

- 1884 The American Kennel Club was organized.
- 1889 The original Great Dane Club of America was organized in Chicago. It was the fourth breed club to become a member of the American Kennel Club.
- 1891 The Great Dane Club of America, Inc. was organized in New York by Mr. A. H. Heppner. This present club succeeded the original club.
- 1939 The Great Dane Club of Cleveland was founded by:
Creighton and Lillian Hayne
Oliver and Lil Owens
Otto Schulle
- This landmark meeting was held in a bar on Franklin Avenue or Blvd. in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 1941 The Great Dane Club of Cleveland was recognized by The Great Dane Club of America.
- 1942 to 1945 The Great Dane Club of Cleveland was held together by the women in the club until 1945 when World War II ended. Many of the male club members were in the armed services during this period of time.
- 1946 The first Specialty show was held with the Chagrin Valley Kennel Club.
- 1949-50 The Specialty show was held with Chagrin Valley Kennel Club, Gates Mills, Ohio. Dane club members ran the food concession for the show. Two extra classes for local dogs were offered. Twenty-two members were on the rolls.
- 1951-52 Specialties were held in conjunction with Chagrin Valley Kennel Club and Western Reserve Kennel Club. Membership increased to 35.
- 1953-54 1954 was our first independent Specialty show. It was held in the Cleveland Public Auditorium the Friday evening before the Cleveland Classic. Wynn Suck, a well-known handler, judged an entry of fifty-seven. Meetings were held at Dr. and Mrs. Bittel's home. Summer 1953 marked the first picnic/puppy match. The 1954 picnic match had 37 entries. There were 38 members.
- 1955-56 The Dane Data was started. Membership was 30. The January Specialty had an entry of 52. The August Specialty in conjunction with Chagrin Valley had an entry of 43. The Picnic match, Christmas Party, and pot-luck suppers were well attended.

- 1957-58 In 1957 a Specialty was with Chagrin Valley KC. In 1958 a Specialty was with Western Reserve. The Rover Award was presented for the first time. This is for the outstanding member of the year chosen by the members for (1) service to the club, (2) service to the breed, (3) good sportsmanship. Forty-six (46) members.
- 1959-60 Fifty eight members. As members of the Ohio Specialty Association, the Specialty show was held in June. Training class was started for members. In 1959 six champions finished and in 1960 there were 3. The Cleveland Press Charity Parade featured club members and their Danes parading in formation and with floats.
- 1961-63 1963 Mrs. Robert E. Bittel (Heien) was the first woman president of the Great Dane Club of Cleveland. Sixty-one members. Social events and training classes were held.
- 1964-66 Fifty five members. Many more Danes were bred as demand was great. Specialties had grown to 100 entries. Our match was well attended. Dane Data had grown. Many socials were held. Educational speakers were part of our meetings.
- 1967-69 Fifty three members. 1969 marked the first sweepstakes held with the Specialty. Social events helped hold the club together. Potluck Dinner, Clam Bake, Steak Roast, Puppy Picnic Match, Buffet and Pre-Show Dinner. Training classes continued.
- 1970-72 Membership reached a high of 83. Many new people joined the ranks of breeders. All of the established activities continued. The July picnic match was a highlight of the year along with the June Specialty. Danes In Distress began (finding good homes for unfortunate Great Danes). Donations were made to American Dog Owners Association.
- 1973-75 Eighty five members. The club continued to support the worthy causes: ADOA, Danes In Distress, and bloat research. Two Specialty Shows and Sweepstakes have become tradition as well as Dane Data, our monthly publication. Our training/handling classes were still proving their value in the show ring as many members show their own dogs. Our July match was very special attended by many out-of-state people.

