Be Sure to Join Us
for Our Up-Coming Shows:

Supported Entry at the
Chickadee Classic, Maine
June 26-27, 2021

2021 Fall Specialties
Thanksgiving Classic
Springfield
November 27-28

The shows will fall on
Thanksgiving weekend

President—Sue Davis Shaw
Vice President—Marcia Roddy
Recording Secretary—Kim Thurler
Corresponding Secretary—Tiffany Cross
Treasurer—Sharon Boldeia
Directors—Suzanne Kelley, Normand Vadensais & Dianne Powers
President’s Letter
January 2021

Happy New Year everyone! I know it will be a better one for all of us.

Welcome to the first issue of our ‘bigger and better’ bulletin thanks to the talented Carol Urick. Carol was the editor of Daneline for many years and evolved it into the wonderful publication that it was. We only ended it due to lack of funds in the club and the increasing cost of publication. Since I’ve been doing Throwback Thursday, I’ve heard from several people across the country who told me that they looked forward to getting it each year at the National.

I hope everyone will get on board with getting your brags and litters listed. We are planning an every other month publication so the next deadline should be March 1st.

I would like to welcome our new Associate Members, Michelle Hojdysz from New Rochelle, NY and Anne Sanders from Gardiner, NY. We hope to actually meet you in person when dog shows open up again.

January is the month when we hold our annual meeting and election of officers. The officers have not changed this year (thank you Board for agreeing to do another year with me!) and there have been no nominations from the membership so our secretary will cast one vote for the following slate as recommended by the nominating committee:

President: Susan Davis Shaw
Vice President: Marcia Roddy
Recording Secretary: Kim Thurler
Corresponding Secretary: Tiffany Cross
Treasurer: Sharon Boldeia
Board Member: Suzanne Kelley
Board Member: Dianne Powers
Board Member: Normand Vadenais

Our annual meeting is set for Wednesday, January 20th at 7:30 PM. Please watch for call-in or zoom information closer to that date.

Sincerely,

Susan Davis Shaw
Sunshine Report

Best wishes for a speedy recovery goes out to Judy Harrington. Judy is recovering from knee surgery at home.

MEMBERSHIP

I have received two applications for membership that have been reviewed by the board and accepted for publication. The first is an application for an Associate Membership from Tyree Kilgore from Milford, New Hampshire. Tyree is a groomer who is looking forward to getting back into Danes and the show world.

I have received an application for a regular membership from Colleen Ventre of North Andover, Mass. Many of us know Colleen and her sweet fawn, Sassy. Colleen is sponsored by Paul Bowman and Sue Davis Shaw.

Any comments on these proposed members should be directed to Sue Davis Shaw at Davisdane@comcast.net

Sad News

It is with a heavy heart we mourn the passing of long time club member, Ellie Berger. Ellie will be missed and her love for our breed will be remembered.
Our sincere condolences to Marcia Roddy on the loss of her father.
Also, condolences to Rachel Wilson on the loss of her beloved 12 1/2 year old harlequin, Stella.

Note: Introducing our Getting to Know You section where two members of the club will be highlighted each month. We hope this helps all members to better know each other. It will be helpful for new folks joining our club. The Getting to Know You section will start with the board, directors and then the membership in alphabetical order.

Getting to Know You—Susan Davis Shaw

This is my fourth stint as president of GDCNE. My first one was in 1992. And for my history in Danes:
My first husband, Stanley, bought me a Great Dane puppy in 1976 as a housewarming gift. (In place of the pony I always wanted.) He was a harlequin named Maitau’s Bennington Von Odin and was from Pat Ciampa, Maitau Great Danes. Pat asked us to bring Ben to a Great Dane Club of New England match where Laura Kiaulenas (BMW) was judging. I knew absolutely nothing about showing dogs and was scared to death. I took him in the ring and placed second in a large class, right behind Pat. That was all I needed – I was hooked. We fell in love with the breed and soon added another harlequin to our family, a female this time. Double D von Maitau, CD produced my first homebred champion, CH Davisdane’s Double Exposure, CD. That was the start of Davisdane.

I have finished many harlequins and mantles over the years and strive to dual-title them. My dogs are part of our family and I do not, and will never, have a kennel situation. Stanley died in 1991. I married Dana Shaw in 1995. Dana shares my love for this breed and often accompanies me to dog shows. I have two grown children, Linda and Steven.
With a very limited breeding program, we currently have about 30 champions to our credit and many dual-titled and obedience and rally titled dogs.

I have been active in the Great Dane Club of New England since the early 1980’s, currently serving as President. I have held every office except Treasurer. Currently, I am Membership Chairman as well as club delegate to the GDCA.

I served many years on the board and am Past President of my local all-breed club, South Shore Kennel Club. I had the honor of being awarded their Good Sportsmanship Award in 2004. I am also a Breeder of Merit and a CGC and Trick Dog Evaluator for AKC.

I have recently completed 16 years on the Board of Directors of the Great Dane Club of America, also serving as Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and a member of the Standard Committee. I served over 20 years as GDCA Affiliate Club Secretary, Northeast Division Secretary and currently serve as a Parent Club mentor.

I continue to serve the GDCA as a Trustee and Secretary of the Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust, a non-profit 501C3 organization that funds rescue and educational grants, scholarships for our students, disaster relief grants and research projects to improve the health of our beloved breed.

