

Dane Line  
**REIMAGINED**

AUGUST  
2021



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

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

**Published by the Great Dane Club of New England**

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Vice President - Marcia Roddy  
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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**AUGUST 2021**

Hello Everyone,

Finally things are getting back to normal.

I hope you will all join us at our first in-person get together on August 7<sup>th</sup> at Norm's house. Please RSVP to the invitation that Tiffany sent out.

At our August meeting we will be voting for judges for the 2023 National to be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Finalists for breed are: Norvel Benoit, Robert Edison, Sharon Fulford-Fint, Judy Harrington, Gina Jaeblo, Mimi Kim, Jeff Lawrence, Karen Martin, Wayne Peterson, Jim Remaklus, Dick Schaefer, and Warren Simon

Finalists for Futurity are:

Colleen Assell-Carra, Mary Barnett, Darlene Bergan, Wendy Cox, Dale DesJardins, Leslie Hotchkiss, Chantel Johnson, Allison Paxton, Adam Protos, Gary Richards, and Faye Rogstad.

There are many quality people who have made the cut. Please be thinking about your choices.

I know the year is only half over, but we need to be thinking about a nominating committee. If you would like to take part in choosing the next board or if you would like to be considered for an office, please let me know. Anyone who is up for election may not serve on the nominating committee. My term is up so we will need a new president.

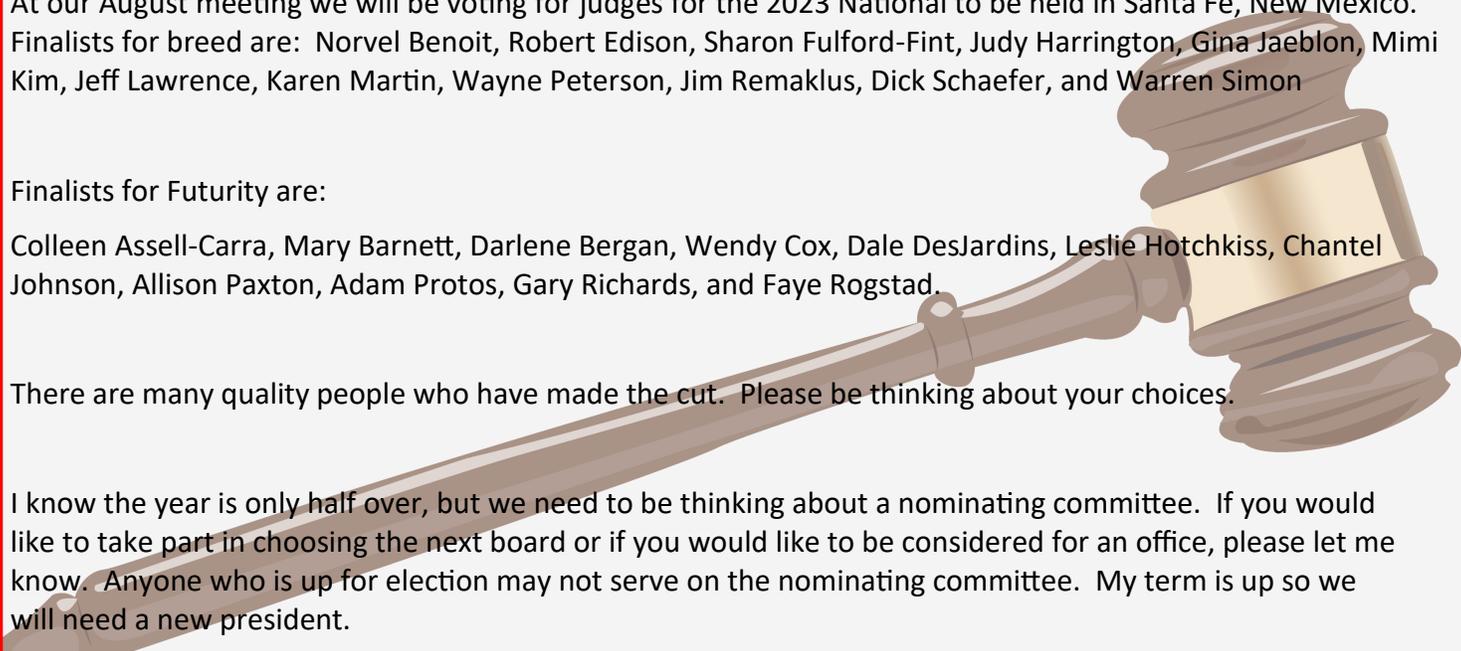
Congratulations to Tiffany Cross, who has recently received permit/provisional judge status!

In this issue, since shows and classes are back in business, I am posting the requirements for a Canine Good Citizen title. CGC could not be done virtually because it is an evaluation of the dog's temperament.

Best wishes,

*Susan Shaw Davis*

*President*





## 10 Essential Skills: CGC Test Items

Before taking the Canine Good Citizen test, owners will sign the Responsible Dog Owners Pledge. We believe that responsible dog ownership is a key part of the CGC concept and by signing the pledge, owners agree to take care of their dog's health needs, safety, exercise, training and quality of life. Owners also agree to show responsibility by doing things such as cleaning up after their dogs in public places and never letting dogs infringe on the rights of others.

After signing the Responsible Dog Owners Pledge, owners and their dogs are ready to take the CGC Test. The test is all done on leash. Items on the Canine Good Citizen Test include:

### [Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger](#)

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation. The evaluator walks up to the dog and handler and greets the handler in a friendly manner, ignoring the dog. The evaluator and handler shake hands and exchange pleasantries. The dog must show no sign of resentment or shyness.

### [Test 2: Sitting politely for petting](#)

This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler. With the dog sitting at the handler's side, to begin the exercise, the evaluator pets the dog on the head and body. The handler may talk to his or her dog throughout the exercise. The dog may stand in place as it is petted. The dog must not show shyness or resentment.

### [Test 3: Appearance and grooming](#)

This practical test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern and sense of responsibility. The evaluator inspects the dog to determine if it is clean and groomed. The dog must appear to be in healthy condition (i.e., proper weight, clean, healthy and alert). The handler should supply the comb or brush commonly used on the dog. The evaluator then softly combs or brushes the dog, and in a natural manner, lightly examines the ears and gently picks up each front foot. It is not necessary for the dog to hold a specific position during the examination, and the handler may talk to the dog, praise it and give encouragement throughout.

### [Test 4: Out for a walk \(walking on a loose lead\)](#)

This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog. The dog may be on either side of the handler. The dog's position should leave no doubt that the dog is attentive to the handler and is responding to the handler's movements and changes of direction. The dog need not be perfectly aligned with the handler and need not sit when the handler stops. The evaluator may use a pre-plotted course or may direct the handler/dog team by issuing instructions or commands. In either case, there should be a right turn, left turn, and an about turn with at least one stop in between and another at the end. The handler may talk to the dog along the way, praise the dog, or give commands in a normal tone of voice. The handler may sit the dog at the halts if desired.

### [Test 5: Walking through a crowd](#)

This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places. The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three). The dog may show some interest in the strangers but should continue to walk with the handler, without evidence of

over-exuberance, shyness or resentment. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise the dog throughout the test. The dog should not jump on people in the crowd or strain on the leash.

#### [Test 6: Sit and down on command and Staying in place](#)

This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and down and will remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers). The dog must do sit AND down on command, then the owner chooses the position for leaving the dog in the stay. Prior to this test, the dog's leash is replaced with a line 20 feet long. The handler may take a reasonable amount of time and use more than one command to get the dog to sit and then down. The evaluator must determine if the dog has responded to the handler's commands. The handler may not force the dog into position but may touch the dog to offer gentle guidance. When instructed by the evaluator, the handler tells the dog to stay and walks forward the length of the line, turns and returns to the dog at a natural pace. The dog must remain in the place in which it was left (it may change position) until the evaluator instructs the handler to release the dog. The dog may be released from the front or the side.

#### [Test 7: Coming when called](#)

This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog, and call the dog. The handler may use encouragement to get the dog to come. Handlers may choose to tell dogs to "stay" or "wait" or they may simply walk away, giving no instructions to the dog.

