

# THE HEARTLAND HEARTBEAT

Heartland Heartbeat

February/March 2008 Volume 2, Issue 1



## Featured Dog: Nick by Shadow Foster

Introducing a real character: Scooby Doo reborn! Everyone remembers Scooby Doo from Saturday morning cartoons or the reruns on Nickelodeon, right? The big goofy dog who loved his Scooby snacks, loved all food in fact, was scared of the dark, and was very talkative - yup, that's Scooby and it also happens to be Nick!

Nick loves food, all shapes, sizes, and kinds, but loves his shin bone best for chewing. No, Nick is not a fawn Dane, he is a mis-marked mantle who has to sleep with a nightlight because he is scared of the dark. Oh, and the talking, well let's just say that Nick doesn't talk in his sleep, usually.

Nick came to HGDR just before Christmas 2005 and was in very bad shape. He remained on medical hold for more than 1 year while he was treated for emaciation, multiple decubitus ulcers, a host of internal parasites, & heartworms.

Today, Nick is a little over 5 years old and very healthy, with a few odd traits. He LOVES everyone, big or small, human or animal, and it never ever



occurs to him that they might not like him. The crazy thing is, Nick is scared of any animal smaller than he is who is the least bit dominant, which is most of the pet population. Nick also BELIEVES with all his heart he is a tiny lap dog. Nothing you do or say can convince him otherwise. Nick loves a good romp and is always ready for more. In fact, when he gets really excited, the top of his head wiggles from how much

he moves his ears. Stuffedie toys are a favorite and endlessly amusing to him. This is a big guy with a big heart, who is a little clumsy. Remember, the tail is the dangerous end!

The best forever home for Nick would be one where he is the only pet. He would do well in a family with older children who can give him the romping

and attention he needs. He is

extremely protective of little ones, to the point of fanaticism. Nick can't understand things like a child getting a spanking after getting in trouble. Poor Nick, all he sees is someone hurting HIS tiny defenseless friend. Do you know the perfect forever home for this loveable goofball?

## ABC's of Our Danes Antics, Brags & Comments

**Antic:** Optimus Prime, Foster Dane of Jenn Eggers, Enjoys watching Chinchilla TV. He hangs out for hours, focused on "Freddy" the Chinchilla's every move. It was quite a problem when he first came to Jenn's but now after a little spray bottle therapy, he is learning there are other things to play with at her house...like cute little boys!

**Brag:** JackieO aka Lucy adopted by Merry Elliott who also fosters for Great Pyrenees Rescue recently sent an update. Jackie O is a wonder who helps break in new fosters. She puts the newbies through vigorous testing before she becomes their friend. Once they pass she becomes their biggest fan, but not until. What a hoot!



**Comment:** Phoebe Cates, Adopted by Jack and Jodiann Cates before HGDR, when Jan and Ron were doing Independent Rescue, turned 12 years old recently. She is still as bossy as ever and just as beautiful as the day we brought her home. Her distaste of our leather sofa prompted us to buy her another. Her blanket was slipping off and she was waking us at night many times to fix it. All parties are sleeping better now. Phew!

### In this issue:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Featured Dog              | 1 |
| ABC's of Our Danes        | 1 |
| Letter From The President | 2 |
| Getting to Know You       | 2 |
| Memorials                 | 3 |
| Events                    | 3 |
| Education                 | 4 |
| What I have learned       | 5 |

### Special points of interest:

- Masthead 2
- News Notes 3
- Dog Philosophy 6



## Letter From The President

Dear Dane Lovers,

It's been busy again in rescue. We do slow things down during the Holidays. We try to take a much needed break to spend time with our families and only handle emergencies, so not a lot of activity in the adoption department. We do have several pending applications and are working to finish processing them.

We typically see an influx of dogs in need beginning around the end of February to mid-March, but this year it seems to have hit early! In fact, just from Jan. 1 – 10, we were contacted about 8 Danes in need. It hasn't stopped yet...as of this writing, I am preparing to evaluate another dog tomorrow and was contacted by a shelter just this evening.

