**Birch Haven Rescue and Rehabilitation Services**

**(613) 725-4279**

contactbhrr@gmail.com

[www.birchhaven.org](http://www.birchhaven.org)
[www.bhrr.petfinder.com](http://www.bhrr.petfinder.com)

*Every Rescue deserves to be a member of a family where they are loved for the duration of their lives’. BHRR requires every potential adopter to fill out, sign, and return this application/contract with honesty. This will help to determine whether you are suited for a BHRR Rescue, and help determine what traits you are seeking in these noble and loving creatures. The animals under our authority are our responsibility and we take that very seriously. This is a legal binding contract and any court resolution will be handled in the Main Courthouse located in Ottawa, Ontario.*

 *\****A $20 Non Refundable Application Fee to cover phone and administration expenses to process your application will be required before any application will be considered. This fee does not guarantee or warrant that you will be approved to adopt a BHRR animal. We will only accept this fee via email transfer to** **contactbhrr@gmail.com** **, Bank Draft to BHRR or PayPal ‘gift’ or ‘friends & family’ option to** **gwen@birchhaven.org****; which also provides a credit card option once on the secure site.

\*\*Should your application reach the point of a home-visit being scheduled, NOTE, that if your home is further than 2 hours one way from our locations, a $10 per hour of driving charge will be requested to be paid PRIOR to the home-visit occurring. We drive all over Quebec & Ontario to do these home-visits to ensure that any home is that right match personality fit for our dogs. It is common for gas costs to reach $100 if not more to do these home-visits.
This FEE must be collected via email transfer to** **contactbhrr@gmail.com** **OR via Paypal ‘gift’ or ‘friends & family’ to** **gwen@birchhaven.org****; which also provides a credit card option once on the secure site.
For example, if the home is 4 hours from us, the first two hours each way would be covered out of our own personal pockets and, the difference of 2 hours there and 2 hours back, $10/per hour for a total of $40 to be paid by the applicant PRIOR to the home-visit occurring.**

**BHRR shall ONLY consider adoption applications from our location up to and including the Barrie & Cambridge, Ontario area’s and up to Gatineau in the province of Quebec.**

First, please fill in your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address on the lines listed below. If you have a P.O. Box address, please also provide that.

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1. How did you hear about Birch Haven Rescue and Rehabilitation?
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2. Are you currently looking for a puppy, or adult?
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3. Have you ever owned a Great Dane before? If yes, how many, how old, spayed/neutered, utd on vaccines?, regular heartworm/tickborne disease testing? Regular fecals?(OVMA & CVO recommends yearly), On yearly preventative for fleas/ticks/hw? Regularly dewormed?
\*APPLICANTS NOT DOING THE ABOVE SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED\*

