

Dane Line **REIMAGINED**

MAY
2021



BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR OUR UP-COMING SHOWS:

Supported Entry at the
Chickadee Classic, Maine
June 26- 27

2021 Fall Specialties
Thanksgiving Classic, Springfield
November 27- 28
Thanksgiving Weekend

Published by the Great Dane Club of New England

President - Sue Davis Shaw
Vice President - Marcia Roddy
Recording Secretary - Kim Thurler
Corresponding Secretary - Tiffany Cross
Treasurer - Sharon Boldeia
Directors - Suzanne Kelley, Normand Vadenais & Dianne Powers

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

MAY 2021

Hi Everyone,

Happy Spring! It sure seems like a rebirth this year with flowers blooming, dog shows starting up again, and vaccinations allowing our social lives to resume. I hope you and your families have come through this intact and I hope to see you all before too long.

In this issue I would like to familiarize you with the AKC Home Manners Program. This is another Virtual program that you videotape at home and send to a CGC evaluator for review and certification. Please check out the information in this issue of *Daneline Reimagined*. I will be happy to certify the dogs of GDCNE members free of charge.

I hope some of you will be able to attend the supported entry at the Chickadee Classic in Maine in June. Judges are listed elsewhere in this *Daneline Reimagined* issue.

If you are eligible for an award for 2020 and haven't applied yet, please contact Tami immediately – cosmicdanes@verizon.net

Mark your calendars for our next zoom meeting on Wednesday, June 16th, at 7:30 PM. I hope to see you then.

Best wishes,

Sue

Sue Davis Shaw

President

Litter Box

From Sterling Moffat at Sterling Danes

6 blue puppies born April 3. 4 boys, 2 girls

Dad is GCh KRW ABW Dancing in the Moonlight TT

Mom is Sterling's Obsidian Rosette Delizy NA NAJ ACT 1 TKN CGC

One of the girls will be staying at Sterling Danes



Sunshine Report

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to **Suzanne Kelley and Rachel Wilson** who are both recovering from surgery.

Our hearts go out to **Paula Sine** on the loss of her husband due to Covid. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Our sincere condolences to **Laurel and Chloe Malvezzi** on the loss of their beloved boy, Ballas, to an aggressive lymphoma.

Membership Report



Dawn Williamson has applied for a regular membership, sponsored by Paul Bowman and Sue Davis Shaw. Dawn is from Marblehead, Mass., and has a show puppy from Paul's recent litter. Any comments or concerns regarding Dawn's membership should be directed to Sue Davis Shaw @ Davisdane@comcast.net

GETTING TO KNOW YOU—TIFFANY CROSS

As a third generation Dane lover, our Great Danes have been a precious part of our family for my entire life. My mother grew up with a Harlequin and passed the love onto my father and then even her in-laws. My parents had their first show dog before I was born from The Allens of Lane's Turn Great Danes, but Kami only went to a few shows and decided she was happier on the couch not in the ring. When I was very young we also had dogs from Harmony Hill and Murlo breedings as well as some rescue Danes. In 1982 my parents bought a Harlequin, Maitau's Magic Marker, from Pat Ciampa and from there grew a friendship. Later that year we welcomed his Merle brother Bristol who was in need of a home and he was my blanket sucking silly boy for ten years . In 1989 we welcomed our wonderful "Racey"; Maitau's Village Gossip, ROM, who we co-owned with Pat and she began our journey into exhibiting and breeding. Racy began not only our journey into breeding and exhibiting, but she solidified the Maitau partnership between Pat, my mother, Helen and me.

We joined the Great Dane Club of New England in 1991 and I have held numerous board positions over the years. I am so grateful to have met and known so many wonderful club members who have become friends over those years. I truly value all of you and miss those whom we have lost . I have learned so much from everyone and feel very lucky that I have had the ability to have been exposed to the knowledgeable breeders and handlers we have in New England. Some of our greatest memories through the years have been at our GDCA National Specialty. We have been blessed to have many dogs that we have bred win various national placements, Award of Merits and compete in the Top 20 over the years. Some of the highlights are our first National in 1992, Racey's daughters Risque and DWI won Winners Bitch and Reserve Winners Bitch & Best Puppy respectively. The following year DWI's littermate Freida was awarded Winners Bitch & Best of Winners! The Futurity wins have been some of the most thrilling with Asia going Best In Futurity in 1998 and then Bode in 2004. Bode went on to win GDCA Best Puppy later in the week. In 2004 his sister Elle was Winners Bitch & BOW . The 2005 National was in Phoenix and the long drive was certainly worth it with Bogey going Reserve Winners Dog and Best Puppy . His littermate Eva had so many accomplishments over her career but especially at the National going Best of Breed in 2007 & 2008 and then in 2009 was Best of Opposite and went on to win The Top Twenty !!!

Another very special memory was our Sweet Trace going Best of Opposite in 2013 made all the more special as he was owner handled by Pat! I still can hear Joel's running critique of her handling during the last cut. We continue to get great enjoyment at watching our "kids" placements in the pedigrees of so many contenders. It has been an amazing 30 years in breeding and exhibiting but as all of us veterans know , it is not just about the winning. We work hard to continue to improve the health of this noble breed. While breeding is not for the faint of heart there are many sleepless nights, challenges and heartbreaks . However, there are a lot of good times, stories, lots of laughter, and great meals with great friends. Being asked to judge the Futurity at the 2016 GDCA National



was my biggest honor. I am still so grateful to everyone for that opportunity and it remains one of my most treasured memories . After putting it off for far too long, I look forward this year to getting my license to judge Great Danes and build on that memory. With exhibiting and judging under my belt, I must say that my favorite place remains in the whelping box with my "peeps!! "

GETTING TO KNOW YOU—SHARON BOLDEIA

I have had dogs throughout my life. As an adult I had a boxer named Maverick who was a wonderful boy! During one of our veterinary visits, I met Richard and Heidi Swift and their beautiful fawn Great Dane, Honey. They referred me to Maitau Danes and my quest for a Dane puppy began. After many conversations with Pat confirming that I had a fenced in back yard and I would do obedience with my Dane, we had a meet and greet. I brought my friend and pictures of my yard to confirm my fenced in back yard LOL. I was then trusted with my first fawn bitch named Jordan. Sadly, I lost her at a young age with osteosarcoma. Pat, Helen and Tiffany were kind enough to replace her with a show puppy who I named Mackenzie.

That started my introduction to the dog show world and the GDCNE. I joined and have been the Treasurer for many years. Pat handled Mackenzie to her championship and she finished quickly! There never seemed to be the right time to breed her as I was selling my home in Massachusetts and relocating to New Hampshire. Once settled in, I wanted to get a companion for Mackenzie. We reached out to Josh Saunders of Grateful Great Danes in Colorado. As a teenager, Josh got his first Dane from Pat and had worked with her Danes. Eight weeks after I contacted him, a fawn bitch named Riley flew into Logan airport, greeted by myself, Pat and Helen.

