

Great Dane Club of America



From the President

Dear Friends and Fellow GDCA Members.

Welcome to a new year. It is only nine months until the 2012 national in Topeka. Your division chairs and show chairpersons give up a lot to run the National Specialties. Besides the time and energy neither of them can exhibit their dogs at the national. Many of the Division Chairs have been in that position for multiple nationals. They have no hand in judges' selection or hospitality. I think we should all think this one through, how many of you would serve in

either position under these circumstances. Let me know what you think?

We are saying goodbye to two long serving committee chairs. Jessie Gerszewski has been our juniors chairperson for at least nine years, which includes our scholarship program.

Sandy Schneider has been our companion events chair for 8 years.

Both of you have been fantastic and we will miss you ! Please thank them when you see them.

Jamie Harshfield is taking over for Jessie and Joyce Gutherie will be taking over for Sandy Schnieder.

The Next BOD meeting will be on the 28th of April in Dallas, as always you are welcome.

Dave Miller



ALERT!!!

The wobblers Study Needs your help. Normal Great Danes are needed to provide a base-line for this study. Please help if you can. This is a prevalent and devastating condition in our breed!!!!

**Contact Dr. Ronaldo da Costa
Ohio State University
601 Vernon L. Tharp Street
Columbus, OH 43210-3551
Telephone: (614) 292-3551
Telefax: (614)292-0895
email: dacosta.6@osu.edu**

What is in This Issue !

- *Presidents Letter
- *Motions
- *Futurity Report
- *Awards Report
- *Membership Postings
- *New Members
- *Charitable Trust Social
- *Breed Standings
- *Group Standings
- *GDCA Treasurers Report
- *GDCA 2012 Budget
- *Health and Welfare
- *OFA Champion for Health 2011
- *AKC Judges List for 2014

GDCA Board Minutes

01/15/2011

Called to order - 8:30 AM
by President David Miller.

In attendance:

Jane Chopson, Paul Hardiman, Jean Highlands, Dave Miller, Neil O'Sullivan, Nancy Ridgway, Tom Sandenaw, Doug Toomey, Dianne Powers, Teri Holle, Angela Stillwell, Joe Longo, Chuck Crawford.

All motions are unanimously approved unless otherwise noted.

Motion: Excuse the absence of Jamie Harshfield, Jane Treiber, Dale Tarbox.

Moved: Chuck Crawford
Second: Jean Highlands
Motion Passed

Motion: The board will acknowledge receipt of the letters of complaint by drafting a generic response letter and will copy the persons who the complaints have been made about.

Moved: Paul Hardiman
Second: Dianne Powers
Motion Passed

Motion: To put notice on the web-site recognizing payment problems and to make dues/donations payments by mail.

Moved: Paul Hardiman
Second: Dianne Powers
Motion Passed

Motion : To approve Treasurer's report

Moved: Jane Chopson
Second: Nancy Ridgway
Motion Passed

Motion: Charitable trust to fund the Southwest Florida Rescue grants for \$500.

Motion : Chuck Crawford
Second: Nancy Ridgway
Motion passed

Motion: Charitable trust to fund 2 PAWS grants for \$1000 (\$500 each)

Moved : Chuck Crawford
Second : Dianne Powers
Motion passed

Motion: Charitable trust to fund 2 Central Florida Great Dane Rescue grants for \$1000 (\$500 each)

Moved: Chuck Crawford
Second: Doug Toomey
Motion passed

Motion: GDCA to commit to fund the 2nd year wobblers study through donation to the Charitable trust in the amount of \$31,266 to be paid in installments over the course of the year beginning with \$7816.50.

Moved: Nancy Ridgway
Second: Neil O'Sullivan
Motion passed
Abstained : Jean Highlands

Motion: The GDCA to move the funds for the Megosophogus study to the trust for funding in the amount of \$5000.

Moved: Neil O'Sullivan
Second: Tom Sandenaw
Motion passed

Motion: To publish the following in the next bulletin:

Arif Khan
Angie Johnson
Reiner Gerdts & Carolyn Wilson
Michelle Cacace
Tony Fair
Polly Hix
Stephanie Tracy
Elise McClintick
Lester & Celeste Lawson
Susan Harriman
Janet & Auburn Lyons
Carol Mosher
Edith Lind
Moved: Neil O'Sullivan
Second: Tom Sandenaw
Motion Passed

The following have been voted into membership:

Peter Janetatos
Moved: Nancy Ridgway
Second: Dianne Powers
Jackie Fulkerson
Moved: Dianne Powers
Second: Jean Highlands
Megan Hundley & Michael Wilcoxen
Moved: Nancy Ridgway
Second: Dianne Powers
Vikki Egan
Moved: Paul Hardiman
Second: Angela Stillwell
Tim Karau
Moved: Paul Hardiman
Second: Tom Sandenaw

Karin Roseman
 Moved: Angela Stillwell
 Second: Nancy Ridgway
 Steven & Kimberly Holcombe
 Moved: Jane Chopson Second:
 Paul Hardiman
 Greg & Sheila Sammons
 Moved: Jane Chopson
 Second: Paul Hardiman
 Jason Hoke
 Moved: Neil O'Sullivan
 Second: Jane Chopson
 Jennifer Carpenter
 Moved: Nancy Ridgway
 Second: Dianne Powers
 Jay Berkowitz
 Moved: Chuck Crawford
 Second: Paul Hardiman

