

# Papillon Club of America Health & Genetics



## ANDREA MELOON



I have always been in love with dogs, horses, and my husband Dallas. I married my High School Sweetheart and along the 42 years together he too has shared his love with my involvement in the Canine and Equine world. I graduated from Western Kentucky University in 1975 with a Degree in Nursing.

During my early years of riding, showing, and breeding horses - I worked eight years as a personal assistant to Tom Johnson DVM & Equine Reproductive Specialist. I worked during the day as an intensive care nurse to mares and foals and concurrently worked the evening shift as an intensive care nurse at Kentucky Baptist Hospital.

It wasn't until 1986 after the loss of our family dog of 12 years that my husband and I began looking at purebred dogs. We fell in love with the Akita and over the course of 12 years we bred several champions. We showed and bred conformation and obedience dogs, including a National Specialty winner and with the collaboration of a very good friend Bill Bobrow, we bred and trained Moto-Yori's Cover Girl Dotti, CD who became the 1994 Delta Society Guide Dog of the Year. Her owner, Dr. Jeff Fowler was going blind due to a genetic disorder and I have been interested in PRA ever since my introduction to him in 1986.

During our Akita years, The genetics work that I was involved with, included Von Willebrands and CERF clinics. In addition, due to the many breed problems the Akita has, OFA and Thyroid tests were a must, and autoimmune disease is a serious problem.

It was during my active participation and work in Obedience from 1988 to 1994 that I fell in love with a small, beautiful, and talented Papillon. I told myself then, when I no longer can work with the big dogs, Papillons are the breed I want to have.

My first PCA National was in 2003 and shortly there after we bought our first companion, Mollie. She was ours to spoil, love and learn the behavior of the Papillon

We were hooked. Our first show dog came in 2004. And we showed at the 2004 PCA National. I became a member of PCA in 2004 and was eager to help the club and became the 2006 SW Regional Specialty Show Chairman. We have been actively involved in showing and breeding Papillons since 2004. All of our dogs we own are CHIC certified.

I know canine genetics is a critical factor to the future of any breed. I am ready and eager to serve PCA by working on the genetics committee. It is our responsibility to work toward Breeder and Owner openness and to help promote a better understanding of genetic disorders. By sharing knowledge and providing education our beloved breed has a future.

The ground work that has been laid by the past and present guardians of our breed are the building blocks for strong and healthy Papillons and Phalenes for future generations to enjoy.