



Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego

Member BCA Division III

www.sdbulldogs.org

December 2007

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Dear Fellow Bulldoggers,

I hope that you are all well and safe and not adversely affected by the recent fires. If I can be of personal assistance to any of you in any way, please let me know. If there is any way the Club can help, we will do our best.

I have served as the President of the Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego for the past four years. During that time, the Club has experienced growing pains with many new members added to the rolls in the last couple of years. I think it would be appropriate to review the primary objectives of the Club. To summarize the objectives as stated in the Club's Constitution and By-Laws: It is to promote quality breeding as defined by the Bulldog standard and approved by the AKC and to advance the interests of the breed through sportsman-like competition at dog shows and obedience trials. In addition we are to conduct AKC sanctioned and licensed specialty shows and obedience trials:

The make-up of our Club membership is composed of individuals who show; individuals who are involved in fostering and adoption; and everyday Bulldog pet owners. Because the make-up of the Club membership is varied all members may not be involved in the breeding or showing of Bulldogs. Nevertheless what I write should be a good review for all.

A large part of our mission is to educate both members and others in our community about the Bulldog breed. We accomplish this mission through a number of methods. The first and probably most important is through the proper breeding and showing of the Bulldog at conformation and specialty shows and obedience trials. Another method of education is through yearly events such as "Meet the Breed", partici-

pation at the Del Mar Fair, and demonstrations at Club activities. An additional method is through our bi-monthly newsletter.

Quality breeding requires a knowledge of quality bloodlines and both physical and psychological attributes that are defined in the standards of the breed. It is no small thing to be a quality breeder. It requires experience and patience and a willingness to learn and sacrifice for the betterment of the breed. Too often, inexperienced breeders are producing inferior Bulldogs irresponsibly. The result of this behavior becomes apparent as the numbers of Bulldogs surrendered to wonderful and hard working rescue organizations throughout the country increases at an alarming rate. As a Club, we have an obligation to screen out inferior breeders and promote quality breeding. All individuals who purchase a Bulldog deserve an animal that is healthy and well adjusted.

In the past year, we have had many successes in the show ring, in the area of education and in a number of fun and exciting social events. I want to personally thank the members of the board, the various committee chairpersons and committee members, and all who have contributed in any way to these successful experiences.

I would like to thank all of you who participated in our Halloween party. It was a great event. I extend a special thanks to Geri Dimeglio, Corina Cauldren and Sarah Grant who put it together. I would also like to thank Naomi Bell for organizing the obedience trial and for all those who entered their dogs. It was a fun match enjoyed by all.

As we come to the end of another year, I would especially like to thank Geri Dimeglio and Elsa White for their outstand-

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Upcoming Events



December 28, 2007 December Holiday Party at Elaine and Sheldon Feinstein house in Poway.

February 23 & 24 2008 Meet the Breed

May 17 & 18, 2008 Division III Specialty Show

New Members

“A great big bullie hug to our new members”

Dr. Michael and Patty O’Sullivan and Murphy from San Diego
Mentor: Kay Gray

Perry and Natalie McNeil and Roxy and Piper from San Diego
Mentor: Tom White

Elaine Tiangco and Yeti from San Diego

ing service on the Board. They have chosen not to run for re-election in the coming year but are both committed to staying involved in the Club and will continue to be valuable assets. I really appreciate the time and energy that has been expended by these two wonderful and talented individuals on behalf of this Club.

As we move into the New Year, I look forward to working with those who will be elected at our annual meeting in December. There have been some of you that have been willing to work in various areas of the Club that were not called upon and may feel neglected or forgotten. That has not been our intent or desire. Please continue to be proactive and remind us in the coming year of your desire to share your talents for the growth and betterment of the Club. Many hands make light work and we will need help in all our activities.

If there have been members offend-

ed for any reason, by myself, members of the board, or other members of the Club, I can only offer my deepest apologies and hope that others do likewise. It is my desire to promote a spirit of inclusiveness and pro-activity in the Club as we serve in the coming year. There is much good that can be accomplished for the betterment of the breed and in our own personal interactions as we work together for the common good.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual business meeting and holiday party on December 28th. This is always a fun activity, where we can socialize without our bullies and vote-in and sustain Club officers and board members who will serve in the New Year. On behalf of the officers and board, I extend to you a wish for a happy holiday season a wonderful New Year.

