction in our community in Cleveland, Ohio.

I hope to start training and socialization at the funeral home with our new Sea Angels' puppy **BODHI**. I'm sure Gio will be a wonderful trainer. PWDs make wonderful therapy dogs and fill a void and a wonderful outreach to the community. It is a perfect "job" for our Porties!

—Ross DeJohn



Congratulations to **BUTLER** Avery, a 2-year-old, PWD from Sea Angels, for continuing his Covid interrupted education at Suburban Dog Training School. Butler has achieved the AKC Good Canine Citizen certificate and is continuing his studies toward becoming a dog athlete.
 —Mark Avery



Sea Angels' **ELLIE** is a 5-year-young, sweet, kind, and loving girl. She lives in Lewis, DE, with her rescue sister (terrier mix). She's a trained, certified therapy dog (PAWS FOR PEOPLE). We've been visiting nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, TBI, and Tunnell Cancer, which is part of Beebe Hospital in Rehoboth Beach, DE, in addition to other events that PAWS FOR PEOPLE host. Ellie thinks she's human.
 —Margo Orland



FLIP – GCH Freestyle Turn the Page BN RI SCA SBN TKA RATS SSN IND WWDX MAC-2 competes in both PWD water tests and Canine Water Sports (CWS) test. This summer, he completed his CWS Apprentice Title. This means he completed 15 different tasks from 3 different categories. Flip and I always have a good time at the water!
 —Lisa Wilkinson



JAXON, Paragon-Hytide Midnight Rider, 7 months old, with Michelle Scott at the Devon Dog Show in Ludwig's Corner, PA, on Saturday October 8, 2022. This was the very first time Jaxon was at a dog show, with a show lead on and in a show ring.

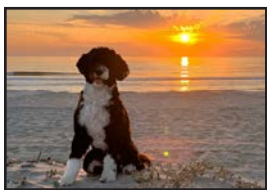
Jaxon was awarded First Place in the 6-9 Months Puppy Dog Class, Winners Dog, and Best of Winners in the Breed Ring, earning Jaxon his first point towards an AKC Championship title.

We are so happy to be back out on the show circuit again with such a beautiful boy representing Paragon Portuguese Water Dogs.

Congratulations to Jaxon and Michelle for a job well done, or, as Michelle said, "It was a great day!"

—Dave Wichterman

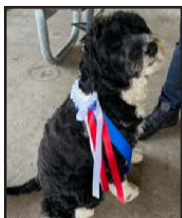
★ BRAGS ★



This is **KIKI**. She is almost 2 years old. I had the opportunity to take her with me to my family's home village of Cova-Gala, Portugal (pictured). She immediately felt at home sprinting in and out of the ocean! We have been in agility training once a week at Trail

Blazers Agility Club in PA. I think she has a hilarious personality and everyone describes her as a sweet girl. Kiki was bred by Karen Kirby Ash at Saltydawg PWDs.

—Dario Gravato



Brag congratulations to Saltydawg's Moon Goddess called **KIKI** on her CGC!

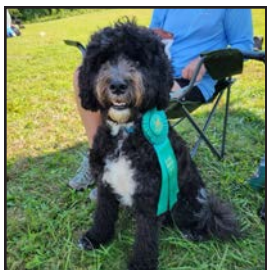
—Karen Kirby Ash



We did it! We broke the Codorus jinx! I've been trialing with several dogs for the past decade and never had a pass at Codorus. We've come heartbreakingly close when Charlie touched down 4 seconds short on the 2-minute apprentice swim several years ago—no passes but lots of stories to tell—many even funny! Like that time Galley ran out of the ring and down the beach and came back with a dirty diaper she found in the weeds . . . ewww. This year **KIKI** got her Working Water Dog title on Saturday and then came back on Sunday and passed the working level again. It was so fun to break the jinx and hear all my friends and training partners cheering for us at the end. Wow, pinch me!

Small but mighty Kiki is now Seaworthy's Love That Notorious RBG BN RI CA FCAT2 ACT1 ACT1J CGC TKI and most importantly WWD!!

