

# Paws for Danes



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- V. Louise Feddema
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- Julie Williams
- Leanne Smith
- Lena Bentley
- Rodney Bentley
- Rachel Mykins
- We would also like to thank our Office Depot, Amazon Smile, and Fred Meyer Community Rewards members for supporting Dane Outreach when they shop.

If we have inadvertently left any donors off of the list or have misrepresented any information, our sincerest apologies. Please let us know and we will correct the information in the next newsletter.



## Great Dane Quick Facts

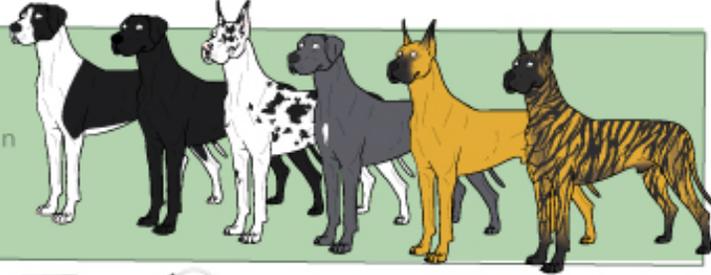


Photo by SA Knudtsen

# Great Dane QUICK FACTS

## Colors

Fawn, Brindle, Black, Blue, Harlequin and Mantle. Danes come in other colors, but are non-standard. Rare colors do not exist.



## Size

Males: 145-185 lbs  
34-36" tall at the shoulder.

Females: 110-145 lbs  
31-33" tall.



## Health

Danes are #1 breed at risk of bloat/torsion. Lifespan is 7 to 9 years.



## Temperament

People-lovers but training and socialization is vital. Can have strong prey drive.



## Care

Must live indoors. Easy grooming.



## Cost

Can be expensive, with high vet costs. Having "Pet Insurance" can save a Dane's life.



## Reputable Breeders:

- Can verify health testing on both parents.
- Have a contract, require spay/neuter and return clause.
- Do **not** sell online via mass "puppy" and "breeder sale" websites.
- Screen buyers with puppy applications and home visits.
- Have good references from vets and local AKC breed clubs.



For more information  
please visit [www.daneoutreach.org](http://www.daneoutreach.org)

## The White Fad

Written by: Trina Smith

Bell bottom pants come and go throughout everyone's lifetime but some fads are not meant to be. The White Great Dane is one of them.

What is White? I consider a White to be body markings of 10% or less color. Effects of the doubling up of the Merle

gene. However, I have a blanket Harlequin I took in as a pup because she was born totally deaf.

Although they may look perfectly healthy on the outside, the inside issues are not always so visible. Many times they have intestinal issues, liver and kidney conditions, heart defects, and the list really goes on. They are a lifetime commitment. Deafness will need hand signals, blindness will need voice commands, deaf and blind pups will need touch commands, and dare I say an armload of patience.

I can't tell anyone how much they impress me with their instincts to bury things, even though they have no sight or hearing. How they can howl when the vibrations of others howl, follow the leader or even be a leader, dig holes with the best of them, play, wrestle, and climb on obstacles. They seem to have a GPS in their heads for mapping. My one year old deaf/blind girl can open every door in my house. My deaf and sight impaired young Dane can unlatch a slip latch on a gate (but not in front of me so I have no clue how he is doing it). They housebreak fast when deaf because they sleep so long, you know when they wake, that they must go out right away. I have dog doors and they are quick learners to figure out the in and out...and in and out...and, well, you get the idea....they know strangers from friends with one sniff.

A deaf/blind dog must be taught that food is not an item that will be stolen away. Not being able to see or hear anyone coming, they can bite to protect their food or toys. How do they know it's a human vs a dog coming to steal their goodies? They don't, so it is not an acceptable behavior at any time. All you have to do is brush by them and you can get bit. These are things to be worked on daily, not weekly or "whenever." I don't find much with biting or snapping when they are "startled" because I wake mine so often that they are used to it. Those who don't have the time to do this every single day several times, may end up with a dog that does startle when woke and bite. Whose fault is that? Not the Danes. If you are not diligent and dedicated to constant training, a White Dane is not for you.

