

Dane Line

# REIMAGINED

MARCH  
2026



Published by the Great Dane Club of New England

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Vice President - Marcia Roddy  
Recording Secretary - Kim Thurler  
Corresponding Secretary - Tiffany Cross  
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## Note from Sue:



Hi Everyone,

As we look forward to snow melting, warmer weather and spring, it's time to start thinking about upcoming dog shows. We have our supported entry at Wampanoag Kennel Club on Sunday, June 28th at the Wide World of Indoor Sports in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. This is an indoor show. We will also be supporting the Dane entry of St. Hubert Kennel Club on Saturday, May 9th, in Brooklyn, Connecticut. Our judge is Nikki Riggsbee.

Please try to enter these shows and in particular check out the site at Brooklyn if you haven't been there before. We may possibly have a spring specialty there next year, so we'd like to know what you think. Come join us at both supported entries!

It's not too soon to think about our fall specialties at the Thanksgiving Cluster. We will be having our usual fabulous raffle so look around and see what you can donate. As you know, the raffle is necessary to make our shows successful, as they themselves do not turn a profit.

We're still working on possibly running Fast Cat with South Shore Kennel Club on Sept. 11 and 12, Friday and Saturday. Nothing has been finalized at this time but I want to sincerely thank everyone who has volunteered to help.

Best wishes,

Sue

President

**We wanted everyone to see this letter from Jeffrey Ball and Laurie Maulucci regarding the financial outcome for the 2025 National in our Division.**

**Thanks to all of you who worked so hard on behalf of the Great Dane Club of New England to make the National a success.**



February 15, 2026

Dear GDCA East Division Club Representatives,

It's hard to believe that four months have passed since we were all together at the Kalahari, Thanks to your hard work, the work of your club's members, and many others, not only from our Division but also from the other three Divisions, the 2025 National Specialty was an indisputable success.

Our combined efforts resulted in a profit of over \$50,000, as you can see from the attached financial report that received final approval at the GDCA Board meeting held on February 7, 2026. We'd like to thank the eight clubs in the East Division and their members that made the commitment to participate, and we're very pleased to share that each of those clubs will receive a check in the amount of \$3176.00 as a result.

We wish you continued success with your club's events as we move forward in 2026. You have our deepest gratitude for everything you did to bring us to an incredibly successful conclusion to this chapter in our Division's rich history.

With sincere thanks,

*Jeffrey Ball*

Jeffrey Ball, GDCA East Division Show Chair

*Laurie A Maulucci*

Laurie Maulucci, GDCA East Division Chair

# Freeze-dried Plasma Now an Option for Canine Emergency Treatment

Published by and Reprinted from the AVMA News March 5, 2026

Contributed by Kim Thurler

This past December, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) completed a risk review of Mantel Technologies' canine freeze-dried plasma (cFDP). It is now available for preorder for the treatment of hypovolemia and control of hemorrhage in dogs.

Mantel Technologies' canine freeze-dried plasma (Courtesy of Mantel)

"Although Mantel's cFDP is not approved, conditionally approved, or index listed, because FDA has determined the risks associated with this product are appropriately mitigated, at this time FDA does not intend to object to marketing of the product," according to a December announcement.

The powder product is shelf stable for at least one year and may be reconstituted for intravenous use in medical emergencies when whole blood products may not be available, such as in trauma cases with military working dogs or in remote locations.

The pooled allogeneic canine freeze-dried plasma is available by prescription from a licensed veterinarian. In addition, specialized veterinary medical expertise is necessary for safe usage.

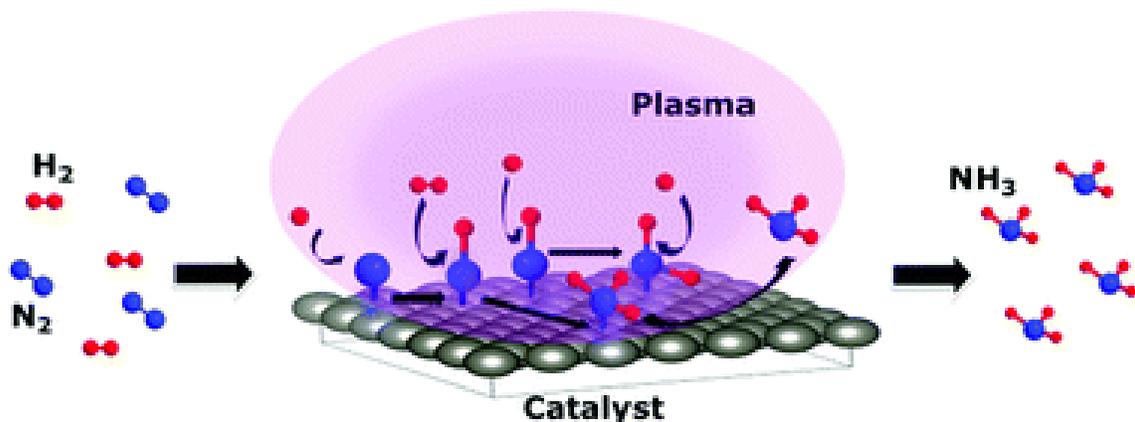
The company said each kit comprises 20 grams of cFDP in a 250 mL single-use bag, 250 mL bag of sterile water for injection diluent, and an administration set. A needle is not included.

It can be administered intravenously at a dose of 10-20 mL/kg body weight at a rate not to exceed 4-6 mL per minute.

