

THE HEARTLAND HEARTBEAT

Heartland Great Dane Rescue

April/May 2008 Volume 2, Issue 2



Featured Dog: Andrew by Shadow Foster

It's time once again to feature one of the Danes of Heartland Great Dane Rescue. However, due a recent surge in adoptions, I have no new wonderful loving faces to offer you. So its time to go searching through the scrapbook and look for some of the more memorable Danes of our past. In our rescue, we have a wonderful volunteer who has been dubbed 'the foster home for un-adoptable Danes'. This volunteer, who is also our newsletter editor, is our very own Jodiann! Now that I've given you a couple of tiny hints about the nature of this month's Dane, its time to meet

Andrew. Andrew! Come here boy! No, over here silly. See the hand with the treat in it? That's it ... hey careful! Whoa, whoa, those are fingers!!!

So, this is Andrew. The eternal puppy. Andrew was accepted into HDGR in Aug 2001 at the age of 5 months and was soon discovered to have neurological issues that resulted in a VERY short attention span. Oh, he can learn – just very, very slowly since he has the attention span of a gnat. So here's a typical training session – romp for hours and hours till all that energy is worn down, THEN work for 5 minutes. Thank goodness he has 5 other Danes to play with to wear him out – I know I couldn't do it! He can actually do a few 'tricks', like kissing your face on request and it only took 3 years to learn. Andrew is a really sweet boy with a loving personality. Every Dane lover knows that each and every one of these wonderful dogs has their own quirks. Andrew is no different in that regard. He has an issue with, of all things, flies and bees! The second one comes into the area, Andrew is watching it with a look on his face that says clearly, "I know you want to land on my butt, I know you do!" He can't stand to have a fly or bee land on his back end at all! Imagine this huge dog staring down this tiny insect, always turning to keep it in view, the look of mingled bravado and concern on his face. And then there is the squirt

gun. I must not forget to tell you about Andrew and the squirt gun.

Andrew did not like to be crated much in the beginning and could be rather vocal in his complaints. Jodiann uses a simple squirt gun to train Danes to not yell in the crate. Make too much noise



and squirt, you get a bit of water in the face. Well, it backfired with Andrew. He loves the squirt gun! After the first time, it was 'Give me more, Mom, give me more!!!' He would make noise just to get squirted! Till the day Jodiann missed his face and got a foot instead. Ohhhh, he did not like that! Now, when he misbehaves, she just aims for the feet and he is dancing around trying to not get his feet wet. Its so funny, like a scene out of a Western, with the guy high-stepping it in the street trying not to get shot in the foot. And with that image of a high-stepping Dane, I will let the scene fade into the sunset till we meet again.

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Letter From The President

Dear Dane Lovers,

I want to start with a "Welcome to our rescue family" for all of our new adopters! We have some very happy Danes to announce this time.

Derek & Amanda have given Lola a warm, loving home and she is a happy girl these days! Congrats to Derek, Amanda & Lola!

Optimus has found his dream home with Cindi, Freddy and a whole passel of kids! Just what he wanted...and just so you all know, he isn't spoiled either! (bark out loud)

We've also had a couple of foster failures...and that isn't such a bad thing...especially for Monterey and Roosevelt! Michael & Kathleen fell so head over heels with Monterey they just couldn't let him go. Now he has a playmate just his size! So, congrats to Kathleen, Michael,

Addie and Monterey! Roosevelt managed to worm his way right into the heart of Melinda. He just gave her 'that look' and it was over! Congrats to Roosevelt &

Melinda too!

We are currently working on 6 dogs that need to get to safety...and there have been many more since our last newsletter. Please don't think they didn't make it to safety just because HGDR hasn't taken them, we get them to safety the best way we can. We've also had a few who have been slated for rescue and didn't come for one reason or another. Some found forever homes through the shelter they were in or through their current owners, while others were able to be retained by their owners with a little education and assistance. It looks as though at least two of those dogs will be in foster care before the newsletter is

Heartland Great Dane Rescue

to submit:

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

Email just_peachy@alltel.net



published!

