



GREAT DANE RESCUE REPORT

Great Dane Rescue Inc.

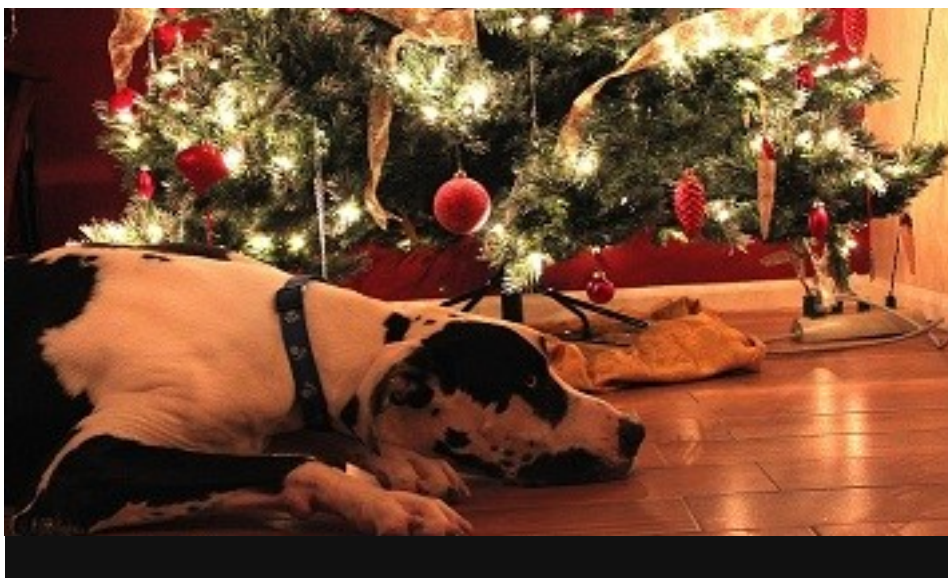
December 2018

The holiday season is always a time of reflection for us. We think about the pups we've healed and the pups that we've found homes for and those that will stay on with us as permanent fosters.

There was Joni dumped in a shelter after being starved and had little hair left on her rear end from malnutrition. And, Clyde—he came in about 5 years ago with a broken rear leg that had not been treated and fused so he could not bend it. He went to a wonderful couple for 4 years and then had to be rehomed because the couple had a new baby with terrible allergies. They were broken hearted but had to return him to GDRI. He's now in his forever home. Elvis came to us with overgrown nails, malnourished and a bacterial infection over his entire body. Elvis needed to be an only dog and a wonderful new adopter stepped up and adopted him. Old Zeus was surrendered at 10 years old through no fault of his own and Charlie who was going to be shot in the woods because he had allergies and scratched constantly. Both were wonderful dogs and had wonderful outcomes thanks to GDRI.

These are just some of the Danes that we were able to help because of your incredible generosity. We couldn't look after the Danes that we do without your help. Every cent that is donated to Great Dane Rescue Inc. is used to support our Danes. We are a 100 per cent volunteer organization.

Help us help them this Christmas with a donation. Our Danes thank you and wish you Happy Holi-Danes!



In This Issue

- Adoptions
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- Training Tips—Velcro dogs
- The life of a foster Dane



Happy Tails

Life with Lola is all I could have ever dreamed of and more. As I tell everyone, I am now a Dane owner for life. Although we had a bit of a rocky start, Lola's anxiety is miles from where it was when I first met her. Although she likes to still get into mischief every now and again, it's just normal dog business (those locking garbage cans are a miracle). She's everything I could ever want in a canine companion and best friend. I can't thank everyone at the rescue enough. All of the tips and help I received when I first got her proved to be more helpful than anything else. I'm not sure what I would've done with you all!

Lucy's doing great! She's gained a bunch of weight, she's probably about 90 pounds now. I think it's her ideal weight. She's the cuddliest dog I've ever had. She sleeps in her crate, by her own choice, but gets so excited when I ask her to come up to bed with me. She usually lasts an hour or so before she decides to go back to her own bed. She still needs to learn playing manners, and she'll get there. She's very much a puppy, but we've taught her to let us sleep in at least a little after she wakes up. Once she gets her explosive energy under control, and learns not to bark at everything, she's going to be the best.

