

# Great Dane Rescue Report

## I rescued a human today.

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid. As she stopped by my kennel, I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card, I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and I want to make a difference in someone's life. She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved



my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my head to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by

her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.

*Author Unknown*

## A nice note

Got the nicest note from Jill Gamble, a previous adopter living in California now. She sent a lovely donation and thanks everyone for Belle.

Jill had emergency surgery and was depressed after the surgery so the doctor got the hospital to approve a visit from Belle. Two days later she

was discharged.

"I have thanked her numerous times and God for helping me. She has no idea what she did for me. And I continue to thank her—she is truly a special soul. Thank you to GDRI for all your continued efforts in helping these dogs."

**Coming soon  
GDRI Holi-dane  
Fundraiser.  
Info available  
soon on our  
website.**

## Adoptions!

- Delilah to Tina Tiernay
- Prada to Lyndsey & Wendy Watson
- Woody to Lisa Newman
- Nala to Tracie Duhaime
- Aries to Terry Nichol
- Blue to Leah & Chuck LeGrone
- Charlie to Theresa Kruse
- Cassidy to Brad & Jeanette Coval
- Ohlin to Debra Anderson
- Gus to Lany & Roger Grow
- Zeus to Tina Rice
- Caesar to Bridget Abel
- Bela to Dana Colucir
- Chance to Jill Johnson
- Remington to Tracey & Kevin Keenan
- Frank to Rob & Kelli Orlowski
- Ellie to Jamie Nagtzaan Adams
- Winston 2 to Jackie Carhahan
- Nova to Julie Wray
- Fletcher to Cathy Kollar
- Asher to Matt & April Mearnic



## Our deepest sympathy



### For Tre

You were our goofy, loving and fun boy. You were only with us for a short time and it was definitely not enough time but my boy you had a family that loved you and a sister that adored you. You brought our household laughter and joy and we learned many little funnies of life when you were around. We don't know why you left us so soon but we want you to know that not a

day goes by that you don't come up in conversation or we think about our wonderful snuggles together. So our loving companion, this is good-bye for now but not forever because we will meet again at the Rainbow Bridge where we can play together in endless fun and joy.

*Kevin, Tracy & Bela Keenan*  
P.S. We would also like to thank Tre's foster mom Deb Brown—she was wonderful during Tre's difficult battle. We



would also like to thank GDRI for the wonderful job you do finding these magnificent dogs homes and the dedication and help that you provide to new adoptive homes.

*Perhaps they are not stars but rather openings in Heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy.*

*Eskimo Legend*

### Beau

I wanted to send a heartfelt thank you for sending one of the most beautiful souls into my life that anyone could have encountered. Six years ago I adopted a wonderful white Dane named Beau. Other people had looked at him and decided against taking him. He was too shy and wouldn't approach anyone. Within the first few minutes of our

meeting, he was leaning against me and finding his place in my heart. From then on he was my shadow and I loved every minute of it. Unfortunately, he developed some health issues early on—thrombocytopenia, aspiration pneumonia, megaesophagus—but he fought each one. Sadly, this past Friday he became ill again and this time he passed

away. Just before closing his beautiful blues for the last time, he nuzzled my hand with his nose, just like always, trying to make me feel better. Thank you so much for bringing this wonderful friend into my life.

*Kim Blackaby*

### Bubba

I rescued a dog from you about 6 years ago—funny you still have a picture of him on your gallery page. Bubba turned out to be a better companion than my wife and I ever thought he would. He went everywhere with us, just like a child. We feel so lucky that we had him for the time that we did. However, on September 15, 2008, we had to put him down due to heart failure. It was the hardest choice we have ever had to

make but we could not let him suffer. It was and is a big loss for us, but we hope that one day when we're ready we would like to try and rescue again. Though no other dog could ever replace Bubba, we would love to try to care for another one of his kind. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to be with Bubba for the time that we had him. We were truly blessed by him.

*Jeffrey Bailey*

### Ms. Emma

To all of Ms Emma's friends...she went peacefully to the Bridge early this morning. She will be missed.

