

## **Agility**

The Agility Committee's members are Linda Otey, Joan Heater, Leslie Arner and Jane Freeman, Chair. The Committee had a quiet year.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Freeman

## **AKC Delegate**

This past year, as your delegate to the American Kennel Club, I attended each of the quarterly delegate meetings. Two in Newark, one in Long Beach, and one in Raleigh. Complete reports from each of the sessions can be found on the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America web site.

## **AKC Gazette**

The columns that appeared in the AKC GAZETTE Breed Column for the past year were:

October 2010: Dock Jumping Part 1

January 2011: Dock Jumping Part 2

April 2011: Never Too Late

July 2011: PWD Foundation Update

October 2011: 1st PWD Regional Club Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Possible ideas for future columns:

2012: Health Updates

A Portuguese Seeing Eye Dog

Where Have the "Old Timers" (Long Timers) Gone?

Input/Articles from other PWDCA members.

Listen To Your Dog.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for allowing me to continue as the Breed Column Editor. I agree to continue to graciously serve in this capacity in hopes of educating the public about our very special breed.

Respectively submitted,

Carole Prangley-Mclvor, AKC GAZETTE Breed Column Editor/PWDCA

## **AKC Show Stats**

The AKC Show Statistics, a committee of one, continues to record all new Champions, Group Placements and AKC Agility titles as published in the AKC Awards Magazine. In addition, records are kept on a quarterly basis of Top Tens in Breed, All Breed and Best Of Opposites.

For the year July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011, 49 PWDs were awarded 239 Group Placements. One dog accounted for 6 Best In Shows.

There were 269 New Champions of Record during the 12-month period.

During this same period 500 AKC Agility Titles were earned including 1 MACH8, a MACH6, 2 MACH5s, 4 MACHs, 2 MACH4s, 5 MACH2s, 7 MACHs, 1 PAX and 1 TQX

Respectfully submitted

Jane Freeman

## **Allergy/Hairloss/Dermatology**

The committee has had little activity this year. Consideration is being given to surveying the membership specifically related to allergies and skin and coat related issues in their Portuguese Water Dogs in the coming year.

Committee:

Virginia Santoli - Chair

Marietta Franzese

Kimberly Hanson

## **Archive Coordinator**

The continued direction or mission of the Archives Committee has been to remain focused on collecting as much information as possible for the archive.

In 2007 of the older archives materials were transferred to the AKC Archives for preservation. Norma Rosado-Blake, a professionally trained archivist, at the helm of this project has cataloged and preserved items submitted last year. It is comforting to know our history will be safeguarded in storage facilities optimal to prevent deterioration. Information regarding our archives can be found on the AKC website by following About, Departments, then Archives.

With this important safeguard in place, it makes more sense than ever to remember the archives when purging any thing Portuguese Water Dog. Please contact me through the Club website with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Boyd

## **Awards**

### **2010 Awards Committee Report August 2011**

The Awards Committee communicates by email or phone during the year as needed, and tries to coordinate an in-person meeting at the National Specialty when time and schedule permits. The five current committee members have experience training and exhibiting in a number of venues including agility, tracking, water work, rally, obedience, conformation and service and therapy dog work.

Some major projects overseen and administered by the committee are outlined below. In addition, committee members provide new title data for the Courier, and beginning in 2010 will be responsible for the Perpetual Trophy storage and maintenance.

**Award Pin program  
Administrator- Verne Foster**

For dogs/owners earning their first title in Agility, Obedience, Conformation, Tracking, Rally, and for active and past Service dogs. Service pin recipients also receive a personalized note acknowledging the contribution to their community through their dogs.

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Total pins	371	395	421	410	465	423	408
#Sold	0	2	3	1	6	2	13
#Awarded	371	393	418	409	459	421	395
#Breed		142	156	152	176	175	181
#Obedience	31	47	46	45	39	50	54
#Agility		55	56	58	44	59	61
#Water		81	52	61	67	61	77
#Tracking	7	3	6	8	5	12	9
#Rally	54	76	94	121	78	NA	NA
#Service	1	4	4	4	5	12	NA

### Register of Merit Awards

**Administrator- Leslie Arner**

Applications are received and processed annually in late Summer/early Fall for award distribution at the National Specialty. ROM medallions and smaller dog-sized charms are awarded. Certificates are printed for each dog/handler team receiving an award.

Recommendations for changes and additions to the Register of Merit Program eligibility rules are evaluated periodically. Changes are recommended by club members, the board of directors and committee members, and are implemented when found to be a benefit to the quality and substance of the ROM program. Changes are also made to reflect additions to the AKC title programs. Current ROM rules and a list of all past Register of Merit recipients are located on the club web site at [www.pwdca.org](http://www.pwdca.org).

In 2010, 29 dogs received the following ROM awards:

Bronze: 20

Silver: 16

Gold: 9

Platinum: 0

### Outstanding Breeder Achievement Awards

**Administrator- Amanda Ford**

2010 marked the fifth year of the OBAA program. This program recognizes, on an annual basis, superior attainment by PWDCA breeders in support of PWDCA objectives to produce Portuguese Water Dogs with correct type, versatile working

abilities, and careful attention to recommended health guidelines. It acknowledges the relationship between breeder and owner in placement, care, and title attainment.

When I started working on this program 5 years ago I created a Microsoft Access database of all AKC and PWDCA titles awarded to PWDs for each year. Every dog that has earned a title starting in 2006 is in the database with all titles earned, registered name, sire and dam, and breeder name. It is quite complete and accurate, and I am happy to share this information with anyone that can use it.

In order to determine the OBAA winners, top 5, and general qualifiers, those breeders who had titlists in all three areas (conformation, water, and at least one other performance venue) were tabulated from titling data provided by AKC and PWDCA. Health information was then reviewed to verify the breeding was done within PWDCA recommended health guidelines. Point calculations for final rank give weight to litters with multiple titlists, and higher values are awarded for conformation titles and advanced water and performance titles.

In 2010, Portuguese Water Dogs earned a record 1083 new titles.

AKC conformation CH/ GRCH:	162/36
PWDCA Water Titles:	195
AKC Agility Titles:	499
AKC Obedience Titles:	64
AKC Tracking Titles	9
AKC Rally Titles	118

These titles were earned by 625 dogs from 495 different litters bred by approximately 300 breeders (and co-breeders). After applying the three-venue and health criteria detailed above, there are 298 titles earned by 166 dogs from 119 litters bred by 25 breeders that qualified for OBAA recognition. Finalists were announced in the May/June 2011 Courier.

The results of the 2010 OBAA title analysis highlight the continuing quality and versatility of our breed. In 2010 there were both more total titles earned by PWDs, and more qualifying titles than ever before. More importantly, the percentage of qualifying litters is up to 24% in 2010 from just 15% in 2006 when the program started, primarily because the percentage of litters meeting health testing guidelines has increased substantially every year. I view that trend as a primary positive result of this program.

**Producer of Merit Awards  
Administrator- Amanda Ford**

The Producer of Merit Award recognizes members who are striving to produce outstanding get. The dogs awarded with a POM reflect the AKC Standard of the Portuguese Water Dog which includes type, desirable temperament and intelligence, the working ability to perform in the water plus other performance venues, and in addition to have all pertinent recommended health credentials for the parents. The

Courier breeding related advertisement requirements regarding health credentials at the time of the breeding will be the standard referenced.

The guidelines for the new PWDCA Producer of Merit Award were finalized and instituted in 2008.  
There are no new Producer of Merit recipients for 2010.

### **Eligibility**

The POM-nominated Producer must have produced at least six Titled Get from *not more than* two litters. Producers who have more than two litters are still eligible for the POM Award, but the qualifying Titled Get can come from *no more than* two of those litters.

Each of the Titled Get must have a working title (i.e., from Water or a Performance venue). Of those working titles, at least one must be from a performance venue (Agility, Obedience, or Tracking), and at least two of the Titled Get must have PWDCA Water Titles. In addition, at least four of the six Titled Get must have AKC Championships.

The Litter(s) must have been bred within the Courier breeding-related advertisement requirements regarding health credentials at the time of the breeding. Those requirements are documented in "Health Testing Requirements for POM Nominations."

Nomination for the Producer of Merit Award is to be made by the owner of record who must be a PWDCA member in good standing.

### **Awards Committee:**

Amanda Ford  
Verne Foster  
Jane Freeman  
Laurie Hardman  
Leslie Arner, Chair

## **Breed Standard**

Breed Standard committee members currently are involved with and serve on the Ad Hoc Illustrated Breed Standard committee.

A spelling error in the Breed Standard has been corrected – Please note: The mistake was the spelling of the word “SNIPY” in the Faults section of our revised 1991 Standard. The correct spelling is “SNIPEY” and has been officially corrected by the AKC on their website and in the last reprint of the Working Dog Breed Standards.

In a letter to Deyanne Miller, dated March 18, 1988, the AKC instructed the PWDCA to bring the Breed Standard into conformity with their requirements for format and terminology. They insisted on the use of Harold Spira’s book on Canine Terminology for the application of all canine terms. Unfortunately, Spira had a spelling mistake in his book and we, as instructed by the AKC, were required to use it. The term is “SNIPY”. It was used in our Standard in the Major Faults section under HEAD and refers to the muzzle. Unfortunately, along the way, someone introduced a typo to the mix and it is also written as “snippy”. Neither is correct! “SNIPEY” is the correct spelling.

Also note, under the section for HEAD, the topkull is defined as having exceptional BREADTH, not breath. This was a typo.

Responses to questions about the Breed Standard which come from the general public via the PWDCA web site, owners, breeders, and club members have been handled by the Breed Standard committee Chairman. Most outside questions relate to clip, color, coat, temperament, and the history of the Standard. NO changes will be made to the Breed Standard for any reason without serious scrutiny and credible, valid motives.

