

Mid-2006

# Poodle Club of Massachusetts

## Communiqué

### Special Interest Articles:

- DNA Test for NNE in Standards
- Update on SA Research
- New Dog Training Facility

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*An affiliate club of the Poodle Club of America and licensed by the American Kennel Club*

## PCM 2006: A rainy day at a dog show is better than a sunny day at work



*Best of Breed Ch. Afterglow the Big Tease*

President Joan Kress said, "Despite the weather I think the show went along smoothly. We have had worse in the past and Saturday wasn't any better. I would like to thank everyone for the great jobs that they did and especially the judges who jumped right in to cover Sweepstakes. Putting a show together isn't an easy job. Also, everyone liked this year's catalog"

## Welcome President Lebet , Officers & Board

Two weeks before the contentious midterm federal elections, the new PCM officers and board were elected in an uncontested process that began last June when Jim Risser organized the Nominating Committee. The new club leadership is:

President: Mary Lebet

Vice President: Helen Sokopp

Corresponding Secretary: Susan Giordano

Recording Secretary: Deborah Parisi

Treasurer: Jean Chintalan

Board of Directors:

Eve Baltzell

Cynthia Brown

Andrew Kress

David Simler

Pauline Simmons

Julie Wilkins

## Around the Rings: February – July 2006



Julie Wilkins and Chase

### Standard Poodles

#### Gramarye Alexie Pillywiggin ( Lexie )

Owned by Mary Ingham  
 Judge: Ed Bivin  
 Winners Bitch  
 Handled by Julie Wilkins  
*Lexie's first major at 8 months old.*

#### Ch. Jewels My Deer Perfect Storm (Chase)

Owned by Julie Wilkins & Barbara Deer  
 Handled by Julie Wilkins  
 7/9/06 – Holyoke KC  
 Judge: Mr. J J Ham  
 Best of Variety  
*BOV first time out as a specials at 16 months!*  
 7/8/06 - Farmington Valley KC  
 Winners Dog

Judge: Mrs. Lydia Coleman Hutchinson  
 Owned by Julie Wilkins & Barbara Deer

*4 Point Major Win, NEW CHAMPION*  
 5/20/06 - Vacationland Dog Club

Judge: Mr. Hartinger  
 Winners Dog, Best of Variety  
*BOV over specials from the classes*  
 5/21/06 - Vacationland Dog Club  
 Judge: Mr. Clinton M. Harris

Winners Dog  
 5/6/06 - York County KC Of Maine  
 Judge: Norman L. Herbel

Best of Variety  
*BOV over Specials*  
 4/9/06 - Great Barrington KC, Inc.  
 Best of Winners  
 Judge: Mr. Robert Sturm

#### Ch. Jubilee Buckaroo Banzai CD RA (Corvo)

Owned by Susan Giordano  
 6/13/06 - Poodle Club Of America  
 Judge: Ms Marilou McCloskey  
 2nd leg toward RE title  
 6/2/06 - Poodle Club Of Massachusetts  
 Judge: Ms Mary Diesem  
 1st RE leg

#### My Deer Plum Lucky Lillian ( Lilly )

February 5, 2006  
 St. Joseph KC  
 Judge: Mr Danny J Moore  
 Winners Bitch, Best of Opposite Sex  
 Handled by Terri Meyers  
 Owned by Pam Greer & Barbara Deer

#### My Deer Repeat Performance ( Gion )

2/19/06 - First Company Governor's Foot  
 Guard Athletic Assoc  
 Judge: Dr Harry Smith  
 Winners Dog  
 Handled by Julie Wilkins  
 Owned by Gerry Perry & Barbara Deer

#### My Deer Standing Ovation ( Claire )

Owned by Thomasin Kincaid & Barbara Deer  
 Handled by Miyuki Ueno  
 7/7/06 - Northeastern Maryland KC  
 Judge: Dr. Harry Smith  
 Winners Bitch  
*4 Point Major Win*  
 7/6/06 - Catoctin KC  
 Judge: Kenneth E. Miller  
 Winners Bitch, Best of Opposite Sex, Major  
 Win, BOS over Specials  
*4 Point Major Win, BOS over Specials*  
 4/24/06 - Licking River KC  
 Judge: Ms. Barbara Ann Langlois  
 Winners Bitch  
 4/23/06 - Central Ohio KC  
 Judge: Mrs. Vernelle Kendrick  
 Best of Winners