I was given the incredible honor of being voted by the GDCA membership to judge their Futurity in 2006 and again in 2018 in Topeka, Kansas.
Getting to Know You—Kim Thurler

In the early 1970s, I saw a fawn Great Dane standing at attention in someone’s yard. The image never left my mind. Not long after, my (now ex) husband and I got our first Great Dane from a backyard (actually, a basement) breeder. She was strictly a companion but I began reading everything I could about the breed. We were in graduate school in Boston, and I discovered that the Boston Public Library had copies of the AKC Gazette going back many years. I sat in the reading room and read every one of them, including all the show results, which were printed in tiny, tiny type. I contacted some prominent breeders in the Northeast and was fortunate that Kitty Kolyer, Rose Roberts (Dinro), Mary Johnston (Marydane), Ruth Allen (Lane’s Turn) and Carolyn Thomas (Harmony Hill) were among those who took the time to let me visit and talk with them. In the late 1970s, Carolyn Thomas put me in touch with Judy Harrington, from whom I got my first quality show Dane—a brindle dog named Justamere Just In Time. The one harlequin I ever owned also came from Judy. Since then it’s been all fawns and brindles.

I’m also honored to have co-owned wonderful Danes with Pat Ciampa, Dale Tarbox, and Margaret Shappard and like Judy, all have been generous with their time and counsel. It was through Dale that a very special fawn puppy came from Sue Wyne in Eagle River, Alaska to Norfolk, Massachusetts. Shown by Erika Griesbach and Jamie Donelson, Sara (who quickly became Ch. Sandale-Wyne Saratoga Sizzle) had a successful specials career. I still remember how thrilled I was to receive her invitation to what was then the Eukanuba Show.

My 24/7 jobs in communications and public relations always limited the time I had for showing or breeding. I was fortunate that Sara’s one breeding to Ch. Sandale’s Duly Noted, produced Travers (Ch. Saratoga Sequel v Sandale). Today, my partner, John Pacewicz, and I share our home with Travers’ 11-year old daughter Whitney (Ch. Allegro Saratoga Sequence from a lovely litter bred by Suzanne and Ted Kelley) and going-on-9 Shug (Ch. Sandale PAJ Saratoga Stretch Run). The Saratoga name reflects my long-time equine interests. I occasionally own small shares of racehorses.

I joined GDCNE in the early 1980s, have served a number of terms on the GDCNE board, been breeder referral representative, and now also coordinate the Website. I’m also a GDCA member.
Judi Arsenault shares with us the following brag:

Our 7 month old girl, Echo, was WB/BOW at the Thursday and Friday shows at the Thanksgiving Cluster. These were her first shows. Both these wins were 4 point majors. She then was Best in Sweeps and WB/BOW on Sunday for 2 more points and RWB in the afternoon. We are very proud of our baby puppy!
Tami Bradford and Karen Pacino are pleased to announce their new champion

Ch. Cosmic NoBonz New Kid In Town - “Max”

(MBIS MBISS BIF GCHP MJM's Talk Of The Town, GDCA/AOM X MBISS GCHB Cosmic JV NoBonz Stealing The Starlight, GDCA/AOM)

Owned by Art and Leslie Solnick  - Bred and Co owned by Tami Bradford and Karen Pacino.
Futurity Nominated Litter due Mid January!

Sawyer & Nova

PennHIP
OFA Cardiac
Thyroid

Biss AM CAN INTL CH Triplecrest
Home Town Hero AOM

AKC & CAN Pointed
CHIC #141632

Leggo's Cosmic Explosion At
Enchanted Mountains

Bred by Mickella Laney
and Maavrik Shelby Leitch

Contact Mickella Laney on FB Messenger or mickella.laney@hotmail.com
Membership Dues are as follows,

Family Membership $25.00
Single Membership $15.00
Associate Membership $10.00

We are sending individual invoices via PayPal for our 2021 Membership Dues.

If for some reason you do not receive your invoice or wish to send it sooner you can pay via Paypal on our website at http://www.gdcne.org/contribute or send checks payable to GDCNE to:

Sharon Boldeia, Treasurer
1 Rennie Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

If you have any questions please contact Sharon at smboldiea@comcast.net.
How did you get started in dogs in the first place?
I have had dogs all my life. As a youngster, we had a boxer, then a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, a Dalmatian and finally, a Saint. I purchased the Saint as a gift to my sister while I was away at college.

What made you get started with the Great Dane?
Robert (Bob Layne) and I decided to get a dog. We purchased a dog encyclopedia and began to look at all breeds. We narrowed the list down and fell on two breeds; one was the Great Dane. We were impressed with the Dane’s general appearance and size. Once we decided, we began to look for a suitable and reputable kennel to purchase our first puppy. That was in 1970. After several starts and stops, with a less than ethical breeder, we finally focused on the dogs directly bred by Rosemarie Robert of Dinro Kennels in Carmel, NY. From that day on, we were signed sealed and delivered to the Great Dane. We saw Ch. Dinro Strictly Taboo on our first trip to the mountain—Rose lived at the top of a very steep hill. This dog would take your breath away. I remember Robert saying that the dog was near perfect although he would have liked to see a sounder rear. Hence the birth of our kennel name, Sounda Great Danes. Little did we know that Ch. Dinro Strictly Taboo would be ours for the six years of his life.

Rose was devoted to the breed and willingly taught Bob about breeding, whelping, and exhibiting. He spent weeks with her during the summer and on vacation breaks whelping, evaluating litters and learning about the breed.

We were introduced to professional handlers who we would contract to show our dogs. We were assured that judges only look at the professional handlers because handlers made the entries. We had one experience at Old Dominion Kennel Club when we hired Jane Forsyth to handle our Dinro Gallant Man, a litter mate to Ch. Dinro Goliath and Ch. Dinro Gin Fizz. Jane never showed up but sent her kennel help to take Galley in the ring. He won his class with an entry of 27. Then we waited nervously for someone to show up for the winner’s class. No one showed so Robert took the dog in and went Best of Winners. Bob Forsyth suddenly appeared, took the dog from Robert and took the photo. At that moment, we decided that we needed to train and handle our own dogs.

