

2013 Great Dane Club Of America National Specialty Judge Comments



Linda Tonnancour **Best of Breed**

First and foremost, I wish to thank the membership of the Great Dane Club of America for their vote of confidence allowing me to judge Intersex at the National Specialty. This is an honor that I will cherish forever.

It was a wonderful experience to get up close and personal with so many wonderful and beautiful Great Danes.

The depth of quality in the entry of 155 was outstanding. Narrowing the numbers to arrive at the final 19 placements plus Best of Winners was heart wrenchingly difficult. I could have easily kept many more than 19! I was impressed with the job our breeders have done in maintaining dark eyes, correct head planes and level top lines. It is thrilling to see such quality in our breed.

My Best of Breed winner never let down. Her showmanship and the silhouette she presents distinguishes her as an outstanding representative of Great Danes in general. The Best of Opposite sex dog exhibited true masculine qualities with depth of brisket, good bone and excellent substance. The Select Dog is a promising young dog who presents great stature and will undoubtedly have a successful show future. The Select Bitch has good breed type with correct eye and a soft expression.

I was disheartened to see the number of dogs presented with plaque and tartar. No, I am not a “tooth fairy” but I do believe we have a responsibility to take proper care of our dogs. Too often we discount the impact that dental disease has on the quality of life of our pets. A show dog, and especially one exhibited in the specials ring, should always be in top condition including clean teeth.

In discussions with individuals who have judged Great Dane Top Twenty as well as Top Twenty competitions in other breeds, I found it interesting that several of these Judges penalize dogs on the score sheet if a dog has dirty teeth. As an example the Great Dane score sheet allows up to 4 points for teeth. If the teeth are dirty they may only award a 1 or a 2. Why would you not present your Top Twenty contender in the very best condition, including clean teeth, in order to get every possible point? This should also hold true for the Breed ring.

Thank you again to all who made this honor possible; thank you to the Northeast Division for the hospitality they provided; and thank you to the exhibitors and observers who also helped to make this a most memorable experience. It was great to see so many good friends and acquaintances.



Norvel Benoit **Dogs**

Great Dane Club of America’s National Shows have always been special to attend but this year’s was extra special for me since I was afforded the opportunity to be the Judge of Dogs. After the show many spectators commented on how much I appeared to be enjoying my assignment and I did enjoy every minute of actually placing my hands on so many diverse dogs from across the country. I wish every Great Dane lover could have this experience: to see and feel how many variations can occur (within one breed) while still being very near to correct when compared by touch/sight to the written Breed Standard for Great Danes.

The Puppy Dogs I had the honor to examine were all quality specimens and I look forward to seeing these little ones grow up to reach their full potential. Many of the adults had some out-standing physical attributes and I would expect many will earn their Championships if they pursue dog showing until enough judges give them the nod. I realize some owners bring their dogs to be show-cased only at a National, with no desire to become champions, so I commend those owners/exhibitors too on their well-conditioned and seemingly happy dogs.

My judging assignment did not officially end until after Best of Breed judging, since I also judged Stud Dog class, and regret I was

not able to visit with old and/or make new friends. But that is my only regret because everything else about judging the National was absolutely amazing!



Gina Jaeblo

Bitches

This was a tremendous honor for me. DeJaVu...judging again in Lancaster. Even down to the same competent ring steward. All of them made my ring run so smoothly. So many of the bitches excited me. As a whole, a most impressive group. At the end, I could have taken home any one of the several I pulled for winners, and that is saying alot.

The puppies; who had such good bone & substance for their young age, the show presence of an adorable expressive blue puppy, the flowing balanced total package and soundness of WB(harle) and RWB (fawn) both with extreme reach and drive, so difficult to find nowadays. How great that RWB got the major for the first year; something too long in coming. Each large class winner should get a point !

Thank you all for showing to me and thanks to Rita Suddarth & the division for its hospitality, and Barb/Brian Wartluft for catering to my every 'whim'.



Linda Cain

Futurity Dogs

Hello Great Dane Lovers,

I'd like to begin this critique on the 2013 Futurity by thanking all of you who put your trust in my knowledge of Great Danes. It was a wonderful experience I will never forget. This was one of the largest Futurities in our history (331). With this large entry, I soon realized that there would be many great dogs and not nearly enough ribbons to go around. Thanks to all the breeders and exhibitors for being so diligent in your breeding practices that allowed such beautiful Danes to be present.

At the Welcome Party, Lorraine and I talked with Diane right before the draw of Futurity classes. Diane asked us if we had a preference as to which sex we wanted to judge, Lorraine really wanted to judge girls, as she loves the baby girls, and I just wanted to get started so my nerves would calm down, so with the luck of the flipped coin, I was able to pull the first selection from the hat and drew dogs so I could get the party started.