Maryanne B. Murray  
Chairman  
PWDCA Breed Standard Committee

## **Breeder Development**

2011 Breeder Development Committee Report

The Breeder Development Committee's mission is to benefit the future of the Portuguese Water Dog by providing informational resources and educational support to all PWDCA members interested in breeding the Portuguese Water Dog. The committee is continuing their ongoing educational development and support.

The Breeder Development Committee reports the following projects:

Courier educational articles: Planned and completed articles submitted to the Courier on an ongoing basis.

National Specialty 2011 Seminar: Planning and coordinating the details for the BDC seminar with the 2011 Specialty Committee. Coordinating breeder related topics and questions to provide to the guest speaker.

National Specialty 2012 Seminar: Committee is currently in agreement to offer a breed specific educational seminar for 2012. The committee hopes to provide a seminar on the PWD Written Breed Standard, hopefully with an overview of the Illustrated Breed Standard if it is completed. The National Specialty Committee Co-Chairs have been notified. All details are in the planning stage.

Respectfully submitted,

Brytt Hasslinger, Breeder Development Committee Chair

## **Breeder Referral List**

The Breeder Referral Program is now administered by two members. The chair continues to manage the breeder list, both yearly renewals and new members applications. The puppy list is managed Kit Murphy. She verifies the health information provided on the on-line litter listing form and updates the available puppies list. The available puppies list has included up to 35 litters at one time.

There has been much discussion during the year both by the Board and on the lists about the viability of the Breeder and Puppy lists. At this writing they both remain intact. It is my understanding that a recent survey conducted by the PWDCA appears to be favorable about maintaining both lists.

The on-line litter listing form and the breeders' agreement form will soon be updated to reflect recent changes approved by the PWDCA regarding required health testing on breeding pairs.

Especially in this day of the Internet, we need to encourage breeders to use the PWDCA lists as a way of reaching potential puppy owners.

Thank your for your support of the program

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Overton

Breeder Referral Coordinator

## **Cancer**

Since becoming Chairman of the Cancer Committee in January 2011 the board has approved two new members at my suggestion, Debra Channick and Mary Baum. Both new members have had recent personal experience with cancer in their own Portuguese Water Dogs –“Catch” and “Kona”. Both new members have expertise in biology and oncology. The major function of the Cancer Committee members is to assist members as well as other PWD owners with dogs with a new diagnosis of cancer. Owners contact the committee by phone or email and then a member of the committee with some knowledge of that type of cancer assists them. Since January approximately 15 inquires have been fielded. The majority of the cancer diagnoses have been lymphoma, hemangiosarcoma and osteosarcoma. One breeder did ask for information on a malignant hemangiopericytoma (vascular proliferative sarcoma) that one of her owners had reported to her.

The major function of the committee is support to individual owners. The committee members do not provide veterinary information unless it is available in a peer-reviewed veterinary journal. A list of certified veterinary oncologists (both academic and private practice) by geographic area is available if a member requests that information. We are trying to put together a resource listing ongoing clinical oncologic trials in academic veterinary centers, but an accurate list has proved to be a moving target. Research trials have the advantage of offering novel treatments but most owners prefer local treatment rather than having to travel to a distant center. However the treatment decision for an individual dog should weigh all options available including entry into a chemotherapy clinical trial.

The Cancer Committee has begun a review of the Cancer Committee Questionnaire. Completing the current two-page questionnaire seems overwhelming to an owner dealing with all the issues involved with their dog having just been diagnosed with cancer. These owners are already under considerable stress. They have to make decisions regarding their dog's treatment and the treatment's economic impact. They

also have to consider their dog's quality of life. Do we really need to add to their stress by asking them to provide more than basic information? I asked Dr. Jaime Modiano at the University of Minnesota's Masonic Cancer Center to review our current questionnaire and his suggestions regarding changes have been forwarded to the committee. Two approaches to data collection have been discussed. The first is to streamline the old two-page form to a one page PDF form that could be filled out online. The second idea is to eliminate the form completely with a telephone intake collection of information by a committee member. I would appreciate thoughts from individual members on what information should be collected, how it should be performed and what should be done with the information. If members have previously used the old questionnaire their comments would be especially valuable.

The committee also provides information to the general membership on new concepts concerning cancer in dogs. The committee has identified owner cancer screening examinations of the owner's dog and general cancer prevention as topics that would benefit all PWDCA members. Committee member Debra Channick is working with The Courier on an upcoming article on Cancer Prevention and Awareness.

David E. Smith, MD Chairman

## **CHIC Coordinator**

The PWDCa continues to participate in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) which is part of the OFA database. The PWDCa's participation in this database shows continued support for all efforts to identify, control, and publically report inherited diseases in our dogs as well as to enhance the knowledge of health issues in our breed.

Portuguese Water Dogs have a CHIC page that lists tests required to obtain a CHIC number as well as optional available health testing that is available for PWD breeders and owners. The Portuguese water dogs CHIC page can be found at the following link: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=PW>

Current Portuguese water dog health screening test results required to be listed in order to obtain a CHIC number include OFA hip, CERF, GM-1, and Optigen prcd-PRA. CHIC is not about normalcy. CHIC is meant to encourage health testing and sharing of all results, normal and abnormal, so that more informed breeding decisions can be made in an overall effort to reduce the incidence of genetic disease and improve canine health.

In order for PWD owners and breeders to participate in this program, the GM-1 test results and the OptiGen prcd-PRA test results (which are required tests to obtain a CHIC number) will be incorporated into this database at no charge (OFA and CERF results are already in the database). Special thanks to the PWDCa health committees (including Orthopedic, GM-1, and Eye), especially the GM-1 and Eye committees, for regularly (quarterly) updating the results to CHIC thereby making participation in this program possible for PWD owners at no additional charge.

A new option for owners/breeders is to utilize the CHIC Clear by Parentage Program. As a greater number of DNA based disease tests become available, a policy regarding the clearing of offspring out of DNA tested parents is now available. For direct mutant gene tests only (including GM-1, Optigen prcd-PRA, and JDCM testing), the OFA will issue clearances to untested offspring if all of the below criteria have been met:

The sire and dam have both been DNA tested normal or “clear” for the desired direct mutation test.

The sire and dam’s DNA disease test results have been OFA registered.

And if all three (sire/dam/offspring) have been DNA identity profiled and parentage verified.

The DNA profile paperwork must be submitted along with a completed OFA DNA-based disease test application. The resulting OFA certification will have a suffix of “CBP” (clear by parentage), indicating that the dog itself was not tested and that the clearance was based on the sire and dam’s test results, and known science at the time. At this time, only first generation offspring will be eligible for the cleared by parentage (CBP) status. For linked marker tests where a margin of error including both false positives and negatives exists, the OFA will not issue any clearances to untested dogs. DNA based disease screening is an evolving area. This policy is subject to change by action of the OFA Board of Directors as technology and science advance. For more information please visit the following link: <http://www.offa.org/dnacbp.html>

Any additional health testing may be incorporated into the CHIC database. If the data is not automatically downloaded to OFA, as is the case for JDCM test results as well as PennHip results, there is a once time fee per dog (\$25) to list these optional tests. This is further explained in the information attached to this report. In addition, pictures of dogs can be posted for a one time fee.

CHIC also supports a DNA Repository. The CHIC DNA Repository, jointly sponsored by the OFA and the AKC Canine Health Foundation, collects and stores canine DNA samples along with corresponding pedigree and health information to facilitate future canine health research initiatives. The future to uncovering the genetic cause of disease relies on both the availability of DNA as well as accurate (supported by a definitive veterinary diagnosis) and up to date health information on our dogs. Leading institutions such as the Broad Institute at MIT/Harvard, UC-Davis, the University of Missouri, Clemson University, and others have already benefited from samples received from the CHIC DNA bank. The existing large sample base is in large part the result of DNA collection clinics sponsored by individual breed parent clubs in conjunction with their national specialties. It is the hope of the PWDCA CHIC

Coordinator that we can organize this at upcoming PWDCAs specialties and events. If anyone is interested in participation, please visit the CHIC website for additional information about submission policies. [www.caninehealthinfo.org/dnabank.html](http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/dnabank.html)

The OFA offers breed surveys for a number of breed parent clubs. These surveys are offered free of charge. All data is used only in aggregate and is kept confidential. No survey results will be traceable to any individual dog. It is hoped that this information will be valuable to breed clubs as they assess the health issues of their breed. The PWDCAs are currently working on a neonatal health survey for posting on the OFA website in an effort to obtain further information about the health issues affecting neonatal and pediatric Portuguese water dogs including the incidence of diseases such as lymphedema.

CHIC also has a Champions of Health Award. The annual CHIC/Parent Club Champion of Health Award is intended to recognize a dog that has had significant accomplishments in the ring, in the field, in performance events, as a producer, or as a working dog, AND has the full complement of health testing appropriate for its breed. The award consists of an engraved silver medallion, and a \$100 donation to the AKC Canine Health Foundation breed specific donor advised fund in the name of the honored dog. Ideally, the award would be announced and given at the club's annual awards banquet. To participate, clubs should nominate from one to three dogs for the annual award, and present their nominations to the OFA for final selection. The club may determine its own method for selecting the nominations, whether by committee, individual submissions, or club vote. Each nomination should include a brief write-up of the dog's accomplishments as well as a record of its health certifications. Regardless of the club's selection process, it should be remembered that this is not a popularity contest and that health contributions remain the number one criteria in the selection process. A program to nominate PWDs was previously proposed to the PWDCAs Board and was rejected. The goal is to formulate a program for the PWDCAs to recognize PWD owners and breeders at future specialties with this award. The nominations must be presented to the OFA a minimum of six weeks prior to the specialty event, in order to allow time for engraving, etc. The OFA reserves the right to withhold the award based on a lack of suitable nominees.

