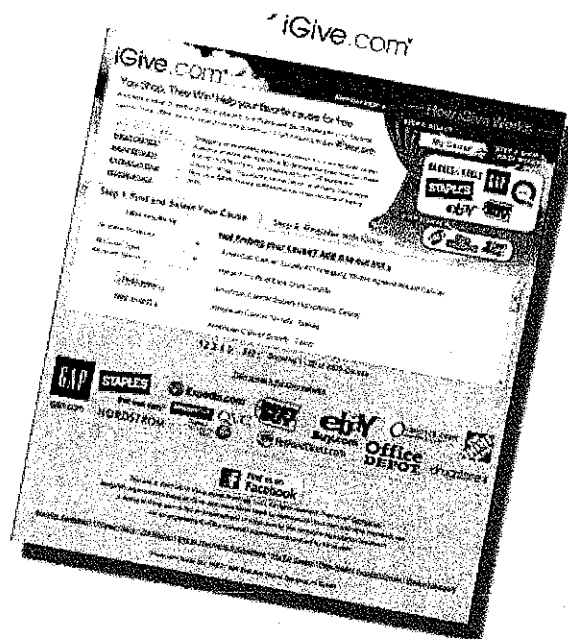


Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club

FEBRUARY 2011

2008-2011

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**NNJGDC
NEWSLETTER**

is published by the
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Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club
Minutes from the January 19, 2011
Membership Meeting
Merchants House
4 Little Falls Road
Fairfield, New Jersey

Attended by: Jeffrey Ball, Betsy Ball, Carol Farro, Kira Wright, Michelle Schueller, Adam Mascola, Ken Bocian, Diane Bocian, Cathy Dlugosz, MaryFran Cini, Donna Stuermer, RoseAnn Tucker, Bille Diesing, David Litke

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Ball at 7:58 PM. Jeff welcomed new member Kira Wright to her first meeting and guests Michelle Schueller and Adam Mascola who put in applications for club membership at the meeting. Kira will be getting her first Dane puppy soon and Michelle and Adam have their first Dane puppy as well.

Jeff asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the December meeting, Carol Farro made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Diane Bocian, motion carried.

Reports:

Corresponding Secretary: no report

Treasurer: Diane Bocian reported we have \$1,069.24 in our treasury. This does not include any dues being submitted at today's meeting.

Rescue: Cathy Dlugosz informed the membership of the upcoming NJ Super Pet Expo in Edison at the Raritan Expo Center. MAGDRL will have a booth there, the Expo runs from February 11-13th.

GDCA application: Jeff reported there is a new person in place who receives applications. Are application is in and we are still waiting to hear the current status. Jeff had a copy of the book he submitted with our application and passed it around for all to review.

NJ Federation of Dog Clubs: Bill Diesing reported our applications completed at the last meeting were all submitted. They are having a Legislation Seminar this Saturday, January 22, Jeff, Betsy, Bill and Kristeen Kohrs will be attending this seminar, great representation for our club. Jeff has Dog Show Calendars for Sale, \$5.00 each, he asked members to see him if they were interested in purchasing one.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GREAT DANE CLUB

Fundraising:

Cathy Dlugosz registered the club with IGIVE. She distributed folders with all the information needed to shop thru IGIVE and have the club receive donations. This is a great way for the club to continuously generate funds. Cathy encouraged everyone to go to the IGIVE website before making any purchases on line.

Bill Diesing stated that we have already collected \$347.00 in raffle sales so far. Jeff will distribute more books to those interested. There have been 750 tickets given out to members, if they are all sold, we would make \$400 in profit. The drawing for the raffle will be at the next meeting, February 16th.

Publicity: David Litke is working on the flyer for the club and had the template at the meeting; it still needs work and ideas for completion.

Meetings: Bill Diesing will speak to the Merchant House about our monthly reservations. They had no record of our meeting reservation for tonight's meeting.