I hadn't really begun to sweat until the Saturday before Nationals on the long drive to Lancaster. I talked to myself all day long, about all kind of things, such as, will I select the right dogs, what if I forget a dog for exam, what if I point 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th and it's really just the first cut for Division A....So I started off doing that right off the bat...After that, with the error out of the way, my nerves calmed down and I had to laughed at myself. I had already goofed up so, the pressure was off and I could judge dogs. And so the party began.

I had a beautiful class of 3-5 month old puppy boys. This is one of my favorite age groups as they have huge feet, long legs they are trying to navigate and all they want to do is wiggle and kiss....it was very hard to not just sit on the floor and love on them all. I think that Lorraine will agree with me on that.

The 3-5 class winners consisted of three fawns and one harle. First place was awarded to a fawn puppy that was exceptionally well trained and in great condition. He was a beautifully moving, short-backed pup with dark, dark eyes, beautiful head, substantial bone and tight correct feet, neither toeing in or out. All of these dogs selected had beautiful qualities and I could have taken many of them home with me, given the chance.

The 5-7 month class was a huge class with 4 divisions. My winner for this class was a gorgeous harlequin who was very striking, beautiful headed dog with a long arched neck and very nice angulation with a beautiful topline. The breed type in this group was excellent as well. I didn't have enough ribbons to go around for this beautiful class.

The 7-9 month class went to a handsome mantle dog who was as beautiful moving as standing. He had beautiful structure and substance with lovely head and neck flowing into a beautiful topline. He was presented beautifully. All the dogs in the class were beautiful examples of our beloved breed.

The 9-12 month class was a very hard class to judge for me, however one dog stood out a head above the rest. The young harlequin I chose was a beautiful, tall, square puppy with a beautiful topline and nice angles. His movement was equally as nice. He had beautiful expression with an exceptional head that flowed into a beautiful long neck. The second place puppy (fawn) in this class was also exceptional and it was very hard to choose. The harle puppy in third place was beautiful with nice substance. Selected for 4th place was a beautiful brindle boy with very nice bone and breed type.

An excellent blue puppy won the 12-15 class. I couldn't keep my eyes off this puppy. Nice head with beautiful expression, square, short-backed dog with beautiful movement that was in excellent condition and handled beautifully. His movement was exceptional. The brindle dog that went second in this class was as gorgeous. A tall, beautiful bodied dog that was expertly handled. My third place selection was a golden fawn boy who had handsome expression and was a great moving dog. A gorgeous tall mantle dog was selected for fourth place in this class. He was as breath-taking as the others selected. Tall, beautiful bodied dog with a great topline and beautifully arched neck.

A giant fawn caught my eye in the 15-18 month class. This dog had bone and size with a beautiful head that went into a beautifully arched neck. His angles were beautiful. He truly had breed type and bone to share.

My Final placements

Best Puppy Dog – It was my pleasure in presenting Best Puppy Dog to the lovely harlequin dog from the 9-12 Puppy Dog class (JPL's The Velvet Dog). He was, as I said above, beautiful, square and moved with great ease. He was easy on the eyes and his eyes looked into my soul.

Reserve Puppy Dog – Reserve went to a gorgeous young baby puppy from the 3-5 class (Journey's Commissioner) who was gorgeous standing AND moving. He worked extremely well with his handler and loved to show.

Best Junior Dog – The beautiful blue boy (Ch. Enzo's Derek Zoolander Blue Steele Reymd) caught my eye from the 12-15 class won Best Junior Dog. He demanded your attention. He was beautifully built with exceptional movement and he knew it. His showiness was apparent to all who watched him. He was in great show condition and beautifully presented.

Reserve Junior Dog – The big handsome brindle boy (Rojon's Cast Fate to the Wind) also from the 12-15 class was selected Reserve Junior Dog. He had beautiful breed type and lovely size.

During the final Futurity judging, I had the pleasure to judge two gorgeous Danes. Lorraine had selected an exceptional mantle girl as her Best Junior (Chroma Saravilla Here for the Party), to move onto the final competition. In the end, my Best In Futurity selection was the 9-12 Harlequin dog (JPL's The Velvet Dog) .

As breeders, we need to concentrate on a few things,

- Our dogs need better fronts. Many dogs have a short upper arm.
- Toplines need work,
- Many males are longer bodied than desired
- There were many with tail carriage higher than desired.

Thanks again to the breeders and exhibitors for allowing me to judge the "Babies". I had a GREAT time.



