

LOVE IS A GREAT DANE!

LOVE IS A
GREAT DANE!



A reference guide for Australian Great Dane owners

Created by Great Dane Rescue & Re-homing NSW

Thank you for your support

We hope that you enjoy this guide to Great Dane ownership in Australia! GDRR NSW offers this guide as a download free of charge.

Great Dane Rescue & Re-homing in Australia consists of a number of Rescue Co-ordinators from State Breed Clubs as well as private Great Dane rescue groups/individuals.

Find us on Facebook 'Great Dane Rescue & Re-homing Australia'.

Or visit: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/85530305543>

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Thank you!

Thank you to the many contributors to this guide which included Australian Great Dane Breeders, Exhibitors, Rescue Co-ordinators & Companion owners.

Feedback

If you would like to provide any feedback to be taken into consideration for future issues, please e-mail sacha@greatdanerescue.com.au

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Buying a Great Dane Puppy

Written by June Hayles (RIP 02.03.12)

Great Dane Rescue & Re-homing QLD

www.greatdanerescue.com.au

Firstly, please do your RESEARCH. Refer to websites, word of mouth, visit the kennels of top winning dogs, and/or buy or borrow a good book on Great Danes from your library.

This will give you a picture in your mind of what a good, sound Great Dane should look like. While a baby puppy will not fit this picture, the parents of the puppy should.

There are many 'dodgy' breeders around, both backyard and registered

[Reference: Backyard Breeder is referred to a BYB and in this instance it refers to a person/s who are not registered breeders with their states canine council and breeds whichever dog/s they have in their backyard generally for money and without completing any health / genetic testing.]

Ask questions: A serious registered breeder will show their dogs – their aim is to better the breed and they want their breeding stock assessed. If they are just producing litter after litter without showing their dogs or show average quality dogs, look elsewhere!!!

Backyard Breeders may be cheaper initially, but chances are they did not undertake proper health testing before breeding their dogs or do not know how to rear giant breed puppies correctly, so you could be paying out \$1,000s in the not-too-distant future.

A puppy that is not raised the right way or who is from a questionable breeding can suffer problems throughout its life.

When you are looking for a puppy, seeing them in person is best and it is important not to be distracted by how cute they are!

Things to look for are:

Good: Clear eyes; a shiny coat and nice wet nose, a solid, big boned puppy with a strong rear and topline; a nice Croup, not too steep, whilst puppies sleep a lot, when they are awake, they should be playful, interacting with other puppies and full of energy.

Avoid: Discharge or 'gunk' in the corners of the eyes; loose red, sore looking Haws (gives the dog a sad eye appearance), rashes, hives or bald patches; a big round-worm burdened stomach, listless hunched up.

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If the breeder is only interested in how much money you have and doesn't ask about your experience with puppies, where the pup will live, your daily routines and any other animals or children you might have, and provide you with a maintenance, exercise and feeding sheet, worming and vaccination records and any other information you might need to raise a happy, healthy puppy, plus the promise of their support and back up if needed, RUN!!

This is not the sort of breeder you want to enter into a relationship with.

An ideal relationship is ongoing where the breeder looks forward to hearing from you and the progress your puppy is making, and where you know you can go, at any time, for help and advice should something seem not quite right.

This checklist is just to give you an idea of some things to look out for but is not a guarantee that it will identify everything.

It all comes back to the first point; it is really important to do your research and make a careful planned decision and not a spontaneous or ill-considered decision.

Visit: www.dogzonline.com.au/breeds/community/great-dane.asp

To find a list of Registered Breeders, see puppies currently available, mature Great Danes available and profiles of Australian + NZ Great Dane show dogs.

Visit: www.greatdanes.net.au/litters.htm

To view the number of Registered Litters in Australia per Breeder per year.



Puppy Prices

They can come as a shock to those who haven't purchased a pedigreed Great Dane before!

Pedigree

A dog that comes with Pedigree papers issued by the states canine control body that proves that the dog is pure.

Purebred

A dog that looks like a breed however the breeder is not a Registered Breeder and therefore cannot give you pedigree papers. The dog is presumed pure but it cannot be proven.

A pedigree Great Dane will generally cost you between: **\$1,000.00 – \$2,500.00.**

When you are buying a Pedigree Great Dane from an 'Ethical' and Registered Breeder you are 'typically' buying:

- Proof without any doubt that your puppy is actually a purebred
- History of the line
- Predictability of breed traits
- Health tested breeding stock
- A healthy and sound dog
- A puppy that is the result of many years of selective breeding
- Sound temperament
- Support from the breeder for the life of the puppy

There are Registered Breeders that are **not** ethical, and may operate similar to your average Backyard Breeder or Puppy Farmer, however research and the use of an overview / checklist will help you weed out the good from the not so good.

When you purchase a cheap Dane puppy you should ask yourself whether taking the cheaper route is going to cost you more in the long run in terms of health and temperament.

Does the \$ amount equate to the quality of the puppy? Use your overview / checklist to see if the money you're spending is worth it or is it a new Breeder with unproven lines, not health checked and not in the show ring who wants to charge you \$2,500.00+?

Puppy Buying Overview / Checklist

These are simply some questions to prompt you to think further about whether this is a Breeder you are comfortable dealing with and if their morals and ethics are in-line with your own. It is important you don't interrogate Breeders with such questions. It is advisable you get to know one another on the phone and then you can start politely asking such questions.

☐

Is the Breeder a Registered Breeder that will give you Pedigree Papers?

☐

Does the Breeder health screen their breeding stock? See the 'Health Concerns' section of the guide for more information.

☐

Does the Breeder compete with their dogs in the show ring?

☐

Do the Breeder's dogs have stable temperaments? Neither nervy, highly strung nor over the top nor aggressive in any way.

☐

Why does the Breeder breed?

☐

How long has the Breeder been breeding Great Danes? Do they have a mentor if they are a new Breeder?

☐

How many litters do they have per year? Is the answer something that you're comfortable with?

☐

How / where do their Breeding stock live?

☐

Do they look well loved and looked after?

☐

If you need to re-home a Dane you purchased from them how will they assist you?

☐

Did the Breeder thoroughly screen you? Do they appear to care where their puppies go?

☐

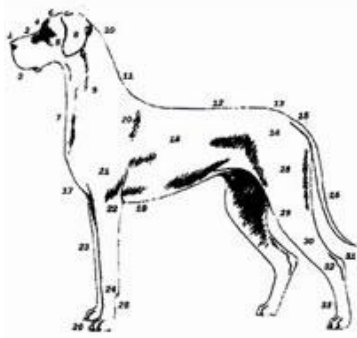
How much is the puppy?

☐

Have you asked other Breeders / Dane Owners about this Breeder?

☐

Will the Breeder reimburse you or refund you if something is wrong with the puppy e.g. Wobblers, DCM, Allergic Skin Disease etc ?



The Great Dane Breed Standard

What Breeders should aim to breed.

"A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed."

General Appearance

Very muscular, strongly though elegantly built, with look of dash and daring, of being ready to go anywhere and do anything. Head and neck carried high, tail in line with back, or slightly upwards, but never curled over hindquarters. Elegance of outline and grace of form most essential.

Characteristics

Alert expression, powerful, majestic action displaying dignity.

Temperament

Kindly without nervousness, friendly and outgoing.

Head and Skull

Head, taken altogether, gives idea of great length and strength of jaw. Muzzle or foreface broad, skull proportionately narrow, so that whole head when viewed from above and in front, has appearance of equal breadth throughout.

Length of head in proportion to height of dog. Length from nose to point between eyes about equal or preferably of greater length than from this point to back of occiput. Skull flat, slight indentation running up centre, occipital peak not prominent.

Decided rise or brow over the eyes but no abrupt stop between them; face well chiselled, well filled in below eyes with no appearance of being pinched: foreface long, of equal depth throughout.

Cheeks showing as little lumpiness as possible, compatible with strength. Underline of head, viewed in profile, runs almost in a straight line from corner of lip to corner of jawbone, allowing for fold of lip, but with no loose skin hanging down. Bridge of nose very wide, with slight ridge where cartilage joins bone (this is a characteristic of breed). Nostrils large, wide and open, giving blunt look to nose. Lips hang squarely in front, forming right-angle with upper line of foreface.

Eyes

Fairly deep set, not giving the appearance of being round, of medium size and preferably dark. Wall or odd eyes permissible in Harlequins.

Note: Wall Eyes are when a dog has an eye/eyes that are not all one colour, the eye may be half Blue and the other half may be Amber. Odd Eyes one Blue eye and one Brown or Amber eye.

Ears

Triangular, medium size, set high on skull and folded forward, not pendulous.

Mouth

Teeth level. Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Neck

Neck long, well arched, quite clean and free from loose skin, held well up, well set in shoulders, junction of head and neck well defined.

Forequarters

Shoulders muscular, not loaded, well sloped back, with elbows well under body. Forelegs perfectly straight with big flat bone.

Body

Very deep, brisket reaching elbow, ribs well sprung, belly well drawn up. Back and loins strong, latter slightly arched.

Hindquarters

Extremely muscular, giving strength and galloping power. Second thigh long and well developed, good turn of stifle, hocks set low, turning neither in nor out.

Feet

Cat-like, turning neither in nor out. Toes well arched and close, nails strong and curved. Nails preferably dark in all coat colours, except harlequins, where light are permissible.

Tail

Thick at the root, tapering towards end, reaching to or just below hocks. Carried in straight line level with back, when dog is moving, slightly curved towards end, but never curling or carried over back.

Gait / Movement

Action lithe, springy and free, covering ground well. Hocks move freely with driving action, head carried high.

Coat

Short dense and sleek looking, never inclined to roughness.

Colour

Brindles

Must be striped, ground colour from lightest buff to deepest orange, stripes always black, eyes and nails preferably dark, dark shadings on head and ears acceptable.

Fawns

Colour varies from lightest buff to deepest orange, dark shadings on head and ears acceptable, eyes and nails preferably dark.

Blues

Colour varies from light grey to deep slate, the nose and eyes may be blue.

Blacks

Black is Black.

In all above colours white is only permissible on chest and feet, but it is not desirable even there. Nose always black, except in blues and harlequins. Eyes and nails preferably dark.

Mantle

Black and white with a solid, black blanket extending over the body. Ideally– black skull with white muzzle, white blaze optional, whole white collar preferred, a white chest, white on part or whole of the forelegs and hind legs, white tipped black tail. Nose always black, eyes and nails preferably dark.

Harlequins

Pure white underground with preferably all black patches or all blue patches, having appearance of being torn. Light nails permissible. In harlequins, wall eyes, pink noses, or butterfly noses permissible but not desirable.

Size of the Great Dane

Height:

Adult Dogs: 76 cms (30 ins) over eighteen months

Adult Bitches: 71 cms (28 ins) over eighteen months

Weight:

Minimum Adult Dogs 54 kg (120 lbs) over eighteen months

Adult Bitches 46 kg (100 lbs) over eighteen months

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

Note

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

What should your Great Dane puppy look like?

There is no perfect Great Dane, however Breeders should breed with the standard in mind.

Used with permission, thank you Jill Evans who originally drew these in the 1980's and updated them for us in 2011.

Your puppy may not reflect this however this is just an 'ideal' to give you a rough visual example, puppies also change as they grow.

6-WEEK DANE PUP

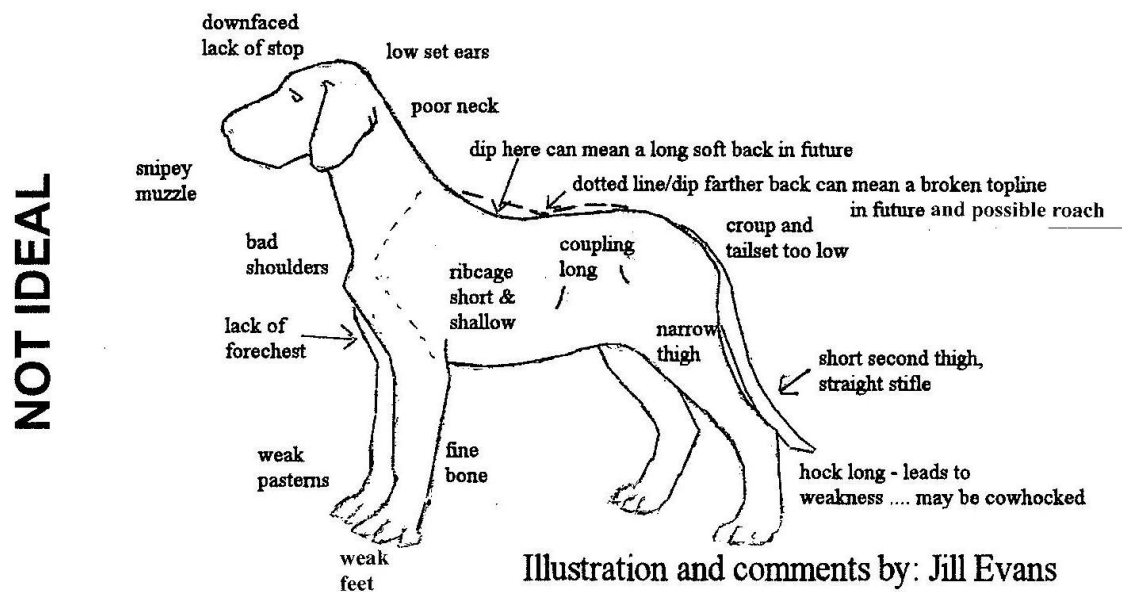
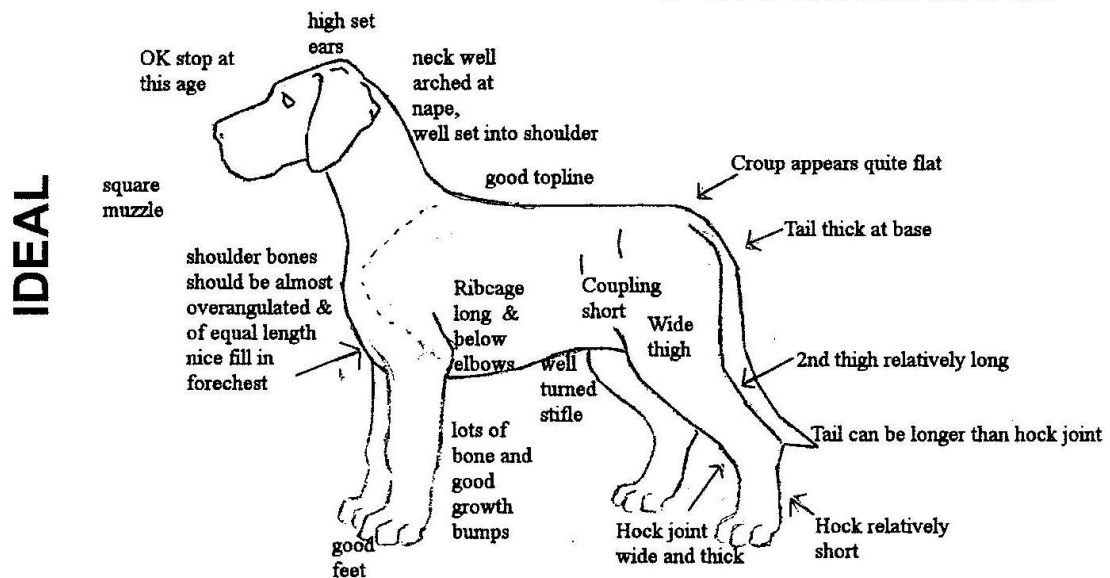
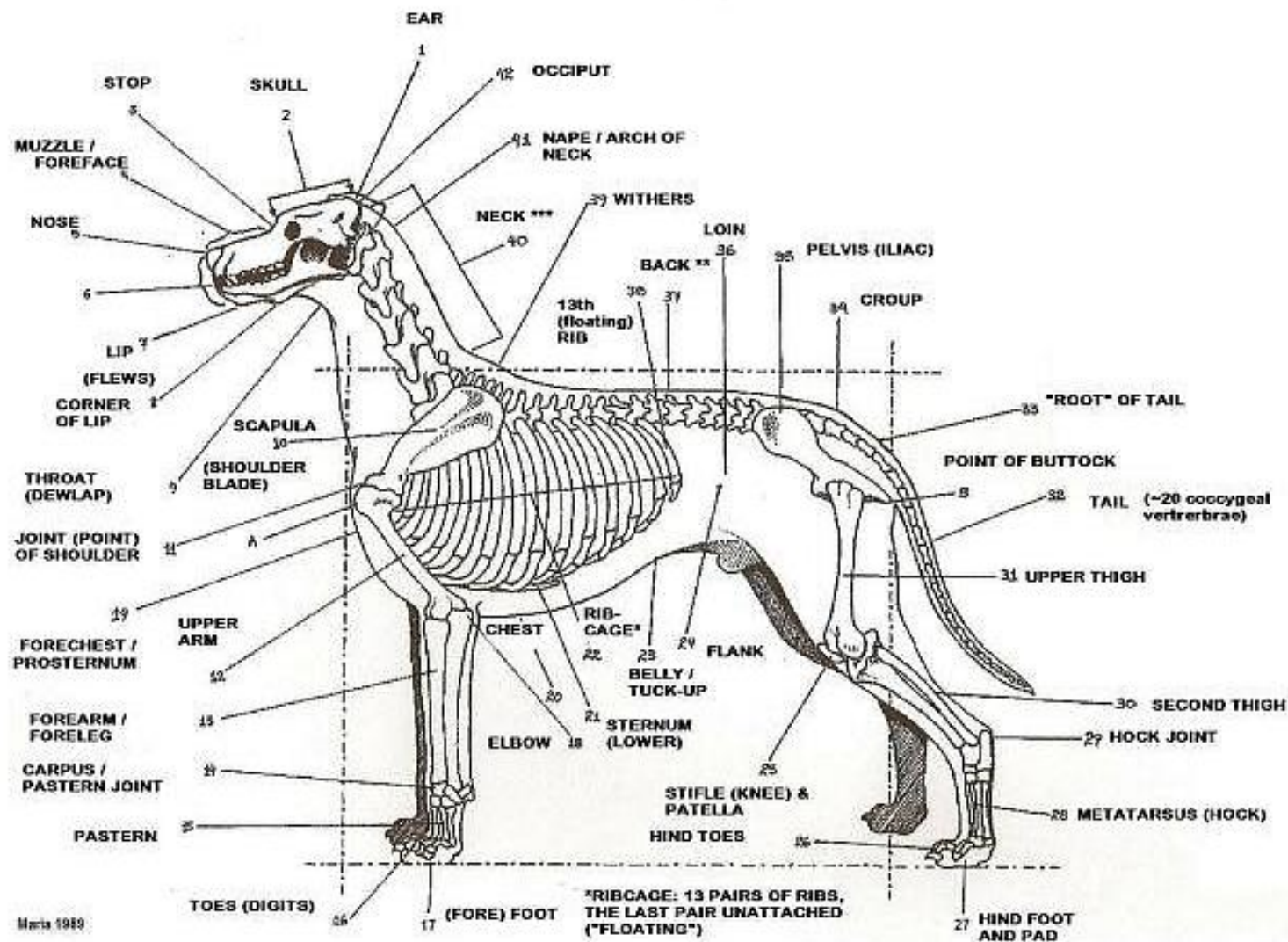


Illustration and comments by: Jill Evans

The Anatomy of a Great Dane

Getting to the bare bones of the Dane.



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A visual representation of the Breed Standard

Reprinted with permission of the Great Dane Club of America.



The Great Dane Dog



The Great Dane Bitch



GREAT DANE DOG HEAD



GREAT DANE BITCH HEAD



CROPPED EAR



UNCROPPED EAR

Note: In Australia, we do not crop ears.

The 6 Accepted Great Dane Colours / Patterns



HARLEQUIN



BRINDLE



MANTLE



FAWN



BLUE



BLACK

Other Colours / Patterns

There is a huge spectrum of colours and patterns that Great Danes can come in, although there are only 6 Recognised/Accepted Great Dane Colours/Patterns. The Merle, Merle Mantle, Merle-a-quin & Whites are normal and expected results of Harlequin Breeding programs. The remaining/other colours and patterns (e.g. Fawn-a-quin) occur when Breeders cross-colour breeds or uses dogs that carry other colours in their genetic make-up.

The Taboos of Cross Colour Breeding

Cross-colour breeding is generally frowned upon as it is typically conducted by Breeders who are trying to get 'unique' colours/patterns to sell for a lot of money to an unsuspecting member of the public who thinks some colours/patterns are 'rare' and 'sought after' (which is not the case) OR by a novice Breeder who doesn't yet understand colour genetics.

Ethical Reasons to Cross Colour / Pattern Breed

Occasionally ethical Registered Great Dane Breeders will cross-colour breed if they have a specific goal to work towards which will improve the breed.

For example if a Harlequin Great Dane lacks something that (for example) a Fawn dog has, then the Breeder may introduce a Fawn into their breeding program to achieve that goal.

However, when you mish-mash colours, future matings using the offspring can be unpredictable and you may end up with non-recognised colours/mismarks.

A Harlequin Breeder no more wants a Fawn in their litter than a Fawn Breeder wants a Harlequin in their litter.

[Explanation: The reason for this is that Breeders are not only aiming to breed healthy well conformed puppies but they are aiming for recognised colours, when you add Fawn into a Harlequin breeding program you could end up producing Fawn-a-quins which is not a recognised colour which means you cannot breed from that dog as in Australia we are only allowed to breed from recognised colours/patterns which would be such a shame if the dog has everything else going for it.]

Reasons to avoid Cross Colour Breeding

If Cross colour Breeding becomes the norm in a Breeder's breeding program or the Breed in general then the 6 recognised colours that we know and love may fade away/be hard to produce.

Throw backs

Even when Breeders don't cross-colour breed they can get genetic throw backs that can certainly be a surprise!

[Explanation: For example, if a Harlequin and Black mated and they produced 5 Black puppies and 1 Fawn puppy the Fawn puppy would be the surprise, however because there is Fawn in the line (perhaps 6 generations back) this 'throw back' is possible.]



The Merle Great Dane

A very normal result of Harlequin breeding programs.

Although the Merle or Merle Mantle Great Dane is not a registered/recognised colour it is a very normal result of Harlequin breeding programs and a very common colour/pattern.

The Merle has never been allowed in the show ring in Australia, however it was once allowed to be used in breeding programs.

Since the rule change in recent years, Breeders can only breed from recognised colours, therefore the Merle Great Dane is no longer allowed to be bred from (by Registered Breeders) which is a true shame because it gives Breeders another option in their breeding programs rather than being forced to ignore quality because of its colour/pattern.

What's wrong with Breeding Merles?

Merles carry the Merle gene and when you breed 2 Merle Gene dogs together you can create Double Merle dogs which is commonly referred to as the 'Lethal gene' which can result in deaf, blind, defective dogs – usually dogs that are mainly white.

The Merle gene can also be carried by other colours/patterns too such as Harlequins and genetic testing would be required before throwing the baby out with the bath water.

In 2011, Australian Great Dane Breed Clubs were campaigning to have the Merle allowed back into breeding programs, however not all the breed clubs agreed to support this move. Maybe one day in the future they'll be another push for it and you never know we may even see them in the show ring as they are in some other countries.

Because the Merle Great Dane is not a recognised colour, it cannot be shown in the show ring or bred. It is therefore sold for much less than registered colours; many Breeders sell Merles for around \$1,200.00.

Some Harlequin Breeders list Merles as Harlequins or Merle Mantles as Mantles on their Pedigree papers to get around the problem of not being able to breed them. Not only is this against the rules it means that the future Breeders won't be able to plan Breeding correctly due to incorrectly labeled colours on the Pedigree.

If a controlling body learns that a Merle has whelped a litter labeled as a Harlequin/Mantle, the offspring may have their Pedigree papers revoked.

Whites & lightly marked Harlequins + mismarks

Used with Permission: JP Yousha (Geneticist & Great Dane Breeder)

Full Article available at:

<http://www.chromadane.com/index.php/en/chromalinx/99-great-dane-specific-coat-color-info/great-dane-color-historical/128-color-and-pattern-associated-disorders-in-the-great-dane>

White or very lightly marked Harlequins/Merle-a-quins appear in Harlequin breeding programs from time to time.

You may have the opportunity to bring one of these dogs into your family. Before you do, it is important that you conduct your own research before you commit.

Homozygous (MM) "double merle" or "white" Danes are usually deaf and may suffer from a variety of skin problems and eye anomalies, all associated with the general lack of pigment that results when the dog has two "doses" of the merle gene.

This association is directly related to the lack of pigment, rather than having an absolutely straight-line association with the Merle allele.

Any harlequin or merle (Mm) animal with the pigment severely reduced (less than 15% pigmented as a rule of thumb), or any animal lacking head pigment may very well also suffer from any of the problems listed below.

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PREDOMINATELY WHITE DOGS:

1. Congenital CATARACTS associated with microphthalmia. Blinding disorder.
2. Persistent pupillary membrane. Can be blinding & is a disfiguring eye defect.
3. Tapetal hypoplasia. Lack of reflective lens. Can cause night blindness.
4. Convergent strabismus. Cross-eyed-affects vision.
5. Enphthalmia-recessed eyes-can lead to chronic infection.
6. Microphthalmia-tiny eyeballs--often lead to total blindness & most have very poor sight from the start. Removal of the eyeball may be necessary.
7. Medial canthal syndrome--when (commonly) associated with 5 & / or 6--leads to chronic infection & blindness.

8. Heterochromia iridis/hypochromia iridis--lack of iris pigment--causes blue eyes & is associated with deafness & can be associated with other eye defects in predominately white dogs.
9. Coloboma(ta). "Notched" irises & other eye structures which fail to develop properly & close on the suture lines due to the action of the Merle gene. Leads to various defects of vision & even collapse of the eye structure.
10. Merle deafness--develops in the first month of life & is permanent & often debilitating to proper social development of the dog as usually bilateral. Testable by no later than 6 weeks--associated often with other less apparent defects. Euthanasia is generally recommended.
11. Piebald deafness--is present normally by 4-8 wks. & bilateral deafness can only be objectively confirmed by a BAER test. When bilateral, euthanasia is generally recommended.
12. Demodicosis. Immune-mediated hair follicle mange. There appears to be an increased incidence in reported in predominantly white pups.
13. Atopic dermatitis. Inherited allergies. There appears to be an increased incidence in reported in predominately white dogs.
14. Skin cancer. Increased incidence is reported in predominately white dogs due to the lack of protecting pigment (melanin) from UV (sunray) exposure. Sunburn also occurs often in dogs lacking pigment & this can lead to tumours / cancer.
15. Follicular dysplasia. A hair / coat problem of broken & dull hairs & "pimply" infection with a high incidence in white coated (& other dilute coloured) dogs.
16. Photo-induced epilepsy. Seizure activity has been reported in white (double merle) Danes thought to be associated with subtle eye structure defects.
17. Sterility & reduced fertility. Increased incidence in mostly white pups. Quite obviously lowered reproductive success is generally expected with a bitch that cannot hear (or see) her whelps, and a deaf or blind stud dog presents obvious challenges of management as well.
18. Multiple congenital defects. White pups may have a variety of organ defects which arise only as they grow & first may only be seen (if seen when young at all) as a failure to thrive & keep up with the size, weight & activity level of the other pups, but later result in multiple health problems for the dog.

Social instability & inadequacy

Dogs with sensory defects commonly are unable to interact with their own species or with humans with full & satisfactory success. Such pups may well be identified, isolated & treated as different right from the start by the dam & the other littermates.

Many develop poorly, fail to adapt & have multiple problems coping with normal daily activities; they are often described as "shy" or "spooky" & the bite incidence for such animals is high.

Some are "picked on," many have trouble with normal events, especially those involving more than the immediate family (the vet, boarding, etc.), while others need another pet constantly with them to cope with the world at large & suffer tremendously when this animal is not near them.

Death by automobile is a common end for such dogs, but many unfortunately are simply given up to rescue when they become too huge a burden for the family who bought them as a pup. Many will never be placed due to their poor social skills.



Health Concerns

Great Danes in Australia are generally a healthy breed, however there are some conditions seen in Great Danes that you will want to be aware of.

Ideally your Great Dane puppy will come from health screened breeding stock, however health screening is not the be-all to avoiding health problems in any breed – the most common health concerns in Great Danes cannot be tested for, therefore a Breeder's experience and knowledge/honesty of their lines is what is relied upon.

As a puppy buyer it will also be your responsibility to research as much as possible, ask your Breeder questions, see other dogs from the same line, ask around etc.

In your search for a Breeder you may come across a Breeder that does conduct the following health screening:

- **Hip & Elbow Scoring**
- **Thyroid test**
- **Heart Disease test**

In the case where a Breeder does not health screen you will need to rely on the Breeder's experience and knowledge & honesty of their lines. If they are a fairly new Breeder they ideally will have an experienced Mentor who will guide them through their Breeding journey and you could ask to speak with them as well.

You can always ask a Breeder why they have opted not carry out health screening, and see if you are comfortable with their answer.

If a Breeder tells you they do not health screen because they do not have that particular problem in their line that very well could be true, however in saying that there are some conditions that are not obvious to the eye.

Hip & Elbow Dysplasia: even very dysplastic dogs can walk and run as normal for many years before the problem becomes obvious, therefore pre-breeding screening such as Hip & Elbow Scoring will help the Breeder determine if that particular dog has any problems and if they would like to use that dog in their Breeding program.

Bloat

(A painful distending and twisting of the stomach) isn't seen as often in Australia as it is in America, however is a great concern for all Great Dane Owners, especially those with dogs 5+ years of age. Bloat is a critical condition that affects Great Danes and results rapidly in death if not quickly addressed. As of 2011 there is no concrete evidence as to what can cause Bloat, however there are some general precautions many Dane owners take that many believe act as a preventative which may include:

- Provide meals and water from a shoulder height position, (although one study of 50 Great Danes said this method increased the risk).
- Do not exercise the dog within an hour (before or after) meals.
- Avoid boarding kennels where possible (stress).
- If a dog eats quickly, slow them down with a Scoff Stopper® bowl or put their meals into Treat Balls.
- If you see them spending a long time at the water bowl or gulping, guide them away from it.

Testing

While there is no guarantee, the afore-mentioned should help reduce the risk. There is no genetic test for bloat however there appears to be an increased risk for Danes whose parents and / or siblings have suffered the condition.

It is recommended you speak to your Breeder about the bloat / torsion that they have experienced in their lines.

Once a dog bloats, it is likely to do so again at some stage in the future.

Thyroid:

Hypothyroidism can cause a variety of medical problems, and has been linked to auto-immune disorders.

Testing

The condition is diagnosed with blood screening called a T4. If the dog is suspected of having a problem there is a full Thyroid test available at the Hemopet Lab in America.

Hip/Elbow Dysplasia:

Hip Dysplasia is a poly-genetic hereditary disease which can cause pain and lameness – even to the point of being crippling. X-raying the Dam & Sire is recommended to ensure only suitable breeding stock is used. It is possible for a Dam & Sire with good hips & elbows to produce offspring with dysplasia.

Many Breeders recommend minimal exercise for Great Dane puppies whilst in their critical growth period (1–12 months) to prevent what is commonly referred to as environmental HD/ED.

Providing ramps instead of stairs and helping a dog in and out of the vehicle while it is still developing is ideal.

Puppies can be a bundle of energy, be careful of how they are using this energy. Tearing around at a million miles an hour and sliding/falling over can add to joint problems later on.

Letting puppy jump on and off furniture such as sofa's and beds as well as in and out of cars also puts unnecessary pressure on their joints.

Screening

It is recommended that you ask your Breeder if they hip & elbow score their breeding stock and if so, what were the results. You can find out more about scoring here:

<http://www.greatdanes.net.au/scores.htm>

Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM):

DCM is a heartbreaking condition affecting the heart which typically affects young dogs in their prime. There is no genetic testing available at this time however ethical Breeders will not use a dog from a line which has had known DCM.

Screening

There are heart clinics held throughout Australia which some Breeders will have their breeding stock screened at. Screening should occur annually.

Ideally breeding stock will have some form of testing. There are a number of different tests available, from blood tests that show Heart Disease markers all the way through to colour Dopplers.

Heart testing available to Breeders will only show how the Heart is on that particular day and this is why some Breeders do not feel Heart testing is worthwhile. As a puppy buyer you need to decide how worthwhile you feel this test is.

Ocular disease (Eyes):

A breeding dog should be certified to be free of apparent heritable ocular disease based upon examination by a Veterinary Ophthalmologist. The dog must be re-examined and re-certified every 12 months. Ocular disease is rare in Australia in Great Danes, therefore it would be unlikely for Breeders to test for these conditions unless they have experienced a problem.

Wobblers:

Wobblers disease is a condition of the cervical vertebrae that causes an unsteady (wobbly) gait and weakness, it is typically a genetic condition however the mode of inheritance is unknown and there is no genetic test at this stage. Wobblers in rare instances can be due to an accident. If you are informed by a Breeder that there is a case or cases of accident induced Wobblers in the lines you are advised to investigate/research further.

The term 'Wobblers disease' refers to a number of different conditions of the cervical (neck) spinal column that all cause similar symptoms. These conditions may include malformation of the vertebrae, intervertebral disc protrusion, and disease of the interspinal ligaments, ligamenta flava, and articular facets of the vertebrae.

Wobblers disease is also known as cervical vertebral instability, cervical spondylomyelopathy (CSM), and cervical vertebral malformation (CVM). In dogs, the disease is most common in large breeds, especially Great Danes.

Ask your Breeder if they have had any Wobblers before or Neurological problems as Wobblers can only be 100% diagnosed with a risky and expensive procedure and therefore some Wobblers go undiagnosed and are labeled Neurological problems.

Screening

There is currently no genetic test for Wobblers; however ethical breeders will not breed a dog from lines known to have Wobblers. This condition is considered uncommon although not unheard of in Australia.

Von Willebrand's Disease:

Von Willebrand's Disease is a bleeding disorder (similar to Hemophilia in people).

Screening

There is a genetic test for this condition, however because this condition is considered rare in Australia it would be unlikely Breeders here would conduct this test unless a problem has actually come up in their line.

Skin Disorders

Allergies / Skin issues: Allergies are the result of an overactive immune system that releases histamines in its effort to rid the body of foreign proteins from pollen, dust mites, trees, grass, household dust, dander, and many other materials.

Atopic allergies are believed to have a genetic component so you will want to ask your Breeder if they have seen any skin issues, if so what was the condition, how did it affect the dog, how is it treated and often has this problem been seen in dogs from their lines.

Some people may talk about a dog 2 or 3 generations back that used to itch when it was on certain grasses or who reacted to chicken, these are allergies and need to be considered when looking at potential offspring.

There are legitimate hormone related skin problems e.g a bitch may have skin issues occur around her heat cycle and then clear up afterwards etc. Thyroid problems can also be a cause of skin issues.

There is some evidence that already sensitive dogs can be affected by **allergies due to vaccination**. Your Breeder will be able to tell you if there is a vaccination sensitivity in their line.

Some people may deny the genetic component to allergic skin disease as perhaps only one puppy in the litter has allergies, however genetics don't affect every offspring just like one child in a family of 6 may need glasses and the others do not.

Allergies can be an expensive and heartbreaking condition; some dogs have minor seasonal flares ups where others suffer all year round and have to be on medication to have quality of life.

Skin Allergies / Skin Conditions are more easily seen on mostly White dogs as you can see the pink skin through the white hair. Some believe Harlequins are more at risk of skin issues due to the pigmentation.

Dogs with skin issues can also suffer from digestion issues their whole lives and may require supplementation of digestive enzymes.

Avoid purchasing a dog whose parents have noticeable skin problems such as pink / red skin, dull brittle coat, skin scabs, smell of yeast (smell like corn chips), scratched skin from where the dog has been scratching a lot, hair loss etc, and avoid purchasing a puppy that has noticeably pink skin.

Allergic Skin Disease can start as young as baby puppies and in some cases not until a dog is 2 years of age and sometimes even older.

The Great Dane Eye & Eyelid Disorders

Used with Permission: Harlequin Haven Great Dane Rescue, USA.

The Almond Eye is 'Correct', deviations from the Almond eye may come with health issues, eyelid disorders are not rare in the Great Dane Breed and is something that you should look for especially in the Dam & Sire of a puppy you are interested in purchasing.



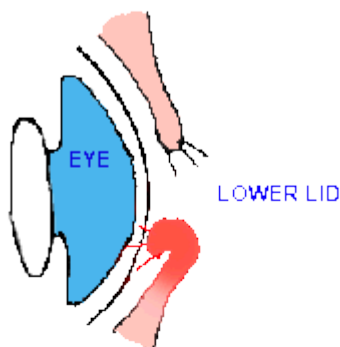
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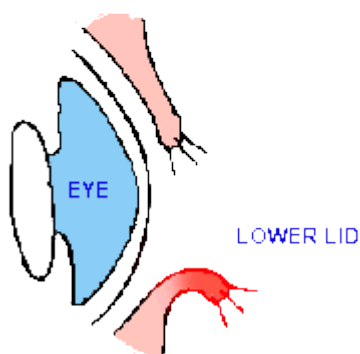
ROUND
WITH HAW



SLANT MONGOLIAN



ENTROPION



ECTROPION

There are several eyelid disorders in dogs. Entropion (rolling inwards), and ectropion (drooping or rolling outward) are the most common. Although they are abnormal eyelid conformations, they are characteristic of many breeds. For example, droopy lower eyelids (ectropion) are usually present in Basset hounds and other hound breeds. Shar Peis and Chow Chows, in which breeding selection has been made for numerous facial wrinkles, has led to turning in of the eyelids (both upper and lower in many cases).

Ectropion, unless very pronounced, does not lead to severe diseases of the eye itself. However, the droopy eyelid may collect debris such as dust, pollen and plant material from the environment. This can cause ocular irritation that leads to watering and a red eye. This is particularly pronounced in hunting dogs or dogs that are outdoors much of the time. Dogs that have ectropion must be watched carefully by their owners for possible foreign bodies in their eyes, and the dogs' eyes must be cleaned and often medicated on a regular basis. Ectropion is also surgically correctable for the health of the dog.

Entropion on the other hand frequently causes ocular pain and corneal disease. If the eyelid is rolled inward

sufficiently so that the hairs of the eyelid rub on the eye, much damage may be done. Dogs with entropion usually squint and have watery eyes. If the entropion is not corrected and the rubbing continues, ulcers often develop on the cornea and the cornea becomes pigmented. Vision may be lost.

Entropion is a very painful disorder for the dog, requiring delicate surgery to prevent eye damage. With an Entropion eye, the eyelids may roll in as early as 8 – 10 weeks or could roll in between 4 to 6 months, however this can occur even when the dog is a year of age or older.

Most commonly, Entropion starts as Intermittent Entropion (with the eyelids sometimes positioned normally), advances to Entropion, and requires surgery. Either upper or lower lids may be involved, or a combination of both. Most often both eyes are affected.

Permanent treatment for entropion requires a surgical procedure to remove a narrow segment of skin and muscle from the eyelid with stitches used to evert the eyelid to a normal position. The sutures are removed in 2 weeks. In breeds where entropion is accompanied by heavy face folds, or in cases where surgery is necessary before a dog is fully mature, it is not unusual for more than one surgical procedure to be required.

Entropion and ectropion are hereditary disorders in many breeds. But, their mode of inheritance is complex. No one gene controls the development of eyelid conformation. Instead, it is a combination of genes that control eyelid size and shape, depth of the eye socket, size and shape of the eyes, head conformation and amount of facial skin. All of these genes work together to determine the relationship of the eyelids to the eye.

If an eyelid conformation defect is to be eliminated, only those dogs without Entropion or Ectropin should be bred.



Breed History

What the Great Dane was bred to do.

< Yes, that's what a Great Dane used to look like!

The history of Great Dane is not a one version story. Some argue the breed evolved primarily in Britain over several hundred years; while others say the Germans did all of the work. So the history of Great Dane depends on which version you listen to!

The Great Dane first appears about 3000BC. We see Dane-like dogs in carvings on Egyptian monuments built around this time. Fast forward 3400 years to the 5th century, when present day Europe was invaded by the Alanis, an Asiatic race, who brought giant mastiff dogs with them. Over the next several hundred years, it is surmised that these mastiff-like dogs were cross bred with Irish Greyhounds, producing a giant but slimmer breed than a pure mastiff.

It is also possible that these large mastiff dogs were brought to Europe by the Romans. Over several hundred years the Celts cross bred these giants with either Greyhound or Irish Wolf Hound (or perhaps both). This effort led to the development of the "English Dogge", which some say is the ancestor to the modern Great Dane.

It is probably true that both versions of Great Dane history are accurate and contributed to the beautiful animals we now enjoy, but certainly, the Germans deserve most of the credit for the development of the breed as we know it today. By the 16th century, these giant dogs were fairly common as boar hounds in both Britain and the Germanic states. The Germans did import a large number of these "English dogges" for cross breeding with their own version as they worked to develop the perfect boar hunter for their own needs.

But here the history of the Great Dane takes another twist. Boar hounds were not cuddly stoic dogs. European wild boars were very dangerous and hunting them required a fast, strong and aggressive dog. And that's what had been developed. But it was also realized, that a dog of this size could be an excellent guard dog – although in order to fulfill this function something would have to be done to make it more people friendly (Territorial but friendly to family and known people). And so over the 18th and 19th centuries, German dog breeders concentrated on evolving their boar hound into a breed of good temperament and friendliness.

The Germans continued to document and develop the breed and in 1880 breeders and dog judges (dog shows and dogs were huge in Germany then as now) met and agreed that this German breed was now distinctly different from the English mastiffs and formally declared the "Deutsche doggen".

In 1891, the Great Dane Club of Germany was formed (still called Deutsche doggen or German Dog club) and the modern day standard was adopted. Eight years later, the Great Dane Club of America was founded in Chicago and the Dane was officially recognized in North America.

So why is a dog breed that has never had anything to do with Denmark named a Great Dane?

Another little twist in Great Dane history. In the early 1700's, a French naturalist, Comte de Buffon first saw these dogs while travelling in Denmark. He labeled this breed "le Grande Danois" or Great Dane. For some reason, the name stuck – although only in English. (The Germans continued to refer to this breed as the "Deutsche doggen".) So, although Denmark has absolutely no part to play in the story of the history of Great Danes, the dog is nevertheless tied to it albeit in name only.

Great Danes War Service?

Given the size of the Great Dane, many people seem to think the Great Dane's war service is a rich history in and of itself, but this is simply not true. There were large Bloodhounds used by both sides in the American Civil War (there is some evidence these animals were a cross between a Cuban Mastiff and the Great Dane), but the truth is, despite their intimidating size, Great Danes don't make good soldiers.

The army and the marines tried Great Danes during World War II but none of them passed basic training! On one notable occasion, an army drill sergeant was moved to tears of frustration as he tried to train a Dane to jump over an obstacle. Instead of jumping as he was supposed to, the Dane kept running up to the obstacle, putting the entire thing in its mouth and proudly bringing it back to the trainer!

But there have been some famous Danes associated with the military. One was even enrolled in the British Royal Navy! During World War II, the British Naval Garrison in Cape Town South Africa submitted all the necessary paperwork to enroll their mascot Great Dane into the Royal Navy.

Listed as Christian name Bone and Surname 'Crusher', this Dane made himself comfortable in several different naval establishments in the area. He wasn't just good for local morale – he was also used extensively in the production of postcards that were used to raise funds for the war effort! He died in 1944 and received a quasi military funeral!

And as a final note about the history of the Great Dane, there have been several famous Danes or Danes associated with famous people. The founder of modern day Germany, Otto von Bismarck always had Danes beside him. General Cornwallis brought his "English dogs" on campaign with him during the American War of Independence (he lost!). Buffalo Bill Cody always had his black Dane "Turk" with him and Manfred von Richtofen, the famous Red Baron, is said to have taken his Dane "Moritz" up for a couple of flights! And of course, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a Dane lover and always had several nearby.

The entertainment industry has also made Great Danes famous. Brad Anderson's famous cartoon is centered around a Great Dane named Marmaduke – who hasn't seen that? Every baby boomer and beyond grew up watching Scooby-Doo solve mysteries during Saturday morning cartoon hour! And in animated movies, Oliver and Company (1988) is centered around a Dane, as is the classic All Dogs Go to Heaven (1989). It seems that the Great Dane's history is colourful, interesting and is still being made!

Reference: www.about-great-danes.com/history-of-great-dane.html



Bringing home your new Great Dane

When you bring home your new Great Dane, regardless of whether it is a puppy or adult, it is important to set yourself and your Dane up for success.

Step 1: Avoid toileting mistakes. Have the new dog toilet before they enter the house. Ideally you'll bring your new Dane home and allow them to sniff around their new backyard and explore the environment before bringing them into the house.

Step 2: If your new adult Dane has to meet your existing dog/s, don't let them meet straight away, go for a long walk together until they are no longer overly interested in one another and then allow nose to bum sniffs only. Take your time, don't rush this step. Once they bum to nose sniffs are done they should then be safe to go head to head with one another.

You may need to separate the new dog from your existing dogs for a little while so none of the dogs feel overwhelmed and react in a negative manner. You can contact your local Trainer/Behaviourist to help you with the introductions if need be.

Puppies can meet their new dog companions in the safety of your home as they won't be fully covered by vaccinations at this stage, however be mindful not to introduce the dogs until everyone is calm and always monitor the interactions.

If your adult dog is over the top, be sure to put them on a lead to meet the new puppy, you do not want to scare the puppy, it will be your job now to make sure your existing dog/s only interact appropriately and gently with your puppy and if you cannot supervise the puppy should be separated.

Step 3: Shut doors to bedrooms and restrict access to areas of the house that you're not currently in until the dog is toilet trained. Put your new dog on an hourly – two hourly toilet schedule (whilst you're awake/home) until there have been no accidents for at least 2 weeks.

