

# PEQUENOS IN PRINT

Summer, 2015

PPPA



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suzannefaria@att.net

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Mary Ellen Baragan - Membership

Rose Hidlay - roseinbuckhead@comcast.net

Patti Litchfield

### Committees:

**Health:** Bud Hidlay — budhidlay@comcast.net

**Newsletter:** Karen Conrey -kr4pups@gmail.com

Get Ready to attend our 2015  
National Specialty in Atlanta, GA



Portuguese Podengo  
Pequenos of America

# President's Letter

Hello Members

First and foremost I want to Thank You for entrusting me with the position of President of the PPPAmerica for another two years. I will, as I have always done, make every attempt to move our club forward with respect for the Breed and the Club.

There are some changes coming to the PPPA. We now have a new Health Chair, Bud Hidlay who very soon will be putting up the health survey!! There are other changes planned that will be implemented quite soon.

This is our club and a breed we love so please always remember you are representing the club and the breed with your words and actions at all AKC events.

As in the past I urge any member who has any questions to please contact any Officer or Board member. We are all willing to answer any questions

Suzanne Faria,

President, PPPA

# Judge's Education

The committee has been quiet lately. Carol Sowders resigned from the committee and therefore is no longer the chair. The board voted at the April meeting to place me back into the position as chair.

I want to thank Carol for all the hard work she did on the committee since this clubs beginning.

Plans are in process to have Seminars held at clusters around the country.

Suzanne Faria

# Health Committee

## Health and Wellness Committee Report

Robert "Bud" Hidlay, Chair

June 1, 2015

This is the first formal report since the recent revelation of the presence of several genetic diseases in our breed. Most of the revelations have occurred on Facebook pages with a lot of comments displaying shock, dismay and disbelief. These discussions soon drift far afield of the subject and extend into problems in other breeds and yes even some nastiness. This does not help in understanding the problem and what to do about it.

I will attempt in this column and future releases to give you the facts as supported by actual submitted diagnosis and test reports. In order to have an accurate accounting of the occurrence of these diseases we must have them registered in a recognized database. This database is maintained by OFA for all breeds with reports available to everyone on their website at [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org). I will be referring to these reports more as we get into the specific conditions we are discussing.

First of all let me encourage you to enter all test reports in the OFA database. The normal reports and rankings are based on only those test reported. Normal (passing) test reports are every bit as important as the ones showing undesirable results and if they are not entered the percentage of occurrence will be greater than it actually is. It is critical that all test results be entered and displayed on the site.

### Required Tests

PPPAmerica has determined that three areas of testing should be completed and passed before any dogs are breed. These are listed in the "PPPA Code of Ethics" document located in the Downloads sections of the website:

<http://portuguese podengo pequeno.org/Downloads.html>

The three required test are:

Hip Dysplasia (OFA Evaluation or PennHIP Evaluation)

Eye Examination (CERF or OFA/CAER registrations)

Patellar Luxation (OFA Evaluation)

Compliance with the completion of these require tests is shown by the issuing of a CHIC number and the

CHIC insignia is placed behind the dog's name on the OFA web site. There are two things to remember about the CHIC number. It is issued when all test have been completed and the results are available (published) on the OFA site. CHIC also requires that the dog must be permanently identified via microchip or tattoo. The issuing of a CHIC number DOES NOT indicate that all tests were passed. There are currently 61 dogs which have been given CHIC numbers and they can be found on the CHIC web page:

<http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/results.html?submit=Begin&breed=PPD>

Of the three required test the most complicated is the Eye Test as it looks for many different conditions. We will highlight the eye test this month.

### OFA/CAER Eye Test

The OFA/CAER Eye Test is the same basic test formally known as CERF. When OFA took over the record-keeping they loaded all of the available CERF information and there is now a single source for all EYE results.

When looking at the list of eye tests on OFA, you will notice that there are several entries for some dogs. This is due to two factors with the first being that they kept the CERF and CAER list as separate occurrences. The second reason is that the CAER tests are listed at every occurrence and whereas the CERF were kept in a single record. Selecting any entry of a dog will give you all of the eye tests regardless of how many entries there are.

