

mid-atlantic great dane rescue league

Volunteer Handbook



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www.magdrl.org
Last updated: 4/05

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Section

1

Introduction

Welcome to the wonderful world of volunteering for mid-atlantic great dane rescue league! This section provides a basic overview of MAGDRL as well as a list of what's included in this packet.

Who is MAGDRL?

The Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League (MAGDRL), Inc., was organized in 1979 to serve the Mid-Atlantic region. The organization is a D.C. Corporation and has a charitable tax exemption under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

MAGDRL is staffed completely by volunteers. Like all humane groups, MAGDRL is in the unique position of helping both humans and pets. In our case, the pets are Great Danes and mixed Dane dogs, and the people are all those who have or want the companionship of this breed or, often, just dogs in general.

What Do We Do?

MAGDRL helps people to:

- Determine the right breed of dog for their lifestyle.
- Find healthy companionable Danes who fit their circumstances.
- Find loving replacement homes for Danes they can no longer keep.
- Become knowledgeable about the care and training of their Dane.
- Resolve Dane physical/behavioral problems.

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- Overcome their grief at the loss of their beloved pet.
- Stretch their tax dollar by assuming the Dane burden from public shelters.

MAGDRL helps Danes by:

- Providing for the rescue and care of those who have been abandoned, neglected, and/or abused by their previous owners.
- Spaying/neutering and providing any medical treatment necessary to return the Dane to good health.
- Training/socializing to ensure that the Danes in rescue can adapt to new homes.
- Placing rescued Danes with people who will provide secure, loving and healthy homes.

To do this, MAGDRL screens the applicant and the home, checks references and enters into a legally binding agreement with the adopting family. We require that the rescued Dane be kept inside the house: a member of the family.

How Do I Start Volunteering?

In many areas, you can join a local list group that provides a medium for discussing events, issues, ideas and more. This list is where opportunities for volunteering are posted. For instance, requests to help with phone interviews and home checks may be posted, asking for a volunteer to step forward and help out. If you see a post and want to help, please respond by emailing the group or the individual requesting help.

An enjoyable way to get involved slowly is to attend a Meet & Greet with other volunteers, or an event. It's a great way to casually observe how things work and what kind of questions to expect. Appendix A includes a Frequently Asked Questions section along with answers that are appropriate as a representative of MAGDRL. Please sit back and observe for a few events before you jump right in with answers—we want to present a unified front, which means we should all be answering questions with similar answers.

Volunteers are also asked to become MAGDRL members. The annual per calendar year membership dues are \$25. Members in good standing have voting rights and will receive an ID card as well as a subscription to MAGDRL's bi-monthly newsletter.

Volunteers for an area report to the area coordinator, and receive assignments and direction from the coordinator. To help out in another area, please contact your coordinator first and ask to help out.

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If you have any questions, you can ask a specific volunteer, post to the list, or ask your coordinator. Don't wait for us to ask you to help out in a certain area, just jump right in and volunteer!

What's in this packet?

There are several sections in this packet (described below). Each major section contains:

- a checklist,
- a how-to section,
- and the forms required for completion.

Section 1: Introduction

This section provides basic information about MAGDRL and provides an overview of the contents of the Volunteer Packet.

Section 2: Evaluating an OTI Dane

This section provides a checklist, a how-to section and information about evaluating a dane being turned-in by his owners.

Section 3: Evaluating a Shelter Dane

This section provides a checklist, a how-to section and information about evaluating a dane at a shelter.

Section 4: Transporting a Dane

This section provides a checklist, a how-to section and information about transporting a dane.

Section 5: Phone Interviews

This section provides a checklist, a how-to section and information about conducting phone interviews for prospective adopters.

Section 6: Vet Checks

This section provides a checklist, a how-to section and information about checking veterinary references for a prospective adopter.

Section 7: Home Visits

This section provides a checklist, a how-to section and information about visiting the home of a prospective adopter.

Section 8: Meet and Greets/Events

This section provides information about starting and conducting meet and greets as well as participating in other public events.

Appendix A: Frequently Asked Questions

This section includes the answers to questions we're commonly asked, whether it be during a phone interview, home check or event.

Appendix B: Links to Online Information

This section provides a list of links to online information.

Appendix C: Contacts

This section provides local and organization-wide contact information for your reference.

Appendix D: Foster Application & Contract

This section includes the foster contract in case you are interested in fostering a dane for MAGDRL.

Section

2

Evaluating an OTI Dane

Evaluating an owner turn-in (OTI) dane requires you to travel to the owner's home to meet the dane, complete an evaluation form and submit the information online.

How to schedule and perform an evaluation for an Owner Turn-In dane

1. Schedule the evaluation.
 - For home evaluations, the evaluation should be completed at the home where the dog is staying.
 - Please make it clear to the owner that an evaluation is required before we can even accept the dane into our program. You will not be taking the dane with you when you leave the evaluation. Explain that we will complete everything just as soon as possible and ask that they hang tight—the coordinator will call them as soon as all of the information has been collected.
 - It is best and safest to have company along. Don't go alone to a stranger's home.
 - When you schedule the evaluation, let the owner know that you need copies of all vet and any other paperwork BEFORE we can accept the dog into our program. Ask them to have copies ready for the evaluation itself. Explain that this is required to more quickly place the dane in a new home.
2. Evaluate the dane.
 - Go through the evaluation checklist.

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EVALUATING AN OTI DANE

- If you are uncomfortable doing any of the items, do NOT proceed. Skip or discontinue the evaluation altogether.
 - If the dane is supposedly friendly with other dogs or cats, yet the family has them partitioned off, ask to see them interact together.
 - Try to casually find out more about the dog from the owner: how is he in public? ever walked through neighborhood? Ever exposed to kids? Cats? Other dogs? Of what age? Sex? What's he eating?
3. Talk to the owner about basic vet care and ask him to prepare the dane for an easy adoption.
- Explain that the dane will be placed much more quickly if the dane is spayed/neutered, up to date on all vaccinations. Ask if he'd be willing to vet the dane before we accept her into the program--the process would be easier and more comfortable for the dog, if possible.
 - Sometimes people cannot afford basic vet care for their dogs. If you feel that money is an issue, you needn't ask them to foot the bill.
4. Explain the basic steps we take when accepting a new dane into our program:
- We evaluate to make sure that the dane can be safely rehomed and so that we are more aware of any issues or problems the dane may have. This is an important step in the process, since the more we know about a dane, the better able we are to place her in a family where she can happily remain for the rest of her life.
 - If the dane is adoptable, we will place him in a foster home, where he will live with a family until he is adopted by his forever home. The foster will expose him to cats, dogs, kids, if possible, to see how he will react. The foster family will teach him basic obedience and house manners.
 - We will then introduce the dane to an approved family who matches the dane's needs and energy level. When matching a dane with a family, we consider whether the dane is good with kids, cats, dogs, other pets that the family may have, how energetic the dane is and how active the family is, how much structure a dane needs. If the dane and the family seem to hit it off, the adoption is finalized and the dane goes home with his new family. We then offer post-adoption support and advice for the new family.
 - If the original owner wishes, we will provide the adopting family with their contact info. It is strictly up to the adopting family whether they will contact the original owner with any updates. We cannot compromise the personal data of the adopting family by providing the original owner with any information.

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- Explain that we may contact them to ask further questions once a dane is in our care. It is in the best interest of the dane if the owner is completely open and honest with us, since incorrect information can lead to his placement in a home that is not right for him or in a dangerous situation.
5. Go over the Surrender and Release form.
- Leave the form with them to sign at a later date (most likely when the adoption is to take place or when a foster home is available).
 - The one clause that almost everyone asks about is at the top of page 2. It basically means that if they knowingly withhold information about a dog from us which then leads us to place him in a situation that causes him to do something related to the information withheld, we're not responsible for the consequences: they are. For instance, if they know the dane bit a child but don't tell us that, and then we place him with a child and he bites, they are responsible for the bite and all damages incurred. If, on the other hand, they tell us and we then place him with kids and he bites, we're responsible (we'd never do this but it shows the difference), not them.
6. Collect copies of all vet records and any other information pertaining to the dane, including AKC or bills of sale.

Important

It is vitally important to obtain vet records for an OTI dane as soon as possible—oftentimes, paperwork is the last thing on the owner's mind when the transport occurs. We **SHOULD NOT ACCEPT** a dane into our program without the proper paperwork.

- If there are no vet bills or other docs pertaining to the dane, ask for the vet's contact information or try to find out when the last vet visit was. If paperwork is not available, we will still accept the dane into rescue; it is better, however, to have it.
7. Let them know that we'll be in touch with them as soon as possible to discuss the dane and possibly to arrange transport.

Evaluation dos and don'ts

- *Don't* take the dane home with you unless the Coordinator or Foster Team Lead clears you to do so.
- *Do* try to collect a donation for vet care and basic care of the dane. We are taking responsibility for their pet, who may need basic vetting and more.

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EVALUATING AN OTI DANE

- Do explain the process, and stress that we are all volunteers. We want to help but they need to give us as much time as possible to arrange a safe place for the dane.
- *Don't* let the owner bully you into taking an inappropriate dog home. Refer to the first bullet in this section and repeat as necessary.
- Do call your coordinator or the Foster Team Lead immediately if you have any questions. If you think the dane is in physical danger or you are uncomfortable with something, excuse yourself for a minute and call either MAGDRL representative with questions.

Why an evaluation should be completed in the owner's home

There are several reasons why a home evaluation is the best option when evaluating a dane:

- No matter how knowledgeable the evaluator is about dane behavior, any dog acts differently in a strange environment than it does in his own. Most of the time, the behavior is better in a strange environment. At home, you can get a good read on the dane by watching the interaction of the dane with his family.
- It is important to assess the living conditions of the dane. This cannot be done if you don't go to the dane's current home.
- It is important to assess the way the dane is treated by all family members, including children. Danes aren't the only ones who may be on their best behavior in a strange location.
- It is important to gather as much eyewitness information as possible about the dane, most of which is available at the home.

How to make yourself popular with strange dogs

Always bring small, soft treats with you. Ask the dog to perform the basics for treats.

What to do when things go wrong

Rule of thumb: Do not do anything you are uncomfortable with--ever.

If the dog won't let you near him..

Don't push the issue. Is he leashed? Sometimes that can make a difference. Ask if he can be gated apart from you. Sit quietly; do not make direct eye contact. Notice and report position

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EVALUATING AN OTI DANE

of ears and tail. Does he settle when off leash, after several minutes? What does owner have to say about behavior?

If the dog is scared and backing away...

Do NOT approach. Never back a dog into a corner. Do not attempt to pet overhand—pet under chin, if at all possible. Sit quietly and let the dog relax and approach you. Do not make direct eye contact. Yawn and turn your head slightly—this indicates that you are not a threat to the dog.

If the dog is living in unhealthy conditions or an abusive situation...

Continue with the evaluation. Tell them that a possible foster home just opened up this morning and you might be able to do something but you need to check with your coordinator. Step outside and call your coordinator for direction.

If the dog behaves aggressively...

Do not continue with the evaluation. Tell the owner that MAGDRL is unable to accept dogs that we cannot safely transport or place. Tell them that the coordinator will call to talk with them further.

OTI Evaluation Checklist

Prerequisites

- A signed copy of the volunteer release form sent to a MAGDRL representative
- Verbal or written approval of Coordinator or Team Lead to evaluate the dane

What You'll Need

- Evaluation form
- A copy of the Surrender and Release form
- Some treats
- A collar, slip or buckle
- Cell and home phone number for Coordinator or Team Lead
- Camera (digital preferred) to take pictures of the dane
- Online form completed within 24 hours of evaluation

What to Collect from the Original Owners

- ALL paperwork about the dog, including all vet records, any AKC records, bill of sales, any certificates, anything at all about that dog.
- Pictures, either from owner or with camera: get head shot, 2 side shots.

What to Expect

- Anything. People have strange ideas about what constitutes care and affection.

What to Leave Behind

- Children. Do not take children with you when evaluating an unknown dane
- Other dogs. Do not take dogs when evaluating an unknown dane. You don't want to expose your dane to any health or physical hazards that may exist.

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Evaluation Tips

- Always bring an extra leash/collar, just in case.
- Write down mileage for tax purposes. Evaluation expenses are tax-deductible.
- If evaluating a shy dane, don't pat over head but under chin with palm up instead. This is much less threatening.