We are so in love with Booker! He's amazing! He's a sweet boy and mostly just wants to be in the same room with the family. If we're outside in the yard, he goes with us, if we're in the living room watching television he sits on the couch with us. He loves to cuddle, so he usually lounges on the couch between my hubby and I. He also hangs out with me when I workout in the basement. I have a yoga mat and he has a yoga mat. It's nice to having a workout buddy.

Sandy's Spot

So here we are again – at the end of another year of rescuing Danes. I am so proud of the work that we do. We save lives – not just the Danes' but sometimes our adopters' too. These dogs come into our homes and they change us – they change who we are and teach us about resilience, forgiveness and love. I had a note from an adopter recently. She has been diagnosed with catatonia and narcolepsy. Her Dane has become her therapy Dane with no training – she has learned to go and lean on her owner when she has an episode, slowly letting her glide to the floor. Amazing!

As always, I'd like to thank our foster homes for opening their hearts and homes, to our transporters for driving hours on end to get our Danes where they need to be and to all of the other volunteers that put in countless hours answering phones, emails and operating our Facebook page. I would also like to thank you – our donors – for opening your wallets and your hearts so that we can continue to find forever homes for these beautiful dogs.

From all of us at Great Dane Rescue Inc., we wish you a Happy Hanukkah, Blessed Yule, Merry Christmas and a peaceful holiday season.

Adoptions

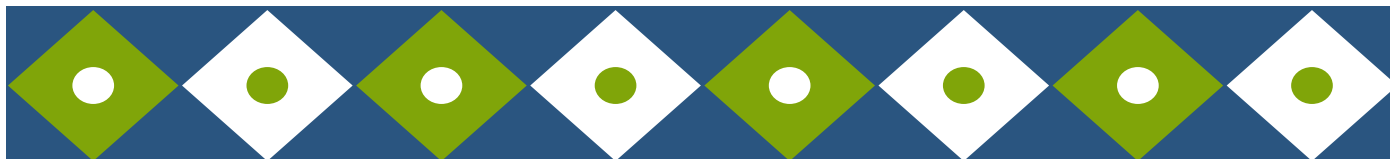
- * Cassius - Lisa Pawelski
- * Quinn - Mallory Montgomery
- * River - Patrick Mahoney
- * Harley Quinn - Debbie Schutter
- * Max - Davis Probst
- * Bailey - Joseph & Larry Anderson-Capps
- * Remi - Mike Fesco and Melissa Fleck
- * Hobbes - Cathy & Mike Kollar
- * Jonny– Kelly and Zachary Burt
- * Bela - by Jim and Jill Stern
- * Clark now Blue - Heather Braslawsce
- * Seka - Susan Wnetrzak
- * Buddie - Elaina Slide
- * Ilene - Ann Fishman
- * Chief - Emilie Daigle
- * Clauss – Erin & Ron Hayes
- * Captain - Adam Soley
- * Annie - Cindy Kollinnger
- * Gumbo - by Jennifer Costie
- * Dega - Heather & John Dugay
- * Willow- Cari Hays
- * Beamer - Ron Morton
- * Sam - James Rafferty



Photo Caption

“We knew that Hobbes was heading off to Canada so to get him ready we had him listen to the Canadian anthem, watch hockey and I told him all about Tim Horton’s coffee ;)”

From Hobbes foster mom



Our Angels

Don and Ingrid Boyd

Carla Koty

Richard L Balsley

Network for Good (Facebook Donations)

Event Wines

PayPal Charitable Giving

Network for Good

Richard Balsely

Alexandra Harrison in memory of Brody

Renea & Scott Finlay

Wilma's Birthday Bucks

Melanie McGlumphy in memory of Luke

Ann Mitchell

Crystal Warren

Ryan and Jen Paterson

Joyce & James Tracy

CycleGiving

Gretchen & Roy Waters

SteelCase Foundation matching gift for Jane Urbanski

Lee Ann & Craig Walker in loving memory of Dolly

Jenny & Ronald Bolsky

Christine Cosgriff

Amelia & Thomas Griffin

Mary & Todd Grant In honor of their beloved Dane, Hailey

Kathy (Gammill)Pate

V. Sunny Sjaarda

Todd & Jane Urbanski

Teespring

Joanne Barnett

Kroger

Jeanette & Brad Coval in memory of Gracie Boyd, Prada Bennett, Toto Schultz, Olivia Walker, Junior Galik, and Zeus & Chevelle Irish-Marsh

