

THE HEARTLAND HEARTBEAT

Heartland Great Dane Rescue

October/November 2007 Volume 1, Issue 2



Featured Dog: Stang by Shadow Foster

Let me introduce you, to an odd sort to follow by the name of Stang, about 2 1/2 years ago Animal Control contacted HGDR about a black male dane in desperate need of intervention. His soon-to-be former owners had decided that with the addition of a baby to the family, the family dane would move outside permanently. This fellow denied the love and attention of his family did not become aggressive or show any other traits common to dogs formerly loved and then neglected. He simply began to lick. By the time AC became involved, he had been licking at his forelegs so long that he had literally licked most of the skin off the front surfaces.



Now let's jump forward in time to today. Stang has been adopted by his foster parents, Scott and Janet Millstead, and loving his life with them. He's a happy, healthy 160 lbs and the skin has re-grown over all the damaged sections slowly but surely. Fur seems to be taking longer due to scaring. Stang is quite the talker and its rather funny

to see and hear him talking around a mouthful of squeaky toy. He very, very protective of his mom Janet, but even she can't convince him to go into a bathroom. Makes for some rather chilly bath times come winter Brrrr.

So now you know what situation Stang came from and his life today. Let me tell you a bit about what has come in between. His first night with HGDR Scott, Janet and Jan Cates spent 5 hours debriding (remove foreign material and dead tissue from) all the wounds. Stang spent this entire time with his head in Scott's lap and did not complain. Every night for the next year, a additional 2 hours were needed to unwrap, debride, and clean, medicate, and redress all the

wounds often the bandages would have to be replaced in the morning if Stang managed to worry them off in the night. Stang also could not be left alone for more than one hour at a time that first year, now I know this story is suppose to be about Stang but at this point I just want to have each and every one of you stop

(cont. page 5)



ABC's of Our Danes Antics, Brags & Comments

The Brushwood household is at a loss this week. Sadly, one of their own was brutalized and the whole family is in shock. A favorite of all in the house, we are certainly sad to see him go and he will be missed. "We never expected it," reported Craig, the head of the Brushwood family. "We watched as there was nothing left Mom could do for him," said Ian and

and Olivia, the Brushwood children. "There's only so much damage one little body can take," muttered Lacey, as she wiped a tear from her eye. "Snort," said Lola. Mysteriously, Mike and Willow could not be reached for comment, and authorities are asking to speak to them about the incident. [This appears to](#)

[be the most recent fatality in a string of suspicious deaths in the Brushwood household.](#)

Please join with the Brushwood Family as they say goodbye to their dear friend. He will be missed. Warning: Picture to follow may be too much for young children and gentle danes. (cont. page 5)



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Letter From The President

Dear Dane Lovers,

Welcome to our second edition! It's so hard to believe we've actually managed to get a newsletter going after all this time! You've all been great to contribute and just keep it coming...it takes us all to have a successful rescue!

I want to start by telling you all a little about what's been going on in the doggie area of rescue. It looks like Lexus has given her approval and Roosevelt will be 'officially' adopted by Loree & Lexus. Hooray for Roosevelt, Lexus & Loree!!

We've also taken in a new girl named Lola. She is a very pretty 1 year old merlequin with natural ears. She is staying temporarily with Jennifer and her boys, but is still looking for a foster home that can take care of her until adoption. Jennifer says she just about a perfect dog, so if you can find space for this girl, please let us know. Pictures should be on the website soon.

Speaking of the website, I hope you've all seen it recently. In case you haven't, go check it out. It has been completely revamped and has a lot of information on it that we didn't have room for before...lots of cool pictures too! Lacey & I have wanted more pictures and educational materials for a long time, but because of limited space, just weren't able to make it happen. Now, we've got the space donated by Danes Online plus any extra we need donated by My Pampered Danes! Yep, that's Jodiann (my SIL in TX) and she's now doing our website for us.

This is where I want to remind everyone to thank Brenda for her 6 years of dedication to

rescue...without her, we wouldn't have had a site to begin with. Never fear though...she has promised to stick with rescue, so we'll all get to see her again! You all have my permission (request) to drag her back if she does try to leave us.

I also want to take the time to ask that you all give Jodi and hubby Jack from My Pampered Dane a big Thank You. Jodi has always wanted to be of more help to HGDR, but living all the way in TX has had a hard time figuring out just what she could do for us. Well, she's found it now! She's doing this newsletter for us and has now taken on the task of our new enormous web site. Honestly, guys, we need to send her some Dane (or Texas...depending on where you're from) sized hugs!

