

Great Dane Rescue of the Commonwealth
Intake Policy as taken in excerpt from GDROC: Policies and Procedures

5. Great Dane Rescue Process

- 5.1 Rescue work, while extremely rewarding, requires a deep commitment and a desire to always put the welfare of the Dane first, while also being mindful of what is in the best interest of the volunteers, foster family and potential adopters. Because of the complex nature of the rescue process, we make our decisions and determinations on a case-by-case basis.
- 5.2 We accept Great Danes who are surrendered by their owners, who are unable to or willing to properly care for the Dane. GDROC makes every attempt to place the rescued Dane in a suitable foster home when space is available. We take in Great Danes from the local shelters to ensure this large breed is properly cared for. GDROC reserves the right to refuse a Dane if it is found to have chronic health problems, temperament or behavioral problems. Whether a Dane is considered for rescue from a private owner or from a shelter, the rescue shall follow the same process. The following list describe the actions and responsibilities for rescuing the Great Dane:
- a)Intake. The Intake Coordinator will communicate with the person surrendering the Great Dane. This coordinator will often times communicate via email or telephone to gather initial facts about the situation and the Dane. This information surrounding the case shall be noted on the Intake Form, relayed to the Dane Evaluator and shared among the Board members. During the intake process basic questions shall be asked in attempt to gather all facts including the identity of the breeder.
- b)Evaluation. The Evaluator will contact the current owner to schedule a date, time and place for the Great Dane to be evaluated. The Evaluation form should be filled out at the time of evaluation. If the dog passes the evaluation tests, we notify the current owner that we will check for available foster homes. If a foster home is available, we will have the family sign the Surrender Form and the Dane becomes property of GDROC.

c) Veterinary Checkup. All rescued Danes shall receive veterinary evaluation within 2 weeks of entering GDROC. Previous vet records should be passed along to the temporary vet office. Pending certain circumstances, the Dane shall be current on vaccinations; the Veterinary Section provides the guidelines.

d) Foster Care. All rescued Danes go into carefully screened, pre-approved foster homes until a permanent, forever home is found. Notes should be taken by the foster family of anything related to the Great Dane in their care, i.e., what kind of food eating and how much, eating habits, any toys they like to play with, how they do in the crate and on walks, and other helpful information.

e) Meeting potential adopting families. Foster family will assist Board Members in bringing the potential adoptive family together to meet the Great Dane they are interested in. It is best that the potential adoptive family spend time with the Dane of interest at least twice.

e) Adoption. When a suitable family is found, the Dane will be transferred to new ownership after the adoption contract has been signed and the adoption fee paid.

f) Follow-up. Foster family and a Board member shall follow up on the Great Dane at regular intervals.

6. Intake

6.1 Due to the complexities of evaluating surrendered Danes, only those members deemed qualified (having participated in several intake visits with an experienced intake volunteer and being approved by the Board) will be able to evaluate and accept a Dane into GDROC. Anyone taking action to rescue a Dane who has acted as sole decision-maker, without the consensus of any other board member, will then become solely responsible for the Dane and all of its care (i.e. the Dane is yours, not GDROC's).

6.1.1 Whether a person is surrendering their own Great Dane or a Great Dane that they found, they are still considered to be the owner of that Dane. An Owner Surrender Form must be signed which relinquishes all rights to the animal and surrenders the Dane to GDROC. Medical records are

requested when a Dane is surrendered whether an owner surrender or shelter rescue. Before accepting the surrendered Dane, a determination of suitability for placement will be completed. All Danes surrendered cannot be reclaimed by their former owner.

6.1.2 A Dane in an abusive or neglected situation will take priority over an owner surrendered Dane if space is an issue. We cannot and will not accept more Danes than we can care for and manage properly.

6.1.3 Upon intake, a file shall be started with all facts noted pertaining to the Dane and the situation; includes the Owner Surrender form, vet records, “papers” and evaluation records from the intake evaluation. All documentation enables GDROC to learn as much as possible about the Dane.

6.1.4 A Dane may only be picked up by a volunteer after receiving authorization from a Board member. Please see, print, and review Transport Checklist before leaving to pick up the Dane. Never go alone to pick up a surrendered Dane under any circumstances.

8. Evaluation for Acceptance

8.1 Not all Danes are accepted into GDROC. Poor health and severe behavior problems or aggression will make it difficult to foster and adopt out the Dane. In severe cases, euthanasia is recommended to spare the Dane of any further suffering.

8.1.1 GDROC accepts only purebred Great Danes into GDROC. If purebred status is in doubt then pictures and further assessment from volunteers will be sought to make a determination. There will be cases where a shelter receiving a Dane is told the dog is purebred, when in fact it is not; however we do not accept mixed breeds into our rescue.

8.1.2 Only Danes who have stable temperaments will be accepted; Danes with a history of aggression or biting cannot and will not be accepted regardless of the severity of the incident. This means, even if a bite has produced nothing more than a slight scratch and was due to a “good reason” (food aggression, fear aggression, provoked) GDROC will not accept the Dane into rescue. Doing so would put the foster family at risk, as well as we

would not be able to in good faith adopt the Dane out. Most fosters have other pets and/or children and therefore cannot accept a Dane who could prove to be a liability to our volunteers, to a foster family, an adoptive family, or the general public. A Dane who cannot be trusted, cannot be accepted into rescue.

8.1.3 Danes who are unapproachable due to being fearful or overly shy are also unacceptable (exceptions can be made). However a Dane who is aggressive, lunges towards people or other animals, or who has seriously injured or killed any another animal will not be accepted into rescue.