Step 4: Show your new dog around your home and implement your rules immediately. The less confusion your new dog has about the rules the better. Be stricter than you want to be in the beginning and then you can pull back a bit when you get to know the dog a bit better – you only get one chance to make this 1st impression of what kind of leader you are – it's easier to do the right thing here than to try and sway the dog a year down the track when it already knows all your faults and weaknesses.

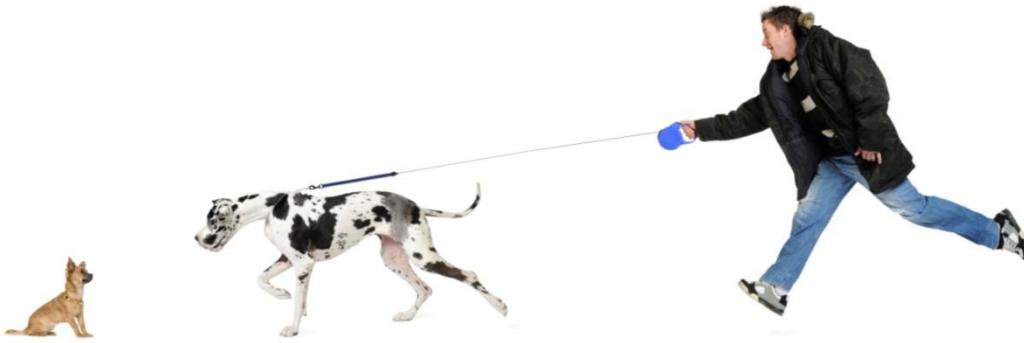
Step 5: If there are other dogs in the home, pick up all the toys, food bowls, treats and any other items your dogs find high value. This will prevent the dogs from getting off on the wrong foot with each other if they touch an item that another dog believes is its property.

When the dogs are calm, you can reintroduce the toys under supervision. If you give the dogs food when they are together, be there to supervise so that none of the dogs enter another dog's personal space as you may end up with a fight over food.

Step 6: Show your new dog where its bed is. Be prepared to have broken sleep for a couple of weeks with a puppy or a few nights with a new adult dog. Research crate training it speeds up toilet training and gives puppy a safe 'den' like bed.

Step 7: It is not unusual to have a '**what have I done**' moment in relation to bringing home a new dog, it's a perfectly natural reaction, sometimes we forget how much hard work it is to raise a puppy or bring a dog of any age into the home. Things will get easier.

You can make things go smoother by being 100% consistent with your rules and boundaries. Remember to give praise as it's easier to praise a dog to teach it what you want rather than to tell a dog off to teach it what you don't want.



Puppies & other household pets

Cats & bunnies etc.

Your role will be the Guardian of the puppy which means that the puppy will rely on you to set very clear rules and boundaries.

Puppies think everything is fun and everything is a play thing!

If you have small animals as pets in your home such as Cats, Rabbits etc. you will need to take your time to introduce them to one another and teach your puppy that chasing or being rough is not suitable behaviour – beware, this could take quite some time depending on the personality of the puppy and you may very well need to have a professional Trainer come in and help you.

To start with, your puppy may only be able to control their excitement for 20 seconds (if that), make sure you calmly praise the calm behaviour.

If your puppy 'looses it' and starts chasing and going over the top then the puppy cannot learn during these moments so do not try to teach them (this is similar to an overexcited a child who cannot hear anything being shouted at them), simply put the small animal away and your puppy elsewhere to calm down and note what your puppies threshold was and keep that in mind for the next session.

Remember: Great Danes were bred to hunt and that means they have 'Prey Drive' – that is the instinct to chase. Some Danes have this more than others so you should never ever leave your Dane unsupervised with small animals if they like to chase due to Predatory Drift.

Predatory Drift is a sudden and drastic change in a dog's demeanor that is characterised by behaviors associated with hunting small prey.

The term is most often used to describe a medium to large dog who has suddenly and uncharacteristically targeted a smaller dog/animal as prey (dinner).

Predatory Drift is NOT Aggression, but it can mean injury or death for small dogs.

LOVE IS A GREAT DANE!

Great Danes can accidentally kill small animals simply by pouncing on them, rolling over on them, playing too rough....they really don't realise their size whilst they are young. Some are gentler than others.

Please do not leave your Dane alone with small animals this can include small dogs if your Dane does not show appropriate behaviours with them.

Adding another dog to the pack

Set yourself up for success.



Adding another dog into the family isn't always a smooth affair, here's some items to keep in mind before adding a 2nd, 3rd etc. dog to your family.

Behavioural Problems

Does your existing dog/dogs have behavioural problems that you need to address before adding to your pack? Dogs learn good and bad habits from one another.

One of the worst things you can do is get another dog to try and fix a behavioural problem/s of the existing dog.

Does your dog want a companion?

Does your current dog/s actually want another dog to join the pack? How does the dog cope when you dog-sit a friends dog for a week or more? Dogs are generally happy to have a play date but when they realise the other dog is staying they can get their nose out of joint.

Crates / Kiddie Gates

Invest in a Crate and or Kiddy Gates to give the dogs a place to be by themselves in the early stages. They may even appreciate the alone time later on as well.

Does everyone in the house want another dog?

If they don't then this should be something that should be respected because it can cause conflict within the family unit which isn't positive for the humans or canines.

Can you give everyone enough attention?

By adding another dog can you still give everyone one on one time, daily training sessions, individual walks if you can't safely walk two at a time etc?

Match the energy levels

If you have a non-active dog you need to get a companion to match its energy level, don't get an active dog because it will irritate the non-active dog and it's not fair to the active dog.



Puppies & Children

Teaching everyone their boundaries.

Every Child needs a dog to grow up with right?!

Great Danes are BIG puppies so that means their behaviours are much more amplified than smaller breeds. Your family needs to have a plan of action about how you're going to deal with issues that arise due to this with kids around.

First: Never leave your puppy unsupervised with children, if you cannot supervise the puppy then pop it in its crate or outside.

Second: Teach children how to pat the puppy gently. Show them how to give long slow strokes down the side of the puppy. Try to steer kids away from putting their hands near a puppys face....puppies can bite and their teeth are needle sharp.

Understand that children have high pitched voices that can excite a puppy. Children are largely unpredictable in their movements e.g. they can be sitting down one moment and then taking off at a million miles an hour the next moment – all of this can excite a puppy so much that it may jump up and bite.

Teach children to walk when the puppy is out (not run) and if the puppy starts to get aroused (which may turn into jumping and biting), have the child re-divert the puppy to a toy.

Praise puppies for keeping all 4 feet on the ground and their teeth off your skin. Teach the puppy to sit because when a puppy is sitting it cannot jump, teach the puppy to be gentle with their mouths so they don't bite or snatch food.

Don't expect a puppy to have the self control of an adult dog. If the puppy is getting too aroused then put puppy somewhere else with a toy or chew bone, some puppies don't start to calm down until 8–12 months of age, some even later.

If you haven't had a Dane puppy and a Child before you may like to reconsider and look into adopting an adult Great Dane as it can be incredibly stressful managing the two. Puppies are a lot of hard work and we usually only remember the good times from previous ones.

How Kids SHOULD NOT Interact with Dogs

It's common sense. Just imagine how people should interact with each other.

Avoid taking people's food



Avoid bothering dogs when they are eating

Avoid stealing other people's toys



Avoid taking a dog's bones or toys

Avoid putting your face right up to someone else's face



Avoid putting your face right up to a dog's face

Avoid bothering when asleep



Avoid bothering animals when they are resting. Let sleeping dogs lie.

Avoid pestering



Avoid grabbing tail/ears

Avoid climbing on or trampling



Avoid climbing on or trampling

Avoid pinching



Avoid hugging. Most dogs dislike it.

Avoid screaming around



Avoid hollering and shouting. Use your "inside" voice instead.

Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS

The Art and Science of Animal Behavior

For additional free dog bite prevention resources and more dog behavior books and products, visit www.drsophiayin.com.



How Kids SHOULD Interact with Dogs

Use common sense.

Be polite and kind to pets



Learn to recognize when your dog is scared or anxious



Play appropriate games with pets, such as:

Fetch



ROLL OVER



Training tricks (like roll over, shake, beg, etc.)

Walking and running with a dog



SNIFF SNIFF



Playing hide-n-seek

Always remember:

Supervise all interactions. Accidents can happen in a split second.



Train your dog to associate the kids with positive experiences so he'll be more likely to tolerate your child in case she accidentally interacts inappropriately.



Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS
The Art and Science of Animal Behavior

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Teaching your new Great Dane their name

Any Dane of any age can learn a new name.

A new name can be a new start for Great Danes with a bad past that may have a bad association with their name.

To make sure your dog always has a positive association with its name (and therefore always responds to its name) you need to be very careful not use its name in a negative manner e.g. yell at the dog to stop what it's doing....MARLEY!

The dogs name should be used as an attention-getter then be followed up by a command...
"Marley [pause] Come".

Build a positive association with a name:

- Step 1:** Take 20 treats that are easily chewed and swallowed such as devon, steak, cheese, cooked chicken etc. Use small pieces.
- Step 2:** Have the dog in front of you and say the name in a normal volume but a happy tone and then quickly present a treat to the dog.
- Step 3:** Repeat 19 more times.
- Step 4:** In a sad manner tell the dog "All done/no more" and walk away. It's important to let the dog know when a session is over otherwise they don't develop an off switch.

If possible, repeat this session 3 times per day, even with the less bright Danes it should take no more than 2 days to teach them this.

To reinforce this behaviour, randomly call the dog to you using its name as an attention getter followed by the 'come' command and then reward.



Crate Training

Crates are highly recommended, if you are not familiar with this concept you would definitely be encouraged to look into it, it may very well save your sanity especially when managing a new puppy.

Dogs learn to see Crates as a safe 'Den'.

Crate Training is something more and more dog owners are starting to get involved with.

Why?

It's a great skill to teach your dog for when they have to: go to the Vets and stay overnight, travel in a plane or contained in a vehicle, be contained at an event such as obedience/agility etc. as well as your everyday activities such as assisting with toilet training, sleeping or simply being contained when you can't watch them when you go for a shower which prevents them from doing something destructive, which of course puppies are pretty good at!

Crate Sizes: Crates can be as big as you like, however a crate being used to assist a puppy with toilet training should only be big enough for the puppy to stand up and turn around, this ensures the puppy does not feel comfortable enough toileting in the crate.

An adult Great Dane crate is generally 122 x 122 x 122cms and ranges in price from approx. \$160.00 – \$300.00 depending on the quality of the crate and where you purchase it from.

Starting with crate training

Play with toys in the crate with your dog, give them treats in the crate, your goal is to make the crate an enjoyable place to be.

Any time the puppy falls asleep, transfer them to the crate. You can sit next to the crate and stroke them until they fall asleep again.

Shutting the door

This is a big step for the dog, and many will protest initially, they are likely to guilt you into letting them out if you're not prepared for the noise they can make which can be anything from little cries to full on screaming and thrashing around.

When you first shut the door, stay next to the crate with lots of treats and give your dog a treat each time they are quiet, initially you'll be giving one treat straight after the other, then as the dog starts to be calmer you can hold out a little bit longer between each treat.

Buy yourself some ear plugs

When the dog protests in their crate you need to **'not'** look at them, speak to them, or yell at them. Do not give them any form of attention until they are quiet, then you can reward them with a treat for being quiet.

If you give in to the dog just the once then the dog knows you have a weakness and they'll try even harder to get you to your breaking point, even baby puppies understand cause and effect.

Make a Den

Purchase a crate cover or use a sheet to put over the crate to make it more den-like, leave the front part cover free to allow air flow and also so the puppy can see you.

Make it fun!

Dog Trainer Susan Garrett has put together a fantastic DVD called 'Crate Games' which shows you how to teach your dog to love its crate. It is highly recommended and it not only teaches your dog how to love its' crate but also in the process teaches your dog self control and stays.

You can purchase Crate Games from Amazon. Here in Australia you can purchase it from the Agility Click website: www.agilityclick.com

First night in a crate

To help your puppy/dog accept its' crate on the first night, have the crate next to your bed so your dog can see you. You can hang your arm over the side of the bed to let your dog know you're there, but don't do this when they are protesting. As hard as it is you must ignore all protests even if you're getting cranky because you cannot sleep.

If you do not want the crate in the bedroom initially you will probably find that the puppy will struggle settling in and will feel isolated from you.

To help your puppy settle in its crate you can provide a **heart beat snuggle toy** which is a toy with a heart beat sound. You can also get warming packs for them so the puppy doesn't feel lonely.

Available from:

www.k9pro.com.au

www.whelpingsupplies.com.au

CRATE TRAINING IS NOT ABOUT ISOLATING YOUR DOG, THERE IS A CORRECT AND INCORRECT WAY TO USE A CRATE. E.g. Do not use for punishment and excessive periods of time.

If you would like more detailed information on Crate Training type "Crate Training" into www.amazon.com and it will give you relevant books / DVDs on the topic.

Great Dane Puppies need rest



Great Dane puppies can be likened to 3 year old human toddlers; they can get over-tired, over-stimulated, cranky and they don't know when enough is enough.

Great Dane puppies are always growing and that takes a lot of energy!

Sometimes we can forget because they are big puppies that their mental maturity isn't in-line with their size.

It is important that just like a toddler you put your puppy to bed when you can see they need a sleep if they don't take themselves to bed first.

When does your puppy need a nap?

Your puppy may need to be put in their crate to have a sleep when they are getting overly worked up and silly.

Puppies may start to bite a lot, verbalise a lot (that sounds like frustration), jump at you. Generally they misbehave more than usual.

Sometimes you can just look at a puppy and know they're tired. Their eyes can be a dead giveaway, sometimes their eye sockets get droopy and red.

Help set your puppy up for success by popping them into their crate to have a sleep before the silly behaviour gets out of control. You don't want them to rehearse these bad behaviours because the more they do them, the longer they'll stay around for.

It is ideal to run your puppy on a routine, that way you know when they need to sleep, when they need to toilet and when they need to eat.



Developmental Stages of Dogs

Puppies/Dogs go through a number of developmental periods and it is important to know what they are so that you can recognise the behaviour that goes along with that phase.

Human Socialisation Period (6–12 Weeks)

The puppy has a developed brain that can think like an adult dog.

This is the best time to interact with the puppy, bring it inside for the night in front of the TV etc.

Crate training is possible & should be attempted as early as possible.

He now has the ability to learn respect and simple training steps such as come, sit, stay.

He can now learn by association.

The permanent man-dog bonding begins; we do not use any corrective measures when training puppies at this stage, other than removal of an available reward.

Work on management techniques rather than scolding the puppy, for instance, if the puppy is chewing your \$300 Sunglasses then simply do not leave out anything you don't want chewed. If the puppy is toileting in your bedroom, shut the door and make sure the puppy is only ever in the same room you are and you take the puppy out very regularly to toilet.

Confidence building is now possible too.

Outline the rules as soon as the pup gets home, such as where the pup will sleep, eats & toilets & also set boundaries to some behaviours such as play.

Period of Fear (12–16 weeks of age)



This is a critical development period that you need to be aware of.

The puppy will spook very easily in this period, & frightening experiences can have a lasting effect on the puppy.

In this period, try not to allow children to carry or pick up puppies, nor play with them without close supervision.

People are told to overly socialise their puppies at this stage, however this can backfire if the puppy is attacked. The key here is careful socialisation under close supervision.

Stay away from dog parks during this period.

Try not to allow the pup any contact with dogs you don't know who may not be gentle with pups. A puppy subjected to an attack by another dog in this period will most likely suffer from fear aggression its whole life.

If you do not wish your dog to have a high value for other dogs e.g. like other dogs more than you, you can start to neutralise your dog to other dogs with the help of a trainer. This means your dog won't be fussed by seeing other dogs and sees you as more interesting.

Things learned by negative association in this period can be permanent.

If your puppy spooks at something, take no notice. If you sympathise with your puppy when it gets scared it will reinforce this reaction.

Rank & Shaping (14–18 weeks of age)



If you don't enforce the rules here you could have an on-going battle on your hands.

Puppies teethe at this point, this makes them chew & people are good chew toys.

They begin to realise the power of their jaws & should be taught bite inhibition (for pets) at this age.

They can also start to show signs of dominance. Good pack leadership should be exercised now as a Great Dane let go at this point can be quite a handful, (yes at 18 weeks!). They can learn the skills they need to dominate you & exercise these skills when they get big & strong enough. It may be funny to watch a 16 week old pup growling at you, but it's not so funny at 16 months & 60–70 plus kg.

Keep up with positive training at this point; learning a new behaviour at this stage is easier than breaking a bad habit later. Train often in this period, putting formality to the work the puppy can do, asking for more focus etc.

If you are struggling dealing with your puppy at this stage it is highly recommended that you seek the assistance of an experienced Trainer/Behaviourist, some easy to implement changes can quickly turn around a pushy puppy.

If you haven't implemented the 'Nothing in Life is Free (NILIF)' program you'll want to get it started straight away. The NILIF Program (mentioned in this book) assists dogs of any age to understand what their boundaries are.

If during this period your dog is irritating you beyond belief and you really cannot cope then remove your dog from your presence e.g. put it outside or in its crate until a time you can get your head straight and deal with the dog without emotion.

Leadership is about being calm & fair and giving off that presence that you're in control. Think of human leaders (such as Presidents & Prime Ministers) and how they portray themselves to their human followers.

Selective Deafness & the 2nd Fear Period (5–9 Months of age & 8–16 months of age)

Training, training, training.



Selective deafness? (5–9 Months)

It's no surprise to see puppies pretend not to hear your known commands at this age.

It's at this age we introduce more formal training including consequences for disobedience.

Dogs often chew & destroy things that have your scent on them at this point too: Many pups are dumped before 9 months... why? Because they now have strength, they are getting bigger, faster & less reactive to a simple "no"... By now they have either

been taught to walk on a loose leash or pull on the leash.

Second Fear Period (8 – 16 Months)

As puppies become what is called "gangly" i.e. have long legs due to growth spurts, they seem to become a little weaker in nerve than previously noted.

It's strange sounds, new sights that often spook a dog more easily than just a week ago. It's at this time we need to be good leaders. When your dog balks at a stairway, keep walking at full pace to show your pup all is okay.

Molly coddling him when he shows fear will reinforce that fear & you will have to work to get over it later.

More training now is crucial to his behavioural development.

Social Maturity (from 2 years of age)

A 2 year old Great Dane can be thought of as equivalent to an 18 year old human – it's a time where one comes into themselves and learns more about what they are capable of and this certainly also includes Canines.

Owners of Great Danes reaching social maturity may find themselves at their wits end. This is the most common age where Great Danes seem to be re-homed or surrendered to pounds and shelters.

Behaviours that you may see from a dog coming into Social Maturity:

- Ignoring your commands / cues
- Pushing buttons
- Using their weight against you
- Pushy behaviour with other dogs
- Challenging Behaviour with other dogs
- Generally being more rude and pushy than usual

It is important that you keep a clear head during these periods and ask for help from your breeder and / or qualified Trainer / Behaviourist to help guide you through this period if you do get stuck.

Keep practicing the NILIF program and be 100% consistent with your rules and boundaries.

Most Great Dane families will fly through this period without too many dramas, be prepared for what might come, it is better to be pro-active than reactive.

Nothing in Life is Free Program (NILIF)



Written By Steve Courtney @ www.k9pro.com.au

Qualified & Accredited Behaviour Consultant.

Otherwise known as N.I.L.I.F, this is a training program for all dogs of all ages and breeds.

It's produces fast results with the consistency of the owner.

NILIF stands for Nothing In Life Is Free. This is the attitude that you should take when training and interacting with your dog.

When your dog runs to you, don't pet him. Give a sit command and when he complies, then give him what he wants, (praise). If he ignores the sit, go back inside and ignore him.

Dogs are "hedonists". This means, "pleasure seeking, and pain avoiding". This works very well in line with training. By incorporating this ideal, we can introduce discomfort when the dog will not comply with a command and we can in turn provide pleasure in the form of attention.

Although the above method may sound harsh, it is how professional dog trainers all over the world train and live with their own and other people's dogs, and one of the main reasons why we get results many times faster than a novice.

When you start to adopt the above example, you will find the dog running to you and sitting without being told to, happily. Meaning he has learned to sit when he greets you, not jump up on you.

Many dog owners have a similar complaint, which is, the dog jumps on people, and he just won't stop doing it. Why is this so? Dogs don't jump on other dogs, so it's unnatural for them to do so.

Well, humans are to blame, as with most things...

When we get a new dog or even a puppy, we encourage the dog to jump on us; we actually train it to do so.

The training goes like this; you call the dog and when he comes to you, put out your hands to catch his paws. When he does jump up, you reward him with praise and petting. You have trained him well; this reward based training is very firm in the dog's mind and very hard to reverse.

The NILIF program can be adapted for teaching any command; because dogs are Hedonists (pleasure seeking pain avoiding) they will soon learn how to please you in obedience work.

By being consistent with your praise for good work and correcting for non-compliance, the dog will remain happy in the fact that he can avoid correction and get his pleasure with compliance.

Making a clear line between right and wrong will make a happy, well-balanced dog.

The main idea of this program is to teach the dog that he must work for what he wants, dogs that come up and stick their head in your lap, paw you or jump on your for attention are "gaining their own success".

While you may think you have smart dog, all you're teaching the dog is how to make you do what he wants.

This can be a recipe for disaster with the right, or should I say, wrong dog.

Another good example is at dinnertime, when you prepare your dogs dinner, hold the dish high and give a sit-stay command.

Place the food down and make the dog wait until YOU say he can eat. This will do many things:

- Affirm your place as the pack leader.
- Strengthen the sit command.
- Strengthen the stay command.
- Improve the "okay" or "free" command.
- Reward the dog with food for complying with your command under distraction.
- Allow him to understand that he eats when you say.

I like to use an analogy I call "the bag of tricks". I call behaviour a trick and the dogs mind the bag. Here's how I explain it in training class.

The dog comes to us with some tricks already in his bag, such as jumping up to get attention. The better this trick works, the higher it's placed in the bag, meaning the more it will be used. If the dog finds the trick of jumping up never works, or worse, brings discomfort, that trick will be called on less often until no more.

You can add and remove "tricks" from the bag with training. The NILIF program is excellent for this. When your dog comes running to you, he will no doubt offer some "trick" to get you to pet him, feed him etc. If you start offering no reaction, watch how many unwanted tricks, behaviours, he starts to offer.

He might jump up, bark at you, nip you and many other unwanted behaviours, like the dog that barks at you when you talk on the phone...

I won't please a dog by reacting at all, in fact I will walk away from a dog like this. Even as little as saying "no, get down" is some sort of reaction. What I will do is offer the dog a known command, and when the dog complies, I then give the praise the dog was looking for.

It won't be long, if you're consistent, before you will have a dog that sits quietly when he wants attention. You can then expand that, when you grab the leash, teach the dog he must sit quietly or you won't fit the leash.

This program works extremely well on dominant dogs as it takes the control away from them without force. Which keeps you safe, unlike many other programs.

I have found through consistent obedience training and the NILIF program, I can rehabilitate a dominant aggressive dog in a matter of weeks. The key we look for is when the dog starts to look to you for guidance, this is when you have regained leadership.

Try re-programming yourself to not reward the dog for breathing, make every interaction one where your dog performs some small or intricate task for everything you can offer. You will be surprised just how happy the dog will be, and how much faster normal training goes as you will have increased the value of your attention.

www.k9pro.com.au is located in Sydney however do have distance education courses available.

Everything in Life is Free

So, you've just read about 'Nothing in Life is Free' so this information may come as a shock!

Like everything in life there is more than one method. Everything in Life in Free is based around the concept that love and affection should be given without asking the dog for anything in return AS LONG as the dog is doing the right thing and is in the right frame of mind.

When you capture a behavior you encourage it, for instance...

Your dog is lying quietly and calmly, you walk past and pat the dog quietly and calming – this tells the dog YES this is the behavior I like.

Your dog runs up to you and jumps on you and you give the dog affection or some form of attention – this tells the dog the same as per the above.

Reward a behavior with acknowledgement/affection and you encourage the behavior.

How you are stressing your dog out

Written By Mikkel Becker, Dog Trainer

Labeling your dog as “dominant.”

Dominance is not a personality trait; it's a situation-specific behavior. True dominance aggression issues are extremely rare. In my experience as a trainer, dogs who are labeled dominant are often extremely insecure and fearful — in other words, the exact opposite of dominant. Behaviors commonly considered a sign of dominance, such as humping, frequently stem from insecurity or hyper-excitability. In addition, pet owners who label their dogs as dominant often feel more justified using harsh training methods, such as alpha rolls and prong collars. However, these tactics do little to encourage long-term behavior change and can foster a fear of the pet owner.

Assuming your dog behaves badly by choice.

Your dog behaves the way he does not out of spite, but because a behavior is natural to him or is being reinforced by your response. While dogs have emotions and complex thought processes, a dog's reasoning is different from a human's. To truly act out of spite, your dog would have to share your view of right and wrong and use that shared moral code to guide his behavior. Dogs don't function that way; they are motivated by outcomes, not morals. That guilty behavior your dog exhibits after he does something you think of as bad? It's a reaction to your behavior and has nothing to do with repentance. Your dog acts submissive and frightened to appease his unhappy human.

Punishing your dog for being a dog.

Chewing, digging, barking and chasing are natural behaviors for a dog. Rather than punishing these behaviors, which creates stress, give your dog a proper outlet for his instincts. For example, instead of punishing your dog for chewing, redirect him to items he can chew, like stuffed Kongs. End digging in the yard by creating a designated doggie digging pit. Put a stop to excessive barking by teaching your dog to speak and be quiet on cue. Channel chasing with a toy like the Chase-It, which mimics the predatory chase and turns it into a game.

Being too lax.

Unstructured interactions with your dog open the door for behavior problems. Without clear boundaries, behavior can quickly get out of control; this can lead to confusion and stress for your dog when he is punished for behavior that is sometimes tolerated. Unfortunately, in many situations, a dog's go-to response is not usually acceptable to humans, such as jumping up to greet or mouthing a person's arm to get attention. Clearly expressing your expectations about acceptable behavior will result in consistent good behavior.

Expecting your dog to obey simply to please you.

A simple “good dog” and a pat on the head works as a reward for many dogs, but when it comes to major distractions or a behavior that takes extra effort on your dog’s part, praise and petting may not be enough. I frequently see pet owners delivering little or no reward for behavior that takes significant self-control on the dog’s part.

As a result, the behavior becomes less reliable or the dog stops doing it entirely. When you ask your dog to perform a difficult behavior or to do the behavior in a highly distracting or emotionally laden situation, the rewards should be immediate and substantial.

Choose a reward that has value for your dog; you know what he likes the most (a special treat, a game of tug, a chance to walk on a loose leash).

Dominance vs. Unruly Behaviour

Written By Sophia Yin, DVM, MD

Get the Full article (22 pages [here](#))

We have all heard advice that relates dog behavior to wolf behavior in the wild. “The alpha wolf always eats first; therefore you should always eat first so your dog knows you’re the leader”. “Always go through the door first because an alpha would go out ahead.” “If your dog growls or barks inappropriately or otherwise misbehaves, put him in his place by doing an alpha roll, where you force him onto his back until he submits. This is what the alpha wolf does to his subordinates, and it’s what you should do so your dog knows you’re the boss.”

But are these statements true, and should they be used with all dogs?

Virtually every veterinary behaviourist, applied animal behaviourist and animal trainer agrees: The solution to better behavior in pets involves teaching the animal that the humans handling her are predictable and trustworthy – in essence, good leaders. But does learning to lead mean you have to dominate the animal or mimic what you think wolves do in the wild?

About 20 to 30 years ago, social dominance theory and ideas about wolf behavior in the wild were the primary models that guided how dogs were trained. Similar ideas prevailed in dealing with horses and other companion animals, too. For dogs, training focused on punishing bad behavior because in the wild wolves were seen to gain higher rank through force.

Since then, our understanding of dog behavior in relation to wolf behavior, as well as our understanding of dominance and hierarchies in wild animals, has become clearer. Furthermore, the science of learning has provided a better understanding of why animals behave as they do and how their behaviours can be modified. Regardless of this new information, the old misinformation regarding dominance and wolf behavior and its applications to dogs abounds. To understand where dominance theory fits in with our updated knowledge of behavior and behavior modification, and to realize which behaviours it does and does not explain in our companion animals, one first has to have a good working knowledge of dominance theory, please click [here](#) to read the full article.

How dominance theory related to interactions between humans and animals

While in some cases humans have problems with their pets because their pets are using aggression to guard multiple types of resources, in most cases our problem is that the pets are just unruly or misbehaving. For instance dogs jumping on people are not vying for a higher rank; they are simply jumping because they want attention and they often get it by doing so.

When dogs jump on counters to steal food or cats jump up to investigate when you're not in sight, despite having been punished previously when you are present, they are using an alternate strategy for obtaining food and getting the chance to investigate. Their strategy is rewarded because they often do get the food and getting the chance to investigate, at least for a short period. These unruly behaviours occur not because the animals are vying for rank but because the behaviours have been rewarded in the past. As such, a dominance-submission model is irrelevant for most of the behaviours we want our animals to perform, such as coming when called, walking calmly on leash or not jumping for attention.

Unruly behavior can lead to aggression

Behaviour does not have to be motivated by anger or aggressive intentions to lead to aggression. Frequently, normal puppy and adolescent behaviours that are rewarded can develop into aggression. For instance, puppies who are inadvertently rewarded with attention and play for nipping can turn into adult dogs who grab and bite when excited. In fact, because arousal and aggression are on a continuum, any overly aroused behaviours, such as lunging or barking, when rewarded enough in dogs, can escalate to aggression.

Punishment must be strong enough to be effective

First, the force or punishment must be strong enough to suppress the behavior completely or else the animal will start performing the behavior more frequently again. One major mistake that owners make is starting with a level that's too low. As a result, one frequently must escalate the intensity to continue obtaining the same effect. So the owner increases the intensity and the animal temporarily stops the behavior again. After a few punishments at this level, the pet becomes immune once more.

When starting with a level that's marginally low, you habituate the pet to the pain or lose the startle effect. Often, you must keep escalating the intensity, until suddenly you're at a level that can be physically dangerous.

Even if you do achieve a high enough level of punishment, the effects might not last forever. Dominance rank is often short-lived in animal social groups. In wild animals, it typically lasts only several years or through one breeding season.

This reign is relatively short because rank is repeatedly tested and can be maintained only as long as individuals are physically strong enough to win aggressive encounters. Thus depending on how well a human can continue to punish with enough force using this model and how aggressive the pet is, the human might not be able to retain rank. In a family, children and elderly individuals can rarely establish high rank through force.

The punishment could cause intense fear, which may generalize

Another issue with punishment is that while an appropriately high intensity or strong enough aversive can suppress behavior effectively, it can also cause the animal to become overly sensitive or fearful of the object, place or person associated with the aversive. This fear can then generalize to similar objects, contexts or people.

Punishment can cause aggression

One dangerous side-effect is that punishment can cause aggression. This has been established since the 1960's based on studies with rats, cats, monkeys, hamsters and other animals as subjects. When researchers applied a foot shock to animals, the animals attacked their cage mates aggressively.

In a recent study in dogs found that confrontational techniques such as hitting or kicking the dog for undesirable behavior, growling at the dog, performing an "alpha roll," staring the dog down and enforcing a dominance down frequently elicited an aggressive response from the dog.

Note that because children and elderly people are the least likely to be able to execute punishment at a high enough level to suppress the behavior or with the correct timing, they are the most likely to be bitten when using force.

Punishment must occur while the animal is performing the undesirable behaviour

Timing is a challenge with all techniques, but it is particularly tough with those that involve punishment or aversive.

One of the primary problems is that people tend to purposely use punishment long after the behavior has taken place, even though research has shown punishment is not very affective when delayed.

For instance, owners come home from work to find that their dog has raided the garbage can or chewed up the couch, and they lose their temper. While screaming in rage at their dog might make the owners feel better (positive reinforcement for them), thoughtful evaluation down the road often reveals that their rampage delivered the wrong message.

If later they notice the dog now slithers away or stays in bed instead of greeting them at the door, even when she hasn't created a mess, then the lesson she learned was that her owners are sometimes angry and out of control when they come home.

This incorrect learning can occur even when the delay in punishment is relatively short. A study found that even a delay of 2 seconds is significantly less effective than a punishment that occurs while the animal is performing the undesirable behavior. And a delay in punishment of 30 seconds is as

ineffective as performing the punishment randomly with no relation to the undesirable behavior.

Establishing leadership and modifying behavior without force

If dominance theory is not a good model for understanding and modifying most behaviours in pets, what is?

Generally, what humans seek is the ability to influence their pets to willingly perform desirable behaviours (e.g., positive leadership), not dominance or merely control over resources. Maybe we want our pets to consistently come when called, or remain lying down across the room or pay attention to us on a walk. Humans can choose to try to influence behaviour through force, like a dictator or a bully. Or we can choose to gain leadership by rewarding desirable behavior.

According to foremost management theorist and professor Peter Drucker, consistency and predictability are the key factors to leadership. Influencing others through force is generally not recommended by management theorists for managing humans. It generates passive resistance, requires continual pressure by the manager and causes subordinates to disobey.

Similar effects are expected when force is used with pets. Instead, humans can gain influence, higher rank and priority access to resources without force by controlling all resources and using them as motivators for rewarding good behavior.

Leadership is established when humans:

- Set clear rules for behavior.
- Communicate the rules by rewarding correct behaviours as they are occurring or within one second.
- Consistently reward these desirable behaviours and remove rewards for undesirable behaviours until the pet develops good habits.

When owners can meet these three criteria, they will be seen as predictable, dependable and trustworthy in the eyes of their pets.

Now rather than complying out of fear, pets can choose to follow human direction because doing so leads to rewards. Such a model fosters a better understanding of the underlying cause of improper behavior and leads to a strong bond between animals and humans, rather than an antagonistic approach to living with animals.

Clicker Training



Don't be intimidated by this style of training it can be a lot of fun and you'll be amazed how quickly your dog picks up new behaviours.

Please visit: <http://bighoneydog.com> for more information as well as videos on Clicker Training from a Great Dane owner's point of view.

Clicker Conditioning

Purchase a clicker from your local Pet Store. If they don't have one in stock they should be able to order you one or you can purchase one online from the many online Australian pet stores.

- Step 1:** Take 20 high value treats cut into small pieces and place them in a container.
- Step 2:** Stand in-front of your dog with the clicker in one hand that you'll put behind your back.
- Step 3:** Click and immediately deliver a treat to your dog's mouth.
- Step 4:** Repeat a further 19 times in quick succession.
- Step 5:** Tell your dog "All Done", no more" and walk away.

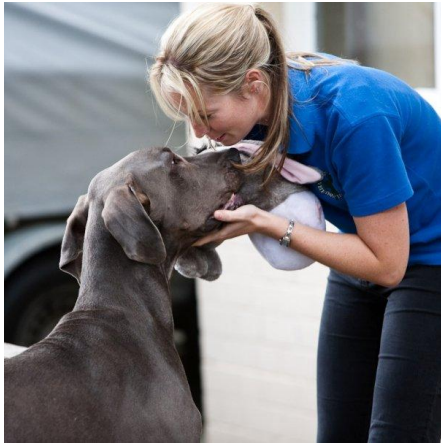
Repeat 3 times a day if possible for 3 days, at the end of the 3 days your dog should know that click means food.

Your dog may understand it earlier than the 9 sessions, however complete the 9 sessions for good measure.

Dogs can make you think they understand something and then they'll go and prove to you that they didn't.

Now, you're ready to start Clicker Training. When the dog is new to Clicker Training, it is advisable to do a clicker conditioning session right before you start to do a Clicker Training session.

Please visit: <http://www.clickertraining.com/whatis> to gain an in-depth understanding of what Clicker Trainer is and how / why it works.



The Importance of Play

Written By Steve Courtney @ www.k9pro.com.au

Qualified & Accredited Obedience Trainer, Behaviour Consultant & Law Enforcement dog Trainer.

Dogs play for a variety of reasons. We as dog owners, handlers and lovers need to provide an opportunity for our dogs to enjoy and experience play.

Many times dogs are brought to us for a behaviour problem. It may range from aggression to digging holes and many times the cause is a **drive imbalance**. This means that the dog is not receiving enough *mental stimulation* and seeks it in other avenues.

Let's take a look at this example:

You buy two dogs from the same litter, same sex, same parents, same age. You feed pup number one 350 grams of food per day and it is of perfect weight. You feed pup number two 350 grams also, but it is under weight.

You may visit your vet and have many tests done, all of which come back with no reasons for weight loss. You come to the conclusion that pup number two has a faster metabolism than pup one, simple.

But dogs have more than one input to fill; many have a high desire for prey satisfaction and other have a high desire for pack satisfaction. Providing too little satisfaction will simply trigger **behaviour creation**, new behaviours developed out of desire...

You may experience aggression, barking, digging, clothes taken from the clothes line, jumping on you, rushing others and any number of undesirable behaviours or combinations thereof.

Training in Drive is one great way to provide the ultimate stimulation to your dog and if you have goals to compete or train a working dog, Training in Drive is the very best way to achieve these goals and create **drive balance**.

If you don't have these goals, training in drive may not be for you, but your dog still needs drive satisfaction and balance or you will be fighting behaviour imbalance.

Play is a great way to interact with your dog. Some toys can teach your dog to be gentle, to share, to relax, to scent, to hunt and retrieve and many more beneficial facets to your dog's life.

Five Benefits of Play...

Exercise!

Many dogs these days are suffering from obesity; interactive play with your dog is a great source of exercise.

Mental Health!

Drive balance is a great state for a dog to live in. It also can mean you have a new activity to share with your dog.

Bonding!

Play helps dissolve fears, uncertainty and strengthens the bond between you and your dog.

Behaviour Problems Resolved and Prevented!

Many dogs that bark, dig, escape and destroy your home could easily be redirected onto an interactive behavioural toy. Try one today!

FUN!

It's fun to play with your dog, try it, you will see!

A Word from Great Dane Rescue & Re-homing

It's no coincidence that many rescue / re-home dogs do not know how to play. An owner that does not play with their dog does generally does not form a strong bond and therefore when their circumstances change they do not go above and beyond to keep the dog with them.

Play with your dog. It's great for your dog and for you!



Tugging

Playing tug with a dog even one the size of a Great Dane, does not have to be about dominance.

Some trainers will tell you that you should never play tug with your dog because you are teaching your dog that it can win against you and therefore dominate you.

The word 'dominance' really does get thrown around a lot – it is not the answer to every dog behavioural problem.

World Championship Agility and Crufts Obedience winners are typically rewarded with a game of tug – that really does dispel the dominance myth.

There is a correct and incorrect way to play tug with your dog:

- Always play tug with the motion of going side to side not up and down. A dog's natural movement is side to side. Up and down motion tugging could hurt your dog.
- Do not allow the dog to just grab a tug toy (or any toy) out of your hands without you giving it the command to take it e.g. "Yours" "Take" "Ok". If a dog grabs it from you, ask for it back or walk away and ignore the dog.
- Teach the dog a release word such as "Give" or "Out". You can do this by offering the dog a treat, it will open its mouth and drop the tug to take the treat.

You can also say "Give" calmly and let your hands go soft and push the tug towards the back of the dog's mouth; the dog will generally give up the tug when it knows you're no longer gripping the toy. You can also have the dog on a lead when its learning this, so you can stand on the lead so the dog stops moving around whilst you do the maneuver.

The game of tug should be a 'game' not a 'war'. A good game of tug will teach the dog self control and manners.



House (Toilet) Training

Many families struggle with this; perhaps because there is so much conflicting information out there, good news is there is a super easy way of toilet training your puppy or adult Great Dane!

Before we start, we'll go through the "what not to do's" and why:

1. **Do not rub your dog's nose in its toileting**

Why? Well, we don't have to state the obvious right? It's pretty disgusting. It actually doesn't teach the dog not to toilet inappropriately. This kind of behavior instills distrust and fear and we're pretty sure that's not the relationship you're seeking right? Toileting accidents are the fault of the owner not the dog.

2. **Do not yell at your dog or physically punish it for toileting accidents**

Why? Well, it's not because we're extremist animal activists and think that's cruel...it's because it doesn't achieve correct toileting, what it does is instill distrust and fear and usually creates a dog which will hide to toilet and won't want to toilet in-front of its owners.

3. **Do not clean up toileting accidents with house hold chemicals or soap & water**

Why? Many household chemicals will burn the fiber of your carpet. Soap and water will make it look clean but your dog will still be able to scent the accident which invites it to come back later. Instead you need to go to your Pet Store and get a pet accident spray which removes the scent. There's also homemade options such as white vinegar and water.

4. **Do not allow a dog who is toilet training have access to all parts of your house**

Why? Because they can sneak off when you're not looking and toilet. Instead only allow the dog where you are and close off all doors that way you have fewer accidents which means faster toilet training.

5. **Do not reprimand your dog after the fact**

Why? Dogs don't have same concept of time as we do, i.e. you can tell me 8 hours later that I stomped mud through the carpet and I'll understand but if you come across a toileting accident after the fact and reprimand your dog for it they simply do not understand.

all they know is that you're angry. No, dogs do not feel guilt like humans do, it's been proven in clinical settings. The 'guilty' face is simply a reaction to your tone/scent. Kids do exactly the same when their parents get angry at them and the child doesn't understand why.

6. **Do not set your dog up to fail**

Why? It will take longer to toilet train your dog. Only set your dog up for success and you'll be a happier dog owner and the dog will be happy because they're not confused any more.

When dogs need to toilet

Puppies need to go to the toilet generally:

- As soon as they wake up
- After eating
- After drinking
- After playing
- Every hour whilst you're awake/home, mind you if your puppy is asleep let them sleep.
- Your puppy may need you to get up and take them to the toilet 1–3 times overnight to begin with. A crated puppy will typically cry to let you know they need to go out.

Puppies can sometimes show they need to toilet by:

- Circling
- Sniffing the floor a lot
- Walking around a lot without purpose
- Whining for no apparent reason

Adult dogs can hold longer but should be toileted:

- After meals
- An hour after drinking
- Every 2–4 hours when you're awake/home until the dog has had no accidents for at least 2 weeks.

Schedules:

Write down the times your dog toilets, you'll find very quickly your dog has a toileting schedule if fed at the same time every day and you'll be able to almost time their toileting requirements.

How to be a Pro-Toilet Trainer

- Be consistent
- Be positive
- Set the dog up for success

In puppies we recommend you take your puppy outside to toilet every hour (set the alarm on your phone!) whilst you are awake/home. However if your puppy is asleep leave them be.

When you take the puppy outside do not play with the puppy, ask the puppy to “Toilet” (choose a cue word). You may have to walk around for a while (give yourself 10 minutes).

If puppy toilets when you're outside:

- Praise puppy, even give them a treat, use the cue word in your praise i.e. “Good Toilet”
- Have a little play after to show how much fun being outside is.

If puppy does not toilet in the 10 minute outside period:

- Go back inside and watch them like a hawk! Close off bedroom doors etc.
- Take them back outside the moment you see any signs such as circling and lots of sniffing. Some puppies give no signs and may toilet as soon as you bring them back inside.

If puppy toilets inside and you see it happening:

- Say “Ah” in a firm but not scary voice, pick up/take puppy outside and repeat the initial process i.e. give puppy the toileting cue and go from there.

If puppy toilets inside and you didn't see it:

- Remember the only animal that should be reprimanded for this is you the human because you weren't managing your puppy so do not under any circumstance reprimand your puppy for toileting inside when you didn't see it.
- Clean up the toileting accident.
- If there is a poo, put the poo outside on the grass to help the puppy understand the concept on their own.

How long until my puppy can last through the night?

Generally between 11–16 weeks of age (some younger), they're all different and it will also depend on the toilet training they received with their breeder. A clean litter box with an area away from the bedding to toilet will help puppy learn good toileting habits.

How long until my puppy is toilet trained?

Generally by 5 months given you have been a good toilet trainer your puppy should not be having any more accidents.

Is it the same method for Adults?

Yes, however they can generally last longer, we usually recommend you over-do it and take them out every 2 hours whilst you're awake/home. Always toilet dogs before bed, adults should hold overnight without any issues.

Trimming Dane Nails

We often hear from Great Dane owners that they struggle to trim their dog's nails.

Many people try and trim their dog's nails whilst the dog is on their side on the floor which may involve holding the dog down, sometimes taking a number of people to keep the dog from moving.

Some dogs try and bite and throw their body weight around when their owners attempt to cut their nails in this position.

Asking some dogs to lie on their side can be intimidating; it is a very submissive position which they are not protected in if anything were to happen.

There is an easier way!

If you must trim your dog's nails whilst it is on its side then the best way to do this is by using a conditional training using positive reinforcement.

The 'GOTCHA' game is great for dogs who don't feel comfortable being handled.

In 1–2 weeks if you practice it daily you should have a dog that enjoys and even looks forward to having its nails cut.

You can see a video with the basic concept here:

<http://youtu.be/6jaxuTuH2ow>

Once you watch the above, head to the below video which shows a 6 month old Great Dane who has been through the basic principles of this technique.

http://youtu.be/_vseVzeWoY

Trim them like a Horse...

You can see a video here of the Horsey Style with dogs including a Great Dane:

<http://youtu.be/nY83gnoFDZY>



Many Great Danes seem to prefer to have their nails trimmed like a Horse would have its hooves filed as they can't see the clippers and they're not being held down on their sides which many dogs feel intimidated by.

