

*Meet.....*

**Owner Handler**

**Valerie Metcalf**

**DaneDreams Great Danes**

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**1) How did you get started?**

This dream of mine started in the 70's when I was in junior high school and one of my brothers brought home a six week old fawn female pup.

It wasn't until almost 20 years later that I was able to actually start living the dreams that first Dane, Sinder, had helped to create. With the approval of my husband I brought home my 'Diva, searched for guidance from other exhibitors and the area club, took handling classes, made the entries and was on the road.



**2) What has been your most valuable lesson?**

“Opinions have vested interests just as men have.” –Samuel Butler  
Believe in your dog and avoid the negative comments you might hear.

**3) What tip could you pass on to others starting out wanting to owner handle?**

Connect yourself with a mentor who is also an owner handler. Make connections with other owner handlers too. Through them you can learn useful handling techniques, judge likes/dislikes, and get a better understanding of structure and movement. I will always be grateful to those who helped, and continue to guide me. Also, learn the breed standard, what the breed is supposed to look like standing still and moving. And don't be afraid to ask questions to those in other breeds too.

*GDR would like to thank Valerie for taking the time to answer our questions.*