

*Meet.....*

*Owner Handler*

*Naida Parker*

*Cranmoor Great Danes*

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### **1) How did you get started?**

Al Kirby told me if I didn't take "Becky" Cranmoor Beck 'N Call v Chanel out in conformation he would take her away from me. Since I absolutely loved and respected that man so much, I started showing Becky - to get the ring training done.

When he thought she was experienced enough, he had me hire Judy Harrington as her Handler. That was back in the mid '90's. I did put a major reserve on her under Burton Yamada at a Springfield show.

### **2) What has been your most valuable lesson?**

As a matter of fact, I learned a very valuable lesson this past weekend. Always check to make sure who you have entered before you drive 2 hours to a show. On Saturday, I thought I had the two brindles - Brie and Baxter. When I got there I learned I had Witchie entered on Saturday and Brie on Sunday. Had a conversation with MJ Cohen about that mistake. He laughingly told me he had made that mistake once himself. He assured me I would not make the mistake again. I agree with him. It has taught me to double check my entries and assume nothing.

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

They need to be patient. And they need to get under a good trainer. The sport of purebred dogs is about the only venue where a novice, inexperienced handler can go into an event and hope to compete against professionals who are making their living showing dogs. Amateur handlers are at a definite disadvantage and have to work hard at learning the techniques of properly presenting their dogs. It can be disappointing and frustrating: but if they hang in there, they can win. My "Tip" would be to learn to identify your dog's strong points - and weak points, and learn how to present them to their best advantage.