To date, 1,253 Portuguese water dogs have met the PWDCAs recommended health testing requirements and been issued CHIC numbers. There are 65 Portuguese water dogs with DNA and health information stored in the DNA bank to support for future research into health conditions affecting our breed. CHIC participation currently exceeds 130 breeds with over 57,000 dogs having received their CHIC numbers. If anyone would like to have their results removed from the OFA/CHIC database or needs to correct any inconsistencies, please e-mail the OFA CHIC coordinator, Eddie Dziuk: [edziuk@offa.org](mailto:edziuk@offa.org) or myself: [coconnor44@yahoo.com](mailto:coconnor44@yahoo.com)

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia O'Connor, DVM, DACT  
PWDCAs CHIC Coordinator

## **Courier**

Activity during 2011

The PWDCAs conducted a General Membership Survey early in 2011. In response to the survey question: "What motivated you to join the PWDCAs?", 71.3% responded "The Courier Magazine."

The goal is to continue to produce a high quality, educational publication for the membership, with the welfare of the dogs being of utmost importance. Strict adherence to budget has always been a primary objective.

The editor prepares a bimonthly revenue and expense report, which is sent after the publication of each issue to the PWDCAs President, Treasurer, Bookkeeper and Courier Advisor. This reporting procedure was instituted by the current editor in 1999. Also please note that ad rates have not been increased since 2003.

The annual Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA) awards banquet was held in New York City on February 13, 2011. The Courier was nominated by the DWAA for the 11th year in a row as best National Club Magazine. Joyce Vanek was recognized for

her Courier article "Judging in China." Rev. Kate Bryant won a Maxwell award for Best Feature article in a club magazine for her article "A Different Kind Of Collar."

The "Volunteer Profiles" series continues to recognize the importance of our "unsung heroes" who volunteer so much time to the PWDCA. The series helps members of the PWDCA to get to know these volunteers. Names of volunteers are submitted to The Courier from members, and the profiles selected are chosen from the names submitted.

The series entitled "Ancient Mariners," began in the July/August 2010 issue and continues to highlight PWDs who lived to be older than 15 years of age.

The editor will provide The Courier in an electronic format to any visually impaired member so that the magazine can be read to them from their computer. Any visually impaired member is encouraged to contact The Courier editor so that they may receive the magazine in this format.

#### Projects Update

The editor supplies each issue of The Courier in an electronic format to Shelly Jakubowski, Courier Article Index Coordinator, in order for Shelly to index the articles. Elsa Sell, Health Information Coordinator, coordinates with Shelly to post an index of health articles on the PWDCA website.

There are currently 120 issues of The Courier that have been indexed into the Database. That includes all issues from 1991 thru May-June 2011. Shelly is continuing to work on scanning the older issues into the database.

#### Summary

The editor welcomes letters from the membership and also ideas for articles that they would like to see published. Thank you to every person who contributes to The Courier, whether in the form of editorial material or advertising support.

Contact TCardillino@hughes.net

## **Epilepsy/Seizures**

We do have seizures in PWDs but not as bad a problem as in other breeds. Some of those seizures may be from genetic epilepsy but others are from a host of medical problems. I have in my personal files a pedigree from a litter whelped more than 10 years ago. It was a large litter and both parents were imports from Portugal and at least three of that litter had seizures. My own veterinarian has told me that idiopathic epilepsy is the most frequent medical problem most veterinarians see in their practices. It's there in PWDs, but, alas, it carries a stigma so no one talks about it.

One of the committee's biggest tasks continues to be education. We need to make sure everyone realizes what a seizure looks like, from a grand mal lasting for minutes to a seizure that is a few head twitches and stiffened front legs lasting for a few seconds. And, for some owners, we need to make sure they know how to treat the dog while it is having a seizure. And, beyond recognizing the seizure and care of the dog, we need to make sure that owners and breeders understand that there are a variety of tests available to help determine the cause of the seizure. Seizures can happen for many reasons so we encourage the owners and breeders to try to determine the cause, if possible. And depending on the results of those tests, owners and breeders must understand that a seizing dog should not be bred, especially if there are others in the dog's pedigree that also have seizures.

We continue to do the following:

- 1) We have a tiny Yahoo internet mailing list (4 members) so the entire committee can communicate easily.
- 2) We continue to remember that all information we receive is confidential.
- 3) We continue to build up a file of information that can be mailed or e-mailed to those PWD owners who want more information on seizures.
- 4) We continue to refine a list of suggested medical testing and evaluations that can be done on a dog that does have seizures.

- 5) We (members of the committee) will join (or have joined) some of the very good seizure internet lists with lots of good information.
- 6) We hope to publish an article on seizures in the Courier.
- 7) We will follow closely any research projects that deal with seizures/epilepsy.

Committee members: Mary Parszewski, Chair; Anne Gaskell; Laurie Hardman; Phyllis Shurzinske

## **Endocrine Committee:**

*Please note that the Endocrine Committee has been created to encompass all Endocrine related diseases and issues, including but not limited to Addison's and Thyroid.*

### *Thyroid:*

The thyroid page, consent form and questionnaire are available on the PWDCA website. Additional links will be added in the near future for information, research etc. We did receive several completed questionnaires from members that have dogs with hypothyroidism after May/June 2010 Courier was released with four more added to the database in 2011.

Dog #1 – Male – Neutered – Age affected unknown

Dog #2 – Male – Neutered – Age Affected – 4 Years

Dog #3 – Female – Spayed – Age Affected – 7 Years

Dog #4 – Female – Spayed – Age Affected unknown

Data is gathered in a timely fashion and entered into Microsoft Excel Database.

Data from Hemolife (the diagnostic division of Hemopet) has been made available to us by Dr. Jean Dodds. The number of dogs tested is 444 with four added to the database in 2011.

Portuguese Water Dog Normal Ranges for Thyroid Parameters

Value	Total T4 (ug/dL)	Free T4 (ng/dL)	Total T3 (ng/dL)	Free T3 (pg/mL)
<b>Mean</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2.40</b>
<b>Range</b>	<b>1.13–3.47</b>	<b>0.72–1.56</b>	<b>30–99</b>	<b>1.8–5.4</b>

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Sherry N. Rady (Chair of the Endocrine Committee)

*Addison's:*

This year's report includes a lot of 'Cleaning up' entries since all the paperwork and notes from the past chair have been received and scanned and many obscure notes have been followed up on and dogs have been labeled more completely. To date, starting in 1990, there are 161 affected PWD's on the PWDCA-Addisons list. Of those, 149 are in the H&L Registry as of August 8th. There are 8 dogs that will be included in the H&L database later this month as they were missed over the years. The remaining dogs are not listed in the H&L registry either due to confidentiality reasons, or because their information is incomplete, for example, is just an email without more information.

From August 2010 to August 15th 2011 we have added 17 dogs, of which seven are new cases.

- Dog #1 – female - age affected 5 yrs – on prednisone only, atypical, no DOCP
- Dog #2 – male - age affected 3.5 yrs – no info re treatment
- Dog #3 – female – age affected 1 yr – on DOCP
- Dog #4 – female – age affected 6 yrs - no info re treatment
- Dog #5 – female – age affected 2 yrs 9 mos – on DOCP and prednisone when needed
- Dog #6 – male – age affected 6 yrs – on fluorine and prednisone
- Dog #7 – female – age affected 3 yrs 4 mos – on DOCP and prednisone when needed

I would like to remind all breeders that addison's disease is still difficult for many vets to diagnose and that it would be sensible to remind owners when they call with sick

dogs that it COULD be Addison's which is known to be in our breed. Dogs rarely die of Addison's disease – they can live good long lives with proper treatment. It can be an expensive disease and anyone with any financial issues is urged to contact me and I can hopefully find the cheapest source of medication. Research is continuing with the Georgie Project and the University of California Davis, unfortunately there is nothing on the horizon.

Another reminder – there is NO data that can be found to implicate vaccines or over-vaccination as a CAUSE of Addison's disease. However, all autoimmune diseases have genetic predisposition, which can be triggered by a variety of environmental and other factors, including vaccination. Therefore breeders should caution their owners of the risks of over-vaccination.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Harding (Member of the Endocrine Committee)

## **Eye Disease**

Again this year the Annual Statistics Report for Eye Diseases in the Portuguese Water Dog is not available from The Veterinary Medical Data Base (VMDB). The VMDB compiles medical data from nearly all the North American veterinary medical colleges. Re; AVCO, the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. CERF sends all the CERF forms to VMDB for compilation of the various eye diseases; which is used by researchers and in our case our breed club to monitor eye health in our breed. The last Annual Statistics Report that was available was the stats for 2008 which we received and included in our 2010 Annual Eye Committee Report. They used to be available within 6 or 7 months after the year ended. Now they are over two and half years late. It is disappointing not to have this information available as this is what we review to see the various eye problems that are being reported in our breed and also so we can determine if what problems are increasing or decreasing.

### 2010 OptiGen PWD Stats for PRA and Improper Coat

	Normal	Carrier	Affected
prcd-USA only	80%	19%	<1%
prcd-all countries	75%	25%	<1%
Imp.Coat-USA only	78%	22%	0%
Imp.Coat all countries	72%	28%	0%

Please note that the PRA (prcd) carrier rate continues to decrease. In 2009 the carrier rate was 26%. Hopefully this sudden percentage drop is due to enough good normal dogs being available for breeding; or less dogs being bred for the first time and not because breeders are trying to quickly eliminate carriers from their breeding program. Of course reducing and eventually eliminating prcd from our breed is the ultimate goal but we need to be cautious in how we do this and to keep all else equal in selecting which dogs to keep in a breeding program.

## Glaucoma

There have been two cases of glaucoma reported to the eye committee; a middle aged dog in Europe in 2010 and a young dog in the U.S. this year.

Glaucoma is caused by increased pressure inside the eye. The eyes produce a fluid (aqueous humor, not the same fluid as tears) that nourishes the eye and maintains the shape of the eye. The problem comes when the eye does not properly drain the excess fluid and pressure builds up. Unlike humans with glaucoma the pressure becomes very high in dogs and causes extreme pain. It is usually not diagnosed in dogs until it is in the advanced stages and usually leads to irreversible blindness. A CERF exam does not check for glaucoma so it usually very advanced before it is diagnosed.