Who were your mentors and people who influenced your breeding program?
I would say that Rose Robert was the biggest and the main influence on our breeding program. We literally became breeding partners. We each ascribed to the same breed type and we strived to build a sound breeding program. As much as I hate driving, I would start out early in the morning and drive to Carmel, New York and spend the day learning from Rose. Rose was a professionally trained artist, having graduated from one of the finest art schools in the country. She had also mastered the science of breeding quality dogs. 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. I could write a book on the tips and lessons I learned from Rose.
What has your involvement with the GCDNE been over the years?
I have served two terms as President, three terms on the Board of Directors and six times as Specialty Show Chairman. In addition, I have served three terms on the board of the parent club, Vice President of the parent club, Affiliate Club Representative to the board for three terms. I have also acted as Division Chair for the Northeast Division for the last 35 years. I was the Show Chairman for the first National which boasted an entry of over 500 Great Danes. Robert and I designed and presented the Top Twenty event to our breed for the first five years of that event’s existence.

What made you become a judge?
I began judging matches, and then sweepstakes for years. I developed an eye for a good Dane and after watching many judges, I felt that I could make a contribution to the breed as a judge.

How did you decide to add additional breeds to your repertoire?
Donald Booxbum told me that judging other breeds would make me see Danes in a different way. Studying structure of other breeds can become a tool for one who wants to excel in other breeds. When I applied for additional breeds, I had to apply one for one, two for two, and three for three and so on. The working group had not yet split into the working and herding group, so it would take years to judge a group. I had to travel all over the country on my own dime judging matches and sweepstakes. Who travels from Boston to San Francisco to judge a Bullmastiff Match? I did. It was exhaustive and expensive, but it was worth it. I learned so much and found it easier to judge breeds of owners and handlers that I did not know. You couldn’t be accused of playing politics in a breed which you didn’t know anyone.

Exhibitors always have something to say when you put up someone else’s dog. That is the nature of the sport. In some cases, they may even call it politics, but in reality might be that the owner or handler has watched me judge on several occasions and brings to the ring those qualities that I consistently recognize with a win. That is not politics. That is common sense. I climbed my way through the working group and after meeting all the requirements was licensed to judge the group, and later Best in Show.
What you look for in the ring?

I look for a dog which most closely fits the standard of the breed. I don’t give on breed type, but breed type alone will not always win the day. A dog doesn’t move on a pretty head. A long soft back is a long soft back no matter how it moves or how pretty the head. I’m not a “piece of the pie” judge. If you have the dogs I like and they are shown well, they win. Pay no attention to the personality on the other end of the lead. If the devil were to bring me the best specimen, I will put the dog up. I am hired to judge dogs, not people. I judged a specialty in California and my Winners Dog, Winners Bitch and Best of Breed were all gorgeous harlequins. I thought I’d get run out of town. I’m sure they were thinking, how dare he ignore all the other colors and go for the harlequins. Simple: the great quality was in the harlequins I put up.

A handler, professional or amateur has the responsibility to present the dog in the ring and should have one eye on the judge and one eye on the dog at all times. I judged a show recently where the handler was showing off the pretty head and neglecting the rest of the dog. I stood there looking at the rear which looked totally cow hocked and he never caught on, continuing to show me the head. Some owner wasted his/her money.

Rose always said, “The dogs don’t change the longer you look at them.” Know what you want and then go in the ring to get it. If it’s not there, it doesn’t matter how long you look for it. The hardest class to judge is a class filled with quality dogs. Then it comes down to which dog would I take home and feed. Temperamental and/or untrained dogs that are not ready for the ring should not be in the ring. I don’t want to hear, “This is Buster’s first show.” Buster needs training. Buster needs to go to matches until he is ready for a point show.

What has been the most exciting assignment and why?

I have judged in thirty-five states in the U.S., as well as in Canada, Sweden, Australia, South America and Hawaii. Each show has its own character and excitement. Many shows outside of the country have shows that are events.

I would rather talk about the show judging experiences that were touch and go or quite unusual. Like the show where the judges hospitality committee forgot to pick up all the judges for the show and we all had 8:00 a.m. judging. We hit the show grounds one hour late for judging and the entire day was thrown off. Or the show where the announcer declared that if this particular dog bites one more person, he will be asked to leave the grounds. Or the show where I gave Winners Bitch to a two year old Great Pyrenes and the owner handler said, “Please give it to her mother. She is six years old and only needs this one point to finish and I want to retire her. The bitch you like is the daughter and has plenty of time to win. So, give this ribbon to the mother.” Needless to say, the two-year old bitch I selected went Winners Bitch. There is also the show that I was invited to do Best in Show. The show chair asked me to leave the judges’ dinner because handlers were not allowed at the dinner. You can imagine how that went over! He had to eat crow for the next two days because of his profiling. Then there was the show where the Hospitality Chair took the judges off grounds for lunch and during lunch he became so inebriated that we had to hail a cab to take us back to the show grounds. Oh yes, let’s not forget the show where an exhibitor showed me a dog out my own breeding. Or a show in Chicago where a judge, who I knew very well, offered to tell me which dog in a particular breed to put up. I have many stories of show bloopers like these that stand out in my mind as truly unique.
What excites you most about judging?
Seeing the quality of the breed that I am judging. I always go into the ring thinking that this is the day when I see the best of a breed.

