

WCA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – 2019

JOAN VALDEZ



Joan shared her knowledge, which was passed down to her from the old timers of the day, to anyone who asked for her help. She bred until she had the best dogs in the country, and the Valmar kennel is behind many of our top Weimaraners. It was Joan's dedication to the breed that impressed the authors of *Weimaraner Ways*, and Joan is featured prominently in this historic book.

Joan helped run and was an advisor for multiple WCA National Specialties, along with numerous annual Futurity/Maturity shows, which are vital for our breed's future. Joan kept our local club viable through almost four decades, supporting WCA with their West Coast shows. Joan inspired people to join WCA and volunteer with the WCA to keep the Weimaraner breed healthy and honor the breed standard.

The best breeders in the country recognized Joan's hard work in perfecting the breed standard, which is why Valmar is behind most of the pedigrees in the nation. Joan was promoting many of the best dogs in the country for decades. She didn't brag about this accomplishment, but instead was driven to keep improving the breed. Joan had a passion for health and structure.

Joan mentored many of us to show our dogs. She inspired people to do their best and follow her example because she dedicated so many hours for decades keeping the shows going, mentoring all of us regardless of kennel and producing the monthly newsletter for Southland Weimaraner Club.

If someone was enthusiastic enough to participate in shows and ask questions, then Joan was there to support them, without asking for anything in return. Joan's knowledge of the breed, and selfless mentorship to all who asked, whether they had her dogs or not, was outstanding, detailed and caring. Joan's passion was not about individual accolades and glory, but about the preservation of the high standards of the Weimaraners. Even when Joan was no longer able to show, she would loyally attend shows and offer encouragement.

Joan would come out to assess the litters of club members if they asked her to look at their puppies, even though their dogs had nothing to do with Valmar. Joan even helped dock tails when asked by anyone in the club.

She volunteered literally hundreds of hours each year to the Southland Weimaraner Club, whether it was producing a monthly newsletter (including compiling data, composing, printing and mailing every month without fail), which outlined Board and General meetings, discussed numerous Weimaraner health topics, and listed the wins by club members in conformation, agility and obedience. Joan spent hours on this newsletter every month, and never asked for recognition, or help. She did this for decades. Joan also participated in the fundraiser picnic for Weimaraner rescue, which raised thousands of dollars each year for rescue, and helped to unite both pet and show people, to save these wonderful dogs and to socialize. Joan rallied the club members to participate in Weimaraner rescue, and the fundraising picnic was an annual event.

Over the years she served on WCA committees, including the Nominating Committee. For several years, until recently, she served on the Hall of Fame Committee.

Joan Valdez is a major contributor to the fabric and preservation of the Weimaraner breed standard as we know the breed today, and as it has been since it was introduced to the country back in the 1940's.

If you look at the pedigrees of most of the top dogs in our breed, you will see Valmar dogs behind them. Joan has many of the historical dogs under the "records" section of the WCA website, going back decades. It was not just one top winner, but dozens of sound, healthy examples of the breed standard. Joan was a breeder/owner/handler who helped shape the breed as we know it today.

We are forever in her debt for her guidance.