Derek Rasmussen

TIDBITS from the editor

Knowing when to get your dog to the veterinarian can save his or her life! There are serious symptoms that should never be ignored in your dog.

First, what is a symptom? A symptom is defined as “any problem that can indicate an underlying disease” and may be your first clue to the presence of a life-threatening problem in your pooch. Some of these symptoms are obvious, but others are not. If you don’t know what they are you may not know if your dog is a little off or extremely ill.

Read the list of 21 symptoms that should never be ignored in your dog. The symptoms include:

1. Pacing and Restlessness
2. Unproductive retching
3. Collapse or Fainting
4. Not Eating or Loss of Appetite
5. Loosing Weight
6. Breathing Problems
7. Red Eye
8. Jaundice
9. Trouble Urinating
10. Urinating and Drinking Excessively
11. Fever
12. Seizure
13. Bleeding and Bruising
14. Coughing
15. Bloated or distended abdomen
16. Bloody Diarrhea
17. Bloody Urine
18. Bite Wounds
19. Bloody Vomit
20. Lethargy or Weakness
21. Pale Gums

November Minutes

Meeting held November 17, 2007 at Tom & Elsa's house in Santee

Board Members Present: Derek Rasmussen, Sarah Grant, Naomi Bell, Thomas White, Elsa White, Kasey Kimball, Janice Hochstedler, and Corina Cauldren

Board Members Absent: Geri Dimeglio

Club Members Present: Dan Wilson, Andre Barlow, Diane & Larry Miller, Jim & Ellen Laramie and Jaime Kimball

Board Member Reports:

Derek - We have three new members: Elaine Tiangco (Derek will mentor), Perry & Natalie McNeil (Thomas will mentor)

Naomi - Bulldog Rescue Committee Report - there are ten bulldogs in rescue

Committee Reports:

- Specialty Show - we are now qualified to hold Obedience & Rally at the May show
- There will be a show committee meeting on January 12th @ 5 pm
- Education & Training Coordinator - weekly training is going along fine

Other Discussion Items:

1. Use of mailing list for personal business: please limit to club business only, must e-mail to Derek and he will monitor what is considered club business.

2. Nominations for BCGSD Officers and Board:

President: Derek Rasmussen
Vice President: Janice Hochstedler
Secretary: Sarah Grant
Treasurer: Corina Cauldren

By AKC guidelines: each club member must be present to vote. No proxy.

3. Discussed Amendments to Constitution and By-laws and/or Standing Rules: A committee was formed to change and update - those on the committee are: Kasey (chairman), Naomi, Sarah, Thomas & Janice.

4. Voting of Club Officers & Board Members will be held at the annual Holiday Party - time to be determined.

5. Meet the Breed at Silver Bay Kennel Club - only AKC registered dogs may attend.

Upcoming Events:

December Holiday Party:
Friday, Dec. 28, 2007 at Elaine's house

Future Board Meetings – All members are welcome to the board meetings. Board meetings are to be held the 2nd Saturday of every month from 6pm - 8pm. The next meeting has been set for January 12th at Janice's house.



Princess was supposed to go to Perris for the San Bernardino Dog Show but with the fires, it was a wash out for us.

To add some cheer, we popped over to PetCo in Carmel Mountain and joined 30 other doggies in their Howl-O-Ween Costume Contest & Princess won! She took 27 out of 29 points. She was judged on originality of costume, looks, presentation, etc. Thanks to Thomas, she was EXCEPTIONAL in the mock ring they set up. All the other dogs yanked and pulled on their leashes; pooped & pee'd all over the place; barked, sniffed & shed their costumes all over. Princess just stood there.



Now, the judges were partial to the smoshie faced cutie pie pups: Bulldog (1st) & 2 Pugs took 2nd & 3rd. Princess' costume was the only one completely hand made and I threw it together that morning.