Jenny Bolsky

Chicago Pet Shows Inc

Linda Record

Michele and Chris England

Debbie Shutter in memory of Emmit

Eric Shultz & Lori Dames

Andrew & Kay McEntee

Judy Hartwell in memory of Dallas

Michael & Amy Odonoghue

Rosie Sosa

Richard Marsh in memory Chevelle

Christine Parson in honour of Susan Robbins, a great lover of Great Danes

In memory of Mary Mohacsi:

Jean Marie King

Sherry Paolucci

Catharine Peterson

Linda Mohacsi

Pat Russell

Sue & Ellery Makowski

Ernest & Anita Rotter

GDRI received \$565 from Wilma's Birthday Bucks fund-raiser. Wilma is owned by a couple in Plainfield, IL who also have a Neo Mastiff named Rufio. Kathryn has a FB page for Rufio called Rufio Ricardo Fan Club and this includes Wilma who is their white Dane. Kathryn did a fund-raiser and is donating the \$565 to GDRI that was sent to them by people who mailed in their dollars for Wilma's birthday over the past few weeks.





Rest in Peace

Shadrock (Ron & Erin Hayes)

Brody (Joanie Vernasco)

Bentley (Anthony and Jennifer-Maccarone)

Kenadie (The Cornells)

Snow White (Heidi Lepey)

Roo (Joe Garcia)

Little O (Al & Debra Rettich)

Kobe (David Probst)

Danforth (Keith & Sarah Bennett)

My foster, Bentley came into rescue from the Chicago area I believe. I drove to Grand Rapids the night before to meet his transport. Everyone was late due to missing the time change between states then there was another issue with traffic and a third with misdirection. Three hours or more late, a very smelly, infection ridden, emaciated brindle boy with a terrible skin condition was delivered to me. With some Entropean droopiness it added to his overall appearance but he settled into Dane Acres with three other residents like he owned the place! His weight came up and his skin cleared and coat grew back with a beautiful shine. With the improvements arose a goofy comic of a boy. He would never disappoint, always providing random run/body slam rolling to entertain clearly himself. It's just what he did! Anthony & Jennifer sent several updates and notes through the years. I know he was loved exactly like he deserved and I know he will be dearly missed.

~tanya

My heart dog - my baby boy - Brody crossed over to the rainbow bridge.

He was 7.5years and acted like a kid up until about a week or two ago when he started to go downhill fast. Then today, when he was at work with me, he bloated. Even though I rushed him to the ER Vet - surgery was too risky with other medical factors, I chose to do what was best for my favorite guy.

I want to thank everyone at GDRI for what you do because that work brought this amazing boy into my life 7 years ago. (Especially Lyndsey for finding this nutcase of a puppy!) I love him so much my entire body hurts from the loss.

I'm heartbroken and Dane-less, but I wouldn't trade this time for 15 years with any other dog. I'll need time to grieve but then my heart and home will be open to another rescue.

~joanie

It is hard to believe that 7.5 years ago GDRI was the first of three rescues willing to match us so we drove to Nashville to meet Little O. Olivia was a skittish 4-year-old at the time who needed a forever home after living her life outside in Alabama. With our love and security, she never strayed more than an arms reach away, even after I unknowingly left the gate to the backyard open for a week. She loved like no other and made us better people. On January 27th, we made the choice to send her over the bridge after her legs could often not support her. She was sent to heaven to wait for us laying in our kitchen wrapped in my arms like we often snuggled so that she would always feel loved and safe. Thank you GDRI for our most treasured gift.

~ Al & Debra



Monty

Monty continues to grow and mature and has become a lovely 4-year-old Great Dane. His antics have really calmed down, and so has the energy level. The most unusual thing about him (apart from his anatomy) is his palette. He likes to eat all kinds of things. He tries for coffee and beer (off-limits) and enjoys all the usual suspects like cheese, meats, peanut butter, BUT he also loves watermelon, cucumber, carrots, asparagus, lettuce, noodles, and mangoes.

