

THE SPIT RAG

MBGDC Newsletter

March 2008

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MBGDC MEETINGS

RINGSIDE FOLLOWING DANE JUDGING:

MARCH 22, 2008 – SAN MATEO KC SHOW (VALLEJO, CA)

MAY 10, 2008 – CAMELLIA CAPITAL KC (WOODLAND, CA)

GDC OF N. CALIFORNIA SPECIALTY

APRIL 26 & 27, 2008 – LODI, CA

GDCNC WEBSITE: WWW.GREATDANECLUB.ORG

GDC OF SAN DIEGO SPECIALTY

JUNE 5 & 7, 2008 – IRWINDALE, CA

Info: www.dogshowsecretary.com/events.html

GDC OF CALIFORNIA SPECIALTY

JUNE 6 & 8, 2008 – IRWINDALE, CA

Info: www.dogshowsecretary.com/events.html

MONTEREY BAY GDC SPECIALTY

JULY 11, 2008 – SEASIDE, CA

INFO: WWW.DOGSHOWSECRETARY.COM/EVENTS.HTML

JULY 12 & 13 – DEL MONTE KC SUPPORTED ENTRY

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A message from your President...

Ms. Jean Bell

Dear Club Members;

Thank you for electing me your President. I am very honored and hope to serve you well.

I would like to thank our immediate past Presidents: John Garcia for stepping in and doing a great job, and an extra special thank you to Ed Grimaldi for his dedication and commitment to our club during an extremely difficult time in his life.

In addition, I would like to commend past president Barbara Garcia for leading us first through a very rough patch in our history, to a great seminar on reproduction and our first specialty show, a truly amazing job of keeping this club going and making it much stronger.

Our club has grown quite a bit in the past 2 years and the excellent leadership of our board and past presidents are responsible.

In order to continue to grow and serve our membership we need to offer more education and club activities. I need your help in order to continue the excellent progress that we have made.

Thanks again ~ I look forward to serving and working with all of you!!

Jean

MATCHES

Event Date: May 17, 2007

Category: AKC Sanctioned B Match

Sponsor: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NON-SPORTING DOG CLUB

Location: Solano County Fairgrounds, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo, CA 94589

Details: AKC Sanctioned B-Match to be held in conjunction With the Coyote Hills Kennel Club Dog Show.

Judging will begin one half hour after BIS
Judging - All Judging will be Indoors in
Exhibition Hall

Pre-entry Deadline: Wednesday Noon, May 14,
2008 - PRE-ENTRIES: \$8.00; DAY OF MATCH
ENTRIES: \$10.00 (JUNIORS: \$3 & \$5)

Mail completed entries to: Alan Leff, Match
Show Chair, 619 Shotwell Street #5, San
Francisco CA 94110

Judges: Rick Weirich & Florence Graham

For more information e-mail:
NORCALNONSPORTINGDOGCLUB@gmail.com

EDUCATION

BACK TO "FUN" DAMENTALS
- A MOTIVATIONAL OBEDIENCE WORKSHOP

SPEAKER: JEANNIE DENNARD

APRIL 5&6, 2008

PLACER DOG TRAINING, GRANITE BAY, CALIFORNIA

DETAILS: Saturday will focus on building foundational skills necessary for any performance sport. This day would be great for those currently training in (or wanting to try) rally, agility, or obedience. Sunday will focus primarily on obedience competition with more in-depth obedience exercises and proofing.

Jeannie has been involved in dog obedience training for over 30 years. She has successfully trained multiple dogs to include two Airedales, a Border Terrier (1st CH UDX TDX), 4 OTCH Golden Retrievers in obedience, two Herding Champions, agility titles on border collie and border terrier, multiple TDs and TDXs, and hunting titles on goldens. More recently her border collie, OTCH HC Windstar's Top Gunn UDX2, TDX "Gunner", is ranked one of the Top Obedience Border Collies in country and has been invited to AKC Obedience Invitational for second year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT **ARLENE MCCOIN** AT
ARLENEMCCOIN@AOL.COM OR REGISTER AT:
[HTTP://WWW.PLACERDOG.COM](http://WWW.PLACERDOG.COM)

Dear Friends,

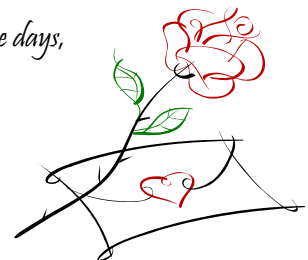
I want to thank everyone who offered thoughts and prayers to our family during Judi's illness and her recent passing. The cards, flowers, emails and phone calls have been overwhelming. I can't say how proud and appreciative we are that so many have given - and continue to give - so much to GDCA Charitable Trust in Judi's name. Your generosity and outpouring of kindness is a testament to the kind of people that are involved in our breed.

