



Great Dane Rescue Report

Spring 2008

Adoptions!



LLydia Oakes - Lilly
Michael & Diane Schurman - Clyde
Amanda Ruthven & Ian Park - Star
Jon Wollaston - Rocky
Richi & Jessica Dufresne - Maggie
Charlie Rainbow Wolf - Sy
Jamie Ogg - Jake
Patrick Dunn - Scout
Charlie & Kim Sytsma - Vader
Al Snyder & Pat Wynn - Hobo now Primo
Maureen Thompson - Zeus now Sanka
Gary & Beth Secor - Fabio now Mikey
Ron & Judy Sitcler - Nummie
John Gastineau & Lynn Prescott - Ollie
Laurel Carter - Mary Jane
Hailey McLean - Paige
Lea Mitchell - Samantha
Tim & Lorene Kruchowski - Lily
Brenda Serre - Valerie



From our adopters

I don't know if you heard but while we were in Missouri in October, just before we adopted Suzie, we bought a Harlequin (something the men in my life had wanted for a very long time). We named him Ivan (yes, the terrible!) and he came home with Suzie to meet Bette and our insane pug, Zeus. I remember going to our first GDRI function, I was awed by all the Danes everywhere and how magnificent they all were. I have that same feeling in my house now - every day! I am just loving it. I am beginning to see what inspires you and the the wonderful GDRI volunteers. What a gift we have.

Diane Labach

I adopted my precious Great Dane Moby from your rescue. I also did a little volunteering at the beginning. I just want to say THANK YOU! Moby has been the greatest dog ever and I can't begin to tell you how blessed I am to have him in my life. Moby can always find ways to make me laugh every single day. Moby is getting up there in age but is still full of energy and love. Again, I just wanted to thank you and everyone within your organization for bringing my precious baby into my life.

Kathleen Shepp

Sandy's Spot

It's been a long, cold, snowy winter but thankfully, spring is in the air. We've had an active winter in rescue - lots of adoptions, lots of Danes coming in for care. You'll read a bit about one of them inside - Dahlia. Happily, Dahlia survived her illness thanks to the fine care provided in her foster home (Thanks Steph!).

I know I say this all the time but I am so proud of the work that our volunteers do - the fostering, transporting, fundraising and on it goes. It is truly an amazing group that we have. And please, if you want to join us, don't wait to be invited!

And thank you to our angels - your generosity humbles me. We receive donations from all over the country (and Canada) to help us help our Danes. Amazing!

On a personal note, I have new addition to my home - Xochi. He's quite the character and at 14 weeks, already up to 54 pounds (makes a Mom proud!) I'll try to include a picture in our next issue.

Hope to see you all at Fun Day (Saturday, June 7). It will be here before you know it.

Sincerely,
Sandy

How I came to volunteer for GDRI

Where do I begin? My wife, Jeanette, and I were married for just a couple of years when I said someday I wanted another Great Dane. I had my first Great Dane while in college; she was a great companion that I still miss today. Jeanette decided she would find us a Great Dane as a surprise.

She started with our vet, asking for Great Dane Rescue organizations. She found a Dane from Ingram County Animal Control in Michigan. Jeanette called me and asked if I wanted to visit the shelter and meet the Dane. When we got to the shelter, out bounded a black male Dane, approximately 8 months old. He was dirty, smelly, hyper and very skinny - in short, he was perfect. And he picked *us* to be his new parents. We named him Domino and brought him home the following week. Domino turned out to be the best dog we could have hoped for.

A couple of years later, we decided Domino needed a companion and that is when Jeanette came across Great Dane Rescue Inc. (GDRI). We submitted an application and were set up to meet a dog in Indiana. We intended to visit a deaf Dane but when we arrived, the foster mom, Ana, steered us to another whom we adopted and named Callee. Callee had an awful beginning to life. She was owned by a college girl in an apartment and left for days without food or water. Callee learned that she could get water from a toilet. Being locked up with no one to let her out, she would urinate on the floor. When the owner and her boyfriend came home to find the pee, Callee was beaten, most likely with sticks (or a similar object). One day, a few weeks after we adopted Callee, I picked up a flagpole. When Callee saw me holding the pole, she literally screamed, ran into the house and sat there shaking. I immediately dropped the pole and called to her. She hesitantly came out of the house and I gave her a treat to reinforce that I was not a threat to her. It took a long time for me to get her over her fear of sticks, poles, etc. I proudly tell people that Callee is now certified as a therapy dog (TDI) and she is over her past demons. She and Domino hit it off right away - they were pals! We were truly lucky and blessed to have two wonderful Danes to call our own.