*Leah LaGrone*

## News from Indiana

Since the last newsletter we have had three booths in Indianapolis: Lebanon Farm Expo, Paws in the Park at Broadripple Park, and Indy Pet Expo. It was the first year for all of three of these events. We were pleasantly successful at the first two raising about \$200 at each event. But the Indy Pet Expo proved to be a huge success. There were thousands of people in attendance. We didn't have a moment to sit. But we did raise over \$700. We have also recruited at least 2 new volunteers from these events. We passed out a lot of brochures and business cards

and hope that we will get either more volunteers and/or adopters.

We have also been doing a monthly meet and greet at a pet boutique in Fishers called Purrs and Gurr's. They are committed to helping rescues in anyway that they can.

Thank you to Tina Price and Molly for driving from Illinois for the weendend to help with the first meet and greet. It was Molly's first event and she did great! We will be scheduling a meet and greet with Moochie & Company and at Petco. Petco is also adding us to their giving tree for the Christmas season. And

in other exciting news, we have been invited to appear on a morning radio show to talk about our rescue group. It is an AM station that invites nonprofit groups to come and speak for about 20 minutes on Monday mornings. We are booked for December 29th. You can listen to it over the internet at [www.radiobrownsburg.com](http://www.radiobrownsburg.com).

*Liz Money*

## News from Alabama

Great Dane Rescue, Inc. has been busy in Alabama - from fostering to fundraising to finding forever homes for Danes.

In August we held our 3rd annual Wine & Treat Tasting and it was a big success! Some GDRI volunteers from the north were brave enough to come to Alabama in August. Their help & support was

greatly appreciated. Now they know what southern humidity feels like!

In October we held our first Howl-O-Ween fund raiser. There were some very creative costumes in the contest, including cows and ponies. It was a lot of fun!

Next up is Photos With Santa Paws December 6th at Molly And Max Pet Boutique

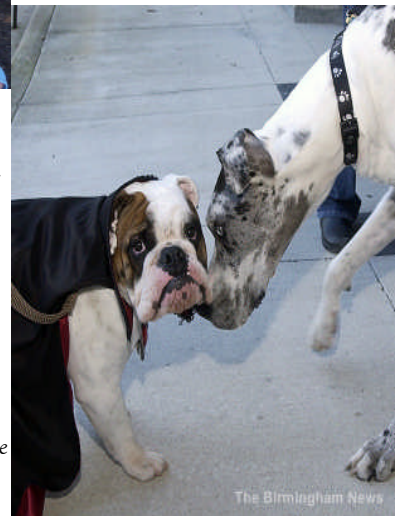


*Special thanks to Molly (10) and Megan (8) who set up their lemonade stand at a GDRI garage sale. They collected \$19 for rescue that day.*

in Birmingham ([www.mollyandmax.net](http://www.mollyandmax.net)). We appreciate them hosting all of our fund raising events and we are looking forward to another great one there!

Please remember we can always use some help in the south, especially great foster homes.

*Leah LaGrone*



*English Bulldog "Sir Charles Sugar Bear," gets inspected by "Bela," at Howl-O-Ween*

## News from Ontario

We just finished the Royal Winter Fair up here in Ontario and it went really, really well. Carson and Nan were excellent as always and loved all the attention they got and were great examples of our breed. This was Prada's first event of this magnitude and she did quite well. Poor monkey got a shock from the first person she said hello to from the static on the carpet but

recovered well, loving all the attention her puppy antics inspire (and she draws quite a circle!) Once she has her admirers she trots around the circle and gives everyone a quick hello. "I LOVE the white one" was repeated many times and we were really proud. This was also Frank's first outing as a booth dog and he was wonderful. He's a beautiful boy and attracted

lots of attention.

Jo Anne and Cesear and Sara with Danforth, Kitty and Deco, Kelli and Rob with Frank, and Donna, Wendy and Deb all did spectacular jobs and GDRI was once again noted as one of the best represented rescues in the group!