What is your biggest pet peeve when judging?
My pet peeve is when a judge goes out of his way to bring out two class dogs and compare, let’s say heads, and then picks the lesser quality head. Or when a judge moves two dogs around and selects the one that does not move well. Or a judge that keeps the same dog in the front of the line, giving the impression that that dog is a top contender, and then picks another dog, leaving everyone scratching their heads. Or a judge who can’t seem to remember that he/she already went over a dog and begins judging it like it’s the first time he/she has seen the dog.

How has being a breeder or handler influenced your choices in the ring?
I know how difficult it is to breed a good dog and I surely know how much more difficult it is to breed a great dog. I also know when handlers use dogs as fillers, dogs who aren’t competitive and might never gain their championship. I am careful to be truthful in my selection and my comments about an entry. I know what I’m looking at so it’s difficult to hide a dog’s faults from me.

What do you say to people who say that dog shows are political?
Welcome to the real world! Of course, you will find politics in dog shows. Judges want entries, handlers want clients, breeders want customers and owners want to win at any cost. Honesty and integrity must mean something to you. Honesty and integrity must mean more than winning, more than “playing the game”.

We were specialing a dog who was doing quite well and who became number one in 1990. A handler, who was a living legend, pulled me aside and told me that my dog was lovely but he would never win a Best in Show because my handler had a big mouth and would not play “The Game”. She told me that she had three Best in Shows coming up and that if I gave her the dog for six months, she would return him to me with three Best in Shows. She was specific as to when and where these Best in Shows would occur. Of course I wanted a BIS and the dog was certainly a quality dog, but I didn’t want to win that way. I declined her offer. She took on another dog and in six months, she had indeed won the three Best in Shows—exactly where she had told me she would win them. My Best in Show dream went out the window, but I could sleep at night knowing that, in this world of politics, I could survive and hold onto my integrity. It’s just as bad today as it was 50 years ago. You don’t have to play “The Game”.

What advice would you give to folks just starting to show?
Read all you can read. Talk to people, study pedigrees. Learn structure. Seek out mentors in the breed who have nothing to gain and everything to give. Success rarely comes overnight. If it does, be very careful not to let it go to your head. Try not to mentor others until you have the knowledge and experience. You will know when the time is right. Love your dogs. Want the best for them and keep them first in your plans.

What advice do you have for new judges and those thinking about applying to judge?
For those thinking about applying:
Applying through the current system is a task in and of itself. It tends to weed out those who aren’t ready or who don’t know what they think they know.

For new judges:
Be very, very slow to offer an opinion about a dog. It may come back to slap you in the face. Give your opinion in the ring when you judge by what you do. Don’t become the maven of advice for people, and don’t become an assignment pimp. You will get your turn at judging. Study and be ready when called. You are on the clock from the time you hit the show grounds to the time you leave. Be kind, but not familiar. Be helpful without volunteering advice and be approachable. Have fun and always look for learning experiences. Watch other breeds being judged, even if you never intend to apply for them. Watch other judges’ ring procedure. Attend judges’ functions. Listen and learn.
LITTERBOX TRAINING YOUNG PUPPIES

By Georgia Hymmen

There are many things a breeder can do to make the transition from breeder to purchaser as easy as possible. Besides starting socialization and the beginning of crate training, the one single thing a breeder can do that the new owner will be forever grateful for is starting the housebreaking process.

Anyone who has observed a litter knows, once the puppies start moving around at about two-to-three weeks they try to get away from their bed or nest area to urinate and defecate. Everyone who has raised a litter of Dane puppies can tell you how messy they can be and how hard it is to keep on top of keeping them clean—especially when they start solid food and if it’s a big litter. And we all know puppies raised in dirty surroundings will be harder to housebreak later on because dirty was the “norm” for them and they are used to living in filth. But yet, the puppies are too young to go outside, especially if the breeder lives in colder climates or it’s during wintertime.

There are a variety of materials breeders might use in their whelping box for young puppies. Newspapers are commonly used, but they don’t absorb moisture well, are messy to dispose of and stinky, and frequently become a mass of confetti when the puppies decide to become paper shredders. Others use some type of fabric material such as a sheet or pads, but these also have their drawbacks, as puppies imprint on the type of material they have access to eliminate on. So in essence, using material such as sheets, fake turf, carpet, or other household type material, teaches the puppy it’s okay to use that type of article for a potty area. Shavings are simply messy, and if you have your whelping box in your house, you also will have shavings everywhere. Potty pads don’t work well for Danes, as they simply become something to drag around and shred, plus puppies raised on potty pads vs. a litter box seem to have a harder time making the transition to outside.

Dane puppies can learn amazingly fast at a very young age if the breeder is willing to take the extra time and effort to teach them the appropriate elimination area. And by doing that, the housebreaking process is speeded up making the transition from litter into home so much easier for everyone.

Remembering that puppies will try to keep their bed area clean, and they will form a substrate preference on what they eliminate on, the breeder can make great inroads with the housebreaking process as young as three and four weeks of age. Instead of using more traditional materials for the potty area, a puppy litter box is used.

The materials used to make your litter box are pretty simple; some sort of leak-proof plastic container large enough for your needs and litter material. The plastic container can be a tub cut down short enough for the puppies to be able to navigate, or even a plastic swimming pool. Another option that works quite well for very young Dane puppies is using a metal or hard plastic crate pan from one of the larger crates. To make sure the pan is waterproof, apply silicone prior to use. You must keep weight in mind, too, because once you add the litter material, and it becomes wet, it will be very heavy if your container is too large. You can place two tubs together, but you do risk puppies managing to urinate at the join of the tubs, making a mess. As puppies become older, using a container with a higher edge is suggested as they will toss the litter all about when playing. We’ve simply made a barrier with 2” x 4”, with the front end shorter for easy access.

