



# WAVIES & CURLIES

Newsletter of the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Northern California

JULY 2020

## *A Message from the President*

I hope this finds everyone doing well.

This is an unprecedented time we are all experiencing. Most, if not all of us, have been sheltering in place. We now spend our days at home. Our dogs love it. They are sure this is all for them. They want to be active. They want to play. They will happily get into trouble.

The PWDNC had many activities planned for 2020. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has forced us to cancel many of our activities. Most dog shows have been canceled nationwide. In California, our Regional Specialty in Napa has been canceled, as well as our three supported entries at Woofstock, Del Monte Kennel Club, and Del Valle.

At the present time we are still hoping to have our water trial in October, our Agility trials in November, and our Scent Work trial in December. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

Meanwhile we are home with our dogs. What can we do with them? We have lots of time to fill, as they eagerly look to us for activity. AKC has come to the rescue! Their website has lots to offer.

Are you and your dog inside? AKC offers **Great Indoor Games to Play with Your Dog**. Here is the link: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/lifestyle/great-indoor-games-to-play-with-your-dog/>. They also offer **How To Keep Your Dog Entertained Indoors**, found at <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/how-to-keep-your-dog-entertained-indoors/>.



*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*

Want to venture outside? AKC helps with **A Mentally Stimulated Dog is A Happy One**. It is also a dog that doesn't get into as much trouble creating its own activities. You can find this at <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/mentally-stimulated-happy-dog/>.

Would you like to earn some titles while at home? AKC offers Trick Dog titles (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Performer, and Elite Performer) that can be earned at home. These are all done remotely, at home, videoed by your cell phone, and sent to a certified Trick Dog Evaluator. The evaluator can approve your tricks, and award you a certification toward your title if you qualify. To officially have the title recorded, you must register it with AKC.

To learn more about Trick Dog, including how to teach your special tricks to your dog, even just for fun, AKC gives you all you need to know at <https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/>.

Not only are Trick Dog tricks fun to do with your dog, but also the recorded bloopers can be hilarious. Keep those bloopers so you can share them with the rest of us. With a PWD, I guarantee, you will have some bloopers.

There will also be some beautiful performances for Performer and Elite Performer titles. We want to see them too!

Itching to get started competing and titling in Obedience and Rally? AKC is now offering the **AKC Rally Novice Virtual Pilot Program**. You can get your Rally Novice title without leaving home! Here is the link: <https://www.akc.org/sports/rally/rally-virtual-entry-pilot/>.

Looking for fun things to do at home with your dog? AKC offers **AKC Titles & Programs You Can Do From Home**, at this link: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/sports/akc-titles-programs-can-home/>.

Just walking your dog will qualify you to receive a **FIT DOG** logo car magnet. Who knew? Details can be found at <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-family-dog-program/akc-fit-dog/>. In addition to **FIT DOG**, AKC offers suggestions for other healthy activities. Look for details at <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/how-to-get-fit-with-your-dog/>.

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## Mark Your Calendar for These Exciting Upcoming Events!

**Friday-Sunday, October 2-4**  
**Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, Pleasanton**

**PWDCNC Water Trials**

Contact Kathy Souza at [pwdlover@pacbell.net](mailto:pwdlover@pacbell.net)

**October, TBD**  
**Ed Levin Park, Milpitas, Sandy Wool Site**

**Annual PWDCNC Dogtoberfest  
and General Membership Meeting**

Lots of fun, food, games, and more!

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

**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)

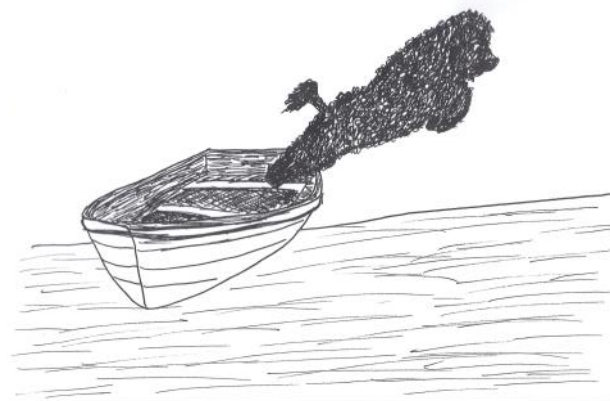
## President's Message, continued

There are many virtual classes and webinars that are available. The PWDCNC hosted Dr. Jean Dodds, DVM, for a live webinar presentation on COVID-19 and Companion Pets. This recorded webinar can be found in the Members Only section on our website. It is also summarized in this newsletter.

As we all navigate through the uncertainty of COVID-19, may 2020 be filled with lots of PWD love, laughter, and craziness. And whatever you and your PWDs do, please take photos or record it. We would love to post it in our Wavies and Curlies or on our website, so we can laugh, commiserate, and learn.

Please take care. Stay safe and well.

Thank you very much,  
Ann Gaskell



## Progress on Club Website Revision

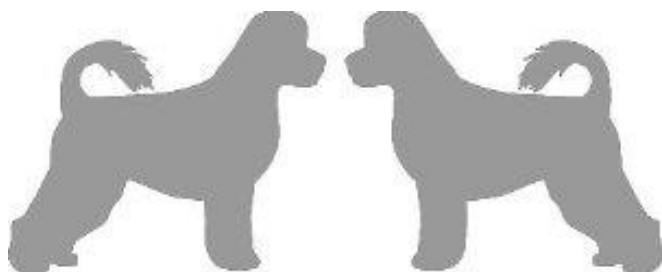
By Sherry Hanen, Website Coordinator

For the past several months the PWDCNC website, <https://pwdcnc.org/>, has been undergoing renovations! It had been quite some time since a general overhaul and clean-up had been performed on the site. The Spring-Cleaning event uncovered many old items and out of date material. There has been a systematic review of the site with the intent to rid it of obsolete material and replace those items with updated information for our membership. Please take a moment to scroll through the site.

You will discover a place to look for reference when you have questions relating to our club and our programs, including many new items. Among many other things, you will find links to prior editions of *Wavies and Curlies*, and lists of the status of local and national events (e.g. what's been canceled due to Covid-19).

I DO want to hear from you when you find something still missing or incorrect. There are often many ways to access the same page. When those various routes do not lead to the right place, let us know so that it can be corrected. Please understand that the News and Announcements section is made up of events and items of interest. It only moves forward when something new is added, so you will indeed see out of date information there. These older items will fade away as new material is added. So, you don't need to mention these. But anything else, please let us know.