*Lyndsey Watson*



*Frank working the crowd at the Royal Winter Fair*



## Training your Great Dane

Behavior problems in Great Danes are, in many respects, not much different from the behavior problems you can find in most breeds of dogs. They tend to be some what magnified in Great Danes because of the size of the dog. It's not so much of a problem if your Toy Poodle likes to grab your arm but that picture changes fast when it's a 140 pound Great Dane.

Dealing with behavior problems requires training, time, consistency and patience and with those things you can solve most of the issues that might develop.

First, the most important thing for any dog of the size of a Dane is obedience. This is also the one thing that most people hate to hear because they envision spending week after week walking around in a circle in a class some where. "I don't have time", "it's too expensive" are the usual complaints but you don't have to spend weeks in a class. It's advisable (and GDR, Inc. requires) that you attend one obedience class with your new adopted dog, but once you have that out of the way you can continue to do obedience at home and end up with a well adjusted, obedient dog that is welcome where ever you go.

Obedience takes 5 minutes to 15 minutes out of your day.

That first obedience class should have introduced you to sit, down, heel and stay. With those tools to build on you can spend just a few minutes each day and have a wonderfully behaved dog.

There is no reason you can not do sits in the kitchen while you cook dinner (even if it's to warm something up in the microwave). Have a jar of dog treats handy and when the dog comes to check out dinner ask for a sit. Treat and Praise, then do it again, and again, and again. It's taken you all of 5 minutes to get 4 sits out of your dog, your dinner is ready and the next time you say sit his/her rear will hit the ground a lot faster.

I once won a musical sit contest because of kitchen sits. I had used the time cooking to teach sit and the dog was so conditioned to sit on command that we won the musical sit contest at a shelter day at the park. I had not intended to enter because I had not spent enough time doing formal obedience with this dog but I got talked into it and found that those "kitchen" sits really worked. She didn't have a heel in her but boy she could sit faster than any dog in the park that day, all because of "Kitchen sits".

You're sitting at the computer and suddenly have a head in your lap (or on the keyboard), ask for that down, treat and praise, then again, and again, and once again now you have 4 downs with zero effort on your part except for the work of sticking a small treat jar on your desk.

Keep a lead handy by the door and instead of just letting the dog out the door to the yard to go potty, put the lead on and do 5 minutes of heeling around your back yard

with lots of "good dog" and treats, then release the dog to play and go back to your business. If you do that 3 or 4 times a week you will have a dog who knows heel very well.

So you really want to watch that TV show, well add a treat jar to the end table and go for it. Have your Dane do a sit or a down stay next to your chair while you watch your show. Keep the treats handy, reward and praise often and you will end up with a dog that can hold his stay for 5 minutes without breaking it.

Of course as time moves on and your dog gets better at obedience at home you will want to take him out in public. You can do that, just take the treats with you and reward good obedience as you expose your dog to new distractions and strange places. Each time you reinforce the obedience you gain control over your dog and your dog gains confidence because he just did something right and got rewarded for it.

It isn't necessary to spend weeks walking around in circles in a class to finish up your dogs obedience, just 5 to 15 minutes a day and patience and consistency will do the job.

Gail Cramer



## Sandy's Spot

We had a fantastic week at the Nationals. Lots of donations, lots of old friends, lots of networking and lots of fun. This was our ninth year at the Nationals and it's amazing how far this group has come.

We've been a rescue group for over 15 years now. There wasn't a parent club rescue when we started and I'm proud to say that this group was a major force in helping that happen. There was a lot of HARD work involved, and to see how much easier things are now and how easy the National Rescue Meeting was, is just awesome.

Special thanks to Brad and Jeanette Coval, Liz Fink, Jean Suarez and Mary Barnett for working the booth all week. We sold quite a bit and the raffle was excellent—we had a lot of people brought us some really nice stuff. I need to write a lot of thank you notes!

It's hard to believe that we've come to the end of another year. We've rescued close to 100 Great Danes this year—and it goes without saying that we could not have done it without your support.

