

Dane Affairs – Looking for Mr. Right

One of the most difficult things breeders struggle with is finding the right stud dog. There are quite a few dogs out there, but there is only visibility to a small percentage of them.

We all know who the latest National BOB/BOS winners are and we are usually pretty familiar with the dogs in Top 20 and the dog specials in our local areas.

What about all those other dogs that are finished and spending their days on the couch or out on the patio in the sun?

What about the dogs that did not finish or maybe were shown on a very limited basis, or not at all, that are quite worthy for breeding? We rarely if ever have visibility to those dogs.

Ideally we seek out dogs that are excellent in attributes we want to improve upon. We may be looking for dogs of a particular color or pattern, maybe we need to worry about croups or toplines or missing teeth.

How do we sift through dogs to find those with the particular attributes we are seeking? How do we even know they are out there?

Well, a breeder friend of mine was struggling with just this issue and thought, "Wouldn't it be nice to have something like 'Match.com' for dogs?"

I happened to be looking for a Web project to work on and thought this was a cool idea. So now we have it!

Introducing, Dane Quest!

Dane Quest is a Website linked to a database where any registered Great Dane male from any country world wide can be submitted for visibility on the Internet.

Dane Quest is not an advertising space where artistic ads are developed to market the dog. It's simply a listing of the dog by its attributes with a picture and contact information.

Here's how it works. There is a Web-based submission form that you as a stud dog owner and/or breeder will use to create a record of the dog. The record needs to include a picture that will be attached to the dog's record. The picture and pertinent information on the dog is made visible to bitch owners seeking stud dogs.

The form allows you to enter the contact information for yourself as the submitter and then identify the breeder and the owner of the dog. Then you identify the dog by its registered name, including any titles or awards you want as prefixes or suffixes on the registered name. You have up to 100 characters to use for this purpose.

Then enter the dog's registration number and identify the registry that issued the registration number from a drop down listing. The page asks for the date of birth and date of

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death. The date of death only needs to be populated if the dog is not living.

There is a checkbox to indicate that the dog lived past age 9. We all would like to have longevity in our lines.

You have the opportunity to objectively assess the dogs attributes based on criteria outlined in the standard for the breed. Be objective here. No dog is perfect and we don't expect them to be.

You can identify the breeding availability of the dog. There are checkboxes to capture if the dog is available for live cover, fresh semen, fresh chilled or frozen semen breeding.

At the bottom of the page, there is a file field where you can browse to a picture on your local hard drive and when you click submit, the picture is uploaded to the server and the information about the dog is written to a record in the database. Voila! The listing on the dog is created.

There are a few fields that are required on the page. Not all the attributes have to be checked for the dog to be submitted, but leaving out an assessment on any attribute is going to make your dog less visible. Be honest, nobody but you will see the assessment you enter on the dog.

The bitch owner seeking the perfect stud dog has a search page available on the site. On this page,

you can select the attributes you are seeking in a stud dog.

Now the premise here is that nobody will go looking for a dog with a bad topline and 10 missing teeth, so any selection criteria, other than color or semen availability, is going to be used to find dogs that excel in those attributes. Those are the dogs that were submitted with an "excellent" in that attribute.

Once the criteria are entered and the search button is clicked, the database is searched for dogs that match the selection criteria.

The results page provides the contact information for the breeder and owner, the identification information on the dog including DOB, DOD and semen availability, and the picture of the dog. That's it! The details of the assessment entered on that dog are not visible in the search results.

The goal is to provide visibility to a wider variety of dogs for the bitch owner that is looking for dogs with particular strengths.

With the basic details on the dog and the contact information for the owner and breeder of the dog, it is up to the bitch owner to make contact and start a dialog to see if this is truly Mr. Right.

There is also a resources page on the site where I have provided links to the AKC dog lookup page, a list of dog registries world wide with Web site and contact information, databases for researching

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pedigrees, health testing and other information that may be of assistance to the breeder in obtaining further information on any particular dog.

Enjoy!

Lastly, there is a contact button you can use to ask for assistance, provide suggestions for additional resources or feedback in general.

The best part about it is that it is free! There is no listing or subscription fee at this time. So enter your stud dogs at will!

I want to see this put to good use. Once I see how much traffic the site gets, have a chance to assess the amount of value the site provides, and consider the administrative overhead involved, I may revisit the idea of introducing a nominal listing fee. But the search functionality will not be fee based at any time.

Please feel free to check out the site and submit your dog today!

<http://www.daneaffaire.com/danequest.html>



Before I go, I want to thank Jill Swedlow for coming up with the idea and for designing the logo.