As most of you know, Dante is doing very well after 8 weeks in rescue. He was emaciated and neglected, and we managed to retrieve him on his third stay in the kill shelter. During the time, we were working with the shelter, animal control and his owners to try to get him the medical help he deserved; we were at least able to work with a neighbor to get him some much needed food. It took about 3 weeks for us to be able to help this poor boy, but determination and love won out in the end.



Getting To Know You by Jennifer Beard



Pearl, Tanya, and Zeus all together.

Tanya Kittrell

Tanya is a part of the Green Country clan that volunteers for HGDR. She lives with her husband, Mike on 1 and 1/3 acres in Owasso. Tanya has a 24-year-old daughter, Danielle who is living in Texas, working and going to college. Mike has three children, Shane, 27 years old, Debbie who is 25 and Brandy is 15 years old. They have two grandchildren, Zack who is 7 and Max is 2 years old.

Tanya is very active in fostering and transporting dogs to safe locations. Her story begins nine years ago when a litter of puppies was dumped at Mike's parents' house. Six puppies left in the front yard tied up in a gunnysack, abandoned. Tanya took in the

litter of pups to care for them. She contacted the Tulsa Animal Shelter requesting help with these puppies. They told her that they had no room for them but if she could care for them then they would find adoptive homes. The Tulsa Animal Shelter did find home for five of the pups, the sixth one is Ellie Mae and she still resides with Tanya and Mike in Owasso.

Also living with Tanya is Buck, a Beagle/Heeler mix she has been fostering for a year, Miller, an 11-year-old white, fuzzy, sheds-a-lot mix, Zeus, a Mantle Great Dane she recently adoptive from Heartland and the latest member is a 14 month old Dane puppy named Pearl that she is fostering for Heartland.

Going back to the beginning, Tanya worked with Shelter Friends which was a volunteer group created through Tulsa Animal Shelter. In 2000, PAWS of Tulsa was formed from Shelter Friends and Tanya volunteered for

(cont. Page 4)



Letter continued...

It took about 3 weeks for us to be able to help this poor boy, but determination and love won out in the end. When we first rescued this baby, our goal was simply to make sure he had a least a week of love before he had to cross the bridge. Well, he's been with us a nearly 2 months and things are looking so much better! We have high hopes for Dante and feel



blessed to have been able to be there for him in his hour of need. He is a perfect example of what rescue is all about...saving the one nobody else believed could be saved. Here are a couple of pictures from when we saw him the first time and how he is looking a month later. For more information on Dante, visit www.heartlandgdr.org and read all about him!

Rescue has also been hoping with activity in other areas. We were selected as the 'Rescue of the Month' from nationwide applications by Feline Fido. This promotion

ended on March 31st, 2008 we were happy to join forces with them to educate the public about the benefits of spay and neuter! As an added bonus, they donated 15% of proceeds to rescue the entire month of March. Volunteers both in the Tulsa and OKC metro areas show up at PetsMart, Petco, Lowe's, and Home Depot (just to name a few) with Danes in tow to pass out flyers promoting spay/neuter and Feline Fido.



In addition, we have also partnered with Rescue Me Tugz! Another merchant who is

offering profits to rescue! Michele (the owner of Rescue Me Tugz) didn't stop there either. She has sent Dante his own special box of gifts as well as a lot of goodies to rescue, not to mention a quite a few monetary donations. If you are in need of cool dog toys, tees, etc., here's a great place to find them!

http://www.etsy.com/shop.php?user_id=5140076 Be sure to tell her HGDR sent you!

We also had our annual Birthday Bash March 29th. Many Thanks to all who came out to celebrate. We are preparing for the Spring Fling, April 29th so be sure to check out the events column!

Now, I suppose I must close...our editor tells me I take up too much space, but I have started a blog on MySpace for anyone who is interested. Here's a link if you'd like to check it out:

<http://blog.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.ListAll&friendID=126454368>

Without further ado...until next time,

Happy Tails,

Jan Cates – President HGDR, Inc.