The type of material used is paper-based pellets and are safe should the puppies decide to sample it. Yesterday’s News (available through Chewy.com or PetsSmart/Petco) is one brand we use. DO NOT use wood or clay-based pellets. Puppies ingesting wood or clay pellets can become sick. If a litterbox is added early on, the tendency to eat the pellets is dramatically diminished.

Initially, when the puppies are very young (two-to-three weeks) your litter box needs to cover almost the entire area of your whelping box, with just enough room for mom to be able to get in and lay down. Whenever the puppies are removed from the dam or awaken, they are placed in the litter box to eliminate. You can take it one step further by using a potty command and verbally praising the puppy when he eliminates.

At first, the puppies may miss the litter box causing urine to run under it. Putting several layers of newspaper or an old towel under it will help soak up urine caused by “misses”, but the area under the pan should be cleaned and disinfected at least every other day, until the puppies have gotten the hang of actually going into the litter box.
In order to encourage clean puppies, feces should be as it occurs or at least removed several times a day and urine-soaked litter should be replaced as needed. With a large and/or giant-breed litter, changing should be at least every other day. Daily, we remove the excessively wet areas and refresh with new litter. When it’s time to change the litter material it can easily be removed with a poop scoop or small flat-edged shovel and deposited into a bucket or other receptacle for disposal and the pan cleaned and disinfected. Since the litter is paper based it is biodegradable.

As the puppies become older and more mobile, the size of the litter box is decreased, giving the puppies more play room. As the puppies become older and can venture outside, a pan of the litter is placed in their outside exercise area and they will gravitate to it. Eventually, a bit of the litter is spread on the ground in the outside potty area, and the puppy soon learns to eliminate outside.

When the puppy is ready to go home, a plastic zip lock bag of a bit of used litter is provided and the owner can use that to encourage his new puppy to eliminate outside in the area of his choosing.

With the breeder starting the housebreaking process, and the owner following instruction on proper toilet training combined with crate training, the puppy will learn to be clean in an amazingly short amount of time!

Thank you to Ray Goldstone and Joanne Kinney for their help with this article. Thank you to Ray Goldstone for the pictures.

**GDCA Irish Spotting Test Validation: Study Announcement**

At its October 24 meeting, GDCA approved a collaborative project with the University of California-Davis Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory (VGL). The objectives of this research are to validate VGL’s proposed genetic test for Irish Spotting and to further define the relationship between test results and appearance in Great Danes who display varying degrees and placement of white markings.

Although there have been important advances in the use of health testing to eliminate disease and more accurately predict the outcome of potential breeding’s, there’s still room for improvement.

Predicting the outcome of breeding’s within the "harlequin/black and white" family of Great Danes is a case in point. Thanks to the efforts of genetic researchers world-wide, we now have a better understanding of coat color inheritance which has led to tests for specific genes which determine color expression. This includes recognition that coat COLOR and PATTERN are inherited independently in the "harlequin/black and white family" of Great Danes. VGL has developed a genetic test for "Irish Spotting/MITF", which controls the pattern of white markings, based on various dog breeds which show this pattern. In order to advance this test to the next stage where it will be available to the general public, it needs to be validated to prove the results accurately discriminate between dogs who show the desired "Irish" pattern and those who do not (for example, partial or other, non-Irish variations).

A validated genetic test will provide another useful tool for breeders as they strive to maximize production of offspring who most closely meet the pattern described in GDCA’s breed standard. In order to validate the test, VGL needs specimens and photographs from approximately 100-200 Great Danes. The proposed study will compare the results of the VGL MITF test with photographs of the dogs who fall into various ranges of the test result. Assuming the test produces results which reliably identify dogs who possess desirable genotypes, breeders will be able to use the test to optimize production of offspring who most closely conform to the pattern described in the standard, a valuable tool for those who breed within the harlequin family of Great Danes.

We plan to recruit and enroll Great Danes with varying degrees of white markings, obtain photographs and log these into a research database. VGL will perform the genetic test at no charge and inform the owner and
GDCA of the test results. Once a sufficient number of paired genetic tests and photographs are available, statistical analyses will be performed to determine the extent to which the test result is consistent with the specific pattern and continuum of white markings seen in the Great Danes in the study. Assuming the test result correctly discriminates between Irish pattern and other non-standard white markings, the test will be validated and will be made available to the general public via VGL.

NOTE: This study will begin MITF-LP testing at VGL on December 1.

For Additional Information, contact Mary Anne Zanetos (MAZ) at MAZ850@aol.com

GDCA Irish Spotting Test Validation Study: Registration Information

GDCA is seeking Great Danes who show significant white markings to participate in a research study to assist in the validation of a genetic test for the Irish Spotting/MITF Length Polymorphism. Eligible are harlequin, piebald, merle, black mantle, merle mantle or others with white markings outside the chest or feet. Typically, these will be dogs descended from the harlequin family. The goals of the study are to:

(1) assist in the validation of VGL’s MITF LP test;
(2) Provide owners with information useful for future breeding decisions; and
(3) Support development of educational material on the topic of coat color/pattern inheritance to be shared with members and non-members of GDCA.

Owners will be provided with their dog’s test results free of charge.

VGL’s MITF LP test is not available outside this GDCA research study.

