



# WAVIES & CURLIES

Newsletter of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Northern California

FEBRUARY 2020

## *A Message from the President*

The new 2020-2021 PWDCNC Officers and Directors were voted in at the PWDCNC Annual Meeting held on February 16, 2020. The members of our new board are:

President: Ann Gaskell  
Vice President: Janis Welsh  
Treasurer: Bill Waters  
Recording Secretary: Cathy Lydon  
Corresponding Secretary: Casey Ingram  
Director 2<sup>nd</sup> Year: Carol Irving  
Director 2<sup>nd</sup> Year: Carol Kupec  
Director 1<sup>st</sup> Year: Julie Conger  
Director 1<sup>st</sup> Year: Dominick Amadeo  
Immediate Past President: Elaine Rasmussen

The bios of these new board members will soon be available on the club website.

Anne Paterson, retiring board member, remains active with other club positions such as Obedience/Rally Co-Chair and member of the Trophy Committee..

As you can see, all will continue to actively be involved in our club.

The editors of Wavies and Curlies are always looking for your stories and pictures to feature in two categories in the



*Ann and Norman win Rally Highest Combined (HC) and Highest Triple Qualifying (HTQ) in Lodi at the Nor Cal Great Dane Club Specialty, Apr. 28, 2018*

newsletter: **PWD Awards and Achievements** and **PWD Antics and Adventures**. Please be sure to get your special moments posted in the Wavies and Curlies so that everyone else can celebrate your victories, big and small, laugh with you at the crazy PWD antics that you have endured, and commiserate with you over some of the unique adventures that can only happen when you have a PWD in your family. Contact the editors at [wceditor@pawdcnc.org](mailto:wceditor@pawdcnc.org). on what to submit – a short description and a photo is all that's needed.

With the first days of spring, many members have started thinking about what they should be doing to get ready for the summer Water Practices and August Water Trials. Some know exactly what they want to do, some have a vague idea and some have absolutely no clue. We welcome all levels of experience!

Whether you are an experienced dog and handler team in water work, are getting ready for your first time as part of the summer practices at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park in Pleasanton, or are just plain curious, the Annual Picnic, held this year on Saturday, May 30, 2020 is the place to be.

While the Annual Picnic is a fun event where you can try different activities if you want, enjoy your club members, eat a great potluck lunch, with hamburgers, hotdogs and veggie burgers provided by the club, and do things with your dog, it is also the kickoff to our water season. Come join the fun, have lunch on the club, and get all the details on water work, what equipment is needed, how to go about practicing, or even just find out what it is all about.

In addition to getting information about water work and water practices, you and your wonderful PWD can try some simple Agility exercises and attempt a Novice Rally course, guided by experienced club members to make sure you are doing things correctly while having fun at the same time. Who knows? Perhaps we might get some interesting material for the Wavies and Curlies **PWD Awards and Achievements** and **PWD Antics and Adventures**.

*Continued on next page ...*

*Go to next page for Table of Contents  
or page 3 for Upcoming Events*

Page numbers in the Table of Contents are hyperlinked to the articles, and hyperlinks are provided on each page to return to the Table of Contents or the Front Page.

## In This Issue

President’s Message .....	<a href="#">1</a>
Upcoming Events .....	<a href="#">3</a>
2020 Annual Meeting .....	<a href="#">4</a>
Officers, Board, Chairs, Editors .....	<a href="#">6</a>
One Owner’s Adventures with Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia .....	<a href="#">7</a>

