

The Elemental Poodle



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From the President's Pen

By Sally Eller
President's Report
July 19, 2009

HAPPY 5th BIRTHDAY to UPBA!

In the summer of 2004, the members of UPBA voted to approve the Constitution and Bylaws and the Code of Ethics. On September 4, 2004, the Board of Directors certified these documents and sent them on to UKC. The final approval came from UKC in early 2005, but we were already up and running by then. So, I declare this our 5th year of being an all-breed poodle club of UKC! We had 52 charter members of UPBA in 2004, and have maintained our membership at about that level for 5 years. Our President at the time of creating our Constitution, Bylaws and Code of Ethics was Elizabeth Glew and UPBA will always be grateful to Elizabeth for her dedicated and talented work on these documents which are the backbone of UPBA. Our goal is always to grow in membership so that we can better provide a sound organization that represents and supports all poodles and their owners all aspects of UKC. Please take a couple of minutes to reflect on how far UPBA has come in the 6+ years since poodle fans first started talking about forming a poodle club in UKC. Thank you to each and everyone who has been part of this amazing club then and now!

UPBA received its UKC Conformation License in the spring of 2005, and our first Conformation show was held Friday, November 4th, 2005 at the Charlotte, North Carolina Kennel Club in conjunction with the Boykin Spaniel Club and Breeders of America. On July 8, 2008 we were awarded our UKC Obedience License, making UPBA the first poodle club of UKC to have both conformation and performance licenses. Then on March 12, 2009 we received our Rally Obedience license! Although we are spread across the nation, we have had several fun shows and trials, official

conformation shows, and obedience matches and trials since 2004. This fall we will have our first Rally Obedience trial along with our conformation show and obedience trial in Hickory, NC. THANK YOU to all of you who have worked so hard to make all these shows, trials, and matches the successes that they have been and will be! And that includes the many of you who participate in showing and performance in all UKC shows/trials, including Premium where each year we have many winners!

Each year we have had an Annual Meeting, either in-person at our fall shows, or on-line. UKC prefers in-person Annual Meetings, so we will have our 2009 Annual Meeting immediately following our Show in Hickory, NC on September 18th. We will have the bi-annual election of officers at that time, with the slate being: President- Eleni Stevens; Vice-President – Sue Dearholt; Secretary – Kelsey Wolf; Treasurer - Gloria Ogdahl; Membership Secretary – Elizabeth Glew. We must have a quorum of 20% of our members to hold the Annual Meeting, so please plan to be there – we will need 12 of us at least!

One more THANK YOU – to Jennifer Girard for taking on the Chair position of the Membership/Publicity Committee! This is a very critical committee for our club, and Jennifer will do an outstanding job. Thank you also to Judy Acker for joining that committee along with Eleni Stevens. And I hope each of you as members will take responsibility to be part of this committee also by recruiting members and doing as much publicity as you can. It is especially critical to get publicity out for our Fall Show and Trials. You can find the fliers, show premium, and a membership flier in the files section of our Yahoo group, or on our web site <http://www.upba.org>

See you in Hickory!



From the desk of the Show Chairman...

Greetings UPBA Members!

Summer is upon us and activities are gearing-up nicely for our 2009 Fall Specialty Show in Hickory, NC. I hope you've marked Friday, September 18th on your calendar and have made plans to support the club with entries, or come join the fun and cheer-on fellow members!

We are extremely fortunate to have the talented Kelsey Wolf as this year's Trophy Chairman. After a little peek at the trophy list - all I can say is, "Lucky Winners!". Funding trophies is a huge undertaking for any show giving club, so please consider supporting Kelsey's efforts by making a donation or a pledge. My personal thank-you to members who've already made a contribution.

Building on the success of previous raffles - I'd like to expand the 2009 Raffle with even more member participation. Not only is this an important fund raiser, but it offers club members another fun way to get involved. All donated items big & small are welcome. If you're unable to attend the show, check with fellow members who may be willing to transport items for you. Kindly send me a brief email, so we know to plan for your item(s). Otherwise, raffle donations can be mailed to my address:

Candace Sullivan
705 East Front St
New Bern NC 28560
252-571-0382 cell
candace_poodle@hotmail.com

Plans are underway to host another UPBA Hospitality Table. I'm delighted to announce that Andi Hungerford is this year's Hospitality Chairman. Andi welcomes members to join her at the hospitality table to meet & greet fellow Poodle exhibitors. Please plan to stop by for refreshments and some good poodley conversation! I bet we'll have even have a few treats for our four-legged kids too!