Motion: To recess

Respectfully Submitted,
 Denise Matulich
 Recording Secretary



GDCA BOARD MEMBERS

President: Mr. David Miller
 217 Mikes Lane, Sharpsburg, GA 30277~DRM6961@bellsouth.net

1st Vice President: Ms. Jane Chopson
 P.O. Box 94, 166 Canyon Lake Drive, Port Costa, CA 94569~janechopson@cs.com

2nd Vice President: Mr. Chuck Crawford
 122 Deerwood Trail, Sharpsburg, GA 30277~Charma99@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary: Ms. Nancy Ridgway
 1446 N Buckner Blvd, Dallas, TX 75218 ~ ridgwaylaw@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Ms. Jean Highlands
 10196 Belmeadow Drive, Twinsburg, OH 44087 ~ jhighlands@windstream.net

Affiliate Club Rep: Ms. Dale Tarbox
 PO Box 164, Canterbury, CT 06331-0164~Sandaledanes@charter.net

AKC Delegate: Mr. Tom Sandenaw
 5900 N. Jornada Rd, Las Cruces, NM 88012 ~ lgtas@zianet.com

Director (2013): Mrs. Jamie Harshfield
 4374 Kiger Street, West Richland, WA 99353~harshfield@verizon.net

Director (2014): Mr. Joe Longo
 8651 Mentor Road, Mentor, OH 44060 ~ longodane@aol.com

Director (2011): Dr. Neil O'Sullivan
 22760 Laredo Trail, Adel, IA 50003~DRNeil@netins.net

Director (2012): Mr. Doug Toomey
 159 Sellars Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 ~ kvathome@hotmail.com

Director (2012): Paul Hardiman
 17990 Pesante Road, Salinas, CA 92907 ~ pjh_chauffeur@yahoo.com

Director (2012): Ms. Jane Treiber
 P.O.Box 15, Curtis, WA 98538-0015 ~ jetreiber@centurytel.net

Director (2014): Dianne Powers
 PO Box 216, West Tisbury, MA 02575~diannepowers@comcast.net

Director (2013): Mrs. Teri Holle
 11704 Breckenridge Road, Enid, OK 73701~theholles@att.net

Director:(2013) Ms. Angela Stillwell
 210 N. Quail Lane, Pine Mountain, GA 31822~awstillwell@att.net



FUTURITY REPORT

Dianne Powers
 PO Box 216
 West Tisbury, MA 02575
 508-693-1402
diannepowers@comcast.net

2012 Nominations as of January 15, 2012

1st Nomination
 108 litters
 2nd Nomination
 217 puppies (111 dog/106 bitch)

Qualifiers for the ProPlan Futurity Alliance Program 25

AWARDS~JANUARY 2012



During the year 2011 a total of 467 Great Danes received titles from the AKC. The break-

	233	Grand
Champion	74	Per-
formance		160
Beginner Novice		20
Graduate Novice		1
Companion Dog		20

Obedience Master 4	1
Obedience Master 5	1
Obedience Trial CH	1
Utility Dog Excellent	1
Utility Dog Excellent 3	1
Utility Dog Excellent 4	1
Rally Novice	43
Rally Advanced	13

Rally Advanced Excellent	4
Rally Advanced 4	1
Rally Excellent	7
Novice Agility	4
Novice Agility Preferred	4
Novice Agility Jumper	4
Novice Agility Jumper Preferred	6
Open Agility	2
Open Agility Preferred	1
Open Agility Jumper	6
Open Agility Jumper Preferred	
2 Excellent Agility Jumper	1
Agility Excellent Preferred	5
Agility Fast Open	3
Agility Fast Open Preferred	5

The final rankings for the Top Ten in Junior Showmanship for 2011 (from www.todaysbestjuniors.com) are as follows:

1. Kylie Soafer	87
2. Morgan Mattioli	65
3. Aaliyah Cyr-McMillon	47
4. Summer Reed	45
5. Avery Hester (tie)	37
R Michal Woodworth	37
7. Taryn Pevy	29
8. Amanda Achiu	26
9. Sophia Rogers	16
10. Olga Maderych (tie)	14
Rachel Marie Fiscus (tie)	14

Congratulations to All !!!!!

The Board of Directors approved the following for membership in January 2012. We welcome them to the GDCA!

Agility Fast Excellent	1
Master Agility Excellent	2
Master Agility CH 2	

Peter Janetatos

21 Grey Fox Landing
Woodstock, CT 06281
860.963.0188

pjanetatos0188@charter.net

Sponsors: Dale Tarbox & Linda Ridder
Interests: Advisory Board, Breeders' Ed, Championship Awards, Futurity, Judges' Ed, Judges' Selection, Standard Committee

Jackie Fulkerson

110 N Lincoln Ave
Rockport, IN 47635
812.686.1424

reodanes@psci.net

Sponsors: Abbie Bower & Charity Fulkerson
Interests: Corporate Sponsorship, Judges' Selection, Rescue

Megan Hundley & Michael Wilcoxen

231 S 17th Street
San Jose, CA 95112
408.529.7108

mehundley@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Denise Williams & Kathryn Netser

Interests: Budget & Finance, Championship Awards, Companion Events, Membership

Vikki Egan

412 Larrie Ellen Way
Brandon, FL 33511
813.367.7418

k9daze@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Valerie Clows & Conni Borwick
Interests: Rescue