- 1976-78 Seventy two members. Our July match has been so successful we added one in September. In 1976 we added obedience to the matches. 1978 marked the 25th year of our July matches. The matches along with our training and handling classes were very helpful to new Dane owners. Club members received plaques for completing championships. Socials continued to bind our membership together as friends and competitors.
- 1979-81 Sixty five members. Our club donated \$100. to the Morris Animal Foundation. Our annual Specialty Show and Sweepstakes continued to be a success with majors every year. The two puppy matches were also well attended. Our socials, training classes and informative meetings contributed to the success of our club. Three dogs completed championships.
- 1982-84 Membership was forty.
1984 - Mr. Creighton Hayne, a founder of the club, passed away. His knowledge and expertise have been missed.
Each year we had two socials, a spring pizza party and a fall clambake, as well as our puppy matches and potlucks. The combination of learning and social fun work well for us. Eight member-owned dogs became champions.
- 1985-89 Membership was thirty-five.
The death of Dr. Robert Bittel was a tragic loss to the Breed, his family, and all who knew him. During this same time period we also mourned Dick and Dorothy Bohunek, who were great contributors to our club and the Breed. Loyal, dedicated members continued to carry out all of the club functions. The show must go on!
- 1990-92 Many new members have joined. Interests vary from conformation to obedience to Dane rescue. Educating members and new Dane owners in the general public continues to be a goal. Two Specialties and Sweepstakes are offered yearly. Supported entries at all-breed shows encourage better entries.

Great Dane Club of Cleveland

The club was founded in 1939 and Creighton Hayne was a charter member.

Dane Data was first published in March of 1956. Jane Gregory (Thompson) wrote, Charley Huxtable typed and Bob Phillips did the covers. In September of 1959, Janes husband Greg died and Jane asked me (Helen Bittel) to take over. Helen put out the Dane Data for several years with Dick Bohunek and Lou Kovacs doing the covers. Since then, Dane Data has had several editors.

Rover Award. The idea for the award came from the three original people who started Dane Data - Jane, Charley and Bob. The first Rover Award was presented at the Christmas party in December of 1957. These three set up the requirements and they have stayed the same through the years. No reason they cannot be changed if the club desires.

Puppy Match - The first puppy match was held in 1953. The first two were held in Peninsuly (Pender's) - one was held at a Metro park, one in New London, and the rest have been held at "Bittel's Barnyard". Am not sure when the first Fall puppy match was held, but probably about 10 years ago. Bittels had the first ones (3 or 4) and the rest have been held at the Depenbrocks.

Specialty Show - Our first Specialty Show with the Ohio Specialties Club was held in 1959. The Boxer club and the Dane club met and worked together getting other breeds (about 10 in all) to join, and the Ohio Specialties Club was formed. Over the years the other breeds slowly dropped out, preferring to put on their own specialties. I think they started out showing at the Solon High School and were in Berea once or twice, but were at the Polo grounds for the most years.

Ten Year Awards - This started in 1965 and members get an award after being in the club 10 consecutive years. I have the printed forms and Ty Klevay writes in script, the names of the recipients. These also are given at the Christmas party.

These are just some pertinent facts about the club and its awards. I've listed the winners of the Rover Awards and Ten Year Awards on a separate sheet and you can add on in the future. I'll take care of the 10 Year Awards for a while at least. The above is not necessarily the duties of the Dane Data editor - just the Rover Award really. Just thought this information should be in younger hands. It's just some information I have kept over the years.

(found the following, which I wrote for the 1982 Dane Data. will print it in its entirety and you can pick out whatever you want to use.)

Dane Data was 25 years old last year (1981). The first issue came out in March of 1956 and had three people working on it. One person (Jane Gregory) wrote it - (Charley Huxtable printed it and Bob Phillips did the covers. There have been a variety of editors since. I did it for about 8 years, with Lou Kovacs (my brother-in-law) doing the covers and then Dick Bohunek did them. I think Diane Jackson, Norma Kentris were a couple of the past editors and more recently Gloria Costanza, and now Kathy Baraga. Unfortunately, the problem of getting news has always been there. If the editor goes to a lot of dog shows (as was true in my case) then she has the results, but people just forget to send in their wins or anything else that would be of interest, and sometimes your editor really has to scrounge. So help your editor out and send in any items of interest.

Puppy Match

The July Puppy Match was held in 1953. The first two were held in Peninsula, one was held at a Metro Park, one in New London and the rest have been held at "Bittels Barnyard". The puppy match is a sort of service to the breed since it brings out novice dog owners and is a good place to compare one's own dog with other puppies the same age. And to see how dog shows are conducted. Plus - they are fun!!