The newest major addition to the site is a Members Only section, where currently you can view the Jean Dodds, DVM, webinar. The section is nearly finished, and already functional. Be among the first to try it and let us know what you think! To log in the first time, click REGISTER and follow the instructions to choose a user name and password.



### Webinar with Dr. Jean Dodds

By Ann Gaskell

On May 7, 2020, as a benefit to our members only, the club hosted a webinar presented by Dr. Jean Dodds, DVM.

Dr. Dodds became a veterinarian in 1964 after graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College, and has spent more than five decades as a clinical research veterinarian. In 1986 Dr. Dodds established *Hemopet*, the nation's first 501(c)3 non-profit animal blood bank and greyhound rescue/adoption program.

Dr. Dodds' topic for the webinar for the PWDCNC was COVID-19 and Companion Pets.

The webinar was live, with a question and answer period immediately following the presentation. The entire webinar, including the question and answer period, was recorded. The recording, including the PowerPoint visuals, are available to PWDCNC members to view at any time.

Dr. Dodds' recorded webinar on COVID-19 and Companion Pets can be located under the Members Only section of our website. Sign in at the login page, [pwdcnc.org/login/](https://pwdcnc.org/login/).

## 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: open

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP: open

MEMBERSHIP: Linda Birdwell

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: Carole Corbett

PROGRAMS: Ann Gaskell

REGIONAL CLUB CONTACT: Casey Ingram

REGIONAL SPECIALTY: Carol Irving

RESCUE AND RELOCATION: Julie Conger

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Sherry Hanen

## Activity/Performance Chairs

AGILITY: Kathy Weinberg

CONFORMATION: Becky Morin

OBEDIENCE & RALLY: Ann Gaskell  
*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@pawdnc.org](mailto:wceditor@pawdnc.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://pawdnc.org>.*





# Interviews with PWDCNC Charter Members

## A brief historical introduction: from Portugal to the PWDCNC

By Margaret Dietrich

For centuries Portuguese fishermen relied on working dogs to herd fish, carry messages, and retrieve. To meet these challenges successful dogs had to be strong, intelligent, adaptable, and willing to work under adverse conditions. But just as tractors replaced Clydesdales, modern fishing gear and communication systems rendered these dogs' skills obsolete, and their numbers dwindled. We owe the continued existence of this admirable breed to Vasco Bensaude, a shipping tycoon, who was impressed with a dog named Leao's performance on a fishing boat, and persuaded the fisherman to give him up. Leao sired seven litters. With Leao, Senhor Bensaude founded the Algarbiorum Kennels. In 1967, upon the death of Sr. Bensaude, the care of his kennel of fourteen dogs fell to Senhora Conchita Cintron de Castelo Branco. She soon had ninety dogs and so had to figure out what to do with her exploding population. She renamed the kennel Al-Gharb and wrote glowing descriptions of this unusual breed to friends in the U.S., as well as the Portuguese Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Deyanne and Herbert Miller in Connecticut imported the first PWDs to the U.S. in 1968. They also acquired an additional bitch, Chenze, who lived 15 years and produced numerous offspring. The Millers, whose kennel name was Farmion, were passionate about developing the breed and fortunately had sufficient financial means to persevere. The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America (PWDCA) was established in 1972 with Herbert Miller as its president [1]. Throughout the 70s Deyanne Miller was tireless in working to place her dogs in good homes where the bitches could be productive. She distributed her dogs widely, not only in the northeastern states but also in California, Florida, Montana, Michigan, Texas, and Washington [2].

One of the people who got dogs from the Millers was Kitty Braund. Born in 1920 and raised in San Francisco, Kitty was an actress on radio and in vaudeville as well as an author of both fiction and nonfiction books. She and her husband Cyril, "Buzz," a Captain flying B-17s in WW II, lived in Montana where they were respected breeders of Dalmatians, Havanese, and Portuguese Water Dogs under the kennel name Roughrider. Her male, Diver, was the top-producing sire for eleven years and her bitch, Seeley, was the top-producing bitch for many years. Buzz died in 2003, and Kitty retired from breeding in 2008 [3]. Kitty's immense influence on the breed in Northern California is evidenced by the fact that each of the three charter members contributing to this issue got dogs from her to start their kennels.



PWDs were admitted to the AKC miscellaneous class in 1981 and began competing in the AKC working class in 1984. At that time 182 PWDs had AKC registration [4]. Interest in the breed expanded westward, so by 1992 there were over sixty PWD owners in Northern California involved in establishing the PWDCNC. Today fourteen of these members are still active in the club. We have asked these charter members to reflect on how they got involved, what it was like in 1992, and what they would like to see develop in the years ahead. This is Part I, which features the reminiscences of Becky Morin, Vivien Pace, and Cheryl Smith. The series will be continued in the next issue of *Wavies and Curlies*.

### References

1. Early history adapted from Correa, Paolo, *Portuguese Water Dog*, pages 12-14
2. *The Courier*, Winter 2018, page 16
3. *The Courier*, Fall 2019, page 18
4. *The Courier*, Spring 2020, page 16

### Kathryn Braund, 1920–2020

On July 4, 2020, admirers of PWDs lost an influential and dedicated friend when Kathryn "Kitty" Braund passed away at the age of 99. In addition to over twenty years of breeding focused on consistent conformation and compatible temperament, another major contribution to the breed is her classic book *The Complete Portuguese Water Dog*, which she wrote in collaboration with Deyanne Miller. Kitty was the editor and publisher of the *Courier* for twelve years. She authored two dog training books, as well as several other books, both fiction and non-fiction, finishing her fifth novel at the age of 97.