Tim Karau

532 Hillcrest Drive
Bradenton, FL 34209
941.750.8551

timkarau@aol.com

Sponsors: Valerie Clows & Conni Borwick

Interests: Rescue

Karin Roseman

124 Deer Valley Lane
Greenville DE 19807
302.651.9413

Karin.roseman@comcast.net

Sponsors: Barbara Waldkirch & Sharon Hladik

Interests: Breeders Education, Newsletter, Membership

Steven & Kimberly Holcombe

13425 SW Cougar Ct.
Beaverton, OR 97008
503.407.5582

steven.holcombe@gmail.com

Sponsors: Karon Hamlin & Denise Williams

Interests: Awards, Championship Awards, Fundraising, Health & Research, Newsletter, Rescue

Greg & Sheila Sammons

1723 NW Pacific Street
Newport, OR 97365
541.961.6270

gregsammons@live.com

Sponsors: Karon Hamlin & Lucinda Harwin

Interests: Budget & Finance, Health & Research

Jason Hoke
1322 E Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703
646.241.5800

jasonhoke@aol.com

Sponsors: Mary Lou Carmody & Cathy Schaefer

Interests: Advisory Board, Awards, Breeders' Education, Budget & Finance, Futurity, Judges' Education, Judges' Selection, Junior Showmanship, Pedigree Bank, Standards Committee, Yearbook

Jennifer Carpenter

5 Joseph Ct
New Egypt, NJ 08533

732.546.6596

delilykennels@gmail.com

Sponsors: Dawn Martin & Debra Oliver

Interests: Awards, Championship Awards, Fundraising, Membership, Standards Committee, Yearbook

Jay Berkowitz

125 Huntcliff Ct
Fayetteville, GA 30214
678.591.4459

jwberkowitz@hotmail.com

Sponsors: David Miller & Willie Crawford

Interests: Health & Research, Standard Committee

OFA Champion of Health

BIS BISS Ch Elan's Command Decision Reimroc ROM HOF A

The OFA Champion of Health program celebrates dogs that have achieved significant accomplishments, whether in the ring, field, performance events, as working dogs, or as producers, AND that have the full complement of breed appropriate health screening.



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

Lynda Moriarty
PO Box 410
Wayne, IL 60184

The following applicants have been approved by the Membership Committee for publication in the GDCA Bulletin. The Membership Chairman must receive comments concerning these ap-

plicants during the forty-five (45) day period following publication.

Any comments received after April 14, 2012 will not be accepted.

Arif Khan
6846 Spring Valley Road
Dallas, TX 75284
No phone

Ay.bk@live.com

Sponsors: Nancy Ridgeway & Sharon Hennessey
Interest: Breeders' Ed, Championship Awards, Futurity, Judges' Selection, Judges Ed, Junior Showmanship

Angie Johnson
1914 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
907.539.1838

browndog@gci.net

Sponsors: Susan Wyne & Nathan Oxner
Interests: Health & Research

Reiner Gerdt & Carolyn Wilson
80 Irish Oaks Lane
Pelzer, SC 29669
864.423.1216

tsf12@aol.com

Sponsors: Jose Ribo & Chris MacMartin
Interests: Awards, Championship Awards, Futurity

Michelle Cacace
30939 Green Branch Street
Menifee, CA 92584
951.743.3807

Michelle.cacace@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Maryann Wilson & Vicki Kimbell
Interests: Fundraising, Budget & Finance, Companion Events

Tony Fair
731 Lexington Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317.951.1422

Tonyjf66@aol.com

Sponsors: Jeff Lawrence & Jane Gray
Interests: Health & Research, Rescue

Polly Hix
731 Lexington Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317.951.1422

Mssgt302@aol.com

Sponsors: Jeff Lawrence & Phil Gray
Interests: Health & Research, Rescue, Championship Awards

Stephanie Tracy
21917 E 850th Ave
Willow Hill, IL 62480
618.592.3500

Skye98_1998@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Laura Fraser & Sandra Suarez
Interests: Newsletter, Rescue

Elise McClintick
150 Black Oak Drive
Asheville NC 28804
828.225.6067

elisemcclintick@charter.net

Sponsors: Adam Protos & Jay Miller
Interests: Companion Events, Historic Committee

Lester & Celeste Lawson
379 County Road 2530
Meridian TX 76665
817.890.7646

lzlservices@sbcglobal.net

Sponsors: Nancy Ridgeway & Steve Arnold
Interests: Rescue & Fundraising

Susan Harriman
43 Chipmunk Lane
Monmouth, ME 04259
207.268.2688

Sioux14@roadrunner.com

Sponsors: Mary Ellen Thomas & Marie Somershoe
Interests: Breeders' Education, Futurity, Judges' Selection & Membership

continued.....

