

# Papillon Club of America Health & Genetics



## DANNI PETERSON



I am a full time Provider Data Analyst for a major medical insurance company for whom I have worked for 33 years. I grew up on the Oregon Coast, a daughter of a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation dairy farmer. The love of animals runs deep in my pedigree. I spent countless hours caring for our calves and milking cows. I cared for many animals, and raised and showed my own dairy cattle, horses and dairy goats.

I spent many hours as a ride a long with our local veterinarians. I learned many things from them and worked as a tech at their clinic for many years. I dreamed of being a veterinarian, but was talked out of it by those in the field. Following high school graduation, I attended college and was 1 term of physics shy of finishing my pre nursing bachelor's degree. I took the summer off, started my insurance career and never returned to school.

I am happily married to a very loving and dog tolerant husband. We have 3 adult children and 2 grandchildren.

Dogs became part of our life when Emilie was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and wanted to join 4H. We rescued a papillon cross from a local shelter and I was immediately in love with the breed. In 2005 I convinced Claudia Clark (Pinpaps) to sell me my first papillon. My mentors were Claudia and Karen Baird (Myfriend).

Emilie and I have bred many champions. While she enjoys the breed ring most, I have fallen in love with companion events. I still enjoy the breed ring, but truly love obedience and rally. I love showcasing that our breed is not only beautiful but smart and athletic too.

It is critically important to me and our breeding program to not only breed beautiful and sound dogs, but to also ensure

they are healthy.

Health testing is critical to any breeding program and I am proud to say that I am a Breeder of Merit and only breed those dogs that have been fully tested and clear of any defect.

I have had a love for animal health since childhood and being part of the genetics committee is such a great opportunity for me to learn more. I look forward to learning more about the research happening in canine health and helping educate my fellow breeders in that research. I am excited to learn what we as breeders can do in the way of testing to better the health of our wonderful breed that I am so passionate about.