Riley and Mackenzie became great friends and company for each other while I worked. I had ten wonderful years with Mackenzie who I lost last year. Riley now spends her weekdays with her co-owners Pat or Helen and Tiffany, playing with their dogs. She also goes one day a week to Village Sentry Daycare, owned by Pat's daughter Michele, who owned Riley's sire, Raleigh. Riley does have a village in her life! Her show started in the puppy classes before Covid and to date she has a Specialty Major, two Specialty Major Reserves and several minor points. In performance, she has her CGCA with Pat. In breed she was handled by Tiffany and a Junior handler, Izzy Eaton.

Riley is a combination of sweet, silly and fresh and I love her to pieces! We look forward to the spring shows and the 2021 National where she can be shown in the Futurity that was cancelled last year. It will feel great to see everyone at shows again!



BRAGS

MBISS GCH COSMIC NOBONZ NEW KID IN TOWN - "MAX"



Owned by Art and Leslie Solnick

Bred and Co owned by Tami Bradford and Karen Pacino

Presented by Lorrie Moreira

Harrisburg Kennel Club—Group One

Working Group judge Ms. Carolyn A. Herbel

Breed judge Mr. John P. Wade.

BRAGS

DIVINE ACRES LEMAIRE KIKI DO U LOVE ME - “KIKI”



Harrisburg Kennel Club—Judge: Mr. John P. Wade, Winners Bitch

Bred by Carolyn McNamara

Owned by Jayme Lemaire, Carol Urick & Robert E. Layne

BRAGS

CH.* OLD MISSION'S LEMAIRE'S KNOW WHEN TO HOLD 'EM— "CASH"



CHAMPION AT 6 MONTHS AND 3 WEEKENDS OF SHOWS

Bred by Stephanie Blades

Owned by Jayme Lemaire, Carol Urick & Robert E. Layne

Presented by Paul Levesque

Troy Kennel Club—Judge Mrs. Linda Berberich

GDC of Maryland—Judge Leon Reimert

Great Dane Club of Central PA—Judge Ms. Sherry Bosley

Springfield Kennel Club—Judge Joan Luna Liebes



Charitable Trust News

We have just concluded a very successful on-line auction in which we raised over \$4,000 to benefit Rescue thanks to Pookie Kostuk's very generous donations. My sincere thanks to our members who helped to make it a success.

Hoarding Case – We are involved with helping a couple of rescues who have taken in Danes from the hoarding case in Indiana. The dogs are coming in a few at a time and will total approximately 100, most of which are Great Danes. From one of the Rescues: *'Most are malnourished and have skin issues. Some have cancer, neurological issues and/or heartworms. They were living in tiny cages in barns with little to no interaction. We have placed all the dogs we were able to get off the property into foster homes but the vet bills are still coming and are very expensive. If there is anyway you could help us please let me know. We are a 501c3 and are committed to making sure these dogs will never suffer again.'*

We will be helping however we can.

Raffle tickets are currently on sale for the rainbow necklace. Tickets are \$5. each and the winner will be drawn at the awards night at the National. You need not be present to win. Please see Tiffany for tickets.



Great Dane Club of America, Inc.

The Southeast Division recently announced that you can now sign up on line to reserve your Welcome Bag. GDCA.org. At the very top of the home page click on National Store and it will take you to the page to reserve your welcome bag.

Also, from the GDCA Home page if you click on shows and then 2021 National Specialty, it will bring you to a page to reserve your Generations poster.

The Southeast Division's Theme is 'Generations' and what better way to celebrate your Great Dane lineage by displaying your Generation Poster. All posters are proudly displayed during the first event of the week, the Welcome Party.

Claim your poster during the evening to take home as a forever treasure. Posters may include up to 7 photos per poster.

*No thumbnail prints

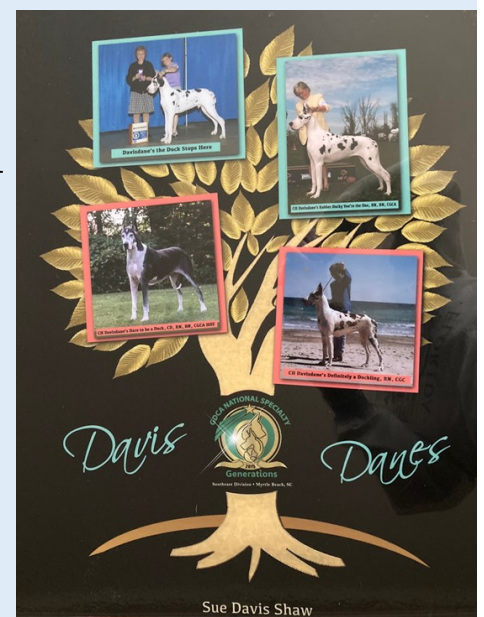
*Show photos translate better or high quality photos

*No photo shop requests- photos as is.

Posters \$50.00 each. Please submit all photos and descriptions to Amber Finkel – AmberFinkel@gmail.com

Deadline to order: 9/1/2021

I personally have one from the last Southeast Division's National and it is a wonderful memento.



Chickadee Classic
June 24 – 27
Cumberland Fairgrounds
Cumberland, Maine

4 Days – 6 All Breed Shows – 4 OB/Rally Trials.
Featuring: Junior Showmanship, National Owner Handled Series,
Best Puppy in Show, Best Veteran in Show,
Best Bred by Exhibitor in Show

GDCNE Supported Entry on Saturday.

Shows and Judges are:

Thursday, Central Maine Kennel Club, 2 shows,
Mr. Terry Stacy and Mr. Jon Cole

Friday, Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, 2 shows,
Mrs. Jacqueline Stacy and Mrs. Patricia Lanctot

Saturday, Penobscot Valley Kennel Club, GDCNE Supported Entry,
Ms. Elizabeth Muthard

Sunday, Penobscot Valley Kennel Club, Mr. Charles Olvis

OFFERED BY BETTY LEWIS:

The following text in quotation marks, was written by Patricia Skinner. I don't know who she is, but I thank her for her words. I don't know where I found them, but I couldn't have said them better myself. The only thing I would change is that I spell the word with a W, as in Wholistic, not the more commonly found Holistic. The reason is that I want you to think of a "whole", not a "hole." :}

"Holistic medicine is a term used to describe therapies that attempt to treat the patient as a whole person. That is, instead of treating an illness, as in orthodox allopathy, holistic medicine looks at an individual's over-all physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being before recommending treatment. A practitioner with a holistic approach treats the symptoms of illness as well as looking for the underlying cause of the illness. Holistic medicine also attempts to prevent illness by placing a greater emphasis on optimizing health. The body's systems are seen as interdependent parts of the person's whole being. Its natural state is one of health, and an illness or disease is an imbalance in the body's systems.

