

Meet.....

*Owner Handler
Kathleen Fennel
Fendane Great Danes*



1) How did you get started?

I had 2 Champion Danes that I had purchased and both were finished by professional handlers. When I bred my first litter, I had decided when the puppies were wee wee little in the whelping box, that whatever pup I kept, I was going to show myself~

2) What has been your most valuable lesson?

My most valuable lesson as an owner handler was that I learned not to measure my success in the ring on whether or not we won or lost. Instead, I measured my success on how well I presented my Dane, and on how well she showed for me. It became sort of a performance.... like a choreographed routine.... I also knew that every win we accomplished as an Owner Handler was mine... I knew I won because a judge liked my dog... not because of who was handling it. Believe me, I have and still use handlers, but in regard to owner handling, the wins are so much sweeter when you know that you did it yourself!!!

3) What tip could you pass on to others starting out wanting to owner handle?

There are so many! Only picking one is hard... but I would say that the one single most important thing that I found most valuable was staying and watching all of Breed and watching Groups. Seeing the professional handlers who are clearly at the top of their game with not only winning consistently in the breed ring, but to see them presenting their dogs in the group rings, was an education that you just can not get in handling classes.... There is a reason they are professional handlers... they are masters at what they do!