## Interview with Becky Morin

### ***How did you become aware of the breed?***

In 1982 I was looking for another breed to go with my Alaskan Malamutes that would not only be compatible but willing to do all the activities I did with my dogs. During this time, I was showing all over the western United States and Canada and had met quite a few breeds that I thought would meet my needs. I had refined my search to Otterhounds and Portuguese Water Dogs and was contacting breeders across the U.S. for information on their dogs. Otterhounds were having a hard time passing their OFA hip evaluations and because of their size I decided to go with Portuguese Water Dogs. My sister, who lived in Portugal with her Estrela Mountain Dogs was also researching dogs for me. I wanted a biddable dog that could do everything I did with my Malamutes, and if they didn't shed even better. I had seen several water dogs at shows, usually owned by folks who owned other breeds. Initially they were shown in the rare breed shows or the miscellaneous class, but once AKC recognized them they were easier to find. Some friends with Malamutes had a couple of Portuguese Water Dogs and knew I was interested in the breed. Their first dog Corky (Shanesca Pico Alto) from Deyanne Miller was a black wavy, and Skipper (CH Bandido Do Mar) a brown curly from Sonya Santos. My friends actually offered me Skipper, a beautiful dog that had recently finished his championship from the puppy classes as they were getting out of Portuguese Water Dogs. Unfortunately, I had to pass, as I had several adult male Malamutes at the time and didn't think I should bring an adult male water dog into the mix. Although Skipper had a beautiful disposition, something not all PWDs at the time had, I was not sure how 3 adult male Malamutes would tolerate a new adult male in the pack. I did love Skipper and his brother Buckwheat from a later litter so much that I eventually got a female, Corrie (CH Xacara Do Mar CD) from Sonya Santos in 1990.

### ***What PWD characteristics were attractive to you?***

Non-shedding (I had 9 double coated sled dogs)! A good working dog that likes to please their owner. Intelligent and able to think on their own. Good size to go with my other dogs. Willing to do whatever was asked of them, and their silly yet joyful personality. The water dog is a beautiful dog to behold, such presence and strength.

### ***What other breed(s) did you have experience with before you met the PWDs?***

I grew up with a wide variety of dogs as a child, including a Toy Poodle, Boxer, Lhasa Apso and multiple mutts. In college I bought my first Alaskan Malamute and got interested in sledding, which led to more Malamutes, Siberian Huskies, and Alaskans, which all ran on my sled team along with a few of a friend's Dalmatians in the later years. I was heavily involved in rescue in the 80s and 90s, and rescued several dogs including a German Shepherd which I kept. In the 80s I traveled to shows all over the western United States and Canada handling many breeds, including Akitas, Belgian Shepherds, Labradors, Golden Retrievers,

Great Danes, Dalmatians, Corgis, Siberians, Rottweilers, Alaskan Malamutes, and Chows. I also spent many years working and training to correct bad behaviors in otherwise good dogs to keep the dog alive and in their home. I have always loved all animals and really enjoy working and training dogs.



*CH Farmion Geo UD (Diver)*

### ***Describe getting your first PWD(s).***

I spent several years meeting and interviewing breeders and evaluating their dogs before I finally found a stud dog that I fell completely in love with. Diver (CH Farmion Geo UD) owned by Buzz and Kitty Braund was that dog. I had written Deyanne looking for a puppy, and she had given me Kitty's information and thought I should go meet her. I met Kitty at a show in Montana we were both attending in 1985. Diver was exactly what I had been searching for, a gloriously beautiful dog with a wonderful working temperament. That year Kitty bred him to a bitch named Onix Tafia. I was able to see several of the pups from this litter but determined it was not what I was looking for.



*CH Roughrider Pescador De Toraq CD (Mickey)*

I had met her bitch Seeley as a 6-month-old pup while in Montana and asked her to let me know when she bred Seeley. Seeley's first breeding was in 1986 and I was able to see several pups from the breeding and loved what I saw, so I put a deposit on a show male from her next breeding. Mickey was born in March of 1987 and the journey began. I got my second pup, a female named Maddie, about a year later from Kitty out of the beautiful brown curly boy CH Oliverio Agua Linda. My third dog,

*More on next page ...*

## Becky Morin, continued

another female, Corrie, came from Sonya Santos in 1990. All three dogs earned their Championships and Companion Dog (CD) titles in Obedience. Mickey and Maddie both ran on my sled team with Mickey in lead and Maddie in the Point position. We competed all over Northern California and Oregon and even did the 72-mile Dune run in Oregon along the coast. Mickey spent most of his first year living on the South Fork of the American River where I was a commercial whitewater guide. He spent a lot of time in the boats and enjoying the river.



Left: CH Roughriders Madeira De Toraq CD (Maddie)  
Right: CH Xacara Do Mar CD (Corrie)

### **What were your aspirations for a Northern California PWD club?**

A group of us decided we wanted a presence on the West Coast, specifically Northern California, for like-minded individuals who loved the breed. We envisioned get-togethers to enjoy a variety of activities with our dogs. We did parties, specialties, workshops, training, and even white-water rafting. We have evolved and flourished every year, and each year we celebrate the wonderful spirit of our dogs.

### **What goals would you like to see the club pursue now?**

I would love to see more involvement with pet owners. For example, help them get involved in the sport of dogs by offering and encouraging workshops where they can learn something easy and get a title by the end of the workshop, such as CGC or TKN. Once new owners see how easy it is to train their dog, they will be encouraged to try different activities. As the Conformation and Trophy Chair for our club, I have worked hard to make our supported entries and the Regional Specialty into sought-after events with beautiful trophies and a fun and lively atmosphere. Together with the Obedience Chairs we have offered unique trophies for the top winners and also those earning a leg in their classes in an effort to increase interest in Obedience and Rally. Bringing together all venues in the club to help each other with a variety of performance events not only grows our club but helps get others interested in the club and activities. I would like to see more support of different venues in our sport to encourage our pet owners.

### **How do you believe the breed has improved since 1992?**

Temperaments have come a long way since I got involved in the breed in the early 80s. The overall health of the breed has improved, with more breeders opening up and talking about issues while working to find tests. The PWDCA, our National Club, was considered a beacon for other clubs as we moved to seek cures and tests for diseases found in our breed. The Health and Litter Log was started as an effort to track these breed-specific issues and to help breeders have more information prior to breeding their dog. More owners are doing performance activities with their dogs and thinking outside the box (Lure Coursing, Field Work, Scent Work, Barn Hunt, etc). I came from sled dogs and hence my first water dogs ran on my sled team, and did weight pull and back packing. These dogs are able to do just about any sport or event involving a dog, from retrieving game to herding to search and rescue. When I was a commercial whitewater guide in the mid-80s through the 90s my dogs would kayak and raft with me. This is such a versatile breed and they are so very willing to do whatever is asked of them. Sometimes it is scary how easily they will shift from one sport to the next.