Janet Watson & Auburn Lyons
 3278 State Route 2067
 South Gibson, PA 18842
 570.814.5328
Sebastian_greatdane@yahoo.com
 Sponsors: Mary Ellen Thomas & Marie Somershoe
 Interests: Futurity & Rescue
 Carol Mosher
 5005 US Highway 1
 Mims, FL 32754
 321.269.5099
acmosher@bellsouth.net
 Sponsors: Terry Wagner & Kathie Shea
 Interests: Fundraising, Futurity & Rescue

Edith Lind
 7808 137th Ave SE
 Snohomish, WA 98290
 360.568.8882
danelind@msn.com
 Sponsors: Georgia Hymmen & Sherry Acena
 Interests: Legislation & Rescue

**TREASURERS REPORT
 JEAN HIGHLANDS**

	CASH BALANCE 1/26/2012
ANCHOR BANK CHECKING	\$ 13,782.10
CHASE BANK CHECKING	\$ 10,348.16
CHASE BANK SAVINGS	\$ 2,000.84
PNC BANK CHECKING	\$ 44,325.69
PNC BANK SAVINGS	\$ 58,932.17
TOTAL CASH BALANCE	\$129,388.96
	FISCAL YTD P&L 11/1/11 – 1/26/12
INCOME	\$ 38,146.15
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 19.39
EXPENSE	\$(35,655.03)
NET INCOME	\$ 2,510.51

GDCA BUDGET 2012

INCOME	
FUTURITY	\$ 11,000.00
2011 NATIONAL APPLICATION FEES	\$ 40,000.00
BANKING	\$ 40.00
CT CREDIT CARD FEES	\$ 190.00
DUES	\$ 40,500.00
DUPLICATE PINS	\$ 100.00
DUPLICATE TROPHY	\$ 800.00
EDUCATION – CD	\$ 1,000.00
GDCA PINS	\$ 120.00
INTEREST	\$ 150.00
JUDGES EDUCATION	\$ 400.00
PURINA PARTNERSHIP	\$ 9,000.00
WAYS & MEANS	\$ 15,000.00
YEAR BOOK	\$ 150.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$119,050.00

EXPENSE	
FUTURITY	\$ 10,000.00
2011 NATIONAL ACCOUNTANT	\$ 25,000.00
AFFILIATE CLUB REP	\$ 4,000.00
AKC ANNUAL DUES	\$ 110.00
AKC CONFERENCE	\$ 25.00
AKC PUPPY FLIERS	\$ 500.00
AKC DELEGATE EXPENSE	\$ 200.00
AKC EUKANUBA	\$ 3,000.00
AKC SHOW APPLICATION	\$ 300.00
AWARDS COMMITTEE	\$ 350.00
BANKING	\$ 2,300.00
BOARD MEETINGS	\$ 40.00
BONDING	\$ 3,000.00
BULLETIN	\$ 300.00
CREDIT CARD PROCESSING	\$ 1,000.00
DIVISION INTEREST TRANSFER	\$ 2,000.00
DONATIONS	\$ 125.00
EDUCATION	\$ 23,800.00
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 4,400.00
DUPLICATE TROPHIES	\$ 500.00
GDCA PINS	\$ 800.00
GDCA WEB SITE	\$ 300.00
HEALTH & WELFARE CLINICS	\$ 1,200.00
HEALTH RESEARCH COMMITTEE	\$ 1,500.00
INSURANCE	\$ 100.00
JUDGES EDUCATION	\$ 3,000.00
JUDGES SELECTION COMMITTEE	\$ 2,500.00
LEGAL EXPENSE	\$ 1,300.00
MEET THE BREED	\$ 500.00
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	\$ 1,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$ 100.00
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	\$ 100.00
RESCUE COMMITTEE	\$ 500.00
SECRETARY EXPENSE	\$ 1,000.00
TREASURER EXPENSE	\$ 1,000.00
RESERVE	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$100,950.00

NET INCOME \$18,100.00



THE GREAT DANE CLUB OF AMERICA CHARITABLE TRUST

...supporting Great Dane welfare in **Rescue** efforts, **Educational** programs through Affiliate Clubs, **Medical Research** and **Scholarships** and any initiative that creates a greater awareness of breed specific problems in an effort to improve the life and quality of Great Danes.

You can participate in the welfare of the Breed with a tax deductible donation of any amount as a gift in memory of a loved and lost Great Dane, or a friend; a gift to honor a person or a faithful companion or a monthly pledge.

Letters will be sent to every donor and acknowledgment cards will be mailed to those you honor with your contribution.

Make check payable to: **The Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust** and mail to:
Terry Wagner, Administrator
2281 Alton Road
Deltona, FL 32738

DONATION FORM

Name of donor: _____

Address of donor: _____

Telephone and or e-mail of donor: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Address of recipient: _____

Amount: _____ Monthly Pledge: _____

Trustees: Jane Chopson; Paul Hardiman; Don Carmody; Jay Miller; Linda Ridder; Linda Tonnancour;
Lisa Foltz, Treasurer; Terry Wagner, Administrator

THANK YOU FOR HONORING THE BREED!