Fenced yards are a must, as they cannot hear you to recall. I lost count of how many times I heard people tell me their dog never leaves their yard...until the one time it does and meets its fate. My yard has double gates so you have a holding area just in case one slips by they cannot escape, and each gate has a latch on it. If you cannot protect them, a White Dane is not for you.

Can these Whites be totally healthy? In a matter of speaking, yes, but so few are. Why are so many people asking for White pups? A lot of eye conditions need to be diagnosed by an ophthalmologist. I recommend checking the price for an exam before you consider getting a White pup. You must be able to commit to the vet costs and specialty eye care for their lifetime. Many eye conditions are not able to be "seen" with the naked eye, they need a specialist.

I dedicate myself to these deaf and/or blind Danes because I do enjoy them, they are my family. It's what we do. They can succeed at agility, obedience, and one of my deaf/blind boys received two tracking certificates before a year old, but this is not the norm.

The norm is simply that most people don't get to stay home, they have jobs, must leave for work, training is put off to the side for later, and for a deafie, training must be started immediately in order to get them and you, as the owner, used to your own communication.

What have I seen? A puppy with liver and kidney failure, three mega esophagus babies who also had osteogenesis imperfecta. Many different eye defects from slight vision impairments to total blindness and some being born with no eyes at all. Eye surgeries costing upwards of \$1800 are not unheard of for these Whites with eye defects or lifetime eye medications. Deafness is common as are eye defects, blind AND deafness can be work with adding on skin issues and possible internal medical conditions, these dogs are not for everyone. Heck, they aren't for many people at all. There are some owners out there who are perfect for them but there are more White pups than there are appropriate homes available: few and far between. And more are being born every single day, with nowhere to go.

Quite simply, the White Dane is produced by the breeding of two Merle genes making up a double Merle puppy. This in fact means, it is a deliberate way to produce defects and CAN be avoided! So putting the White Dane in demand is a death sentence to many more Whites born since the average is 25% will be White in a breeding with double Merle.

Would I take in another White handicapped Great Dane puppy? YOU bet I would without question. Would I be sad if never another White were born? Not on your life—it would be the greatest gift to the Great Dane breed.

A White Dane is a Dane of another color. They can love and be loved, smart, quirky, and more importantly they are a giant breed with special needs so adding on extra is really more work than most are ready for, thus destroying what should never have been.

A dog is not a fad.

The double Merle gene is a tangled web of pain and heartache. For those few who really want them in their lives, they fare out there and they will come to you when they need you.

For more information, click [here](#).

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## Oly

Written by: Trina Smith



This story begins with a message from a fellow Great Dane volunteer that she had received a call about a deaf & blind Great Dane puppy in need. In need of what, no one was really sure, so I made the call to the "owners" of this puppy. So it goes, this poor puppy was rescued from a terrible, dirty backyard breeder and they "bought" it to save his precious life, but then the tragedy began after they took him home. I was told this poor puppy was crying in agonizing pain all the time, driving her crazy, deaf and blind and the vet agreed to euthanize him to "put him out of his misery."

## Cookie

Written by: Heather Barlow



Cookie was in foster care for just over a week when she unexpectedly suffered severe complications from a routine surgery done by a competent veterinary clinic. Unfortunately, it was just "one of those things" that happen.

Amazingly, she woke her foster mom up in the nick of time. She was lethargic, with labored breathing, and was cold to the touch, and then somehow she managed to flip herself completely over to reveal an incredible amount of blood.

