

Dane Line

# REIMAGINED

MARCH  
2023



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Vice President - Marcia Roddy  
Recording Secretary - Kim Thurler  
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## NOTE FROM SUE

Hi Everyone,

First, I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make 2022 a successful one for the club. You are all so appreciated. Our specialties were a huge success thanks to our tireless workers. Thank you, too, to the Board members who have all decided to stay on for another year.

We are very sad that we've lost long-standing member and one of our biggest supporters, Dr. Louis Bond. Louis was President of GDCNE for two terms and served on the board for several years and served as our show chair for 6 years. Louis was Affiliate Representative for the GDCA for nine years and Northeast Division Chairman for 35 years. He was also show chair for the very first National Specialty and served on the GDCA board. In addition, Louis was a respected AKC judge.

Did you know that the Top 20 event, one of the highlights of our national specialties, was designed and produced by Louis, along with Bob Layne? They ran it for the first five years of its existence. Also, the concept of taking two days to judge dogs and bitches at the national so that the judges didn't overdraw was first proposed by Louis. I wish I could remember all the innovations that came about because of him. He was an amazing man and will be very missed.

If you have any ideas for the club, please contact me. I hope one of these days we can have an in-person meeting.

Best wishes,

Sue

## Getting to Know You

**Mickella Laney**

Growing up, I'd always had a fascination with Great Danes. There were countless occasions where I'd hounded my parents to get one, but the answer was always "when you move into your own house, you can get whatever type of dog you'd like." I must have taken this answer to heart, because shortly after moving out of my parent's home, I was scrolling through Craigslist and saw an ad for a four-month-old harlequin puppy for \$400. A family just a few towns over was rehoming her because they didn't have enough time for her.

Immediately, I sent them an email asking when a good time to meet her would be, and the next day I was on my way to see the dog that would forever change my life. When they brought her out of the house, I could tell she was a little timid, but her tail was wagging the whole time and she quickly warmed up. Looking into those sweet blue and brown eyes, I knew there was absolutely no way I was leaving there without her. I handed them the cash in exchange for her paperwork, loaded her in the car, and didn't look back.

Now, in hindsight, knowing what I know now, buying a \$400 puppy off Craigslist probably wasn't the smartest idea. Though, I can't say that I regret the decision because it led me to where I am today. I did not grow up in a "dog family", at least not in the sense of having well-bred dogs, or competing in any venue of dog sports. We had Rottweilers and Bullmastiffs growing up, but they certainly were not well-bred. And up until about seven years ago, I didn't even know we had dog shows in the state of Maine.

However, nearly ten years later, my \$400 Craigslist puppy turned 'million-dollar dog', Isis, is still with us. She has given me many valuable lessons over the years, has been with me through the good times and bad, and certainly opened my eyes to the fact that 'purebred does not equal well bred'.

Nearly seven years ago, and two not-so-well-bred Great Danes later, fate introduced me to my now dear friend and mentor, Dale Dutill. I happened to post on a breed specific Facebook page about my newest Dane, and Dale mentioned that she was local and her kennel club was offering a handling seminar that I should attend. I decided to give it a try, and by the end of the class I was hooked. Shortly after, we were signed up for a 4-6 month beginner puppy show, and by the end of that show, my passion for learning about correct conformation, movement, and breed type was fueled.



**Oberson's First Point**

After many heartaches with my not-so-well-bred dogs, including losing Titan to osteosarcoma a few years ago, and having my eyes opened to the world of well-bred

purebreds, I was (and still am) determined to become a great breeder and advocate for this beautiful & majestic breed. I've started breeding under the kennel name Enchanted Mountains Great Danes, and currently own five Danes (who am I kidding? We all know they own me!) The two oldest are my beloved pets, Isis & Oberon. The third was my first real show prospect, Nova, who is also the foundation bitch to my program, and mother to the latest additions, Aloy & Eclipse. While I never was able to finish Nova's championship (thank you Covid), I am hopeful that Aloy will be my first owner-handled & bred-by champion, in a long line of champions to come.

I am currently a member and treasurer for my local kennel club, Central Maine Kennel Club, as well as a member of the GDCNE. I reside in the central Maine area with my fiancé, Mitch, who, God love his soul, is still here after saying "no more dogs" four dogs ago. My ultimate goal within the breed, aside from continuing to learn and do better, is to meet the requirements to earn my judging license. I know I am a long way off from that, but it's something I keep in the back of my mind as a motivator. I hope once I am to that point, I will have learned enough to truly make a positive impact.

Lastly, I have to give a shout out to Nova's breeder Maavrik, who took a chance with placing his pick puppy with someone he'd only talked to several times online. I will be forever grateful to him for taking that chance, and giving me the privilege and honor of being able to own and love such a fantastic dog.

Included are pictures of my first win and point with Oberon, my favorite win with Nova, most exciting win with Aloy, and just a stacked picture of Eclipse.



**Eclipse Stacked**



**Aloy—Major Reserve**



**Third Point**

## Getting to Know You

### Lilli & Per Hamnqvist

Our Great Dane history started while we were living in the South of France in 1989. My husband could not have a dog growing up. To compensate for that, he wanted a large dog breed. I wanted a horse. We settled for a Great Dane after visiting several dog shows around Marseille. I also attended a few local conformation shows with our Dane, Enzo, in France.



