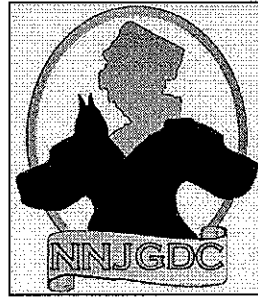


# Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club

SEPTEMBER 2012

2008-2012



## **NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GREAT DANE CLUB**

Website <http://NNJGDC.org>

Will be holding a CERF Clinic  
At the Animal Eye Center of NJ  
48 Notch Road  
Little Falls, NJ 07424  
With Dr. Michael H. Brown, DVM. MS.

Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
5 PM - 7 PM

To Register: Call Lori at Animal Eye Center at 973-890-4430  
**Cost: \$30 a dog**

Dr. Brown will supply CERF forms and dilating drops. Owners should bring ID numbers, proper animal names and information for CERF forms.

**Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club  
Minutes from the June 20, 2012  
Membership Meeting**

Merchants House  
4 Little Falls Road  
Fairfield, New Jersey

*The meeting was called to order at 7:47pm by President Jeffrey Ball.*

*Members in attendance (17): Jeffrey Ball, Cathy Dlugosz, Mary Fran Cini, Donna Stuermer, Jack Keenan, Gay Ann Wayne, Kira Wright, Betsy Ball, Ken Bocian, Diane Bocian, David Litke, Vernest Kazer, Mitch Archer, Mitchell Archer, Michael Pock, Carol Keenan and Jean Snyder.*

*Guests in attendance (2): Dee Wright and Joy Genovese.*

*President's Comments: Jeffrey expressed thanks to Cathy for securing the upstairs room at the Merchant House Tavern for this month's meeting and also to all the members of the Club, in all capacities, who made the Match Show such a tremendous success.*

*I. Minutes - The minutes of the May meeting were approved on a motion made by Mary Fran and seconded by Kira.*

*II. Corresponding Secretary - No report.*

*III. Recording Secretary - No report.*

*IV. Treasurer - Diane B. reported an opening balance of \$4822.25, deposits of \$1379.82 for a closing balance of \$6202.07.*

*V. Committee Reports:*

*Membership - Jeffrey reported that we have 48 (forty-eight) active members and 2 (two) applications outstanding.*

*Sunshine - Jeffrey reported that Carol Farro had been hospitalized, but is now recuperating at home. Cathy sent her flowers from the Club.*

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*Pet Therapy - Kira reported that 7 (seven) dogs were tested at the Match Show and that all but 1 (one) passed. It was a good turnout and the Evaluator was very impressed with our Club.*

*Match Show - Jean thanked all the members for their contributions and support and expressed her "Kudos" to all for a job well done.*

*Rescue - Mary Fran informed the Club that there is an ongoing investigation involving the NC/SC chapter of MAGDRL for violating procedures. The Treasurer was terminated and the Chapter has been suspended. As a result, the Election of Officers was not held. Foster homes in this Chapter were given various options and most decided to keep their Danes. Only 8 (eight) or 10 (ten) Danes had to be moved North. Since February of this year, bookkeeping and accounting have been the major issues with the NC/SC Chapter. The Board is working very hard to correct these problems*

*Fund Raising - Cathy reported that there is \$669.78 in the iGive account. She will be in charge of future events so please contact her if you have any suggestions.*

*National Specialty - The next GDCA meeting for all Chairpersons will be held on August 25th in Lancaster, PA at which time all Chairpersons must submit a refined proposal for the activities under their charge. Since a number of decisions must be made, it was suggested that the Committee Chairs from the NNJGDC meet on August 1, 2012 at 7:30pm at the Merchant House Tavern. All interested members are invited to attend.*

### *VI. Unfinished Business:*

*Jeffrey will mail out Premium Lists for our Supported Entry at the Newton KC Show on September 1st. The Club agreed to sponsor a Lunch (Tailgate) at the show.*

*Diane B. noted that at the "Responsible Dog Ownership Day" event on September 15th at the Old Lafayette Village, the Club will have to supply its own tables. Please contact Diane if you are interested in attending.*

### *VII. New Business:*

*The GDCA asked the Affiliate Clubs for their input as to whether the Show Chairperson and Division Show Chairperson should be allowed to exhibit at the National. After some discussion, Jean made a motion that the NNJGDC vote to not allow the Show Chairperson and Division Chairperson of the GDCA National Specialty to exhibit at the Show. The motion was seconded by Michael and passed unanimously.*

*The Bald Eagle KC and the Lackawanna KC will be hosting shows on 7/27, 7/28 and 7/29 at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds. Since Jeffrey has a home only 8 (eight) miles from the showground's, he has invited all members who are interested in showing (and those who are just looking for a good time) to a get together at his home after the show. Please let him know if you would like to take advantage of his hospitality.*

No one claimed the 50-50 prize at the Match Show so we need to establish some guidelines for the future. It was suggested:

- 1.) The owner must be present at the time of the drawing.
- 2.) If the owner cannot be present, he should fill out the back of the ticket.
- 3.) A specific time should be announced for the drawing.

