

Papillon Club of America Health & Genetics



ELAINE ZECH



My husband Peter and I live in the beautiful Umpqua River country of southern Oregon. Our first dog was an Airedale. Although I didn't buy her as a "Show Dog", with the encouragement and tutelage of a mentor with much knowledge of that Breed-- I did finish her championship.

She never had a litter as she was first and foremost the family pet. Our family also had a Lab for 15 years and several Shih Tzu dogs. When my children grew up, I became interested in showing dogs again. My search led me to the Papillon breed. I was impressed with the intelligence, beauty, elegance and hardiness of the Papillon. In 1994 I was fortunate to obtain my first Papillon puppy. She completed her championship in 1997 and I was hooked on the breed and exhibiting. I also admire and co-own a Standard Poodle (Ch. Kriscross Hallucination) with a dear friend. I have learned from the reputable Poodle breeders that genetic and health testing is of extreme importance for the health of that breed.

I am currently the President of the Umpqua Kennel Club, our local all breed club, a member of the Papillon Club of Puget Sound and a member of PCA since 1996. My career has been in human health care. First as an RN and then as a nurse practitioner. Canine health, specifically of the Papillon Breed is of great importance to me. Since Papillons have become much more popular, it is of extreme importance to recognize and understand some of the genetic challenges that are facing us.

As a member of the PCA genetics committee, I want to be active and involved to improve the overall health of our breed. I wish to encourage more health and genetic testing, encourage openness among breeders, educate others and myself so that we may all become more informed of the health issues facing the Papillon breed today. With health testing and information, we will have the power and knowledge to become true "guardians" of the Papillon breed that we all love so much.

I look forward to serving on this committee and perhaps develop some PCA approved studies to identify problems that the breed is facing.