"Holistic therapies tend to emphasize proper nutrition and avoidance of substances- such as chemicals -that pollute the body. Their techniques are non-invasive."

"The aim of holistic medicine is to bring all areas of an individual's life, and most particularly the energy flowing through the body, back into harmony. Ultimately, of course, only the patient can be responsible for this, for no practitioner can make the necessary adjustments to diet and lifestyle to achieve health. The practice of holistic medicine does not rule out the practice of allopathic medicine; the two can complement each other."

As a Wholistic Animal Consultant, I offer a variety of modalities such as Animal Communication, Nutrition, Therapeutic Touch, TTEAM (Tellington Touch), flower essences & Reiki and I refer my clients to competent practitioners in the fields of homeopathy, chiropractic and others.

Each wholistic practitioner has specialties. We can't all offer everything, nor can we all be good at everything. However, the universal energy used in many modalities is the same energy, just applied in different ways by different people. Our dogs generally accept it all, and benefit from it.



MEGAESOPHAGUS:

A Death Sentence for Puppies?

Cathy Ford
Omega Rhodesian Ridgebacks

In July of 2018, I helped my girl whelp 3 beautiful female puppies and watched them settle into life with ease.

At nearly 4 weeks, the pups were introduced to their first gruel meal. The next two mornings, I noticed an unfamiliar spot about the size of a 50 cent piece on the bedding in the whelping box. Did a puppy eat too much? Did I have my first puppy with megaesophagus?

"Megaesophagus (ME) is a generalized enlargement of the esophagus – a muscular tube connecting the throat to the stomach – with a decreased to absent motility. Esophageal motility is required for moving food and liquid down to the stomach", (petmd.com). The condition can be congenital or acquired and is generally diagnosed via radiograph, with or without barium. Both forms are typically idiopathic, although there are other diseases

that can lead to acquired ME.

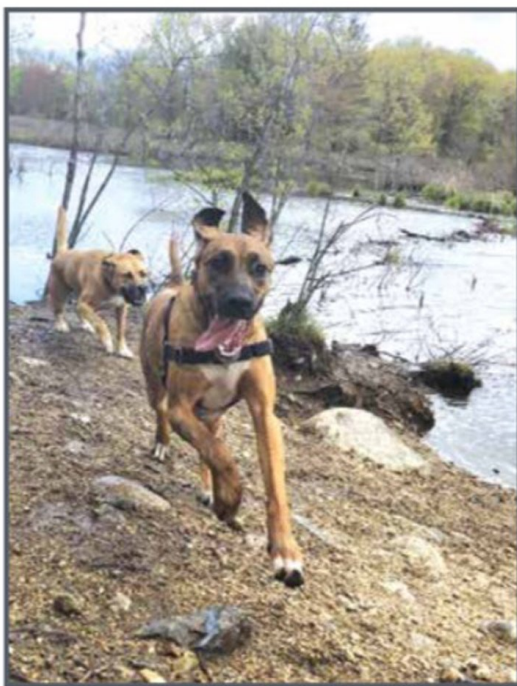
Typically, puppies with ME regurgitate their food as it cannot move into the stomach and thereby pools in the lower esophagus. Regurgitation is different from vomiting. There is no propulsion of food with regurgitation. Food passively comes out of the mouth sometimes being aspirated into the lungs leading to aspiration pneumonia. Puppies with congenital idiopathic megaesophagus (CIM) are generally diagnosed

before the age of 10 weeks. "CIM leads to high mortality from directly related causes, such as malnutrition and aspiration pneumonia, or euthanasia because of the persisting clinical signs."*

While I had no experience with the condition, I had noticed one of the pups exhibiting strange throat movements when she was a week old. "Bullfrogging", as it is called, is sometimes seen on puppies with ME. A Great Dane breeder and friend had been raising a puppy diagnosed with ME and we had had several conversations about it before my litter was whelped so it was on my radar. The congenital form of ME is more prevalent in certain breeds such as Wire Haired Fox Terriers and Miniature Schnauzers. Other breeds reported to be predisposed to this condition include German Shepherd, Dachshund,



ME Puppy Seated on Right



ME Puppy at 10 Months of Age

Great Dane, Irish Setter, Labrador Retriever, Pug, and Chinese Shar-pei. The research my friend had done set me on my path.

Following her lead, I went to the Facebook page, *Upright Canine Brigade-Megaesophagus Awareness and Support*, which contains numerous resource articles in its "Files" section. Of note were links to full and short versions of the clinical trial paper: *Sildenafil improves clinical signs and radiographic features in dogs with congenital idiopathic megaesophagus: a randomized controlled trial*, F. Quintavalla, A. Menozzi, C. Pozzoli, E. Poli, P. Donati, D. K. Wyler, P. Serventi, S. Bertini *Veterinary Record* (2017) 180,404. [Sildenafil CIM Full.pdf or Sildenafil CIM short version.pdf.]

Many will recognize sildenafil by its brand name: Viagra (prescribed for erectile dysfunction in humans). Sildenafil affects the lower esophageal sphincter causing it to dilate. This allows food to pass into the

stomach. The Dane puppy had exhibited remarkable results while on the drug, so I took a printed copy of the paper to my veterinarian who agreed to work with me. Sildenafil is obtained in pill form at a dosage significantly greater than what would be needed for a 5-week-old Ridgeback puppy, and is not water soluble. A compounding drug store crushed the tablets into olive oil creating a suspension palatable for a puppy. The calculated administered dosage was equivalent to 1 milligram sildenafil per kilogram puppy weight.

We administered the drug to the pup twice a day about 15 minutes prior to her morning and evening meals which she ate in an elevated position so that gravity would assist the movement of food. I would then hold her upright for about 20 minutes. Every 2 weeks she was weighed and the suspension adjusted according to her weight. The clinical trial had a 14 day duration so we were now on our own.

At the age of 4 months, following no incidences of regurgitation, she was again radiographed. My veterinarian and I were both ecstatic over a completely normal-sized lower esophagus! From there we decided to gradually wean her from the sildenafil over a period of 2 months and radiograph again after completion of the medication. A young couple who had been waiting for good news and visiting her often, took her home a week later. They agreed to all medication and feeding instructions; to maintaining her same diet; and to returning to my veterinarian for check-ups until the pup was at least a year old even though they live an hour away.

At 6 months of age and no longer receiving doses of sildenafil, our pup again had a normal radiograph. This pup will celebrate her first birthday on July 6th and, to date, there has been no regurgitation.