#### Prism Refinne Beyond Bling ( Gem )

Owned by Deborah Parisi & Jennifer Dege  
 Handled by Deb Parisi  
 6/24/06 - Central Maine KC  
 Winners Bitch, Best of Winners  
 Judge: Mr. Kenneth Falconi

#### Ch Refinne Just My Imagination ( Gina )

Owned by Deborah Parisi & Jennifer Dege  
 Handled by Deb Parisi  
 6/25/06 - Central Maine KC  
 Best of Variety, Group 3  
 Judge: Mrs. Jane Kay / Mr. Kenneth Falconi  
 6/24/06 - Central Maine KC  
 Best of Variety, Group 2  
 Judge: Mr. Kenneth Falconi / Mrs. Jane Kay  
 6/18/06 - Middlesex County KC  
 Best of Variety, Group 2  
 Judge: Ms. Betsey Leedy

#### Woodlores Mischief Maker ( Mimmo )

Owned by Joan and Jacob Kress  
 Handled by Julie Wilkins  
 6/2/06 – Poodle Club of Massachusetts  
 Judge: Edd E. Bivin  
 Winners Dog, Best of Winners  
*Mimmo finished his championship with a 4  
 point major, making his mother Angela a top  
 producer*

### Miniature Poodles

#### Apropos For The Love of April AX AXJ (April)

Owned by Lori Borrowman and bred by  
 Marietta Kahla  
 6/23-24/06 – St. Petersburg FL  
 Purina Incredible Dog Challenge, Eastern  
 Regional  
 60 Weave Poles – 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
 Small Dog Competition – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

## PCM Specialty Show Results June 2

### Breed Classes

Judge: Mr. Edd E. Bivin

### Toy Poodles

Winners Dog: Rochars Tacoma (Ch. Bollingbrooks's Navigator x Ch. Rochars N'Jantha's Ruby. Owner: Rod Connors, Roberta Davis, Nancy Miller, Gary Shelley.  
Winners Bitch: Tinkilee's Dream Catcher (Ch. Robrish's Third Time is a Charm x Ch. Tinkilee's My Fair Lady). Owner: Marion Usher  
Best of Variety, Best of Winners, Best in BBE Classes: Tinkilee's Dream Catcher  
Best of Opposite Sex: Rochars Tacoma

### Miniature Poodles

Winners Dog: Dreamstruck Pirates Treasure (Ch. Baumly on the Sly CDX x Dreamstruck Love of Jazz) Owner: Robyn O'Donnell  
Winners Bitch:  
Minstrel So In Love (Ch. Random Wind In Your Dreams x Ch. Minstrel Top of the Tree. Owner: Setsuko Kaneko  
Best of Variety: Ch. Argosy Ahava (Ch. Brei-Ca's Nickels and Dimes x Ch. Novadene Sky's On Fire) Owner: H. Cavanaugh, L. Croft-Elliott  
Best of Winners: Minstrel So in Love  
Best of Opposite Sex: Dreamstruck Pirates Treasure  
Best in Puppy Classes: Rembrandt Shining Star (Ch. Marandon Moment to Shine x Ch. Rembrandt Regal Heiress) Owner: Sumiko Ikedo  
Best Miniature in BBE Classes: Random Wind Daydreams (Ch. Random Wind In Your Dreams x Ch. Songbird You Sexy Thing) Owner: Leslie Newing, Suzanne Newing

### Standard Poodles

Winners Dog: Woodlore's Mischief Maker (Ch. Vetset Ever Ready x Ch. Woodlore's Up Town Girl) Owner: Jacob Kress, Joan Kress  
Winners Bitch: Gramarye Alexie Pillywiggin (Ch. Nipigon Nighthawk at Degana x Ch. Gramarye Let's Misbehave) Owner: Mary Ingham  
Best of Variety: Ch. Afterglow the Big Tease (Torpaz It'll be All White x Magin Don't Eat the Daises at Afterglow) Owner: Sheila Rakow  
Best of Winners: Woodlore's Mischief Maker  
Best of Opposite Sex: Ch. Majessa Catch a Falling Star (Ch. Unique Reach for the Rainbow x Majessa Diva Devnet) Owner: Hana Katz, Gladie Lauer  
Best in Puppy Classes: Gramarye Alexie Pillywiggin  
Best in BBE Classes: Lynmar on the Catwalk (Ch. Rembrandt Nice Touch x Ch. Lynmar Object of Desire) Owner: Lynn Travers, Mark Travers