It was very comforting that so many friends took the time to show their respect for Judi by attending her memorial service. Many of you also came over to the house afterwards for some refreshments and to reminisce. I can't thank you enough for your support.

I hope to be able to continue to be involved in our breed and carry on what Judi started. One of these days, I hope to see you all around the ring.

Thank you again for your kindness and thoughtfulness during this most difficult time.

*Sincerely,
Ed Grimaldi and Family*



MBGDC DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by Catherine Baer-Brown

Dec 15, 2007 11:25 am MBGDC Meeting

Location: Held prior to Christmas Party at Steve and Lucretia Marcus's home.

JIM CURNUTT, Treasurer's Report:

Specialty:

- * Final show totals \$1278.32
- * Catalog ads pending payment on 3 ads resolved.
- * Awards Dinner \$508.00 in donations Total Dinner amt \$534.79
- * Awards \$469.74

- Current Bank Balance \$231.49
- Raffle and Trophy donations (Big Purchase)
- \$100.00 Donation to GDCA Trust in the name of Judi Grimaldi
- \$7017.91 Savings Balance
- Dues are due. Due sheets were passed around for those who needed one.
- Outstanding debts need to be paid
 - Allison Paxton needs to be reimbursed for Subscription to MBGDC website
 - 2005 Show Ribbons need to be paid for past due bill of approx. \$340. Email Jean Bell to pay bill
- Discuss Opening Pay Pal acct- everyone voted NO

LUCRETIA MARCUS, Corresponding Secretary Report

- Vote Standard change due Jan 2008. Wants to scan and send for review change in Brindle/Mantle/ Four Quarters/ Commentary.
- Election slate for GDCA- Send via email
- Insurance programs via AKC for crime liability maybe less expensive than current amt
- Request for money from PetPac
- Envelopes for GDCA National 2008. Invites will be passed around for those who need one
- Sir Frances Drake is requesting to support entry
- Letter from Sun Maid Kennel Club to support Junior Handler of the Year scholarship. Scholarship amt is \$3500 if we want to donate.
- CDC \$100 ck needs to clear

JEAN BELL - Show Chair Report:

- As of now Del Monte does not have a site. Had to a change in athletic director and now new site needs to be found. Asked prospect at site. Very optimistic for that site. Two proposals are the Marina and Salinas.
- Have to apply to AKC by Jan 7, 2008 with site confirmed.
- Need sweepstakes Judge- Ideas....Karen Lindsay, Sally Haas, Susan Richards. Club vote indicated Sally Haas, with Karen Lindsay as alternate if Sally Haas is unable to serve.
Discussion: Lucretia Marcus suggests encouraging judges who took classes at Nationals go forward.
- Not able to accommodate 2 specialties with Del Monte. Maybe a second in conjunction with the Paso Robles show in the fall.
Discussion: Jane Chopson indicates that the Specialty with AB show limit rule only applies to evening specialties.

LUCRETIA MARCUS – Membership Chair Report:

- Rich Paxton's first MBGDC meeting
- Application from Kate Jackson. Read through Kate's application. This is her first MBGDC meeting.
- Mick Galvin Attended with Kate as a tag-long/guest

MBGDC December Meeting Minutes continued from page 3....

GROUP - CHIT CHAT MISC.

ELIZABETH BIGBY reminds members to see her for dues sheets.

JEAN BELL - Nominating Committee Report:

* Nominating Committee. (read from her list of nominees)

* Board Positions up for election next year are: Kathleen, John, and Lorraine.

* Officer positions up for next year are: Treasurer

Discussion: John Garcia clarifies that by-laws indicate that it is okay to wait & hold meeting in Jan '08 at Santa Clara to vote on proposed Slate.

