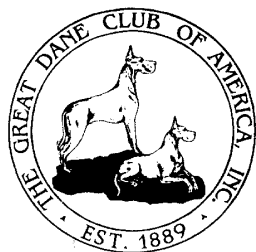


# The Great Dane Club of America, Inc.

## 3rd Quarter 2004



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### EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

#### CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE GREAT DANE CLUB OF AMERICA

CONGRATULATIONS JUNIORS!!

The following Juniors were each awarded \$1,000.00 in the Junior Showmanship Scholarship program:

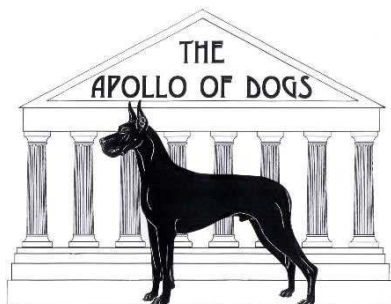
Allyson Bauch  
Shawn Carmody  
Scott Delane

Juniors out there? See the scholarship application on page 16.

#### GDCA HEALTH SURVEY

The results of the health survey were presented at the GDCA National in Orlando and will be posted on the GDCA Website and published in installations in Dane World. I am available to speak to Dane clubs on the survey. Clubs wishing to do so can contact me directly.

Mary Anne Zanetos  
(614) 451-2297 or [MAZ850@aol.com](mailto:MAZ850@aol.com)



The South Central Division invites you to the

**2004 Great Dane Club of America  
National Specialty Show and Futurity**

**October 18—23, 2004  
Fort Worth, Texas**

Please check the GDCA Website at  
[www.gdca.org](http://www.gdca.org)  
for all the information you need.

# THE EDITOR'S PAGE

## CHERYL GODWIN ☀ EDITOR

1424 Jethrow Way, El Cajon, CA, 92019

Phone: 619-588-5293 Fax: 619-588-7207 Email: [godwin2@cox.net](mailto:godwin2@cox.net)

Dear Members;

Well, it's time again for another National Specialty and Futurity. I'm sure the South Central Division has a great event planned for us and I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. See you there!

I would like to hear from more Affiliate Clubs with news of what's going on in their little parts of the world. Send me your news so I can share with the membership.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Saturday, October 16, 2004, at the Green Oaks in Fort Worth in conjunction with the National.

All meetings are open to the membership and we welcome you to join us.

According to the By-Laws of the Great Dane Club of America, Article V, Section 4, A-G, the Nominated Slate for the GDCA Board of Directors for 2005 shall be declared elected at the time of the Annual Meeting, as there was no opposing slate. Your new Board of Directors, effective Thursday, October 21, 2004, is as follows:



Officers:		Directors:	
President:	Jane Chopson	2007:	Lourdes Carvajal
1st Vice President:	Linda Ridder		Dale Desjardins
2nd Vice President:	Chris O'Connell		Pookie Kostuk
Secretary:	Lynda Moriarty	2006:	Lucinda Harwin
Treasurer:	Sid Levin		Dave Miller
Affiliate Club Rep:	Dianne Powers		Kathy Varian
AKC Delegate:	Tom Sandenaw	2005:	Lisa DeRoulet
			Paul Hardiman
			Nancy Lerch

Until next quarter;

*Cheryl*

# THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JANE CHOPSON ☀ PRESIDENT

**P. O. Box 94, Port Costa, CA, 94569**

**Phone: 510-787-3259 Fax: 510-787-3259 Email: [janechopson@cs.com](mailto:janechopson@cs.com)**

## Communication

Recently I have given a good deal of thought to the how and why of rumors. Rumors can have no truth or some truth or in fact be completely true. Rumor can be the first facts received or can be destructive untruths. Given human nature it is likely that rumors have been around since communication began and will continue to exist in the future. Quite simply, people want to appear to be knowledgeable and therefore talk when they actually are not sure that what they are saying is fact. Sometimes the results are only laughable and sometimes the results destroy reputations, careers and relationships. The irresponsible use of the internet where by unsubstantiated rumors are quickly passed on to hundreds if not thousands has served to worsen the rumor problem. Given the frequency of rumors in the dog world and the damage done it seems appropriate for us to look at what we can do to improve the situation. Oddly enough the solution is much like the problem. Rumors are the passing on of untrue and or unverified information. Stopping rumors is done by passing on the truth. Both are simply communication. One is communication at its worst and one is communication at its best. The solution to stopping rumors is to provide the facts.

In the past few months we have heard a lot about our recent National Specialty events. Rumors swirled about losses in 2003 and hotels for 2004. For that reason I have written several open letters to the membership which have been posted on our website and mailed to our affiliate clubs. That information was provided when the facts were actually known and accurate information could be disseminated. I believe that by providing the factual information regarding these situations rumors die and the membership has the information to which they are entitled. Although our bulletin is an excellent source of information about the GDCA its Quarterly publication schedule does not always allow information to be communicated a rapidly as necessary. In the future, if the need arises, I will use the same Open Letter method to communicate important information to the membership.

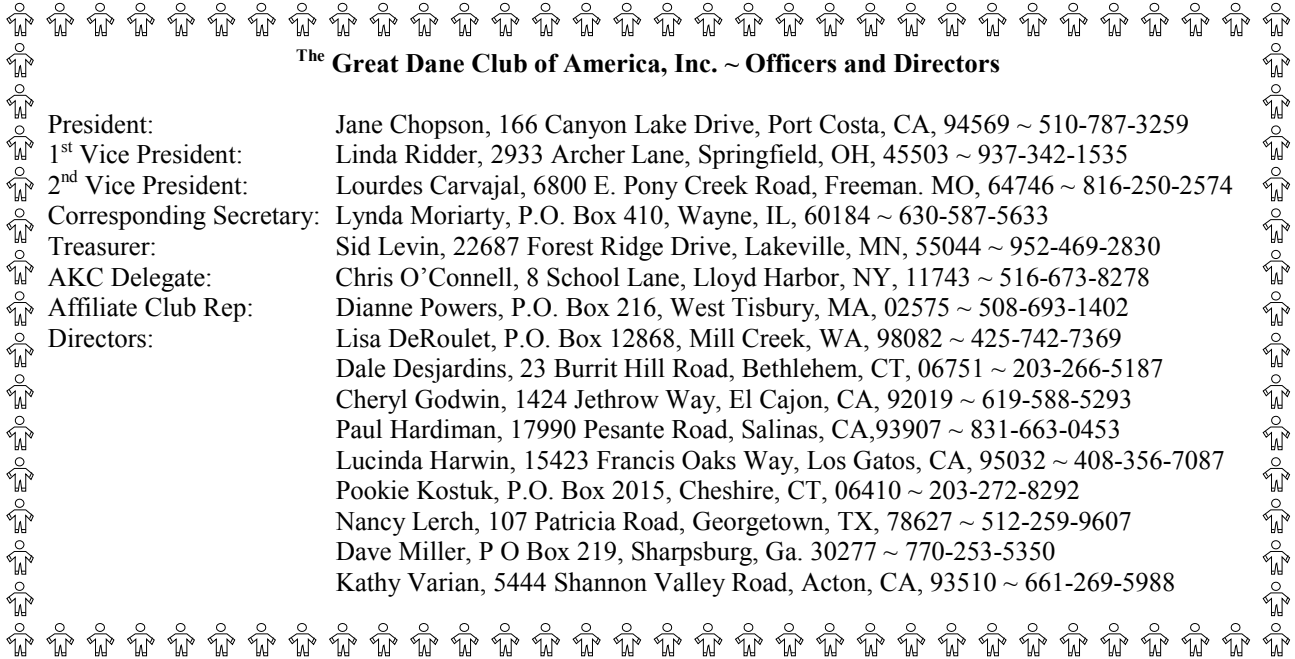
By communicating openly with the membership regarding these matters, as well as others, hopefully we are fulfilling our roles as leaders in the organization. Board members are available in all parts of the country to provide information about the GDCA and I encourage you seek them out with your questions as well as your ideas. This club belongs to all members and your elected leaders make decisions which affect you and your club. For that reason it is important that you let us know how you feel on issues important to you. By providing that input to us you help assure that the decisions we make are ones that you are in agreement with. Sometimes the input we receive represents differing points of view and we have to make final decisions between those differing views. When that happens your opinion may not prevail but you have had the opportunity to have your views considered.