I recently contacted one of the clinical trial researchers at the University of Parma

in Italy asking if there had been any further study and/or any follow-up of the puppies involved in the trial and received the following response on May 16, 2019:

Dear Cathy,

All the puppies treated with sildenafil fully recovered at the end of the trial, and they were healthy one month later. I have no further information about the dogs enrolled in the study but I sent an email to the breeder who should know more. When I have this information, I will go back to you. No further research is available to my knowledge at present, and no correlation with the severity of the disease has been evaluated. There have been some off-label treatments by practitioners on dogs with other form of megaesophagus (acquired). Since sildenafil works by dilating lower esophageal sphincter and facilitating the passage of food into the stomach, clinical signs should improve in all types of megaesophagus. The main difference is that in puppies with congenital megaesophagus a complete recovery is possible because the disease tends to heal over time, and sildenafil fastens the recovery while minimizing the risk of death due to aspiration pneumonia, whereas in acquired forms a complete recovery is unlikely and the dogs could have to be treated with sildenafil and with feeding modification for years.

Best wishes,

Prof. Alessandro Menozzi, DVM, PhD
Dipartimento di Scienze
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Università di Parma
Strada Del Taglio 10
43126 Parma
Tel. +39 0521 032797
Fax +39 0521 032798

A few things to note:

- I weaned this puppy to a raw ground meat and bones diet along with her siblings. There tends to be considerable differing opinions regarding the feeding of puppies with ME.
- Whether or not it was needed, my pup continued to be fed in an elevated position until after the age of 6 months. As she got heavier, holding her upright for 20 minutes turned into holding her upright until she burped which would happen within 60 seconds of finishing every meal.
- The Great Dane Club of America is currently supporting megaesophagus research at Clemson University with funding via the club's Charitable Trust.
- One of the least expensive companies for acquiring sildenafil is Allivet.

There are several people that I must acknowledge for their confidence and support: Sterling Moffat; Margaret Monachelli DVM; and my community of Ridgeback friends. I truly hope that this experience and information will be of benefit to many other puppies.

**Sildenafil improves clinical signs and radiographic features in dogs with congenital idiopathic megaesophagus: a randomized controlled trial. F. Quintavalla, A. Menozzi, C. Pozzoli, E. Poli, P. Donati, D. K. Wyler, P. Serventi, S. Bertini Veterinary Record (2017) 180,404*

NUTRITION FOR COMPANION CARNIVORES

BY BETTY LEWIS, RVT, DR. A. N.

(Note: this discussion specifically talks about dogs, but is applicable to cats & ferrets as well)

Introduction

Until recently zoologists classified dogs and wolves as separate species; now scientists have proclaimed that there is no differences between the two species. This change was formalized in the 1993 publication: Mammal Species of the World, A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference, edited by D.E.Wilson and D.A.M. Reeder, published by the Smithsonian Institution in association with the American Society of Mammalogists. (1)This reference book is the final authority of the scientific community on mammal classification.

Why is this important in a discussion of nutrition for our pet dogs? In many ways, dogs are wolves with a thin veneer of civilization over them. We can learn a lot about our companion dogs from studying the wolves, but this discussion shall be confined to how best to feed our family companions using the wolf as a model.

What's wrong with commercial foods?

(1)The number one item which makes commercial foods inappropriate for pets is that these foods are cooked. No one has ever reported seeing wild animals routinely barbecuing their meals! Raising the temperature of food above 118° destroys all the enzymes and many of the nutrients.

In addition, I am given to understand that in order for the extruder (machine that makes the kibble into little pieces) to work, the food must be at least 40% grain. Since there has never been a report indicating that dogs and cats require carbohydrates, let alone grains, the reliance on this inappropriate food source is out of proportion, and detrimental to their

health.* Many dogs who have had grains entirely eliminated from their diets have responded by having "allergies" and other conditions clear up.

(2)The best guide to feeding dogs is to think about what they would eat in the wild, and then to try to reproduce that as closely as possible with the ingredients we have available. Wolves eat whole animals, from mice to caribou, and supplement their diets opportunistically with other things that they find, like nuts. Very little grain would be found in the diet of a wild carnivore, and they would avoid the moldy, toxin-ridden grains that comprise the majority of commercial pet foods. Despite the fact that there is no evidence showing that dogs & cats require carbohydrates in their diets, that is what makes up most commercial foods.

From the late Sandra Brigola, editor and publisher of Canine Health Naturally Newsletter, comes the following information regarding commercial pet foods: "The stored grains are sprayed with ethoxyquin, and moldy grains that have mycotoxins, aflatoxin or fusarium molds are hard to destroy. The allowable level in pet foods is 1.0 ppm (parts per million). The way that pet food manufacturers get around this is by mixing grains with higher levels of mycotoxins with grains of lesser levels; hopefully to reduce the higher levels. In its 1992 report, the Mycotoxin Committee of the American Association of Veterinary Lab Diagnostics said: "Virtually all animal foods contain at least some viable mold."

(3) I have been following pet food activist, Susan Thixton <https://truthaboutpetfood.com> for some time. She sits in on the AAFCO (American Association of Feed Control Officials.) Her reports indicate to me that they are a devious lot, at best. Suffice it to say that, in my opinion, no rules they make are in the interests of *your* family member's good interest. "Feed" doesn't pertain to "food." It's a category in itself. If you want to know what a dog food that "meets AAFCO standards" is allowed to have in it, follow Susan's updates; get on her mailing list.

In addition to substandard and heavily preserved grains, there is more bad news. The "meat" ingredient is not a whole cow or even a steak. This is what the late Marina Zacharias printed in her Natural Rearing Newsletter:

"The National Animal Control Association has estimated that animal shelters kill over 13 million household pets a year. Of this total, 30% are buried, 30% are cremated and the remaining 40%, about 5 million pets, are shipped to rendering factories to be recycled and used in pet food." (4) This information has been confirmed in great detail by Ann Martin in her book, *Food Pets Die For*. (5)

In his book, [Give Your Dog a Bone](#), Ian Billinghurst, BV. Sc (Hons), B.Sc. Agr., Dip. Ed. talks about modern dog feeding myths. We have been raised to believe that these myths are gospel, when, in fact, they are not true and never have been.

These are the myths:

1. The digestive system of modern dog is different from that of his ancestors, and therefore must be fed differently.
2. Dogs shouldn't eat bones and other raw foods.
3. All dog food should be cooked.
4. You need a university degree in dog nutrition to feed a dog.
5. The best way to feed a dog is with commercial dog food.
6. Each meal you feed a dog must be complete and balanced. (6)

Why feed raw foods?

Dr. Ian Billinghurst, an Australian veterinarian was the first to bring the concept of evolutionary, raw feeding to American public awareness. The buzzword for feeding raw in the early days was BARF, an acronym, which stands for Biologically Appropriate Raw Foods or Bones And Raw Foods. Dr. Billinghurst adopted the term as his trademark, so the term is no longer all encompassing and most people now just refer to the method as "raw feeding." You will hear different terms as people try to distinguish between feeding philosophies, but in the end, we are all trying to feed our carnivorous pets as Mother Nature intended.

What are the benefits of feeding raw?