JOHN GARCIA asks group...Anything else in new business?..NO Old Business?...NO

BARBARA GARCIA - * Motion adjourned. Kathleen Davis seconded. All in favor... YES ☺

MBGDC meeting adjourned, 11:48am Dec 15, 2007

2008 OFFICERS & BOARD

President: Jean Bell (2010)

1st Vice President: Lorraine Matherly (2010)

2nd Vice President: Allison Paxton (2010)

Recording Secretary: Carrie Muir (2010)

Corresponding Secretary: Lucretia Marcus (2010)

Treasurer: Jim Curnutt (2009)

GDCA delegate: Cindy Harwin (2010)

Board Members:

Kathleen Davis (2009)

John Goldsmith (2009)

Barbara Garcia (2009)

Ann English (2010)

Mary Vinciguerra (2010)

Elizabeth Artle (2010)

NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP

Now I lay me down to sleep,
The King Size Bed is soft and deep.
I sleep right in the centre groove,
my human being can hardly move.
I've trapped her legs, she's tucked in tight,
and here is where I pass the night.
No one disturbs me or dares intrude,
'Til morning comes and I want food!

I sneak up slowly and it begins,
my nudgings on my humans' chin,
She wakes up slowly and smiles and shouts-
"You precious pest...5 more minutes,
now CUT IT OUT!"

But morning's here and it's time to play,
I always seem to get my way.
So Thank You Lord, for giving me,
this human being that I see,
The one who hugs and holds me tight
and shares her bed with me at night.



My Black Dog

*Originally published: Great Dane Incorporated, 1976
Author unknown*

I guess Sassur was one of the homliest Danes I'd ever seen. I bought him when he was a cute, fat puppy and because he was my first Dane I thought he was beautiful. I wanted a black one and a big one. I got the black, but didn't get the "big". Sassur was pretty small. Not knowing any better, I decided not to crop his ears. By now, you've got the picture.

After a while, it became apparent that Sassur wasn't going to win any beauty contests or dog shows either, for that matter. I was some disappointed, but accepted it with the grace only a complete amateur can show in that kind of situation. Looks didn't matter too much to me in those days.

Sassur was all things you usually get with a first puppy – he was naughty, he was cute. He threw up and pooped in the house far too long. He was noisy, he was possessive. He was undisciplined and spoiled, but he was smart. Sassur's life was full of one obedience school after another, but he didn't care. Guess he knew I loved him even when he was bad, even though his antics got harder to take toward the end.

Sassur was always the one left home to "guard the house" when we took the girls to the shows. He always stayed in the car for a visit and didn't mind when the girls got to go inside with me. He suffered gladly all the restrictions placed upon him and he took pride in his small part he could play in the family circle. He lived to be with me, and if he was with me, that was all he wanted. He probably had the happiest face I'd ever seen on a Dane – Sassur always wore a smile.

Nobody ever told Sassur that too much of anything was bad news, and that goes for love too. He loved me too much. As he got older, he got more and more possessive. He didn't want people to touch me or shake my hand. He growled when my husband shook me awake in the mornings. He could not go in the car when it was time to buy gas because he would nearly injure himself trying to make the attendant stay away from my car. The list is endless. He was a barker. He was a charger. He would snap without thinking... or if he was thinking, it wasn't about manners.

This kind of story only has one ending, and as I drove Sassur to the vet I was glad he didn't know it was his last ride. I tried to tell myself that he'd at least be glad it was his last trip to the vet. Pretty black comedy even in a tough situation. The cardinal transgression had been committed and I knew in my heart that if Sassur was going to go out of the world with his honor intact, he would have to go now.

That was eight months ago. It was pretty sad for a while and when time did it's job on me, as it thankfully does on everybody if you give it a chance. When I thought about him, I didn't cry anymore and I had thrown out the bad memories and kept the good ones. Funny thing about dogs, though. Many learned men will swear they haven't got a "soul" as such, but I know better.

I went shopping last week and brought some record albums. Today I finally got around to listening to them. I didn't know that one of the albums had an old country-type song on it that always reminded me of Sassur. When that song came on, it hit me like the proverbial tonne of bricks. I listened for a minute, then had such a strange feeling. I checked the calendar to make sure what the date was – sure enough, it was eight months ago today that Sassur took his last ride. Guess that's pretty circumstantial, but the effect was the same.

