



**JUDGING
THE GREAT DANE CLUB OF
Des MOINES, IA SPECIALTY
9/7/12
Lourdes Carvajal**

My first reaction when I get invited to judge my beloved Breed is one of flattery and great joy to be able to give to Danes and owners my opinion about the Breed that I have dedicated my life to. That said, my appreciation to the Des Moines Club for inviting me to judge specifically on a Specialty that was dedicated in memory of my good friend Don Carmody.

I will look at Great Danes in the ring always hoping for the most perfect balance available at that particular show. I do not base my final choices on parts. My idea is a good and solid profile, a lovely head with perfect parallel planes and definite chiseling and a Dane that can show good movement intensifying on the coming and going. All that inclusive speaks to me about the true type of our Breed.

Well, I found it all at the Des Moines Specialty.

The dog entry was rather small, but WD was a lovely 9 month old puppy with outstanding size, great balance of angles, solid top line, square and extremely clean movement. My RWD was equally very nice and my final decision was based on that word that I will keep repeating: balance

The bitch entry was large, only 3 bitches short of a 5 point major, and they were greatly represented. That was a very well considered decision as many wonderful options were available. I pointed at a beautiful bitch to her championship of great substance, beautiful head, good top line and also excelled in movement. Again, a perfect balance. RWB, from the open fawn class, was a tough decision as she could have been equally deserving of the points. The rest of the winners' circle was for the most part of immense quality.

The worthiness of the totality of the BOB entry, which was enormous, was a sheer joy to judge. Of absolute excellence to the level of the Standard. Judging good specimens of our Gentle Giants is always what one hopes for. BOB was a black dog, all male with elegance and of such presence that you could not take your eyes away from him. BOS went to a harlequin bitch of extreme type; BOW to the WD and my Select for Grand Championship points went to a fawn young dog and a brindle bitch that could also as well have been considered for BOB. ¿Decisions? Always based on the balance of all parts.

A couple of hours after judging, the Des Moines Club invited their judges to a great dinner at a very special steak house. It was a most engaging weekend with great Great

Danes, exhibitors and club members.

**WD SAULS IN YOUR HONOR
RWD NORTHWIND ROCK YOU LIKE A HURRICANE**

**WB GRACYN TURBO'S WILD AT HEART V LOST CREEK
RWB JUBELLIES CONCRETE ANGEL V FLIGHTY**

**BOB CH TREUE'S BAND OF ANGELS
BOS CH TAUSON KOENIGIN AMELIA FROM AUBURN
SD CH GRACYN N LOST CREEKS STEALING HEARTS
SB ALPINE'S HEAVEN SENT**