Here's another little secret about our new website...ssshhh, don't tell, but every HGDR dog, available OR adopted can have their own page with their story, updates and pictures! In fact, our new site is full of secrets! We've got information on dogs, how to adopt, how to foster, how to train, how to trouble shoot, health, and the list just goes on! We're still working on it, but we launched as soon as we had enough ready, so there might be a few errors. If you find one, please click the link to let the webmaster know...she's asked for all our help to make sure that this is the best Dane site on the web! I've even heard a rumor that there will be a contest soon where you can win things by visiting and exploring the site! Now, that sounds like fun!

I also want to point out that because of the hard

Heartland Great Dane Rescue

to submit:

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



Email just_peachy@alltel.net

work we have put in over the years, we have received a rescue award from Just Dog Breeds! The Just Dog Breeds "Dog Rescue Award" is awarded exclusively to breed rescue organizations as recognition for their hard work and kindness towards dogs. You have all done a wonderful job and isn't it nice to be recognized for all your hard work!

Now for a reminder...if there are any specific articles you'd like to see addressed by the newsletter, let us know. This is YOUR newsletter, so sound off!



Heather on board a Blackhawk Helicopter

Getting To Know You by Jan Cates

Heather Gallagher

Some of you know about Heather because of our bragging about her, but some of you don't know her...here's your chance to learn a little about Heather.

Heather is 30 something and has a passion for animals (but especially Danes). She is wife to Johnny and mommy to Kohner and Kaden. She has lots of pets including dogs, cats, goats, and horses both full and micro sized. You all might recognize Heather as the tall, pretty blonde with a winning smile being dragged around by a foster Dane and followed by two young boys at rescue events.

Heather has been a member of HGDR since 2005. She joined our group because she said she had 'always dreamed of owning a Great Dane'. Husband Johnny just wasn't up for the challenge just yet. Since joining, Heather & Johnny have fostered several Danes and helped them find their forever homes.

They've even been known to cry when they leave. Johnny, being the typical rescue husband usually says 'NO MORE DOGS' only to relent and help Heather save 'just one more'.

Heather is currently serving with the military in Afghanistan. She enjoys eating her chocolate candy bar while drinking Dr. Pepper and watching 'Lonesome Dove' (what a tear jerker). She obviously doesn't get out much these days, but was able to go explore the Afghan Queen's Old Palace recently much to her enjoyment. When asked what she'd like to be doing in 10 years, all she says is "I'd like to be back in the U.S. loving my family and dogs and training my horses." She is anxious to get home because Johnny has agreed to let her adopt a 'Dane of her own' when she gets back. She has asked that we all keep our eyes open and help her pick her perfect companion.

(cont. page 4)



Memorials

Charlie by Jan Cates

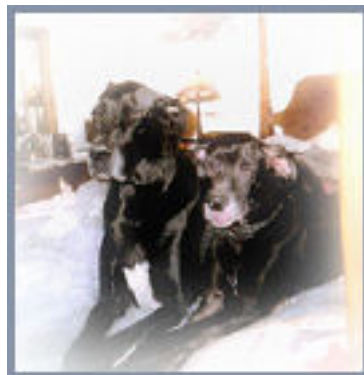
Editor's note: You may remember Charlie from the last issue, we have since received a photo of Charlie, and thus the repeat of the article to go with the picture.

On October 7, 2007 Charlie Beach passed on to the Rainbow Bridge. Charlie was an exceptional boy that epitomized the idea of the Gentle Giant. Standing just over 42 inches at the shoulder and weighing a little over 200 lbs. he was one of the sweetest lap dogs anyone could hope to meet. I remember well my first meeting with Charlie. Teri had told me her Dane was 'big', but we hear that a lot...Teri wasn't exaggerating...he met me at the storm door and we were eye level. He was absolutely one of the most gentle dogs I've met and beautiful to boot. When Teri adopted Gypsy from HGDR, Charlie



took her under his wing and showed her the ropes of being a wonderful

dog. The great news here is that Charlie had a wonderful life! When Charlie had no one to love him Teri was there...and he returned the favor for being there for her...always. Charlie will live on forever in the memory and hearts of all who met him.



Charlie and Gypsy his adopted sister while she was being fostered for HGDR.

Picture by Teri Beach

his loving example. We love you Teri & Charlie!



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If you have a memorial you would like to share. Send it to our Editor, Jodiann Cates just\_peachy@alltel.net

What a wonderful boy he was in every sense of the word. Our hearts are with Teri now as she grieves, but we know Charlie has provided her with the strength she needs to get through this by



## Event Comings & Goings by Jennifer Eggers

A note from the event coordinator's messy desk,

Hello All! In October, we participated in Paws On Parade at Stars and Stripes Park in Oklahoma City. Turn out was not what we expected. It seems the Paws on Parade does not attract the vast numbers of Pet Lovers it once did.