As important as communication is within our club it also import in our dealings with each other. Rumors about people and dogs can be extremely hurtful to all involved. When you hear that next juicy piece of gossip I ask that you not eagerly pass it on to the next set of ears. Instead ask yourself what is to be gained by repeating it. If repeating it will only harm or embarrass stop right there. If there is a legitimate reason to repeat it don't do so until your can actually verify it is true. It is up to all of us to be responsible in our communication. Let's see what we all can do to make the Great Dane community a "Rumor Free Zone".

See "yall" in Texas.

*Jane*

## CLUB BUSINESS



### The Great Dane Club of America, Inc. ~ Officers and Directors

**President:** Jane Chopson, 166 Canyon Lake Drive, Port Costa, CA, 94569 ~ 510-787-3259  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Linda Ridder, 2933 Archer Lane, Springfield, OH, 45503 ~ 937-342-1535  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Lourdes Carvajal, 6800 E. Pony Creek Road, Freeman. MO, 64746 ~ 816-250-2574  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Lynda Moriarty, P.O. Box 410, Wayne, IL, 60184 ~ 630-587-5633  
**Treasurer:** Sid Levin, 22687 Forest Ridge Drive, Lakeville, MN, 55044 ~ 952-469-2830  
**AKC Delegate:** Chris O'Connell, 8 School Lane, Lloyd Harbor, NY, 11743 ~ 516-673-8278  
**Affiliate Club Rep:** Dianne Powers, P.O. Box 216, West Tisbury, MA, 02575 ~ 508-693-1402  
**Directors:** Lisa DeRoulet, P.O. Box 12868, Mill Creek, WA, 98082 ~ 425-742-7369  
 Dale Desjardins, 23 Burrit Hill Road, Bethlehem, CT, 06751 ~ 203-266-5187  
 Cheryl Godwin, 1424 Jethrow Way, El Cajon, CA, 92019 ~ 619-588-5293  
 Paul Hardiman, 17990 Pesante Road, Salinas, CA, 93907 ~ 831-663-0453  
 Lucinda Harwin, 15423 Francis Oaks Way, Los Gatos, CA, 95032 ~ 408-356-7087  
 Pookie Kostuk, P.O. Box 2015, Cheshire, CT, 06410 ~ 203-272-8292  
 Nancy Lerch, 107 Patricia Road, Georgetown, TX, 78627 ~ 512-259-9607  
 Dave Miller, P O Box 219, Sharpsburg, Ga. 30277 ~ 770-253-5350  
 Kathy Varian, 5444 Shannon Valley Road, Acton, CA, 93510 ~ 661-269-5988

## RECORDING SECRETARY

**SUE DAVIS-SHAW**



Board members and Committee Chairs submitting reports for the Board Meetings should send a copy to the Recording Secretary at 52 East Street, Hanover, MA, 02239 or [davidane@worldnet.att.net](mailto:davidane@worldnet.att.net) at least two weeks prior to the next Board meeting.

The last meeting of the Great Dane Club of America Officers and Board of Directors was held on Saturday, August 7, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois. Board Members present were Jane Chopson, Lynda Moriarty, Lourdes Carvajal, Lisa deRoulet, Cindy Harwin, Sid Levin, Paul Hardiman, Dianne Powers, Kathy Varian, Pookie Kostuk, Dale Desjardins and Susan Davis Shaw, recording secretary. Linda Ridder was absent. Guests included Helen Briscoe, Carol Grossman and Diane Taylor.

The following motions were approved and were unanimous unless otherwise noted:

To approve the minutes of the meeting of May 1, 2004, with one correction, to change on page 6 the word "reviewed" to "discussed" in relation to the Charitable Trust report.

Moved: Pookie Kostuk                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Cindy Harwin                      Abstention: One

To excuse the absence of Linda Ridder.

Moved: Kathy Varian                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Lisa DeRoulet

To re-up GDCA participation in the Purina Partnership Program, which would expire in December of 2004.

Moved: Lourdes Carvajal                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Sid Levin

To ask AKC to add merlequin, piebald, and mantle merle to be added to the AKC registration

Moved: Lisa DeRoulet                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Lynda Moriarty

To offer the GDCA medallion for BOB, BOS, and Best Bred By Exhibitor at the Eukanuba show.

Moved: Cheryl Godwin                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Cindy Harwin

To direct the Treasurer to move funds to the Charitable Trust.

Moved: Lourdes Carvajal 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cindy Harwin

To pay the bill from Dog World for \$264 to continue with the same ad and to request that, because we are the Parent Club, our ad should be placed first.

Moved: Lourdes Carvajal 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dianne Powers

To approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

Moved: Lourdes Carvajal 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kathy Varian

To develop a standard letter that the corresponding secretary can send to any jurisdiction entertaining dangerous dog legislation.

Moved: Cheryl Godwin 2<sup>nd</sup>: Nancy Lerch

To recommend that the Charitable Trust pay the following scholarships for \$1,000 each by recommendation of Jessie Gerszewski: Allyson Bauch; Shawn Carmody, Scott Delane

Moved: Sid Levin 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cheryl Godwin

To approve the following applicants for membership in the GDCA:

Kitty Perkins

Moved: Kathy Varian 2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Hardiman

Katherine (Kathy) Balestrieri

Moved: Paul Hardiman 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cheryl Godwin

Paula F. Stebbins

Moved: Nancy Lerch 2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Hardiman

Donna M. Kleppin

Moved: Paul Hardiman 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kathy Varian

Mary A. and Gregory E. Lugo

Moved: Lisa DeRoulet 2<sup>nd</sup>: Nancy Lerch

Vickie L. Soper

Moved: Paul Hardiman 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cindy Harwin

Charles and Kathleen Vaughn

Moved: Dianne Powers 2<sup>nd</sup>: Paul Hardiman

Karen and Robert Yoder

Moved: Cindy Harwin 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dianne Powers

To approve the Western Division Committee Chairs for the 2005 National:

Moved: Lourdes Carvajal 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kathy Varian

To be added to the National Rules and Regulations that seed money and loans are to be reported as assets and liabilities, and that monthly reports submitted to the Treasurer should include assets, profit and loss statement, bank reconciliation and check register.

