

Papillon Club of America Health & Genetics



MARY KRISS



I am a professional Photographer specializing in infant portraits, mother of 4, and wife to an amazing husband who has been incredibly supportive of my love for dogs. As a child I grew up in a home with no dogs. It wasn't until I was in college and decided to volunteer at a local animal shelter that I discovered my love for dogs. During my few years as an active volunteer, I walked dogs, assisted the shelter trainer with temperament testing, and also assisted with her training class. After volunteering for 2 years, I was finally able to have my own dog and adopted a 3 year old Boxer mix which led to becoming involved with purebred Boxers for some time.

My passion for purebreds grew after this point and since the time I acquired my first dog, I've owned and loved several breeds including a Boxer, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Australian Shepherd, and Miniature American Shepherd. I have trained most of my dogs in agility and have done a little bit of competing in Agility and Rally obedience. I've always been very interested in showing dogs but didn't quite have the space for another large breed so I decided to start looking into smaller breeds. I wanted a breed that would also excel in agility which led me to the Papillon. My first Papillon was an import from Europe which I found during my initial search for breeders.

Shortly after I got my first Papillon, I decided to reach out to a local breeder for mentorship and help getting started in showing and breeding. Cheryl Maass and Andi Meloon graciously took me under their wings and helped me get started in the world of conformation and eventually breeding. I quickly fell in love with dog shows and was offered a second Papillon named Penny, to co-own with Cheryl and Andi. With the guidance of my mentors, Penny was successfully shown and handled by me and finished her Championship and Grand Championship quickly. In May 2022, I was able to attend my first National Specialty where Penny was given an Award of Merit.

As an ethical and responsible breeder, health is extremely important to me. The more knowledge we have about health issues and genetics, the better decisions we can make when it comes to breeding and improving this amazing breed. I have a passion for research and education and truly enjoy helping others learn about the importance of health and genetics. I am looking forward to being on the genetics committee and hopefully playing a part in making a difference for the betterment of the breed