

Great Dane Rescue Report



Adoptions

Helen Keller to Shirley Rodriguez

Booth (Brutus) to Karen Graham

Jack to Sue Olds-Browning

Gracie to Linda Bennett

Pico (Tito) to Maureen & Tim Burgess

Oscar to Jenny Egan

Sheeva to Duncan Jamieson

Samson to Steve Lemley

Lady (Mantle Great Dane) to Ronald Heyes

Lady (Blue Great Dane) to Matthew Lanoo

Elias to Linda Downing

Marley to Judith Doss

Damien to Randy Land

Abby (Genessee) to Brad & Jeanette Coval

The Great Dane Handbook to all things Dane

LEASH: A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

DOG BED: any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL: Is what you do when your persons have food and you don't. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and look sad and let the drool fall to the floor, or better yet, on their laps.

GARBAGE CAN: A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

DEAFNESS: This is a malady which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction.

THUNDER: This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and following at their heels.

WASTEBASKET: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes, and old candy wrappers. When you get bored, turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house until your person comes home.

SOFAS: Are to dogs like napkins are to people.

After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

BATH: This is a process by which the humans drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

BUMP: The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

LEAN: Every good dogs response to the command "Sit!", especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.

LOVE: Is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.

Our Angels

Dana Patterson in honour of Shirley Siegel and her daughter Amanda

J. Zorko

Mark & Nicki Mikolajczyk for Genessee

Helping Udders

iGive

Abbot Labs

The Boyd Family

Derek Kresin

Traci Lumkin



Jean Suarez

Jean Suarez, Sandy's mom, passed away this past spring. Not only was this a huge loss to Sandy but GDRI lost one of its most beloved and longest serving volunteers. The following is one of Jean's stories as told by Sandy:

My Dad wanted to get a Great Dane back in 1957 so they got in the car and headed out to the country (at the time). This huge fawn male came running over to her side of the car and she said, I AIN'T GETTING OUT OF THIS CAR.

They came home with a female fawn named Cleo. I learned to walk by grabbing onto her collar.

My Mom liked to tell the story that they had the dog while she was pregnant with me and after I was born, Cleo liked me so they kept me.

Sandy tells us that Jean was greeted at the bridge by a host of Danes that she had loved and lost over the years: Cleo, Lulu, Misty, Kelly, Crystal, Shannon, Honey, Lucy, Lottie, Lita, Benny, Lou and Jasmine, Ashley, Bailey, Beau, Alex, Santana, Xochi and my beautiful Esmerelda

Thank you to all who donated to GDRI in Jean's memory

Carolyn Armanini

Zingermans

Melinda Rowe

Brad & Jeanette Coval

Aleeda Lipocky

Roger & Lany Grow

Deb Brown

Cynthia Mohacsi

Tim & Karen Dei

Lyndsey Bennett & Wendy Watson

Collleen Falcone

Rich & Linda Gates

Elena Garcia

Eileen Kenny

Patty Ross

Kathleen Suarez

Brad & Joanne Jeffrey, Jeffery Animal Hospital

Waiting at the bridge

Tess...Tess passed away a few weeks ago. She had terminal cancer. I tried everything including chemo. I had informed some of the rescue folks while she was in treatment, but I haven't been able to discuss it since she passed away. It's been tough.

Peter Studnicki



Tess

Spotty...Eleven years ago Jamey and I went to a 4H group to give a talk about rescue. We gave our talk and answered questions. When we were ready to leave, a woman and her child came up to ask us about their Dane. Well it wasn't really theirs it was the oldest daughter's but she had moved to St Louis and didn't think the dog could be a house dog since she was used to running around the farm. The silly dog would sometimes take off and go back to the daughter's now empty home. They didn't think they could keep her any longer. Could we help... oh and she was only 28" tall but around 200 pounds and the vet said she needed to lose weight...