Final Breed Standings for 2011 Show Year

For Events Processed from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

Rank	Name	Sex	BOB/BISS Wins	Total Defeated
1	GCH CH Lobato's JitterBug Man	D	82	2,144
2	GCH CH Gemstone's Promise Kept	D	52	1,339
3	GCH CH Rojon's Say Yes	B	33	1,129
4	GCH CH Naples Tlbrk Dana Sanroque Naika Ika Pono	D	37	963
5	GCH CH Hladik's Jump Up And Kiss Me	B	53	923
6	GCH CH Diola's Start Your Engines	D	54	863
7	GCH CH Echolane-Darlin's Beyond A Shadow Of A Doubt	D	49	830
8	GCH CH DRD's The Revelation	D	49	787
9	GCH CH Bayside Just Another Day In Paradise	D	43	670
10	GCH CH Bayside Just A Gentleman	D	24	641
11	GCH CH Gracyn's Valiant Warrior V Lost Creek	D	25	639
12	GCH CH Shoreline-East-West Playit Again Sam	D	25	592
13	GCH CH Lobato's Code Red	D	34	547
14-Tie	GCH CH Don-Lu's Don'T Tell Me No V Concord	B	31	504
14-Tie	GCH CH Crowbay's Wind In The USA	B	41	504
15	GCH CH Double D Daynakin Party Brew	D	13	483
16	GCH CH Valhalla's Ascent At Rochford	B	23	468
17	GCH CH Double D No More Mr Ice Guy	D	39	425
18	GCH CH CBD Danebridge's Bringin' Sexy Back	B	15	403
19	GCH CH Pinnacles Equinox Of Prin-Zel	D	24	400
20	GCH CH De Joie's Tomfoolery V Lost Creek	D	18	393

Reported By: GDCA Top 20 Statistician
 Rita K. Suddarth * 13318 Elk Run Road * Bealeton, VA 22712
 (703) 501-9004 * daneworld94@gmail.com
 For the Great Dane Club of America

Final Group Standings for 2011 Show Year

For Events Processed from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

Rank	Name	Sex	BIS Wins	I	II	III	IV	BOB/BISS Wins	Total Defeated
1	GCH CH Lobato's JitterBug Man	D	7	23	17	10	4	82	15,236
2	GCH CH Naples Tlbrk Dana Sanroque Naika Ika Pono	D	1	6	2	2	5	37	3,739
3	GCH CH Rojon's Say Yes	B	1	2	2	3	3	33	3,525
4	GCH CH Bayside Just A Gentleman	D	0	1	7	5	2	24	3,211
5	GCH CH Diola's Start Your Engines	D	0	4	2	9	9	54	3,089
6	GCH CH DRD's The Revelation	D	0	5	1	5	7	49	2,820
7	GCH CH Valhalla's Ascent At Rochford	B	2	3	3	3	3	23	2,812
8	GCH CH Gemstone's Promise Kept	D	0	1	3	4	1	52	2,720
9	GCH CH Lobato's Code Red	D	0	1	7	7	2	34	2,326
10	GCH CH Shoreline-East-West Playit Again Sam	D	0	2	2	4	2	25	2,305
11	GCH CH Hladik's Jump Up And Kiss Me	B	0	0	2	4	3	53	1,860
12	GCH CH Crowbay's Wind In The USA	B	0	0	2	5	4	41	1,451
13	GCH CH Don-Lu's Don'T Tell Me No V Concord	B	0	3	4	4	1	31	1,433
14	GCH CH Bayside Just Another Day In Paradise	D	0	1	2	1	1	43	1,409
15	GCH CH Echolane-Darlin's Beyond A Shadow Of A Doubt	D	0	1	1	3	1	49	1,334
16	GCH CH Longo Miller N Lore's Diamond Lil	B	0	3	0	6	1	15	1,276
17	GCH CH Gracyn's Valiant Warrior V Lost Creek	D	0	0	1	2	1	25	1,170
18	GCH CH Double D No More Mr Ice Guy	D	0	0	2	1	2	39	1,064
19	GCH CH Ruby's Jewel Of Honesty	D	0	2	1	2	0	20	958
20	GCH CH De Joie's Tomfoolery V Lost Creek	D	0	0	1	1	2	18	921

Reported By: GDCA Top 20 Statistician
 Rita K. Suddarth * 13318 Elk Run Road * Bealeton, VA 22712
 (703) 501-9004 * daneworld94@gmail.com
 For the Great Dane Club of America

HEALTH AND WELFARE

JP Yousha



INTRODUCTION:

This Health & Research (H&R) committee annual (end of year) report update is being emailed to all Board members, as well as the Charitable Trustees, and the H&R committee members are also included. The report is offered in a paragraph format with headings for each separate section for ease of access to particular topics of specific interest to individual board members and/or referral at appropriate portions of specific meetings of the Board for the Charitable Trust (CT) as well as the Board of Directors (BOD) of the GDCA. I hope the format used will be helpful to the Board members in returning to particular areas of interest. If I've inadvertently overlooked anyone in this mailing, I apologize and hope I will be supplied with the missing emails. If there is adequate space in the upcoming Quarterly Bulletin, I'd request this report be published there in its entirety.

GREAT DANE GENOME PROJECT: Dr. Leigh Anne Clark of Clemson University (who discovered both the merle & harl genes) has requested funding to specifically sequence the genome of the Great Dane. Dr. Clark has received support from other parent clubs to sequence specific breeds (namely the Collie and the Irish Setter). Her proposal for the Great Dane would include a genome comparison between Danes with dilated cardiomyopathy and veteran Danes with a recent normal echocardiogram as well as look for markers for congenital megaesophagus and hypertropic osteodystrophy as well. Her estimated time frame is 2 years and cost estimate is under \$50,000. This type of project can both elucidate specific diseases and provide general insight into potential target genes for various other diseases that afflict our breed. It would also help focus the research efforts of others on our breed, as a breed specific sequenced genome potentially provides other researchers with advanced information in their various areas of interest. For these reasons, funding a breed-specific genome project should be a priority for the GDCA. Recent advances in sequencing techniques and increas-

ing interest in the dog as a model organism for research into human disease make this an ideal time to begin such a project. Funding has been approved, but release of funds was still pending at last report.