Meet the Nominees 2007

The article, "Meet The Nominees", is intended to inform club members about the nominees running for the Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego board positions. Each section was written by the nominee him or herself. For more information regarding present board members, check out the "Meet The Members" pages on the web site, and click the "**Membership**" link. To review the Minutes from previous meetings, including committee reports and attendance, see the web site page entitled "**News**" and scroll down to the bottom for past newsletters. The minutes from board meetings are listed within. The club's web site address is www.sdbulldogs.org

Derek Rasmussen - President

I have been a continual Bulldog owner for some 20 plus years. I was first exposed to the Bulldog breed at the age of one. My grandfather showed and bred Bulldogs in Montreal, Canada and gave me Patsy, who was my constant companion.

I have served as the President of the Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego for the past four years. Prior to that time, I served as a member of the board and as president -elect of a local Rotary Club. In addition, I served as a Senior District Executive for the Boy Scouts of America and supervised the organization and training of over 1000 units and their leaders. This included the recruitment of and leadership training for hundreds of volunteer leaders. By way of education, I hold a BA from Brigham Young University and an MA and MBA from San Diego State University.

My top priority for the Club is to provide an environment of inclusiveness for all its members.

The make-up of the Club membership is composed of individuals who show; individuals who are involved in fostering and adoption; and everyday Bulldog pet owners. The major objective of this Club is the promotion of the improvement of the breed, through education, showmanship, and sportsmanlike competition. It is my desire and will be my goal to do everything in my power to meet these objectives through recruitment, training, and encouragement of members. In addition it is my goal to provide a safe environment for constructive dialog and sharing by Club members.

Janice Hochstetler - Vice-President

I have served as the Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego Vice-President for the past two years. I have also served as a Specialty Show Chairman. I have hosted three club activities, provided educational demonstrations and written articles in the Club newsletter. I have written articles for the BCA journal, and served as the liaison between Div. III and our club to support state legislation.

By education I am a psychotherapist. I have leadership experience in several areas - managing partner, 5 years presidency of 2 fundraising organizations, and 3 years as Public Information officer for the largest Little League in the U.S. I have shown, bred, and trained bulldogs. I receive a dozen or more inquiries each week on how to select a good bulldog and who to contact for available dogs. I maintain a list of reputable breeders and make referrals.

I enjoy working with our club members and the public and providing education on our breed and its health issues. I think the most important qualifications for this position are experience in many aspects of the bulldog world, good relationships with local, division and national members, and the wisdom to navigate the sometime political dog world. I support Bulldog Rescue wholeheartedly, and understand their needs and concerns. I also love the show world, and firmly believe the club has a responsibility to ensure the next generation of bulldogs will be healthy and bred to the AKC standard. I recognize that the majority of our members simply love their pets, and desire support, education, and resources to better care for their bulldogs.

Sarah Grant - Secretary

The responsibilities of the Secretary as outlined in the Bylaws of the BCGSD are:

The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and shall be the custodian of all files pertaining to the Club business. All Club records shall be made available for inspection to any Club member upon request. He or she shall conduct the correspondence of the Club, maintain a membership roster together with addresses and telephone numbers, furnish each member with a copy of the Club By-Laws and the Bulldog Club of America standard of Excellence, shall notify members of meetings and shall have such other and similar duties as may be requested by the President or contained in these By-Laws.

The adherence to the Order of Business for club meetings is an important responsibility and one that I would welcome due to my strength in organization, time management, and meeting facilitation. I have been an active member of the club for several years now and have enjoyed my year on the Board, attending all meetings and welcoming additional roles and responsibilities whenever they arose.

I feel that I would be a good candidate for the position of Secretary because I have a strong concept of professional ethics and appearance, diplomacy, goal setting and achievement, time management, positive reinforcement, organization, efficiency, and respect for authority. I strive for excellence in all that I do and welcome new and unique challenges. I hold a BS in Business Management, a California Notary Commission, and a California Real Estate Salesperson license. I have attended two certification courses in Communication and Leadership in my career, and possess the skills and the passion to ensure effective communication to the club's membership. I have been an administrator in various industries since 1994 and have been responsible for the coordination and facilitation of meetings. I have also served on the Board of Directors of two California Corporations, the Homeowners Association for my condo in Salem Oregon, and have held numerous positions requiring the development of time management, leadership, focus on issues and accurate, unbiased documentation of meetings of all types I welcome the nomination and feel that I would be an excellent Secretary. I look forward to the evolution of the club and supporting the club's activities in this position.