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4. If it was a breeder, please list their name and Breeder Kennel name
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5. Other breeds of dogs? Cats? If yes, how old and, were they spayed/neutered? utd on vaccines? Had regular heartworm/tickborne disease testing? Regular fecals(OVMA & CVO recommends yearly)? On yearly heartworm/tick preventative? Regularly de-wormed?
\*APPLICANTS NOT DOING THE ABOVE SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED\*
Also please tell us how you acquired them.
Rabies is required by law for cats and dogs. If there is a medical reason why any of your past/present pets – regardless if cat or dog and regardless of dog breed - did not have vaccines, titre testing must have been done yearly and a medical note stating why said pet was not receiving vaccines must be given.
We want to consider homes that are like-minded to ourselves with proactive and preventative Vet Care with the above list being ONLY part of the basic essential Vet Care necessary.
**NOTE:** BHRR WILL not consider homes that currently or, in the past have owned pets – cats/dogs that have not been spayed/neutered UNLESS there has been a proven medical reason(Vet Documentation Required), or is a proven show dog(CH. Title Paperwork, Breeder Contract stating ‘show dog’, Show Entry Documentation Required). **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
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6. What pets do you currently own? Please list name/species/breed/age and whether or not they are intact or spayed/neutered. Are they good with dogs or other animals?
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7. Please list names/species/breed of other pets you have previously owned. Why do you no longer have them? Did they die (if so what age and why), or did you have to find them a new home (if so, why?).
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8. Have you ever surrendered a dog to Rescue, a Shelter or re-homed a pet? If yes, why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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9. Please give a brief description of your house.
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10. Do you own or rent your house plus how long have you lived at your current residence? If you rent, BHRR requires that a signed letter from your landlord/lady stating that you have permission to bring in a Giant Breed Animal be attached to this application. The letter must also indicate that the landlord/lady is aware of what a Giant Breed is.
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11. Describe your yard.
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12. Is your yard fenced? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
If yes, what type of fencing and how tall? BHRR does not adopt out to homes that do not have a fenced in yard with at least one entrance direct off the house to said fenced in yard. Invisible, barbed wire or electrical fencing is not ‘deemed’ appropriate fencing.
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13. Do you have children?
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14. If no, do you plan on having children?
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15. List the names, ages, and relationships of those family members or others that live in your house + occupations. Incomplete answers will no longer be considered.
**NOTE:**  **WE DO NOT** place any dog with a family with children under the age of 8 unless the below additional conditions/requirements have been met to the satisfaction of the BOD of BHRR. Only then shall the BOD of BHRR consider those homes that have Children younger than the age of 8 yet they must be over the age of 5:
a) ONLY homes that have no more than 2 children shall be considered if said children are under the age of 8 and over the age of 5
b) ONLY dogs that BHRR deem most suitable for homes with children within these ages shall be considered
c) ONLY homes that have prior suitable breed type experience ie Great Danes for a Great Dane possible adoption or a Saint Bernard for a Saint Bernard possible adoption shall be considered
d) ONLY homes that have no more than one dog already and that dog must be a right matched personality fit; shall be considered should any children be under the age of 8 and over the age of 5
e) ONLY homes that have all family members in attendance for the home visit and only those same homes that have all family members come to BHRR to meet us shall be considered
BHRR stresses that children and dogs should NEVER be left unsupervised together!
**NO EXCEPTIONS.**
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16. Is everyone in your house in agreement in getting a Dane?
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17. If you are a first time Great Dane owner, what kind of research have you done?
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18. Are you aware that this breed can drool, snore loudly, reach anything as high as eye level, and sheds twice a year?
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19. If you feed a commercial processed kibble, do you agree that you will NEVER feed the Dane puppy food?
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\**Note: Dane puppies should be raised on a high quality* ***ADULT*** *food.. It is not only protein levels that one must be cognizant of re: Giants but also calories, fat and phosphorous levels.*
20. Will you agree to have regular routine veterinary checkups, vaccines, fecal and heartworm tests plus use heartworm preventative yearly?
\*DO not submit an application if you are not doing or have not done these proactive/preventative procedures with any past and/or current pets\*
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21. Do you agree to feed your Dane at least twice a day for the rest of his or her life? This reduces the chances of bloating and stomach torsion which is almost always fatal and very common to Danes. Also, never feed after strenuous exercise.
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22. Will you agree to take your Dane to the vet whenever it shows signs of illness, lameness, pain, or any other problem?
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23. Do you understand that your Great Dane will be altered PLUS microchipped by the time he or she is deemed old enough by a Vet. Note that THIS microchip will remain under the primary name of BHRR.
*\*Note: Though we prefer to have males altered between 12 – 18 months and females as close to one year as possible, yet before they reach their first heat(generally around 11 months); in rescue we will alter as early as 8/9 months of age regardless of sex.\**
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24. Where will your Dane stay during the day time? Will your Dane have free run of your house when he or she is mature? If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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25. Will someone be home with your Dane during the daytime? If so, who?
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26. If no one will be home and you work full-time, please explain on how you will deal with this situation?
*\*Note: BHRR will not adopt to homes whereby the Great Dane would be left alone for longer than 8.5 hours.* **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
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27. If your Dane must be left alone during the daytime because of work schedule, are you willing to come home mid-day or pay for a daytime insured pet sitter/walker until your puppy can be comfortable with staying alone that long?
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28. Will you agree to confine your Dane to a giant sized crate or a dog-proofed room so that it is protected from eating objects when you are not supervising it until the Dane can be trusted? Will your Dane be given lots of toys and bones in which to amuse him or herself?
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29. Where will your Dane sleep at night? A Giant Breed animal should never sleep on hard surfaces. It is hard on their joints and has been proven to shorten their life spans.
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30. How will you care for your Dane on vacations? Do you plan to take the Dane with you, hire a pet sitter, or board the Dane at a facility?
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31. **Are you open in taking your Dane to at least ONE full session / group of obedience classes that is taught by a trainer that believes in positive reinforcement and not punishment? This is a mandatory adoption clause to be met for the adoption approval of any of our Great Danes. This session must be started no later than 4 months after you have adopted your new Dane. Proof of registration and completion must be sent to BHRR. IF this is not done, you will be held in legal breach of contract and the animal will be returned safely to BHRR at your own expense.**
*\*Note: BHRR takes this clause very seriously and the four past situations that we had to consult legal counsel have all been ruled in our favour. If you know that you are not going to abide by this mandatory clause, do not apply. There are* **NO EXCEPTIONS** *regardless if you ‘call’ yourself a Trainer or not. Training is one of the least regulated professions out there and lack of obedience is one of the top reasons why dogs, especially Giants are surrendered to Rescues in the first place. Our contract has been declared ‘just’, ‘fair’ and ‘reasonable’ by legal counsel.* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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32. Do you agree that your Dane is not to have any kind of training in guarding, attacking, or fighting?
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33. Which member(s) of your family will be primarily involved in the training of your Dane?
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34. Do you agree to follow normal grooming/care of your Dane - including regular nail trimming, ear cleaning, brushing, and bathing? The recommended bathing schedule for a Dane is once a month.
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35. What kind(s) of vehicle(s) do you drive?
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36. Do you agree to never let your puppy (or dog) ride in an open bed pick-up truck or open-bowed powerboat?
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37. Do you agree to take your Dane out in your neighborhood, local pet stores, parks, etc. for socialization?
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38. Do you have a preference as to what sex your Dane will be? male or female?
\*Note: The more specific you are re: age, sex, colour, ear preference etc. often means longer waiting times for a right personality matched fit due to these specific restrictions.
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39. Do you have a color preference?
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40. Do you prefer cropped ears or natural?
\*Note: Most Danes that come into rescue have natural ears or have failed crops.
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41. What kind of temperament and personality are you looking for in your Dane? (Energetic, easy going, laid back, etc.) Please be as detailed and specific as possible.
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42. Have you researched and are you aware of the potential health problems in this breed that include things like:
43. Hip and Elbow Dysplasia
44. Cardiomyopathy and other heart conditions found in Giant Breed dogs
45. VWD
46. Wobblers
47. Eye abnormalities (especially in predominately white dogs)
48. Sports injuries like cruciate ligament tears
49. Thyroid abnormalities
50. Bloating and stomach torsion