Cathy will write a policy for future 50-50's and present it to the Club for approval. She will also be in charge of keeping a record of all future Club Policies as they are established.

David thanked everyone for their food contributions for the Match Show and asked for any and all suggestions for the future.

Cathy inquired as to the health of Carol Sloan our web site coordinator. Jeffrey reported that she had some health issues but is doing fine and will up-date the site.

Jeffrey thanked Cathy for making name tags for all the members.

There being no further business, Kira moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Diane and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jean Snyder*

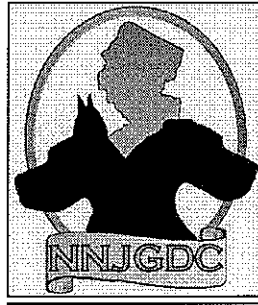
Jean Snyder  
Recording Secretary

## **REMINDER**

**Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**is K-Nine Coaching's Responsible Dog Owner Day.  
Olde Lafayette Village RT 15 & 94 Lafayette, NJ.**

There are many exciting events planned for the day including demos, give a ways, Canine Good Citizen testing and more. Diane Bocian is coordinating our table at this event and is still looking for volunteers. Anyone who can attend and assist, please contact Diane.



## **NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GREAT DANE CLUB**

Website <http://NNJGDC.org>

Will be Participating in

## **AKC MEET THE BREED**

on

Saturday and Sunday  
October 20 and 21, 2012

At the Javits Convention Center  
New York City

We will be representing NNJGDC and GDCA. If you are interested in assisting, please let Jeffrey Ball know so that we plan a schedule to accommodate everyone. **Mid Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League** will also be there with us. Please come join us! We had a great time last year.

## New Fundraiser for the Club

The club is now signed for a new fundraiser that everyone can participate in if they would like to. Shoebox Recycling is a service that will pay us \$.50 for every pound of shoes that we send in. They will send us the boxes, we fill them up with shoes and they will send us a shipping label and have UPS come and pick up the filled box from whatever location you choose. The boxes are approximately 30" tall and 15" wide, once filled they will weigh about 40 lbs, so each box should bring in \$20.00 for the club. If you would like to participate please send Cathy by email and she will give you the contact information to have the boxes sent directly to you. Cathy also will have a few boxes and if you have some shoes but not enough to fill a box you can bring them to our next meeting and collectively we should be able to fill up a few.

Shoes that are accepted: all paired men's, women's and kids shoes (includes athletic shoes, dress shoes, timberland type work boots, sandals, heels and flats) that are still usable. No holes in the soles and no wet or mildewed pairs.

Shoes that are not accepted: ski boots, heavy winter boots, roller skates, roller blades and singles. So if you are interested in participating please let Cathy Dlugosz know! Thank you for the help!

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### **With Our CERF Clinic scheduled this month, some of you have asked about the CHIC program. Here is information from the Great Dane Club of America Website about CHIC**

**THE CHIC PROGRAM FOR THE GREAT DANE** The Great Dane Club of America (GDCA) was one of the pioneer breeds for this public health database, and joined the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) program in the fall of 2003. By 2008 there were over 500 Great Danes entered in this Canine Health Foundation program with an increasing number qualifying every quarter and more & more of our breeders beginning to participate fully in this program. The CHIC program, jointly sponsored by the AKC and the OFA, has four main goals: to work with parent clubs in the definition of health issues for which a central information system should be established, to establish and maintain a central health information system in a form and manner that will support research into canine disease, to provide health information to owners and breeders, to base the availability on individually identified dogs on the consent of the owner, and to establish scientifically valid criteria for the acceptance of information into the database.

As time passes and more tests become available what is required to achieve the CHIC can be modified. (For example, if a gene test for DCM were to be found, then this could be added in for the breed's protection.) Currently in order for a Great Dane to receive a CHIC number, the dog must have test results on record for:

- Hip Dysplasia - Results accepted from OFA, PennHIP, GDC, or OVC.
- Eyes - Results accepted from CERF.
- Congenital Cardiac Disease - Results accepted from OFA.

· Autoimmune Thyroid Disease - Results accepted from OFA.