- ^ You control what your pets eat
- ^ Healthier animals, with resulting lower veterinary costs
- ^ Balanced energy: "hyper" animals become calmer, lethargic ones become energetic
- ^ Naturally clean teeth
- ^ Small, nearly odorless stools which disintegrate quickly
- ^ Reduced chemical exposure (found in commercial foods)
- ^ No "doggy" odor and fresh smelling breath
- ^ Often, reversal of behavior and physical ailments
- ^ Not yet proven, but quite likely less prone to bloat
- ^ Can be less expensive

What are the challenges to feeding raw?

While feeding a raw food diet to your pets is, in reality, no more complicated than feeding yourself or your family, several generations of humans have grown up listening to the commercial pet food companies' commercials. Thus we have it ingrained in our brains that feeding animals is not understandable. This indoctrination is difficult to overcome without active education about the requirements of feeding carnivores and the possible choices available. The recommendations in this article are my conclusions at the current time(2020.) My opinions are based on the writings of many authors including Billinghurst, Lonsdale, Eliassen, and others (see end of article for recommendations), being an active member of several raw feeding email lists, and feeding a raw diet to my own dogs since 1998.

Probably the biggest challenge, after making the decision to change the way you feed your animals, is lining up your food sources. Depending on the size of your animals, a freezer may be necessary as well. In addition, being a pioneer is never easy and there will always be well-meaning, but ill-informed family and friends and veterinarians who will try to dissuade you, and will try to convince you to feed kibble again. It is often better to go ahead with your feeding changes without telling others. Once you, and they, see the positive changes in your animals, there will be less negative responses about this.

BONES? Did you say bones and raw foods?

We've been told that bones, especially chicken bones are the very worst foods we can feed our animal companions. Where did this information come from? It came from the habit of cooking our own food and feeding the leftover bones to our animals. Cooked bones are dried out and tend to splinter, making them prime candidates for perforating digestive organs on their way through. Raw, meaty bones, however, are soft and pliable. You will be amazed at how well the carnivore jaw is adapted to eat raw bones. In fact, my Great Dane can chew up a chicken leg in 10 seconds, my Whippet can do it in 30, but it took my disposal 5 minutes to accomplish the same task! Dogs and cats are truly designed by Mother Nature to eat in this fashion.

What about salmonella & other bacteria?

Bacteria are everywhere. We all live with a tremendous amount of bacteria. Dogs and cats are especially adapted to be able to handle ingesting bacteria. Remember how these beings clean themselves!

Yes, salmonella is found on chicken, but it is also on vegetables, on your counters, your floors, in your back yard, at the park, and everywhere else. What is the answer to minimizing your family's exposure to these critters? Wash your hands! Clean your counters and just be aware. Common sense and proper food handling is always advised.

Is feeding raw food safe?

Life is not "safe"; all choices carry risk. I've heard of dogs choking and dying on kibble and I've heard of dogs choking on raw meaty bones (RMBs). I have also heard of people choking on food. Feeding raw is as safe as anything else in life and, as stated above, common sense should prevail. Supervised meals are always a good idea.

What are raw feeders feeding?

This is an introductory article and is not meant to be comprehensive, thus the strong recommendation to read the books mentioned at the end of this article. However, I can tell you what I feed my dogs.

The rule of thumb is 80-10-10. That is 80% meat, 10% bone, & 10% organs, of which about 5% is liver & the other 5% other organs.

Variety is the keynote of feeding raw, so once your animals are eating 100% raw, you should rotate among as many different animal sources as possible. I routinely feed chicken, lamb, pork, beef, fish, rabbit, venison, & my dogs have eaten cavi. They liked it, so we'll try it again.

Krill Oil & squid oil are my alternating two choices of omega 3 fatty acid supplements, the only supplement which is routinely needed.

These are the basics. The closer to the whole animal, the way Mother Nature presents it, the better.

A word about oils:

You'll hear a lot about different oils and people have written long, involved books on this topic alone. However, in my opinion, it boils down to a few facts. While omega 3 and omega 6 need to be balanced in the body, we take in far more omega 6 when we eat, especially if we rely a lot on chicken. Therefore, I think we have to supplement only omega 3 fatty acids. This is found in fish oils and flaxseed oil primarily. Carnivores eat other animals, so we discard flaxseed oil, especially since it's been reported that some dogs itch as a result of eating it. That leaves fish body oils.

Salmon oil is the most easily obtained, but, most often it is rancid by the time you can purchase it.

I get my krill oil from mercola.com and my squid oil from <https://peterdobias.com/products/feelgood-omega>

The vegetable controversy:

People who espouse "whole prey model" would have you believe that what I listed above is all that is needed. They create a "whole animal" from the parts of various animals. In theory, I agree with this, but in reality, I disagree that animals fed entirely in this way are getting all of the nutrients available in nature. Where is the entire endocrine system, for example? When estimating the dressed weight of a slaughtered animal, the estimate is approximately half that of the

live animal. If **half** an animal isn't available for us to feed our pets, then there's a big hole in the whole prey model approach, in my opinion.

*I stress that finding *variety* in our food sources is the most important.* Carnivores fed with a wide variety of food sources do not seem to have deficiencies.

A lot of people just starting a raw diet get **hung up** on feeding vegetables to their carnivorous family members. Please remember that dogs, cats, ferrets and some other pets are **not** humans. If you want to think about vegetables, please think about adding them to your **own** diet. **Humans** need to eat 10-20 servings of vegetable matter per day. Carnivores do not.

One exception **might** be **fermented vegetables**. They are loaded with probiotics. My dogs do get a bit of sauerkraut fairly often.

Probiotics: These are the good bacteria which populate the gut, and are needed to digest some foods as well as to manufacture certain vitamins such as vitamin K (for clotting). They have a lot of other jobs as well.

Digestive Enzymes. We were taught in high school biology that our bodies make digestive enzymes--some in the mouth, some in the stomach and some in the pancreas. This is true. It is also true that those who eat a raw diet get enzymes in their food, however, when the quality of that food is compromised, we must once again draw on the body's capacity to make enzymes from the foods we eat. When the amino acids are used to make digestive enzymes, they are not then available to make other enzymes used in other functions, or to be used to run the body. Therefore, it may be prudent to supplement some animals with digestive enzymes. This may be true for some animals during the initial transition to a raw diet, for sick or debilitated animals.

Other foods that may be useful include:

^ Seeds & nuts. like almonds or pecans

^ Eggs with the shells if the dog will eat them. My experience shows that most dogs won't eat the shells, but they'll happily eat a raw egg. Sometimes, they just lick the yolk, so breaking it up helps.

Some people feed alfalfa and kelp, but I don't believe that animals with healthy thyroid glands should eat kelp everyday. In addition, the quality of both the alfalfa and the kelp is so variable that sometimes it's useless. Wherever man intervenes, you must be vigilant and know your sources. Table scraps. My dogs like to lick the plates before they go in the dishwasher and I like to let them do it. There is no harm in letting dogs have some of your food, even cooked, if you use common sense on amounts and remember that cooked bones are NEVER included.