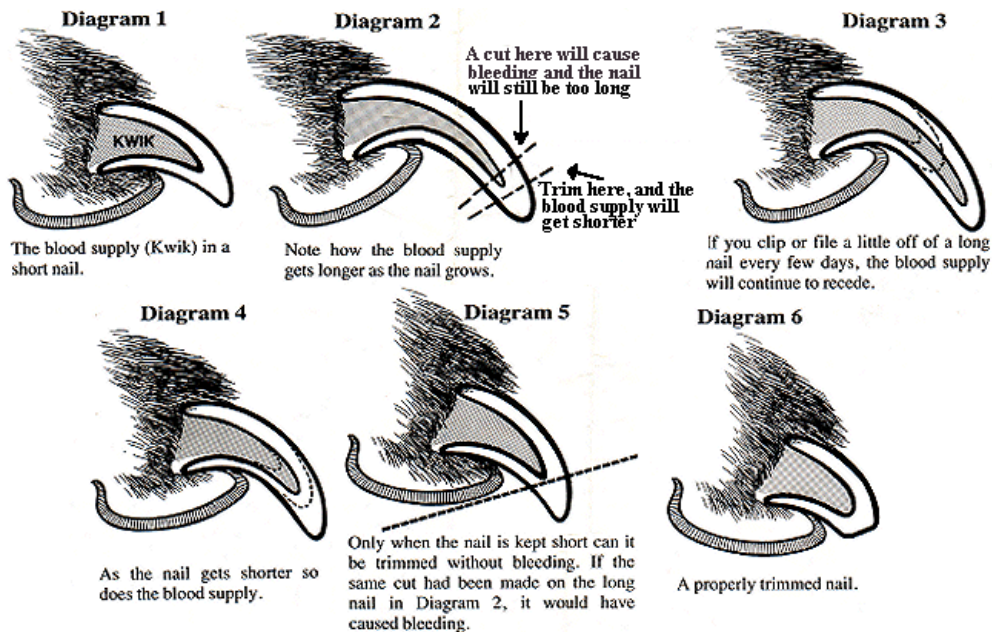
Ideally, you'll have 2 people (rather hard with 1 person!). One person providing support to the dog as you'll need to take the weight off the dog when you lift feet to trim the nails and one person doing the actual trimming.

Have your body pointing towards the rear of the dog, run your hands down the dogs shoulder and down its legs so it knows where you are and then tell the dog you're going to lift its' foot and then lift it so you can see the underside of the dogs nail (easier to see the quick this way). Be sure not to pull the dogs leg out to the side of its body too much as it will not be comfortable.

If you feel the dog becoming unbalanced, place the dogs foot back on the ground and give the dog a break. Don't forget to give feedback to the dog when it's doing a good job standing still.



Avoid the 'Quick', they bled a lot!



If you cut the 'quick' you can use styptic powder to cease the bleeding.

<http://www.vetshopaustralia.com.au/Styptic-Powder-30-gr-P347C10.aspx>

Meet the Dremel:



If you watched the 2nd video mentioned on page 1 you would have seen the use of a 'Dremel' sanding machine.

Dogs tend to prefer this much more than the pressure they receive from their nail being squeezed by clippers.

However they are noisy and they do vibrate a lot so the 'Gotcha Game' is great to get dogs used to it.

Don't expect your dog to just accept it without some training first and be careful not to burn your dog by keeping the dremel on the nail too long, they can heat up quickly.

Please visit this website for a guide on how to use the Dremel on a dogs nails:

<http://homepages.udayton.edu/~jmerenski1/doberdawn/dremel/dremel.html>

LOVE IS A GREAT DANE!

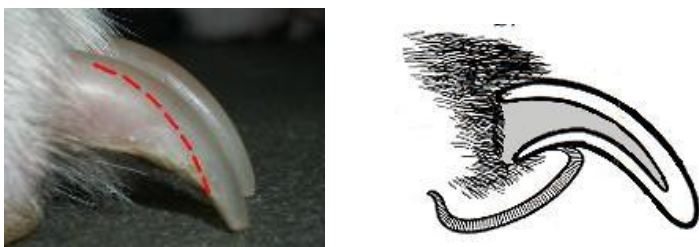
Photo examples, with thanks to www.lakesidevets.com and www.pawsdogdaycare.com

This dog (below) was in dire need of a trim. Most dog nails won't be this long. I've marked the bottom line (red line), as well as where I would aim for to do the trimming (white line). In reality (see the photo on the far right in this little series) I made my first cut a little bit further out than my goal – just in case. The quick was still far away, so I made another cut along the white line and all was perfect.



The nail above shows a 'hollow' nail, not all dogs will have hollow nails after the quick so always look at the underside of the nail before trimming.

If you have let the nails get very long the quick may have grown too:



This nail is excessively long, to the point that the nail tip touches the ground as the dog walks pushing the toes up and altering the way that the pads touch the ground.

This can lead to a number of long term problems including permanent twisting of the toes, as well as hip, elbow and shoulder problems.

The important thing to note about the pictures to the right is that the quick will grow out with the nail. When toenails reach this state you will need to be careful to avoid hitting the quick and causing the nail to bleed.

To remedy this problem you will need to cut the nails carefully 2mm away from the quick every few days, as the dog walks and wears on the newly shortened nail the quick may recede, and you can cut again.

This process is repeated until the nails are at a manageable length. Note the red area outlines the path of the quick in the photograph

What the Quick looks like:

Here's a picture of a dog nail (light coloured) that doesn't really need much of a trim.

You can see the quick inside the nail, and the angle underneath. The picture beside it is an end-on shot of the nail after trimming.

This is as close as you can get the nail without causing bleeding. The quick is the pink circular area in the center of the nail. (Most of the time we don't want to trim this short. It's nicer to leave a small layer of nail covering the quick.)





Greyish Oval

In a Dark nail:

The perfect cut stops here, there is no need to go any further as it will just cause undue stress and pain for the dog, resulting in a more difficult experience for the both of you next time around.



This photo demonstrate the actual quick starting to appear if you get over zealous and either decide to push it and trim a little more after seeing the grey oval form or if you make an honest mistake and trim a little too close. At this point the dog may feel some discomfort but you have avoided actually trimming off the end of the quick causing major discomfort and bleeding.

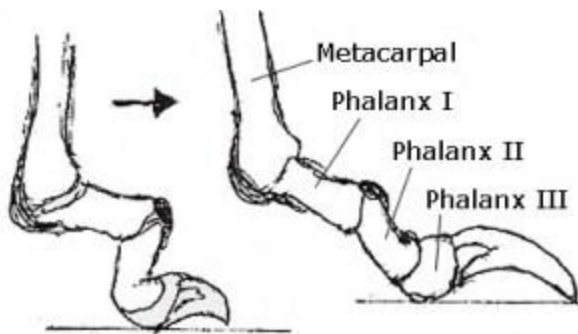
The fleshy protrusion in the center of the nail is the end of the quick.

Why long toe nails are harmful to your dog's health

Some dogs hate nail trimming, others merely tolerate it, almost none like it. Some dogs need tranquillisers to make it through the process without biting, while others sleep through the procedure without a care. No matter what your dog's personal take is on nail clipping, it is something you should do for your Great Danes regularly to keep from harming their skeletal structure.

A dog's nails are important parts of their anatomy. Unlike cats, dog claws are not weapons, but are used when he runs to grip the ground when accelerating and turning corners. Outdoor dogs run around enough over different surfaces and wear their own nails down. But our house-bound companions don't get that natural wear from carpet, hardwood, or vinyl flooring. And since some Great Danes have nails that can grow quickly, it's easy for them to get too long.

Having long nails changes the way a dog carries himself. The diagram below shows how a long nail causes the bones in the foot to flatten and the Metacarpal, Phalanx I and Phalanx II bones to sit more angled every time the dog walks or stands. The different angle of the bones when pressure is applied causes joint stress and can lead to joint pain and arthritis. It also leads to dropped wrists which make the dog look flat footed. Women reading this article can probably relate if they think about wearing high heels all the time. Long toe nails essentially do the same to dogs by changing the natural alignment of leg bones which adds torque or twisting to the joints. Personally, high heeled shoes wreak havoc on my knees and I suffer from knee joint pain for days after wearing them. I can't imagine the pain a dog goes through whose owner never trims his nails or doesn't trim nails often enough.



Left: proper alignment with short toenail. Right: angled alignment because of long toenail. Image provided by Dr. Lisa Kluslow

Changing the natural alignment also makes the dog less steady on his feet and can contribute to an increased probability of broken legs. If the dog's joints are out of whack, he can't catch himself from falling or landing as well. Again, if you compare how steady you ladies are in sneakers compared to high heels you can relate to how a dog with long nails might feel all the time.

The image shows how the bones of the paw and wrist angle back when a dog has long nails, but the damage doesn't stop there. All the bones in a dog's body are connected and the leg bones connect all the way up to the spine. Some of you might relate to how an injury on one part of our body can cause us to carry ourselves differently and create pain in another part of our body. Unfortunately, our dogs can't tell us when they have a headache or shoulder ache and many times we miss the slight signals that they are in pain. Since dogs can't trim their own nails, it's up to us to make sure this dog maintenance is performed before the pain sets in.

Some Great Danes need their nails trimmed every weekend whereas others every two to three weeks. If trimming nails is not your forte, groomers or vet clinics are good alternatives to keep your dogs' nails well groomed.

Unfortunately, it is easy to overlook this basic grooming. Many of the dogs we take in to rescue, regardless of what their situations were before, need a nail clipping when they arrive. Similarly, I've noticed at play dates there are always a couple Great Danes with very long claws. Remember though, that trimming claws is not merely a cosmetic issue, but it is also a health issue. You and you Great Dane may dread biweekly trims, but it is one of the most basic things you can do to take stress off your pups' joints as they age.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinigrescue.com/blog/193>



Getting Puppy used to a Collar & Lead

Your Breeder may not have put a collar on your puppy yet as the puppies play rough and could get caught up in them so this will be a job for you!

Puppies generally are not fans of collars and leads.

You will find that puppies may scratch at the collar until they get used to it.

One of the most challenging items is the lead; the puppy can have a tantrum or flat out refuse to move. Generally the reason for this is that they do not like the tension.

To help a puppy get used to the tension from a lead you can try a few different things:

Option 1:

You can clip on a light weight lead whilst you're at home and let the puppy drag it around. This way the puppy will get used to the tension when they step on it.

If you have a puppy that bites and chews at the lead you can purchase a chain lead. You may need to do some hunting around to find a light weight one.

Option 2:

Pop the lead and collar on your puppy and grab a bunch of treats. Apply pressure to the lead and as soon as the puppy gives into the pressure i.e. moves in the direction of the pressure say YES! In a positive way and give the puppy a treat. The puppy will learn that tension on the lead isn't horrible because they have learned that if they do in the direction their owner wants them to they will get a treat.

Try and have a 3 minute session doing this 1–2 times a day for at least a week and you should get a good response.

Once your puppy is doing well you can add distractions and start the process again i.e. chuck a toy or have someone be distracting in the opposite direction to the direction you want to go, you apply tension on the lead and as soon as the puppy gives into the direction you want to go say YES and give a treat.

Don't force it, make it fun

Do not attempt to try and lead train your puppy until your puppy accepts a collar and lead without a tantrum.

Always start off with a flat house collar. Avoid putting a check chain on a puppy until the end of the fear period if a check chain is a training aid that you will be using.

If you are having trouble in this area your local Trainer/Behaviourist will be able to get you on the right track.



Lead Training your dog

There are 101 different methods out there for teaching a dog to walk on a lead without pulling. The following are some different techniques that you may like to try.

Dogs only pull because it is rewarding...it gets them to where they want to go.

Be a Tree!

This method involves stopping dead and standing still 'like a tree' the very moment your dog gets ahead of you. You will keep your hands firmly on your stomach or hip holding the lead so you do not give the dog any more lead when the dog pulls.

The reason you hold your hands to your stomach or hip is that sometimes when we hold the lead by our sides and the dog pulls, our arm extends giving the dog more lead length so the dog gets reinforced for pulling. Encourage the dog back to your side and start again. Reward with easy to swallow treats whenever your dog is in the correct position.

It may take you an hour to get around the block and you may go through a lot of treats, however patience and high level rewards makes this technique successful.

Do not start saying "Heel" until your dog is staying in the heel position and understands that position is where it should be. Only pair a cue word with an action when the dog actually understands the action, otherwise you'll just be confusing your dog and teaching it to ignore your commands.

Always start new commands/activities in low distraction environments and then build up the distractions, e.g. backyard > front yard > path out the front of your house > further up the street > around the corner > around the block.

The biggest obstacle is distractions e.g. cats, other dogs and people. Don't expect a puppy or an untrained dog not to notice distractions. Cross the road if you have to, create distance between you and the distraction, do your best to get the dogs attention. You may need to use a treat or a toy.

If by 8-9 months of age you are not having success, please contact your local Trainer/Behaviourist for assistance.



Lead Training your dog Method #2

Walk backwards & gain attention. (Positive method)

With this method you will stand in front of the puppy and walk backwards as the puppy walks towards you.

Reward the puppy for walking towards you and not looking at anything else. When the puppy is doing well walking towards you, let the puppy catch up to you and turn so that you are now facing the same way as the puppy and the puppy is in the heel position.

Reward the puppy constantly for being in the heel position. When the puppy pulls out of the heel position you then revert to walking backwards with the puppy walking towards you and repeat the process.

Again, patience and consistency will have this method being successful.

Lead Training your dog Method #3

Quick turns to gain attention. (Aversive method).



With this method you will abruptly turn every time your dog walks out in-front of you. As you turn, give a swift but not harsh correction to encourage the dog around. As soon as the dog is in the heel position you will reward and continue to do so, then repeat the process each time the dog steps out in front of you.

The dog starts to stay by your side and watch you so they don't get a correction.

To allow the dog an opportunity to comply before getting a correction you would say "heel" a second before you turn.

Give command > Give dog an opportunity to comply > Give correction if dog does not comply.

Given the aversive type of this training, it is better suited to older dogs.

How long does it take for a puppy to learn to walk without pulling?

It's very dependent on:

- A) The Puppy's personality and mental capabilities at that time.
- B) The Handlers ability to correctly and adequately reward the puppy at the right time.

Typically by 6 months of age with daily 'fun' training sessions your puppy should be walking to heel in low-medium distraction environments.

Once your puppy is performing well in one environment you need to go to different environments as dogs do not generalise well and you'll need to teach your puppy to heel in all different environments.

Head Halters

When to use / Seek guidance.



When people struggle to train a dog using methods as mentioned in the previous pages they may turn to training aids such as Head Halters and the like.

All training aids have their place HOWEVER require you to be trained on how to use it and how to fit it correctly.

Head Halters can be extremely dangerous to Great Danes if not used correctly.

A dog that is allowed to lunge and pull on a halter can end up with muscular and skeletal damage.

If you are having challenges with walking your dog please contact your local Trainer/Behaviourist. Your problems could be solved in as little as 1 session for some dogs.

If you would like to try a head halter, the **Canny Collar** is recommended. The lead clips behind the head rather than underneath the chin, which means less potential damage. In addition, the nose strap cannot ride up into the dog's eyes. www.cannycyco.com.au

Black Dog is an Australian company that has 2 different designs of head halters and can custom alter a halter for you as well. (Some Danes need the bridge under the chin extended so the halter does not ride up into the eyes). www.blackdog.net.au

Dogmatic is a UK company who produce some of the best Halti's in the world that are actually comfortable and fit Great Danes really well, they are very high quality, obviously the cost is higher coming from overseas. www.dogmatic.org.uk

If your dog acts aggressively on lead, it is your responsibility to contact a Behaviourist asap to help you work through this problem. A Great Dane behaving in this manner that isn't being controlled effectively is a dangerous dog.

Harnesses

They're not all created equal.



Many people are not aware that Harnesses were created for Sled Dogs to help them pull.

So often these days' people use them to help their dogs stop pulling but then wonder why they don't work...it's because they encourage dogs to pull.

Good news is though there are some harnesses on the market that have been styled differently and assist owners who have dogs who pull.

Now, not all these harnesses will work on all dogs, some won't work at all, it really comes down to training, the personality and shape of the dog but if a harness is your preference then we recommend you look into the following product:

Happy at Heel Harness



This very smart side connecting harness was created in the UK and is available in Australia from:

www.completepet.com.au/shop/product/83-happy-at-heel-harness-lead-set

You can watch the demonstration video here which includes a Great Dane:

<http://youtu.be/0IUM9tKRK4Q>



Managing Distractions on walks

Your puppy/dog may get distracted when out and about for various reasons; they may be nervous, aggressive, excited or just simply curious.

We recommend the “YES!” game.

The key to the game

The key to the YES game is to say YES before the dog has a chance to react to the distraction.

What you need

A treat pouch. You can use a bum bag or just your pocket. Lot's, and I mean Lot's of yummy treats!

They don't have to be commercial expensive treats and avoid feeding huge amounts of liver treats as they'll give your dog the runs.

Head to your Butcher and get the cheapest meats, cook them and cut them up into small pieces, they can keep in your fridge for a week or more in an air tight container.

Getting Started

At Home twice a day for a week you will stand in front of your dog with 20 treats and you will say YES! in a happy voice and immediately deliver a treat to your dog's mouth.

They will learn that YES means Good/Food.

Give it a Whirl

Take your dog out for a walk, as soon as YOU see something that may be distracting to your dog you want to say YES! And give your dog a treat.

Depending on the type of distraction you may need to do this 10 times, or even 50 times in a row like bang bang bang > Frequency and how fast you can get that treat to your dog is how you win this game.

For example if a person is coming towards me and I think my dog may be worried about them, I'll create some distance between me and the person and say YES! As soon as I see them and feed a treat and I'll continue to do this hopefully giving the dog no opportunity to give this person too much notice, this may mean I have to give 50 YES>treats in quick secession but you do whatever you need to do to prevent a reaction. Over time your dog requires less and less YES>Treats from you.

Do not stop and play this game, keep walking. When you stop you give your dog more of an opportunity to react.

Socialisation with other Dogs

The importance of having a Great Dane who is comfortable around other dogs.



Many new Great Dane owners are afraid to socialise their puppies for fear that their puppy may get injured or over exercise. Both are valid concerns.

Socialisation should only ever be done with trusted dogs that are safe and gentle with puppies.

You'll want to avoid boisterous dogs not only because they can seriously injure a fragile growing Great Dane puppy but also because they are bad role models to your puppy.

If you do not know anyone with safe dogs, you may like to join online dog communities such as [Dogz Online](#) and

ask for play dates in your area with safe dogs or one of the many Great Dane Facebook Groups such as [Aussie Danes](#) and/or [Danes Down Under](#).

Dog parks are not always a safe place to socialise your puppy. If you insist on visiting dog parks, make sure the parks you visit have a good reputation e.g. dog-savvy owners and also ensure your puppy is fully vaccinated.

It will be your job to protect your puppy from being bowled over, getting over stimulated, over-exercising potential attacks by strange dogs – as you can see there are many things to think about and worry about at dog parks. You may be best to leave them until your dog is older and past their fear periods.

Dog parks can create a high value for other dogs in your own dog. This means that your dog could find dogs more fun than you which could mean your dog won't come when called or can get over-stimulated and play up on walks when they see other dogs.

[Not socialising your dog could mean you end up with a fearful dog who doesn't know how to interact with other dogs and could respond with aggression. You need to find the balance.](#)

Having controlled play dates means you can control the interaction. You can turn it into a training session by calling your dog out of play throughout the date and rewarding your dog for coming.

You will also have the opportunity to rest your dog before they get over-stimulated, allow your puppy to nap if need-be and control how much exercise they are getting. Puppies will over-do it and it's our job to monitor them.

Socialisation with Small Dogs

Great Danes need to understand their size as many smaller dogs will be threatened by them and react in an aggressive manner.



While socialising your puppy with other dogs, it is important to also socialise them with smaller dogs so that your puppy understands how to appropriately interact with them.

It may be difficult to find smaller dogs who are not intimidated by a larger dog, so this is why it is important to do when they are baby puppies and around the same size as small dogs.

Teach your Dane puppy/dog to 'drop' and reward them for staying in a down position while smaller dogs say hello.

Don't allow smaller dogs to act aggressively or crawl/jump on/over your dog as it is reasonable to expect that your dog is going to tell the smaller dog off sooner or later, and he may very well injure it.

Small dogs are often fluffy with fluffy tails that can be very tempting play toys for young Dane puppies, so be mindful of this potential accident waiting to happen.

Prey Drive

Keep in mind that Great Danes were originally bred to hunt and therefore prey drive is a natural instinct still seen in many Danes today. This means that they may instinctively chase small dogs and accidentally injure them or worse.

Be sure to know if your dog has prey drive and to what extent, and do not put your Dane in a situation where they can 'go into drive' and injure an animal.

If your dog injures/kills another dog (even accidentally) and the owner of that dog reports your dog, your dog could end up with a 'Dangerous Dog' tag which comes with a lot of restrictions for you and your dog.



Socialisation to Environments

The importance of having a Great Dane who is comfortable in different environments with different noises, objects and people.

It is important to get your puppy out into the big wide world to experience as much as they can in their critical imprint periods.

If your puppy is not fully vaccinated you can still take your puppy out by carrying it or placing it on a blanket so its feet do not touch the ground (speak to your Vet and/or Breeder).

A puppy that does not experience the world can be shy and nervous for the rest of their lives and in some cases can become fear aggressive,

Places you may like to take your puppy:

- Schools
- Shopping Centre's
- Sporting Games
- Agility Trials
- Dog Shows
- Obedience Trials
- Family & Friends' houses
- Puppy School
- Playgrounds
- Train Stations
- Fast Food Outlets
- Vet Clinics (ask your Vet before you go in--case a Parvo case has been in)
- Bus Stations
- Taxi Ranks

You should be aiming to expose your puppy to all the sights and sounds it will likely experience at some point in its adult life.

Basic Obedience

In the first year of your Danes life or the first year a Dane comes to live with you, the basic commands you will generally want to aim for are:

- 1: Sit
- 2: Drop
- 3: Stand (Stand for Vet examination/handling)
- 4: Give (Give me what you have in your mouth)
- 5: Off (Get off the couch)
- 6: Bed/Crate (Get on your Bed or get in your crate)
- 7: Leave it (Don't touch it)
- 8: Heel
- 9: Stay/Wait
- 10: Watch (Give me your focus)
11. Come



Puppy Pre-School School is a great place to start learning how to train your puppy as well as helping with socialisation.

Beware though, **not all puppy schools are created equal**. You'll want to attend a puppy school that is run by an experienced Trainer not just the Vet's Nurse.

If the puppy school allows 'Free Play' which is letting the puppies play with one another you'll need to keep an eye on your dog and the other dogs for inappropriate behaviours.

Don't let your puppy get too boisterous with other puppies and call your puppy back to you regularly. You do not have to participate in Free Play if you don't feel the puppies present are suitable play mates.

Obedience Classes at your local obedience club are great to progress to after puppy school or for adult Great Danes needing to acquire some basic-intermediate obedience.

Be very careful **not to bore your dog at Obedience classes**. You do not have to stay in class the entire lesson. Take a break when you see your dog getting bored, have a play with them, take a tug toy or another favourite toy with you.

Puppies may only have enough attention span to do 15–20 minutes of the class (if you're lucky). Do not feel compelled to stay, if it takes you 6 months to advance up a class then that is fine because at least you will still have a dog that enjoys obedience.

Before you sign up for a puppy school or obedience class make sure you know what methods of training they use so you know if it is a method you are comfortable with.

Never be afraid to say 'No' to a Trainer, your dog's future is in your hands and if you don't want to use a particular method, or something, just doesn't feel right then you can say "No Thank You" and walk away.

Learning how to Sit

Place 20 small pieces of tasty high value treats in a container and 20 pieces of boring kibble and stand in-front of your dog. Place a treat in between your fingers and show the dog you have it. Raise the treat above the dog's head and then back behind the dog's head, this should make the dog bend into a sit. As the dog is bending into a sit say "YES!" or mark with your clicker and give the dog the treat.

Do **not** say "Sit" yet.

Throw a low value piece of boring kibble away from you so the dog chases after it. We do this so we 'reset' the dog so it has an opportunity to come back and earn another treat. Repeat the process another 19 times.

When you have run out of treats, say to the dog in a sad manner "no more, all gone" and walk away. This tells the dog the session is over, if you don't tell the dog the session is over they don't develop an off switch and will think that there is still food to be earned.

After 3 sessions of these 20 Sit>Treat sessions the dog should understand that sitting earns them the reward so now we can introduce the "Sit" command.

Just before the dog sits say "Sit" in a friendly normal v tone, when the dog sits say "Yes!" or mark with your clicker and give the dog a high value treat.

Throw a low value piece of boring kibble away (as per the same steps above). At the end of the session tell the dog the session is over.

Do another 3 sessions of this Command/Cue association training and the dog should start sitting on command.

Randomly ask the dog for a sit when you're just walking around the house (make sure you have treats in your pocket), if the dog sits say "Yes!" or mark with your clicker and give the dog a treat, pat the dog and continue with whatever you were doing.

If the dog does not sit, walk away and ignore the dog for at least 5 minutes and try again.

Do not say sit more than once, otherwise the dog will think the Command is SIT SIT SIT.

Do not raise your voice or sound sterner. You need to teach the dog that if it does not do what you have asked, it will not get the attention and/or treat it desires.

Try your hardest not to help the dog into a sit position by forcing it physically.

Trouble Shooting the Sit

If your dog does not sit down when you raise a treat above its head you can try alternative training methods.

Alternative #1

Place dog in a corner so that when you raise the treat above the head it cannot back up and should sit.

Alternative #2

Place a treat in your closed fist and hold it in-front of the dog's nose. Simply stand there and wait for the dog to sit. When it does say "Yes!" or mark with your clicker and open your hand and allow the dog to have the treat then follow the steps from the previous page.

Alternative #3

Use a Clicker and simply stand there and wait for the dog to get bored. As it is sitting Click and reward.

Once the dog understands SIT you should no longer lure the dog. Luring means you have to use a piece of food to get the dog into a position.

You can stop luring the dog by not touching the treats until the dog has completed the command, that way the dog knows that they have to perform the task first before you show them the goods. This way you should prevent yourself ending up with a dog that will only perform when you show them the food first.

Learning how to Drop

Place 20 small pieces of tasty high value treats in a container and 20 pieces of boring kibble in another container (place your containers on the bench/shelf) and stand in-front of your dog.

Ask the dog to sit – you do not need to reward the dog for sitting every time if it already knows this command very well. Perhaps reward every 3rd time, this is called a variable rate and this is how you fade out using food.

Place a treat in between your fingers and show the dog you have it. Place the treat in front of the dog's nose and then slowly in a straight line to inbetween the dogs leg's. At this point the dog should be following your hand. Once your hand reaches the floor, you can slowly pull the treat along the ground back towards you (not past their toes). As the dog's elbows touch the ground say "YES!" or mark with your clicker and give the dog a high value treat.

Do **not** say "Drop" yet.

Throw a low value piece of boring kibble away from you so the dog chases after it, we do this so we reset the dog so it has an opportunity to come back and earn another treat. Repeat the process another 19 times.

When you have run out of treats, say to the dog in a sad manner "No more, all gone" and walk away. This tells the dog the session is over, if you don't tell the dog the session is over they don't develop an off switch and will think that there is still food to be earned.

After 3 sessions of these 20 Drop>Treat sessions the dog should understand that dropping earns them the reward so now we can introduce the "Drop" command.

Just before the dog Drops say "Drop" in a friendly normal value tone, when the dog Drops say "Yes!" and give the dog a high value treat.

Throw a low value piece of boring kibble away from you. Repeat the process another 19 times. Tell the dog the session is over.

Do another 3 sessions of this Command association training and the dog should start dropping on command. If not, don't be disheartened, keep at it.

Just like in the sit training, randomly ask for drops around the house.

Trouble Shooting the Drop

If your dog does not drop when you lure their nose to the ground you can try alternative methods.

Alternative #1

Sit on the floor with both your legs stretched out. Pull one leg in and lure the dog under that leg, when the dog's elbows are on the ground (and the dog is in a drop not a play bow position) say "Yes" or mark with your clicker and give the dog a treat and follow the steps from the previous page.

Alternative #2

Place a treat in your closed fist. Place this hand on the ground and wait for the dog to drop. When it does say "Yes!" or mark with your clicker and open your hand and allow the dog to have the treat then follow the steps from the previous page.

Alternative #3

Use a clicker and simply sit there and wait for the dog to drop, as it is dropping with its elbows on the ground (and is not in a play bow position) click and reward.

Once the dog understands DROP you should no longer lure the dog. Luring means you have to use a piece of food to get the dog into a position or to do something.

You can stop luring the dog by not touching the treats until the dog has completed the command, that way the dog knows that they have to perform the task first before you show them the goods. This way you should prevent yourself ending up with a dog that will only perform when you show them the food first.

Learning to “Come” when called

Coming when called is one of the most important things your dog will need to know.

Here's how to make your dog NOT come when called:

- 1) Reprimand the dog when it finally comes back to you after you called it more than once – what you are doing is telling the dog that coming when called is a bad thing. If the dog doesn't immediately come that means it's not ready for the privilege of being off lead.
- 2) Clip the lead on as soon as the dog reaches you, you then leave the park. This teaches the dog not to come because it knows when it comes you're just going to clip it on and leave the fun it was having. Clip and unclip a few times and send the dog off for more fun for success.
- 3) Be a mean un-fun person. Yelling "COME" in a tone that makes the dog think it's in trouble isn't as rewarding as "COME" in the tone that lets the dog know that you're going to have fun, praise, play when it comes back

Here's how to get your dog to come when called:

When you are first teaching the dog this cue, always have food on you because you don't go to work for free and neither do dogs! The treat you carry should be your dog's most favourite treat in the whole wide world! e.g. a bit of steak vs. a piece of boring kibble – the dog knows the difference!

Start with the dog a short distance from you in a ZERO distraction environment e.g. your hallway, backyard, bathroom etc. Call the dog in a friendly and fun way "Daisy [pause] Come". As soon as the dog reaches you, give the dog the treat and praise.

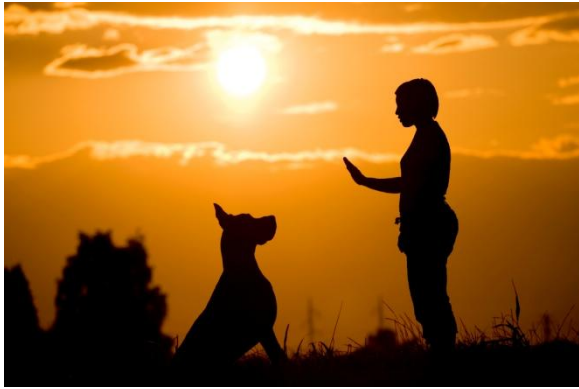
As your dog becomes very good at that level you can increase distance and then start to add distractions. Don't be tempted to advance too quickly.

Do not advance a level until your dog is absolutely solid.

After a while (e.g. a month/s) you can go from giving the dog a treat every time to every 2nd time – you can give praise on the time you don't give a treat.

Then after more time you can advance that to every 3rd time, every 4th time etc.

This is called the 'Variable Reward system', its purpose is to keep the dog interested, it doesn't know if it's going to get the treat that time or not but it's not going to miss out so it does as you ask and then it becomes habit, but you always want to surprise it with a treat from time to time just to keep the motivation there.



Learning the Basics of being a good Trainer

For general pet obedience you'll generally lure the dog into the position you want with a treat and then tell them "Yes!" and give them a treat.

Timing is important, when you say "Yes!" it must be at the moment the dog is actually doing what you want them to do.

Clickers are a great way to mark the millisecond a dog does what you want, then once the dog knows what it's doing you can transfer to the verbal marker "Yes!".

Once the dog knows the action of what you want and is performing it consistently you can then add the cue word/command just before the dog does the action.

Don't use the cue word/command until the dog understands the action.

When you first start training an action you'll be using a **high rate of reinforcement of high value treats**. Don't be stingy; just keep delivering the food until the dog is solid on the action.

After the dog is solid (for some time e.g. a month/s) you can then move to a variable rate of reinforcement that means delivering the treat every 2nd or 3rd time and then from there maybe every 6th to 7th time. The dog doesn't know when the reward is coming so they keep performing the action. This is how you phase out food. Don't be tempted to phase out food too soon, take your time.

If you want to do competitive obedience then luring is not necessarily the best choice. You may be better off learning about shaping behaviours with a clicker which will make the behaviours stronger and removes the dog's reliance on having to see the food before it offers behaviours if phasing out food isn't something you want to do.

ALWAYS have treats in your pocket around the house. Treat rewards aren't just for training sessions otherwise your dog will only perform commands well in training sessions. Ask for random commands around the house (but don't become a nag), randomly call the dog to you and have a treat ready to give them but don't show them the treat until they complete the action you have asked for.

You can purchase a vest with pockets to keep the treats in that you can just pop over the top of your clothing. This way you don't have to worry about getting your clothes dirty. You may like to use a treat pouch.

NEVER ask for the action more than once e.g. SIT SIT SIT. If the dog does not do what you have asked then get up and walk away and ignore the dog for at least 5 minutes then try again later. If you repeat the command the dog will only start to respond to the command after say the 3rd request.



Teach your Dane to have a Gentle Mouth

A very important skill for your Great Dane to learn especially as they could really hurt you by snatching.

- Step 1:** Have the dog in front of you and place a single small high value treat in your hand. Have 19 more pieces in a container, place your open hand in-front of the dog's nose.
- Step 2:** The very second the dog moves to take the food quickly close your hand. The dog may get quite forceful at this stage to try and get the treat.
- Step 3:** Wait for the dog to stop harassing your hand. The moment the dog does open your hand. If the dog does not try and take the treat say "Yes!" and take the treat out of your hand with your other hand and give it to the dog on the palm of your hand.

If the dog tries to go after the food again, repeat the process.

The dog may still be grabby when taking the treat, persevere, they will get there.

Once the dog knows not to grab the food you can introduce the "Leave It" command right before you offer your hand to the dog.

Next Step

You can make this action harder by placing treats on the ground in front of the dog. Each time the dog goes to grab the food put your hand over the food. When the dog doesn't move towards the food say "Yes!" or mark with your clicker and pick up a treat and deliver it to the dog.

Make it harder

Once your dog is leaving food on the ground without any problems you can start making it harder by placing treats on their paws etc.



Teach your Dane to accept handling

Ideal for cutting toe nails, show ring dogs, Vet visits etc.

The 'Gotcha' Game

This is a great game and is recommended to be played with puppy's every day. Adult dogs can learn this game very quickly as well.

Take 20 high value treats in a container, ideally you'll use a clicker, however you can use a verbal "Yes!" marker if you prefer.

Have the dog in front of you and reach towards the dog but do not touch them, say "Yes!" or Click as you are reaching towards them and deliver the reward quickly to their mouths.

Reach & Click 3 times. If the dog is accepting of the reach with no problem then you can advance to reach and touch the dog on its leg, Click or verbally mark "Yes!" when your hand touches the dog. If the dog isn't comfortable with the reach then stick with this level, do not advance to something harder unless the dog is completely comfortable at this level.

Once your dog is ok with you reaching and touching progress using the below levels:

Touch head > touch the dogs back > touch their tail > touch their ears > touch their feet > touch their jowls > place a hand over an eye > lift up an ear > lift up both ears > cover both eyes > lift up a jowl > lift up both jowls > pick up a foot > pick up each foot separately > lightly pull an ear > lightly pull the tail.

Once you get to this level you can start advancing to more challenging handling such as, spreading the toes, lightly squeezing the toes, tapping the dogs nails – this helps the dog prepare for nail clipping.

If your dog needs to have eye drops, cream etc. this type of training can be done for them to accept it. **Never rush, take your time, some stages may take a long time.**

If your dog ever growls / aggressively bites at you during this process contact a Behaviourist ASAP.

How to be the Leader to your Great Dane

You don't have to get physical.

All dogs need a leader (Head of the Family) to follow and if the humans in the house don't step up to be that leader then the dog will feel it has no other option but to take this role itself even if it doesn't want to.

Most dogs aren't suitable leaders and fall to pieces in the leadership role. They can over- react to situations and really misbehave. Imagine if you were asked to be the Prime Minister today!

Making a dog that is not cut out for the role as a leader is cruel. It's asking a dog to live in a constant state of anxiety (even if it's not obvious to the people around the dog).

A Leader is FAIR

Don't let anger creep in, make the rules and don't change them.

A Leader expects RESPECT just like a human Mum / Dad

- 1) Does your dog treat you with respect?
- 2) Does your dog stand in your way?
- 3) Does your dog demand attention?
- 4) Does your dog barge past you
- 5) Does your dog jump on you?
- 6) Does your dog bark at you?
- 7) Does your dog push you out of bed or off the Couch?
- 8) Does your dog growl at you?

You get the picture...these behaviours have sometimes simply been created because you have not 'disagreed' with them.

Observe your dog's behaviour towards you for one day and you'll see a whole different dog.

A leader is calm, they don't need to get rough to get what they want, however they do provide discipline when required and always enforce the boundaries.

OBEDIENCE DOES NOT = RESPECT

Be the PROTECTOR

It is your job to protect the dog from any potential dangers. That means chasing away stray dogs, stepping in when another dog is playing too rough with your dog or when a person isn't treating your dog with respect.



Stop your Dane jumping on you

It may be cute when they're a puppy but dangerous when they're a 65+ kilo dog!

Jumping is very easy to stop – simply don't allow your puppy to do it and then they won't grow into an adult who jumps at people. **Start with a puppy how you mean to go on.**

WALK AWAY

If a baby Dane puppy places its feet on you, cross your arms, lift your chin up and turn your head and body away and walk off and ignore the dog. Dogs only do what is reinforcing to them so if you do not give any reinforcement they will not continue to do it after a while. Reinforce the behaviour you want i.e. a calm well behaved dog.

Even negative reinforcement can be reinforcing to a dog e.g. If a dog jumps at you and you yell at it to get down or push it down – BINGO – the dog just got your attention.

TEACH AN ALTERNATIVE BEHAVIOUR

A Dog can't jump when it is sitting or in a drop. Teach the dog an alternative behaviour and ask for it during times you think the dog may jump, then heavily reward the correct behaviour and ignore the jumping.

STEP INTO THE DOG

Rather than taking a step back when a dog jumps at you, take a big confident step forward into the dog (this does not include raising your knee into the dogs chest). By taking a step into the dog's space you are claiming your space back. Cross your arms, lift your chin, turn your head away and step forward.

ALL 4 FEET ON THE GROUND

Using a clicker or a verbal marker, mark and reward the dog when it has all four feet on the ground.

TURN YOUR BACK

As soon as the dog jumps, 'slowly' turn your back to the dog without saying anything and continue to turn away from the dog until it stops jumping. Some dogs are very persistent and continue to jump at you and claw your back, if you have a dog like this then this is not a suitable method for you.

BE A TREE

Just stand still and don't move, don't look at the dog, don't say anything – just pretend the dog isn't there and the jumping isn't there. That way the dog is receiving no reinforcement.



Getting a handle on Biting Puppies

Methods listed here may or may not be suitable for your puppy or to the training style you have chosen.

Puppies play bite in play and they can bite very hard! Because Great Dane puppies are going to be very big dogs, this is something you'll want to get a handle on very quickly. It can take some time in challenging puppies and you may need to ask for behavioural assistance from a qualified individual.

It is important that you do not take your puppy home until it is at least 8 weeks old because your puppy is learning bite inhibition from its litter mates. This is where they bite each other and make each other squeal in order to know how hard is too hard. Puppies born as singletons (no litter mates) can be challenging during this stage as they have had no litter mates to learn from.

When you bring your puppy home (or later on during teething) it may start to bite you and it has to learn how hard is too hard or learn not to put its mouth on your skin at all, the choice is up to you.

TOYS – Redirect the biting to something more appropriate

Ideally you'll start with this method. Give the dog a toy/chew toy. Show them that a toy is appropriate to bite and chew not you.

SQUEAL

This is a very popular method whereby you squeal in pain when the puppy bites you. This should tell the puppy that it has hurt you and it should be more careful.

Great Danes were originally bred to hunt and the prey drive they required to do this is still present in some Danes today, so if you squeal and the puppy gets over-excited and bites you more, your Great Dane may have prey drive and this method of training is not suitable.

IGNORE

This method is very hard if a puppy is biting you and hurting you, however if you can act like a tree and freeze and not look at the dog or verbalise then the puppy will realise you're not fun in this game and will cease usually within 1–2 weeks or even less. You can also cross your arms, lift your chin and turn your head away and ignore – some are more receptive to this.

As an alternative, you can praise the puppy as soon as it removes its mouth from you, using a clicker would be ideal to mark the millisecond this occurs.

TIME OUTS

If your puppy is people orientated, you can put the puppy in the bathroom for a brief time out e.g. 10–20 seconds. Do it in a very unemotional way and don't speak. When you let the puppy out don't say anything, just open the door and go on with what you were doing. Do not use a crate or outside for time outs, the crate/outside should be a positive place.

WALK AWAY

Make a disappointed sound such a HUMPH, push the puppy away (not too hard) and then simply stand up and walk away and go into another room and close the door for a minute.

There are some puppies that will chase after you and bite the back of your legs if you try and walk away. If your puppy does this then this method would not be suitable.

SPRAY BOTTLE

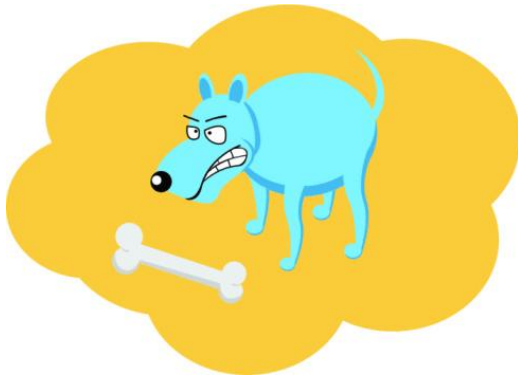
(Aversive method & not necessarily suitable for your puppy)

Squirt the puppy in the face (avoiding its eyes) each time it places its mouth on you. To be successful in this method you should not let the puppy know the water bottle exists otherwise they will only behave when you have the water bottle.

If the puppy starts to enjoy the water you can put some lemon juice in it. Be careful not to squirt the dog in the eyes – the lemon juice is used as a taste aversive only.

DO NOT HIT / SMACK / BEAT A PUPPY

You will simply lose the puppy's trust and respect...leaders don't act like that.



Resource Guarding

Showing aggression around toys, food and any other item the dog considers as high value to them.

Resource guarding is easy to prevent when you start off with a puppy.

Resource guarding occurs when a dog believes they will lose something e.g. another dog steals their bone so next time they'll put on an aggressive display to make the other dog leave them alone.

Preventing food aggression starts with Leadership. Follow the Nothing in Life is free (NILIF) program and you shouldn't have a problem with your dog mis-interpreting where it stands in the family unit.

Suggestion #1

Hand feed the puppy the first half of their meal or only place half the dogs meal in its bowl and then when it eats it you come in and give the other half showing the dog that a person approaching the bowl brings good things.

Suggestion #2

When a dog has a treat such as a pigs ear or bone etc. say "Give" in a normal/happy tone of voice and offer the dog a very tasty and awesome treat (more special than what it currently has) so you are effectively exchanging what you have with the dog. Then give the dog back its treat and walk away.

Teaching "Give" is very important when it comes to preventing resource guarding.

Great Danes should be encouraged to eat slowly to avoid gas build up in their tummies.

Therefore if you have multiple dogs it is recommended that you feed them in separate rooms so the dogs do not feel competition between each other and eat faster.

If you insist on feeding your dogs together ensure you are there supervising so neither dog gets in the other dogs personal space which can end in a fight.

Avoid: Annoying the dog when it is eating.

It is an old training method to constantly take the food off the dog and stick hands in bowls all the time to train the dog to just accept it – however this can backfire and cause the dog to get annoyed or anxious and therefore react.

It is recommended to just let the dog eat in peace and this also includes not standing there staring at the dog which is very confronting.

If you already have a dog that is resource guarding

You need to strip away all privileges to this dog e.g the dog can only have access to toys when you give them, cannot be up on furniture unless you invite them up and then they must get off when you say so. Implement the Nothing in Life is Free (NILIF) program with 100% consistency.

Please book a session in with a Behaviourist to help you through this situation, in the meantime the below may assist you, however always be very careful when managing a dog displaying aggressive traits.

Action #1

Hand feed all food to the dog if it is safe to do so. Make them work for it e.g. Dinner time can be a training session.

Action #2

If it is not safe to hand feed the dog, hold the bowl and throw the food out in-front of you so that the dog gets used to you being there when there is food.

Action #3

Do not let the dog approach another dog whilst they are eating, having treats or enjoying a high value item such as a toy. Show your Resource Guarder what the boundaries are and use crates or tethers if need-be.

Action #4

Teach "Give".

Action #5

If all else fails, do not delay, contact a behaviourist to help you.

Always think of how you can set your dog up for success and implement routines and actions to do this.



Counter Surfing

Because Great Danes are tall dogs they can easily steal items off the bench including your Sunday roast!

When Danes are puppies you'll need to teach them that the kitchen is a no-go area. You can place tape on the floor to create a boundary line. Adult Danes can learn this too.

If the dog crosses over the boundary line you walk towards them and say "Out" in a firm tone, let your body do the talking, try your best not to use your hands to move them out of the way because dogs understand body language better.

If you already have a counter surfer you can try the boundary line method. If you are unsuccessful there are some aversive methods that can work quickly, which may feel necessary to keep your dog safe from eating items it should not.

Put the food away

A very simple solution, don't leave food out where your Dane can reach it.

Aversive training

There are aversive training systems available to counteract counter surfing problems, however you would be best to try the above mentioned method before trying aversive methods.

Scat Mats

Scat Mats can be placed on the kitchen bench when the dogs commonly jump on, when they touch the mat they will receive a static shock.

Innotek Zone Collars

A collar that responds to a unit in your kitchen. It emits a warning tone and then delivers an electric pulse to the dog. Dogs quickly learn where they can and cannot go.



Digging

Why dogs dig and how to problem solve this challenging behaviour.

Digging isn't necessarily a breed trait, however some Great Danes love to dig and when they do dog they can dig to China!

Why do dogs dig and how do we correct the behaviour?

Fun

Some dogs simply love to dig! If you don't appreciate it you can put their poo in the hole and then cover it back up as most dogs have an aversion to touching poo.