—Cindy Miner



Sea Angels' **PEPPER** and her Apprentice Title—Thank you to the Keystone Water Trial Committee for a great weekend of fun, challenges, camaraderie, and support for we humans and our Porties. Thank you also to the many volunteers who organized the running order, set up, stewarded, organized the raffle, donated

prizes, and packed up including those from visiting clubs. Thank you to the judges who offered support, advice, encouragement and were so enthusiastic when a participant team qualified.

My children visited both days of the trial and were entertained by the assemblage of PWDs, the accomplishments of the dogs, the professionalism of the trials, and the many friendly people they met.

Oh, and Pepper was flawless on Saturday and Sunday and on Sunday we qualified for the Apprentice Title! Woo Hoo! This, after a whole summer of practicing at the Farm with my new training buddies. Thanks for your support and companionship. It was a most memorable weekend.

—Sarah Hackman



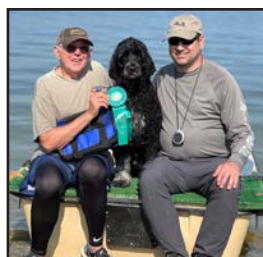
This boy is a hoot! Classea's **WOODFORD** Wonderdog of Western Waters earns his Working Water Dog title at the Keystone Water Trial.

—Louann Tracy



We had a great time at the Keystone trial. Thanks to the club and judge and all who made it possible. Both of our dogs passed both days. **PERRY** picked up his 12th and 13th Masters legs (headed toward MWD3) and **ZORA** earned her second and third Working legs for her WWDX. [Note: the pictures are from the National Specialty water site not from Codorus.]

—Diana Schaub and Lauren Weiner



At the Water trial on September 17, team **RICO** passed their Apprentice Water Dog trial. While getting our first water award is wonderful, the real joy has come in the journey. The crazy things he does from time to time give me joy as much as when he does exactly what I ask of him.

continued on page 24

★ BRAGS ★

He is also becoming quite the agility dog and we are almost done with our level 3 CPE qualifications.

We're looking forward to many more adventures ahead.
—Harry Saltzer



TALLY is a Courier Water Dog Excellent and I couldn't be prouder of how hard and well she worked for me. She passed Courier Water Dog on both Saturday and Sunday to pass the required third time to earn the CWDX. Thanks Keystone and judges Alan Reisdorf and Greg Illchuk for a wonderful water trial.

—Sue Augat



SHELLY got her first title at her first KPWDC picnic this weekend — Crossroads Sea Shelly CGC! We had a blast at the picnic and enjoyed the opportunity to get our CGC and will be ready for tricks next year.

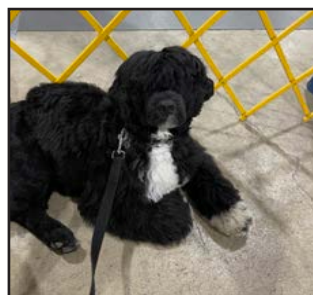
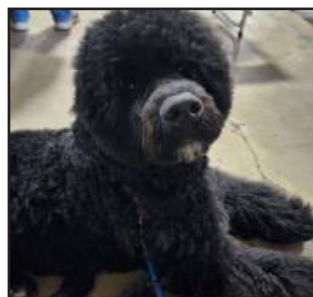
—Lynn Kostas

2019, 2021 and 2022 Super Dogs attended the 2022 Keystone Water Trial! Amanda Ellery with **HARVEY**, Ashley Cook with **CHER** and Vickie Baker with **ZOEY**! All earned a leg in the Master level.



On October 14th–15th, 16th, Mama **JOSIE** and her two sons, **DEWEY** and **BENTLEY**,

attended the Catonsville Kennel Club Conformation Show and the National Capital Kennel Club Conformation Show. On Friday October 14th, Dewey (Paragon-Starboard Night Rider of the Sea, shown by Meghan Jones) won his group (Puppy, 6 & under–9 Month dogs) and won Opposite Sex! Although he did not gain any points, he did a great job strutting his stuff! Josie (GCH CH Hytide-Paragon Two for the Show CGC, shown by Rick Jones (OH)) competed in all three days winning the Best of Breed and Best of Owner-Handled! She was able to go into the working dog ring and showed everyone how pretty she is after becoming a mom!