There are two classifications of glaucoma: Primary - which appears without previous eye disease or trauma; it starts in one eye but will eventually affect the other eye. There are medications for it but it is very difficult to control the extreme pressure and pain in an affected dog. In dogs they usually recommend removing the eye.

The other form of glaucoma is Secondary - which means that it is the result of some other eye disease, such as uveitis, tumor, lens luxation, advanced cataracts or from an injury which can be common in dogs that are already blind. With secondary you can have only one eye affected. As with Primary Glaucoma removal of the eye is usually the best or only way to control the extreme pressure and pain.

Blind dogs generally adapt very well but it usually requires some managing from the owner. PLEASE REMEMBER BLIND DOGS SEE WITH THEIR HEARTS!

## Puppy Eye Syndrome

There have NOT been any cases officially reported to the PWDCA Eye Committee. That is really sad since we do hear about affected litters being produced but not reported to

the PWDCA. Please if you have a litter that you feel may have P.E.S. contact the PWDCA Eye Committee so we can point you to researchers that would be willing to collect samples from affected pups and parents for research.

### Reminder for Breeders

We would also like to remind breeders and stud dog owners to make sure your CERF exam is obtained BEFORE breeding. Please try to make sure that the sire or dams CERF does not expire before the puppies are ready to be placed in their new homes. It doesn't happen often but there have been some dogs that will fail their next scheduled CERF exam; that is the reason a CERF is only good for one year. Also when breeding a dog or bitch with PPM please avoid breeding to a dog with PPM. The only PPM that CERF now accepts in our breed is iris to iris, all others will fail. Microphthalmia- is a developmental anomaly in which the (globe) eye is abnormally small; it may be accompanied with other eye problems such as cataracts. A puppy can have microphthalmia in one or both eyes. There can be variations in the severity of microphthalmia. The globe of the eye may appear to be small or it can appear as if there is no eye or it could be so mild that a breeder may not even notice there is an eye problem. Recessed small eyes are generally apparent when the eyes open. A puppy with microphthalmia is not necessarily affected with what we refer to as Puppy Eye Syndrome that causes a variety of congenital defects.

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Please report any eye problems not normally diagnosed on a CERF examination. If the breed has some eye anomaly that is not commonly known in our breed the club has no way of knowing about it unless you report it to the eye committee.

The eye committee is always willing to help owners so please don't hesitate to contact us, but please remember we are not ophthalmologists. Also contact us if you have a problem with the CHIC program, CERF or Optigen, usually these problems are quickly solved.

P.W.D.C.A. Eye Committee

Joan C Bendure, Chair

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956 Main Street, PO Box 1023

Hope Valley, RI 02832

## **Futurity**

The Futurity Stake Program continues to function as outlined in the policy and procedure manual of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America. The complete procedure along with Litter Nomination and Puppy Nomination forms is available on the website of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America. For a complete review of the program and the requirements for litter and puppy nomination, judge selection, database registration, etc., you can download this information from the website.

The popularity of this event continues to grow, showing how much pride our breeders take in the fine PWDs they are producing. Also, from my perspective, there is a definite increased awareness by our breeders concerning health testing requirements. It is a rare occasion that I must reject a nomination due to lack of health testing, although those CERF exams do somehow have a way of slipping by on occasion. This year litter nominations totaled 45. Of those 45 litters that were nominated, 28 of the nominees followed with puppy nominations. There were a total of 58 eligible puppy nominations for entry in the 2011 Futurity Stake. We can all look forward to an exciting entry of young PWDs, a great chance to see where our breed is heading, and what the breeders are producing as they develop their programs.

Points For Breeders To Remember:

\*Nominate the litter after breeding and before whelp. Envelope must be postmarked before pups are whelped.

\*Nominate puppies before their 5 month birthday. Envelope must be postmarked before the birthdate of five months.

\*Do \*not\* nominate anything if required health certifications are not current and on file in the database! There are no refunds!

\*Do not send health certifications to the Futurity Coordinator, they must be on file in the database.

\*Do register the litter with the H&L database.

\*On puppy nominations, make certain AKC numbers and registered name are correct and complete.

\*Save your money! ! There is no need to overnight or send your nominations by express mail. The rules state that I must use the postmark as the date for approval, so just be sure you get that envelope in the mail \*before\* litter is whelped and \*before\* pup's 5 month birthday.

\*Please! Please! Don't let the CERF exams cause nomination to be rejected. The CERF, as well as all other health tests, must be current prior to the breeding.

Janis Watts, Coordinator

PWDCA Futurity Stake Program

## **Gastrointestinal**

Due to unavoidable circumstances the Gastrointestinal Committee's Annual Report could not be submitted in time for inclusion in the Annual Report. The Report will be available on the PWDCA website in the future.

## **GM-1**

Gene test for GM-1 is still going smoothly at NYU. No News is good news

During the year there have been numerous contacts which fall into a few general categories: Instruction on who should be tested, lost or missing certificates and possible other storage diseases detected in the breed.

I have had requests to use less expensive labs found on the internet but once again the Lab at NYU is the only one that has developed the test for our dogs and is 100% reliable. Also, as in past years there have been questions posed about the need for breeding dogs to be tested if their parents were both tested clear. I have had to explain that without DNA testing to prove lineage we would be destroying all we worked for. It should be noted that after 12 years of direct gene testing for GM1 a process that would prove parentage is the next step.

The web states that we accept only GM-1 test results from NYU to avoid any confusion with other labs who claim to have this test for the Portuguese Water Dog.

To date NYU has tested 2360 dogs with the result of no new carriers identified this year, keeping a total of 20 tested carriers. These results have been sent to the Health Registry and OFFA.

It should also be noted that I submitted my resignation from this post in February of this year and am waiting to hear about a replacement.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria C. Schoenfelder, Coordinator

Update: A new GM-1 Coordinator has been named: Kathy Ferrandino will take over the position on October 1, 2011. Maria Schoenfelder has graciously agreed to mentor Kathy to make the transition as smooth as possible.

## **Health Information Coordinator**

Tasks: Answer general questions re health and refer as necessary. The questions were about a wide array of topics.

I've received inquiries about the following issues in the past 12 months. Topics for which there is an established committee were referred thereto in addition to whatever information I had.

Health screening tests necessary for sires and dams

Problem with dry matting coat in female

Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency

AIHA in a puppy – inquiry from breeder thereof. Puppy survived.

Puppy buyer inquiry asking what JCDM and the different test results meant. I provided references and sent her a copy of the puppy contract article from the Courier.

IBD in adult – inquiry from breeder thereof

Followup with dog living out of the country (purchased in USA) that has Addison's – which is not reported in the HLD because the owner did not have proof of ownership – the owner did not receive paper work from the breeder and the hassle of getting a copy of registration papers from AKC was too much for the owner to deal with. Dog is doing satisfactorily.

Glaucoma; dog was blind already in one eye; other eye was controlled with meds.

About the thyroid committee

Helped new owner who was determined to enter dog in HLD but found the instructions on site to be incomplete and confusing. After the person got the dog into the HLD, the individual had a very long delay before information could be updated.

An 18 mo old female who could no longer run, but only moved by hopping. All legs involved, but rear was worse than front. This dog is diagnosed with muscular dystrophy and is stable at present.

Lymphedema occurring in puppies. I have communicated with Cynthia O'Connor on a possible survey and content for a survey.

Responded to request on PWD-L re thyroid testing.

Answered query on improper coat test

Microphthalmia syndrome. This continues to occur and it is my understanding that Cynthia O'Connor is gathering information about affected dogs. After a reporting of this problem (which was not the first reporting), an article was published in the Courier

Sept/Oct 2007, though not without some difficulty. I believe this problem is one deserving full support of the board.

Had several inquiries about juvenile renal disease and the gene test offered by DogGenes, Dr. Mary Whitley. I asked Cynthia O'Connor to review the published article in PlosOne (an on-line journal). At Cynthia's request, I checked with The Georgie Project to see if any autopsied PWD's had been diagnosed with JRD – the answer was no as of April 2011. Cynthia's thoughts are below:

I would caution breeders to be very careful in interpreting this data. It is very interesting and exciting preliminary data that evaluates a potential gene role in the development of renal dysplasia. The mutations found are in the promotor region associated with the gene. Promotors are important for control of gene expression and a popular area for current research. My concern in reading this article is that there are several variations (allelic variants) that are described with some of them appearing to have a correlation to the disease (not consistently the same variant even among the same breed with the disease and variation of clinical disease presentation was not reported to see if there was variation in clinical disease with the different allele variants).

The strongest part of the study utilized renal biopsies (unclear as to the source of the biopsies but suspected to be from the Bovee research (never published - conference proceeding attached)). In that study, there were 16% of animals with no fetal glomeruli (normal). He also determined that <10% fetal glomeruli resulted in a non-clinical disease and found that 52% of the 74 samples had <5% fetal renal glomeruli and no clinical disease.

In this study, 35 biopsy samples were evaluated, 16 (45%) had less than 10% fetal glomeruli and no signs of clinical disease. 34 of the animals carried one or more of the mutant allele variants of the Cox-2 promotor (were testing genotypically as affected = 97%). So, there were 24% of the genotypically affected individuals that had non-clinical biopsies. Personally, I feel that more non-clinical animals (including those with no fetal glomeruli) need to be included to prove that there is a true correlation with the mutant allele variants in diseased individuals and more normal animals that do not

carry the mutant allele variants (this study only included one dog that fits that description).

In addition, biopsy data of other breeds listed are biased toward affected individuals and are few in number. I did not see a large number of samples from normal animals in the reports (can be obtained from normal animals at the time of necropsy). Further, there are not large numbers of other breeds examined via biopsy. The only larger numbers are in evaluating the allele frequencies in other breeds (no clinical data included). According to the allele frequency data, 90% of miniature schauzers are affected with this disease to a varying degree (dominant with incomplete penetrant mode of inheritance proposed). I am not aware of the disease prevalence in miniature schauzers, however, I do not believe it is anywhere near that number even accounting for the varied clinical presentation with many non clinical animals. Also, there were no clinical samples from miniature schnauzers examined in this study.