Health and Welfare: Jeff commented on the value of a Bloat lecture and would like to see that as our next topic at AERA. Bill Diesing will call to arrange and try for this talk for our April or May meeting.

New Business:

Jeff asked the membership for ideas on what other programs they would like to see the Club provide. Jeff suggested we do something as a club relating to Therapy Certification. Kira Wright is the Director for Evaluation for Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs. It was decided we should link the club website to Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs and Kira will look into having Bright and Beautiful have a link to us on their website.

David Litke suggested a speaker on show handling, someone who has experience with Great Danes. Discussion followed. Some suggestions were Gay Wayne's employer who judges Great Danes and Dobermans or MJ Cohen. We will need to ask Gay to ask her employer and Jean to ask MJ to see if one of them would be willing to speak for us.

Kira suggested Pet CPR as a program. She will look into possibilities on this for us.

Sanctioned Match Show: Jeff stated we need to discuss this but tabled discussion until our next meeting. We do not have a target date yet.

A motion to adjourn was made by David Litke, seconded by Ken Bocian, motion carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

MaryFran Cini
Corresponding Secretary
Covering for the Recording Secretary, Jean Snyder

PREVENT, TREAT AND CURE HEART DISEASE

February is American Heart Month. The AKC Canine Health Foundation needs your help to make sure that dogs have healthy hearts too.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation has funded over \$1.4 million in canine cardiology research.

Research is on-going to find the genes responsible for tricuspid valve displasia and dilated cardiomyopathy, to determine the causes of congestive heart failure and to evaluate a therapy for preventing the progression of mitral valve disease.

Through research funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, Dr. Mark Oyama has already made a connection between mitral valve disease and elevated levels of serotonin in the mitral valve cells of affected dogs. Now Oyama is evaluating a pharmaceutical that appears to successfully block activation of serotonin receptors in dogs as a potential therapy for the heart condition.

Our work is making a real difference for dogs with heart disease. Please take a minute to read the story of how Marley, a hound-mix, and Moe, a Golden Retriever, are living happy and healthy lives thanks to a new procedure to treat severe subaortic stenosis done by Amara Estrada, DVM of the University of Florida, funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

When you make a donation of \$10 or more to support our efforts this month, you will have the option to send one of eight different Valentine's Day eCards to a fellow dog lover.

Please donate today so we can keep working to prevent, treat and cure canine disease! And thank you for your support!

To make a donation go to www.akcchf.org.

A Heart-To-Heart on Severe Subaortic Stenosis 12/01/2010

Marley was barely eight-weeks old in 2008 when his veterinarian heard a severe heart murmur in the hound-mix's chest. Marley's owner, Debbie Suttles, adoption team leader at the Gainesville (Florida) Humane Society, was referred to Herbert Maisenbacher, VMD, at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, also in Gainesville.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
**CANINE HEALTH
FOUNDATION**
PREVENT TREAT & CURE

After Maisenbacher confirmed the diagnosis of severe subaortic stenosis (SAS), a congenital heart disease, the veterinary researcher told Suttles about a new 2008-2010 study funded by an AKC Canine Health Foundation grant.

The 12-dog study had three aims: (a) to test the safety of a double balloon valvuloplasty (similar to an angioplasty) on dogs with SAS; (b) to significantly decrease the heart's pressure gradient post-operatively; and (c) to determine if the cutting balloon reduced the pressure gradient and prevented re-stenosis, or re-narrowing of the area below the aortic valve. Although the study's success partially depended on no re-stenosis for at least one year after surgery, Cardiology Chief Amara Estrada, DVM, intended to track the dogs for the rest of their lives.

Common in larger-breed dogs such as Dobermans, Golden Retrievers, Boxers, Dogue de Bordeaux and German Shepherds, SAS has, in the past, been treated with beta blocker medications or a low-pressure balloon valvuloplasty. With either protocol, the dogs lived an average of only 55 months. Doctors speculated that a more aggressive approach with earlier intervention might increase longevity and improve the animal's quality of life.