If this method doesn't work and the dog is digging in the same area you can place a mesh type of material under the surface such as chicken wire. Be careful of sharp edges!

You can also give the dog somewhere it is allowed to dig such as a specific area and / or a sandpit. You need to teach the dog to dig in this area. Usually you can achieve this by hiding treats in small boxes or toys and asking your dog to find them.

Scenting

Great Danes have great noses, they may smell something under the surface such as a toy or bone etc. There's not much you can do about this one unfortunately, however it shouldn't be a regular occurrence.

Hiding food

If your dog is burying its' bones or other food it is generally because they don't need that much food. If you would like to stop your dog hiding its food then minimise the amount of food you provide, for example if you would like to give your dog a bone you can just give them a bone without their breakfast. This means that they should eat the bone and not bury it as otherwise they'll go hungry.

Stress

If your dog is trying to dig out of your property then you'll need to address the anxiety your dog is dealing with. Please see the page in this book on the subject of Separation Anxiety.



Escaping

Keeping your dog safe.

Dogs escape for different reasons, ranging from separation anxiety through to "just because they can".

Apart from addressing your dog's Separation Anxiety (see the page in this guide on the subject) you'll need to implement methods to prevent your dog from escaping.

Re-homing an escape artist is not always a suitable solution as they will typically still escape from their new home. Most shelters will not re-home escape artists due to legal liabilities.

Provide Suitable Fencing

Suitable fencing for Great Danes is an individual thing. Some Great Danes have no interest in jumping out, however when considering suitable fencing you will need to keep in mind the height of the Dane when they stand up i.e. if they are 6 foot tall, 5 foot fencing generally is not going to be ideal.

As a general rule you will want to use fencing that dogs cannot get a foot hold on as this makes it easy for them to scale fences. Colourbond fencing is a good choice.

Extend your fence

If your dog is jumping your current fence you can extend your fence upwards with trellis that you can purchase from Bunnings / hardware stores which is generally an affordable option.

Dog Run with Roof

A Dog Run / Pen with a roof will keep your dog safe. Sometimes this will be your last resort. Some people do not like the thought of keeping their dog in a pen all day, however in reality you need to keep your dog safe and also keep in mind dogs do tend to sleep through part of the day so if you provide enough enrichment your dog should be happy enough.

The Dog Run / Pen should be of an appropriate size for a Great Dane. If you Google 'Dog Run' 'Dog Pen' you will be shown results for companies who make and sell these items.

You can expect to pay anywhere from \$500.00 (2nd hand) to \$2,000.00 + (new). You may even like to consider making your own.

You can do it more affordably by purchasing temporary fencing panels for around \$40-\$70 per panel.

Also check www.ebay.com.au

Ping String

Ping String is an electronically charged tape that farms can use to make temporary paddocks for their stock.

Dogs generally only need to touch the tape 2 or 3 times before they learn not to go near it.

You can place Ping String on stakes half a metre in front of the fence the dog is escaping over or near where the dog is placing their feet when climbing the fence.

Ping Fencing will cost you approx. \$100–\$200 depending on the area you need to cover.

Check your State's laws, as sometimes local agencies do not permit dogs to be contained by electric fencing.

Innotek Invisible Zones Collar

These collars can be used inside and out. They are cheaper than the containment systems; however they only work in small areas.

The dog wears a collar that is a receiver and you place a unit where the dog is escaping. You can tell the unit how far away from it you want the dog to be.

They are ideal for keeping dogs away from the front door, out of the kitchen and out of the kid's room, and for outside you can use them to keep them away from gates or sections of the fence where they get over.

Purchase from: www.discountdogfence.com.au

Containment Systems

This is another system is where the dog wears a collar that is a receiver. When the dog goes near the underground wire (boundary line) it will give the dog a warning tone to tell the dog to back up, and if the dog continues forward it will receive an electronic stimulation from the collar.

Although expensive e.g. approx \$500+ it is one of the most successful systems to prevent dogs from escaping and is legal in all states of Australia.

Purchase from: www.k9pro.com.au



Separation Anxiety

Helping your dog to be calm when you leave.

Great Danes are a sensitive breed which are people orientated so they can be somewhat susceptible to Separation Anxiety and separation related behaviours. ***It is important to note*** that not all Separation related behaviours are classed as 'Separation Anxiety' which is a dog that panics when you leave.

Separation Anxiety in adult dogs is a condition that is commonly brought on by the humans without them even knowing and therefore can typically be fixed by the human.

Separation related behaviours in puppies are very common in all breeds. It is very scary to be taken away from your Mum and your littermates and then shut out in the back yard or in the laundry/bathroom all by yourself!

Separation behaviours can also be seen in dogs you adopt if they are used to having someone home a lot or living with another dog or even because they are just scared and don't know what is going on. The dog will have to learn to adjust to your environment. Dealing with cases like this should be dealt with empathy and a structured program.

When you bring your new puppy home

Do not fawn all over the puppy, as you need the puppy to develop independence. Fawning all over the puppy is also not applying the NILIF principles and therefore the puppy can end up confused about its position in your pack.

Rules and boundaries from the moment the puppy enters the house will help you later on.

It is not recommended to isolate the puppy from you at night such as in a laundry/bathroom. Packs sleep together – although this does not necessarily mean in the same bedroom or even in the human's bed.

Look into crate training and have the puppy in the room with you until it is older, then you can start to move the crate closer to the door then out of the bedroom door.

But the Great Dane is an outside dog?

Great Danes really aren't suitable outside dogs because they have been bred to be very people orientated which makes them perfect house dogs however because of this they do not like to be isolated. If you insist on keeping this arrangement then you'll need to be prepared for separation anxiety and behavioural problems from the get go.

Give your neighbours the heads up

Drop a letter in your surrounding neighbours' letter boxes to let them know you have a new puppy, it will be getting used to being by itself when you're not home. Ask if they can bear with you whilst the puppy / new dog is settling in, but also let you know about the noise levels.

When you bring home a new dog ideally you'll take some time off work to settle the dog in, including doing separation training.

Each day work on separation training. If the dog is going to be outside when you're not home, spend time outside with the dog showing the dog outside is fun—play with toys, give the dog a bone etc.

Exercise

Tire your dog out before you leave it alone, whether than be physical (walks/runs/play) or mental (training) exercise. Be careful to only give age appropriate exercise i.e. puppies should not be over exercised.

If your dog currently has separation anxiety

Please continue to the following pages to read up on a Separation Training Program.

Recommended reading

Practical Dog Listener by Jan Fennell, *a guide to removing anxiety from dogs so they can relax when you're home and when you're not.*

Seperation Training Program

The program mentioned within this info sheet is a program used by Great Dane Rescue & Re-homing NSW with a 100% success rate.

If your dog does not respond to this program within after 2 weeks and you can honestly say that you have given the program 100% dedication and consistency we recommend you find a Vet Behaviourist in your area to find a solution that works for your dog as there may be more going on than meets the eye.

There are different analogies that we can use to help people understand what separation anxiety is, here are 2 of classic examples.

Example 1

Separation Anxiety can develop when the Leadership in the home isn't what it needs to be for that particular dog.

Example 2

Separation Anxiety can also occur when a dog has an expectation of another dog/s or people to be present for example if a dog is used to living with another dog and it is re-homed as the only dog it may develop separation anxiety as a result.

This is also relevant to multi dog households when a dog is separated from one/s it lives with to go to the Vets or to go for a walk etc. The family needs to ensure they are giving the dogs time on their own everyday so they learn emotional independence.

Separation Anxiety can occur with families who are home a lot and the dog is used to people always being there.

In these cases it is important for those who are home a lot put the dog outside everyday for short / long periods so they do not become reliant on someone always being there.

Separation Anxiety stemming from a dogs mis-understanding of the family structure is one of the more common reasons for separation related anxiety

Many dogs can survive just fine with your typical human (Guardian) leader being somewhat inconsistent on a daily basis however there are also dogs on the other end of the scale that need for you to show them you're the leader every minute of the day.

Having to be a Leader for every moment of the day can be very challenging for some people which is very understandable as when we bring a dog into our lives we don't expect to have to have a battle for Leadership.

Guardians shouldn't feel insecure that they aren't being a great Leader as it is not something that comes naturally to everyone, it is a born trait and therefore it is something some of us need to learn to develop more-so than others.

A different species

We need to be the Leader of a whole different species so that is another challenge as we need to learn how to communicate with that species and not force our own form of communication and social etiquette onto them as.

Dogs communicate and interact differently to humans and this where misunderstandings of the family unit (pack) can occur.

The Pack vs Family unit

It was once thought that there was an Alpha Wolf per pack and all the Wolves below this Wolf would bow down before it. The Wolf Expert who stated this back in the 1970's has now said he was wrong and mis-interpreted what he saw.

Today, it is accepted by many Wolf experts that the pack is a family unit similar to ours i.e. Parents (Guardians) and children below them. Naturally the parents will rule the roost and the children will follow the directive of their parents (as a generalised statement).

And therefore we need to take the focus away from the Dominance theory that our dogs are constantly seeking our Alpha position because they are not. If the Leader (Guardian) is doing a sufficient job then the family unit will follow its lead.

Dogs instinctually have to have a Leader and therefore if the human is not providing that then the dog instinctually has to step into those shoes because that is the natural order of the canine world.

Similar to how we vote on whom we want the new Prime Minister to be. If we don't feel the current PM is doing a good enough job as our Leader we will elect a new one when the opportunity arises.

Leadership behaviours become a habit

Once we are given the knowledge on how to act as a good trustworthy Leader it becomes a person's default behaviour to act like that with their dog, but to start with it can be really hard and many give up and can't follow through with the program.

What does the program need?

- Your trust that this is a widely used program with great success rates that does not require you to be heavy handed or verbally abusive to the animal.
- Your time. It is labour intensive but it pays off in the end.
- For you to put your emotions to the side to allow you to see a different perspective.
- Consistency. A Leader is consistent. A dog can spot inconsistency and tests Inconsistency regularly just like children do to see what they can get away with.

When a person understands where the anxiety is coming from it can help them develop better habits themselves.

For instance if you acknowledge that all your free attention to your dog is contributing it to become emotionally unbalanced you can give yourself a good reason to stop yourself from doing it and follow NILIF principals instead which your dog naturally understands.

First Analogy: Losing your charge...

Imagine this scenario: You're a Mum/Dad of a 3 year old Toddler and one day your toddler runs out the door and down the street and out of sight and for some reason you cannot leave the house and recover your child. You can't see them; you don't know what has happened to them, if they are safe etc.

How do you react to this situation? Perhaps you may:

- 1) Become Frantic.
- 2) Try and find an escape route.
- 3) Emotionally break down.

Depending on your own personality/characteristics will depend how you will continue to handle this situation for the remainder of the day, you may be absolutely frantic for the rest of the day, you may try absolutely everything you can think of to break out of the house or you may end up sobbing and not being able to get your head straight.

The outcomes of this scenario can be seen in dogs that have been unintentionally placed in Leadership roles within their family units.

Many dogs are not Leadership material and are thrust into that role because the human who should be the Leader isn't acting like a Leader (the type of Leader that dogs needs) and in the Canine world there must be a Leader so the dog will fill that void because that is what instinct tells the dog to do.

If you're not Leadership material and are put into this situation you're going to be an ineffective leader, you may stress out more than is necessary, you may not be able to tell the difference between threats and just normal occurrences so you may become more reactive to situations and changes to your environment.

A common problem with dogs in Leadership roles is they over react i.e. they become constant barkers, barking at any little sound. They may become aggressive to people or dogs who they perceive as a threat to their family unit.

Side note: Some dogs that are aggressive towards other dogs become that way because they do not trust their owner to protect them i.e. they do not see the human as the Leader and therefore have to take on the protective role themselves and then end up handling situations unfavourably.

If the dog believes it is the Leader, when you leave the house it is going to get upset by what is occurring because when a dog is the Leader it is their job to take care of you, protect you, know where you are – just as you would take care of a child if you were a parent.

Second Analogy: You're the Leader of the Army...

Imagine this scenario: You get a knock on the door, it's the Prime Minister, and they tell you that we are going to war with ABC Country and they need you to head up the troops. You'll need to give them direction and make sure nothing happens to them!

How do you react to this news?

You may feel pretty stressed about this considering you haven't had to lead troops before and it is a war so harm is going to come to them somewhere along the lines but the Prime Minister is counting on you!

This could go 2 ways: it could go great because you are a natural born Leader! Or, this could go very bad and you could get all your troops killed because you're not really Leadership material and stress is going to mess with how you deal with challenges/threats

In closing...

These two scenarios are designed to help people understand why dogs can get separation anxiety and why Leadership shouldn't be thrust upon many dogs as many are not Leadership material therefore they can end up doing a bad job of it.

The human equivalent could be referred to an emotional breakdown when the human can't perform well, can't control the many aspects they feel they need to and stress ultimately takes over.

The next part

Once you understand the reason behind a dog having separation anxiety you will hopefully then be able to pop your emotions to the side because the process can be emotionally hard on us humans at the start because we are emotional creatures.

Step 1

Do a pretend leave so you know how much anxiety the dog is carrying. Dogs are smart so you can't just walk out the door and hide around the corner, you'll need help from your partner or friend because they'll need to get in the car and drive off down the road and stay there for 5–10 minutes whilst you stay hidden outside your house listening to what is going on and peaking if possible.

If your dog gets upset you can't let the dog know you're there, the only time you would interrupt the pretend leave is if the dog is endangering itself.

You want to take note of what the dog is doing i.e.

- 1) Basic crying/whining
- 2) Howling
- 3) Scratching at the dog
- 4) Standing at the door/window looking for you
- 5) Running through the house/yard
- 6) Trying to escape
- 7) Being destructive
- 8) Barking

Depending on what your neighbours are like you may want to tell them what you're doing so they don't complain or make a fuss.

Note how long the dog continues these behaviours for and if the behaviours lessen over the course of 10 minutes.

The point of this is also to relieve some stress from you as well that you could be passing onto the dog because as humans we can sometimes presume the worst in these situations i.e. the dog is going to escape and get hit by a car or the dog is going to get so frantic it will hurt itself, so you need to know what your dog will do when you leave your house.

You may actually be surprised that the dog isn't being frantic and trying to escape but it is clearly stressed.

The first pretend leave acts as a base level; through the program you will do other short pretend leaves and a couple of extended pretend leaves to monitor the progress.

On return to your home, you will enter the home and ignore the dog until it is calm. Let the dog in if the dog isn't in the house already, you will do all of this without eye contact, without physical touch and without verbalising to the dog – effectively you are pretending the dog does not exist for the next 15 minutes.

The dog may try all sorts of things to get your attention; it will most likely be in a high state of arousal because it is so excited to see you.

Side note: Dogs can be happy to see you but excitement shows anxiety so if your dog loses the plot when you get home don't be flattered, your dog is actually showing you anxiety which arises from Leadership mis-understandings.

i.e. remember when I went through the scenario of the Toddler leaving the house, well this would be the Mothers reaction when the child came back).

In addition you need to do this program with all your dogs not just the ones who obviously have issues, because you are re-asserting yourself as a Leader to the whole pack.

After 15 minutes, call each dog to you individually by name and give a calm pat on the head to the dog you called, if other dogs push to see you ignore them. After the calm pat on the head go on with your day applying NILIF principals.

If the dog you called to you did not immediately come to you, ignore that dog for 24 hours (no eye contact, no nothing, you put food and water down and that is it, do not walk the dog) and then repeat the above process.

The dog ignoring you is a very clear indicator that the dog doesn't see you as a Leader. That dog may sit, drop etc. but does not come when called; this is one of those clear indicators that Obedience is different to respecting the Leader.

Side note: Humans will always have challenges with Leadership and will always have to be working on re-asserting themselves as Leaders because we're not dogs and we only understand about 40% of their behaviour and they obviously understand we're not dogs and don't understand it all and that we struggle with consistency.....just like children they will zoom in on your weakness and exploit it to their benefit.

Step 2

During your day to day contact you need to ensure that you are treating the dogs like sub-ordinates.

In the wild the followers in the pack will fawn over the Leader. For example giving a dog affection when it hasn't done anything to warrant it, you are fawning over the dog and therefore it may be confused about where it stands in your family unit.

If you aren't already following the NILIF (Nothing in life is free) program 100% it's time to start that because without this program you will most likely struggle if you're not a natural Leader and you will find that you may need to become physical with your dog to have it do what you want rather than the dog doing what you want because you are the Leader.

What is a Leader?

A Leader is fair; consistent, assertive (not abusive) and confident. Remember the key word 'fair'.

Here are some things to consider:

- 1) Don't allow the dogs on the human furniture.....they can come up on the furniture in the future when given permission but not yet.
- 2) Don't think you can change the pack order between the dogs in your home by feeding certain dogs first and giving them attention first.

Dogs change their pack order so many times through the day depending on the value those individual dogs hold for certain things.

For example, a dog that appears to be higher on the ladder than another dog can give in and give up a toy or bone to a lesser member simply because they do not value it as highly as the other dog.

It can actually cause more tension by trying to change the pack status between individual dogs. If you want to encourage good calm behaviour between your dogs in your home, feed or give attention to the dog first that is showing the calmest behaviour etc.

- 3) Keep your hands to yourself; it's a really hard thing to do! No free pats. This doesn't mean you should give your dog any less attention; however the dog must do something for that pat.

If your dog asks for attention, ignore the dog and then once it gives up and goes away call the dog to you, ask the dog for a behaviour i.e. a sit and then give attention, don't go overboard though and don't let the dog try and force you into continuing the attention after you said enough (by simply stopping and turning your head away).

Dogs are smart, the dog will soon figure out that he/she must sit to get attention so what the dog will start to do is come to you and sit, don't touch the dog if it does this because it's actually demanding attention. Once your dog starts to predict what behaviour you want start upping the behaviour i.e. ask for a drop. You may need to teach the dog some new behaviours such as high 5's etc. Trick training is a great way to bond with your dog.

- 4) Follow through on what you say, make sure you have a collar on the dog in house so you can make sure the dog follows through on requested behaviours i.e. If you tell your dog to go to his bed (and the dog actually understands this request) but instead he walks away from you, go to them and calmly take the collar in your hand and take them to the bed.

If they get up and move away, go and get them and put them back. This is where consistency comes in as well. You may need to do this 20-100 times if the dog is testing your consistency and you need to do it without emotion.

If after the dog stays on their bed and I'm happy for them to move I will give them a release command or call them to me.

- 5) If your dog becomes reactive when someone comes to the door thank them. It sounds like a strange thing to do however pack members will alert the Leader to potential danger.

Next time your dog barks at something thank them and go and look, be obvious to the dog that you're checking it out.

If the dog does not cease the alert behaviour then you need to take control. For example if you are at your front door you need to claim the front door by raising your chin and walking towards the dogs with an assertive energy, you may say something like "Back" in an assertive tone.

It is a good idea to practice this when no one is there so the dogs become used to what your new body movements mean especially when you are opening the front door. You can direct them to a bed if there is one close by.

- 6) Dogs pushing past you is something you'll want to address as well, this one is easily addressed by hip/thigh knocking the dog out of the way. Dogs do this to each other by shoulder or hip knocking each other.

The strength you put into the barge is relevant to the strength in which the dog puts into knocking/barging you.

- 7) Dinner time needs to be a calm affair, so if your dogs lose the plot at dinner time do not pick up the bowls until you have calmness, if they lose the plot as soon as you pick up the bowls you simply put them down on the bench again and you repeat this process until you get what you want.

Dogs are smart and they'll click to this pretty fast. Ask for a behaviour before the dog eats, a 5 second stay is a good one (but you'll need to teach this to the dog first if they do not already know it) and then give your release word such as "Ok" or "Break". It's best not to use "Ok" where possible as it's such a commonly used word.

- 8) No free treats. If you want to give your dog a treat make them work for it, ask them to do say 3 behaviours. Then offer the treat to them which they need to take calmly, pull the treat away if the dog isn't approaching it in a calm way and repeat the process until the dog gets the message.
- 9) Invading your personal space is a classic behaviour dogs will do to get the things they want, you'll often see dogs do this to each other do they can claim a bed a toy, a treat etc.

As a Leader demand your personal space, if a dog plonks down on your feet, stand up and nudge the dog away. If you like dogs near you for cuddles that is fine but invite the dog into your space first and as soon as the dog displays behaviours that aren't calm and well behaved such as pawing and swinging their head around get the dog to move away from you.

- 10) Stop having conversations with your dog that they don't understand. We all talk to our dogs and the dogs will sit there and pull out the keywords they know but if you are having challenges with your dog not listening to you try and minimise talking to your dog so that when you do talk they listen and just say what you want not a whole conversation about how much you love them etc.

A number of dogs switch off if they are talked to too much so this is something that you may like to consider.

Dogs are silent communicators as it is, they talk to each other with body language and if you can learn more about canine body language and use it in your home you would be on a great new path to communicating with your dog.

- 11) Challenge yourself to a no-talk day every now and then and in this day you have to use your body language and energy to get what you need from your dog, you'll learn a lot and you'll see your dog be a bit more relaxed as you're communicating with it in the way it communicates.
- 12) Always set the dog up for success and never failure i.e. if you have a young dog that harasses an older dog then you're not going to let the young dog have free reign around the older dog, you're going to have the younger dog on a lead so you can correct its behavior right then and there and minimise any harassment to the older dog.

- 13) Put the toys away. As the Leader you are the one who says when it's play time so pop the toys away where the dogs can't get to them and then each day you can offer play time with the dogs with their toys and at the end of this play time you put the toys away.

This can create a dog who is more interested in toys than a dog that has 100 toys laying around everywhere, it also helps dogs who guard toys around other dogs.

If a dog ever gets a bit too carried away in play with you, stand up, say nothing and walk away and ignore the dog for 15 minutes.

Step 3

From now on when you leave the house, you'll ignore the dog (no eye contact, no nothing) for 15 minutes before you leave.

Remove any triggers for anxiety based behaviours i.e. if you only turn the radio on when you leave don't do that anymore.

If you give the dog a treat when you leave, don't do that anymore.

If the you can exit out of a different door than the one you normally do then do that, this is about re-conditioning the dog because right now it has been conditioned to automatically respond in a certain way when certain triggers are presented so even if you get your Leadership back on track you may still need to remove the conditioned triggers.

All of the above points to consider do become normal behaviours for dog owners over time but they are hard to start with and sometimes even hard to follow in the future, but if you don't apply NILIF then you're not going to get very far.

And the last step – the Separation Training Program

The next step is to re-condition the dog, in brief this means you're going to work with the dog so the dog will react in a different way than it previously did to a specific stimuli.

The key here is repetition, repetition, repetition & a fair whack of patience!

Step 1

Get up without saying anything and don't look at the dog, walk out the door and shut the door behind you (make sure you have your keys).

Stay outside out of sight for about 30 seconds and then walk back inside and sit down again as if nothing happened and ignore the dog.

If 30 seconds is too much for the dog to cope with (the dog can be stressed but not freaking out completely) you can start by just going outside, closing the door and then coming straight back in and then extending time slowly. Most dogs can cope with 30 seconds without tearing the house to pieces.

Step 2

As soon as the dog lies down and puts its head down you repeat Step 1. This time stay outside for 1 minute.

Step 3

Repeat Step 2 again and again and again until the dog no longer fusses when you get up and leave the house.

Recommended time is 1 hour training sessions per day for 2 weeks.

Dogs who aren't natural born leaders and who don't want to be leaders will give up within the hour session, many Owners report that the dogs don't even bother standing up when they leave the house at the end of that hour.

The re-conditioning is showing the dog as the Leader you come and go as you please. In the wild when a Leader Canine returns to its pack it acts aloof.....like the pretty girl walking into the ball room. Aloof in Human v Canine terms is 'Ignoring'.

The Leader Canine does this because each time it returns it has to re-assert itself as a Leader to let the pack know that nothing has changed.

It is recommended you act aloof anytime returning through a closed door, that closed door includes a bathroom door.

The Leave and Return on a daily long term basis:

The Leave and Return program is really important, it's emotionally hard to start with as well so you have to prepared yourself.

Leaving the house: Ignore the dog as though it doesn't exist 15 minutes prior to you leaving the house, be mindful of any previous triggers you used i.e. turning the radio on, giving a treat etc.

When it's time to leave the house, remember your posture, remember to breath (often people concerned hold their breath), get your things and simply walk out (if you leave the dogs in the house).

If you put your dogs outside, do this 15 minutes before you leave. You may need to advise your neighbours of what you're doing so they'll not get too upset with you when the dog barks and whines in protest.

Returning to the house:

Remember your posture; remember to breath, no eye contact, no touch, no verbal. Walk in and ignore the dogs, be prepared for the dogs to do a number of different things to get your attention, ignore them all, the ignore needs to last for at least 15 minutes.

If you have the dogs outside, ignore the dogs until they calm down then let them inside and ignore them.

After 15 minutes, you call the dog to you by name and only give attention to the dog you called. Give a calm pat on the head and them go about your day and follow the NILIF program.

If the dog does not immediately come to you when you call them (don't make excuses for the dog) ignore that dog for 24 hours and then repeat the above process.

For the most challenging dogs there have been cases where they have refused to come for everyday for a whole month...that's a lot of ignoring but the most challenging dog is going to make you prove that you're a suitable Leader.

Please continue to the next back for products to help during behavioural modification training.



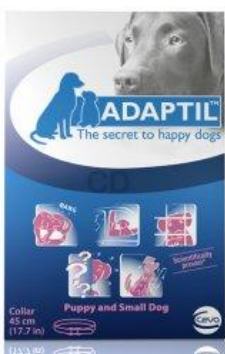
PetArk Calm



Make a difference to your dog or cat's day by reducing their level of stress naturally. PetArk Calm assists in the maintenance of normal muscle and nerve function and contains a range of nutrients that have a role in assisting the transmission of nerve impulses.

This product contains: Natural Liver Flavouring; Magnesium Phosphate; L-Tryptophan; Passion Flower; Hops; Chamomile; Vitamin B6; Vitamin B3; Vitamin B1; Vitamin B2; Vitamin B12.

Approx \$35.00 for 125 grams www.k9pro.com.au



Adaptil Pheromone Collar



Adaptil, formally known as DAP, is a synthetic copy of the natural canine appeasing pheromone proven to help support dogs in a range of stressful situations.

Approx \$45.00 for 1 collar that lasts approx 30 days.

Check www.ebay.com.au for the cheapest.



D.A.P / Adaptil



Use to modify behaviour in dogs. Has a calming effect by releasing dog pheromones into the air via a 240v plug in diffuser. Lasts for approximately 30 days if left on 24 hours a day.

Independent observations from a Behaviourist has suggested that DAP may not be a suitable solution if the dog did not have a good start to life i.e. when it was still feeding from its Mother getting the natural pheromones.

Approx \$80.00 for diffuser and D.A.P. Refills are approx. \$40.00. www.k9pro.com.au



Vetalogica Canine Tranquil Formula



Many dogs become fearful and anxious during thunderstorms/fireworks, car trips, visits to the vet, seeing visitors and being separated from their owners and loved ones. Every dog has an individual personality and therefore deals with stressful events differently.

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- Vetalogica's Worldwide exclusive Calmaphan™ technology
- Contains natural ingredients plus Tryptophan and B group vitamins
- Manufactured under HACCP standards in Australia
- Delicious tasting tablet for dogs

Approx \$22.00 for 120 tablets from your Pet Supply store.



Corrections

There is a right and a wrong way to do it.

Training methods these days are more focused on getting the dog to do what you want it to do, rather than having to discipline it for not doing what you want.

For example, if you want to teach a dog to stop jumping on you, you can reward the dog when its feet are on the ground rather than disciplining the dog with a knee to the chest or a smack etc.

Great Danes are fairly sensitive dogs and a verbal reprimand should be enough if you have established yourself as the dog's leader and the dog respects you. Obviously there are dogs that are an exception to this who will be rather challenging.

If your dog has done something wrong, you can only correct it if you catch the dog in the act. The reason for this is, that as much as some people think dogs are humans in fur coats, they simply don't understand what you are angry about if you don't address it right then and there.

No, dogs do not feel guilt. That look of guilt you think you see is your dog simply responding to your body language / scent / tone of voice / facial expressions etc. Dogs are masters at body language as that is their native language; they know when you're not happy but just don't know why.

If you come home to find your dog has trashed the house, all you can do is clean it up. You cannot reprimand a dog for doing something you did not see it do. Next time prevent it from happening e.g. don't leave the dog with access to trash the house.

Imagine if someone ran up to you and randomly gave you a smack! How confused you would be! When you ask them why, they tell you it's for something you did hours / days ago.....doesn't make much sense does it....even worse is that the dog unlike a human doesn't actually understand the English language so you can't explain to a dog why you're upset with it.



Enrichment

Bored Great Danes can make a pretty good mess!

Prevent coming home to a mess by providing enrichment to your dog.

Enrichment is more than just chucking some toys and perhaps a bone out in the yard then hoping for the best.

Enrichment is about being creative and coming up with things that will allow your dog to use their instinct such as hunting out items you have hidden in the yard, being intrigued by different scents etc.

Make sure that any enrichment you provide is safe. If you have a dog that is destructive you will have to be very careful about the types of items you allow the dog access to in-case they swallow them.

Points to remember

- If you hang anything from trees you need to ask yourself, is this safe?
Could my dog strangle herself?
- If you provide boxes/buckets etc, think, could my dog get stuck?
- If you provide food and you have more than one dog, think, will the dogs fight over this?
- If you provide food, you'll need to reduce their breakfast/dinner to allow for this extra food.

Here's some ideas to get you started!

- Bone wrapped in non-waxed paper and hidden in a tree.
- Frozen sardines in tomato sauce in a kong.
- Toys hidden in trees, under beds etc.
- Paper plate hung from a tree branch with different tastes on it e.g.. Peanut Butter, spreadable cream cheese, liver paste etc.
- 1 / 4 of a Watermelon hidden in a box that was taped up.

- Paper cup hanging upside down from a tree etc. with different tastes in it.
- Taste box – each inner side of the box has a different taste on it such as Peanut Butter.
- Enrichment box – taped up box that contains the dogs breakfast.
- Toilet rolls with kibble in them and the ends taped up (use paper tape).
- Spray toys with scents such as cinnamon etc.
- Hide a small box with a chew treat in it in their sand pit.
- Range of different treat balls and treat toys (usually no more than 4 per day).
- Tug toys hung from branches.
- Tug toys weaved through dog run / pen sides.
- Aussie Home Alone toy.
- Paper made into a ball with pieces of kibble inside it.
- Provide 4 toys each day and rotate them so they don't get the same 4 toys the next day.
- Bottle of water.
- Bottle with kibble inside it.
- Cucumber – although they may not eat it, they can really enjoying playing with new items.
- Fruit and Veg hidden in the tree or under something.
- Treat items in brown paper bags hanging from the tree or kennel sides.
- Tasty items plastered on low hanging leafs such as Peanut Butter.
- Scattered kibble.
- Rope toy soaked overnight in Chicken Stock (without onion) and then frozen.
- Small bucket hanging from tree with treat/toys in it.

This is just a small amount/number of ideas; let your imagination run wild!



Aggression

Seek help, don't delay.

Aggression in a small dog and aggression in a Great Dane are extremely different even if it is the same type of aggression, as a Great Dane is going to cause a lot more damage than a small fluffy dog.

As soon as you see any type of aggression in your dog you need to get on top of it straight away. If you do not know how to combat the aggression you will need to seek help from an experienced Behaviourist.

Never be ashamed to ask for help, it is the most responsible thing you can do.

Don't make excuses for your dog. If your dog is acting overexcited/stimulated at the sight of another dog you need to address this before it turns into aggression.

Aggression is commonly the next step from overexcitement even from very well-mannered calm dogs.

Aggression is a normal canine behaviour, it's just not one we like to see. There are many techniques to combat these problems.

The quicker you deal with the problem, the quicker it will disappear! The longer you leave it, the more ingrained the behaviour becomes.

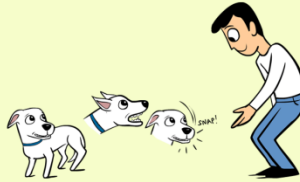
- **Never handle aggression problems with aggression**
e.g. if your dog is being aggressive to another dog or person you should not be aggressive to the dog.
- **Never "Alpha Roll" a dog (push a dog to the ground and hold it there)**
You will most likely get bitten and make the situation worse.
- **Get help – incorrectly timed corrections can escalate a problem**
Correcting an aggressive dog at the wrong time can actually make the dog react even worse.

Canine Bite Levels

Designed by Dr. Sophia Yin, Illustrated by Lili Chin*

Level 1 (Pre-Bite)

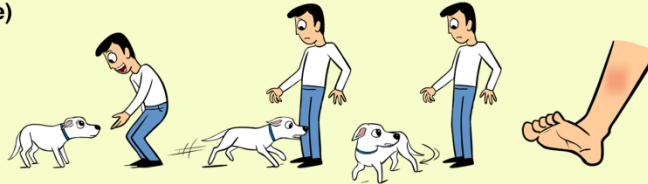
Snapping (air bite, no contact)



Get help before it progresses to an actual bite. Do not punish these warning signs or the dog may progress to biting without warning. Instead, learn the signs of fear and anxiety that the dog may show prior to this situation and the common human actions that might contribute.

Level 2 (Near-Bite)

Tooth contact on skin but no puncture



This near-bite is concerning even though it is inhibited and has not yet broken skin. Ask yourself what earlier signs (i.e. of fear/anxiety) you missed.

Level 3

3A. Skin punctures, single bite (all punctures shallower than the length of the canine tooth)



Even though the bite may not be severe it is still reportable. Reporting is mandatory if the victim is treated in a hospital. Once your dog has actually bitten at this level (or higher) he will always be considered a liability, even if, with behavior modification he is 99.9% improved.

3B. Skin punctures, multiple bites (all punctures shallower than the length of the canine tooth)



Multiple bites generally mean the dog is in a higher arousal state. The dog is reacting without thinking in between bites.

Level 4 (Very Serious)

Single bite with punctures deeper than the length of the canine (the dog bit and clamped down) or with slashes in both directions from the puncture (the dog bit and shook his head)



This is a harder bite than a level 3 bite. It's no longer inhibited. Therefore, it represents a much higher liability. This level bite can kill a child.

Level 5 (Very Serious)

Multiple-bite attack with deep punctures, or multiple attack incident



Dogs that bite at this level have generally had practice biting at levels 3 and 4 already. Some dogs are so fearful that a scary event triggers such a high arousal state that they get stuck in a reactive mode and continue to bite.

Level 6 (Death)

Victim killed or flesh consumed



It's important to realize that even little dogs and puppies can kill infants and small children and that death may be due to overly aroused play, rather than viciousness or fear. It's best to seek qualified help before the dog even reaches a level 2 bite.

*These levels are based on the levels developed by Dr. Ian Dunbar

©2012 Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS

Dr. Sophia Yin, DVM, MS
The Art and Science of Animal Behavior

For additional free dog bite prevention resources and more dog behavior books and products, visit www.drsophiayin.com.





The correct way for dogs to meet one another

Teach your puppy or adult dog the appropriate way to meet other dogs. This is that your dog should not go head to head with other dogs, it should go side on to another dog and sniff its rear and accept having its own rear sniffed.

You may need to hold your dog still to allow another dog to sniff your dog's rear. You can then guide your dog to sniff the other dog's rear.

If you allow your puppy or dog to rush at other dogs head on, the other dog's may perceive this as rude and discipline your dog which means a fight could break out.

A wagging tail doesn't necessarily mean a happy dog. A wagging tail simply means the dog is at a heightened level of excitement/arousal....even biting dogs wag their tails.

If you take your dog to dog parks it is very important that you monitor your dog's body language. Make sure you never take an over excited dog to a dog park. Exercise the dog first and then reward the dog with a play at the dog park.

Please note that dog parks are not natural environments for dogs and not all dogs are suited them.

Recommended Reading

Canine Body Language: A Photographic Guide Interpreting the Native Language of the Domestic Dog by Brenda Aloff.

Dog Park Etiquette

Rules to Help Dogs Get Along

You Wouldn't Want Kids To:

You wouldn't want one or more unfamiliar people rushing up to you.



It's not right to let kids steal toys.



It's not right to harass others into letting you play.



Sometimes kids can play too roughly.



You wouldn't want others to interfere with your play.



You wouldn't want your kid to get into everyone's personal space.



You wouldn't ignore your kid at the park.



You Wouldn't Want Dogs To:

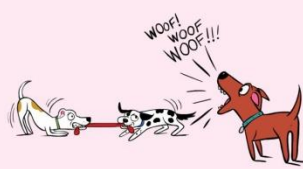
Dogs don't like groups or individual dogs rushing up.



Stealing toys is also improper at the dog park.



Dogs get irritated with this pushy behavior too.



And so can dogs.



Some dogs like to have their own space when playing too.



So you shouldn't let your dog jump on or body slam people at the park.



You shouldn't ignore your dog either.



What Your Dog Should Do:

Train your dog to focus on and interact in games with you instead of getting into trouble with dogs or people at the park.



Train your pooch to come when called so you can call him before he gets into problem situations.



Once your dog is with you, keep him engaged with you, then release him to play again.



Your dog should learn that it's fun to focus on you and play with you instead of needing to always play with other dogs. But it is also ok to play with other dogs, as long as both dogs are relaxed and having fun.



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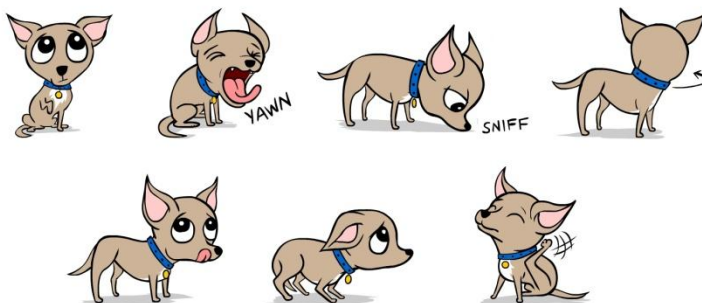
Body Language

TALKING DOG

Dogs communicate using body language more than they do vocally. Here's a quick guide to get a good idea of what your dog is telling you. Look at the whole of the dog: head, face, body and tail to get a more accurate idea of what the dog is saying.

FEARFUL / ANXIOUS / STRESSED

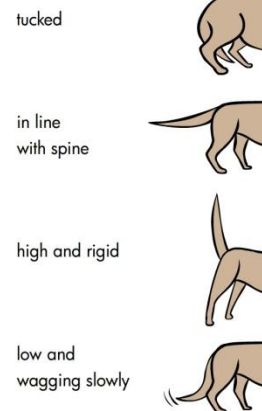
In all cases, respect the dogs need for space and offer signs of appeasement and peace: See the Doggy Dos and Don'ts poster



If not read correctly, stress, anxiety and fear often lead to behaviour commonly termed "aggressive", as the dog attempts to make it clearer that they are uncomfortable: raised hackles are a sign of fear:

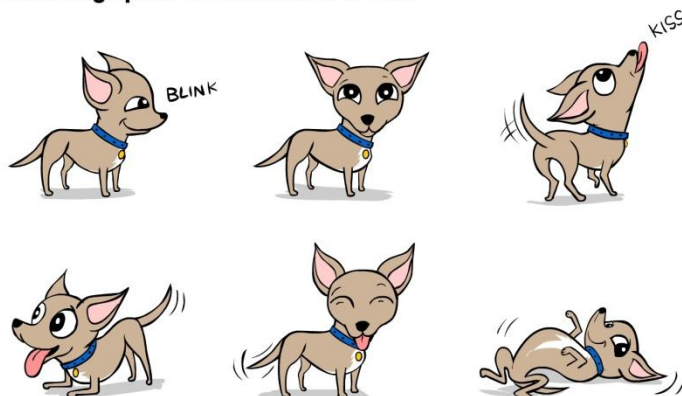


TAIL POSITIONS



CONTENT / HAPPY / SOCIAL

These dogs pose no immediate threat.



TAIL POSITIONS



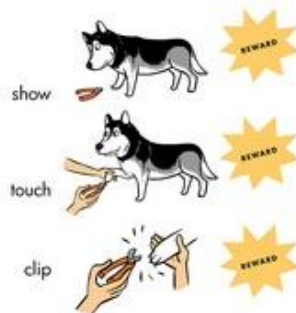
Desensitisation

6 TOP TIPS for DESENSITISATION

Turn scary things into fun, positive experiences!



- 1 Show the scary object just before feeding for at least a week, so the dog learns it becomes a precursor to good things.



- 3 Break down the scary thing into a process of small steps (IE putting the clippers near the dogs claws, then touching the claws, then holding the claw in the clippers then cutting), praising and rewarding heavily for each step.



- 5 If your dog seems unhappy or sensitive to the scary object at any time, go back a step and spend more time on that step.



- 2 Start with short moments of exposure followed by good things only (IE don't clip their claws, give 3 liver treats instead)



- 4 Be patient, proceeding to the next small step only when your dog is 100% comfortable



- 6 If your dog is scared of several things, work on one at a time maintaining a happy voice, rewarding with lots of treats and remaining patient.

With thanks to www.jezrose.co.uk Permission to use.

Woofs and Growls

The Young Person's Guide To **WOOFS and GROWLS**

Dogs are different to people. Clarissa will show us what to do - and what not to do around dogs.



Never put your face near a dog's face.



Be quiet and walk slowly. Dogs get scared of loud noises and fast movement.



Always wait for a dog to come to you. If they want to be stroked or play, they will ask!



Never disturb dogs when they are sleeping.



Never go up to a dog when they are eating.



Never go up to or touch a dog you don't know.



Dogs growl when they are angry or scared. Fold your arms and **walk away slowly**.

With thanks to www.jezrose.co.uk Permission to use.



Anthropomorphism

We're all guilty of it, but most of us don't even know what it is.

an·thro·po·mor·phism (ăn'thrə-pə-mô'r'fīz'əm)

n. Attribution of human motivation, characteristics, or behaviour to inanimate objects, animals, or natural phenomena.

It is very important that we treat dogs like dogs and not little humans in fur coats.

Why? Because that is what they are. Not treating them as dogs is like treating us likeHorses....

When we treat a dog like a human we disrespect them as a dog as a species and we confuse them.

If you treat your dog like 'your baby' then what you are actually doing in doggy language is telling the dog that it's the Alpha.

Not all Dogs are cut out to be Alpha's, by making a dog become an Alpha you could be causing unnecessary stress in the dog, it may start to misbehave, become aggressive and generally just become challenging to live with.

Some people are happy to give up their sofas and beds to their dogs and treat them like Kings and Queens.....however if your dog has any behavioural issues and / or pushy behaviours such as:

Getting in your way, pushing past you, leaning up against you, sitting on your feet, nudging you to give attention, barking at you, growling at you, not respecting your space and pushing you out of bed or off the sofa, jumping on you, nipping at you, grabbing / snatching food etc.

Then by treating your dog as a human you are setting yourself and your dog up for failure. **Dogs are happiest being dogs**, all they need as the bare minimum is a leader, food, water, shelter & exercise. That's not to say we can't give them extra but it has to be species appropriate. They don't need fancy clothes, birthday parties, or to be babied and mis-understood by their owners. Use the NILIF Program to allow your dog to be a dog.



What to expect from a Rescue / Pre-loved Dog

Supporting Rescue & Re-homeable dogs at www.greatdanerescue.com.au

In Australia, there are always Great Danes looking for new homes. Some of these Great Danes may come from pounds or rescue groups and some may simply need to find a new home as their current owner is no longer able to keep them.

Just like humans, dogs come with their own baggage; an adult dog is always going to come with some behaviours / habits that aren't necessarily good just like your adult Dane you raised from a puppy would have.

If you're going to adopt or purchase an adult Dane make sure you do your homework the best you possibly can to avoid any surprises.

If in doubt you can contact a Behaviourist to assess the dog for you, just like you can have a mechanic check over a 2nd hand car.

If you adopt / purchase a Great Dane you must be prepared for the surprises that come with them and be prepared to work with them. If you're looking for perfection, a Rescue or Pre-loved dog isn't going to be what you're looking for, but then neither is a puppy.

However if you discover serious problems (such as aggression) then you need to decide if you will work through these problems or euthanise the dog, as aggressive dogs (especially the ones the size of Great Danes) should not be re-homed as they are dangerous and a legal liability.

Always meet the dog where possible and make no excuses for any behaviours you see. Ask the owner / rescuer 101 questions. Be sure you know everything there is to know before you commit to taking the dog on.

Some people lack education and / or morals and may not be honest with you. This is why it is important to see the dog for yourself.

If you already own a dog you should take the dog with you to make sure the dogs can get along.



Finding a Good Behaviourist / Trainer

Anyone can call themselves one!

When you run into trouble and you don't know how to fix it, don't be ashamed to ask for help!

Even trainers themselves problem-solve with other trainers.

All dogs are different and therefore a "one size fits all" approach is not suitable. You'll need to find a Trainer / Behaviourist skilled in many different types of methods as that way you can find out what your dog responds to best, alternatively if you only like positive training you'll need to ensure the trainer is skilled in those techniques.

Trainers and Behaviourist trained by the National Dog Trainers Federation (NDTF) are educated in all forms of training and therefore should be able to assist you. NDTF is one of only 2 nationally accredited facilities in Australia.

www.ndtf.net.au You can contact the NDTF and ask for a recommendation in your state.

If the NDTF do not have a trainer in your state you can ask for trainer/behaviourist recommendations from online dog communities such as www.dolforums.com.au

BEWARE of businesses promoting themselves as trainers or behaviourists that don't actually have any formal training and are just following a training manual from their Franchise Head Office.

If you like only positive training methods then Delta or the Dog Listener outfits would be groups that you would seek assistance from. www.deltasocietyaustralia.com.au

To find a Dog Listener outfit, type 'Dog Listener and (your State)' into Google.

Behaviourist / Trainer Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on recommendations from clients and other trainers and behaviourists.

