

About Great Dane Rescue of North Texas

Great Dane Rescue of North Texas, Inc. is an all volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical attention and foster care while seeking permanent homes for abused and abandoned Great Danes in the North Texas area. To reach its goals, Great Dane Rescue of North Texas rescues sick, injured, abused, and abandoned Great Danes, finds loving and knowledgeable permanent homes, educates the public about the temperament, characteristics and special needs of the Great Dane breed, teaches responsible pet ownership, promotes animal identification programs, spay/neuter programs and general animal population control. We are members of the Great Dane Rescue Alliance and DFW CARES. We provide several financial and educational public programs.



All Great Danes that come through the rescue program are spay/neutered, heartworm tested, given Rabies, DHLPPC and Bordetella vaccinations, fecal tested, micro-chipped, and given their first heartworm preventive. All Great Danes are treated for any parasite and illness present including but not limited to intestinal worms, heartworms, upper respiratory infections, ehrlichia, broken bones, and special surgeries.



Veronica

Rescued Danes are placed in foster homes while they are with us and live as part of the fosters family. During this time each Dane's health and temperament is evaluated which helps us make appropriate permanent placements. In addition to providing medical and emotional rehabilitation, all foster homes crate train, work on basic obedience and housebreaking.

Q & A Can you survive a Great Dane?

Where do they come from?

Most of our Danes are rescued from euthanasia in North Texas shelters where they are either released to the facility by their owners or found as strays and remain unclaimed. We do occasionally take in Danes needing to be re-homed by their owners, but the shelter dogs are our priority as they have no place to go.



Ike (aka Jax)

Why do so many Danes end up in rescue?

There are many reasons that Great Danes end up in rescue. Some of our Danes were strays, found wandering the streets with no identification and therefore subject to death at a local animal control facility when they are unclaimed by their owners. Animal controls call GDRNT to come rescue these Danes before their scheduled euthanasia.

Of those released to facilities or to other people by their owners, the story of “why” seems to be repeated over and over again. Many people buy puppies on impulse, without taking the time to look into the personality, activity level, and needs of the breed and then find themselves with a giant dog that is simply not compatible with their family. It seems that those cute little pups grow up. The owners give them up because they are “too big”, “cost too much”, “poop too much”, “chew stuff”, “destructive when left alone”, “need too much attention”, and “knock the kids down”. Had just a bit of research into the personality, temperament and needs of this breed been done, each of these reasons would have been discovered before acquiring a Dane. A Dane is not a good choice for every family. Like any breed, some fit into a particular family’s lifestyle and budget, and others don’t.

We also hear many non-breed specific reasons for giving up a pet. Most commonly are relocation, pregnancy/new babies, job changes that result in the owner having less time available for the dog, and even that the children aren’t feeding /walking/ cleaning up after the dog even though they said they would. While there are some limited situations that cannot be avoided, prospective dog owners should carefully consider that bringing home a dog requires a 10-13 year commitment. Very careful and thoroughly informed consideration should be given as to whether this commitment can be made prior to adoption.

Are all your rescued Danes abused?

No. Many of our Danes are just unwanted due to various reasons. Some are medically neglected - some severely. We do get in Danes that have been mentally and physically abused. All dogs are tested and closely watched for possible abuse and rehabilitated if needed. All temperament issues are fully disclosed and discussed with potential adopters.

What medical problems do they have?

Like any purebred dog, there are medical conditions that all prospective owners should be aware of. Bloat and stomach torsion is among the most



Dino in Hospital

serious afflictions that Danes can be stricken with. When this happens, the Danes stomach can actually flip over on itself. Gas begins to fill the flipped stomach, blood circulation is cut off at both ends. The stomach tissue begins to die. This is a life-threatening situation and can kill the dog quickly. Little is known about what causes bloat, but there are several measures that can be taken to lessen the risk of it: two small meals a day instead of one large meal, feeding a low-protein high quality

food, and no exercise after meals are just a few. There is a surgery that can be performed to tack the stomach into place so that it cannot flip. There are several kinds of gastropexy surgeries that are effective preventions. Speak with your vet about it or call us for referral.

Are Great Danes good with children?

Yes, and no. Generally the Dane temperament is compatible with children. However, they are giant dogs. Your toddler will get knocked down on a regular basis, will get stepped on and pawed occasionally and tail whipped. And yes, this may cause scratching and bruising. An adult is generally a wiser match to young children than a pup, having settled down their 100-170 pound selves. And remember, children should ALWAYS be supervised around ANY dog.



Brandon & Sammie



Regina & Puff

Are Great Danes good with other animals?

Like within any breed, each Great Dane is an individual. In general, the temperament of Great Danes allow them to enjoy the companionship of other large and small dogs. Many think cats are their best friends. We do our best

to test the temperament of each individual Dane to find out if they are compatible with other large dogs, small dogs and cats so we can best match them to each particular household.