On Saturday, Bentley (Paragon-Starboard Journey into the Night, shown by Meghan Jones (OH)), won his group (Puppy, 6 & under–9 Month dogs), Opposite Sex and was awarded Best of Winners receiving his first ever AKC point towards his championship! On Sunday, Bentley won his group again, as well as Opposite Sex! It was a great weekend for all our dogs, but mostly for the two puppies since it was their first time in the ring! They enjoyed the extra treats and because of that, excited for their next show!

—The Jones Family (Rick, Kelly, and Meghan)



DREAMER — Windruff Dreamweaver CGC TKI RN WWD NACSW L2 CL1-F CL1-R has been having fun participating in AKC scentwork. July 31st we did 6 runs, 6 Q's, earned 6 first places, 2 Titles. SEN, SCN..Novice Exterior Scentwork, Novice Container Scentwork.

On Oct 16th we did 6 runs. 5 Q's, a first, second and 3rd place, and earned 2 titles, SIN, SCA, Novice Interior Scentwork and Advanced Container Scentwork.

Dreamer was also a Halloween Costume prize winner at the club picnic. She was the lovely Geisha Girl ... AKA Mulan.

Dreamer owns, trains, and loves Linda Strauch.

★ BRAGS ★



CAYO — SeaAngel N NorthStar's IC The Higher Power earned his scent work novice interior title completing four titles which he then earned the overall Scent Work Novice title at the same trial in August at the Bayshore Companion Dog with John.

SeaAngel N NorthStar's IC The Higher Power earned his Beginner Novice title

with a second place with Susan at Bayshore Companion Dog Club in August.

Cayo is bred by Carolyn Iraggi and Barbara Weisman and owned by John and Susan Soviero.



SOPHIE GCH CH Freestyle's Sunshine Daydream bred by Jane Freeman earned a Canine Good Citizen Title at Y2K9 Dog Sports Club in Willow Grove PA in April. She also earned a Novice Trick Title at the Keystone PWD Club Picnic. Sophie earned an Open Agility Jumpers Title with a first place win and needs one more leg for her Open Standard Title. However, Sophie's favorite part of competing in Agility is visiting the ring stewards and sometimes the judge.

NIKO — CH Paragon-Hytide Wait 'Til The Midnight Hour, bred by Carol and Dave Wichterman, also earned a Canine Good Citizen Title at Y2K9 Dog Sports Club in Willow Grove PA and went on to get his Novice Trick Title at the Club Picnic. Niko earned his Open Agility Title and got a first place win to earn his Excellent Agility Jumpers. Niko's signature style in the Agility Ring is his constant barking throughout the weave poles to make sure his handler, (Bob) is keeping up with him.

GRACE — GCH CH Biddlebrook's Amazing Grace, bred by Janice Cohen, earned her Canine Good Citizen Title on October 23 at the Keystone PWD Club picnic and not to be out done by Sophie and Niko she earned a Novice Trick Title as well. Now that the 2022 Water Season is over Grace will be getting her 'Show Coat' back to continue her journey to complete a GCH Bronze Title in the conformation ring.

Sophie, Niko, and Grace are owned and dearly loved by Sandra and Robert Caruso.



EVA — Biddlebrook's Hytyd No Surrender passed Apprentice Water Dog on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at Codorus State Park under Judge Greg Illchuck and on Sunday, Eva passed Working Water Dog. Eva also passed her Canine Good Citizen Test at the Keystone Picnic as well as her Trick Dog Novice Title.

MIKA — Paragon Hytide Waitin' On A Sunny Day passed both her Canine Good Citizen Test and Trick Dog Novice Test at the Keystone Picnic.

