



## All Round Judges Bruce and Judy Voran

Our first two dogs were beagles, but when we began looking for another dog in 1980, good fortune brought us to Boxers. Our son, Michael, wanted to look at Fox Terriers. The Fox Terrier breeder to whom we were referred by the local breeders' directory also bred Boxers. While we were looking at Fox Terriers she brought out Charlie, her eight year-old Boxer. He had such a playful personality, such wit and charm for an eight year-old dog, that we were captivated. We took home our first Boxer puppy, Velmar's Howdy Kodo a few weeks later.

When Kodo was three months old, the local Boxer club, the Boxer Club of Arizona, had a fun match. We took Kodo; he won his class; and we signed up for handling lessons. We've been showing and breeding Boxers ever since.

### **Have you seen a trend (good or bad) in the Dane ring?**

Judy & Bruce: The Dane standards describe a square dog with good, balanced front and rear angulation and firm toplines. There are many exhibits that are straight in front, longer than square. Soft toplines in Danes are faults that stand out. Danes are losing reach and drive in their movement -- the strong, flowing, efficient movement that allows a working dog to cover ground without tiring.

### **How do you feel about being approached after judging to discuss your placements?**

Judy & Bruce: Generally speaking, I believe that if the spectator is doing their homework in watching the judging process with a sound understanding of the breed standard, an understanding the judging process, and an open mind, the result in the classes and at the Breed level should speak for itself. If the question is based on a true desire to understand the qualities of the dogs being placed -- this is where ringside mentoring comes in. If the question is based on "why didn't my dog win?" -- that is a question for which there will never be a satisfactory response to the questioner.

### **What is your biggest Pet Peeve when judging?**

Judy: I really don't have a Pet Peeve. I enjoy judging, enjoy the dogs, enjoy the exhibitors and work to make the experience in the ring valuable for everyone.

Bruce: I echo J's response but am especially peeved by professional handlers who make a concerted effort to influence ring procedure, placements and/or whether they should show their BOB dog to me in the Group competition. Questions like "what didn't you like about my dog?" is particularly troublesome. A question honestly asked deserves an honest answer and a politically correct answer is difficult for me to make.

### **How long have you been judging and what breeds are you licensed to judge?**

Judy: I have been judging for nine years and am licensed for Boxers, Mastiffs, Dobermans, Bullmastiffs, Akitas, Samoyeds, Great Danes and Rottweilers.

B: I began judging in 1990 and am licensed for the Working Group and a few Herding breeds.

### **Was there ever an embarrassing moment in the ring?**

Bruce: Early on, I determined that others were better handlers than I. I especially remember when showing Kodo that I "lost" the lead on the down-and-back and Kodo went on without me, presented himself to the judge in perfect form which was followed by the judge's humorous comment: "He (Kodo) doesn't seem to need you to run him

around the ring."

**As a judge what do you think needs to be improved in the breed?**

Judy & Bruce : As I see Danes in the ring, there is a loss of substance, correct square structure -- and definitely in movement. The Great Dane Standard combines "elegance" with: "regal appearance, dignity, strength and elegance with great size and a powerful, well-formed, smoothly muscled body." There seems to be a "trend" as too many Great Danes are presented seemingly with an emphasis on "elegance" rather than a combination of the adjectives used to describe a proper Dane.

**What other hobbies to you enjoy?**

Judy: Genealogical research

Bruce: Vegetable gardening

*Great Dane Review would like to thank Bruce and Judy Voran for taking the time to answers our questions.*