When Domino was 8 years old, he developed a blood disease and had to have blood tests every

day for a week to monitor blood counts. One night, I came home from teaching and found Domino lying on his bed. His gums were white and there was evidence of blood in his eyes. I sat with him the entire night, rubbing him in the hopes of keeping his blood flowing and him warm. He made it through the night and actually started to perk up - which astonished our vet. A couple of days later, we went to the Detroit dog show and bought our 'kids' toys and treats. When we came home, we gave Domino a new toy which he took with a wagging tail and a look of pure joy that only a Dane owner knows. Standing there I cried like a baby watching Domino play with that toy. A few weeks later, a tumor in Domino caused full torsional bloat. Jeanette and I held Domino when the emergency vet let him slip into sleep and cross to the bridge on a Friday night. (Even now, years later, I am typing with tears in my eyes.)

Callee took the disappearance of Domino as badly as we did. A couple of weeks later, we decided to adopt again from GDRI. We met Ranger, a beautiful mantle Dane fostered by one of the most gentle and patient people we had ever met - Margie. Margie opened up her home to us for a few hours while Callee and Ranger met, played and sniffed. We were afraid at first that Ranger wasn't the 'one'. We went home feeling sad and with cold feet about getting another Dane. Jeanette and I talked about Ranger and decided to adopt him. After a minor adjustment period, Callee accepted Ranger as her new buddy. The two are inseparable and constant companions. (Editor's note: Sadly, Ranger has since gone to the bridge.)

After adopting Ranger, we decided that we wanted to volunteer for GDRI but we thought that you had to be invited. (Editor's note: This still makes me laugh!) One day we went to lunch with Sandy and she asked if we wanted to become volunteers for GDRI. We were so happy to be invited that we answered immediately and in unison, 'yes!'

Our first rescue transport was a Dane brought up from Kentucky. We met a lady from Dalmation rescue in East Point, Michigan one night. When we opened the car door, there was a little 'porcelain' Dane asleep on the front seat. I stroked her head and she opened up the most beautiful blue eyes we had ever seen. She was a deaf Dane suffering from PANO in all four legs. Her pain was evident while walking so I carried her to

a field so she could relieve herself. After she did, she leaned on me and just looked up and wagged her tail. I was in love - yet again! We transported her to one of our foster homes that did a fantastic job nursing her back to health. (I can't think of the words to even begin to express our gratitude for the job that Lyndsey and Wendy did bringing this little deaf dog back to health). After a lot of thinking, and consulting with our new-found family in rescue, we decided to adopt this little girl. We named her Lexington (Lexi for short). We take Lexi to public fundraising events representing Great Dane Rescue, Inc. She loves people, has a great disposition and is just plain beautiful! Her deafness is not an issue whatsoever. She does have the typical Harlequin stubborn streak - in fact, I joke that she is just another pretty blond ignoring me.



A little over a year later, GDRI received three puppies from an Ohio mill. Our foster homes were full, so we decided to foster one of the 10-week old puppies for a short time. This little Harlequin was the runt of the litter (he only weighed 10 lbs at 10 weeks) of nine - only three were alive when rescued. We named him HEMI - I felt that he needed a strong name. This little guy truly had a strong will to live. He quickly put on some weight and developed well-toned muscles. Hemi will always be on the smaller side, but that's okay. I am happy to say that Hemi was adopted into a home where he will be cared for and loved for his entire life. Yes, Jeanette and I adopted him. We can't foster anymore - we can't give them up! Hemi also accompanies us to public events where he receives a great deal of attention due to his unusual coloring.

I really can't think of an appropriate way to thank Great Dane Rescue, Inc. for the work they do and

for allowing us to be part of their organization. GDRI is an extended family where we all experience each other's joy and pain. We can have differences of opinion, but will always pull together for the well-being of a Great Dane in need. I am amazed at all the countless hours spent working for the well-being of Danes while promoting Dane education to prospective adopters and the public. The GDRI motto of 'Adopted and Proud' means so much more than placing these beautiful dogs in their loving forever homes. We are proud to be part of this rescue organization. God bless each and everyone that selflessly gives their time and money to defend, protect, nourish, nurse and place these truly magnificent creatures.

Why did we join GDRI? Because of our love for Great Danes and because of the Great People we can call our friends united in the common effort to help those who can't speak for themselves.

Brad S. Coval

Sanka

Well here we are, with our new addition, "Sanka." I had been considering purchasing a Great Dane for sometime. One evening while searching the web for information on Danes, I came across the Great Dane Rescue website. After reading the info. on the site, and seeing the many Danes looking for forever homes, I knew this was the best choice for us.