—Judy Murray

2023 Board of Directors

Judy Murray, *President*; David Wichterman, *Vice President*; Janice Cohen, *Secretary*; Harry Saltzer, *Treasurer*; Shannon Antunes, Sandra Caruso, Jane McEwen, Lynn Kostas, Barbara Weisman

<https://kpwdc.org>

HELPFUL TIDBITS

Have you ever arrived at an event with your dog and forgot important registration information? Here is a suggestion to make life easier! Consider adding your dog as a contact in a cell phone. In the Notes area, capture important information, such as your dog's registered name, AKC#, Chip#, date of birth, breeder's name, vet contact information, current medications, etc.

Your dog's information will now be on hand and easy to locate!

—Sandra Caruso

IN MEMORIAM

Allie

December 2, 2008 – September 23, 2022

ALLIE – GCH MACH C-ATCH Freestyle You Can Call Me AI CDX BN RE MFC TQX T2B2 TKI AAD JCH GM GM RATO AWD MAC6 SROM and numerous other agility titles 12-2-2008 to 9-23-2022

My heart has been broken. There was always something very special about Allie. She came into my life after a very tough year and she has left me after a tough year. We had a lot of fun in between. Despite all those letters before and after her name, she was never an easy dog to show. She had her own way of doing things, but we had a very special bond and as long as we had a good time, she was willing to participate. So glad that Jane Freeman entrusted me with this special girl. She really did have it all and is terribly missed.

—Lisa Wilkinson



Announcing the newest addition to the Keystone Portuguese Water Dog Club (KPWDC)—Our very own Health and Wellness Committee and dedicated page on the KPWDC website!

KPWDC Health and Wellness Committee Mission Statement

- Assist with KPWDC-sponsored health clinics
- Monitor health issues and recommended screenings for the breed
- Offer members educational opportunities on various health topics
- Act as a liaison with the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America (PWDCA)
- Establish and maintain a Health and Wellness page on the KPWDC website
- Provide health education content in the seasonal newsletter

Come check us out! As the Health and Wellness Committee seeks to grow, we invite interested members to attend an open meeting (we use Google Meet), share ideas, and learn more about our mission. Please contact Shannon at sjantunes@icloud.com if you are interested in joining us!

The Grain-Free Dilemma

Stepping into the dog food aisles at your local pet store can feel overwhelming. Grain-free, grain-inclusive, life stages, freeze-dried, air-dried, limited ingredient, toppers, mix-ins, frozen, wet, raw, organic, small bites, 30/20—the list of dog food options is vast! Feeding your dog grain-free vs. grain-inclusive food has become a confusing and hotly debated discussion. Over the last several years, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been investigating reports of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs consuming certain dry pet foods, many labeled as grain-free. As the FDA continues to investigate whether a food related link exists with canine DCM, pet owners are left with unanswered questions.

What Is Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Dogs?

Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a progressive, life-threatening, and often irreversible condition affecting the heart muscle of dogs. The heart enlarges and does not pump as efficiently. DCM can result in congestive heart failure (CHF) which might lead to an accumulation of fluid in the chest and abdomen. Symptoms of DCM include

increased heart rate, coughing, decreased appetite, and fatigue.

Hereditary vs. Non-hereditary DCM

Certain breeds have a genetic predisposition to DCM, most commonly large and giant dog breeds. There is no cure for hereditary DCM, and the treatment is aimed at improving cardiac function and alleviating symptoms of congestive heart failure.

Non-hereditary DCM is considered multifactorial and may be related to diet, genetics, as well as an array of underlying medical conditions. Heart health in non-hereditary DCM may improve with modifying the diet and starting appropriate medications for either CHF or treating the primary medical condition.

What Is Grain-Free Dog Food?

Grains are defined as the seeds of grasses, called cereal crops, which are grown as food. Grain-free dog foods do not contain corn, barley, rice, oats, rye, and wheat but may

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The Grain-Free Dilemma

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incorporate substitute carbohydrate sources, such as lentils, peas, potatoes, and legume seeds (called pulses).

Grain-free dog food became popular in the early 2000s after a series of pet food recalls by the FDA involving melamine contamination. By 2019, grain-free food represented over 40% of dry pet food sold in the United States.