To start the year off right, I thought this would be a GREAT time to explain a few basics...

- Rescue provides a multitude of services to ALL Oklahoma Dane owners.
- Our primary base of operation is the entire state of Oklahoma and the I-35 corridor around Wichita, KS.
- We need foster homes and volunteers in all areas of Oklahoma as well as

around Wichita.

- In addition, HGDR helps rescue groups nationwide when requested.
- We work closely with TX Dane Rescues and will continue to do so, but we have also worked with groups from: Colorado, Iowa, Oregon, Louisiana, and Florida.
- We also work with in state all-breed groups who are willing to take a Dane in need or who acquire one they need assistance with.
- We are admittedly selective in the groups we chose to work with as there are some independent and organized rescues that do not have the best interest of the dogs in mind.

When someone asks you what HGDR does you can say...

1. We will always take information about a Dane in need and make every effort to get it to safety. If we have no foster homes, we have rescue contacts to get the dog to safety elsewhere.
2. We will always provide support to Dane owners in the form of education.
3. We will always provide support to Dane owners in the form of advice.

### Heartland Heartbeat

to submit:

- ~ Antics, Brags & Comments
- ~ Memorials
- ~ Cheers and Jeers
- ~ Unsubscribe notice



Email [just\\_peachy@alltel.net](mailto:just_peachy@alltel.net)

4. We will always provide support to Dane owners in the form of emotional support.
  5. We will always provide owners wishing to surrender their dog with options to find it a home, or get it into rescue. Check out the surrender page of our website. Link on the Home Page.
  6. We will always assist with evaluation and temperament testing of Great Dane who are in need of these services.
- Here is a short list of things rescue will do when we can:
1. Provide food for Great Danes not in our program whose families need only temporary assistance.
  2. Attempt to get Dane owners discounted medical services for Danes who need extensive vet treatment or care.

(cont. page 5)



## Getting To Know Wendy Kise

by Jennifer Beard

When asked to describe his wife Wendy, Ron did not hesitate: he said she has a big heart, she is beautiful, and develops strong bonds with people and animals. Wendy gets things done; she is a doer.

Wendy was born in Grand Rapids, MI. Her parents raised Danes; they had all brindles. In addition to raising Danes, her mom was also involved in rescue. Dogs were an important part of her childhood. She still has pictures of the Danes she grew up with as a girl.

Wendy and Ron have been married for 5 years. Wendy has one grown son and Ron has a grown son and daughter. They have two grandsons whom they love to spend time with. The oldest grandson is Ashton Michael he is five years old. The youngest grandson is Braylon Cooper and he will turn one year old in February of this year.

Currently, Wendy is a Special Education teacher for Memorial High School in Tulsa. She has taught for 9 years. Wendy enjoyed a career in the beauty industry prior to and never considered another occupation until one day she was approached about becoming a teacher for a young girl with special needs. At first, she declined the offer but then after meeting this incredible girl Wendy was so

touched by the experience that she pursued a career in teaching young people with special needs. She has been teaching ever since.

Wendy loves to cook and her garden. Ron loves her cooking! She and Ron rarely eat out. Wendy also has a passion for sports cars. She has a 1983 Porsche that she affectionately call Miss P, she has driven it since 1998. Her license plate says 1010 because Miss P is a 10 and Wendy is a 10!

When I asked Wendy what she loves about Danes, she said that Great Danes are just a part of her life. It is a tradition in her family

to have Danes; they are one of the best parts of her past. Currently Wendy has two Danes both she adopted from Heartland.

Panzer is her four-year-old harlequin male; he is Wendy's protector. Mae C is a 2-year-old brindle female. She is a real talker and knocks on the cabinet door to ask for a cookie.

Anytime Wendy talks to people about Danes, she tells them about Heartland Great Dane Rescue. She encourages anyone interested in having a Dane to adopt one. Wendy and Ron have recently offered to foster a young Dane puppy when one comes into rescue.

