

THE HEARTLAND HEARTBEAT

Heartland Great Dane Rescue

June/July 2008

Volume 2, Issue 3

Featured Dog: Reno by Shadow Foster

Reno is a very special Dane to his foster family. At 19 months of age, Reno has mastered all the basic obedience commands and his foster mom, Elisha Pressy, is considering enrolling him in the Canine Good Citizen classes because of his extremely good behavior. Quite an accomplishment for an almost puppy who is not quite 2 years old! Don't believe me? Once, when Elisha asked Reno to go in his crate, she did not manage to get his door completely latched and it swung back open just a bit. When she came back from her errand a few hours later, there was Reno – sitting quietly in his crate with the door still open an inch or so.

The Pressy boys, Chandler and Kaden, love to play with Reno. Kaden will dress him in a cape and play Batman and Robin in the hallways of the house. Children can literally do anything they want to this sweet fella: put glasses on his face, dress him up, hang on his tail as he wanders around, or play with his ears. Reno is particularly fond of 7 year old Chandler and insists on sleeping with him every night. Chandler and Reno each have their own pillows. On colder nights, he sleeps UNDER the covers with him. Who would have thought that a Dane and a growing boy would both fit on one twin size bed?



Scott, Elisha's husband, takes Reno for rides in his truck and Reno just adores it! According to Scott, Reno is Forrest Gump. And like Forrest Gump, Reno never raises his voice. He has never been heard to bark. The loudest sound he makes is a low whimper when he wants to come back inside after going out into the back yard. This gentle, laid-back soul is pushy in just one way – when he wants attention, he will use his nose to play



tetherball with your hands until you give in and pet him. Imagine that nose sneaking under your hand, then sending it ceilingward with a sharp bump, over and over again – just to tell you he wants to be loved on.

Just before publishing this newsletter, Reno was adopted by John & Larissa Campbell.



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Finding a Vet by Jodiann Cates

We have all walked into a vet's office with a sick or broken Great Dane, scared and confused and walked out just as scared and confused, hundreds of dollars lighter wondering how the experience could be better.

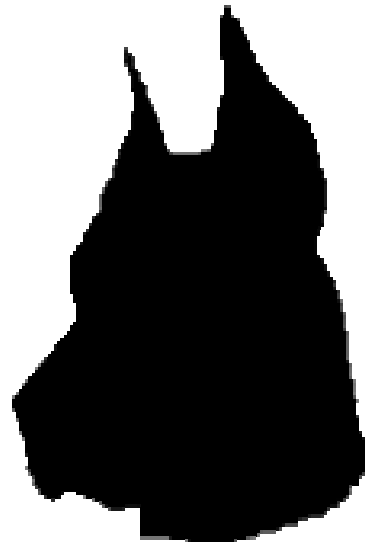
Here are a few pointers to help you build a better relationship with your vet so there are fewer surprises and more agreements. By and by you will build a partnership of trust where you are more of a participant in your Great Dane's care and not banished to the confusing sidelines until its time for you to pay and go.

1. **Educate Yourself.** Learn more about your Great Dane's routine needs and the special health issues Great Danes have. The more acquainted with these issues you are the less scary they seem and the more equipped you will feel discussing them with your vet. A great place to start is the internet. Heartland Great Dane Rescue has an entire section on Dane Health for your benefit. It's a great place to start learning. Visit http://www.heartlandgdr.org/dane_education.htm#Health to learn more.
2. **Observe Your Dane.** Be a good detective, observe symptoms and behavior. Be ready to offer this basic information:
 - ◆ Time of last meal, or refusal of.
 - ◆ Time of last defecation, was it normal? Or how long it's been since.
 - ◆ Time of last urination, was it normal? Color, Amount, etc. Or how long it's been since.
 - ◆ Behavior that is not normal...Lethargy? Clingy? Grumpy? Fitful Sleep?
 - ◆ Note any medications you might have given at home over the counter or prescription, even if the vet subscribed it and it's in the chart. Vets are human and they can forget things just like we do and overlook things in charts as well. Many vets appreciate the time you save them with the reminder. I just bring all the meds in their bottles in a Ziploc bag so my vet can take a quick look if he wants.
 - ◆ If it's an injury, when did you first notice? What you think might have happened. What have you done in response? Note any medications you gave at home or treatments like ice/hot packs, healing sprays or ointments.
3. **Bring A List.** Make sure you remember what you know or need to know. Write down your observations, questions, and concerns, especially if your Dane is distracting at the vet. You might

remember these things easily at home, but the vet office can be a busy place and often what you thought you could remember is lost in the hustle and bustle.