WOBBLER SYNDROME RESEARCH: Dr. Ronaldo da Costa, Assistant Professor at Ohio State University, has been engaged in research into both the cause and treatment of Wobblers syndrome disease in both the Doberman Pinscher and Great Dane for several years now and has extensive publications to day on the topic. Dr. da Costa traveled to the 2010 National Specialty to meet with board members and give a talk on Wobblers to the general membership. As a result the GDCA-CT is currently sponsoring his research and his most recent report is herein summarized (note he is requesting help in acquiring normal dogs to match his current patient population: *Wobbler Project in Great Danes (December 2011): The project is going extremely well. We have already enrolled 14 dogs (9 with Wobblers and 5 normals) in just 7 months! Results are posted at both OSU & the GDCA website.*) We are having some difficulty in recruiting the ideal population of normal Danes. Ideally I would like to "age and sex" match both populations as much as possible. Right now, 8 out of the 9 affected dogs are males with a mean age of 4.3 years. I would like to have a similar high proportion of males and some "older" dogs to match the affected population. Ideally, I would like to have the next 5 dogs to be studied being all males and preferably around 4-5 years of age. Right now, out of the 5 normal dogs, 3 are males and 2 females.

CONGENITAL (JUVENILE) MEGAESOPHAGUS: Dr Leigh Anne Clark has this past year collected samples from owners/breeders of Great Danes diagnosed with "mega" & to date the data shows a consistent pattern in line with that she found for congenital (juvenile) megaesophagus in the German Shepherd Dog; namely the disorder appears to have a dominant inheritance with incomplete penetrance. This follows long term breeder observation that the prevalence of "mega" is not increased by line-breeding and the commentary it can strike "out of the blue." Dominance with incomplete penetrance means practically only one parent need have the defective gene in question and that parent can appear clinically normal at times or have had a mild case of "mega" that the dog "out grew." Purina Pro Club Newsletter recently interviewed Dr. Clark and a publication on this topic was then published & will be available at the GDCA website in early 2012. ONGOING RESEARCH REQUESTING SAMPLES: Dr. Alison Starr of Clemson University is continuing to accept DNA (blood or buccal swab) samples from any puppies currently suffering from hypertropic osteodystrophy (HOD) as well as any adult Danes that survived HOD. More Danes diagnosed with HOD are needed at this juncture to secure progress in this study. Dr. Anita Oberbauer of UC Davis attempts to identify the gene(s) responsible for Addison's disease in our breed is still hampered by the

lack of enough affected (Addison's) Danes entered into the study. This is partially as some dogs die suddenly (Addisonian crisis) but also as owners are unaware of the research or are not encouraged by the dog's breeder to enter the study. Research into the genetics of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) by Drs. Kathryn Meurs and Mark Oyama is ongoing. In 2011 the focus was on candidate genes: those genes found to be involved in DCM in other breeds/human DCM diseases or otherwise known to be vital to function. So far no candidate gene has matched the sample of Danes diagnosed with DCM. Samples from healthy veterans as well as DCM affected Danes are still being requested. Dr. John Rossmeisl is still seeking samples from Danes with the rare breed disease called orthostatic tremor. Dr. Loechel of VetGen is still in need of samples from Danes with von Willebrand's disease (only 2 affected Danes in 3 years have offered him samples). He would like to have RNA samples from known carriers as well for a new approach to the problem. There are links at the front page of the Health & Welfare section at the GDCA website that provides comprehensive information on all these areas of research.

Beyond the Dane-specific research mentioned above, samples from Great Danes are also requested for multiple breed research in the areas of osteosarcoma (both the Broad Institute & Van Andel Institute), Wobblers (Van Andel Institute), & autoimmune disease (University of Utah). In 2010 Carmen Battaglia requested survey information from any & all owners who have experienced bloat/torsion (GDV) and Great Dane owners were encouraged to participate in this online survey in the hopes the information would suggest a new line of attack to this grave disease. Results of the survey were published in 2011, but did not suggest any new line of research; accumulating data suggests GDV is more an anatomical disease induced by various environmental stressors than a directly heritable problem (i.e. it doesn't appear there will be a "bloat gene"). Currently all potentially productive lines of research into GDV have been exhausted and until there are new avenues suggested, more research dollars committed to this area cannot be recommended, despite the fact this is a significant Dane disease.

REPORT FROM THE 2010 NATIONAL ECHO CLINIC:

The 2011 echo clinic was again administered by Dr. Bill Tyrrell. A total of 87 Danes received echocardiograms with 80 receiving normal reports. However 48 of those "normal" echocardiograms involved "borderline" results that could be interpreted as abnormal and have so in the past. Dr. Tyrrell told me personally that his staff have found some "gray areas" in the interpretation of Danes which have changed how they categorize "borderline" results with more Danes now being given a "normal" rating than in past years. A written report with detailed information on the clinic is pending and will be posted at the website and published in the GDCA Quarterly Bulletin.