I talked to her for a very long time. We finally agreed I would take him in and see what I could do for him since I had other Danes that were disabled. However, when I tried to make arrangements for a few days away to meet her, she declined stating that it was too long to wait (three days?). I was worried and made arrangements for a relative to meet her the next day and thankfully so. The next person I spoke to was her friend who went with her to get this puppy and she explained this pup was scheduled to be euthanized by her vet so that was the dire need to get the pup right away.

Every story has two sides and some are octagons with a broken edge and things just keep leaking out!

So there is a third person, this is the one who contacted the rescue volunteer who contacted me (the fourth person in this story). She apparently had asked for a little more time to find a resource for this pup and called our rep...they must have known something...but I never knew why this person did what they did for this pup.

The day the pup came to my home, he was set down in the yard, ran up to my friend, stopped on a dime, looked up at him, went around his legs, and back around to the front and stared right at him. This pup was clearly NOT blind.

And that pain he was supposedly suffering from was because he is in fact deaf and he would be locked in a crate and let me tell you, a deaf puppy's screaming to get out of a crate can be an awful experience. So this told me he was in fact crated more than necessary since he was "in pain suffering all the time." And I ask, "Who is a vet that will kill a puppy without confirming anything about its health?"

Today this boy is 10 months old, agile, and

Cookie was immediately rushed to the Emergency Hospital, and after quickly assessing the situation, it was time to talk about the plan, and the worst part, the money. Low estimate came at over \$6,700.00! LOW estimate! High was approaching \$10,000.00. We are a non-profit with a budget...how do we make a decision like this?

This sweet girl, who already had a family lined up to adopt her, was only a year old. She has her whole life ahead of her! She is good with everyone and everything, from people to bunnies! Yes, she even likes bunnies! If there was ever an adoptable dog, this was the dog! And she's only one year old!!! She could have 10 years left. And aside from this traumatic event, she was healthy.

The decision was made, we needed to save Cookie! Immediately, they collected the more than two liters of blood from her abdomen and were able to transfuse her with much of it before it began to clot. Once the surgeon arrived, they performed emergency surgery to repair the problem that had developed in the night. Although surgery was rough, she survived. Not only did she survive, she blew everyone away with how quickly she bounced back! She improved at rapid speed and was back at her foster home resting comfortably two days later.

Cookie needs to be monitored closely over the next few weeks to watch for any additional complications, as well as to monitor the cardiac arrhythmia she developed, likely due to the trauma she endured. Due to the amazing people

though there is some sight impairment in bright sunlight from star pupils, he can keep up with the best of 'em and likes to run the fence line, dig, jump onto the lookout stands, and if that's a puppy in pain, I am going to get a pot of gold at the end of the Rainbow!

I was able to contact this breeder, who was not the evil person they were made out to be, to get more information on this pup's much needed background. They were very helpful.

And so the crack leaks. This goes to show how many people stepped up to the plate here to try to save a puppy that was thought to be tragic and suffering. Dane Outreach may not be able to take in certain dogs or puppies, but it only takes a call or a message to get the ball rolling to maybe save a life in an otherwise seemingly hopeless situation. Our family cannot be more thankful to the unknown caller and the Dane Outreach representative who were key to us getting this boy here, and without Dane Outreach in general and all the volunteers that make it happen, this is one life that wouldn't have even had a chance.

## Daynakin Large & Giant Breed Homestyle Dog Care

Written by: Georgia Hymmen

I obtained my first Great Dane in 1974, and shortly after that, my second. Dane ownership quickly evolved into a lifestyle—anyone who has a Dane knows they are not “just a dog” and have unique traits and special care requirements.

During the time I had my original two Danes, I needed to leave for about two weeks and could not take my dogs. I did what all people did at that time—took them to a commercial kennel. To say that I wasn't happy with the whole experience would be an understatement.

who support us, we were able to save Cookie's life. However, the amount of money spent on one dog can make the decision we have to make on the next dog that much more difficult.