The adoption process was detailed & extensive, which I respected a great deal. Anyone considering adopting a Dane, or any other animal, needs to be well prepared to meet the needs & commitment required. I was like an expectant Mother nervously awaiting our new arrival, & boy was he ever worth the wait!!

This is our first Dane, but I can tell you already, not our last!!!! We could not be happier.



Maureen, Bruce, Finlay, Oliver, Elijah, Charlie, & Sir Sanka.

Our Angels
Mary Seals
Abby Hodge
Victoria Boyle
The Stulberg Family
Florence Smith
Shilo Gage
Lesnick's
Charlie Rainbow Wolf
Bullocks of Howell, MI
Wendy Lane
Eng Kornelsen
Jamie Ogg
Paula Lozon
Sheri Thompson
Louise Peterson
Jenny Bolsky
Antionette Soffes
Carol Keenan
Sissy McGill
Maureen Dodd
The Rocketts
Diane LeNoir
Janet and Gee Heckscher
Linda Peterson
Lynne Tenbusch
Rich and Linda Gates
Suzanne Kitterman
Michael Downing
Rose Pashaian, Happy Birthday Joan!
N. Skip Wilson
Beverly Beitler
Jason and Keri Pesola
Brian LaFromboise
Guy and Heather Williams
Irene Coermann
Tina and Steve Price
Terry and Fran Lawton
Steven Locke
Elizabeth Thorsen
Mark Fruhwirth
Elise McClintock
Ben and Jan Franklin
Paul Heller
Margaret Sheppard
Kevin Yoder
Sable Chandler
George and Jane Cline
Jackie Dilworth in memory of Ms. Adriana Keller
Megan Lehman
Heather Dawson
Andrew and Cynthia Veglio
Barbara Young
Lauren Bartlett
Jessica Stone

Anita Vlcek
Gail Woods
The Hamel Family
Sylvia and Ken Reiss in memory of Duke and
Patience who were very much loved by our
friends, Laura and Bruce Young
Laurel Alder
Patricia Rogers
Mike Bethell

More from our adopters

I just had to drop you a quick line about my Lilly.
She now wags her tail!!! We got her last Easter
and she is finally happy enough to wag everytime
she sees us. She is such a sweetheart.

Pat Wright

Just wanted to write and tell you that Rosie, who
was adopted from you in 2000 is alive and doing
well. She has some old age problems (as do I) but
we are adapting and help each other out. Thank
you for bringing Rosie into my life.

Georgia Pritchard

Happy Gotcha Day!

Just wanted to share that our beautiful Dane
Sheena will be celebrating her first Gotcha Day
with us on January 6, 2008.

We can't thank GDR enough for giving us our
wonderful, little, dainty girl! Special thanks to
Daun who is a phenomenal foster mom and took
care of Sheena and nursed her to health. We
can't imagine our lives without Sheena.

Dean and Donna Marks



Deuce's Story

Deuce is in need of
donations. As you can
see, Deuce is in poor
health due to malnutrition
that has compromised his
whole system. He is a
very sweet dog and will
make a wonderful companion for someone.
Deuce is under a vet's care and must gain 30 lbs.
before he is eligible for adoption.

Our boy Ranger

It was a beautiful spring night in April when we lost our beloved Domino to bloat. One week later we were on our way to Margie's to meet Ranger, then known as Deuce. He had already been adopted out to one couple who returned him because they lost thier jobs and were moving into an apartment.

When we first met Ranger, we said no to adopting him because we said his hips didn't look right. In other words, we had cold feet. Margie tried to reassure us but we still said no. We left and didn't say another word about him until the next day when I asked Brad about the hips. I said, "What would you do if it were Domino or Callee?" He replied without hesitation, "I would fix them." So there was our answer. I called Margie and said we would come back the following weekend to get him.

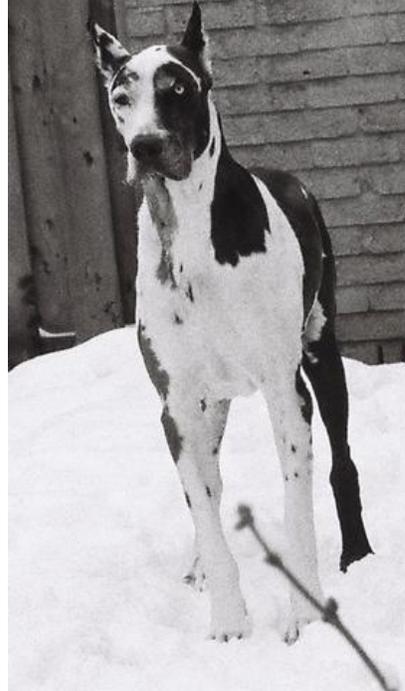
That would have been 4 years ago this May. We lost our beautiful, quirky boy last night at not even 6 years of age to bloat.