Fast forward to 2017 we got our 5th Dane, Magnus, with the help of Pat Ciampa. He is a fantastic dog and our first U.S. show dog. We did not know much about dog showing in the U.S., but quickly learned with help from the GDCNE community. To our big surprise, we even managed to be #7 Owner Handled Great Dane in 2019.

We recently got our 6th Dane, Toby (a nephew of Magnus), and we will see what the future holds for him.



Magnus OHRBIS Florida 2021

We love to travel with our Danes in our Airstream. Magnus has been on numerous road trips with us to Canada, on both the east and west coast. He has ridden in a NYC taxi cab as well as NYC ferries. He earned his GCH title in Idaho. He loves to hike with us.



Magnus Walking the boardwalk in Jackson Hole, WY

We would love to take our Danes to Europe. If you know how, or have ideas, let us know. As a final tid-bit, we still name our Danes by the French pedigree calendar, where all pedigree dogs born in a year have names starting with a specific letter. Magnus was born in an “M” year.



Magnus at Disney's Fort Wilderness, FL

**RACHEL WILSON SUPPORTS DANE RESCUE WORK BY OPENING UP HER HOME TO RESCUE CASES. RECENTLY, SHE TOOK IN A LITTER OF PUPPIES. PLEASE THINK ABOUT HOW WE ALL CAN HELP RACHEL WITH THIS GOOD WORK.**



## **BRAIN TEASER**

**Answers on Page 9**

**Submitted by Betty Lewis**

Unscramble the words below so that each pair of words rhymes.

RBAE & HREAS

WNROED & UTRHNDE

TUGHAT & HBTUGO

ODULC & ODOG

### **Brain Teaser**

Who is your mother's only sister's son's brother's aunt's daughter's sister's father?

### **Brain Teaser Dedicated to Sue Shaw:**

What do you get if you put a duck in a cement mixer?



## Integrated Pest Management

Submitted by: **Betty Lewis**

As most of you know, I live in Florida now. I really wasn't prepared for even very northern Florida, to be such a different culture from that which I've experienced during Bill's Air Force career, living in different parts of the country. But, it is.

For example, while I have seen some cardinals, and the Carolina wren is audible daily in my back yard, there are hundreds of bird species I've never even heard of. Examples of water birds with weird names are Sanderling, or Dowitcher, or Stilt.

Another important category of wildlife in Florida are BUGS! In fact, I was not prepared for a neighborhood \*full\* of signs advertising pesticide applications just applied. I have to walk my dogs in the middle of the street to avoid having them exposed, and, I wash their feet after every walk. Unfortunately, my property was regularly sprayed before I moved here, but no longer. I can't knowingly spray poison, especially since Autumn already had a year of hemolytic anemia in North Carolina from walking on a neighbor's lawn that had recently been sprayed.

SO! I've been looking for an alternative. Only one company in the Jacksonville area uses IPM, or Integrative Pest Management, but I have found them. They will be coming to apply mineral sprays this week.

Here is the link to the EPA website <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/integrated-pest-management-ipm-principles#what> describing what this entails.

Here is their answer to the question what is IPM: "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the

environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment."

The company I've found uses only pesticides from natural sources, such as mineral combinations. Here is a paragraph from the website of the company that will be serving me:



"Nature's Way Natural Pest Control is licensed by the state of Florida for full-service pest control and to manufacture and distribute our own line of natural pest-control products. Our products are made from the goodness of nature and hand bottled and packed right here in Jacksonville by local labor using the purest natural food-grade ingredients from American companies. The products we use in your home are backed by over 50 years of experience."

They go on to say "insects cannot develop immunity to our natural products. Our products outlast and outperform their synthetic counterparts".

I have come to discover that my program of "doing nothing" is not going to be successful for much longer, so I am thrilled to have discovered this company. I hope, if you feel there are no other options, other than lethal chemical poisons, you will find a company to employ these principles for your home and yard as well.



In addition, there are companies where you can buy natural products, and apply them yourself. Arbico Organics is one [arbico-organics.com](http://arbico-organics.com) . Here, you can buy a garlic spray for deterring mosquitoes to nematodes (worm larvae) which eat other insects. Here is a quote about beneficial nematodes:

"ARBICO's Beneficial Nematodes are naturally-occurring, microscopic organisms found in soils throughout the world. They mainly parasitize insect pests that have soil dwelling larval or pupal stages; however, they have been known to parasitize above ground stages of certain pests. Their wide range of prey makes them exceptional for general pest control in chemical-free growing environments."

Anytime you can avoid poisoning your human and animal family, it's worth exploring. To your good health.

Betty Lewis, RVT, Dr A N

Paws & Reflect 978-578-7247

Animal Communicator/Wholistic Consultant: by phone

[betty@pawsreflect.com](mailto:betty@pawsreflect.com)

Book: Animals Speak!

You cannot poison your way to good health.

## Sunshine

A sympathy card and flowers were sent to Louis Bond's family on behalf of the Club.

A get well card was sent to Dana Shaw.

A sympathy card was sent to Karen Pacino on the loss of her dad.



