

Judy Jones with LuLu, Jack  
McKaye with Hoss, and  
Janey Brewer with Sugar

# SAVING DANES

Volunteers and foster families in the Katy area work with Great Dane Rescue of Southeast Texas to rehabilitate and find homes for this lovable breed

Written by Wendy Teng | Photography by Amanda Walton

Judy Jones and Heather Poperszky recognized a need in Houston. Many Great Danes were being neglected, abused, and abandoned by families who were enamored by the beauty of the breed but unequipped to care for them. In an effort to fill the gap, they founded the Great Dane Rescue of Southeast Texas (GDRST) in February 2009 to help rescue, rehabilitate, and find homes for Great Danes.

“Working with this group, helping to get these dogs healthy and into good homes is rewarding,” says volunteer Judith McKaye. “The members of this group share a common goal, to benefit these dogs which we love.”

## Gentle Giants

Averaging 100 to 200 pounds, these lovable dogs are often misunderstood and can get themselves into mischief if not trained properly. For this reason some owners who haven't done their research, don't know quite what they're getting into and many Danes end up abandoned.

Approximately 750 Great Danes have been rescued by GDRST since the organization began. There is an average of six Great Danes taken in per month, with an average of 10 to 15 in GDRST's care at any given time. The average ages of the Danes rescued are generally around 2 to 3 years old.

## Team of Volunteers

Volunteers are always needed to help with office work, at events, and serve as foster homes for rescues. Connie Carey became a volunteer with GDRST after they adopted their Great Dane from GDRST. He was in bad shape when GDRST took him in, suffering from mange and underweight, but he soon recovered under their care.

“What I didn't know when I adopted Rambler is that it would bring me to such a dynamic group of people,” she says. “They have become my family, and I am privileged to be a part of their team.”

## Connecting Danes and Families

Applications for fostering and adoption are available on the GDRST website. The organization always appreciates anyone willing to help sponsor a Great Dane or give donations to the organization to help with the treatments of rescued Danes.

Potential dog or pet owners who are looking for a gentle and loyal companion should consider adopting Great Danes. “These dogs are a highly sensitive breed who bond very quickly with their owners and are easily trained due to their need to please their owners,” says Jones. “Danes are like potato chips, you can't have just one.” KM

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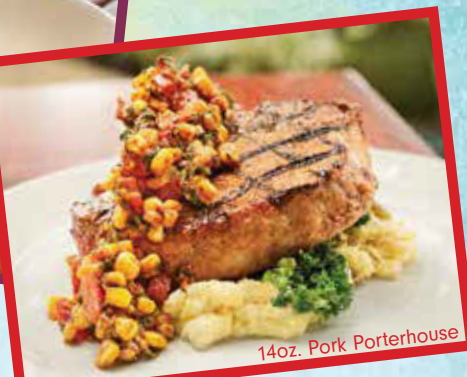


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