



Scooby-Doo: The Ghost Hunting Great Dane

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Introduction / Background

- Scooby-Doo is the main character in *Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?* (1969). There are multiple movies and television series that are still based around Scooby-Doo today.
- Great Danes are one of the kindest and most loyal dogs around. Scooby-Doo parallels these characteristics in the films with his best friend Shaggy.
- Scooby-Doo is an anthropomorphic character, which means Scooby-Doo is given human characteristics.
- Great Danes were once thought of to ward off ghosts and evil spirits. This is part of the reason Scooby-Doo is a ghost hunting Great Dane in the show!
- Scooby-Doo differs physically from Great Danes in his appearance. Iwao Takamoto, the illustrator of Scooby-Doo, purposely altered Scooby's appearance for a comedic effect.
- Great Danes are sometimes called leaners because they tend to lean on their owners. Sometimes they even sit on top of their owners despite their large size.
- Great Danes are often called gentle giants because of their personality and large size. Scooby-Doo is the perfect example of a gentle giant.

Evidence



Warner Bros. Entertainment Wiki, warnerbros.fandom.com/wiki/Scooby-Doo. Accessed 2 March 2021.

Scooby-Doo does not look like the average Great Dane. Small features have been changed to make a funnier looking dog for the films. For example, Scooby's legs are bowed outward, and he has a double chin.



"Scooby Doo - Shaggy Rogers Scrappy-Doo Scooby-Doo Character Hanna-Barbera PNG." FAVPNG, 28 June 2017, favpng.com/png_view/scooby-doo-shaggy-rogers-scrappy-doo-scooby-doo-character-hanna-barbera-png/cQnDb2fh.

Despite his large size, Scooby-Doo still jumps into Shaggy's arms. Great Danes really are leaners!

Research question / thesis / hypothesis

- What stereotypes, connotations, tropes, and assumptions related to Great Danes carries over into animated characters such as Scooby-Doo?
- Scooby-Doo is an animated Great Dane that has been around for over fifty years! He is a ghost hunter that is, ironically, scared of everything. Great Danes are some of the kindest dogs, and Scooby-Doo fits the stereotype. It is obvious that he would never hurt anyone in the show. He is more scared of the ghosts than they are of him, which is ironic since Great Danes were known to ward off evil spirits at one point in history.



Warner Bros Studio. "Scooby Holding Shaggy." Polygon, 15 May 2020, www.polygon.com/2020/5/15/21259234/scooby-doo-live-action-james-gunn-monsters-unleashed-sarah-michelle-gellar-matthew-lillard.

Scooby-Doo is holding Shaggy as if he is his baby. This shows the anthropomorphic side of Scooby-Doo because dogs do not actually hold their owners.



"Scooby-Doo and His Friends Sitting at a Table." Midwest Film Journal, 8 Oct. 2019, midwestfilmjournal.com/2019/10/08/on-dvd-scooby-doo-return-to-zombie-island/.

In the image to the left, Scooby-Doo is sitting at a table with his friends as if he is a human.

Conclusions

Scooby-Doo is a well known animated Great Dane that has been around since 1969. Scooby-Doo is no doubt a Great Dane, but his physical appearance differs from the average Great Dane. He is an anthropomorphic character in the films as he is given human characteristics. Scooby-Doo, like normal Great Danes, really is a "man's best friend." In the films, it is very noticeable that Shaggy and Scooby have an unbreakable bond. The film pokes fun at the old stereotype that Great Danes can ward off evil spirits because Scooby is more scared of the ghosts than they are of him. Scooby-Doo fits the leaner stereotype that Great Danes are given as he often jumps into Shaggy's arms when he is frightened. Like Scooby, Great Danes are some of the loyalist and friendliest dogs around. Although real-life Great Danes have a short lifespan, Scooby-Doo has outlived them all!

Works Cited

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