#### [Test 8: Reaction to another dog](#)

This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs. Two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet. The dogs should show no more than casual interest in each other. Neither dog should go to the other dog or its handler.

#### [Test 9: Reaction to distraction](#)

This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations. The evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane. The dog may express natural interest and curiosity and/or may appear slightly startled but should not panic, try to run away, show aggressiveness, or bark. The handler may talk to the dog and encourage or praise it throughout the exercise.

#### [Test 10: Supervised separation](#)

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, "Would you like me to watch your dog?" and then take hold of the dog's leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes. The dog does not have to stay in position but should not continually bark, whine, or pace unnecessarily, or show anything stronger than mild agitation or nervousness. Evaluators may talk to the dog but should not engage in excessive talking, petting, or management attempts (e.g, "there, there, it's alright").

### **Canine Good Citizen (CGC)**

This program is recognized as the gold standard for dog behavior. In CGC, dogs who pass the 10 step CGC test can earn a certificate and/or the official AKC CGC title.

## ***BRAGS***

### **GCH DAVIDDANE'S THE DUCK STOPS HERE, RI, CGC**

I was thrilled to get notification that Buck, GCH Daviddane's the Duck Stops Here, RI, CGC, was ranked nationally in both Rally Novice AND Rally Intermediate and invited to the GDCA Invitational at Myrtle Beach at the National.

When Buck was ill with Lymphoma and no longer in remission and we knew his time was short, I entered him in four Rally trials to try to get him a title since he was basically trained. Buck flew through his RN title with great scores and placements, earning his CGC the same day. My Rally instructor told me to "move him up" for the fourth trial to Intermediate, even though I didn't know there even was an Intermediate. He

qualified with flying colors, doing some exercises that he had never done before, and tied for first place with a Pomeranian in a large all-breed entry. Then we entered him in two more trials 3 weeks later. He was amazing in the AM trial earning a perfect 100 and first place, again with a large all-breed entry. In the PM trial, he was obviously tired but still did his best and earned his title.

Buck was an amazing dog, beautiful and smart, that I will miss every day of my life. Even sick, he gave me 110%.

Sue Davis Shaw



## ***BRAGS***

**BEST IN SHOW!**

**BIS MBISS GCHB Cosmic NoBonz New Kid In Town, AOM**



**BEST IN SHOW...JUDGE DR. ALBERT P. BIANCHI**

**GROUP FIRST...JUDGE MRS. SULIE GREENDALE-PAVEZA AND**

**BEST OF BREED...JUDGE MRS. ROBIN MACFARLANE**

**OWNED BY ART AND LESLIE SOLNICK**

**BRED AND CO OWNED BY TAMI BRADFORD AND KAREN PACINO**

**HANDLED BY LORRIE MOREIRA**

## ***BRAGS***

### **CH. GRATEFUL N MAITAU LIVIN THE LIFE, CGCA "RILEY"**



**FINISHED HER CHAMPIONSHIP WITH HER THIRD MAJOR!**

**BRED BY JOSHUA SAUNDERS & SARAH FETZ  
OWNED BY SHARON BOLDEIA , PAT CIAMPA, HELEN & TIFFANY CROSS  
PRESENTED BY IZZY EATON & TIFFANY CROSS**

## ***BRAGS***

**CH DAVIDSANE'S N BALOR THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDUCK  
RN CGC TKN BCAT**



**BREEDERS: LISA LEWIS/SUSAN SHAW/RACHEL WILSON  
PIPPA X DRAKKEN**

**OWNERS: RACHEL WILSON/LISA LEWIS/ISABELLA EATON**

**ON JUNE 13TH AT THE PRESTIGIOUS WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB RIDDICK AND IZZY WERE AWARDED AN AWARD OF MERIT BY JUDGE MR GLEN LAJESKI WITH A STELLAR LINE UP OF AMAZING GREAT DANES.**

**BEING RECOGNIZED AT WESTMINSTER IS AN HONOR FOR THE WHOLE TEAM AND ESPECIALLY IZZY WHO IS ONLY 14 YEARS OF AGE!**

**RIDDICK WENT ON TO BE AWARDED A FEW WEEKS LATER BOB/OHBOB IN CUMBERLAND, ME UNDER JUDGE ELIZABETH MUTHARD AND RECEIVED AN OWNER HANDLER GROUP 2 & 3 STACKING ON 55 POINTS PUTTING HIM INTO THE TOP 20 OWNER HANDLER RANKING. WE ARE A HANDFUL OF SINGLES AWAY FROM HIS GCH. THIS WILL BE IZZY'S FIRST GCH. ALL HIS POINTS HAVE BEEN PUT ON HIM BY BOTH IZZY AND RACHEL.**

## **BRAGS**

### **CH. DIVINE ACRES LEMAIRE KIKI DO YOU LOVE ME**



**KIKI FINISHED HER CHAMPIONSHIP WITH BOS, BW, WB**

**MANY THANKS TO JUDGE, Ms. CAROLYN I. ALEXANDER**

**OWNED BY:**

**JAYME LEMAIRE, CAROL URICK & ROBERT E. LAYNE**

**BRED BY: CAROLYN MCNAMARA**

**EXPERTLY PRESENTED BY: PAUL LEVESQUE**

# "BROWN SPOTS ON THE LAWN" BY LEW OLSON

CONTRIBUTED BY  
ELIZABETH LEWIS

Why does urine cause the grass to die? It is important to understand exactly what it is in dog urine. It contains some minerals and proteins, but it consists of urea (ammonia) and sodium (salt). Both ammonia and salt kill grass and any vegetation. There is NO way to remove these from your dog's urine, at least not without killing your dog. The fact is, urine burns grass, whether from dogs, cats, people or any mammal. The only solution is to water the areas where you dogs eliminate daily. And even at that, there may still be some damage. Using small sprinklers or just hosing it down for several minutes is the most effective deterrent for lawn damage.

Another important topic is weed killers. NEVER use these on your lawn when you have dogs or cats. Most weed killers use chemicals that literally grow the plant to death, and many of these can cause lymphoma in dogs.

"A [six-year study](#) from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine linked lawn pesticides to canine malignant lymphoma (CML). Based on questionnaire results from dog owners, the study found 'specifically, the use of professionally applied pesticides was associated with a significant 70% higher risk of CML. Risk was also higher in those reporting use of self-applied insect growth regulators.'"

Another study found that weed killers that use 2-4-D herbicides are linked to bladder cancer in some breeds: "A 2013 study concluded two, 4-D herbicides and other lawn chemicals make the risk of canine bladder cancer 'significantly higher'. Certain breeds, including Beagles, Scottish Terriers, Shetland Sheepdogs, West Highland White Terriers,

and Wire Hair Fox Terriers are more susceptible due to a genetic predisposition to bladder cancer." <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3267855/>

Exposure to the chemicals can come from ingestion, inhalation, or contact with skin, and the amount of time needed to restrict pets from a sprayed area has not been determined." <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23584031>

So remember, keep your lawns watered, and please DO NOT use weed killers anywhere where you dogs can come in contact with them, either by breathing the fumes or walking where it has been applied. Sad news for those who love a lush lawn of San Augustine or Kentucky Blue grass, I know, but your pet will live longer and healthier!

And please, for those pesky brown spots on the lawn, don't spend your time and money giving your dog a supplement to change their urine. It won't work! Water, water and water the areas daily!

As the weather heats up be sure to make sure your dog has shelter from the sun and heat. Be careful not to walk your dog on hot asphalt. And be sure to provide your dog with fresh water all day long!

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**Next Issue for  
DaneLine Reimagined  
is November 2021**

**Submission deadline for next issue is  
October 1st**

## **“WE’RE BREEDERS—WHY ARE WE ANTI-BREEDING?”**

**BY JOANNA KIMBALL  
APRIL 27, 2019**

“Good breeders never breed back to back.”

“I’ve been in the breed fifteen years and have bred only three litters.”

“Did you see that Harriet had FIVE litters this year? I guess she’s our new puppy mill, huh?”

