

Great Dane Club of Northern New Jersey

May 2009

AKC Announces New Program for Mixed Breeds

NEXT
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

Wednesday

MAY 20, 2009

AKC ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM FOR MIXED BREEDS

New York, NY – For the past 125 years, the American Kennel Club® has been the nation's premier advocate for dogs and the people who love them. The AKC's Board of Directors has voted unanimously to proceed with a program for mixed breed dogs which will

allow it to act even more broadly and effectively as the dog's champion. The creation of this program ushers in new opportunities for AKC's constituents and clubs and will allow the organization to grow and flourish.

“Our goal in creating a program specifically designed for mixed breeds is to share our passion for dogs and our sport,” said AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung. “AKC will broaden its legislative influence by representing more dog owners and achieve greater exposure for our responsible dog ownership messaging. But ultimately, the positive developments that this program creates will benefit dogs the most, and this is what we value above all.”

The mixed breeds program

will be implemented in three phases. As of October 1, 2009 owners can begin enrolling their pets and receive an AKC ID number. Then beginning April 1, 2010 enrolled dogs will be eligible to compete in mixed breed classes at stand-alone AKC Agility, Obedience and Rally events. Soon after they will have access to benefits such as discounted AKC Companion Animal Recovery Lost and Found service, a free AKC Canine Good Citizen® certificate for dogs passing the CGC test, a free initial veterinary visit, a trial offer of pet health insurance and discounted coupons for dog supplies.

The third phase will offer a dedicated Web site where dog owners can interact via

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The Nomination and Election Committee
would like to announce the following slate of officers for the 2009/2010

Officers

Jeffrey Ball – President
Diane Husar – Vice President
Diane Bocian – Treasurer
Mary Fran Cini – Recording Secretary
Jean Snyder – Corresponding Secretary

Director Positions

One Year Terms

Gay Ann Wayne
Audrey Wright

Two Year Terms

Ken Bocian
Rose Ann Tucker

Three Year Terms

David Litke
Donna Steurmer

As per GDCNNJ Constitution and By-Laws, additional Nominations may be made
from the floor in May membership meeting.

**GDCNNJ
NEWSLETTER**

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President

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an online community with discussion forums and access dog care video downloads, advice from experts and the most up-to-date news on canine health and welfare. The site will be continually enhanced with new features and benefits in order to respond to the changing needs of pet owners.

This new AKC initiative is the first designed to specifically benefit mixed breed dogs and their dog owners, however the AKC has long included mixed breeds in programs such as AKC Canine Good Citizen[®], AKC S.T.A.R. Puppysm, AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day and the AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund's disaster relief efforts. In addition, AKC has always actively advocated for the rights of all dog owners and the welfare of dogs through its Government Relations efforts and serves dog owners through its affiliate organizations such as the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation and AKC Companion Animal Recovery.

For more information about the AKC's mixed breeds program, visit www.akc.org/mixedbreeds.

Understanding Harlequins and their Merle Spots - Dr. Neil P. O'Sullivan

I respectfully submit the following understanding of the presence of merle spots on harlequins.

To date we believe the harlequin color is unique to the Great Dane breed. Two independent research studies appeared in peer reviewed scientific journals in the 1980's which went on to describe the genetic basis, and inheritance, of the harlequin coat color in Great Danes. I was the senior author on one of these two papers. Both Phil Sponenberg in his study, and we in our studies, of harlequin breeding records, found the harlequin pattern depended on a dog having two major genes influencing coat color, a then newly discovered (hypnotized) harlequin gene, and the already well know merle gene. All harlequins were found to have both genes and both genes must be inherited by an individual great Dane to produce this unique coat color pattern.

Our study, because of the very large sample sizes involved, found that not only were all harlequin carrying both harlequin and merle, but two additional facts not understood from Sponenberg data we discovered. One was that the merle gene was always involved in what is known as cell level mutation (both, somatic and germinal cell mutations) at a high frequency typical of a so called "jumping gene" reported first in Corn by Barbara McClintock. Secondly, that all harlequins, and dogs from harlequin breeding carry only one copy of the harlequin gene (to carry two copies we found was lethal and leads to death in utero) of course many non harlequin Great Danes carry no copy of the harlequin gene.