## Answers to Brain Teasers:

### Brain teaser answer:

BEAR (or BARE) & SHARE  
WONDER & THUNDER  
TAUGHT & BOUGHT  
COULD & GOOD

### Brain teaser answer:

Your father.

### Brain Teaser Answer:

Quacks in the pavement.



## FOR GIANT-BREED PUPPIES, LESS – NOT MORE – CALCIUM

FEEDING IS DIFFERENT FOR DOGS WHOSE  
ADULT WEIGHT WILL BE AT LEAST 50 TO 70  
POUNDS.

**Published:**September 17, 2021

**Updated:**September 14, 2022

**Submitted by Kim Thurler**

It would appear to make sense that a dog such as a Great Dane or Saint Bernard, or even a Labrador retriever, needs a more calcium-dense diet as a puppy than a dog whose adult size will be smaller. After all, the logic goes, more calcium per calorie is needed to build the bones involved in the scaffolding of a large dog's skeleton.

But ironically, the opposite is true. Large and giant-breed puppies, often defined as those who will grow to an adult size of 50 to 70 pounds or more, actually require less calcium-dense diets while they are still growing than dogs who will weigh less as adults. Why?

While adult dogs fed high-calcium diets can regulate the amount of calcium that they absorb from

their food, puppies lack this ability, especially before 6 months of age. And because large and giant-breed puppies have steep growth curves during this time period, they are much more at risk than smaller puppies of absorbing too much calcium. Research has shown that this makes them more likely to end up with developmental bone diseases down the line. Their bones could grow too fast or become too thick, and those complications predispose a dog to complications including arthritis, hip and elbow dysplasia, and various other bone and joint problems that can have lifelong consequences.

Fortunately, dog food labels make it easy to tell if the food is right for your puppy that will grow into a large dog. If the label says the food is appropriate for “growth” (meaning for puppies) or for “all life stages” (which includes



puppyhood), the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) requires that the Statement of Nutritional Adequacy contain one of two phrases:

“including growth of large size dogs (70 lbs or more as

an adult)” or “except for growth of large size dogs (70 lbs or more as an adult)” Choosing the first one for your dog means the food will contain about 4.5 grams of calcium per 1,000 calories. The second one can contain food with as much as 6.25 grams of calcium for every 1,000 calories — about a 40 percent difference and enough to cause serious problems in susceptible breeds. Note that while AAFCO chose 70 pounds as the cutoff, most veterinarians go with 50 pounds. That’s absolutely fine. There is minimal to no risk of feeding a lower-calcium diet to a puppy of any size. When in doubt, check with your vet.

#### **How many months to feed the food**

Puppies who will grow into small or medium-size adults mature fully by the time they are 12 months old. Some giant-breed puppies, on the other hand, do not reach physical maturity until they are closer to a year and a half. All puppies should be fed food appropriate for growth until they reach 12 months of age, or skeletal maturity if 12 months isn’t enough.

**This article originally appeared in *Tufts Your Dog*, published by Tufts University-Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine © Belvoir Media Group, LLC.**

## **RECIPES**

### **“MOTHER’S PUDDING” FOR A NURSING BITCH**

**SUBMITTED BY SUE SHAW**

1 package Vanilla Pudding (cooked kind)

1/2 cup sugar

4 cups milk (I use goats milk)

4 egg yolks

Cook on low heat to a pudding consistency.

Feed by syringe if necessary, at least 20cc, twice a day of in bowl; Most will love it and will eat it readily.

Next time your bitch whelps try this porridge -

1 cup steel cut oats (not instant, use slow cook),

2 cups milk or water,

1 TSP honey or karo syrup,

1 raw egg (whisk before adding).

Cook, cool and

1 cup whole milk yogurt, or goats milk.

**BRAGS!!**

**ALOY - ENCHANTED MOUNTAINS HORIZON ZERO DAWN**



**ALOY IS PICTURED BEING AWARDED BEST OF WINNERS UNDER JUDGE WANDA HELPER**

**OWNED AND BRED BY MICKELLA LANEY**

# BRAGS!!

**MULTIPLE BEST IN SPECIALTY SHOW | MULTIPLE GROUP PLACING  
GCHB OLD MISSIONS'S LEMAIRE'S KNOW WHEN TO HOLD 'EM, AOM  
MIBISS GCH BRIARWOOD'S MY WAY V MY-JON, AOM X OHBIS CH OLD MISSION'S SCARBOROUGH FAIR, CGC**

Many thanks to Judge,  
Ms. Elizabeth Muthard, for recognizing Cash  
in an outstanding line up.



**OWNED BY: JAYME LEMAIRE, CAROL URICK & ROBERT E. LAYNE | BRED BY: STEPHANIE BLADES  
EXPERTLY HANDLED BY JOHN GERSZEWSKI**

AD BY FALL HOLLOW DESIGN

**BRAGS!!**

**CH DAVIDDANE'S FIREQUACKER RI TKN**



Sparky finished her Championship at the Great Dane Club of New England's 2022 fall specialty with a 5-point major. Sparky's other major (4 points) was earned at the GDCNE's 2021 fall specialty. She finished her CH as an AKC Bred By Champion.