For general info on the CHIC program see: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/>  
Great Dane breed info: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=GD>

Search CHIC database for individual results: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/search.php>

### **FAQS ABOUT THE CHIC PROGRAM: Where can I find the forms I need to have filled out?**

The needed forms are online at OFA. OFA & CERF at their websites outline in detail how to gather and submit data for various certifications. Most are familiar with how to submit X-rays for hip scores to such as OFA and PennHip. Some of the other tests may be somewhat unfamiliar to some owners and breeders. For eye results, not only does the dog have to be examined by a board-certified ophthalmologist, CERF paperwork that this DVM gives you must then be submitted (with the appropriate fee) to CERF itself. Please note that without this final step the dog will not obtain CERF certification please note. For OFA Cardiac certification, an approved DVM must perform an auscultation (with a stethoscope) on the dog, and an echocardiogram, if done, will be noted on the dog's results at the website & on the CHIC form. That veterinarian's status also will be reflected on the dog's heart certification, i.e. whether the DVM is a generalist, a specialist or a cardiologist. It's recommended that OFA Cardiac certifications are done by either a board certified cardiologist or a veterinarian qualified in internal medicine with training in cardiology. Note please that this exam is for congenital defects of the heart and is NOT a screening examination for DCM (dilated cardiomyopathy). The application is available online.

It seems that there are many more Danes which could become CHIC qualified if only they would complete the OFA thyroid panel. Many Great Danes seem to have thyroid testing, but by non-certified labs or only the routine diagnostic panel (T-4, and/or TSH, etc.) which do not include the TgAA, which is the one which is the most useful in screening young adults for autoimmune thyroiditis. For an OFA Thyroid certification the dog must have blood submitted to an approved lab that performs a TSH, FT4D and TgAA in compliance with the gold standard for this particular test. This test and its procedures are designed to screen specifically for inherited thyroid disease and is not necessarily the same lab procedures employed to "check a dog's thyroid" (function) for example. The forms & instructions can be downloaded from the OFA website. You as the owner need to fill out the top portion, your attending veterinarian examines the dog and draws blood, while attesting to the dog's health, and the serum is sent to the laboratory where it's processed and the results sent to OFA and returned to you vet as well. Be sure to include the paperwork and fees for processing with the blood (serum) sample.

### **Which labs/veterinarians will OFA accept results from & what do I need to bring with me to the exam??**

This list of labs and the tests that must be done by them are also on the form for the test in question. For example for a OFA thyroid the list of approved laboratories are at the OFA website. There are several labs in various parts of the country and the sample is simply sent in the mail from your vet to a nearby lab. (There are even two in Canada.) MSU, Cornell, UC Davis, UMinn and TxA&M provide testing, but you cannot just send it off to your vet's "regular" lab necessarily and have to include the OFA paperwork for such as MSU to provide to OFA the results. Note that OFA and your vet will both get the results back, so you will see them too. For OFA Cardiac certification, an approved DVM must perform an auscultation (with a stethoscope) on the dog, and an echocardiogram, if done, will be noted on the dog's results at the website & on the CHIC form. That

veterinarian's status also will be reflected on the dog's heart certification, i.e. whether the DVM is a generalist, a specialist or a cardiologist. It's recommended that OFA Cardiac certifications are done by either a board certified cardiologist or a veterinarian qualified in internal medicine with training in cardiology. Note please that this exam is for congenital defects of the heart and is NOT a screening examination for DCM (dilated cardiomyopathy). The application is available online. CERF approved veterinarians (i.e. ophthalmologists) typically bring the needed paperwork with them, but you will often have to provide the paperwork yourself with some veterinarians when asking for a heart or hip exam, and nearly always when drawing blood for a thyroid exam. So check before showing up for the appointment. Bring also official identification on the dog (AKC registration number, date of birth, etc.) **NOTE PLEASE THAT A DOG MUST HAVE PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION VIA A TATOO OR MICROCHIP TO BE ENROLLED IN THE CHIC PROGRAM.**

**What is the minimum age for certification & how often do I have to repeat the exams?**

Each test may vary in minimum age, but the details are all available at the OFA website. 12 months is the minimum age allowed typically for all but the hip exam, but a good time to start would be 2-3 years when the dog is a young adult & preferably before s/he is bred. Your local vet can usually do both the hip and thyroid exam at one time and some can likely do a basic heart exam (auscultation). To add in the CERF and a full heart examination by a cardiologist involving an echocardiogram will likely require you see a specialist. Note the basic OFA Cardiac does NOT screen for anything but congenital ("puppy") heart disease, so an echo done routinely (every 1-2 years) on adult Danes (especially males) is recommended to screen for DCM and other adult onset heart disease. And although it's not required to maintain your CHIC status, OFA has suggested, in accordance with expert guidelines, that dogs be checked regularly as an adult for thyroid disease. Annual testing from 2-4 years is ideal. Biennial thyroid testing after that will suffice. CERF is only good for one year & "expired" CERF exams are noted in italics, but for many eye conditions that affect Danes (such as eyelid abnormalities), a single exam will likely note any issues. Cataracts are an exception to this general rule and should be followed regularly (i.e. on an annual basis) to see if they are progressing. The CERF veterinarian can advise you on specific needs for reexamination.