To be included in the study, the dog owner will contact the study manager, Mary Anne Zanetos (MAZ) at MAZ850@aol.com and provide the following information for each dog to be enrolled:

- Owner’s name and contact information
- Dog’s name, breed, registration number, date of birth, gender, color
- Names and registration numbers of sire and dam
- Clear profile photographs of both sides of the dog showing white markings

MAZ will review the information and if complete:

The owner will be provided with a consent form permitting VGL, GDCA and study manager to receive MITF LP test results from VGL and to use these results, demographic information and photographs in the study report and potential publications.

Upon receipt of these items, MAZ will contact owners, confirm receipt of the items above and enter information into the study database. Owner will be provided with instructions on how to submit their dog’s sample to University of California Davis’ Veterinary Genetics Laboratory and a coupon code which confirms study entry and authorizes payment for the test by GDCA.
Please Note:

1. Results from other genetic testing by VGL will be provided to owners separately and will not be reported to GDCA.
2. Individual adult dogs are preferred.
3. In certain cases, dogs previously tested by VGL for piebald gene can be retroactively entered in the study, provided the original sample is available and the information above is submitted to MAZ.

The dogs are loving their new home, which makes Dianne love it even more.

**Club Member News**

Dianne Powers has moved from her long standing home on Martha’s Vineyard back to her hometown.

Dianne has said, if you are traveling in her area, she has plenty of room for travelers.

While we might think it is hard to beat life on the Vineyard, just take a look at Dianne’s new view!

Dianne is thrilled to be in her new home on the Susquehanna River and in a town environment. Her home was built in 1794 and is part of the historic district in town. The house is said to be the oldest brick house in town.
Interesting Read
Submitted by Betty Lewis

Taken from: The New Book of the Dog—
A Comprehensive Natural History of British Dogs and
their Foreign Relatives, 1911 - By Robert Leighton

CHAPTER VI—THE GREAT DANE
The origin of the Great Dane, like that of many other varieties
of dogs, is so obscure that all researches have only resulted in
speculative theories, but the undoubted antiquity of this dog is
proved by the fact that representatives of a breed sufficiently
similar to be considered his ancestors are found on some of
theoldest Egyptian monuments.

A few years ago a controversy arose on the breed’s proper
designation, when the Germans claimed for it the title
"Deutsche Dogge." Germany had several varieties of big dogs,
such as the Hatzrude, Saufanger, Ulmer Dogge, and Rottweiler
Metzgerhund; but contemporaneously with these there
existed, as in other countries in Europe, another very big
breed, but much nobler and more thoroughbred, known as the
Great Dane. When after the war of 1870 national feeling was
pulsating very strongly in the veins of reunited Germany, the
German cynologists were on the lookout for a national dog,
and for that purpose the Great Dane was re-christened
"Deutsche Dogge," and elected as the champion of German
Dogdom. For a long time all these breeds had, no doubt,
been indiscriminately crossed.

The Great Dane was introduced into this country
spasmodically some thirty-five years ago, when he was
commonly referred to as the Boarhound, or the German
Mastiff, and for a time the breed had to undergo a
probationary period in the "Foreign Class" at dog shows,
but it soon gained in public favour, and in the early 'eighties a
Great Dane Club was formed, and the breed has since become
one of the most popular of the larger dogs.

The Kennel Club has classed the Great Dane amongst the Non-
Sporting dogs, probably because with us he cannot find a
quarry worthy of his mettle; but, for all that, he has the
instincts and qualifications of a sporting dog, and he has
proved himself particularly valuable for hunting big game in
hot climates, which he stands very well.

Respecting the temperament of the Great Dane and his
suitability as a companion writers have gone to extremes in
praise and condemnation. In his favour it must be said that in
natural intelligence he is surpassed by very few other dogs. He
has a most imposing figure, and does not, like some other big
breeds, slobber from his mouth, which is a particularly
unpleasant peculiarity when a dog is kept in the
house. On the other hand, it must be admitted that with
almost the strength of a tiger he combines the excitability of a
terrier, and no doubt a badly trained Great Dane is a very
dangerous animal. It is not sufficient to teach him in the
haphazard way which might be successful in getting a small
dog under control, but even as a companion he ought to be
trained systematically, and, considering his marked
intelligence, this is not difficult of accomplishment.

The Great Dane attains his full development in about a year
and a half to two years, and, considering that puppies have to
build up in that time a very big skeleton and straight limbs,
special attention must be given to the rearing of them. The
dam whelps frequently eight puppies, and sometimes even a
few more. Mr. Larke's Princess Thor had a litter of seventeen,
but even eight is too great a number for a bitch to suckle in a
breed where great size is a desiderable. Not more than four, or
at the outside five, should be left with the bitch; the others
should be put to a foster mother, or if they are weaklings
or foul-marked, it is best to destroy them. After the puppies
are weaned, their food should be of bone-
making quality, and
they require ample space for exercise and play. Nothing is
worse than to take the youngsters for forced marches before
their bones have become firm.

Before giving the description and standard which have been
adopted by the Great Dane Clubs, a few remarks on some of
the leading points will be useful. The general characteristic of
the Great Dane is a combination of grace and power, and
therefore the lightness of the Greyhound, as well as the
heaviness of the Mastiff, must be avoided.
The head should be powerful, but at the same time show quality by its nice modelling.

The eyes should be intelligent and vivacious, but not have the hard expression of the terrier. The distance between the eyes is of great importance; if too wide apart they give the dog a stupid appearance, and if too close he has a treacherous look. Another very important point is the graceful carriage of the tail. When it is curled over the back it makes an otherwise handsome dog look mean, and a tail that curls at the end like a corkscrew is also very ugly. In former times "faking" was not infrequently resorted to to correct a faulty tail carriage, but it is easily detected. Great Danes sometimes injure the end of the tail by hitting it against a hard substance, and those with a good carriage of tail are most liable to this because in excitement they slash it against, whereas the faulty position of the tail, curled over the back, insures immunity from harm.