On July 2, 2009, veterinary researcher Mandi Schmidt, DVM, performed the mildly invasive two-hour procedure on Marley. Under general anesthesia and via the carotid artery in the neck, she inserted a cutting balloon with 2mm blades followed by a strong, part-Kevlar, high-pressure balloon. The object was to inflate and dilate the abnormal area of the heart below the aortic valve.

"He still has a murmur," says Suttles about Marley, "but his systolic pressure gradient (the indicator of the heart's effort to pump blood) was over 300mmHG (before surgery), and it dropped to around 190mmHG."

To qualify for the study, SAS-affected dogs had to

PREVENT, TREAT AND CURE HEART DISEASE, *continued*

have a minimum Doppler systolic pressure gradient of 80mmHG, be less than two years of age and not have a systemic or metabolic disease. "At between 8 and 30 months," Estrada says, "each dog had a fully developed lesion, but not a lot of secondary effects. You could see the stenotic ridge on the echocardiogram."

Although study dogs were treated gratis, the experimental procedure—if privately done—would cost around \$5,000, says Estrada. Furthermore if a pediatric surgeon repaired the abnormality, the surgery could easily cost \$10,000 to \$15,000. "That would be prohibitive for most owners," Estrada says. Finding a safe, effective, affordable treatment is important—one reason Estrada is planning a second study to see if the high-pressure balloon alone can decrease the pressure gradient. Since the cutting balloon costs \$1,000 and can be used only once (while the \$600 high-pressure balloon can be used repeatedly), the savings would be significant. "We want to get the cost down to \$2,000 to \$3,000," says Estrada.

SAS is so common that breeders regularly screen for it in their puppies. But owners who "really do their homework" often are knowledgeable about it, says Estrada. "Dogs can be asymptomatic, but it depends on the severity of the individual case." Although Marley, for example, behaved like a typical, frisky puppy, some dogs with high pressure gradients can act lethargic. That was Moe's problem.

After Frank and Janet Diaz purchased golden retrievers "Moe" and "Max" on the Internet, they discovered that compared to her littermate, Moe appeared less energetic and short of breath. "She did not run around like her sister (who has a less severe murmur)," says Frank, who knew Golden Retrievers might develop hip dysplasia but was not warned of SAS. "In hindsight, if I'd known of the condition, I would have checked the breeder more," he says. "Goldens are such sweet wonderful dogs, it's sad they're cursed with this problem.

"Without any intervention," he says, "her life expectancy and quality of life would be compromised..., so we wanted to do something if it was possible." The couple was apprehensive about the 2009 surgery ("there's always a chance of not

making it through," says Frank), but Moe tolerated it well and her pressure gradient dropped 30 percent. According to Moe's owners, her "night and day" improvement enables her to complete a one-mile walk every day and play with Max in the house and backyard. "It was not guaranteed," says Frank, "but it was what we hoped would happen if it were successful."

Since the valvuloplasty procedure produced no complications in all 12 dogs, they went home the next day. Six months later, they showed an average decrease of 33 percent in pressure gradient with no re-stenosis. Estrada thinks there's a "good chance" the stenosis won't return; long-term maintenance of the improved pressure gradient is still an unknown. If stenosis reforms, the team would probably repeat the valvuloplasty. Says Estrada, "I'll know more when the dogs come back for their 18-month check."

The University of Florida's commitment to translational medicine and cooperation between the medical and veterinary colleges means the SAS study results will impact the pediatric interventional cardiology team. Says Estrada, "It (the procedure) will probably be done in newborns (with SAS) as a bridge before surgeons do open heart surgery to repair the heart or replace the valve." In July of this year the study was presented at the Pediatric Interventional Cardiac Catheterization Symposium in Chicago.