Role of the FDA

The FDA is responsible for making sure food for people and animals is safe, properly manufactured, adequately labeled, and has an appropriate function. Since 2015, the FDA has been investigating reports of DCM in dogs eating certain pet foods.

The FDA continues to collaborate with the pet food industry, researchers, veterinary cardiologists, and nutritionists to better understand whether ingredient sourcing, formulation, and processing has contributed to the development of DCM in dogs.

Diet-Associated DCM Investigation: Timeline

June 2018: Dr. Lisa Freeman, a veterinary nutrition specialist from Tufts University, published a blog post on Petfoodology warning pet owners and veterinarians about a possible connection between “BEG” foods and canine heart disease. The term BEG was used to describe these diets as being Boutique, Exotic, or Grain-free.

July 2018: The FDA publicly announced an investigation into the potential association between DCM and grain-free pet foods.

November 2018: Dr. Lisa Freeman published a follow-up blog post on Tuft’s Petfoodology reiterating the health risks associated with BEG pet food diets.

December 2018: Dr. Lisa Freeman and colleagues published a commentary urging vigilance among the veterinary community regarding a possible link between atypical cases of DCM and certain diets.

February 2019: The FDA published an update reporting that the majority of pets with diet-associated DCM were eating dry food and were Golden Retrievers. Furthermore, peas, sweet potatoes, lentils, chickpeas, and potatoes were potentially associated with DCM. The

FDA stated that in cases which dogs ate a single primary diet, 90% reported feeding grain-free food.

June 2019: The FDA released a third update linking 16 common dog food brands with cases of DCM. The FDA stated that DCM in dogs is a complex, multifactorial issue and investigation work is ongoing.

June 2020: An article published in the *Journal of Animal Science* highlighted the complexities of DCM and various nutritional and non-nutritional etiologies. The authors stated there is “no definitive relationship between these implicated diet characteristics and DCM,” questioning any link between grain-free diet and DCM.

September 2020: A closed scientific forum on diet-associated DCM was held at Kansas State University and attended by FDA researchers, food industry professionals, and veterinary specialists.

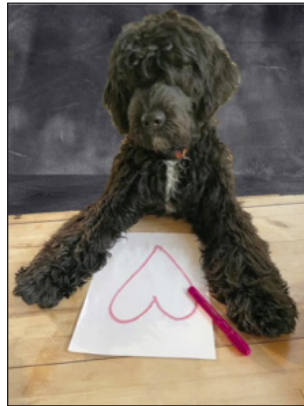
November 2020: The FDA announced its continued work with researchers studying non-hereditary DCM. The FDA identified non-hereditary DCM as a complex medical condition affected by genetics, underlying medical conditions, and/or diet.

December 2020: A retrospective study published in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* reported that dogs diagnosed with DCM while feeding a “non-traditional” diet experienced both increased rate of reversal of heart disease and improved survival after changing diets. Non-traditional foods were identified as grain-free and included pulses or potatoes/sweet potatoes in the top ten ingredients. Traditional diets were identified as grain-inclusive and contain no pulses or potatoes/sweet potatoes in the top ten ingredients.

February 2021: A retrospective study published in the *Journal of Veterinary Cardiology* reported that among dogs in congestive heart failure diagnosed with DCM, the length of time a dog was on a grain-free diet correlated to poor outcome.

September 2021: Dr. Freeman posted a follow-up on the Tuft’s Petfoodology blog stating the cause of diet-associated DCM has not yet been identified, dogs continue to be diagnosed, and further research is needed.

March 2022: A study published by Dr. Freeman et.al. reported that dogs diagnosed with DCM showed cardiac improvement after switching to a grain-inclusive diet that had no pulse legumes or potatoes in the first 10 ingredients.



Role of Taurine

Taurine is an amino acid found in fish, poultry, red meat, organ meat, and eggs. It is a component of bile acids and acts to break down fats in food. Taurine is found in body tissue and circulating in the blood. Taurine plays an important role in normal heart. With the exception of cats, most mammals are able to produce adequate levels of taurine to meet their nutritional needs.