### **What would you like to see altered or improved in the next 5-10 years?**

In the breed, I would like to see continued research on illnesses and diseases that affect our dogs and more time and resources spent on educating puppy buyers to help keep them away from poorly bred dogs and mass producers. For the PWDNC I would like to see more work on education and training offered for new owners, as well as encouragement for owners and breeders to work together towards the betterment of our breed. I would encourage the development of more fun activities that educate, help train, and keep owners at all levels of experience involved.

### **Describe briefly the litters you have had and some highlights among your dogs.**

My kennel name is Toraq. My first litter was out of Mickey and Maddie who produced multiple Champions and were bred together twice. Maddie's third and final litter was out of Thor of Dell Mountain which produced some beautiful pups, and is the reason I chose to breed to Thor again 28 years later. My dogs have garnered Championships, Grand Championships, group placements, and performance titles from just about all performance venues offered, but the biggest accomplishment is their overall temperament and willingness to please. I placed a dog in a home with a severely handicapped man who later told me if he hadn't had Spirit, he would have taken his life. Many times, Spirit kept him alive because he couldn't bear the thought of Spirit being alone or missing him. That is the true spirit of the Portuguese Water Dog.



## Interview with Vivien Pace

### ***How did you become aware of the breed?***

I had been showing and breeding Shetland Sheepdogs when I saw my first Portuguese Water Dog, in 1988. I thought they were very interesting, and maybe my 16-year-old son would like one. Little did I know what a life-changing experience owning PWDs would be.

### ***Describe getting your first PWD(s).***

I bought my first PWD in 1989 from Katherine “Kitty” Braund. His name was Jack. Two years later, along came Zoe from Joanne Forsythe. And six months after that, Zada, from Linda Fowler.

### ***What were your aspirations for a Northern California PWD club?***

Around the same time that we got Zoe and Zada, a group of dedicated PWD owners, including myself, decided to form a local club, the Portuguese Water Dog Club of Northern California. We met frequently for a few months to write the by-laws we eventually sent to AKC. We became the largest PWD regional club, and we started to have Regional Specialties and finally the National Specialty.

### ***How do you believe the breed has improved since 1992?***

When I started in the breed, we had a test for GM-1 Storage Disease. Then the test for PRA, the eye disease, came along. Overall, I would say the breed is healthier now than it was in 1988. I certainly see a lot more lion trims today. As a breed,

they have gone from rare, uncommon, to being famed residents of the White House!

### ***Describe briefly the litters you have had and some highlights among your dogs.***

I had 5 litters under the name Lisbon, and I was co-breeder with Valerie Newman’s litter.

My crowning achievement in the breed was being the breeder of the 1995 National Specialty Best of Breed winner, Ch. Nautiques Neta Isabel, “Isabel.” Linda Fowler was co-breeder. Isabel was the first bitch to win our National!

### ***Do you have any other comments on your experiences with PWDs?***

Learning to groom my PWDs led me to buy my first grooming salon in Concord, CA. Over the following 29 years, I groomed a LOT of PWDs. I even produced a laminated grooming guide that is still available on the [4mypwds](#) website.

I used to tell people that owning a Portuguese Water Dog was like an “E” ticket\* ride at Disneyland! But Disneyland gave up their book of tickets a long time ago! They certainly are a life changing breed. I miss them all very much, but I can’t keep up with them. So, I bought a Pug!

*\*Editors’ note:* In the old days, Disney offered a book of tickets with rides varying from the mundane to thoroughly attention grabbing, much like the daily behavior of a PWD. The most exciting (and expensive) were the “E” ticket rides.

## Interview with Cheryl Smith

### ***How did you become aware of the breed?***

Kitty Braund had published her first book, *The Complete Portuguese Water Dog*. I happened to find it at a pet store and took it home for my husband to read. He contacted Kitty and was put on her waiting list for a pup from her next litter. Soon afterwards she called and said she had a 9-month-old she had placed in New York that needed to be rehomed. In 1987 our oldest daughter had started her first year at Syracuse University and we were to meet her in New York City for the weekend. We made arrangements with the owner and were able to meet Woola in front of the Pierre Hotel. It was love at first sight and we made arrangements for Woola to be shipped to San Francisco.

### ***Describe getting your first PWD(s).***

Our first PWD, as noted above, was from Kitty Braund. Our second PWD and foundation bitch was Splash, Roughrider Sereia Anelada, sired by Diver, Farmion Geo. Splash went on to produce many champions and received the PWDCA’s Producer of Merit. She was the complete opposite of Woola. She showed us another side of PWDs. I have yet to meet any PWDs that

have the same personality. This often shows up in the temperament test we perform on our litters.

### ***What PWD characteristics were attractive to you?***

I love their clever way of thinking. If you don’t entertain them, they will entertain themselves and maybe not in the way you would prefer. One has to have a sense of humor.

### ***What other breed(s) did you have experience with before you meet the PWDs?***

We had raised and bred Standard and Miniature Poodles. We were still new in the conformation world and learned a lot about “politics” from other poodle owners.

### ***How do you believe the breed has improved since 1992?***

In 1992 every dog was shown in the retriever clip and was a curly; slowly the wavy coat and the lion clip took over. As for improvement, there has been significant progress on health issues. The first test we had for GM-1 was a blood draw that had to be shipped overnight. We didn’t know about improper coats as such until it appeared in a litter. Hair loss was another

[More on next page ...](#)



## Cheryl Smith, continued

issue that was solved by breeding curly to wavy. It seemed to occur in some matings of curly to curly. We had dogs CERF tested but didn't really know about PRA as it was just beginning to be discovered. Since it was a late-onset problem (around 9 years of age), all members of the breeding pairs had long since retired after producing many carriers or affected dogs. In 1992 Dr. Aguirre developed a method to determine if a dog had PRA. We had a beautiful bitch that we were getting ready to breed and we found out she was affected.

### ***Describe briefly the litters you have had and some highlights among your dogs.***

My husband David and I bred for over 30 years under the kennel name Dacher and had many beautiful litters. The greatest pleasure was the people we met. We are still receiving Christmas cards from many of them. It is sad when we receive the call telling of the death of one of our old timers. We were primarily interested in Conformation. We had one PWD that went Best in Show just before the National Specialty in Gray Summit, Missouri, in 1996. We were awarded Awards of Merit at many other National Specialties.

