

Papillon Club of America Health & Genetics



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I have had dogs all my life. First was a Dachshund when I was two, then our family got an Irish setter. Once I moved out on my own, I had a couple of larger mixed breeds. Once they had gone, I decided I wanted a little dog and started researching.

I ran across this dog called a Papillon in the National Geographic Book of the Dog - it said they were hardy; necessary here in Canada where I live where the temperature drops to -30; healthy, easy to care for and very intelligent. They sounded wonderful and I started looking.

This was before the age of the internet, so things were harder and I had no idea to look for breeders at a dog show - but after 2 years and with the help of a local Purebred Dog Breeders Registry, I finally did find a breeder and within a year, she had a puppy that she was willing to sell me. That breeder was Moira Ure, Annacott Papillons and she and I still co-own and co-breed dogs together!

When I got that first Papillon I agreed to show her to her Championship and that opened up the whole world of dog showing to me. I have been hooked ever since. I showed my first girl at the PCA National in

1997 and have only missed two National Specialties since that time.

I joined both the Papillon Club of America and Papillon Canada in 1997. I went on to serve many terms as President, Vice President, Secretary and now Treasurer for Papillon Canada. In 1999 I joined the Papillon (Butterfly Dog) Club in the UK. I am also involved with the Southern Alberta Toy Dog Club where I have served as Secretary, Vice President and now President over the years. I am now a member of that local Purebred Dog Registry that helped me when I was first looking for a Papillon, the Calgary Associated Dog Fanciers. They promote purebred dogs in our area, the breeders that are members do all necessary health testing for their breeds, place dogs on contracts and will take dogs back if placements do not work out and are there for the buyers of their puppies. I have also been a member of the two local All Breed clubs here in the Calgary area.

I have always been very interested in the health of our dogs. I was keenly interested in those first PRA lists when the condition started to become apparent in our breed and was overjoyed when the DNA test for PRA1 was developed. I have since educated myself on many of the health issues that face dogs in general and our breed in particular and am very pleased to be a member of this group that is devoted to helping eradicate illness in our breed.