In addition, the Bovee study reported that in looking at 74 renal biopsies from Shih tzu dogs that there was an 85% prevalence of the disease (any % of fetal glomeruli reported in biopsy specimens) in the breed, while the data here from 93 dogs (I believe including many of the Bovee study) showed an allele frequency of the mutant variants of 59%. This is in a breed where Bovee reports 5-10% of animals die of clinical renal failure associated with a diagnosis of renal dysplasia.

As a result, I feel that this is exciting preliminary work toward a better understanding of this horrible and frustrating disease. I seriously caution breeders who may over interpret test results as well as emotionally interpret test results, particularly in breeds for which there is a low clinical incidence of renal dysplasia reported such as the PWD. To my knowledge, autopsy data from the Georgie Project did not report a high incidence of this disease even in non-clinical animals, but that can be verified. (E. Sell – according to the Georgie Project, this disorder has not been found in autopsies to date).

As more and more genetic tests are discovered and offered to the public, we need to be careful how that data is utilized, keeping in mind the importance of preserving as much genetic diversity as possible. We are not certain at this point that some of the linked markers are not associated with other important traits inherent in a breed. In addition, the markers may not be as closely associated with the clinical disease as originally suspected when more data are discovered. At this time, I do not feel that there is enough data to make breeding recommendations based on this test for renal dysplasia in PWDs.

If there is a breeder who has renal dysplasia reported in their line, screening related animals with ultrasound and obtaining biopsy information, when possible, still remains the "gold standard" for diagnosis in my opinion. Ultrasound alone has limitations as any cause of renal insult resulting in chronic renal failure can present similarly to renal dysplasia on ultrasound, so only a presumptive diagnosis can be made by ultrasound alone. However, renal biopsy is invasive and not without significant risk, so this cannot be recommended as a generalized screening test. However, biopsy data is important data to be incorporated into ongoing research into this area, from both normal and clinically affected individuals (this may be obtained through the data of the Georgie project as well as other necropsy data, if possible). Until more information is obtained, breeders with higher risk animals may consider including this renal dysplasia test to identify animals for further screening, however, I do not feel that important breeding decisions should be made based on this test alone at this time. Hopefully with further research that can confirm a downregulation of the gene expression in the allelic variant dogs as well as a better correlation of this to the disease by examining more animals, particularly normal animals, the test can be refined to be better utilized by breeders.

Committee Members: Elsa Sell

## **Health & Litter DataBase**

The Health and Litter Database has grown over the years. There are currently 23,204 dogs listed in the database and 1,598 users use the database. Since last September there have been 3,741 entries handled by the two database administrators. They are Mary Eadie whose email address is: [topsidepwd@cox.net](mailto:topsidepwd@cox.net) and Jane McEwen whose email address is [jane\\_mcewen@yahoo.com](mailto:jane_mcewen@yahoo.com).

## **Health Research Grant Coordinator**

The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation (AKC CHF) continues to grow and thrive!! It is the largest non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to canine health research. Since 1995, it has disseminated \$25 million dollars for canine research. This is an exciting time for the Canine Health Foundation, as it continues to enlist researchers/scientists of the highest quality through an international reputation of excellence.

The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America and the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation have been strong supporters of the AKC CHF since it's inception in 1995. There are numerous ongoing grants that we are involved in, which are discussed in a recent article in The Courier. Our Club, through our Health Survey and ongoing feedback from our members, continually monitors the health problems in our breed and appropriates funding in reflection of these needs. Once a year, in the spring, we receive a long list of grant funding opportunities from the CHF. The list is analyzed and appropriate research projects are selected for consideration, disseminated to the Health Committees, Board and Officers. There is discussion and feedback; consensus is achieved to select grant projects that will benefit our beloved dogs.

Most of the research projects are 2-3 years in length until conclusion. The content of the projects is quite complex. Our Club has always been at the forefront of breed health research. Through the years, we have pursued scientists of the highest quality

(including veterinarians) who would discover the genetic basis of our most devastating heritable diseases. Through these studies we have the genetic tests to avoid problems like PRA, JDCM, GM-1, etc. Now we continue to pursue the genetic basis of disease, but the studies have drilled down to the microscopic cellular level- meaning that a 3 year research study will give us a small part of the answer to the problem, and the complete picture is achieved by the compilation of many years of continuous research worldwide. Some examples of the complicated genetic mysteries that we face today are the genetic/cellular mechanisms of Addison's disease, cancers and inflammatory bowel disease.

The AKC CHF has a wonderful website and numerous resources to obtain information on canine health, wellness and disease. The site is: [www.akcCHF.org](http://www.akcCHF.org). They have a new mission statement, as described in a recent Discoveries newsletter, Winter 2011:

“The Foundation is dedicated to advancing the health of all dogs and their owners by funding sound scientific research and supporting the dissemination of health information to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease.”

The newsletter goes on to say: “This new statement reflects our diversity in funding research and the translational value of canine research to humans. The 17 funded projects for 2011 distributes our funding dollars equally between prevention and treatment to help us find cures for canine disease.”

There is an extensive library of canine health information on the website. On the Home Page, you will see 4 tabs at the top of the page. If you click on the tab to the far right- “News and Events” - scroll down to “Library”. There are articles online for download from the “Library”, and there is a search engine for health topics by breeds or research area.

Another CHF publication is their quarterly print newsletter called “Discoveries”. You can also view their archives online under the “Libraries” tab. For example, the Winter 2011 #35 “Discoveries” has articles on: autoimmune disease, why purebred dogs are important to health research, and an update in the genetic basis of osteosarcoma. Dr Lindblad-Toh is at the forefront of the osteosarcoma studies, and is quoted as saying: “We share around the same 20,000 genes and we live in the same environment to a large degree [as our pet dogs].....osteosarcoma is a disease that behaves very similar in dogs and humans, which means there’s a very good chance of a drug having the same effect on both dogs and humans.” The latest issue #36, has a great article about poisonous mushrooms for canines and the mushroom species’ prevalence in certain areas of our country.

Also contained under “News and Events”, are the “Genome Barks” podcasts. There are new podcasts posted every two weeks! To date, there are 70 topics presented - including one on labor dystocia by our own Dr Cindy O’Connor! Additional topics include: canine cancer therapies, behavior, pregnancy and whelping, stud management, orthopedic issues, nutrition, cardiac disease, neurologic and eye disorders, and more!! The link is:

<http://www.akcchf.org/news-events/multimedia/podcasts/>

In addition, you can find the schedule of the breeders’ symposiums that are held in various locations in the USA, and the dates of the biennial Parent Club Conference.

There is a list of the funded grants under the second tab located on the Home page, “Research”. Once in the “Research” area, the left column links to information about the researchers’ profiles, success stories and research studies currently enlisting pet dog participants. (The AKC CHF does not fund grants that use dogs raised in laboratories.) The tab for “Participation Needed” also includes information about CHIC, the Canine Comparative Oncology and Genomics Consortium (CCOGC), and clinical trials. (There are 34 trials listed- some breed specific, some all breeds.)

The third tab on the Home page is “Canine Health” which links to numerous resources for health information. You can read about various diseases, genetic tests, access a glossary of medical terms, and additional links to information including veterinary specialist organizations.

Back on the Home page in the left column is the opportunity to sign up for the “e-Barks” electronic newsletter. By subscribing to the online newsletter, you can be the first to learn of various research projects that may call for volunteers or tissue samples. You may also support the CHF by monetary donations or becoming a yearly member for as little as \$10.00. Additionally, you can support canine research through the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation at:

[www.pwdfoundation.org](http://www.pwdfoundation.org).

You can access the most recent list of research studies on the AKC CHF website or read about them in The Courier.

Respectfully yours,  
Erin Mayfield, DO

## **Heart**

From the beginning of the JDCM testing program through June 30, 2011, 1412 tests have been done. This year alone, through June 30, 2011, 131 dogs have been tested with a Carrier rate of 10%.

The average 1-1 Probable Normal rate is 86.3%.

The average 1-2 Probable Carrier rate is 13.7%.

The PWDCA Heart Committee reminds breeders of the PWDCA recommendation that one of a breeding pair must be tested as JDCM 1-1(Probable Normal) to prevent producing affected puppies.

Patent Ductus Arteriosus(PDA), Pulmonic Stenosis, SubAortic Stenosis, Cardiomyopathy in older dogs, Tetralogy of Fallot, Primary Lymphoedema, and several incidences of Heart Murmurs have been reported.

We encourage owners and especially breeders to make the Heart Committee aware of any problems you may have as we are able to direct you to the appropriate veterinary professional to deal with your specific problem. If you have a puppy or dog with anything that could possibly be heart related, don't hesitate to ask for guidance to an appropriate veterinary specialist.

Thank you.

PWDCA Heart Committee Co-Chairs:

Carol Mattingley

Maryanne Murray

Committee Members:

## **Judges Selection**

The National Judges Selection Committee was able to complete all the mailings for the 2013 National Specialty Judges selection on time in accordance with the Policy and Procedures of PWDCA.

I would like to remind the membership that any nominations for a foreign judge to be placed on the ballot for the 2014 National Specialty needs to be submitted to the Recording Secretary no later than November 15, 2011. The foreign judge must comply with all the judging requirements listed in the PWDCA Policy & Procedures.

Sandra L Myers  
National Specialty Judges Selection Committee Chair

## **Judges' Education**

The Judges Education Committee is dedicated to formulating effective, reliable and objective breed presentations to aspiring provisional and approved Portuguese Water Dog judges. The goal of the JEC is to hold and support presentations in various areas of the United States in order to facilitate the needs of judges, with the end result of better educated judges able to assess our breed. We offer Ringside Mentoring in conjunction with presentations that are given at Specialties and Regional Specialties. Our PowerPoint presentation is constantly being updated.