Evaluation Questionnaire

Enter this info online at: www.padanerescue.com/volunteer/rescue_forms.htm

Date: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Owner's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Name of Dog: _____ Sex: _____ S/N? _____ Age: _____

Weight: _____ Height: _____ Color: _____ Ears Cropped? _____

Background

Any obedience training? _____

a. If so, what level? _____

b. Commands demonstrated: _____

Does the dog respond well to commands? No Yes Sometimes

Is the dog spayed/neutered? No Yes

Is the dog tattooed or micro chipped? No Yes Number: _____

Is the dog on any medications currently? (e.g., Heartworm preventative) No Yes

If so, for what conditions? _____

a. Dosages? _____

b. Lifelong? _____

Has the dog had any surgeries and/or medical conditions (e.g., HOD, bloat)? No Yes

If so, for what and when? _____

Is the dog current on all shots? No Yes

Can the dog see? No Yes

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Can the dog hear? No Yes

Temperament

Does the dog respond well to other dogs – neutered/not neutered? No Yes

If not, what type of reaction is it? _____

a. Submissive or territorial? Submissive Territorial Explain: _____

b. Same Sex aggression? No Yes Unknown

Is the dog good with cats? No Yes Unknown Indoor only

Is the dog good with children? No Yes older than _____ yrs of age Unknown

Does it depend on age/size of child? No Yes No toddlers
 older than _____ yrs of age

Does the dog allow a physical exam? No Yes

If not, list areas dog is shy about (e.g., mouth, paws, ears, belly, etc.) _____

Does the dog have any behavioral problems – either admitted to or evidenced during the visit?

Does the dog appear to be well adjusted and loved, or neglected?

Appearance

How healthy does the dog appear on first glance? (e.g., too thin, too fat, shedding excessively, bald patches, etc.) _____

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What type of food is the dog eating? _____

How much food is given per day? _____

a. How often is the dog fed per day, and in what quantities? _____

What other "treats" is the dog given? _____

Is the dog fed off an elevated platform? No Yes

Additional Questions

Is the current owner the first owner? No Yes

If not the first owner, how many previous owners has the dane had? _____

a. How long has the dog been with current owner? _

Is the dog house trained? No Yes

Is the dog crate trained? No Yes

Does the dog have free run of the house when the owners are not home? _____

If not where does the dog stay? _____

Does the dog travel well? No Yes

Does the dog get regular exercise? No Yes

Where, and in what form? _____

Why is the current owner interested in giving the dog up? _____

Where did they get their dog from? breeder rescue group humane society
 pet store Other _____

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
EVALUATING AN OTI DANE

Does the dog have papers? No Yes

Has the owner contacted the breeder? No Yes

Is the owner willing to part with crates, dishes, toys, etc. that "belong" to the dog? No

Yes

Vet Name, address, & number _____

*****If possible, please obtain copies of all VET records and other docs pertaining to the dane during the evaluation.*****

Overall Impression/Recommendations

Section

3

Evaluating a Shelter Dane

Evaluating a shelter dane requires you to establish a relationship with the shelter, travel to the shelter to meet the dane, complete an evaluation form and submit the information online.

How to Schedule and Perform a Shelter Evaluation

1. Introduce yourself to the Shelter Manager
 - Call and make yourself known the Manager. Tell him about your organization and ask if you can schedule a time to evaluate the dane.
 - Never demand or be forceful. We need to establish a solid relationship with the shelter and coercion is not the answer.
 - Be professional and courteous: You represent a large reputable rescue organization.
2. Schedule the evaluation.
 - It's best to schedule the evaluation for a time other than peak adoption hours for the shelter. Sometimes the shelter will allow you to come in before the shelter opens or after it closes.
3. Check in at the front desk.
 - Bring the manager/volunteers on duty a copy of the shelter packet. This includes information about how we screen adopters and foster homes, provides samples of our forms, and includes articles about danes that they may copy and give to adopters.

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EVALUATING A SHELTER DANE

- Bring something to give to the shelter—leashes, collars, food, blankets or toys. Something to establish our good will.

4. Evaluate the dane.

- Go through the evaluation checklist.
- If you are uncomfortable doing any of the items, do NOT proceed. Skip or discontinue the evaluation altogether.
- If the dane is supposedly friendly with other dogs or cats, ask to test him with a large and small dog (on leash) and in the cattery. Most shelters are happy to oblige.
- Try to find out as much about the dane as possible: why was he turned in? Living with kids, cats, dogs? Problems? What was he eating? Any health problems? May we contact the owners to find out more? (Sometimes they will allow us to do this).
- Talk to the shelter volunteers and find out if they can give him vaccinations and spay/neuter before we transport him to the foster home. This saves us quite a bit of money and some trauma to the dane.

5. Explain the basic steps we take when accepting a new dane into our program:

- We evaluate to make sure that the dane can be safely rehomed and so that we are more aware of any issues or problems the dane may have. This is an important step in the process, since the more we know about a dane, the better able we are to place her in a family where she can happily remain for the rest of her life.
- If the dane is adoptable, we will place him in a foster home, where he will live with a family until he is adopted by his forever home. The foster will expose him to cats, dogs, kids, if possible, to see how he will react. The foster family will teach him basic obedience and house manners.
- We will then introduce the dane to an approved family who matches the dane's needs and energy level. When matching a dane with a family, we consider whether the dane is good with kids, cats, dogs, other pets that the family may have, how energetic the dane is and how active the family is, how much structure a dane needs. If the dane and the family seem to hit it off, the adoption is finalized and the dane goes home with his new family. We then offer post-adoption support and advice for the new family.

Shelter Paperwork & Fees

We do not require shelters to sign a Surrender and Release form but they may require you to sign for the dane. This is perfectly acceptable.

Also, there may be a small fee, refundable upon proof of spay/neuter. Please be prepared to pay a fee, if applicable. The fee is reimbursable: rescue will fill out and return proof of spay/neuter.

6. Collect copies of all vet records and any other information pertaining to the dane, including AKC or bills of sale.
7. Let them know that we'll be in touch with them as soon as possible to discuss the dane and possibly to arrange transport. We won't leave them hanging; we just need to figure out our best plan of action.

Evaluation dos and don'ts

- *Don't* take the dane home with you unless the Coordinator or Foster Team Lead clears you to do so.
- *Do* call you coordinator or the Foster Team Lead immediately if you have any questions. If you think the dane is in physical danger or you are uncomfortable with something, excuse yourself for a minute and call either MAGDRL representative with questions.

How to make yourself popular with strange dogs

Always bring small soft treats with you. Ask the dog to perform the basics for treats.

What to do when things go wrong

Rule of thumb: Do not do anything you are uncomfortable with--ever.

If the dog won't let you near him..

Don't push the issue. Is he leashed? Sometimes that can make a difference. Sit quietly; do not make direct eye contact. Notice and report position of ears and tail. Does he settle when off leash, after several minutes?

If the dog is scared and backing away...

Do NOT approach. Never back a dog into a corner. Do not attempt to pet overhand—pet under chin, if at all possible. Sit quietly and let the dog relax and approach you. Do not make direct eye contact.

If the dog is obviously unhealthy and in terrible condition...

Continue with the evaluation. Tell them that a possible foster home just opened up this morning and you might be able to do something but you need to check with your coordinator. Step outside and call your coordinator for direction.

If the dog behaves aggressively...

Do not continue with the evaluation. Tell the shelter that MAGDRL is unable to accept dogs that we cannot safely transport or place. Tell them that the coordinator will call to talk with them further.

Shelters & Behavior

It is difficult, if not downright impossible, to get an accurate read on a dane in a shelter. Between the overwhelming noise and the distractions present, it is difficult to get a dane focused enough to evaluate properly. We can only ask that you do your best without putting yourself in danger.

For the best evaluation in a shelter situation, ask to take the dane outside or in a separate room, where distractions are fewer. Most shelters have some place to walk dogs or a visiting room that you can use.

A Word about Shelters & Rescue Organizations

Some shelters do not want to work with rescues. This is unfair to us but true nonetheless. If we act with courtesy and professionalism at all times, make an effort to work with them as well as for the dane, and make it difficult for them to find fault, we can slowly build a relationship of trust.

Even when we have a good relationship with a shelter, they will sometimes have a policy of trying to place the dane themselves before calling us. While this is not an ideal scenario, it is one that we face with many shelters. We continue to work with them and can provide support for the danes they adopt out. Leave information and brochures that they can provide to the adopters with the dane when adopted (included as a separate packet). Remember that the shelter, too, is doing the best they can with limited resources.

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Evaluation Questionnaire

Enter this info online at: www.padanerescue.com/volunteer/rescue_forms.htm

Date: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Owner's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Name of Dog: _____ Sex: _____ S/N? _____ Age: _____

Weight: _____ Height: _____ Color: _____ Ears Cropped? _____

Background

Any obedience training? _____

a. If so, what level? _____

b. Commands demonstrated: _____

Does the dog respond well to commands? No Yes Sometimes

Is the dog spayed/neutered? No Yes

Is the dog tattooed or micro chipped? No Yes Number: _____

Is the dog on any medications currently? (e.g., Heartworm preventative) No Yes

If so, for what conditions? _____

c. Dosages? _____

d. Lifelong? _____

Has the dog had any surgeries and/or medical conditions (e.g., HOD, bloat)? No Yes

If so, for what and when? _____

Is the dog current on all shots? No Yes

Can the dog see? No Yes

Can the dog hear? No Yes

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
EVALUATING A SHELTER DANE

Temperament

Does the dog respond well to other dogs – neutered/not neutered? No Yes

If not, what type of reaction is it? _____

a. Submissive or territorial? Submissive Territorial Explain: _____

b. Same Sex aggression? No Yes Unknown

Is the dog good with cats? No Yes Unknown Indoor only

Is the dog good with children? No Yes older than ____ yrs of age Unknown

Does it depend on age/size of child? No Yes No toddlers
 older than ____ yrs of age

Does the dog allow a physical exam? No Yes

If not, list areas dog is shy about (e.g., mouth, paws, ears, belly, etc.) _____

Does the dog have any behavioral problems – either admitted to or evidenced during the visit?

Does the dog appear to be well adjusted and loved, or neglected?

Appearance

How healthy does the dog appear on first glance? (e.g., too thin, too fat, shedding excessively, bald patches, etc.) _____

What type of food is the dog eating? _____

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
EVALUATING A SHELTER DANE

How much food is given per day? _____

a. How often is the dog fed per day, and in what quantities? _____

What other "treats" is the dog given? _____

Is the dog fed off an elevated platform? No Yes

Additional Questions

Is the current owner the first owner? No Yes

If not the first owner, how many previous owners has the dane had? _____

a. How long has the dog been with current owner? _

Is the dog house trained? No Yes

Is the dog crate trained? No Yes

Does the dog have free run of the house when the owners are not home? _____

If not where does the dog stay? _____

Does the dog travel well? No Yes

Does the dog get regular exercise? No Yes

Where, and in what form? _____

Why is the current owner interested in giving the dog up? _____

Where did they get their dog from? breeder rescue group humane society
 pet store Other _____

Does the dog have papers? No Yes

Has the owner contacted the breeder? No Yes

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
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Is the owner willing to part with crates, dishes, toys, etc. that "belong" to the dog? No

Yes

Vet Name, address, & number _____

*****If possible, please obtain copies of all VET records and other docs pertaining to the dane during the evaluation.*****

Overall Impression/Recommendations

Shelter Evaluation Checklist

Prerequisites

- A signed copy of the volunteer release form sent to a MAGDRL representative
- Verbal or written approval of Coordinator or Team Lead to evaluate the dane

What You'll Need

- Evaluation form
- a shelter packet if this is the first time you've visited this shelter
- a business card (can be for your coordinator)
- toys, food or blankets as a donation to the shelter—we need their support and help
- Some treats
- A collar, slip or buckle, and a leash
- Cell and home phone number for Coordinator or Team Lead
- Camera (digital preferred) to take pictures of the dane
- Online form completed within 24 hours of evaluation

What to Ask of the Shelter

- What vaccinations/medical care is provided to the dane by the shelter?
- Try to cat, dog and kid test at the shelter itself, since all three are likely to be present
- If they will spay/neuter the dane prior to us accepting him
- If they can hold the dane for a few days while we arrange foster care and transport

What to Leave Behind

- Children. Do not take children with you when evaluating an unknown dane
- Other dogs. Do not take dogs when evaluating an unknown dane. You don't want to expose your dane to any health or physical hazards that may exist.

Evaluation Tips

- Always bring an extra leash and collar, just in case.
- Write down mileage for tax purposes. Evaluation expenses are tax-deductible.
- If evaluating a shy dane, don't pat over head but under chin with palm up instead. This is much less threatening.
- On leash aggression and fence-fighting is common in a kennel situation. It does not always indicate a problem.
- Take dane out on a leash for a walk in a less busy area with room to move. Wait until she settles down a bit to begin the evaluation.

Section

4

Transporting a Dane

Transporting a great dane for MAGDRL consists of signing a release form, keeping the dane separate from other animals and children, and taking necessary precautions.

Transporting a Rescued Dane

(By Gail McKenney with input from Marilyn Church, Canine Behavior Specialist, and other experienced Dane Rescuers)

Introduction

This article was necessitated by a very sad experience in transporting a Dane from a shelter to a foster home, which resulted in multiple injuries to the transporter and the death of the Dane. To ensure that it never happens again, here are some basic “understandings” and rules, which all transporters should know and abide by – even those of us that have done it before.

First we must understand that this is a highly stressful situation for a Dane, particularly for those being removed from an animal shelter. We all can understand that a dog’s incarceration at a shelter is stressful, whether it comes from a loving, indifferent or cruel “home”--that “home” has given the Dane some small amount of security, even if it’s just familiarity with his/her environment.

