

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR GREAT DANES**

### **The Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust**

The Great Dane Club of America established the Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust in 2001. The Trust is a 501 (C)(3) dedicated to the Health, Rescue and Education pertaining to Great Danes. When the Trust was established there were 3 founding Trustees. They are Jane Chopson, Lisa Foltz and Paul Hardiman. In February of 2009 four additional Trustees were added. They are Don Carmody, Jay Miller, Linda Ridder and Linda Tonnoncour bringing the total Trustees to seven. With the addition of these four new Trustees it is hoped that the Trust can be even more active and effective. Lourdes Carvajal serves as the Administrator for the Trust. The trust funds in four primary areas;

#### **RESCUE**

The Trust funds veterinary bills for Danes that come into our GDCA Rescue committees' approved Rescue programs. Thousands of Great Danes in need have received assistance from our GDCA Rescue program allowing them to return to health and find loving forever homes. In addition the Trust funds Insurance for our approved Rescues.

#### **EDUCATION**

The Trust funds Education grants to local affiliate clubs allowing them to offer relevant education activities to serve their local dog fancier community. This last year, for the first time, the Trust was proud to sponsor the Breeders Education Program at the 2008 National Specialty.

#### **SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS**

A number of college scholarship grants have been awarded to support young Great Dane enthusiasts as they pursue college educations.

#### **HEALTH RESEARCH**

The Trust has funded a number of Research studies. Those include studies on Osteosarcoma, Cardiomyopathy and Neurological disorders. In addition the Trust has contributed funding to the Rabies Challenge study and funded the Harlequin gene project. For several years the Trust has also funded a Cardiac screening clinic at National Specialties allowing attendees to have dogs screened at a reduced rate.

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

There are many ways you can contribute to the Trust. All contributions are tax deductible. Donors receive a year end statement from the Trust summarizing your contributions which you can use when preparing your annual income tax. Below are a few of the primary ways that people support the Trust.

#### **GIFTS**

Some choose to make a monthly gift, others may make an annual gift. You can remember the Trust whenever you want to celebrate a special occasion. This could be a birthday, holiday, anniversary, judge's gift or any other occasion you choose to celebrate

#### **BEQUESTS**

Others have chosen to remember the Trust in their wills. Deferred gift opportunities include life insurance, bequests in your will, living trusts, and gifts of art and antiques. Deferred gifts may offer tax benefits to the donor. If you wish to consider a deferred gift the Trust encourages you to speak to a qualified estate planner, attorney, financial counselor or tax consultant to determine how your gift may be structured and what tax benefits may or may not apply. We have been fortunate to receive two significant bequests. One was from Patricia Reneau's estate and another from the estate of Eva Robinson of Riverwood fame. These two remarkable women assured that their love for the breed lives even after their deaths.

## **MEMORIALS**

You can make a contribution to the Trust to honor a lost loved one, human or canine. If you organize a memorial ad all you need to do is collect checks from those wishing to be listed in the memorial and forward them to the Trust. The checks should be made out to the Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust. This allows all donors to receive a tax deduction and also allows the Trust to record and acknowledge each individual donor. Recently I learned that the Great Dane Gazette offers a free memorial ad anytime \$300 dollars or more is collected for the memorial ad.

## **BREEDER SUPPORT**

A breeder could choose to donate a portion of each puppy sale or stud fee as a way to support the health and welfare of their breed. By doing so you not only show your commitment to the breed to you puppy buyers but it also may encourage them to become donors themselves.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

Fundraisers have provided significant revenue to the Trust. Local Clubs have held auctions and dinners on behalf of the Trust. Others have held parties in their homes to benefit us. A Golf Tournament and a raffle for a vacation home have also been successful. Auction items sold on E-Bay and through the GDCA website have also brought in much needed funds. Talk to your friends or at your next club meeting talk about what you can do to help. Many of the things you or your club can do can be a lot of fun and also do a lot of good for Great Danes.

So by now hopefully you want to know how to make your donation. Checks should be made payable to The Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust and sent to Lourdes Carvajal Administrator

6800 E Pony Creek Road  
Freeman MO 64746-6274

Thank you in advance for your support in "Making a Difference for Great Danes"  
Jane Chopson  
Trustee Great Dane Club of America Charitable Trust