The effect of these cell level mutations is rather surprising, so a White Great Danes (those Danes which have two copies of the merle gene, so called Homozygous Merle,) should never have any black or mantle progeny, only white, merle or harlequin. However because of the jumping gene action we found a small number of these mantles and blacks from breeding of White dogs, the merle gene had jumped back to the non merle

form, resulted in a small number of sperm or egg cells which didn't carry the merle gene. These sperm or eggs could

produce black or mantle puppies. This fact also allowed us to then understand the torn pattern of the harlequin color and the presence of merle spots on harlequins. Since the black areas were at the cell level jumped back to non merle so the dog has full black pigment, in areas with merle gene intact the merle or graying of the coat happen. A so called somatic cell mosaic pattern resulting from somatic cell mutation.

Since there are genes for the piebald pattern in Great Danes, we found breeders were actively looking for the merle spots on harlequin, to confirm they were harlequin, with torn pattern of the patches, compared to the piebald (Marked like a black and white Pointer), the piebald Great Danes always having the smooth rounded pattern to the "spots" and lacking a ragged torn look to the black patches of our harlequin. Since the harlequin gene only converts the merle areas in the coat to white the blacks areas on the coat are unaffected. However small areas which should have been converted to white, are left merle, as we could again see in some cell clusters the genes had indeed again jumped. The result was small merle patches left on harlequins.

Our research found all harlequins had some merle on them, obvious on most, harder to detect on some, and where merle was absent in a black and white spotted dog, the pattern was obviously not that of a harlequin but was a piebald, with rounded spots, but which lacked the characteristic ragged torn patches of the harlequin pattern seen only in Great Danes.

I know this explanation is a bit dense with the science of coat color genetics. So let me try to, in text, paint a picture. Start with our basic black or mantle dog, add the merle gene and some of the black areas become grey (merle) in color, the mosaic effect of merle, then add a harlequin gene, and the merle areas now become white, but the black areas remain black except these genes never work perfectly because of this "jumping gene" action, so some of the areas which were meant to get turned to white, were accidentally left merle, so the odd merle spot(s), appear on harlequin Great Danes.

For 150 years some people have tried to breed harlequins without merle spots. To date no reported successes! Time for all Harlequin breeders to concentrate on breeding for type, temperament, health, and all the other really workable characteristics we can shape and improve in our breeding programs of our beloved Great Dane.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr Neil P. O'Sullivan
Director of Research & Development
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Great Dane Club of Northern New Jersey Minutes from the April 15, 2009 Membership Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 8:01 pm by Jeffrey Ball.

People in attendance (13): Jeffrey Ball, Betsy Ball, Candace Klapmuts, Diane Husar, David Litke, Donna Stuermer, Bill Diesing, Mary Fran Cini, Gay Ann Wayne, Audrey Wright, Jean Snyder, Ken Bocian, Diane Bocian, & Carol Farro.

I. Minutes– reviewed & accepted.

II. President's Report- Good turnout. We have had numerous inquiries about the club. Today's location would only be acceptable if we have a larger turn out and can utilize the private room.

III. Committees / Assignments –

Rescue – Mary Fran & Gay to Co-Chair

Membership – David Litke & Candace Klapmuts to organize packet & work with the website.

Newsletter – Jeff Ball

Match Show –Jeff Ball

Health Clinic –Kathy Wilker

Sunshine Committee - Carol Farro

Webmater – Carol Sloan

IV. Treasurer – Diane Bocian. \$610 to date. 26 members and 2 applications

Motion to accept: Betsy Ball 2nd: Ken Bocian. Unanimously accepted.

V. Match Show – Jeff Ball. To be held in conjunction with Ramapo at the Veteran's Home in Paramus, NJ. This will be a Dane Specialty Fun Match Show for 3 months old and up. \$ 10 per entry.