Moved: Sid Levin 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dave Miller

That the Board eliminate the "opt in" and "opt out" from the futurity application.

Moved: Pookie Kostuk 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sid Levin

To put the black Purina slick on the Charitable Trust web page.

Moved: Lisa DeRoulet 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lourdes Carvajal Opposed: one Abstention: one



**GREAT DANE CLUB OF AMERICA ~ COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Advisory Board:	Bob Edison	520-749-8734
Awards:	Lisa deRoulet	425-742-7369
Breeder Referral:	Ruth Piatoff	315-699-3944
Budget & Finance:	Lisa Foltz	708-645-1216
By-Laws:	Lourdes Carvajal	816-250-2574
Championship Awards:	Dale Desjardins	203-266-5187
Color Research:	Neil O'Sullivan	515-677-2122
Corporate Sponsorship:	Joe Longo	440-974-0221
Judges' Education:	Judy Harrington	413-267-5236
Futurity Statistician 2003:	David Miller	770-253-5350
GDCA Website:	Nancy Lerch	512-259-9607
Historical Committee:	Norvel Benoit	985-764-8371
Health & Welfare:	J. P. Yousha	915-585-3847
Health Survey:	Mary Anne Zanetos	614-451-2297
Judges' Education	Judy Harrington	413-267-5236
Judges' Selection:	Lynn Brown Quick	520-742-6905
Junior Showmanship:	Jessie Gerszewski	608-798-3749
Legislation:	Tom Sandenaw	505-522-7500
Membership:	Diane Taylor	203-938-3152
National Specialty Coordinator:	Carol Grossman	702-260-7577
Newsletter:	Cheryl Godwin	619-588-5293
Obedience/Agility:	Theresa La Brie	607-336-9226
Pedigree Bank:	Kathy Varian	661-269-5988
Rescue:	Pookie Kostuk	203-272-8292
Standards Committee:	Bob Edison	520-749-8734
Top 20 Statistician:	Rita Suddarth	540-439-9737
Yearbook:	Lora Thill	760-434-2452

Have a question...



Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions or concerns you may have regarding Club business, the duties of a particular Committee and its members, what role they play in the betterment of our Great Danes, or to volunteer to serve.

**TREASURER****SID LEVIN**

As of March 31, 2004, the balances in the GDCA accounts are as follows:

General	\$56,706.34
Futurity #1	5,679.59
Futurity #2	6,482.86
<u>Yearbook</u>	<u>6,454.33</u>
GRAND TOTAL:	\$75,323.12

Of this amount, \$26,847.22 is already allocated; \$7,885.83 to the GDCA Health Survey, \$14,151.45 to the Affiliate Club Educational and Health Program Assistance Fund and \$4,809.94 to the GDCA Charitable Trust.

1996 - 2002 Yearbooks are still available:

The cost of 1996 - 2001 Yearbooks is \$15.00 each (\$10.00 for the Yearbook and \$5.00 for shipping and handling).

The cost of each 2002 yearbook is \$25.00 (\$20.00 for the yearbook and \$5.00 for shipping and handling.)

Do not hesitate to contact me regarding any of the above information.

22687 Forest Ridge Drive  
 Lakeville, MN 55044  
 Telephone 952-469-2830  
 Fax 952-985-5979  
 E-mail SerendipityDanes@aol.com

**NANCY LERCH****GDCA WEBSITE**

Our website continues to be very popular with the fancy. I have received comments regarding the site, and I should add all are very favorable. This venture was absolutely a positive move for the GDCA. And....from comments being sent my way, I gather that we are educating the public.

The GDCA website also continues to grow in terms of visitors. **The average visits per day has now reached an average of 1088. This equates to a total of 31,575 for the month!!!** In terms of popularity, the Health and Welfare section just surpassed the Breeders List, followed by the Photo Album. Overall, the GDCA website has a solid presence on the Internet, and by the consistent numbers of visitors, continues to be a most valuable resource for all those interested in the Great Dane breed.

Nancy Lerch ~ 512-259-9607 ~ [nlerch@joimail.com](mailto:nlerch@joimail.com)



## CAROL GROSSMAN

### NATIONAL SPECIALTY COORDINATOR



We are working on a handbook, outlining duties, responsibilities and reporting, to be given to Division, Show and Committee Chairpersons involved in putting on a National Specialty and Futurity. More to come on that subject next quarter, but it will certainly be ready for those involved in the 2005 event.

#### 2004

Plans for 2004 South Central Division are on track. The deadlines for hotel, meals, etc., has passed, so I hope everyone got their reservations in on time. I look forward to seeing you all in Fort Worth next month.

The Judges for 2004 are:

<b>SPECIALTY:</b>	Intersex:	Edward Lyons	<b>Futurity:</b>	Pat Haltmeier
	Dogs:	Donald Booxbaum		Lynda Moriarty
	Bitches:	Anita Dunne		

#### 2005

The 2005 National will be hosted by the Western Division, at the Sheraton San Marcos Resort in Chandler, Arizona.

The Judges for 2005 are:

<b>SPECIALTY:</b>	Intersex:	Judy Harrington	<b>Futurity:</b>	Joy Lobato
	Dogs:	Lester Mapes		Marshall Stoner
	Bitches:	Arlene Davis		

#### 2006

The 2006 National is being hosted by the Midwest Division at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kansas. The results of the last ballot for Judges will be announced at the 2004 National.

Please address all inquiries to me at:  
*cgrossman@purina.com* or 702-260-7577.

**DIANE TAYLOR**  
**MEMBERSHIP**



Letters concerning the approval or disapproval of applicants should be directed, in writing, to:

***Mrs. Diane Taylor, 43 Umpawaug Road, West Redding, CT, 06896***

**FIRST LISTING**

**APPLICANT(S)**

**SPONSORS**

SHERRY & RON ACENA  
8436 NE 137<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kirkland WA 98034  
425-8213263

Sheron68@Verizon.net

M. Donna Clark (2004)  
Lisa DeRoulet (2004)

KRISTEN CHAPMAN  
74 Bridle Path  
Newington CT 06111  
860-666-1223

Karen Desjardins (2003)  
Laurel Donelson (2003)

AYANA A. LOWERY  
1553 Peaceful Pine Street  
Henderson NV 89052  
702-845-9264

Jodie Keim (2003)  
Michael Chiles (2003)

SUSAN E. PELLA  
442 Delaware Road  
Blairstown NJ 07825  
908-459-9222

Sue@CTCSource.com

Melissa Dreyer (2004)  
Barbara Waldkirch (2004)

MINDY & JERRY TANDY  
5676 Francis Avenue  
Chino CA 91710  
909-628-8289

MLDT@earthlink.net/jerrytandy@earthlink.net

Traci Miller (2004)  
Jackie White (2004)

MARK & LOUISE VAN ALSTYNE  
Post Office Box 1172  
St. Helens OR 97051  
503-396-1656

M\_VanAlstyne@yahoo.com

Sandy Britts (2004)  
John DeRoulet (2004)

