

GREAT DANE - OFFICIAL STATE DOG
Act of Aug. 17, 1965, P.L. 331, No. 178
AN ACT

Cl. 71

Selecting, designating and adopting the Great Dane as the official dog of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Whereas, the dog has faithfully and voluntarily performed invaluable physical, psychological and economic service to mankind as guardian of home and industry, companion to youth and aged, hunter, herder, hauler, guide to the blind and indispensable aid to our armed forces on the battlefield until he is today known as "Man's Best Friend"; and

Whereas, the Great Dane is prominently depicted in the Governor's reception room painting by Pennsylvania artist Violet Oakley as the "Best Friend" of the founder of this Commonwealth, William Penn; and

Whereas, the Great Dane came from England just as did William Penn and later was further developed by Germany just as was Pennsylvania by the "Pennsylvania Dutch"; and

Whereas, the Great Dane has held a consistent and honored position in many other foreign countries as well as throughout the United States, thereby further typifying the varied peoples who have contributed to the greatness of this Commonwealth and Nation; and

Whereas, the Great Dane represents both the great hunting and industrial parts of Pennsylvania, having begun as a hunting breed just as Pennsylvania began as a hunting Commonwealth, later also becoming a leading working breed, just as Pennsylvania became a leading working Commonwealth; and

Whereas, the outline of the Great Dane's head resembles the outline of the Commonwealth's boundaries; and

Whereas, the Great Dane is known as the King of his species, just as Pennsylvania's State Bird is known as the King of its species; and

Whereas, the physical and other attributes of the Great Dane, to wit: size, strength, beauty, intelligence, tolerance, courage, faithfulness, trustworthiness and stability exemplify those of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, naming an official dog of the Commonwealth would recognize the steadfast service and loyal devotion of all dogs in Pennsylvania and provide a symbol of the great Home side of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, naming the Great Dane would pay tribute to internationally known Pennsylvania, artist, Violet Oakley, for her historic works which beautify the entire Capitol; therefore

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The Great Dane is hereby selected, designated and adopted as the official dog of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.