The product requires reconstitution before use. Once reconstituted, the cFDP bag is equivalent to 250 mL canine plasma and should be infused immediately. However, it may be stored at room temperature between 68-77 degrees Fahrenheit (20-25 degrees Celsius) for up to 180 minutes or stored under refrigeration between 34-43 degrees Fahrenheit (1-6 degrees Celsius) for up to three days, as long as the plasma and kit are used only once for a single patient.

It is contraindicated for use in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to plasma or plasma-derived products.

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# Adelele

MBISS GCH Lemaire's One and Only



Many thanks to Breeder Judges  
**MR. JASON HOKE & MS. MARY LEE WILLIAMS**  
for recognizing **Adele** as their **Best in Specialty** winner!

**Breeders / Owners:** Jayme Lemaire, Carol McKenna Urick & Robert E. Layne

**Beautifully Presented to the Fancy by:** John & Jessie Gerszewski

MBISS GCHS Old Mission's Lemaire's Know When to Hold 'Em AOM X GCH Divine Acres Lemaire's Kiki Do U Love Me

## Getting to Know You

### Patrica Ostrout

My name is Patrica Ostrout but please call me Patty. I live in West Brookfield, Ma. I have lived here for 22 years. We have three children and now are blessed with 6 grandchildren. I have always loved animals, and especially dogs. I always thought I should have become a Veterinarian, my friends tell me it's a good thing I didn't because I would have brought every animal I could home.

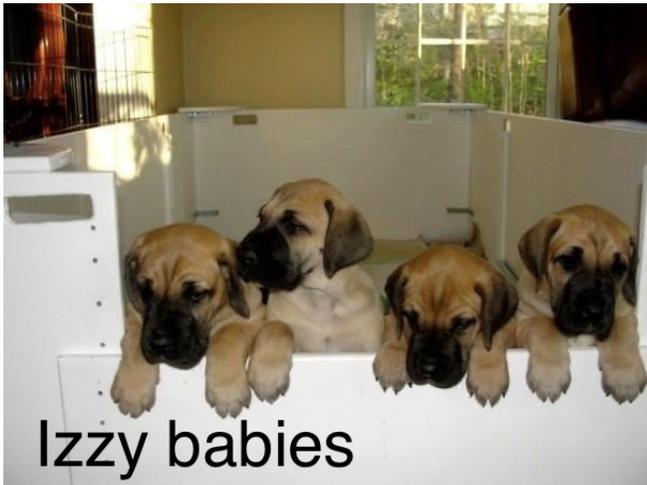
In the past I had labs and St. Bernards and bred some litters. When my daughter was in her teens she wanted a Dane. We started to look around and found a breeder who had a black female puppy available and we went to see the puppy, she was very cute and we came home with her. My daughter named her Isis. Isis was a great dog and when my daughter went off to college Isis became my best friend. When she was 4 years old she got very sick and we took her to Tufts and she was diagnosed with Wobblers. We decided to try the surgery and it worked for a short while but she became sick again and we made the difficult decision to put her down. This was extremely hard and our hearts were broken.

When they say once you have a Dane you can't be without one it's very true. So in time my husband and I began going to shows and talking to breeders. We sure wanted to do our best to choose a healthy Dane. Well fortunately we met Dale Tarbox and a lot of other great breeders who gave us lots of information and we enjoyed watching the shows. Dale told us that she would

be doing a breeding along with Peter & Pam Janetatos. We didn't hear anything for quite awhile and then the call came that they had gotten two puppies from the breeding a male and a female. Dale said if we were ready to go to the Futurity in Chattanooga TN she was ours. We were both so excited we named her Izzy and the journey began. We had so much fun showing. Joel and Lorrie handled Izzy and it was a great learning experience and so much fun. Izzy got her Championship, we went to lots of Nationals, met so many wonderful people and had the greatest time.

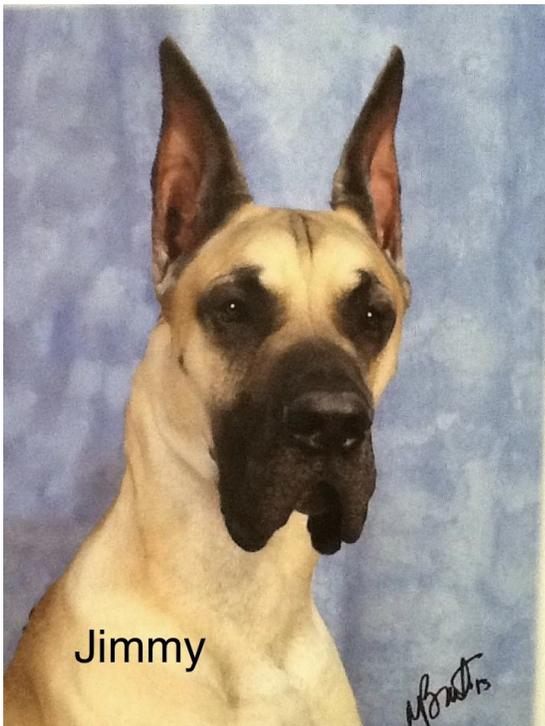


I bred Izzy with Dales help and guidance and she had four beautiful pups 2 boys and 2 girls. I will never forget the day they were born into my hands.



I kept a boy Jimmy GCH Sandale PAJ Its Five O'Clock Somewhere, Lorrie took him into his first show he won a major and his sister did the same day, Lorrie finished him at 9 months.