There are still many ways to get involved...so don't be shy! It takes lots of extra helping hands on show day... to set-up/break-down rings and assist with other committees. So please step-up and let me know you'd like to help. I'm looking forward to another great UPBA specialty show, and

excited to be together with you in person. Let's all have some fun!

Please know your support is very much appreciated.

Thanks a million!
Candace Sullivan
Conformation Show Chairman

**Don't miss an educational opportunity, Friday morning prior to our show. You're cordially invited to participate in UPBA's - Master Handling Class. I'll be back out to you soon with more details.



NEEDS & NOTES on OUR FALL SHOW 2009

STEWARDS NEEDED:

Conformation Show: all taken care of

Obedience:

SATURDAY, September 19: 9 am
Table Steward – Rina Phillips
Gate Steward
Ring Steward

SUNDAY, September 20: 9 am
Table Steward – Rina Phillips
Gate Steward
Ring Steward

Rally Obedience:

SATURDAY, September 19: 11 am, or
immediately following Obedience

Table/Recording Steward
Gate/Running Steward
Timing Steward (for entire trial)
Back-up Timing Steward (can
alternate)
Course Setters – Sue & Rina

SUNDAY, September 20: 11 am, or
immediately following Obedience

Table/Recording Steward
Gate/Running Steward
Timing Steward (for entire trial)
Back-up Timing Steward (can
alternate)
Course Setters – Sue & Rina

If you are available to help, please contact Obedience Chair, Sue Dearholt (218) 755-9727 or patsy508@paulbunyan.net, or Rally Obedience Chair, Sally Eller, (607) 351-5954 or sallyeeller@gmail.com. Stewarding is a great way to learn the sport and have a front-row seat to see the entire show.

We NEED sponsors to cover this year's trophies for the Annual Fall UPBA Shows!! Some of the classes already have sponsors; their name is listed after the class. Additional items are welcome! Please contact Kelsey Wolf - jkw05kd@gmail.com

Best In Show: (Stained Glass already offered, but still accepting additional donations)
Reserve BIS: (Stained glass already offered, but still accepting additional donations)

Best of Breed Standard Poodle: \$25
Best of Breed MC Standard Poodle: sponsored by MCPCA
Best of Breed Poodle: \$25
Best of Breed MC Poodle: sponsored by MCPCA

Class Prizes:

Best Male(Multicolor Poodle): sponsored by Candace Sullivan
Best Male(Poodle): sponsored by Candace Sullivan
Best Male(Multicolor Standard Poodle): sponsored by Candace Sullivan
Best Male(Standard Poodle): sponsored by Candace Sullivan

Best Female(Multicolor Poodle): \$5
Best Female(Poodle): \$5
Best Female(Multicolor Standard Poodle): \$5
Best Female(Standard Poodle): \$5

Best Male of Variety(Miniature Multicolor Poodle): sponsored by Candace Sullivan
Best Male of Variety(Toy Multicolor Poodle): sponsored by Candace Sullivan
Best Male of Variety(Miniature Poodle): sponsored by Candace Sullivan
Best Male of Variety(Toy Poodle): sponsored by Candace Sullivan

Best Female of Variety(Miniature Multicolor Poodle): \$5
Best Female of Variety(Toy Multicolor Poodle): \$5
Best Female of Variety(Miniature Poodle): \$5
Best Female of Variety(Toy Poodle): \$5

Best of Winners(Multicolor Poodle): \$5
Best of Winners(Poodle): \$5
Best of Winners(Multicolor Standard Poodle): \$5
Best of Winners(Standard Poodle): \$5

Champion(Multicolor Poodle): sponsored by Becky Baxter
Champion(Poodle): sponsored by Becky Baxter
Champion(Multicolor Standard Poodle): sponsored by Becky Baxter
Champion(Standard Poodle): sponsored by Becky Baxter

Grand Champion(Multicolor Poodle): \$5
Grand Champion(Poodle): \$5
Grand Champion(Multicolor Standard Poodle): \$5
Grand Champion(Standard Poodle): \$5

Non Licensed Classes:

Novice Puppy: \$5
Altered: \$5
Veteran: \$5
Stud Dog: \$5
Brood Bitch: \$5
Brace: \$5

Obedience:

High in Trial(Saturday) : sponsored by Becky Baxter
High in Trial(Sunday) : \$20

High Combined(Saturday): \$10
High Combined(Sunday): \$10

Rally Obedience:

High in Trial(Saturday) : \$20
High in Trial(Sunday) : sponsored by Becky Baxter

Please make a note of which class you would like to sponsor when you sending your donation.

