

Meet . . .

Owner-Handler

Jackie (Lipton) van Delft

Pine Ridge Danes

1) Number of years showing dogs. I did agility for 5 years with my one Golden Retriever, and 2 years in Conformation with my Dane.

2) Your kennel name & how you got it. Pine Ridge Danes. I got 'Pine' because my Golden's breeder, who has always been a huge help to me, has her kennel name Evergreen. And 'Ridge' is because I live on West Ridge.

3) Where you live. Broadview Heights, Ohio.

4) Where do you travel to show?

Depends on my work schedule, I will try to stay within 2 hour drives, If I'm off on the weekend we will go 5-6 hour drives depending on the show.

5) How many shows do you attend in a year? I try to show one to two times a month.

6) Have you ever hired and/or used professional handlers and for what purpose? I have. I tried it at a couple shows just to see how my Dane, Luke, would react. But being the competitive person, I want to be out there too!

7) What made you decide to owner-handle your Great Danes? I rode horses for about 18 years. After too tragic a loss of my horse I decided to pursue my other life-long dream of having Great Danes. I'm a competitive person and for me, handling my own dogs is the fun and whole purpose of showing.

8) What are the greatest advantages of owner-handling your dogs? I know my dogs and their good points and faults best. I can bring the best out of my dogs with the special bond I make with them.

9) What are the biggest challenges of owner-handling your dogs? I know my dog too well...ha ha ha! Sometimes my boy likes to mess with me and play the foot game and I swear he does it just because he knows how to push my buttons.

10) What do owner-handlers need to consider if they want to be competitive in the ring? Dog shows can be fun and you can meet some great people. But you have to be thick-skinned too. There are some people who will make comments to you and try to bring you down. Just brush it off and keep going. I look at it as jealousy. Obviously this person feels I'm good enough competition to want to bring me down. Why else would they be wasting their breath, right?

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. I'm sure he has. I'll admit I'm one of the newer people in the rings and I feel like I just need to keep



getting myself in the ring to get noticed. Make the judges also see that I'm a serious competitor here. And my boy is maturing very slowly and I think he just needs some time. But when he is mature I want him to know what to do to show himself off so I keep taking him in.

12) Do you feel there is any stigma against owner-handlers in Great Danes and if yes please explain. I'm sure you will come across some stigma no matter what. I personally have not though.

13) What tips would you give a new owner-handler to help them step up their game? Have fun. And practice; even if it is just for 10-15 minutes. I don't drill my dogs into stacking but we will go outside to play and I most likely will have them stack at least three times while we're out. I try to make this fun for the dog too. Always connecting it with play and reward.

14) What is the most valuable advice you ever received about handling your own dogs from a professional handler? Don't wear swishy pants and boots!

15) What is the most helpful technique you ever learned just by watching professional handlers? I like to watch when the professionals are stacking and how they do it. I like to watch how much they are watching the judge.

16) What are some common mistakes you see owner-handlers committing in the ring? I think with the newer owner-handler, listening to the wrong group of people. Just go out and do it and have a good time. Find a good mentor to help guide you.

17) What have been some of your show ring successes as an owner-handler? So far I've just won a couple of my classes and two Reserve Winners Dog. But like I said before, I'm still learning and my dog is still maturing. I love going to shows and the smallest accomplishment is a big one for me. I had a hard loss with my horse, but my Dane has really helped fill a big hole in my heart and I just enjoy doing stuff with him.

18) What are some of the most rewarding things about owner-handling for you? The bond I have with my dogs. Makes it more meaningful and special.

19) Most professional handlers began as owner-handlers. What keeps you from taking that same route? I don't have enough experience. If someone asked if I would show their dog I'd be honored they would find me worthy.

20) Who is your favorite judge and why? Eva Berg. She was just so nice.

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? Scarlett Johansson because I think she is beautiful and I would love to look like her!