### President’s Message, continued

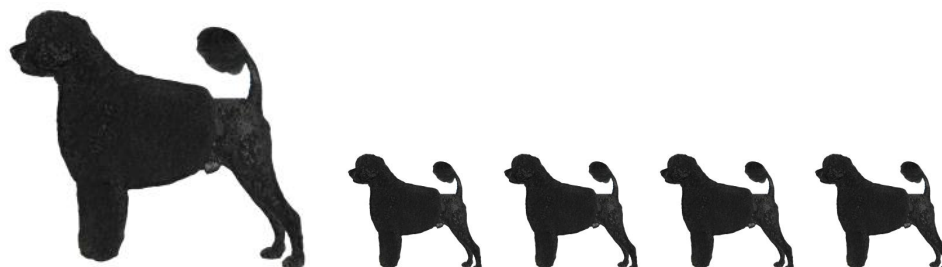
Miss, or missed, those wonderful days of hippies, peace and love? Well, now you can experience four days of peace, music and dogs at the annual Woofstock Dog Show, June 4-7. On Saturday, June 6, the PWDCNC supports all PWD entries. Saturday is also tie-dye day and best costume contest. Yes, your PWD can come in costume also. Be sure to look for upcoming details on this big event, so you can come join the fun at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo.

Interested in Agility? Want to know more about it? Join the PWDCNC on June 10, 2020, as we host the Jump N June Nights Agility Trial, an all-breed trial, held at Heath Bar Ranch in Shingle Springs, California. Enter the trial as a competitor, help out by stewarding (you will be taught all you need to know when you arrive), or just come to watch.

Come spend some relaxing time in beautiful Carmel on Saturday, July 11, 2020, at the Del Monte Kennel Club Dog Show, held at Carmel Valley Middle School. The PWDCNC supports all PWD entries in Conformation, Obedience and Rally trials.

Whatever you and your PWD do, may 2020 be filled with lots of PWD love, laughter and craziness. And may we all please see it posted in our Wavies and Curlies so we can laugh, commiserate and learn.

Thank you very much,  
Ann Gaskell



## Mark Your Calendar for These Exciting Upcoming Events!

Saturday, May 30, 11:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, Pleasanton  
Annual Picnic

Contact Ann Gaskell at [Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com)

Thursday-Monday, May 21-25  
Several events at Fairplex, Pomona  
SCPWDC 2018 Regional Specialty (May 21)  
SCPWDC Agility Trials (May 22-25)  
Mission Circuit (All-Breed, Obedience, Rally) (May 22-25)  
For SCPWDC events see [www.scpwdc.org](http://www.scpwdc.org)

Tuesday, May 26  
Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, Pleasanton  
Water Practice Starts  
Contact Kathy Souza at [pwdlover@pacbell.net](mailto:pwdlover@pacbell.net)

Thursday-Sunday, June 4-7  
Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo  
Woofstock Dog Shows  
PWDCNC Supported Entry Saturday, June 6  
Contact Ann Gaskell at [Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com)

Monday-Wednesday, June 8-10  
Heath Bar Ranch, Shingle Springs  
Hot Summer Nights Agility Trials  
PWDCNC Hosting Day 3 (June 10)  
For info and entry: [www.AbbaDogs.com](http://www.AbbaDogs.com)  
Contact Kathy Weinberg at [kaweinberg1@gmail.com](mailto:kaweinberg1@gmail.com)

Friday-Sunday, July 10-12  
Carmel Middle School, Carmel  
Del Monte KC Dog Shows  
Obedience and Rally July 10  
Conformation, Obedience, and Rally July 11-12  
PWDCNC Supported Entry Saturday, July 11,  
for Conformation, Obedience, and Rally  
Contact Ann Gaskell at [Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com)

Friday-Sunday, July 31 and August 1-2  
Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, Pleasanton  
PWDCNC Water Trials  
Contact Kathy Souza at [pwdlover@pacbell.net](mailto:pwdlover@pacbell.net)

Friday-Sunday, August 7-9  
Manzanita Park, Prunedale  
PWDCNC-Hosted Agility Trials  
All-breed AKC Agility Trials – come to participate or to  
watch the fun! Average high temp is 70 degrees!  
For info and entry: [www.AbbaDogs.com](http://www.AbbaDogs.com)  
Contact Kathy Weinberg at [kaweinberg1@gmail.com](mailto:kaweinberg1@gmail.com)

October 2-9  
Virginia Beach, VA  
2020 PWDCA National Specialty  
Water Trial Sat-Sun Oct. 3-4

Further information: [www.new-specialty.org](http://www.new-specialty.org)