You can use Paypal: upba@earthlink.net
For Paypal please include an additional amount to cover the Paypal fees.

Or mail your contribution to:

UPBA Treasurer
Ann Addison
5 Helena Circle,
Columbia, SC 29209

And, of course, the last thing we need is entries! A premium will be included with the mailing of this newsletter. Even if you can't come, consider putting in the hands of someone interested. Let's make this the best birthday ever for UPBA!

Upcoming Health Clinics

Symbols for tests: Heart (Cardiac) ♥; Eyes 👁; Hearing 🗣; Blood 💧; X-rays ✕; Other tests +; Microchip 📁

STATE/ PROV	CITY	DATE	TESTS
AB	Edmonton	9/12-13/09	👁
AK	Palmer	8/8-9/09	♥ 👁
AZ	Gilbert	8/4/09	👁
"	Scottsdale	8/23/09	♥ 👁 ✕ + 💧 📁
CA	Dixon	8/1/09	♥
"	Grass Valley	8/29/09	💧
"	Upland	8/26/09	👁
"	"	9/30/09	👁
"	"	10/28/09	👁
CO	Aurora	8/2/09	♥ 👁 + 💧 📁
"	Denver	9/5/09	♥ 👁
"	Greeley	8/15/09	👁
"	"	9/29/09	👁
CT	Danbury	6/12/10	♥ 👁
"	Manchester	9/13/09	♥ 👁 💧 📁
"	North Stonington	9/17/09	👁 💧
"	"	9/18/09	♥ 💧
"	Suffield	8/23/09	✕ 📁
FL	Orlando	8/8/09	👁
"	Titusville	10/18/09	👁
GA	Atlanta	8/22/09	👁
IL	Arlington Heights	10/10/09	♥ 👁
"	Hoffman Estates	10/3/09	👁
"	Marion	8/1/09	👁 📁
"	McHenry/Johnsburg	9/20/09	♥ 👁
"	Whittington	9/13/09	👁
"	"	9/14/09	💧
IN	Indianapolis	10/9/09	♥
"	Muncie	8/15/09	👁 📁
IA	Davenport	9/13/09	♥ 👁 + 💧

"	West Burlington	8/15/09	👁
KY	Fort Mitchell	10/13-14/09	♥
MD	Baltimore	8/29/09	♥ 👁 🗣 💧 📁
"	Bowie	8/22-23/09	♥
"	Leonardtown	10/3/09	♥ 👁
"	Mount Airy	10/17/09	♥ 👁 💧
MA	Boxborough	10/12/09	♥ 🗣 + 📁
MI	Auburn Hills	8/14/09	👁
"	"	10/16/09	👁
"	Belleville	8/29-30/09	💧
"	"	8/30/09	♥
"	Frankenmuth	7/29/09	👁 💧
"	Kalamazoo	10/10/09	♥ 👁 📁
"	Monroe	9/25/09	💧
"	Southfield	9/14/09	👁
MN	St. Louis Park	10/24/09	👁
"	St. Paul	7/18/09	👁
"	"	8/15/09	👁
"	"	9/5/09	👁
"	"	9/12/09	👁
"	"	9/19/09	👁
"	"	9/26/09	👁
"	"	10/3/09	👁
MS	D'Iberville	8/22/09	👁
"	Southhaven	10/31/09	+ 📁
MO	Chesterfield	10/4/09	♥ 👁 ✕ 💧 📁
"	Kansas City	8/21/09	👁 📁
"	St. Louis	7/18/09	♥ 👁
"	"	7/17/10	♥ 👁
NV	Primm	10/10-11/09	👁
NJ	Augusta	8/28-29/09	💧
"	Clinton	8/8/09	♥ 👁
"	"	8/9/10	♥ 👁
"	Flanders	8/23/09	👁 💧 📁
NY	Rhinebeck	10/25/09	👁
NC	Raleigh	9/5/09	♥ 👁 🗣