Queensland

Jane Harper

Dogs on Track

www.dogsontrack.com.au

Anamaree Correia

A New Leash on Life

www.anewleashonlife.com.au

Dr Garth Jennens

PUPi

www.pupi.com.au

Craig A. Murray

Dog School

www.dogschool.com.au

Jenny Golsby

Complete Canine Communication

www.k9communication.com.au

Victoria

Judi Buchan

PRO-K9

www.ProK9.com.au

Trish and Stuart Harris

Four Paws K9 Training

www.fourpawsk9training.com.au

Julie Kopunovich

InLine K9

www.inlinek9.webs.com

T. Jackman and S. Mulholland

Underdog Training Consulting

www.underdogtraining.com.au

Dr Rober Holmes

Vet Behaviourist

www.animalbehaviour.com

Dr Debbie Calnon

Vet Behaviourist

www.goodpetbehaviour.com

[Continue to next page...](#)

New South Wales

Steve Courtney

K9 Pro

<http://k9pro.com.au>

Craig B. Murray

Premier Dog Training

Great Dane Rescue & Re-homing NSW ITrainer

M: 0408 113 874

www.facebook.com/pages/Premier-Dog-Training/210224060991

Nathan Williams

Dog Behaviour Specialist

www.dogbehaviourspecialist.com.au

Western Australia

Dr Garth Jennens

PUPi

www.pupi.com.au

Kathy Kopellis McLeod

Kathy's Dog Training & Behaviour Consulting

www.kathysdogtraining.com.au

South Australia

Mark Singer

Adelaide Canine Training

www.caninetraining.com.au

Tasmania

Aidan Bindoff

Aidan Bindoff Dog Training & Behaviour

www.positivepetzine.com



Dangerous Foods

Not all human foods are safe for our dogs.

This is not necessarily a complete list.

Chocolate toxicity – Chocolate contains theobromine, a compound that is a cardiac stimulant and a diuretic. Dark Chocolate is more dangerous than regular Dairy Milk Chocolate.

Onion and garlic poisoning – Onions and garlic are other dangerous food ingredients that cause sickness in dogs, cats and also livestock. Onions and garlic contain the toxic ingredient thiosulphate. Onions are more of a danger.

Many dogs consume small quantities of Garlic with no worries at all and it is even included in some commercially available pet foods. This would indicate that larger doses may be the problem.

The danger of Macadamia Nuts – Macadamia Nuts are another concern. A recent paper written by Dr. Ross McKenzie, a Veterinary Pathologist with the Department of Primary Industries, points to the danger of raw and roasted Macadamia Nuts for pets.

Avocado (all parts) – the toxic ingredient in avocado is called persin (toxic amount unknown). Most documented cases of poisoning have been in livestock that have eaten all parts of the avocado and in large amounts. The toxin may be confined to the leaves, bark, skin or seed but the flesh is thought to be poisonous to birds.

Cooked bones – they can splinter and cause gut perforation, as well as blockages in the intestine, + tooth fractures. Cooked chop bones can get stuck across the roof of the mouth.

Corn cobs – a common cause of intestinal blockage requiring surgical removal.

Xylitol (artificial sweetener) – Signs of toxicity can be seen as quickly as 30 minutes after Xylitol ingestion in dogs. Xylitol causes a rapid release of the hormone insulin, causing a sudden decrease in blood glucose.

Coffee grounds, beans & tea (caffeine)

More than 150 mg per kilogram of body weight would be fatal to dogs. Be safe and avoid giving your dog any form of caffeine as individual tolerance levels differ.

An increased heart rate is one of the effects of caffeine over dose as this substance would trigger the production of adrenaline, the hormone that causes the acceleration of heart rate.

Increased respiratory rate and a change in behavior will be noticed in dogs that have consumed food items containing large amounts of caffeine.

Muscle tremors are another sign of caffeine toxicity. It is also possible for the dog to have seizures and to bleed heavily. Arrhythmia and generalised congestion are other signs of caffeine toxicity.

Grapes

The reason some dogs develop renal failure following ingestion of grapes and raisins is not known.

Types of grapes involved include both seedless and seeded, store bought and homegrown, and grape pressings from wineries.

A Mycotoxin is suspected to be involved, but one has not been found in grapes or raisins ingested by affected dogs.

The estimated toxic dose of grapes is 32 g/kg (1.1 oz /kg) (grams of grapes per kilograms of mass of the dog), and for raisins it is 11–30 g/kg. (0.39 – 1.06 oz/kg).

Dogs suffer acute renal failure after ingesting 3 grams per kilogram of raisins or dry matter of grapes. (Dry matter is calculated as 20% of grape weight)

The most common pathological finding is proximal renal tubular necrosis.



Great Dane Diets

Sources for our diet section include:

www.whole-dog-journal.com

www.dogfoodproject.com

www.dogfoodadvisor.com

The Author of this section, Sacha Packer has completed a certificate in Advanced Nutrition (Advanced Pet Nutritional Advisor) from Waltham.

No one is in a better position than you are to decide which food you should feed your dog.

That may not be what you wanted to hear. You may have been hoping that someone would reveal to you the name of the Australia's healthiest food, so you could just buy that and have it done with.

But dogs, just like people, are individuals. What works for this dog won't work for that one. A Pointer who goes jogging with his marathon-running owner every day needs a lot more calories than the Great Dane who watches TV all day.

The diet that contains enough fat to keep that sled dog warm through an Alaskan winter would kill that Miniature Poodle who suffers from pancreatitis. The commercial kibble that stopped your neighbours Border Collie's itching and scratching in its tracks may cause your other neighbours Bedlington Terrier to develop copper storage disease.

Every food on the market contains different ingredients, and each one has the potential to cause symptoms of allergy or intolerance in some dogs.

Every food contains a different ratio of macronutrients – protein, fat, and carbohydrates – and you have to learn by trial and error which ratio works best for your dog. Each product contains varying amounts of vitamins and minerals, and though most fall within the ranges considered, some may be in excess of, or deficient to your dog's needs.

So how do you choose?

The starting place

Well, you have to start somewhere, and you undoubtedly have. Your dog is eating something already.

Our goal is to help you identify the foods with the best-quality ingredients – whole meats, vegetables, fruits, and grains, and high-quality sources of dietary fat – to get you into the right “ballpark” in terms of quality. Then you have to start individualised feeding trials on your dog.

Start by assessing your dog's health. Take a sheet of paper and make a list with two columns: one for health problems, and one for health assets. Any conditions for which she receives veterinary care or

medications go in the “problems” column. Other conditions that should be listed here include bad breath; teeth that are prone to tartar build up; chronically goopy eyes; infection-prone or stinky ears; a smelly, greasy, flaky, or thinning coat; itchy paws; excessive gas; recurrent diarrhoea, constipation, or incontinence; repeated infestations of worms or fleas; low or excessive energy; and a sudden onset of antisocial or aggressive behaviour.

In the health assets column, list all the health characteristics that your dog has in her favour, such as fresh breath, clean teeth, bright eyes, clean ears, a lack of itching, a glossy coat, problem-free elimination, a normal appetite and energy level, and a good attitude.

If there are a lot more assets on your list than problems, and the problems are very minor, you may have already found a diet that works well for your dog. But if your list reveals a lot more problems than assets, your dog is a good candidate for a change of diet – in addition to an examination and some guidance from a good veterinarian.

Now take a look at the food you are currently feeding your dog. Note the food’s ingredients, as well as its protein and fat levels, and its caloric content. Write all of this down, so you can make logical adjustments if need be.

Nutritional management of disease

Just two decades ago, it was considered fairly radical to propose that canine diseases could be treated, at least in part, by manipulating the dogs diets. Today, the increasing availability of “prescription” diets is the big story in the pet food industry.

If your dog has any sort of disease or an inherited propensity for disease, ask your veterinarian about the benefits of nutritional therapy to help treat or prevent the disease. Don’t settle for the suggestion of a commercial “prescription” diet; most of them are formulated with lower-quality ingredients.

Instead, ask what specifically in the diet has been manipulated so as to be beneficial for your dog. Then, see if you can find a product that offers the same benefits and better-quality ingredients. The best example is a “kidney” diet for dogs with kidney failure. The goal is to feed these patients a diet with a moderate level of very high-quality protein and low amounts of phosphorus.

An intelligently formulated home-prepared diet can do a far better job of accomplishing these goals than the commercial diets on the market (not recommended in Great Danes Puppies).

You should also do some research on your own to determine what dietary changes might help your dog. A good starting place is Donald R. Strombeck’s Home-Prepared Dog & Cat Diets: The Healthful Alternative (available by order in bookstores, and from www.Amazon.com and www.DogWise.com). Dr. Strombeck details strategies for changing the dog’s diet to treat and/or prevent gastrointestinal, skin, skeletal and joint, renal, urinary, endocrine, heart, pancreatic, and hepatic disease.

Other diseases that can be improved with dietary management include:

- **Allergy or intolerance.** There are a number of breeds that are particularly susceptible to food allergies, including Great Danes. Again, it's important to keep a record of what foods you feed your dog, what they contain, and how your dog looks and feels.

If your records indicate that one or more ingredients trigger bad reactions in your dog, seek out foods that do not contain those ingredients in any amount.

- **Cancer.** High-fat, low-carbohydrate (or carb-free) diets are ideal for cancer patients. Cancer cells use carbs for energy, and don't easily utilise fat, so you can effectively "starve" the cancer cells while providing extra energy to your dog with a diet rich in a high-quality fat sources.

Caloric considerations

Another thing you have to consider is the caloric content of the food you choose. If the food you select for your dog is energy-dense, and your dog is a couch potato, you may have to cut her daily ration considerably to prevent her from getting fat.

Some dogs respond to forced dieting with begging, counter-surfing, and garbage-raiding. If your dog is one of these, you may have to seek out a high-fibre, low-calorie food – one that may not necessarily contain the highest-quality protein or fat sources on the market – to keep your dog feeling contentedly full without getting fat.

Dogs exhibit a wide range of energy requirements. You may have to seek out a higher – or lower – calorie food based on the following attributes that can affect your dog's energy needs:

- **Activity level.** The more a dog exercises the more energy she needs to consume to maintain his condition; it's that simple.
- **Growth.** Growing puppies have higher energy requirements than adult dogs. A food with a higher protein level, but a moderate (not high) fat level is ideal. Obese puppies are far more prone to degenerative joint disease – especially in large and giant breeds – than puppies with a normal or slim physique.
- **Age.** The age at which a dog becomes a senior citizen varies from breed to breed, with larger dogs considered geriatric at earlier ages. Older dogs typically require fewer calories to maintain their body weight and condition, partly because they tend to be less active than younger dogs.
- **Environmental conditions.** Dogs that live or spend much of their time outside in severe cold temperatures need from 10 percent to as much as 90 percent more energy than dogs who enjoy a temperate climate.

The thickness and quality of the dog's coat, the amount of body fat she has, and the quality of her shelter have direct effects on the dog's energy needs.

- **Illness.** Sick dogs have increased energy needs; it takes energy to mount an immune response or repair tissues. However, dogs who do not feel well also tend to be inactive, which lowers their energy needs.

- **Reproduction.** A pregnant female's energy requirement does not increase significantly until the final third of her pregnancy, when it may increase by a factor of three.
- **Lactation.** A nursing female may require as much as eight times as much energy as a female of the same age and condition who is not nursing.
- **Neutering.** It is generally accepted that neutered (and spayed) dogs have reduced energy needs. However, there are actually no studies that conclusively prove that neutered dogs require fewer calories simply as a result of lower hormone levels. It has been suggested that these dogs gain weight due to increased appetites and/or decreased activity levels.
- **Other individual factors.** Other factors that can affect a dog's energy requirement include its temperament (nervous or placid?) and skin, fat, and coat quality (how well he is insulated against weather conditions).

Human factors

Finally, there are the human factors that may influence your dog-food purchasing decision, such as cost and local availability. Understand that there is a connection between the quality of an animal's food and her health, and do the best you can do.

Puppy Diets

When you purchase a Great Dane puppy from a breeder they should provide you with a diet sheet that tells you what the breeder would like you to feed your puppy.

The breeder recommendation is generally based on what kibble they have used before that did the job in their opinion. It is ideal to keep feeding what they say for at least the first 12 months of your Great Danes life unless you feel it would be a detriment to the dog's growth/health – you should discuss this with the breeder.

If you would prefer to feed a different kibble to your dog than what your Breeder has recommended please check with them first. Most breeders are more than happy to discuss alternatives with their puppy buyers.

If you suspect your breeder may not be knowledgeable about diets for Great Dane puppies, you can start to research and go from there.

Beware: Not all Vets are familiar with the dietary needs of Great Dane puppies and may tell you to put your dog on an all breeds puppy food or give calcium supplements.

If you do not think your Vet understands Great Danes, contact your State's Breed Club or an online Australian Dane group such as [Aussie Danes](#) or [Danes Downunder](#) and ask for a Vet recommendation.

Things to avoid:

- Avoid soaking your puppy's kibble in boiling hot water as this will destroy the proteins and the pro-biotics.
- 8 week old puppies do not need their food soaked and many don't like it. It's up to you whether you would like to soak your puppy's food or not. If you do, soak it in luke-warm water for at least half an hour prior to feeding.
- Avoid feeding your entire dog's food in one sitting. Great Dane puppies should be fed 2–3 times per day. Adult Danes should be fed 2 times per day.
- Avoid adding anything to the kibble unless you know it will not unbalance the ratios (that need to be adhered to for growing giant puppies). Most kibbles allow for 20% mince meat to be added. There is no need to add Eggs or Puppy Milk. Your breeder will guide you through what 'extras' they use.

The Protein Myth

Source: Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, 1999, Growth and skeletal development in *Great Dane* pups fed different levels of protein intake. Nap RC, Hazewinkel HA, Voorhout G, Van den Brom WE, *Goedegebuure SA*, Van 't Klooster AT.

It was once thought that Great Dane puppies should not be fed higher protein levels than 26%.

Clinical studies from the 1970's and more recently actually show that protein levels are not what cause Great Dane puppies to have growth deformations; it is actually the calcium and phosphorus ratios.

It is recommended to keep the **calcium at or below 1.2%, and phosphorus at or below 0.9%**. Then it is believed that the pup will grow more evenly and have fewer risks of bone and joint issues.

The following is an abstract from the clinical paper on the subject.

Feeding a dog of a large breed with a diet exceeding the National Research Council (1974) recommendations for energy, protein, calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D may result in disturbances of skeletal development.

The effects of excess energy and various calcium: phosphorous ratios per se have been reported by others.

The role of dietary protein, especially with regard to calcium metabolism and skeletal development, in large breed-dogs is reported in this article.

Seventeen Great Dane pups, 7 wk of age, were divided into three groups.

During 18 wk each group received isoenergetic dry food (approximately 15 kJ metabolizable energy/g) containing 31.6, 23.1 or 14.6% protein on dry matter basis.

No differences were found among the high (H-Pr), normal (N-Pr) and low protein (L-Pr) groups for the height at the shoulder.

Significant differences were found between the H-Pr and L-Pr groups for body weight and plasma albumin and among all three groups for plasma urea.

The differences in protein intake per se had no demonstrable consequences for calcium metabolism and skeletal development.

A causative role for dietary protein in the development of osteochondrosis in dogs is unlikely.

The Calcium Myth

New owners of Giant breed puppies often overdose with Calcium, assuming they are doing the right thing.

Surplus Calcium in the presence of a natural amount of vitamin D causes metabolism disorders in the organism and hampers its normal growth.

If you are feeding a correct Ca:Ph ratio kibble then you do not need to supplement with calcium.

Calcium supplements should only be given when an experienced Great Dane Vet and your Breeder agree it is the right thing to do.

The following is an abstract from the clinical paper on the subject.

Source: Effects of diets with different calcium and phosphorus contents on the skeletal development and blood chemistry of growing great danes. December 2000, Department of Clinical Sciences of Companion Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. Schoenmakers I, Hazewinkel HA, Voorhout G, Carlson CS, Richardson D.

The skeletal development of three groups of Great Dane dogs, fed a diet composed according to the published nutritional requirements for dogs (controls) or with increased calcium or calcium and phosphorus content, was examined radiographically, histologically and biochemically.

The diets were fed from the time the dogs first began eating food in addition to their dam's milk, until they were 17 weeks old. Thereafter, the calcium and phosphorus intakes of the dogs in the high calcium groups were normalised for a further 10 weeks.

The dogs fed the high calcium diet without a proportionally high phosphorus intake became hypercalcaemic and hypophosphataemic, and had severe disturbances in skeletal development, growth, and mineralisation which were typical for rickets.

After their calcium intake was normalised the lesions of rickets resolved but osteochondrotic lesions became apparent.

The dogs fed the high calcium and phosphorus diet became slightly hypophosphataemic, their growth was retarded, and they had disturbances in skeletal development resembling osteochondrosis, which had only partly resolved after 10 weeks on the normal calcium and phosphorus diet.

Genetic Height

Height is genetically determined. Feeding your dog more or giving Calcium supplements will not make your Great Dane taller than what it is genetically programmed to be.

Your puppy needs to grow slowly and evenly to grow into a physically sound adult Great Dane.

There is some evidence to suggest that de-sexing physically immature Great Danes will make them taller as their growth plates will sometimes stay open for longer.

The Great Dane is a man-made giant, you do not want an overly tall out of proportion Great Dane as it is not beneficial for their health and longevity.

Grow your Great Dane puppy lean

It is recommended that you grow your Great Dane puppy lean (not skinny). Never allow your puppy to become chubby.

Big-boned Great Dane puppies should be watched very carefully when they are growing to ensure they are kept lean.

What is Big-Boned? Your Breeder will be able to explain this in more detail however in brief it's when you look at the puppies legs and they are very thick and not dainty like.

More weight means more pressure on joints and their rapidly growing skeletal structures which means they can blow their joints as well develop Hip / Elbow Dysplasia.

Protein & Fat

The protein should be made up of high quality, animal-based sources and fat around the 12-14% mark for puppies.

There are a number of kibbles with suitable dietary matrix's to choose from and different breeders recommend different brands.

Development Disorders in Puppies

Source: <http://www.breeders.eukanuba.com.au/science-library/breed-and-size-specific-dog-nutrition>

Research has documented that improper feeding during growth is associated with several skeletal disorders in large and giant breed dogs. About 22% of dogs less than one year of age are affected by developmental skeletal disorders and more than 90% of these cases are influenced by nutrition.

Two nutritional scenarios that can contribute to these disorders are 1) free choice feeding of a diet with excess calories, and 2) supplementation with calcium during the growth phase of the puppy.

The onset of developmental disorders of the bones is usually associated with the rapid growth of the long bones. The most common of these disorders are canine hip dysplasia (CHD), osteochondrosis, and hypertrophic osteodystrophy (HOD).

The Developmental Disorders

Canine hip dysplasia is a complex biomechanical disease of the hip joint. Typically, the surfaces of the hip joint socket and the surface of the head of the femur are not congruent. This results in varying degrees of laxity, or looseness in the joint which, in turn, determines the severity of the condition.

The laxity of the joint can lead to remodeling of the joint with resultant arthritis. Clinical signs vary from severe, crippling lameness at a young age to no signs throughout life. Canine hip dysplasia is caused by many factors. Genetics are very important, as are trauma to the joints and other environmental factors. Of these environmental factors, diet and growth rate are very important, especially between the age of 3 and 8 months.

Puppies with excessive weight gain during this period have a higher frequency of serious changes in the hip joint and resultant degenerative changes in that joint compared to pups that grew at a slower rate.

The osteochondroses, one of which is osteochondritis dissecans (OCD), are characterized by minute disruptions in the maturation of cartilage. While these conditions can occur at multiple points in the skeleton, the most important locations are the shoulder, stifle, hock, and elbow. Osteochondrosis can lead to an acutely inflamed joint or degenerative joint disease involving the cartilage surface.

Osteochondritis dissecans occurs when a tiny divot-like flap of cartilage separates from the underlying bone, exposing the bone to joint fluid. While many factors, such as age, gender, and breed are incriminated in OCD, excess weight gain and supplementation with calcium have received the most attention from a nutritional standpoint. Breeds that commonly exhibit OCD include Great Danes, Labrador Retrievers, Newfoundlands, and Rottweilers.

Hypertrophic osteodystrophy also occurs primarily in large and giant breeds and is characterized by excessive bone deposits and retarded bone resorption near the distal radius, ulna, and tibia. As the disease progresses, soft tissue damage occurs around the large bony deposits. Pain and swelling with concurrent lameness and fluctuating fever is common. Some of these puppies then fail to eat.

Genetics is an important factor in most developmental diseases of the bone. But, if heredity were the only factor, these conditions would have been eradicated long ago through selective breeding. A

heritability coefficient of 40% has been suggested for CHD. This means that about 60% of the influencing factors for CHD are environmental. Of these environmental factors, nutrition is recognized as an important one. While many nutrient classes have been investigated, data indicate, again, that excess calories and excess calcium are the two most important nutritional factors.

Inexperienced owners of large breeds sometimes think, "bigger is better". This can lead to feeding excess calories during the crucial growth phase of the puppy's life.

[Over supplying calories to a puppy can lead to a rapid, but unhealthy rate of growth.](#)

Not only does over-feeding lead to increase in body mass, which can stress growing bones, rapidly growing long bones can be inherently weaker than bones growing at normal rates. The mechanism for the effect of excess calcium is more complex. High dietary calcium leads to high calcium levels in the blood, which stimulates the body's natural mechanism to maintain a normal state.

Through the hormone, calcitonin, the normal maturing of cartilage is slowed and the rate at which bone resorbs calcium is retarded.

Chronic suppression of these functions by excess calcium results in increased thickening of developing bone. This may lead, in turn, to developmental bone and joint problems. In an extensive study conducted in growing Great Danes, over-nutrition was found to be a contributing factor in the development of orthopedic problems.

In this study, puppies fed a calorie-restricted diet had fewer developmental orthopedic problems than did puppies fed unlimited calories. Typical problems observed included enlargement of the rib-cartilage junctions, hyperextension of the carpal joints, enlargement of the growing areas of the long bones, and sinking of the "wrist" joint on front legs and hock on rear legs.

This work has been corroborated in other large breeds as well as other Great Danes since this original study. From a practical standpoint, the adult size of a large breed puppy is determined primarily by genetics, i.e., the size of its parents.

Increasing the caloric intake of a puppy merely increases the rate at which the puppy attains this weight. The puppy that grows at a slower, more appropriate rate will eventually weigh the same as its faster growing littermates, but it will be less likely to develop joint and bone problems.

Another misconception about nutrition and developmental bone problems concerns the role of protein in the diet. The level of this nutrient class in puppy diets has also been implicated as influencing the incidence of these conditions in large breed puppies; however, research has not supported this theory.

[Studies conducted by Nap and colleagues documented that Great Dane puppies fed diets with a range of protein levels \(31.6%, 23.1%, and 14.6%\) from weaning to 18 weeks had no differences in either calcium absorption or developmental bone diseases. Protein is not considered an important factor in the cause of developmental bone diseases in the growing large breed puppy.](#)

Calcium supplementation is another common feeding practice used by inexperienced owners of large breed puppies. Research has documented that excess dietary calcium can negatively influence skeletal development in large and giant breeds. In an 18-month study conducted by The Iams Company and Auburn University, Great Dane puppies were fed one of three diets with levels of dietary calcium of

0.48%, 0.8%, and 2.7%. The pups fed the high-calcium diet accounted for 86% of the lameness found in the study.

Other studies documented that Great Dane puppies were not able to slow down the absorption of excess calcium until they were about seven months of age. Large breed puppies, therefore, should receive adequate but not excessive dietary calcium. From a practical standpoint, a level of 0.8% dietary calcium is beneficial for large and giant breed puppies.

Some breeders and owners attempt to utilize an adult maintenance diet to control calcium and energy intake in rapidly growing puppies. If the adult diet has a typical (1.1%) calcium level, the puppy will still consume excess calcium when fed this type of food. A diet with normal energy levels coupled with lower calcium levels is the ideal for large breed puppy nutrition. This type diet is available commercially as a "large breed puppy" food.

CONCLUSION

The diversity of dog breeds developed by man has led to interesting idiosyncrasies in conformation, personality, and nutritional needs. Breeders and owners can help their breed maintain a healthy lifestyle by utilizing well-researched nutritional findings specific to certain breeds and breed sizes. Small and medium breeds often need a higher calorie level to support higher metabolic rates. All breeds can benefit from a diet that helps manage healthy blood sugar and insulin responses to meal by using barley and sorghum as the primary starch sources. Large and giant breeds need moderate calories and calcium levels during their growing months. Owners and breeders who are familiar with the special health and nutritional needs of their breeds are more likely to supply optimal nutrition to their dogs.

What should you feed your puppy?

When you purchase a Puppy from a Breeder they should give you a diet info pack that will outline their recommendations of what you should feed your puppy. Your Vet may also give you their recommendation which may differ from what your Breeder has advised you so you will need to chat with your Breeder about this.

If you:

- 1) Have purchased a puppy from a Breeder who has not given you a diet info pack;
- 2) Have purchased your puppy from a Rescue/Shelter/Private Seller;
- 3) You would like to research more for your own benefit;

then you may like to use the information contained within to help with your research.

We do not recommend any one diet, however will share with you commercial kibble diets that fall within the recommended dietary matrix for giant breed puppies and also share with you what other Dane puppy owners are feeding, this also is **not to act as a recommendation but to simply assist you with your research.**

Recommended* dietary matrixes for Great Dane puppies:

*Recommended Dietary Matrix from clinical studies & nutrition experts such as the 'Great Dane Lady'.

Different studies/experts suggest that the following dietary matrixes are most ideal for growing Great Dane puppies. Some of these date back to 20–40 years and could be deemed as out of date however because they are/were deemed clinically correct and there is no other data published (that we are aware of) to supersede this information we have included the main 3 below:

Dietary Matrix #1

Protein:	Under 26%
Calcium:	Approx 0.80%,
Phosphorus:	Approx 0.67%
Fat:	Approx. 12–14%.

Calc:Phos Ratio: 1.2:1

We have no Kibbles in our Database that match this matrix, the closest one matches in all other regards except for Protein which is 26%: Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed.

Dietary Matrix #2

Calcium:	At or below 1.2%
Phosphorus:	At or below 0.90%

Calc:Phos Ratio: 1.3:1

We have only 1 Kibble in our Database that matches this matrix which is: Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin.

Dietry Matrix #3

Protein:	23–26%
Calcium:	1.2–1.5%
Phosphorus:	Balanced with the Calcium
Fat:	12–16%.

Calc:Phos Ratio: 1.2:1–1.3:1

We have only 4 Kibbles in our Database that match this matrix which are:

Canidae – Chicken and Rice Formula

Canidae – All Life Stages

Eagle Pack – Pork Meal & Chicken Meal Adult

Earthborn Holistic – Meadow Feast Grain Free

Eeeeeek what happened to all the other Kibbles and Large/Giant breed formula's often recommended?

We'd love to be able to tell you why they don't fit into the 'recommended matrixes' but we don't actually know.

We have previously attempted to contact a few different kibble companies to talk about this without much luck or when we did get a response it was scripted and didn't really answer the question.

However what we can tell you from our experiences within the Great Dane community both with a number of Breeders and diet savvy pet owners is that many of them simply select a kibble that has a calc:phos ratio of between 1.2:1 and 1.3:1 and that does open up much more choice for puppy owners.

We know the calc:phos ratio is very important to growing Great Dane puppies slowly and evenly (as possible) so this would be a logical choice. We encourage you to do your own research on this topic and if you find something that we haven't be sure to tell us!

We cannot make a recommendation of food but what we can do is provide you with information to consider.

We have 32 Kibbles in our Database that match this 1.2:1–1.3:1 phos:calc ratio and they cover all different price points, they are as follows:

Advance Puppy Plus Growth Large Breed

Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato

Canidae – All Life Stages Formula

Canidae – Chicken & Rice

Canidae – Large Breed Puppy – Duck Meal, Brown Rice and Lentils (Coming soon)

Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements

Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea

Dogpro Original Adult Complete

Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult
Eagle Pack – Large Giant Puppy
Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork)
Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion
Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free)
Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed
Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin
Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed
Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food
Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy Health Lamb Meal & Oatmeal
Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice
Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice
Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice
Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New)
Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice
Pro Plan Puppy Original Chicken & Rice
Pro Plan Puppy Original Lamb & Rice
Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy
Supercoat Adult Beef
Supercoat Adult Chicken
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths)
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths)

Please note:

There have been recent changes to some of the Giant Breed Formula's such as Eagle Pack that takes it from a 1.2:1/1.3:1 ratio to a 1.5:1 ratio, therefore you should always be guided by your Breeder and what they believe works best for their lines but being careful that it's not just relative to a monetary reason.

Kibble Ingredients

Before we head into the lists of kibbles and comparisons on different levels, it's important you understand what the ingredients on the label mean.

Why? Because some ingredients in kibbles may not be beneficial to your particular dog i.e. food intolerances or the quality of the ingredient may be low and that's not something you're comfortable feeding or you're on a budget but you want to try and find the best possible ingredients that fit into your budget.

Who decides what's good and what's not?

That's a great question! Discussions on diet is part opinion and part science so we recommend you do your own research and even cross reference the information we provide here to reach your own conclusion.

When opinions clash

It happens a lot when the discussion of diet comes up, for example: A company which produces a kibble with Corn in the top 4 ingredients may give you a rationale about why corn is a beneficial ingredient whereas you would have other groups (both pet and educational/professionals) against the use of corn stating no dog needs corn in their diet as they believe it has no nutritional benefit and it can lead to allergies in dogs. **Who's right?** That's for you to decide ☺

Corn, is it good or bad?

Source: <http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-industry-exposed/dog-food-corn>

As a whole grain, corn is not easily digestible (Approx 54% digestibility rating). Unless the kernel is first refined into a meal or a flour (and then cooked), corn can be very difficult for a dog to digest.

As a matter of fact, corn (and other grains) are only digestible to the extent to which they're processed.

That's why even though the grain may be listed as "whole" on a pet food label, it's nearly always first ground before being cooked into kibble.

There's nothing unique enough about corn's content that makes it a nutritional standout — nothing that can't be found in, or converted from, some other ingredient. Not even protein.

The truth is...

- Carbohydrates are **cheap**
- Carbohydrates are vital to the kibbling process

You won't find corn in commercial dog food because it contributes some unique nutritional property. No, it's there simply because it supplies cheap calories to the product.

And starchy carbohydrates play a critical role in a process known as gelatinization — a process which is absolutely crucial to the workings of kibble machinery.

Source: www.dogfoodproject.com/?page=betterproducts

Corn often gets an undeserved bad reputation. While it is not acceptable as a main source of protein in a dog food (as it is used in combination with corn gluten), as a source of carbohydrates it is no better and no worse than other grains in terms of nutritional value and digestibility.

The starch part of corn is highly digestible but the whole ground product has a higher fiber content than other grains (around 7%), which results in slightly larger stools – often incorrectly interpreted as lack of digestibility.

Unless an individual dog is intolerant or allergic to corn, there is no need to avoid products which include it in reasonable amounts.

Side note: GMO Corn is sometimes used. GMO Corn can be attributed to a number of health concerns such as inflammation in the body, and we recommend that if you feed a diet high in corn to check if GMO corn is used. Many kibble companies will not simply say yes and have scripted answers that don't really give you the answer – be firm and get your answer!

Ingredients to avoid

Source: www.dogfoodproject.com/index.php?page=badingredients

Ingredients are listed by category. This is not a comprehensive list of dangerous and/or poor quality ingredients, but it names most of the ones that are used especially in lower-end foods and should be avoided. The list will change and possibly grow as my research progresses.

Additives	
Glyceryl Monostearate	<p>A lipophilic non-ionic surfactant with HLB of 3.6 – 4.2. It has effects of emulsification, dispersion, foaming, defoaming, starch anti-aging and fat agglomeration control, and is widely used in foodstuffs, cosmetic, medicine and plastic processing industries. It is an emulsifier used the most widely and in the largest quantities in the foodstuff industry.</p> <p>A thickening, emulsifying, antisticking and antistatant agent. Can contain up to 200 ppm butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) as a preservative (see also BHT). Depending on method of manufacture, it can also contain glyceryl distearate (42–44%), glyceryl tristearate (20–23%), free glycerol (3–5%). Other impurities include mono-, di-, and triesters of related fatty acids as well as unreacted fatty acids. Due to the uncertainty of chemical additives, this ingredient should be avoided.</p>
Phosphoric Acid	<p>A clear colorless liquid, H_3PO_4, used in fertilizers, detergents, food flavoring, and pharmaceuticals.</p> <p>A harmless but unnecessary ingredient, used in inexpensive, poor quality dog food as flavoring, emulsifier and discoloration inhibitor. Used for example as a flavoring for Coca Cola.</p>
Propylene Glycol	<p>A colorless viscous hygroscopic liquid, $CH_3CHOHCH_2OH$, used in antifreeze solutions, in hydraulic fluids, and as a solvent.</p> <p>Used as humectant in semi-moist kibble to keep it from drying out. May be toxic if consumed in large amounts, and should definitely not be an ingredient in a food an animal will eat daily for weeks, months or even years of its life. In countries of the European Union, propylene glycol is not cleared as a general-purpose food grade product or direct food additive.</p>
Binders	
Corn Gluten	<p>I have not been able to locate an official definition of this product, but since it is contained in only one formulation of one manufacturer (Excel Chunks/Mini Chunks), I assume it is the same as "Corn Gluten Meal".</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing which offers very little nutritional value and serves mainly to bind food together. It is not a harmful ingredient but should be avoided simply for its poor nutritional value and quality.</p>

Wheat Gluten	<p>AAFCO: The tough, viscid nitrogenous substance remaining when wheat is washed to remove the starch.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing with almost no nutritional value left, serves mostly as a binder.</p>
Carbohydrate Sources	
Brewers Rice	<p>Also appears in ingredient lists as ground Brewers Rice.</p> <p>AAFCO: The small milled fragments of rice kernels that have been separated from the larger kernels of milled rice.</p> <p>A processed rice product that is missing many of the nutrients contained in whole ground rice and brown rice. Contrary to what many pet food companies want to make you believe, this is not a high quality ingredient, just much cheaper than whole grain rice.</p>
Cereal Food Fines	<p>AAFCO: Particles of breakfast cereals obtained as a by-product of their processing.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing of unknown source, quality, possible chemical residue, sweeteners or other additives.</p>
Feeding Oat Meal	<p>AAFCO: Feeding oat meal is obtained in the manufacture of rolled oat groats or rolled oats and consists of broken oat groats, oat groat chips, and floury portions of the oat groats, with only such quantity of finely ground oat hulls as is unavoidable in the usual process of commercial milling.</p> <p>A food-grade fractionated grain, by-product from human food processing, that is not as nutritionally valuable as the product obtained from whole oats.</p>
Grain Fermentation Solubles	<p>AAFCO: The dried material resulting from drying the water soluble materials after separation of suspended solids from grain fermentation.</p> <p>An inexpensive by product of human food and beverage production which adds little or no nutritional value to pet foods.</p>
Maltodextrins & Fermentation Solubles	<p>I have not been able to locate an official definition for this product so far.</p> <p>A brewery by-product much like "grain fermentation solubles", with some maltodextrin from malted barley. Better suited for use in short term feeding like e.g. livestock than as an ingredient in pet food.</p>
Potato Product	<p>AAFCO: Potato pieces, peeling, culls, etc., obtained from the manufacture of processed potato products for human consumption.</p> <p>A cheap by-product of human food processing that has been stripped of much of the nutritional benefits that whole, fresh potatoes offer.</p>

	<p>Potato is used in many grain-free products > something has to replace the grain and in many cases it is potato.</p>
Soy Flour	<p>AAFCO: The finely powdered material resulting from the screened and graded product after removal of most of the oil from selected, sound, cleaned and dehulled soybeans by a mechanical or solvent extraction process.</p> <p>Much of the nutritional value is lost already during processing of the grain to flour. May contain particles of hull, germ, and the offal from the tail of the mill.</p>
Fat Sources	
Animal Fat	<p>AAFCO: Obtained from the tissues of mammals and/or poultry in the commercial processes of rendering or extracting. It consists predominantly of glyceride esters of fatty acids and contains no additions of free fatty acids. If an antioxidant is used, the common name or names must be indicated, followed by the words "used as a preservative".</p> <p>Note that the animal source is not specified and is not required to originate from "slaughtered" animals. The rendered animals can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc. road kill, animals euthanized at shelters, restaurant and supermarket refuse and so on.</p>
Beef Tallow	<p>AAFCO: Fat with titer above 40 degrees Celsius, obtained from the tissue of cattle in the commercial process of rendering. Also called Beef Fat.</p> <p>Dogs and cats like the taste of this fat, so it is often used to make low-quality food more palatable. Beef tallow is very low in linoleic acid and much cheaper for the pet food industry to use than a good quality vegetable oil or nutritionally rich chicken fat.</p>
Lard	<p>AAFCO: The rendered fat of swine.</p> <p>Very low in linoleic acid but very attractive to pets, used to make poor quality food more appealing. Few nutritional benefits.</p>
Poultry Fat	<p>AAFCO: Obtained from the tissue of poultry in the commercial process of rendering or extracting. It shall contain only the fatty matter natural to the product produced under good manufacturing practices and shall contain no added free fatty acids or other materials obtained from fat. It must contain not less than 90 percent total fatty acids and not more than 3 percent of unsaponifiables and impurities. It shall have a minimum titer of 33 degrees Celsius. If an antioxidant is used, the common name or names must be indicated, followed by the word "preservative(s)".</p> <p>Note how in this product the source is not defined as "slaughtered poultry". The rendered fowl can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals"</p>

	(dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), turkey, chicken, geese, buzzard, seagulls, misc.
Vegetable Oil	<p>AAFCO: The product of vegetable origin obtained by extracting the oil from seeds or fruits which are processed for edible purposes.</p> <p>The source vegetables for this oil (and therefore the nutrient properties or lack thereof) are unknown. Wouldn't you like to know just what exactly you are feeding your pet?</p>
Fibre Sources	
Cellulose	<p>AAFCO: Purified, mechanically disintegrated cellulose prepared by processing alpha cellulose obtained as a pulp from fibrous plant materials.</p> <p>Dried wood is the most common source for cellulose (I'm not kidding.). It is cleaned, processed into a fine powder and used to add bulk and consistency to cheap pet foods. I would consider this ingredient appropriate for termites, but certainly not for dogs or cats.</p>
Corn Bran	<p>AAFCO: The outer coating of the corn kernel.</p> <p>An inexpensive source of fibre that serves as a filler ingredient to add bulk to poor quality pet food.</p>
Corn Cellulose	<p>AAFCO: A product obtained from the cell walls of corn.</p> <p>Obtained by use of a chemical process, it is used to add bulk and consistency to cheap pet foods and has no nutritional value.</p>
Oat Hulls	<p>I have not been able to locate an official definition for this product so far.</p> <p>Most likely what is left over from dehulling the whole oat kernels after harvesting, comparable to peanut hulls. It is not the same as oat bran (the hull that protects the grain itself), which is a quality source of dietary fibre and removed prior to rolling and/or flaking. Thumbs down for this filler ingredient.</p>
Rice Hulls	<p>AAFCO: The outer covering of rice.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing, serving as a source of fibre that is considered a filler ingredient.</p>
Flavouring Agents	
Animal Digest	<p>AAFCO: A material which results from chemical and/or enzymatic hydrolysis of clean and undecomposed animal tissue. The animal tissues used shall be exclusive of hair, horns, teeth, hooves and feathers, except in such trace amounts as might occur unavoidably in good factory practice and shall be suitable for animal feed. If it bears a name descriptive of its kind or flavor(s), it must correspond thereto.</p> <p>A cooked-down broth made from unspecified parts of unspecified animals. The</p>

	<p>animals used can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc.</p>
Digest	<p>May also appear as dried, or spray dried. Sometimes the type and part of animals used is specified, such as in "Chicken Digest", "Lamb Digest" or "Poultry Liver Digest"</p> <p>AAFCO: Material which results from chemical and/or enzymatic hydrolysis of clean and undecomposed animal tissue. The animal tissues used shall be exclusive of hair, horns, teeth, hooves and feathers, except in such trace amounts as might occur unavoidably in good factory practice and shall be suitable for animal feed. .</p> <p>A cooked-down broth made from specified, or worse, unspecified parts of specified or unspecified animals (depending on the type of digest used). If the source is unspecified (e.g. "Animal" or "Poultry", the animals used can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc.</p>
Flavour	<p>A substance, such as an extract or spice, that add flavor to a product.</p> <p>The manufacturer may or may not give more detailed information about what is used for flavoring and whether it is made from a natural or chemical substance.</p>
Fruits & Vegetables	
Apple Pomace	<p>AAFCO: The mixture of apple skins, pulp, and crushed seeds.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing. Does not contain the whole complement of nutrients as whole fresh or dried apples.</p>
Citrus Pulp	<p>Citrus Pulp is the dried residue of peel, pulp and seeds of oranges, grapefruit and other citrus fruit.</p> <p>This inexpensive by-product is mainly used as a bulk carbohydrate concentrate in cattle feed but also added as a source of fibre in dog food. Since the peel and some twigs and leaves are also included, there is a possibility of residues from pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.</p>
Grape Pomace	<p>AAFCO: The mixture of grape skins, pulp, and crushed seeds.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product left over from pressing grapes for juice or wine. The product contributes some fibre but otherwise has little to no nutritional value. Grapes have also shown to contain a substance that is toxic to dogs, so they should not be fed at all.</p>
Preservatives	
BHA	Butylated Hydroxyanisole – a white, waxy phenolic antioxidant, C ₁₁ H ₁₆ O ₂ ,

	<p>used to preserve fats and oils, especially in foods.</p> <p>Banned from human use in many countries but still permitted in the US. Possible human carcinogen, apparently carcinogenic in animal experiments. The oxidative characteristics and/or metabolites of BHA and BHT may contribute to carcinogenicity or tumorigenicity.</p>
BHT	<p>Butylated Hydroxytoluene – a crystalline phenolic antioxidant, C₁₅H₂₄O, used to preserve fats and oils, especially in foods.</p> <p>Banned from human use in many countries but still permitted in the US. Possible human carcinogen, apparently carcinogenic in animal experiments. The oxidative characteristics and/or metabolites of BHA and BHT may contribute to carcinogenicity or tumorigenicity.</p>
Ethoxyquin	<p>6-ethoxy-1,2-dihydro-2,2,4-trimethylquinoline. Antioxidant; also a post-harvest dip to prevent scald on apples and pears.</p> <p>Originally developed by Monsanto as a stabilizer for rubber, Ethoxyquin has also been used as a pesticide for fruit and a color preservative for spices, and later for animal feed. The original FDA permit for use as stabilizer in animal feed limited use to two years and did not include pet food, but it falls under the same legal category. It has never been proven to be safe for the lifespan of a companion animal. It has been linked to thyroid, kidney, reproductive and immune related illnesses as well as cancer, but so far no conclusive, reliable research results either for the safety of this product or against it have not been obtained. Monsanto conducted research years ago, but results were so inconclusive due to unprofessional conduct and documentation that the FDA demanded another study. There are currently several studies underway to determine whether Ethoxyquin is safe or not, and until those studies are completed, pet food suppliers may continue to use Ethoxyquin. This is how things stand after about 6 years, and no new details have emerged so far.</p>
Propyl Gallate	<p>Also known as Gallic Acid or Propyl Ester. It is made from natural Gallic Acid, which is obtained by the hydrolysis of tannins from Tara Pods.</p> <p>Used as an antioxidant to stabilize cosmetics, food packaging materials, and foods containing fats. I have not found conclusive evidence either for or against the safety of this product, but it is suspected of causing liver diseases and cancer, so once again personally I prefer to err on the side of caution. Mixed tocopherols, citric acid and rosemary extract are effective, all-natural alternatives – just more expensive.</p>
Protein Sources	
Beef & Bone Meal	<p>AAFCO: The rendered product from beef tissues, including bone, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents, except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p>

	<p>A by-product made from beef parts which are not suitable for human consumption. It can incorporate the entire cow, including the bones, but the quality cuts of meat are always removed. This is an inexpensive, low quality ingredient used to boost the protein percentage.</p>
Blood Meal	<p>AAFCO: Blood Meal is produced from clean, fresh animal blood, exclusive of all extraneous material such as hair, stomach belchings and urine except as might occur unavoidably in good manufacturing process. A large portion of the moisture is usually removed by a mechanical dewatering process or by condensing by cooking to a semi-solid state. The semi-solid blood mass is then transferred to a rapid drying facility where the more tightly bound water is rapidly removed. The minimum biological activity of lysine shall be 80%.</p> <p>An inexpensive protein booster. You have no way of knowing what type of animal the blood came from or what residues of hormones, medications or other substances are in this product. It has a better use as fertilizer than as a dog food ingredient.</p>
Chicken By-product Meal	<p>AAFCO: Consists of the dry, ground, rendered, clean parts of the carcass of slaughtered chicken, such as necks, feet, undeveloped eggs, and intestines -- exclusive of feathers except in such amounts as might occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p> <p>Chicken by-products are much less expensive and less digestible than the chicken muscle meat. The ingredients of each batch can vary drastically in ingredients (heads, feet, bones etc.) as well as quality, thus the nutritional value is also not consistent. Don't forget that by products consist of any parts of the animal OTHER than meat. If there is any use for any part of the animal that brings more profit than selling it as "by product", rest assured it will appear in such a product rather than in the "by product" dumpster.</p>
Corn Distillers Dried Grains With Solubles	<p>Distillers Dried Grains with solubles (DDGS) is the product obtained by condensing and drying the stillage that remains after fermenting the starch in corn or milo in the production of ethyl alcohol.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product used as protein filler in cheap dog foods. Its amino acids are poorly balanced, not very digestible, have a high fibre content and nutritional value can vary greatly from batch to batch. Better suited as cattle feed.</p>
Corn Germ Meal	<p>AAFCO: Ground corn germ which consists of corn germ with other parts of the corn kernel from which part of the oil has been removed and is obtained from either a wet or dry milling manufacturing process of corn meal, corn grits, hominy feed, or other corn products.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing, rich in protein but sadly often used as a booster in poor quality foods. It is not a harmful ingredient but should not rank high in the ingredient list of a quality product.</p>
Corn Gluten Meal	<p>AAFCO: The dried residue from corn after the removal of the larger part of the</p>

