

Pet Expo 2012

The Great Dane Club of Western Washington, Willamette Valley Great Dane Club, and Dane Outreach participated in a joint educational effort with a booth at the Pet Expo held at the Western Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup (Washington) on November 3rd and 4th.

The Pet Expo is a big event and is highly publicized. The venue was familiar with dog show folks as we have shows there twice a year. It's a sizable building and every inch of space was occupied with an animal-related booth of some type. Dogs weren't the only creatures featured at this event—exotic-looking domestic cats, birds of all types, ferrets, llamas, miniature horses and reptiles all had booths. I do have to say it was a bit

disconcerting to look in a baby stroller and see an iguana being wheeled around. All the Danes received kudos for minding their manners around animals they don't usually see (and might want to eat)!

This was the first time all three groups had worked together on a collaborative educational effort, and it went very well. The group putting on the event gave us a large space so we didn't have to worry about crowding. Tia Uchello (GDCWW) and Jean Johnson (Dane Outreach) worked hard at setting up the booth in an attractive, organized manner, making sure all the shifts were covered, and then taking it back down when the event was finished. Members of each group worked in two-hour shifts, bringing their own personal dogs to be, as I call them, "demo Danes". Educational literature was provided by Dane Outreach, and covered a wide variety of topics from choosing a Dane, how meet a dog in the proper manner, to responsible breeding practices. Dane-experienced folks were available to "talk Dane 101" and give accurate breed information to folks interested in our wonderful dogs.

The dogs who participated in the event were WONDERFUL and all were excellent ambassadors of the breed. The phrase we hear, "Gentle Giant" was so apt with these patient dogs who let a large variety of people pet (and sometimes maul) them.

A big thank you to all who participated in this event, and a bigger thank you to the dogs. Educational efforts like this are so important and it was wonderful to see all three groups work in unison toward this goal.

Georgia Hymmen

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