PATRICIA WOLF  
4010 East 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage AK 99507  
907-344-1567

pswolfpack@gci.net

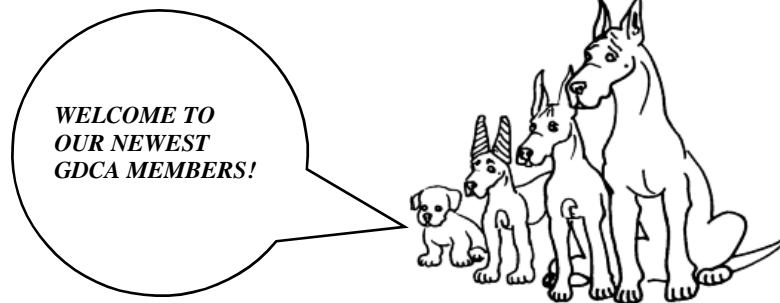
Susan Acquistapace-Redding (2004)  
Katie Edwards (2004)

**SECOND LISTING****APPLICANT(S)**

NOEL CLARKE  
 MARY FRAN CINI  
 KELLY KONOPKA  
 BARBARA J. KREVITZ  
 KATHERINE K. LUCY  
 ZEE MARIE  
 MICHELE NEFF  
 MELISSA R. PAVLIK  
 PETER & MARCIA RODDY  
 THERESA LYNN WILLIAMS

**SPONSORS**

Nichole Conneen (2003) & Pamela Sarkel (2003)  
 Sharon Hladik (2003) & Linda Thorward (2004)  
 Richard Kostuk (2004) & Laurel Malvezzi (2004)  
 Jackie Jordan (2003) & Susan Acquistapace (2003)  
 Tamra Bassett (2003) & Joan Morrison (2003)  
 Claire Hazlett (2003) & Suzanne Kelleher-Duckett (2003)  
 Margi Russell (2003) & Claire Burke (2003)  
 Suzanne Kelley (2004) & Naida Parker (2004)  
 Diane Levin (2004) & Patricia Ciampa (2004)  
 Nancy Lerch (2003) & Clay Stevenson (2003)



The following applicants were approved as new members of the Great Dane Club of America at the Board meeting on August 7, 2004. We welcome them to the Great Dane Club of America and look forward to meeting them and working with them in the future.

KATHERINE (KATHY) BALESTIERI  
 DONNA M. KLEPPIN  
 MARY A. & GREGORY E. LUGO  
 KITTY PERKINS  
 VICKIE L. SOPER  
 PAULA F. STEBBINS  
 CHARLES & KATHLEEN VAUGHN  
 KAREN & ROBERT YODER

Apologies to PAMELA J. PRESTON, who was voted in at the May meeting, but inadvertently not published in the 2nd quarter bulletin.

**NOTICE:**

Some changes were made to the Membership section of the revised By-Laws, and you should be aware of the following:

“Each application shall be accompanied by a check payable to the Club in the appropriate dues amount and the appropriate application fee, as specified on the application form. The application shall be signed by two (2) sponsors, not of the same household, both of whom shall be regular members in good standing of the Club for a minimum of two (2) years. Both sponsoring members shall be personally acquainted with the applicant for a minimum of two (2) years prior to the date of application, and these members shall be permitted to sponsor four (4) applicants per year.”

## J. P. YOUSHA

### HEALTH & WELFARE

1) Dr. S.M. Schmutz U. of Sask.), who currently has a grant with the AKC-CHF to study blue (coat color) dilution, has told me a current gene candidate for this has proven not to be the gene in question; research continues. This follows coat color research for spotting genes such as tuxedo (Mantle), piebald, merle & Harlequin, which has so far eliminated the following gene candidates: KITLG, MITF, EDNRB, PAX3 for merle, EDNRB for Harlequin, EDNRB and KIT for tuxedo (our "Mantle" pattern), and KIT for piebald. Elimination of candidate genes is not the ideal outcome, but does provide real data and aid in the search. So the search continues for these more elusive genes, while sable (our Fawn), brindle, black, as well brown, yellow, masking, and extension have been mapped and the last four already offer commercially available testing. Brindle and fawn are likely the next two which will have commercially available tests. This will prove of practical use in our breed for breeders of black and blue Danes particularly.

2) Please find the 2d quarterly report for 2004 on the CHIC program for the Great Dane from director Eddie Dzuik. To date (7-24-04) there were 92 Danes that have qualified for the CHIC program. There are 38 AKC breeds now with CHIC protocols. It should perhaps be reiterated that the CHIC program intends to encourage a (voluntary) "open" registry idea, and accepts ALL results, pass or fail or indeterminate, and will award a CHIC number to any dog who has been tested, not just dogs tested who pass all portions of the program. Searching the newly organized OFA database, which now includes CERF results & CHIC numbers, allows one to view the data on entire families, and to even see data through the generations using a format of "vertical pedigrees," which even offers sibling data. This not only preserves for posterity the test results on our dogs, it organizes for breeders and owners (and researchers) patterns & data. It is worth noting also that the BMDCA has recently reported a substantial decrease in hip dysplasia (which has plagued the Bernese Mountain Dog) using OFA hip xrays and strong parent club educational outreach and support for OFA. Note also that recent research suggests that NSAIDs can interfere with normal thyroid panel results. This is preliminary, but veterinarians are recommending that NSAID use be discontinued before doing checks for thyroid function. Animals who are ill or on any medication should generally not have their thyroid panels done for breeding purposes without a discussion with the attending veterinarian. And it's recommended that bitches have thyroid panels done while in anestrus to insure accurate results.

3) The study on the genetics of Addison's disease with Dr. A.M. Oberbauer (UCDavis), CHF Grant # 225) is still pending, despite our (GDCA) having provided both financial and candidate support early in spring. Unfortunately some administrative matters concerning other members of this multi-breed study are still pending. I am in communication with the lead researcher and with Erika Werne, Grants Director, AKC-CHF. I sincerely hope that not too much more time will pass before the study can actually get underway. I have provided to Dr. Oberbauer a list of nearly 100 candidate Danes. Unhappily, during this delay, we have already lost two of those candidates (i.e. the Danes died) and I have communicated this, and my concern over the delay, to both the lead researcher and the grants director. 4. Mary Anne Zanetos is currently looking into the feasibility of a study on HOD in the Great Dane with a researcher who completed a successful study on this disease in the Weimaraner. It is worth noting that this work has led to a CHF-supported grant to investigate the immuno-genetics in that breed. This is a grant I feel we should follow and even consider emulating at some point in time. The AKC, CHF, & the WCA have, in fact, instituted a joint project to collect DNA samples for a disease database in that breed. This is another idea that the GDCA might well consider. Our recent health survey suggests that immune-related diseases are on the rise in this breed.

5. Both Mary Anne Zanetos (Science Advisor to the GDCA) and I (as Health and Welfare Chairman) hope that this meeting of the BOD will ratify for use the document (provided) entitled: GDCA Anesthesia Protocol. As has already been discussed in previous BOD meetings, this document was created in response to the recent findings of the GDCA National Health Survey that a noticeable, indeed unacceptable level of Danes were dying as a result of surgical complications. We believe some of these deaths can be avoided if more suitable surgical protocols for giant dogs, ones that addressed their unique problems, were more widely disseminated & the parent club can play a positive role in this. This document was created under the guidance of, and reviewed by, several experienced veterinarians familiar with giant dogs, and is in accordance with current standard veterinary medical practices. (We thank Sue Cates also for her work to prepare this document.) Other breed clubs (e.g. MCA) do have and support such documents for their breeds. Given BOD approval, this document can immediately be placed at the parent website & be distributed to affiliate clubs and appropriate venues given BOD approval; this will help save Great Dane lives we believe, and we urge the BOD to approve it this current session.