What about a balanced diet?

Here's what Randy Wysong, DVM has to say about a "complete and balanced diet":

"A 100% complete processed diet requires:

1. 100% complete knowledge of food.
2. 100% complete knowledge of nutrition.
3. 100% complete knowledge of #1 & #2 requires 100% complete knowledge of every science.
4. Since #1,2 & 3 are not possible, the 100% complete processed diet is a myth." (7)

So, even if the bag says "complete and balanced", it's not likely that is what you're really feeding your pet. The truth is, though, that the body knows what it needs. If you supply variety in the form of a species appropriate diet, you do not have to concern yourself about this aspect of feeding. *Balance is achieved over time, not in every meal or even every day.*

How do I know how much to feed?

I attended a Billingham seminar when he was lecturing in the USA in 1998. In answer to this question, he showed a slide. One side showed a drawing of a dog with her ribs sticking out. Under this drawing it said, "Feed More". The other drawing on the slide was that of an extremely obese dog and the caption said, "Feed Less." This is the simplest way to decide: let your animals tell you by how they look and feel. A healthy dog should have just the hint of visible ribs. For those who need figures, 2-3% of body weight has been suggested for adult dogs with

5-7% for growing puppies. (See raw food suppliers' websites a food calculator.)

Can I feed a combination of RAW and commercial foods?

The purists would tell you that you can not, because cooked, grain-based foods are digested at a different rate from raw foods and you will create digestive upsets if you try. However, for 29 of the 50+ years I have been raising dogs, I did just that. My dogs had always been fed raw foods along with kibble, and they did reasonably well as far as their overall health was concerned. However, I can tell you that when I learned about raw feeding, and completely dropped the kibble from my dogs' diets, there was a visible improvement in their coats and musculature. Why feed a portion of the dog's food which is obviously holding him or her back from optimum health? I sometimes recommend feeding both together during the transition to raw feeding. This depends on the dog & the situation, however. For my own dogs, I always just went "cold turkey." (Pun intended!)

Some people transition from commercial foods to raw feeding by alternating meals or days. There is no hard and fast rule. Do what works for you and for your animals.

What else is important when feeding my companion animals?

Finally, no discussion of diet is complete without the mention of pure water. After oxygen, water is the most important nutrient required by our bodies. Bodies are reported to be about 75% water. Therefore, it is important to provide the best quality. Quality water used to be something we could take for granted, but no more! Municipal sources are often polluted, and then sanitized by using the toxic chemicals chlorine and fluorine. People say to me, "but I have well water!" as though not knowing the source of our water somehow makes it better! Are you certain that underground aquifer is pristine? Are you downhill from your neighbor's septic system? The only thing better about your own well water is that no chlorine or fluoride has been added. Beyond that, we don't really know what's in it, and the standard water analysis which proclaims our water "safe" doesn't begin to test of the number of possible contaminants.

The only way we can be sure our water is pure is by purifying it ourselves. Water purifiers come in a variety of categories from small countertop models to whole house units. My information says that the most practical kind is a reverse osmosis unit. Don't be fooled into

thinking that a carbon filter on the faucet is enough. Bottled water from the grocery store may be an expedient compromise in the short-term, either during the transition to a home purifier, or while traveling, but this industry is little regulated and you could be drinking someone else's tap water! (Note: reverse osmosis water is not "best," but just the best that is affordable & available for most people.)

Incidentally, water is also known as the universal solvent, which means that it has the ability to dissolve materials and incorporate them into itself. That plastic water dish you let water sit in all day is a toxic waste dump! Use only stainless steel or glass for your animal's food and water dishes, please!

Water quality is such a critical issue when looking at overall health, and we have been lulled for so many years into believing in the safety of our water supply, that we find it easy to just ignore this part, thinking that it doesn't pertain to us. For your own health and that of your animals, do something about your water quality today.

By combining a raw diet with purified water and wholesome supplements, you can take steps towards insuring that your animal companion can live a long, healthful life as nature intended.

Where do I start?

*I recommend that you purchase some of the books below. They are in order of recommendation. You **can** do it all yourself, but with guidance. Links to recommended websites are at the end of the article.*

1. Work Wonders, Feed Your Dog Raw Meaty Bones by Tom Lonsdale
2. [The Wolf's Natural Diet - a Feeding Guide for Your Dog](#) by Mogens Eliassen
3. Raw Meaty Bones Promote Health by Tom Lonsdale
4. The Complete Herbal Book for the Dog, Juliette de Bairacli Levy

These books can be of considerable help as you grow, learn and change. Most are available from Dogwise at 800-776-2665 www.dogwise.com or at amazon.com. The Eliassen books are available as downloads at www.k9joy.com.

(End of article. Footnotes below and then more resources)

* Carbohydrates

"There is no known minimum dietary carbohydrate requirement for either the dog or the cat. Based on investigations in the dog and with other species it is likely that dogs and cats can be maintained without carbohydrates if the diet supplies enough fat or protein from which the metabolic requirement for glucose is derived."

-*The Waltham Book of Dog & Cat Nutrition*, 2nd Edition (1988)

"...dogs experience digestive and metabolic limitations to high grain diets, which reflect their evolution on diets relatively low in soluble carbohydrates (Clarke et al. 1990, Kronfeld 1973, Sprouse et al. 1987, White et al. 1993.)

"The nutritional strategy of carbohydrate loading risks a variety of abnormalities in dogs...An alternative strategy of fat adaptation (the combination of fat feeding and training) was found to improve aerobic performance in dogs...and to spare glycogen utilization and reduce lactate accumulation."

"More attention was given to side effects in dogs and horses, species that did not evolve on high grain diets. Attempts at carbohydrate loading led to tying up, a mild form of exertional rhabdomyolysis in racing sled dogs (Kronfeld 1973)."

-Kronfeld et al. 1994. Optimal Nutrition for Athletic Performance, with Emphasis on Fat Adaptation in Dogs and Horses. *The Journal of Nutrition* 124:2745s-2753s.

"Provided the diet contains sufficient glucose precursors (amino acids and glycerol), the glucogenic capacity of the liver and kidneys is usually sufficient to meet the metabolic need of growing animals for glucose without the inclusion of carbohydrate in the diet (Brambia and Hill, 1966; Chen et al., 1980)."

-Nutrient Requirements of Dogs, Rev. 1985. National Academy of Sciences

1 Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference, edited by D.E. Wilson and D.A.M. Reeder

2 BARF email list at egroups.com

3 Canine Health Naturally Newsletter, Sandra Brigola

4 Natural Rearing Newsletter, Marina Zacharias

5 Food Pets Die For, Ann Martin

6 Give Your Dog A Bone,

7 Fresh & Whole: Getting Involved In Your Pet's Diet, Randy Wysong, DVM

Good additional resources not mentioned above:
Homeopathic Care for Cats & Dogs- Don Hamilton, DVM -excellent book with a great chapter on vaccines

The Nature of Animal Healing- Martin Goldstein, DVM

How to Have a Healthier Dog, Wendell O. Belfield, DVM & Martin Zucker, Doubleday & Co., NY, 1981.