Corina Cauldren - Treasurer

I am currently serving as the BCGSD Treasurer and have been the Club Treasurer for the past three years. I have also served as a member at large of the BCGSD board and as a chairperson, co-chairperson, and committee member on numerous Club activities This year has been hectic for me as my husband and I had our first human child, our beautiful daughter Jaxyn, as well as our furry children. Miss Tank and Spike had a litter of 6 puppies of their own.

As Treasurer, I manage all of the membership dues for the Club. I work with our liability insurance company and make sure that we are covered for all Club activities and shows. Annually, I send out reminder letters to the membership for membership renewal. I report our membership to the Bulldog Club of America and remit our annual dues. I also manage and pay all of the other bills for the Club. I also prepare quarterly financial statements for the President. These statements are reviewed by the board.

For a while, I served as the Treasurer for San Diego Bulldog Rescue during their transition from being a part of the Club to their own separate entity. Our Club is experiencing growing pains and many of the members of our Club are relatively new, having joined in the past couple of years. My wish for the future of this Club is that we can enjoy one another's company and build the Club for the health and benefit of the breed because I believe that is what this Club is all about.

Naomi Bell - Board Member at Large

I am running for a 3rd year on the board. I have served for the last 2 years as a general board member with perfect attendance at all meetings. On my first year on the board, I chaired as the Social Events Coordinator. I was responsible for recruiting and supporting chairpersons for each activity and personally chaired the Bully Fools Day Picnic with the Taco Guys Then I took over the Newsletter Editor position from Betty Fisher in March of 2006. Since then, I have chaired the Newsletter & Web Site Committee. Along with Deb Shoemaker (publisher) and Andy Sydoriak (web master), we put out the Club Newsletter every two months. This summer, I also volunteered to be the Specialty Show Chair. I am responsible for the May Specialty Show that we are holding in conjunction with the Bulldog Club of America, Div. III Specialty Show. I have also worked on fundraising this year. I created the Sponsorship Request forms to help fund our show. I also organized the club T-Shirt sales with our new club logo.

If elected again, my goal is to beef up the Mentorship Program, which I introduced earlier this year. I want to be involved in creating a structured Mentorship Program for all new members in their first year. My goal is to maintain members in our club and get more members involved in committees and social events. I am a teacher by profession, and my number one goal is education. In this case, education on this wonderful breed of dog. I also believe that a strong working relationship between the show and rescue folks is important. I have 2 beloved bulldogs that are family members.

Marie Weir - Board Member at Large

Steve & I have loved, owned & rescued bullies for 20 years now. We have been members of BCGSD since 2000 when after rescuing our first bullie (Scarlett) from BCGSD, We became intimately connected with Derek Rasmussen and Elaine Feinstein at that time. Our first Bulldog, King Olaf of 12 years had died a year and a half earlier & "replacing" him with a puppy was not in our hearts, but giving Scarlett a new home and a better life was just the balm we needed to heal. When we opened our hearts to Scarlett, it was very easy to open them again to Bo a year later. Derek had been fostering him and the pair just lit up our lives after such a sad loss in Olaf.

Steve served on the board back in the early 00's. We attended every function, joyfully did booth duty at the Del Mar Fair, contributed to every auction & provided money & food when

Many of you who have been a part of BCGSD for more than a few years know that Scarlett & Bo were poisoned and we lost them in Jan 2005. Despite this very traumatic time, we did not relinquish our membership or stop supporting the club. Even without any bully, we continued to attend functions and stay connected. We knew one day we'd be blessed again and we were in June of '06 when Thomas White & Naomi Bell introduced us to Leila. Since then, Leila & Sir Charlie made a litter of 6 beautiful puppies together & I currently show one of the pups, Princess. She has taken 3 blue ribbons & just won the PetCo Howl-O-Ween Contest!