Since our previous report in 2010, we have conducted the following PWD Judges Education Seminars:

National Specialty Seminar and Hands-on in San Louis Obispo, California  
AKC Working Dog Institute and Hands-on in Cleveland, Ohio  
Scottsdale Dog Judges Workshop in Scottsdale, Arizona  
American Dog Show Judges Institute at Indiana University of Pennsylvania

We currently have two additional seminars planned for 2011:

PWD Club of the Twin Cities is sponsoring a JEC presentation in conjunction with the PWDCTW 25th Specialty Show, in Minnesota.

JEC seminar and hands-on workshop for the PWDCA National in at Callaway Gardens, Georgia.

The response of the Judges attending these Seminars has been very positive, and after the presentations, they were always particularly appreciative of the opportunity to go over the dogs which had been provided by local PWD owners or handlers in their respective areas. The Committee is very grateful to those individuals who took the time and effort to get their dogs ready and groomed, and brought their dogs for the judges to see, examine and observe their movement. The discussions and questions that resulted were evidence of a sincere interest and appreciation on the part of the new and prospective judges who wanted to become involved in judging our breed.

In 2011, the Committee has worked on several new things. We have started to meet via conference calls. We have started a database of all judges that have attended seminars in the past few years. A banner has been ordered to make our presence at the National Specialties more visible. We have worked on adding to our presentation and handouts and plan to revise the PowerPoint presentation in the coming year.

Starting in 2011, as part of the Regional Club sanctioning process, all PWDCA Sanctioned Regional Clubs are required to provide a Judges' Education Program every 3-5 years. The Judges Education Committee will be happy to work with any Regional Club to set up and advertise a program and provide speakers and handouts.

The Judges Education Committee added several members to our list of parent club approved mentors and now have 32 approved mentors. In addition to helping out with the National Specialty Judges Education program, these individuals mentor prospective judges at dog shows throughout the country. The Committee is currently working on revising the requirements to become a mentor and would appreciate any comments or suggestions (check out the PWDCA, Inc. Policy and Procedure Manual to

see the current requirements.) If you are interested in becoming a mentor please review the requirements and contact one of the co-chairs for an application.

Respectfully submitted,

Letty Afong -- Mississippi

Lou Guthrie -- North Carolina

PWDCA Judges Education Committee Co-Chairs

and Committee Members:

Steven Dostie -- Maine

Renee Reiherzer -- Indiana

Marilyn Rimmer -- California

Janis Watts -- Arizona

## **Junior Affiliate**

The Junior Affiliate Committee is currently comprised of five members. We continue to work on the committee's goals of encouraging the participation of junior members (18 years of age or younger) in the breed by attending AKC and PWDCA events as well as to support participation in the PWDCA and its regional clubs. This program continues in its efforts to establish mentoring relationships with juniors and interested PWDCA members with the goal of sharing knowledge about the breed and encouraging activity in club events. As well, this program continues to promote camaraderie among our junior members.

We continue in our current efforts of accomplishing these goals through highlighting our juniors' knowledge and achievements with articles in the Courier, expanding methods of communication between our juniors and PWDCA members, assisting the membership committee with a list of juniors in a separate section of the directory to facilitate the sharing of information among our juniors, sponsoring juniors'

activities at PWDCA events such as the National Specialty, and regularly updating our website with helpful juniors' links including links to the Deyanne Miller Scholarship page.

The Junior Affiliate program will remain supportive and encourage our juniors, whenever possible, to maintain an enthusiastic interest in the sport of dogs and with Portuguese Water Dogs in particular, as they are the future of our breed. We continue to encourage the PWDCA to reverse the actions of the previous years where the PWDCA Board of Directors voted to remove any association with word "membership" in combination with juniors and encourage the addition of junior members to the PWDCA By-Laws membership categories. In addition, we continue to advocate for the ability of PWD breeders to co-own dogs and mentor juniors without any exclusion or penalties for this relationship that affects the breeder mentor's participation in PWDCA programs. We all must work together to find ways to share our knowledge and love of this breed with those that will carry the torch long after we are gone. As such, it is imperative that the membership join us with the goal of re-establishing a place for our juniors in the PWDCA.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia O'Connor - PWDCA Junior Affiliate Chair

Rita Araujo

Karen Ash

Lou Guthrie

Nancy Sedlacek

## **Legislative Issues:**

### **PWDCA Legislative Issues Committee**

Once again we've seen much activity potentially affecting the rights and responsibilities of animal owners throughout the country. While some of the legislative issues have been at the state level, there has been an upswing in efforts to make changes at the county and municipality levels. There have been both positive and negative bills introduced. There have been a number of states and local governments that have moved to repeal Breed Specific Legislation, opting to identify offending behavior of animals rather than labeling specific breeds as potentially dangerous. On the other hand there are still significant numbers of efforts to legislate Mandatory Spay Neuter.

I'd like to thank all of our members who have taken the time to contact their elected officials to express their opinions about pending legislation.

Respectfully,

Kathy Souza  
Legislative Issues Committee Chair

## **Membership**

Due to unavoidable circumstances the Membership Committee's Annual Report could not be submitted in time for inclusion in the Annual Report. The Report will be available on the PWDCA website in the future.

## **Miller Scholarship**

The DMSF committee is comprised of Kris Cofiehl (Chair), Melinda Harvey. Since formalizing the program in 2005 the committee has awarded over \$5000 in scholarship money to deserving candidates.

It is my pleasure to report that the DMSF had some very significant donations in 2011. The Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club under the guidance of member Carole Mclvor, is in the process of selling the remaining Commemorative Re-Issue of the art print "Der Agitator" by H. Sperling. We thank the Nutmeg Club as well as all the purchasers of the print for their generosity.

The DMSF Committee is proud to announce that the 2011 scholarship has been awarded to Sarah Howle. Sarah is currently a senior at University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she is studying Nutrition. She has earned an impressive 3.90 GPA. Congratulations Sarah.

Kris Cofiehl  
Melinda Harvey

## **Obedience/Tracking/Rally**

Obedience Report:

Committee members Susan Becker, Verne Foster (chair) Deb Zorn, and Geri Zuckerman

According to the Policies and Procedures Manual, the Obedience Committee is charged with educating owners on the importance of Obedience training their Portuguese Water Dogs, promoting and encouraging Obedience competitors, maintaining AKC Obedience, and Tracking records for each PWD who competes and ranking the Top Obedience PWDs using the PWDCA Obedience Ranking System. It is also the responsibility of the Obedience Committee to create and distribute Awards Plaques for the Top Obedience PWDs each year. The committee now includes Rally. 2010

Geri Zuckerman stepped down as Chairman of the committee after 6 year of dedicated volunteering. I wish to thank her for a job well done. She remains on the committee.

The stats for titling dogs in 2010 went as follows– There were 115 Rally titles, 62 Obedience titles, 9 Tacking titles for the year

Obedience

29 CD - Companion Dog

20 CDX - Companion Dogs Excellent

2 UD - Utility Dog

2 UDX - Utility Dog Excellent

1UDX2 - Utility Dog Excellent 2

( These are new optional titling classes this year )

5 BN– Beginner Novice

3 GN Graduate Novice

Tracking

7 TD - Tracking Dog

2TDX - Tracking Dog Excellent

Rally

67 RN Rally Novice

30RA Rally Advanced  
16 Rally Excellent  
8 RAE Rally Advanced  
1RAE 2

At the Specialty the Awards for the top Obedience Dogs will be presented. The honors go to:

The Top Obedience Dogs for the year 2010

Top Overall and Top Novice Dog: RiverRun Birch Canoe CD RN OAJ WWD SROM CGC  
–Cathy Winkler

Top Open Dog, and Utility Dog,- Port Of Halibut Cove OM4 UDX2 NA NAJ NF-Vern Olson

Top Average Score: Kalista's Icebreaker CD– Mark Park/Nichole Bearman

The complete list of the ranking dogs in Obedience was printed in the Courier (May/June 2011) . In the working issue of the Courier (April /March) the total OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion ) count as well as the All breed High In Trial dogs were printed.

Recognizing all of these working teams not only provides them with well deserved congratulations but we hope also encourages others to train and present their dogs in competitive Obedience venues

2011

The Courier, as always, assists the committee in its educational efforts. A new column directed at training issues of all kinds is now being published. Training for Success . There has already been several articles addressing treat training and heeling. Both subjects are important to the foundation of a multitude of training venues. In coming issue you will see an article on Rally crossover and tips to help the competitive as well as Novice trainer in performance events. There will be continued educational material submitted to the Courier. Ideas for topics you would like to see addressed are welcomed.

Early in 2011 the creation of a PWDCA ranking Rally system was investigated. A questionnaire was sent out to interested Rally competitors on the PWD-L list. The large number of respondents came back with very diverse opinions on the subject. I then did Extensive research. By taking into account the opinions of the PWD Rally competitors, By comparing other Rally registries and their systems of ranking Rally dogs, looking at pass rate for the sport, investigating the consistency of regional scoring and numbers of competitors, and interviewing AKC Rally judges, it was decided by the committee that now is not the time to create such a ranking system. This does not end the discussion on the topic. The Obedience committee will revisit the subject again in the future. In the mean time Rally titlists will be recognized in the Courier and on the E-Lists.

The 2011 trialing season is in full swing. Congratulations go out to the breeds 8th OTCH. ( The last OTCh was back in 2007).

OTCH Port Of Halibut Cove. Vern Olsen and “Sport “ earned the title in April 2011. Also we can congratulate Barb Neimann and “Carmen” the breeds 3rd Champion Tracker ( CT) CT Dreamstar Femme Fatale earned the title in March 2011.

Congratulations to all the working teams out there who are succeeding in their dog showing efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Verne Foster

## **Orthopedic**

In 2010 OFA orthopedic screening of both PWD hips and elbows showed a decrease from the preceding year. Since OFA x-rays allow for phenotype evaluations only, breeding decisions regarding prospective sires and dams are best made with as much information about relatives (offspring, siblings, parents, etc.) as possible. It benefits the breed as a whole to have as many dogs as possible x-rayed and submitted to orthopedic databases such as those maintained by OFA and PennHIP. Our thanks to all those who screened their dogs in the past year, thus increasing knowledge of the orthopedic health of the breed. We look forward to a future with increasingly sound and healthy Portuguese Water Dogs in our lives.