Years went by (10) and things happen in life. I decided I wanted to get a Dane and so I called Dale I trust her knowledge and asked her to watch for a good breeding. It looks some time but Dale called and said Pat Ciampa has a litter of puppies and she is a wonderful breeder give her a call. I did and picked out the sweetest boy his name is Cash, Ch Maitau N Grateful Live a Little Have Some Fun.



We have had fun showing and Pat, Helen, Tiffany and Josh have been wonderful to us. History repeated itself with Lorrie handling him his first show was a 5 point major and she finished him at 9 months. He is the best walking partner and so easy to live with. He loves cuddling on the couch and looks forward to it every night. Enjoying my Boy Cash!

By joining the GDCNE I hope to continue to learn about Danes and help the Club out.



Cash 1st show

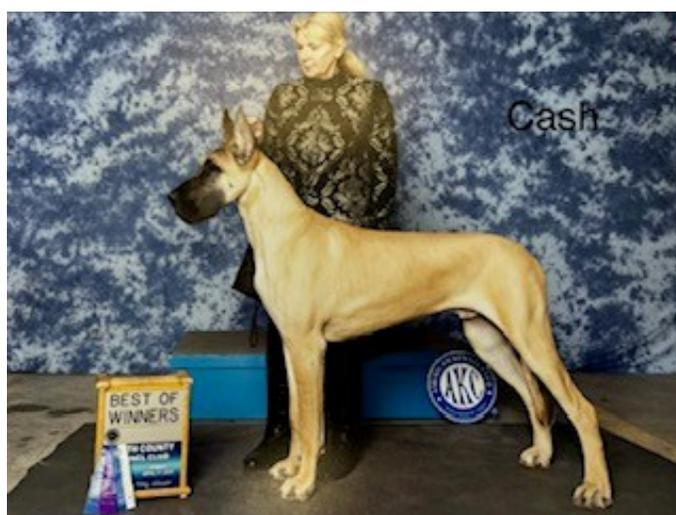


Cash



Cash

M Shepherd 2026



Cash

## AKC Recognition of Canadian Kennel Club Titles

Submitted by Sue Shaw

As previously communicated, the AKC Board of Directors approved the recognition of Canadian Kennel Club titles earned in Conformation, Obedience and Rally to the AKC's Title Recognition Program. All dogs that are AKC registered and have earned these titles in the past are eligible to have the title recognized by AKC.

### Eligible Titles

#### Conformation

Champion  
Grand Champion  
Grand Champion Bronze  
Grand Champion Silver  
Grand Champion Gold

#### Obedience

Pre-Companion Dog  
Companion Dog  
Companion Dog Intermediate  
Companion Dog Excellent  
Utility Dog  
Obedience Trial Champion

#### Rally

Rally Novice  
Rally Intermediate  
Rally Advanced  
Rally Excellent  
Rally Advanced Excellent  
Rally Master  
Rally Champion

Please email [titlerecognition@akc.org](mailto:titlerecognition@akc.org) with any questions.

## Info on the National



### Judges are:

Breed—Jim Remaklus  
Dogs—Thomas Davis  
Bitches—Jennifer Bell

### Futurity

BJ Barnhart  
Doug Toomey

### National Specialty Facilities

The 2026 South Division Show Site is at the Meadowview Marriott Convention Center, nestled in the countryside of Kingsport, TN. This location promises a welcoming atmosphere, with ample opportunities for networking and socializing. Exciting activities and special features are being organized to make this year's show memorable for all attendees.

Stay Connected—Please sign up for notifications to stay informed about all South Division activities and updates by visiting our website for more information:

<https://gdcanationalspecialty.org/event-schedule/>

## News from the GDCA

It's interesting to note that the GDCA Board just voted to eliminate Welcome Bags at the National. Instead they will be offering a welcome gift while supplies last.

The GDCA is updating their bylaws and will be adding an associate membership category, something that ISue Shaw brought up at the affiliate delegates meeting in October.

## Quotes about Dogs

### Submitted by Betty Lewis

Dogs may not be our whole lives, but they make our lives whole.- Roger Caras

My goal in life is to be the kind of person my dog thinks I am.- Paul Dunn

To the world, you are one person, but to your dog, you are the world.-C. Swetnam

To err is human; to forgive, canine. -Unknown

Happiness is a warm puppy. -Charles Schultz

Every pet may not be a show dog, but be assured, every show dog is a pet.-Pat Trotter

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.- Andy Rooney

If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience.-Woodrow Wilson

Dogs do speak, but only to those who know how to listen.- Orhan Pamuk

Everything I know, I learned from dogs.- Nora Roberts

The more I learn about people, the more I love my dog.-Mark Twain

Dogs are my favorite people.- Richard Dean Anderson

Whoever said diamonds are a girl's best friend, never owned a dog.- Unknown

Everyone thinks they have the best dog, and none of them is wrong. -Unknown



**Sunshine**—Our hearts go out to Marcia and Peter Roddy on the loss of their Jules, CH Maitau N Sundance You Gotta Believe.



No new applications at this time.

*Congratulations!*

We are delighted to share that **Jason Hoke**, President of the GDCA, has been elected to the AKC Board of Directors. Please join us in congratulating Jason on this outstanding achievement. We are confident he will serve the the AKC and the world of dogs with professionalism, dedication, and pride.

