

## Great Dane Club of Western New York Judge Vern Harvey

---

First of all, I consider judging a good class of dogs a great privilege. I saw no bad Great Danes in New York, and the overall quality and "type" was much better than in many areas of our Country. Over the years, I have concluded that there are indeed three elements of type to be considered in judging any breed.: the outline or silhouette; the head; and correct movement at the trot.

The Danes that I judged were evaluated for outline or silhouette, head, and correct movement at the trot. I chose the exhibits which matched the AKC standard best in all three elements of type.

It is sometimes difficult to determine where the best overall structure is best exemplified. One can think he/she sees it in the outline of the dog, but great handlers have a way of fooling the judge's eye. On the other hand, if a dog does not move correctly for that breed, then that dog is not usually structured correctly for that breed. So, to me, movement is the best way to judge the overall structure. My initial breed was Siberian Huskies, and later Doberman Pinschers. In Siberians, correct structure is paramount for a good "Working Dog." I believe that this should be of great importance in ANY working breed for the overall, and long term, good of the breed.

I was told by my Great Dane mentor, Bob Edison, to look for two bricks on the Great Dane head. My final selections had what I thought were as close to the "two bricks" concept as possible. As I combined those three elements of type, it seemed fairly obvious to me as to my winners.

The Great Danes that I chose were also dogs that I would be "very proud" to have in my own home. I have no idea who those dogs were, but were I a Great Dane breeder, I believe that those dogs would be the foundation for a great, Great Dane line. Thank you for allowing me to judge your breed in New York. It was a pleasure and privilege to adjudicate such a wonderful group of dogs.

---