Rover Award

The Rover Award was first started in 1957 and is basically a way of giving recognition to club members who have given of their time and efforts over the past year or years, to help keep the club active, and for the "Betterment of the Breed." It is always hard to choose one person for the year (and sometime there might be a tie) but if you will check your nominee's name against the criteria set for the award by the original committee, it will make it a little easier. The qualifications are:-

- 1) Service to the Club
- 2) Service to the Breed
- 3) Good Sportsmanship.

Numbers one and three are pretty much self-explanatory. Number two means any way the breed is promoted. Not just exhibiting, but selective breeding, publicity on the breed etc.

Ballots are passed out at the Nov. meeting and will be collected then, or you may mail it in. The award is presented at the Christmas party. On the ballots will be printed where to mail them and the deadline for getting them in.

(Quite often club members are not aware of who does what, so you might want members to send in nominations telling why he/she thinks that person deserves the Rover Award.

HISTORY OF THE:

GREAT DANE CLUB OF CLEVELAND OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

1964 - 55 members.

President: Sam Pizzino
1st. Vice Pres: Tibor Klevay
2nd. Vice Pres: Robert Bittel
Secretary: Norma Staats
Treasurer: Gordon Kirk

BOARD

Helen Bittel
Dick Bohunek
Kenneth Drechsel
Vi Schaefer
Eugene Terbizan
Lucille Klevay

1965 - 55 members.

President: Sam Pizzino
1st. Vice Pres: William Fox
2nd. Vice Pres: Jack Staats
Secretary: Virginia Fox
Treasurer: Norma Staats

BOARD

Robert Bittel
Helen Bittel
Gordon Kirk
Dick Bohunek
Kenneth Drechsel
Vi Schaefer

1966 - 55 members.

President: Kenneth Drechsel
1st. Vice Pres: Jim Pizzino
2nd. Vice Pres: Norma Staats
Secretary: Virginia Fox
Treasurer: Creighton Hayne

BOARD

Jack Staats
William Fox
Helen Bittel
Robert Bittel
Sam Pizzino
Dick Bohunek

1967 - 53 members.

President: Sam Pizzino
1st. Vice Pres: Helen Porubsky
2nd. Vice Pres: Larry Wilk
Secretary: Lenore Mack
Treasurer: Virginia Fox

BOARD

Kenneth Drechsel
Dick Bohunek
Jack Staats
William Fox
Robert Bittel
Norma Staats

1968 - 53 members.

President: Dick Bohunek
1st. Vice Pres: Lynn Pizzino
2nd. Vice Pres: Larry Wilk
Secretary: Donna Wilk
Treasurer: Virginia Fox

BOARD

Sam Pizzino
Creighton Hayne
Kenneth Drechsel
Robert Bittel
Jack Staats
William Fox

1969 - 53 members.

President: Jack Staats
1st. Vice Pres: Marilyn Turek
2nd. Vice Pres: Larry Wilk
Secretary: Donna Wilk
Treasurer: Bernard Turek

BOARD

Helen Bittel
Robert Bittel
Dick Bohunek
Sam Pizzino
Creighton Hayne
Kenneth Drechsel

HISTORY OF THE: GREAT DANE CLUB OF CLEVELAND OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

1970 - 83 members.

President: Robert Bittel
1st. Vice Pres: Marilyn Turek
2nd. Vice Pres: Larry Hansen
Secretary : Helen Bittel
Treasurer: Virginia Fox

BOARD

Kenneth Drechsel
Carl Frimel
Dick Bohunek
Jack Staats
Sam Pizzino
Creighton Hayne

1971 - 83 members.

President: Robert Bittel
1st. Vice Pres: Norma Staats
2nd. Vice Pres: Lynn Pizzino
Secretary: Helen Bittel
Treasurer: Diane Hollis

BOARD

Larry Hansen
Sam Pizzino
Kenneth Drechsel
Carl Frimel
Dick Bohunek
Dorothy Bohunek

1972 - 83 members.

President: Norma Staats
1st. Vice Pres: Dick Bohunek
2nd. Vice Pres: Lynn Pizzino
Secretary: Anita Mysyk
Treasurer: Dorothy Bohunek

BOARD

Robert Bittel
Glen Childs
Larry Hansen
Sam Pizzino
Kenneth Drechsel
Gary Archdeacon

1973 - 85 members.

