

Great Dane Club of America
Breed Mentor Duties and Responsibilities

Mission Statement: The Breed Mentor has the responsibility of providing assistance and guidance to prospective judges as well as breeders of the Great Dane through the use of their knowledge and experience. The culmination of their efforts would be to ensure the ongoing improvement of the Great Dane by means of more effective and successful breeding programs and judging that encompasses the essence of the breed and those factors deemed of most importance to the GDCA.

- 1. New mentors will be approved by the GDCA Board of Directors after submission of an application form and a signed agreement for a specified Code of Conduct.**
- 2. Mentors should make themselves available, to the best of their abilities, to anyone requesting assistance.**
- 3. It is strongly suggested that ringside mentoring sessions be conducted at a venue where there are major entries. The larger the entry the better the experience.**
- 4. The mentor should refrain from discussing any of their own dogs that might be exhibited that day.**
- 5. Comments regarding the comparative assets of the exhibits should be done in the most positive manner possible and using breed specific language.**
- 6. An amplification of item #5 is that no mentor should use a mentoring session to disparage, in any way, a dog, breeder, handler or judge. Any such actions will simply not be tolerated by the GDCA Board of Directors and are in direct violation of the Code of Conduct which every breed mentor has attested to by**

signature. Any mentoring sessions must be conducted with the highest level of professionalism and demeanor. The mentor must, at all times, realize that they are representing themselves, the GDCA and the best interests of the breed.

- 7. Reviewing the overall qualities of any specimen should always be the desired procedure rather than a fault-finding process.**
- 8. If the individual being mentored is already a judge and is planning to apply for Great Danes as an additional breed, the mentor should realize that this person is already conversant with canine anatomy and, with some notable exceptions, the mentoring process should be geared towards those aspects of the breed that the GDCA wishes for all judges to fully understand and are sometimes misunderstood by those coming into the breed.**
- 9. The mentor's role is also of great importance for those that are part of the world of Great Danes. Some individuals have tried, with limited success, to develop a successful breeding program of their own. There are any number of reasons for this situation and a mentor can be the conduit for getting these people onto a road to success. Therefore, a breed mentor can be expected to be called upon, when needed, to assist the Breeder's Education Committee as well. Such conversations can be inherently difficult and the mentor must be able to maintain the line of thought without unreasonably criticizing others.**
- 10. The breed mentor should forward any questions or concerns to GDCA Board of Directors for any necessary clarification. It is important that everyone involved with this program is consistent in their dealings with those utilizing the good offices of a breed mentor.**