Owner Handler

Michelle Marie Neubert (Mikki)

MirabileVisu Danes

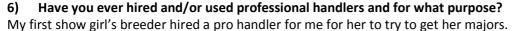
1) Number of years showing dogs. Approximately nine years.

Your kennel name and how you got it.

MirabileVisu Danes. It means Beautiful Vision in Latin. I just liked it.

- **3)** Where you live. Southern Minnesota.
- **4)** Where do you travel to show? Mostly MN and IA, but sometimes WI, SD, NE, and occasionally KS.
- 5) How many shows do you attend in a year?

I try for once a month.



7) What made you decide to owner-handle your Great Danes?

I've wanted to show dogs for most of my life. I think it's something fun and brings me a lot of joy. It gives me time with my dogs that I probably wouldn't have otherwise.

- 8) What are the greatest advantages of owner-handling your dogs? I 'Know' my dogs.
- 9) What are the biggest challenges of owner-handling your dogs? Getting over the jitters and not sending it down the lead to my dogs!
- 10) What do owner-handlers need to consider if they want to be competitive in the ring? Act professional. Know that You have THE best dog that day (and everyday!).
- 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 don't know if it was because I was an owner-handler, but there was one judge that seriously looked at the bitch ahead of us and the one behind and acted as though my girl and I weren't even there! She did it on more than one occasion and I still am not sure why.

- **12)** Do you feel there is any stigma against owner-handlers in Great Danes and if yes please explain. I do feel there can be, but I choose to ignore it and keep showing my own dogs. I hear a LOT of people that say 'It's political' and it definitely can be. But hey, even pros started out as newbies, so it can be done.
- 13) What tips would you give a new owner-handler to help them step up their game? Remember that EVERYONE is beatable. At least that's what I tell myself when I step in the ring. We're all just people.
- 14) What is the most valuable advice you ever received about handling your own dogs from a professional handler?

Act like I know what I'm doing! Ha!



- **15)** What is the most helpful technique you ever learned just by watching professional handlers? I think just over all 'selling' my dogs and not just standing there.
- **16)** What are some common mistakes you see owner-handlers committing in the ring? Being too nervous, not watching the judge, not having any fun at all!!! It needs to be fun or the dogs won't like it, either.

17) What have been some of your show ring successes as an owner-handler?

Well, I got all the singles on my foundation girl, and if she'd have gotten the cross-over two different occasions, she would've finished, but she did get one major with a pro handler. I finished both her daughter and son. The daughter from the Bred-By Class and the son from Bred-By all but his first show where he took Best of Breed over a Special at 6 months old. I think even class wins are successes for me! I have made a lot of friends also and I count those as successes!

18) What are some of the most rewarding things about owner-handling for you?

Spending time with my dogs. Having judges realize my dogs' worth. Most of the puppies I've produced that have been shown have been shown and FINISHED by owner-handlers, so I think that's very rewarding for me! I've helped a few new people start their own owner-handler dream! I think being in the ring with my dog and having them seeming to enjoy the whole thing is also really rewarding.

- **19)** Most professional handlers began as owner-handlers. What keeps you from taking that same route? Maybe someday. I enjoy the time with MY dogs, though.
- 21) Who is your favorite judge and why?

I have too many to list even some I've never even won under. If a judge is pleasant to me AND my dog, I definitely show to them again, even if I don't win.

22) 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?

I'm sorry, I've never seen it so I don't know.