A few QUIK "Health Notes" and some links:

1. For those interested in vWD (von Willebrand's Disease), this is very straightforwardly discussed at the BMDCA's website is a very practical and layman-friendly article that is here: <http://www.bmdca.org/health/vwd.htm> Please note the percentages needed to define a dog as affected (below 20%), expected to clot (above 35%), as a carrier (30-100%), and normals (50-100%). This highlights the need for a gene test, as this current (blood) test is clearly not clear or particularly useful.
2. The WCA has some interesting information on HOD, including recent information on the heritability pattern: <http://www.weimclubamerica.org/health/hod.html>. They are finding this to be an immune-based disease & suspect an autosomal recessive inheritance pattern.
3. Recent research currently suggests that NSAIDs can interfere with normal thyroid panel results. This is preliminary, but veterinarians are now recommending that NSAID use be discontinued before doing checks for thyroid function. If checking thyroid for breed status (i.e. seeking OFA Thyroid normals), bitches should ideally be in anestrus, and animals ill or on medications should be checked at another time. More info here on how to successfully accomplish breed thyroid panels: <http://www.gdca.org/health/chic.htm>
4. Fort Dodge has developed the first 3 year vaccine supported by a challenge study. Called DURAMUNE ADULT, it provides protections against distemper, parvovirus, adenovirus, hepatitis and parainfluenza and offers THREE YEAR IMMUNITY. References here: [http://www.goodnewsforpets.com/news/current\\_releases/060304\\_ACVIM\\_challenge.htm](http://www.goodnewsforpets.com/news/current_releases/060304_ACVIM_challenge.htm)  
<http://www.dvmnewsmagazine.com/dvm/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=93392>  
<http://www.compasnac.com/cvp/10/1003/1003308.htm>
5. The CHIC database now has 38 breeds enrolled. And there are currently 92 Great Danes listed, with many more pending, see here: [http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/results.html?num=&namecontains=N&part=&breed=GD&variety=&sex=&birthday\\_start\\_month=&birthday\\_start\\_year=&birthday\\_end\\_month=&birthday\\_end\\_year=&birthday=&submit=Begin+Search](http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/results.html?num=&namecontains=N&part=&breed=GD&variety=&sex=&birthday_start_month=&birthday_start_year=&birthday_end_month=&birthday_end_year=&birthday=&submit=Begin+Search)  
Or select "Great Dane" (and nothing else) here: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/search.php>  
\*\*\*\*It should perhaps be reiterated that the CHIC program intends to encourage a (voluntary) "open" registry idea, and accepts ALL results, pass or fail or indeterminate, and will award a CHIC number to any dog who has been tested, not just dogs tested who pass all portions of the program.

## DIANNE POWERS

### AFFILIATE CLUB REPRESENTATIVE

At the August Board meeting we discussed a request that the GDCA restrict Futurity entrants to those offspring of OFA or Penn Hip'd parents. The Board agreed that the concept deserved exploration and presentation to the membership for feedback. There was also discussion regarding a request to change the Futurity to a sweepstakes format. The Board evidenced no interest in this change at this time. If your Club has any input on either of these ideas, please feel free to contact me.

Also discussed at this meeting was the inclusion of the Great Dane on 'Dangerous Dogs' lists used by insurance companies to cancel policies and by communities in creating ordinances. The Board voted to develop a standard letter that the GDCA can send, on behalf of its members, to nay jurisdiction considering adoption of such policies as well as insurance companies who have excluded the Great Dane from their policies.

The Board discussed expectations for Clubs to maintain affiliation with the GDCA. Examples of considered requirements are: payment of dues, maintenance of good standing with the AKC, adoption of the GDCA Constitution, participation in Division's National Specialty, annual activity report to the GDCA, etc. I will be working on a proposal to bring to the Affiliate Club Delegates meeting in October in Texas. If you have any suggestions for that proposal please feel free to contact me.

The Affiliate Club Delegates meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 20, time to be determined. I will advise of time, location and agenda by mail. If you have specific items for discussion at our annual meeting, please forward them to me for inclusion in the agenda. I look forward to seeing you in Texas.

According to the By-Laws, Affiliate Clubs are required to keep their current Officer and Membership listings on file with the GDCA. Any time there is a change in your Officers, Directors and/or Members you must immediately notify:

***Dianne Powers***  
***Affiliate Delegate Representative***    **AND**  
***P.O. Box 216***  
***West Tisbury, MA, 02575***

***Sid Levin***  
***Treasurer***  
***22687 Forest Ridge Drive***  
***Lakeville, MN, 55044***

The Affiliates' Corner was originally meant to be used by the Affiliate Clubs to let the rest of the Dane community know what was going on in their little corners of the world. In the beginning, there were some Clubs who responded with articles about their Club, Membership, Specialties, etc. I encourage Clubs to send articles to Cheryl Godwin, Editor, for publication in the quarterly GDCA bulletin.

I encourage you to have your Club Delegates keep me informed of issues of interest or concern that you would like brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. I am your Representative and your voice to the Board. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

### THE GREAT DANE CLUB OF AMERICA CHARITABLE TRUST

The Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust supports Great Dane welfare and rescue efforts, educational programs, Scholarship Programs for Junior Handlers, initiatives to create great awareness of breed-specific health problems and medical research efforts to improve the quality of life of the Great Dane.

For many of us, Great Danes are a significant source of love and comfort throughout our lives. We depend on them for their loyalty and companionship and they in turn, depend on us.

Through your support, the GDCA Trust will have the necessary resources to respond to calls for help in the most critical areas of concern...the Health and Welfare of the breed.

Whenever the call goes out that Great Danes are in need - the GDCA Charitable Trust intends to be there.

#### How can you help...

- **Through a tax-deductible contribution**  
...or
- **Through a deferred gift including life insurance or a bequest through your will**  
...or
- **Through various fund-raising efforts and special events with proceeds benefiting the GDCA Charitable Trust**

Please check the GDCA Website at [www.gdca.org](http://www.gdca.org)

...or contact Linda Tonnoncour at 714-961-0590 or [toncorrl@earthlink.net](mailto:toncorrl@earthlink.net) for information on how to donate.

### FUTURITY ~ DAVID MILLER



The 2004 Futurity numbers through the July 28, 2004 are as follows:

Litters nominated: 263  
 Puppy Dogs-268  
 Puppy Bitches-285  
 Total puppies nominated : 553

Of the 263 litters nominated, 163 (62%) nominated puppies.

If you need information or Futurity Nomination Forms, please do not hesitate to contact me.

770-253-5350 or [DRM6961@bellsouth.net](mailto:DRM6961@bellsouth.net)



## JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION

The GDCA Board of Directors is pleased to provide this application for a  
Junior Showmanship Scholarship.

**The amount of the award is \$1,000 per year, per student.**

The criteria for awarding scholarships include the following:

1. Applicant's need
2. Applicant's academic achievement and potential
3. Applicant and/or Applicant's family must be a member of the GDCA or an Affiliate Club
4. Applicant's involvement in the fancy
  - includes those Juniors whose family owns Great Danes but choose to show another breed
  - includes those Juniors who are involved in 4H, rescue, therapy, obedience, etc.