As I listened to that song, I thought about that homely old black dog and what he'd meant to me, and I put my head down and cried. Guess you just never lose 'em. Not really.



"My therapy is quite simple: I wag my tail and lick your face until you feel good about yourself again."

GDCA HEALTH AND WELFARE

Active studies & Announcements as published at: <http://www.gdca.org>

★ STUDY OF THE GENETIC BASIS OF BLOAT IN THE GREAT DANE

Status: Participants Needed

Under the direction of Dr. Mat Pletcher at the Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter, Florida, we are conducting a study of the genetics of gastric bloat/torsion, which is a significant threat to the health of canine breeds of large body size. Because the cause of bloat/torsion, environmental or genetic, is still largely unknown, there are no effective measures to prevent its onset.

The goal of this project is to officially establish the contribution of family history, or genetic predisposition, to bloat/torsion in Great Danes and potentially identify genetic variants within the breed that put the animals at risk.

In order to conduct our study we need DNA samples from Great Danes and detailed pedigree information provided by breeders and owners. We are currently collecting DNA samples from ALL Great Danes, including those who have suffered from bloat and those who have not, as well as dogs with a family history of the disease.

If you would like to contribute to our research, please see our website www.pletcherlab.org/canine.html where you will find instructions for collection and shipment of blood samples, as well as the data collection sheet that we ask all participants to complete and send back to us along with the blood sample. We also request that owners provide pedigrees and note the bloat/torsion status (affected/ not affected/ unknown) for all individuals on that pedigree.

Thank you, and please feel free to contact Laura Schultz at canine@scripps.edu with any questions or concerns.

****Please note that all information provided for this study is kept strictly confidential**

Laura Schultz
The Scripps Research Institute - Florida
5353 Parkside Drive
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561)-799-8830
Laura@scripps.edu

★ STUDY OF ADDISON'S IN THE GREAT DANE

Status: Participants Needed, January 2008 update calling for blood samples

The Addison's work is a collaborative study between UC Davis, Åke Hedhammar in Sweden and Kerstin Lindblad-Toh of the Broad Institute. We appreciate your continued interest in our study.

Call for BLOOD Samples for Addison's: <http://cgap.ucdavis.edu/Addison's.htm>

Although we continue to collect DNA from buccal swab samples, newer research technologies require DNA extracted from blood samples. Thus, we are seeking blood samples from affected and unaffected dogs. Affected dogs with veterinary diagnosis can be submitted from dogs of any age. For unaffected dogs, we especially need samples from dogs over the age of 7 years that are free from the disease. Please consider donating adrenal tissue from Addisonian dogs if euthanasia becomes necessary.

There is no fee for participating in this study although the owner bears the cost of blood collection and shipping of the sample to the laboratory. Some veterinarians may collect and ship samples at no charge for research purposes – please check with your veterinarian. In the event that your dog's DNA from the blood sample is used directly in the development of a commercially available diagnostic test developed by this laboratory, the results of the test for that dog will be provided at no cost upon your written request following the availability of that commercial test.

★ **K9 BEHAVIOR GENETICS STUDY OFFERED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CA, SAN FRANCISCO**

Status: Participants Needed

I am a research scientist in the Hamilton Lab at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). Our lab is seeking dogs to participate in a research collaboration to explore the relationship between genes and behavior in dogs. We will be looking at a variety of behaviors including noise phobia, anxiety, panic, obsessive compulsive disorder, and aggression. We also need dogs that do not display any of these behaviors to serve as a control to compare with affected dogs. Collecting a sample of Danes would be great because Danes generally do not display these types of behaviors, which makes the Danes that do have behavioral issues more interesting and the ones that don't excellent control samples. We are hoping to learn about behaviors that are prevalent in particular breeds that we may not be aware of (for example white shaker dog syndrome) from members of breed clubs. Our group is also interested in researching the general genetic diversity within and between breeds. We have already begun to investigate this in a few breeds.

Participation in our study involves collecting DNA via cheek swabs or blood and completion of a questionnaire about the dog's general history, behavior, and environment. A copy of the dogs pedigree if one is available would be very useful as well. Kits are sent to interested owners through the mail. There is no cost to participate other than the cost of return postage. Interested owners can request a kit at our website: <http://psych.ucsf.edu/K9BehavioralGenetics/>

All information provided to us will be held strictly confidential. We will never publish or share the names or contact information of owners, breeders, dogs, or kennels. We hope to provide breed specific reports for breeds that we are able to collect a significant amount of samples (at least 50 per breed).

