

AFFILIATE CLUB OPPORTUNITY

ATTENTION all GDCA Affiliate Clubs: A portion of the following information was distributed at the Annual Delegates meeting, Oct. 2009. Very few have been returned. Please consider this proposal at your next meeting and return the questionnaire by the end of May 2010. Thank you.

The GDCA Health and Research Committee is planning to request that our Charitable Trust consider offering financial assistance in order to facilitate research on heart problems, primarily DCM, in our breed. Our basic goals would be:

- 1) To encourage Dane owners to have echos done on as many Danes as possible, both healthy and affected, in order to assist in the future cardiac health research of our breed. Since DCM is usually progressive and late-onset, Danes over six years of age are of special interest.
 - 2) To request the CT assist with the funding of echo clinics hosted by affiliate clubs, as it is the most expensive of our recommended health screenings. To offer the minimum 50% discounted service to as many Dane owners as possible, across the country. These echo clinics would be for Danes only and would not be set up for financial profit to any club.
 - 3) To record these heart screenings in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) data base to be available for future research.
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At the current time we do not have a large enough sample of Danes in the database to conduct meaningful research. We need Danes, both clear and affected/dogs and bitches, and particularly we need veterans, to participate in echo clinics. Since most of these older dogs do not come to the Nat'l Specialty (where the Charitable Trust already offers discounted echos), we want to take the echo clinics to you...where you live...so to speak. To make progress, especially with DCM, we need data on the parents (and grandparents if available) of our current youngsters - before they are bred.

The cardiac clinics now being offered at many dog shows are an excellent way to get your initial screening done and entered in the OFA/CHIC database; however they do NOT typically offer echocardiograms, which are needed to diagnose DCM. Ideally we would suggest that ALL Danes have an echo done every two years (when results are normal), starting at 2-3 years of age because there are problems seen in our breed that otherwise can go undiagnosed, particularly DCM.

We (the H and R Comm.) would like to learn which Affiliate Clubs would be willing to host an echocardiogram clinic; this could be done by a single Affiliate Club or several in an area working on it together. The clinic could be held in conjunction with a club meeting, picnic, match, or other activity as a separate event hosted by the club. The costs would be underwritten by the CT as is being done at our Nat'l each year so as to give the participants a significant discount.

To determine if our goal of offering discounted echo clinics at numerous locations across the country can be met,,WE NEED TO HEAR BACK FROM YOU. Please distribute and discuss this information at your next club meeting and return the attached questionnaire by May 31, 2010 To: Margaret Shappard 244 Callaway Road Fayetteville, GA 30215.

If you have any questions that we have not addressed or need any additional information, please contact Margaret at mswtrwd@bellsouth.net

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

GDCA Health and Research Comm. Questionnaire

1) In general, does your membership support health screenings for our breed? ___Yes ___No. If no, please explain_____

2) Does your club have one or two members willing to take the responsibility for organizing an echo clinic? This would include locating and contracting with a veterinary cardiologist, finding an appropriate location and date, handling pre-registrations, manning the clinic, and submitting a report (numerical data only) to the H & R Comm. ___Yes ___No

If you are not able to make the above commitments, please explain the area(s) we could help you with

3) Are there any areas of our aforementioned "basic goals" that your membership questions and/or doesn't understand ___Yes ___No. If yes, please note so that we can respond_____

Name of Affiliate Club _____

Club Secretary Name_____

email _____