***Susan Davis Shaw***

***Davisdane***

**BRAGS!!**

**CH DAVIDDANE'S FIREQUACKER RI TKN  
"SPARKY"**



**BRAGS!!**



**MULTIPLE BEST IN SPECIALTY SHOW**



**GCH NOR'EAST'S BLACK PANTHER AOM**



**T'CHALLA**

Bred by Dianne Powers,  
Tootie Longo and Jay Miller  
Owned by Dianne Powers  
Presented by Darlene Bergan

Photo by Amber Finkel Ad by CosmicCreations

In December T'Challa was awarded Select at 2 shows giving him 4 points toward his GCHB. He started out 2023 with a bang in Brooksville. He was awarded 3 Major Selects for 15 points toward GCHB, an AOM from Dr. Jose Luis Payro (Clearwater Kennel Club) and a BISS from Nancy D. Simmons (Great Dane Club of Mid Florida - another 5 GCHB points).

Last week at the Middle Peninsula Kennel Club of Virginia he was awarded Best Opposite on Saturday from Raymond Yurick (1 GCHB point) and Best of Breed Sunday from Judge Rick Gschwender (2 GCHB points).



**BRAGS!!**

**BOWMAN'S UNFORGETTABLE SENTIMENTAL REASON**



**Cole was awarded BEST OF WINNERS under Judge, Mr. Paul F. Willhauck at  
Great Barrington Kennel Club on 02/04/23**

**Owner—Dawn Williamson**

**Breeder—Paul Bowman**

**Presented by Salena McCloud**

**BRAGS!!**



2023 Chancellor's Award for  
Advancing Institutional Excellence  
in **Diversity** and **Inclusion**

**Robert Layne, MEd**

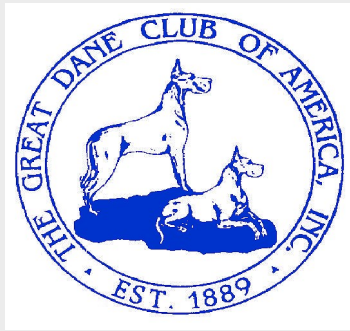
**ROBERT LAYNE RECEIVES CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION FOR HIS WORK TO BRING STUDENTS UNDERREPRESENTED IN HEALTH CARE CAREERS INTO THE STEM FIELD.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB!**

Remember to be on the lookout for emails regarding our zoom meetings. We need to have you all log into the meetings. This is your club and your input is wanted and needed.

Also remember that if you haven't yet paid your dues, time is almost out. Please get your dues in. Reach out to Carol Urick with questions:  
carol\_urick@hotmail.com or 860-539-1811.

# GDCA



## Upcoming Nationals

2023 – Western Division – Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder, Santa Fe, NM  
October 29 – November 4, 2023

### Judges

Best of Breed – Jeff Lawrence

Dogs – Dick Schaefer

Bitches/Jr. Show – Mimi Kim

Futurity – Darlene Bergan & Chantel Johnson

Rally/Obedience – Susie Osburn & Nancy Craig

Agility – Michael Teh

2024 – Midwest Division – Capital Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, Topeka, KS  
Dates To Be Determined

### Judges

Best of Breed – Judy Harrington

Dogs – Lourdes Carvajal

Bitches – Pat Ciampa

Futurity – Jan Miner & Denise Matulich

Obedience/Rally – Fred Buroff & Kathleen Sweet

Agility – Craig Josling

At this point, the Divisions change to North, South, East, and West and the rotation will be every four years.

2025 – East Division – Dates and Location To Be Determined

## GDCA CHARITABLE TRUST



### Osteosarcoma Research

It's very disappointing that Great Danes have had the lowest enrollments of any breeds in this study. If you have a healthy dog, age 4-1/2 or older with no undiagnosed lumps or bumps, please consider helping us out by enrolling. An informational flyer is in this issue of *Dane Line*.

### Scholarships

It's scholarship time again. Good news! The Trust has dropped the age limit (25) for veterinary scholarships. If under the age of 18, scholarship applicants must be the son/daughter of a GDCA or affiliate member or if over the age of 18, they themselves must be a member. Deadline to apply is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Research on Fertility in the Great Dane

Dr. Stuart Meyers' report has been published and he will be presenting the results at a Canine Health Foundation seminar for veterinarians. The report is rather technical and hard to read but we will be pulling out the highlights and putting something out. I (Sue Shaw) have it if anyone would like to read it.

## **Revisions to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows***

**Effective January 1, 2023**

**This insert is issued as a supplement to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* amended to July 6, 2022 and approved by the AKC Delegates September 13, 2022.**

Replace the existing Chapter 16 Section 2 with the following:

**SECTION 2.** A dog which in its breed competition at a show shall have been placed Winners and which also shall have won its group class at the same show shall be awarded championship points figured at the highest point rating of any breed or recognized variety of any breed entered in the show and entitled to winners points in its group, or if it also shall have been designated Best in Show, shall be awarded championship points figured at the highest point rating of any breed or recognized variety or of any breed entered and entitled to winners points in the show.

A dog in its breed competition at a show which has placed Winners, and which also has finished second, third, or fourth in its group competition at the same show shall be awarded championship points figured at the highest point rating of any breed or recognized variety of any breed entered in the show and entitled to winners points in its group, exclusive of any breed or variety that placed higher in the group class.

