



An Interview with Norman G. Vadenais

Primrose Great Danes

Interview by Tami Bradford

How did you choose your kennel Name?

My kennel name, Primrose, was named after the section of the town I lived in.

Who were your mentors?

My mentors are from two different aspects of the dog show world. From the breeding side of showing dogs, Pat Ciampa of Maitau Great Danes was the biggest influence on my breeding program. Her knowledge and guidance helped to shape my own program. Watching others like Dale Tarbox and the success she has had also helped me move forward in the right direction. From the showing side of dogs, there were many influences along the way. Starting out in the Northeast, I had the pleasure to learn watching many longtime handlers like Terry Silver, Judy Harrington, Joel Rosenblatt, and Ed Lyons. I also got plenty of guidance from a gentleman named Al Kirby. The handlers helped me by example, and quite often took the time to tell me why they beat me. Although that may not sound very inspiring, it lit a fire under me to try harder the next time out. And Mr. Kirby was responsible for polishing my craft. He was a good friend and supporter of me. Although he was always busy with his own dogs, he would often take the time to come and watch me in the ring.



CH Maitaus Material Girl ROM

What was the name of your 1st Champion?

My first Champion was also my foundation bitch, CH Maitaus Material Girl ROM. The first Champion that I bred was BISS CH Primrose Chase the Clouds HOF.



BISS CH Primrose Chase the Clouds HOF

Were there any particular dogs that you admired, or thought represented what you wanted to breed or own?

Although I never had the pleasure of breeding to any of them, I always admired the look of the Rojon breeding.

What do you think we need to improve on in our breed?

In my opinion we need to improve on the health aspect of our breed. With all the knowledge and testing that we do on our dogs now compared to 20 yrs ago our dogs don't seem to have the longevity that we have had in the past. There seems to be many more serious health problems out there with no solution to fix them in sight.

What do you consider your greatest success to date? Your greatest challenge?

I feel my greatest success to date has been being a small time breeder and owner handler from Rhode Island that can take my dogs out and compete with some of the best breeders and handlers in the country.



Ch Paquestone Quick Pick V Primrose--RWB & Best Puppy 2001 National



Primrose Chase the Clouds--Best in Futurity

I have bred a two time Top 20 contender, a Futurity winner, bred and shown 2 National Specialty Reserve Winners Bitch, and owned and shown Best Puppy at a National Specialty. My greatest challenge is to keep producing quality dogs to be able to compete with the best of the best.

What advice would you give to someone just starting in Danes?

My advice to someone just starting out would be to watch and learn. Take the time to ask questions and don't be discouraged if you don't have instant success. I showed my own dogs for two years before I put my first point on a dog.

Have you seen a trend (good or bad) in the Dane ring?

A trend that I have seen in the Dane ring is that there are more and more generic "type" dogs in the show ring. More and more dogs lack the breed type which the Great Dane standard calls for.

We would like to thank Norman for taking the time to answer our questions.



Ch Somerwyns Primrose Attraction--pictured at 6 months