### Intervariety Competition

Best of Breed: Ch. Afterglow the Big Tease (S)  
Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed: Ch. Argosy Ahava (M)  
Best Puppy: Rembrandt Shining Star (M)  
Best Bred by Exhibitor: Lynmar on the Catwalk (S)

## Report from PCA – June 11-16 2006

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*“Next year will mark  
PCA’s 75<sup>th</sup> specialty  
show”*

This year’s Poodle Club of America annual specialty continued the tradition of being a week of total immersion in all things poodle. It looks like PCA has found a home for the time being in Salisbury MD. The community and the venue are very welcoming to the poodles. For the first time, PCA reached out to the community as well with an information booth in the lobby of the Civic Center. The booth was developed by Mary Ellen Fishler for the AKC Invitational last year. From the booth, the club distributed brochures, showed breed videos, and displayed life-size wooden poodle stand-ups in each size variety. The club also distributed hundreds of “Just Say No to Designer Dogs” buttons as part of its campaign against mixing poodles with other breeds.

Lisa Croft-Elliott kept poodle fanciers around the world up to date with show results on the website in near real time. There is some talk of video streaming for next year, for those who have to stay at home.

Poodle health research also continues to make slow but steady progress. The PCA Foundation announced a new DNA test for Neonatal Encephalopathy (NNE) in standard poodles. This gene is not widespread in the variety, but at \$40 per test, breeders can spare themselves the heartbreak of watching baby puppies slowly dying from this disease. This test was developed at the University of Missouri, which developed such a positive partnership with PCA that they may investigate other genetic diseases such as sebaceous adenitis or juvenile renal disease, both associated with standard poodles.

The National Institute of Health (NIH) which was collecting blood from all varieties of poodles last year for a size study, has broadened their scope of research to include Addison’s disease and toe cancer (squamous cell carcinoma of the digit) which affects only black poodles.

The PCA Foundation voted to make contributions to the research ongoing at UC Davis to find DNA markers for Addisons disease and epilepsy. The UC Davis study of epilepsy began with standard poodles, but has been expanded to include miniature poodles. They are actively seeking miniature poodle DNA for the study, both affected and unaffected dogs. Cheek swab kits can be requested online at <http://cgap.ucdavis.edu/Epilepsy.htm> In addition, the PCA Foundation will donate money to the Rabies Challenge Study discussed in the last issue of the newsletter.

If you feed Purina, you can help support PCA by the Purina Parent Club Partnership Program. You are probably already saving weight circles from the bags as part of the Purina Pro Club. If Purina has identified you as a poodle breeder, they will donate 10% of the value of your points to PCA for education and health research and the same amount to the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

The California poodle clubs have teamed up to offer a Regional in September 2007 in Long Beach California. Three specialties will be held at Queen Mary Park in front of the ship the Queen Mary. The ship now serves as a hotel, so the setting will be both elegant and convenient.

Next year will mark PCA’s 75<sup>th</sup> specialty show. The show will have a Diamond Anniversary theme. The club is planning some special events to commemorate this milestone. A special invitation will be issued to all living Best of Breed and Best of Variety winners to participate in a celebratory parade in the ring. It should be a stirring sight.

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*“All these things we knew would someday be possible are rapidly becoming possible.”*  
Liz Hansen, member of the University of Missouri research team, on advances against canine genetic disease

## A DNA Test for Neonatal Encephalopathy in Standard Poodles

**Mission Accomplished!** Researchers at the University of Missouri College Of Veterinary Medicine have identified the gene mutation causing Neonatal Encephalopathy and have devised a DNA test that distinguishes clear, carrier, and affected Standard Poodles. This test is available NOW, and breeders are encouraged to test all Standard Poodles before they are bred. The disorder is inherited as an autosomal recessive trait, meaning that both parents must carry a defective gene for any offspring to have the disease. **Therefore, breeders who never breed two carriers to each other will not produce affected puppies in their litters.**

Neonatal Encephalopathy is a fatal disease of the brain in newborns. Affected pups are weak, uncoordinated, and mentally dull from birth. If they survive the first few days, they nurse adequately, but their growth may be stunted. Some cannot stand at all. Others manage to struggle to their feet and walk with jerky movements, falling frequently. Seizures develop in most at 4-5 weeks of age, and the puppies die or are euthanized before they reach weaning age.

The Missouri researchers began investigating this previously undescribed disease in 1997, when they examined two five-week-old Standard Poodle puppies suffering from difficulty walking and seizures. Five littermates were developing normally. Subsequently, veterinary neurologists in various areas of the country identified more than a dozen other litters with pups showing identical signs.