## Getting to Know You

### Rebekah Michal Woodworth Wallace

My name is Rebekah Michal Woodworth Wallace (known as “Mikie” to many of you), and dogs have truly shaped the story of my life.

I was raised in the small town of Wethersfield, Connecticut, as the second youngest of seven siblings. My love for animals began at an early age, and long before Great Danes entered our lives, my family was involved with Standard Poodles for over 35 years. Most of our poodles came from Wendall Sammet, known as “The Poodle Guy,” of Ale Kai Kennels and our final poodle before transitioning to Great Danes came from Ann Fischer of Majessa Standard Poodles. Growing up surrounded by dogs — and in a bustling household — taught me responsibility, patience, and the powerful, unspoken bond between human and canine.

As my passion for animals grew, it became clear that this wasn’t just a hobby, it was the direction my life was taking. In 2006, my family and I began attending and showing Great Danes. A couple years later, I attended Glastonbury High School in Glastonbury, CT where I was part of the Agriscience Program and an active FFA member. Through FFA, I pursued my Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) with showing dogs as my primary focus, which ultimately led me to earn my American FFA Degree. That experience deepened my understanding of animal husbandry, ethics, and the science behind breeding and care. It strengthened both my leadership skills and my commitment to agriculture.

From there, I pursued my Associate Degree in Biology (Liberal Arts and Sciences) at Manchester

Community College before transferring to the University of Connecticut, where I earned my Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources. Shortly after, I attended the University of Connecticut’s TCPCG Master’s Program, where I received my Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, along with my certification in Agricultural Education (K–12). Today, I am incredibly fortunate to have a career that aligns so closely with my passions. As a High School Agriculture Education Teacher and FFA Advisor, I not only educate students about the importance of agriculture and food systems, but I also have the opportunity to teach them about responsible dog breeding, animal care, ethics, and stewardship. I also bring “Ellie”, CH. America’s Shining Star of Freedom, along to my animal science classes, where she helps demonstrate dog showing, responsible breeding, and proper animal handling — and she absolutely loves it. Being able to combine my love for Great Danes with my professional career is something I truly never take for granted.

I am incredibly grateful to my parents, who supported my passion from the very beginning. They spent countless weekends driving me almost every weekend to dog shows in the East Coast, Northeast and Midwest giving me opportunities to learn, grow, and fall deeper in love with the sport. Their dedication made experiences possible that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. In 2007, I attended my first Great Dane Club of America National Specialty in Pennsylvania, where I handled Buddy in Junior Showmanship and Joel handled him in Breed placing 2nd in his class against a competitive class. Then we attended the 2009 GDCA National Specialty with 3 of our Great Danes - Emily, Buddy, and Lily where John Mark placed 1st in his Juniors class handling Emily.

Emily



Buddy  
Above and  
Below



Lilly

Years later, in 2014 my younger brother John Mark and I returned to the GDCA National Specialty in Ohio with two puppies from our very first homebred litter, "Abbie" and "Ben." It was a full-circle moment — especially when Abbie earned an incredible 2nd place in a very competitive 9-12 month bred-by class.



Abbie both photos



Ben

Most recently, I attended the 2025 GDCA National Specialty in PA with my husband showing “Jack”, America’s Spirit of Freedom V BRF in Futurity and breed where we made the first cut in a very competitive 12-18 month futurity class. Looking back, it is incredible to think where it all began.



Jack

My mom’s great grandparents from Denmark and grandparents also had Great Danes. From a young age my mom always dreamed of having one of her own.

That dream became a reality in 2005 when I was 12 years old and we welcomed our first Great Dane into the family. Through our search for reputable breeders, we met Betty and Ray Streeter of BRF Great Danes, and that is where we welcomed our first Dane, “Emily,” BRF’s

America’s Hope. Watching and showing Emily in the breed ring lit a spark in me. I was drawn not just to the competition, but to the artistry — the teamwork, the presentation, and the quiet communication between dog and handler.

But it was in 2007, my family purchased our second Great Dane, “Buddy”, UKC CH. Maitau’s America’s Dream from Pat Ciampa of Maitau Great Danes that truly changed everything for me.

I began showing Buddy first at a United Kennel Club (UKC) dog show at 6 months old before transitioning into American Kennel Club (AKC) dog shows, and from the very beginning, we grew up together in the ring. Buddy was more than my dog, he was my foundation. With him, I truly learned how to handle Great Danes. I learned timing, ring presence, and how to feel subtle shifts at the end of the lead and adjust without panic. Most importantly, confidence as I enter the ring.

Under the guidance of my mentors Joel Rosenblatt, Ed Lyons, Melissa Ayer, and Betty Streeter I watched, absorbed, and practiced all the knowledge that they instilled in me. When Joel felt I was ready, he stepped back and allowed me to take over in the breed ring. That moment was pivotal. I began showing Buddy in both Junior Showmanship and the Breed ring myself.

Together, Buddy and I achieved success in the Junior Showmanship ring as well. In 2007, we were ranked the #5 Great Dane Junior Handler in the country, followed by #4 in 2008 and #3 in 2009. Even more meaningful to me, Buddy and I were ranked the #1 Great Dane Junior Handler team in the Northeast for three consecutive years. Those accomplishments were incredibly special because they represented the countless

hours of practice, dedication, and teamwork that Buddy and I built together.