Keep Your Pet Healthy the Natural Way, Pat Lazarus, Bobs-Merrill Co., NY, 1983.

The Natural Remedy Book for Dogs & Cats, Diane Stein, The Crossing Press, 1994.

The New Natural Cat, Anitra Frazier, Penguin Books, 1990.

Super Nutrition for Animals, Nina Anderson, Howard Peiper, & Alicia McWatters, MS, Safe Goods, 1996.

Pottenger's Cats, The Price-Pottenger Foundation, 2667 Camino del Rio South, Suite 109, San Diego, CA 92108-3767.

Follow these links for more information:

<http://k9joy.com>-Mogens Eliassen's website; you owe it to your animals to explore it

<http://www.caberfeidh.com/Truth.htm> - excellent introductory article by Christie Keith

<http://www.caberfeidh.com/NaturalDiet.htm> - sequel to above article by Christie Keith

<http://rawfed.com/myths/index.html> - myths about raw feeding

[Raising Cats Naturally](http://www.blakkatz.com/)- Michele Bernard-<http://www.blakkatz.com/>

Pottenger's Cats study- extremely important

<https://feline-nutrition.org/answers/answers-who-were-pottengers-cats-and-do-they-matter>

An early March 2021 [article](#) published in USA Today exposed that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received over 75,000 incident reports potentially related to the use of Seresto flea and tick pet collars. Those reports included approximately 1,700 related pet deaths and almost 1,000 involving harm to humans. Seresto was introduced to the market in 2012. The article goes on to accuse the EPA of not alerting the public of the incidents.



At the time of this post writing, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy has asked Elanco – the manufacturer of Seresto flea and tick collars – to temporarily [recall the product](#), and has requested documents. Elanco refuses to recall the collars, but will provide the requested information.

Now, if you have been following Hemopet's blog, you will know that we have written about [flea and tick products](#) in the past. We want to clear up any potential confusion compared to our previous writings, review the veterinary and company pushback, and give our position on the Seresto flea and tick pet collars and the EPA.

Confusion

In September 2018, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) placed [warning labels](#) on certain flea and tick **prescription** products that are classified as isoxazoline parasiticides and has continued to expand the list. These include: Bravecto (fluralaner) tablets for dogs Bravecto (fluralaner) topical solution for cats and dogs

Bravecto Plus (fluralaner and moxidectin) topical solution for cats

Bravecto 1-month (fluralaner) tablets for cats

Credelio (lotilaner) tablets for dogs and cats

Nexgard (afoxalaner) tablets for dogs

Simparica (sarolaner) tablets for dogs

Simparica Trio (sarolaner, moxidectin and pyrantel) tablets for dogs

Revolution Plus (selamectin and sarolaner) topical solution for cats

The following possible neurological adverse events were noted by the FDA in some dogs and cats: Muscle tremors, Ataxia. Seizures

As noted earlier, the USA Today article from March 2021 stated that the EPA received thousands of incident reports regarding adverse events in dogs, cats and humans after the use of **non-prescription, over-the-counter** Seresto flea and tick pet collars. Some of the anecdotal reports include seizures amongst other adverse reactions.

So why are these incident reports reported to the EPA and not the FDA?

In general, the [EPA regulates pesticides](#), whereas the FDA regulates parasiticides (antiparasitics). The active ingredients in Seresto collars are flumethrin and imidacloprid, both pesticides. Note, flumethrin is only found in Seresto pet collars. Imidacloprid is indicated to combat fleas and can be found in other products.

The FDA also says another rule of thumb is, "In general, flea and tick products that are given orally or by injection are regulated by FDA."

Why Seresto flea and tick collars and not other flea and tick collars? Incident reports regarding other EPA-regulated flea and tick products have been submitted previously that resulted in changes made by the agency. For example, the EPA changed labeling and dosing for spot-on flea and tick products based on incident reports in 2009. The EPA

also determined that Frontline spot-on treatment cannot be used on rabbits.

In regards to the lack of response to Seresto incident reports, the USA Today article points to tetrachlorvinphos, another pesticide found in flea and tick collars. After comparing the number of incident reports between tetrachlorvinphos and Seresto, the author found that tetrachlorvinphos had 30 times fewer incidents and 10 times fewer deaths than Seresto, when broken down by year.

Veterinary Pushback and Hemopet Response

A handful of veterinarians and veterinary toxicologists have come forward in defense of the EPA and Elanco. While we at Hemopet understand their position, we respectfully disagree with some of their points.

Veterinary Toxicologists

Counterfeit flea and tick products are a big problem. Anyone can report to the regulatory agencies. The reporting rate of adverse events potentially linked to Seresto collars is only 0.3% of sales since 2012.

The incident reports were wide-ranging to not only included seizures, but also liver, kidney and heart failure. Most of the time, veterinarians see a progression of symptoms along the same pathway regarding pesticides and other poisons.

Correlation does not mean causation. Meaning: Just because a pet wears the flea and tick collar does not mean the collar caused an adverse event. If the EPA thought there were enough similar incidents, the agency would warn the public.

Hemopet Response

The sheer aggregate of incident reports and comparison to other flea and tick collars is staggering.

True, counterfeit products may be a major factor. However, we do not know yet their extent without an investigation. Plus, if Elanco temporarily pulled Seresto from the market, counterfeit product sales may reduce or increase. In either scenario, we believe the counterfeit products could be a contributor to the cause of the adverse events.

True, anyone can report and the reporting rate of incidents is low from a percentage standpoint, but again the aggregate is overwhelming. On top of that, we do not know if these incident reports are underreported or over reported.

Yes, the symptoms listed in the incident reports are all over the map. This is not unusual for regulatory reporting. However, an impartial investigation should be able to distinguish those adverse events not caused by the flea and tick collars from those that truly are product related.

So, yes, a percentage of the 75,000 reports would be tossed out. That's to be expected. At the end of the day, companion pet parents would at least know if a sign or symptom is caused by the collar, as well as what sign or symptom is not.

It is true that correlation does not mean causation according to the strict definitions of "correlation" and "causation." On the flip side, the cause of an adverse event could be correlated to a Seresto flea and tick collar. To reiterate, we just don't know without an impartial investigation. Again, the sheer aggregate demands that we find out if an adverse event is caused by a particular flea and tick collar.

One veterinary toxicologist said we truly would not know a cause and effect without a necropsy. This can be definitive, but again an investigation can still be undertaken to gain more insight.

We have additional questions, of course. Is it just flumethrin in Seresto flea and tick collars potentially causing adverse events? Is it the combination of flumethrin and imidacloprid? We do not have the answers to those questions. Nobody does.