The real importance of the above is that of the 143 eye test entries listed (as of 5-30-15) they were performed on only 119 dogs. This changes the % of occurrence.

We encourage everyone to become familiar with this test by reading the section in the left most column of the OFA Home Page entitled "Eye Database":

<http://www.offa.org/>

Remember that the eye test must be performed by a veterinary ophthalmologists certified by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO). Many dog shows have OFA/CAER clinics at which the standard test can be done. Check the premium list for the shows in your area to see if they are having a clinic. If you do not live near where a show is holding an eye clinic or you have concerns about your dogs eyes, the ACVO website also has a page to search for a certified ophthalmologist close to you:

[http://member.acvo.org/search\\_results](http://member.acvo.org/search_results)

The official eye examination is performed after pupil-dilating drops are placed in the eyes, so if you are in competition you need to wait until you are finished for the day. *Make sure you check-in with the clinic personnel, so they know if you are in the Group ring.* In addition, remember to bring all of your dog's registration information. Your dog's identification will be checked so also bring your microchip information.

There are three overall results from the OFA/CAER eye test:

Normal

Normal w/ Breeders Options (description of condition listed)

Ineligible

You will be issued an OFA number for the first two and “Ineligible” with the third. The information of the ineligible conditions is in the “Eye Database” section on the OFA home page.

Important Information For Buying Puppies

When purchasing puppies, the important tests are not those done on your puppy but rather on the parents.  
The parent’s results can be checked on the OFA website listed above.

Current Updates on Eye Tests

There are currently only two official databases which record eye examinations for PPPequenos. They are OFA in the USA and the Finnish Kennel Club in Finland. It should be noted that while the examinations are about the same, in the Finnish Database the classification of the results is different in several areas as these test are administered by the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ECVO). In addition, the PPPequenos are divided into two varieties in FCI (Smooth and Wire).

This being said, the three conditions most talked about here in the US over the last six months or so are evaluated the same under both the ACVO and ECVO. Here are the statistics as we have them now:

PRA – Four confirmed cases. USA – 1, Finland – 3; All Wire; Sex: Dog -3, Bitch -1

Glaucoma – Four confirmed cases. USA – 3, Finland – 1; All Wire; Sex: All Bitches

Cataracts – Eight confirmed cases. USA – 5 (3-W, 2-S), Finland – 3 (2-W, 1-S); Sex: Dog -2, Bitch -6

We noted that of the Glaucoma cases three (USA-2, Finland-1) also had Cataracts. They have been counted in both of the above so there are a total of 13 individual dogs who have these conditions. The three conditions above are all listed as Genetic Diseases so that means that each Parent would have to be a Carrier.

Currently there are no DNA tests for the above conditions in PPPequenos. We will keep you updated on these and other conditions as more information and test results are available.

## Plan of Action for 2015

The following is our plan of action for the balance of this year:

**Release the Health Survey on OFA.**

We are currently reviewing the questions for the above survey and will present to the Board at the June meeting. Then OFA personnel will format it and we will notify you when it is available for data entry.

**Select a storage facility for the storage of Affected Dog's and Parent's DNA.**

When this facility is selected we will send out information concerning the type of sample (blood or swab) is required and the correct forms for submitting the information.

**Develop a place to be the repository for all Health Information.**

This will either be a part of the Website or a separate Facebook page. Updates on this will follow.

## One Final Non-Eye Issue

We have heard that there has been puppies who have been diagnosed with LCP (Legg-Calve-Perthes). We currently have 43 dogs listed on the OFA site who have obtained an OFA number indicating that the test was Normal. If your dog has been diagnosed with LCP please send in the required information to have it entered and your registration fee will be returned. This is very important to ensure that this issue can be properly addressed.

If you have any questions concerning the above please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert "Bud" Hidlay

[budhidlay@comcast.net](mailto:budhidlay@comcast.net)

770.423.0333 H

404.229.9229 C

# A Tribute to Spanky

A True Ambassador of the Breed!

What a Team!