Unfortunately during this time, standard height male Great Danes such as Buddy were difficult to finish and it seemed judges preferred taller males. While Buddy earned all of his single points, he only needed two majors to complete his AKC Championship title. Nevertheless, Buddy and I were a team. We learned together. We made mistakes together. We improved together. He taught me resilience, patience, and how to trust myself. Those early years with him shaped not just my handling career, but my identity within this sport.

A few years later in 2009, my family purchased our third Great Dane, “Lily” from BRF Danes. After a few years handling Lily in Junior Showmanship and the breed ring, my brother and I worked together to gain her AKC championship title. In 2013, we reached a milestone that felt like a dream realized — we finished our first champion and Lily became AM GCH/UKC CH. BRF’s America’s Ray of Sunshine, AOM. That same year, we proudly had our first homebred litter. From the litter of three, we went on to finish two out of the three puppies, “Abbie”, GCHB. America’s Let Freedom Ring, AOM and “Ben”, CH. America’s Call to Freedom. That was the true beginning of our kennel, America’s Great Danes. It was no longer just about showing; it was about preservation, responsibility, and building something lasting.

In 2019, Betty approached us with an opportunity to co-own a puppy with her from her Atom x Kylie litter who we named “Emma”, GCH. BRF’s N America’s Red White & Fawn and later finished in 2021. Around this same time, my niece, Rebecca Fuller, joined our team as a Junior Handler in 2019, continuing the family’s involvement in the sport and beginning her own

journey in the ring as handler, co-owner and breeder. That same year, we had our second litter from “Abbie”, GCHB. America’s Let Freedom Ring, AOM to “Levi”, BISS GCHB BRF’s N Chinar’s Man With A Plan, AOM and continued strengthening our program. From that litter, our keeper puppy “Ellie”, CH. America’s Shining Star of Freedom finished her AKC championship title at the GDCO specialty in 2022 owner-breeder handled by myself.



Ellie



Emma  
Right and  
Below



Libby



In 2022, we bred “Emma”, GCH. BRF’s N America’s Red White & Fawn to “Finn”, CH. Maitau N Cosmic Eye’M A Holligan CGC. One of the puppies from this litter owned by Rachel Wilson, went on to become a multiple Best in Specialty Show/Group Placing/Owner Handled Best in Show winner - “Stetson”, GCHB BRF’s N America’s V Maitau @ Balor A Legend Is Born CGC TKN. In addition, myself and Betty Streeter worked together to finish Stetson’s littermate, “Libby”, CH. BRF’s N America’s Lady Liberty. In 2024, my family bred “Ellie”, CH. America’s Shining Star of Freedom to “Ruff”, CH. Windy Hill’s Ruff N Ready V BRF where we had a litter of two, one of which is finished and showing sparingly in the Best of Breed ring by myself and Betty Streeter - “Chase”, CH. BRF’s N America’s Chasing Freedom who is owned by Betty Streeter and co-owned with myself, Mary Woodworth, John Mark Woodworth, and Rebecca Fuller. Currently, “Jack”, America’s Spirit of Freedom V BRF owned by myself and my family needs 1 single point and two majors to finish from the Bred By class owner-handled!

Chase



In 2025, my family was deeply honored to receive AKC’s Breeder of Merit recognition — a moment that represents years of dedication to health testing, ethical breeding, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to this breed. It is a recognition myself and my family hold with immense pride and gratitude.

We are not a commercial kennel, we are a hobby breeder driven by passion and purpose. Every breeding is thoughtfully planned, prioritizing health, temperament, breed type, structure, and longevity. Our goal has always been to produce Great Danes that are not only beautiful in the ring, but sound, stable, and treasured family companions.

I have been blessed with extraordinary mentors along the way — from Beth Brock, who was my first conformation handling instructor, to Betty and Ray Streeter, Pat Ciampa, Ed Lyons, Karen

Pacino and especially Joel Rosenblatt and Melissa Ayer, who helped shape my understanding of presentation and breed detail. Many respected breeders and handlers have offered guidance and encouragement throughout the years, and I carry those lessons with me every time I step into the ring.



Over the years, I have handled many other breeds such as Doberman Pinschers, Afghan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Bernese Mountain Dogs, and Dachshund to name a few, but Great Danes will always be my heart.

While Great Danes remain a central part of my life, this past year also brought exciting personal milestones. On April 6, 2025, I married my husband, Tom, who serves as a Police Officer. I am currently in my seventh year as an Agriculture Education High School teacher. We now reside in Vernon, Connecticut, where I continue showing Great Danes with my family. At the moment, I am working on finishing "Jack", America's Spirit of Freedom V BRF from our Ruff x Ellie litter and hope to special him in the near future.

As life evolves and new chapters begin, one thing remains constant, my devotion to this breed. To conclude, Great Danes have given me purpose, lifelong friendships, mentors, heartbreak, triumph, and growth. They have shaped the woman I am today. This is more than a hobby. It is a responsibility, a legacy, and a lifelong love that continues to grow with every generation I raise and every dog I have the privilege to show.



A picture speaks a thousand words!