Event Comings & Goings by Jan Cates

Many Thanks to all who attended our 7th Birthday Bash Celebration. A good time was had by all! If you have pictures to share please email them to Jodiann just_peachy@alltel.net

Event season is definitely gearing up and we are looking for help to organize events. We've already got a month long event going with Feline Fido and have had some wonderful help with that...thanks go out to Jodiann and Jennifer B for all they've done to help!

We have planned our Spring Fling for April 26, 2008 and would love to start getting volunteers to help organize. We are hoping for a huge turnout. Please email Jan mjcates@cox.net if you would like to help.

As for a sneak peek of upcoming events, we have been in contact with a few other rescue groups thinking about making our Poker for Paws not only a dog walk poker run, but the real thing, so if you are a biker or know any, keep it in mind!

or know any, keep it in mind!

We are also working with other rescue groups to see if we can set up a 'Big Dog Bash' event! This sounds like a lot of fun and Mastiff rescue seems to really be on the ball at getting this one off the ground.

There is also a REAL possibility that we will be able to set up a booth at the OKC dog shows...the televised ones! That is coming up in June, so we may have to move our Round Up time!

As you can see, events are certainly moving along and any help we can get is VERY appreciated. As always, if you have event ideas, let us know and we'll do our best to get it started for you (you might have to help though lol).

Keep your calendars ready and your eyes and ears on our yahoo list! We'll see you all soon at the Spring Fling!

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. (see pg. 2 for contact information)

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

Coming UP: Spring Fling! Saturday, April 26!



Education: Communicating With Your Dog by Jan Cates

The first step in establishing communication with your dog is to understand his form of communication. Once you understand what your dog is saying, communication will be much easier. So now, the question remains...how do dogs communicate? Let's start by thinking about dog to dog communication.

There is obviously verbal communication between dogs, but they use body language much more. When dogs meet one another, we always assume they begin by sniffing each other's privates, but it actually begins before that. Watch their body position when they first see each other. If they raise a forepaw, look away or bow, this is a submissive posture and tells the other dog they are friendly. If they stand stiffly on their toes, raise their tail above their back or stare intently, that is a caution to the approaching dog that they are in charge and it shouldn't be questioned.

When the dogs actually 'greet' each other, you will notice that one dog will remain with his/her weight evenly distributed over all 4 legs while the other leans forward and nuzzles the side of his/her face. This will tell you immediately who is dominant and who is in charge.

Sniffing each others genitals comes after the initial greeting and tells the dog a lot about his/her companion...both human or dog. This is the most active pheromone area of all mammals and carries all kinds of information for a dog. It will tell the dog of any sexual interest of course, but it will also let him read emotions, illness, individual identification and status. So, next time your dog decides to sniff your nether regions, keep in mind, he is trying to determine

exactly what and how you are feeling.

Dogs communicate with humans through body language too. If you can learn to read your dogs' body language, you will be able to communicate much better. You've already had some hints from watching dogs interact with each other, so how about when they interact with humans.



Easy enough right? If the dog is standing upright, looking directly in your eyes, with his/her ears slightly forward, his/her tail up and wagging, he is friendly...wrong! This would actually be a cautionary stance. This tells you that the dog is unsure of your intentions and is prepared to be friendly or defensive depending on the upcoming circumstances. If this is your own dog, chances are good that it will become a friendly stance, but if it is a strange dog, approaching it could cause him to believe he is in danger and a dog who believes he is in danger WILL bite. This same

posture also indicates to other dogs that this is the dog in charge.

So, what is a friendly stance if a wagging tail isn't it? Ah...the magic word is wagging tail. The fact that the tail is wagging is NOT an indication of friendliness, but the position of the tail can be. A friendly dog will have a more relaxed stance with his weight evenly distributed on all 4 feet, ears & head erect and his tail in a relaxed position (usually well below the back) wagging. Some theories say it will wag farther to one side than the other, but I am unable to detect that one!