Until recently British Great Dane breeders and exhibitors have paid very little attention to colour, on the principle that, like a good horse, a good Great Dane cannot be a bad colour. The English clubs, however, have now in this particular also adopted the German standard. The orthodox colours are brindle, fawn, blue, black, and harlequin. In the brindle dogs the ground colour should be any shade from light yellow to dark red-yellow on which the brindle appears in darker stripes. The harlequins have on a pure white ground fairly large black patches, which must be of irregular shape, broken up as if they had been torn, and not have rounded outlines. When brindle Great Danes are continuously bred together, it has been found that they get darker, and that the peculiar "striping" disappears, and in that case the introduction of a good fawn into the strain is advisable. The constant mating of harlequins has the tendency to make the black patches disappear, and the union with a good black Great Dane will prevent the loss of colour.

The following is the official description issued by the Great Dane Club:

**GENERAL APPEARANCE**--The Great Dane is not so heavy or massive as the Mastiff, nor should he too nearly approach the Greyhound type. Remarkable in size and very muscular, strongly though elegantly built; the head and neck should be carried high, and the tail in line with the back, or slightly upwards, but not curled over the hind-quarters. Elegance of outline and grace of form are most essential to a Dane; size is absolutely necessary; but there must be that alertness of expression and quickness of movement without which the Dane character is lost. He should have a look of dash and daring, of being ready to go anywhere and do anything.

**TEMPERAMENT**--The Great Dane is good-tempered, affectionate, and faithful to his master, not demonstrative with strangers; intelligent, courageous, and always alert. His value as a guard is unrivalled. He is easily controlled when well trained, but he may grow savage if confined too much, kept on chain, or ill treated.

**HEIGHT**--The minimum height of an adult dog should be 30 ins.; that of a bitch, 28 ins.

**WEIGHT**--The minimum weight of an adult dog should be 120lbs.; that of a bitch, 100 lbs. The greater height and weight to be preferred, provided that quality and proportion are also combined.

**HEAD**--Taken altogether, the head should give the idea of great length and strength of jaw. The muzzle, or foreface, is broad, and the skull proportionately narrow, so that the whole head, when viewed from above and in front, has the appearance of equal breadth throughout.

**LENGTH OF HEAD**--The entire length of head varies with the height of the dog, 13 ins. from the tip of the nose to the back of the occiput is a good measurement for a dog of 32 ins. at the shoulder. The length from the end of the nose to the point between the eyes should be about equal, or preferably of greater length than from this point to the back of the occiput.

**SKULL**--The skull should be flat rather than domed, and have a slight indentation running up the centre, the occipital peak not prominent. There should be a decided rise or brow over the eyes, but no abrupt stop between them.

**FACE**--The face should be chiseled well and foreface long, of equal depth throughout, and well filled in below the eyes with no appearance of being pinched.
**MUSCLES OF THE CHEEK**—The muscles of the cheeks should be quite flat, with no lumpiness or cheek bumps, the angle of the jaw-bone well defined.

**LIPS**—The lips should hang quite square in front, forming a right angle with the upper line of foreface.

**UNDERLINE**—The underline of the head, viewed in profile, runs almost in a straight line from the corner of the lip to the corner of the jawbone, allowing for the fold of the lip, but with no loose skin to hang down.

**JAW**—The lower jaw should be about level, or at any rate not project more than the sixteenth of an inch.

**NOSE AND NOSTRILS**—The bridge of the nose should be very wide, with a slight ridge where the cartilage joins the bone. (This is quite a characteristic of the breed.) The nostrils should be large, wide, and open, giving a blunt look to the nose. A butterfly or flesh-coloured nose is not objected to in harlequins.

**NECK**—Next to the head, the neck is one of the chief characteristics. It should be long, well arched, and quite clean and free from loose skin, held well up, snakelike in carriage, well set in the shoulders, and the junction of head and neck well defined.

**SHOULDERS**—The shoulders should be muscular but not loaded, and well sloped back, with the elbows well under the body, so that, when viewed in front, the dog does not stand too wide.

**FORE-LEGS AND FEET**—The fore-legs should be perfectly straight, with big flat bone. The feet large and round, the toes well arched and close, the nails strong and curved.

**BODY**—The body is very deep, with ribs well sprung and belly well drawn up.

**BACK AND LOINS**—The back and loins are strong, the latter slightly arched, as in the Greyhound.

**HIND-QUARTERS**—The hind-quarters and thighs are extremely muscular, giving the idea of great strength and galloping power. The second thigh is long and well developed as in a Greyhound, and the hocks set low, turning neither out nor in.

**TAIL**—The tail is strong at the root and ends in a fine point, reaching to or just below the hocks. It should be carried, when the dog is in action, in a straight line level with the back, slightly curved towards the end, but should not curl over the back.

**COAT**—The hair is short and dense, and sleek-looking, and in no case should it incline to coarseness.

**GAIT OR ACTION**—The gait should be lithe, springy, and free, the action high. The hocks should move very freely, and the head should be held well up.

**COLOUR**—The colours are brindle, fawn, blue, black, and harlequin. The harlequin should have jet black patches and spots on a pure white ground; grey patches are admissible but not desired; but fawn or brindle shades are objectionable.

