



## Spotlight on a Participant

**Kristen Kenney, Minneapolis, MN**

**“Ramone” Rainmasters Rocket to Russia RN CDX  
“Bogart” Raudanes Key Largo RA CD**

### Getting Started in Danes

#### How did you get involved with danes?

The same story as everyone else, I always wanted one and when I had the resources to get one, I did.

#### How long ago did you get started with Danes?

Bogart came home seven years ago.

#### When you started, what events were you involved with?

#### How did those events change over time?

I competed in conformation, obedience, Rally and weight pull to start. My focus is now mostly on obedience both reinforcing the open exercises and teaching the utility exercises to Ramone. We work a lot together and he enjoys the time with me. When time allows, I would really like to get him back into weight pull.

#### Was it a natural transition to Dog sports/What started you with dog sports?

I started obedience classes with Bogart because I knew he would soon weigh more than me and that I needed to be in control of him before that happened. Through the connections made in class with other students and teachers, we were encouraged to compete in the Novice obedience class. I've never looked back and never regretted getting involved in canine performance events.



### Performance Events

#### What would you say it is, in your opinion that makes obedience such a great activity for dogs and their owners?

Asking your dog to work is such a good way to build a solid relationship with him. It also makes for a happier animal since he has a job.



**When you watch someone performing with their dog and you see the teamwork and partnership, it can be quite intimidating to think about getting started and achieving those levels of partnership and success....what would you say to someone sitting ringside at the Great Dane Nationals who has never competed with their dane and who has just watched the High In Trial team run?**

Find an obedience school near you. Go talk to the students and instructors, even watch a class or two to see if the school is a good fit. Many of the

places that you take your conformation classes at offer obedience ask and register.

## **Training**

**How would you recommend that folks get started in obedience class? What skills—if any—should they have prior to joining a class?**

All you need is an open, positive attitude and time each day to reinforce what you have learned in class.

**Most folks do some training at home. Purchasing all the equipment can be quite costly. What is your list of equipment that you would recommend for folks training in obedience who want to train at home? Where would you recommend that folks purchase equipment?**



To start in obedience, all you need is a leash and collar. Jumps, dumbbells and articles are not added until you have completed your first obedience title.

**Over the years, what has changed about your approach to obedience?**

Competing

**What do you think makes a successful performance competitor in performance events?**

Ringside support is always a good thing. A calm positive attitude is good for your dog.

**What are some of your favorite obedience achievements?**

Showing Bogart for the first time, earning first place in Novice A, with a 195 still is one of my favorite memories with him.



**How do you condition your dogs for competitions?**

Train at least every other day, if not daily.

**Future**

**What does your future look like? Any plans that you can share with us?**

UD UD UD!!! Maybe if I say it three times, Ramone will qualify three times when he's ready to show.

**What events do you hope to compete at in the future?**

I want to get back in to weight pull but also keep going in obedience.