REPORT TO GRANT SPONSORS: The following are two final reports on grants partially sponsored by the GDCA in 2011. Both deal with cancers, the first bone cancer (osteosarcoma) and the second lymphoma, two of the three most commonly encountered cancers found in the Great Dane. **00947A: Heritable and Sporadic Genetic Lesions in Canine Osteosarcoma:** In this study we recruited 140 cases of canine osteosarcoma, representing client owned dogs of various breeds. Of these, 123 cases were analyzed using genome-wide 1Mb spacing BAC array comparative genomic hybridization (aCGH) to reveal changes in DNA copy number that were recurrent in canine osteosarcoma. This study represents that largest single cohort of osteosarcoma patients evaluated using aCGH, including human studies. Our data showed that, as with human osteosarcoma, canine osteosarcoma typically presents with chaotic copy number profiles, comprising whole chromosome aneuploidy, single locus copy number aberrations and structural rearrangements. Overall, chromosomal regions were more likely to experience copy number gain than copy number loss; within the sample population seven chromosomes contained regions that experienced greater than 10% copy number loss, while 23 chromosomes experienced regions with a copy number gain frequency greater than 10%. Dog chromosome 23 appeared to be the least aberrant chromosome with little variation between patients. The majority of regions experiencing >10% aberration frequency of copy number change in canine OS were <5Mb in size, while regions with < 5% aberration frequency were generally larger in size.

These findings were published in the Sept 2011 issue of Journal 'Genes, Chromosomes and Cancer'. Subsequent to that component of the study, we analyzed 23 of the canine cases using a CGH platform with considerably higher resolution. This new array comprised 180,000 probes (compared to the 2,100 probes on the earlier version) that provided 76 times the amount of data. Analysis of these 23 canine osteosarcoma cases concluded that a pattern of high genomic instability is maintained when increasing genomic resolution. As expected, the higher resolution analysis, however, identified several micro-regions (<500kb) of copy number changes that were shown to be comparable to what we observed in our parallel study of human osteosarcoma. Comparison of canine and human osteosarcoma aCGH data identified that the most frequent regional copy number gains and losses in our dog and human cases were shared, with remarkably similar frequencies. The incidence of these aberrations in both in human and dog OS suggest that these specific genes may be directly contributing to the cancer phenotype. Nine genes of interest were analyzed for altered expression levels; MYC, MEN1, CDKN2A/B, TERT, PTEN, RHOC, RUNX2, TSC2 and TUSC3. From a comparative perspective these genes have now been implicated to be associated with human osteosarcoma. Functional analysis of these genes identified several cellular pathways deregulated in osteosarcoma. A manuscript reporting the finding of our high resolution, comparative assessment of canine and human osteosarcoma is in the final stages of preparation and is scheduled for submission in early 2012. It is very clear from the data generated in this study that human and dog OS share conserved DNA copy number aberrations. We identified that orthologous regions in humans and canines have similar types (gain and loss) and frequencies of aberrations in osteosarcoma. These data strongly support the conserved nature of osteosarcoma. These data are now being used to advance new areas of research that ultimately we hope will lead to improved therapies for our canine patients, and even our human patients.

00613: *The Prognostic Significance of Chromosome Aneuploidy in Canine Lymphoma:* In the USA it is estimated that over 300,000 dogs each year are diagnosed with lymphoma. Despite improvements in veterinary medicine, the response to treatment for canine lymphoma continues to be highly variable, with no reliable means to predict duration of remission. In human lymphoma the presence of characteristic chromosome aberrations has been shown to have both diagnostic and prognostic significance. With previous funding from the AKC-CHF, the investigators identified a series of recurrent chromosome aberrations in canine lymphoma, some of which also correlate with different sub-types of lymphoma. In particular they identified that specific regions of the canine genome differ in copy number in lymphoma patients compared to healthy individuals. In a healthy individual all genes are present as two copies, while in cancer cells the number may vary from zero copies to numerous copies. The investigators proposed that copy number of select regions of the canine genome might be associated with response to therapy and thus correlate with duration of remission. For this study they used a population of

archival tumor (lymph node) specimens from canine lymphoma patients that had been recruited as part of a clinical trial. The patient samples were of numerous breeds, both genders, from across the USA and had a wide range of ages. At the time of diagnosis, each patient has a lymph node biopsy taken that was fixed in formalin and embedded in paraffin blocks. These formed the archival sample population used for the present study. All patients were subsequently treated for their lymphoma with single agent doxorubicin and were clinically monitored during the course of their treatment and beyond. As part of the clinical follow-up the duration of first remission was noted.

Cells of lymphoma patients were extracted from the FFPE specimens and prepared on glass slides. A series of DNA probes was developed to assess copy number of four select regions of the genome using multicolor fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH). Using this process they determined the mean copy number of each of the four regions in each patient sample. Statistical analysis of the data revealed that the mean copy number of one of the four regions evaluated was significantly correlated with the duration of disease free interval in the study population. This region may thus be considered to have prognostic significance. By combining these data with data from a parallel project (funded by Morris Animal Foundation), they identified two regions of the canine genome that together provided the means to predict duration of first remission of lymphoma patients treated with single agent doxorubicin with 95% confidence. Over the past year, during a no cost extension, they have developed a cytogenetic test that allows for these two regions to be evaluated routinely. The merged data from both projects (CHF-613 and MAFDO5CA019) were used to support a patent application and the resulting test has been licensed to a large biomedical company to bring to market. In addition they have evaluated the efficacy of this test to be able to predict duration of remission in canine lymphoma patients that were subsequently treated with multi-agent (CHOP) chemotherapy. These data are pending but early indications suggest that the region identified as part of CHF-613 is also significant in such cases. In summary the outcome of this project is the development of the first cytogenetic test to predict treatment response in a canine cancer. The test should become widely available to the within the next year and will provide owners and veterinarians a new source of added data as they decide on the most appropriate treatment options for dogs diagnosed with lymphoma. This work will now move forward to investigate the genes within these two regions and determine their possible candidacy for new therapies