Certain breeds, including Cocker Spaniel and Golden Retrievers, have a higher propensity for developing taurine deficiency associated with DCM which scientists do not yet fully understand. The FDA is still investigating if and how taurine metabolism plays a role in canine dilated cardiomyopathy.

Are Peas a Problem?

In August 2021, researchers at Tufts compared traditional dog food and non-traditional foods the FDA associated with possible DCM. After examining over 800 compounds, the researchers discovered that peas were at the top of the ingredient list associated with these compounds. According to the FDA, peas are common ingredients in grain-free dog foods and in some traditional dog foods. Peas are another piece of the scientific puzzle requiring further investigation.

What Pet Owners Can Do

- Nutrition for dogs is not “one size fits all.” Since dogs have individual nutritional needs, pet owners should consult with a veterinarian who is familiar with the dog’s health and medical history.
- Purchase food from manufacturers whose products are backed by research, nutritional expertise, and highest quality control standards.
- Any observed signs of DCM should be reported immediately—call your veterinarian or seek treatment at a vet specialty hospital, preferably one with a cardiologist on staff.
- The FDA encourages pet owners and veterinarians to report all cases of DCM in dogs with a suspected link to food, **regardless of the type of diet.**
- Reports can be entered electronically through the FDA Safety Reporting Portal or by calling the FDA consumer complaint coordinator in your regional area.
- Familiarize yourself with the ingredient list and nutritional values of your dog’s food.

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/nutrition/how-to-read-a-dog-food-label/>

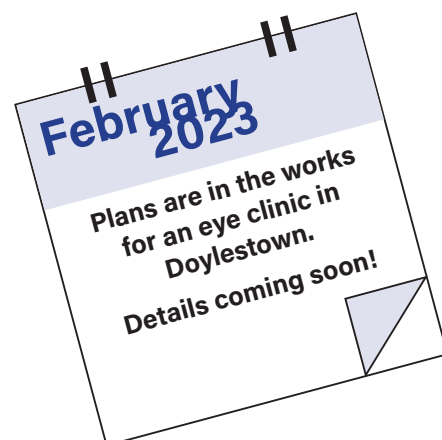
- Do your best to stay current on recent FDA dog food research. The more informed you are, the healthier your dog will be!

In Conclusion

As of July 2020, the FDA has received more than 1,100 reports of dogs with DCM consuming both non-traditional and traditional diets. The FDA continues to collaborate with the pet food industry, veterinary cardiologists, and nutritionists to investigate whether a connection exists between diet and DCM. Until pet owners receive greater clarity, talk to your veterinarian about your dog’s dietary needs based on current health and medical history. Do not hesitate to reach out to pet food manufacturers to inquire about their nutritional facts.

This article was written using the following references:

L Freeman. A Broken Heart: Risk for Heart Disease in Boutique or Grain-Free Diets and Exotic Ingredients, Petfoodology blog, Jun 2018; L Freeman. Diet Associated DCM: Research Update, Petfoodology blog, Sept 2021; United States Food and Drug Administration. FDA investigating potential connections between diet and cases of canine heart disease, Jul 2018; United States Food and Drug Administration. FDA investigation into potential link between certain diets and canine dilated cardiomyopathy – February 2019. United States Food and Drug Administration. FDA investigation into potential link between certain diets and canine dilated cardiomyopathy, June 27, 2019; A Burke. What Dog Owners Need to Know About the FDA’s Grain-Free Diet Alert and DCM, AKC.org, Jun 2019; T Wood. UC Davis Investigates Link Between Dog Diets and Deadly Heart Disease, vetmed.ucdavis.edu, July 2018; T McReynolds. New clues to diet-associated DCM in dogs, aaha.org, Aug 2021; S Albright Investigating Diet-Related Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Dogs – It’s Complicated, akcchf.org, Apr 2021; L Case The (Dis)connection between Grain-Free Foods and DCM, the-scienceofdog.com, Apr 2022; NIH, Grains on the brain: A survey of dog owner purchasing habits related to grain-free dry dog foods, May 2021, L Freeman et. al., Prospective study of dilated cardiomyopathy in dogs eating nontraditional or traditional diets and in dogs with subclinical cardiac abnormalities, Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine, Mar 2022.