More information about this research can be obtained at our website, by emailing us at K9BehavioralGenetics@lppi.ucsf.edu, or by phone at 415-476-7898.

Rebecca Terrill, SRA
Hamilton Lab
UCSF/LPPI
415-476-7898

★ **HARLEQUIN GENE STUDY AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

Status: Participants Needed

Dr. Leigh Anne Clark of the Canine Genetics Laboratory (www.cvm.tamu.edu/cgr) at Texas A&M University is seeking Great Dane litters with both Harlequin and Merle puppies in them to help with finding the solution to "what is the Harlequin gene?" in the ongoing Harlequin Gene Project which is funded by the Great Dane Club of America.

Both parents and all puppies in the litter must be available. DNA cheek brushes will be mailed to participants and can be returned to TAMU via regular mail. If collection of blood samples is possible, that is preferred.

Dr. Clark will directly provide all materials and instructions at the breeder's request. You can contact her directly by email and phone: Email: lclark@cvm.tamu.edu, Lab phone: 979-845-5634

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOLLOWING PREVIOUS STUDIES:

- GenMARK, a subsidiary in WI of Vita-Tech of Canada, announces that they now have commercially available, exclusively, a direct genetic test for the merle gene. Nothing more than a simple buccal sample (cheek swab) is needed from the dog (i.e. this is a non-invasive test):
http://www.genmarkag.com/home_companion.php
Here is the order form for the test:
http://www.genmarkag.com/download/Genmark_ReqForm_CNT.pdf
The test is \$95.00, but there will a discount offered on multiple samples submitted as an introductory offer.
- HEALTH GENE in Canada is now offering to test for the presence of fawn/brindle recessives for just US\$65, and you can add any other color test they have for only US\$25! Details on DNA testing available:
http://www.healthgene.com/canine/c128_great_dane.asp

Congratulations!

An Affaire to remember...

... in Santa Clara!!! **AFFAIRE'S SWEET BASIL RAIN**, aka "Basil", "Handsome Hunk o' Dog", "Bub" and occasionally, "Butt Head", was WD both days at the SCVKC shows. The judges were Annella Cooper and Adrian Woodfork. Thanks to everyone for the ringside support of Shelley's and my big boy.

The Lore at Lore ...

LORE J'ADORE took WB at the Great Dane Club of Arizona Specialty under breeder/judge Carolyn Thomas from the Bred by class. Breeder/owner/handler: Lorraine Matherly.

CH LORE'S JOYRIDE, (Tess' brother) was BOB under Mr. John C. Ramirez at the the Ventura shows then group 4 under Mrs. E. Sullivan and BOB again the next day under Mrs. Donna Buxton. This was Jack's first time out as a special and handled by Dick Schaefer.

T AND T TERRRRRIFIC !!

T AND T's MAGIC TIME caught judge Donna Buxton's eye at the San Fernando KC show in Ventura in January. Ms Buxton pointed to MoJo for Winners Dog & Best of Winners for a 3-point MAJOR! This left MoJo sitting proudly on 10-points -- with *both* majors! MoJo is always beautifully presented by custodial mom Sharon, in the Bred By Exhibitor class.

THEN... (as if that weren't enough!)... T And T's Dynamic Duo Sweep Winners in Hanford!

Uh, at least on Thursday. MoJo (**T AND T's MAGIC TIME**) and Riva (**T AND T'S GYPSY IN MY SOUL**) were WD and WB/BW/BOS at the first show of the four-day circuit in Hanford on February 28th. The judge was Norman L Patton; he's currently provisional for Great Danes, but after seeing his picks for winners it's apparent that he should be approved in short order! ☺ The brindle littermates, bred by Kate Jackson, Sharon McCrary and Marnie Baker, were handled to these spectacular 1-point wins by Sharon. MoJo now has ELEVEN points, and Riva has one, which is the perfect starting point (no pun intended). It was a GREAT day!!!

A Wild and Nutt-y Thyme...