“Ladies, check out Gloria’s new litter – and you know she’s still got those four-month-olds from the last one!”

“I’m glad to see puppy registrations decline; we should all be breeding less.”

Spend more than five minutes in a dog forum on Facebook, or hang out ringside with any breeders, and you’ll see that these are close to direct quotes. The only thing two breeders can agree on is that a third breeder is doing something wrong, and the easiest target is when the third breeder has broken the sacred barrier and is (gasp!) breeding IN VOLUME.

We are making a TRAGIC mistake. We have forgotten that the word CAREFULLY and the word SELDOM are not the same word.

We know we’re supposed to be careful in how we breed. But somehow that has become twisted into “The better a breeder you are, the less you breed.” I’ve seen people actually brag, trying to one-up each other on how few breedings they’ve done, with the clear implication that breeding almost never means you are more responsible than someone who breeds regularly.

Here’s the truth: Breeding dogs requires on-the-job training. No matter how much you research, learn, ask, and listen, it won’t make sense until you’re looking at a litter of puppies and watching them grow. And you cannot understand keeping traits through generations unless you have generations to keep traits through.

Here’s another truth: We’re badly, badly hurting for well-bred purebreds in this country and around the world. Awful purebreds are everywhere, but most people go their entire lives without meeting a well-bred dog. They literally have no idea that a dog can look “like that.” Beautifully built, groomed, and trained dogs gather crowds bigger than the ones around the elephant cage. Vets can go years between seeing dogs that should be bred (which is why many of them hate us so much). That’s OUR FAULT. We breed our self-righteous trickle of dogs, which go right into the yards of other show breeders, and then we scream when our rights are taken away. Well, lady, how are they supposed to be on our side when they’ve never seen a dog except from a breeder that should be shut down?

Here’s one more truth: Most of your breeding efforts are going to fail – that’s the nature of breeding living things. So you may have to do it over and over and over, discarding entire pedigrees after you’ve watched them produce, beginning new ones, purchasing new dogs, neutering others. Things START to make sense after (I think) about your fifth litter if you’re very, very smart and after your tenth if you’re a normal breeder. In the breeding programs I’ve watched, that’s when things start to move forward instead of just flailing around, because that’s when the breeder starts to understand how traits build a dog.

But you’re still not done, not in any sense of the word. The breeders you can think of in your breed that are truly dominant, the ones that have such strength that you can see the influence of their decisions years down the line, are likely on their thirtieth or fortieth or fiftieth litter. Ask one of those breeders someday what they got from their third litter, and see them laugh in rueful memory at how bad it was. That’s the same third litter that’s

being produced by someone in the breed fifteen or twenty years and bragging about how rarely they breed. Early litters are terrible! But they’re something we all have to get through and do the best we can with, and look back on and laugh a little about. They’re not someplace we park our butts and sit for a decade.

Look. You cannot be a good breeder without breeding. You can't be a great breeder without breeding a LOT. And we all know that we desperately need more good breeders, and we even more desperately need great breeders. So we should be encouraging each other to breed. We should not snark that somebody's had more than the sacred "one or two litters a year," or that someone bred a bitch more than twice. We should congratulate them on moving past the baby-breeder stage and into the maturing-breeder stage. We should celebrate the bitches who can healthily produce many litters without turning a hair. We should encourage our dedicated owners and co-owners, once they have finished a dog or two, to begin breeding themselves instead of waiting for the next show puppy from us.



When we do encourage breeding, let's also be honest. The chance of you getting a litter of all champions is only slightly higher than being hit by lightning while being consumed by a crocodile. On Mars. You're lucky, and this is not an exaggeration, if you get even a single dog to move forward with from your first breeding. You're fortunate in ANY breeding, from your first to your hundredth, to get a single puppy that is truly better than both parents. Baby breeders need to know that. They should not be lining up show homes and expecting to put half the puppies in them. I had to learn this lesson, and it was no fun, but I am a lot happier now looking for the one puppy to move on with – and being thrilled when there is a second one – than I was when I was trying to come up with three show puppies in a litter of six. New breeders need to be told that. You will be happier and better as a breeder if you find ONE

puppy in a litter than if you are trying to find three or four. If you have three or four legitimate show homes, then breed three or four litters (which means, yes, BREEDING MORE) instead of trying to tell yourself that your fourth pick is just as high-quality as your first.

Now go forth, and be a breeder who breeds.

*Permission was obtained from the author to use this article.*

## **Sunshine**

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Peter Roddy** on the loss of his mother. Our hearts are with you at this difficult time.

## **Membership**

**Dawn Williamson** was voted into membership at the last meeting. Welcome, Dawn, we are so happy to have you as part of our group.

### **DISCLOSURE**

**OPINIONS OR STATEMENTS EXPRESSED IN DANELINE REIMAGINED ARE NOT REFLECTIVE OF THE GREAT DANE CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND. NEITHER THE EDITOR, THE GREAT DANE CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND, THE GREAT DANE CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOR ANY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AFFILIATES GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.**

## PRINCIPLES TO BREED BY

TOM COEN, MACDEGA SHETLAND SHEEPDOGS



- \*Look to the dams of the stud dogs. It is the bitch that provides the complement to the sire and determines the distinction among his offspring both in quality and producing ability.
- \*Look to the grandparents to see the potential of a breeding combination. If the qualities you're seeking aren't there, you aren't going to get them.
- \*Evaluate the producing ability of a dog or bitch by the BEST offspring they produce. All dogs can produce uninspiring or poor offspring, but very few can produce superior individuals.
- \*Don't knowingly introduce problems. All dogs have the potential to produce health problems. Play the odds and breed to dogs that are health checked whenever possible. If you haven't had a certain problem yet, you will if you work with nature for any length of time.
- \*Be realistic. If there isn't something inspiring in your litter don't keep anything.
- \*Selection is the key—be ruthless and remain steadfast to your priorities.
- \*Keep your numbers down. You only need to keep the best—not the most.
- \*Evaluate your dogs by comparing them to the best there is now and the best of the past rather than what is winning in the ring today.
- \*What ye sow ye shall reap—don't add something to the gene pool if you don't want it to show up.

*Contributed by Susan Davis*

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AKC judge Tony DiNardo started out in Great Danes. A few years ago, Kim Thurler had a chance to talk with him about his long career in purebred dogs. The following article originally appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of Tufts University Dental Medicine Magazine and is reprinted with permission from Tufts University.

## The Dog Days of Anthony DiNardo

For more than 30 years, this Connecticut dentist has been showing and judging canine superstars

By Kim Thurler



Top left: A framed photo of the Doberman D Devil's Fury; right: Anthony DiNardo, D62, an American Kennel Club judge, with his Doberman pinscher, D's Big Girls Don't Cry, known as Frankie. Photos: Gail Zucker

Anthony DiNardo, D62, peers into the mouth of the sturdy 4-year-old while a woman in pink looks on fondly. After a careful look, DiNardo appears satisfied. But rather than offering a smile, sticker or sugarless lollipop, DiNardo simply says “down and back,” and the young Rottweiler, with his elegant handler, trots briskly across the blue carpet. Spectators applaud as the dog returns and poses like a statue.

DiNardo is judging Best Bred by Exhibitor in Show at the 2013 American Kennel Club/Eukanuba World Championships in Orlando, Fla., and Tug, the Rottweiler, is one of seven canine superstars competing for the title. A win here is highly coveted; being invited to judge at the show is equally prestigious.

The audience is hushed as DiNardo writes his selection in his judge's book, then turns back to the finalists. “Very nice lineup,” he says, before pointing to an enormously

fluffy Old English sheepdog, who receives the award. The dog, Grand Champion Bugaboo's Picture Perfect (Swagger to his friends), and his handler run a victory lap around the ring as the crowd cheers. This is one of the very rare dog shows where prizes include money; for besting more than 900 competitors, Swagger has earned \$15,000.

DiNardo has been an AKC judge since 1980, and he and his wife, Sheila, also a judge, have owned many top-winning dogs. Their four children all showed dogs as junior handlers when they were growing up. Daughter Gina is now an assistant vice president with the AKC. It would be hard to find a man, or family, more immersed in the sport, but DiNardo says it happened by chance.