Friday-Sunday, October 16-18  
Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton  
Del Valle Dog Club Shows  
PWDCNC Supported Entry Saturday, October 17,  
for Conformation, Obedience, Rally, and Agility  
Contact Ann Gaskell at [Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com)

October, TBD  
Ed Levin Park, Milpitas, Sandy Wool Site  
Annual PWDCNC Dogtoberfest  
and General Membership Meeting  
Lots of fun, food, games, and more!  
Acclaimed photographer Tonya Perme will  
again be at the Fest  
Contact Ann Gaskell at [Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com)

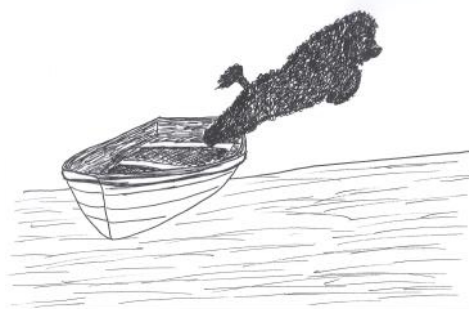
Friday, November 6  
Napa Valley Expo, Napa  
PWDCNC 2020 Regional Specialty  
Conformation, Sweeps, Obedience/Rally trials,  
Parada dos Amigos, Hospitality, Raffle and Auction,  
Specialty Dinner  
Contact Carol Irving at [carolirving@mac.com](mailto:carolirving@mac.com)

Friday-Monday, November 6-9  
Napa Valley Expo, Napa  
Four All-Breed Shows  
Details awaiting confirmation

Saturday-Monday, November 21-23  
Rancho Murieta  
PWDCNC-Hosted Agility Trials  
All-breed AKC Agility Trials – come to participate  
or watch. Support this big Club fundraiser!  
For info and entry: [www.AbbaDogs.com](http://www.AbbaDogs.com)  
Contact Kathy Weinberg at [kaweinberg1@gmail.com](mailto:kaweinberg1@gmail.com)

Sunday, December 13  
Dream Big Training Facility, Lodi  
AKC Scent Work Trial  
Hosted by PWDCNC  
Contact Ann Gaskell at [Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com)

Sunday, February 28, 2021, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
The Clubhouse  
3990 Paradise Valley Drive, Fairfield  
Annual Luncheon and General Membership Meeting  
Contact Ann Gaskell at [Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com)



# 2020 Annual Meeting

*By Casey Ingram*

The PWDCNC Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, February 16, 2020, at the Clubhouse at Paradise Valley in Fairfield. It was a beautiful setting and a great day to spend with fellow club members. Guests were greeted by Frank and Margaret Dietrich, helping to check everyone in with nametags and pre-purchased raffle tickets, and by Anne and Mike Paterson.

Carol Irving created a terrific slide show of member dogs as a background to the gathering and luncheon. It was so much fun seeing everyone's wonderful pups working, playing, and just being themselves!



Silent auction items were available for bid throughout the luncheon. The auction featured gorgeous metal yard stakes from the club's excess regional trophy stock, and wine generously donated by Chris and Janis Welsh. Regional trophy sponsorship pledges were available as well, as were purchases of club magnets and additional raffle tickets.

We were very fortunate that two of our founding members, Sherry Hanen and Becky Morin, were able to attend. Fellow past presidents, Sue Nelson, and Ali Vorhies, as well as Sherry Hanen, also attended. Immediate Past President Elaine Rasmussen was unable to attend but we know she was thinking about us! Current board members, Ann Gaskell, Julie Conger, Bill Waters, Cathy Lydon, Janis Welsh, Carol Irving, Carol Kupec, Casey Ingram, and Anne Paterson were in attendance as well.

As in previous years, just before the main meeting we were privileged to view a beautiful Rainbow Bridge Tribute for those beloved dogs who crossed in 2019. Many thanks to Carol Irving for such a touching presentation. We were again reminded of how much it means to share our lives with such special dogs.