The research team soon suspected an inherited disease. Close to 25 percent of puppies in affected litters had the disorder, males and females equally. These litters were found in different parts of the country and thus very different environments. Despite extensive testing of affected pups, the researchers found nothing else that might cause the problem, such as infection, brain malformation, liver shunt or low blood sugar. None of the parents or older dogs in the households showed any neurological diseases. Toxins, nutritional deficiencies or infections would be expected to affect a much larger percentage of pups in a litter. The 25 percent pattern of disease strongly suggested an autosomal recessive inherited trait.

The researchers studied DNA samples from affected puppies, their parents and other relatives, as well as from dogs of other breeds for comparison. Using gene-mapping technology, they gradually narrowed the field from 30,000 genes on the 39 pairs of canine chromosomes to a small number of genes on a single chromosome. They then began testing “candidate” genes. Once they identified the abnormal gene, they were able to devise a DNA test and offer it to breeders within only a few weeks. This exciting news was reported in a March 28, 2006 press release from the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

Congratulations (and Thank You!) to the researchers: Dennis O’Brien, DVM, PhD, Gary Johnson, DVM, PhD, and Liz Hansen, BS, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine. Their work was supported by the Poodle Club of America, the St. Joseph Missouri Kennel Club, the Poodle Club of Southern California, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and individual Standard Poodle owners.

**The fee for a Neonatal Encephalopathy DNA test is \$40 per dog. Instructions and a form to send with the sample to be tested are in the “sample submission” section of the project’s Web site [www.CanineGeneticDiseases.net/ataxia](http://www.CanineGeneticDiseases.net/ataxia). Funds generated from this testing will be applied to the development of DNA tests for other heritable canine diseases. Questions? Contact Liz Hansen at [HansenL@missouri.edu](mailto:HansenL@missouri.edu) or 573-884-3712.**

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## Update on Sebaceous Adenitis Research

**GENE MAPPING** Some 20 years after veterinary literature first described sebaceous adenitis in dogs, SA remains quite a mystery to Standard Poodle breeders. For example, consider Michael, born in 1990 as part of the sebaceous adenitis test litter. Michael developed clinical SA when he began losing hair at about age 2 and had a very sparse coat from age 3-5. With regular oil baths, however, he had no scales, thickened skin or odor. Oil baths stopped at age 6 when he was put on a topical flea preventive, and Michael then surprised his family by re-growing coat that was soft and yet appeared normal for the rest of his 14 years.

Consider also the poodles that develop clinical SA well before reaching their second birthday, contrasted with those that test “affected” in routine SA screening but never show clinical signs of disease. Or consider anecdotes of affected dogs re-growing hair after an upgrade in diet or other environmental change. Then there’s the invasive and expensive skin-punch test that can miss lesions and yield a false-negative result. Yet that screening test is the best tool breeders have, augmented by pedigree study and risk-assessment strategies, when making breeding decisions.

Things may change soon. Robert Dunstan, DVM, MS, DACVP, a respected dermatopathologist well known in the poodle world, was among the first researchers using DNA technology to investigate SA. Early pedigree data and the Standard Poodle test-litter breeding suggested a simple autosomal recessive inheritance, in which puppies receiving the defective gene from both parents will be affected with the disorder.

“The biggest problem with this disease, as everybody found out, is that SA almost follows a clear autosomal recessive pattern, but not quite,” Dr. Dunstan says. “So some other factor is determining the severity or initial expression that nobody has figured out—either one gene with another factor, or more than one gene associated with the disease. Other factors, even environment, are clearly at work. It’s not just that you have it or you don’t.”

Early SA gene-mapping studies made little headway, Dr. Dunstan notes, but he is optimistic that dramatic advances being made in DNA technology will allow researchers to solve the puzzle of SA genetics. A more complete map of the entire canine genome, reported in the December 8, 2005 issue of the journal *Nature*, was an exciting step. New gene-sleuthing tools based on that map are becoming available and may even allow scientists to close in on the multiple genes involved in polygenic disorders such as hip dysplasia.

At least two research teams are using this evolving technology to study SA. In Germany, a group is looking at SA in Akitas. In the United Kingdom, Cathryn Mellersh, PhD, and colleagues with the Animal Health Trust are studying poodles in a project supported by the Standard Poodle Club. Molly Windebank, the Standard Poodle Club Health & Welfare Officer, reports that this team has completed a genome scan of samples from affected dogs and their close relatives. Working with a quantitative geneticist, they now are beginning an analysis of data to accommodate different potential modes of inheritance.