I would also like to thank our volunteers—they work tirelessly on behalf of the

dogs—fostering, fundraising, educating. You are a wonderful group of people and I thank you for giving your hearts to GDRI.

Happy Holidays everyone and all the best in 2009.

Sandy



*Cassidy (aka Katie) meets a big fawn boy at the Nationals.*



*You'll remember in our last issue the story about Hemi coming to the rescue with a blood donation for Angel. Hemi and Angel's mom re-united at the Nationals. In fact, Hemi attended a forum on the importance of blood donors while there.*



## Our Angels

Agnes Usedly for Katie  
 Madalyn Moorman  
 Todds Landscaping Services,  
 Hamburg MI  
 Mickey Chasteen  
 Julianne Harmon  
 IGive  
 Leanne Thieme  
 Barb Young  
 Diva Alyssa Kelsey for Katie  
 Yvette Dalessio for Katie

Tanya of Sweetheart Danes  
 Cathy Russell for Katie  
 Jill Gamble  
 Lois Hansen-Hielle, in mem-  
 ory of Michael Dzuris Jr.  
 Tina and Jim  
 Pfizer, thanks to Mary Treado  
 Delayne Corle, in memory of  
 Ixion, honorary Dane  
 Fred Noggle, in memory of  
 Emma, loved by Leah and  
 Chuck LaGrone

Peak Performance Hypnosis,  
 in memory of Ixion  
 Lin Gardinor, Funny Farm  
 Boutique  
 Big Mike's Misc. for Katie  
 Sue Wilson  
 Charles LaGrone, in memory  
 of Merle  
 Sharon Kidd, World Class  
 Kennels  
 Patricia Triola, in memory of  
 Zeus Hackney

Ken Williams, in memory of  
 Gary Mkekush  
 Christina Barrett (Happy  
 Birthday Sandy!)  
 Amber Rodgers  
 Andrew Moriarty, in memory  
 of Gary Mlekush  
 Lindsay Loxterman, on behalf  
 of Steve Ivanyi  
 Jennifer Darby



## Holiday shopping to support rescue

### Red Dingo Tags

Note: images do not reflect actual sizes.

Small - 3/4" across

Medium - 1 1/4" across

Large - 1 1/2" across



To order, visit our website:

[http://www.greatdanerescueinc.com/shop/virtual\\_mall.html](http://www.greatdanerescueinc.com/shop/virtual_mall.html)

"Hi," I said. She came over, licked my hand discreetly, allowed herself to be scratched for a time, chased her tail in a dignified circle, lay down again. I remember thinking: "There are times God puts a choice in front of you." I often had such thoughts back then. We took the dog.

*Stanley Bing*

### Junkyard Danes by Yardbirds



Every Junkyard Dog Metal Sculpture is handmade in Kentucky by Yardbirds. That means each one varies slightly from the other in its hand crafted appearance and attitude. All of the Junkyard Dogs are made with bare metal and naturally rust with age. That's their beauty!

To see our selection of Junkyard Danes, visit our website:

[http://www.greatdanerescueinc.com/shop/virtual\\_mall.html](http://www.greatdanerescueinc.com/shop/virtual_mall.html)

### Cartridges for Danes Program

Help us earn cash to provide for our foster dogs by sending these recyclable items to GDRI:

Used Cell Phones, Video Game Consoles (include all accessories), Video Games (include case), Empty Ink Cartridges, GPS Systems Digital Cameras (include all accessories), Laptops (include power cords), PDAs/Palm Pilots (include all accessories), iPods (include all accessories) and DVD Movies (include original packaging). These items can be collected from home, work, businesses, family, neighbors, friends.

If we can get businesses to help support our cause, that is even better. If each one of you can talk with your company or a company that uses a high volume of ink cartridges or cell phones, GDRI has the potential to earn thousands to help our dogs.

Please send individual or small quantities of items to 302 Buckingham Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46208. Or, if you would like to start a drive for GDRI, please contact us for free postage slips to mail the items to Cartridges for Kids under our account.