New officers and board members were elected by acclaim, as there were no other nominations. Joining current members President Ann Gaskell, Vice President Janis Welsh, Treasurer Bill Waters, Corresponding Secretary Casey Ingram, Recording Secretary Cathy Lydon, Immediate Past President, Elaine Rasmussen, Directors Carol Irving, Carol Kupec, and Julie Conger, will be Dominick Amadeo. The board is looking forward to another successful year of service to the PWDCNC community! Retiring board member Anne Paterson will continue to remain active as Obedience/Rally Co-chair, and as an active member on the Trophy Committee.

Additionally, Ann Gaskell presented a special award and gift to Sue Nelson on behalf of the club for her tireless efforts, especially as Regional Specialty Show Chair for the past two years. Carol Irving has graciously agreed to step into the role of Specialty Chair for 2020.



Bill Waters recognized the tireless, continuous effort and hard work that Sherry Hanen continues to put into our club website. Sherry was presented with a special gift of one of the beautiful garden stakes.

We are pleased to report that Dave and Donna Hunt were voted in as regular members from associate status.

Carol Kupec presented beautiful certificates those who achieved new titles or certificates in 2019. It is amazing how much our members and their four-legged teammates can accomplish!

*More on next page ...*

[...2020 Annual Meeting, continued](#)

The final highlight to the meeting was the presentation of the Lloyd D'Augusta STAR Awards for 2019. This performance award celebrates the versatility and working drive of our breed, as well as the wonderful teamwork between handler and dog. Karen D'Augusta beautifully presented the awards. The Annual Award recognizes achievements over the previous year and the Lifetime Award acknowledges sustained excellence over several years. The PWDCNC maintains a perpetual trophy for the Lifetime Award in addition to the Annual Award trophy presented to each team. All teams receive a STAR pin in recognition of their accomplishments.

For 2019 seven teams were entered. The Annual Award was presented to Kathy Souza and Rivah, and the Lifetime Award was presented to Janis and Chris Welsh and Poppy. Congratulations to our 2019 award winners! We look forward to seeing what 2020 brings for this very special award.

Thanks to all who joined us for this Annual Meeting. As always, it was great to see everyone and celebrate the past year's accomplishments. We hope to see all of you again next year!



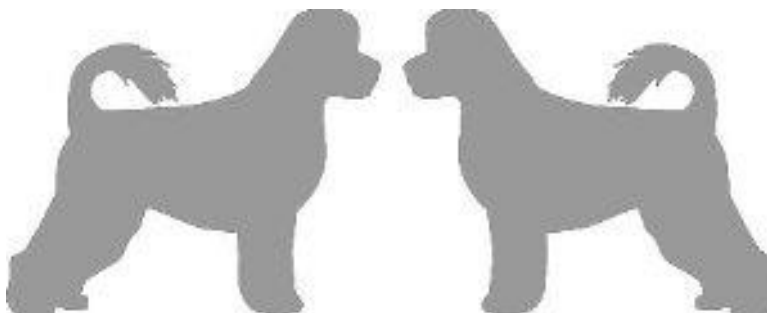
*STAR Award trophies and merchandise available to support the Award*



*Karen D'Augusta introduces the STAR Award presentation with the history of the award*



*From left to right: Kathy Souza, Annual Award winner; Janis Welsh, Lifetime Award winner; and Karen D'Augusta*



## 2020 Officers and Board of Directors

March 1, 2020 — February 28, 2021

PRESIDENT: Ann Gaskell

VICE PRESIDENT: Janis Welsh

TREASURER: Bill Waters

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cathy Lydon

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Casey Ingram

DIRECTORS:

Carol Irving, Carol Kupec, Julie Conger,  
Dominick Amadeo, Elaine Rasmussen (Past President)