	<p>starch and germ, and the separation of the bran by the process employed in the wet milling manufacture of corn starch or syrup, or by enzymatic treatment of the endosperm.</p> <p>An inexpensive by-product of human food processing which contains some protein but serves mainly to bind food together. It is not a harmful ingredient but should not rank high in the ingredient list of a quality product.</p>
Fish Meal	<p>AAFCO: The clean, rendered, dried ground tissue of undecomposed whole fish or fish cuttings, either or both, with or without the extraction of part of the oil.</p> <p>Like with all other animal sources, if a type isn't specified, you never know what type or quality of fish is used.</p> <p>According to US Coast Guard regulations, all fish meal not destined for human consumption must be conserved with Ethoxyquin (unless the manufacturer has a special permit). This preservative is banned from use in foods for human consumption except for the use of very small quantities as a colour preservative for spices. So unless the manufacturer either presents a permit or states "human grade" fish or fish meal is used, you can be pretty sure Ethoxyquin is present in the food even if it is not listed.</p>
Liver Meal	<p>AAFCO: The dried product of ground hepatic glands of mammals.</p> <p>Whenever the word 'meat' or the name of an organ appear by themselves (without a species) on a pet food label, there is no way to know which kind of animal it came from. It could be horse liver, goat, duck, pig, or other animals of questionable origin.</p>
Meat & Bone Meal	<p>AAFCO: The rendered product from mammal tissues, with or without bone, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p> <p>The animal parts used can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc. It can also include pus, cancerous tissue, and decomposed (spoiled) tissue.</p>
Meat Meal	<p>AAFCO: The rendered product from mammal tissues, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, horn, hide trimmings, manure, stomach and rumen contents except in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p> <p>The animal parts used can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), goats, pigs, horses, rats, misc. It can also include pus, cancerous tissue, and decomposed (spoiled) tissue.</p>
Pork & Bone Meal	<p>AAFCO: The rendered product from pork tissues, including bone, exclusive of any added blood, hair, hoof, skin, manure, stomach and rumen contents, except</p>

	<p>in such amounts as may occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p> <p>A by-product made from pork parts which are not suitable for human consumption. It can incorporate the entire pig, including the bones, but the quality cuts of meat are always removed. This is an inexpensive, low quality ingredient used to boost the protein percentage.</p>
Poultry By – product Meal	<p>AAFCO: Consists of the ground, rendered, clean parts of the carcasses of slaughtered poultry, such as necks, feet, undeveloped eggs, and intestines, exclusive of feathers except in such amounts as might occur unavoidably in good processing practices.</p> <p>The parts used can be obtained from any slaughtered fowl, so there is no control over the quality and consistency of individual batches. Poultry by products are much less expensive and less digestible than chicken meat. The ingredients of each batch can vary drastically in ingredients (heads, feet, bones, organs etc.) as well as quality, thus the nutritional value is also not consistent. Don't forget that by-products consist of any parts of the animal OTHER than meat. If there is any use for any part of the animal that brings more profit than selling it as "by product", rest assured it will appear in such a product rather than in the "by product" dumpster.</p>
Poultry Meal	<p>AAFCO: The clean combination of poultry flesh and skin with or without bone. Does not contain feathers, heads, feet or entrails. If from a particular source it may state so (i.e. chicken, turkey etc).</p> <p>Note how in this product the source is not defined as "slaughtered poultry". The manufacturer does not disclose the species (or the mix of species) of the poultry used. The fowl can be obtained from any source, so there is no control over quality or contamination. Any kind of animal can be included: "4-D animals" (dead, diseased, disabled, or dying prior to slaughter), turkey, chicken, geese, buzzard, seagulls, misc.</p>
Soybean Meal	<p>AAFCO: The product obtained by grinding the flakes which remain after removal of most of the oil from soybeans by a solvent or mechanical extraction process.</p> <p>A poor quality protein filler used to boost the protein content of low quality pet foods. Has a biologic value of less than 50% of chicken meal.</p>
Supplements	
Bone Phosphate	<p>Bone Phosphate is the residue of bones that have been treated first in a caustic solution then in a hydrochloric acid solution, and thereafter precipitated with lime and dried.</p> <p>A highly processed feed-grade supplement to balance the calcium and phosphorus content of a product.</p>

Salt	<p>Also listed as Sodium Chloride. A colourless or white crystalline solid, chiefly sodium chloride, used extensively in ground or granulated form as a food seasoning and preservative. May also appear in ingredient list as "Iodized Salt" (iodine supplement added), "Sea Salt" (as opposed to salt mined from underground deposits) or "Sodium Chloride" (chemical expression).</p> <p>While salt is a necessary mineral, it is also generally present in sufficient quantities in the ingredients pet foods include. Just like for humans, too much sodium intake is unhealthy for animals. In poor quality foods it is often used in large amounts to add flavour and make the food more interesting.</p>
Mineral Oil	<p>Any of various light hydrocarbon oils, especially a distillate of petroleum.</p> <p>Mineral oil functions as a laxative and stool softener. I have not found any evidence of any other health benefits. Tells a lot about the product it is used in, doesn't it?</p>
Yeast Culture	<p>AAFCO: The dried product composed of yeast and the media on which it is grown, dried in such a manner as to preserve the fermenting activity of the yeast.</p> <p>An unnecessary, feed-grade ingredient in pet foods, added mainly as a flavouring to make inexpensive food more attractive. Lacks the nutritional value of higher quality yeast supplements. The media on which the yeast was grown is not identified. Also a potential allergen for some dogs.</p>
Yeast Fermentation Solubles	<p>AAFCO: The soluble portion of yeast (<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>) and the media in which is produced.</p> <p>A feed-grade ingredient in pet foods, added as a vitamin B supplement. It is harmless, but lacks the nutrients of higher quality yeast supplements. The media on which the yeast was grown is not identified. Also a potential allergen for some dogs.</p>
Sweeteners	
Corn Syrup	<p>A syrup prepared from cornstarch, used in industry and in numerous food products as a sweetener.</p> <p>Sugar or sweetener is an absolutely unnecessary ingredient in pet foods, added to make the product more attractive. Continuous intake can promote hypoglycemia, obesity, nervousness, cataracts, tooth decay, arthritis and allergies. Pets also get addicted to foods that contain sugars, so it can be a tough piece of work to make them eat something healthier.</p>
Fructose	<p>A very sweet sugar, $C_6H_{12}O_6$, occurring in many fruits and honey and used as a preservative for food and as an intravenous nutrient.</p> <p>A monosaccharide found naturally in fresh fruit and honey. It is obtained by the inversion of sucrose by means of the enzyme invertase. Used in small quantities it serves as a nutrient for probiotics, specifically bifidobacteria, which ferment it</p>

	and produce beneficial enzymes.
Sorbitol	<p>A white, sweetish, crystalline alcohol, C₆H₈(OH)₆, found in various berries and fruits or prepared synthetically and used as a flavouring agent, a sugar substitute for people with diabetes, and a moisturizer in cosmetics and other products.</p> <p>Sugar or sweetener is an absolutely unnecessary ingredient in pet foods, added to make the product more attractive. Continuous intake can promote hypoglycemia, obesity, nervousness, cataracts, tooth decay, arthritis and allergies. Pets also get addicted to foods that contain sugars, so it can be a tough piece of work to make them eat something healthier.</p>
Sugar	<p>Can include sucrose, cane sugar, caramel, corn syrup and others.</p> <p>Sugar or sweetener is an absolutely unnecessary ingredient in pet foods, added to make the product more attractive. Continuous intake can promote hypoglycemia, obesity, nervousness, cataracts, tooth decay, arthritis and allergies. Pets also get addicted to foods that contain sugars, so it can be a tough piece of work to make them eat something healthier.</p>
DI-Alpha Tocopherol Acetate	<p>Synthetic vitamin E, also listed as DI-Alpha Tocopheryl Acetate</p> <p>Only about half as effective as natural vitamin E and not as readily available to the body.</p>
Vitamins	
Menadione Sodium Bisulfate	<p>Vitamin K₃, synthetic vitamin K.</p> <p>Feed grade. Also listed as Menadione Dimethyl-Pyrimidinol Bisulfate, Menadione Dimethyl-Pyrimidinol Bisulfite, Menadione Sodium Bisulfate Complex, Menadione Sodium Bisulfite and Menadione Sodium Bisulfite Complex.</p> <p>Unnecessary ingredient in dog food. This synthetic version of vitamin K has not been specifically approved for long term use, such as in pet food. It has been linked to many serious health issues.</p>

Puppy Kibbles with phos:calc ratios 1.2:1 – 1.3:1 that are commonly fed in Australia

(Or Giant Breed specific formulas that may not meet this ratio)

Based on information collected from sources such the [dogfoodproject](#) & [dogfoodadvisor](#) we will highlight ingredients in the following manner:

- **BLACK:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as higher quality/necessary that you would like to see in the top 4.
- **ORANGE:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as moderate–acceptable quality that is generally expected to see somewhere in the top 4.
- **RED:** Ingredients that are generally not considered higher quality which you would not want to see so highly in the ingredients list.

Canidae All Life Stages (Limited Grain)

Protein: 24%
 Calcium: 1.20%
 Phosphorus: 0.90%
 Fat: 14.50%
 (Calc/Phos Ratio: 1.3:1)



First 4 Ingredients:
 Chicken Meal, Turkey Meal,
 Lamb Meal, **Brown Rice**

Price: 20 kgs for approx \$95–\$120.00

BlackHawk Professional Fish & Sweet Potato Holistic (Limited Grain)

Protein: 22%
 Calcium: 1.0%
 Phosphorus: 0.80%
 Fat: 14%
 (Calc/Phos Ratio: 1.3:1)



First 4 Ingredients:
 Anchovy & Ocean Fish
 Meal, Salmon Meal, **Sweet
 Potato, Ground Whole
 Brown Rice**

Price: 20 kgs for approx \$95–\$120.00

Please note: This is a new product on the market; therefore there is not an available history available about how well Great Dane puppies grew on this product as yet. It is becoming widely used by consumers who like the Blackhawk Adult Kibbles that were not suitable for puppies.

LOVE IS A GREAT DANE!

Wellness Super 5 Mix, Large Breed

Protein: 25%

Calcium: 1.00%

Phosphorus: 0.75%

Fat: 11% (Lower fat, may need to feed more of)
(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.3:1)

Price: 13.6kgs for approx \$120.00



First 4 Ingredients:

Deboned Chicken,
Whitefish, Chicken Meal,
Oatmeal

Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy

Protein: 23%

Calcium: 1.10%

Phosphorus: 0.80%

Fat: 12%

(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.4:1)

Price: 13.6kgs for approx \$119.00



First 4 Ingredients:

Lamb Meal, Ground Brown
Rice, Ground White Rice,
Chicken Meal

Eagle Pack Large & Giant Breed Puppy

Protein: 23%

Calcium: 1.5%

Phosphorus: 1.0%

Fat: 12%

(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.5:1)

Price: 13.6kgs for approx \$118.00



First 4 Ingredients:

Lamb Meal, Ground Brown
Rice, Ground White Rice,
Ground Yellow Corn

Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy

Protein: 34%

Calcium: 1.0%

Phosphorus: 0.85%

Fat: 14%

(Calc/Phos Ratio: 1.2:1)

Price: 15kgs for approx \$123.00



First 4 Ingredients:

Dehydrated poultry meat,
rice, vegetable protein
isolate, maize

LOVE IS A GREAT DANE!

Advance Total Wellbeing All Breed

Protein: 26%

Calcium: 0.62%

Phosphorus: 0.51% (Lower % than recommended)

Fat: 15%

(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.2:1)

Price: 15kgs for approx \$108.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Chicken, Rice, Corn,
Sorghum.

Eukanuba Large Breed Puppy

Protein: 26%

Calcium: 0.80%

Phosphorus: 0.67%

Fat: 14%

(Calc/Phos Ratio: 1.2:1)

Price: 15kgs for approx \$133.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Dried Chicken and
Turkey, Maize, Wheat and
Sorghum.

Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice

Protein: 26%

Calcium: 1.0%

Phosphorus: 0.80%

Fat: 15%

(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.3:1)

Price: 15kgs for approx \$109.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Chicken, Wholegrain
Wheat, Poultry Meal,
Corn Gluten Meal.

Supercoat Large Breed Puppy

Protein: 27%

Calcium: 1.0%

Phosphorus: 0.80%

Fat: 12%

(Calc/Phos Ratio 1.3:1)

Price: 18kgs for approx \$60.00



First 4 Ingredients:
Meat and meat by-
products, Wholegrain
cereals, Cereal bran
and/or other cereals, Beet
pulp.

Where did Bonnie Working Dog go? Previously listed in this section it has been removed in 2014 due to their formula changing. It now no longer has a 1.2:1–1.3:1 calc:phos ratio.

2014 Puppy Feed Survey

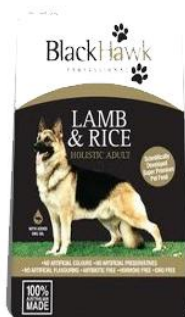
The 2014 survey said the following were the top 5 most commonly fed kibbles. Please do note however the Blackhawk Lamb & Rice does not have the recommended phos:calc ratios.



Most commonly fed Puppy Kibble



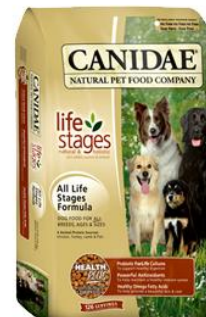
2nd most commonly fed Puppy Kibble



3rd most commonly fed Puppy Kibble
(outside of recommended ratios)



4th most commonly fed Puppy Kibble



5th most commonly fed Puppy Kibble

Will feeding a kibble with lower quality ingredients to my puppy negatively affect its growth?

If you select a kibble with the suitable calc:phos ratios then the rest comes down to ingredients being more nutritious than others.

As an example some ingredients may be considered 'meat & 3 vegetables meal' where—as others may be more a 'meat pie' and some may be more like 'noodles'...all of which you can survive on just fine but understandably some ingredients simply nourish the body more effectively than others.

Cost also does not necessarily determine a kibble's quality so be careful not to just go by this as a guideline.

Will feeding a high quality kibble to my puppy mean my dog will do the best on it?

Just like people, dogs have food intolerances. You may find that you buy what you feel is the best possible quality kibble yet your dog's tummy does not agree, this is why it is best to feed what your breeder recommends at least initially and then slowly transition over to a new kibble if that's what you wish to do.

Ideally you won't swap and change kibbles too much in the first year.

Some super premium kibbles may be too rich for some dogs and some kibbles with high rice contents may lead to looser stools; it really comes down to trial and error.

In saying the above, common sense does prevail in terms of what nutritious ingredients do for the body versus ingredients which hold little nutritional benefit.

How much should I feed my puppy?

Start with what the feed guide on the packaging says or what your breeder directs you to feed and then increase/ decrease as per your dog's individual needs.

Just keep an eye on your puppy ensuring they never get chubby, it is always better that a Great Dane puppy grows lean (avoid your puppy being skinny where possible) than chubby as it places too much pressure on those fast growing bones/joints.

You'll naturally have to feed more of lower fat and lower quality kibbles so it's better to choose a kibble that is good quality and has a suitable fat content from the get go.

Puppy Kibble ‘Ingredient’ Comparisons

As a reminder before we head to the comparisons:

Based on information collected from sources such the [dogfoodproject](#) & [dogfoodadvisor](#) we will highlight ingredients in the following manner:

- **BLACK:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as higher quality/necessary that you would like to see in the top 4.
- **ORANGE:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as moderate–acceptable quality that is generally expected to see somewhere in the top 4.
- **RED:** Ingredients that are generally not considered higher quality which you would not want to see so highly in the ingredients list.

Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Advance Puppy Plus Growth Large Breed	Chicken	Rice	Corn Gluten	Corn
Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato	Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal	Salmon Meal	Sweet Potato	Ground Whole Brown Rice
Canidae – All Life Stages Formula	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice
Canidae – Chicken & Rice	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice	White Rice	Cracked Pearled Barley
Canidae – Large Breed Puppy – Duck Meal, Brown Rice and Lentils (Coming soon)	Duck Meal	Brown Rice	Oats	Peas
Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea	Salmon	Salmon meal	Menhaden fish meal	Sweet Potatoes
Dogpro Original Adult Complete	Wholegrain Cereals	Real meat and meat & Veg by-products	Vegetable oil	Iiodised salt
Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Ground Yellow Corn
Eagle Pack – Large Giant Puppy	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Ground Yellow Corn
Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork)	Pork Meal	Ground Yellow Corn	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice
Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion	Whitefish Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Ground Barley	Rye Flour
Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free)	Herring Meal	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)	Peas	Canola Oil
Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed	Chicken	Corn Meal	Ground Whole Grain Sorghum	Ground Whole Grain Barley

LOVE IS A GREAT DANE!

Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin	Maize	Fish Meal	Animal Fat	Dried Whole Egg
Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed	Dried Chicken And Turkey	Maize	Wheat	Sorghum
Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food	Brewers Rice	Whole Grain Corn	Corn Gluten Meal	Pork Meal
Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy Health Lamb Meal & Oatmeal	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Chicken Meal
Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Brewers Rice	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice	Lamb	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New)	Salmon and Tuna	Oats	Vegetable Protein Concentrate	Fish protein Meal
Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Brewers Rice	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Puppy Original Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal	Wholegrain yellow corn
Pro Plan Puppy Original Lamb & Rice	Lamb	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal	Beef and/or lamb tallow
Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy	Dehydrated Poultry Protein	Rice	Vegetable Protein	Isolate
Supercoat Adult Beef	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
Supercoat Adult Chicken	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths)	Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths)	Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Potato and Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)

Puppy Kibble ‘Price’ Comparisons

In this comparison, you will be able to see where you can get more bang for your buck. This comparison is based on price, scroll through and see which kibbles have the higher quality ingredients within your budget.

Kibble	Price per kilo	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Dogpro Original Adult Complete	\$ 1.80	Wholegrain Cereals	Real meat and meat & Veg by-products	Vegetable oil	Iodised salt
Supercoat Adult Beef	\$ 3.06	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
Supercoat Adult Chicken	\$ 3.06	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
Canidae – All Life Stages Formula	\$ 5.00	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths)	\$ 5.34	Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths)	\$ 5.34	Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Potato and Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)
Advance Puppy Plus Growth Large Breed	\$ 5.39	Chicken	Rice	Corn Gluten	Corn
Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato	\$ 5.75	Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal	Salmon Meal	Sweet Potato	Ground Whole Brown Rice
Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice	\$ 6.13	Chicken	Brewers Rice	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice	\$ 6.20	Lamb	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Puppy Original Lamb & Rice	\$ 6.20	Lamb	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal	Beef and/or lamb tallow
Canidae – Chicken & Rice	\$ 6.25	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice	White Rice	Cracked Pearled Barley
Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice	\$ 6.40	Chicken	Brewers Rice	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice	\$ 6.66	Chicken	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal

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Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed	\$ 6.86	Chicken	Corn Meal	Ground Whole Grain Sorghum	Ground Whole Grain Barley
Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed	\$ 6.86	Dried Chicken And Turkey	Maize	Wheat	Sorghum
Pro Plan Puppy Original Chicken & Rice	\$ 7.00	Chicken	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal	Wholegrain yellow corn
Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork)	\$ 7.28	Pork Meal	Ground Yellow Corn	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice
Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New)	\$ 7.50	Salmon and Tuna	Oats	Vegetable Protein Concentrate	Fish protein Meal
Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult	\$ 7.72	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Ground Yellow Corn
Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy	\$ 7.80	Dehydrated Poultry Protein	Rice	Vegetable Protein	Isolate
Eagle Pack – Large Giant Puppy	\$ 8.45	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Ground Yellow Corn
Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin	\$ 8.58	Maize	Fish Meal	Animal Fat	Dried Whole Egg
Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food	\$ 8.71	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal	\$ 8.71	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy Health Lamb Meal & Oatmeal	\$ 8.71	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Chicken Meal
Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion	\$ 8.75	Whitefish Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Ground Barley	Rye Flour
Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free)	\$ 9.16	Herring Meal	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)	Peas	Canola Oil
Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea	\$ 9.19	Salmon	Salmon meal	Menhaden fish meal	Sweet Potatoes
Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food	\$ 9.29	Brewers Rice	Whole Grain Corn	Corn Gluten Meal	Pork Meal
Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements	\$ 11.32	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Canidae – Large Breed Puppy – Duck Meal, Brown Rice and Lentils (Coming soon)	\$ TBA	Duck Meal	Brown Rice	Oats	Peas

Puppy Kibble ‘Meat Content’ Comparisons

In this comparison, you will be able to see which kibbles have the most quality meats in the top 4 ingredients. Quality meats does not include Meat By-products or similar.

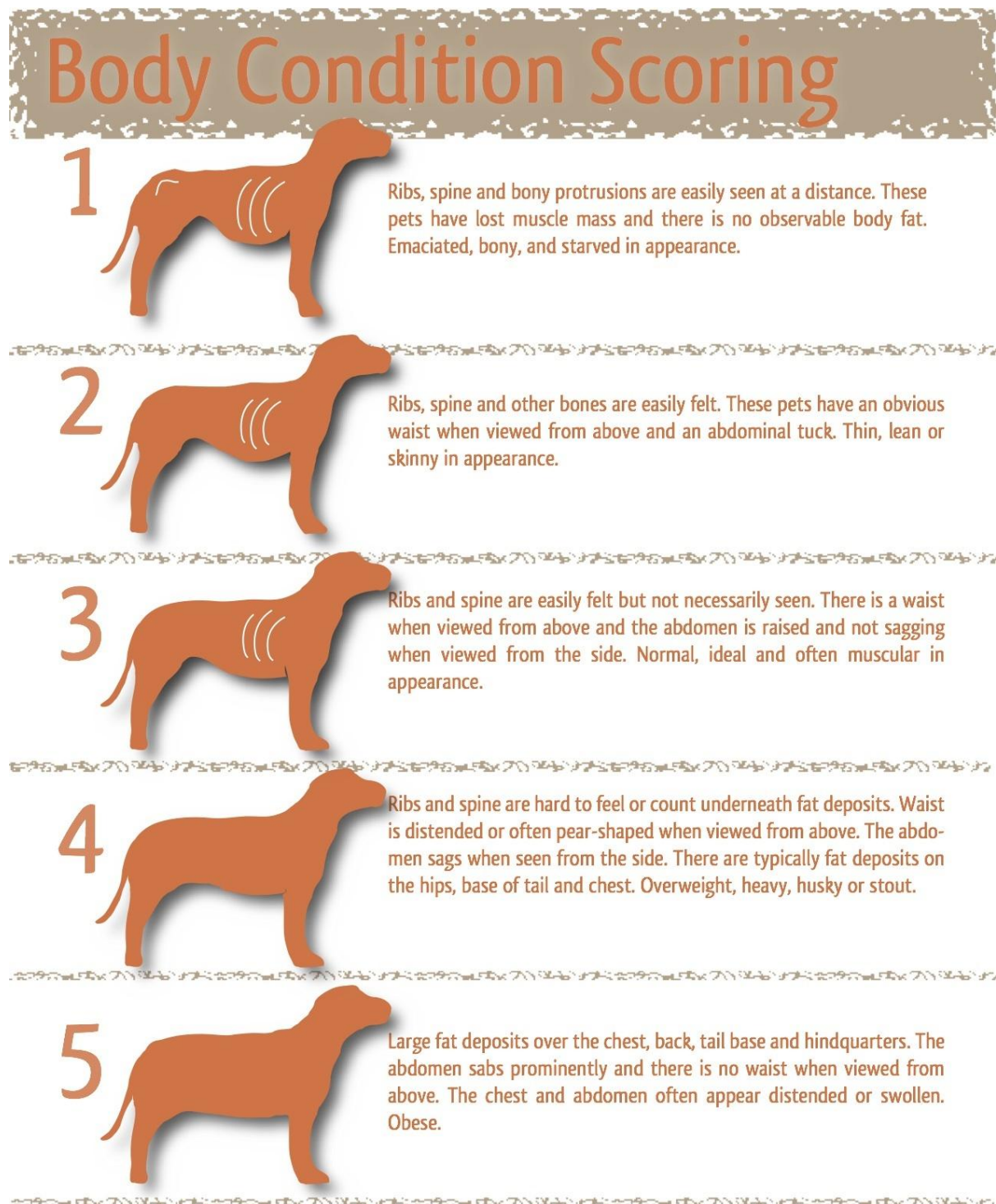
Number of Quality Meats	Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
3	Canidae – All Life Stages Formula	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice
3	Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
3	Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea	Salmon	Salmon meal	Menhaden fish meal	Sweet Potatoes
2	Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato	Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal	Salmon Meal	Sweet Potato	Ground Whole Brown Rice
2	Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
2	Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Puppy Health Lamb Meal & Oatmeal	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Chicken Meal
2	Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Brewers Rice	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
2	Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
2	Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice	Lamb	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
2	Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New)	Salmon and Tuna	Oats	Vegetable Protein Concentrate	Fish protein Meal
2	Pro Plan Puppy Large Breed Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Brewers Rice	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
2	Pro Plan Puppy Original Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal	Wholegrain yellow corn
2	Pro Plan Puppy Original Lamb & Rice	Lamb	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal	Beef and/or lamb tallow
1	Advance Puppy Plus Growth Large Breed	Chicken	Rice	Corn Gluten	Corn
1	Canidae – Chicken & Rice	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice	White Rice	Cracked Pearled Barley
1	Canidae – Large Breed Puppy – Duck Meal, Brown Rice and Lentils (Coming soon)	Duck Meal	Brown Rice	Oats	Peas
1	Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Ground Yellow Corn
Number of	Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient

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Quality Meats					
1	Eagle Pack – Large Giant Puppy	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Ground Yellow Corn
1	Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork)	Pork Meal	Ground Yellow Corn	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice
1	Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion	Whitefish Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Ground Barley	Rye Flour
1	Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free)	Herring Meal	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)	Peas	Canola Oil
1	Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed	Chicken	Corn Meal	Ground Whole Grain Sorghum	Ground Whole Grain Barley
1	Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin	Maize	Fish Meal	Animal Fat	Dried Whole Egg
1	Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food	Brewers Rice	Whole Grain Corn	Corn Gluten Meal	Pork Meal
1	Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
0	Dogpro Original Adult Complete	Wholegrain Cereals	Real meat and meat & Veg by-products	Vegetable oil	Iodised salt
0	Eukanuba Puppy Chicken Large Breed	Dried Chicken And Turkey	Maize	Wheat	Sorghum
0	Royal Canin Giant Breed Puppy	Dehydrated Poultry Protein	Rice	Vegetable Protein	Isolate
0	Supercoat Adult Beef	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
0	Supercoat Adult Chicken	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
0	V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths)	Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Tapioca Starch	Tallow and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)

Body Condition Scoring

It is important that your Great Dane is never allowed to become chubby / overweight. In growing Dane puppies this can cause a whole host of growth problems and in Adults it places more pressure on their joints and organs. It is better to keep a Great Dane Lean rather than overweight.





Meals for healthy Adult Great Danes

The choice can be overwhelming!

Once a Great Dane reaches 10–12 months of age this signals the close of the 'Critical Growth Period' which means you no longer need to be so strict on the phos:calc ratios you give your puppy.

Many breeders ask that you wait until 12 months of age before you change your young dog's diet so this is definitely something you should discuss with your Breeder if you are in contact with them.

From this point on, what your dog does best on is a very individual thing. One brand that makes one Dane look amazing may upset the tummy of your Dane.

As your dog's guardian it will be your job to research which food you believe your dog will do best on based on your own personal preferences, your budget, advice from your Breeder and of course what your dog tends to do well on.

Dogs aren't unlike humans when it comes to diet, we know we generally do better holistically when we eat high quality foods and it's the same in animals.

Many Behaviourists recommend that owners take a look at their dog's diet when starting behavioural modification programs. We know in children that diet has a direct correlation to Behaviour apart from environmental influences.

It doesn't make sense to purchase a low quality kibble with Sugar and Salt high in the ingredients list when we know our dogs simply do not need it, this also includes lower quality kibbles that include food colouring that make foods more appealing to the humans who buy it.

An athlete (or simply someone trying to get the best out of their body) puts only the best into their body to get the best out. Your dog may not be an athlete however because you have the ability to choose your dog's diet it makes sense to choose quality ingredients.

It however is important not to keep changing the diet of your dog, a diet change should be given at least 6–8 weeks to take effect especially when dealing with food intolerances.

When changing foods you may notice your dog's stools are loose, this is typical, however if it lasts more than a couple of weeks then this may be telling you that this type of food isn't agreeing with your Great Dane and you should have a chat to your Breeder and Vet.

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Providing your dog with a supplement to assist the gut flora will typically assist such as human products like Inner Health and Yakult (at human doses for Great Danes).

If Inner Health and/or Yakult aren't getting the result you are after, there are also great dog products such as: Thrive D Powder / Protexin Probiotic / Dr Goodpet Digestive Powder.

2014 Adult Feed Survey

The 2014 survey said the following were the top 5 most commonly fed kibbles to adult Great Danes.



Learn more about Blackhawk Kibble:

www.blackhawkpetcare.com.au

Learn more about Stay Loyal Kibble (only place to purchase):

www.stayloyal.com.au

Learn more about Holistic Select

www.holisticselect.com.au

Adult Kibble ‘Ingredient’ Comparisons

As a reminder before we head to the comparisons:

Based on information collected from sources such the [dogfoodproject](#) & [dogfoodadvisor](#) we will highlight ingredients in the following manner:

- **BLACK:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as higher quality/necessary that you would like to see in the top 4.
- **ORANGE:** Ingredients that are generally accepted as moderate–acceptable quality that is generally expected to see somewhere in the top 4.
- **RED:** Ingredients that are generally not considered higher quality which you would not want to see so highly in the ingredients list.

Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
A La Carte Lamb & Rice Adult	Lamb Meal	Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Cereal
A La Carte Lamb & Rice Puppies	Lamb Meal	Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Cereal
Advance Total Wellbeing Large + Breed Adult Dog Food – Chicken	Chicken	Rice	Corn	Sorghum
Artemis – Fresh Mix Adult Dog (Medium and Large Breeds)	Chicken	Chicken Meal	Turkey	Cracked Pearled Barley
Beneful Original (Supermarket)	Wholegrain Cereals (wheat and/or corn)	Meat and meat by-products	Vegetable and vegetable by-products	Sugar
Blackhawk – Chicken & Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground Oats	Chicken Fat
Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato	Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal	Salmon Meal	Sweet Potato	Ground Whole Brown Rice
Blackhawk – Lamb & Rice	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground Oats	Chicken Fat
Bonnie Adult Complete	Whole Grain Corn	Meat and meat by-products	Vegetable by-product	Vitamins

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Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Bonnie Working Dog	Cereals and Cereal by-product	Meat and meat by-products	Vegetable by-product	Vitamins
California Natural Dog – Adult Chicken & Rice	Chicken Meal	Brown Rice	Rice	Sunflower Oil
Canidae – All Life Stages Formula	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice
Canidae – Chicken & Rice	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice	White Rice	Cracked Pearled Barley
Canidae – Lamb & Rice	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice	Cracked pearled barley	Rice Bran
Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea	Salmon	Salmon meal	Menhaden fish meal	Sweet Potatoes
Chum Crunchy – Beef, bone & vegetable flavour	Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products	Vegetable oil and / or tallow	Meat & meat by products	Salt
CopRice Family Dog Food	Natural Cereal grains	Chicken and chicken by-products	Wheat bran	Rice Bran
CopRice Working Dog	Animal Protein meals and by-products	Natural cereal grains	Rice Bran	Wheat bran
Dogpro Original Adult Complete	Wholegrain Cereals	Real meat and meat & Veg by-products	Vegetable oil	Iodised salt
Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Ground Yellow Corn
Eagle Pack – Natural (Lamb & Rice)	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground Yellow Corn	Chicken Fat
Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork)	Pork Meal	Ground Yellow Corn	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice
Earthborn Holistic – Adult Vantage	Chicken Meal	Oatmeal	Ground Barley	Ground Brown Rice
Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion	Whitefish Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Ground Barley	Rye Flour

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Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Earthborn Holistic – Primitive Natural (grain free)	Turkey Meal	Chicken Meal	Whitefish Meal	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free)	Herring Meal	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)	Peas	Canola Oil
Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed	Chicken	Corn Meal	Ground Whole Grain Sorghum	Ground Whole Grain Barley
Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin	Maize	Fish Meal	Animal Fat	Dried Whole Egg
Eukanuba Dog Sensitive Stomach	Brewers Rice	Corn Grits	Chicken By-Product Meal	Corn Meal
Goodo Dog – Beef	Wholegrain Cereal	Meat and meat by-products	Humectants	Palant
Great Barko (Laucke Mills)	Cooked meat or meat by-products	Cooked fish or fish by-products	Fat	Cooked cereals and wheaten
Hills Science Diet Canine Adult Large Breed Dog Food	Whole Grain Corn	Chicken By-Product Meal	Soybean Meal	Animal Fat (non specified)
Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food	Brewers Rice	Whole Grain Corn	Corn Gluten Meal	Pork Meal
Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Anchovy, Sardine & Salmon	Anchovy & Sardine Meal	Oatmeal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice
Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Chicken Meal & Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Lamb Meal	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Chicken Fat
IGA Beef	Wholegrain Cereals & cereal by-products	Meat & meat by-products	Tallow	Flavour

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Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Salmon & Sweet Potato	Salmon Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Peas	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Turkey & Sweet Potato	Turkey Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Peas	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
My Dog with Prime Beef	Wholegrain Cereals	Meat & meat by-products	Cereal Protein	Beet pulp
Natural Balance – Regular Energy	Rice	Australian Lamb	Australian Duck	Corn Gluten Meal
Natures Gift Chicken & Rice	Poultry Meals	Wholegrain Wheat	Sacrose	Rice
Nutrience – Lamb and Rice	Lamb Meal	Ground Rice	Rice Bran (ingredient splitting)	Canola Oil
Optimum Adult with Chicken, Vegetables & Rice	Chicken & Chicken by products	Corn	Sorghum	Rice
Pedigree Meaty Bites Mince & Vegetables	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wheat &/Or Sorghum &/Or Barley	Wheat Bran	Glycerol
Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Brewers Rice	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice	Lamb	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New)	Salmon and Tuna	Oats	Vegetable Protein Concentrate	Fish protein Meal
Royal Canin Canine Professional Energy 4800	Dehydrated Poultry Meat	Animal Fats	Rice	Vegetable Protein Isolate
Royal Canin Giant Adult	Dehydrated Poultry meat	Maize flour	Maize	Animal Fats
Stay Loyal (online only) https://www.stayloyal.com.au	Chicken Meal	Lamb Meal	Green Peas	Chicken Fat

Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Supercoat Adult Beef	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
Supercoat Adult Chicken	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
Supercoat Adult Large Breed	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
Taste of the Wild, High Prairie Canine Formula – Grain free	Bison	Lamb Meal	Chicken Meal	Sweet Potatoes
Taste of the Wild, Pacific Stream Canine Formula – Grain free	Salmon	Ocean Fish Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Taste of the Wild, Sierra Mountain Canine Formula – Grain free	Lamb	Lamb Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Taste of the Wild, Southwest Canyon Canine Formula – Grain free	Beef	Peas	Garbanzo Beans	Lamb Meal
Taste of the Wild, Wetlands Canine Formula – Grain free	Duck	Duck Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Peas
Uncle Alberts (Laucke Mills)	Cooked Meat or Meat By Products	Cooked Fish or Fish By Products	Cooked cereals and wheaten bran	Canola & Soybean Products
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths)	Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths)	Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Potato and Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)

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Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Woolworths Homebrand Mince, Marrowbone & Vegetable Flavour	Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products	Meat & Bone Meal	Tallow or Vegetable oil	Limestone
Woolworths Select – Beef with Vegetable	Maize Gluten	Sorghum	Beef by-product Meal	Poultry by-product meal

Adult Kibble ‘Price’ Comparisons

In this comparison, you will be able to see where you can get more bang for your buck. This comparison is based on price, scroll through and see which kibbles have the higher quality ingredients within your budget.

Kibble	Price per Kilo	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Woolworths Homebrand Mince, Marrowbone & Vegetable Flavour	\$ 1.19	Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products	Meat & Bone Meal	Tallow or Vegetable oil	Limestone
Great Barko (Laucke Mills)	\$ 1.36	Cooked meat or meat by-products	Cooked fish or fish by-products	Fat	Cooked cereals and wheaten
Uncle Alberts (Laucke Mills)	\$ 1.36	Cooked Meat or Meat By Products	Cooked Fish or Fish By Products	Cooked cereals and wheaten bran	Canola & Soybean Products
Chum Crunchy – Beef, bone & vegetable flavour	\$ 1.53	Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products	Vegetable oil and / or tallow	Meat & meat by products	Salt
IGA Beef	\$ 1.69	Wholegrain Cereals & cereal by-products	Meat & meat by-products	Tallow	Flavour
CopRice Family Dog Food	\$ 1.75	Natural Cereal grains	Chicken and chicken by-products	Wheat bran	Rice Bran
CopRice Working Dog	\$ 1.75	Animal Protein meals and by-products	Natural cereal grains	Rice Bran	Wheat bran
Dogpro Original Adult Complete	\$ 1.80	Wholegrain Cereals	Real meat and meat & Veg by-products	Vegetable oil	Iiodised salt
Pedigree Meaty Bites Mince & Vegetables	\$ 1.95	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wheat &/Or Sorghum &/Or Barley	Wheat Bran	Glycerol
Bonnie Adult Complete	\$ 2.30	Whole Grain Corn	Meat and meat by-products	Vegetable by-product	Vitamins
Bonnie Working Dog	\$ 2.30	Cereals and Cereal by-product	Meat and meat by-products	Vegetable by-product	Vitamins

Kibble	Price per Kilo	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Salmon & Sweet Potato	\$ 3.01	Salmon Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Peas	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Turkey & Sweet Potato	\$ 3.01	Turkey Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Peas	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Supercoat Adult Beef	\$ 3.06	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
Supercoat Adult Chicken	\$ 3.06	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
Supercoat Adult Large Breed	\$ 3.06	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
Woolworths Select – Beef with Vegetable	\$ 4.24	Maize Gluten	Sorghum	Beef by-product Meal	Poultry by-product meal
Beneful Original (Supermarket)	\$ 4.33	Wholegrain Cereals (wheat and/or corn)	Meat and meat by-products	Vegetable and vegetable by-products	Sugar
Optimum Adult with Chicken, Vegetables & Rice	\$ 4.33	Chicken & Chicken by products	Corn	Sorghum	Rice
A La Carte Lamb & Rice Adult	\$ 4.69	Lamb Meal	Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Cereal
A La Carte Lamb & Rice Puppies	\$ 4.69	Lamb Meal	Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Cereal
Blackhawk – Chicken & Rice	\$ 5.00	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground Oats	Chicken Fat
Blackhawk – Lamb & Rice	\$ 5.00	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground Oats	Chicken Fat
Canidae – All Life Stages Formula	\$ 5.00	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice
Natures Gift Chicken & Rice	\$ 5.00	Poultry Meals	Wholegrain Wheat	Sacrose	Rice
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths)	\$ 5.34	Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)

Kibble	Price per Kilo	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths)	\$ 5.34	Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Potato and Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)
Goodo Dog – Beef	\$ 5.64	Wholegrain Cereal	Meat and meat by-products	Humectants	Palant
Natural Balance – Regular Energy	\$ 5.67	Rice	Australian Lamb	Australian Duck	Corn Gluten Meal
Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato	\$ 5.75	Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal	Salmon Meal	Sweet Potato	Ground Whole Brown Rice
Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice	\$ 6.13	Chicken	Brewers Rice	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice	\$ 6.20	Lamb	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
Canidae – Chicken & Rice	\$ 6.25	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice	White Rice	Cracked Pearled Barley
Stay Loyal (online only) https://www.stayloyal.com.au	\$ 6.47	Chicken Meal	Lamb Meal	Green Peas	Chicken Fat
Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice	\$ 6.66	Chicken	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
My Dog with Prime Beef	\$ 6.83	Wholegrain Cereals	Meat & meat by-products	Cereal Protein	Beet pulp
Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed	\$ 6.86	Chicken	Corn Meal	Ground Whole Grain Sorghum	Ground Whole Grain Barley
Taste of the Wild, High Prairie Canine Formula – Grain free	\$ 6.91	Bison	Lamb Meal	Chicken Meal	Sweet Potatoes
Taste of the Wild, Pacific Stream Canine Formula – Grain free	\$ 6.91	Salmon	Ocean Fish Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Taste of the Wild, Sierra Mountain Canine Formula – Grain free	\$ 6.91	Lamb	Lamb Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Taste of the Wild, Southwest Canyon Canine Formula – Grain free	\$ 6.91	Beef	Peas	Garbanzo Beans	Lamb Meal

Kibble	Price per Kilo	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Taste of the Wild, Wetlands Canine Formula – Grain free	\$ 6.91	Duck	Duck Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Peas
Canidae – Lamb & Rice	\$ 7.06	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice	Cracked pearled barley	Rice Bran
Royal Canin Canine Professional Energy 4800	\$ 7.07	Dehydrated Poultry Meat	Animal Fats	Rice	Vegetable Protein Isolate
Advance Total Wellbeing Large + Breed Adult Dog Food – Chicken	\$ 7.23	Chicken	Rice	Corn	Sorghum
Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork)	\$ 7.28	Pork Meal	Ground Yellow Corn	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice
Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New)	\$ 7.50	Salmon and Tuna	Oats	Vegetable Protein Concentrate	Fish protein Meal
Nutrience – Lamb and Rice	\$ 7.53	Lamb Meal	Ground Rice	Rice Bran (ingredient splitting)	Canola Oil
Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult	\$ 7.72	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Ground Yellow Corn
Eagle Pack – Natural (Lamb & Rice)	\$ 7.72	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground Yellow Corn	Chicken Fat
Artemis – Fresh Mix Adult Dog (Medium and Large Breeds)	\$ 7.75	Chicken	Chicken Meal	Turkey	Cracked Pearled Barley
Royal Canin Giant Adult	\$ 7.86	Dehydrated Poultry meat	Maize flour	Maize	Animal Fats
Earthborn Holistic – Adult Vantage	\$ 8.03	Chicken Meal	Oatmeal	Ground Barley	Ground Brown Rice
Hills Science Diet Canine Adult Large Breed Dog Food	\$ 8.33	Whole Grain Corn	Chicken By-Product Meal	Soybean Meal	Animal Fat (non specified)
Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin	\$ 8.58	Maize	Fish Meal	Animal Fat	Dried Whole Egg
Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food	\$ 8.71	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal	\$ 8.71	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Chicken Meal & Rice	\$ 8.71	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal

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Kibble	Price per Kilo	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Lamb Meal	\$ 8.71	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Chicken Fat
Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion	\$ 8.75	Whitefish Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Ground Barley	Rye Flour
Eukanuba Dog Sensitive Stomach	\$ 8.82	Brewers Rice	Corn Grits	Chicken By-Product Meal	Corn Meal
Earthborn Holistic – Primitive Natural (grain free)	\$ 9.16	Turkey Meal	Chicken Meal	Whitefish Meal	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free)	\$ 9.16	Herring Meal	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)	Peas	Canola Oil
Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea	\$ 9.19	Salmon	Salmon meal	Menhaden fish meal	Sweet Potatoes
Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food	\$ 9.29	Brewers Rice	Whole Grain Corn	Corn Gluten Meal	Pork Meal
Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Anchovy, Sardine & Salmon	\$ 9.61	Anchovy & Sardine Meal	Oatmeal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice
Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements	\$ 11.32	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)

Adult Kibble ‘Meat Content’ Comparisons

In this comparison, you will be able to see which kibbles have the most quality meats in the top 4 ingredients. Quality meats does not include Meat By-products or similar.