4. **Take Notes.** Either when your vet is explaining, or when you are alone waiting for tests, or between pop-ins from techs and vets, especially if either say something you don't understand or need clarification on. This way you can ask about it later or look it up on the internet when you get home.
5. **Call Back.** If you did not understand something or think of a question when you get in the car don't be afraid to call and ask. Most vets realize the need to follow up on the phone and often issues taken care of over the phone can make future visits go smoothly.
6. **Talk It Out.** If something just doesn't seem right after a visit. Call a friend in the know or email them. The saying "Two heads are better than one" applies here. Often just going over the visit with someone you trust can bring up new questions and new directions to go in. They will think of things you haven't yet. Sometimes posting to a Great Dane List or Message Board can be more confusing than talking to just one person. So many different opinions about on these boards you can get all manner of extreme answers. Post if you wish, but be prepared for every gambit of advice from the very informed to the outrageously irrational. Keep that delete button handy and don't be afraid to use it.

Sometimes despite our best efforts partnerships with our vets do not form as we would like. Not all vet offices are the right fit for everyone. If you need to find a vet better inclined to your needs, the next article in this series "Finding a Vet" will help.



Letter from the President

Dear Dane Lovers,

Please give Shadow a warm welcome as the new Heartland Heartbeat Editor! If you have any submissions (memorials, antics, brags, comments or articles), please get them to Shadow. Don't be surprised if she asks you to write a column!

I also want to take this opportunity to let you all know that Lacey has resigned as VP...she will remain on the Board of Directors and will even volunteer occasionally, but due to her hectic life, didn't believe she could give the rescue what we needed. She was able to nominate her replacement to the Board and Jodiann was elected unanimously! So, welcome Jodiann as your new VP and keep her contact info handy! (See page 6)

Since our last publication, we have taken in 6 more dogs and still have a waiting list with 11 dogs on it! We are expecting to bring one more in before you actually receive this newsletter, but that means we still need 10 more foster homes to save the dogs that are currently on the list and as we all know, it grows every day!

I'm not going to tell you too much about our newest additions due to limited space, but feel free to contact their wonderful foster homes for information! Here's a list:

- Pearl – young black special needs female fostered by Tanya
- Reno – young mantle merle male fostered by Elisha
- Mulligan – young white male (already adopted) fostered by Wendy
- Olive – young blue female fostered by Christy
- Abe – adult male fawn fostered by Shadow
- Sinbad – VERY young white male temporarily

fostered by Shadow

We have had three adoptions since our last publication, so please help me congratulate Hank, Harlie and Mulligan on finding their dream families!

Hank was adopted by Candace and Caylon and is enjoying a life in Edmond. Mulligan (one of our newer rescue babies) was adopted by Steve & Stephanie (and we can't forget big brother Sammy) and loves his new home in Bixby. Last, but not least, is our special Harlie girl! She was adopted by Inge & Herman and is now a rancher in Stillwater!

As usual, rescue doesn't rest. The phone rings at all hours and the e-mails just don't stop! We are getting a lot of interest, but also a lot of requests for assistance.

Events are rocking, but unfortunately, the event we were hoping for in May just never made it. ☹️ We had been asked to participate in an event in Jenks that didn't pan out, so our only event for May has been our Pampered Chef fundraiser and our Pennies for Pearl campaign. Speaking of Pennies for Pearl, please remember to save all your pennies for this deserving baby...she still needs our help! We do have several events 'in the works' and will be calling on you all to help, so be sure to read the events column!

I hope you have all weathered the storms we've had lately with a minimum of stress and look forward to seeing you all again soon at our next event!

Until Next Time...
Happy Tails,
Jan Cates – President HGDR, Inc.



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 around 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 shadow_wynn@bigstring.com

If you would like to become a regular contributor, please consider becoming a member of The Newslet-

ter Committee, and help research, report, gather pictures, and produce the Heartland Heartbeat every other month.

Happy news! Shadow Wynn, Editor

Heartland Heartbeat

To submit:

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

Email: shadow_wynn@bigstring.com



Current Events by Jan Cates

Wow, have we got some things in the works. Unfortunately, a couple of items we told you about just didn't seem to work out. The event at the Jenks Aquarium just didn't pan out for May and the OKC dog shows have decided not to allow rescue groups to participate. ☹️ The GDC of OK is going to have a Meet the Breed booth and may ask you all to volunteer to help with that!

Our first event coming up is going to be pretty informal...Shadow is working on getting us set up to have 'Dog Dayz' at the park coming up this month. We're shooting for the 21st, so be on the lookout for more information to come soon about that one! We had so many things going that didn't work out, we are now just hoping for an impromptu get together to get out and about with our dogs and foster dogs. A Meet and Greet sort of event!