So of course we go and visit that next day. She was not 200 pounds, more like 150 thank goodness. She was the ugliest Dane we had even seen and really we have always expected she was more of a

Mastiff/Dane mix. We would be her 4th home in two years. The dog they didn't think could be a house dog walked in and settled right down. She never cared for slick floors but always preferred inside to outside and never had so much as the first accident.

We placed her with a family about an hour from us and there she stayed for about a month. Then I got a call she had snapped at one of the young son's friends so home she came and here she stayed. I will never believe she snapped at that boy. She always adored children but it didn't matter she was the most awesome girl we could ask for. She got along with every foster that came through our doors. She was always the easiest of our Danes to handle, doing anything you asked and putting up with even the most annoying of our fosters.

She helped save Max and we owe her a huge debt for that.

Spotty and Max



Tonight Gail came and told us it was time. Spot had developed cancer in her bladder. Even when you know it is time you are never ready. Having lost Clyde already this year we were not ready to let another go but Gail was right and Spotty passed peacefully, snoring loudly for a bit with her head in my lap.

Max spent the hour before with Spotty laying on the bed with her. I told them together what was happening and what might need to happen. Max has wandered the house looking for her and whining but it didn't last long. He is sleeping now and I hope he can relax and not get to out of sorts. It broke my heart to see them together knowing it would be the last time.

Steph & Jamey Tracy

Waiting at the bridge

Daisy...We went yesterday to pick out a rock for Clyde's grave. We always go to Shandi for that as she has a landscaping place. Couldn't make ourselves pick out Spot's yet, to hard to have to pick out 2 at the same time. Shandi always hates to see us come to look for rocks because she knows what that means. Clyde's is a pretty 120 pound fieldstone with moss, it suits him.

She had her own sad news to tell us. Daisy her 13 yr old Dane

passed. Daisy was one of our earliest rescues. She was at a home with her sister both were tied to dog houses too small for them to use. They would drag the dog houses down to the highway and anywhere else they wanted to go. Our friend Betty had convinced the owners to let them go, so home with us came Mallory (Daisy) and Madison. They weren't a year old yet, full of it and we lived in that tiny house with our 4 plus them. We enjoyed the chaos and have enjoyed seeing Daisy over the years. She was such a constant at

Shandi's house. We would compare how Daisy and Spot were doing as they aged. I am so sorry to see her lose Daisy about the same time we lost Spot, our little old ladies who both came to us from Betty's handy work. A lot of people will miss Daisy at Shandi's store, she was such a good girl for showing why people should rescue.

Steph

Bandito...It is with great sadness that I write to say we lost our first AZ foster Bandito to what we believe was stomach or intestinal cancer this evening. He'd just started going downhill after he had his fatty lumps removed, had a leg issue and then blood from his rectum and had lost ten pounds in ten days and nothing we were trying with the help of his vet was helping. Bandito was a GOOD,

sweet, kind and noble boy and it truly was a pleasure to have gotten to know him. Thank you Becky for fostering this boy and showing him what it was to be part of a REAL family with love and hugs and walks and his very own massage therapists.

It's a very sad night in Arizona.

Rest in Peace

**Tess (Peter Studnicki)
Spot (Steph & Jamey Tracey)
Daisy (Shandi)
Bandito (Foster Mom Becky)
Autumn (Tina Price & Family)**

Lyndsey Bennett

Grover's Gotcha Day

From the moment that Lyndsey said I could have you, in my heart, you were mine.... and my heart was bursting with so much love for you I'm not sure it could have waited another day without exploding by the time June 6th rolled around. Oh Groves, little man, we've had our ups and downs and life certainly

hasn't been kind or fair to you but you look at each day with such an attitude that I wish many people could adopt even a fraction of it. I couldn't be more proud of the mountains you've climbed and the accomplishments you've made sir. I can't imagine life without my little

man, and we'll always be indebted to all of those that made it possible. Here's to hoping for many more years my sweetheart. You've made my life exponentially better than I ever thought possible.