Number of Quality Meats	Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
3	Canidae – All Life Stages Formula	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice
3	Taste of the Wild, High Prairie Canine Formula – Grain free	Bison	Lamb Meal	Chicken Meal	Sweet Potatoes
3	Artemis – Fresh Mix Adult Dog (Medium and Large Breeds)	Chicken	Chicken Meal	Turkey	Cracked Pearled Barley
3	Earthborn Holistic – Primitive Natural (grain free)	Turkey Meal	Chicken Meal	Whitefish Meal	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
3	Canidae Grain Free – Pure Elements	Chicken Meal	Turkey Meal	Lamb	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
3	Canidae Grain Free – Pure Sea	Salmon	Salmon meal	Menhaden fish meal	Sweet Potatoes
2	A La Carte Lamb & Rice Adult	Lamb Meal	Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Cereal
2	A La Carte Lamb & Rice Puppies	Lamb Meal	Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Cereal
2	Natural Balance – Regular Energy	Rice	Australian Lamb	Australian Duck	Corn Gluten Meal
2	Blackhawk – Fish & Sweet Potato	Anchovy & Ocean Fish Meal	Salmon Meal	Sweet Potato	Ground Whole Brown Rice
2	Pro Plan Adult Large Breed Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Brewers Rice	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
2	Pro Plan Adult Original Lamb & Rice	Lamb	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal
2	Stay Loyal (online only) https://www.stayloyal.com.au	Chicken Meal	Lamb Meal	Green Peas	Chicken Fat
2	Pro Plan Adult Original Chicken & Rice	Chicken	Wholegrain Wheat	Poultry Meal	Corn Gluten Meal

Number of Quality Meats	Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
2	Taste of the Wild, Pacific Stream Canine Formula – Grain free	Salmon	Ocean Fish Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
2	Taste of the Wild, Sierra Mountain Canine Formula – Grain free	Lamb	Lamb Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
2	Taste of the Wild, Southwest Canyon Canine Formula – Grain free	Beef	Peas	Garbanzo Beans	Lamb Meal
2	Taste of the Wild, Wetlands Canine Formula – Grain free	Duck	Duck Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Peas
2	Pro Plan Adult Sensitive Skin & Stomach Formula (New)	Salmon and Tuna	Oats	Vegetable Protein Concentrate	Fish protein Meal
1	Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Salmon & Sweet Potato	Salmon Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Peas	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
1	Kirklands (Costco) Natures Domain – Turkey & Sweet Potato	Turkey Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Peas	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)
1	Blackhawk – Chicken & Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground Oats	Chicken Fat
1	Blackhawk – Lamb & Rice	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground Oats	Chicken Fat
1	Natures Gift Chicken & Rice	Poultry Meals	Wholegrain Wheat	Sacrose	Rice
1	Canidae – Chicken & Rice	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice	White Rice	Cracked Pearled Barley
1	Eukanuba Adult Chicken Large Breed	Chicken	Corn Meal	Ground Whole Grain Sorghum	Ground Whole Grain Barley

Number of Quality Meats	Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
1	Canidae – Lamb & Rice	Lamb Meal	Brown Rice	Cracked pearled barley	Rice Bran
1	Advance Total Wellbeing Large + Breed Adult Dog Food – Chicken	Chicken	Rice	Corn	Sorghum
1	Eagle Pack – Original (Chicken & Pork)	Pork Meal	Ground Yellow Corn	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice
1	Nutrience – Lamb and Rice	Lamb Meal	Ground Rice	Rice Bran (ingredient splitting)	Canola Oil
1	Eagle Pack – Large Giant Adult	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Ground Yellow Corn
1	Eagle Pack – Natural (Lamb & Rice)	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground Yellow Corn	Chicken Fat
1	Earthborn Holistic – Adult Vantage	Chicken Meal	Oatmeal	Ground Barley	Ground Brown Rice
1	Holistic Large Giant Adult Dog Food	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
1	Holistic Select Large & Giant Breed Adult Health Chicken Meal & Oatmeal	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
1	Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Chicken Meal & Rice	Chicken Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Oatmeal
1	Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Lamb Meal	Lamb Meal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice	Chicken Fat
1	Earthborn Holistic – Ocean Fusion	Whitefish Meal	Sweet Potatoes	Ground Barley	Rye Flour
1	Earthborn Holistic Coastal Catch (grain free)	Herring Meal	Potatoes (High content offsetting meat content)	Peas	Canola Oil
1	Hills Science Diet Canine Sensitive Skin Dog Food	Brewers Rice	Whole Grain Corn	Corn Gluten Meal	Pork Meal
1	Holistic Select Radiant Adult Health Anchovy, Sardine & Salmon	Anchovy & Sardine Meal	Oatmeal	Ground Brown Rice	Ground White Rice
1	California Natural Dog – Adult Chicken & Rice	Chicken Meal	Brown Rice	Rice	Sunflower Oil
0	Woolworths Homebrand Mince, Marrowbone & Vegetable Flavour	Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products	Meat & Bone Meal	Tallow or Vegetable oil	Limestone
0	Great Barko (Laucke Mills)	Cooked meat or meat by-products	Cooked fish or fish by-products	Fat	Cooked cereals and wheaten

Number of Quality Meats	Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
0	Uncle Alberts (Laucke Mills)	Cooked Meat or Meat By Products	Cooked Fish or Fish By Products	Cooked cereals and wheaten bran	Canola & Soybean Products
0	Chum Crunchy – Beef, bone & vegetable flavour	Wholegrain Cereal & cereal by-products	Vegetable oil and / or tallow	Meat & meat by products	Salt
0	IGA Beef	Wholegrain Cereals & cereal by-products	Meat & meat by-products	Tallow	Flavour
0	CopRice Family Dog Food	Natural Cereal grains	Chicken and chicken by-products	Wheat bran	Rice Bran
0	CopRice Working Dog	Animal Protein meals and by-products	Natural cereal grains	Rice Bran	Wheat bran
0	Dogpro Original Adult Complete	Wholegrain Cereals	Real meat and meat & Veg by-products	Vegetable oil	Iodised salt
0	Pedigree Meaty Bites Mince & Vegetables	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wheat &/Or Sorghum &/Or Barley	Wheat Bran	Glycerol
0	Bonnie Adult Complete	Whole Grain Corn	Meat and meat by-products	Vegetable by-product	Vitamins
0	Bonnie Working Dog	Cereals and Cereal by-product	Meat and meat by-products	Vegetable by-product	Vitamins
0	Supercoat Adult Beef	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
0	Supercoat Adult Chicken	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp

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Number of Quality Meats	Kibble	1st Ingredient	2nd Ingredient	3rd Ingredient	4th Ingredient
0	Supercoat Adult Large Breed	Meat & Meat By-Products	Wholegrain cereals	Cereal bran and/or other cereals	Beet pulp
0	Woolworths Select – Beef with Vegetable	Maize Gluten	Sorghum	Beef by-product Meal	Poultry by-product meal
0	Beneful Original (Supermarket)	Wholegrain Cereals (wheat and/or corn)	Meat and meat by-products	Vegetable and vegetable by-products	Sugar
0	Optimum Adult with Chicken, Vegetables & Rice	Chicken & Chicken by products	Corn	Sorghum	Rice
0	V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Chicken with Duck and Garden Vegetables (Woolworths)	Meat (Poultry Meal and Meat, Duck & Meat Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)
0	V.I.P Pet Foods Natures Goodness – Wild Game with Sweet Potato (Woolworths)	Meat (Kangaroo Meat and Meal, Poultry, Beef & Lamb Meals)	Vegetable and Vegetable Meals	Potato and Tapioca Starch	Tallows and Oils (Poultry and Vegetable)
0	Goodo Dog – Beef	Wholegrain Cereal	Meat and meat by-products	Humectants	Palant
0	My Dog with Prime Beef	Wholegrain Cereals	Meat & meat by-products	Cereal Protein	Beet pulp
0	Royal Canin Canine Professional Energy 4800	Dehydrated Poultry Meat	Animal Fats	Rice	Vegetable Protein Isolate
0	Royal Canin Giant Adult	Dehydrated Poultry meat	Maize flour	Maize	Animal Fats
0	Hills Science Diet Canine Adult Large Breed Dog Food	Whole Grain Corn	Chicken By-Product Meal	Soybean Meal	Animal Fat (non specified)
0	Eukanuba Dog Adult Daily Care Sensitive Skin	Maize	Fish Meal	Animal Fat	Dried Whole Egg
0	Eukanuba Dog Sensitive Stomach	Brewers Rice	Corn Grits	Chicken By-Product Meal	Corn Meal



Working with a Lean Great Dane

Some Great Danes can be hard work when it comes to keeping them in good condition.

Great Danes generally do not fully physically mature until they are 3–4 years of age. By this age they will have filled out and look like an adult Great Dane which can be an impressive sight.

Some Great Danes particularly under 3 years of age can be on the lean side. Some are all their lives.

If you have one of these lean Great Danes it is recommended that you have your Vet check over your Dane to ensure there is no obvious reason for the condition.

There are some things you may like to try to assist in putting weight on an ‘adult’ Great Dane (not suitable for puppies):

- Some Danes simply need more food, therefore increase the amount of food you give. In some rescue dogs this can be 500 grams of good quality kibble such as Canidae or Stay Loyal 2 or 3 times a day if they'll eat it. If you feed budget kibble you'll end up feeding more and having much bigger stools.
- Porridge with Rice milk.
- A supplement to assist in normal digestion such as: Inner Health, Yakult, Thrive D Powder or Dr Goodpet Digestive Powder.
- A calming supplement if your dog is nervy / highly-strung / not emotionally balanced such as PetArk Calm, Vetalogica Tranquil Formula.
- Lamb Flaps (may be too high in fat for some dogs)
- Eukanuba 30/20 or Eukanuba Active Performance has also been successful at putting on weight, however may be too fatty for some Danes and they may continue to have soft stools on it.
- Satin Balls – this is a recipe of a food you can make yourself. It may be too fatty and should only be used short term. We recommend you only make up a small batch to start with as some dogs do not like them. (Recipe on upcoming pages)

Whatever method you choose it is important to only allow gradual weight gain.



Working with Emaciated Great Danes

Emotional stress is one of the most common reasons why Danes drop a lot of weight.

Stress can prevent the digestive system from functioning correctly. When an animal is stressed or gets an adrenaline burst the body diverts energy away from the digestive system to the muscles for the Flight or Fight mode – you may know this as ‘Survival Mode’.

Some Great Danes also require much more food than other Great Danes, so under feeding even unintentionally can cause a dog to become underweight or emaciated.

In stressed, nervy, highly-strung & emotionally unbalanced dogs (including those who show aggressive tendencies as they are usually fear based) should be placed on a dietary supplement to help calm their mind. Where dietary supplements do not seem to have an effect after several months you may like speak with your Vet & Behaviourist about a combined prescription medication & behavioural modification program.

Step 1: Visit your Vet to see if there is an underlying reason why the dog could be underweight.

Step 2: Increase the calorie intake, if the dog will actually eat then this is a positive thing. In our rescue dogs we can feed them up to 500 grams of a quality kibble such as Canidae/Stay Loyal 3–4 times a day if they will actually eat it.

If the dog will not eat, you will then need to decipher if this is a habit problem e.g. the dog has been allowed to take a long time to eat – in this case put the food down for 15 minutes and then pick it up and put it away so the dog learns it must eat within the given time frame.

The dog may not like the food on offer, so if after 24 hours it is still refusing to eat you will need to start investigating ways to encourage the dog to eat (avoiding hand feeding where possible) such as using Liver sprinkles, Sardines in tomato sauce mixed in the kibble, BBQ Chicken mixed in, a little bit of canned food mixed in with the kibble or change to a meat based diet such as BARF. Also try to warm the meal up.

Some premium Brands pet foods do offer a canned food selection (not supermarket canned food) that you can get from your pet warehouse such as Pet Barn / Pet Stock etc.

Call your Vet for guidance if after 48 hours the dog still will not eat.

Step 3: Add a supplement such as PetArk Calm, Vetalogica Tranquil Formula or Greenpet Nerve Tonic to the dogs meal every day and use ongoing to help calm the dog's emotional state. You can double dose this in very nervy dogs to start with.

Step 4: Add a supplement to assist in normal digestion such as: Inner Health / Yakult / Thrive D Powder / Dr Goodpet Digestive Powder.

Satin Balls Recipe for Lean Great Danes

4.53kg raw hamburger mince (regular, with fat)

567grams Wheat Germ

1 large box of Oatmeal (uncooked)

340 grams of Sanitarium Weetbix (small box) or any basic Multigrain cereal

1 cups Vegetable Oil

10 eggs (boiled in shell for 30 seconds)

10 envelopes of unflavoured Gelatine

1¼ cups unflavoured Molasses (also known as Treacle)

2 teaspoons Kelp

1 cup of ground Flaxseed

A pinch of salt

Garlic to taste

Method

Mix all ingredients together well, (much like a meat-loaf) and then put into separate freezer bags and freeze. Thawing out as needed.

It puts weight on in a very short time, but may not be suitable to all Danes. The fat content may be too high and should not be given to emaciated dogs.

It can be fed alone or with kibble.

This diet is not suitable for growing Great Dane puppies.

Skinnie Black Dog Syndrome

Not an actual clinical syndrome

Although referred to as Black Dog Syndrome, Great Danes who struggle with their weight long term can happen to any colour although it is seen quite a lot in Black Great Danes especially young Males.

Vets are typically unable to find any medical reason (although don't always do any testing or investigating) for the condition and most dogs go on to put on weight between 3-4+ years of age especially after de-sexing, some however struggle with their weight all their lives.

There are a number of sources that believe that this problem is caused by a digestive/absorption issue.

The dogs' physical structure

It is important to consider that the dogs conformation and breeding/lines could also be responsible for it not being able to put on weight simply because it cannot.

Fine racy slab-sided (no spring of the ribcage – appear flat on the sides of their body) Great Danes can be traced back for many generations. These dogs may never put on weight, basically because their overall conformation will never allow it (you see the same in tall thin humans).

There are many different types of digestive disorders. Causes range from eating something other than pet food, to food allergies, infections or lack of digestive enzymes. Some breeds, such as Great Danes, German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers and Collies, are more prone to particular digestive problems.

Source: <http://familypethealthctr.com>

Malabsorption

Malabsorption is one condition that it is recommended you speak to your Vet about.

Malabsorption is poor absorption of a nutrient resulting from interference with its digestion, absorption, or both. Interference with food digestion in dogs is typically due to lack of certain enzymes from the pancreas, called exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, whereas most cases of absorption failure are caused by small intestinal disease.

The signs of malabsorption are mainly due to lack of nutrient uptake and loss of nutrients in the feces. Signs typically include long term diarrhoea, weight loss, and altered appetite (loss of appetite or excessive eating). However, **diarrhoea may be absent even when disease is severe.**

Weight loss may be substantial despite a good appetite, sometimes characterized by eating of faeces. Dogs with malabsorption usually appear healthy in other respects unless there is severe inflammation or cancer. Nonspecific signs may include dehydration, anaemia, dark blood in the stools, or fluid retention. A veterinarian may be able to detect thickened bowel loops or enlarged abdominal lymph nodes.

Diagnosing malabsorption can be complex, because long term diarrhoea and weight loss are signs that are common in several diseases, including malabsorption. An exact diagnosis may take more than a single visit. A thorough examination is needed for dogs with signs of malabsorption to determine whether the signs are caused by an underlying generalized or metabolic disease.

Certain tests can help determine whether the signs are due to a condition such as inflammatory bowel disease liver disease, or parasites. The dog's history is particularly important because it may suggest a specific food allergy, consumption of non-food items, or other sensitivity. Weight loss may indicate malabsorption or protein-losing disease but may also be due to loss of appetite, vomiting, or a non-digestive disease. There are certain features that help distinguish small--intestinal diarrhoea from large-intestinal diarrhoea. Suspected large intestine disease in dogs may be further evaluated by a biopsy of the intestinal lining. However, if signs are accompanied by weight loss or large volumes of faeces, then the small intestine is probably also affected.

Treatment of malabsorption involves dietary change, management of complications, and treatment of the cause, if it can be identified. If malabsorption is caused by exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, treatment involves feeding a special low-fibre diet that contains moderate levels of fat or highly digestible fat, very digestible carbohydrate, and high-quality protein.

Supplementation with pancreatic extract to provide missing enzymes is also necessary. If the dog's response to pancreatic replacement treatment is poor, small-intestinal bacterial overgrowth may be suspected. In this case, the dog may be treated with oral antibiotics for about 1 month to reduce the

bacterial overgrowth. Effective treatment of small-intestinal disease depends on the nature of the disorder, but when a specific diagnosis cannot be made, treatments may be given on a trial basis.

Dietary modification is an important aspect of the management of small intestinal disease. Your veterinarian may recommend feeding your pet an exclusion diet consisting of a single protein source (one to which your dog has not previously been exposed) as a test when dietary sensitivity is suspected.

It is very important that you provide the special diet and prescribed medication(s) for your pet exactly as instructed. Often, owners are tempted to provide a "special treat" not on the diet even though they have been instructed not to do so.

Failure to follow the prescribed diet can delay diagnosis and delay the treatment their pet needs. Owners can reward their pets during this time with petting, a new blanket or suitable toy, or some other reward that is not food. Often the best reward for the pet is extended periods of attention.

Checklist

Step 1: Book in to see your Vet if the condition has been going on for some time. If your Vet does not wish to do any testing or investigation let them know you would like the condition to be investigated further i.e. possible Malabsorption, inflammatory bowel disease liver disease, or parasites etc.

Step 2. Worm your dog monthly. If you use the same worming treatment all the time you will need to consider changing to a different brand as worms build resistance to brands.

Step 3: Look at your dog's diet, investigate the ingredients of what your dog is fed, are they high quality ingredients with minimal fillers etc. Investigate the ingredient panel about what chemicals, flavouring and additives are on your dog's food that could be causing digestion problems.

Consider:

1. Canidae All Life Stage: www.canidae.com.au
2. Stay Loyal: www.stayloyal.com.au

Consider:

What commercial treats you are feeding your dog and what ingredients they contain. Could you cook your own treats i.e. cut up piece of chicken or steak etc.

Step 4. Consider placing your dog on a digestive aid.

Recommendation:

Inner Health / Yakult / Thrive / Protexin /
Dr Goodpet Digestive Powder

Step 5. Minimise your dog's stress. Stressy dogs tend to have problems with their digestion.

Consider: PetArk Calm / Vetalogica Tranqual Formula / Green Pet Nerve Tonic /
Adaptil collar / DAP wall plug in.

It is important to note temperament has a genetic component and Great Danes who are born highly strung may not be able to be assisted by supplementation.

Step 6. If your dog does not like to eat much ensure you only leave the food down for 15 minutes and then remove. It may take a week or 2 for the dog to start eating properly however free-feeding (leaving food down all the time) doesn't help the situation as they can become fussier.

Consider fasting (not feeding your dog) for 24 hours to try and kick start their appetite. Fasting is safe for most dogs, check with your Vet if you're concerned.

Warm the meal up, dogs prefer warm meals vs something out of the fridge.

Trick the dog by only putting in their bowl what you know they will eat and then slowly add to it over time.

Consider that they do not like the food you are feeding them.

Will they eat something like dog roll or canned food? Although junk food in many cases this can be a good indicator to see if they are just being fussy.

Speak to your vet about medications that increase appetite.

Move the dogs bowl to another location to see if that may work i.e move it inside from outdoors. The dog may need you to be near it whilst it eats as well.

Make dinner time as stress free as possible, some dogs may benefit from being fed away from other dogs where some may benefit from the competition of having another dog in the same room whilst eating (if there is no history of food aggression).

Step 7. Still having problems after trying all of the above? Time for some alternative testing perhaps?

Consider:

Nutriscan – Gold Standard food sensitivity test. Purchase online from America and you will be sent a mouth swab kit which you send back and results will be e-mailed to you.

<http://nutriscan.org/>

Bio-compatibility test – This test is completely non-invasive and painless. It involves only the collection of a small sample of your pet's fur. No needles or blood samples.

Many animals suffer from allergies and this can be the result of eating bio-incompatible foods over a period of time. Allergic reactions are accumulative and a visible reaction may not take place for up to four days. Often animals will crave the very foods they are allergic to.

<http://www.greenpet.com.au/products/BIO%252dCOMPATIBILITY-TEST-%252d-ANIMALS.html#reviews>

Hair Mineral Analysis test – Hair testing is the most effective, non-invasive method for testing mineral levels in the body. Minerals are important for correct function of many organs and glands.

<http://www.greenpet.com.au/products/HAIR-MINERAL-ANALYSIS-%252d-ANIMALS.html>

Step 8. Work with an Animal Naturopath for diet and supplementation to try and get your dog on the right path for future health.

<http://www.greenpet.com.au/products/FULL--NATUROPATHIC-CONSULTATION.html>



Overweight Great Danes

Any extra weight is a burden to the Great Dane.

Because Great Danes are such a large animal, any additional weight can not only put extra pressure on their joints and bones, it can put pressure on their organs especially their heart.

Keep your Great Dane in an ideal weight range where you can see the last rib with only a thin layer of fat covering it.

Some Great Danes that are more like the Greyhound shape may look too thin at their ideal weight simply because their body shape is more streamline, if in doubt ask your Vet.

If you need to drop weight off an overweight adult Great Dane you can follow the below diet. This not necessarily a balanced diet that should be used for very long periods and should never be used for puppies:

Breakfast: Mashed (ideally use an electric whiz to really mash up all the items well) Sweet Potato, Broccoli, Beans, Butternut Pumpkin, Swede and a little Alfalfa but not too much to overpower the flavour.

Dinner: **Low Fat Kibble or Kangaroo Barf** – follow the feeding guide on the packaging for the weight your dog ‘should’ be.

OR:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Sunday feed only Mashed Veggies.

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday feed Mash in the morning and Kibble/Barf in the evening.

Free running (off lead running) can really assist with weight loss so if you can include this daily into your dog’s program it would be ideal.

If not, start to slowly increase your dog’s exercise program to what they can physically manage and what is age appropriate.

If you want to give meaty bones, treats or training treats then you will need to deduct this from their meals. Treats can destroy any diet.

When feeding a dog a high veggie diet, be sure to provide the dog with a Multi Supplement such as GreenPet Essentials / GreenPet Pet Booster / Vets All Natural Health Booster.

Recognising Bloat / Torsion

Bloat/Torsion is a breed problem therefore all Great Dane Owners should know what Bloat/Torsion is and what it looks like.

We recommend every Dane owner print out the Bloat Chart in this guide and put it on their Fridge.

Have your Emergency Vets address in your Navman and have their phone number written on your Bloat Chart.

Have a B Plan. If your Dane goes to ground and you cannot lift them you need to know how you will move your dog i.e. use a sheet to drag them to your car, have your neighbor help you lift your dog into your car.

Think of if you will euthanize immediately on positive torsion diagnosis or if you will be trying to save your dog you will need a financial plan i.e. to save your dog it may cost you \$5,000 – \$20,000 outside of business hours, many emergency Vets will want a deposit before they work on your dog.

Within business hours you could be looking at between \$1,500.00 – \$5,000.00.

Videos

Dr Becker discusses GDV / Bloat: http://youtu.be/7ay0vz7_LG8

Dogs present with Bloat/Torsion differently however here are some videos for educational purposes that may help you when you believe your dog may be bloating or in torsion:

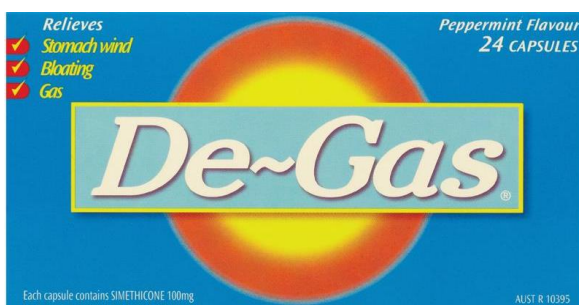
Great Dane in active stage of Bloat: <http://youtu.be/Ab7ySmFW38M>

Akita in active stage of Bloat: <http://youtu.be/U1WrT2719yo>

Elderly German Shepherd in active stage of Torsion: <http://youtu.be/VG4fYmcNCdM>

On first signs of Bloat

You can give De-Gas tablets at the rate of 1 tablet per 10 kilos of body weight, however if you believe your dog is in active Bloat you should administer this on the way to the Vets.



Preventing Bloat / Torsion

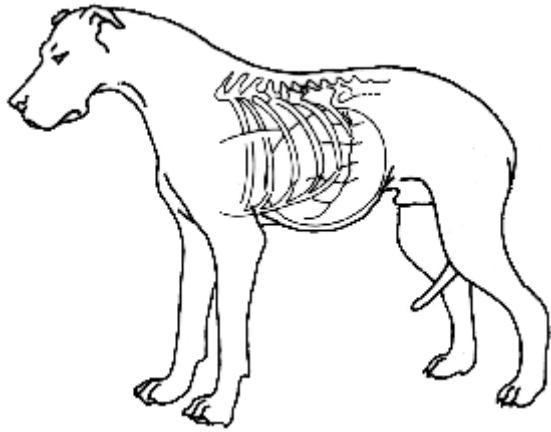
Unfortunately even though there have been a number of studies we still do not know what causes Bloat / Torsion, there are many theories though!

Why haven't the studies proven what causes Bloat? We don't know but what we can tell you is that the studies contradict one another in most regards.

If Bloat / Torsion is something that stresses you on a daily basis we recommend you research and talk to your Vet about a Gastropexy which is preventative surgery.

Here are some theories on what can help prevent Bloat (some studies de-bunk some of these but you'll continue to hear them):

- 1) Keeping your dog physically and emotionally stress free.
- 2) Feeding a high quality diet.
- 3) Not over exercising your dog after meals.
- 4) Not letting your dog gulp a-lot of water.
- 5) Raising your dogs food bowl to prevent them swallowing air.
- 6) Feeding multiple dogs in separate areas to reduce their speed they eat at.
- 7) Use specially designed bowls such as Brake Bowls and Treat Balls to slow your dogs eating rate down.
- 8) Avoiding purchasing a dog whose had a parent Bloat.
- 9) Feed Breakfast and Dinner – avoid feeding only 1 meal per day.



Bloat Studies

There are a few Bloat studies around; unfortunately they contradict one another on many/most points. Here is one for your consideration:

Reference: Purdue University study 1994–1997
The results reported here apply to the "large breeds"

Old Thoughts: What we used to think about bloat over the years, breeders, owners and veterinarians have developed a body of lore about what causes bloat and how it can be prevented.

Factors That Don't Make a Difference – These measures, long been thought to reduce the risk of bloat, were found to have **no** effect:

- Restricting exercise before or after eating
- Restricting water intake before and/or after meals
- Feeding two or more meals per day
- Moistening dry kibble before feeding

Factors That DO Make a Difference as per this specific study:

These four (4) factors ARE associated with an increased risk of bloat in large breed dogs

- Raising the food dish more than doubled the risk for bloat
GDRR NSW Note: A different study said the opposite; most Dane owners raise the bowl for comfort.
- A faster speed of eating was also confirmed to be a risk factor for GDV, as in a previous study, but only for large breed dogs. Why speed of eating would be a risk factor for large breed, but not giant breed, dogs was not determined.
GDRR NSW Note: A different study said speed of eating was not a factor.

- Age: The study found that risk increased by 20% with each year of age. Owners should be more alert to early signs of bloat as their dogs grow older.
GDRR NSW Note: This is generally agreed upon.
- Family History: Having a first-degree relative (parent, sibling or offspring) that had bloated increased a dog's risk.
GDRR NSW Note: There is some school of thought that Bloat/Torsion is a conformation disease i.e. something physically faulty with the dog such as the physical structure of the dog or a faulty stomach muscle so a generic link is entirely possible, it would also be logical to suggest Bloat has a genetic link given it is prevalent in this breed.

Conclusions

The Purdue research team concluded these are the things you can do to prevent bloat:

- The strongest recommendation to prevent GVD (bloat) should be to not breed a dog that has a first degree relative that has had bloat. This places a special responsibility on an owner to inform the breeder should their dog bloat.
- Do not raise the feeding dish.
GDRR NSW Note: Many Dane owners do for the comfort of their dogs.
- Slow the dog's speed of eating (in large breed dogs but not Giant breed).
GDRR NSW Note: Consider using a Brake Fast Bowl or Treat Ball.

Many dog owners in the present study reported attempting to prevent GDV by giving their dogs medications to reduce gas formation or to increase gastric motility; however, these efforts did not appear to reduce the incidence of GDV.

GDRR NSW Note: You may like to give De-Gas (1 tablet per 10 kilos of weight) at the first sign of Bloat i.e. on your way to the Vets.

References: 1. <http://www.vet.purdue.edu/epi/bloat.htm> 2. Glickman LT, Glickman NW, Schellenberg, DB, et al. Non-dietary risk factors for gastric dilatation-volvulus in large and giant breed dogs. 3. Dog Owner's Home

Veterinary Handbook, Delbert G. Carlson, DVM and James M. Giffin, MD

Bloat Factors in Giant Breeds vs Large Breeds

Risk factor analysis—In univariate analyses of potential host risk factors for GDV, increasing age and a history of GDV in any first-degree relative, or specifically in a sibling or offspring, were associated with an increased risk of GDV ($P < 0.2$) in large breed and giant breed dogs (Table 2).

An increased speed of eating was associated with an increased risk of GDV in large breed, but not giant breed, dogs.

Host factors associated with an increased risk of GDV in giant breed, but not large breed, dogs were having a thin or lean body condition, a history of chronic medical problems, and postprandial abdominal distention.

Morphometric factors associated with a decreased risk of GDV in large breed dogs were greater height, lower weight, and lower abdominal width, whereas morphometric factors associated with decreased risk of GDV in giant breed dogs were lower thoracic width, greater abdominal width, and a lower abdominal depth-to width ratio.

The only personality or temperament factor associated with an increased risk of GDV in large breed dogs was aggression to people, whereas submission to other dogs or to people decreased the risk of GDV. In the giant breed dogs, a high activity level and a high level of happiness decreased the risk of GDV.

Among the environmental and management factors, having a raised feeding bowl and restricting water intake before and after eating increased the risk of GDV in large breed and giant breed dogs.

In large breed dogs, but not in giant breed dogs, having a rural residence, restricting exercise before and after eating, and moistening dry dog food prior to feeding increased the risk of GDV, whereas attending dog shows decreased the risk of GDV.

In giant breed dogs, but not in large breed dogs, having an urban residence increased the risk of GDV.

Follow up to the Purdue University Study:

Waiting for Trouble: Age at Bloat Onset

Designing a study of risk factors for diseases of aging, such as bloat or cancer, offers special challenges because of the long wait for the disease to appear. (Good news for the dog, bad news for the researchers!)

Although bloat can occur in young dogs, the risk increases significantly, as dogs grow older. A retrospective study of records in the VMDB was conducted for 1,934 dogs treated in 12 veterinary teaching hospitals in 1980–1989.¹ Overall, 78.8% of the dogs were at least 4 years old before they bloated. Table 3. Age at Onset of Bloat in 1,934 Dogs

Age at Onset (years)	Number of Dogs	% of 1,934
< 2.0	156	8.1
2.0 – 3.9	229	11.8
4.0 – 6.9	417	21.6
7.0 – 9.9	559	28.9
10+	548	28.3
Missing data	35	1.3

The risk of bloat was more than twice as high in dogs 7.0–9.9 years old as in dogs 2.0–3.9 years old, and more than 3 times as high in dogs age 10 or older.

All in the Family: We (Purdue University) continue to follow a family of Irish Setters in which several dogs have already bloated. This family study is another attempt to better understand genetic influences on bloat, which can cluster within certain families (familial bloat) or occur in unrelated animals (sporadic bloat). Geneticist Dr. Robert Schaible and Irish Setter breeder Jan Ziech collaborated with the Purdue Bloat Research Team in this study ¹

Measurement data and bloat histories were collected for all but 1 of 15 surviving pups in 2 litters, whelped in 1988 and 1991, respectively, that had the same dam but different sires. The parents' measurements and bloat histories were obtained. The pedigree was plotted on a scale of chest depth/width ratios (Figure 4). The ratios in this family are spread across a wide range of values for Irish Setters enrolled in the ongoing prospective study.

The pattern suggested that incomplete dominance of a major gene is the mode of inheritance of chest depth/width ratio. After the study was published, another pup in the 1991 litter bloated. **The data support the hypothesis that dogs with a deeper chest relative to width are at greater risk of developing bloat than dogs of the same breed with smaller chest depth/width ratios.** The pattern for this family will not be complete, however, until all dogs have been followed throughout their lifetime.



Gastropexy Surgery

Preventing torsion.

A procedure called a Gastropexy can be done to tack the right side of the stomach to the right side of the body wall using invasive surgery

Benefits of the surgery:

- Prevents life-threatening twisting of stomach.
- Less expensive than treating life-threatening GDV.

A Gastropexy in a healthy dog / not during an emergency surgery will typically cost around \$700.00 when done on its own or approx. an additional \$500.00 done at the same time as de-sexing.

Owners who are going to de-sex their dog will generally have the Gastropexy done at the same time if the procedure is something that they would like to do.

Should you get this procedure done?

It is completely up to you. In America it is a very common procedure, but here in Australia it is not so common. This could be because of the cost or because people simply don't know about it.

Great Dane owners should not fear bloat / torsion – that is not the way to enjoy this breed. However one should know the signs and act appropriately.

If you feel you will worry or feel guilty if your dog torsions then having the procedure done will likely give you some peace of mind.

Bloat Guide

Quick Reference Guide For GDV

Vet's Emergency Telephone Number...

BLOAT

What Is Happening	What The Dog Does	What You Should Do	Treatment
Stomach function is normal. Gas accumulates in the stomach but the stomach does not empty as it should.	Dog behaves as usual. Seems slightly uncomfortable.	Keep the dog quiet; Do not leave the dog alone; Give Antacid if your vet agrees. Be aware of Phase I symptoms.	During this period the dog may recover without going on to develop Gastric Volvulus.
Stomach starts to dilate. (Gastric Dilatation) Stomach twists. (Gastric Volvulus)	Anxious, restless, pacing; Trying to vomit-may bring up stiff white foam but no food; Salivating; Abdomen may be swollen.	Call your vet, tell him what you suspect and why. Take the dog to the vet without further delay.	During this period the dog may recover if your vet releases the pressure with a stomach tube.
Blood supply to part of stomach is cut off. Stomach tissue is damaged. Portal vein, vena cava and splenic vein become compressed and twisted. Spleen becomes engorged. Shock begins to develop	Very restless; whining & panting; Salivating copiously; Tries to vomit every 2-3 min; Stands with legs apart & head hanging down; Abdomen swollen & sounds hollow if tapped; Gums dark red; Heart rate 80-100 beats/min; Temperature raised (104°F)	Get someone to tell your vet you are on your way and why. Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible.	During this period the vet will need to relieve the stomach pressure, start an intravenous drip and perform surgery to untwist the stomach.
Spleen and stomach tissue become Necrotic. Shock now very severe. Heart failure develops. Shock now irreversible. Death	Unable to stand or stands shakily with legs apart; Abdomen very swollen; Breathing shallow; Gums white or blue; Heart rate over 100 beats/minute; Pulse very weak; Temperature drops (98°F)	Death is imminent. Get someone to tell your vet you are on your way and why. Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible.	As well as doing everything above, the vet will need to remove part of the stomach and the spleen. He will also need to use powerful drugs to counteract shock. It may not be possible to save the dog's life.

Height & Weight Guide

Source: <http://www.all-about-great-danes.com/great-dane-growth-chart.html> | Updated 11/2012

Age	Weight	Height
Birth	0.45 – 0.91 grams	
Week 1	0.91 – 1.36 grams / kilos	
Week 2	1.36 – 2.27 kilos	
Week 3	1.82 – 3.18 kilos	
Week 4	1.82 – 3.64 kilos	
Week 6	4.55 – 9.09 kilos	
Month 2	6.82 – 13.64 kilos	33 – 43 cms
Month 3	13.64 – 20.45 kilos	43 – 56 cms
Month 4	22.73 – 29.55 kilos	53 – 63 cms
Month 5	29.55 – 38.64 kilos	63 – 76 cms
Month 6	31.82 – 45.45 kilos	68 – 81 cms
Month 7	31.00 – 49.89 kilos	68 – 84 cms
Month 8	36.36 – 54.43 kilos	68 – 86 cms
Month 9	38.55 – 56.69 kilos	71 – 86 cms
One year	43.09 – 63.50 kilos	71 – 91 cms
Fully grown		
For Males (Typical)	61.23 – 77.11 kilos	84 – 91 cms
For Females (Typical)	49.89 – 65.77 kilos	76 – 84 cms

When reading the above table, remember that all pups follow their own guide, and grow at their own rate.

Your breeder will be able to help you with what is average for their lines.

NOTE: Some Great Danes may actually weigh less / be smaller than this chart indicates & a few may weigh more, however more in this case may mean the pup is being overfed and / or growing too fast.

If not, the dog may be 'over-boned' – so then they really then need to stay slim, as heavier boned dogs can be more prone to joint & bone problems.

Remember: if you're putting your dog in the show ring, the only minimum requirement under the standard is 28"/71.7cm (height) for females & 30"/76.2cm (height) for males (and that was generally intended to apply specifically to adult Great Danes, and most registered Great Danes achieve this minimum height as puppies in the first year).



Coprophagia

The consumption of faeces. From the Greek copros (“faeces”) and phagein (“to eat”).

Thank you to www.jezrose.co.uk with permission.

The act of eating faeces is split into three groups:

- Autocoprophagia is when the dog eats its own faeces
- Intraspecific coprophagia is when the dog eats the faeces of other dogs only
- Interspecific coprophagia is when the dog eats the faeces of other animals (deer, cat etc)

Coprophagia is a common occurrence in dogs and although socially unacceptable for humans (and particularly unpleasant if the dog often licks people) it is quite normal for dogs.

The behaviour in dogs is innate, particularly for female dogs. A female dog is genetically programmed to care for her young and part of this is keeping the den clean. She will eat the faeces of the young pups in order to keep the den clean and prevent disease.

This trait is present in all dogs (as male dogs do also assist in the cleaning of the den – interestingly enough for predatory rather than paternal reasons, in order to reduce the scent and therefore attraction to predators) and a number of things can trigger it.

What’s the cause?

Unfortunately there is no one cause – much to the frustration of many dog owners. The most common possible causes include:

Stress

Normally stemming from harsh or excessive punishment, the dog reverts back to puppy-like activities which act as a comfort blanket.

Hunger

Dogs are opportunists and food-driven breeds like Labradors will always see the appeal given the chance! Our canine friends are genetically from wild stock who were scavengers and hunters: poo is just another food source. The waste product of dogs that are fed poor quality dog foods will be rich in preservatives.

Boredom

If there’s nothing for the dog to do and no stimulation, then it nearly always come down to trashing things and eating poo.

Vitamin deficiency

The act of Coprophagia may well be a natural physiological instinct to add minerals or vitamins deficient in its diet.

Puppyhood

Puppies explore much like human babies, with their mouths. It is extremely common for puppies to eat faeces and the vast majority grow out of the habit.

The Pineapple 'Myth'

I say 'myth' because I'm yet to find anyone who has had any success with this advice but there may well be someone who it has worked for. The 'myth' is that by feeding your dog pineapple, it will stop it from eating its own faeces. It's fairly logical as Coprophagia is often caused by an enzyme deficiency and pineapple contains a proteolytic enzyme called bromelain. Bromelain breaks down proteins, acting as an aid to digestion.

How Do You Stop It?

Here are my top tips to quickly stop your dog eating faeces:

- Breaking a habit like coprophagia requires vigilance in order for it to be successful – keep a keen look out for your dog to make sure you get to them in time before it eats the faeces. It is probably worth keeping the dog on a lead in public areas (where irresponsible dog owners allow their dogs to foul) until you get the problem resolved as the key is prevention: preventing the dog from eating poo.
- Don't create a big drama, scold the dog or go over the top trying to prevent the dog getting the faeces: the dog will assume the faeces has high value and you will exacerbate the problem. Keep calm, use distraction techniques and praise highly for the dog ignoring the faeces and giving you attention instead.
- Teach a solid "off" or "leave it" cue. Use this cue to prevent the dog approaching the faeces and praise with a treat and fuss for leaving the faeces every time. You will soon break the dog's habit and it will learn that leaving the faeces means a treat!
- Clicker train your dog and use distraction (like calling the dog's name) when it approaches faeces then use the clicker to reward the dog leaving the faeces.
- Ensure your dog is getting a healthy and balanced diet. There are obvious health benefits to this. Try feeding your dog two or three times a day to rule out hunger as a cause of coprophagia.

If your dog's habit is autocoprophagia:

- Keep a close eye on the dog and ensure you pick up its faeces as soon as the dog has toileted and make sure you keep your garden/toileting area clean of any faeces.
- Make sure you're feeding your dog enough (approximately 2% per day of his target weight); not too little or too much as feeding too much can also cause Coprophagia as the dog tries to regulate its digestion.

There are also a range of commercial products available should you not have the time or inclination to train your dog. These chemically enhanced products make the dog's faeces taste unpleasant and therefore discourage the habit. Obviously this only works if your dog's habit is autocoprophagia.

As with any aspect of dog training or behaviour modelling, I believe the process can not only achieve what you want more organically but enhance the bond and relationship you have with your dog also.

A Final Word of Warning

Although unpleasant, Coprophagia is largely harmless. However, you must ensure your dog is kept well up to date with its vaccinations and worming regime. There is a high risk that the dog may ingest parasites through eating faeces and if not protected may become severely ill.

It is a habit that is not just “nasty” but that does run very real health risks. It may well take a month of your vigilance to break the habit but if there is no change in your dog’s habit, consult your vet to make sure there’s not an underlying health issue (dog’s often begin eating faeces when they have parasites or if they aren’t absorbing sufficient nutrients or problems with the pancreas).

A professional dog behaviourist will normally be recommended if there are no health issues to work on a structured behaviour program helping you solve the problem.



Supplements

Always check with your Breeder before giving supplements to a Great Dane puppy.

A Note of Caution

Remember that not all human supplements are safe for dogs. In a retrospective study, it was reported that 47 dogs had accidentally ingested a supplement containing guarana and ma huang, herbal supplements that are natural sources of caffeine and ephedrine (commonly referred to as speed).

The outcome of this was disastrous: 17 percent of the dogs died or were euthanized, and all of the dogs displayed clinical signs of toxicosis.

When choosing a supplement for your dog, it is best to consult your Vet to ensure it is safe and is not going to interact with any medications your dog may currently be taking.

If your dog is going to have an adverse reaction, it will usually occur within 72 hours after the introduction of the supplement, so monitor your pet closely when you are giving a new supplement.

With most supplements it will take about 6 – 8 weeks to see a change in your dog's condition, so be patient and wait to see a result.

Feeding supplements can be a valuable tool to enhance your dog's diet and help him or her maintain optimal health however [if your dog is being fed a diet of high quality ingredients there may not be any reason as to why you need to give your dogs supplements unless you are attempting to treat a condition.](#)

The best way to keep your dog as healthy as possible is to provide high-quality nutrition with supplements as necessary, long walks, playing time, and snuggling on the couch.

Vitamin C

Ester C is the preferred product as it is gentler on the stomach.

When puppies are growing, particularly when they are teething they may need help absorbing Calcium from their Diet.

Dosage rate: Ester C can help with this at the rate of 2 x Ester C 500mg tablets per day, ideally one in the morning and one at night.

Vitamin C can upset tummies so you may need to start at one tablet and watch the bowel movements before you add the 2nd tablet.

Check with your breeder as their dosage rate and recommendation regarding the use of this supplement may be different than stated here.

Ester C can also help dogs with **Skin problems** and **Hip / Elbow Dysplasia**.

Dogs with high value for food generally accept the pills mixed in with their meals, if they leave them behind you may have to manually put them down your dogs throat.

Evening Primrose Oil (EPO)

Can be given to entire bitches all year round to assist them in managing their Hormones especially bitches who have false pregnancies.

EPO is also beneficial to dogs with Atopic allergies; it can assist with re-building the defective skin barrier if that is a problem you are working with.

Dosage rate: is 1 x 1,000mg capsule per 5kgs of body weight. Due to the large dosage you may want to break these up between meals.

Your dog should have no problems accepting these capsules when added to their meals. If they do you can break open the capsules and add to their meals.

Omega 3, 6 & 9 – generally given in the form of Fish Oil

You do not need to give Fish Oil supplements to your dog if your dog appears healthy, has good skin, a nice shiny coat and is arthritis free.

Dosage rate: If you believe your dog's coat and skin could improve and you would like to help your dog with their joint problems you can supplement your dog with a high quality Fish oil given at the dosage rate of 1 x 1,000mg capsule per 10kgs of body weight.

Your dog should have no problem accepting these capsules; if they do you can break them open and mix the oil in with their meals.

When giving Fish Oils, you need to ensure you're also giving a Vit E supplement or that the Fish Oil Capsule contains Vit E as Fish Oil depletes Vit E in the body during digestion.

Joint Supplements

Stiffness, especially upon waking, is one of the main clues that your dog may have arthritic activity in his joints. Fortunately, there are a number of supplements available to help improve the health of the joint and cartilage.

Supplements for joint health take time to work, so it is always best to start early. If you have a highly active dog, a dog with known joint problems, or a breed prone to joint issues, you may want to begin supplements while your dog is young and before they show any signs of problems.

Most joint supplements contain glucosamine HCL (note: glucosamine sulfate is less digestible), MSM (methylsulfonylmethane), and chondroitin. These are naturally occurring nutrients that the body produces and which can be added to the diet.

As dogs age, or if they experience physical stress (such as injury), the need for these nutrients may exceed the body's ability to supply them. There may also be other ingredients in the supplement which may or may not be beneficial, but they are unlikely to cause harm.

The recommended dose will depend on your dog, but a good estimate is 1000 – 1500mg/day glucosamine HCL, 1000mg/day for MSM, and 800 – 200mg/day for dogs between 25 – 50kg. For dogs between 10 – 25 kg, give half the dose mentioned above and for dogs less than 10 kg, quarter it.

NZ Green Lipped Mussels

NZ Green Lipped Mussel is gaining great respect among dog owners for the results that it is bringing in arthritic dogs. For Great Danes it is generally safe to give them the human adult dose.

Protexin Probiotic

PROTEXIN is a live microbial feed supplement (probiotic). It improves intestinal microbial balance by maintaining the digestive system, optimising digestion of feed and naturally enhancing health.

Protexin can be used for the treatment and control of scouring and diarrhoea; exclusion and suppression of pathogens; following antibiotic therapy in all animals to re-establish gut microflora; improving weight gain and intestinal balance by maintaining the digestive system and optimising digestion of feed; periods of stress; naturally enhancing health. Non-toxic and residue free.

Human Probiotics

Dogs can generally safely take human probiotics such as Inner Health, in Great Danes you would generally follow the adult dosage rate, check with your Vet if you are unsure.

Dog owners are usually advised to give their dogs probiotics when their dogs are on a course of antibiotics. Probiotics should be given at least 2–4 hours apart from antibiotics so they won't be destroyed

Helping Calm Nerves & Hyperactive Dogs

Do you have a Great Dane that is a bit nervy/highly strung/Hyperactive and could do with some help to relax?

There are a number of products available to our canine buddies that can help de-stress them and take the edge off.

Many of these products are 'alternative/complimentary' and therefore your Vet may not be well versed in them, however it is important you speak to your Vet before giving supplements to your dog.

A Vet check could bring to light a medical problem that could be contributing to the problem, your Vet may also like to discuss the possibility of drug / supplement interactions.