OH	Canfield	<u>7/31-8/1/09</u>	♥️ 👁️ 🗣️ 💧 📄
"	Medina	<u>9/26/09</u>	💧
ON	Brockville	<u>8/15/09</u>	👁️
"	Guelph	<u>10/24-25/09</u>	♥️ 👁️ ✕️ 💧
"	Powassen	<u>8/24/09</u>	👁️
"	Waterloo	<u>9/27/09</u>	👁️
OR	Central Point	<u>9/26-27/09</u>	🗣️ 📄
"	Eugene	<u>9/3-6/09</u>	🗣️ 📄
"	"	<u>9/5/09</u>	♥️
"	St. Helens	<u>8/28-29/09</u>	🗣️ 📄
PA	Carlisle	<u>9/19/09</u>	♥️
"	Duncansville	<u>8/16/09</u>	👁️
"	Malvern	<u>9/20/09</u>	♥️ 👁️ 🗣️ ✕️ + 📄
"	New Freedom	<u>9/26/09</u>	👁️
SC	Blythewood	<u>8/16/09</u>	♥️ 👁️
"	Greenville	<u>7/25/09</u>	👁️
SD	Rapid City	<u>10/17/09</u>	???
WA	Enumclaw	<u>8/15-16/09</u>	👁️
"	Stanwood	<u>8/2/09</u>	👁️ +
"	Woodinville	<u>9/27/09</u>	♥️ 👁️ 💧 📄
WI	La Crosse	<u>8/1/09</u>	👁️
"	Manitowoc	<u>9/12/09</u>	♥️
AB	Edmonton	<u>9/12-13/09</u>	👁️
AK	Palmer	<u>8/8-9/09</u>	♥️ 👁️

Degenerative Myelopathy *Test for Degenerative Myelopathy gene NOW AVAILABLE!*

Dr. Gary Johnson at the Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory and Dr. Joan Coates at the Comparative Neurology Program of the University of Missouri and Drs. Claire Wade and Kerstin Lindblad-Toh at the Broad Institute of MIT/Harvard and their colleagues have identified a DNA mutation that is a major risk factor for development of degenerative myelopathy in dogs.

A DNA test is now available for use by veterinarians, breeders and pet owners. This test is available through the OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals - www.OFFA.org). The test clearly identifies dogs that are clear (have 2 normal copies of the gene), those who are carriers (have one normal copy of the gene and one mutated copy of the gene), and those who are at much higher risk for developing DM (have 2 mutated copies of the gene). However, having two mutated copies of the gene does not necessarily result in disease.

Dogs that have clinical signs and a confirmed diagnosis of DM have tested as genetically affected. A relatively high percentage of dogs in several breeds (including Boxers, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and Rhodesian Ridgebacks) have the predisposing mutation. It is important to note that there are a large number of dogs that have tested as genetically affected, but are reported as clinically normal by their owners. It may be that many of these dogs will develop clinical signs as they get older or it is possible that symptoms will never manifest in these dogs. Research is still needed to determine the frequency of the mutation in breeds known to have DM (German Shepherd Dogs, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Pembroke and Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Boxers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Standard Poodles). In the future, we may identify other risk factors in those dogs that have tested as genetically affected. Wise use of this test can reduce the incidence of dogs at risk for DM in the long-term, particularly if other low frequency risk factors are identified that can more easily be reduced. It is likely to take many generations to reduce the frequency of this disease in breeds with higher frequency of the mutation.

As part of an ongoing collaborative effort by research scientists at the University of Missouri and the Broad Institute, a free DNA test is offered for dogs that have been diagnosed with DM, and for older dogs in selected breeds.

Thank you to Rod Russell,
for permission to use their health clinic listing. You
may obtain further information at their site:

http://www.cavalierhealth.org/health_clinics.htm



Candace Sullivan's Neptune celebrating
the Fourth of July Sailing!

Complete disease and testing information is available in the Degenerative Myelopathy section of www.CanineGeneticDiseases.net.

This research was funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, French Bulldog Club of America, and French Bulldog Rescue League. To them and the many breeders, pet owners, and veterinarians who assisted, THANK YOU!



The Hounds Of Heaven

Tom Snyder

It's an April morning at Johnson Elementary School in Indio. Elvira sashays past a line of excited second-graders awaiting lunchtime in the shaded food court. Her rock star hairdo is part Jimmy Hendrix, part Tina Turner, which adds height to her already commanding stature. Her hair—not fur—makes her an ideal therapy dog, especially for those with fragile lungs. Standard poodles do not shed.

“I want to pet her,” says an eager child. They all do. When several children stray from the line, their teacher pipes up, “Single file.” Elvira walks on, unaffected. Now is not the time to socialize. It's Thursday and she has clients to see.