### ***What were your recollections of the formation of a Northern California PWD club and your aspirations for it?***

When we bought our first PWD in 1987, the breed was still very rare, and there might only be 6 or 8 at a show. As I began to meet other owners at the shows, I found that they seemed like a fun bunch of people. I think we began percolating the idea of a club around 1990. Several of us would meet once a month to work on bylaws, and other necessary documents to begin the process. There was a lot of trial and error, and we learned along the way. We held several events to see how many people might really be interested in forming a club. We found out if you provide food they will come! As a particular interest, I wanted the club to become a licensed member of the AKC so we could hold our own Regional Specialty.

### ***What goals would you like to see the club pursue now?***

It is so difficult now to recruit volunteers. When the club was forming, we had the advantage of inventing the wheel. That is



*Cheryl and David Smith with young friend*

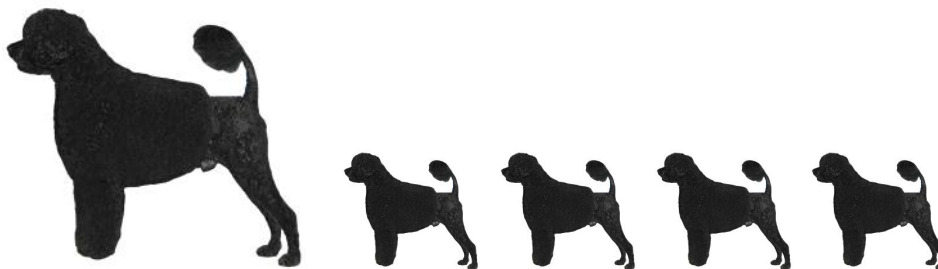
always fun and stimulating. Everything was new to us. We had bumps along the way, but we had a great team of workers. I still see the club as a support group for new owners. I love the various events that have been held over the years.

### ***What would you like to see altered/improved in the next 5-10 years?***

I don't see a need for change. It is difficult to find new members so just for the club to continue would be great. Many members are beginning to age out and I don't see many new younger members joining. It is understandable with everyone's crazy schedules.

### ***Were there any events/incidents that were especially enjoyable, humorous, or devastating?***

Hosting our first National Specialty in 1994 only a short time after forming the club was challenging and exciting. See the club's history site [www.PWDCNC-history.org](http://www.PWDCNC-history.org) for how we auditioned for this specialty in the preceding year.



# Antics, Adventures, and Awards

Please enjoy these delightful pictures of our dogs' recent adventures — a bit of joy in these difficult times.



Norman (L) and Teddy (R),  
near starvation,  
opening their kibble

## Ann Gaskell

with Norman and Teddy

Teddy, proud of his Championship,  
won at Palm Springs in January



## Jo Belton

with Odin



I'm ready for social distancing!

## Carol & Dave Kupec

with Paco (black) and Rio (Brown)



Everyone has new stay-at-home  
haircuts!



First water practice of the year  
in a friend's pool



Hard day at the stay-at-home office

[More on next page ...](#)





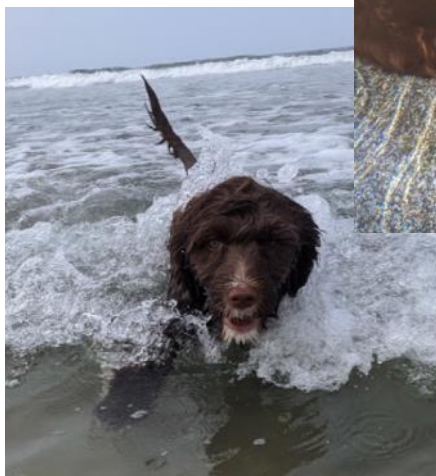
*...Antics, etc., continued*

*Becky Morin*

with Triss



Chillaxing!



Lion of the sea

*Sue Nelson*

with Otis



I'm a Fast Cat now!



Bringin' home the bling.  
So proud of my boy!



Yep. It's right there!

In one weekend at the 2020 Shasta KC show,  
**Otis** established himself as No. 4 PWD  
Fast Cat for the year,  
and obtained three new Scent Work titles

*More on next page ...*

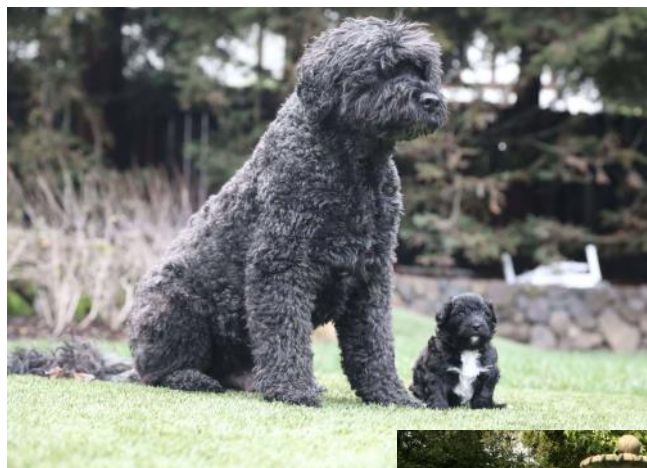


*...Antics, etc., continued*

*Kathy Souza*  
with Greta



Greta, Sealsle the Divine Garbo.  
I'm so happy to join the family!



When I grow up...  
pup with Fausto

*George Ziemba*  
with friends



They're called water dogs  
for a reason!  
Bodie in fountain  
Fausto on edge  
Bacchus on ground



New PWD sport — relay races!



# Who Says You Can't Teach an Old Dog New Tricks?

By Paula Li

Many members of our PWD community are sheltering with their dog friends. What better time than this to teach/learn new tricks? Regardless of whether your PWD has been in your life for a long or a short time, tricks can be fun, and they build a working relationship between you. For those in the show world and who have earned other titles in Conformation, Performance, and Obedience, perhaps this time at home could create a space for you to have fun with your dog. Tricks can be a relaxing way of training. Tricks are a blast for both the owner and the dog!

You can't go to class due to coronavirus, you say? No worries! AKC has you covered. If you want to start with some novice tricks, you are able to view instructional videos on the AKC site at <https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/>. They teach tricks such as crawl, get in box, high five, hoop, paws up, push up, shake, sit in box, spin and twist, touch, etc.