Currently, I am serving with Naomi's team on the Specialty Show to be held in May. I am the only team member NOT on the board. However, except for voting privileges, I am welcomed with open arms. We continue to attend most functions, pay our dues, welcome new members, spread the word to other bully owners we meet to join BCGSD, buy rescue items & the like. Every year we have done booth duty at the Del Mar Fair with great joy! If I am not selected as a board member, I will still hold dear all the things the BCGSD esteems and will continue to serve when asked and where needed. I challenge all of you who are reading this, whether you are on the slate or not, to serve. Come to our meetings and support the Specialty Show. Many hands make light work and I am pleased to serve any way I am asked to.

Andy Sydoriak - Board Member at Large

My wife Michell, our daughter Dylan, and I have been members of the club since we adopted our bulldog Sir Chubbs from the club. I have met many of you at various events, but most of you know me more as the web master for the club website... or at least you do now! As well as maintaining the club website, my family also fosters for SDBR. I have also coordinated "Meet the Breed" at the Del Mar Fair. Should I be elected as a board member, my goals would be:

Increase public exposure of the club -BCGSD has a fantastic reputation and is well known in the canine community, but it seems few outside our tight circle know of the club's existence.

Provide input to help guide the club through the next year - My family and I have participated in many club events and helped organize some as needed. I will use this experience to maintain the reputation of the club and to assist as the club evolves.

Maintain a bond between BCGSD and SDBR - Although BCGSD and SDBR are separate entities, they serve a common cause - the health and welfare of the breed. As such we need to work together and assist each other when possible.

Jamie Kimball - Board Member at Large

I am an active show exhibitor of our bulldogs, and take great pride in the presentation of dogs that closely conform to the breed standard as set forth by the AKC and the BCA. While my personal concentrations are that of an exhibitor, my dedication and passions run deep for all facets involving our specialized breed. I want to do all that is possible to preserve and uphold the quality and reputation of the breed.

As a board member I will promote breed education and mentoring of bulldog owners and the public; responsible and selective husbandry; and exhibition of healthy dogs properly conforming to the breed standard. Our club has a rich diversity in the interest and involvement of its membership. I am committed to equal representation of not only the breed, but all members of our club whether you are a pet owner, rescue volunteer, or a show exhibitor. I believe that my actions and representation should be conducted in the following order: First: protection of the breed and its reputation. Second: the well being of the club and its collective membership. Third: mentoring and education. Fourth: friendship for and consideration of all who are devoted to the breed.

My goals for the club include the ongoing revitalization of Conformation Show Exhibition and Junior Handling within our club and its membership; the promotion of club activities to expand and encompass old and new mem

bers through fun and inviting events; the encouragement of members to work together for the betterment of the breed, and friendship and fellowship amongst our membership to strengthen and expand the influence of our club.

Thomas White - Board Member at Large.

I have been a Club member for three years and a Board member for the last two years. I have been in charge of the "Meet The Breed" event at the Silver Bay Kennel Club, held at the Del Mar Fairgrounds for the past two years. I also hold handling classes that are free to members at my home on Saturday mornings except when I am showing our bulldogs. I am actively involved in the Show arena and am always glad to help others learn the skills necessary to be successful in the ring.

My goal for the club is to help educate members of the Club and the public about the Bulldog breed and the beauty of the Bulldog. I look forward to a successful Specialty Show next year. I am currently serving on the Specialty Show committee in the areas of fundraising and logistical support. I love being involved with such a great Club and have enjoyed my service on the Board and would be honored to serve again.



Proposals for Three (3) amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego

(1) In the current authorized version of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego Inc. Article III Section I reads:

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND OBJECTS**

2. The objects of this club shall be:
 - a. To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Bulldogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.

It is proposed that Article III Section I be changed to read:

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND OBJECTS**

2. The objects of this club shall be:
 - a. To encourage and promote responsible quality in the breeding of purebred Bulldogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.

- (2) It is proposed that Article I.2 be amended with the addition of a new paragraph to be known as Article I.2.e. This added paragraph shall read:

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND OBJECTS**

2. The objects of this club shall be:

- e. To promote responsible ownership and husbandry of purebred Bulldogs through education and mentoring with the purpose of protecting and improving the breed and breed reputation.

(3) In the current authorized version of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego Inc. Article III Section I reads:

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION

SECTION I.

The Club should be governed under its Constitution and By-Laws by a Board of Directors consisting of the Executive Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), the immediate past President, and two other members of the Club. Should the Club membership exceed 75 at the time of the nomination for office, an additional two members will be elected to the Board of Directors.