“Elvira's here,” says Sherri Halstead, Elvira's human companion. The students in this class cannot speak, but several change their facial expression and look toward the door.

In Diane Montgomery's Active Learning program—a cutting-edge approach to working with profoundly handicapped children—sounding boards and interactive mobiles replace chalkboards and desks. Students lie on padded mats or sit upright in what amount to modified plastic car seats. More advanced children strap into specialized walkers that allow them to stand upright and wheel about without risk of falling. See-through tubs line an entire classroom wall and brightly colored objects abound—stuffed animals and shakers, plastic xylophones, bongos, noisemakers of every kind. A blind autistic child sits on a homemade sounding board, spinning an aluminum mixing bowl in endless succession. The vibrations from the board tell him his proximity to the bowl, when it spins, when it stops. Elvira will visit him later. First, she must attend to the boy in

the blue plastic chair, “Andrew,” who has been beaming since she entered.

Several years ago Andrew came to Diane's class with severe diplegia, a condition of cerebral palsy that paralyzed his arms with rigidity. His hands were clenched, his arms and legs permanently crossed. During her first visit, Elvira stood beside him while he struggled to lift his head for a better look at her. On the second visit, he unclenched the fingers of his right hand to touch her. Several months later he extended his right arm for the first time since infancy—just to pet a dog.

Elvira approaches and the boy's eyes, magnified behind thick glasses, appear even wider. His crooked smile is infectious. Elvira is his puppy; she belongs to him. On Sherri's command, Elvira positions her long body on Andrew's left, his weak side. She patiently waits as he struggles to lift his arm and place it where he wants it. With help from an aide he lands his hand on her neck. He strokes her awkwardly, almost roughly. She doesn't mind. He grabs a tuft of hair and clenches to pull her closer. Elvira gently twists her head and shakes free of him. He reaches for her again and she licks his hand. Delighted, he squirms. She is nurturing, protective, like a mother with her newborn. Perhaps it's he who belongs to her.

Five-year-old “Guadalupe” has a bent spine and constant seizures. She is always in pain. She stares skyward, as if in supplication, unable to lift or lower her head without assistance. She can no longer speak, and communicates by blinking—one for no, two for yes. Elvira walks to her side and stops when the child combs her hanging fingers through her hair.

“Elvira's here, you want to pet her?” Sherri asks. Guadalupe double blinks.

“I think she missed you, did you miss her?”

Two more blinks and a smile.

The grating whirl of a suction device begins and a nurse places a small tube inside the mouth of one of Guadalupe's classmates. The routine procedure keeps the child from choking on her own saliva. At the same time, an older child spills a box of toys that clangs with a ruckus, and the blind autistic boy spins his mixing bowl. Elvira doesn't stir. It's all part of the job.

At John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio, a team of burgundy-clad nurses pauses in the corridor to ooh and ah. Many address Elvira by name. The hospital's first Animal Assisted Therapy, or AAT, dog, she's famous here. She even dons a plastic name badge, which hangs from her blue therapy dog vest.

Judith Lewis, a volunteer at the hospital, strokes Elvira, then stands aside and watches the handful of nurses linger behind to do the same.

“They’re not just therapeutic for the patients,” says Lewis. “Sometimes the nurses work 12 to 15 hour shifts. The dogs are great stress relievers.”

Lewis knows the simple act of petting an animal reduces a person’s blood pressure. It also boosts the immune system. We pet, we smile. We smile and our brains release endorphins, homegrown painkillers and serotonin, a chemical neurotransmitter that elevates our mood and relieves depression.

Before entering a room, Sherri peers in and gently knocks on an open door. “Would anyone like a visit from a therapy dog?”

An emaciated woman with salt-white hair nods. Elvira approaches the side of her bed. The woman strokes her with curved hands, her fingers more bone than flesh. She says she misses her cat and asks if Elvira gets along with felines.

In the next room, Elvira greets a man with a thick Latino accent. He appears impressed but cautious. He’s never seen a dog like her before and wants to know what kind she is.

“A poodle? She’s so big.”

Sherri points out Elvira’s webbed feet.

“Standard poodles were originally bred as hunting dogs to retrieve ducks and geese from the water. All poodles started out this big,” she explains, a reference to the miniature and diminutive toy varieties. “They’re actually German, not French.”

Elvira enters the intensive care unit, an area generally off limits to therapy animals. A doctor welcomes her in and escorts her to a man lying in bed beneath a white sheet. His skin is pocked with sunspots, his eyes glazed and worn. Clear tubes stretch across his cheeks, pumping oxygen in through his nose.

