

Saturday PM Judge: Mari Hayhurst

Ever since I can remember, our house was filled with animals. We always had cats, little baby birds, and a dog. My favorite uncle had a fawn Great Dane, very sweet. To my three-year-old eyes, that dog was HUGE!



When I was four, my mother asked me if I wanted a puppy or a brother. Five months later, I was presented with a baby brother. Although I love my brother dearly, I've been trying to make up for the disappointment ever since.

When we met in 1977, David owned a fawn Great Dane, Tamberlayne's Reprisal, a CH Mountdania's Timber grandson. I loved Tam, and I knew immediately that I wanted to share my life with this incredible breed.

David and I got married in 1979, bought a house in 1987, and when I got laid off from my teaching job in 1988, I took as a sign that we were ready for a Great Dane puppy.

We speialed CH Jerdans Sweet Sensation, Shannon, in 1991. She was the Number Three bitch that year – she my fairytale princess until we had to say goodbye when she was 11-1/2 years old. Shannon was the foundation of our breeding program. We bred her to a dog that was never shown, Shadam's Obadiah Daneadair, and kept a brindle girl CH Lake Jerdans Sweet Surprise, JoJo, and a fawn boy, BISS CH Lake Jerdans First Edition, Buddah (so named by our vet because he had a fat tummy). Buddha became our second Top Twenty Dog, breeder-owner handled by David the first year, and then by Joe Napolitano and Steve Cochran. All of our current Danes go back to Buddha, including by heart boy, BISS GCH Lake Prime Time, Deion. In addition to our Danes, we have Rotties and Boxers.

I'm delighted to be judging your show!