



For Tangens alumni and friends

Santa Barbara dog show August 24-25, 2019

2019 was the 100th anniversary of the first show of the Santa Barbara Kennel Club. We showed the 7 months old puppies "Dash" (*Tangens Defying Gravity*, owner Debra Stafford) and "Luna" (*Tangens Lunar Eclipse*), who won their classes and got rave reviews from some people at ring side. I wish I had taken pictures, but I had brought too many dogs to the show and was too busy.

The show was not only a dog show; it was also a fantastic event for people. After the regular judging was done, the club offered a fabulous free buffet dinner and drinks for every person present. If you have a chance, go there next year! You don't need to show a dog, just visit.

During the dinner, there are special attractions such as competition for "Best Foreign Born" (where I showed my Swedish "Lezah" two years ago) and "Breeders Show Case", which Debra Stafford and I attended last year with her Tangens Fly Me To The Moon and my Tangens Alfa Romeo. The club also offers big prizes, such as \$1000 for Best In Show.

Top right picture is the cover of the show catalog 2010 and below is my photo Taken after dinner in the same arena 2019.



From the SBKC web site: "Historically, Santa Barbara must be credited not only with one of the most magnificent settings available for the dog fancy, but certainly as one of the oldest and most prestigious of shows."

The first show in Santa Barbara was held in 1919 in the Palm Ring of the Belvedere Hotel (Picture below is of the Potter Hotel which was renamed the Belvedere Hotel in 1919 when it was sold)."



Debra and I stayed in Ventura for the weekend and met up with Whippet owner Nancy Brown for a wonderful beach walk.



Update on grain-free dog food

The correlation between heart disease in dogs and their nutrition is still not clear. The FDA is working on it. Last time I went to Petco, I noticed that they had a large display of Arcana dog food, the brand most implicated so far. When I pointed this out to the cashier, he said that the management had told them that dogs getting sick from grain-free food already had heart disease. May be true. He also pointed out that the scientist working on this were all funded by the main dog food companies. Also true. We shall see....

Hanz and Soren walking Tiger (left) and Lily

Tiger is from our 2007 litter. Early this year, his owners reported to me that he had a heart issue. Here is an update:



"Hi! I've been meaning to get in touch with you about what a HUGE difference we've seen in Tiger since changing his food. It really bears mentioning because it's like a night and day difference! His overall health and wellbeing has completely changed. We were feeding him previously expensive Kasik brand dog food. And he was having serious heart problems resulting in him retaining so much fluid it was causing issues with his breathing. He had to see the vet twice and be drained. I was skeptical when Darin said you told him to change his food, but I went along with it and bought him Purina Beneful basic Vons dog food. And it's a 180 degree turn around. He's not retaining any fluids. He is sprightly and energetic for an older dog. His spirits have improved, and he looks so much better and is not building up fluid now at all! No more need to go to the vet to be drained. It's just amazing! I waited for a while to tell you because I wanted to see if it lasted. But the improvement is so remarkable I thought it was important for you to know and pass on to others. The type of food you feed your dog can be harming their health! Mostly I'm just so grateful that we will get more time with him!! Sincerely Mel Marx"

Although we don't yet know the science behind the latest "grain-free" dog food issues, one thing is for sure: nobody knows exactly what YOUR dog needs. Therefore, do not feed the same food always. Switch between different brands weekly or monthly.

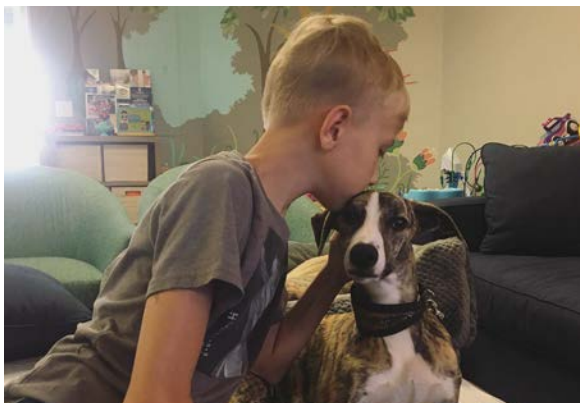


Photo Michelle Hill

"Dash" Tangens Defying Gravity is learning to become a therapy dog by visiting children with cancer. His sire *Tangens Fly Me To The Moon*, "Bobby" has been doing this for years. Both owned and trained by Debra Stafford.

AI (Artificial Insemination, not Artificial Intelligence)

AI is important in dog breeding, particularly for preservation of dog breeds. From the day a breed was declared a breed, its genetic diversity is gradually reduced, as people like to breed only to the most beautiful or successful individuals, particularly famous males are overused.

Of 173 breeds in the UK for which there are data, the status of 66% (115 breeds) is "critical", the FAO's highest risk category for domestic animal breeds. Another 27% (47 breeds) are "endangered", and 2% (4 breeds) are "vulnerable". Only 7 breeds (4%) could be classified as "not at risk". The reasons for the high proportion of breeds at risk are low numbers of breeding animals and an inadequate number of sires used for breeding. Comparable information is desperately needed for breed populations in other countries as well as the overall size and status of the global population."

AI is one way of keeping the genetic diversity by using what is available internationally and not only locally. Semen can be collected and stored in frozen form forever. The frozen semen can then be used from long gone dogs with desirable traits or from dogs far away. Unfortunately, semen that has been frozen is very short lived and has to be delivered at the absolute right time and the right place, so it doesn't always work. Semen can also be collected distantly and shipped chilled to the female. And what almost always works is to collect locally and directly inseminate into the female. This is often used in dogs of breeds that can't breed naturally, such as the various bully breeds (English Bulldog, French Bulldog, and others)



Some years ago, I wrote an article for a dog magazine titled **"A day at the Sperm bank"** describing what goes on at the Canine Cryobank in San Marcos on an average day. (the cryobank car on the left)

My day at the sperm bank was very interesting!

I have failed several times with AI with frozen semen. With the recent arrival of a new veterinary reproduction specialist in San Diego County, I may try again.

But here is a success story using frozen semen from **Ch Tangens The Maverick Cosmonaut ROM** to produce recent litters in Sweden (kennel **Play a While**, breeder Henrik Härling) and Finland (kennel **C'mere**, breeder Kirsi and Pia Mannila). **"Brand"** (litter 2007; owner Iva Kimmelman) was collected at a young age and his semen frozen.

Pictured is a Brand son born in Sweden and now living in Norway:

Play A While Bang Bit För Bit

He was Best In Show puppy in his very first show

Check out recent news about AI for humans! There are lots of interesting stories about who was actually the sperm donor. No wonder American Kennel Club requires a DNA analysis of every sperm donor!



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