



## An Interview with

## Karen Lindsay

Interviewed by Michele Neff

### Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in a small town in Southern Minnesota

### Did you have dogs growing up?

I was told by my Mother that I collected any stray dogs that I could find, and put them in our enclosed porch. That was in early grade school. >From then on, I had dogs, cats, rabbits, turtles, whatever. In my high school journal, I said I would like to become a vet.

### What is your kennel name, and how did you come up with the name?

My kids were in high school and we lived on Brier road. Now isn't that original! So my kennel name became Brierdane, and then, quite often it has been just Brier.

### Can you please tell us how, and when you got started in Danes?

I was married at the time and my mother-in-law gave John and I a gift of \$250.00 each and we agreed we would do whatever we each wanted with it. I had never even seen a Great Dane, but somehow I knew that was what I wanted. I did learn early on, don't take your kids with you to look at puppies!!! I contacted Beve Hauer through a breeder's referral. I drove up in my dune buggy so she probably thought this person could be a flake! I fell in love with her dog " O'Lorcain's Townleigh v Hauer". He was Joker's Wild son and Beve managed to find a puppy back East from June Mirando, and this puppy was a Joker's Wild daughter. That was the beginning of Brierdane. Her name was Mirando's Match Point Mandy. She absolutely hated the show ring. She was the dam of BIS BISS Ch. Brierdane's Indian Amber and Ch. Brier's Duesenberg V Hauer.



BIS BISS Ch. Brierdane's Indian Amber

### Who were your mentors?

Beve Hauer was my first mentor I have been fortunate to have had many friends and co-owners/breeders that helped me along the way. It took me a very long time before I felt confident that I could say I like that

dog - and not have someone look at me like - "are you serious"!!

### What was the name of your first Champion?

Beve had bred her Townleigh to Rysco's Million Dollar Baby, and gave me a very handsome fawn male - which was



BISS Ch. Hauerdane's War Bonnet

"Bonner" - BISS Ch. Hauerdane's War Bonnet. He was my first show dog and also my first champion.

**Over the years which dogs have been your top producers. or winners, owned/co-owned?**

The top winner would be BIS BISS Ch. Brierdane's Indian Amber. She had four Best In Shows, and was the #1 Great Dane in 1994.

Ch. Brier's Ruffled Feathers v Rika, Honor Roll

BISS Ch. Brier Rika Injun Spirit Chaney, # 1 Great Dane Bitch 1992

Ch. Rika Brier Indian Uprising, Honor roll, GDCC Producers of Merit

Ch. Dustiny Good N Plenty Etal, ROM, GDCC Producer of Merit

Ch. Chaney Brier Twodaloo, Honor Roll

BISS Ch. Brier Rika Good Grief, GDCC Top Dog 1998



Ch. Chaney Brier Twodaloo, Ch. Brier Bridging the Gap

& Ch. Chaney Brier Ez Come Ez Go



BISS Ch. Brier Rika Good Grief

Top Producer was BISS Ch. Chaney Brier Maserati Mistrl - 30 Champions, Award of Merit

BISS Ch. Hauerdane's War Bonnet - 25 Champions

**How many years were you in the breed before you had your first champion?**

I received my first Dane (Mandy) in 1978 and War Bonnet finished in 1981.

**Do you feel that the breed today is in better or worse shape than when you started?**

I think some things go in cycles. Right now, I see many poor top lines, poor movement and generic heads. Many years ago the breed had fewer breeders, but their stud dogs were the foundation of our pedigrees today. We have splintered up our breeding programs, for many different reasons, one of being not enough land for large kennels. (Which I think is a good thing). Quite a few breeders in different parts of



BISS Ch. Chaney Brier Maserati Mistrl

the U.S. have gone on to produce a certain "look" that you could identify them with.



Ch. Hallmark Del Oro Jackie O SDS and Karen

### **What is the best piece advice you could give someone just starting out in Danes?**

Take your time to talk to as many breeders as possible - listen to those that you feel are knowledgeable, that can critique a dog for you, and take time to establish a look that you like. Remember, you will never find that perfect dog. There will be faults you can live with, and some that you absolutely don't want. Buy the best bitch you can if you plan to have a breeding program. They are at least 50% of the well-being and look of your puppies and usually get 5% of the credit. Finding a super duper male to special is hard. Let breeders know you are serious, and do your homework. Be as gracious winning as you are in losing. Learn about your judges.

### **What do you consider your greatest success to date?**

Well - to be honest - I'm glad that I'm alive and well!! I have been so fortunate and happy to have owned- co-owned- co-bred the dogs I have had. I think the most bittersweet is Amber. She was sold as a pet first of all. I finally arranged with the owner that I could take her to the shows. Amber and I developed a strong bond. The pet owner finally gave her up (not without many Excedrin headaches). My husband didn't have a license plate "Our 2 Danes" (Mandy and Bonner) for nothing. Kathy Varian did buy her out, and we were fortunate to have Amber go on to a successful show career.

### **How many dogs do you currently have?**

We have four at Brierdane:

BISS Ch. Brier Rika Lera PT Cruiser - 10 years young

Ch. Colra Brier Lera's Dirty Laundry - 5 1/2 years

Ch. Surfside Lera Brier Beach Bum - 4 1/2 years

Brier Lera Shoreline West Dirt Cheap - 2 years

There's a possibility that we could add to the group - we'll wait and see...



BISS Ch. Brier Chaney Will Work For Food

### **At what age do you like to evaluate a litter, and when choosing a puppy what is most important to you?**

I like to look at them between 8-9 weeks. After 9 weeks, they can become an "ugly duckling". They start growing at different times and you don't have a clue. Remember, a lot of good luck goes into picking puppies.



BISS Ch. Brier CHaney's Judge n Jury

For those that know me, I like a puppy that makes me look at them - again, and again. Possibly a little naughty. They should possess a total look with that "strut". Also I would always look at an extreme puppy with a fault, than a generic one that doesn't do a thing wrong, but also doesn't do a thing for me. Another thing that I find important is that tight, correct shape of the eye, and as dark as possible.