Love,
Mom (i.e. the one who gives you kibble, takes you to manners class and whose bed you sleep in)

The Reason

I would've died that day if not for you.
 I would've given up on life if not for your kind eyes.
 I would've used my teeth in fear if not for your gentle hands.
 I would have left this life believing that all humans don't care
 Believing there is no such thing as fur that isn't matted
 skin that isn't flea bitten
 good food and enough of it
 beds to sleep on
 someone to love me
 to show me I deserve love just because I exist.
 Your kind eyes, your loving smile,
 your gentle hands

Your big heart saved me...
 You saved me from the terror of the pound,
 Soothing away the memories of my old life.
 You have taught me what it means to be loved.
 I have seen you do the same for other dogs like me.
 I have heard you ask yourself in times of despair
 Why you do it
 When there is no more money, no more room, no more homes
 You open your heart a little bigger,
 stretch the money a little tighter
 Make just a little more room...to save one more like me.

By: Kim Senke-Rocka

I tell you with the gratitude and love that shines in my eyes
 In the best way I know how
 Reminding you why you go on trying...
 I am the reason
 The dogs before me are the reason
 As are the ones who come after.
 Our lives would've been wasted,
 our love never given
 We would die if not for you.

In memory of Bandito and all the Danes who have gone before.

Sandy's Spot

This spring and summer have not been my best - the losses and illnesses have really taken their toll. My most recent scare involved Annybelle - my little hellion. She went in for spay and there were complications; she ended up in emergency care for three days. I nearly lost her - a simple surgery done thousands of time every day by vets everywhere. If I've learned anything in this life, it's that there is no such thing as a simple surgery.

Although it feels like it was a lifetime ago, I did want to thank all who came out for Fun Day this year. I think it was our best ever. The weather was fabulous - a wonderful breeze to keep us cool. It was great to catch up with our adopters and to spend time with our foster parents. I don't know if you realized it but our foster homes travel

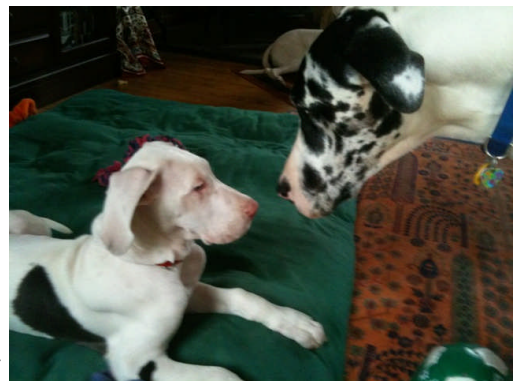
to Fun Day from all over - Ontario, Canada, Illinois, Indiana, Alabama and Arizona - and of course, Michigan is well represented. It is a wonderful event, if you've never come to one, you should plan to do so next year.

Coming up fast is our Annual Auction - another great event and a terrific fundraiser for GDRI.

As always, I want to thank you all for your support, your donations and most of all for providing loving forever homes for our Danes.

Although it feels like a lifetime ago, I did want to thank everyone who came out for Fun Day. It was our best ever.

Sandy



A younger Annybelle with Chauncey

A touch of love

by: Delores Carter

Blind or visually impaired dogs are fairly uncommon. Generally, senior dogs lose some sight or hearing ability as a part of the aging process. Young dogs and puppies rarely lose their sight. Disease, such as glaucoma, heartworm, or tick-born illness can lead to blindness if untreated. Injury, while rare, can also leave a dog of any age blind. But, there are dogs that are born visually impaired; sometimes these pups have other congenital defects as well, such as deafness. How can a dog lead a normal life when faced with visual or auditory loss? People, being highly visual, don't often realize that dogs, even sight dogs, rely heavily on their sense of smell. Not only that, but these canines still have a sense of touch and taste. Deaf blind dogs have over half of their senses still at their command.