**PennHIP Distraction Indices:** As of June 2011 there were 352 PWD's in the PennHIP database. Their hip laxity as measured by distraction index ranged from the tightest at .10 to the loosest at 1.15. The average for the breed was .56, with 25% of the dogs at .43 or tighter, 50% at .55 or tighter, and 75% at .68 or tighter. With the addition of 42 dogs to the database over the past 14 months, these percentile numbers remained the same.

As of right now PennHIP recommends breeding only PWD's with DI's of .50 or tighter (60<sup>th</sup> percentile or better) so that the breed average DI will move toward the "tight-hipped range" (defined as below .30) from one generation to the next.

For more information on the PennHIP evaluation method please see their website at <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Default.aspx?alias=research.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip>.

**OFA Hip Statistics for 2010:** Through the end of 2010, there were 7083 adult PWD's included in the OFA hip database (6080 rated as normal and 917 as abnormal).

In 2010 alone the numbers were as follows:

83 Excellent	(21.6%)
213 Good	(55.5%)
42 Fair	(10.9%)
3 Borderline	(0.8%)
33 Mild	( 8.6%)
9 Moderate	(2.3%)
1 Severe	(0.3%)
384 Total	

This total is a decrease of 10.3 % from the number of dogs screened in 2009 (428). From 2009 to 2010 there was increase in the percentage of dogs evaluated as Excellent (from 19.9% to 21.6%) to another record high percentage for the breed for the second year in a row. The percentage of dogs evaluated as Abnormal also decreased slightly (from 12.2% to 11.2%). Those selecting "open database" disclosure decreased slightly and stood at 32.8% for 2010.

**OFA Elbow Statistics for 2010:** Through the end of 2010, there were 2266 adult PWD's in the elbow database (2225 rated as normal and 39 rated abnormal). Of the 202 PWD's with elbow

submissions in 2010, 200 (or 99%) were evaluated as normal and 2 (or 1%) as abnormal. This represents a 7% decrease in the number of dogs screened compared to last year (217). Our thanks to all those who are monitoring elbow soundness in the breed. Although the current percentage of those evaluated as dysplastic is small, cases do exist. Screening by x-ray is a good way to keep track of potential problems for individual dogs and the breed as a whole. Since the average dog bears a majority of its weight on its front, elbow soundness is vitally important to athletic condition.

For more information on elbow dysplasia, please see the informative article included on the OFA's website at [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org) , or see the May/June 2011 issue of The Courier for an informative article on the subject submitted by the members of this committee.

Please feel free to contact us with any orthopedic questions or concerns you may have in the coming year. And please continue to screen your dogs' hips and elbows and submit orthopedic information and results to the PWDCA Health and Litter Database.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Harding, PWDCA Orthopedic Committee Chairperson  
(425)883-7437 or [raincitypwd@comcast.net](mailto:raincitypwd@comcast.net)  
Bea Jennings  
(303)205-9221 or [bea.jennings@comcast.net](mailto:bea.jennings@comcast.net)  
Barb Stanek  
(920)233-0273 or [stanek@fvtc.edu](mailto:stanek@fvtc.edu)

## **Policy & Procedure Manual**

Nothing new to report.

## **PWDCA-L Administration**

The purpose of the committee is to administer the email discussion list, PWDCA-L, and to act as liaison between the membership and the Officers and Board of the PWDCA.

The PWDCA-L currently has approximately 558 subscribers, an increase of 23 over the past year.

Country	Subscribers
* Australia	1
* Canada	5
* Netherlands	1
* United States	548

Currently 487 subscribers receive direct email, 71 receive digest versions of the list.

In the past 12 months there were approximately 3,003 posts on a variety of subjects, an increase of ~1,500 over the previous year, and 26 ADMIN posts, primarily related to civility and decorum. Admin fielded approximately 519 requests for assistance, subscription, email change, format change and advice.

Committee members:

Gail Browne-McDonald – Owner-Designee, List Admin

Mary Alice Davis

Rita Araujo – Board representative and liaison

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Browne-McDonald

Committee Chair

## **Regional Club Administration**

We are pleased to report that all regional clubs were sanctioned for the year 2011. There are 17 sanctioned clubs across the county. Thanks to all the clubs with getting their information to us promptly.

The listing for the clubs are in the 2011 directory.

Respectfully submitted by  
Marilu Novy

## **Remembrance Fund**

The Remembrance Fund is an ongoing fund to benefit the Portuguese Water Dog. Donations shall be accepted in any amount, specifically designated for a particular purpose, and anyone can donate monies in memory or honor of an individual or a PWD. Monies not designated for specific purposes will be deposited into the PWDCAs General Health Fund. Monies shall be forwarded to the Remembrance Fund Coordinator along with the name of the individual or dog for whom the gift is made. A note will be sent to the family or dog's owner notifying them of the donation, as well as a thank you note to the person making the donation. A list of the individuals and dogs and those who donated in their memory/honor shall be maintained and periodically printed in the Courier for the periods ending 6/30 and 12/31.

All funds collected through the PWDCAs Remembrance Fund are sent to the PWDCAs Treasurer on a quarterly basis and accompanied with an explanation showing who donated the funds and distribution requested. The Treasurer will then deposit them into the segregated accounts as specified. Any funds deposited to specific research projects will be disbursed on an annual basis at the end of each calendar year and accompanied with a letter of explanation as to where the funds originated. Funds not going to specific research will be held in their specific segregated accounts until their need develops.

<b>Year</b>	<b>General Health</b>	<b>Cancer Research</b>	<b>Cardio</b>	<b>Miller</b>	<b>Rescue</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>
2008	\$875.00	\$100.00	\$25.00	\$200.00		\$1,200.00
To 8/31/0	\$935.00	\$40.00			\$100.00	\$1,075.00
To 8/31/1	\$355.00	\$30.00			\$2,825.00	\$3,210.00
To 8/31/1	\$468.00	\$80.00				\$548.00

Peggy Perkins

Remembrance Fund Chair

## **PWDCA Rescue inc.**

### **PWDCA Rescue Inc. Fiscal Year May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011 Annual Report**

PWDCA Rescue Inc. has recently undergone some changes. Karen Arends who led rescue since its inception resigned as President on July 31, 2011. Karen will be greatly missed.

Mary Harkins has stepped up to act as backup for our National Rescue Coordinator. Christa Diamant was appointed interim President on August 22, 2011.

The present PWDCA Rescue Inc. board presently consists of:

Interim President

Christa Diamant

[Christa\\_diamant@yahoo.com](mailto:Christa_diamant@yahoo.com)

Vice President and National Rescue Coordinator:

Meg DeFore

[Pwdca4rescue@aol.com](mailto:Pwdca4rescue@aol.com) (772-519-2585)

Backup National Rescue Coordinator

Mary Harkins

Secretary/Treasurer

Christa Diamant

PWDCA Inc. Board Representatives:

Janet Boyd, Elaine Suter and Deb Zorn

PWDCA Rescue Inc. looks forward to continued support from PWDCA and regional club members and greatly appreciates all donations received to enable its successful rescue and relocation program. On January 26, 2010 PWDCA Rescue Inc. received official notification that it has an IRS 501(c)(3) status and is considered a public charity.

Donation receipts were sent to all donators that contributed to PWDCA Rescue Inc.

PWDCA Inc. transferred additional funds from their segregated Rescue funds to PWDCA Rescue Inc. in 2010 and 2011. The remaining segregated rescue funds will be transferred by PWDCA Inc to Rescue in May 2012.

Rescue's quarterly meeting minutes are sent to PWDCA Inc. for publication in The Courier.

With permission from PWDCA Inc., Rescue, has developed a pamphlet for the rescue program using portions of the wording and PWDCA logo from the PWDCA Meet the Breeds pamphlet. In addition to handing out the new Rescue Pamphlet, Meg DeFore will be running the Microchip clinic on behalf of Rescue at this year's PWDCA National Specialty in Georgia.

The National Rescue Coordinator continues to be the first contact person regarding a potential PWD rescue. The National Rescue Coordinator evaluates and follows up on each situation guided by Rescue's policies and procedures.

Annually, Rescue's policies and procedures are sent to all PWDCA Club Regional Presidents and Rescue Representatives with any updated procedures or necessary clarifications. The Rescue board members look forward to successful relationships with regional clubs, owners and breeders. To encourage continued education and communication between Regional Club Rescue Representatives and Rescue, PWDCA Rescue is planning to hold an annual teleconference with regional presidents and their rescue representatives following sanctioning by PWDCA Inc. in 2012.