"Danni", **BIGNUTT'S WILD IRISH THYME OF MAGNUS**, starts her show career off with a bang! Her first day out as a 6 month old puppy she wins her first point going WB/BOW/BP under Pat Hastings. Danni continued to shine at the Turkey Circuit for a 4-point Major RWB under Marsh Banks. She won another 2 points in San Mateo, taking WB/BOS under Joan Frailey. At the Great Dane Club of Tucson Specialty Danni was RWB and Best Puppy both days under Leon Reimert and Lynette Pizzino. Most recently, Danni was WB/BOW at the Golden Gate Saturday show under Kim Meredith-Cavanna and WB/Best Puppy on Sunday under Stephen Hubbell. Continuing to Puppy groups, at Golden Gate, she took a Group 1 in the Puppy Working Group competition under Paula Nykeil. Danni showed like a million bucks but came up just a tad short for Best Puppy in Show. Our knees were shaking!!

Handled by Diane Collings, at just 10 months old, Danni has 5 points, 3 Major RWB, 2 BOW, 1 BOS, 4 Best Puppies and a Puppy Group 1. Mum and Dad could not be more excited or proud of their 'Wild Irish Thyme', while her breeder, Paddy Magnuson, cheers the whole family on from New York.

...and MORE congratulations!

Point Pack'n Paxtons!

Paxton Danes announces 2 new International Champions !!

"Schatzi", **CH SHADY CRK'S LADY SMITH N WESSON**, and "Kissinger", **EQUISS KISS N MR BIG STUFF**, came away from their IABCA show experiences with 4 VI ratings and their International Championship titles.

Both Kidlets were beautifully owner handled by Mom, Dr Allison Paxton, who was ably assisted at the International shows by her fabulous and supportive husband Rich Paxton.

As if that weren't enough... the Paxton's sure started off the New Year with a BANG !!!

"Kissinger", **INT CH EQUISS KISS N MR BIG STUFF**, is now AKC MAJOR pointed at 19 months. Kissinger was awarded Winner Dog for a **4 point major** at the Tualatin Kennel Club show in Portland Oregon under judge Fred Ferris then picked up another single at the Cow Palace the following weekend under Judge Kimberly Meredith Cavanna. Whooo Hoooo!!! Kissinger now has 8 points and is always beautifully mom owner handled by Dr. Allison Paxton.

Rock'n Spots!!

Talk about knocking on the door!!! "Roxette", **DAVISHIRE'S ROCK CANDY**, took THREE major reserves in Portland, including a 5 point GDCWV Specialty reserve, and followed it up with *another* reserve owner-handled by her Mum, Catherine Baer-Brown, at the GGKC!

*Keep your eye on this Spot!!
She's locked, loaded and ready to win!!!*

Trudy's fleur-y of accolades!

In the first couple weeks of February, **BISS CH Aldawn's I'm the Intruder, GDCA AOM** went Best Opposite Sex (BOS) at the Sun Maid KC show under breeder judge Ms. Pam Winter and then went on to take an Award of Merit (AOM) at the Santa Clara Valley KC show under judge Mr. Adrian Woodfork!! "Trudy" is owned by MBGDC members Diane McClelland and Kim Cross and was handled by Kim Cross.

The Dirt at Davishire...

Now **CHAMPION DAVISHIRE'S KNOCK YOUR ROCKS OFF**, "Mick", took a 4pt major on the Turkey circuit, then finished with back to back 4 & 5 point Specialty BOWs, at GDC of Tucson and WVGDC shows in January! John and I couldn't be more proud and I couldn't ask for a better co-owner. Thanks to Larry for his support and skill, piloting Mick to a BOB and his first two majors... and Diane for finishing him off in style with a third.

Scampering up the ranks in a flash, Mick's son, "Morgan", **DAVISHIRE'S MEANT TO BE MOR**, took Best in Sweeps and a 5 point Specialty major WD/BOW/BP in his second show, owner handled by his Mum, Marian Heckard.

"Wolfie", **BISS CH. DAVISHIRE'S BEOWULF OF CHALK HILL**, has commenced formal Rally/Obedience training. His Mum says all is going swimmingly, though she's not sure how his own brand of jump-up-and-finish-with-a-kiss will go over with the judges. She's hoping that landing squarely in the right spot despite the customization, will count for something.

Meanwhile, "Fanny", **DAVISHIRE'S EPIPHANY A'LA AJ** squirrels away another WB/BOW point at the Santa Clara KC show under Adrian Woodfork. She's at 10 and holding with a 5pt major to her credit, while "Blush", **DAVISHIRE'S FURST BLUSH**, also looking for her second major, holds at 9.