To get an idea of how stressful, think of a child removed from his/her “home” by well-meaning, but completely unknown, Family Services staff and placed into an equally unknown, though well-meaning group foster home. Add to that the fact that these unknown “people” are actually of a different species (aliens?) than the child, and you get some idea of the stress the dog is under.

Now enters the “Transporter” about to take the Dane out of this foreign environment that he/she has, in all probability, not yet gotten used to. Because there is no one with whom

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he/she has any bond at all, he/she IS alone against a strange world. Even a well-socialized Dane (and rescue Danes usually are not) can lose it and become fear crazed. The operative word here is "SECURITY". The Dane must be given instant and continuous security if he/she is not to lose all sense of security and become a panicked, frightened individual. TAKE NOTE: This same reaction can occur with a Dane being taken from his/her home (although not so likely), so the same rules apply.

Transporters must be aware of, and follow, the "Rules" listed below. These are not all the rules that will help provide security, but these are the major ones (in no particular order):

- **A leash & collar** that will stay with the Dane from the shelter to the foster home. Be prepared to leave it with the Dane at the foster home to be picked up later if necessary. If you are practiced in using it, a Promise or Gentle Leader collar is recommended. A pronged collar is DEFINITELY not.
- Secure an **ID tag** on the collar that gives a telephone number to call if the Dane should get away from you. This tag doesn't need to be a MAGDRL tag. It can be yours, the shelters or any other source with a readily answerable phone.
- **A First-Aid kit.** The same as you would use for humans with the addition of a "stomach gas remedy," such as Phazyme, should the Dane begin showing signs of Bloat (panting, restlessness, head hanging down).
- Unless the Dane will ride in the back seat – that is cushioned with springs – **a mattress/thick sponge-rubber mat** should be placed on the floor of the vehicle to absorb road shock. Even if a crate is used, thick shock-absorbing material should be placed underneath the crate. The purpose is to minimize physical discomfort and stress.
- **Dog Treats.** Freeze-dried liver is a universal favorite, but also include some cheese or cooked hot dog in case you have to give the Dane a Phazyme.
- **A Supply of Bottled Water and a Water Dish.** Because of the differing chemicals in drinking water nowadays, tap water can be a physical stress factor.
- **Phone Numbers** for all people involved in the transport, in case of delays or other issues.
- **An old T-Shirt/Sock, well-worn by you (as well as a toy), to go with the Dane to his new home.** These can be used as "Common Threads" (no pun intended) to help the Dane adjust to new environments. – Don't use chew bones as they can easily cause physical upset in a stressed Dane. – Place these in the area the Dane will be transported in before you leave home to assure they're in place before the Dane is.

Young Children Should Not Be Part of a Transport

Arrange to have your children and dog(s) cared for while you are transporting the Dane. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should you bring your children or dog(s) along for the transport. Even if they are well-behaved and "dog-wise", they add an unnecessary stress factor. A dog-wise, QUIET older teen or adult is an acceptable companion.

Plan to have plenty of time to get acquainted with the Dane at the place he/she is currently being kept (home, shelter, vet's office – wherever). This can be as short as half an hour or as long as two hours – however long it takes to establish an initial bonding with the Dane. Remember, the Dane, not you, determines the amount of time needed.

Meeting the Dane to be transported

- Before you even meet the Dane, take a few minutes to talk to the caregiver he/she is most familiar with IN THE DANE'S SIGHT/HEARING. Anyone accompanying you should also be in on this discussion.
- Have that caretaker place the collar on the Dane. This collar is to remain on the Dane until he/she is comfortable enough in his/her new home for the new caretakers to easily remove it. The reason for this rule is that collars are another stress factor; they are potentially hurtful and the Dane needs to have some trust with the person placing it on them or removing it from them. This is particularly true with Promise/Gentle Leader collars, and the Dane may need much positive reinforcement (i.e.: voice and treats) to accept them.
- Have the caretaker remove him/her from the crate/run/room (wherever the Dane is being housed which he/she might feel attached to as his/her territory).
- Have the caretaker bring the Dane to a more neutral, roomy space to meet him/her but DO NOT make the first advance to the Dane. Let him/her come to you. Use treats or your voice alone to affect this. Don't be surprised if the Dane doesn't take the treat. This is a sign of stress. You will just have to work harder (by voice and posture) to gain the Dane's initial trust.
- Once you and the caretaker think the Dane is fairly comfortable with you, take him/her for a walk around the facility if possible. If it is not possible, stay a while and talk to the Dane. When he/she seems comfortable enough, gently pet him/her. Above all, let the Dane be your guide, and don't rush him/her.
- Once the Dane is comfortable with you, introduce him/her to your companion using the above procedures.

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- Check with the caretaker to determine when the Dane last defecated/urinated. If he/she defecated then he/she is usually fine for the journey. However, try to get the Dane to urinate before beginning the journey. Sometimes it is very difficult to get bitches to urinate on lead; however they can usually hold it for hours. Give him/her the chance to urinate every time you stop for a while.
- Give the Dane a drink of water before he/she gets in the vehicle – stress can be very thirsty. Refusal to drink is also a more serious stress indicator than refusal to eat treats. It means you have more work to do to reduce the Dane's stress level.
- Have the caretaker put the Dane into the vehicle for you, take the leash off and keep it handy to get to in the front seat. Occasionally, a Dane is afraid of riding. It is best for the person that knows him/her best to find this out and persuade the Dane to get in. If a Dane is afraid of the crate you are using, leave it and pick it up on your return trip.

Transporting the Dane

Once the Dane enters your car, you have become his/her caretaker. The responsibility for this Dane is now entirely yours. While this shift in Caretakership is the first, it's not the last in this journey. You can expect the Dane to be anxious, as we would be given a change in environment over which we have no control. Your **most important** job is to gain the Dane's acceptance. A car ride, given the close proximity of occupants, is a great opportunity to bond with the Dane – providing you ensure the Dane's security. To do this:

- Make sure that you (and a companion if available) speak quietly, in "happy" non-shrill voices to each other and the Dane
- If you use a radio/cassette/CD player, make sure the music is soft and soothing. Classical music – without marches – and soft rock stations are ideal. Loud, raucous music – particularly with heavy bass – is not.
- Make sure the windows, if open, are high enough to prevent the Dane from putting his/her head out. Flying objects, including insects, can be extremely injurious to eyes, nose and ears – why else a windshield? Additionally, Danes in the bonding process may become protective of the car. This way they can bark at passers-by but can't bite.
- If you have to stop to let the Dane out for any reason, pull off the main road onto a quiet side street with little or no traffic. Make sure the leash is on his/her collar BEFORE you let that Dane out. After all, you don't know how traffic-wise the Dane is. Those that aren't traffic-wise may panic at the sound of passing vehicles and bolt.
- If you have to stop to let one of yourselves out, be sure to park in a shaded area during the spring and fall. Remember that even these times of year, even though the temperature is pleasantly cool outside, the sun is still strong and can make the car unbearably hot inside.

Transferring a Dane Mid-Journey

The new transporter will now become the Dane's THIRD caretaker in less than a day. If the second caretaker has done a good job in bonding with the Dane during the first stage of the journey, then the transfer stress will be greatly lessened, BUT, make no mistake, in all probability it is higher than when the second caretaker picked him/her up initially. Don't be surprised if the Dane looks/acts confused – as we would be given the same circumstances. Therefore the third caretaker must be prepared for a harder job in gaining the Dane's acceptance.

Initially, follow the rules above for *Preparing to Transport*. If you've forgotten something, hopefully the second caretaker can loan you his/hers for later return. However, as we all know, it's always possible that the second caretaker forgot to bring all the "stuff"

Following the rules above for *Meeting the Dane to be Transported* will, in all likelihood take longer than it did initially – be prepared for this. To lessen the stress of transfer, make sure that the transfer location is a quiet place, such as a roadside rest stop away from other human/auto traffic. Never arrange to transfer the Dane in a crowded, hustle-bustle area like a shopping mall. If there is no convenient quiet area, then meet the second caretaker in a crowded area and follow them to a quiet area to transfer the dog. The important point here is to rule out, as much as possible, all noise and activity that will detract from your ability to gain the Dane's acceptance. Remember, the time needed is INDIVIDUAL to the DANE – not to you. Don't rush it. Your safety, as well as the Dane's, could well depend on how successful the transfer of caretakership is HERE.

A Note to BOTH Caretakers:

Make sure that all toys/"common threads" are placed in the third caretaker's vehicle before the Dane. Hopefully, these will induce the Dane to, more willingly, get into a strange place.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, the second caretaker must take deliberate care to control both his/her body language and tone of voice in transferring the Dane. Because, as you know, dogs are keenly aware of these human behaviors, it is imperative that the second caretaker be relaxed and uses a "happy" voice when encouraging a Dane into his third new environment. This "rule" is vital, not just when talking to the Dane, but also to the third caretaker. Often a handshake or a hug between caretakers, in the Dane's view, is helpful. These actions will give the Dane the sense of trust between caretakers that can go a long way to helping him/her to accept his/her THIRD caretaker.

The End of the Journey

This is not a function of dropping the Dane off and running. It is the transfer of caretaking responsibility from you to the new home, be it foster, kennel, adopter or vet hospital. After all, this home will be the Dane's THIRD OR FOURTH caretaker in just ONE day. Therefore, to the

extent possible, follow the rules for *Meeting the Dane to be Transported*. The Dane will be happier and so will you.

A Note to the Foster and Adopting Homes

Hopefully, you're familiar with the above rules for *Meeting the Dane to be Transported*. They're applicable to you too. There is an optimum order of introducing dogs into a new family **while the second or third caretaker is still there**. Many of you know it, but for those that don't, here it is:

1. Select one adult to initially greet the Dane (usually the one that will have primary care of him/her). Have the transporter bring the Dane into your backyard first and take off the leash so that he/she may relieve himself/herself if needed and stretch their legs. Do not approach the Dane; rather call him/her to you. Don't be upset if he/she doesn't come right away; after all, the Dane needs to explore first.
2. Next, call out the second adult to meet the Dane using the same procedure. If there are older children (i.e.: over the age of puberty which dogs will accept as adults) introduce them one at a time using the same procedure. Then bring the Dane in and let him/her "sniff out the joint." When he/she has explored, it's time to introduce him/her to the existing family dog(s).
3. There are several good techniques for doing this but all essentially should be outdoors, in a roomy, but secure (fenced) environment, under a controlled (usually leashed) environment and one at a time.
4. When the dogs have settled down, now it is time to introduce the kids, using the same procedure as 1 and 2 above. If you have cats, make sure they have plenty of places to hide and let the dog off leash to investigate. The cats are going to determine when, where and how they greet dogs – not the dogs.
5. Above all, for the first few days, don't crowd the Dane. He/she is going to need time to settle in, so give him/her plenty of space to explore and let him/her do it, providing of course that he/she doesn't inadvertently break a household rule which he/she must abide by, such as not getting on the furniture or into the trash. Use positive correction to let him/her immediately (yet gently and firmly) know that this behavior is a no-no. Although it is hard, don't go to the Dane – call him/her and let the Dane come to you. If he/she doesn't want to, don't force it. The Dane will come, eagerly, as soon as he/she gets all the strange smells, sounds, rooms, furniture, household routines – and people – in a manageable order.

Transport Checklist

Prerequisites

- A signed copy of the volunteer release form sent to a MAGDRL representative
- An evaluation of the dog

What You'll Need to Bring

- A tether (not nylon) or crate to safely confine the dane during transport
- Some treats
- A collar, slip or buckle, and a leash
- Patience
- Cell and home phone numbers of everyone involved in the transport
- Surrender & Release form (just in case)

IMPORTANT

Regardless of the evaluation previously completed on this dane, if you are uncomfortable with the dog or feel in any way unable to handle the dog, do NOT complete the transport. Call your coordinator to discuss the next step.

What You'll Need to Collect

- Any forms required (ALL VET RECORDS and other docs about dane, including proof of rabies)
- MAGDRL MUST have a signed Surrender & Release form or the dane is not legally ours.

What to Expect

- A scared and confused dane
- Changes to the schedule, delays

What to Leave Behind

- Children. Do not take children with you when transporting an unknown dane
- Other dogs. Do not take dogs unless all can be safely crated and separated for the duration of the ride
- Expectations of a smooth, no problems transport. In your dreams.

Transportation Tips

- Do not force a scared and shaking dane into or out of the car. Coax him out using treats. Do not reach for a dane who is backed into a corner—again, coax the dane out into the open.
- Always bring an extra leash and collar, just in case.
- Write down mileage for tax purposes. Transportation expenses are tax-deductible.
- Consider buying a bottle of Bach's Rescue Remedy for transports. It is a flower essence that "takes the edge off" some dogs and helps them to cope better with the chaos. Four drops on the tongue or in the water supply and the dane is good to go. RR can be found at most health food stores.

