



February 20, 2023

The decision to euthanize a companion animal is a complex matter and one that animal welfare organizations must confront with some regularity. Public safety is a responsibility held by animal adoption facilities, and the Ark Valley Humane Society has made a responsible decision to euthanize Echo, a 170-pound mixed breed dog residing at their shelter.

In the case of Echo, a Great Dane/Mastiff mix dog:

- Size matters! Giant breed dogs have the physical strength to inflict serious injury.
- A pattern of aggressive responses without clear triggering events increases the risk of future occurrences.
- The absence of protracted warning signals increases the likelihood of another injurious bite event.
- Comorbidities, such as escape behavior, increase the risk for encounters with humans and animals.

As the lawful custodian to Echo, Ark Valley Humane Society is responsible for future risk to public safety and are pragmatic in their conclusion that Echo presents a danger to the community.

Sincerely,

Bridgette Chesne
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