It was a pleasure to get to know Wendy better. She is definitely a lovely woman inside and out. She loves animals and people; you can see her compassion when you visit with her. Wendy is certainly a Heartland Great Dane Rescue keeper!



Wendy, MaC & Panzer at home. 2008

## Memorials: Bitsy by Jodiann Cates

Way back in 1992 little miss Bitsy was born. Uneducated about where to buy Ron and Jan bought her from a pet store ( don't do this, Bits was most likely a puppy mill pup) and proceeded to let Bitsy teach them how to care for her. Christened, "Little Bit" her AKC



papers called her Little Lady's Rebel Renee. She was also known as Bits, Bitsy, Mama's Sweetheart and Lil'Bit. Bits was every bit as destructive as any Great Dane. Shower curtain, remote control and carpet all fell beneath her puppy paws and feared her tiny teeth. Knowing what they know now, Ron and Jan would have had a crate for her, but it would be years before they learned about

crating and training a puppy.

Miss Bits made many household moves with her young family and put up with the



eventual take over of her home by larger dogs and one evil cat, Vicious. Who she liked even when the rest of the family was sure he was The Devil.

Proof, Bitsy Girl could get along with anyone. She held her head high as one after another foster dogs became permanent residents. When the Boys in Blue ( an entire litter of Blue Dane pups ) invaded she retired to the master bedroom. Giving them run of the house. Bits, always a good strategist, knew when to withdraw. A litter of rowdy puppies just too much for her dignity!

After years of babysitting, cat wrangling, and enduring BIG dogs she had become deaf, blind and incontinent, but still wanted to go on. As long as she wanted to keep going her family was willing to help her out. Until recently when she began to suffer from fear issues associated with not being able to see or hear. She became fearful of being touched and could not be bathed or groomed without intense fear reactions. Not being able to be clean put Bits into a steep decline. Ron helped dear Bits over the bridge to give back to her ALL old age had stolen.

Little Bit was 15 years old. She predated Jackie's birth and Meghan was just a little girl when she first laid eyes on a puppy so small she could sleep in a pair of cupped hands. I have fond memories of visits to Jan and Ron's when I went to sleep missing my own dogs and woke up with Bits curled under my chin. She knew exactly who to comfort and when. Godspeed Sweet Bitsy.



If you have a memorial you would like to share. Send it to [just\\_peachy@alltel.net](mailto:just_peachy@alltel.net)

## Event Comings & Goings by Jennifer Eggers

Time to break out the calendars! We have events coming up!

Due to the Ice Storms of 2007 we had to cancel/postpone our Christmas Party. Well we have rescheduled it for Saturday February 2nd from 2-4 pm and it is now a Valentines Day Party. You will need to RSVP ASAP! with your number of guests and snack item you would like to bring for the Buffet. Shadow is still very excited to have us all at her home for this event.

Our Birthday Bash is set for March 8th. This event is for our Adopted Danes and their Forever homes. It will be a chance for everyone to catch up with each other and what rescue is up to. Watch for more details in your email boxes! but remember..... Birthdays mean games, prizes and cake!

The Spring Fling is tentatively set for April 19th - Details to come.

May as of right now is OPEN FOR SUGGESTIONS! if you have an idea or suggestion please feel free to email me!

[JennREggers@aol.com](mailto:JennREggers@aol.com)

HGDR Round up is also a tentatively set for June 21, the 1st day of Summer! Details also to come.

Another Exciting announcement! We are working on doing Meet & Greets with Red Dirt Boxer Rescue on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. This means more adoptions. As soon as we have more details I will be contacting our Foster Homes. I look forward to seeing everyone and meeting those I don't know yet at these events. You are welcome to invite friends interested to any of our events to get to know HGDR and the wonderful breed of the Great Dane.

~ Jenn Eggers, Event Coordinator and Foster Parent.