## Club Committee Chairs

BREEDER REFERRAL: Linda Kelly

EQUIPMENT MANAGER: Carl Craig

HEALTH AND EDUCATION: Casey Ingram  
Co-chairs: Becky Morin, Margaret Dietrich

TREASURE CHEST (PWDCNC Store): Carol Kupec

HISTORIAN: Carol Irving

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP: Tanya McDonald

MEMBERSHIP: Ally Lantis

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: Carole Corbett

PROGRAMS: Ann Gaskell  
Assistant Co-chairs: Mike Paterson, Elinor Cullen

REGIONAL CLUB CONTACT: Casey Ingram

REGIONAL SPECIALTY: Carol Irving

RESCUE AND RELOCATION: Sue Nelson

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Sherry Hanen

## Activity/Performance Chairs

AGILITY: Kathy Weinberg

CONFORMATION: Becky Morin

OBEDIENCE & RALLY: Ann Gaskell  
Assistant Co-Chair: Anne Paterson

SCENT WORK: Kathy Souza

WATER WORK: Kathy Souza

## Wavies and Curlies

EDITORIAL BOARD: Casey Ingram, Carol Irving,  
Cathy Lydon, Frank and Margaret Dietrich

ADVISORY BOARD: Barb Avila, Elinor Cullen,  
Ann Gaskell, Sherry Hanen, Paula Li,  
Elaine Rasmussen, Kathy Souza, Bill Waters

*We would appreciate your comments and  
suggestions. Please email us at  
[wceditor@pwcnc.org](mailto:wceditor@pwcnc.org).*

*To reach any of the above personnel, consult the  
PWDCNC Membership Directory, or send email to  
[Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Gaskell@gmail.com) for forwarding.*

*For further information about the Club's activities,  
check out our website at <http://pwcnc.org>.*



# One Owner's Adventures with Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia

By Ellen Turner

In December 2013, Stella was twenty-two months old. She was a happy, healthy dog, easy to train, loving, and lively. What a chow hound! Her goal seemed to be to weigh five more pounds than her doctor recommended. She had completed her first two titles, Beginner Novice Obedience and Rally Novice. Life was good.

In mid-December I had a few friends over for a holiday celebration. Stella had been bribed with a bone to lie quietly on her bed in the living room while we ate snacks and drank wine. When I had escorted the last guest to the door and returned to begin cleaning up, I noticed that six deviled egg halves were gone from the plate on the coffee table. Stella was on her bed looking subdued but very pleased.

That night Stella did not eat her dinner—an historic first. I assumed that she was full of deviled eggs and gave her a short lecture on gluttony. Next day and for several days thereafter she ate little or nothing. I concluded that she was playing hard-ball. Having tasted people food, she wanted a permanent change of diet. “Sorry, little girl, expensive kibble is in your bowl. That’s it!”

Stella remained adamant, eating a few bites every day or so. After more than a week of this I took her for a weigh-in and an exam—the last appointment of the evening. Her doctor was very concerned. She had lost three pounds, her gums were yellow, and she was very anemic. I did not know at the time that these are typical symptoms of Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA), including the loss of appetite which I had mistakenly ascribed to Stella’s stubborn preference for people food.

That same night I took her to Sage Emergency and Specialty Care Hospital where she spent three days. After blood tests, urine tests, X-rays, and an ultrasound, the internal medicine doctor told me that she was pretty sure Stella had an auto-immune disease, IMHA. This is a life-threatening disease in which the body attacks and destroys its own red blood cells; in other words, the immune system becomes overactive. In an advanced state like Stella’s, the excessive levels of bilirubin cause the skin, gums and other mucus membranes to appear yellow.

IMHA moves very quickly, which is one reason its rate of cure is only 50%. Once the immune system goes crazy and starts destroying the red blood cells, the dog may deteriorate fast. Moreover, it is not easy to treat. A typical dog stays in the hospital many days, receives several blood transfusions, and is put on expensive medications. It’s a daunting prognosis with the odds of success being very difficult to face.

There is speculation about the causes of IMHA, but research has failed to reach any solid conclusions. It is however generally



Ellen and Stella

agreed that the susceptibility to one of several trigger factors is genetic. Some of the **possible** trigger factors include:

- Drugs used for treatment of another condition; implicated drugs include penicillin, trimethoprim-sulfa, and methimazole
- Insect bites
- Spot-on flea and tick preventatives
- Immunizations
- Ingestion of zinc (pennies, board game pieces, zippers, zinc oxide)

In most cases the specific trigger is never identified. Breeds that are more prone to IMHA than others include Cocker Spaniels, Poodles, Havanese, and Irish Setters. IMHA is *not* frequently found in PWDs. It is, however, genetic. When Stella was diagnosed, I was told that IMHA is in her line.