“Some people are here with a therapy dog,” the doctor says.



Anutta Mistress of the Dark "Elvira"

The patient, a retired pediatrician, appears to be in his 80s. He smiles. “She’s a beauty,” he says, petting her. “Oh, I miss dogs.”

In addition to lowering the patient’s blood pressure, Elvira helps to reduce his cholesterol and triglyceride levels, both agents of coronary diseases. If he doesn’t have a pet at home, he would be wise to adopt one. More than spousal support or the presence of extended family, studies show pet ownership is the best indicator for predicting whether heart attack patients will have a successful long-term recovery. At JFK, as in other hospitals, therapy dogs often work in pairs. More dogs mean more patients get a visit. Today Elvira has teamed with Danica, a petite golden retriever whom Marilyn Petty-John, her owner, calls Daneeka, in case a child has the same name. When she’s not escorting Danica on therapy visits, Marilyn raises puppies for Canine Companions for Independence in Oceanside, which trains working dogs for the disabled.

Therapy dogs and working dogs serve distinct needs. Working dogs are bred and trained (often at a cost of \$50,000 and higher) to serve one person exclusively. The American Disabilities Act provides access for working dogs and their owners to all public and commercial places. Not so for therapy dogs. Foster parents like Marilyn spend a year and a half training puppies more than 30 commands, including going to the bathroom on cue—anywhere, on any surface.

Therapy dogs, on the other hand, “are more like generalists,” Sherri says. Where working dogs serve a specific owner, therapy animals serve the masses. While less intense, training is also essential for therapy dogs.

Prior to being accepted as an Animal Samaritans’ therapy dog, Elvira had to pass behavior evaluations, generally held on the last Saturday of each month from September through May. AAT candidates are tested on 16 criteria. Does the animal react fearfully to fast hand movements? How does she respond to canes and walkers? Loud noises? Can she walk calmly on a loose leash?

“Aggression toward other dogs is the number one reason animals fail,” says Lori Wainio, who oversees behavior testing for Animal Samaritans’ AAT program. A former exotic animal trainer with the Cincinnati Zoo and The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens in Palm Desert, she uses the same techniques on dogs as she did on animals from the wild. The conscientious animal trainer and founder of Dream Dogs International in La Quinta, she is adamantly opposed to harsh techniques of any kind. “You can’t put a choke chain on a tiger and say,

'Here kitty, no kitty.' It doesn't work." Her secret? Positive reinforcement. Lots of it.

Elvira's next stop is the Oasis Mental Health Treatment Center. Here, crisis intervention is commonplace, suicide assessments routine. No cameras allowed. A nurse sends Elvira and Sherri through a set of double doors. As I wait outside the visiting room, I'm struck by the normalcy of the place. I see no straightjackets, no mumbling catatonics, not one burly nurse wielding a syringe. Only seven patients, all of them women, sit in the spacious waiting room. It's after lunch and most of the men are reportedly still sleeping off their cheeseburgers. The room is long and narrow, with rows of seats facing inward, like an airport boarding area. A gregarious woman with ratty yellow hair, alligator skin and globs of eyeliner is stroking Elvira. She smiles, exposing a dearth of teeth. She asks my name and extends her hand with a raspy, "Pleasure to meet you." After a bit of small talk, she confesses to hard times on the street and the power of addiction. Elvira gently burrows her head into the woman's side for more petting. Laughing, the woman leans down and enjoys a lick on the chin. Elvira shows no judgment, no bias. People are people.

Several residents have rooms that enter directly into the rectangle. One is a bearded man with flowing white hair. He emerges from his room and sits on the nearest sofa with the poise of a seasoned yogi. He speaks to no one but Elvira. I'm told that's how it's been since he came here. Elvira jumps onto the open seat beside him, and the man enjoys some coveted one-on-one time with her. She eventually moves to the next patient, and the man quietly sneaks back into his room.

Compared to traditional hospitals, visitors here are rare. Schizophrenia and substance abuse have a way of severing the ties of our social and family networks. Several years ago on Christmas Eve, Sherri brought Elvira to the center during evening visiting hours. There were decorations, a Christmas tree and lots of petting. One hour and more than a dozen patients later, the music ended and the residents returned to their rooms. Elvira was their only visitor. In addition to special needs classrooms and hospitals, Animal Samaritans' AAT dogs visit nursing homes and assisted living facilities, easing residents' loneliness and depression. Ideal AAT animals are smart, accepting to strangers, non-aggressive toward other dogs, and have an innate desire to work. After evaluating each animal's personality, size and age, Lori and Sherri will recommend the best locations for a dog to visit. The

program is free; however, pet owners pay a nominal fee for their animal's therapy vest.

