



Welcome to the wonderful world of the Portuguese Water Dog (PWD) – a breed with a colorful history and a true working temperament.

Originally bred to work alongside fishermen on their boats, the dogs were considered crew members with specific jobs to perform. Strong swimmers, they carried messages & items to other boats, retrieved overboard objects, and even stood watch over the equipment and catch while in port.

Whether you have chosen this breed for its energy & athleticism, intelligence, or desire to be a loyal partner, your puppy should have the abilities and natural instincts to perform the tasks it was originally bred for. PWDs today still exhibit the eagerness, strong swimming ability, and retrieving instincts, along with the ever-present zest for life.

One way to appreciate the personality and talents of your PWD is to explore Water Work. This is a program of specifically designed activities and tasks that echo the jobs the dogs were trained to do on the fishing boats. Water Work is a team effort and one of the best ways to bond with your dog.

The Water Work program strives to encourage the development of the working attributes of the PWD. The program begins with an entry level set of exercises and progresses through 5 levels of difficulty. Water Work is not a competitive sport, but a team sport – the team being only you and your dog.

The PWDCGC has a water training program for its members and we encourage you to participate. During the summer season, the club holds weekly practice sessions where teams receive guidance on both land and water exercises and gain experience on boats designed for our purpose. We also hold a pre-season workshop for all levels and are always ready to answer questions and offer support.

You will be surprised to see how watching our dogs rise to the challenges of performing these age-old tasks will speak to your heart. We hope you will explore this fun activity with your dog. It is a perfect way to see your dog in its element and meet new PWD friends.

For more information on the details of Water Work and the various exercises, please visit:

The Chicago club website www.pwdchicagoclub.org

The National Club website www.pwdca.org

For information about our weekly practice program contact Susan Becker at sbckr@aol.com

For general information about our program contact Cindy Petrey at ctpetrey5@gmail.com