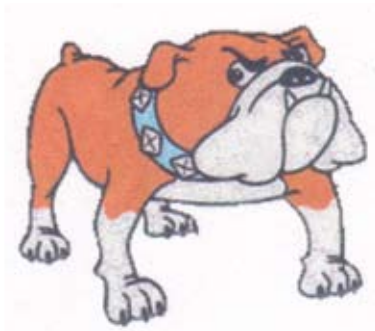
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ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION

SECTION I.

The Club should be governed under its Constitution and By-Laws by a Board of Directors consisting of the Executive Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), the immediate past President, and two other members of the Club. Should the Club membership exceed 75 at the time of the nomination for office, an additional two members will be elected to the Board of Directors. In the situation where there is no immediate past President available to serve on the Board of Directors, an additional member of the Club may be nominated and elected to serve on the Board of Directors in place of the immediate past President.



All correspondence to the general population of club members should be reviewed, approved, and disseminated by the President of the Board.

Ask Fang will returned in next issues.

MEET THE BREED

An all breed dog show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds takes place about this time every year. This year, the show is on the weekend of February 23-24th. During the show, there is a special building that contains booths with representation from many local dog clubs. Each club asks for volunteers to man the booth for a shift. The purpose is so that the general public can stroll through the aisles and Meet the Breeds of dogs represented.

Another favorite is the vendor area with booths selling everything related to dogs (toys, food, leashes, etc.)

In order to represent our club, we need volunteers to man (and dog) the booths. To volunteer, please contact Tom White at tommyhihtide@msn.com

Attention Bulldogs and Their Escorts



Volunteers needed for the
"Meet The Breed"
February 23-24 from 8am-4pm
For 2 hour shifts at the Education Booth
Contact Tom at tommyhihtide@msn.com

White Fang Prize Package, CD, RE, NAP, CS, CI earned her second RAE leg (rally advanced excellent) by qualifying in both Advanced B and Excellent B at the Bulldog Club of America National Obedience/Rally Trial on Oct. 1st under Judge Pam Weaver. She was 3rd place in both classes. She must qualify in both classes at 10 different shows to earn the RAE title. There are currently two RAE Bulldogs.

White Fang Copper Bear RN earned her first



Advanced A Rally leg (it takes 3) with a score of 89 and 1st place in the class.

The obedience exhibitors also voted a special award, M.O.C.K. (Master Obedience Clown K-9). Copper was the unanimous recipient as she clowned her way through both Advanced Rally and

Novice Obedience.

There were 9 obedience competitors and 15 rally competitors at the national. We had a wonderful time. - Betty Fisher



Coordinator

619-501-0219

Tracey LeVeque

mtmleveque@aol.com

SDBR continues to be very busy with bulldogs being relinquished by owners. We are looking at a record year of bulldogs coming into our program. We appreciate all the support we received from BCGSD at the Halloween Picnic!

Dogs currently in rescue:

Althea: 10 year old female, hospice foster, being treated for severe arthritis and ear infections

Marcus: 9 year old male, hospice foster, being treated for severe arthritis and incontinence

Stella: 2 year old female, grade 4 patellar luxation and hip dysplasia, needs loving home

Mabel: 2 year old female in medical rehab for demodex

Daisy: 1 1/2 year old female, sweet, playful and ready for a great home after spay!

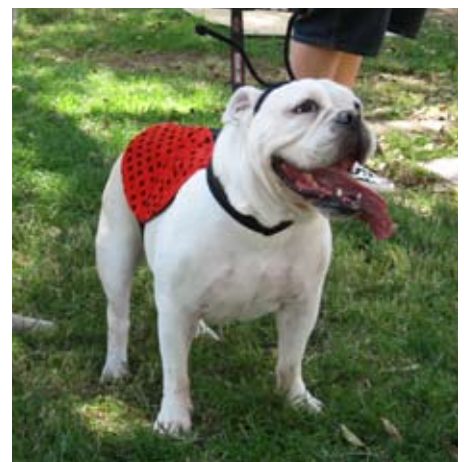
Roxi: 5 year old female, skin issues, ready for a forever home soon!