- \* Became Rarities Champion 2005
- \* One of the Top Rarities Dogs of 2006
- \* AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificate
- \* Licensed Therapy Dog
- \* UKC Companion Dog
- \* UCDX Winner - Obedience Winner
- \* 4 Time Winner - Silly Pet Tricks

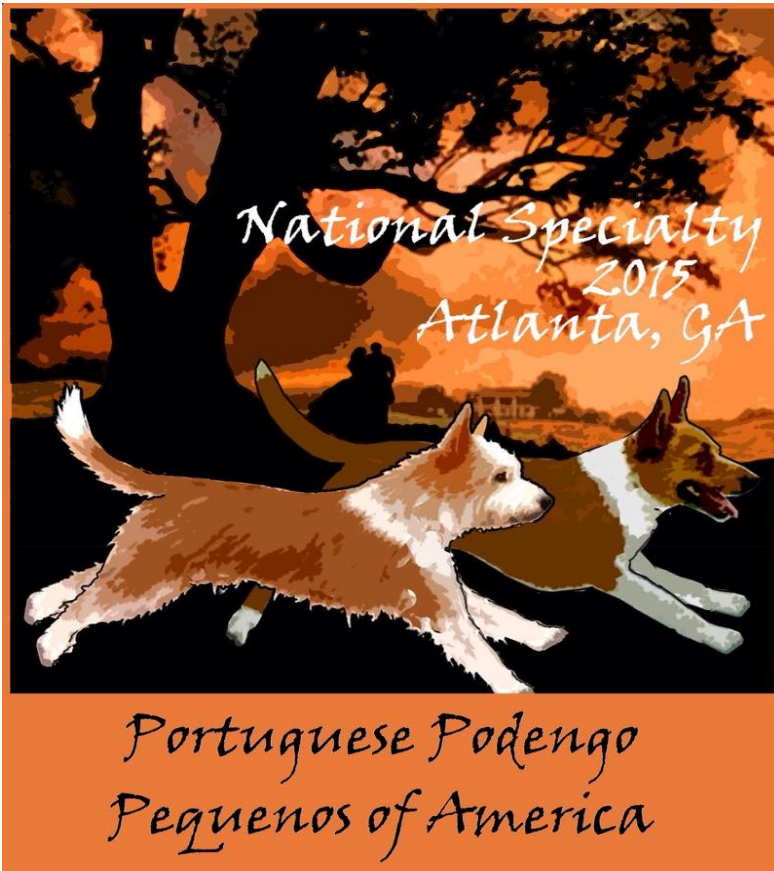
These pictures say it all!



R.I.P.  
Spanky

1/14/2003 -  
5/22/2015





The time is rapidly approaching for our 2015 National Specialty. Don't forget to make your reservations at the Host Hotel, order your T-Shirts, Banquet reservations, trophy donations, and preregister for the Eye Clinic.

Don't forget the raffle and auction. If you have anything you would like to donate for these two events we would greatly appreciate it. Hope to see everyone there and if you have any questions feel free to email Rose Hidlay:

[roseinbuckhead@comcast.net](mailto:roseinbuckhead@comcast.net)

## We Need Your Trophy Donation Support

There are many trophy selections still open. If you were thinking of donating, please do so soon as there is a dead line which we must meet with Onofrio. Please contact Rose Hidlay ([roseinbuckhead@comcast.net](mailto:roseinbuckhead@comcast.net)) to reserve your selection. Donation will need to be received to maintain the reservation by August 1, 2015, sooner is preferred.

### PIP Advertising Rates:

Full Page (8 1/2 x 11) \$25.00

Half Page (5 1/2 x 8 1/2) \$20.00

Non-member— add \$10.00 to above prices

Mail checks made payable to PPPA to:

Penny Schroeder 138 Perry Road Strafford, NH 03884

Email articles and ads to Karen Conrey at [kr4pups@gmail.com](mailto:kr4pups@gmail.com).

Photo Ready Ads, articles, and brags for the next issue are due by August 15, 2015.