PWDCA RESCUE INC.  
EMPLOYER I.D. #26-4821762  
DLN #17053323300029  
PUBLIC CHARITY STATUS #170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Profit and Loss Statement  
May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011

Beginning Balance as of May 1, 2010	\$17,831.83
Donations	\$6,860.00
Surrender Donation	\$ 250.00
Re-Homing Donations	<u>\$1,900.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 9,010.00
Transfer from PWDCA, Inc.	
Segregated Rescue Funds	\$15,000.00 (prior to formation of PWDCA Rescue Inc)
Interest Earned	\$ 36.81(as of 4/30/2011)
Insurance Premium Refund	<u>\$ 1,030.00</u>
	<u>\$16,066.81</u>
Total	\$42,908.64
Expenses	
Charities	(\$ 150.00)
Admin:	
Insurance/Bond Renewals	(\$3,558.00)
Tax Returns, CT Annual Rpt P.O.Box	(\$ 542.87)
Board Mtg Conf Calls	( 74.45)
Rescue Vet Expenses	<u>(\$ 7,348.70)</u>
Total Expense	(\$11,674.02)
Net Balance as of 4/30/11	<u>\$ 31,234.62</u>

PWDCARescue Fiscal Statistics  
 May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011  
 Meg DeFore & Karen Arends

1.	<u>Adoption Contacts:</u>	1,040
2.	<u>Returned Adoption Applications:</u>	68
3.	<u>Surrender Requests:</u>	36
4.	<u>Counseling Requests - Dog has Bitten/Aggressive:</u>	25
5.	<u>Surrender Requests – Breeder Took Responsibility:</u>	23
6.	<u>Surrender Requests – Not PWD:</u>	
40		
7.	<u>PWDs Owners Kept:</u>	10
8.	<u>PWDs Accepted Into Rescue w/Age:</u>	Scooby - 4 yrs. Punzi – 4 yrs <i>deceased 12/2010)</i> Teddy - 13 yrs. <i>(deceased 11/2010)</i> Lucky - 8 yrs. Callee - 18 mos. Boomer – 18 mos. Ranger – 5 yrs. Gracie – 3 yrs. Murphy - NC - 10 mos Bailey - AR – 5 yrs Calle – TX - 2 yrs (deceased) Paco – TX - 2½ yrs
9.	<u>PWDs Placed:</u>	Scooby – May 2010 Chucky – May 2010 Lucky - June
2010		Callee – June 2010 Boomer – June 2010 Ranger – Aug. 2010 Gracie – Sept. 2010

Murphy – Nov. 2010

Bailey – Jan. 2011

Miscellaneous Notes: Majority of non-PWDs from PetFinder links. 3 inquiries for help with health issues. Three dogs were surrendered because of family financial trouble. Number of biting/aggressive dogs continues to increase.

## **SEAT**

### SEAT Annual Report 2011

This committee was created in late 2005 and continues to work towards clarifying the Specialty Manual and acting as a support team for Specialty Chairs. We provide budget templates and historical data, and sample contracts for specialty planning. Members of the SEAT committee manage the Specialty Store for each host team and generate reports ranging from merchandise that needs ordering to who signed up for dinners. Advice is available for hosts regarding forecasting attendance and specialty needs; trophy and rosette ordering; merchandise selection and pricing; and working with host hotels and show sites.

Remember to bookmark [www.pwdcaspecialty.org](http://www.pwdcaspecialty.org) to find the latest on specialty happenings and future plans.

We appreciate your suggestions and feedback. Committee: Janet Boyd, Kathy Bumiller, Roy Cawley, Kathy Esslinger, Jane Freeman, Marge Jackson, Barbara Niemann, Barbara Paul, and Pat Qvigstad.

## **Therapy**

During the past year the Therapy Committee has not been particularly active. (Due in no small part to my time spent creating my own non-profit as well as dealing with my father-in-law being in and out of the hospital).

Elizabeth Shannon is an active member, having done several book reviews. She is involved in a reading program with her extra special partner.

For the coming year I hope to be able to add new members to the committee; to submit multiple articles and pictures (from everyone on the committee), and so on.

Laurie Hardman, Chair Therapy Committee

## **Top-20 Event**

The Top Twenty Committee, while a fledging group, has had a busy year. Our activities included discussion of how to raise money for the event since we are a stand alone committee; possible merchandise items; contacting eligible dogs to get a tentative head count; ideas for a theme and decorations and the selection of the 3 judges. The concluding projects will be finalizing the evening's time table; reviewing everyone's function and setting up the ring, chairs and decorations.

The main bulk of our activities will take place on the afternoon and evening of the event, after which time statistical information, along with an overview of the entire evening, should provide a opportunity where by the entire project can be better analyzed and discussed.

Kathy Beumiller

## **Volunteer Pool/Committee Coordination**

The Volunteer Pool/Committee Coordination (VP/CC) Committee was conceived in an effort to better serve the PWDCA membership by creating a central committee whose duties include receiving Committee Volunteer Forms, acknowledging receipt of the form, disseminating the form to appropriate committees, and storing the forms. As well, the committee will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Committee DataBase, and Volunteer solicitations on the PWDCA website.

The Committee will also be responsible for soliciting and compiling yearly reports from each committee to be included in the club's Annual Report.

In early 2011 the PWDCA board, under the guidance of Board member Kris Cofiell, set out to update the Committee Volunteer DataBase as it was found to be out of date, with a significant amount of missing and incorrect information. Each Board Member was assigned committees to contact to get some basic information on the committee as well as updated information on the members of the committee and their contact information. That information was then converted in to a master list (DataBase) which was ultimately used to update the PWDCA Website Committee Contact page. WebMaster Belinda Harvey was essential in the process of updating the information and did so in a prompt and professional manner.

The Committee has also been working on the 2011 Annual Report. This was a function that was previously the responsibility of the Recording Secretary. This task is very labor intensive as it requires a significant amount of communication to solicit reports and reminders to those Committee Chairs who don't submit reports in a timely fashion. The submitted reports are then compiled in to the document that is given out at the Annual Meeting as well as ultimately published on the PWDCA website.

The Committee is currently a committee of one. Though a call for volunteers was recently put out with the hopes of increasing the number to between 3 and 5 members.

Respectfully Submitted by Kris Cofiell

## **Water Trial**

### ***2010 Activities***

- 1.) During 2010, fifteen regional clubs hosted 38 water trials. Twenty-six of these trials were part of two-day trial weekends with back-to-back trials at the same site. Two trials were held for Junior and Apprentice level entries only. One was the PWD Club of Canada, and one was the PWDCA National Specialty water trial at Lopez Lake Recreation Area, Arroyo Grande, CA.
- 3.) A total of 350 qualifying water trial performances were recorded in 2010. A complete report including the names of dogs and owners was published in the annual Water issue of *The Courier* (January/February 2011).

#### *2010 qualifying numbers*

67 Junior Water Dog Certificates

99 Apprentice Water Dog Titles

83 Working Water Dog Titles

38 Courier Water Dog Titles

16 Courier Water Dog Excellent Titles

47 Versatility Awards (Some teams earned more than one award.)

#### 2010 title numbers

96 Apprentice Water Dog Titles

66 Working Water Dog

21 Courier Water Dog

16 Courier Water Dog Excellent

There were seventeen teams qualifying a second time at *The Courier* level toward their Courier Water Dog Excellent title.

The PWDCA Water Trial Committee printed and mailed a certificate for each of the qualifiers.

- 4.) The Water Trial Committee held an open forum at the 2010 PWDCA National Specialty held at San Luis Obispo, CA.
- 5.) The 2010 PWDCA Water Trial manual is available on the Web at [www.pwdca.org](http://www.pwdca.org). Courtesy copies of the revised 2010 Water Trial Manual were printed and mailed to all PWDCA-approved water trial judges.

### ***Activities to Date in 2011***

- 1.) The committee approved 40 trials for the 2011 (up from 32 for 2010) water trial season.

- 2.) The committee will review the Water Trial program after the last trial of the season, and before the end of the year in order to make recommendations for clarifications and revisions to the manual for 2012
- 3.) The committee arranged to hold an open forum at the 2011 PWDCA National Specialty. The meeting will be held Sunday 9/18, at 5:30 pm
- 4.) Comments regarding the PWDCA Water Trial program may be sent to any committee member at any time. Input from PWDCA members is greatly appreciated by the committee.

***Committee members:***

Sarah Kahn, Co-Chair  
Tammy Etscheidt Co-Chair  
Cindy McCullough  
Andy Paight  
Susan Cucura  
Jane Freeman  
Judy Leather

## **WebSite (Webmaster)**

The PWDCA web site remained popular in 2011, with the average visits per month totaling about 25,000 and average pages viewed per month totaling about 1,000,000. The web site redesign planned for this year was delayed a bit. The prerequisite site analysis and specifications work to be done by the ad hoc Web Site Revision Committee was temporarily put on hold when Jean Hassebroek resigned as chair of that committee. Elaine Suter stepped in as temporary chair until a new chairperson is selected.

Regardless of the status of the redesign project, maintenance of the PWDCA web site is ongoing. As webmaster, I strive to publish all acceptable content update requests (submitted to me) in a timely fashion. However that effort, in and of itself, is not enough to ensure the completeness and freshness of the web site. The Club's committees and coordinators are encouraged to send updated copy for their area of expertise on a regular basis.

The PWDCA web site is a very public face for the PWDCA and is an important resource for its users. This Committee welcomes any support the PWDCA community can give us toward the betterment of the Club's web site.

Respectfully submitted, Belinda Harvey PWDCA Webmaster

***The following are AD HOC committees:***

## **Bylaws**

The Bylaws Committee did not meet this year. A number of members resigned so the Board needs to add members to fill out the Committee.

Stu Freeman

## **Illustrated Breed Standard**

The Illustrated Breed Standard Committee has been working continuously throughout this past year. The process has taken longer than anticipated but the important drawings have been completed. The committee will continue to work closely with the illustrator on the remaining drawings. It looks as if most of the drawings will be completed next year and the committee hopes to have the Illustrated Standard completed and ready for the Board to send out to the membership for their approval the end of 2012. The IBS committee continues to share the illustrations with the Judge's Education Committee for their thoughts and ideas. When completed, the Portuguese Water Dog Illustrated Breed Standard will have approximately 50 detailed drawings along with the amplification of the breed standard, which the committee has already finalized.

Steven Dostie, Chair

Ellen Allen, Karen Arends, Lorraine Carver, Cathy Kalb,

Carol Mattingley, Maryanne Murray, and Virginia Santoli

## **Ethics**

Code of Ethics Committee

After numerous e-mails and calls, the COE Committee agreed on changes to the existing COE. Changes were submitted to the Board and, after some minor tweaks, submitted to the members for a vote (still pending at the time of this writing).

Stu Freeman

## **WebSite Revision**

The Website Revision Ad Hoc Committee has been working to re-design the PWDCA Website. We recognize that the current website design can be a bit unwieldy to navigate and find the topic or information the user desires. Our goals are to make it more user friendly, colorful and to add more pictures of PWD's participating in the large variety of activities they are suited for.

Elaine Suter