Ellie and the Beautiful Bride and Handsome Groom



## New Point Scale Just Released

**Thanks to Sue for sharing!**

Effective May 12, 2026 - Great Dane

DIVISION	STATES	1 Point		2 Points		3 Points		4 Points		5 Points	
		Dogs	Bitches	Dogs	Bitches	Dogs	Bitches	Dogs	Bitches	Dogs	Bitches
Div 1	CT ME MA NH RI VT	2	2	4	4	5	5	7	7	10	10
Div 2	DE NJ NY PA	2	2	5	5	7	8	8	12	9	18
Div 3	DC MD NC VA WV	2	2	5	5	7	8	8	13	10	21
Div 4	FL GA SC	2	2	6	9	9	15	13	18	19	24
Div 5	IN KY MI OH	2	2	5	7	7	11	9	17	12	27
Div 6	CO NV UT	2	2	3	6	4	10	5	11	6	12
Div 7	KA OK TX	2	2	5	4	7	6	8	7	10	10
Div 8	OR WA	2	2	4	6	5	9	6	12	9	17
Div 9	AZ CA	2	2	5	7	7	11	10	15	15	21
Div 10	AK	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
Div 11	HI	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
Div 12	MEX PR	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
Div 13	ID MT NE NM ND SD WY	2	2	3	3	4	4	7	7	12	13
Div 14	AL AR LA MS TN	2	2	4	5	5	7	7	9	11	13
Div 15	IL IA MN MO WI	2	2	5	8	7	13	8	14	11	17

## Top 6 Essential Oils For Dog Allergies

March 28, 2025

**Steph Van Noort**  
Submitted by **Sue Shaw**

Essential oils have been cherished for centuries, with their roots tracing back to ancient civilizations like Egypt, where they were used in medicine and rituals. These powerful plant-based remedies have stood the test of time, offering both medicinal and emotional benefits for humans and animals alike.

Essential oils are concentrated extracts derived from plants, containing potent compounds that support health and wellness. Unlike synthetic products, these natural remedies are carefully distilled to capture the therapeutic properties of the plant, making them ideal for addressing a variety of issues, including allergies in dogs.

But can essential oils also help with your dog's allergies? The answer is yes. From supporting a healthy inflammatory response to calming irritated skin, essential oils offer a holistic approach to managing allergies. But it's crucial to understand how to use them safely and effectively.

### What Makes Essential Oils Effective for Dogs?

Essential oils owe their therapeutic power to natural chemical compounds like terpenes and caryophyllene. Terpenes help detoxify the liver and kidneys, while caryophyllene offers inflammation benefits, making these oils ideal for alleviating allergy symptoms in dogs.

Beyond their chemical properties, essential oils provide a wide range of benefits that address common allergy symptoms. They can soothe irritated skin and even support respiratory health.

When used properly, these oils offer a gentle, natural alternative to harsher chemical treatments, enhancing your dog's overall well-being.

But not all essential oils are safe for dogs. Here are some oils that are not only safe, but are great for allergy support in dogs.

### Top 6 Essential Oils For Dog Allergies

#### 1. Peppermint Oil

Peppermint oil is an effective natural solution for cooling irritation, making it ideal for dogs with allergy-related discomfort. Its invigorating scent can also provide respiratory relief during seasonal allergies.

Diluted peppermint oil can be applied topically or used in small amounts orally, ensuring proper safety measures are followed. Always monitor your dog closely when introducing peppermint oil into their care routine.

#### 2. Mountain Savory, Oregano, And Clove

These powerful essential oils are known for their immune support properties, helping to prevent and manage allergy symptoms by strengthening your dog's defenses.

They also exhibit antimicrobial effects, reducing the risk of secondary infections from scratching or irritation.

These oils can be diffused, applied topically in a diluted essential oil blend, or administered orally in carefully measured doses. Always ensure proper dilution and consult a professional before use to avoid potential reactions.

#### 3. Lavender Oil

Lavender oil is highly



versatile, offering analgesic, antifungal, antihistamine, and other properties, making it an excellent choice for soothing irritated skin and calming allergic reactions. Its natural oils can also help reduce stress and promote relaxation in your dog.

Administering essential oils like lavender is simple: you can diffuse it into the air or dilute it with a carrier like coconut oil for safe topical application.

Caution: Ensure you're using fresh, high-quality lavender oil to avoid issues caused by oxidation, which can lead to essential oil poisoning.

#### 4. Roman Chamomile

Known for inflammation benefits and anti-parasitic properties, Roman chamomile is gentle enough for dogs while being effective against skin irritation and minor allergic reactions. It also helps alleviate discomfort from bites or other minor irritations.

This essential oil is safe for diluted topical application or oral use in small amounts, making it a versatile option in essential oil treatments.

#### 5. Elemi

Elemi is prized for its antiseptic qualities and calming effects, which can support wound healing and provide relief from itchy, irritated skin. Its mild nature makes it suitable for frequent use on sensitive areas.



Elemi can be used in an essential oil blend for topical application

or diffused to promote a calming environment for your dog.

#### 6. Myrrh

Myrrh is rich in anti-stringent properties that soothe irritated skin while promoting healing. This natural oil can also help manage chronic dryness or flaky patches caused by allergies.

Best applied topically, myrrh should always be diluted with a carrier oil like coconut oil to prevent irritation.

#### Precautions For Using Essential Oils On Dogs

When choosing essential oils for your dog, always prioritize therapeutic-grade products from trusted suppliers to ensure purity and effectiveness. Low-quality or synthetic oils often contain contaminants that can harm your dog's health, making proper sourcing essential for safe and effective use.

Essential oils are highly concentrated and should never be applied directly to your dog's skin without proper dilution. A safe starting ratio is 1 drop of essential oil to 50 drops of a carrier oil, such as coconut oil, to reduce the risk of irritation or adverse reactions.