There are two important considerations I want to emphasize here, however. First, do NOT rush the training. No one can accomplish overnight what the AKC videos show. Secondly, keep in mind the word "shaping." This is very important, especially for training/learning tricks. The final achievement happens over time. The behavior has to be shaped over many weeks and months. For example, if you want your dog friend to walk around an object (like a cone), you first start with a food lure and you walk around the cone with him/her. Next, try to walk around without the lure some of the time. Next, try to have the dog walk around without you walking around too. Next, tell the dog to walk around while you are standing a little distance from him/her. Next, increase the distance. Your final goal is to stand 6 feet from the cone with your dog and when you say "go around" the dog would walk to the cone, go around it, and come back to you. For each of the above "nexts," you are shaping the behavior that you want. Each of those "nexts"



*"Bond, Jane Bond"*

*Magic and I on the Jane Bond set  
(musical freestyle)*



might consist of a daily lesson for 2 weeks or more. If you proceed too quickly, the shaping has not been done effectively, and you may need to backtrack before going to the next "next." Be patient; sheltering at home will offer you and your dog friend lots of opportunities for interacting.

While you are having fun with the tricks, you may consider getting an AKC Trick Dog Title for your dog. At present AKC offers 5 Trick Dog titles: Novice (TKN), Intermediate (TKI), Advanced (TKA), Performer (TKP), and Elite Performer (TKE). The best news is that as of June 16, 2020, you can be evaluated for these titles by submitting a video to an AKC Evaluator (yours truly among them). This is the AKC's response to the stay-at-home orders and the inaccessibility of shows or venues. Of course, you will need to follow the guidelines and requirements for each title. For example, for the Elite Performer title, you must have a script; the routine must tell a story; you must perform in front of an audience; and the video cannot be edited or cut. The video guidelines for the beginner titles are not as strict. You can view the title applications and requirements on the AKC web page <https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/resources/trick-dog-applications/>.

The option to video-tape your application from home is a low-stress option for submitting an application for a title. Don't worry. AKC is not looking for perfection. Just be sure to fill out the checklist for all the tricks covered. You can find the video Magic and I submitted for the TKE (Elite Performer title) on the web page <https://paulali.smugmug.com/Magical-Performance/2/n-pfH2d8/i-J8vXqLw>. You will see that, because we were required to do a single take without editing, there are many mistakes. But as long as we fulfilled the tricks listed on the application, we were awarded the title. And boy, did we have fun doing it! If we can do it, you can too!!!

*Editors' note:* An earlier description of the AKC Tricks program and Magic's and Paula's adventures can be found in the December, 2017, issue of Wavies & Curlies, available on the PWDNC website, at <https://tinyurl.com/trick2017>.

# Strategies for Breeding Better Dogs — Hip Evaluations

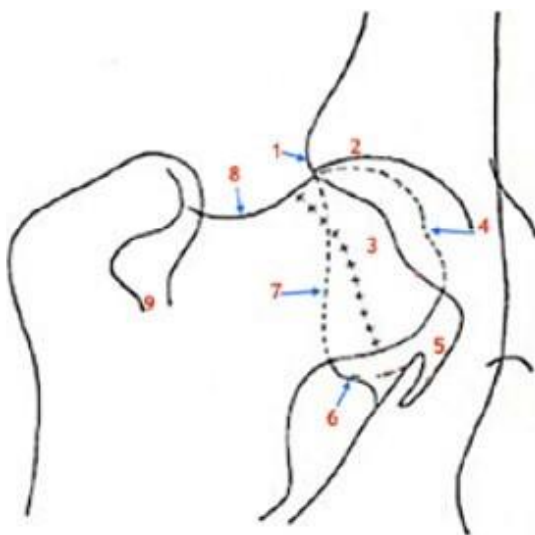
By Becky Morin

Dog breeding is an art form. Breeders must use a variety of palettes in order to improve their breeding programs, while keeping the essence of the breed traits and characteristics that make their breed unique. A good breeder doesn't look only at pedigrees and phenotypic traits when determining which dogs should be bred together, but also at ways to improve the overall health of their established lines. This article discusses and compares two different evaluations available today for hip dysplasia, and the ways a breeder may try to reduce or eliminate the risk of this genetic trait in their lines. The evaluations of the two Portuguese Water Dogs in the comparison are presented with the owner's (this author's) permission to show specific examples of both techniques.

The hip evaluation has been one of the gold standards in dog breeding for over 50 years. For decades these evaluations have been done by the Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA). OFA got its start in 1966 as the brainchild of John Olin. Mr. Olin, an astute businessman, was an avid hunter and breeder of Labrador Retrievers under the kennel name Nilo. He was determined to develop the finest retrievers in the country for hunting, and he owned one of the most titled field dogs of all time, King Buck. Mr. Olin took many steps to improve his stock, from buying outside the U.S. to building a modern state-of-the-art kennel, complete with an isolation ward. He studied the history and performance of various lines and noticed hip dysplasia was impacting the performance of his dogs. He became the driving force for organizing the Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA) to control this genetic disease, with the hope of finding a cure. OFA's initial mission was to provide radiographic evaluation, data management, and genetic counseling for canine hip dysplasia.

Radiographs submitted to the OFA must follow the American Veterinary Medical Association recommendations for positioning in order to get accurately evaluated. They must include the dog's identification information (full registered name or number and microchip/tattoo number), as well as the clinic's name and the date the X-ray was taken. OFA will not accept a radiograph without the identification information. Positioning of the animal is critical for an accurate evaluation, and therefore it is recommended that some form of chemical restraint (anesthesia) is used to get the animal to relax, but this is not mandatory. **It is also highly recommended that a veterinarian should have prior experience with this evaluation procedure to get the animal positioned correctly. Improper positioning has led to undesirable results and poor hip ratings.** The animal must be placed on its back in dorsal recumbency with the rear limbs extended and parallel to each other. The knees (stifles) are rotated internally and the pelvis is symmetric.

Once received at OFA, hip X-rays are independently evaluated by three randomly-selected, board-certified veterinary radiologists from a pool of consulting radiologists throughout the U.S. Each radiologist evaluates the animal's hip status separately and gives their recommendation of rating by considering the breed, sex, and age at time of X-ray. There are 9 different anatomic areas of the hip that are evaluated for deviations in structure from what is normal for the breed. These are shown in the figure below:



1. Craniolateral acetabular rim
2. Cranial acetabular margin
3. Femoral head (hip ball)
4. Fovea capitis (normal flattened area on hip ball)
5. Acetabular notch
6. Caudal acetabular rim
7. Dorsal acetabular margin
8. Junction of femoral head and neck
9. Trochanteric fossa

The next page contains photos of hip X-rays and rating classifications taken from the OFA website. The left-hand column shows examples of hips that were rated Excellent, Good, and Fair. The right-hand column shows examples of mild, moderate, and severe hip dysplasia.