At the moment, we are not anticipating any July events. July is when I will hopefully be leaving to take our little National Champion gymnast back to Nationals! Wish her luck!

August however, promises to be another busy month. We have been working with other area rescue groups to do a 'Hawgs for Hounds' event. This promises to be a big, as well as fun event! We are having a Biker Run as well as a Doggie Poker for Paws event at the same time. We have gathered quite a few vendors and are currently working on live music entertainment! The date for this one is August 9th, so mark your calendars. We are already looking for volunteers to help organize and run this

one, so if you are willing and able to donate a little time to help us out, give a shout! We need EVERYONE we can get...this is the biggest event HGDR has ever helped sponsor! Be sure to start letting all your biker buddies know to mark their calendars too!

September is also already rockin'! We'll be sharing details as we get them, but be on the lookout for information about 'Tulsa Woofstock', the "Pooch Parade", and the "Big Dog Bash" (in conjunction with other Giant Breed rescue groups) all currently planned for September. We can't promise to participate in all of them, but we're going to do our best to be out and about for as much as we can.

October is looking promising already with the Bella Foundation's 'A Dog Walk in the Park' and the Great Dane Roundup scheduled for October 4th. Again, mark your calendars because this year's Round-Up is one you aren't going to want to miss!

Remember, we are still out an event coordinator, so if you'd like to help organize an event or two and beg for volunteers, just let us know! We are so inundated with dogs needing help that events are getting put on the back burner and that is counterproductive to one of our main goals...education! So, please consider volunteering to organize an event or even just working...we want the world to know how great our breed really is! We aren't just big dogs...we're big love too!



ABC's of Our Danes

Antics, Brags, & Comments

Antics:

What is funnier than watching dogs romp? Seeing your husband play with the new Dane for the 1st time! Abe is our newest foster Dane and he must think he's died and gone to doggie Heaven. My husband, Brad, got downed by all fours and proceeded to spend 30 min pretending to be a dog and growling up a storm. Abe was bouncing around like a pogo stick and barking like mad. Then our Boston Terrier, Zee, joined in the fun. I'm not sure who had more fun but I know I rarely laugh that hard! - S Wynn

Brag:

Elisha Pressy says that of the more than 150 dogs she has fostered (mostly boxers), Reno is the VERY best one! He has never had an accident in the house, loves to play with her kids, and loves all other animals. She is really going to hate giving Reno up to his forever home.



Comment:

As Jackie Cates aptly puts it, "Standing between 2 female Danes who are fighting is not a good idea!"

The ABCs of Our Danes is a regular feature supported by reader submissions. Send your Antic, Brag, or Comment to Shadow Wynn at shadow_wynn@bigstring.com.



Memorials

All of us have lost pets near and dear to our hearts, and so we know the crippling pain that comes when we must say that last goodbye to a furry member of the family. Also painful is when we lose a member of our foster family before they have a chance to find a forever home.

Recently, we have had several members lose beloved members of their family. In time, they may be willing to share a memorial of their loved one with us. Until then, for them and for the rest of us, I give to you these two poems to ease your pain.

The Rainbow Bridge

inspired by a Norse legend

By the edge of a woods, at the foot of a hill,
Is a lush, green meadow where time stands still.
Where the friends of man and woman do run,
When their time on earth is over and done.
For here, between this world and the next,
Is a place where each beloved creature finds rest.
On this golden land, they wait and they play,
Till the Rainbow Bridge they cross over one day.
No more do they suffer, in pain or in sadness,
For here they are whole, their lives filled with gladness.
Their limbs are restored, their health renewed,
Their bodies have healed, with strength imbued.
They romp through the grass, without even a care,
Until one day they start, and sniff at the air.
All ears prick forward, eyes dart front and back,
Then all of a sudden, one breaks from the pack.
For just at that instant, their eyes have met;
Together again, both person and pet.
So they run to each other, these friends from long past,
The time of their parting is over at last.
The sadness they felt while they were apart,
Has turned into joy once more in each heart.
They embrace with a love that will last forever,
And then, side-by-side, they cross over... together.
© 1998 Steve and Diane Bodofsky.

Taken from <http://www.newrainbowbridge.com/NRB/rbpoem.htm>

A Rescuer at the Rainbow Bridge

Unlike most days at Rainbow Bridge, this day dawned cold and gray, damp as a swamp and as dismal as could be imagined. All the recent arrivals were confused and concerned. They had no idea what to think for they had never experienced a day like this before. But the animals who had spent some time waiting for their beloved people knew exactly what was happening and began to

gather at the pathway leading to the Bridge to watch. They knew this was something special.