We want to hear from you!  
Please send brags, photos,  
articles and questions/  
comments to:

[kr4pups@gmail.com](mailto:kr4pups@gmail.com)





## Progressive Retinal Atrophy

(article posted from Canine Health Foundation—<http://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/your-dogs-health/disease-information/progressive-retinal-atrophy.html>)

### Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA): An Overview

Progressive Retinal Atrophy, or PRA, is a condition of the retina in the eye. PRA encompasses many diseases which all progress over time and eventually lead to blindness. The retina works in the eye much as the film in a camera works. It changes the light it receives into images which are then sent down the optic nerve to be interpreted by the brain.

When a dog has PRA the retina either stops developing prematurely or the light receptors degenerate early in life.

With this condition both eyes are equally affected. The different forms of PRA vary in the age at which they first develop and in the rate at which they progress. Cases can be early onset with rapid progression to late onset with slow progression or any combination of the sorts. Every case is different and definite age of onset or how quickly progression will occur can never be known for sure.

Since PRA has been identified, numerous dog breeds have been found to have the disease. Some breeds that PRA is commonly found in are Irish Setters, Rough Collies, Miniature and Toy Poodles, Labrador Retrievers, English Cocker Spaniels, American Cocker Spaniels, Portuguese Water Dogs, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Australian Cattle Dogs, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Siberian Huskies, and Samoyeds.

### Causes of Progressive Retinal Atrophy

PRA is an inherited disorder. This means it is passed down from parents to offspring. In many breeds there is now a test which can be done that allows breeders and owners to know if a dog is clear of the disease, a carrier of the disease, or affected by the disease.

### Symptoms of Progressive Retinal Atrophy

PRA over time will lead to blindness. The first sign of this disease is typically night blindness. Owners may observe their dog being hesitant to walk down dark hallways or staircases, or be less likely to go outside at night. As PRA progresses daytime vision will also be lost. In addition to these symptoms pupil dilation, or enlargement, is seen due to the eye attempting to let in more light along with an increase in the amount of light reflected back off the eye. In some cases cataracts may appear but are not the cause of the blindness. There is no pain associated with PRA and dogs seem to adjust very well to their blindness. In some cases owners may not even realize the dog is having problems seeing until they are taken out of their home environment.

### Diagnosing Progressive Retinal Atrophy

PRA is diagnosed by an eye examination by a veterinarian. There are certain changes which can be seen in the eye characteristic of PRA. In addition to an eye exam an electroretinography may be done to obtain a diagnosis. An electroretinography measures the electrical responses in the retina to determine if it is functioning properly.

### Treating Progressive Retinal Atrophy

There is currently no treatment for PRA. To help breeders prevent PRA there are genetic tests available which can identify dogs which are affected, carries, or clear of the disease. This is extremely helpful due to the fact that in many cases PRA does not appear until the dog is older (5-7 years). By this time the dog has already been bred. With the genetic tests breeders can know right away if a dog should be used in their breeding program or not. The PRA genetic tests are available for certain dog breeds though OptiGen. For more information about PRA contact your local veterinarian.

### Care for Dogs with Progressive Retinal Atrophy

Blindness is the eventual result of PRA. Because the blindness does not occur quickly dogs have time to adjust to not being able to see well. Dogs that are blind can still live normal happy lives. There are certain things you as an owner can do to help your pet adjust. One of these is keeping your furniture in the same place. Your dog will become accustomed to the layout of your house. If you move furniture it may cause them to run into chairs or tables because they are not used to them being in that place. Another thing you can do is to keep floors and walkways clear of clutter. This will prevent your dog from tripping over objects. When introducing your dog to a new area always leash walk them around first so they can get a feel for the area and learn the boundaries. All of these will help your dog adjust to their vision loss.

### The AKC Canine Health Foundation and Progressive Retinal Atrophy

The AKC Canine Health Foundation has funded 8 research projects focused on PRA. The grants, totally over \$650,000, have been researching the genetic marker which is associated with the disease. This research has led to genetic tests being made available to breeders. With your continued support research can continue for breeds which do not currently have a genetic test for PRA.

- See more at: <http://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/your-dogs-health/disease-information/progressive-retinal-atrophy.html#sthash.ew243Ece.dpuf>