The final points to be awarded under this section shall not be in addition to but inclusive of any points previously awarded the dog in its breed competition or under the provisions of this section.



### **OFA Echocardiograms Subsidized by the GDCA Charitable Trust**

We are pleased to announce that the Great Dane Club of America and the Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust are continuing the \$75 reimbursement for echocardiograms for GDCA and Affiliate Club members for exams performed in 2023. Guidelines for participating are listed below. We would like to thank Darryl Pitts for taking the helm as the gatekeeper for this program.

The GDCA Charitable Trust will reimburse (subsidize) OFA advanced cardiac (echocardiogram) studies for GDCA and Affiliate Club members in the amount of \$75.

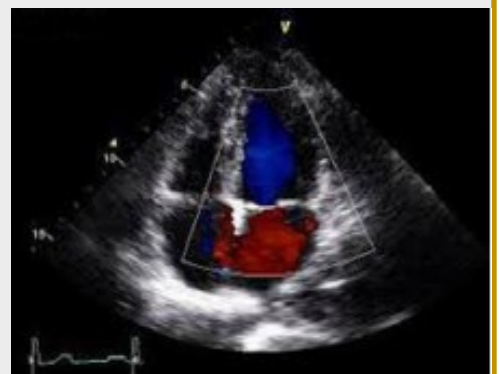
#### **Limited to ONE PER DOG PER YEAR.**

Great Dane must be one of the seven acceptable colors as recognized by the breed standard.

Echocardiograms performed at GDCA National will be excluded as they are already subsidized and offered at a reduced rate to participants.

Send a copy of receipt, OFA application and mailing address for receipt of check to Darryl Pitts at [ECHO.GDCA@gmail.com](mailto:ECHO.GDCA@gmail.com). If you are not a GDCA member, please indicate your affiliate club membership.

Processing of checks will be done quarterly. We would appreciate it if you could be timely in cashing your checks. Thank you.



# COED

## PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR A NEW STUDY CANINE OSTEOSARCOMA EARLY DETECTION

It is our hope that "The Dane Family" will enthusiastically support this study as bone cancer is truly a pariah to our beloved giant breed.



### PURPOSE

The COED study (Canine Osteosarcoma Early Detection) is supported by the Irish Wolfhounds, Rottweilers, Great Danes, Golden Retrievers, Irish Setters, Leonbergers, and AKC CHF. COED is designed to develop a reliable, minimally invasive blood-based test for early detection and risk assessment of canine osteosarcoma. This study will recruit up to 400 large-breed dogs from a variety of backgrounds.

### WHO CAN JOIN THIS STUDY?

- Dogs weighing 66 pounds or more.
- Dogs who are 4.5 years or older.
- Dogs who are currently healthy and have never had any cancer diagnosis.
- Dogs with no "lumps" or tumors anywhere.

### OWNERS WHO ARE INTERESTED

Communicate with your veterinary clinics to determine your vet's ability to process plasma and serum in house and arrange same day FedEx pickup.

If vet is unable to ship same day, owners **must** be able to deliver the samples to a FedEx office for overnighting on the same day the samples are collected.

When a dog is enrolled, staff from the Modiano Lab (University of Minnesota) will send the vet clinic a sample collection kit with supplies and instructions for collecting whole blood, serum, and plasma.

PLEASE REACH OUT...  
WE NEED YOUR HELP

<https://z.umn.edu/COED>

Get your questions answered and complete a short eligibility questionnaire for your dog. Enrollment will be randomized, and submission can be accepted through December of 2022.

### SCHEDULING

If accepted, make appointments ASAP. Email Modiano Lab with the name of your veterinary clinic, address, and clinic's phone number, then Modiano Lab will send sample collection materials. Your signed consent form will need to be included with the returned sample.

Dogs will be monitored for at least 1-1/2 years after enrollment.

### COSTS ARE MINIMAL & BENEFITS ARE TIMELESS

There is no cost to participate in the study, and the study pays the costs for shipping the sample collection kits both ways. However, owners may incur costs from their veterinary clinic for collecting and processing the samples. A vet tech appointment is acceptable.

## GREAT DANE CLUB OF AMERICA CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTE: This COED Study is not intended as a diagnostic, rather it is a tool for early detection and risk assessment of osteosarcoma.



# EARLY NEUTERING IN DOGS: RISKS & BENEFIT

[Dana Scott](#)

2022-07-19

The topic of neutering is emotionally charged for many pet owners.

It's become the "responsible" thing to do. So we commonly hear of the benefits of this surgery ... but rarely the risks.

And when savvy pet owners avoid early neutering (or forgo neutering altogether) to mitigate that risk ... they're often vilified for contributing to the pet over-population problem. But decisions made on emotion aren't usually the best decisions we can make.

So here's an objective and scientific look at what's causing all the fuss. Let's start with one well-known study that showed reasons to reconsider early neutering in dogs ...

In February 2014, a study was completed on over 2500 Vizsla dogs and the results were a blow to those who vehemently defend spay/neuter (1). But this study is just the one of a long line of work showing that **removing a quarter of the dog's endocrine system might not be in the dog's best interests** – and maybe not even in the best interests of rescues and shelters.

## Effects Of Neutering A Dog Too Early

Let's look at what this research shows are the three most important reasons you should reconsider neutering your dog.