Monty spent part of the summer with a visiting 8-year-old relative. He was perfect around her (always supervised) and had no episodes (he used to act like he wanted to eat children for breakfast). They ended up snuggling every evening. Cats used to be a problem, but now he is respectful of them and can even ignore them if needed. Thanks to the pet-store's in-house pair of kitties, he's had regular exposure.

He still leaks, and wears diapers in the house. Some days, it's a little, some days it's a lot. He doesn't mind wearing his bummies, and comes when called to have it changed when needed.

Monty is a permanent foster and will live out his life with his foster parents, Sarah and Keith

Looking for that special gift for a certain someone? We've got loads of great gift ideas on our website for you to choose from. Here is a short selection of gift ideas that benefit GDRI:

Benefit Wines - the Benefit Wines offered - Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenere, Merlot, Chardonnay, Malbec and Sauvignon Blanc are imported from LaFortuna Vineyards in Lontue Valley, Chile.

Charity Wicks - the candles featured in this program include all-natural, vegan friendly, kosher, 100% soy candles without added synthetic dyes. Every candle is hand-poured in Massachusetts and feature custom GDRI labels.

Dane-inspired glassware – makes a nice complement to your wine purchase!

2019 GDRI calendar – filled with great photos of our rescued Danes! Makes a great stocking stuffer.

Velcro dogs

Velcro dogs are unable to be away from people. These dogs may be uncertain about their current housing (foster dog, shelter dog, recently adopted, etc). If in a new living situation, they may be working hard to understand the new rules or commands, and lacking critical coping skills, they stay close to people for comfort. Other dogs who have developed coping skills but are in the same situation may choose to occupy themselves with a toy, rest on a bed, or explore their environment.

There are many ways to help a Velcro dog become confident, calm and happier.

- Go to mat/Relax on mat – I don't know of a single skill that's more critical for dogs to learn and practice. Dogs benefit tremendously from having a "place" – something portable that can go everywhere. Yoga mats are my favorite choice for mat training. Mat training is similar to the idea of going to the crate to relax.
- Reinforce independent activity – While I do love having my dogs lounge in the office with me (the chorus of snores makes for interesting office music), I want them with me by choice not out of fear/uncertainty. Choosing to lie on a rug, mat or the floor near me but not touching me earns a reinforcer, such as a "good girl/boy", ear scratch, butt rub or on occasions a nibble of my lunch. As I write, my day training dog is in the other room chewing happily on a buffalo horn. He'll get a little nibble as I walk past him. The moment a foster dog wanders away from my side and chooses an appropriate activity is my cue to reinforce that desirable behavior.
- Mental games – the downside of teaching dogs commands without teaching choices is that many dogs lose their ability to problem solve/make choices. Dogs, like people, are critical thinkers. Research is showing that dogs who are able to make choices are more resilient under stress and have less anxiety. For whatever reason, humans seem to think that dogs should do nothing until commanded, and then and only then should they engage in any activity. It's like have a breathing, furry robot. Using Kongs, tornado puzzles, treat balls, muffin tins, busy boxes and snuffle mats are great ways to help dogs rediscover their problem solving ability and build confidence. Fun fact, puzzle games and short, fun training sessions will cause a dog to take a nice long nap just like a play session or a 30-minute walk. Great help when the weather doesn't permit outdoor activities.

Does this mean that I ignore the Velcro dogs in my life? No. When a dog seeks comfort please DO offer comfort. The myth that touching, petting, comforting a frightened or anxious dog increases their timidity is wrong, outdated and does more harm than good. Dogs, like people, are social and seek comfort when faced with uncertainty. For dogs lacking confidence I use a variety of external calming aids – music, essential oils, DAP, massage, TTouch, soothing talk, ear rubs, etc.

~Delores Carter is a certified dog trainer and a long-standing member of Great Dane Rescue Inc.

Blue – A foster’s story

He’s beautiful. He looks at you with those big eyes and huge ears and you just want to snuggle with him all day. At the end of a long day with lots of exercise, that’s exactly what happens, sometimes.

Foster stories come in all shapes and sizes, and Blue’s story is no exception.

