

Meet . . .

Owner Handler

Fay Holbay

- 1) **Number of years showing dogs.** 19 years.
- 2) **Your kennel name & how you got it.** No kennel name.
- 3) **Where you live.** Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
- 4) **Where do you travel to show?** As far as it takes!
- 5) **How many shows do you attend in a year?** As many as I can! The last couple years have been rough as we just finished building a new home.
- 6) **Have you ever hired and/or used professional handlers and for what purpose?** No, but that's not to say that I wouldn't.
- 7) **What made you decide to owner-handle your Great Danes?** I love the breed and just enjoy the training and ring time spent with them.
- 8) **What are the greatest advantages of owner-handling your dogs?** You know the dog inside and out, and the dog knows you inside and out as well!
- 9) **What are the biggest challenges of owner-handling your dogs?** Traveling by myself, not being able to double handle, and not knowing the judges as well as the pros.
- 10) **What do owner-handlers need to consider if they want to be competitive in the ring?** Learn, watch, learn more...and keep learning!!
- 11) **Do you feel your dog has ever been over-looked in the ring by the judge because you are an owner-handler and if yes please describe.** Yes, but of course, we can choose who we show to!
- 12) **Do you feel there is any stigma against owner-handlers in Great Danes and if yes please explain.** No. I think the majority of judges desire the ability of finding the best dog in the ring.
- 13) **What tips would you give a new owner-handler to help them step up their game?** Watch and learn, and be choosy whom you take advice from.
- 14) **What is the most valuable advice you ever received about handling your own dogs from a professional handler?** I have to say that Jeff and Patrice Lawrence have gone above and beyond the call of duty for me! They are super folks who adore the Danes and never get tired of my endless questions. Can't say there was one piece of advice more valuable than others, and there has been so much given over the years.
- 15) **What is the most helpful technique you ever learned just by watching professional handlers?** Slowing down...staying calm.
- 16) **What are some common mistakes you see owner-handlers committing in the ring?** Getting the nerves rattled!



- 17) **What have been some of your show ring successes as an owner-handler?** Brian Witmier allowed me to share my life with Brandy, my fawn girl aka CH. Brinlanns Sweet Addiction. She was a joy to show and never needed me....she could show herself. She finished from the Puppy classes with three majors, all owner-handled. I have an 11 year old mantle girl, Julie aka JPL's Emerald Jewel, who needed one more major to finish when she had to have an emergency spay. Also have some whippets which have finished and have been a fun journey.
- 18) **What are some of the most rewarding things about owner-handling for you?** Just spending life with Great Danes. It doesn't get any better!
- 19) **Most professional handlers began as owner-handlers. What keeps you from taking that same route?**
Hmmm good question. I'm not sure I have an answer.
- 20) **Who is your favorite judge and why?** Love all who have put me up!
- 21) **Bonus Question! (Please answer!) If the mockumentary movie "Best in Show" made a sequel with you as one of the characters, what famous actor/actress would play YOU?**
Sorry, I did not care for this movie. I just thought it made the dog show world look awful.