Explaining The "Bug"

Reprinted with permission from Dog News, 1987

Author: Nigel Aubrey-Jones

In order to justify our presence in dogs – most of us have some sentimental reason that we unashamedly expose when given the opportunity. It is our great defense against those who do not understand why we devote so much time to the study, ownership, companionship, competition and breeding of dogs – when they claim that our time, effort and money could or even should be engaged in more worthwhile aims. It can be very difficult to explain the "Bug" to those who have never been bitten.

THE DIFFERENT EFFECTS

People involved in dogs can be affected in different ways. The effect is not unlike alcohol – under the influence some improve and others do not. Dogs can turn the dullest people into sparkling and exciting conversationalists, and intelligent people into uninteresting bores. Dogs generate pride in some and humility in others. Dogs can reveal the honest and expose the deceitful. Those suited to being involved in dogs can experience exhilarating elevation, and those who are not can become boisterous bad sports.

THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE CORRUPTION

Why is it, then, that the sport of dog breeding and showing is so often accused of attracting more than its fair share of individuals of doubtful integrity? Particularly so when there is so little evidence to substantiate the accusations of bribery and corruption – and when the rules governing dog breeding and showing make it so very easy for those with proof to expose it. The sport of dogs is run as fairly and as honestly as the breeder, exhibitor and judge allow it. Governing bodies are not inundated with valid or substantiated official complaints. Consider the numbers involved each year in registrations, shows and entries, in addition to the number of handlers, breeders, exhibitors and judges participating – as compared to the infinitesimal number of complaints, reprimands and suspensions.

Your conclusion has to be that the sport of dogs is as clean and healthy as any other – if not more so. Everyone who participates in the sport has the opportunity to prove it otherwise. By virtue of no basic evidence to the contrary – in spite of the right to challenge any corruption – the integrity of dogdom has the endorsement of its supporters.

THE WISE ARE WARY

Dogs cannot talk. People can and do. Sometimes a lot of empty talk – even in the highest of doggy circles by people who should know better – about influence and corruption. If those who talk of being able to influence judges did have this power, they would most certainly go to the great lengths to conceal it. It is unfortunate that the erroneous impression that the judging of dogs is a matter of gaining favor and influence is most prevalent among the newcomers to the sport. They assume that the slightest social contact with a person who judges dogs allows them the dangerous privilege of inferring that they can extend influence for both themselves and others. The seasoned and experienced quickly recognize this as a substitute for lack of genuine knowledge of dogs or real people. The wise are wary of the influence peddlers, knowing that they seek more influence than they can possibly give.

THE LOSERS

There are few sports that have given so many so much for so little in return as the sport of dogs. A sport that knows no boundaries, that has been responsible for cementing many a great international friendships. We have an obligation to preserve and defend its integrity. We know – or should know – that good dogs can and do win or are always thereabout. They have proved they can survive the test of the most ignorant and corruptible judges. It is for this very reason that few great dogs have been lost to their breed – the losers are the judges that missed them. It has been said of dogs, "To their virtues be ever kind and their faults a little blind." If dogs could talk we should hope that they would echo the same sentiments about people.



AKC Point Schedule for Great Danes

Effective: May 7, 2008

Division	1 Point		2 Points		3 Points		4 Points		5 Points	
	Dog	Bitch	Dog	Bitch	Dog	Bitch	Dog	Bitch	Dog	Bitch
1. Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	2	2	8	9	13	15	16	20	22	29
2. Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania	2	2	9	10	16	17	20	22	28	32
3. District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia	2	2	8	11	14	20	19	26	27	37
4. Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina	2	2	8	11	13	19	17	23	23	30
5. Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio	2	3	7	10	12	16	17	23	27	36
6. Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin	2	2	6	9	10	15	13	19	19	26
7. Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	2	2	8	10	13	18	17	24	23	35
8. Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	2	2	6	9	9	16	14	20	23	28
9. California	3	4	10	12	17	20	21	25	29	35
10. Alaska	2	2	4	5	6	8	7	9	8	10
11. Hawaii	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
12. Puerto Rico	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
13. Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota	2	2	5	5	6	13	14	14	17	17



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