Other Forms You Might Need

- Evaluating a Shelter or OTI Dane, Sections 3 and 4.

release and surrender form

PA/DE: 610-983-9445 PO Box 123 Kemblesville, PA 19347	NY: 518-875-6816 169 Charleston St. Esperance, NY 12066
MD/DC: 410.945.5454 P.O. Box 4392, Baltimore, MD 21223	NJ: 973-334-1628 P.O. Box 534 ,Boonton, NJ 07005
Northern VA: 703-644-8009 P.O. Box 1031, Sterling, VA 20167	VA (Tidewater Area): 757-464-4655 1440 Maharis Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455
WV: 304.725.3111 PO Box 1726 Inwood WV 25428	NC: 704-866-0858 P.O. Box 223, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Terms of Release and Surrender for Adoption

1. I/we the undersigned, hereby IRREVOCABLY surrender to the Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League, Inc. for placement and adoption, a Great Dane described as follows:

Call Name: _____ Sex: _____ Color: _____ Age: _____

2. **Representations And Warranties** - We hereby represent and warrant to Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League, Inc., (hereafter referred to as MAGDRL), its agents, successors and assigns that the undersigned are the sole owner(s) of the above described Great Dane. That I/we have full power and authority to surrender this animal for adoption, that I/we are the only person(s) who are listed as registered owner(s) of this animal with the AKC, that no other person or persons' signatures are required to effect a valid transfer of AKC registration papers on this animal, and that no other person or persons have any legal or equitable ownership interest in this animal.

3. **Pertinent Information** - We agree to provide MAGDRL with any documents and all other available information concerning this Great Dane which might assist in matching this Great Dane with the proper prospective adoptive home, including health and immunization records, pedigree, name and address of breeder or other person from whom the dog was acquired, and information concerning this Great Dane's history.

4. **Consent For Contact** - We understand that MAGDRL may contact the breeder or previous owner of the Great Dane to provide additional background information, or otherwise assist in locating a suitable adoptive home and hereby give our consent to these efforts and agree, in good faith, to cooperate fully with these efforts.

5. **Surrender of Rights** - By executing this document, we understand that we are giving up forever all right, title and interest to the above-mentioned Great Dane

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and we further understand that all future decisions regarding placement of this animal will be made solely by MAGDRL. We also understand that if this Great Dane is later found to have such an unpredictable temperament as to be unsuitable for any placement, or if the dog's quality of life is substantially impaired, in the opinion of a competent veterinarian, by a chronic, irreversible, painful condition, MAGDRL will have the sole right and discretion to utilize euthanasia.

6. I/we, the undersigned, hereby specifically and forever release, and hold MAGDRL harmless, from any and all liability arising from the placement for adoption by MAGDRL, of the above-mentioned Great Dane, or for any other actions taken by MAGDRL in accordance with, and reliance on, the representations we have made, and the authorization we have provided under the terms of this document. We agree to indemnify and hold harmless MAGDRL for any damages suffered and expenses incurred (including legal fees) in defending any legal action, whether for bodily injuries or death, property damage, breach of contract, or otherwise, whether instituted by us or by any other person or persons including the adoptive owners, arising out of or as a consequence of the placement of the Great Dane, in reliance on the authorizations, representations and warranties we have made in this agreement.

7. I/we certify that this dog is not possessed of any dangerous or vicious propensities, and that I/we have not willfully concealed any material information about the dog regarding temperament, health, age, or behavior.

THIS IS A LEGALLY BINDING DOCUMENT FOR THE IRREVOCABLE SURRENDER OF YOUR GREAT DANE FOR PLACEMENT TO AN ADOPTIVE HOME. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY BEFORE SIGNING. TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS YOU NEED TO FULLY CONSIDER THIS IMPORTANT DECISION.

I have read the preceding and agree to the conditions set forth this ____ day of _____, 20____.
____ Donation to assist with placement (tax-deductible).

We are a non-profit organization that depends strictly on donations to continue being able to assist with Danes needing help – your contribution is appreciated.

Signature of owner

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

This dog is being surrendered for the following reason(s)

When surrendering your dog

We ask that you do the following in order to make this turnover as easy on your Dane as possible ...

- ✓ Bring along a 40 lb. bag of the food your dog has been eating. This will minimize digestive issues.
- ✓ Include any toys, supplies, and bedding. Things that are familiar to him and smell like you will make the transition easier on your dog.
- ✓ Take the time to write up information about your Dane – what are his likes, dislikes, positive or negative traits. Be as open as honest as you can. What are the things you liked best about him? What drove you nuts? The more information we have, the more quickly a good home can be found for him.
- ✓ If you have been crating your dog, please consider donating the crate with the dog. We will be more than happy to send you a receipt so you can claim the crate as a donation to our non-profit group. Having the familiarity of his own crate is one more way to make the unfamiliar foster home less stressful for your dog.

Thank you for taking the time to do these things. Since you contacted us, we know that you want to find the best permanent home available for your Dane. The more quickly he can acclimate into the foster home, and the more information we have about your dog, the better job we can do.

Section

5

Conducting a Phone Interview

Phone interviews are an important part of the application process and often provide insight into whether the applicant will be a good home for one of our danes.

How to Conduct a Phone Interview

1. Call the applicant.
 - If this is a long distance call, ask them to call you back. Explain that we are a charity and this is a long-distance call. Most people will happily call you right back.
 - If the caller is a child, tell him that he cannot legally sign an adoption agreement. Ask to speak with his parents (9 times out of 10 they don't know he called and don't want a Dane).
 - If the caller appears hesitant to answer your questions, explain why you are asking the questions: "We try to place the Danes into backgrounds they are familiar with. May we ask you a few questions?"
2. Start the conversation out slowly by asking questions such as whether they've been to the website, if they've reviewed the adoption procedures, etc.
3. Explain our purpose to the applicant:
 - Provide info about the breed to the public
 - Help owners resolve any problems they have

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- Most Important – find homes for Danes that have been given up or abandoned. If they want to know why Danes are given up or abandoned, tell them the stated reasons may be numerous (moving, divorce, child has allergies, etc.) but bottom line is that the dog no longer fits into their lifestyle.
4. Explain our adoption procedure to the applicant:
 - Phone Interview
 - Application
 - Vet Check
 - Home Check
 - Timeframe from start to finish is 2-4 weeks.
 5. Ask whether the applicant has any questions about the info you just provided or about the process in general.
 6. Go through the telephone questionnaire, asking as many questions as possible before talking about our rescue and procedures.
 - Ask leading questions. Don't lead the caller into the right answer; allow them to tell you what's really going on.
 - Ask about fencing right up front. Explain our fencing policy and, if applicable, the things required for an exception.
 7. Email the Telephone Interview Questionnaire to the Coordinator or use the online form to submit the questionnaire. This will become part of the applicant's permanent record.

Introducing MAGDRL: What to say

We have been in existence for over 21 years. We are strictly a volunteer group, although IRS recognizes us as a charity. We don't have a kennel of our own. We find out about Danes looking for homes in several ways: (1) we have a working relationship with a shelter and they call us when a dane is available at their shelter. (2) Owners have heard of us or find out about us on the web and call to turn in a dane for a variety of reasons. If we accept a dane into our adoption program, we typically place him in a foster home, which gives us the opportunity to evaluate the dog's behavior, correct any medical problems we find and spay/neuter. If there are no foster homes available, we will sometimes ask the owner to foster the dane for us until he can be adopted and sometimes we will place the dane in a commercial kennel.

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We've found that it is best for the adopting family and the dane if he is placed in an environment that fits his personality and the adopter's lifestyle. So we ask callers to complete a short questionnaire giving us an idea of their lifestyle – the kind of information you've given me. We do a home visit and reference check. Then we work with you to find a Dane that fits into your way of living. We will refer you to all likely Danes and ask that you visit them because, while we can describe the dog physically, their personalities are too individual. Only the applicant can determine if he/she likes the dog. We ask that you talk with the foster home and determine whether the dane is a good match before going to visit the dog. We don't want you to be swayed by a pretty face and end up wanting a dog who won't fit your lifestyle.

When a suitable dog has been located, we ask the applicant to complete a legally binding agreement which says essentially that they will keep the Dane as a companion house dog, will never chain him and if they have to give the dog up, they will return the Dane to the League. This is a tax-deductible donation. If the Dane has not been spayed or neutered at time of placement (unusual), we do require it. There is a \$50 deposit that will be refunded if written proof is submitted within 30 days to verify the sterilizing has been done. Do you have any questions/problems with this procedure?

If the caller has questions/problems, answer them. If they haven't already filled out an application, ask if they would like us to mail them one.

Important

Please refer to **Appendix A** for a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** and Answers. Many of the questions you'll be asked during a phone interview are answered in the Appendix.

How to tell if the family is not a suitable adoption candidate

If at any point during the conversation you feel the caller is not a suitable Dane owner, you can dissuade them from adopting – usually because they:

Applicant wants an outdoor dog

Danes do not do well in extremes of local temperature. They have short, sparse hair and no subcutaneous fat layer; therefore, they are prone to heat prostration in the summer and exposure in the winter. In addition, all of our dogs must be placed as housedogs. If they are interested in an outdoor dog, suggest researching a heavy coated dog.

Applicant plans to keep the dog in a separate area with only limited contact with the family

Danes are very dependant on people. They are typically soft-tempered and can become destructive and/or fearful if kept away from people. Our dogs must be kept as part of family. Consider a more independent breed, such as a terrier or sight hounds.

Applicant wants a guard (protection) dog

Danes do not make good guard dogs – a fact known to the military and police – because they are bred for flight rather than fight; in other words, to run rather than attack. Their natural inclination is to like people and, as a result, they aren't good at protecting property. In fact, they are likely to welcome intruders and show them where the "goodies" are kept. Naturally, they will protect their family if the family is physically threatened—all dogs will try. Therefore, the best "protection" dog in this case is one that is well socialized with people. This way the dog gets to know how people behave and can discern between "horseplay" and a serious intent to harm a family member. Lastly, as one K-9 Corps director explained, you can train a Dane to chase somebody and knock him down but before you get to the man, the Dane has helped him up to run again. Don't refer to any breed. Recommend researching an electronic security system, which will cost less and is more reliable.

Applicant is adopting a dane for teenage or younger children

These children will supposedly have primary care of dog. Kids are forgetful and unreliable and chances are the parents don't want the responsibility.

Applicant has no fence, refuses to fence, and doesn't qualify for an exception to our fencing policy

Obviously this doesn't apply to apartment dwellers who, because they don't have a yard, are more reliable about walking the dog than callers who do have yards. This is a particular problem with rural callers, either because they don't know or won't admit that:

- b. states/municipalities have strict leash laws
- c. dogs can be shot on sight for running stock
- d. a high percentage of dog napping occurs in the country
- e. Danes cannot "survive" off the land – aren't good hunters and can't take the climate
- f. lost dogs – Danes especially – get so frightened that they can run from people – even their owners – who are trying to catch them.

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Danes should not be chained. Dogs become defensive on chains and could cause the dogs – any breeds – to become fear biters, in addition to the potential for accidental strangulation.

- **Applicant cannot afford to fence** - Lastly, for people who can't afford regular fencing or are renting, suggest use of wire stock fencing (vinyl covered is the best). It's usually 4 ft. high, can be stapled to trees, house etc or affixed to metal posts in ground. Therefore it's easy to erect, less unsightly than chain link and best of all relatively inexpensive. If an applicant can't afford to fence, can s/he afford a dane, with all of the associated health and food costs?

Applicant doesn't want to spay/neuter (or wants to breed dogs).

All our dogs must be spayed/neutered. The only exception made is when the surgery would jeopardize the life of the dog because of age/health. Additionally, spay/neuter does **not** change the basic temperament of a dog if performed after sexual maturity and would, in fact, prolong the life of a dog because it reduces the risk of sex-organ illness – cancers, enlarged prostates, mammary gland infections, etc.

Applicant thinks Danes are status symbols or show how "macho" they are

Danes are soft tempered and simply cannot take heavy handling (could result in foot chewing, bloat and torsion). Status symbol seekers are not concerned with the best interest of the dane.

Past dog history is poor (dogs lost, stolen, hit by car, given away, etc.)

This is a "judgment call" on your part. If the history is moderate or reasonable (e.g., had to move, gave dog to friends whom caller can name and know dog's current status. In this case, ask caller to list the person to whom he gave the dog as reference on application. Another example: dog got out of yard, caller spent much time and effort to locate and can tell the interviewer what they did to find dog).

Quiz them closely on what they'd do now to prevent the same thing from happening to their adopted Dane (particularly necessary with military or State Department people who move a lot). Explain that MAGDRL does check vet references to make sure those current pets are well cared for. If their history is very bad (e.g., had several dogs – with no good reasons for dogs demise or give-up), tell the caller frankly that their history is so bad that we cannot adopt to them. Call your Coordinator, explain the issue and ask that the family be placed on our DNA list.

Applicant cannot afford to care for a dane

Sometimes it is clear that an applicant cannot afford the care and maintenance of a great dane, no matter how much they'd like to or how much they would love the dog. Ask how

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A PHONE INTERVIEW

much the applicant expects to spend on a dane each month, what they suppose the cost of regular heartworm/flea and tick meds are, what they expect annual vet bills to total. Talk to them about how much it costs to feed and care for a dane. It's a good idea to give them some idea of the monthly cost (e.g., for northern areas, cost would be approximately \$150 per month).

