

## **Public Benefit**

In every case we gather as much information as possible before collecting the Great Dane from the releasing owner, sanctuary or, kennels etc.

Information such as how the Great Dane interacts with adults, children, other dogs, cats and other animals. Has the Great Dane been involved in any incidents with other animals or people? Is it neutered/spayed? What is the Great Danes diet? Does the Great Dane have any allergies? How often & when are they fed? What daily routine are they used to? i.e. walks etc. Do they have any dislikes or likes? Toys, sofas, loud noises (fireworks etc). Is there anything that we should know about the Great Dane?

In summary, we build up a picture from multiple sources (as available) on a range of practical and emotional considerations.

These initial questions are all part of the Assessment and release criteria detailed on the form that the relinquishing owners have to sign to transfer ownership to us. (Copy form attached).

We also obtain details of the Veterinary practice that the Great Dane was registered at so that we can contact them about the Great Dane.

In addition, every Great Dane in our care is vet checked by an independent veterinarian.

These enquiries enable us to obtain details of the Great Danes personality, behaviour and temperament.

Upon collecting the Great Dane it is then assessed for behavioural traits and personality in person by whoever is collecting it. It is important to stress this collection process forms part of the assessment and in most cases is carried out by Andrew T.J Smith in person. There are plans to train experienced volunteers to join in this role. However, Andrew T J Smith will always spend time with the dog prior to placement. Crucial to this handover and assessment process is our philosophy that we will not be used as a 'taxi' service.

We always place the Great Dane in the most suitable Foster home available to us. For example, if the dog is not child friendly it goes to a foster home without children, if it is not dog/animal friendly it is placed in an animal free foster home. This is also the case with dogs placed in an adoptive home.

Once it is placed into the foster home, the dog it is then assessed in more depth as to temperament and behaviour. Andrew T J Smith visits each and every Great Dane during this process to provide guidance and advice along with assessment.