VI. Nomination Committee – Betsy Ball presented (also on the Committee – Carol Sloan & Karen Van Brummelen) Proposed slates: Officer: Jeffrey Ball – President, Diane Husar – Vice-President, Recording Secretary – Jean Snyder, Corresponding Secretary – Mary Fran Cini, and for Treasurer – Diane Bocian. Board Members : 1yr – Gay Ann Wayne, Audrey Wright, 2yr – Ken Bocian, Rose Ann Tucker 3yr – David Litke, Donna Steurmer. The goal is to have Board members roll over every year for three year terms.

Jeff Ball asked if there are any additions. During the May meeting nominations can be taken from the floor but the nominee must be present at the meeting. Elections will take place at the June meeting.

VII. Newsletter – Jeff Ball. Newsletters will go out earlier.

VIII. Location of Meeting- David Litke. Re: current location – we can only utilize the private room if we have (20) members or more. A package deal is available for the menu. Mary Fran suggested, “Suppa” this is a BYOB restaurant not far from the current Fairfield location.

IX. Introductions – new members spoke and introduced themselves to the group.

X. New Business – next meeting will be held at Calandra’s Mediranean Grill at the Hampton Inn & Suites May 20th at 7:30pm.

Hampton Inn & Suites Fairfield 118-124 Route 46 East, Fairfield , NJ 07004

Phone: (973) 575-6500 <http://calandrasmedgrill.com/home.html>

XI. There being no further business a motion was made the adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm.

1st – Ken Bocian 2nd – Gay Ann Wayne The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Husar
Interim Secretary

MARMADUKE Brad Anderson



“No canoes in the pool.”

GRAND AVENUE

Steve Breen



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB AND CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION DEBUT 'MEET THE BREEDS' AT NEW YORK CITY'S JAVITS CENTER

***World's Largest Showcase of Cat & Dog Breeds to be Held in October in New York City;
Unique Event Presented by PetPartners, Inc.***

New York, NY – The American Kennel Club® (AKC®), in conjunction with the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA), is pleased to announce that "Meet the Breeds™" will take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 17th and 18th, 2009 at New York City's Javits Convention Center. Sponsored by PetPartners, Inc. a leading pet healthcare provider, Meet the Breeds is a showcase of over 160 AKC registered dog breeds and 41 CFA registered cat breeds and will be the first stand-alone event of its kind in the world.

AKC Meet the Breeds has been held at every AKC/Eukanuba National Championship show since its inception in 2001, drawing thousands of spectators to the colorful and creatively decorated booths showcasing each AKC registered breed. The booths, created by each breed's national club, are individually decorated to depict the breed's country of origin, historical purpose or function, and attributes as a family pet. Responsible breeders and their dogs, puppies, cats and kittens will interact with the public to educate them on various breeds and responsible pet ownership.

"Because of the overwhelming popularity of this feature at our past shows and the tremendous participation of our Parent Clubs, we have decided to create a stand-alone event geared 100% toward pet lovers. Bringing the internationally respected CFA in adds a new dimension and will allow event goers to experience every breed of dog and cat in the U.S. together under one roof," said Dennis Sprung, AKC President and CEO. "It's an ideal opportunity for any animal lover to enjoy the diversity and beauty in the canine and feline worlds and learn about breeds directly from the experts. We will offer attractions such as educational demonstrations, vendors and activities for kids and we expect it to become an annual family event."

"We are so pleased to be joining the AKC for this event," said Pam DelaBar, President of the CFA. "As many pet owners know, cats and dogs are part of the family. This showcase will allow people to explore more about pedigreed cats and consider what breed will fit in to their lives."

"As one of the leading providers of pet healthcare insurance, PetPartners is delighted to be the top sponsor of this exceptional event that will help families learn more about responsible pet ownership and how to ensure their pets live long and healthy lives," said Steve Popovich, CEO of PetPartners.

Demonstrations will include various activities such as dog and cat grooming, Agility (dogs and cats), AKC Canine Good Citizen® Testing, K-9 Search and Rescue and First Aid for dogs and cats.