## Newsletter Notes

The Heartland Heartbeat is a bi-monthly newsletter produced by The Newsletter Committee of Heartland Great Dane Rescue, Inc. Our goal is to reach out to owners of Great Danes with fun stories, educational articles, news of HGDR events, dane happenings about town and to share our sorrow when one of our Danes is lost. And comfort those left hurting by their absence.

We invite all members to contribute as you wish.

Contact me at [just\\_peachy@alltel.net](mailto:just_peachy@alltel.net)

If you would like to become a regular contributor, please consider becoming a member of The Newsletter Committee, and help research, report, gather pictures, and produce the Heartland Heartbeat every other month,

Happy News! Jodiann Cates, Editor

**We Need Foster Parents. Do you have the stuff?**

## Education: Disposable Love by Jan Cates

The number of animals euthanized in U.S. animal shelters annually is a staggering statistic! This is the whole purpose that rescue groups exist, so we thought it would be appropriate to share a few facts about our animal shelters, why pets end up there and what rescue is trying to do to help!

Locally, in only one Oklahoma municipal shelter, there is an average of 50 animals euthanized on a daily basis. Now, if you do the math, you will see that comes up to just over 18,000 pets annually. Remember, this is only ONE Oklahoma shelter and most every municipality in Oklahoma has a shelter. In fact, there are 4,000 – 6,000 municipal animal shelters in the U.S. These pets, for the most part, have done absolutely nothing to earn their stay on death row.

On a national level, Oklahoma ranks well above average in the number of animals euthanized each year. There were over 100,000 pets euthanized in our state last year! The national euthanasia average in municipal shelters is 18 pets/1000 people, the OKC animal shelter's annual average is 22.4/1000 people. This is a travesty!

Nationally, there are 6 – 8 million animals entering animal shelters annually and more than 1/2 of them (3 – 4 million)

are euthanized. That equals well over a quarter-million a month, 405 each hour and one every 9 seconds. Euthanasia in animal shelters is the leading cause of death for healthy dogs in our country. Only 1 in every 3 pets find a home that will last their entire lifetime, in fact, most animals are in a home for less than 1 year before they are surrendered.

Now, before we decide that animal shelters are cruel and horrible places, let's examine why animals enter shelters? Some end up on death row because they are lost or 'stray' and have no ID to help find their owners. Only 16% of lost dogs are actually reunited with their families and a companion animal is lost every 30 seconds. They are voluntarily surrendered for reasons like: too big, too expensive, too old, moving, allergies, divorce, going on vacation, spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend doesn't like, sheds, barks, doesn't like the new puppy, and many, many more just as ridiculous.

Another major reason for dogs ending up in animal shelters is due to over

Oklahoma is one of 6 states who provide a safe haven for puppy mills, you can easily see why we rank so high in the national average of euthanized pets!

96% of all dogs surrendered to animal shelters have received NO training. Dogs are 90% less likely to be surrendered to shelters when their guardians undertake training with their dog. 50% of all dogs surrendered to shelters are unaltered (spay/neutered) and many have never been to a vet. 80% of all dogs hit by cars are unaltered males!

While it sounds as though animal shelters are only there to euthanize pets, let's all remember that they provide lost, stray and unwanted animals a safe place to stay while trying to find their way home. They simply do not have the space required to house the sheer volume of abandoned and unwanted animals. Without our animal shelters, unwanted pets would die a much more tragic death on the streets.

(cont Page 6)



## Common Household Helpers



Kills fleas instantly...Dawn dish washing liquid does the trick. Wash a flea covered dog thoroughly. Leave on for a few minutes. Rinse well to avoid skin irritations. Repeat if needed. Good-bye fleas.



Rainy day cure for dane odor. Next time your dog comes in from the rain and smells like stinky wet dog, simply wipe down with Bounce or any dryer sheet. Instantly making your dog smell springtime fresh.



Eliminate ear mites All it takes is a few drops of Wesson corn oil in each ear. Massage it in, then clean with a cotton ball. Repeat daily for 3 days. Wait 2 weeks and repeat another 3 day cycle to get emerging eggs. The oil soothes delicate ear skin, smothers the mites, and accelerates healing.