Isn't it better to bring in a puppy rather than an adult?

For most people, an adult is a better choice. Why? Puppies require a lot of work and time that working adults do not have - housebreaking (an 8 week old puppy can only hold their bladder for 2 hours), obedience training, extra feedings, etc. Puppies chew up stuff, grab hair, knock kids and objects down and need some form of attention (play, food, potty) about every 2 hours round the clock. Adults are easily housebroken, obedience trained, crate trained and can easily settle into the ins/outs of a working household. Adults usually are mild mannered and in control of their bodies and are content to just hang out while the adults are away at work and kids are at school.



Chandler

Will an adult rescued Great Dane bond with me and my family?

Lets ask one of our previous adopters:

“I think that Mikko (aka Virgil) knows that I rescued him from the unknown and placed him in a loving, safe and comfortable environment. He pays more attention to me than the Dane that I have raised from 8 weeks old.”

—Dara Hayden



Cricket

Do Great Danes shed?

Yes. More than a poodle, less than a lab. A good diet and regular brushing is all that is needed to control shedding.

Are they good guard dogs?

A Dane can be a big deterrent to intruders. After all, who would come into your home when a 100-170 pound dog is looking at them through the window? But we know lots of Danes that have welcomed intruders crazy enough to enter the house. They are not fierce or aggressive dogs. They have been known to protect their humans when trouble arose, but don't expect them to protect your stuff.

“Shadow (aka Robert) once saved my daughter and me from a crazy German Shepherd that tried to attack us. Shadow did not get aggressive, he just stood there flexing his muscles as the Shepherd tucked his tail between his legs and ran away.” —Betsy Fulton

What will a Great Dane do if I leave it outside alone for long periods of time?

Eat your door, tear down your screens, dig up your plants, greet people as they pass by your fence, need therapy. If you are looking for a breed that can be left outdoors, this is not the breed for you.

How active are they?

An adult Great Dane's activity level is moderate, usually preferring an evening walk and/or a couple of play sessions per day. They spend much of their time just lounging around the house.



Apollo & Dante

*“As you might expect from a Great Dane X [mix], Dax's favorite activity is snoozing, and only the bed will do. He does have his moments of flurried activity though - with his favorite toy, a rubber banana split that squeaks. Well, it used to squeak.”
—Margaret Alston*

Will a Great Dane snatch food off my kitchen countertop?

Depends on how good of a cook you happen to be. They definitely are tall enough to reach it and will do so if tempted (pot roast and cookies are among the favorites). Keep dangerous food items (such as chocolate and onions) out of the reach of Danes. Put your trash can in a closet or get a lid.

Will a Great Dane allow me to sit on my own couch?

Maybe. Their favorite trick is to wait until you sit down then they will sit on top of you. They are lap dogs... or so they think.



Dave & Chester

"[Moe aka Chief] is housetrained beyond my wildest dreams. Even bacon and roasts have been left alone on the counter!!! If only I could get him to share the couch, we'd be all set."

—Sue

Why won't my Dane leave me alone while I'm trying to type?

The Dane is a wonderful companion animal, but they expect that you will make a commitment to be their companion as well as the dog being your companion. Though still considered a member of the working dog class, they have abandoned their independence to become human's best friend.

Will I have to take out a loan to own one?

Adopters will incur many additional expenses when they adopt a Dane. The following necessities will require additional financial output immediately before or after adoption: Dane sized crate (\$150.00-250.00); training collar (\$20.00); premium brand, low-protein dog food (\$30.00-50.00 monthly); 6 month supply of heartworm prevention from vet (\$60.00-75.00). You may want to invest in a raised feeding dish (\$20.00 - \$75.00).



Rabbit

Please visit our website www.danerescue.net for further information on proper nutrition, bloat, and crate training.

Welcome to Matchmaker

Our Matchmaker program will link your family with available Danes that are suitable for your family, lifestyle, activity level, etc. You will either be asked to attend the next Meet & Greet event or appointments will be set up for you to meet and visit with any Danes that are candidates for your home. Keep in mind, you should not expect to choose a picture or description from the website and immediately adopt that dog. The website contains brief, but incomplete and not always current information about each dog so it may be that the particular Dane is not compatible or is already in the process of being adopted. We do not take color, size or ear cropping into consideration in our matching program as those features have no impact on the compatibility of the dog to the adoptive home. If you are intent on a particular physical appearance we would be happy to refer you to a reputable breeder who may be able to accommodate you. We make every effort to match you with a Dane that will fit into your family and lifestyle, as they will become lifetime members of your family.



