

Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League



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MAGDRL

Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League

Finding A Responsible Breeder



See us online at: www.magdrl.org

About Responsible Breeders

By: Sari B. Tietjen, AKC



Just what is a responsible breeder of pure-bred dogs? Just what is it that sets such a person apart from any other breeder? Why are responsible breeders so special? Why should they be sought out by anyone

looking to purchase a puppy?

A responsible breeder is dedicated to the breed – always learning about a breed, recognizing the need to adhere to key breed identifying characteristics and working hard to do everything possible to maintain and preserve a given breed for the enjoyment of future generations. A responsible breeder carefully weighs each mating with an eye on what is best for the breed in terms of appearance, temperament, and health considerations.

A responsible breeder never breeds just to sell puppies for money, instead a responsible breeder looks upon every puppy as an investment in the future of the breed.

All potential puppy buyers are thoroughly screened to determine suitability, responsibility and capability. A responsible breeder is always there to answer questions, give advice and offer guidance to new puppy owners and will remain a ready source of assistance throughout the animal's lifetime.

A responsible breeder does not “wholesale” puppies to “brokers” for resale to a pet store; responsible breeders do not regard their puppies as “cash crop” or “pin money.”

Responsible breeders never mate two dogs without being prepared to care for the resulting puppies for the rest of their lives. Responsible breeders have long range plans, definitive thoughts about their breed and are never afraid to speak up and voice an opinion.

Responsible breeders are always there – through the joys of life and heartache of death. Responsible breeders are the backbone of their breed and leave a lasting legacy for future generations of dog lovers to enjoy.

The American Kennel Club strongly recommends buying from a responsible breeder. AKC has numerous resources to share with potential buyers to help them do their homework before buying a dog, to help them choose a breed compatible with their lifestyle and to help them find a responsible breeder.



The AKC encourages potential buyers to peruse their website (www.akc.org) for further information about how to select a breed, find a responsible breeder and take care of a dog for the rest of its life.

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Tips On Breeders

How to Find a Good Dane Breeder:

- 🐾 First and foremost, educate yourself about the breed! Take advantage of the wealth of Great Dane resources on the Internet and in libraries.
- 🐾 Join a local Great Dane Club of America Affiliate club to learn about the breed and to meet breeders (www.gdca.org).
- 🐾 Attend AKC-sanctioned dog shows — particularly the *Great Dane Specialty Show* — to learn about health, temperament and confirmation, and to meet breeders.
- 🐾 Learn about different types of breeder contracts. Ask for a copy of the contract and read it thoroughly *BEFORE* you decide on a puppy.

Good Dane Breeders...

- 🐾 ...do not advertise in newspapers, puppy web sites, or sell through pet shops.
- 🐾 ...will likely ask you more questions than you ask them.
- 🐾 ...let you meet the mother and interact with her to ensure that she is in good health and has a companionable temperament.
- 🐾 ...will discuss the lineage of both parents.
- 🐾 ...let you see where pups have been raised. It should be fresh and clean.
- 🐾 ...will not allow a puppy to leave its mother until it is at least 7 weeks of age and has had its initial shots and worming.
- 🐾 ...will allow you to see the parent's health records.
- 🐾 ...will tell you if Puppy Lemon Law applies in your state. If so, they will clearly post it or give you a copy.
- 🐾 ...and will give you a written return policy in case the puppy does not work out.