The event was not held last year and this may have been the reason. We had a few people stop by and ask some great questions and purchase raffle tickets. We all got a chance to meet up with the other rescue folks and since crowds were

light we could actually talk to each other this year. Next year we hope the weather is better so our foster families will take a chance and venture out. Unfortunately none of our foster danes made an appearance this year.

I would like to say thank you to Meghan, Jackie and Michael for being there to help set up in the horrible wind! I would also like to say thank you to Jennifer Dobry for spending the day answering questions and holding things down in the bluster. Lacey Brushwood and Laurie Lafoe of Body Art Factory ( and both HGDR

## Christmas Party December 9th 2-4pm



## Newsletter Notes

The Heartland Heartbeat is a bi-monthly newsletter produced by The Newsletter Committee of Heartland Great Dane Rescue, Inc. Our goal is to reach out to owners of Great Danes with fun stories, educational articles, news of HGDR events, dane happenings about town and to share our sorrow when one of our Danes is lost, And comfort those left hurting by their absence.

We invite all members to contribute as you wish. ( see pg. 2 for contact information)

If you would like to become a regular contributor, please consider becoming a member of The Newsletter Committee, and help research, report, gather pictures, and produce the Heartland Heartbeat every other month,

Happy News! Jodiann Cates, Editor

## Education: Danes and The Holidays by Jan Cates

What a wonderful and fun filled time of year, but, oh, how stressful it can be. With all of our holiday commitments like office parties, friends and relatives, gift buying, cooking and numerous other things we're trying to do, we can't forget those wonderful furry companions that keep us company all year. When we are feeling that stress, it definitely generates to our pets and they feel it too! To make the holiday's more enjoyable for all of our family members, regardless of the number of legs we have, we've tried to put together a few safety tips. Who wants to spend Thanksgiving or Christmas Day at the emergency vet?!

Remember that holiday treats (alcoholic beverages, rich fatty food scraps, bones, chocolates) and be harmful or toxic to pets. Remember, you chose the diet you thought was best for your Dane, so why change that? Pancreatitis is very

common in dogs this time of year because of the high fat content in all our yummy foods (like turkey broth). Caution friends and relatives that your dog is on a special diet to prevent illness or injury.

Careful with candles – they are pretty and make our house smell like the holidays, but our Giant tails are a perfect height to knock them over and cause burns or fires, not to mention destruction of the candle!

Cover or tack down electrical cords. This prevents chewing, tripping and even just pulling things down and/or over.

Remember that your Dane has a much better sense of smell than you do. All those wonderful things your cooking for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner smell really good, so don't be surprised when he comes to investigate. Keep pot handles turned to the inside and watch where you place those hot items on the counter. We don't want them tipped over and spilled!

Cooked Turkey (poultry) bones are DANGEROUS! Please, please, please, don't give them to your Dane. These bones splinter easily and each year thousands of pets are treated due to splintering that causes cuts, tears and punctures of the digestive tract as well as obstructions. They can cause severe pain and death!

Remember that your Dane feels the stress of increased holiday activity too. Try to keep him on his regular schedule for feeding, exercise and love.

If you plan to take your pet with you when visiting, be sure to ask in advance if he/she is welcome. Also take into consideration the activity level where you will be staying...is it too much for our Gentle Giants? You may want to consider boarding or a reputable pet sitter.

Holiday lights are pretty, but can be a danger. The bubbling ones contain methylene chloride which can be toxic to our pets and even lethal. Hazards all their own in the form of



## from page 2 **Getting To Know You, Heather Gallagher**

So every time you look at those precious foster babies, think of Heather! She's looking for a Dane that will be loving, playful and get along well with two young boys. She expects to be home for good sometime in February, so her wait for a Dane is almost over.

For now though, here's a little about what Heather has been up to lately. While overseas, fighting against terrorism and fighting for our American freedoms, she's still **rescuing dogs!** It seems that in Afghanistan, the common thing is to cut (crop) the dogs (any breeds) ears with sharp shards of glass to prepare them for fighting. Well, lucky for a dog named Sheeba, the young boys chose to do it just outside the gates of Heather's camp. Leave it to Heather to dodge bullets and drag a dog to safety so she can get it to the vet and work to find it a loving forever home...and that is exactly what she did. I wonder how many of us could be fighting in a war and still think about the dog outside the gate? She was initially looking for a way to get Sheeba back to the states, but has since found her a loving refuge there.



Sheeba soon after she was found.