Christina Duffney
American Kennel Club
(212) 696-8344

Allene Tartaglia
Cat Fanciers' Association
(732) 528-9797 ex 26

GREAT DANE CLUB OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SPECIALTY MATCH

Great Dane Club of Northern New Jersey Website <http://GDCNNJ.org>

Saturday, June 6, 2009

New Jersey Veterans Home, Paramus, New Jersey

Same Day Registration

Enter between 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Entry fee: \$10

Classes: 3-6 months, 6-9 months, 9-12 months, 12-18 months, Bred by Exhibitor, Open Black, Blue, Brindle, Fawn, Harlequin and Mantel. Ribbons for all placements and awards for Best Puppy and Best Adult

Judging Times: 1:30 p.m.

Judge - Karen Van Brummelen

In addition We will have:

Therapy Dog Testing & CGC Testing

CGC Dogs must be 6 months of age; Therapy Dog must be 1 year old

To pre-register for CGC or Therapy Dog Testing, call

Joanne Silver 201-891-5090 or email her at silverck@carroll.com

There are a limited number of spots.

Cost for testing - \$15 each or \$25 for both

For additional information contact

Jeffrey Ball Jeffbetsyball@yahoo.com (201) 689-1323 or

Diane Husar Ub2b3@aol.com (908) 996-0606

Directions:

* Route 17 North or South, exit Ridgewood Avenue, East, Oradell. Go to the 5th traffic light and make a right onto Pascack Road. Stay in the right lane and follow the Veterans Home signs. Make first right, next right at the Army tank. You may not park in the front lot, but along the road or in the rear parking area.

Route 287 traveling North. Exit 59 for Route 208 and continue to Route 4. Take exit for Route 17 North. Follow directions above. *

Route 287 traveling South from NY. Take Route 17 South and follow directions above. *

From New Jersey Turnpike take exit for Route 80 West to Route 17 North and follow directions above. *

Garden State Parkway North: Exit 165. Follow sign for Oradell. At first traffic light make a right onto Pascack Road. Stay in right lane, and follow the Veterans Home signs. Make first right, next right at Army tank.

Great Dane Club of Northern New Jersey Membership Application

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: (home) _____
 (work) _____
 ADDRESS: _____ (cell) _____
 (fax) _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ E-MAIL _____

Are you a member of the Great Dane Club of America? Yes No
 Are you 18 years of age or older? Yes No
 List other All-Breed or Specialty Clubs to which you now belong or have belonged and offices held (if any): _____

If elected to Membership, are you be willing to serve on a Committee(s): Yes No

Committee(s) interested in working on: (please check ANY of interest)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/Catalog | <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Roster | <input type="checkbox"/> The Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards | <input type="checkbox"/> Historian | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Therapy/Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Show Handling Classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breed Trophies | <input type="checkbox"/> Match Show | <input type="checkbox"/> Point Show | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget / Audit | <input type="checkbox"/> Material/Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Tree | <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian | | |

If elected to Membership, I hereby agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Great Dane Club of Northern New Jersey and the Rules and Regulations of the Great Dane Club of America and American Kennel Club.

 Signature of Applicant

Annual Dues, check application box	ONE time Application Fee:	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Individual Membership	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Two Members of Immediate Family	\$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Junior Membership	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: 1) Application fee must be included with membership application and is not refundable.
 2) Annual Dues should not be paid until membership is accepted.

Sponsorship

Name of Sponsor	Signature of Sponsor	Length of time known
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There must be two sponsors from different families for each applicant.
 Letters of Recommendation from each Sponsor must accompany this application.
 Please forward completed application along with application fee to:

FOR CLUB USE ONLY

Received by Membership Chairperson _____

Read at meeting _____

Voted on: _____

Notice to membership _____
 Accept Decline

DATES to REMEMBER

Membership meeting

May 20, 2009

7:30 p.m.

Hampton Inn & Suites Fairfield
118-124 Route 46 East
Fairfield, New Jersey
(973) 575-6500

Please come and bring a guest.

GDCNNJ
11 Pershing Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

FIRST CLASS MAIL