YES or NO

*\*Note: Feeding and environment including proper Vet care under a Giant Breed experience/knowledgeable professional are major factors involved with preventing health problems.*

1. Do you understand that by signing this contract that you will not be permitted to re-sell, re-home, adopt or place your adopted Dane? The Dane is to come back to BHRR should for any reason you can no longer have him or her.
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2. Please list the name, name of practice, address, phone number and email if applicable of your Veterinarian.
*Note: Due to the Canadian Privacy Act, we shall require a note put into your file at your Veterinarian’s office to allow us permission to access information.*
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3. Please list the names, addresses and phone numbers of at least 2 neighbors or friends that have been to your house in the past year. NO relative references accepted
	1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. When are you available for a home check?
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. How much do you think the average per year cost is to feed, perform regular vetting, groom, treat and keep a Great Dane? Bones, food, toys, leashes, collars, vet bills, crates, dog beds, food?
*Note: Answers that do not include an actual dollar/monetary amount shall be considered incomplete and your application cannot be considered*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
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6. Would you consider a Special Needs Dane…ie. Deaf and/or Blind, Visually and/or Hearing Impaired, on medication(s), Senior, Tripods, Wobblers, Diabetic, Seizures etc.?
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Are you aware and agreeable that BHRR’s adoption fees are from $350 and up?
*Note:* Our 2023 adoption fees are **$350.00 and up**.
* Seniors – 9+ years – $350
* Mature Adults – 7 years to 9 years $375
* Adults – 3 to 7 years $600
* Adolescents – 18 months to 3 years $650
* \*Puppies – Up to 18 months of age $675