It wasn't too long before an elderly animal came into view, head hung heavy and low with tail dragging along the ground. The other animals on the pathway...the ones who had been at Rainbow Bridge for a while...knew the story of this sad creature immediately. They had seen it happen far too many times.

Although it was obvious the animal's heart was leaden and he was totally overcome with emotional pain and hurt, there was no sign of injury or any illness. Unlike the pets waiting at the Bridge, this dog had not been restored to his prime. He was full of neither health nor vigor. He approached slowly and painfully, watching all the pets who were by now watching him. He knew he was out of place here. This was no resting place for him. He felt instinctively that the sooner he could cross over, the happier he would be. But alas, as he came closer to the Bridge, his way was barred by the appearance of an Angel who spoke softly to the old dog and apologized sorrowfully, telling him that he would not be able to pass. Only those animals who were with their special people could pass over the Rainbow Bridge. And he had no special beloved people...not here at the Bridge nor on Earth below.

With no place else to turn, the poor elderly dog looked toward the fields before the Bridge. There, in a separate area nearby, he spotted a group of other sad-eyed animals like himself...elderly and infirm. Unlike the pets waiting for their special people, these animals weren't playing, but simply lying on the green grass, forlornly and miserably staring out at the pathway leading to the Bridge. The recent arrival knew he had no choice but to join them. And so, he took his place among them, just watching the pathway and waiting.

One of the newest arrivals at the Bridge, who was waiting for his special people, could not understand what he had just witnessed and asked one of the pets who had been there for some time to explain it to him.

"That poor dog was a rescue, sent to the pound when his owner grew tired of him. They way you see him now, with graying fur and sad, cloudy eyes, was exactly the way he was when he was put into the kennels. He never, ever made it out and passed on only with the love and comfort that the kennel workers could give him as he left his miserable and unloved existence on Earth for good. Because he had no family or special person to give his love, he has nobody to escort him across the Bridge."

The first animal thought about this for a minute and then asked, "So what will happen now?"

As he was about to receive his answer, the clouds suddenly parted and the all-invasive gloom lifted. Coming toward the Bridge could be seen a single figure...a person who, on Earth, had seemed quite ordinary...a person who, just like the elderly dog, had just left

(Continued on page 6)

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Getting to Know You by Elisha Pressy

Due to illness in the family of our author, Elisha Pressy, our regularly scheduled article will not be appearing this month. Have you ever been told that you write well? Love to collect funny stories? Like doing research? Keep up-to-date with happenings around town? If you answered Yes to any of the above questions, the Newsletter Committee could use your help.

"I don't have the time to write a newsletter." As it happens, neither do I. I write an article or two and assemble the articles into a pleasing format, while making sure that we have enough information to fill the pages. So what exactly am I asking for? If you are willing to donate about 2 to 3 hours of your time every other month, which is only 6 times a year, roughly 12 to 18 hours yearly, then you can support the newsletter.

What does the Newsletter Committee need? We need someone to collect funny Dane-related stories, a person from the Tulsa area to report on activities and

events in that region, we even have ideas for several regular columns that just need someone to write them. So, as you can see, we have things for people to do - now all we need is the people to step forward and volunteer. Won't you come and join our happy little team?

Shadow Wynn
Editor



(Continued from page 5)

Earth forever. This figure turned toward a group of the sad animals and extended outstretched palms. The sweetest sounds they had ever heard echoed gently above them and all were bathed in a pure and golden light. Instantly, each was young and healthy again, just as they had been in the prime of life.

From within the gathering of pets waiting for their special people, a group of animals emerged and moved toward the pathway. As they came close to the passing figure, each bowed low and each received a tender pat on the head or a scratch behind the ears. Their eyes grew even brighter as the figure softly murmured each name. Then, the newly-restored pets fell into line behind the figure and quietly followed this person to the Bridge, where they all crossed together.

The recent arrival who had been watching, was

amazed. "What happened?"

"That was a rescuer," came the answer. "That person spent a lifetime trying to help pets of all kinds. The ones you saw bowing in respect were those who found new homes because of such unselfish work. They will cross when their families arrive. Those you saw restored were ones who never found homes. When a rescuer arrives, they are permitted to perform one, final act of rescue. They are allowed to escort those poor pets that couldn't be placed on Earth across the Rainbow Bridge. You see, all animals are special to them...just as they are special to all animals."

"I think I like rescuers," said the recent arrival.

"So does God," was the reply.

—Author Unknown—

Taken from <http://www.novareinna.com/bridge/rescuerain.html>