### 1. Early Neutering And Joint Disease

We'll get to the Vizsla study later. They didn't investigate the link between neuter and joint disease ... but they didn't really need to. There was already plenty of research showing the link.

### Hip Dysplasia

A 2013 study on Golden Retrievers found that male dogs who were neutered before 12 months of age had double the risk of hip dysplasia than their intact counterparts (2).

Other research shows that dogs sterilized before the age of six months have a 70% increased risk of developing hip dysplasia. The authors of this study propose that ...

*"...it is possible that the increase in bone length that results from early-age gonadectomy results in changes in joint conformation, which could lead to a diagnosis of hip dysplasia."*

There's even more evidence that neutering can increase the risk of hip dysplasia.

In a 2005 study, Van Hagen et al found that of the sample dogs diagnosed with hip dysplasia, those who were neutered six months prior to the diagnosis were **nearly twice as likely** to develop hip dysplasia (3).

### Cruciate Ligament Tears

Cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) tears have also been linked to neutering in numerous studies. The Golden Retriever study found that although there were **no cases of** cruciate tear in the intact dogs, 5% of males neutered before 12 months (and 8% of females) did suffer tears.

Whitehair et al (JAVMA Oct 1993), found that spayed and neutered dogs of any age were twice as likely to suffer cranial cruciate ligament rupture (4). In 2004, Slauterbeck et al also found an increased risk of cruciate tears (5).

Chris Zinc DVM PhD DACVP explains (6) ...

*"...if the femur has achieved its genetically determined normal length at eight months when a dog gets spayed or neutered, but the tibia, which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months of age continues to grow, then an abnormal angle may develop at the stifle. In addition, with the extra growth, the lower leg below the stifle likely becomes heavier (because it is longer), and may cause increased stresses on the cranial cruciate ligament."*

Additionally, sterilization can cause obesity and a loss of bone mass (7). Both of these factors could lead to an increased risk of cranial cruciate ligament tear and hip dysplasia. And a 2005 Austrian study showed that spayed/neutered dogs are over three times more likely



to suffer from patellar luxation (8).

There are many things you can do to [help your dog's joints](#). Unfortunately ... there are even more sinister issues with early neutering in dogs.

## 2. Neutering And Cancer

Contrary to popular belief, we can't neuter cancer. In fact, this surgery mostly **increases the risk of many common canine cancers**.

The Golden Retriever study found that the incidence of lymphosarcoma was **three times higher** in males neutered before 12 months of age. These results are similar to other studies. They also found that spayed/neutered dogs were 3.5% more likely to suffer mast cell cancer and 4.3 times more likely to suffer lymphoma.

2002 research on Rottweilers at Purdue University found that male and female dogs neutered or spayed before 1 year of age had an approximate one in four lifetime risk for bone sarcoma ... and they were significantly more likely to develop bone sarcoma than dogs that were sexually intact (9).

A 2002 study at Utrecht University found that prostate cancer occurs in neutered males about four times as frequently as in intact males (10) ... despite the popular belief that neutering prevents prostate cancer.

## 3. Neutering And Behavior

Neutering had been previously linked to cognitive impairment and even a three-fold risk of hypothyroidism (which often creates behavior changes). But the Vizsla study yielded some particularly interesting insight into this link. They found that **neutered dogs were also more likely to develop behavior disorders than intact dogs**. The problems included:

- Fear of storms
- Separation anxiety
- Fear of noises
- Timidity
- Excitability
- Aggression
- Hyperactivity
- Fear biting

Another study in 2010 (10) found neutered dogs were more:

- Aggressive
- Fearful
- Excitable

Less trainable than intact dogs

This is **contrary to the popular belief that neutering reduces aggression** and other behavior problems.

These findings also present a conundrum for shelters and rescues who advocate early neutering in dogs.

## What Happens If You Neuter A Dog Too Early?

Reducing the number of dogs in shelters is an important goal ... but it would be much better to prevent them from ending up at the shelter in the first place. Most people believe that shelters are full because of over-population. **But in fact, behavior problems are the most common reason owners give up their dogs.**

And is it fair for shelters to burden adopters with the increased risk of **cancer and joint disease**? There are alternatives to the complete removal of the reproductive organs and this might play a role in reducing the risk of cancer, joint disease and behavior issues.

Conventional neutering immediately shuts off the supply of protective hormones in the body. Hormones produced by the reproductive organs are essential for reproduction ... but they're also vital in developing ...

- Homeostasis
- Body condition
- Cholesterol levels
- Energy levels
- Urinary continence
- Muscle tone
- Cognition
- Behavior

Reproductive hormones also play a role in the immune system. The rise in the risk of many cancers after removal of the reproductive organs is evidence of this.

Hopefully the emerging research will encourage more shelters to look into safer and less intrusive options.

### **Safer Neutering Options For Dogs**

Modified neutering methods have less impact on the hormones and endocrine system. So dogs enjoy more hormone protection, even when sterilized.

Vasectomy can be a safer option for males. There is also a zinc injection but it may be hard to find due to the company's recent financial difficulties.

Finally, if your goal is to give your dog the best chance at a life free of joint disease, cancer and behavior issues, then keeping your dog intact is certainly an option. If you're thoughtful and caring enough to get this far in the article, you're certainly thoughtful enough to manage an intact dog.