Phone Interview Checklist

Prerequisites

- A signed copy of the volunteer release form sent to a MAGDRL representative
- A good grasp of the answers to the questions listed in Appendix A.

What You'll Need

- Copy of the phone interview questionnaire
- As much information as is available about the person you are interviewing

Interviewing Tips

- Ask open-ended, not leading questions: What type of fence do you have, not is your yard fenced. Where will the dog stay, not will the dog be a house dog, etc.).
- Listen closely for contradictions. For example, caller tells you their yard is fenced, but previously said last dog was chained; caller agrees to spay dog but last dog wasn't because they bred her; caller says they are home during the day but no one is ever home when you call during the day.
- Give caller time to talk. It is not necessary to ask questions in the specific order given—it is best to work questions into conversation at appropriate intervals.
- Keep control of the conversation—some callers will talk for hours if you give them a chance. Steer the conversation toward the topics you want to cover.

Telephone Interview Questionnaire

Enter this info online at: www.padanerescue.com/volunteer/rescue_forms.htm

Date: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Applicant's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Where did they hear about MAGDRL? Newspaper TV Show Flyer
 Event Adopter Adopted from us Other Rescue Other

Name of place or
paper: _____

Have they had Danes before? No Yes If so what happened to the dane(s)?

What types of dogs have they owned as adults and what happened to them? _____

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A PHONE INTERVIEW

Do They Currently Own Any Pets? Yes No

Type/Breed	Gender	Age	Spayed/Neutered	How Long?
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Why do they want a Dane? _____

Where will they keep the Dane? _____

If outside, will it be in pen, dog house, on chain, etc.? _____

a. If inside, will it be in specific areas only (basement, laundry room, etc.) or free run of house?

Where will Dane sleep? _____

What kind of fence do they have(rail, stockade, chain link, etc.) ? _____

How High is the Fence? _____

a. Does the fence completely enclose the backyard? _____

b. How big is the yard? _____

Do they own or rent? If rent, does lease stipulate large dogs? _____

Note
 Make sure they understand that we will need to see an "allowance" in writing prior to home check if they rent.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A PHONE INTERVIEW

Are interior stairs covered with slip resistant tread? No Yes

How many people in family? _____

How many people in family? If children, what are ages and sex? If no children, are there plans to have any in the future. _____

Are any family members allergic to dogs? No Yes

If yes, what is their plan to be able to keep a dog in their home? _____

Do both adults work? No Yes part-time

If so what are their hours? _____

How long will dog be left alone? _____

Note:

You can estimate this from above but get them to verify estimate. If dog will be alone more than 6 hours (the maximum time recommended without dog being able to go outside to eliminate) explain ways to get him out (doggy door, dog walker; retired persons and pre-teens are good sources).

How do they feel about crate training? _____

Are they interested in a male or female, or does it matter? _____

Note:

Ensure that they know about our policy of not doing same sex adoptions.

Will you agree to have all family members present at the home evaluation?

No Yes
Why? _____

Additional Questions for Potential Foster Home

How would they integrate a foster dog with their current pets? _____

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A PHONE INTERVIEW

How would they deal with a dog's negative behavior? (give an example like counter surfing,
trash can diving, or resource guarding) _____

What would they do if a foster dog soiled the house? _____

Is their home set up so they can separate a foster dog from their own pets? _____

Please feel free to add any additional comments on a separate sheet.

Did you send them, or direct them to, an application? No Yes

Name of Interviewer: _____

Section

6

Conducting a Vet Check

The vet check is a good indicator in determining how well an applicant will care for a dane. It requires a phone call to the vet office and the submittal of an online form with results to the Coordinator.

How to conduct a vet check

1. With information in hand, call the vet office.
 - Tell them who you are, who you represent, and that you are doing a vet check for a prospective adopter. Then give them the info required and complete the questionnaire.
2. Send the Coordinator an email with the results of the call.

What may be a red flag?

- animals on the vet record that weren't on the application
- no annual exam
- no heartworm (this may or may not be a flag but it begs some questions)
- Dogs hit by cars, dogs in dog fights, strange ways to die, especially if there's a pattern. Accidents happen but if an owner has had 2 dogs die by car, there's obviously a danger in the environment and we most likely wouldn't place a dane there
- Vet has no record of family

What is a good indicator?

- vet techs know family by name and by name of dog
- they've nursed a dog through cancer or stuck by him through a debilitating disease

Vet Check Checklist

Prerequisites

- A signed copy of the volunteer release form sent to a MAGDRL representative

What You'll Need

- Vet check form
- Applicant's vet information and pet history

Vet Check Tips

- If the vet has no record of the applicant, check by address or phone number. Sometimes data changes.
- If the last pet died more than 2 years ago, chances are the vet records have been deleted.
- Sometimes the vet techs will remember more about the applicant than the vet will. Check with them first.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A VET CHECK

Vet Check Questionnaire

Enter this info online at: www.padanerescue.com/volunteer/rescue_forms.htm

Date: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Applicant's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Vet Clinic Name: _____ Phone: _____

Vet Clinic Address: _____

Questions

Name and type of animals listed at the vet's office: _____

Last vet visit? _____ Reason for visit: _____

Spayed or neutered? _____

Last annual exam? _____ Last time vaccinations were given? _____

Dogs current on heartworm preventative? Yes No

Any dogs/animals that died? Yes No

Of what? _____

If treatable, what was done to extend the life of the animal, if anything? _____

Additional comments:

Section

7

Conducting a Home Check

The home check is another important step in the approval process. It requires you to travel to the applicant's home, talk to them about danes, inspect the home for hazards to the dane and to the family's valuables and, most importantly, observe how the family interacts with your dane.

What purpose does a home check serve?

1. It gives MAGDRL volunteers a chance to verify that the home is a safe one for one of our Danes.
2. It gives us the opportunity to “feel out” exactly what the applicant expect Dane ownership to be like, especially if they have never before shared their lives with one of these Gentle Giants.
3. It establishes a rapport between a MAGDRL volunteer and the Potential Adopters.

How to conduct a home check

1. Call the applicant to schedule a home check.
 - Make sure everyone in the family, including children, will be present at the visit.
 - During the initial contact, explain that during the home check, you will bring your dane so that they can see how big a dane is in their house. If they'd like, they can prepare a list of questions and be prepared to discuss any concerns they may have—you can review those during the visit.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A HOME CHECK

- If the applicant seems to be a good candidate, you can ask them to email you a list of danes they are interested in prior to the home check. You can then find out more about these danes and go over their choices at the home check.
2. Travel to the home to conduct the home check, dane in tow.
 - It is best if more than one volunteer visits the home so that we get a more robust take on the home. Sometimes this is not possible and a lone volunteer must conduct the visit. Always be safe. If you are uncomfortable, contact your coordinator and discuss your concerns.
 3. Introduce your dane to the pets in the home.
 - Consider meeting on lead outside and walking your dane and the new dogs in together. Introduce slowly.
 - Do not put your dane at risk. If you are uncomfortable with the existing dogs, ask the family to crate, gate and separate their dog from your dane.
 - This is a good time to explain how to introduce new dogs into a pack and talk about integrating slowly.
 - Read the Introductions during the home check section for tips on introducing your dane to other pets and people at the home.
 4. Introduce your dane to the family.
 - It is certainly easiest to tell how the entire family is going to react to a dane if you allow your dane to be herself. Let her lean on them, drink and slobber on them, sit on them, wag that tail on their coffee table, do what danes do best.
 5. Conduct the home check using the Home Check form. Address the issues in the What to address during the home check section on page 51 .
 6. Fill out the online home check results form within 24 hours of conducting the home check.
 - INCLUDE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANY THOUGHTS YOU HAVE and click submit.

What to address during the home check

Point out hazards

Be professional and matter of fact about potential hazards. Explain about the glass coffee tables, the exposed wires, the breakables at tail level. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss what kinds of behavior to expect of danes, talk about bouncy vs. calm danes, and explain the destruction they can cause if not integrated into the family and kept occupied. In addition, it is easy for the family to see what the dane can reach and what may pose a hazard to the dane and to their valuables.

Talk about health issues

The home visit is also a good time to discuss some of the health issues that are prevalent in danes: cardiac problems; bone diseases such as Pano, OCD and HOD; BLOAT; hip dysplasia. Explain that a bigger dog means a bigger vet bill. Talk about the relatively short lifespan of the dane: 7-11 yrs on average. Ask them if they've researched the breed. If they haven't, we can provide them with Internet links and book recommendations. They should be aware of what it means to be a dane owner.

Also discuss the need to find a vet who is familiar with danes and big dogs. If a dane bloats, it is important that their vet is experienced and can address it quickly and efficiently. It is a life/death situation and the family must have the utmost confidence in their chosen vet.

Talk about feeding

Discuss the need to feed high-quality kibble (dry dog food). You can mention that puppies should not EVER be fed puppy food, regardless of what their vet may recommend. Proper protein levels for a growing dane are between 22-25 % with a phosphorus to calcium ratio of 1:1. Explain that quality kibble may cost more upfront but that the dane uses more of it and, therefore, eats less of it. Cost evens out and the dane is better for it.

You can suggest elevated feeding and explain that it may help alleviate bloat. An inexpensive alternative to raised feeding bowls is the use of large plastic storage bins. Cut 1-2 holes in the top and drop the stainless steel bowls in for a nice feeder. Also, plant stands are a decent alternative for elevated feeders. Stainless steel bowls should be used instead of plastic to help cut down on germs.

Talk about crating/gating

Crating or gating a dane in a safe, confined area is an important training tool. If they adopt a dane who has separation anxiety or is destructive when bored, they MUST be willing to crate or safely confine the dane in a small area such as a kitchen. Crating/gating provides boundaries that can sooth a dane and render him unable to cause havoc in the house

when alone. People use playpens to safely confine babies who would otherwise wander and possibly get into dangerous situations: consider the crate a playpen for a dog.

Talk about vacation

Where will the family keep the dane while they vacation? Danes do not do well in kennels for long periods of time. They also may not do well left alone in the house with occasional visits by neighbors. They are, ultimately people-oriented and may become anxious if left alone for too long. Best option is to hire a pet sitter to stay overnight or find a friend willing to watch the dane for them.

Discuss the type of dane they are interested in

What kind of dane is the family interested in adopting? See if that meshes with the kind of dane YOU think will fit their lifestyle. Sometimes people want a puppy or a bouncy 2 yr old because they're cute and young. But maybe they have a 10 yr old grumpy shihszu or are very sedentary and quiet people—it's not really going to work well. We won't stress out other animals in the house and the family will not (regardless of what they think they'll do) totally change their lifestyle just to accommodate their desire for a young dane.

Most importantly

Keep pushing the fact that they need to KNOW about danes. It's a great breed but danes have a lot of problems and they need to be aware of good and bad.

Topics to Discuss

The home check is the time to talk about Dane behavior and to honestly discuss issues that may arise. Consider this an educational experience for the potential adopter. Depending on the home, you may want to take note of and discuss the consequences of some of the items listed in this section.

Please note:

These are things to discuss only—they may or may not affect the outcome of the home evaluation. The fact that a home has white carpets or a lot of exposed glassware does not mean they'll be denied. It does mean that you need to explain about dane tails and happy wags, about muddy paw prints, and more.

Is it a Dane-friendly Environment?

Talk about the hazards to a dane and to their possessions.

- Exposed wires

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CONDUCTING A HOME CHECK

- Kid's toys (they'll become Dane toys)
- Expensive china or glassware at tail or nose level or precariously perched
- Crate in safe place
- White carpets
- Really nice furniture
- Cleaning or auto supplies within Dane reach
- How well cared for other animals are
- Fence in decent shape
- Potential destruction of a beautifully landscaped yard (I can testify to destruction of gardens)
- Expectations of people—do they expect an “Angel Dane”? Slobber? Extreme shedding?

Kids

- How they interact with other animals/children
- If they listen to parents
- Inappropriate behavior of children with dog. Throwing things at the dog, pulling hard on ears and tail, running at the dog, running toward quarreling dogs: these are all serious issues. Please note them in detail on the home check form itself.

Feeding

- Premium quality kibble is important
- Raised feeding bowls—although one recent study suggested that raised bowls do not have a positive effect on bloat, eating/drinking at chest level may be more comfortable
- If more than one dog, separate feeding may be a good idea

Home Check Checklist

Prerequisites

- A signed copy of the volunteer release form sent to a MAGDRL representative
- Application complete and with Coordinator
- Vet check complete
- Phone Interview Complete

What You'll Need

- A Dane, if at all possible
- A copy of the home check form
- All family members present, all pets present

Home Check Tips

- Bring your dane
- Bring a friend or another volunteer
- Bring lots of information: prepare to educate.
- Would you trust these people to care for your dog if you were going away on vacation?
- Do they claim their current dog lives indoors, yet there is no fur anywhere, and a doghouse with a well-worn path secluded in the backyard?
- If you point out potential problems/hazards, is the family open to education, or do they take offense to what you say?
- Please bring up any concerns that you have to your Coordinator--your input is important!