Use additional pages as needed

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: NONE:  
EACH APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED  
AT THE BOARD MEETING FOLLOWING ITS RECEIPT**

Please Print or Type

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_

2. ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (city) (state) (zip code)

3. PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

4. High School or Institution currently attending \_\_\_\_\_

5. Anticipated Date of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

6. Grade Point Average \_\_\_\_\_ Please attach copies of transcripts.

7. Have you ever been suspended, on probation, or dismissed from school? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

8. List significant academic achievements and/or accomplishments in the sport of dogs: \_\_\_\_\_

9. List extra curricular contributions: \_\_\_\_\_



10. Which college(s) or school(s) have you been accepted or submitted applications to? \_\_\_\_\_

---

11. On a separate sheet, write a brief essay including a description of your experiences and interests in pure bred dogs, also include what you perceive as your future role in the fancy.

12. List the following for the upcoming academic year:

EXPENSES		INCOME	
Tuition & Fees	_____	Aid from Parents	_____
Books, instructional equipment/material	_____	Aid from relatives	_____
Room & Board	_____	Personal income	_____
Other (specify)	_____	Scholarships or Grants	_____
_____	_____	Loans (describe)	_____
_____	_____	Other (specify)	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Total:	_____	Total:	_____

I certify that I have truthfully and accurately answered the above questions to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I understand any false information will be grounds for rejection of my application or subsequent termination of my scholarship, furthermore, I hereby authorize the Junior Showmanship Committee of the Great Dane Club of America to communicate with the financial aid officer or guidance counselor, if necessary, with regard to my application. If additional information or documentation is required of me, I shall be pleased to furnish it.

**Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the Institution of Higher Education.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: NONE:  
EACH APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED  
AT THE BOARD MEETING FOLLOWING ITS RECEIPT**

**Return to: Junior Showmanship Committee:**

**Jessie Gerszewski  
5818 Hwy KP  
Mazomanie, Wi 53560**



**POOKIE KOSTUK**  
♥  
**GDCA RESCUE**

The board approved the following grants at the August 7th board meeting:

1. Great Dane Club of San Diego \$500.00 (1)
2. Great Dane Foundation \$500.00 (1)
3. Great Dane Club of El Paso Rescue \$500.00 (1)

The above grants assisted the medical needs of 10 Rescue Dogs.

Our National is just around the corner, if you are planning on attending the National, please stop by our booth. Last year we had a fantastic booth and we will do our best to repeat it again this year with your help We promise to have many interesting items again this year. If you wish to donate to our booth please contact me.

All grants must be submitted to the Rescue Chairperson 2 weeks prior to the GDCA Board Meetings. You will find a schedule of dates for the Board Meetings on the web site or in the Bulletin

1st quarter ~ October through December ~ grant requests must be received 2 weeks prior to the January meeting.

2nd quarter ~ January through March ~ grant requests must be received 2 weeks prior to the April/May meeting.

3rd quarter ~ April through June ~ grant requests must be received 2 weeks prior to the July/August meeting.

4th quarter ~ July through August ~ grant requests must be received 2 weeks prior to the October meeting.

There are many Danes in need during this cold winter please help us through your donations to the GDCA Charitable Trust.

Pookie Kostuk ~ 203-272-8292 ~ [parkdanes@aol.com](mailto:parkdanes@aol.com)



**CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM**



Please copy and use this form as needed to keep the GDCA's records current.



If we do not have your correct mailing address on file you could miss out on important mailings such as Ballots for Judges' Selection and other important ballot issues as well as your quarterly bulletin. Complete the form and forward it to:



*Sid Levin, 22687 Forest Ridge Drive, Lakeville, MN, 55044*



Name(s):

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Address:

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Phone:

---



Fax:

---



Email:

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**LOURDES CARVAJAL**

**BY LAWS COMMITTEE**



A total of 260 ballots were received and the voting breaks up as follows:

20 Affiliatte clubs - 19 approve, 1 disapproves

240 Individual members - 230 approve, 10 disapprove

These were counted on June 19, 2004 by the GDCA corresponding secretary, Lynda Moriarty and myself.

According to AKC regulations, we only needed two thirds approval of the returned ballots so our new Constitution and Bylaws has been overwhelmingly approved. Results have been sent to AKC and as of their letter on July23, 2004 (copy on file) our new Constitution and Bylaws stand approved.

The committee will not be printing until next year a brochure with our adopted Constitution and By-laws, so you can use the final draft that was sent to you, download it from the website or if preferred, contact me for a hard copy.

Lourdes Carvajal ~ [roch4d@earthlink.net](mailto:roch4d@earthlink.net)



**CHRIS O'CONNELL**

**AKC DELEGATE**

The last meeting of the Delegates to the American Kennel Club was held on June 7, 2004.

**I. Chairman's Report (Ron Menaker):**

- ▶ Fleet Week, Armed Forces visiting New York Harbor - AKC participation included installation of the solid bronze Dog NY Statue into the Intrepid's 9/11 exhibition.
- ▶ A new video, showing the key role the AKC played in overdue national recognition dog's play in service to our Country.

**II. Financial Report (Jim Stevens):**

- ▶ This year's revenues through April were 3.4 million, or 10% higher than the previous year.
- ▶ Operating expenses were \$766,000, or 3% lower.
- ▶ Total operating expenses of 19.3 million. This year they were \$800,000, or 4 % less than last year.

**III. President's Report (Dennis Sprung):**

- ▶ Registrations through May of 2004
  - +Litters up 7.1%
  - +Individual dogs up 13%

**IV. Votes:**

- ▶ On the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows.

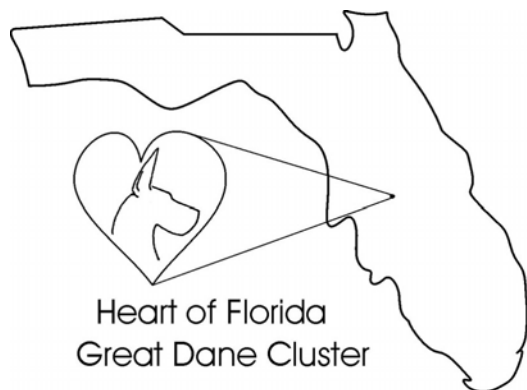
The amendment was submitted by the Delegates Parent Clubs Committee and not approved by the Board of Directors. The proposal provides for a three point major for Reserve Winners, Dog or Bitch, at one pre-designated National Specialty Show each year, but only if there are double the dogs actually competing in the Reserve Winner's own sex to warrant a five point major for winners in that sex.

Roll Call: 160 Yea, 121 Nay. Motion was defeated as it did not get the 2/3's required to pass.