“My wife and I were looking for an activity that we could share as a family. I wasn't particularly attracted to purebred dogs. The only dogs I'd seen in my life were Rin Tin Tin and Lassie.” A quest for a family pet led to the purchase of a Great Dane puppy that unexpectedly grew up to be the successful show dog champion Kim's Sabu of Lyndane.

Sabu's success led DiNardo to bichons frises and the breed with which he's most widely known: Doberman pinschers. He bred a record-setting Doberman, Champion Eagle's Devil D, who was number-one dog in the breed from 1982 to 1985, as well as the winners of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America's Top 20 and the breed's national specialty show. Over the years, he and Sheila have also owned winning beagles, boxers, golden retrievers, Jack Russells and whippets. Portraits of the DiNardos' dogs, Best in Show ribbons and scrapbooks bulging with show photos fill their Connecticut home.

In the DiNardos' home today are Amazon and African Gray parrots, a black pug with a graying muzzle, a Norwich terrier that's been known to nip ankles and a delightfully friendly Doberman, D's Big Girls Don't Cry—known as Frankie—who strikes a perfect show pose when DiNardo offers her a treat (“bait” in dog-show parlance).

### Judging Against the Ideal

While the *AKC Rules Applying to Dog Shows* fill a 60-page booklet, the basics of showing in the conformation, or breed, ring are simple. Each of the 178 breeds recognized by the AKC, the preeminent U.S. registry for purebred dogs, has a written standard that defines the ideal example of that breed. Specifications may include height, weight, shape of head, color, coat texture, eye shape, ratio of height to body length, stride, number and position of teeth and even personality. Each standard also points out

what departures from the ideal are considered serious and what faults disqualify a dog from the ring.

All entrants at a show are judged against that ideal. Males and females first compete against their own sex for the title of “Winners,” an award that carries with it points toward an AKC championship. The two Winners then compete for the title Best of Breed with other dogs that are already champions. Each breed falls into one of seven groups—sporting, hound, working, terriers, nonsporting, toy and herding—and the Best of Breed winners in each group compete to win that group. The seven group winners then vie for Best in Show. Many dogs are shown by professional handlers hired by their owners, so some shows also have a Best Bred by Exhibitor competition, limited to dogs shown by their breeder and owner.

What makes dog shows intriguing, exciting and frustrating is that each judge interprets the breed standard differently. Because no dog can be perfect in every respect, it becomes a question of which flaws a judge will forgive and which strengths he or she will reward. Will the judge accept a slight coarseness in head in return for more correct markings? Will superb movement or an elegant head tip the scales?



The DiNardo family and a judge with Champion Marienburg's Lone Eagle, known as Red

Judges often refer to a dog “asking for the win,” and DiNardo saw that extra spark in Swagger, the Old English sheepdog, at the World Championships in Orlando. “You get a feel. I never go against that. If I feel it, that tells me what I need to know.”

Becoming an AKC judge requires a number of years of experience owning, exhibiting and breeding dogs; a personal interview; a written exam; a number of practice assignments at competitions at which no championship points are awarded and three provisional assignments at regular shows completed under the watchful eye of an AKC representative.

DiNardo is approved to judge the working, sporting, hound, toy and nonsporting groups; Best in Show and more than 140 different breeds and varieties, from St. Bernards to Chihuahuas. The bedrock principle for a good judge, he says, is to know and follow the standard. His careful examination of Rottweiler Tug's teeth was due not to the fact that DiNardo is a dentist, but to the Rottweiler standard, which disqualifies any dog with two or more missing teeth.

“You're nervous at the beginning,” DiNardo says. “And you're nervous on your own breed, because you probably are overjudging.”

There's a special excitement judging at the very highest levels—Best in Show at Westminster or the World Championships—because “you know you have achieved what you're trying to achieve.”

### A Thick Skin

“The biggest thrill is to judge a ring full of quality,” says DiNardo. “The hardest judging in the world is a ring full of mediocre dogs.”

He has judged in Europe, Jamaica and Argentina as well as across the United States. While judging dogs may sound glamorous, it means hours of travel and enduring broiling sun and pouring rain at outdoor shows.

A thick skin doesn't hurt, either. Only a few exhibitors at any given show can win, and the competition is fierce. Exhibitors ringside can often be heard muttering about the incompetence or dishonesty of the judge.

**“The biggest thrill is to judge a ring full of quality.” —**

**Anthony DiNardo, D62**

Because a dog in a show is identified only by a numbered armband on the person showing it, in theory, judges don't know the identities of the dogs that are entered. But many

dogs are shown by well-known professional handlers or breeders whose reputations earn them careful consideration. Dogs that are at the top of their breed and highly ranked within their group or among all breeds are heavily advertised in magazines read by dog show aficionados. To “campaign” such a top dog can easily cost a quarter of a million dollars a year or more for expenses,

such as travel, handler’s fees and advertising, so owners will often secure the support of a financial backer.

DiNardo acknowledges that professionals win more often than amateurs, but that’s usually because they present their dogs far better. Even for the best handlers, he maintains that “success starts with the dog.”

He’s proud of having an eye for young unknowns that go on to be top dogs. Among those he “discovered” was Ch. Snowshoe’s Escape to Big Sky, or Montana, which won Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club and was the number-two golden retriever in the U.S. two years in a row. DiNardo liked him so much he gave the 6-month-old puppy Best of Breed over champion competition and later became Montana’s co-owner.

Dog showing crept up on DiNardo unexpectedly, but he knew he wanted to be a dentist even before high school. “My family was Italian, and they wanted a doctor or lawyer in the family. I felt dentistry would be more conducive to work-life balance.”

Originally from West New York, N.J., DiNardo was raised in Seattle. After pursuing a pre-dental curriculum at the University of Connecticut, he attended Tufts School of Dental Medicine and then volunteered for the Army Dental Corps. “Dental school was wonderful,” he recalls. He also relished his two-and-a-half years of army life at Fort Meade, MD. Today he’s a full-time dentist in the general practice he started in East Hartford, Conn., 48 years ago.

As he’d hoped, dentistry gave him a satisfying profession that allowed him and his family to pursue the avocation they discovered so unexpectedly when Sabu came into their lives. “What I really want people to know is that the dog hobby is great for the average family. It gives children what they can’t get staying home. Our family drove to shows, stayed in hotels, made all sorts of acquaintances. We had a lifestyle you can’t find in most hobbies,” he says.

Otherwise, “my wife would have had to watch me bowl.”



At the August meeting we will be voting on judges for the 2023 National in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I have listed the finalists in my president’s letter.

Sue Davis

## **BRAIN TEASER**

**SUBMITTED BY BETTY LEWIS**

**CREDIT— RV TRAVEL NEWSLETTER**

Question: I left my campsite and hiked south for 3 miles. Then I turned east and hiked for 3 miles. I then turned north and hiked for 3 miles, at which time I came upon a bear inside my tent eating my food! What color was the bear?

Answer:

White. The only place you can hike 3 miles south, then east for 3 miles, then north for 3 miles and end up back at your starting point is the North Pole. There are only polar bears at the North Pole, and they are white!

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU – NORMAN

As long as I can remember I was fascinated with Great Danes.

We always had dogs when I was growing up, mostly German Shepherds and an occasional Heinz 57 variety mixed breed.

When I purchased my own home I decided to search out and find my Great Dane. I was only looking for a pet and got referred to a local breeder who had a couple of puppies. I purchased a male puppy and called him Bentley. After an ear taping session the breeder suggested that I take my boy to a “match show.”

Although I had no clue what I was getting into I was excited to see what it was all about. At my first match I won Best of Breed with my boy and from that point on I was hooked!