Lorraine Matherly Futurity Bitches

It was an honor and extreme pleasure to judge at the 2013 National Futurity. The 3-5 puppies were adorable and my class winner had the cutest expression!

My 5-7 puppy class winner kissed me when I moved to examine her shoulder. I paused to look into her eyes and was met by another cute (and mischievous) expression! There were so many adorable puppies that I had to keep reminding myself that I was judging conformation, not cuteness!!! She was very smooth and moved as a unit with a clean, hard body and was ultimately my Reserve

Puppy Bitch.

My 7-9 month class gave me a little trouble. A beautiful fawn girl and an equally beautiful harlequin girl. What to do? I moved them and the fawn slightly edged out the harlequin in movement.

My 9-12 class winner had size, substance, a lovely head and great side gait. A breeder's choice. Ultimately, she was my Best Puppy Bitch.

My 12-15 month class winner was a beautiful mantle bitch. It was a pleasure to watch her move in perfect sync with her handler. Lovely headed, beautiful in outline. She ended up as my Best Junior Puppy Bitch. In 12-15 puppy bitches, there was one bitch that knocked my socks off standing. She was very naughty and that was so frustrating for me. I could not reward that behavior. The lad that showed her received some expert help that evening and I was so happy to see her showing well in the regular classes.

My 15-18 month class winner was a fawn bitch with a gorgeous head and smooth through the shoulders. She was my Reserve Junior Bitch.

For Best Junior, Linda had chosen a fabulous blue male. He had bone, substance, a lovely head and exuded masculinity. Kudos to the breeder. To choose between such a handsome male and the feminine and beautiful mantle was one of the hardest choices to be made. It came down to minutiae. Ultimately, the mantle bitch won out.

Overall, I had a blast! Puppy heaven!!! Thank you so much for the opportunity!

RESULTS

For class by class results visit www.greatdanereview.com

BEST OF BREED GCH RAIN TREE ERINWOOD DIXIE FOR HEAVENS SAKE

BEST PUPPY VALBYDANE DAYNAKIN MY DESIGN FOREVER

BOW ROJAN'S CAST FATE TO THE WIND

BOS GCH MAITAU N COSMIC BETTER BY DESIGN,CGC

SD GCH GRACYN LOST CREEK THE DESCENDANT OF ELAN

SB JANZAK'S SHE'S GOT THE LOOK V RAU

AWARD OF MERIT

GCH HARLEY D HARDTS FLASHBACK

GCH MICHAELDANE JB MEGA BUCKS

GCH DRD'S THE REVELATION

GCH TREUE'S BAND OF ANGELS

GCH ALPINE'S BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

GCH LOBATO'S CODE RED

GCH NAPLES TLBRK DANA SANROQUE CAUSE AND EFFECT

GCH HLADIK'S JUMP UP AND KISS ME

GCH CHALLENGER'S SAMURAI V LAMAR

GCH WINDYCITY-ORION'S GUITAR HERO

CH ENZO'S DEREK ZOOLANDER BLUE STEEL REMYD

GCH HARLEY D HARDTS FLASHBACK

CH HYLANDANE AUTUMN IN THE ADIRONDACKS

GCH LOBATO'S CAUGHT RED HANDED

GCH ROSENDANE'S SO THIS IS HEAVEN @ SPOT-ON

GCH FIRESIDE TALLBROOK JEZEBEL

GCH GHDD SEAMUS LORD OF THE DANCE

WINNERS DOG-ROJONS CAST FATE TO THE WIND

RESERVE WINNERS DOG- TWINOAKS CRIMSON TIDE AT KIBRI

WINNERS BITCH- FOURDS JASMINE IN MY MIND V BLACKOAK

RESERVE WINNERS BITCH- MOREDANES Y GENTLEMAN PREFER

BLONDES

BEST PUPPY IN FUTURITY JPL'S THE VELVET DOG

BEST JUNIOR IN FUTURITY CHROMA SARAVILLA HERE FOR THE PARTY

BEST IN FUTURITY JPL'S THE VELVET DOG

BEST PUPPY BITCH HI CLASS DIOLAS PLATINUM INVESTMENT

BEST PUPPY DOG JPLS THE VELVET DOG

RESERVE PUPPY DOG JOURNEYS THE COMMISSIONER

BEST JUNIOR DOG CH ENZOS DEREK ZOOLANDER BLUE STEELE REMYD

RESERVE JUNIOR DOG ROJONS CAST FATE TO THE WIND

RESERVE PUPPY BITCH BAYSIDE HILLSIDES CLASSY CHASSIS

BEST JUNIOR BITCH CHROMA SARAVILLA HERE FOR THE PARTY

RESERVE JUNIOR BITCH VON CHARMS PRINCESS OF ARAGORN