## Rescue Rundown

Heartland has started a running total of rescue activities.

Jan 1st through 31st

Email contacts: 152

Phone Contact: 240

Surrender cases: 14 (converted to 2 danes in rescue 2 cases still working on.)

Shelter cases: 2 ( Optimus ) I currently working on.

Adoption Applications received: 6

Home Visits: 2

Adoptions: 0, 1 approved. Yet to meet dogs.

New Foster Homes: 2

Open Foster Homes: 2 for girl danes. 1 for a any dane.



## Things I have learned by Lindsey Askins

As Great Dane parents, we have all learned many things. For instance, we have all learned not to leave food out on the kitchen counters, that toilets make great water bowls, and that tails leave bruises. We have all learned to expect the stupid comments from random passers-by, and to smile like it was the first time you've ever heard your dog is the biggest dog they've ever seen, or take hints about getting a saddle for 'that thing.' We have also all learned that the couch is no longer ours, and neither are our hearts; they both belong to the Danes.

As the parent of a three-legged Dane, there are other things I had to learn. Like the fact that you shouldn't let your dog navigate the stairs by herself, or just how fast your Dad can run down a set of stairs when said dog falls down them.

For those of us who also have feline children, we have other things to learn, such as cat poo is the greatest dog treat ever, and that 'chase the kitty' is only a fun game if the cat doesn't fight back (Thunder lost that one, which my vet thought was hilarious).

Then there are the lessons you learn because your wonderful Dane-child is a freaking retard: Shine a laser pen light on your backyard fence, and dog will go through the fence to get it.

Don't let the dog near the dirty laundry hamper, or he'll eat a bath towel (yes, that's right, an *entire* bath towel) and have to have emergency surgery.

Don't (personal favorite) let your 220 lb. dog see a Chihuahua. He'll try to jump into your arms to get away from it. (we were at Northpark Mall to get our Christmas pictures made with Santa. I am not strong enough hold 220 pounds of anything, much less of a terrified, idiotic dog. I'm sure you can picture the rest).

Now, as a new mom (actual human baby boy), I find myself learning many new things. Such as no matter how cute I think it is, someone is going to get pissed about the pictures of my tiny baby sitting on the giant dog, and there is no safe place in the house for poopy diapers.

Damn you, Diaper Genie!

Also, no matter how bad I felt about it at first, I was actually grateful that my mom offered to have my dogs boarded for me the first week I brought Dolton home. Since my son was the first infant I had ever spent any length of time with, it was wonderful not to have to worry about Thunder and Sabrina while I was learning how to change diapers and breastfeed. I have learned that my huge dogs are surprisingly gentle with my son, and that Sabrina will come and get me when he wakes up. I have learned that babies like doggy kisses, and that dogs like baby kisses. I learned last week that the dogs should not be out in the house when Dolton is in his walker – he took a short, fast ride down the hall when he grabbed hold of Thunder's tail. My tip for the month: cut a piece of carpet padding to fit inside your Dane's crate, and place it under the crate pan. This cuts down on noise and helps to keep them from waking up your baby during those rabbit chasing dreams. I hope you have enjoyed what I have learned, and please let me know any helpful or funny things you have learned for future articles!



## Letter from page 2

3. Provide discounted Dane supplies such as crates, elevated feeders, etc. when we have these items available.

Here's a short list of things rescue will NOT do:

1. We will never turn away an appropriate home. If we do not have a Dane that fits into that family, the approved home is placed on a waiting list for the 'right' dog to arrive.
2. We will never place a dog that we know is aggressive.
3. We will never hide medical, behavior or temperament issues from an adoptive family. We provide FULL disclosure to all adopters about every dog we place.
4. We will never place a dog without a minimum foster evaluation.
5. We will never ignore a dog in need. If there is anything at all we can do to help that dog, we're going to bust a gut trying to do it.
6. We will never place a dog in either a private home or another rescue without first checking to be as certain as possible that we are not placing the dog in danger.