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A HOME CHECK

Home Check Questionnaire

Enter this info online at: www.padanerescue.com/volunteer/rescue_forms.htm

Date: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Applicant's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Location

Where is house located? City Country Suburbs

Is property close to or on main street or highway? No Yes

Acreage? No Yes

If yes, how much _____

Fenced yard? No Yes

If yes, what type of fence _____

Dog runs? No Yes

Swimming pools? No Yes

If Yes, does it have steps or ladder? No Yes

a. Is pool closed off from rest of property? No Yes

Leash law? No Yes

Will they obey it? No Yes

Household

Other animals? No Yes

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A HOME CHECK

Type/Breed	Gender	Age	Spayed/Neutered	How Long?
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

If yes, how are they treated? _____

Children? No

If yes, how are they treated? _____

a. Ages of children? ____

Dogs next door? No Yes

If yes, how are they treated? _____

a. Do dogs in neighborhood run loose? No Yes

b. If yes, what condition are they in? _____

Responsibility for animal

Is there an adult who will take responsibility for animal's welfare? No Yes

Does it appear the welfare will be left to an irresponsible child or adult? No Yes

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A HOME CHECK

Do they understand never to leave dog in unlocked car? No Yes

Do they understand never to leave dog in car in summer? No Yes

Will they supervise animal at all times when animal is outside? No Yes

Will they keep animal's vaccinations current? Heart worm pills? No Yes

Will specific person(s) pick up feces? No Yes

Do they understand about worms? No Yes

Kind of People

Do the children present have good conduct, respect for others? No Yes _____

Does any one in family object to having an animal? No Yes

Do they seem like "animal people"; do they understand animals and have warmth? No
 Yes _____

Will they set and maintain appropriate behavioral limits (i.e., constant discipline, routine, etc. -
check children's behavior for indication). No Yes

Do they know anything about obedience? No Yes

Is what they know about obedience on the abusive side? No Yes

Will animal ever be chained? No Yes

Will animal live mainly in the house? No Yes

Will animal live mainly outside? If so, is there a warm, dry, and safe place out of the house?
 No Yes

Why do they want this particular breed of animal at this time? No Yes

Is someone at home during the day? No Yes

Is dog left alone over 6 hours a day? No Yes _____

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A HOME CHECK

Who will take care of animal when family is on vacation? _____

Knowledge of Breed

Do they understand specific problems of breed? (Lifespan, size relative to a car, furniture, etc.)

No Yes _____

Do they understand feeding and water? No Yes

Have they ever had this particular breed before; what happened to animal? No Yes

Do they understand proper and improper diet? No Yes _____

Do they understand things harmful to this breed (bones, electric cords, detergents, waste baskets, toilet bowls, kids' toys, fertilizer, etc.)? No Yes

Do they understand that large animals cannot eat from food bowl on the ground, that it must be on a raised platform - the same with water bowl? No Yes

Do they understand the amount of money it will take to feed animal? No Yes

Can they afford it and will they pay for it? No Yes

Do they understand the amount of money it will take to pay veterinarian if animal becomes ill or just for check-up? No Yes

Can they afford it? No Yes

Will they pay for it? No Yes

Specific Requests

Will they tattoo animal? No Yes

Will they agree to spay/neuter? No Yes Should be done prior to adoption

If they won't agree to spay/neuter what do you think they are doing? _____

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONDUCTING A HOME CHECK

Do they understand what to do if animal is missing? No Yes

Will they get I.D. tags for animal as soon as possible? No Yes

Will they give the name, address, and phone number of veterinarian they will use?
 No Yes Already have for vet check

Will they contact you first if things do not work out? No Yes

If they are moving and can't take animal? No Yes

Are all their indoor stairs carpeted? No Yes

If not, how will they ensure that the animal will not slip and fall down the stairs? No
Yes

Don't worry

If you forget to cover anything, just let your coordinator know so she can discuss it with the family.

Section

8

Meeting & Greeting at Events

MAGDRL volunteers often hold Meet & Greets (M&Gs) at local pet supply stores and other venues. In addition, there are some larger events that we participate in, such as Pet Expos and as vendors at dog shows. M&Gs consist of representing MAGDRL to the public, educating them about our organization and great danes, being available as a resource to dane and dog owners, as necessary and possible, and having literature and possibly merchandise available for potential adopters and customers.

What Is a Meet & Greet?

A meet & greet is an event where we meet and greet the public and, while we're at it, tell them all about Danes and rescue. It's a chance to socialize your Dane, do something for rescue, and enjoy the company of fellow Dane lovers.

At the M&G, we set up a table. We're got literature about MAGDRL to hand out, short applications, business cards with local contact name, and usually some great merchandise for sale. We answer questions about what our group does, why Danes are in need of rescue, if we have a saddle for that thing...

Attending a Meet & Greet (with or without your dane)

M&Gs are usually announced several weeks ahead of time or are on a set schedule at certain locations. Check the Events link on the main web site to find out what's in your area, or check with your local website, if that's available.

To attend a M&G, just bring yourself and a friendly dane. If you don't have a dane, you're still welcome to come out and enjoy yourself. In some areas, you'll need to check with the person running the event and let her know that you'll be coming.

Who has the merchandise?

MAGDRL has quite a variety of merchandise that we sell, both through events such as M&Gs and on the web. We've found that small items such as drink cozies and chip clips tend to sell better at the pet supply stores, while T-shirts and other Dane specific items sell better at breed shows. For M&Gs, a small stock of T-shirts and smaller items should suffice.

If you are regularly attending a M&G and plan to continue, ask your coordinator or the M&G Team Lead for merchandise to sell. While we can't just distribute merchandise to anyone who asks, we are able to accommodate those who are regularly attending M&Gs.

What to do with donations and merchandise monies

Merchandise and donation monies must be totaled separately.

- Use the receipt book or the merchandise list to mark all transactions.
- When the event is finished, provide a donation and merchandise total to Jody, and submit a new expense report via online forms.

M&G etiquette and your dane

Please consider that you and, most especially, your dane are MAGDRL ambassadors to the public. MAGDRL representatives are expected to represent the organization. This means that we don't have words with people about ear cropping, about animal experimentation, about controversial topics that may be near and dear to our hearts. We are out to socialize our dogs, educate the public as gently as possible, and be receptive.

For danes, etiquette is equally important. A barky, hyper dog reflects badly on danes everywhere. An aggressive dog gives the impression that this type of behavior is common to the breed. Your dog may be a love bug at home but if she's a wild child who barks at all other female dogs, a M&G is NOT the place for her.

Here are some things to think about when you're considering whether your dane is a good M&G candidate:

- Does she get nasty with a certain type of dog (male or female, fluffy or small)? Can you distract her in public so that your time is not spent explaining that she's a really great dog, it's just that...?
- Can she handle the stress of being petted and spoiled and screamed at and tugged and pulled on by complete strangers? If your dog is afraid of children, loud noises or lots of activity, leave him at home.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE: MEETING & GREETING AT EVENTS

- Is your dane well-mannered and ready for a public forum? If you can't control your dane and are dragged all over the store, you should first invest in a gentle leader and then invest in some basic training.
- Is your dane getting older and crankier? It happens to the best of us. Danes who used to be able to handle the stress of a M&G may get cranky as they get older. Maybe he'd be happier at home, curled up on the couch.
- Does your dane enjoy meeting people or is it stressful? If it's stressful, please consider the personality of your dane before subjecting him to an event he's not going to enjoy just because you want to be there.

In any of these cases, why not come alone and help out? Those who brought their danes are always happy to have an extra person on hand.

M&G Events

These are typically held at a pet supply store or any location that does NOT sell dogs or cats.

We are not allowed to sell any merchandise that is available at the store itself. For instance, while participating in M&Gs at PetsMart, we do not sell the stuffed animals we have available at the breed shows we attend. MAGDRL cannot be in direct competition with our benefactors.

We can, however, sell MAGDRL-specific T-shirts, and other items. We can also sell anything that isn't being sold at the store itself.

Interested in setting up a M&G in your area?

Contact your Coordinator or the M&G Coordinator in your area. They'll walk you through the things you'll need to do to set up an event. We do ask that you attend several M&Gs before striking out on your own.

All-Breed Shows & Special Events

We have a few (very few) large kits with different items and more merchandise than we typically use at a regular M&G. These mega kits are used at All-Breed Shows, or we can sometimes combine several M&G kits together for large events such as breed shows or PetExpos.

We sell stuffies, statues, pins, all kinds of things at breed shows. We aren't limited by what's being sold elsewhere.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
MEETING & GREETING AT EVENTS

For the larger events, it is best to set up a schedule of volunteers prior to the event. The events may span a single or multiple days and usually require (or at least it's ideal) more than one volunteer per shift.

For Breed shows, we typically do NOT bring our own dogs. Better specimens of the breed itself are on the show grounds AND we are at the show to sell, not to educate (at least, that's not our primary purpose).

For PetExpos and other similar events, we DO bring danes. These are even more stressful to a dane than a regular M&G. Please do not bring any dog that is easily stressed, has issues with other dogs/animals, or is frightened or extremely shy. We are available to educate at these events.

Appendix

A

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This section contains a list of frequently asked questions and some standard answers. While it is not an exhaustive list, it is a good place to start for phone interviews, Meet & Greets, and interviews.

Questions about Great Dane Rescue

(Q) Who is the Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League and what do you do?

(A) The Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue is committed to helping abandoned, neglected and/or abused animals find loving homes. We spay/neuter, provide necessary medical treatment and train/socialize the Danes in our care to ensure adaptability in their new homes. We work hard to also educate the public and potential owners about caring for this wonderful breed through various community efforts.

(Q) Where are you located?

(A) MAGDRL operates in 8 states, from NC to NY. For the most part, the danes in our care are located in foster homes throughout these states

(Q) How many danes do you have in rescue now?

At any given time, the Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League generally has approximately 60-80 Danes available for adoption and located in foster homes from North Carolina to New York. Last year, the League adopted out hundreds of Danes.

(Q) I don't have a fence and don't want to put one up. Why won't you adopt to me?

(A) Please refer to the section that deals with our fence policy. We require a fence unless there is a legal or physical barrier to providing a fence.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

(Q) Where do you get your Danes?

(A) Most of the Danes that come in the rescue are surrendered by their previous owners for a variety of reasons. We also work closely with local shelters and SPCAs to place unwanted Danes.

(Q) Why do owners surrender their Danes?

(A) One of the most common reasons for surrendering a Dane is size: owners often claim that they didn't realize how big the dog would be when full-grown. Another reason can be that other members of the family are opposed to keeping the dog or there are extenuating circumstances such as divorce or financial difficulties. Sometimes if the owner didn't train the dog, they may complain that the dog is destructive or uncontrollable.

(Q) Where are the dogs kept before being adopted?

(A) Most of the dogs are kept in foster homes while waiting to be adopted. Foster homes are responsible for caring for, socializing, and teaching basic house manners and commands to the Danes in their care. Last year, we accrued almost \$20,000 for kenneling expenses due to a lack of available foster homes.

(Q) How do I adopt a Dane from your rescue?

(A) First, we urge you to research the breed. Once you've decided that a Dane will fit your lifestyle, you can fill out the online application at www.padanerescue.com and send it in. Please note that we require a fenced yard (electronic fencing not acceptable). Please see the fencing policy if you are unable to fence due to extenuating circumstances.

A volunteer will conduct an initial interview on the phone to assess your needs and make sure your expectations meet a dane's temperament. Next, we will conduct a vet check to make sure your current animals are well card for. Finally, a volunteer will visit your home with a Dane to give you the opportunity to see what it's like having a Dane in your home. Provided all goes well, we will then help match you with a Dane appropriate for your family and lifestyle. You can always access www.padanerescue.com to view Danes that are currently available for adoption and read their bios. All members of the family need to travel to the foster home to initially meet the dog before adopting.

(Q) What are the costs involved?

(A) The rescue covers the initial medical costs of the Dane, including spaying/neutering, vaccinations, and any additional medical attention required. All dogs are spayed and neutered before going to their adoptive homes. Current costs to adopt are listed on the website.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

(Q) How can I help the rescue?

(A) There are many ways to help the rescue. We accept donations and sponsorships for our Danes. We are always in need of volunteers and foster homes for the Danes. Please check www.mid-atlanticdanerescue.com to find out more ways to help the Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League. A volunteer application is available on line.

Questions about the Adoption Process

(Q) Why do you do home visits and what do they consist of?

(A) Although most callers are honest we have to guard against the few that aren't. The home visit not only verifies the callers live where they say they live, it enables the applicant to gain more info about the breed, discuss how best to introduce the dog into the family, and, since our home visitors will bring a Dane with them, will give the household members an opportunity to see what it is like to live with a "pony."

(Q) What kind of references do you require?

(A) Veterinarians (if you have one) and neighbors or friend that knows/knew your current/previous dogs.