His first home, his breeder was followed closely by the second home, an excited family. Exact details are unknown, but he was put into foster around 6 months of age (90lbs) as a little monster. He clearly had no boundaries or rules, so he made them up for himself. Eleven weeks in rescue (home #3) sorted him out, he was neutered and sent to a loving family (home #4). Unfortunately, he was too much to handle, and he went back to his monster-ways after a month with little exercise or proper stimulation. Off to foster home #2, where he was introduced to the two existing Danes without much trouble. (home #5)

Blue is now almost a year old and he’s a charming, high-energy boy who can forget all his manners in a single stride, mesmerize you with his flashy looks, and remind you why puppies are so cute...because they are little demons sometimes.



Case-in-point: Blue in Foster #2

Danes are famous for their laid-back personalities, but not Blue. He’s a high-energy ball of lightning, who wants to play all day long. It can’t be stressed enough, he is active and wants to engage someone or something during regular waking hours. That’s from 7am to 10pm. Fifteen hours is a long time. Sadly, after a couple of weeks, the older resident-Dane soon grew tired of the shenanigans, and he started pushing back. After consulting with a behaviouralist, for everyone’s safety, the dogs are now kept separate, with Blue leashed and kept away from Guinness if they are in the same room.

The other resident-dog, Monty, a permanent foster from GDRI, is still very playful and enjoys Blue’s antics. They played regularly with each other... until “The Day”. (More about that later).

Continued

Typical mornings started out with a long walk. Monty and Blue could be out for as long as two hours. A shorter walk for Guinness, the older boy, and it was breakfast time. A short rest and Blue was back to fun and games. A toy, usually a Tuffy, could keep him busy for a while, but he usually engaged with whomever was home to play along. Noonish was time for lunch. He's a growing boy and likes to eat. One of his quirks is how slowly he eats. It takes him about 10 minutes to eat a meal other dogs finish in a minute. After lunch, it was often crate-time for Blue, as errands needed to be run, and work needed to be accomplished. Blue loves his crate and goes in willingly. He has a toy to keep him busy.

Shortly before Dinner, another walk, usually alone to reinforce obedience and leash-walking training. After dinner, it's family-time, usually downstairs on the big couch. Blue comes down leashed and gets treats for ignoring Guinness. Guinness wants nothing to do with Blue, so he just stays put. After some TV watching and general entertainment (Blue is usually playing mouthbed. Blue sleeps in his crate and all the other dogs and people go to their respective beds for the night. It all starts again the next morning.

"The Day" was Saturday, November 17, 2018. Everything was off. Blue had been up most of the night with diarrhea and was vomiting. An obstruction was suspected and GDRI approved an x-ray to confirm the problem. The emergency veterinary hospital was very accommodating, and Blue was lightly sedated for the procedure. An obstruction near the start of his intestines was confirmed, and surgery was the only option. The GDRI Board approved the surgery within an hour of receiving the news. Soon after, Blue went into surgery for about 90 minutes. It was a success, and a long, stringy-something was milked from deep in his intestines through an incision in his stomach. No resections were required, and everything went well.



Blue spent the next day in the hospital, and we were able to visit him. He was sorry-looking and definitely not loving the cone, but happy to see us. The hospital was ready to discharge him at noon on

Monday. It turns out he was a lot to handle and they had to sedate him to keep him calm and not risk opening up the surgical site. He came home on the same meds and had two weeks of 'recovery' in his future. No walks, no outings, no excitement. Just in and out to pee, on a leash of course. Thankfully, the mild sedatives were prescribed for home too, so he can be kept calm and not revert to his crazy, pent-up energy ways.

We are half-way through the recovery time, and Blue is doing very well. His incision site is clean and healing nicely. He wears a cone when not supervised so that he doesn't aggravate the site. He sleeps more than before, but he's not exactly 'knocked out', he's just slower.

In just over two weeks, it will be Blue's first birthday. He should be fully recovered by then and we'll have a doggie-cake for him to enjoy. Hopefully, with no long-stringy things inside!

GREAT DANES

ONCE THEY LOVE, THEY LOVE

STEADILY, UNCHANGINGLY, TILL THEIR LAST BREATH



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