To learn more about Animal Samaritans' AAT program, contact Animal Samaritans SPCA at 760.343.0837 or view their website at www.animalsamaritans.org



Squamous Cell Carcinoma
By Gray Hungerford
Health & Education Committee
ghung121@yahoo.com

Years ago I went with my mother to visit a friend of hers, and to explore her amazing gardens. What I remember about that visit was the beautiful Giant Schnauzer they had who took to me right away. I was a bit flattered, and they were thrilled that I had hit it off with their dog so well, as he was usually standoffish, especially with strangers. I didn't get to visit these friends again for a couple of years, and was excited about visiting the dog as well as seeing the progress of their gardens. To my disappointment I was told that this grand dog had died earlier that year of complications from toe cancer, they said. I was told that little was known about this type of cancer in dogs and that they had originally treated it as an infection from an injury. I now realize that this great dog had died from "Nail-bed Squamous Cell Carcinoma" which had been misdiagnosed until it was too late. While researching subjects regarding Poodle health for this issue I came upon some articles pertaining to Digital SCC. This type of cancer seems to affect large black breeds including Black Standard Poodles. Lynn Wilkes has created the Standard Poodle SCC Toe Registry, <http://home.cogeco.ca/~anessa-ava/scc.htm>, and the National Institute of Health has an ongoing study of skin cancers in Standard Poodles, including Digital SCC. For purposes of clarity and awareness I have included the introduction from Lynn's registry as well as the website's clinical explanation of what Digital SCC is:

Standard Poodle (SCC) Toe Registry

This registry is open to all Standard Poodles, living or deceased, who have had a diagnosis of "Squamous Cell Carcinoma" of the digit.

The Black Standard Poodle is one of several breeds predisposed to this type of malignant tumor. The goal of the registry is to gather information and also to raise awareness of digital cancer in Standard Poodles. The registry will also give us a better idea of how prevalent "SCC" is among Standard Poodles.

All submissions will be treated as confidential. Names of dogs are required to establish relationships, but will never be used in any publication.

Nail-Bed Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)

Digital SCC is a malignant tumor that originates in the nail-bed epithelium. Most dogs with SCC of the digit are examined because of a sore toe. Limping, swelling, bleeding/discharge, ulceration, and breaking or splitting of nails are also common complaints. SCC tumors in many dogs were preceded by chronic nail-bed infections.

Black, large breed dogs such as Standard Poodles, Giant Schnauzers and Bouviers appear to be predisposed. In these breeds, multiple digits may be involved over a course of two to four years. Each toe affected is a primary tumor, and not metastases from another digit.

Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the digit is locally aggressive, and "lysis" (erosion and deterioration of bone) is evident on X-rays about 80% of the time. Amputation of the digit is necessary to prevent SCC from spreading to adjacent lymph nodes and major organs. It is recommended that more than the P3 (tip of the toe) be amputated. A P1 or even a P2 amputation, but always more than the P3. Average age at the onset of SCC is nine, but Standard Poodles as young as four have been reported. Diagnosis is confirmed by histopathology of the affected digit.

We give Lynn Wilkes full credit for the above and would like to thank her for her good works. Her web site is a great resource and we encourage you to support the ongoing efforts to understand this aggressive malignancy. The site also has links to other Poodle health issues and the NIS studies going on.

As the Heath / Education Chair I encourage all members to submit suggestions regarding future subject matter. One idea I have is to do a review of issues regarding Poodle mental health, including things you do to keep your Poodles happy, healthy and Oh So Poodly. Also, all of you "Raw Feeders" please submit your recipes for inclusion in a future issue. Remember, it's all about the Poodles!



Braggs & Announcements

Gloria Ogdahl announces Grand Champion Tintlet Here's Your Sign (Rune) finished his Grand Champion title in Perry, GA. He was entered in 4 shows and went Best of Breed 4 times. He also received a Gun Dog 1st, and three 2nds.



JC Pioneer Shadow Chaser earned his AKC UDX title on June 20, at Dauphin DTC with scores of 195 in Utility and 194 in Open. Chase is the first standard Parti-poodle to have ever attained this level. Only two other multi-colored poodles of other varieties have gone farther; they are Maggie Pierce's "Sadie" (miniature silver & white parti) and Tatania Niagro's "Rainbow" (toy phantom).