I bought my first “show puppy” from Pat Ciampa, Ch. Maitau’s Material Girl ROM and had great success with her. She was bred twice and produced 5 champions. Her first litter included GDCA Best in Futurity and two time Top Twenty participant Ch. Primrose Chase the Clouds and GDCA Reserve winners Bitch Ch. Primrose Strike a Pose and



**HALLE**

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU—NORM (CONT'D)

Ch. Primrose Last Call. I also had the honor of being awarded Reserve Winners Bitch and Best Puppy at another National with Ch. Paquestone's Quick Pic V Primrose in her first show at the age of 6 months and 1 week old.

I have been lucky enough to have finished 20 or so dogs and proudly have owner handled them to their titles. I was very fortunate to have many great breeders and mentors from our area to look up to. From the beginning I had breeders like Pat of Maitau and Dale Tarbox of Sandale ,the owners of the sire and dam of my foundation bitch, to model myself after along with many others. I was also lucky to have such an abundance of great handlers from which to learn from. Among them were Terry Silver, Judy Harrington, Joel Rosenblatt, Lori Richer and my good friend, Ed Lyons. They were always there to lend support when it was needed.

I have held many positions in the GDCNE including President of the club many times in my 30 plus years as a member. I have met so many wonderful people and had many enjoyable memories along the way. I have met many people from all over the country that I remain friends with to this day.

Here's to many more blue ribbons!!



**KENO – FINISHING HIS CHAMPIONSHIP**

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU – DIANNE POWERS

I came to Great Danes later than most of you. In 1995 I got my first Dane as a pet from Laurel Donelson. Laurs Lady Grace was the perfect first Dane in that she taught me how wonderful it was to live with a Dane. She introduced me to several people who answered questions and gave me the support needed to learn about this wonderful breed. I had never been to a dog show and didn't think it was something I would enjoy. With a little bit of urging I did try to show Grace, but she was not competitive so we stopped...but I got bitten by 'The Bug'.

I went to shows first with Kathy Fraser and then Sue Shaw as their able bodied sherpa so I could learn the

ropes. Grace was shown one last time as a Veteran shortly after she was declared cancer free (lymphoma). Unfortunately we were not as successful when she developed osteosarcoma. But Grace kept teaching me. She was followed by Longo's Singular Sensation (Trouper- thank you Kathy Fraser), CH Payaso's St. Elmo's Fire, RN (Sailor – my first CH) and my current Danes: GCH Payaso's Flight of Fancy do Alto Gavea (Fancy, age 11), CH Nor'East's Elora Danan (Dani – age 7), GCHB Longo, Miller N Lore's Queen Bee v Nor'East (Honey – age 5 ½), Nor'East's Black Panther (T'Challa – age 5 mo) and Nor'East's 24K Magic (Maggie – age 5 months.)



**GRACE AND TROUPER**



**SAILOR AND FANCY**

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU—DIANNE (CONT'D)

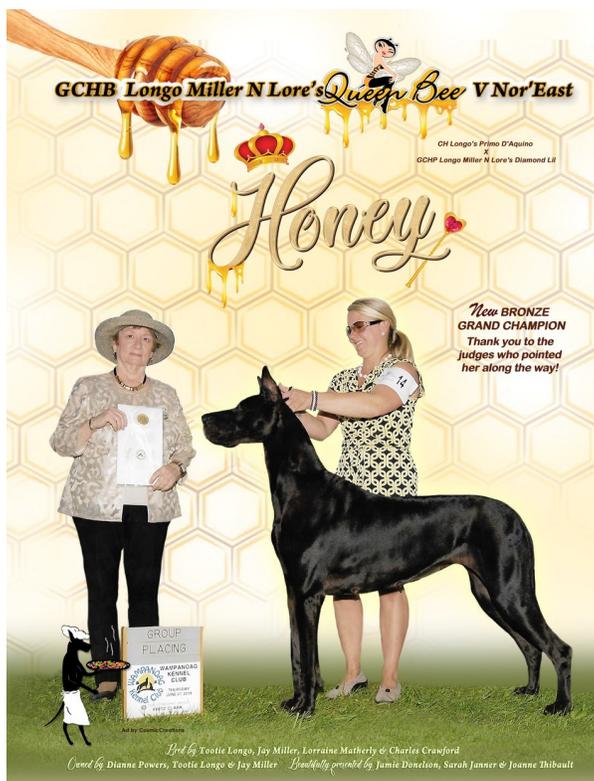


**DANI**

I have been fortunate to have had several friends and mentors who have guided me through the years of involvement both locally and nationally. Since 1995 I have been active in rescue (locally and nationally), conformation (NE Specialty Show Chair), Obedience

(Trial committee member) and GDCNE Board member. On the National level I have been Affiliate Club Representative (9 years), GDCA President (4 years), Futurity Chair and Awards Chair. It's been a wild ride at times but one I have enjoyed thoroughly.

### HONEY



### T'CHALLA AND MAGGIE



# GDCNE 'S JUDGES

## A CONVERSATION WITH ROBERT E. LAYNE

### Reflections

As I prepared to respond to the questions for this interview, I had to reflect on the fifty-one years and the many different facets of my life in dogs. Countless experiences helped to shape the person I was in the beginning starting out in 1970 as a novice in the sport compared to twenty-four years later when I became licensed to judge the breed in 1994 and all that has taken place since then. As you read my answers to the questions, I hope it gives you better insight to the characteristics that make up the judge I am at this point in time. Tomorrow is another day!

Think about it! Do you really know me or want to know me? Do we really know each other? Read it and see.

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

I had dogs as a ten-year old boy up growing up in Cambridge. I had a mixed Terrier breed name Queenie. She resembled a black and white Basenji. I trained her to be the circus dog of the neighborhood. She would carry small packages and rolled-up

newspapers between my house and my grandparents who lived around the corner from our home.

I officially started in Great Danes in 1970. We found a breeder of



Ch. Dinro Legend and Dinro Loralie

champion Great Danes located in Westport, MA. That is when we met the late Lois and Murray Michaels of Murlo Kennels. They did not have any puppies available during the initial visit. However, they showed us several of their dogs used in their breeding program. They invited us back

several times over the next few months. On one occasion they showed us a litter of six-week-old puppies. We went back in a few weeks and brought our new Murlo Baxter home. I attended several, bi-weekly handling classes at Murlo Kennels. When Baxter was over three months, we entered him in his first puppy match sponsored by the Great Dane Club of New England. There were twelve puppies in the class, and Baxter won a second-place ribbon to another puppy. That other puppy was shown by a tall, elegant, attractive, perfectly coiffed, lady who had to carry the puppy half-way around the ring. Any guesses who that lady was? Anyway, it took me a little while to understand that although my puppy was perfectly trained, he only took a second place. Murry and Lois

kept telling me, "You really won." They explained later the reason I did not win first place, was because I was not known. Unfortunately, Baxter did not become the show prospect we expected. Baxter along with the rest of the littermates had juvenile cataracts and had to be returned to Murlo

Kennels who, by the way, did not refund money on puppy sales. So, we were forced to take a replacement puppy at a later date. Unfortunately, that puppy also had eye problems. By now these difficulties with Murlo Kennels had just become expensive learning experiences. While disappointed with those two setbacks it did not discourage us from becoming lovers of the breed. I felt having a perfectly trained puppy in the ring and earning that second-place ribbon had me hook, line, and sinker. I was going to be in this dog game for the long haul.

### **What made you choose Great Danes?**

I always wanted a Great Dane because a neighbor who lived four houses from our house had a fawn Great Dane named Rusty that I always admired. I would go down to visit Cheryl who was Rusty's owner. Rusty would always sit between Cheryl and me and lean against me. It got to the point that I was going to visit Rusty and not Cheryl. So that is how the love affair of the breed began.

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

The transition from admiration and the love affair with the breed to showing was easy. In our search for

a new puppy, we got the name of another breeder by the name of Rose Robert of Dinro Kennel, in Carmel, NY who owned Ch. Dinro Strictly Taboo. We called Rose who referred us to Lisa Vatisis who



Am. Can. Ch. Dinro Ovation

lived in Derry, New Hampshire. Lisa had a Dinro bitch she purchased from a breeder who lived in Long Island, NY. She bred her Dinro bitch to Ch. Dinro Strictly Taboo and had a litter. We bought a puppy and called Rose to tell her we purchased a puppy. Rose wanted to see the puppy and asked us to drive to Carmel, NY to show her the puppy out of her stud dog. When we drove up to the "mountain" as Rose's house was called in those days, Strictly, was the first Dinro Champion we met. Carol Hines, Rose's Kennel

Manager was grooming him on the front lawn. He was an impressive specimen with a gorgeous head, long neck and stood like a statue. We would later own Strictly who become our house dog for all to

admire as he sat at the top of the stairs looking majestic and pretty as his muzzle began to gray.