The role of recent immunizations in IMHA is highly debated. Most doctors would never discourage immunizations in otherwise healthy dogs. While Stella had active IMHA she received no immunizations, which, of course, put her at risk for other diseases. We kept her as isolated from other dogs as possible. When she finally remained in remission for more than a few months we gradually gave her some immunizations that the doctor considered the most vital.

IMHA can be idiopathic (primary), or secondary (caused by some other disease such as cancer). Stella’s IMHA seemed to be primary. She remained listless and still not interested in eating. I felt very worried, plus so guilty that I had allowed confirmation bias to misinterpret the severity of her situation. The only good news was that I had pet insurance, which helped tremendously with the bills.<sup>1</sup>

Treatment for IMHA usually focuses on immunosuppressive therapy. Stella began with prednisone, mycophenolate, gabapentin, aspirin, and prilosec. I was concerned about side effects, especially with the prednisone, but felt I had no choice, given the urgency of her situation.

*Continued on next page ...*

## ...Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia, continued

Thus began a saga that continues to this day. Stella's health did not stabilize for more than two years. She regained her appetite but had much less stamina. First weekly then monthly blood tests revealed occasional arcs of improvement followed by persistent relapses. When there was indication that her liver was damaged by the prednisone it was discontinued. For the first two years the prognosis was not good. Her frequent relapses concerned the medical staff—and her owner. Her red blood count would rise for a few weeks only to drop severely. This common pattern with IMHA patients occurs in twenty per cent of patients. Throughout this difficult time our Sage doctor remained persistent, supportive, and creative.

With the encouragement of Stella's doctor at Sage, I decided to explore additional holistic treatment but did not discontinue the medications she was receiving. Stella's diet was expanded to include daily cruciferous vegetables, which she was happy to accept. She was less comfortable with the acupuncture visits to a new doctor, but I was impressed at her complete relaxation once the needles were inserted. Recently I read about a Bio-Algae concentrate food product which is advertised as activating the body's ability to heal. This food product contains superfood ingredients (antioxidants), derived from four microalgae. I certainly would have tried it on Stella had it been available then.

After about nine months of these varied strategies Stella regained her positive outlook on life, but her stamina was permanently affected. Currently she has short bursts of intense energy, followed by rest—kind of like her owner.

I don't know what I would have done without pet insurance. Each CBC (wide spectrum blood test) cost almost \$300 and these were needed bi-monthly for the first year. Medications were also pricey. Mycophenolate alone cost \$106 per month for three years.

Stella is nine now. She had active IMHA for two years and has been in remission for five years. She takes no prescription meds and her blood tests are normal thus far. She takes supplements and three mgs. of melatonin twice daily. Research indicates that melatonin can be effective in preventing relapses. Doctors don't have an explanation for this, but it seems to help Stella. The melatonin does not make her sleepy, and her blood tests are now only twice a year. Stella loves her trips to Sage. When the nurse comes to the waiting room to get her, I drop the leash, so Stella can race the length of the room to greet her.

I feel grateful to have received so much support from the Sage staff and from our training group at TopnOTCH K9 Training. Stella is currently competing in Rally Master, playing ball, swimming, and bringing great joy to her family and friends. She maintains a healthy weight and would love to have a few deviled eggs. If you see her at the picnic, please don't give her any!

---

<sup>1</sup>The Trupanion policy I have does not have a maximum payout per incident. When one purchases the insurance, one selects a deductible amount (mine is \$500) which affects the premium amount. Currently our monthly payment is a bit over \$50 per month. The policy does not cover examination fees or immunizations and possibly other procedures which I have not needed.

If you have a story to tell about a medical condition you and your PWD have encountered and would be willing to share with others, please contact us at [wceditor@pwcnc.org](mailto:wceditor@pwcnc.org). Your experience may help other PWD owners identify health issues and give them support in learning to live with them.