**SCREENING** Pending progress in gene mapping, skin-punch evaluation for inflamed sebaceous glands remains the gold standard as a screening and diagnostic test (procedure at [www.offa.org/sainfo.html](http://www.offa.org/sainfo.html)). Early studies looking at levels of certain lipids (fats) in ear sebum to detect signs of SA were discontinued. Dr. Dunstan’s current research includes studies of human sebaceous glands using lipid-analysis techniques that—like DNA technology-- have advanced dramatically. He thinks development of an SA test using this approach would now be possible.

**TREATMENT** A recent study found that long-term cyclosporine therapy in dogs with SA could reduce inflammation (*Journal of the AVMA*, January 1, 2005), but regular oil baths appear to help most poodles with clinical SA and remain the most commonly used treatment after any skin infection is cleared with antibiotics. For more on oil baths, check the Poodle Club of America site ([www.poodleclubofamerica.org/health](http://www.poodleclubofamerica.org/health)).

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## PCM Specialty Show Results June 2, cont'd

### Obedience Trial Classes

Judge: Ms Mary Diesem

Novice B: Majestic Siobhans Irish Jig (S) Joan G. Brenneke (198 ½)

Open B: Rise'n Star BLSs Peace and Joy CDX RA (S) Cynthia Darling (194 ½)

High In Trial: Majestic Siobhan's Irish Jig

Veterans: Eclipse Ready Randy CD (S) Jane Small (199)

### Rally Trial Classes

Judge: Ms Mary Diesem

Rally Novice A: Miracle's Queen Bea AX AXJ (S) Shelley Brauer, Jean Hey (99)

Rally Novice B: Ch. Rembrandt Daydreamer AX AXJ (M) Christie-Lee McNamara (100)

Advanced B: G Spike Speedwell CDX RN (S) Pamela Miller (100)

Excellent B: Sukie's Gift of Gab CDX RAE OA OAJ (S) Suzanne & Douglas Butterfield (98)

### Sweepstakes

Judge: Ms Helen Sokopp

Best Miniature Puppy in Sweeps: Lavandaire Dreams of Jasmine (Ch. Dreamstruck He's A Dream x Melange It Was Kismet) Owner: Joyce M. Haggett

Best Standard Puppy in Sweeps: Gramarye Alexie Pillywiggin (Ch. Nipigon Nighthawk at Degana x Ch. Gramarye Let's Misbehave) Owner: Mary Ingham

Best Puppy in Sweeps: Lavandaire Dreams of Jasmine

## New Dog Training Facility in Westford MA

Judy Bailey wanted us to share the news that her trainer Sandy Madden (a former PCM match judge) has opened a new facility in Westford. In Sandy's words:

It is two rings: one 45' by 40' fully gated with new 1/4" matting from Max 200 and a second ring 40' by 35'. Both rings will have complete obedience jumps. One wall has 12 feet of mirrors. We will be offering group classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights: Puppy, Pet, Competition, Rally, Breed and Agility (all the agility contact equipment is from Max 200). We also have 16 available crates for clients to use for their pets. The building has many windows and will be air conditioned plus ceiling fans. I will also be renting out one ring during the evening hours while running a group class in the other. If you need distraction training this would be a good opportunity. The building will also be available for rental on weekends for clubs and seminars. Has a kitchen area with a refrigerator, convection/microwave, coffee urn (which will be always on) a water cooler with both hot and cold water... I think I've thought of everything to tell you about the building, I have really tried to make it a friendly and comfortable place to come and train your puppies and dogs--Oh the address: 67 Broadway Street Westford, MA, About 3 miles from 495.

## **Poodle Club of Massachusetts**

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James Risser  
David Simler  
Mark Travers

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

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

## **Club Member Takes Top Honors at Intergroom**

Julie Wilkins (Jewels Standard Poodles) received the award of International Groomer of the Year at Intergroom this April in Somerset, NJ.

Nearly 50 groomers from the US United States, Canada, England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore competed for the top honor. In competition, Julie had just two and a half hours to transform her clean, brushed dog Emmy into a work of velvety perfection. She took first in the poodle class and was selected by the judges over the finalists from the other classes.

Julie was also honored by GroomTeam USA as one of the top ten competitive groomers of the year.



## **POODLE CLUB OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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