Dogs have a heightened sense of smell, and some may react negatively to certain oils. Observe your dog closely for signs of discomfort, such as sneezing, excessive licking, or avoidance behaviors, and always allow an escape route when diffusing oils in enclosed spaces.

To avoid potential sensitivity or toxicity, limit the use of essential oils to no more than two weeks at a time, followed by a rest period. Extended use should only be considered under the guidance of a veterinarian or a professional trained in essential oil treatments for pets.

#### Using Essential Oils Safely For Dog Allergies

Essential oils offer a natural and effective way to manage dog allergies while supporting overall health and well-being. These natural remedies can enhance your dog's quality of life when used appropriately.

Responsible usage means consulting with experts, ensuring proper dilution, and closely monitoring your dog for any adverse reactions. By taking these precautions, pet owners can confidently incorporate essential oils into their dog's care routine.



### FAQ

**What essential oils help dogs with allergies?**  
Lavender oil and cedarwood oil are among the best essential oils for relieving allergies in dogs due to their soothing properties. When using essential oils, always ensure they are properly diluted and sourced from trusted suppliers to keep them essential oils safe for pets.

**What is the best oil to add to dog food for allergies?** Essential fatty acids from oils like coconut oil or fish oil can help reduce inflammation and improve your dog's coat and skin health.

**What is the safest essential oil to use around dogs?** Lavender oil is one of the essential oils safe for use around dogs when diluted correctly, offering calming properties. Always consult holistic veterinarians and allow your dog an escape route when using essential oils in diffusers.

**What can I use naturally for allergic to dogs?** Natural remedies like lavender oil for calming allergies and natural flea prevention can help manage sensitivities safely. Additionally, consulting a holistic veterinarian ensures the following essential oils are appropriate for your particular animal and their specific needs.

## DEADLINE



The next deadline for *DaneLine's* Fall issue is August 7, 2026. This is your publication. Send in your articles,

recipes, anything of interest, including your brags!



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Submitted by Sue Shaw

# Keep Your Pet's Water Bowl From Freezing

A plastic bottle of salt water will keep your water bowl from freezing. Learned this trick from someone who keeps horses.

This water bowl is out for the feral that hangs around our house.

Been out for 36 hours in 20 degrees and hasn't frozen.

Use lots of salt, I put about a 1/4 of the bottle salt and the rest warm water, dissolve, then submerge in the water bowl.



- **Fill bottle 1/4 with salt, rest with warm water**
- **Submerge in water bowl**

# A New Frontier for Bladder Cancer in Dogs

Contributed by Kim Thurler

From the AKC Health Foundation Blog March 11, 2026

## More Good Days Through the Power of Immunotherapy

Bladder cancer affects about 2 percent of dogs, and for the families who experience it, the impact is lasting and profound. The most common form, called urothelial cell carcinoma (formerly transitional cell carcinoma), often begins quietly. A little straining. Microscopic amounts of blood in the urine. More frequent trips outside.

By the time these changes appear, the tumor has often already grown within the bladder. For many dogs, traditional treatment includes chemotherapy and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as meloxicam. These therapies can bring comfort and offer meaningful time together. At the same time, they are not curative, and side effects can add challenges for sick patients.

That reality is what drives researchers like Dr. Timothy Fan, professor of veterinary clinical medicine at the University of Illinois Cancer Center, to pursue something more.

His goal is simple and powerful. More good days for dogs and the people who love them.

## Rethinking Treatment: Immunotherapy for Dogs

In human medicine, a breakthrough called checkpoint blockade immunotherapy, also known as an immune checkpoint inhibitor, has changed how many cancers are treated.

The immune system uses checkpoint proteins to identify what belongs in the body and what does not. Cancer cells can hide by manipulating these checkpoints, preventing them from being recognized as foreign. Checkpoint blockade antibodies break this disguise, helping the immune system identify tumor cells and restore its natural defense role.

In older adults with bladder cancer, this novel therapy has created new possibilities. Dr. Fan, supported by a grant from the AKC Canine Health Foundation, is applying this human breakthrough to veterinary medicine. Checkpoint inhibitors help about 30 percent of people with bladder cancer, and Dr. Fan expects similar results in dogs.

Chemotherapy remains a valuable first-line treatment. Yet many dogs diagnosed with bladder cancer are seniors, and some also have reduced kidney function. Certain chemotherapy drugs can be challenging for these patients. Immunotherapy offers a new approach that works with the body's own defenses.

Early in this study, Dr. Fan and his team started treating dogs with the checkpoint antibody alone. As of February 2026, seven dogs have received this treatment. Once 10 to 15 dogs finish this phase, the team will proceed to the next step.

## A Two-Fold Strategy for Stronger Results

Cancer uses clever, multi-layered survival strategies. Besides its ability to manipulate checkpoint proteins to deceive the body into thinking it belongs, it also suppresses the immune system to avoid being attacked.

Tumors can reduce the activity of T cells, which are immune cells responsible for attacking cancer. Dr. Fan describes this as a smoky cloud that hides immune cells from clearly seeing their target, the cancer cell.

To clear that cloud, Dr. Fan's team plans to add a second medication that targets an enzyme called IDO1. This enzyme helps create and maintain the immune-suppressive microenvironment that supports cancer. In targeting IDO1, the goal is to reduce that "smoke."