“Let me be a dog”

I do have a deaf/visually impaired adolescent Great Dane. Muse came into the world without any hearing and very little sight. Like any other dog in the world, her goal in life is just to be a dog. What does that really mean for a dog – ‘just to be a dog’? I've also had ‘normal’ Great Danes, Greyhounds, and a couple of lab mixes along the way. They've each had physical ailments – hypothyroidism, renal failure, arthritis, and dysplasia. But, we tend to think that those unseen ailments are ‘normal’ but recoil at the idea of a deaf or visually impaired dog. All physical ailments place limits on a dog's physical ability; our 8-year-old Great Dane ‘looked’ normal up until the day she died. Her failing kidneys limited her ability to take walks, keep food down and be free of pain. My 2-year-old healthy, deaf/visually impaired girl gets pity showered on her because her physical ailment is more apparent.

But, back to the question, what does it mean for a dog to be a dog? It's really simple. So simple, we humans have a hard time understanding it. The basic dog needs is exercise - mental, physical and emotional exercise. No matter what kind of dog you have, no matter what their physical ailment may be, these are the basics. How you meet these doggie needs is bounded only by your own creativeness.

Blind – yes; Deaf – yes; Still a dog – YES!

My deaf/visually-impaired girl, Muse, is first and foremost a dog. She digs in the yard when she's bored; she loves her daily walks; and, she knows basic commands – sit, down, stay, no, follow me. Recently, she began a new activity, scent training. When I get too busy, she expresses her frustration, boredom, and loneliness, usually by eating a shoe, rifling through the garbage, or some other destructive act. As long as I hold up my end of the bargain, daily walks, playtime, maintaining boundaries, and appropriate snuggle time, she is free to be a dog. We have several places on our walking path to stop and sniff, which seems to be every dog's delight. Muse enjoys lounging in the sun, rolling in the mud, working for treats, and sitting on my lap. She is a dog first; that makes her the best furry companion I could ever want.

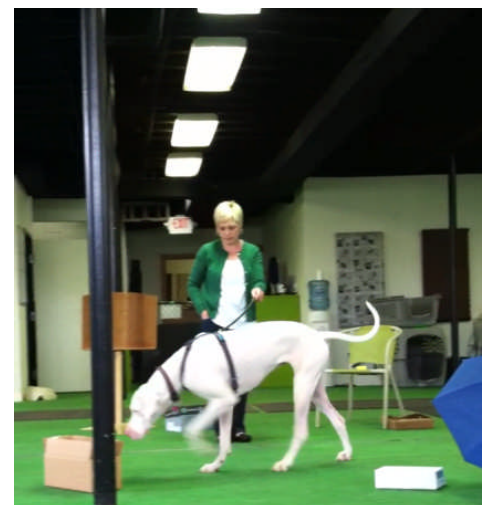
Words with touch

It's not uncommon for trainers to use both voice and sign commands during obedience class. That's smart training – teaching two command cues. In the event that a dog loses her hearing, the dog companion has a back up plan. For deaf dogs, dog companions can implement sign and touch commands, building the dogs vocabulary of

command. For the deaf and visually impaired dog, touch is a simple and natural solution for training. Who doesn't touch their dog as part of everyday life? There are other options, such as a vibrating collar; hunters use v-collars to communicate with their dogs off leash during a hunt. This may be a viable option for some, but it might be better to use this type of training as a secondary communication system.

Training by touch is similar to training with voice or by sign. Reward correct behavior with treats and praise. The most important thing is choosing ‘touch commands’ that are unique and not a natural part of showing affection. Next, make sure to teach the touch commands to anyone else who comes in regular contact with the dog.

Dogs come into our life to be our faithful companions. And like the humans they love, they may have any of a number of physical ailments; deafness and visual impairment are just more obvious. Any dog, regardless of physical ailment, can lead a happy fulfilling life when allowed to ‘just be a dog.’



Delores and Muse at scent-training

Training Muse

Training Muse to respond to touch was done exactly like training in any other method; show the command, reward for good work.