Meanwhile doctors prescribe the beta blocker atenolol and moderate exercise (no running or jogging) for the study dogs, including Marley and Moe, whose one-year checkups indicate neither re-stenosis nor an increase in pressure gradient. "I would have paid for a procedure to prolong her life and its quality," says Frank. "I count my blessings."

Legislative Report

January 2011

By NJFDC President Priscilla Gabosch

A248: Prohibits use of certain underwriting guidelines by insurers pertaining to guide dogs, service dogs, or hearing assistance dogs harbored on the insured property. Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee January 12, 2010. Identical Bill Number is **S1168**. Last session bills were S1389 and A1418.

A474: Prohibits certain breeding and sales practices; requires persons selling cat or dogs to provide certain information; and provides penalties. Bill was introduced in July 2006 and never came out of committee. It was then pre-filed for introduction on January 8, 2008 and now again it was referred to Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on 12 January 2010. This is the bill that defines a breeder as one who offers for sale more than 5 cats or dogs per year. No one may sell more than 25 cats or dogs per year for use as pets. The bill contains requirement for maintenance of your facility and the fines for violations as very high. Last Session bill number A1591.

A678: Requires all cats and dogs released from shelters and pounds be sterilized with certain exceptions; increases certain dog-related fees; dedicates increases to Animal Population Control Fund; establishes new eligibility criteria for spaying and neutering program. Referred to Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee 12 January 2010. Last session bill was A1568.

A832: Establishes new crimes concerning service dogs and upgrades crimes against certain other animals. Referred to Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on 12 January 2010. Identical bill is **S1154**. Last Session bill numbers were A4350 and S3106.

A1027: Permits the rabies inoculation of dogs at pounds or shelters under the direction of a licensed veterinarian, or other veterinarian permitted by law to administer vaccinations, who is employed by the licensed pound or shelter. Introduced, referred to assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee January 12, 2010. Last session bill was A449.

A1518: This bill revises current animal cruelty law to specifically identify the cruel restraint or confinement of a dog as both a criminal and civil offense. Bill defines cruel restraint of a dog. Sets limits, on the hours dogs may be tethered. Bill defines cruel confinement of a dog, specifying square feet of space of an enclosure that is used as the dog's primary living area or regularly used by the dog to eat, sleep, drink and eliminate. Primary sponsor is Anthony Chiappone. Introduced and referred to Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee January 12, 2010.

A2731: Bill to permit various facilities dealing with dogs to provide municipal dog licenses, and municipal cat licenses where required, with municipal approval. Bill would permit licensed kennels, pet shops, shelters, pounds, or veterinarians, to solicit, accept, and process dog registrations and tags or any dog, within the jurisdiction of a municipality. Cat licenses are included in bill. Primary sponsor is Gordon M. Johnson. bill introduced and referred to Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee May 13 2010 and reported out of Committee, with amendments June 14, 2010 and had a second reading in the assembly. The committee amendments were 1) to remove pet grooming establishments from being able to accept or process licenses, 2) specify that the municipality would approve the processing of licenses, 3) clarify that approvals for cat licenses was where these are required, 4) prohibit any of the facilities named in the bill be able to retain any part of the municipal license fees.

A3162: Establishes crimes of dog fighting and leader of a dog fighting network; amends RICO to add leader of a dog fighting network. Primary sponsor is Gordon Johnson. Dog fighting is illegal in New Jersey however; dog fighting does not appear under "Racketeering activity" in New Jersey's RICO statute. Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee September 16, 2010. Identical bill in the Senate is **S539**.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GREAT DANE CLUB

A3205: Requires all cats and dogs released from shelters and pounds be sterilized with certain exceptions, and establishes penalty for noncompliance. Referred to Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee, September 16, 2010 Primary Sponsor is John Burzichelli. Identical bill is **S1643**, which passed the Senate on November 22 and then passed to the Assembly and referred to Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee Last session bill number was S1694.