(Q) We want a puppy

(A) We rarely have very young puppies in the rescue program. Our dogs are usually 10 months and older. We do not refer directly to breeders, but do refer to the regional representative for the Great Dane Club of America, who in turn can refer him to breeders in the area as well as provide info on how to buy a pup and evaluate the breeders. The representative in our area is _____

(Q) Even though I don't have a fence, I'm a great owner. Why are you being unreasonable about fencing? I live in the country and the dane can run through acres of land

(A) See description of MAGDRL's Fencing policy.

(Q) How long does the process take?

(A) 2-4 weeks from start to finish, possibly more depending on the applicant's requirements and the danes available for adoption.

(Q) I don't know if I can wait that long—can't we hurry up the process? I'm a great dog owner

(A) No. We always strive to complete the process as quickly as possible. However, we are all volunteers who work in rescue among our other activities. Is there some reason why you are in a hurry?

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

(Q) But I'm a great home. I want <Insert Dane of the Month>. I'm willing to save him. Why are you being difficult?

(A) We're not being difficult. We have a procedure and will accommodate your requests as much as possible. In addition, we are all volunteers. We are happy that you are interested in rescuing a MAGDRL orphan. Please bear with us as we complete the adoption process.

(Q) But I'm a great home. I want <Insert Dane of the Month>. Why can't I adopt him?

(A) Have you noticed that <Dane of the Month> is not good with cats, and you have 3? Or that <Dane of the Month> is not good with other dogs and you live in the city and will be walking him? Please do not make a decision about the dane you want based on a picture. We consider all of the factors involved in your lifestyle and expect you to read the write-ups and also pay attention to whether a dane will fit into your way of life.

(Q) How long does the adoption process take?

(A) The application process typically takes 3-4 weeks. Finding the best Dane for your household could take longer.

(Q) What's with the policy against same-sex adoptions? I have a female and really want another.

(A) Over the years, MAGDRL has found that same-sex adoptions tend to have a greater risk of dog-dog fighting. While this does not occur in all same-sex pairings, we do our best to minimize conflict.

(Q) Why is the Adoption Fee so high? I'm rescuing a second-hand dog. You should be giving the dog away for free.

(A) MAGDRL is a charitable organization that covers all medical costs required by the dane. This includes spay/neuter, vaccinations, routine medical care and monthly preventatives. When added together, MAGDRL often incurs more than \$300 for each dane we take in, sometimes several thousand if the dane requires more extensive medical treatment.

(Q) I want to adopt a specific Dane. Will you hold him for me?

(A) We cannot hold a specific dane while an application is being approved. At times, there may be a waiting list for the more popular danes. Danes are available to approved adopters only and on a first-contact, best fit basis. We will encourage you to review the list of available danes when the adoption process is almost complete or once you've been approved.

Questions about Great Danes

(Q) Are Danes good Guard dogs?

(A) See description above in DNA section.

(Q) What differentiates Great Danes from other breeds?

(A) Their size and personality is what appeals to Dane owners the most. These gentle giants are loving members of the family who want nothing more than to be by your side. They can be goofy, regal, silly or serious—most of all, they are Danes!

(Q) How much does a Great Dane eat? Are they expensive to keep?

(A) Depending on the age of the dog, an adult Great Dane consumes approximately 6-10 cups of quality dry food daily. It is imperative that the food be high quality, with a moderate amount of protein (no more than 25%)—this can be costly but is vital to the health of a Dane. Other costs to consider are veterinary costs (big dogs cost big money at the vet), purchase of a colossal crate, and other necessities that may cost more for big dogs.

(Q) Are Great Danes high-maintenance dogs?

(A) There's very little grooming involved in maintaining that beautiful Dane coat. A Great Dane's energy level consists of brief spurts of energy between long periods of sleep. Generally, adult Danes are calm dogs but Dane puppies/adolescents can be a handful. It's very important to keep in mind that Great Danes undergo rapid growth spurts. They can easily injure themselves during these periods of times so controlled exercise is a must.

(Q) What kinds of health problems can Danes experience?

(A) Unfortunately because of their size, Great Danes are not a long-lived breed. Hereditary health problems can include Wobbler's Syndrome, heart problems, other bone-related diseases and various forms of cancer. One of the most serious health risks for a Dane is Bloat (gastric dilation volvulus, or GVD), where the stomach becomes dilated due to an abnormal accumulation of gas or air and typically twists around the rib cage. If not caught in time, this condition can lead to a quick death. Although the reasons for bloat are unknown, Dane owners can try to prevent it by using raised bowls for feeding and waiting one hour after meals to exercise.

(Q) What is the cost incurred by rescue for each Dane?

(A) The majority of the dogs that are accepted in rescue are often in need of basic vet care that their previous owners did not provide. There are exceptions, of course, but most Danes coming into rescue incur costs similar to this breakdown (costs in the year 2000):

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Office visit	\$25.
Fecal Check	\$14.
Rabies Vaccine	\$13.50
DHLPP Vaccine	\$14.50
Heartworm Test	\$25.
Heartworm Preventative	\$10.50/month
Spay/Neuter	\$150.-\$250
Microchipping	\$25.(optional)
Total:	\$277.50-\$377.50

*Costs do not include food, collar, leash, toys, and other basic needs of dogs, not to mention the time invested in each foster.

** This total can increase significantly if the dog has additional health problems or is severely neglected.

(Q) How much does a full grown great dane weigh? How tall is a dane?

(A) A female great dane typically weighs between 100-140; a male, between 120-170. Females are typically between 28 and 34 inches at the shoulder; males are between 30-38 inches. We see a wide variety of height and weight in the danes in rescue.

(Q) How much exercise does a dane require?

(A) A dane does not require much exercise but does require daily exercise in some form. Younger danes typically have more energy than older danes. A few walks around the block each day should suffice for an adult dane.

(Q) Does a dane require a large yard for running?

(A) Most danes do not require a lot of room to run and play, and many do very well in a home with a small yard and attentive owners. There are always exceptions but danes generally do not require a lot of yard space.

(Q) What colors do they come in?

(A) AKC accepted colors are: fawn, brindle, blue, black, harlequin, and mantle. Danes also come in other, no less beautiful colors such as: white (typically deaf), merle, merlequin, and fawnequin.

(Q) Do you get puppies? Aren't puppies more trainable?

(A) We don't often have young puppies available, although occasionally we will get one or two in rescue. We do have many adolescent danes available who have not reached full adulthood.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Adolescent and adult danes can bond with a new owner just as readily as puppies can, sometimes even more so. Rescue danes are often called velcro dogs because they tend to stick like glue to their owners. Also, adolescent and adult danes come potty trained and usually crate trained—and any problems or issue they may have are already out in the open and being worked on in foster care. Puppies are cute but they can be quite a handful!

(Q) How long do danes live?

(A) On average, danes live between 7-10 years. We know of danes who've lived to 11-12 years of age, which is a good sign for the breed.

(Q) If I adopt a dane whose ears aren't cropped, can I get them cropped?

(A) No, for two reasons: (1) MAGDRL does not allow cosmetic surgery such as ear cropping on danes adopted through MAGDRL. (2) ear cropping should occur before a dane is 8 weeks of age, if at all. It cannot and should not be attempted later, since training the ears requires training the cartilage as it's growing. Training cropped ears to stand can take months to accomplish, and it may not ever be completely successful.

(Q) Do danes drool?

(A) Some danes drool, others do not. It depends on the specific dane and the shape of that dane's lower lip

(Q) Do danes shed?

(A) All dogs shed to some extent but danes do not generally shed a lot. A daily or weekly brushing should keep shed under control.

MAGDRL's Fencing Policy

If an adoption applicant is unable to provide a satisfactory fenced area for a Great Dane, in most cases MAGDRL cannot proceed with the application. MAGDRL will not compromise on its obligation to ensure a safe environment for the Great Danes we place. However, applicants may petition for a rare exception to the fencing requirement if they believe they are exemplary pet owners and have extenuating circumstances.

Important

There is a difference between being unable to fence and being unwilling to fence. We do not adopt to people who are unwilling to fence but can make exceptions for those who are unable to fence.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

If this is the case, their application must include a detailed letter describing their circumstances, lifestyle, previous dog ownership and how they plan on safely exercising and managing their Great Dane without chaining or allowing off lead. In addition, a letter of recommendation from their veterinarian regarding the care and well-being of their current or previously owned dog(s) must accompany their adoption application. Without these two letters, their exception request will not be considered.

This petition process requires additional processing time. If their exception request is accepted for consideration, it will be forwarded to their MAGDRL adoption coordinator and a home visit will be conducted. After the home visit is complete, they will be notified of the status of their adoption application.

Why Invisible Fencing Is Not an Option

If a caller says he/she has an invisible fence or asks our opinion on invisible fencing advise him/her of the following:

- Invisible fencing does not prevent other dogs from coming into the yard and fighting with your dog – a fact that vets can attest to because they’ve had to “patch up” dogs that have been attacked while in their own yards.
- While invisible fencing uses radio – not electrical collars, the cautions needed to protect your dog during, and even more importantly preceding, electrical disturbances namely thunderstorms are pretty much the same. You must remove the collars, as well as bringing the dog indoors, for the same reason you are advised not to use the telephone during a thunderstorm – the dog can get zapped!
- Invisible fencing is absolutely no deterrent to dog-nappers who are known to steal dogs from owners’ yards while the owners are inside their homes.
- Even more importantly, nowadays, is that invisible fencing puts no observable barrier between the dog who knows the boundaries and visitors/strangers who can’t see them. Because of all the scare stories about dogs attacking people, more and more people are becoming leery of anything larger than a Cocker Spaniel. Additionally, people are becoming more and more likely to sue homeowners over dogs frightening them – and collecting – usually because insurance companies find it cheaper to pay off a claim than to fight it in court. The result of this action is that the homeowner could well lose his insurance.
- Obviously, because of the above reasons, we do not recommend invisible fencing – particularly not where such fencing allows the dog to get into the front yard since the chance of passersby and strangers coming to your door are obviously much greater.

Basic Behavioral Questions

(Q) My dog pulls me all over the place. What can I do?

(A) Buy a gentle leader or a halti. Use it. If you decide to buy a halti, please double tether the leash to both the halti and the dog's regular collar. MAGDRL recommends a gentle leader. Also consider attending a basic obedience class to teach your dog some manners and to bond more closely with your dog. Classes are fun!

(Q) My dog jumps on people when they first come over. What can I do?

(A) Give your dog treats for sitting and greeting. Ask people to turn away and ignore jumping, while rewarding the dog as soon as the dog's butt hits the floor or 4 paws are on the floor. Be consistent: don't allow it for some friends and discourage it with others. Also consider attending a basic obedience class to teach your dog some manners and to bond more closely with your dog. Classes are fun!

(Q) My dog has free run of the house but I come home and everything is destroyed. Why is he being so spiteful?

(A) Your dog is not being spiteful, she is anxious or bored and has too much freedom. Purchase an appropriate sized crate and crate train her or gate her off in a small portion of the house, with no access to the things that she destroys. The easiest way to avoid problems is to remove the potential for them. Crate training is not evil, nor is it cruel. You wouldn't allow a toddler to have free access to everything unsupervised—don't allow your dog.

(Q) My unneutered male dog pees all over the house. What can I do?

(A) This is called marking. Get your dog neutered. It is the surest way of fixing the marking problem and also may curb other issues you may experience, such as pushiness, male-dog aggression, puppies and other fun behaviors.

(Q) My dog pees right in front of me when I bend over to pet her. Why is she being spiteful?

(A) This is called submissive urination. You are frightening your dog and she is showing you that she's submissive to you and asking you not to hurt her. While you know that you mean her no harm, she doesn't. First, do NOT scold in any way when she pees. Clean it up. Try to establish a trusting bond between you and the dog. This may take time but can be accomplished by using gentle training methods, becoming a "treat machine", and being consistent. You may want to consult a behaviorist to help you with this problem since any training method MUST be gentle, non-threatening, and devoid of punishment.

(Q) My dog does <Insert Problem of the month>. What can I do?

(A) No matter what the situation, it's possible that the following answers may help:

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

- Invest in a training session with your dog. Training can be positive and fun. Training can give your dog something to do and you something to ask of your dog. Look for a class that uses positive methods. PetsMarts usually hold decent classes. No leash popping, jerking, etc. Treat-based training is successful and fun.
- Practice Nothing in Life Is Free. Your dog needs structure and a strong (not angry or overbearing) leader. Work with your dog to establish a loving, trusting relationship. Do not allow him freedom he hasn't earned. Make your dog sit before you feed him, give her paw before you pet her. Structure and routine are very important to a lot of dogs—use these tools to shape a wonderful companion.

Read *The Culture Clash* by Jean Donaldson. It is one of the best dog books on the market.

Appendix

B

Links to Online Information

On the following page, we've compiled a list of links to online information that maybe helpful to you. These links are also included on the CD-ROM as hot links or online as part of the volunteer website for your convenience.