**RITA SUDDARTH ~ TOP 20****Top 20 - 2004**

Final Standings for the 2003 Show Year  
for  
Events from 1 January – 31 December 2003

RANK	NAME	SEX	WINS	TOTAL
			BOB/V	DEFEATED
1	CH Longo's Alana Fontana	B	78	2,830
2	CH Lobato's Anything Goes	B	83	1,832
3	CH Don-Lu's Forget Me Not	B	56	1,660
4	CH Raintree-Erinwood's Dixie Legend	D	59	1,467
5	CH Rika-Brier Catera Lera Etal	B	30	1,296
6	CH CPC's California Dreamin'	D	26	1,266
7	CH Harley D's Eat Your Heart Out TD	B	68	1,030
8	CH Jerdane's Princess Ty	B	40	1,022
9	CH Sasdania-Vitag's Frozen Asset	D	26	781
10	CH Fontana Krisda's Joie De Vivre	B	20	764
11	CH Harley D. Hardt's Traveling man	D	27	706
12	CH Sharcon's Tomahawk	D	35	705
13	CH Danebridge's Pretty Boy Floyd	D	17	627
14	CH D.S.S. King's Ransom JP Berlinetta	B	3	557
15	CH My-Jon's Valentino V Riverlor	D	21	548
16	CH Penadane's Dream Maker	D	17	538
17 Tie	CH Fireside's Designated Hitter	D	21	497
17 Tie	CH My-Jon's Guilty As Charged	D	29	497
18	CH Heritage Hill's Rising Star	D	36	475
19	CH Trew's Lady Lucille	B	15	469
20	CH Creekside's Time After Time	D	26	450



Ya'll come to  
Sunny Florida  
For Valentines Day

3 Great Dane Specialties  
February 11-13, 2005

- Fri 2/11      Great Dane Club of South Florida  
                  Judge Susan Yotive; Sweep Jessie Gerszewski
- Sat 2/12      Great Dane Club of North Central Florida  
                  Judge David Zeno; Sweeps James Douglas Lenfesty
- Sun 2/13      Great Dane Club of Mid-Florida  
                  Judge Leon Reimert; Sweeps Carol Petruzzo

Location: Quality Inn & Suites Conference Center  
6525 US 27 North, Sebring, FL 33870

Call 863-385-4500 for reservations. Specify 'Great Dane Specialties' to receive a greatly discounted room rate of \$69.99.

Ask for Jackie O'Block to make RV reservations (\$34.99 no hook-ups) (limited RV parking availability). Both are plus tax.

Note: Booking a room is preferable to RV parking when possible.

**Superintendent:** Susan Gordon Phone 407-657-0733  
Call/email for premium list: [gordonsetters@earthlink.net](mailto:gordonsetters@earthlink.net)  
9122 Trevarthon, Orlando, FL 32817

Entries close at noon, **Wednesday, January 26, 2005**

Reduced entry fees for Puppies, BBE, Veterans, Sweeps, JS, Stud Dog & Brood bitch

## **Agenda - All At The Quality Inn:**

Friday    Complementary Breakfast Buffet  
            GDCSF Specialty Show  
            Costume Contest (theme: Be My Valentine)  
            Dutch Treat Dinner at hotel Restaurant  
            Seminar: Managing a Multi-Dog Household  
                    Conni Borwick, Canine Behaviorist  
            Party Time - Live Music in the Lounge

Saturday    Complementary Breakfast Buffet  
            GDCNCF Specialty Show  
            Dutch Treat Dinner at hotel Restaurant  
            Seminar: How Dogs Learn  
                    Conni Borwick, Canine Behaviorist  
            Party Time - Live Music in the Lounge

Sunday    Complementary Breakfast Buffet  
            GDCMF Specialty Show

NO CHARGE for breakfast or seminars

Official Photographer: James Garvie, CPM Photography

Catalog ads: Carol Mosher, 321-269-5099; fax: 321-269-5098  
\$25 full page with one picture

For hotel information see: [www.qualityinn.com/hotel/fl609](http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel/fl609)

Contact for information: Nikki Riggsbee, 813-654-3412

## PURINA PRO PLAN ~ CAROL GROSSMAN



# PURINA PARENT CLUB PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The PPCP program will help National Parent Breed Clubs earn important funds for canine health studies, education efforts and/or rescue through the participation of its members in Purina® Pro Club®

### The PPCP Program works through Purina's loyalty program, Pro Club®

Pro Club® members, who are also members of the National Parent Breed Club or an affiliate club, earn valuable Purina Points for every purchased pound of participating Purina® brand dog foods. When the club's Pro Club® members participate in the PPCP Program, they can earn an additional 10% of the value of all points from valid weight circles credited to their Pro Club accounts.

- For example, for every \$100 worth of qualifying weight circle points earned by your Pro Club members, Purina will donate \$10 to your National Parent Breed Club

### How do funds get donated?

Purina will deposit a minimum of 50% of the funds accrued by your breed club through the PPCP Program directly into the breed's CHF Donor Advised Fund (100% of the funds accrued can be donated to the CHF Donor Advised Fund if the National Parent Breed Club chooses that allocation). The check for each year will be presented to the Canine Health Foundation in February of the following year.

- The remaining 50% can be used by the National Parent Breed Club for rescue and/or education programs
- The Canine Health Foundation has agreed that PPCP Program – generated funds that are placed in the breeds' CHF Donor Advised Fund are eligible to be matched up to 100% based on the Foundation's guidelines

### What is required of the National Parent Breed Club?

An agreement, signed by the president of the national parent breed club, indicating participation in this program. Once the agreement is signed and returned to us, the membership will be allowed to earn funds. The agreement covers 2004 through 2006. The points for each year will cover the period starting Jan 1<sup>st</sup> of each year through December 31<sup>st</sup> of that same year.

Create awareness of the PPCP program among your club members. There are camera-ready ad slicks available to the National clubs to help create awareness of the program.

Periodic reports will be provided to the participating National Clubs notifying them of the total funds being accumulated by their members. Checks will be issued to the participating clubs and to the Canine Health Foundation in February 2005 for the 2004 period, February 2006 for the 2005 period and February 2007 for the 2006 period.

### What is required of Pro Club Members?

Purina has asked current Pro Club members to declare parent club membership. This declaration for the program can be made at any time during the year. Pro Club members can call the toll-free number 1-877-776-2582 and declare or do it through the website at [www.purinaproclub.com](http://www.purinaproclub.com).





## Scientists Hope to Study Addison's Disease in Great Danes

Though Great Danes are not among the breeds generally identified as having a genetic condition known as Addison's disease, scientists hope to learn more about its prevalence in the breed in a study in which the Great Dane Club of America currently is helping to recruit volunteers.

Addison's disease, sometimes called the "Great Pretender" because it mimics many other illnesses, may occur suddenly and severely, or symptoms may wax and wane. Addison's disease is sometimes confused as inflammatory bowel disease, hepatic or liver disease, or acute kidney failure, says Anita Oberbauer, Ph.D., professor of animal science at the University of California-Davis and longtime researcher of Addison's disease.

Breeds more commonly known to have Addison's disease in their bloodlines include: Standard Poodles, Bearded Collies, Portuguese Water Dogs, Leonburgers, Rottweilers, West Highland White Terriers, and Wheaten Terriers. The Health and Welfare Committee of the Great Dane Club of America (GDCA) hopes to gather enough participants to study the heritability of Addison's disease in Great Danes.

"There is an anecdotal sense that Addison's disease is a growing problem in the breed," says J.P. Yousha, chair of the GDCA Health and Welfare Committee. "In at least one article about the condition, Great Danes were listed among the top breeds that can develop Addison's. We hope to identify at least 50 related Great Danes with Addison's whose owners are willing to participate in a study to identify the gene that passes the disease from one generation to the next."