Heather has stayed in close contact with rescue since her deployment. She is active on the HGDR list and watches the website pretty close. If you want to chat, she'll be there, so drop her a line! Come February, when our hero returns home, we should all welcome her VERY loudly. Yes Heather, you're out hero...in more ways than one!



## Pulse of Green Country by Jen Beard

Pulse of Green Country is a feature especially for those of the Greater Tulsa Area. This time around enjoy a list of Dog Friendly places and

### Coffee House on Cherry Street

1502 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street Tulsa OK 918-779-6137

I came across this great little restaurant because I work on Cherry Street and am always looking for new places to eat lunch, grab some breakfast, or a coffee before heading to work.

I am lucky enough to get to take my Danes to work with me anytime I want so I am always on the look out for a pet friendly atmosphere. So the day that my friend and co-worker, Rebecca and I walked down Cherry Street with one of my Danes Jewel, we popped our heads into the Coffee House and found out that not only are they cool about letting people bring their pets inside but they have water bowls available for your dog and dog treats as well.

In addition to being dog friendly this little coffee house has a great atmosphere. It is broke up into small sitting areas with tables, chairs and comfortable couches. The environment is great for relaxing with a good cup of their strong Topeca coffee, hooking up to their Wi-Fi access to do some work, or sitting back and enjoying good conversation with a friend.

The Coffee House on Cherry Street has local bands that come in on the weekend to play and local artwork is hung on every wall.

The foods here are baked fresh everyday so expect nothing but fresh tasting options. They

offer a wide variety of drinks, coffee, cappuccino, café mocha, hot chocolate, six different flavors of tea, soft drinks, Italian Sodas and Iced Latte's. For breakfast, you can choose from muffins, bagels and cream cheese, croissants, yogurt and granola or oatmeal. For lunch or dinner, they offer salads, quiches, sandwiches, or quesadillas. Then there are the desserts, brownies with ice cream, biscotti's, and cookies.

The Coffee House is a great place to come with your four-legged friend or with your friends or family.

### Santa Paws Gift Stockings

<http://www.tulsapets.com/events/>

The Humane Society of Tulsa offers a great gift idea for your dog or cat for the Christmas Holiday. For just \$5.00, you can purchase a gift stocking for your pet. Not only will this make sure that you do not forget your sweet pet in all the holiday hubbub but the money raised will help the homeless dogs and cats in the Tulsa area. For more information or to order your pet's stocking you can call 918-250-DOGS. The stockings are also available at any VCA Animal Hospital or at the Humane Society of Tulsa Adoption Center.

### Pet Squad

11145 – E South 2<sup>nd</sup> East Place. Bixby, OK 918-369-9399 [www.petsquadok.com](http://www.petsquadok.com)

The Pet Squad is a family owned business that was established in 2003. Scott Hartsfelder is the owner and he is dedicate to offering quality pet food, treats, and products for dogs and cats. None of their foods has by-products, wheat, soy, artificial

fillers, or any other inferior ingredients. The chicken meal is from antibiotic free chickens, the lamb meal is from grass fed sheep, and the grains are herbicide free. Some of the ingredients are organic and all the ingredients meet human grade USDA standards.

One of the best things about the Pet Squad is that they deliver!! They deliver to over 30 zip codes in the Tulsa areas. These zip codes include the following towns and cities, Broken Arrow, Jenks, Coweta, Catoosa, Bixby, Glenpool, Sapulpa, Sand Springs, and Owasso.



You can call and place an order or you can go to their website to order. Their website is one that you definitely need to check out it is very thorough and very easy to read and navigate through.

Pet Squad offers eight different dry foods for dogs in bags from 10 lbs – 100 lbs. For cats, they offer two types of dry food in bag weighing from 10lbs – 50lbs. In addition to the dry food, they also have canned foods as well. There are four types of dog treats and one option for cat treats. The dog treats come in four different sizes and you buy these treats by the pound. This homegrown business is definitely one that ALL people in the Tulsa area need to check into, not only is it helping a local business and the Tulsa economy but who wouldn't want almost all of their pet products delivered straight to your front door whenever you needed it!!



from page 1

## Dane ABC's



Alas, Poor Sweetie we knew him well.

Submitted by Lacey Brushwood

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The ABC's of Our Danes is a regular feature supported by reader submissions. Send your Antic, Brag, Comment or Jokes to Jodiann Cates, just_peachy@alltel.net

from page 1

Stang: Featured Dog

stop and think about the time, money , and devotion this couple has given to the rescue. Medical supplies can get pricey and not many of us put a price tag on our time. So if you ever get a chance to see Scott or Janet -thank them for all their hard work!