We love you Bubba Blue. You will be forever in our minds and hearts. Rest easy now.

Jeanette and Brad Coval

Harley

Last night our sweet boy Harley bloated. Although we only adopted him last July, this sweet boy certainly touched our hearts and our lives. He had a tail that never stopped wagging - to the point that his whole bum wiggled when he was happy.



He had the most stunning eyes - one brown, one blue - and everyone who met him was awestruck. He was a gem who only ever wanted to do the right thing with just enough of that spotty naughtiness to make him perfect. And how he adored my Mom - his whole face lit up when he was with her. He will be deeply missed.

*Lyndsey and
Wendy Watson*

In praise of older Danes

Sadie was an older Dane that we were thinking about adopting. What it came down to was this: we wanted a Dane and Sadie needed a home. We soon learned the benefits of adopting an older Dane are many. Sadie was already potty trained, she was a whiz at obedience and what she didn't know, she learned within days. We even taught her hand signals to keep it interesting for us, and she learned these quickly too.

She was so gentle with everyone she met. She was defined by the word grace. She loved our cats - in fact, they all napped together. When the baby came along, she was just as gentle and cautious around her. She would come to us when the baby was crying, give her gentle sniff and kisses while we held her.

Sadie loved to nap with me, to go on walks, to visit the pet supply store and to ride in the car. She loved going north. We even had an orange hunting vest for her to wear - deer season or not. Sadie loved playing in the snow, catching snowballs and eating them. Her favorite toy was a huge log that was cut from our tree. In the summer, she loved to lay in the sunshine and in the fall, she'd laze about in the leaves.

There were so many wonderful things about Sadie and we learned so much about life from her. She was a joy to have as a companion, an exceptional member of our family.

Adopt another older Dane, you ask? Most definitely, we already have.

Christopher, Linda and Isabella Coleman.

Our deepest sympathy...

Brian and Liz Pickens for the loss of Winnie
Nick and Hae Yi Ko for the loss of Thelma and Louise

Lynne Tenbusch for the loss of Canon
Jennie Hagler for the loss of her blue boy, Apollo
Brad and Jeanette Coval for the loss of Ranger
Lyndsey and Wendy Watson for the loss of Harley
John Burling for the loss of Grace

Shopping to support GDRI

Our 2008 calendars are in! They are a beautiful study of rescued Danes in black and white. Order yours today:
<http://www.greatdanerescueinc.com/shop/index.html>

Don't forget to visit our Cafe Press store for fabulous Great Dane merchandise. T-shirts, caps, hoodies, coffee cups - you name it, we've got it!
<http://www.cafepress.com/gdri>

FUN DAY!!!

Fun Day is Saturday June 7th - rain or shine.

Come for an hour or come for the day. Bring your chairs or blankets and your Danes! You'll also need your appetite - we always have lots of great food and drinks. We play dog games, have a fabulous raffle and there is always lots of neat stuff to buy.

This year one of our adopters, Darlene Urbanek will be on site. She does some beautiful pastels and oil paintings. Wiggles, Wags, and Whiskers will be there with some of their wonderful collars and leashes.

Out-of-towners can stay at the nearby Red Roof Inn. They provide rooms at a great rate and your Dane is a welcome guest.

If you haven't been before then come on out and see us. If you're coming back it will be great to see you again!! More info will follow as we get closer to Fun Day.

Dahlia's story

Dahlia is a beautiful 7 month old female who was originally turned into an animal control when her owners could not care for her. She is very underweight and had what appeared to be kennel cough.



She was seen by the shelter vet and an emergency vet before the 3rd vet correctly discovered her problem, almost 3 weeks after she developed the cough and temperature. Unfortunately what she has is blastomycosis, a very serious fungal infection that has infected her lungs and spread to her feet causing abscesses on both front feet. Dalia required hospitalization to start to get the lung infection under control. The medicine she needs to clear up the fungal infection is very expensive about \$75 a week currently, and will go up in price as she grows and gains weight. She will need to be medication for 3 months to be sure the fungal infection is completely gone.

12/9/07 Dalia has been on treatment for about 3 weeks now. She had a set back last week but is now doing better again. Fortunately for us, Dahlia is a fighter.