Puma: 2 year old female, recovering from severe demodex, staph and yeast infections

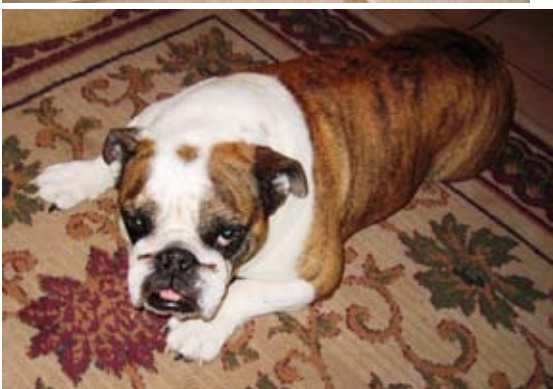
Abner: 2 year old male, had cherry eye surgery and neuter, wary of men, ready for a great female home!

Mortimer: 2 year old male, had entropion surgery on both eyes, in recovery

Betty: 9 year old sweet female, needs a soft place to spend the rest of her days



In Loving Memory..... Max



MAX LILLY

I adopted Max in the summer of 2000. He came to me originally as a short-term foster for Bulldog Rescue, but ended up never leaving my home. I remember the first time I ever laid eyes on Max; he was sitting out on a patio looking at me through a screen door. I knew, in that instant, that I never wanted to part with him. By the time I had driven him the 20 minutes back to my home, our fate was sealed. It was truly love at first sight. Please don't think this is a pattern I apply to all rescue dogs I encounter. I have met and fostered many dogs in my years with rescue, and none have touched me in the same way as Max did on that first day. Not to say I haven't loved others, I have, but Max and I truly had a special connection.

Max passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at my home Saturday morning, October 13th. We were getting ready to go for a trip to the vet and he was doing his "happy man dance" in his harness, excited at the prospect of an outing with "mom" without any of his annoying brothers and sisters tagging along. He suffered a massive stroke and passed away within minutes, despite my best efforts to help him breathe and keep him with me. To say it was traumatic for me would be an understatement.

It has taken me longer to sit down and write Max's tribute than Tucker's or Guinness's and the past few days I've pondered why that is. The best answer I can find is that for one, I had no time to prepare for his death, it was so sudden, I think it bowled me over emotionally and I am still trying to stand up and determine what happened. Secondly, Max was simple. Allow me to explain as that may seem like a bad thing, but on the contrary... Tucker and Guinness both had complicated personalities and stories, which in some ways made writing their tributes easier; more material to work with. My relationship with them was often a rollercoaster of emotion and psychology. But Max, he was steady and unwavering in his devotion and kindness; Simple in his essence and presence. In his youth he was a bit rambunctious but considering the first 2 years of his life were spent living on a chain in a backyard with almost no company or contact, I'd say it was a miracle he hadn't turned vicious. It spoke volumes about his nature that he was so kind and devoted after such a horrible start in life. During his years with me he was "the rock" here at the Ranch. I always used to say that my

dogs embodied parts of my being - Guinness was my spirit, Tucker was my soul, but Max, sweet Max, was my heart. He represented the softest side of my heart and was such a gentle soul.

When people would come to visit, all the other dogs would mob the visitors in excitement, demanding attention, as dogs will do. But Max always sat quietly in the background, hoping to be noticed and petted. Never obnoxious, never insistent, just quietly hopeful. Many people didn't notice Max and never paid much attention to him, but they missed something special.

Examples of his kindness are many, and I will only recite a few here:

I remember watching one day as the other dogs had flushed a baby rabbit. The poor thing was terrified and running for its life, as well it should have. I knew any intervention on my part would be futile as the pack was in full atavistic hunting mode. The little rabbit dodged fast and ran behind Max, who was sitting quietly a few feet from me, not participating in the chase. Max pretended as if nothing had happened and the other dogs flew past, never seeing where the rabbit had gone. Once it was safe, the baby rabbit hopped out from behind Max and off to safety. Max quietly watched him go, his little nubbed bulldog tail twitching with happiness.