So when my dog crouches down like I'm going to beat him, does that mean he is afraid of me? Maybe, but then again, maybe not. If the dog has no reason to be afraid, then he just wants to appease you. This is called active submission and he is trying to tell you that he knows you are in charge. If you have scolded him and received this reaction, he/she has decided that you

are being too aggressive for his taste and he will give in. This submissive posture is meant to inhibit aggression. It could very easily just mean that he wants to acknowledge your higher social ranking.

Dogs are already experts at reading human body language, so keep that in mind when trying to communicate with your dog. Dogs read facial expressions and tone of voice...usually better than we humans!

Verbal communication with our dogs is much trickier, but is easier than you might think. When you tell your dog to sit, he doesn't understand it the same way you do. Dogs learn by association, so you could just as easily teach you dog commands based on the alphabet...for example: A = sit, B = come, C = down, etc. The dog actually learns a cue to perform a behavior. So, we train our dogs based on operant conditioning. When your dog performs a behavior that you like, you give it a name (like sit). The dog then figures out by your facial expression and happy voice that when he gets the cue "sit" and performs a specific behavior he gets a reward! Now, based on this example, what do you suppose the dog understood better, the word 'sit' or the praise/reward he received? You got it...it is all about the facial expression and body language!

Keep this in mind when your dog behaves in a bad way. High pitched 'hollering' or 'screaming' with a flurry of activity indicates excitement and the dog will continue to do the same thing to get that 'approval' response. A firm, gruff "No" with a grumpy face will generally get your dog to take a 'submissive stance' and he will learn rather quickly that you didn't like that.

So, the bottom line to all of this is that we need to remember our body language. Posture, facial expression, hand movements, and tone of voice all work together to let our dog know what we are trying to communicate.

Happy dog talk!



from page 2 **Getting To Know You, Tanya Kittrell**

for five years with PAWS. For several of these years she was the Dog Foster/Adoption Coordinator for PAWS. While working with PAWS Tanya was introduced to Heartland Great Dane Rescue. After working with PAWS Tanya then became involved in Doberman Rescue out of Bixby, OK. She was the Adoption Coordinator for this group for two years. Currently, she is working as a transport coordinator. Tanya belongs to about 150 Yahoo Groups around the country that specialize in arranging transportation for dogs in need of placement with a rescue group. She screens rescues where the dog will be placed and recruits volunteers to transport the dog. Tanya primarily transports and helps arrange transport for five different Bassett Hound rescues in New Hampshire, New Jersey, Arizona, Missouri and Arkansas but she has transported dogs for Heartland, Doberman, Corgi, and Beagle rescues. In the past 2 years she has successfully coordinated about 45-50 transports which resulted in 75-80 dogs saved.

Since her story began nine years ago, Tanya has come a long with working with different

organizations to save dogs lives. At first she just fostered litters of puppies until they could be adopted, later she started fostering dogs individually. Tanya has written down all of the dogs that she has fostered, counting her latest foster, Pearl... she has fostered 86 dogs in the past nine years. Of these 86 dogs, she has lost only five dogs to illness while the other 80 were successfully placed in adoptive homes. This is a pretty good track record!

So what else does Tanya enjoy doing in her spare time? Well, she and Mike love to go motorcycle riding. Mike has a Honda VTX 1300 S. While Tanya is a fair weather rider, Mike rides rain, snow, or shine! Mike is the president of the Guard Dogs and during the warmer months, they enjoy going on several Poker Runs where half of the money will go to different charities. Tanya and Mike also participate in the American Hero Ride, which is an annual 4-day bike ride from Mannford, OK to Memphis TN. They make this trek so that they can visit with veterans at a VA Hospital. They are also members of

the Patriot Guard Riders. This group was formed in August 2005 with three individuals, today nationally, there are over 125,000 riders, and 1300 of these are in Oklahoma. Families invite these riders to the funerals of soldiers who have died in Iraq or Afghanistan. The riders are there to support the families and to shield the families from unwanted attention.

As you can tell, Tanya has a huge heart. She is full of compassion not only for all neglected and needy dogs all over the nation but for the men and women living here.

Tanya is a great example of someone willing to give her time, money, and love to anyone in need of a helping hand or a shoulder to lean on, whether it is four legged or two legged!