*Gretchen & Zena
"A Perfect Match"*

"There has been no more precious gift to come to Gretchen's life than Zena. Thank you so much for so patiently helping Gretchen through the adoption process." —Susan Steeger

"We have loved Moe aka Chief. Thank you for selecting us for him" —Sue

*"Bridget has been with us for 6 months and it feels like we have never been without her. She fits our family great and I'd be lost without her. Thanks for everything!"
—Cindy Allino*

"Over the summer, Greg and I adopted an 18-month old neutered Great Dane X male... now named Dax and living happily in the country. Dax has proven to be an excellent fit with our family and lifestyle." —Margaret Alston

Ten Steps Towards Adoption

- 1) Do your research! Breed and cost information is available on our website, on linked websites, in your local bookstore, pet supply stores, from your vet, and from our volunteers. Come to one of our Meet & Greet events to talk to our volunteers and meet some of the dogs to get a feel for the true size, temperament, and characteristics of the breed.
- 2) Complete the application form and mail or fax back to us. Include your tax deductible nonrefundable application processing fee which can be paid by check if mailing or via PayPal™ if you are faxing an application to us. Be honest and feel free to include supplemental explanatory information. Information on this form will be verified. Incomplete applications will not be processed. All questions must be answered.
- 3) Wait for an email, letter or phone call notifying you that your application has been approved. Processing can take 1-7 days. You will receive a letter if it is not approved.
- 4) A home visit will be scheduled and performed.
- 5) Upon completion of steps 1 through 4 and final approval of our board, you will be entered into the Matchmaker Program.
- 6) If we determine that there are currently no suitable Danes for you, please be patient. You will be placed on a waiting list and you will be contacted when an appropriate dog is available. You should feel free to call once a week to check in with us. Please note that it may take several weeks before a suitable dog becomes available.
- 7) Once you have visited with a potential match, you need to notify us of your intent to adopt or not within 24 hours either by email to info@danerescue.net or by voice message left at (817) 651-2336. There are often other families waiting for their turn should you decide not to adopt the particular Dane.
- 8) Only applicants with pre-approved applications and completed home visits will be allowed to adopt a Dane at our Meet & Greet events. Please check in at the GDRNT table upon arrival and you

will be directed to the Dane(s) that is a candidate for your home. Watch the website for date/location of the next Meet & Greet. We are sorry, but we are unable to hold a dog for families participating in these events. If you are unsure whether you wish to adopt that day, you are welcome to check in with us in a few days to see if the dog is still available.

- 9) We have a minimum adoption donation (see back cover for current pricing). This donation goes towards spay/neuter, heartworm testing, rabies vaccination, DHLPPC and Bordetella vaccination, fecal testing, deworming, micro-chipping, first heartworm preventive, id tag, leash and collar which every dog receives at time of adoption. Many dogs require extra medical care including but not limited to dewormings, flea/tick products, antibiotics, skin scrapes, special food, bloodtests and heartworm treatment. Some dogs require surgeries and the attention of specialists. These costs are not included in the minimum adoption donations and are absorbed by the rescue. At the time of adoption, we will let you know if the dog you are adopting has incurred any other expenses while with us. If you are able to make a supplemental tax deductible donation to help cover those costs, it is greatly appreciated but is not required.
- 10) This is not the end of the process. We will follow up on the placement for months to come. This may include home visits, which you will agree to in your contract. We will always be available to help you through any issues that come up. Do expect an adjustment period for you, your family, and your dog. Most dogs will not immediately be comfortable, well behaved and housebroken. It takes love, commitment and patience. We hope to see you at our next Annual DaneFest.



Bambi, Sam & Buster

Other Programs and Ways You Can Help Chance's Fund

We have set up a special fund in memory of Chance, a Great Dane whom we rescued from a Dallas shelter. Unfortunately, we were unable to save him due to severe medical neglect. He was emaciated to the point of skin and bones and his body could not fight the distemper virus he contracted. If only his owner had provided him with the \$10 vaccination and fed him, he may be alive today. The purpose of this fund is to give aid to owners of Great Danes when faced with an unexpected but temporary change in their life such as loss of job or home due to fire. This aid will help provide vaccinations, heartworm prevention, spay/neuters and food. We need donations for this fund.



Chance

Seniors for Seniors

This program involves matching Senior Great Danes with Senior Citizens in our community. It aids those who have love, time and commitment to give but limited access to transportation and those just needing an extra hand. We aid the Senior Citizens by providing transportation for them and/or their pet to the veterinarian for routine medical care. Our volunteers also will regularly check on both the dog and the adopter to help with items such as nail trims, baths and to carry those heavy 40 pound bags of dog food into the house. We need volunteers who can commit to providing these services to one Senior Citizen in their area.



Lana

Community Service

We currently have 2 Danes in training to be certified as therapy dogs. We plan to outreach to the community by using these Danes as our ambassadors to visit nursing home facilities and providing educational programs on proper pet care to school aged children. Watch the website for updates and ways you can help.