

Dee Dee's Story

Dee Dee was born February 15, 2005. She was an outside dog where she lived before. She lived in a nice development in Washington DC with a large house, in-ground swimming pool, and large backyard. She shared the yard with a black male Great Dane and her 11 month old daughter. Her owner who I believe lived alone had his own business and was very busy and really didn't have time for the dogs. Even though the development was a nice one, the owner was concerned about trespassers and had the dogs in the yard so that no one would come across his privacy fence.

Dee Dee had a litter of pups last year also. I think her owner regretted having the litter last year not realizing all the work and time it would take. So he was in a hurry to get rid of Dee Dee and her 11 month old daughter (who we now call "Hope") because he thought both of them were pregnant by his male. He did not want to have anymore pups. In fact he told me that 2 times he made an appointment to have his male neutered and cancelled the appointments because other things came up.

We heard about Dee Dee and Hope from a member on OpenDanes who saw the ad in the newspaper. She posted it on our OpenDanes discussion group and we got our heads together to rescue these dogs. We were concerned that someone would get them and breed them continuously for money. Another OpenDanes member donated the entire amount of money that the owner was asking for the 2 danes and I drove down and picked them up.

I have picked up rescues before, but this was the first time that I picked up one in labor. When I arrived at the house, the owner came to the door very excited stating that Dee Dee has started to have her pups. He had told me the day before on the phone that she was due in a couple weeks and the other one in about a month. So this was a complete surprise and shock to me. I thought to myself that I can't transport the dog in labor by myself. But when I saw that the pups (she had had 3 so far), Dee Dee AND Hope were all outside in this 3-sided shed-type structure, I knew that I had to move them immediately. My main concern was the pups getting cold since it was December. I said a prayer and just did it.

I got Hope in the car and tethered her to the second seat in my minivan. The owner then brought Dee Dee out. Since females with pups are very protective and do not like strangers, I was concerned that she would not trust me and would bite me if I got close to her and her babies. The back seat was out of the van so there was plenty of room for Dee Dee to lay down with her pups. I then brought her 3 pups out to her and laid them on the comforter we brought out from their house. We shut the tailgate and I took off for home.

I was very thankful that the pups and the 2 dogs were quiet and behaved themselves on the way home. We had stop and go traffic part of the way home but made it without any problems. I did not know it then, but Dee Dee was done having pups so I was expecting her to have more pups in the van. My wonderful husband had the whelping room cleaned up and ready to go by the time we got home. We got Dee Dee and the pups in the whelping box without any problems. Dee Dee seemed to know we were just helping her and as long as she was close to her pups, she didn't mind me being there.

Dee is a very sweet girl. Per her previous owner, she has had no training. We are working on housebreaking her and she is doing pretty good.

Her ears are cropped and when she is alert, they stand. She will need to be spayed after she weans her pups and before she goes to her new home. An adoption fee will be charge. BTW, it turned out that Hope was not pregnant. She will be available for adoption also.