By combining checkpoint blockade with an IDO1 inhibitor, the hope is to give the immune response an advantage against cancer so that dogs and families get more time together.

The study will include up to 30 dogs. Dr. Fan aims to build on the success in humans and explore the full potential of immunotherapy in canine patients.

Researchers are still uncovering the full potential of immunotherapy in the fight against cancer. What they know for sure is that each discovery brings us closer to better options, stronger responses, and more good days.

If your dog has been diagnosed with bladder cancer (urothelial cell carcinoma) and you would like to explore participation in Dr. Fan's clinical trial, you can learn more about eligibility and next steps. Visit [www.akcchf.org/clinicalparticipants](http://www.akcchf.org/clinicalparticipants) to find out how to connect with the research team and discover whether this study may be a fit for your dog. Donations to support research can be made at <https://www.akcchf.org/c/moregooddays/>

## GDCA Charitable Trust

The GDCA Charitable Trust has donated \$30,000 to the Morris Animal Foundation for a study focusing on uncovering the genetics of cervical spondylomyelopathy (Wobbler Syndrome). The study is being conducted at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine by Dr Ronaldo da Costa. The study builds on more than 2 decades of research and aims to shift the field toward prevention rather than treatment. By using cutting edge genetic techniques to analyze DNA from affected and healthy dogs, they hope to identify genetic variations associated with the disease and understand the heritable basis of Wobblers. This information could eventually enable breeders to reduce disease prevalence and help guide future treatments.



## IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!



**Students over 18 seeking higher education in college or accredited vocational programs and members of GDCA or affiliate club should apply.**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE 04/01/2026**

For more information visit our website at <https://gdcacharitabletrust.org/scholarships-2/>

# GREAT DANE CLUB OF AMERICA

## CHARITABLE TRUST



### **Canine Osteosarcoma Research**

#### **Joy DeGruccio, Trustee**

The GDCA Charitable Trust has supported the canine osteosarcoma research of Dr. Michael Nolan at NC State University. The GDCA Charitable Trust provided support in the form of gift cards to help reimburse expenses related to travel to the study site at NC State to participate in the study. The Trust was very interested in supporting this research as this is one of the few clinical trials which did not require limb amputation.

The study is now fully enrolled and 15 dogs are in follow-up at this time (per Dr. Nolan as of 2/10/26).

Use this link to read more:

[http://caninechronicle.com/health-training/nc-state-clinical-trial-testingpromisingcanineosteosarcomatreatment/?fbclid=IwAR23HYceTpdURNblGW4fulClfZnVzIIWsmSHDJwKmHT9IPwV\\_v50Wkihaiw](http://caninechronicle.com/health-training/nc-state-clinical-trial-testingpromisingcanineosteosarcomatreatment/?fbclid=IwAR23HYceTpdURNblGW4fulClfZnVzIIWsmSHDJwKmHT9IPwV_v50Wkihaiw)

## Epigenetics

Submitted by Betty Lewis

One of the basic tenets of science which I learned in grade school was that you inherit genes from your parents, and these are never changed in your lifetime. The information seemed as concrete as the law of gravity on Earth!

But, new information has created the field of "epigenetics". Epigenetics is the study of changes in gene activity which get passed down to the next generation. It is a fascinating concept, and one which "rings true" to me. Below, I introduce this concept to you.

### Epigenetics

There is something called the "epigenome" which, according to the sources I've read "sits" on the genome. I really don't understand what this means, but I do understand that its effect is to switch genes on and off. The gene switches are activated by all manner of environmental influences such as maternal diet, personal diet, and chemicals in the environment including vaccines. It isn't fully understood how toxic exposure is passed on through the generations, but evidently, scientific studies are concluding that they are. From "Some Chemicals are More Harmful Than Anyone Ever Suspected" by Peter Montague <https://www.sott.net/article/143071-Some-Chemicals-are-more-harmful-than-anyone-ever-suspected>

comes the comment, "If DNA is the hardware of inheritance, the epigenetic system is the software." Changes can be physical, behavioral, or emotional.

Scientists have known about the genetic changes caused by vaccinations since at least 1971 from a study at the University of Geneva.

The thought now is that your genes are a genetic blueprint which can be modified throughout life.

The significance of this is not only to ourselves, but our children, their children, and perhaps future generations. We need to be better caretakers of our bodies to pass on a cleaner legacy. Breeders need to think of this when breeding dogs, cats, and other pets as well, in order to produce the healthiest animals possible.



I found many articles on the study of the effects of genetic modification in identical twins. This is one of them. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/twin-research-and-human-genetics/article/power-of-two-epigenetics-and-twins/9782FD4119F08EAAD64B5C9C7F698BA1>

There might be a small silver lining to this information, because studies also show that these changes are not necessarily permanent. They may be reversible. But, it would appear that it takes at least three generations of *avoiding* the toxins combined with good nutrition. This information underscores much of what I've already talked about in previous newsletters regarding the raw diet for carnivore pets, vaccines, and exposure to other environmental toxins.

There is a plethora of information about epigenetics online. Bruce Lipton, PhD, is a leading authority on cellular biology. His books, [The Biology of Belief](#) and [Spontaneous Evolution](#) talk about how emotions can regulate cellular expression. Dr. Lipton talks about how we all have much more control over our biology, including recovery from diseases than we probably think. It means you can alter your genes, or at least how they behave, by leading as healthy a lifestyle as possible through good nutrition, regular exercise, and positive mental & emotional outlook.