Rather than leaving you with the images of pain and suffering, I have saved the best for last. Now its time for the silly stuff! Stang has a couple of games he plays that are just a riot! Now Stang is a good size boy and all big boys need big toys... but a floor pillow? He will grab that pillow and up it goes into the air, for all the world like he is trying to get it fluffed JUST right. Grab and flip, grab and toss pummel and twist, yep perfect.

Okay-time to lay down... right next the dang thing.

As for the other game, well, we need both Scott and Janet for this one. Stang will peak into the bedroom to see if Janet is still asleep. and then raise to the recliner, and demand to have the recliner foot raised by Scott. Some mornings Stang and Janet see each other across the room. As she emerges from the bedroom and the race for the recliner is on! Less you think Stang lacks for other playmates, he shares Janet and Scott with 2 other danes, Pickles and Apollo and a border collie/shepherd mix named Boo.

In short, Stang has gone from limping to racing in this new life of his.



from page 4 Danes & the Holidays

Glass/Plastic decorative lights pose hazards all their own in the form of tears, punctures and/or obstruction of the digestive tract.

Angelhair, artificial snow and snow flock is another pretty thing that can cause irritation of the eyes, skin and gastrointestinal tract...keep this in mind when choosing your decorations.

Hang treasured ornaments on the higher branches of your Christmas tree. Use wood, metal or resin-cast type ornaments on the lower branches.

While tinsel (icecicles) aren't toxic, they will definitely create a choking and obstruction hazard...try to avoid them.

Fireplace colors (fire salts), while beautiful, are also toxic and can cause a variety of problems including convulsions.

Instead of putting ribbons and bows around your Danes neck, consider a holiday collar. Ribbons, yarn, etc. can tighten causing choking, hanging or even tracheal damage

If your Dane is curious (and most are) keep ribbons and bows out of site or consider a x-pen or other see through barrier to protect both your Dane and your gifts.

Consider using tightly knotted fabric in place of metal ornament hooks for the lower branches of your tree.

There are a number of seasonal plants that are poisonous to dogs, here's a short reminder list: ivy (all parts), holly (both leaves and berries), mistletoe (especially the berries), Christmas greens (balsam, juniper, cedar, pin and fir), hibiscus and poinsettias. This is in no way a complete list, you can find additional toxic plant information on the web at www.aspca.org in their poison control center.



We wish you all the best during the holiday season, and remember keep you and your pet safe!



from page 3 Events

and both HGDR volunteers) donated their artistic face painting skills. Also thanks to Olivia Brushwood donated her time and our walking billboard drumming up business. Speaking of business, Lacey and Laurie's face painting business is taking off www.bodyartfactory.com. Their donation of time, paint and skill was a great money maker for our rescue. Thanks!

Christmas Party (people only) December 9th 2-4 at Shadow Foster's House. Casual. Contact me for what kind of snack food to bring or if you have any questions.

We are also looking for ideas for January and February events. If you have any ideas please send them my way I would love to hear them!

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Jen Eggers

JennREggers@aol.com



A Dog's Rules For Christmas Submitted by Loree Boyer



1. Be especially patient with your humans during this time. They may appear to be more stressed-out than usual and they will appreciate long comforting dog leans.
2. They may come home with large bags of things they call gifts. Do not assume that all the gifts are yours.
3. Be tolerant if your humans put decorations on you. They seem to get some special kind of pleasure out of seeing how you look with fake antlers.
4. They may bring a large tree into the house and set it up in a prominent place and cover it with lights and decorations. Bizarre as this may seem to you, it is an important ritual for your humans, so there are some things you

need to know:

- a. Don't pee on the tree
 - b. Don't drink water in the container that holds the tree
 - c. Mind your tail when you are near the tree
 - d. If there are packages under the tree, even ones that smell interesting or that have your name on them, don't rip them open
 - e. Don't chew on the cord that runs from the funny-looking hole in the wall to the tree
5. Your humans may occasionally invite lots of strangers to come visit during this season. These parties can be lots of fun, but they also call for some discretion on your part:
 - a. Not all strangers appreciate kisses and leans.
 - b. Don't eat off the buffet table
 - c. Beg for goodies subtly
 - d. Be pleasant, even if unknowing strangers sit on your sofa
 - e. Don't drink out of glasses that are left within your reach

6. Likewise, your humans may take you visiting. Here your manners will also be important:



- a. Observe all the rules in #4 for trees that may be in other people's houses. (4a is particularly important)
- b. Respect the territory of other animals that may live in the house

- c. Tolerate children
- d. Turn on your charm big time

7. A big man with a white beard and a very loud laugh may emerge from your fireplace in the middle of the night.
DON'T BITE HIM!!