Muse knows the touch for sit, down, 'look at me'/no, no bark, follow me, stop and find it (used in scent training). For counter surfing issues, chewing on anything, and wildly jumping on the furniture (usually pursuing another naughty slightly smaller puppy) we use a water bottle.

Sit = flat palm placed on forehead, heel of palm between the eyes

Down = thumb and forefinger in an arch applying pressure mid back (only done after a sit - she never really got going into a down without first sitting, which is fine in my opinion)

Stay = flat palm on mid back, light pressure (okay, we are still not 100%, especially with the previously mentioned puppy trouncing through a training session)

Look at me/no = three firm taps on the left rear hip, near her tail. No matter what she is doing or where we are, three taps and she's spinning around to find me. Of all the commands, to me this is the most important. It could be life saving (e.g., eating something dangerous). I always redirect after this sign; she expects a follow up direction

No bark = two tail tugs/squeezes follow me = rub hand in one direction under her chin 3 times; simulates pulling her the direction I want her to go; really disgusting after drinking out of the water bowl

Stop = flat palm gentle pressure against end of nose (if she's running toward me, it's more like a nose squishing)

Find it = firm left ear tug; we developed this for scent training. I picked it because we don't pull her ear, so it would be easy to associate

it with the new activity she was learning. Now, when I tug her ear, she immediately goes into search mode. It's really cool to watch the instant change in her body language, posture, and attention.

I really do see the world in a new way since Muse came into my life. It's simply amazing.

Delores Carter

Things we don't have touch signs for: slobbering into Mom's coffee, trouncing on Mom during nap time, and "it's Sunday, we are not getting up early." Oh well, we don't expect perfect obedience, but sleeping in occasionally would really be nice.

Dogs

In our dogs, we see ourselves. Dogs exhibit almost all of our emotions; if you think a dog cannot register envy or pity or pride or melancholia, you have never lived with one for any length of time. What dogs lack is our ability to dissimulate. They wear their emotions nakedly, and so, in

watching them, we see ourselves as we would be if we were stripped of posture and pretense. Their innocence is enormously appealing. When we watch a dog progress from puppy-hood to old age, we are watching our own lives in microcosm. Our dogs become old, frail, crotchety, and vulnerable, just

as Grandma did, just as we surely will, come the day. When we grieve for them, we grieve for ourselves.

From the book Old Dogs, *text by Gene Weingarten and Michael S. Williamson, based on a longer excerpt that originally appeared in *The Washington Post.* ©2008 by Gene Weingarten and Michael S. Williamson. *

Great Dane Rescue Inc

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GDR I Annual Auction

September 10th, 2011

7:30 p.m.

Plymouth Orchards

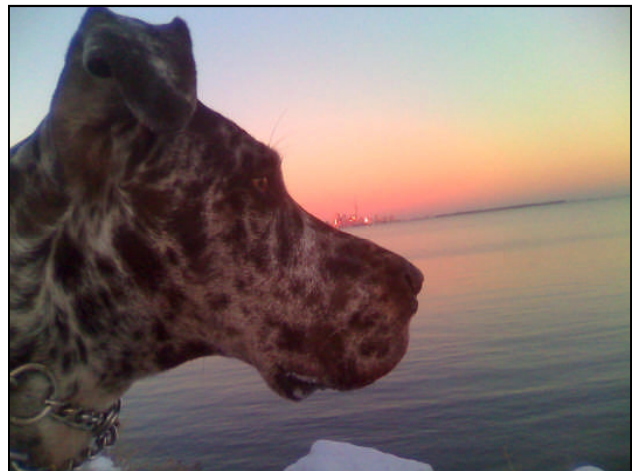
Cider Mill

10685 Warren

Plymouth, MI 48170

Meet in the parking lot

at 7:30 p.m.



**If you have items that you would like to donate
for the auction, please contact**

Jeanette Coval at gr8danes@wowway.com