Vaccinations vs. Titters

What is an antibody titer and how can it help make decisions about vaccinating our dogs?

An antibody titer is a blood test that measures an individual dog's immune protection against a specific disease. These blood tests allow veterinarians to make evidence-based veterinarian decisions. According to the WSAVA Canine Vaccination Guidelines, "The principles of 'evidence-based veterinary medicine' suggest that *testing for antibody status (for either puppies or adult dogs) should be better practice than simply administering a vaccine booster on this basis that this would be 'safe and cost less.'*"

Data shows antibody titers for the following core canine vaccines are effective in monitoring immunity.

Distemper Virus - Parvovirus Type 2 - Adenovirus Type 1 - Rabies Virus

According to Dr. Ronald D. Schultz, professor of immunology and founding chair of the Department of Pathobiological Sciences at University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and an author of the WSAVA and AAHA guidelines, some dogs maintain antibodies for their entire lives after puppy shots for these core vaccines. Specifically for CDV, CPV-2, and CAV for 7 to 9 years after vaccinate proved by protection against virulent challenge.

Current guidelines based on vaccine manufacturers' recommendations state core vaccines are to be administered every 3 years. Alternatively owners can discuss antibody titers with their veterinarian to confirm immunity status before administering a vaccine dose that may not be needed. Be sure to follow state/local vaccination laws for Rabies or other vaccines.

Note that antibody titers are not effective for all vaccines because of shorter efficacy (such as Leptospirosis products) or lack of correlation between serum antibody and protection.

Read more details at these sources:

American Veterinarian Medical Association Titer or Revaccinate
World Small Animal Veterinary Association Vaccination Guidelines
Pet MD Titer Blog]

Bohm et al. 2004, Mouzin et al. 2004, Schultz 2006, Mitchell et al. 2012



Interested in learning more about
Agility with your dog?

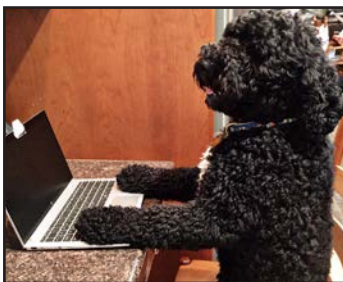
Please email your contact info to
Barbara Weisman at barbie@seaangels.net.
The Events Committee would like to plan a
fun day for our dogs in the near future.



TECH CORNER

NEED A SOCIAL MEDIA GURU

We are in need of a social media manager for our Facebook and Instagram accounts so we can share and publicize what we do at Keystone but also some great pictures and stories about our members, brags, health info, breed, upcoming events, or anything else related!



If you or anyone you know has any interest in getting involved with our social media please reach out to Lynn Kostas! Happy to guide anyone interested in learning the ropes.

Lynnkostas@gmail.com
302-593-4159

IN THE KITCHEN

Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats

Prep Time: 15 mins Cook Time: 40 mins Total Time: 55 mins

Ingredients

2-1/2 cups whole wheat flour	1/2 teaspoon salt
2 large eggs	2 tablespoons peanut butter
1/2 cup canned pumpkin	1 teaspoon water, or more if necessary (optional)



Directions

Step 1—Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Step 2—Combine flour, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, and salt, in a bowl; stir with a spatula until combined.

Step 3—Transfer mixture to a work surface and work it with your hands until mixture starts to come together. Add 1 teaspoon water at a time (only if needed) to help make the dough workable, but don't add too much as it should be dry and stiff.

Step 4—Roll the dough to a thickness of 1/2 inch. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces and transfer to a baking sheet.

Step 5—Bake in the preheated oven until dog treats are golden brown and crunchy, about 40 minutes. Let cool before serving to your dog.

Nutrition Facts

Per serving: 56 calories; total fat 1g; saturated fat 0g; cholesterol 15 mg; sodium 63 mg; total carbohydrate 9g; dietary fiber 2g; protein 3g; potassium 73mg

—allrecipes.com

The News Buoy is produced by the Newsletter Committee: Shannon Antunes and Margaret Trejo.