President: Lynn Pizzino
1st. Vice Pres: Glen Childs
2nd. Vice Pres: Lin Childs
Secretary: Anita Mysyk
Treasurer: Dorothy Bohunek

BOARD

Norma Kentris
Dick Bohunek
Diane Jackson
Robert Bittel
Larry Hansen
Al Stoss

1974 - 85 members.

President: Larry Terry
1st. Vice Pres: John Mysyk
2nd. Vice Pres: Diane Jackson
Secretary: Diana Alverson
Treasurer: Al Stoss

BOARD

Robert Bittel
Helen Bittel
Sam Pizzino
Lynn Pizzino
Norma Kentris
Glen Childs

1975 - 85 members.

President: Larry Terry
1st. Vice Pres: Carolyn Richards
2nd. Vice Pres: James Kentris
Secretary: Ava Terry
Treasurer: Al Stoss

BOARD

Norma Kentris
Helen Bittel
Robert Bittel
Sam Pizzino
Lynn Pizzino
Diana Alverson

HISTORY OF THE: GREAT DANE CLUB OF CLEVELAND OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

1976 - 55 members.

BOARD

President: Al Stoss
1st. Vice Pres: Norma Kentris
2nd. Vice Pres: Jim Kentris
Secretary: Carolyn Richards
Treasurer: Vincent Waugaman

1977

BOARD

President: Joe Longo
1st. Vice Pres: Tootie Longo
2nd. Vice Pres: Anita Mysyk
Secretary: Carolyn Richards
Treasurer: Bonnie Pavel

1978

BOARD

President: Joe Longo
1st. Vice Pres: Tootie Longo
2nd. Vice Pres: Bob Garrett
Secretary: Jean Garrett
Treasurer: Larry Terry

1979

BOARD

President: Bob Garrett
1st. Vice Pres: Sharon Feurestein
2nd. Vice Pres: Jean Garrett
Secretary: Jean Scalon
Treasurer: Larry Terry

1980

BOARD

President: Bob Garrett
1st. Vice Pres: Sharon Feurestein
2nd. Vice Pres: Jean Garrett
Secretary: Jean Scalon
Treasurer: Joe Longo

1981 - 51 members.

BOARD

President: Joe Longo
1st. Vice Pres: Sam Pizzino
2nd. Vice Pres: Larry Terry
Secretary: Carolyn Richards
Treasurer: Carol Ringler

HISTORY OF THE: GREAT DANE CLUB OF CLEVELAND OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

1982 - 48 members.

President: Joe Longo
1st. Vice Pres: Sam Pizzino
2nd. Vice Pres: Chuck Costanzo
Secretary: Gloria Costanzo
Treasurer: Carol Ringler

BOARD

Vi Schaefer
Dave Leonard
Lynn Pizzino
Dave Ringler
Larry Terry
Tootie Longo

1983 - 42 members.

President: Dave Ringler
1st. Vice Pres: Kathy Baraga
2nd. Vice Pres: Chuck Costanzo
Secretary: Gloria Costanzo
Treasurer: Dave Leonard

BOARD

Tootie Longo
Jim Baraga
Van van der Voort
Larry Terry
Carol Ringler
Georgiann Depenbrok

1984 - 40 members.

President: Dave Ringler
1st. Vice Pres: Pat Glass
2nd. Vice Pres: Carolyn Richards
Secretary: Kathy Baraga
Treasurer: Dave Leonard

BOARD

Carol Ringler
Tootie Longo
Terri Leonard
Jim Baraga
Chuck Costanzo
Gloria Costanzo

1985 - 40 members.

President: Joe Longo
1st. Vice Pres: Pat Glass
2nd. Vice Pres: Carolyn Richards
Secretary: Kathy Baraga
Treasurer: Steve Blaker

BOARD

Tootie Longo
Terri Leonard
Carol Ringler
Dave Ringler
Jim Baraga
Dave Leonard

1986 -

President: Joe Longo
1st. Vice Pres: Dave Leonard
2nd. Vice Pres: Steve Blaker
Secretary: Terri Leonard
Treasurer: Kathy Baraga

BOARD

Tootie Longo
Dave Ringler
Jim Baraga
Patti Clarke
Penny Blaker
Carolyn Richards

1987 -

President:
1st. Vice Pres:
2nd. Vice Pres:
Secretary:
Treasurer:

BOARD