It is first recommended that you [take a close look at what you're feeding your dog](#). Consider using our Kibble Comparison Spreadsheet to see if your dogs Kibble contains mostly high quality ingredients vs low quality fillers that could be affecting your dog's behavior. Diet does affect behavior just as it does in children and adults alike.

Also [consider ditching the processed expensive commercial dog treats](#) full of chemicals, artificial flavor & colour enhancers and make your own – a \$4 pack of sausages cooked and put in a zip lock bag can last a whole week or more in the fridge and you can just break off what you want and dogs love them.

[Exercise is very important](#), dogs genetically are 'migratory', this means in the wild they would migrate many KM's per day. Consider upping your walks to 2 a day (if age appropriate), consider safe off lead runs where the dog can really stretch their legs and consider increasing the distance of your walks (if age appropriate). If you have a treadmill your adult Dane can learn to use it.

[Supplements are not a miracle cure](#), they are typically recommended to assist dogs who are participating in a behavioural modification program / training. Not all supplements work for all dogs and sometimes it's a case of trial and error.

If your dog's quality of life is being hampered by its nerves/emotions please seek the help of a qualified Behaviourist. On our downloads page we have a list of Behaviourists we can recommend.

It is important to understand that a dog like any animal is a product of its genes; the environment however can turn on and off genes so if something traumatic (such as a dog fight, heavy discipline, abuse etc.) occurs in your dog's life this can affect the dogs personally going forward.

LOVE IS A GREAT DANE!

Some dogs are born with nervy/highly strung temperaments, although they may never be cured, they may be assisted with supplementation and behavioural programs.

Some dogs only experience short term stress and anxiety such as car travel, going for walks etc.

Why is it important to help nervy dogs?

- A nervy dog can become a fear bitter if the right situation presents.
- You may not be able to do all the fun things you wanted to do with your dog because they emotionally cannot cope with those activities.
- It's not a nice way for a dog to live, and very rarely does it get better on its own.
- Helping a nervy dog to become more stable will make them more enjoyable to live with which means you have a stronger bond with your dog.

The following are products some that other dog owners use to work alongside with behavioural programs, these are not necessarily a recommendation and you should always speak to your Vet & behaviourist before starting any supplement.

- [Petark Calm powder](#)
- [Vetalogica Tranquil Formula](#)
- [Greenpet Nerve Tonic](#)
- [Vitamin B Complex](#)
- [Skullcap Powder](#)



Clomicalm – Vet only medication

CLOMICALM is used to treat behavioural problems in dogs and cats. CLOMICALM is a combination of a tricyclic antidepressant and a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

In dogs, CLOMICALM is used to treat anxiety disorders such as destructiveness, excessive vocalisation and loss of toilet control associated with separation anxiety.

In dogs, CLOMICALM is used to treat stereotypic behaviours (obsessive-compulsive disorders), such as tail chasing and over-grooming.

CLOMICALM decreases anxiety in animals by increasing the level of certain chemicals in the brain. It must be used in conjunction with behavioural training.

Once an animal is less anxious, they can undergo training to improve behavioural problems.

CLOMICALM is not indicated to treat aggression in dogs.



Thundershirt



Are you looking for a solution to your dog's anxiety issues? Whether the problem is thunderstorms, fireworks, travel, shyness, separation anxiety or even problem barking,

Thundershirt's patent-pending design applies a gentle, constant pressure that has a dramatic calming effect for most dogs.

Based on surveys completed by over two thousand customers, over 80% of dogs show significant improvement in symptoms when using Thundershirt. Thundershirt is already helping tens of thousands of dogs around the world, and is recommended by thousands of veterinarians and dog trainers.

Available from some large pet shops and online stores.

GD RR NSW use Thundershirt's with most of our foster dogs and purchase them from www.k9pro.com.au

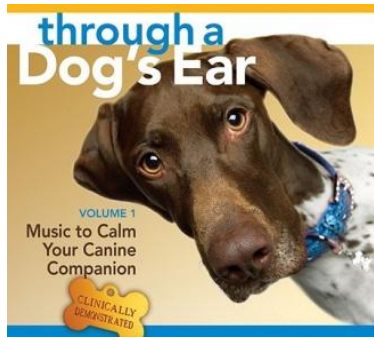


Storm Defender Cape

Research shows that dogs sense the static charge build up before a thunderstorm. This same charge, if it gets big enough, produces lightning. Knowing that, it makes sense for dogs to be afraid and seek shelter. It is an "early warning" system for lightning.

When properly used, the Storm Defender cape will reduce the dog's anxiety. The cape has a special metallic lining that discharges a dog's fur and shields him from the static charge build up reducing his sensitivity to the charge. The dog gets relief, and after a few storms begins to learn that the secondary triggers like rain, wind, thunder, barometric pressure and smells are no longer to be feared. With the cape on, the dog feels as though he has found a safe place. <http://www.stormdefender.com>

Approx \$60.00.



Through a Dog's Ear

Music can soothe the savage beast—including your dog! Millions of dog guardians have grappled with behaviour problems caused by their dog's anxiety—from fits of barking when their beagle is left home alone to the nervous whimpering of their dachshund during a thunderstorm. In tests conducted in kennels, shelters, clinics, and dog households, Dr. Wagner and team made amazing strides in learning how dogs respond to music. Created to resonate specifically with the canine nervous system, this psycho-acoustically designed classical music has been demonstrated to ease stress and reduce canine anxiety. In the research trials, twice as many anxiety behaviours were reduced with this special music as compared to conventional classical selections.

Approx \$30.00.



Rescue Remedy – Bach Flower Remedy

- * Rescue remedy supports calm behavior in pets, including dogs, cats, and horses
- * Blends together five different flower extracts to support serene behaviour

Rescue Remedy Pet is a flower remedy, natural way to help support calm behaviour in pets during stressful situations. Ideal for times such as travel, thunderstorms, or just going to the veterinarian's office. Made from a combination of five soothing flower essences including helianthemum, clematis, and impatiens.

www.soulessences.com.au

Approx \$20.00.



Exercise

Always check with your Breeder about exercise limitations for your puppy.

Great Dane puppies do need exercise, but many Great Dane owners become paranoid about exercising their puppy because they are a fragile breed when young. Exercise needs to be appropriate for the Breed and age of the dog.

Exercise helps to create good muscle tone that helps keep the dog in good physical shape. If a dog does not have this muscle tone they can easily become injured.

Over-exercise places strain on rapidly growing joints and bones that could create growth problems and / or pain and discomfort in adult Great Danes.

Types of exercise to avoid with puppies

- Pounding the pavement for long distances.
- Letting them run and run and run until they can't run any more.
- Allowing them to participate in rough play with other dogs.
- Being a jogging partner.
- Running along side of a bike.

Off-lead exercise in a safe area is a great way for puppies to build their muscle tone. Be sure to clip your puppy back on lead before they run themselves down, puppies will just keep going and going if you don't stop them.

10–15 minutes off lead exercise for a puppy less than 6 months of age is more than enough and may be too much for some puppies.

A 5–15 minute walk around the block is appropriate for puppies under 6 months of age.

From 6–12 months of age you can start building up distance but no more than 30 minutes of forced exercise per day. Forced exercise refers to leashed walking.

From 12 months

You can start building longer distances up, however be careful not to overdo it until the growth plates close at approx. 18 months.

From 18 months

The growth plates start to close or have closed and you can start building your Dane up to going much longer distances. They can become your jogging partner or start training for their Endurance Title (20 kms) if they are physically sound and healthy.

Be mindful of road work, it is great for their muscle tone however it does take a toll on their joints just like jogging does to ours.

Swimming

Swimming is great exercise for dogs. If you can get your dog to a beach or doggy swimming pool it would be greatly beneficial to your dog.



The Cost of a Dane through their first year of life

Puppies (2–12 months)

Puppies are going to cost a fair bit of money, mainly because they're growing and eating a lot, need to get vaccinations, going through a lot of toys and so forth.

The following items and prices may or may not relate to you and your current situation / environment.

Purchase of Puppy from Registered Breeder:	Approx. \$1,200.00 – \$2,500.00
Vet Visits for Vaccinations & Miscellaneous: <i>Antibiotics Approx \$100 for a weeks' course</i>	Approx: \$500.00
Dog Jackets, (you'll go through a few if you have a winter puppy):	Approx. \$100.00–\$200.00
Puppy School / Obedience Club:	Approx: \$100.00–\$300.00
Replacement of items puppy destroyed when you weren't watching:	Approx: \$500.00 (especially if this includes your \$300 Sunglasses)
Premium Kibble – 1 bag approx every 2–4 weeks @ \$120.00 per bag Budget Kibble i.e. Bonnie – 2–4 weeks @ \$50.00 per bag	Approx: \$3,120.00 for Premium Approx: \$1,300.00 for Budget
Training treats and Chew Bones:	Approx: \$200.00
Toys depending on if the puppy destroys toys or not:	Approx: \$100.00–\$200.00
Collars / Leads / Harness / Halters etc:	Approx: \$100.00–\$200.00
Dog Insurance	Approx: \$400.00
Books / DVD's on Training:	Approx: \$100.00
Supplements:	Approx: \$100.00

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Bedding:	Approx \$100.00-\$300.00
Crate:	Approx: \$200.00
Boarding @ approx. \$25 per day:	Approx: \$175.00
Kennel / Dog Run:	\$150.00 – \$1,500.00
Council Registration:	\$50.00 – \$150.00
Grooming supplies, shampoos, brushes, sprays:	\$100.00 – \$200.00
Wormers / Flea Treatment:	Approx: \$300.00
Miscellaneous:	Approx: \$300.00
Great Dane puppies cost approx. to obtain and raise in their first year of life.	\$6,000 – \$8,000

Please Note: The approx of \$6,000 includes the minimum amount of each item listed (in some cases less) and does not include some items that some owners may not purchase such as a dog run, training books etc.

This approx. does not include extras such as Vet Care for Illness / Accidents / Emergencies.



Young Adults (1 – 3 years of age)

Young Adult Great Danes can still cost a bit more to feed as they haven't finished growing yet.

The below figures represent 'per year'.

The following items and prices may or may not relate to you and your current situation / environment.

Vet Visits for Vaccinations, De-sexing & Miscellaneous:	Approx: \$600.00
Dog Jackets, both warming & cooling:	Approx. \$100.00–\$200.00
Obedience Club:	Approx: \$80.00
Behaviourist / Private Trainer Fees:	Approx: \$300.00
Replacement of items dog destroyed when you weren't watching:	Approx: \$200.00
Premium Kibble – 1 bag approx every 2–4 weeks @ \$120.00 per bag Budget Kibble i.e. Bonnie – 2–4 weeks @ \$50.00 per bag	Approx: \$3,120.00 for Premium Approx: \$1,300.00 for Budget
Training / Home alone treats and Chew Bones:	Approx: \$200.00
Toys depending on if the dog destroys toys or not:	Approx: \$100.00–\$200.00
Collars & Leads:	Approx: \$50.00
Dog Insurance: <i>You need to pay your Vet first and then send in your claim, not all claims are accepted.</i>	Approx: \$400.00
Books / DVD's on Training:	Approx: \$100.00
Supplements:	Approx: \$100.00
Wormer's / Flea Treatment:	Approx: \$300.00
New Bed:	\$100.00 – \$200.00

Miscellaneous:	Approx: \$300.00
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Great Dane Young Adults cost approx per year to maintain a young adult dog between 1–3 years of age.	\$3,600 – \$5,000
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Please Note: The approx of \$3,600 includes the minimum amount of each item listed (in some cases less) and does not include some items that some owners may not purchase such as a Behaviourist / Trainer, Supplements, Books / DVD's etc.

This approx. does not include extras such as Vet Care for Illness / Accidents / Emergencies.



Mature Adults (3 – 5 years of age)

Mature Great Danes don't generally cost as much to maintain as the younger ones unless of course something goes wrong. The below figures represent 'per year'. **The following items and prices may or may not relate to you and your current situation / environment.**

Vet Visits for Vaccinations & Misc:	Approx: \$200.00
Obedience Club:	Approx: \$80.00
Premium Kibble – 1 bag approx every 3–4 weeks @ \$120.00 per bag: Budget Kibble i.e. Bonnie – 3–4 weeks @ \$50.00 per bag	Approx: \$1,440.00 Approx: \$600.00
Training / Home alone treats and Chew Bones:	Approx: \$200.00
Toys depending on if the dog destroys toys or not:	Approx: \$100.00
Dog Insurance: <i>You need to pay your Vet first and then send in your claim.</i>	Approx: \$400.00
Bedding:	Approx \$100.00–\$300.00
Boarding @ approx. \$25 per day:	Approx: \$175.00
Supplements:	Approx: \$100.00
Wormer's / Flea Treatment:	Approx: \$300.00
Miscellaneous:	Approx: \$300.00
Great Dane Mature Adults cost approx. per year to maintain a mature adult dog between 3–5 years of age.	\$2,500 – \$3,500

Please Note: The approx of \$2,500 includes the minimum amount of each item listed (in some cases less) and does not include some items that some owners may not purchase such as Obedience, Toys etc.

This approx. does not include extras such as Vet Care for Illness / Accidents / Emergencies.



Wonder Years (5+ years of age)

Older Great Danes may cost a little bit more than 3–5 year old Danes, as older age sets in so do the problems that come with age i.e. Arthritis, Cancer, Bloat / Torsion etc.

The following items and prices may or may not relate to you and your current situation / environment.

Vet Visits for Vaccinations & Misc:	Approx: \$200.00
Vet Visits for serious illness (generally not a per year item)	Approx. \$500.00 – \$1,000.00
Vet Care for Bloat/Torsion (add more if it occurs after hours) (generally this is a one off even as stomach tacking (Gastropexy) or euthanasia is the result)	Approx: \$2,000.00 – \$3,000.00
Premium Kibble – 1 bag approx every 3 weeks @ \$120.00 per bag:	Approx: \$2,040.00
Treats and Chew Bones:	Approx: \$100.00
Toys depending on if the dog destroys toys or not:	Approx: \$100.00
Dog Insurance: <i>You need to pay your Vet first and then send in your claim, not all claims are accepted.</i>	Approx: \$400.00
Bedding:	Approx \$100.00–\$300.00
Boarding @ approx. \$25 per day:	Approx: \$175.00
Supplements:	Approx: \$200.00
Wormer's / Flea Treatment:	Approx: \$300.00
Cremation:	Approx: \$300.00 – \$600.00
Miscellaneous:	Approx: \$300.00
Older Great Danes Adults cost approx. to maintain.	\$3,000 – \$4,000

Please Note: The approx does not include extras such as Vet Care for Illness / Accidents / Emergencies.



The Cost of a Dane throughout their lives Grand Total

Grand Total

Based on a 'healthy' Great Dane's life, you can expect to invest approximately the following amounts. If your dog has any serious one off or ongoing medical problems it can be very costly.

If your Great Dane lives until they are 5 years old, you can expect to invest:

Approx: \$15,000

If your Great Dane lives until they are 6 years old, you can expect to invest:

Approx: \$18,000

If your Great Dane lives until they are 8 years old, you can expect to invest:

Approx: \$24,000

If your Great Dane lives until they are 10 years old, you can expect to invest:

Approx: \$30,000

Therefore, in the average life span of a Great Dane, you could possibly invest a deposit for a Mortgage into raising & maintaining your dog.

It's important to realise that everything costs more in Great Dane size, from beds through to medication!



The Cost of a Show / Performance Dane throughout their lives

Pet vs. Show / Performance dogs

Show Dogs / Performance Dogs Expenses

- Show Training / Performance Sport Training
- Show / Trial Entries
- Club / Organisation Memberships
- Clothing
- Food & Beverages at events
- Accommodation
- Petrol
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Dog Trailer / Custom Cargo Barriers
- Grooming supplies
- Different collar and leads
- Canine Chiro / Muscle Manipulator / Physio / Acupuncture
- Equipment e.g. Stackers / Agility Jumps / Dumbbells etc.
- Books / DVD's on the subject
- Subscriptions
- Crates
- Gazebo, Mat, Chairs etc.

Having a Show / Performance Great Dane can easily add another \$1,000.00 – \$2,000.00 per year.



The Cost of a Breeding, Whelping & Raising a Litter

A very rough estimate...

Pre-Breeding Health Screening:	
Hip and Elbow Scores:	\$350.00
Thyroid testing:	\$70.00
ECG (Heart):	\$70.00
Typical Pregnancy costs:	
Progesterone tests:	\$300.00
Pregnancy Vitamins:	\$40.00
Stud Fee:	\$1,500.00
Artificial Insemination (AI) fee:	\$600.00
Ultrasound:	\$120.00
Caesar – if needed:	\$1,400.00
(If outside business hours or an emergency can be double)	
If you are going to import Semen from overseas, this can cost approx: \$3,500.00 to purchase, ship & store, sometimes more.	
	\$3,500.00
Whelping Area:	
Whelping Box:	\$250.00
Vet Bed:	\$180.00
Heat mat/heat light + Power:	\$90.00
Whelping Kit: (www.whelpingsupplies.com.au)	\$200.00
Additional:	
Oxy:	\$100.00
Bitch gets Mastitis:	\$200.00
Puppy formula, plus bottles as bitch cannot feed the puppies:	\$400.00
Preparing puppies for their new homes:	
Worming 2/4/6/8 weeks:	\$120.00
Vaccination x how many puppies:	\$45.00 each
Micro chipping x how many puppies:	\$25.00 each
Food:	
Dry food for 8 weeks:	\$500.00
Mince for 8 weeks:	\$200.00

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Plus – dew claws (if you will be doing this) and Bitch check up after litter + ANKC registration.	\$ Differs
Approx total to Breed & Whelp a Great Dane (conservative amount)	\$8,700.00



Illustration from The Dog Owner's Manual, published by QUIRK BOOKS

Dog years Calculator

Sadly, we are lucky to see our Danes head into double digits.

Due to their size they age more quickly than smaller sized dogs. An 8 year old Great Dane would be 66 years of age vs. an 8 year old Maltese who would only be 54 years old in dog years.

Some blood lines have longevity; however this is not a guarantee that your Dane will live into double digits. The length of a dog's life is related to so many different variables including; genetics, environment, diet, exposure to chemicals, mental health etc.

The risk of bloat is said to increase once a Great Dane turns 5 years of age so we can lose a number of Great Danes to this condition if the Bloat advances to Torsion from 5+ years of age.

Celebrate Pedigree Great Danes who lived until or past 10 years of age:

www.greatdanes.net.au/double_digit.htm



Health Insurance for your Great Dane

Great Danes can cost a lot of money when things go wrong.

More and more dog owners are now signing up for health insurance for their pets even if they don't have health insurance for themselves!

Great Danes can cost thousands and thousands of dollars when something medically goes wrong.

Something as simple as a small bone fragment getting lodged in the intestines causing a blockage can cost you around \$2,000.00, or your dog could snap an anterior cruciate ligament when playing which could cost you approx. \$1,500.00 to much more if completed by a specialist.

Dogs usually like to have emergencies outside business hours or on public holidays so it will cost more going to an Emergency Vet.

With insurance you will still need to pay the initial bill and then you can put a claim into your insurance company.

To get the most out of your insurance company you need to **sign up for insurance before your dog goes to the Vet for the 1st time**, the reason for this is insurance companies can label previous visits as pre-existing conditions.

Word of warning: Some insurance companies do not cover bloat or have a withholding period.

Be sure to read all the Terms and Conditions before accepting the plan.

Side note: If your dog passes away you will be expected with most insurers to continue paying your monthly fees until the next renewal is due.



Great Danes can be painful

Lethal tails being one of the dangers.

Great Dane owners joke and say you're not a Great Dane owner until you've had one of the many common Dane injuries:

- Black eyes
- Split lips
- Chipped teeth
- Bruised feet
- Broken toes / fingers
- Blood nose

Some Great Danes have lethal tails, when they're happy they can really hurt you! Great Dane tails are at face height to young children and groin height to most adult males so beware!

Due to Great Danes being a very large dog that can really hurt you just by standing on your feet or running by you fast and knocking you, many a Great Dane owner has landed on their tooshie when a Dane who forgets their manners is about!

Children will be knocked over by Great Danes, they will get whacked in the face by their tails and they will get hurt from time to time.

Adults will get hurt by Great Danes, new Great Dane owners especially who haven't learned not to lean over a Great Danes head to give them a kiss.



Coffee Tables and low lying objects

Just at the right height for a Dane's tail to knock everything flying!

The Great Dane tail is an awesome weapon.....a weapon for knocking items off tables and shelves!

When you own a Great Dane you learn very quickly to put valued items up high!

Great Danes can easily break TV screens or send them flying when their inside play gets out of control.

It's best to teach a Great Dane that when they are inside the house no craziness is allowed, you can teach your Dane this by gently taking them by the collar and putting them outside every time they get too much.

A Great Dane doesn't have to be in a crazy mood to knock things off tables though; a happy tail will do just that in a matter of seconds.

Your guests will quickly learn to watch their wine glasses!

It is also very important not to leave things on tables or bench tops that a Dane could swallow such as medication that you may have on the table / draws next to your bed.

If you have a dog with a very happy tail you will need to watch the end of the tail for splits, as a Dane who splits their tail can get it infected and end up needing part of it amputated.

You'll know when your Dane has split their tail because all the blood it can look like a murder scene!



Slobber & Poo!

The joy of Danes!

Slobber

The Great Dane is generally a dry mouthed dog except generally after drinking. They may also salivate when stressed or when they see food.

Not all Danes slobber; typically the ones with more flew (lip) are the droolers.

If you have a slobbery Dane you may find having a slobber towel in the living room / kitchen a good idea so you can wipe the dog's mouth after drinking.

When Danes shake their heads they will send drool flying if they recently had a drink etc, which can be quite shocking for your visitors not used to having slobber on their nice clothes!

You will be wiping your walls and ceilings down on a regular basis to clear them of dried slobber! It can be quite amazing how high up slobber can reach!

Windows are not safe either; they will usually be coated in a thick coat of slime if not washed down regularly if the windows are the ones your Danes like to look out of.

Poo

A Great Dane is a large dog so as you can imagine what goes in must come out! A lot of new Great Dane owners are often shocked by the size – it is a 2 hander job if you're using a standard size poo bag!

Diet can contribute to poo size; lower quality food can create a larger output!

Digestion can be a problem in some Great Danes, so if the poo is always on the soft side, speak to your Vet. A diet change and or / dietary supplement may assist.



Vehicles suitable for Great Danes

Your sports car dream may stay a dream!

Although Great Danes can be quite compact dogs when they want you'll need to consider if your vehicle is suitable for a Great Dane.

Many Great Danes do not 'comfortably' fit on the back seat. They'll generally need a wider area where they can curl up or spread out, in saying this there are plenty back seat Great Danes around!

People Movers, 4WDs & Station Wagons are popular choices for Great Dane owners.

It's not unusual to see Great Dane owners remove the back seats from their vehicles to fit in their Great Danes!

On the back of the Ute?

Travelling on the back of a Ute can be dangerous for Giant Breeds, as their high centre of gravity means they are easily thrown off balance which really doesn't make them a suitable Ute dog.

If you do decide to put your Dane on the back of a Ute, ensure the dog is tethered correctly. There are systems that can tether the dog from both sides and keep the dog in the middle of the tray.

Travel Harness / Strapped In / Cargo Barriers / Crate

Dogs can become dangerous flying objects in car accidents so make sure your Great Dane is secure in your vehicle.

Hair on the Ceiling & Slobber on Windows

With a Great Dane travelling in your car you will get their hair on the ceiling of the car, plus slobber all over the windows!



Great Dane Beds

They can be a costly affair!

Great Danes need good quality bedding that cushions their weight / joints and prevents them from getting calluses on weight-bearing areas such as their elbows.

Great Dane bedding is not cheap! You'll be looking at least \$100.00 for a good quality Great Dane bed. One of the leading Giant sized beds is closer to \$200.00.

Many Great Dane owners use single mattresses for their Great Danes. This can be a cost effective choice!

Although you may be tempted to not spend the money you may find that better quality and longevity comes with a higher price tag so will be more cost effective in the long term.

www.dogbedsgalore.com.au and www.ebay.com.au are good places to start your research.

Snooza [Futons](#) are a good product in all seasons and can be good beds for the ones you just scatter around the house, they warm in Winter and cool in Summer.

Snooza also have one of the biggest beds on the market called the [D1000](#) which many Great Dane owners use as it has a tough canvas cover and is a good size.

If you purchase this bed you'll want to put a quilt / blankets on it to lessen the noise from the canvas cover when it is new and to add extra comfort.



A Safe place for your Great Dane Puppy / Adult

Dog Runs / Pens

Great Dane puppies are very fragile whilst they are growing, so if you have other dogs you'll need to ensure your puppy is kept safe. This generally means separating the puppy from the other dog/s when you are not there to supervise.

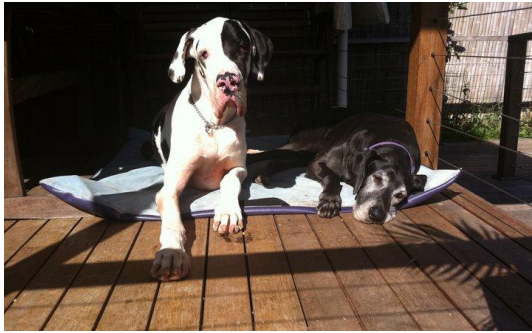
Dog Runs can be made or purchased. If you purchase a Dog Run it may cost you anywhere from \$600.00 – \$2,000.00 depending on the size and quality. eBay is a great place to start your search.

Even if you do not have any other dogs, a dog run is a place you can put your puppy when you're not home that you know they'll be safe in.

A Dog Run should have a shed portion attached where the dog can get shelter and go to bed. The shelter should be placed in the shade, if no shade is available then you'll need to make some with shade sails etc.

If your dog is a digger you'll need to keep this in mind, you may need to put your dog run on concrete rather than grass / gravel.

If your dog is an escape artist you may need to put a roof on it.



De-sexing your Great Dane

There are many schools of thought on this topic.

One of the most balanced views we've come across is by Dr Becker and you can watch her video here: <http://youtu.be/enPCZA1WFKY>

If you are not a registered breeder or are not going to put your Great Dane in the show ring, you may choose to de-sex your dog so you do not have to worry about unplanned matings, associated health and aggression problems.

There are a number of dogs across all breeds, usually males that **do not handle their hormones well**. They may become more aggressive when they reach sexual maturity, they may become pushier and they may suffer anxiety due to simply not being able to handle their hormones.

They are effectively teenagers with hormones surging through them which you may very well remember can be confusing and frustrating!

Many dogs **handle their hormones just fine** and you may not experience any problems what so ever.

Many Great Dane breeders prefer Great Danes are not de-sexed until they are physically mature. Some Great Dane breeders believe that the dogs hormones are necessary for the dog to fully mature physically.

However, Great Danes typically do not physically mature until 3–4 years of age; this may just be too long to wait for some Great Dane owners.

A number of Great Dane breeders agree that 9–12 months of age is a reasonable age to de-sex a Great Dane.

In saying this, if you are having a lot of problems with your Great Dane who is having difficulties handling their hormones or you simply do not want to deal with sexual maturity, then de-sexing before 12 months may be the most beneficial thing for all involved – ideally you'll speak to your breeder and Vet to discuss the pros and cons of this.

De-sexing is not a cure to learned behavioural problems.

Some breeders believe that if you de-sex a male Great Dane prior to sexual maturity they will look more like a female Great Dane. Others believe that isn't factual and that the dog was going to look like that anyway given there are many different styles of Danes.

The average pet owner is not fussed with the finer details of what their Great Dane looks like; they are more concerned with the temperament of their dogs.

Turn to Google, your Vet and your Breeder to find out what the latest research says about de-sexing as there are pros and cons to consider.

Why can entire (undesexed) dogs fight?

Undesexed dogs generally fight for one main reason.....the right to reproduce.

Some entire bitches cannot tolerate other entire Bitches at any time; other entire bitches will only not tolerate other entire bitches when they are in heat / season.

Some are perfectly fine.

It is a similar case with entire males, however they seem to be known for being more toey, for example, they can become reactive just seeing other males.

Some don't have a care in the world.

Many agree that bitches fight worse than dogs (male dogs) and that bitches have been known to kill other bitches.

It is recommended that if you are going to keep undesexed dogs of the same sex that you have them separated when you cannot supervise and be prepared for the fact that they may not even be able to be around each other when you are home.

Some breeders have gone many years having their dogs out together with no problems and then one day out of the blue a massive fight breaks out that can be difficult to break up and can have devastating results such as serious injuries that could be permanent, or even death.



Teething

It can a difficult time for the puppy & the owner

Teething Schedule for Permanent Teeth (Adult Teeth)

Incisors:	3 to 5 months
Canines:	4 to 6 months
Premolars:	4 to 6 months
Molars:	5 to 7 months

Puppies start to get their adult teeth at about three to five months of age. This teething stage, during which adult teeth replace the deciduous or baby teeth, usually lasts about two to three months.

Just like human babies, puppies may have sore mouths and drooling during the teething period. If your puppy has a really sore mouth, it can contribute to going off their feed but usually not enough to affect their weight or growth.

Don't allow people to pat your puppy's head hard during teething as it can really hurt, puppies can suffer from headaches during teething so patting puppy on the head during these times can be quite painful.

Make sure you give your puppy suitable chew toys during teething periods. Frozen treats can really help soothe their gums. Destruction of house hold items can increase at this time, so make sure you watch your puppy and provide appropriate toys.

Puppy's ears can do some very weird things during teething! If your puppy is a show dog you may need to tape your puppy's ears, you'll need to ask your breeder how to do this.

Most of the time the ears will come right but sometimes they'll look like the Flying Nun's hat if you don't tape their ears....it really depends on how much you care about how their ears look.



Allergies & Skin Disorders

Is your dog itchy?

Vets are seeing more and more allergic dogs. There are many theories as to why this is occurring such as:

More chemicals in our environments; more stress, defective skin barriers, preservatives & additives in commercial diets, immune issues & thyroid issues etc.

Great Danes as a breed are considered to be an 'affected breed' by some Dermatologists, therefore it would be recommended that you avoid purchasing a puppy from parents with allergies and / or pink/red skin to avoid any genetic pre-disposition.

If your Great Dane starts to show symptoms of allergies, please speak to your Vet. If your Vet and yourself are unable to get a handle on the Allergies within a couple of months it is recommended that you ask your Vet for a referral to a Dermatologist – the sooner you see a Dermatologist the sooner you can address the problem.

If your Great Dane is from a breeder be sure to let them know. They may be familiar with the condition and be able to give you some advice. You would also want to let your breeder know in-case there is a possibility of it being a genetic condition.

A common treatment for allergies is Cortisone. Long term treatment with Cortisone can lead to a number of different side effects depending on the dosage rate such as Cushings Syndrome, thinning of skin, liver problems, weight gain, predisposition to infections, diabetes, hair loss, lethargy and increased thirst & hunger.

If your Vet and Dermatologist are not able to control your dog's allergic reaction with other treatments / management systems you may end up turning towards Cortisone to provide the dog with quality of life. Be sure to speak to your Vet / Dermatologist about the effects of different dosage rates.

There are many dogs that have lived their entire lives on Cortisone without any major issues; the dosage rate is what is the deciding factor in a number of cases.

As an alternative to Cortisone there is another product called Atopica. Atopica still has side effects however is safer to use on a long term basis. Unfortunately it is a very expensive drug and may be financially out of reach for many Great Dane owners.

Anti-histamines may also assist, although it is important to note that they work differently in dogs than they do in humans. The main side-effect from anti-histamines is drowsiness. This is uncommon, and can be remedied by decreasing the dose. Anti-histamines work better with evening

primrose oil than alone. Some anti-histamines to try include: Phenergan, Periactin, Polaramine & Teldane. Obtain dosage rate from your Vet.

Hydro Therapy is the most under-utilised treatment; this is where you bath/rinse the dog as much as daily if that is what helps the dog. Using a product like Human QV Shampoo and finishing with dabbing on QV Oil can also assist some dogs.

Testing

Once the allergy diagnosis has been made, there are a few options to determine what they are reacting to. Your Dermatologist will choose an option that is best suited.

- 1) **Blood test**, there 2 types:
SPOT which has no Cortisone withholding period, although the food allergy results are thought to be unreliable by Dermatologists.

HESKA which has a Cortisone withholding period. The HESKA is more expensive and is said to be on par with results from Intra Dermal testing.
- 2) **Saliva test**
Only available through Hemopet in America <http://nutriscan.org/> however you can order the test and send it back to them as it is a mouth swab.
- 3) **Intra Dermal**
Dog must not be on Cortisone at the time, there is also a withholding period.
- 4) **Elimination food diet**

Desensitising Injections

After having the SPOT / HESKA or Intra-Dermal testings, the Lab can prepare Desensitising injections for your dog if required. The results are varied

Elimination Diet

You will speak with your Vet / Dermatologist for your prescribed diet. You will find it unproductive and money wasting to switch to different types of kibbles in a hope of making your dogs condition better as there are too many variables of ingredients in Kibbles to know which one is causing a problem.

Food allergies are rare. Food intolerances are more common and can have results such as vomiting & digestive issues.

An Elimination diet consists of feeding your dog a protein it has never had before such as Kangaroo, Goat, Horse etc. You feed this generally with potato for a 6 week period and you must not feed any other product/protein for treats etc. After 6 weeks under the guidance of your dogs health professional you will start to add other proteins/foods to the diet.

Suggested products for irritated skin



Micro-TEK Pet Shampoo

Provides leave on protection which continues to work for over 24 hours. Promotes healthy skin and coat while adding protein to strengthen damaged areas. This formula offers leave on protection. Will not burn or hurt open wounds. Non-steroidal. Environmentally friendly. **NON-TOXIC**. For best results, use with Micro-Tek Medicated Spray.

Contains EQyss's trademarked formula developed from NASA research on the decontamination of astronauts. Combines ingredients to create the healthiest environment for healing. Use with Micro-Tek Spray. Stops odour.

<http://www.eqyssaustralia.com.au/products/EQyss-Micro%252dtek-Shampoo-.html>



Micro-Tek Spray

SOOTHES ON CONTACT

Rated #1 in horse journal test

Micro-Tek Spray – A fast acting, spray that soothes irritated skin on contact, and continues to work over a 24 hour period. It promotes a healthy skin and coat and strengthens damaged areas. Leave on protection.

<http://www.eqyssaustralia.com.au/products/EQyss-Micro%252dTek-Spray-.html>



Animal Naturals True Colors Shampoo is the first non-prescription dog shampoo designed to fight inflammation, plus produce new levels of shine and health.

Ultra thick, hair-hugging lather that is so gentle True Colors Shampoo can be used daily. Use with K9 Show Stopper supplement for the ultimate in coat and skin health

<http://animalnaturals.com.au>



Plants that can cause irritation to dogs



Bolivian Jew Turtle Vine



Commelina-Cyanea



Itch Plant



Moses in a Boat Rhoeo



Purple Heart



Scurvy Weed

The Biggest Culprits of Contact Itchies!

Wandering Jew / Dew, this weed comes in a number of different varieties, it's hard to kill!

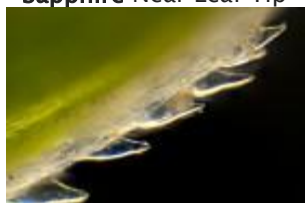


Buffalo grasses that irritate skin

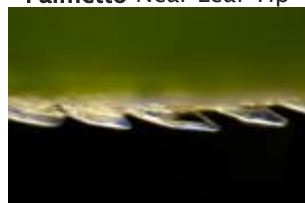


These microscopic photos of Buffalo Grass reveal the barbs which caused the old style Buffalo grasses to be both scratchy and irritating to the skin. Equally as amazing is the clear PROOF that these photos provide as to why the new Soft Leaf Buffalo grasses are indeed so soft to touch, walk on and play on.

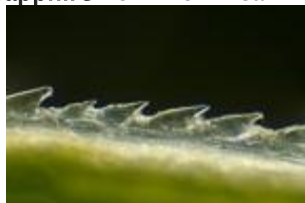
Sapphire Near Leaf Tip



Palmetto Near Leaf Tip



Sapphire 1cm From Leaf Tip



Palmetto 1cm From Leaf Tip



Sapphire Down The Leaf



Palmetto Down The Leaf



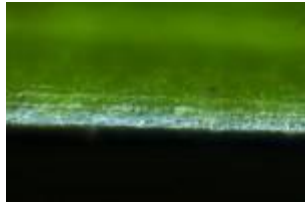
Matilda Near Leaf Tip



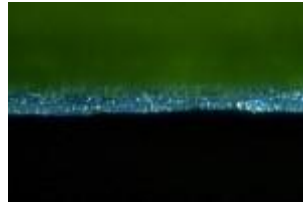
Sir Walter Near Leaf Tip



Matilda Down The Leaf



Sir Walter Down The Leaf



Old Sydney Near Leaf Tip



Old Sydney Down The Leaf



Why is Buffalo Grass Scratchy?

Buffalo grass has been in use as a home lawn for a very long time, and has always been known in the past for its scratchy feel which irritated kids of all ages.

So the question remains, what is it about original Buffalo grass that makes it scratchy? By looking at these microscopic photos, we can see the leaf of all Buffalo grasses have an abundance of tiny barbs which are invisible to the naked eye.

About Soft Buffalo

When Buffalo is regularly mowed, even these very soft and mild linear barbs are totally removed from the leaf tip when the grass is cut. After mowing, true soft Buffalo grasses will have no barbs left on the leaf. However, those same highly irritating saw-tooth barbs on Old Sydney still remain – even after mowing, because the barbs continue to grow down the length of the leaf blade.

Old Sydney buffalo grass is the name used to describe the old style scratchy and irritating Original Buffalo grasses which were widely used throughout Australia prior to the introduction of new quality soft leaf varieties such as Palmetto.

Proven to be true soft leaf Buffalo grass types:

Palmetto – Sapphire – Sir Walter – Matilda

Proven to be scratchy and irritating Buffalo grass types:

Original Sydney Buffalo

A common household chemical that is often overlooked is No-Vac Carpet Sprays:



Management Options for itchy and inflamed skin...

- 1) Look at what your dog is being fed – could you swap to a diet with higher quality ingredients with less fillers. Kangaroo is a low allergen meat however is lean so you will need to feed more of it.
- 2) Medicated Washes such as Malaseb can help although you should speak to your vet about the frequency in which you should use them as they are very drying to the skin.
- 3) Re-asses what chemicals you are using in your house which your dog could be coming into contact with.
- 4) Even if you don't see Fleas on your dog, all it takes is 1 Flea to bite your dog to cause a flare up so ensure your dog is on an effective and regular flea preventative treatment.
- 5) Use cotton sheets/blankets over your dogs bedding which is usually synthetic fabrics that could cause your dog to get itchy.
- 6) Start your dog on Evening Primrose Oil capsules (1 capsule per 10 kilos of weight).
- 7) Start your dog on Omega oils such as Fish Oil (1 Capsule per 10 kilos of weight) or a canine specific product called Megaderm – search online for the best prices. When you give Fish Oil you need to check if it has Vit E included, if not give Vit E capsule every 2nd day.
- 8) Apple Cider Vinegar (Organic) – 1 tablespoon in each meal.
- 9) Place equal parts of Apple Cider Vinegar (Organic) and Water in a spray bottle and spray on effected areas.
- 10) Make up a pot of Calendula Tea, allow to cool and sponge on dog.
- 11) Put dog on Pro-Biotics daily.



Managing your Great Dane to avoid accidents and injury

They can be a fragile breed especially when growing.

Floor Boards / Tiles / Slippery Floors

You will need to take care that your Puppy and Adult Great Danes do not slip regularly on Slippery floors.

The action of slipping can injure the dog, it may end up with a pinched nerve or put its back out or even tear muscles.

Dogs don't like to express their pain due to instinct so you may not know your dog is injured or has its' back out unless it's a noticeable injury.

With light-moderate pressure, press your fingers down your dogs back next to its spine. Your dog may have muscle flinches – this is generally showing you your dog's back maybe out / muscle is hooked on the vertebrae / muscle injury and you may need to see a Doggy Chiro / Muscle Manipulator.

It is normal to see flinches in one or two places including their necks, however if it's a bad one or left too long you may find it will be very difficult to correct.

To find a Doggy Chiro / Muscle Manipulator you can contact your Vets and / or Greyhound Breeders / Race Tracks and they should be able to guide you.

You can also ask for recommendations on online communities such as:

www.dolforums.com.au

Depending on the surface of your floors there are products you can put on them that can make the floor less slippery. There are also products such as sprays and waxes you can put on the dog's pads to prevent them from slipping.



Choosing a Vet

Not all Vets are familiar with Great Danes.

Not all Vets are familiar with working with giant breeds such as Great Danes.

Vets not used to this breed may give incorrect advice in regards to diet and supplementation.

For example, some Vets recommend that Calcium supplements should be given to Great Dane puppies, however this can create growth abnormalities; they may also recommend the type of food they stock in their clinic even though it does not have the suitable ratios for the breed.

If in doubt, contact your breeder and / or do some research. If you get really stuck and you don't know who to ask you can contact your State's Great Dane Club.

www.dogzonline.com.au/breeds/community/great-dane.asp

Bloat/Torsion & your Vet

Your Vet needs to understand the critical importance of dealing with Bloat / Torsion immediately, it's not something you stay at home and watch or sit in a Vet clinic waiting room with, waiting to be seen.

Ask your Vet on their emergency procedures relating to suspected Bloat/Torsion.

Emergency Vets

Be sure to know where your Emergency Vet is for after hours treatment.



Visits to the Vet

Making it a positive experience for your dog...and Vet!

Written by Shannon Haynes, Vet Nurse & Great Dane Owner, Pennant Hills Vet Clinic, Sydney.

At some point in your Dane's life, they are going to require a visit to their Vet. For some, this may be quite a daunting experience, being prodded and probed by a stranger.

There are many things you can do at home, however, to make this experience as relaxed as possible.

Firstly, let's look at the types of things that are likely to happen during your consultation. Your Vet will want to give your Great Dane a thorough examination which includes:

- Examining inside their mouths
- Looking down into the ear canals
- Examining the eyes
- Listening to their hearts and lungs
- Taking their temperature
- Feeling joints
- and more...

These are all things you can do at home with your Great Dane to get them used to being handled in such a way. Remember your Vet is going to need to get very close to your Dane's head to do many of these things, so it's important your Dane is calm and relaxed.

Taking a favourite treat or toy with you to your appointment can also help to make the experience a happy one.

These can help take the focus off that sharp needle and are also great to reward after standing still for the examination. Don't forget to ask your Vet to give praise too!

What about Vaccinations? Are they necessary?

Absolutely! Vaccinating your puppy / adult is incredibly important as it will protect them from deadly diseases like Parvovirus.

There are several diseases you can chose to vaccinate your Great Dane against, but the most important ones are Canine Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus.

These viruses can be deadly. Kennel Cough is another you can vaccinate against and your Dane will likely require this for boarding kennels and some training clubs. For the following information, we are referring to the Core Vaccine, also known as a C3, which covers Distemper, Hepatitis and Parvovirus.

Puppies generally require a series of vaccines in order to gain immunity. This is because pups are born with some immunity from their mums, known as maternal antibodies. These maternal antibodies not only help to protect the pup from disease, but they'll also fight the vaccine and make it not work.

The maternal antibodies will eventually disappear, but the age at which this happens can vary. For some pups, these antibodies will be gone at around the 6-8wk mark.

For most puppies, they have gone around the 12wk mark but some can last until the pup is 16wks. This is why we give puppies a series of vaccines, because it's important to try and 'catch' them at a time when the maternal antibodies are gone, without leaving too much time for them to be vulnerable to disease.

There are some newer vaccines which allow your pup to finish its regime earlier than 12wks. Your Vet and breeder will help you determine the best protocol for your pup, taking into consideration his or her age and the area you live.

Adult Danes with an unknown vaccination history do not require a series of C3 vaccines like puppies do. One shot is generally sufficient to gain immunity.

Following their first adult vaccine, the duration between subsequent vaccines can vary. Newer research has shown that the vaccines once given annually (C3), actually have a duration of immunity of at least 3 years and possibly even longer.

There are now C3 vaccines available with a 3 yearly registration which means your Vet can sign a certificate stating they have coverage for 3 years from the date it was given.

More and more Vets are also offering Titer Testing, which is a simple blood test which can test the level of antibodies your dog has to diseases, which will let you know whether or not they require vaccination.



Great Danes & Stairs

Care needs to be taken.

You will probably hear along your travels that Great Danes should be kept off stairs. Many people wonder why this is and the most common answer you'll get is that it is not good for growing puppies to be placing so much pressure on their joints.

Some breeders are concerned that Hip & Elbow Dysplasia may occur as well in Dane puppies that overdo stairs.

There is a very real danger in any dog of any breed going up stairs that have gaps between the run or the dog can slip and their leg/s can go through the gaps causing them to get stuck and then panic, in turn causing great injury.

There have been reports in Australia of Great Danes falling going up stairs and then getting their head stuck between the runs.

If you have stairs and a Great Dane it is recommended that you build a ramp over the top of the stairs or block the stairs off.

Some Danes are great with stairs, they go up and down them slowly and carefully, whereas other Danes do it at a million miles an hour and can jump off them....doing things at a million miles an hour is where accidents happen as well.

The general rule of thumb is keeping your Great Dane puppies off stairs and making sure your adult Danes go up and down carefully.

If you have multiple dogs, this makes stairs even more dangerous as they run and push past each other on them.

Something to keep in mind

If you don't have stairs at your home, it is recommended you find some to teach your Dane how to go up and down them as there is nothing worse than a 60+ kilo dog not knowing how to go up and down stairs when they need to in the future.



The Online Great Dane Community

A Great Place to learn, research and network

There are a number of online communities that you can join to learn, research and network with other Australian Great Dane owners, here are the two main ones.

Danes Downunder

www.facebook.com/groups/ozziedanes

Aussie Danes

www.facebook.com/groups/aussiedanes