DONOR ADVISED FUND & FUNDING RESEARCH: The last given balance in the DAF is \$21,954.54 with no funding obligations currently pending. The Canine Health Foundation routinely sends requests for funding consideration, but no recommendations for specific funding using the DAF is being made at this time. Note the DAF is used to specifically fund CHF grants.

REVIEW OF OTHER UPCOMING RESEARCH OPPOR-

TUNITIES: I have the most recent research brochures listing pending research and requests for funding from both for the Canine Health Foundation as well as the Morris Animal Foundation. There are many intriguing write-ups and certainly a lot of very worthy research generally offered, however given the current economic atmosphere where reduced research dollars are available, I am simply monitoring requests for funding, while seeking specific future opportunities that promise to provide some practical clinical advance for the Great Dane or can expect to provide breed-specific research opportunities (and in particularly those diseases of major concern to Great Dane owners and breeders.

REVIEW OF OTHER COMMITTEE DUTIES: This committee is concerned about the question of the owner/breeder education as to health/welfare issues as well as research opportunities. A lot of valuable information on managing health & breeding concerns, despite being widely available, does not seem to routinely end serving owners/breeders of Great Dane; this is particularly true with those either new to the breed or disconnected from such organizations as the affiliate clubs. This is in part a result of the overwhelming amount of information available in this information age, which adds to the layman's problem of sorting out the "sheep from the goats" when trying to discern which source (which website) has reliable information. But reviewing what is available through the GDCA and its organs (e.g. affiliates, website) is germane and an emphasis on fanciers of the breed learning breed-relevant information specifically from official websites such as the Canine Health Foundation, the Orthopedic Foundation of America, the Great Dane Club of America & America Kennel Club websites is vital to good information getting into the right hands.

Respectfully submitted,

JP YOUSHA, CHMN, H&R COMMITTEE,
GDCA

Charitable Trust Social Event in Florida!

And A Good Time was had by ALL...

On the evening on January 14, 2012 during the Florida Circuit the South East Division of the Great Dane Club of America held a informal dinner party to benefit the GDCA Charitable Trust and welcome our Dane friends from all around the country. The event was hosted and underwritten by Steve and Jody Hill along with Dave and Jay Miller at the charming home of the Hills in Brooksville, Fl.

In addition to good food, fellowship, drinks and lots of laughter the evening featured an auction and raffle to raise money for the GDCA CT attended by over 150 guests. We even had a licensed professional auctioneer that donated his services. He just happens to be a neighbor of Jody and Steve. We are very proud to present the Trust with \$7000.00+ and still the contributions continue to arrive. This would not be possible without the overwhelming generosity of our Dane friends who sent donations. We were honored to also have in attendance people from other breeds that wanted to come and support the work of the Charitable Trust. The professional handlers were out in force to offer their help and donate their services! Jeff Lawrence even spent his evening selling the raffle tickets. Who can say no to Jeff ?

Breeders, exhibitors, vendors all pitched in to make this evening nothing short of a magical outpouring of love for our breed. We will never be able to express our appreciation to all of you enough! However, every single time we look into the eyes of our own Danes they say thank you to all of us who share their lives. Many times I have heard Joe and Tootie say that back in the day "we were all fierce competitors in the ring and all out together at night as great friends." This night in 2012 felt that way too!

We must tell you that without the skill and direction in the kitchen of the ever wonderful Lynette Pizzino, Jody and I might never have gotten dinner on the table. This lady knows how to give a party! We must also say a special thank you to Jerry Amato and Dan Galligan who worked with us all afternoon to make this fundraiser happen. And then there is the always efficient Kathleen Fennell without whom we would have been lost.

To everyone who attended and sent donations, you are awesome! It is only because of this fancy and their unyielding dedication to our Great Danes that we are able to continue to do great things to improve the quality of life for so many Danes.... who in turn enrich all of our days!

Please come back next year!

Jay Miller



Since the Ballots for Nomination of Judges must be presented to the Membership by mail, the Ballots will be sent to you soon. Please watch for them in your snail mail

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 Mrs. Joan M. Zielinski
 Mr. Stan A. Zielinski
 Mrs. Ruth H. Zimmerman

Mr. Jason A. Zurflied
 Mrs. Jeanne D. Zuver
 Mr. William deVilleneuve

As the AKC no longer provides a list of judges from other countries approved to Judge in the USA, the GDCA Board of Directors has provided a list of known Judges of other countries who are also members of the GDCA.

If you would like to be included in this list, please contact Mary Ellen Thomas.

Chaseme1092@cs.com

Mary Nolan, Ireland

Margaret O'Sullivan, Ireland

Monica Stavenforn, Sweden

Judith Thurlby, England

Linda Van Der Vijver, The Netherlands

John Walsh, Ireland

Raymond Goldstone, Canada

Great Dane Drill Team, Los Gatos, CA!