[More on next page ...](#)

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### ***Excellent Hips***

Superior conformation; there is a deep-seated ball (femoral head) which fits tightly into a well-formed socket (acetabulum) with minimal joint space.



### ***Good Hips***

Slightly less than superior but a well-formed congruent hip joint. The ball fits well into the socket and good coverage is present.



### ***Fair Hips***

Minor irregularities; the hip joint is wider than a good hip. The ball slips slightly out of the socket. The socket may also appear slightly shallow.



### ***Mild Hip Dysplasia***

Significant subluxation present, in which the ball is partially out of the socket causing an increased joint space. The socket is usually shallow, only partially covering the ball.



### ***Moderate Hip Dysplasia***

The ball is barely seated into a shallow socket. There are secondary arthritic bone changes usually along the femoral neck and head (remodeling), acetabular rim changes (osteophytes or bone spurs), and various degrees of trabecular bone pattern changes (sclerosis).



### ***Severe Hip Dysplasia***

Marked evidence that hip dysplasia exists. Ball is partly or completely out of a shallow socket. Significant arthritic bone changes along the femoral neck and head, and acetabular rim changes.

*More on next page ...*

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With the advent of OFA hip evaluations, breeders have been able to diminish the occurrence of dysplasia in their breeding program but not eliminate it. Canine hip dysplasia still remains common in many breeds. The hip evaluation done by OFA is a phenotypic evaluation based on the interpretation of the radiograph by 3 separate veterinarians, each rating the dog's hip joint on a seven-point scoring system (Excellent, Good, Fair, Borderline, etc.). This does not mean that dogs that pass OFA will always have pups that pass OFA. In many cases OFA "Good" and OFA "Excellent" parents have produced dysplastic offspring. Good breeders do their best to produce healthy dogs, and tests like OFA for hips don't always meet their needs when it comes to the next generation of dogs. Data shown in the tables below indicate a decrease in hip dysplasia in our breed. However, the data are skewed because most breeders who submit hip ratings do not give permission for results on non-passing hips to be published. The data do indicate an increase in the percentage of dogs receiving excellent ratings throughout the years.

#### OFA Statistics for Hips, Portuguese Water Dogs

	Born ≤ 1990	Born 1991 - 1995	Born 1996 - 2000	Born 2001 - 2005	Born 2006 - 2010	Born 2011 - 2015	Change ≤ 1990 to 2011 - 15
Excellent	7.3%	11.2%	15.1%	14.0%	19.8%	19.2%	163.0%
Dysplastic	21.2%	13.9%	13.4%	11.2%	11.1%	9.0%	-57.5%
Total Dogs	1252	1345	1646	2038	1894	1304	

Year	Total Dogs Submitted	Number or % Excellent	Number or % Good	Number or % Fair	Number or % Dysplastic
2015	303	64 (21.1%)	189 (62.4%)	23 (7.6%)	27 (8.9%)
2016	300	48 (16.0%)	182 (60.7%)	37 (12.3%)	33 (11%)
2017	281	63 (22.4%)	167 (59.4%)	24 (8.5%)	27 (9.6%)
2018	296	57 (19.3%)	180 (60.8%)	22 (7.4%)	37 (12.5%)
2019 Qtr 1	83	31 (37.4%)	48 (57.8%)	3 (3.6%)	1 (1.2%)

According to OFA's breed statistics chart, hip dysplasia by breed from 1974 through 2017 found Portuguese Water Dogs to be ranked 85th out of 187 breeds (where breed number 1 is the most prone to hip dysplasia).

		All Data 1974-2017			Born 2011-2015		
Breed	Rank	No. of Evaluations	% Excellent	% Dysplastic	No. of Evaluations	% Excellent	% Dysplastic
Portuguese Water Dog	85	9479	14.8%	13.0%	1304	19.2%	9.0%

A new test was developed in 1993 by the University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program, aptly named PennHIP®. The test requires the dog to be chemically restrained, and three radiographs are taken to measure hip joint laxity. A score between 0 (very tight hips) and 1 (very loose hips) is assigned based on the measurement of the hips. This score is called the distraction index (DI). The DI is an indication of the degree to which the femoral head is displaced from the acetabulum; *i.e.*, out of joint. For example, a DI of 0.10 = 10% out of joint is considered a tight hip, and a DI of 0.80 is 80% out of joint or a loose hip. The measurements are done using circular gauges that are placed over the films, with the final number a reflection of factors such as the size of the dog and how the results compare to the rest of the breed population. Generally speaking, a DI above 0.30 is defined as *osteoarthritis-susceptible* and a DI below 0.30 as *osteoarthritis-non-susceptible*.

The benefits of this evaluation are that it can be done as early as 16 weeks and the score does not change significantly as the dog ages, which allows breeders to remove a dog that has a high probability of dysplasia from their breeding program before they spend money on showing and training. Several studies have been done that compared the two evaluation methods and found that the PennHIP method was a more accurate indicator of dog's susceptibility to osteoarthritis (**Note:** these studies were carried out by researchers attached to PennHIP). Osteoarthritis in hip joints is believed to constitute an individual risk factor for premature

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degeneration. Coxofemoral joint laxity, which is the first radiographic sign of dysplasia, may be subtle or absent on the standard extended-hip view used by OFA, but is readily detected by the PennHIP method. OFA does not really screen explicitly for this laxity. Breeders should think of PennHIP as another tool to accurately evaluate their breeding stock.

In a study comparing the two methods, the researchers looked at the differences in the OFA scores and the PennHIP DIs of radiographs of 439 dogs that were screened between 1987 and 2008. Their results showed that:

- 14% of dogs had hip joints scored as excellent by OFA standards, but 52% (31/60) of those had a DI  $\geq 0.30$  (range, 0.14 to 0.61)
- 82% of dogs with OFA-rated good hip joints had a DI  $\geq 0.30$  (range, 0.10 to 0.77)
- 94% of dogs with OFA-rated fair hip joints had a DI  $\geq 0.30$  (range, 0.14 to 0.77)
- Of all dogs with fair to excellent hip joints by OFA standards, 80% had a DI  $\geq 0.30$ .
- All dogs with OFA-rated borderline hip joints or mild, moderate, or severe hip dysplasia had a DI  $\geq 0.30$  (range, 0.30 to 0.83).