7. We will never place a dog without first doing a home visit (this is why out of area adoptions are such a challenge).

8. We will never do anything that might jeopardize the reputation of HGDR or rescue in general.

9. We will never do anything that might be questioned legally.

Again, these are just short lists of services we provide to the public and is by no means an all inclusive list. We are hoping to soon begin basic obedience classes with a discount going to all HGDR members! We will let you know when we get that going!

It is important for each of you to know that **you** are important to rescue! It takes all of us working together to save lives.

Remember, any time you deal with another rescue volunteer, Dane owner, HGDR adopter, or even a stranger at Petsmart, you are representing and helping HGDR rescue Great Danes.

What you say or do impacts rescue directly. Please make it a positive impact by knowing what rescue is and what we do.



The simple answer here is we will always do whatever is in our power to assist Great Danes. I know you hear us say we need foster homes (and we do) or that we have no space (which is true) and many other scenarios where we beg for help. This doesn't mean that we cannot or will not reach into our bag of tricks and try something different. HGDR has proven over the years to be a determined group and we simply do not give up until there is absolutely nothing left to try. Please make it your personal mission to be a determined member, armed with these basics you can help save these needy dogs!

If you haven't visited our new website, please do...a lot of these things are listed there and can help you understand what we do and where we do it. :- ) [www.heartlandgdr.org](http://www.heartlandgdr.org)

If you have any questions about something you've read here or on our website, or simply want further explanation, please let me know...I'll be happy to answer questions!

Happy Tails,

Jan Cates

## from page 4 **Disposable Love**

### What can rescue groups do to help end this epidemic?

\*We can have these animals' voices heard by sharing our knowledge about the number of deaths with the general public.

\* We can educate the public on animal behavior and responsible pet ownership.

\*We can do our best to retrieve as many dogs from shelters as we have space for. 25% of all dogs in shelters are purebred and most breeds have a rescue.

\*We can encourage spay/neuter of all pets to decrease our pet overpopulation problem.

\* We can provide support for pet owners looking for help and/or advice.

### What can individuals do to help?

\*Support your local rescue groups! Without help from loving volunteers the number of shelter deaths can only rise!

\* Be sure to provide you pet with proper ID and ensure they are always safely confined to prevent your pet from becoming a statistic.

\* Spay or neuter your own pet and encourage everyone you know to do the same. It is definitely healthier for you dog.

\* Be sure you are ready to commit for the lifetime of the animal BEFORE you get one.

\* Educate yourself about the pet you want; their needs, behaviors, life expectancy and potential health issues.

The most important information you can get from this article is to make certain that YOU are not contributing to the needless deaths of millions of animals each year! If you are not able to support a rescue group in their efforts, please make sure you don't add to the problem and ALWAYS...Opt To Adopt...Don't breed or buy while shelter pets die!

Consider taking the pledge for life at:

<http://www.novoiceunheard.org/PledgeForLife.htm>

## Dog Philosophy

Submitted by Loree Boyer

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.  
-Anonymous

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.  
-Ann Landers

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.  
-Josh Billings

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.  
-Andy Rooney

Dogs love their friends and bite their enemies, quite unlike people, who are incapable of pure love and always have to mix love and hate.  
-Sigmund Freud

A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down.  
-Robert Benchley



MY PAMPERED DANE

'O-DANE-IENCE'



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Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog.  
-Franklin P. Jones

If your dog is fat, you aren't exercising enough.  
-Unknown

My dog is worried about the economy: Alpo is up to \$3.00 a can that's almost \$21.00 in dog money.  
-Joe Weinstein

Ever consider what our dogs must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul -- chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!  
-Anne Tyler

You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, 'Wow, you're right! I never would've thought of that!'  
- Dave Barry

My goal in life is to be as good of a person my dog already thinks I am.  
-Anonymous