Rose liked the puppy. She said, "You have him too fat." Then she asked why we picked this puppy. I responded that he was out-going, friendly; I liked his head and body type. Understand, I had been in the breed all of ten minutes and did not have a clue what I was talking about. I had read the Great Dane Standard several times and a couple of books on the Great Dane and remembered some of the

terminology about the breed. Rose also had a litter of older puppies and asked Carol Hines to bring out the puppies for us to see. She then asked me to rate the puppies and tell her why I liked each puppy. So, I began to watch the puppies move around as they played. I selected the puppy who had the best movement at that age, and he would constantly stop in a show stance almost setting himself up. He was not the largest of the litter, but from what I read; he was the one I would take home. We continued the procedure for three more picks and then Rose said "OK, that's enough, you have a pretty good eye." So that was our introduction to Rose Robert of Dinro fame. Rose was a tough lady who had a genuine love and passion for the breed. She was like having a grandmother who was into the dogs. She was kind, caring, strict, opinionated and expected the best from those around her. She would feed the dogs and go without for herself.

In the meantime, I also began taking handling classes with Albert Kerby of Stonehouse Kennels in Westport Ma. He conducted weekly classes for the Wampanoag Kennel Club. We would drive the hour and half weekly to his classes. He provided excellent feedback and constructive criticism

that helped me improve my skills. Over time I became a pretty good handler as it came easy to me. So, between Al's classes and driving three and half hours to Roses every other weekend to play, socialize and help train puppies, I was being drawn into the dog show world. Rose started taking me to puppy matches in her area to give the puppies and me the experience. We won a few classes, and we lost many classes. Eric Ringle was just coming on the scene at Dinro Kennel as a youngster working with Carol around the kennel. Eric and I alternated going to match shows with Rose. We often took several puppies so both of us could handle.

One day we entered a small all breed show in upstate NY. Rose said you take in the older puppy. We did not win. I was heartbroken because I thought he was the best

dog in the ring, and he was well trained. After judging, the judge came running over to Rose and said I haven't seen you in years; how are you doing? Rose replied, "I was fine until I watched you judge. You dumped the best dog in the ring to a real piece of S....!" as she puffed on her cigarette. Rose was not known for being diplomatic. However, she was known for being direct, honest, and very opinionated. She also had a bit of flair for the dramatic. So, she called me over and said, "This is a friend, but she doesn't know a good dog. She put you at the end of the line and forgot about you and my dog. I think she was looking at the wrong end of the lead instead of the end attached to the dog. So that is why you did not win or place in the ribbons today." By then the judge was embarrassed and her face was turning red. Rose

said, "It was good seeing you doll," as she puffed her cigarette, blowing smoke in the direction of the judge and we turned and walked away. On the way home Rose explained, "That is something that happens all the time when Carol handles my dogs. Carol, her Kennel Manager, was a young Black woman who had worked for many years for Rose. Rose explained, "That is why I had stopped coming off the



Ch. Dinro Tosca Too

mountain to attend shows because of the phonies who claim to know dogs and keep pulling this shit! I got fed up with having to call them out for being so ignorant. It's easier to stay home; breed dogs; sell puppies and let the new owners and handlers deal with incompetent judging."

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

My breeder mentor/friend was Rose Robert, hands-down. When we met Rose, she was known as the Dane Maven in the breed among many of the other noted breeders in the Northeast. Many of them had the Dinro bloodline in their pedigrees. Rose had already been breeding for thirty-five years. She explained that back in the

1930's, she researched the breed for two years before purchasing dogs and bitches from the established Brae-Tarn and Von Loheland kennels. They had the bloodlines and the breed type she wanted to combine and create her original "Dinro" bloodline and breed type. Rose began her breeding program in 1935 producing top quality dogs that were easily recognized for their breed type and stature. For example, she was known for her Dinro "A" litter that produced Champions Dinro Aslan, Ajax, and Alaric. As I researched her old pedigrees, I could see that Rose did some inbreeding and line breeding to establish the Dinro look and lock in certain breed type traits and characteristics. I was in awe of her commitment, dedication, and

knowledge of the breed.

In retrospect Rose was also way ahead of her time when it came to race relations in dealing with people, especially in the dog world where some breeders were known to be somewhat narrow-minded instead of being open-minded and accepting of everyone. Roses common-law marriage to husband Dinsmore Tong was a good example. Dini was the Din in Dinro, and Rose was the ro. Dini happen to be a veterinarian of Chinese descent. Her philosophy was simple; people are people wrapped in different packages. She also felt that you breed for the betterment of the breed. She often said that "If the devil has a good dog that will benefit your bloodline and the breed; you go to hell and



Dinro Night and Day



Ch. Sounda's Fortune Hunter and Ch. Sounda Fedalia

breed to it to better the breed.” She often remarked “The petty stuff has no place in a breeding program or the show ring.”

A year later we purchased a fawn puppy bitch from Rose. Dinro Overture aka. Brena . She was out of Ch. Strictly Taboo and Dinro Bang Up. We bred her to Ch. Rojon’s the Hustler. It was our first breeding under our kennel name “Sounda.” I drove twenty-four hours straight through a snowstorm to Chicago only stopping for gas and to walk Brena. I arrived on New Year’s Eve for the breeding. The welcoming party included Ray Cataldi, Steve Cochran, Bruce and Gloria Morey, who then owned the Great Dane International Magazine. It was an impressive line-up by any body’s standards. For someone who was new in the breed, I was awe struck in their presence. At that time, they owned some of the top dogs being shown in the country. As the newcomer, I listened intently to their conversations all the while remembering Rose’s advice on how to interact with the owners of the stud dog who were also well-known breeders. I thought this is something I could enjoy for the rest of my life. So, the rest is history. Out of that breeding to Ch. Rojon’s The Hustler came Sounda’s Second Hand Rose that was bred to American & Canadian Ch. Dinro Diplomat producing American &

Canadian Ch. Dinro Ovation.

Fifty-one years later, I’m still here with Louis and in this dog world. We have bred and co-owned over forty-five Great Dane champions and have numerous champions in other breeds to our credit. Now I bet that is a scary thought for some folks who predicted those two guys would not last more than five-minutes in dogs.

My private mentor is my partner Dr. Louis G. Bond. In the early days he was much more diplomatic than me. (Yes, I said in the early days). Louis was always there to be the voice of reason to keep the young hot-headed Robert E. Layne composed. Back then I really enjoyed confronting folks who were always trying to prevent us from moving forward in the breed and standing up for what we felt was right, while others stood by idly watching the injustices being hurled in our direction. I can count on one hand the friends who publicly came to our defense only to be ostracized for life by their so-called dog friends. To some degree, I’m still the same person but I have mellowed with maturity. Over the years, Louis and I have been unfairly labeled “too controversial” for our forward-thinking ideas that the Dane fancy has benefited from for forty-three years. Most newcomers in the breed don’t even know the

blueprint for the current National Specialties and the Top Twenty was our vision. We were finally officially recognized for our contributions and creating Top Dane concept at 2019 Top Twenty Event.

I have two mentors for handling. One was Al Kerby of Stonehouse Kennels in Westport MA. He was a breeder of Danes and Corgis in his own right. He was a retired Army Officer who trained and detrained service dogs used for specific service missions. Al was instrumental in teaching me to handle dogs based on the dogs’ individual structure, strengths, and short comings.