#### Comparison of X-rays of Viriatos' OFA done at 24 months (OFA Good) and PennHIP at 33 months



OFA X-ray 24 months



PennHIP Extended view 33 months



PennHIP Compression View 33 months



PennHIP Distraction View 33 months

Findings and interpretation on following page

*Continued...*

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The PennHIP evaluation stated the following for Viriatos:

## Findings

**Distraction Index (DI):** Right DI = 0.65, Left DI = 0.67.

**Osteoarthritis (OA):** No radiographic evidence of OA for either hip.

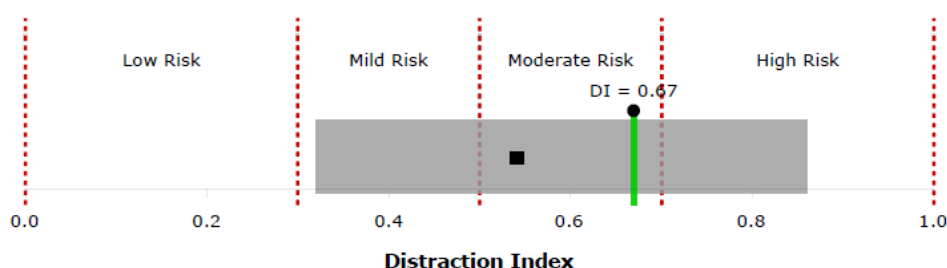
**Cavitation/Other Findings:** None.

## Interpretation

**Distraction Index (DI):** The laxity ranking is based on the hip with the greater laxity (larger DI). In this case the DI used is 0.67.

**OA Risk Category:** The DI is between 0.50 and 0.69. This patient is at moderate risk for hip OA.

### Distraction Index Chart:



**Breed Statistics:** This interpretation is based on a cross-section of 555 canine patients of the Portuguese Water Dog breed in the AIS PennHIP database. The gray strip represents the central 90% range of DIs (0.32 - 0.86) for the breed. The breed average DI is 0.54 (solid square). The patient DI is the solid circle (0.67).

**Summary:** The degree of laxity (DI = 0.67) falls within the central 90% range of DIs for the breed. This amount of hip laxity places the hip at a moderate risk to develop hip OA. There is no radiographic evidence of OA for either hip.

**Interpretation and Recommendations:** No OA/Moderate Risk. Likely to develop radiographic evidence of hip OA by 1-10 years of age (70% of dogs). The risk to develop OA, the timing of OA onset, and the rate of progression are dependent upon many factors including DI, breed, body weight, age, and activity levels.

## PennHIP X-rays and findings for second dog — Sayyida (OFA Good)



*PennHIP Extended view 24 months*



*PennHIP Compression view 24 months*

Additional X-ray, findings, and interpretation on following page

*Continued...*

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*PennHIP Distraction view 24 months*

The PennHIP evaluation stated the following for Sayyida:

### Findings

**Distraction Index (DI):** Right DI = 0.47, Left DI = 0.39.

**Osteoarthritis (OA):** No radiographic evidence of OA for either hip.

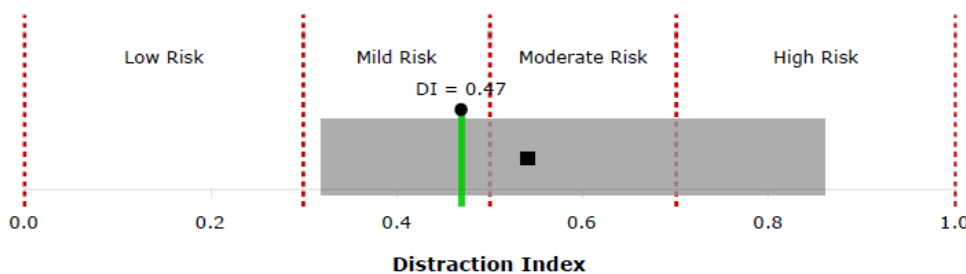
**Cavitation/Other Findings:** No cavitation present.

### Interpretation

**Distraction Index (DI):** The laxity ranking is based on the hip with the greater laxity (larger DI). In this case the DI used is 0.47.

**OA Risk Category:** The DI is between 0.31 and 0.49. This patient is at mild risk for hip OA.

### Distraction Index Chart:



**Breed Statistics:** This interpretation is based on a cross-section of 564 canine patients of the Portuguese Water Dog breed in the AIS PennHIP database. The gray strip represents the central 90% range of DIs (0.32 - 0.86) for the breed. The breed average DI is 0.54 (solid square). The patient DI is the solid circle (0.47).

**Summary:** The degree of laxity (DI = 0.47) falls within the central 90% range of DIs for the breed. This amount of hip laxity places the hip at a mild risk to develop hip OA. **No radiographic evidence of OA for either hip.**

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It is important to note the PennHIP test on the first dog was done on May 8, 2018, and the second dog was done on September 25, 2018. In that 4-month period only 9 other Portuguese Water Dogs had been evaluated, according to the PennHIP breed statistics statement. During the period of May through September 10, OFA had 92 evaluations done. This indicates a smaller population of breeders using this evaluation to determine hip status of their breeding stock. This is just one more test or evaluation that we as breeders can use to help evaluate our dogs, and hopefully one day eliminate canine hip dysplasia from our breeding programs.

## References

History of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals; <https://www.ofa.org/about>

Screening Procedures for OFA; <https://www.ofa.org/diseases/hip-dysplasia/hip-screening-procedures>

Study compares PennHIP vs. OFA hip dysplasia tests; <https://www.aaha.org/publications/newstat/articles/2010-11/study-compares-pennhip-ofa/>; <https://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/full/10.2460/javma.237.5.532>

Viriatos' OFA health reports; <https://www.ofa.org/advanced-search?f=sr&appnum=1809276>

Sayyida's OFA health reports; <https://www.ofa.org/advanced-search?f=sr&appnum=1866386>

Thanks to the dogs who brought you this article

GCH Rough Seas' Viriatos de Toraq CD BN RA CGCA  
at right, looking very handsome

GCH Toraq's Sayyida Al Hurra De Pirate's Cove CGC  
below, winning her Grand Championship  
handled by her breeder, Becky Morin