Simply make certain that your intact male isn't allowed to wander (and you keep your intact female on leash for a few weeks when she is in estrus).

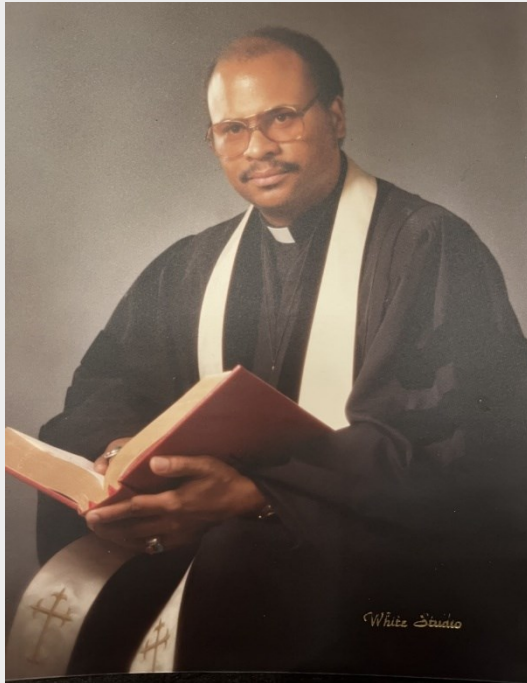
Removing a significant part of your dog's endocrine system should be anything but routine.

As research continues to show the damning results of early neutering in dogs, it's certainly in your dog's best interests for you to consider these three important reasons to keep your best friend just the way mother nature made him.

*Dogs Naturally Magazine*

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF *DANE LINE REIMAGINED*  
HAS A DEADLINE OF APRIL 28TH**

**PLEASE HAVE ALL OF YOUR BRAGS, RECIPES,  
ETC. IN BY THEN.**



## **REV. DR. LOUIS G. BOND**

### **CAROL (MCKENNA) URICK & RITA SUDDARTH**

January 27, 2023 was a sad day and a day of great loss for the Great Dane fancy. That is the day we heard the news of the passing of Rev. Dr. Louis G. Bond. It was news that traveled fast through the Dane community.

Louis was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1947. He grew up with dogs. As a youngster, his family had a Boxer, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, a Dalmatian and then finally a Saint Bernard.

Louis was highly educated obtaining his undergraduate degree from Boston University after which he attended Boston College to complete graduate studies in psychology. Following Boston College, he was accepted to Harvard University School of Theology where he earned a graduate degree in Theology. He earned his Doctorate in the Philosophy of Psychology from California Western University. He also was a Reverend and ministered to his flock for over 54 years.

When he met Robert E. Layne (Bob) in college, they moved to an apartment and then purchased their first home in the outskirts of Boston. Bob and Louis were partners for over 50 years. During their lives together, they adopted two children and have two grandchildren.

Back in the first home days, Bob decided to get a dog. They purchased a dog encyclopedia and began to research all breeds. They narrowed the list down to two breeds and finally

landed on the Great Dane.

In 1970 they purchased their first puppy. After several starts and stops with a less than ethical breeder, they focused on the dogs directly bred by Rosemarie Robert of Dinro Kennels in Carmel, NY. On their first trip to Rose's (the "mountain" as it was called as she lived at the top of a mountain) they were introduced to Ch. Dinro Strictly Taboo. At that time, Louis had no idea that the dog would be his and Bob's for the last six years of the dog's life. The dog took their breath away. Rose, who was so devoted to breeding and the breed, willingly taught them both about breeding. They spent vacations whelping, learning to evaluate litters and everything else about the breed. With Rose's tragic death in 1978, Louis and Bob learned that they were to take possession of all her dogs. They were tasked in Rose's will to care for, bred and show the dogs. It was Rose's wish that they carry on with her kennel name. They didn't say no or back down from that overwhelming commitment and challenge. There were some in the breed who wanted to prevent them from carrying on the Dinro name and legacy as Rose had expressed in her will. They overcame those objections.

Louis being Louis wanted a professional handler for the dogs they had to show so they hired the top handling team in the country to handle Dinro Gallant Man. On the first day of the dog's entrance to the show world, the actual handlers never showed up but rather sent their assistant. The dog won his class of an entry of 27 and then they waited nervously for someone to show up for the winner's class. No one showed, so Bob took the dog in and went BOW. At that moment, Louis decided they would train and show their own dogs. Bob became an expert owner handler before that term was coined or owner handling was rewarded. Shortly thereafter they began a partnership with what was to be their lifelong handler, Edward F. Lyons, Jr. (Eddie) who they had met during their many visits to Rose's home. Of course, there were times when there were too many dogs for Eddie to handle so the very capable assistance of Judy Harrington, Terry Silver and others were called upon from time to time.

Rose was Louis's mentor. Rose and Louis believed that Great Danes should have type but must also be able to move.

Louis and Bob went about the business of building a sound breeding program using many of Rose's stud dogs, adding on to their kennel and an entire addition off the kitchen to whelp bitches in.

Louis often quoted Rose until eventually the saying became his as well, "Just because you take a bitch to a stud dog and have

a litter, that in itself doesn't make you a breeder. That merely describes the act. Being a breeder means knowing what you want, getting it time and time again and keeping what you bred for."