*\*BHRR rarely gets puppies under 6 months of age in rescue. Our mandate is to work with the Special Needs wherever possible (sick, injured, deaf, blind, visually impaired, hearing impaired, tripods, senior etc.) and our vast experience has shown that while most groups will step up to assist a puppy; most will not step up to assist a special needs.*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you agreeable to paying any and all transport, crate, shipping, gas charges etc., if applicable should an approved adoption NOT occur at the time of the home-visit. We usually require that you come to BHRR to pick up your new addition. This is if the adoption does not occur at the time of everyone meeting.
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2. Do you agree that should an approved adoption not occur at the time of the home-visit – i.e. your home is not yet properly set up with dog bed, dog bowls, dog food, crate, vacation planned, new job, wedding, funeral etc., that you will pay a daily care fee of $25 for each day that the Great Dane remains under our care either at BHRR or in one of our approved temp fosters? This daily fee will be paid until such time as your home is finally ready to have the Great Dane placed into it. For example, 7 days until home is set-up from time of home-visit to bring in Great Dane is 7 x $25 = $175 paid to BHRR – This care fee MUST be paid at the time of the conclusion of the home-visit.
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you agree that should an approved adoption not occur at the time of the home-visit ie your home is not yet properly set-up for a new addition – dog bowls, crate, dog food, toys etc., vacation planned, new job, wedding, funeral etc. that you shall pay the appropriate adoption fee per our posted fee schedule at the time of the conclusion of the home-visit? This adoption fee MUST be paid at the conclusion of the home-visit for any approved adoption to be considered.
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you or anybody living in your home smokers? If yes, do you smoke inside?
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you or anybody else in your home have allergies to pets?
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you agree that you will obey the city/by-laws pertaining to your new addition in order to prevent him or her from annoying or injuring others?
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. You acknowledge and agree to assume all risks and liabilities incident to this adoption to include any and all acts of the Great Dane from the time you adopt him or her forward.
Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. You acknowledge and understand that if you act in violation to any part of this contractual agreement either through act or omission, knowingly or intentionally commits misrepresentation to any contractual stipulation, this contract will be considered null and void and ownership of the Great Dane will revert back to BHRR?
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_
9. The adoptee agrees to pay us the sum of $1000 as liquidated damages in the event the terms of this contract and application are breached; this liquidated damages value does not bar us from seeking the return of the said dog by judicial process or other legal means necessary. If legal action is instituted, the adoptee agrees to pay the Legal fees and court costs.
Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**By your signature, you acknowledge that by visiting BHRR and/or in the adopting of any Great Dane from Birch Haven Rescue and Rehabilitation Services, you release, waive, discharge, hold harmless and shall not bring action against Birch Haven, its founders, directors, officers, members, supporters, volunteers, legal representation and any/all other BHRR agents of any liability of said animal during your time at BHRR or in a BHRR approved foster home and hence forth also after any Great Dane leaves BHRR’s authority such as by example; an adoption. Additionally, upon any adoption, Birch Haven’s full accountability plus all responsibility ends with the adoption and placement of the Great Dane into your care. BHRR does not guarantee nor make any claims or assertions as to the personality, behavior or health of said dog. Every reasonable effort has been made by BHRR to screen for potentially aggressive or dangerous dogs; however, no claims, assertions or guarantees are made as to the predictive reliability of the Great Dane’s personality or behavior. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the health of the Great Dane; however, no claims, assertions or guarantees are made to guarantee the health of the Great Dane.**

**By your signature; you acknowledge your full awareness of the risks that dogs pose and have elected to visit and/or interact with one or more dogs in the care of BHRR knowingly plus willingly. Hence, you knowingly take on all risks that any exposure to dogs may pose, including but not limited to, serious bodily injury/harm and/or possible death.**

At the time that you adopt your Great Dane from BHRR, it is highly recommended that you take your new addition(s) as soon as it is conveniently possible for a vet check for assurance that you are happy with the health plus temperament of your new addition. Should you not feel for any reason at any time that this Great Dane is for you, then he or she or they MUST be returned safely to BHRR immediately at your own expense.
\**Note: NO adoption monies will be returned to you and these monies will be considered a donation to BHRR.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read, understand and answered this application/contract honestly and to the best of my ability. By my signature(s), I also understand that this contract is legally binding and agree to the terms. We understand that if any of the terms of this contract are broken that BHRR will remove the Great Dane(s) from our adoptive home and all expenses shall be incurred by myself for the safe return of said Great Dane(s) to BHRR. If there are any **known** issues with the Great Dane(s) they have been indicated to myself, as the potential adopter and we the undersigned, have read, understood and agree with these said issues. We will not hold BHRR, its volunteers, members, supporters, agents, founders, officers, directors or the owner responsible for these or any unknown issues that may arise with the Great Dane(s). If any issues prevent us from keeping the Great Dane(s) we agree to contact BHRR.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_

In turn, BHRR will always be available as a 24/7 resource and provide assistance for as long as you have a BHRR rescue.

Please mail or email with electronic signature this application/contract along with the non-refundable application processing fee back to:

Birch Haven Rescue and Rehabilitation Services

C/O BHRR Board of Directors

2425 Totem Ranch Road West

RR#1 Oxford Station, Ontario

K0G 1T0

**\*\*NOTE**: All information in this BHRR application is the SOLE PROPERTY of Birch Haven Rescue and Rehabilitation Services, hence thereby referred to as BHRR. None of this information shall be shared, cross-posted, traded, or otherwise given to another source without explicit written Permission of BHRR. This application is intended as a copyright warning. All other use is and WILL be prosecutable within the fullest extent of the law. All information in this application is kept strictly private and on BHRR’s part will not be disclosed to a third party source without the electronic or written consent of the POTENTIAL ADOPTER of which a copy of that said electronic or written consent shall be passed along with this application to the third party, such as a home-visit volunteer outside of BHRR authority YET this information can be shared with legal counsel as they are representatives of BHRR and hence an integral part of BHRR. For example, another rescue performing a home visit service upon request of assistance from BHRR. The same level of privacy and confidentiality is required of the POTENTIAL ADOPTER when they fill out this BHRR Application.

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