MAGDRL-Specific Links

Volunteer Resource Page: http://www.magdrl.org/forms_brochures.htm

Online forms: http://www.padanerescue.com/volunteer/rescue_forms.htm

Main Site: www.magdrl.org

PA Site: www.padanerescue.com

NJ site: www.magdrl-nj.com

NY Site: www.nydanerescue.com

NC Site: www.ncdanes.sphosting.com

VA, Tidewater area: www.geocities.com/tidewaterdanes

WV Site: <http://www.heavenlydanes.com/>

Great Dane Links

www.ginnie.com

www.doglogic.com

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
LINKS TO ONLINE INFORMATION

Dog Links

www.infodog.com

www.petsmart.com

www.cherrybrook.com

www.jbpets.com

Appendix

C

Contacts

This section contains a list of contact information for MAGDRL, both locally and throughout the mid-atlantic area.

Local Contacts

Your Local Coordinator is:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Your local website is:

The link to online forms is:

http://www.padanerescue.com/volunteer/rescue_forms.htm

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
CONTACTS

Other important area contacts:

MAGDRL Coordinators/Contacts

Pennsylvania/ Delaware

Kathie Shea/Cindy Kerr
610.983.9445
padanerescue@mindspring.com
<http://www.padanerescue.com>

Maryland

Debra Rahl
P.O. Box 4392
Baltimore, MD 21223
410.945.5454
debra.rahl@verizon.net

New Jersey

Mary Cini
P.O. Box 534
Boonton, NJ 07005
(973) 334-1628
cini.maryfran@verizon.net
www.magdrl-nj.com

New York

Inga Hotaling
169 Charleston St.
Esperance, NY 12066
518.875.6816
inckster@aol.com
www.nydanerescue.com

President

Debra Rahl
P.O. Box 4392
Baltimore, MD 21223
410.945.5454
debra.rahl@verizon.net

West Virginia

Jules Guthrie
P.O. Box 1726
Inwood, WV 25428-1726
304.725.3111
DaneCrazy@HeavenlyDanes.com
<http://www.heavenlydanes.com>

North Carolina

Becky Moser
Samantha Long/Kristi Stewart (co-
coordinators)
840 Raindrops Ct.
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-559-4121
beckymoser@carolina.rr.com
www.ncdanes.sphosting.com

Virginia - Tidewater (757/804 Area Codes)

Linda Sutphin
1440 Maharis Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757.464.4655
lindanes@earthlink.net
www.geocities.com/tidewaterdanes

Virginia (703/540 Area Codes)

Meg Graine
P.O. Box 031
Sterling, VA 20167
703-644-8009
vamagdrl@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Jody Cohen
3930 York Rd # 1,
Millers, MD 21102
Jcohen1013@aol.com

Fostering for MAGDRL

This section contains the forms required to foster for MAGDRL. A separate handbook is available to fosters that addresses many of the common concerns and situations fosters face.

What Is a Foster Home?

MAGDRL is looking for caring, responsible Great Dane lovers to join our foster team by opening their homes and their hearts to a rescued Great Dane. These Gentle Giants do not kennel well and our foster system allows volunteers to provide our orphans with a home environment in order to evaluate their habits and behaviors. Since volunteers get to know each foster dog "up close and personal," they offer a potential adopter more information about the dog, which in turn helps MAGDRL make a better match between the dog and their adoptive family.

Foster parents should be able to make a commitment to spend time with the foster dog and give all the exercise, love, and attention the dog needs – however long it stays with them.

Foster homes are responsible for the daily care of the foster Great Dane including feeding, exercising, medicating (as necessary), socializing, brushing and grooming, reinforcing basic obedience commands, observing and evaluating general behavior and temperament. And of course, providing love and security to a special orphan at a difficult time in his or her life when they have lost their former family and home.

PLEASE contact your coordinator and let her know if you are interested in fostering for us.

Foster Contract

PA/DE: 610-983-9445 PO Box 123, Kemblesville PA 19347	NY: 518-875-6816 169 Charleston St, Esperance, NY 12066
MD/DC: 410.945.5454 P.O. Box 4392, Baltimore, MD 21223	NJ: 973-334-1628 P.O. Box 534, Boonton, NJ 07005
Northern VA: 703.644.8009 P.O. Box 1031, Sterling, VA 20167	VA (Tidewater Area): 757-464-4655 1440 Maharis Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455
WV: 304.725.3111 PO Box 1726 Inwood WV 25428	NC: 704-866-0858 P.O. Box 223, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

This agreement is made and hereby entered into, on this _____ day of _____, by and between **Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League, Inc. (MAGDRL)**, and _____, hereafter referred to as the Foster Home. A Foster Home is defined as a temporary home for the dane to live in while it awaits a permanent adoption through **MAGDRL**. The purpose of this contract is to ensure that the dane receives the best possible care and treatment throughout its stay in our program.

The Foster Home understands and agrees to abide by the following terms:

1. The Foster Home agrees to temporarily house and care for danes(s) belonging to MAGDRL. The Foster Home understands and agrees that **MAGDRL** is the sole and rightful owner of the foster dog(s).
2. The Foster Home fully agrees and understands that all decisions regarding the dane will be made by MAGDRL.
3. The Foster Home agrees to treat the dane in a humane and loving way at all times, and to make sure that anyone temporarily caring for the dane will do the same.
4. The Foster Home understands that MAGDRL is **not** responsible for any damage caused by the dane while in foster care. The Foster Home accepts liability for any and all incidents that occur in connection with the fostering of a MAGDRL dane. The Foster Home agrees to release MAGDRL from any and all claims, known or unknown, now or hereafter, arising in connection with the animal(s) while under the direct care of the Foster Home. Therefore, Foster Home agrees to confine the dane to a crate or gate the dane in an appropriate space when it cannot be directly supervised. **Initials** _____
5. Crate training is required for MAGDRL foster danes. If a dane is not crate trained when inducted into the foster care system, the Foster Home should work with the

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FOSTERING FOR MAGDRL

dane to acclimatize him to the crate using positive training methods. MAGDRL will try to provide crates to any foster home that needs one.

6. The Foster Home agrees to provide the dane (and all other animals he/she owns) with proper veterinary care as is recommended by MAGDRL. Routine vet care covered by MAGDRL includes such services as vaccinations, heartworm testing and preventative, spay, neuters, fecal exam and any prescription medications necessary for the dane. All vet appointments must be pre-approved by the Foster Team Lead or the Coordinator for your area. Expenditures incurred by the Foster Home without prior approval by MAGDRL (other than emergency care) are the sole responsibility of the foster family. All bills for reimbursement, together with a completed expense report and original veterinary paperwork, should be mailed to the State Coordinator for approval. The Coordinator will then forward to the MAGDRL treasurer.
7. The Foster Home understands that if it decides it wants to adopt the dane permanently, it must notify MAGDRL **before** a potential adopter makes plans to meet this dog. We will **not** cancel an adoption in progress.
8. The Foster Home agrees that the care of the dane is not transferable. The Foster Home agrees that if for any reason he/she is unable to continue to house and care for the dane, they will notify the Coordinator or Foster Team Lead and return the dane to the designated MAGDRL representative.
9. The Foster Home agrees to make certain the dane wears a MAGDRL ID tag on its collar at all times. If dog licenses are required for the area in which the foster resides, these tags must also be present on the dog at all times. The collar must be checked regularly for proper fit.
10. The Foster Home agrees to keep the dane clean and well groomed at all times.
11. The Foster Home agrees to feed a wholesome, premium dog food, and have fresh water available at all times. Generic dog food, store brand dog foods, or no-name dog foods are not considered premium food.
12. The Foster Home agrees that the dane will reside in the home of the Foster Home, not outside. This dog may NOT be left outdoors if you are not at home or chained in any circumstances.
13. The Foster Home agrees to refrain from taking a new foster dog on public outings for a period of one week, and to check with the Foster Team Lead or Coordinator before scheduling at least the first outing with a foster dog. The Foster Home understands that the dog will be stressed from changes and, whether or not they display outward signs of stress, should be allowed to settle into their new environment. If the Coordinator or Foster Team Lead determines that the dog should not be allowed to attend public events, for whatever reason, the Foster Home agrees to abide by that decision.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FOSTERING FOR MAGDRL

14. The Foster Home agrees that this dog will **never** be allowed off a leash when it is outdoors, unless it is in a fenced area or fenced yard. The dane may never be left outdoors if the Foster parent is not directly supervising the dane.
15. The Foster Home understands that it is often their job to determine or learn the temperament of the dog they are fostering. The Foster Home understands that MAGDRL cannot guarantee the temperament or health of any dane admitted to MAGDRL; it relies on a brief evaluation and the information provided by the owner or shelter. Therefore, the Foster Home agrees to use due caution when handling the foster dog. **Initials**_____
16. Further, the Foster Home is fully aware that any dog may bite. Foster Home also agrees to never allow any stranger or child to be near this dog until this dog is trusted, and will never allow any child to threaten, squeeze, poke, step on, or otherwise pose a perceived threat to this dog. If Foster home determines the dog to be a biter, or a bite risk, they are to contact MAGDRL immediately for further instructions.
17. While the MAGDRL foster dane is in the Foster Home's care, the Foster Home agrees to humanely work with the dane on basic obedience, house training, and house manners. No shock collars are to be used at any time on a MAGDRL dane in foster care.
18. The foster family will continually evaluate the foster dane(s) and prepare follow-up forms as required. The foster will be responsible for writing bios and providing photos of the foster dog within 5 days of its arrival for the MAGDRL website and **monthly** thereafter. The monthly update should include any new information obtained about the foster as well as an updated picture. All of these items should be sent directly to the Coordinator or designated Team Lead upon request.
19. The dane will be adopted to a permanent home only with the approval of the Coordinator for your area. Only applicants pre-approved by MAGDRL may visit the dane in the Foster Home, and the Coordinator for your area must be aware of and agree to the meeting. Either the Coordinator or the Foster team Lead will provide information about approved adopters interested in the dane. If the Foster Home is contacted by anyone else, even another Coordinator, the Foster Home agrees to check with the Coordinator in their area before proceeding. **Initials**_____
20. The Foster Home agrees to handle all phone calls and emails to prospective adopters promptly and professionally at all times. The Foster Home shall make themselves available for visits.
21. The Foster Home agrees to abide by the guidelines set forth by MAGDRL regarding adoption procedures, including the signing of adoption contract at the time of the adoption and collecting the appropriate donation fee at that time. Paperwork should be mailed within 1 week of the adoption to the Foster Home's coordinator. **Initials**_____

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FOSTERING FOR MAGDRL

22. The Foster Home grants permission for a representative of MAGDRL to visit the home at any time to check on the wellbeing of this dog.
23. Foster Home agrees to return this dog to a representative of MAGDRL within 24 hours of being asked to return the dog. If Foster home is unavailable at the time the dog is needed, Foster Home agrees to make the dog available for pick up within the 24-hour period.
24. Should MAGDRL need to seek legal action against the Foster Home for any violations of this Agreement, the Foster Home hereby agrees it will assume any and all attorney costs, court fees, and any other legal fees incurred in the process of enforcing this contract, or reclaiming the dog.
25. Should the Foster Home request removal of the dane from their home for any reason other than bodily harm to a member of the Foster Home, the Foster Home must be prepared to keep the dane until suitable lodging can be arranged. It may not be possible for MAGDRL to arrange lodgings for the dane for several days. **Initials**_____
26. No foster dane is to be removed or transported from the Foster Home without verbal or written approval by the Foster team Lead or the Coordinator. **Initials**_____
27. All foster families are encouraged to join the extMAGDRL mailing list as well as any local list that may exist.

**EACH ITEM IN THIS AGREEMENT STANDS ALONE

What MAGDRL Will Supply

- ID tags
- Support
- Routine vet care
- Possibly a crate

Expectations of Foster Homes

- Do expect to provide a level of commitment. This is not a try-before-you-buy scenario. These danes deserve a committed foster home.
- Do introduce other dogs and people SLOWLY. Successful introductions are key ingredients to peaceful living.
- Do expect the first week to be the most stressful. Not every dane fits in smoothly with your lifestyle and in your home.

MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE:
FOSTERING FOR MAGDRL

- Do not expect everything you've been told about a dane to be true. Owners often leave out information that is not flattering to the dane to improve their chances of adoption.
- Do expect support and help from your Coordinator and Foster Team Lead.
- Do ask questions and seek help before an issue escalates.
- Do be cautious when integrating a dane with your own dogs and with your children.
- Do not expect the dane to be immediately comfortable with children and strangers. Use caution when introducing.
- Do control encounters between the dane and all children. Do not allow inappropriate behavior from children. Set limits and enforce them.
- Do not expect MAGDRL to be able to remove a dane from your home immediately. We require 2-5 days to make suitable arrangements. This policy is in effect even under difficult circumstances (such as a dog fight). We simply do not have the facilities to immediately remove the dane.

Foster

Name:

Name:

Address:

MAGDRL Representative:

Name:

Signature

Home Phone:

Work Phone:

Email:

Signature:

Signature:

Contact Info

Coordinator

Foster Team Lead