S539: Establishes crimes of dog fighting and leader of a dog fighting network; amends RICO to add leader of a dog fighting network. Primary sponsors are Thomas H. Kean Jr. and Jeff Van Drew. Dog fighting is illegal in New Jersey however; dog fighting does not appear under "Racketeering activity" in New Jersey's RICO statute. Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee January 12, 2010. Identical bill in the Assembly is **S3162**.

S1125: Prohibits cruel restraint of dogs. Again, as in A1518, bill revises current animal cruelty law however this bill specifically identifies the cruel restraint of a dog as both a criminal and civil offense Last session Bill Numbers; S2510 and A539. Primary sponsor Jeff Van Drew. Introduced in the Senate referred to Senate Economic Growth Committee February 4, 2010

S1154: Establishes new crimes concerning service dogs and upgrades crimes against certain other animals. Referred to Senate Economic Committee on 4 February 2010. Identical bill **A832**. Last Session Bill number A4350 . Referred to Senate Economic Growth Committee on February 4, 2010. Last Session bill number S3106.

S1168: Prohibits use of certain underwriting guidelines by insurers pertaining to guide dogs, service dogs, or hearing assistance dogs harbored on the insured property. Referred to Senate Commerce Committee on January 12, 2010. Identical Bill Number is **A248**. Last session bills were S1389 and A1418. A248 introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee on February 4, 2010.

S1506: Bill provides that an insurer shall not deny, cancel, or non-renew a homeowners insurance policy solely on the basis of the type or specific breed of dog harbored upon he insured property Last session Bill Numbers S1275 and A1951. Primary sponsor Jeff Van Drew. Bill introduced in the Senate and referred to Senate Commerce Committee on February 22, 2010.

S1643: Requires all cats and dogs released from shelters and pounds be sterilized with certain exceptions, and establishes penalty for noncompliance. In October, the bill was reported from the Senate Economic Commerce Committee as a substitute and it was passed by the Senate November 22, at which time it was then received in the Assembly and referred to the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Primary Sponsors are Stephen Sweeney and Jeff Van Drew. Identical bill is **A3205**. Last session bill number was S1694.

Local Legislation

Mahwah

The town was considering an ordinance 1679, which would have prohibited dogs in all recreational and designated facilities. Prior to the Council meeting, it was amended. Instead of dogs being prohibited on all public recreational property, it was revised to specify just a synthetic field at one location that the township was trying to protect. Through the efforts of Barbara Reichman and many Ramapo Kennel Club members the ordinance was not enacted.

High Bridge

On 10/28 an ordinance was presented where the defenses for barking dogs were so broadened as to allow defense of practically all instances. At that meeting Linda Deutsch and Genie Bishop presented a plan of remediation for offending owners/dogs utilizing AKC CGC training & certification, coupled with any appropriate alterations to animal housing as a deterrent, as a resource and alternative to fines and penalties.. Discussion was to continue at the 11/18 Council Meeting

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY GREAT DANE CLUB

Northern New Jersey Great Dane Club
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)

- [] Advertising/Catalog [] Dimer Arrangements [] Membership [] Publicity
[] Audio/Photography [] Obedience Classes [] Roster [] The Newsletter
[] Awards [] Historian [] Pet Therapy/Health [] Show Handling Classes
[] Breed Trophies [] Match Show [] Point Show [] Special Events
[] Budget / Audit [] Material/Property [] Programs [] Sunshine
[] Community Service [] Meeting Hospitality [] Public Education [] Web Site
[] Phone Tree [] 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 []
Individual Membership \$25.00 []
Two Members of Immediate Family \$40.00 []
Junior Membership \$10.00 []

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

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 _____ Notice to membership
Voted on: _____ Accept [] Decline []

DATES to REMEMBER

Membership meeting

February 16, 2011

7:30 p.m.

Merchant House Tavern
4 Little Falls Road
Fairfield, New Jersey

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

NNIGDC
11 Pershing Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

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