My other mentor was Edward F. Lyons, Jr. who back in the 1970’s was a co-breeder on a litter of Danes in the Midwest that did a good amount of winning. Ed was very knowledgeable about the breed and knew bloodlines and pedigrees because he lived in different parts of the country working as a Postal Inspector. He made it his business to get to know other breeders. Prior to working for Louis and me from the late 1970’s through early 2000’s, Eddie handled for the late Dorothy Montgomery of Eagle Valley and later under contract to handle Ch. Dinro Diplomat for Robert and Shirley Heal with Rose Robert. Eddie had a connection and relationship with all the dogs he



#### First Top 20 Dane Event 1987

From left to right: Louis Bond, Ray Carlisle, Sam Pizzino, Andre Schoen, Tom Schoen, Jackie White, Carol Urick, Edward Lyons, Anthony Hodges and Robert E. Layne

Created and Sponsored by: J. Lu-Rob Enterprises

handled. The partnership between Eddie and the dogs became more than just a team. As opinionated as Eddie was about the breed, he could instill a sense of trust and confidence he expected from the dogs after only a few training sessions. When Eddie was in the US. Army, he also trained service dogs like Al Kirby.

There were other notable breeders and Dane owners we admired and befriended us. We were very

private with those relationships and built memorable bonds over the years. We entertained them at our home on several occasions, and I visited their homes. We established wonderful associations with the late Al and Poppy Feldman, Roxanne Bleeker Mahan of Tivoli, Mary Johnson, of Marydane, Eva Robinson of Riverwood Ranch Harlequins. We also bred to several of Eva's stud dogs and purchased puppies from her. There were other breeders I

admired, but those relationship were more casual only interacting with them at shows.

#### **What made you decide you wanted to become a judge?**

In 1979, I judged a sweepstakes in Minnesota and Roxanne Bleeker Mahan judged confirmation classes and the breed. At the judges' dinner Roxanne commented that a club member told her that she and I selected the same dogs for their placements in almost every class.



## Recent Judging Assignment

Roxanne suggested that perhaps I should judge some more sweepstakes and then maybe think about applying for my judging license sometime in the future. I was flattered and put the conversation in the back of my mind. I was more interested in the breeding and producing champions. Rose often said one day you will be a good judge. I think I had paid my dues by managing the kennel, exhibiting and handling our dogs for the first ten years. Additionally, with the help of co-breeders we had campaigned specials to the number one spot in three different breeds. Therefore, it was time to start the process. Honestly, I also

felt that I could do just as good of a job judging if not better than some of the judges that our handlers had shown our dogs under. In the mid to late 1970's, we hired Judy Harrington and Terry Silver as handlers, before hiring the late Eddie F. Lyons, Jr. as our exclusive handler.

### **What made you decide to add additional breeds to your judging repertoire? (n/a if you only judge Danes)**

N/A It was different back in the early 1990's when I applied for my license. So, I decided to wait before applying for additional breeds. You had to attend several breed seminars and workshops;

specialty shows and visit breed kennels to apply for additional breeds. Louis was applying for additional breeds and with Jordan and Meredith our two children now in our lives, it was difficult for both of us to leave home for long periods of time to pursue our hobby. Besides, someone had to keep the home fires burning.

### **How many breeds/groups do you judge?**

I only judge Great Danes and Junior Handling.

### **What do you look for in the ring?**

I look for the general appearance, the animal with a beautiful silhouette with correct color or patterning that catches my eye when it comes into the ring. You heard of the expression, "You only get one chance to make a first impression." It's true in the show ring. It's not until I begin to examine the individual dogs that I begin to look for certain breed characteristics that I compare to the breed description in the standard. The dog/bitch should have breed type; pretty head with a pleasing expression; with correct plains; nice nape leading into a long neck leading into a high whither, good shoulder angulation; level topline and sound movement with good reach in the front and drive in the rear. I don't want to see elbows popping out to distract from the movement. Additionally,

the dog must be in good weight; show condition and well trained. In the beginning I spent a good amount of time feeding, training, conditioning, grooming, and exercising our own dogs for the show ring; to exhibit on the weekends. Louis managed the business end of the operation: the show entries, typing up pedigrees, and the correspondence with new puppy owners, etc. Therefore, I have a pretty good idea of the work necessary to present a good specimen of the breed to a judge. Exhibiting has become so expensive these days. I will not encourage owners to show dogs that are not of a certain quality. Pets make wonderful companions that are just as comfortable laying on the sofa at home. In other words, please do not bring me mis-marked pets that cannot be recognized as a Great Dane. However, please note, I will be just as courteous to the exhibitor with the poor specimen as I am with the exhibitor handling the eye-catching super dog, because everyone deserves my equal attention worthy of examination in my ring.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving on two GDCA's Standard Committees. In 1997, I served on the committee to present the Mantle as an acceptable color and more recently in 2017, I was on the committee to

acknowledge the Merle as an acceptable color. These were educational opportunities to learn more about the breed and the genetics behind the patterning genes while working with other breeders from across the country.

### **What has been your most exciting assignment and why?**

I have had many exciting assignments. Some of my most memorable assignments of my career have been the assignments at the GDCA specialties. I judged dogs in 1998 in Texas; and in 2003 Best of Breed in Orlando. Being sequestered and making an entrance to the ring always adds a bit of theater and drama to the assignment. The handlers and the dogs are at their best at these specialties, because the handlers and owners know ringside is often made up of

breeders and exhibitors from around the world. Remember it's a "dog show" and they are watching the performance. I've also had the pleasure of judging international shows. I judged in Australia and twice in New Zealand. I enjoyed

examining dogs from a different part of the world. I also met other breeders from those countries who have a lot in common with us when it comes to breeding and exchanging ideas about the breed.

### **What excites you the most when judging?**

I get excited when an animal comes in the ring that I categorize as a triple threat; a term used in the theater world for someone who can sing, act and dance. Since this is a dog show, the dog or bitch must have breed type, soundness and excellent movement. This is the kind of dog that I would like to take home.



**Great Dane Society of Queensland, Australia**

### **What is your biggest pet peeve when judging?**

I cannot answer this question with only mentioning one pet peeve, because I have several that are equally as important to me.

My first pet peeve is having a good dog that is in poor condition and not trained come in the ring. I must question if the owners are serious about having a show dog and wanting to win.

My second pet peeve is dealing with the racism that exist at show events. As a judge, I have first-hand experience. There are Show Committees who do not do their homework on the judges that have been invited to be on their panels. I cannot begin to tell you the number of all breed shows' judges' dinners and lunches that I have been asked if I am in the right place or told that "this dinner or lunch is for judges only, not handlers." In each situation I found myself

having to explain who I am to bigoted, ignorant, idiots who just happen to also own show dogs. On one instance, I was about to be escorted out of a judges' dinner by the show chairman who never bothered to introduce himself or ask my name, when I was rescued by a welcoming greeting from the late Estelle Booxbaum Cohen and a friend who were also on the judges panel. The chairman finally let my elbow go and asked; "Well , who are you?" I replied, "Now, you want to know who I am? I am the judge who brought the club the largest Great Dane entry (90 +) your club has had in the last seven years." He spent the next day at the show checking on me to see if I

needed anything as a way of apologizing for his embarrassing behavior at the dinner the previous evening. After judging was over and I received my check, when the show chairman came over to me for the fourth and final time to ask if I enjoyed the assignment, I had a few choice words to share with him. Then I lectured him on race relations and how he should treat everybody equally, especially people who look like us, so he doesn't make an ass of himself next time a judge from any diverse background is on his judging panel. The punch line—the show chairman was Black, just like me. Now ain't that some shit; and I bet you thought only White people could be racist.



Bob & Louis' Family Room in Millbury, MA

My third peeve occurs outside the ring when attending the infamous judges' dinners and listening to judges discuss what they did for certain dogs in the different breeds. You have heard the most dangerous room in the public school system is the teacher's room or lounge because they put labels on certain students that stick with them all the way throughout their academic careers. Well, some of the judges' dinners are somewhat like the teachers' rooms at the dog shows. They can make or break a dog's show career.

I'm glad to see the AKC Judges Operations is finally addressing this

issue. In the July 2021, Approved Modifications to the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Dog Show Judges it states: “Addition of language to make clear judges should not promote or denigrate dogs they have or may judge, including commenting and/or posting photos of dogs judged in social media forums.” Amen to that!!!