12/22/07 At Dalia's check up last week the x ray showed more infection in her lungs. A second antibiotic was added and the dose increased on the current antibiotic. Dalia is growing, she is now 93 pounds and getting taller. She is starting to play for short periods of time. She still has an awful cough but it is not as frequent as it was.

1/19/08 Dalia continues to grow and improve. She is now to 100 pounds and quickly catching up to her foster siblings in height. She is able to play more and for longer periods of time without getting so tired. She still has some trouble with coughing but that is also lessening with each day.

Editor's Note: Dalia, with the help of her foster Mom, fought long and hard to fight this illness. We weren't all sure that she'd make it. Dahlia will be ready for adoption sometime this spring.

News from Ontario

In November, GDRI once again teamed up with Helping Homeless Pets (www.helpinghomelesspets.com), which is turning into a very profitable partnership! HHP helps rescues participate in larger events by dividing up the number of shifts necessary to staff a fundraising booth and offering them to a number of breed rescues. They are the ultimate fundraising team, bringing the game of 'Plinko' to the masses, for a chance to help homeless pets for only a 'toonie'. Instead of 12-hour days at the Royal Agricultural Fair in Toronto, we can now work five hour shifts and earn even more money! I am always amazed at the dedication of our volunteers. GDRI worked the most shifts and earned the most money of any of the breed rescues participating - with 26 shifts and \$726.57 towards medical bills. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the best volunteers out there - Wendy Watson, Donna Petrie, Deb Brown, Amanda Ruthven, Ian Park, Cindy Veglio, Sarah and Keith Bennett and Sheena Tait. Also, a very special thank you to our canine ambassadors who also worked in the 'Agri-cation Zone' teaching children about rescue and dog safety - Carson, Gizmo and Harley Watson, Deco and Kitty Bennett and Toby Ruthven-Park. These dogs truly demonstrate why our breed is known as the 'gentle giant' of the canine world. Thank you to Homeless Pets once again.

This past February, GDRI teamed up with Petopia (www.petopia.ca) for the Third Annual GDRI Petopia Valentine's Meet-up. More than 20 Danes came out to play for a good cause. Through admission, raffle tickets and donations, we raised over \$500 in only TWO HOURS! We are so thankful to Pat and Wilson, and the staff at Petopia for opening their doors and hearts to the craziness that comes along with a Dane stampede. We would also like to thank Dale for offering the most coveted prize in the raffle - a custom portrait from the Spotted Canvas (www.spottedcanvas.com). We would also like to thank Ren's Pet Depot, Mandi Yakiwachuck, Wendy Watson and Sheena Tait for their donations. And a very special thank you to this event's volunteers - Wendy Watson, Donna Petrie, Deb Brown and Sarah and Keith Bennett. Thank you to all who came out and played and made it a wonderful day. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Special needs Danes looking for special homes

Jojo is a sweet 8 year old black female Dane. She LOVES her people, cuddling, snuggling, being close and she gives the cutest happy grunts when she's near you. She is looking for a retirement home where she can be treated like the princess she is. She is excellent with other giant breed dogs (especially boys) and cats. She is not particularly good with small dogs. She has a cropped tail due to happy tail that makes her whole bum wiggle when she wags it.

Jo has degenerative neuropathy. DN is a condition where giant or large breeds gradually and painlessly lose control of their hind end. It can take months to years. She can run, hop, jump and do everything other Danes do; she just balances a little differently or has occasional slides. This gentle, happy girl is looking for someone who will love her unconditionally for the remainder of her days - could this be you?

Wolfie is a 4 year old natural eared black Dane. He LOVES people. He just doesn't always do well with other dogs. Wolfie has made a LOT of progress learning how to live with his foster brother and sisters but his dream is to be an only dog. Maybe just one other dog if it's the right dog. Wolfie loves to play with toys. He likes stuffie (shreddie) toys, chewie toys and balls. Wolfie is a big boy (140 lbs) and very confident. He needs a person that isn't going to be a big push over.

Odie was rescued from a shelter in Alabama. He was probably used for breeding and judging by his calluses, he was likely kept in a kennel most of the time. Odie loves to be with his family and is now being fostered in Michigan. This was a big change for him. The first time that he saw snow he was sure the sky was falling. Odie doesn't see very well but manages to get around just fine. He likes to lick his family. Odie really wants a family of his own. He will brighten up any home that he lands in but he can't go to a home with cats.

If you're interested in adopting any of our special needs Danes, please go to the web site (www.greatdanerescueinc.com) to fill out an adoption application.



“I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love. For me they are the role model for being alive.”

Gilda Radner

Great Dane Rescue Inc.
4125 Gotfredson
Plymouth, MI 48170

www.greatdanerescueinc.com