In those days, after judging breeders would get together outside of the ring or outside of hotels and look at each other's dogs and critique them trying to learn and share and grow. To know pedigrees was essential for all the breeders of that time. We all loved to show, but breeding was in our blood. We didn't just want to have a litter from the top dog or bitch, we wanted to improve the breed, one litter at a time.

Louis and Bob and later along with co-breeder Carol (McKenna) Urick, produced many champions. At last count, not including the newest generation of dogs being shown by Jayme Lemaire (Carol's daughter), Carol and Bob, the total was 42.

Besides Danes, there were also Petite Griffon Bassets, Giant Schnauzers and a Dalmatian, all group winning animals.

Louis was not just a knowledgeable breeder. He was also an AKC judge of two groups, the working group and the sporting group. As a breeder judge his opinions were well regarded because, as most breeder judges do, he brought a depth of experience that others outside the breed usually lack. As a judge, it didn't matter who was on the other end of the lead. He looked for type and soundness. He didn't care if the day ended with all fawns winning, or all harlequins, or all brindles, blacks, mantles, or blues... He didn't care if all handlers were chosen, or the same handler. He didn't care if all owner handlers were selected. He just chose the best dogs. He believed that first and foremost this is a head breed. Type was king. But he also said type had to move. He didn't believe you had to be the biggest Dane to win. As long as you were the height stated in the standard, you had type and you could move, you would be looked at. He would often point out to those closest to him the taller/bigger dog that struggled to get around the ring. He did have a few pet peeves as a judge... don't bring him a dog that wasn't ring ready, don't bring him a dog that wasn't trained and don't bring him a dog that was dirty. He never got over his dislike of these things.

He was partial to a well-marked Harlequin. To him that meant irregularly torn patches over a white body. He loved Ch. Sounda's Marathon Man (aka "Mork") and campaigned him to the top 10 in the breed. Mork's photo was also selected for the first Great Dane education video produced by the AKC.

Mork



Along with Bob and Carol, he specialized Multiple Group Winning, Multiple BISS, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Canadian Champion, Champion of the Americas Ch. Dinro McKenna's Against All Odds, (aka "Brother".) Brother was #15, in 1989, #10 in 1990 and then #1 in 1991. In addition to being recognized as a Top Producer and Companion Dog he also won the Breed at Westminster (the Garden).

Brother



Louis and Bob along with Cindy Beus co-owned and campaigned Ch. Skansen's Sheba at Beucinder, a Giant Schnauzer bred by Sylvia Hammarstrom to the # 1 spot in that breed in 1992.



Over the years, Louis was very active in the Great Dane Club of New England and the Great Dane Club of America. He served as GDCNE's President for two terms. He was on the Board of Directors for three terms and served as Specialty Show Chair for six years (back in the day when our specialties were completely independent.) He also acted as the Affiliate Club Representative to the parent club for GDCNE for three terms. He was Division Chair for the Northeast Division for the last 37 years. He was the Show Chairman for the first National which boasted an entry of over 500 Great Danes. He came up with the concept and breathed life into the Top 20 and with the help of Bob, Carol and Eddie, presented it to the breed. The Top 20 for the first five years of the event's existence was a J. Lu-Rob Enterprises production.

He loved to host parties and every May following the GDCNE specialty he and Bob hosted the most marvelous party inviting everyone who wished to attend. There were tents in the beautifully landscaped yard and every sort of culinary treat that one could imagine. There were ice sculptures made into Great Dane Heads (beautiful heads, of course!) and an entire army of tuxedo wearing staff to be sure every guest was well looked after. The entries were huge, and many folks came just to attend the party!

Best in Show eluded him. Not because of his dogs, but because of his ethics. The team was approached more than once that if a handler change occurred BIS was guaranteed. Of course, that was never going to happen. That would not have been fair to the handler so BIS didn't happen either, but the

team could sleep at night feeling good about the choice.

If we learn anything at all about Louis' life in dogs it should be this: find a mentor who is knowledgeable and learn all you can, don't ever think you know it all or have the best dogs ever bred...no dog is perfect, always breed to improve the next generation. Understand pedigrees. Appreciate the quality in other dogs and other breeding programs. At dog shows, look around the ring, see who is sitting there that has been around for years, approach them at an opportune time and ask questions. Continue to learn and work hard and don't just look for what is popular in the ring. Learn what is correct and strive for what is correct. Read your standard. Know it inside and out. Remember that color patterns are mentioned for a reason. Remember size is mentioned for a reason. Remember angles and movement are mentioned for a reason and remember the detail of head.

Rev. Dr. Louis G. Bond, he strove for the best in all he did, including breeding and showing and judging. He wasn't afraid of all the hard work that it took to learn and build a kennel that produced consistent type and quality earning over 40 Great Dane champions in his lifetime in addition to the many other champions he co-owned in other breeds (Dobermans, PVGV's, Dalmatians, Scottish Deer Hounds, and Giant Schnauzers.) He endured the heartbreaks that all breeders endure as well as enjoyed the highs that breeders sometimes enjoy. He was and will remain a giant man in the halls of the Apollo of Dogs, The Great Dane.

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