"It's important to note that information about breeders or owners who volunteer to be part of the study will be kept confidential through a numbering system," Yousha says.

### Joining Ongoing Research

Yousha is sending information about potential study participants to Oberbauer at the University of California-Davis. Through Oberbauer's studies of Addison's disease in several breeds, she has discovered that the condition seems to be regulated by a single gene inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern.

"This means that for Addison's to be passed on, both the sire and dam have to carry a recessive gene for the disease," Oberbauer says. "If one parent is heterozygous — having one dominant and one recessive gene for the disease — and the other parent is homozygous recessive — carrying two recessive genes — 50 percent of the litter will be carriers of the disease. The other 50 percent will be homozygous recessive and have the disease themselves. In the case of two heterozygous parents, 25 percent of their offspring will be affected, 50 percent will be carriers, and 25 percent will be normal."

Oberbauer explains that it is important to study different breeds because a generalization cannot be made that the mutation for Addison's disease appears on the same gene in every breed of dog. "It's believed that breeds derived from common ancestors typically show the same mutations," Oberbauer says. "So even if a mutation happened long ago, it comes down consistently through breeds. However, if you have a spontaneous mutation in the same gene but at a different location, a totally different pattern of inheritance can result."

The goal of her research is to find a genetic marker for Addison's disease in each breed, Oberbauer says. These discoveries will facilitate development of DNA tests, which will enable breeders to make informed decisions. Ultimately, carrier dogs could be bred to clear dogs without producing affected puppies, and testing of offspring would allow breeders to retain clear puppies in their breeding program.

## Understanding Addison's Disease

Addison's disease is the common name for hypoadrenocorticism or adrenal insufficiency. Adrenal glands sit on top of the kidneys where they secrete hormones directly into the bloodstream. Each gland has two distinct parts. The outer region, or adrenal cortex, secretes corticosteroid hormones, which have important effects on a dog's metabolism, blood chemistry, coat and body shape. The inner region, or adrenal medulla, is part of the sympathetic nervous system, the body's first response and defense against physical and emotional stress, Oberbauer says.

Addison's disease occurs when the adrenal cortex produces insufficient amounts of the corticosteroid hormones cortisol and aldosterone. Cortisol regulates a number of physiological processes, including metabolism, regulating stress, reproduction and the immune system function, Oberbauer says. Aldosterone is important in regulating electrolyte levels in the blood.

Three types of Addison's disease are recognized: primary, atypical and secondary, she says. Primary and atypical are most likely caused by immune-related damage to the adrenal glands. Secondary is caused by tumors, defects of the pituitary gland or long-term steroid use.

"Most dogs with the disease are diagnosed with primary Addison's, which means there is a slow degradation of the adrenal cortex over time," Oberbauer says. "Eventually, there is nothing left of the organ to produce cortisol and aldosterone. The dog's mineral balance and metabolism are disrupted, and that's why the symptoms are so diffuse."

Addison's disease can only be identified when an adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) stimulation test is performed — which means if veterinarians don't test for Addison's, they won't find it.

"Testing puppies does not indicate whether they have Addison's disease," Oberbauer says. "Puppies with the disease may still be producing adequate levels of cortisol and aldosterone, but those levels will decrease over time."

Typically Addison's disease develops in a dog's "middle age," between the ages of 4 and 6, but it can appear in dogs as young as 1 year old or as old as 12 years old, Oberbauer says. "Most literature on the disease says Addison's occurs more often in females than males, but our studies have shown equal numbers of affected males and females in every breed we're studying."

#### A Case Study

Bobbie Palsa knows firsthand about Addison's disease in Great Danes. Her black Dane, Catherine, was diagnosed at the age of 3. "Catherine's first symptom was limping on her right hind leg," she says. "We thought perhaps she had bumped it in the yard or around the house. Then she started acting like she was weak in her hind end, and she would muscle herself up with her front end when she got up from lying down. Then one night she got up off an armchair, and her hind leg collapsed under her."

At first Catherine's veterinarian diagnosed early arthritis and prescribed Rimadyl. Her limp got better, but her appetite decreased. Within a week, she was eating nothing at all. "Our veterinarian ran blood work and a urine analysis, and the only element out of line was her potassium level, which was at the high end of normal," Palsa says. "Fortunately, he consulted with a colleague, Dr. Deborah Greco, who is a canine endocrinologist. She suggested he run the ACTH stimulation test. That gave him the diagnosis of Addison's disease."

Unlike other dogs with Addison's that take years to diagnose or those that die without ever being diagnosed, Catherine began receiving treatment just three weeks after her symptoms appeared. Even in that relatively short time, however, she went from weighing 126 pounds to 99 pounds. Because of gastrointestinal bleeding, she had to be given fluids and a drug to coat her stomach.

"To replace the hormones she wasn't producing, our veterinarian immediately put Catherine on a monthly hormone injection and a daily dose of prednisone," Palsa says. "She began feeling better almost immediately, and she continues in good health today. She's 7 years old, weighs 148 pounds and still plays like a puppy."

### **Managing Addison's Disease**

Catherine's medication regimen is typical of those prescribed by veterinarians for dogs with Addison's disease. "Dogs with primary Addison's disease are generally treated with medicine that replaces the aldosterone that the body does not make," Oberbauer says. "Dog owners may either give their dog a daily oral medication, or their veterinarian may administer a monthly injection. Dosage and frequency is determined by body weight, and then adjusted by monitoring electrolyte levels. The initial adjustment period takes one to four months, followed by quarterly monitoring once the dosage is established." Glucocorticoids, such as the prednisone Catherine was given, are prescribed to replace the cortisol. "Typically, a veterinarian will start a dog on a high dose, with a gradual reduction in the dosage as the dog stabilizes," Oberbauer says.

Both types of medication are given at doses to accommodate everyday stress. "Under unusually stressful situations, however, dogs with Addison's disease are unable to produce the extra cortisol provided by healthy adrenal glands," Oberbauer says. "During these times, a veterinarian may prescribe glucocorticoid supplementation. An owner's awareness of situations that trigger stress in their dog is vital so that stressors can be avoided, minimized or additional medication can be provided."

#### Research Opportunity

"It's true that the Great Dane breed has larger and more common health problems than Addison's disease, but we have an opportunity to work with Dr. Oberbauer to determine the prevalence of the condition in our breed and how the disease is inherited," Yousha says. "It's truly an opportunity to try to eliminate one more disease from our breed while contributing to the overall scientific knowledge about canine Addison's disease." n

### **Study of Addison's Disease in Great Danes**

The Great Dane Club of America is seeking Great Dane families in which at least one member has been diagnosed by a veterinarian as having Addison's disease.

The information provided may be used in a potential research study into the genetics and heritability of the disease in Great Danes. A minimal population of 50 affected dogs is necessary for the study at the University of California-Davis.

It is important that close relatives of Danes submitted to be part of the study are available to be included. Ideally, an owner or breeder will also be able to provide the health status of approximately five close family members (such as parents, siblings, offspring). Confidentiality is assured, as all dogs will be assigned numbers for the study.

If you have or know of owners of Great Danes that could help explore Addison's disease in the breed, please contact:

J.P. Yousha, Chair  
Health and Welfare Committee  
Great Dane Club of America  
*jpy@chromadane.com*

(432) 684-8940