## A gift that keeps on giving

Here is a FABULOUS idea for when friends and relatives ask what you want as a holiday gift. I just had that question from my sister about my upcoming birthday. I don't want stuff. I don't want anything I have to dust or care for or

find a place for or recycle. I don't want any more gift cards - as one comedian noted, that's getting an errand for a gift!

Instead, she's making a donation to GDR in my 'honor'.

At any rate, THAT'S what I want for my birthday. Maybe it's what you want for your birthday, or Christmas, or Kwanzaa, or Hanukkah...

Carolyn



## Little Pieces

by Grace Saalsaa (written for those who foster)

Melissa sat on the floor unable to sit straight and tall like her mother had always admonished her to do when she was a child. Today, it would be impossible. And tomorrow...it probably wouldn't be possible then either. Her mind was too busy thinking about the dog that lay across her lap.

When he came to be with her, he had no name. She remembered that day very well. The first sight of him was enough to break her heart into little pieces. The woman, who had taken this dog from the rough streets where he had lived, had tried to save him because she was unable to watch this young dog find his own food in a dumpster outside of the crack house where he lived. Nobody cared that he was gone.

His fur was very thick, so thick that she had to wiggle her fingers down to feel the bony body. Black and white, he was supposed to be. But on that day, he was beige and dust. He sat in the back of the car panting continuously, ears laid outward for he had lost his courage and couldn't keep them tall and proud. He sat motionless, waiting and limp.

But the thing that was the most disturbing was the look in his eyes. They were quiet eyes, sunken into his head—and they

watched her. They were alive with thought. He was waiting for her to 'do' something to him.

Little did he know at the time that she would 'give' something to him. She gave him one of the little broken pieces of her heart. She reached out to stroke his head and he instinctively squinched his eyes shut and dropped his head, waiting for the heavy hand. With that little bit of movement, she gave him another of the broken pieces of her heart. She took him home and gave him a bath. She towed him dry and brushed some order into his coat. For that he was grateful and even though his own heart was loaded with worms, he accepted yet another piece of her heart for it would help to heal his own.

"Would you like some water big boy?" she whispered to him as she set down a large bowl of cold water. He drank it happily. He had been dehydrated for a long time and she knew it would take him most of a week to rehydrate. He wanted more water but it was gone. Ah...that how it is, he thought. But he was grateful for what he had been able to get. "Would you like some

more" and she gave him another bowl along with another piece of her heart. "I know that you're hungry. You don't have to find your own food anymore. Here's a big bowl of food. I've added warm water and a little piece of my heart."

Over the four months that he stayed with her, his health improved. The heart full of worms was replaced with little bits of her loving heart. And each little piece worked a special kind of magic. When the warmth of love and gentle caresses are added, the little broken pieces knit together again and heal the container it resides in. That container becomes whole again.

He rested beside her, happy to be with her always. Never had he known such kindness and love. His health had returned, his spirit was playful as a young dog's should be and he had learned about love. Now his heart was full. The healing was complete; it was time to go. There was another person who had another heart that was meant to be shared with him.

So she sat shapeless on the floor because the broken pieces of her heart were

with the dog. It is difficult to sit tall when your heart is not with you. She wrapped her arms around the dog that sat tall, proud ears for her. Lean on me, he said. And she gave him one last thing that would keep him strong; that would keep the pieces of her heart together long after he had gone on to live his new life. She gave him her tears and bound them to the pieces with a simple statement, 'I love you Joe.' And Joe lived happily ever after.

Melissa sat on the floor, straight and tall like her mother had admonished her to do when she was a child. Today, it would be possible. And tomorrow...it would probably be possible too. Because her mind was busy thinking about this, the next dog that lay across her lap.

Where did she get the heart to help yet another dog, you ask? Ahhh...it came with the dog. They always bring a little bit of heart with them. And when the rescuer breathes in that little bit of heart, it quickly grows and fills the void left by the last dog.

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Don't forget to include your mailing address with payment!

Happy Holi-Danes from  
all of us at GDRI!