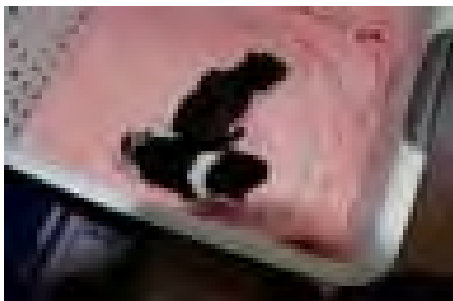
The AKC UDX title is earned by qualifying 10 times in both Open B and Utility B at the same trial. Last year only 18 poodles of all varieties earned their first UDX title



JC Pioneer Shadow Chaser and Irma Shanahan

At the Hampton Roads shows in Virginia beach, VA on May 2/3, Juday Acker reports that they finished their dogs Ch Sisco's Raisin' Cane at Ecola, owned by Judy Acker, and Ch Acapella N'Seamarnan Ipod, owned by Marion Valasco and Judy Acker. Their CH Acapella N' Ecola Midnight Lace was BOB at each show and picked up enough BOB points to rank her currently at the top of the Top Ten Multicolored Poodles.

Belle Story/Camden miniature poodles has a new litter. Teri Carter says they were blessed with 4 girls--2 BROWN and white 1 black and white and one solid brown.



From the home of the KALI STANDARD POODLES in NJ: This is Rosie at UKC Premier earning her first leg in UKC Rally Level 1. She earned a second leg while we were there.



Rosie, KALI'S LIL APACCHI ROSEBUD, CD (AKC & UKC), CDX-H (CDSP), RE (AKC), RL1 (APDT), CGC.

Lynus, KALI'S LIL END OF THE LYNE, finished his UKC Championship July 11, at the Garden State Kennel Club, in Millville, NJ. Sunday, July 12 Lynus won his first Champion class towards his Grand.



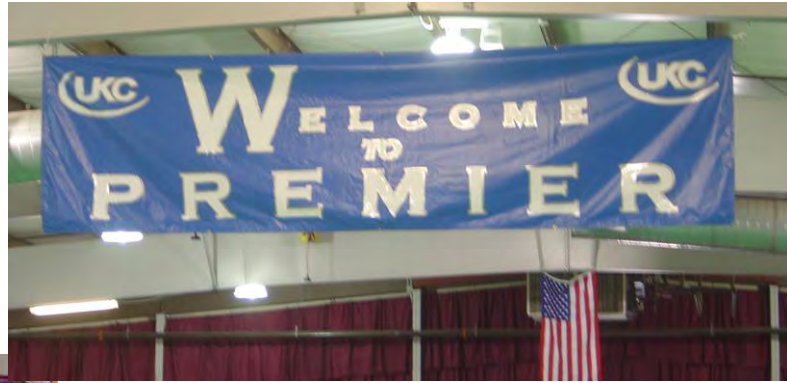
Linda Howard reports that Ch GrCh Cypress Scheherazade FrontPage won Best In Multi Breed Show at NEBOC on June 28, 2009 and also Garden State Kennel Club on July 11, 2009. She currently has 8 points in Canada and will be hoping to finish her Canadian Championship in August.





TRIP TO PREMIER – MN to MI

By Marnie, Quigley & Taj



Lots of Conformation!



Top Ten





Dock Jumping

Dog Sport after Dark – can you see the black poodle?



Our Favorite – Lure Coursing!



Why We Came – Rally Obedience!





Warren Dunes



Playing on Lake Michigan



Sunset on Lake Michigan



Last Stop – Poodle Inn, Wisconsin

A reminder for any member's poodle that has earned a title in 2009 – you are eligible for the UPBA Recognition Program if you are a current member. You may fill out the application below and mail along with a copy of your title certificate from UKC. 2009 Recognitions will be awarded at our Fall Show – before or during our annual meeting. Congratulations!!



**United Poodle Breeds Association
Application for Recognition Awards
Open to all UPBA members**

Your Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

E-mail _____

Include a photocopy of the (most recent) title certificate from UKC

Choice of Award (2009 Titles): _____ Ribbon _____ Certificate

Mail this application, copy of title and photo for publication in the newsletter/on the website to:

**Susan Dearholt
1929 Van Buren Ave SE
Bemidji, MN 56601
Or email to patsy508@paulbunyan.net**