Again, we point to the sheer aggregate of incident reports and call on the EPA to launch an impartial investigation.

Source: https://hemopet.org/seresto-flea-and-tick-collars-and-the-epa/?utm_source=Clients&utm_campaign=bbaae7406d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_03_29_11_16&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2ab0e3771c-bbaae7406d-234869301

NEST ISSUE OF DANE LINE REIMAGINED **SEPT. 2021—DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS** **AUGUST 5TH**

GDCNE's JUDGES

A CONVERSATION WITH DALE SUZANNE TARBOX

How did you get started in dogs in the first place?

In 1969, a friend of my mothers had a beautiful brindle girl and I fell in love! Tootie was bred to Ch. Genton's Sulton of Stonehouse and my mom bought me a pup!

What made you choose Great Danes?

I chose Great Danes because of that brindle bitch "Tootie" and her son "Brother." They both had super temperaments.

How did you transition from a love affair with Danes to showing and breeding and/or handling Danes?

A lady who lived near me had a fawn bitch in her yard. One day I stopped, introduced myself and we started a friendship of breeding and showing. She was my first mentor, Yvonne Crofts.

Who were your mentors and people who influenced your breeding program?

There were many. Lois and Murray Michaels, Rose Roberts, Anna Mary Kaufman and Mary and Gerry Johnston.



What made you decide you wanted to become a judge?

It was a natural progression. I did not apply until 1990, when I thought I was prepared and ready.

What made you decide to add additional breeds to your judging repertoire?

I had a Dobe for many years out of a top kennel. She was beautiful. They are a fun breed to judge. I am going to apply for Dachshunds soon.

How many breeds do you judge?

I just judge Danes, Dobes and Jr. Handling.

What do you look for in the ring?

I look for overall balance and soundness along with type. A well made dog.

What has been your most exciting assignment and why?

Being nominated by my peers to judge the National. It is always exciting to get your hands on the best of the best.



What excited you the most when judging?

Finding a really great young dog that you know will go on to contribute to the breed.

What is your biggest pet peeve when judging?

1) Dirty dogs, my hands get filthy and 2) untrained dogs. There are no excuses for either.

How has being a breeder or handler informed your choices in the ring?

Judging used to be about breeding stock. It has now become a beauty contest. As a breeder judge, I look at every dog and think would I breed to that dog?

Do you have certain philosophies that you maintain as a judge?

Judge the dogs, not the handler. Sometimes handlers have the best dogs and sometimes owners do.

What do you say to exhibitors who feel that judges are political?

Some judges are political! There has always been politics, just don't show to those judges.

Do professional handlers make any difference to your decisions?

Not really except that they sometimes do present the dog better and can hide faults.

What do you say to exhibitors that feel that show selections are pre-determined or highly influenced?

As breeder judges we know what is out and winning and sometimes these dogs should be winning. However, if I find a dog I really like it will win, no matter who has it or who is promoting it.

What do you say to exhibitors who are walking away from showing because they feel there are too many politics involved?

I cannot justify politics, there is too much in the ring now. I feel the same way but I show to judges I know judge dogs and have knowledge.

What advise do you have for the folks just starting to show?

Know your standard, know your dog, present it conditioned and trained.

What advise do you have for new judges or those thinking of applying to judge?

First, put on your thickest skin, you will need it! Second, judge the dogs!

When you leave a judging assignment, what is it that you hope you have left behind?

I hope that people realize that it is not a personal thing. It is about the conformation, the temperament, the movement and the type of the dog. You can be my best friend or my strongest enemy, if you have the dog I like, you will win.





What Is Virtual Home Manners?

Virtual Home Manners (VHM) is the answer when you want to train your dog at home. When you get a puppy or new adult dog, Virtual Home Manners can get you started on practical skills before you attend a training class.

The evaluation of a dog's ability to perform [ten home manners skills](#) will be done by a video recording. Two levels of Home Manners will be offered – Virtual Home Manners Puppy (VHMP) and Virtual Home Manners Adult (VHMA). Dogs that pass the tests will be awarded these titles.

The Virtual Home Manners tests assess [ten skills](#) that well-mannered pet dogs need in the home setting. The skills relate to the dog owner having control over the dog, being able to walk the dog ([which is one of the most frequently cited activities that owners want to do with their dogs](#)) and developing a bond with the dog during playtime.

The Virtual Home Manners tests are evaluated online by [CGC Evaluators](#) in the same manner that is currently used for Virtual Tricks. There is not an in-person VHM testing process. Virtual Home Manners is natural lead-in for [AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy](#) and [Canine Good Citizen \(CGC\)](#) in-person training.

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Virtual Home Manners Titles

Checklist and Video Verification Form (VVF)



Instructions: Dog Owner: Send this page with the Virtual Home Manners Title Application to AKC at: cgcinfo@akc.org

Evaluator: Send this completed form to the dog owner. Also send a copy to AKC at: cgcinfo@akc.org

Puppy Title (3 months [12 weeks] to 1 year)

- ___ 1. Allows owner to pet
(head/chin, shoulders, back)
- ___ 2. Grooming - brushing by owner (back/chest)
- ___ 3. Sit on command - can use lure
- ___ 4. Down on command - can use lure
- ___ 5. Comes when called - from 10 ft in house
- ___ 6. Go to place - stay 15 seconds
- ___ 7. House-trained - owner attests, describes training
- ___ 8. Demonstrates relationship
Plays indoors - w/ family member/owner
(Choose 1: gets stuffed animal, ball, simple trick, preferred game, etc.)
- ___ 9. Out for a walk - outside on leash
(straight line - 20 ft)
- ___ 10. Exercise outside - w/ family member/owner
(fetch toy, chase, swims, run with owner)

Adult Dog Title (4 mos - on)

- ___ 1. Owner pets, then grooms dog
(head/chin, shoulders, back, chest, belly; check ears and feet)
- ___ 2. Sit on command (no lure)
- ___ 3. Down on command (no lure)
- ___ 4. Comes when called indoors
(from 20 ft. or another room)
- ___ 5. Manners related to food
Choose 1: ___ owner has a snack
 ___ owner puts dog's dish down
- ___ 6. Doorbell/knock - dog behaves appropriately
- ___ 7. Go to place/crate - stay 1 minute
- ___ 8. Demonstrates relationship
Plays indoors - w/ family member/owner
Choose 1: ___ hide & seek
 ___ scent game (3 cups)
 ___ do a trick
 ___ toy, stuffed animal, etc.
- ___ 9. Out for a walk
Do both: ___ leash on, calmly exit door
 ___ walk on loose leash
- ___ 10. Exercise outside - w/ family member/owner
Choose 1: ___ fetch or catch disc/toy
 ___ other: _____

Owner name _____ Dog Name _____ Dog Number _____

Evaluator name _____ Eval Number _____ Date _____

Evaluator signature _____ ☐ tested by video ☐ tested in person