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

Because I have been around so long and learned from what I think are some of the very best in the sport over the years, there is no hiding anything from me in the ring. I see it all, the great, the good, the bad; the ugly and the very ugly. I know what I like and look for it when I judge.

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

Integrity is key as I will go into this more later answering another question. I always look at the dogs and give everyone the same opportunity to present their animals to me. I remember why I was hired—to provide an honest, objective opinion. Exhibitors are not all going to agree with my decisions and that is fine with me.

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

I’d say you are probably correct in some cases. Politics are in everything we do to some degree. There are probably some judges who are political because of their personalities and lack of knowledge of the breed and lack self-confidence as judges.

I would further explain that judging itself is somewhat subjective; even though, we try to be objective comparing the dogs to the breed standard and selecting the dogs that are the closest to the standard when placing them in the ribbons.

If an exhibitor feels a judge is political, do not give that judge another entry. Show under judges who you feel will be fair and give everyone the same

opportunity at a chance of winning in the ring.

Finally, ask your true friends or mentors to give you their opinion of your dog. Take an objective assessment of your own dog compared to the standard. Do not make excuses for any of the dog’s shortcomings. Remain open minded and thick skinned and be prepared to receive constructive criticism.

### **Do professional handlers make any difference to your decisions/choices in the ring?**

No, it doesn’t matter to me. I just want to see the dog presented to its best potential. Professional handlers are just that professional and experienced trainers/coaches for the animal. Most work with a dog so that they become a team.



1977 GDC New England Independent Specialty—Westford, MA

Left to right: Hugo Gamboa, Judge; Rose Robert, Sweeps Judge; Eric Ringle, Steward; Jeri Rumsis, Show Chair; Merrill Lovett, Club President

They want to get the best performance out of the dogs they are showing. To that end their dogs usually stand out in the ring. The owner handler can handle and train dogs just as well. The difference is the owner usually has less dogs to show than the professional handler at any given show.

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

If you are in the game long enough, you begin to learn the type of dogs that certain judges like and look for in the ring. Most people know I like breed type that moves well. I have been consistent with my judging. If it's there in the ring, I usually find it and place it in the ribbons. There are shows when the complete package (breed type, head, and movement) is just not there that day. Then you might have to judge on movement or something else from the dogs that are present.

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

It is probably best if they walk away. Not everyone is cut out for the sport. It can be a tough place for the novice who is getting involved for a totally different reason than the long- time breeder or an exhibitor who can handle the ringside comments that at times can be cruel. That is why it is so important that I always tried to

educate our new puppy owners who were interested in showing. Unfortunately, the days of the match shows where new owners learned about dog shows and how puppies were trained no longer exist. Therefore, everything now takes place at the conformation shows aka, the big leagues.

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

I will advise folks starting to show to get involved for the right reasons. The sport is just like life. You are going to meet some real nice people in the sport, who are in it for all the right reasons. You are also going to meet some jerks for whatever the reason that is who they are and will be.

Newcomers need to do their research and decide who they want to associate with; understanding there is a balance somewhere between the two types of exhibitors and we all can have good and bad days at the shows.

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

Integrity, integrity, integrity!!! When you lose the reputation for being honest and having integrity, you best turn in your judging license. You always want to enjoy judging. Having your license doesn't mean you will stop learning and observing other breeds. You will always be learning. The title judge only allows you the privilege to publicly state your opinion in the ring on

the day of the assignment. It does not mean you are an expert on everything in the dog world. Remain humble. Learn to keep your mouth shut around ringside. If someone really wants your opinion, they will ask you for it privately if they are sincere. Be prepared to lose some friends who may not always agree with your opinions in the ring. Finally, drink plenty of milk shakes and eat fattening foods or start working-out to build muscle mass that will help you grow some thick skin, because you are going to need it as a judge. Learn how to respond to criticism of your judging diplomatically. You will have so called friends drag out their old dogs needing a few points expecting you to finish them. Unfortunately, when you don't select their dog for the points, they will make underhanded remarks. So be prepared to just to keep smiling and not stoop to that level.

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

When I leave the assignment, I hope that I left behind only my footprints. I want to leave with the same integrity that I started the assignment with. It is important for exhibitors to understand it is only one man's opinion on that given day. I did an honest job selecting the dogs that I liked who met the description written in the breed standard.

## CHARITABLE TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The GDCA Charitable Trust has awarded scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each to the following students:

**Sydney Hickman, Allegra Larson, Jules McCaffrey and Sofie Salmon**

In addition, **Allegra Larson** was awarded the Carmody Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.



## 2021 RAFFLE

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. Tickets will be available at the August meeting.

**GDCA CHARITABLE TRUST**  
*Our 2020/2021 Fundraiser*



The Rainbow Bridge  
1-1/2 inches by 1-1/2 inches  
with an 18 inch gold rope chain.  
Donated through the generosity of  
Ana & Julien Goulet,  
Virginia Perry Gardiner/Ana Goulet Studios

*~ Tickets ~ \$5.00 each*

Winner Need Not Be Present to Win \* All Tickets Purchased in 2020 will be held for drawing in 2021.  
Tickets will be available again through your Affiliate Club in 2021,  
ONLINE, in our Charitable Trust Store at [gdca.org](http://gdca.org) (beginning in 2021) and  
at the Trust Booth (all week) at the 2021 GDCA National Specialty.  
The drawing will be held at the Awards Dinner, at the 2021 National.  
Date of the Awards Dinner to be announced at a later date.

*Questions or Additional Info ~ Please Contact*  
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# FEEDING A RAW DIET

BY BETTY LEWIS

In previous articles, I've spoken about feeding dogs a raw diet. In my opinion, this is especially important in a breed that is prone to bloat. That is not to say that it is impossible for a dog on a raw diet to bloat. It isn't, and it has happened, but it apparently happens far more infrequently than to dogs fed carbohydrate based diets. When a dog's naturally occurring enzymes are suited to his evolutionary diet, the stomach flora seems "happier."

Here are some thoughts on enzymes from an article I wrote a few years ago.

"Why will a cooked bean planted in the ground not grow? "All" that happened to it was a little heat was applied. Can you explain why adding water & sunshine to a planted alfalfa seed, will increase it's nutritional content by some 300-800%?" This quote comes from an audio tape "Enzymes for Health" by Joel Robbins, MD, DC.

The answer to both questions, and dozens of others, is "enzymes." A cooked bean, one that was heated, no longer has active enzymes because enzymes are fragile, and can't survive temperatures above about 112 degrees F. Enzymes are catalysts, that is, they facilitate chemical reactions, and are critical to nearly every metabolic reaction in the body. Functioning enzymes is also the answer to why a sprouted seed is so nutritious.

Active enzymes are critical to the efficient working of every 'body.' There are possibly as many as 100,000 different metabolic enzymes that are needed. Some are stored in the body's "enzyme bank account" and some are made and consumed as needed.

We are born with an enzyme bank account, but, like a money bank account, deposits are required to keep the system working efficiently throughout life. Enzymes are used every moment of every day in normal metabolism, so they need to be replenished regularly. The result of not making 'deposits' to this account are illness, or in the extreme, death.

Where do we get enzyme deposits? Only from food that has not been denatured, that is, from raw food. If you are a carnivore, such as a dog or cat, you should get your enzymes in your food from raw animal sources. If you're a vegetarian like a guinea pig, your enzymes would come from plant sources. Omnivores, like humans, can use both sources, but the key is that the sources need to be raw and consumed daily.\*

For more information on enzymes, you can buy CDs of Dr. Robbins' lectures at <http://www.drdonnavice.com/drrobbins/>. There are also many, many books on the subject, for those who want more in depth study.

\*A caveat to all of the above is that the food sources you feed must actually \*contain\* all the nutrients. In the case of plants, the soil needs to contain the nutrients. In the case of meats for carnivores, the animals should have been fed "clean" food which was grown in nutritious soil. Organic foods often meet these criteria, but you should investigate your sources to get the maximum out of your dietary budget.