**What can interfere with testing results?**

Illnesses, certain drugs and even the estrous cycle (of bitches) can potentially interfere with thyroid testing. OFA also recommends that hip screens not be done during estrus. This is another reason to simply schedule that first OFA thyroid when you are planning an X-ray for OFA hips. All Danes undergoing thyroid testing should also be in good health, as various illnesses can have an effect on thyroid function. Bitches should be in anestrus ideally. Any medications a dog is taking should be discussed with the vet prior to doing any sort of health screening.

**What happens if the results are equivocal? What happens if my dog doesn't "pass"?**

Hip scores can come back as "borderline" or with a request to retest which doesn't necessarily imply the dog has hip dysplasia. Thyroid testing can result in an "equivocal" status. This is not a "fail" nor does it mean the dog has thyroid disease; it means the results of the test were inconclusive and should be repeated in 3-6 months. Upon repeat of the thyroid testing, most dogs will then receive a clear "pass" or "fail." Some eye and heart conditions can also be considered a "gray area" where retesting may be recommended. If this occurs the dog will STILL receive its CHIC certification right away. A similar situation results even if your dog "fails" a certain testing, as the CHIC program has been instituted to be an "open" registry and offers a way for owners/breeders to gather information & get feedback on various aspects of their dogs' health --it is not intended as a way to separate dogs into groups of "passes" and "fails." So as long as the owner is willing to



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reveal non-normal ("fail") results, the dog will still receive his CHIC certification. The CHIC is a reward for seeking health data on individual dogs and then being willing to share it; it is not a program designed to externally define dogs as breedable or not. What the breeder and/or owner decides to do with the extra information provided by the CHIC program will depend on how they perceive the results as impacting on the overall health and breeding status of the dog in question.

**What is the minimum as to testing and what is really ideal as to testing?** The minimum requirements for CHIC certification are simply to test the dogs per the Canine Health Foundation's requirements (listed at OFA) and reveal all results. Ideally some tests should be repeated and/or augmented. For example, when testing for thyroid, OFA recommends repeated testing on adults through breeding age (see OFA for details). For cardiac testing, an auscultation on young Danes isn't really enough. This will screen for basic congenital defects, but will not ferret out such defects as SAS (subaortic stenosis) and DCM (dilated cardiomyopathy). To protect the breed, Great Dane breeders ideally should have a full cardiac work-up, to include an ECG & echocardiogram, done on all adult breeding stock on a regular basis into the veteran years. Visit the main page at the Health & Welfare section of the GDCA website for more information on heart disease in the Great Dane. CERF (eye) testing must be done yearly to be current. Hip radiographs (X-rays) should ideally be done on adult Danes. There ARE other tests which may be necessary depending on what an individual breeder has experienced with his/her dogs. And for all it is good to test, testing isn't useful unless conducted properly & used wisely. Testing is a "snap shot" of a dog's health only when not augmented by a more detailed history. So it goes without saying that testing isn't enough: a good medical history with accurate detail and ending ideally in a proper necropsy when needed should be conducted on at least breeding dogs, and the more detailed the history on all close relatives, the better informed a Great Dane breeder can be about what s/he is actually producing.

**What do I get for testing my dogs; do I have to pay?** Beyond the simple satisfaction of being able to document your claims of health as a breeder, and being able to help the breed out, your dog's CHIC status will be noted at the OFA website with a red, white and blue banner by the dog's name. You will also receive in the mail a red, white and blue CHIC certification. This will take 4-6 weeks to process, as do the individual tests. (CERF data now appears at the OFA website as well.) Note please that the dog need not pass all portions of the CHIC to receive the certification, but will have to then be willing to reveal non-normal results to receive the CHIC. On the OFA forms there is a box the owner must check that allows OFA to release non-normal results. For PennHIP and Canadian hip data, the owner now must simply send in the appropriate screening form to OFA with a signed letter requesting the hip results be entered in the CHIC database. There is a one-time \$25 fee per dog to the CHF is required for databases like PennHIP that do not currently participate in the CHIC database.

JP Yousha

Chairman, Health & Research Committee Great Dane Club of America

<http://www.gdca.org/healthandwelfare.html>

[danehealth@gdca.org](mailto:danehealth@gdca.org)

432-684-8940 (CT-USA)

# **DATES to REMEMBER**

## **Membership meeting**

***SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012***

7:30 p.m.

Merchant House Tavern  
4 Little Falls Road  
Fairfield, New Jersey

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

**NNJGDC  
11 Pershing Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450**

FIRST CLASS MAIL