**NOTE:** This is taken directly from the book published in 1911 and nothing in the article reflects the opinions and are note the recommendations of the GDCNE.
Specialty Results
South Windsor Kennel Club
Saturday, November 21
Judge—Eric Ringle

Best of Breed/Group 1
GCHB SUMNER A POCKET FULL OF KISSES AT WAYNE MANOR BCAT

Best of Opposite/ BOB Owner Handled
CH MADISON'S GRIN & BEAR IT, HE'S THE ONE!
By GCHG Ch Creek Danes I'M The Head Honcho El Jefe V Enzo - GCHB Madison's Fughedaboudit She's The One. Owner: Marc Darren Laura Hilton Sam Stewart, Madison, CT 064431657. Breeder: Marc Darren Laura Hilton.

Winners Dog, 3 points
COSMIC NOBONZ NEW KID IN TOWN

Winners Bitch/Best of Winners, 3 points
BRF'S N AMERICA'S RED WHITE & FAWN

Select Bitch
GCHG LANDMARK-DIVINE ACRES KISS MYSELF I'M SO PRETTY

Select Dog
GCH WATCH OVER WALTER TKN

Great Dane Club of New England Specialty
Saturday, November 21
Sweepstakes Judge—Terri Dilliston

Best in Sweepstakes
HLADIK'S SHE'S A DIME V WILDCLIFF N FAHNESTOCK
By Ch Wysiwyg Harmon's Ssj Lagrande Phaeton FDC TT - Hladik's Rayna At Wil-Tor. Owner: Tracey Spillane Sharon Hladik & Brynn Holic, Carmel, NY 105123003. Breeder: Sharon Hladik Gelsomina Hefferman Jose Ribo

Great Dane Club of New England Specialty
Saturday, November 21
Judge — Mimi Kim

Best of Breed
GCHB SUMNER A POCKET FULL OF KISSES AT WAYNE MANOR BCAT

Best of Opposite
GCHS BRF'S N CHINAR'S MAN WITH A PLAN
By CH Windy Hill's Kodak Moment - GCH Chinar's Smooth Ride. Owner: Elizabeth & Raymond Streeter & Mary Barnett & Dr Rakesh Vali DVM, Coventry, CT 062381261. Breeder: Dr Rakesh Vali DVM.— (Lorrie Moreira, Agent).

Winners Dog/Best of Winners, 4 points
COSMIC NOBONZ NEW KID IN TOWN

Winners Bitch 3 points
ICON OF MICA'S EXACTLY! TELL THE TRUTH!

Select Dog
GCH WATCH OVER WALTER TKN

Select Bitch
CH MAITAU N SUNDANCE YOU GOTTA BELIEVE
By GCH Mjm N Maitau Better Believe It CGC - GCH Maitau N Sundance Better Bring It CGC. Owner: Marcia & Peter Roddy.
Holyoke Kennel Club
Sunday, November 22
Judge—Cat Urner

Best of Breed/Group 4
GCHG LANDMARK-DIVINE ACRES KISS MYSELF
I'M SO PRETTY

Best of Opposite
GCHS BRF'S N CHINAR'S MAN WITH A PLAN
By CH Windy Hill's Kodak Moment - GCH Chinar's Smooth Ride. Owner: Elizabeth & Raymond Streeter & Mary Barnett & Dr Rakesh Vali DVM, Coventry, CT 062381432. Breeder: Ashley Maloney & Tracy Powell DVM. - (Artemis Tsagarakis, Agent).

Winners Dog 3 points
BBD'S ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON.
By GCHG CH Creek Danes I'M The Head Honcho El Jefe V Enzo - CH Dulce Bbd's Spread My Wings And Fly DN. Owner: Ashley Maloney & Lisa Arnone, Sherborn, MA 017701432. Breeder: Ashley Maloney & Tracy Powell DVM. - (Lorrie Moreira, Agent).

Winners Bitch/Best of Winners, 3 points
WINDCITY SECRET'S OUT AT OWL RIDGE

Select Bitch
GCHB SUMNER A POCKET FULL OF KISSES AT WAYNE MANOR BCAT

Select Dog/BOB Owner Handled/OH Group 3
GCH WATCH OVER WALTER TKN

Great Dane Club of New England Specialty
Sunday, November 22
Sweepstakes Judge—Michael Work

Best Puppy in Sweeps/Best in Sweeps
WINDCITY SECRET'S OUT AT OWL RIDGE

Great Dane Club of New England Specialty
Sunday, November 22
Judge — Tom Davis

Best of Breed
GCHG LANDMARK-DIVINE ACRES KISS MYSELF
I'M SO PRETTY

Best of Opposite
GCHS BRF'S N CHINAR'S MAN WITH A PLAN
By CH Windy Hill's Kodak Moment - GCH Chinar's Smooth Ride. Owner: Elizabeth & Raymond Streeter & Mary Barnett & Dr Rakesh Vali DVM, Coventry, CT 062381432. Breeder: Ashley Maloney & Tracy Powell DVM. - (Artemis Tsagarakis, Agent).

Winners Dog, 2 points
CHINAR'S SOME LIKE IT HOT
By GCHB Ch Old Mission's As You Like It CGC - Chinar's Cherish The Moment. Owner: Karen Lonnstrom & Rakesh Vali, Voorheesville, NY 121865024. Breeder: Dr Rakesh Vali.

Winners Bitch/Best of Winners, 3 points
ICON OF MICA'S EXACTLY! TELL THE TRUTH!

Select Dog
GCH WATCH OVER WALTER TKN

Select Bitch
GCHB SUMNER A POCKET FULL OF KISSES AT WAYNE MANOR BCAT