For those of you who have donated to Dane Outreach in the past, thank you for helping us save countless other dogs. This amazing sweet girl has so much life to live! Because several generous donors opened their hearts and wallets to this sweet girl, Dane Outreach is able to pay the HUGE vet billed incurred in order to save her life and give this amazing sweet girl a second chance. She has so much life to live.

Your donations can mean the difference between life and death in rescue! It is only through financial contributions that rescues can continue to care for the dogs entrusted to them. Support your local rescue.

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Daynakin Continued from Column 1

Danes simply do not do well at commercial kennels. They don't like all the barking and noise, the dog doors are rarely large enough for them, the dog runs are too narrow, and the staff rarely is experienced enough to recognize serious problems like bloat. And frankly, a stressed Dane is more prone to bloat and one wants to do whatever they can to prevent that!

Shortly after my negative boarding experience, I began taking care of other people's dogs in my house and continue



Continued on Column 2

## Upcoming Dane Outreach Events

What: 2016 Dane Outreach Fun and Education Day  
Where: Paws-Abilities, Fife, WA  
When: February 21st, 2016  
Site: <http://pawsabilities.com/>

What: 2016 Seattle Kennel Club Dog Shows' Breed and Education Booth  
Where: Century Link Field's Event Center, Seattle, WA  
When: March 7th-8th, 2016

## How You Can Help

Office Depot Shoppers  
Do you shop at Office Depot? Do you participate in their Rewards program? If you don't, and would like a very easy way to help Dane Outreach, then perhaps you'd like to "donate" your points earned with purchases there. Also, you can recycle your used ink cartridges there to earn points. Simply give the cashiers the Dane Outreach Rewards number at checkout. The number is the Dane Outreach voice mail phone number, 206-654-5111. Thanks for your help, and please pass this on!

Fred Meyer Shoppers  
If you shop at Fred Meyer and have a Rewards card, you can link your card to Dane Outreach. You will still get

to do so to this day. While being at home is certainly the best for your dog, I feel we can offer a combination of personalized care and attention, vast Dane experience, and a clean, secure and comfortable place for your dog to stay while you are gone.

We are located in the NW corner of Washington State, just a little north of Bellingham. We have five securely-fenced acres sectioned into different dog yards allowing for plenty of room for play time. Because we are "Dane people" (we are active breeder/exhibitors and I am co-founder of the Dane Outreach rescue program) we are very well attuned to Great Danes and their special requirements, and of course, all of our equipment is Dane-sized. We realize that not all dogs "play well with others" and are extremely careful about playgroups, making sure dogs are introduced properly and a good match both in size and temperament. Your dog's safety and well-being are of crucial importance to us.

Because we are well-versed in dog management, we will also accept intact dogs, bitches in season, dog aggressive dogs—all dogs other places will not take. We are set up well for big dogs and can fit your dog's care needs. Doesn't like other dogs? We can keep him in a private area. Bitch in season? We can keep safe and secure. Medical or soundness issue? We can deal with it. Please consider us for the next time you need care for your dog. We can gladly provide references. We have people who drive from Portland for our dog care—and we can offer a variety of services

points for your Rebate and for the gas discount. Go to <http://www.daneoutreach.org/help/> to find out how.

#### Amazon.com Shoppers

If you are shopping on Amazon.com, please use the smile.amazon.com site. A portion of your eligible purchases are donated to Dane Outreach. Go to <http://www.daneoutreach.org/help/> to find out how.

other places cannot. Each dog receives a complimentary bath, nail trim, report card, and beef bone upon departure.

Please check us out. You can visit our site at [www.DaynakinGreatDanes.com](http://www.DaynakinGreatDanes.com) or our Facebook page with the same title as this article. Videos of guest dogs can be viewed by doing a search under Daynakin Great Danes on YouTube. We hope you will consider us for your Dane care the next time you have to leave your dog at home.



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For more information about events, volunteer opportunities, donations, adoptions, or to release a Great Dane.

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