

Meet . . .

Owner Handler

**Jacqueline Lawrence**

Shady Creek Danes

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- 1) **Number of years showing dogs.** Roughly 20 years.
- 2) **Your kennel name & how you got it.** Shady Creek. I lived on property with a small creek running through it and the trees were along the creek as the rest of the property had been a pasture.
- 3) **Where you live.** Central Kentucky.
- 4) **Where do you travel to show?** Where ever the judges are best for my dog or bitch. Seriously usually KY, IN, OH, MI, TN, IL, GA, WV, PA, VA, SC.
- 5) **How many shows do you attend in a year?** This depends on whether I have a dog of age or ready to be shown. I usually go at least one weekend (2-4 days) a month.
- 6) **Have you ever hired and/or used professional handlers and for what purpose?** Yes, when I felt the dog would get a better 'look' or when my dog just needed that extra 'umph' a great handler can give them.
- 7) **What made you decide to owner-handle your Great Danes?** Mostly money, LOL! But I am a highly competitive person as well.
- 8) **What are the greatest advantages of owner-handling your dogs?** The pride in knowing my dog won on its own merits.
- 9) **What are the biggest challenges of owner-handling your dogs?** Looking and handling as professional as the pro's so your dog gets the same edge.
- 10) **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. A judge has the Winners Dog lineup and walks down the line looking at the dogs then glances up the lead before choosing.
- 11) **Do you feel there is any stigma against owner-handlers in Great Danes and if yes please explain.** No not really.
- 12) **What tips would you give a new owner-handler to help them step up their game?** Get the BEST DOG you can & watch pro-handlers in the ring and you will learn a lot!
- 13) **What is the most helpful technique you ever learned just by watching professional handlers?** How to hold the ears up while holding the collar.
- 14) **What are some common mistakes you see owner-handlers committing in the ring?** Stacking their dog's rear too far back and wide.
- 15) **What have been some of your show ring successes as an owner-handler?** Best in Specialty Show wins on two of my dogs, Ruger and Warlock.
- 16) **What are some of the most rewarding things about owner-handling for you?** Bonding with my dog & feeling like we did it together.
- 17) **Most professional handlers began as owner-handlers. What keeps you from taking that same route?** Too much stress. Been-there-done-that with German Shepherd Dogs!
- 18) **Who is your favorite judge and why?** The one who puts my dog up ... grin.
- 19) **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?**  
Renee Zellweger.