It was Max that I would trust if a friend brought over a new puppy. It was Max to whom new kittens were introduced so they could learn about dogs, as I knew Max would never harm them. It was Max that

I trusted with my friend's toddler, knowing that any child was completely safe with him. I once watched a child, crippled by some horrible neurological disease, approach Max with such a look of joy. Max sat quietly while the child tried to pet him, and despite the child's attempts to be gentle, he accidentally bumped Max with his metal leg braces and crutches, many times. Max never once flinched, only leaned into the child to make it easier for him to reach Max and pet his head. Truly, I could write a book and fill it with stories of Max's quiet, kind ways. And for those of you who noticed him and appreciated the quiet dignity and gentleness that he represented, I know you'll miss him too.

True to his nature, Max's sudden death was actually a last act of kindness to me. I had recently become concerned that Max had cancer. He had some symptoms and was probably in the early stages according to discussions with my vet. I was trying to determine how I was going to survive watching my "little man" suffer and become ill with cancer and how, so soon after losing Tucker, I was going to make the decision to help him end his life. When he died suddenly on Saturday, I realized he did me this one last kindness. I don't have to watch him suffer and cry tears for weeks on end, agonizing over when to call the hospice vet to end his misery. He left this world with quiet dignity and did not suffer.

To Max: Thank you "my heart". You are, and always will be missed.



Holiday Party!

Friday, December 28th at 7 pm

Please join us for the annual Holiday Party and Gift Exchange.

ALL MEMBERS, their family and friends, are invited to celebrate the end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008 with your Bulldog Buddies. The evening will consist of a Pot-Luck Dinner and a Gift Exchange Game featuring items for Bulldog Lovers. (\$20. or higher) You may take home as many gifts as you bring. Also that evening, we will have a short General Meeting for the election to the Board for 2008. This event is a lot of fun. The food is always delicious, the wine is excellent, and the company feels like family. I hope that you will join us. Watch your e-mail for an E-Vite with the address and directions. Sorry, no dogs, but again ALL MEMBERS, their family and friends are welcome to attend. I hope to see you all there.

2007 Halloween Picnic

The Fall Event was held at Woodglen Vista Park, in Santee. The weather was bullie-perfect (sunny and in the 70's). It was great to see the familiar faces of our club members. There was a costume contest for the bulldogs, which included a Bully-Dragon, Bully-Snow White, a Bully-Lobster, and so many more (check out all the photos). We also had an Obedience Fun Match, in which our bullies showed off their stuff! The judge, Mary Killian, created a very relaxed show ring environment, and members got to try their bullies skills in the ring. A big thanks to the folks who entered the show (Geri Dimeglio, Andre Barlow, Derek Rasmussen, the Laramie's,

Tom White, and Betty Fisher) and to those who helped put it together (Geri Dimeglio, Betty Fisher, and myself, Naomi Bell). San Diego Bulldog Rescue folks were there with the traditional Bulldog items and bake sale. The pizza & salad delivery guys dropped the ball and delivered the items quite late, but it was tasty when it arrived. A big bullie hug to all who didn't make it and we hope to see you at our next event, the December Holiday Party. The Holiday Party is open to ALL TWO-LEGGED MEMBERS. We dress in festive casual wear and have a pot-luck & fun gift exchange.

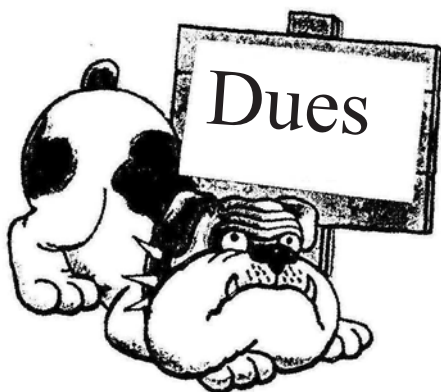




Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego
Member BCA Division III
P.O. Box 270176
San Diego, CA 92198

Have you paid your 2008 dues
yet?

Send your check to the BCGSD
Treasurer
1335 Navello Terrace
El Cajon, CA 92021



The next BCGSD Board Meeting will
be
held at 6 pm on
Saturday, January 12th at
Janice Hochstetler's in Valley Cen-
ter. Anyone interested in attending,
please do.
RSVP to mjh6@aol.com

Show committee meeting to be held
from 5-6