



## 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, have them meet in a neutral location and then go for a long walk together until they are no longer overly interested in one another and then allow nose to bum sniffs. Take your time, don't rush this step. 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.

**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.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> impression of what kind of leader you are – it's easier to do the right thing here that to try and sway the dog a year down the track when it already knows all your faults and weaknesses.

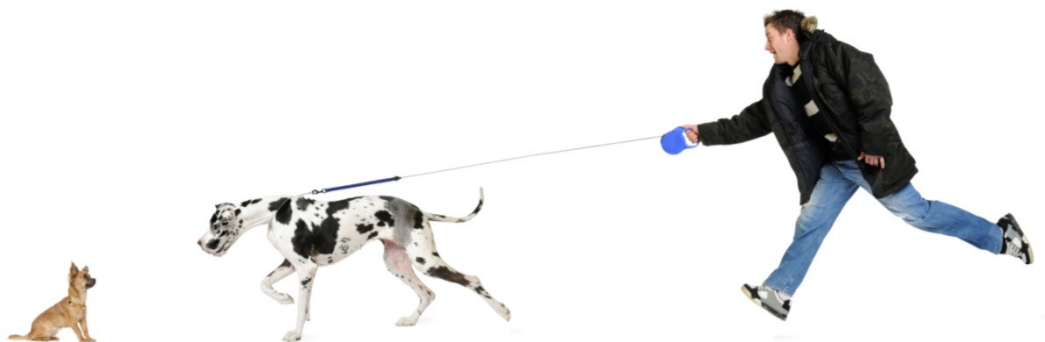
**Step 5:** If there are other dogs in the home, pick up all the toys, food bowls, treats and any other items your dogs find high value. This will prevent the dogs from getting off on the wrong foot with each other if they touch an item that another dog believes is its property.

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 dogs 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.

**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 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

**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 friend's 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 Kiddie 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 4-8 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.



## 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 its 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](http://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](http://www.k9pro.com.au)

[www.whelpingsupplies.com.au](http://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](http://www.amazon.com) and it will give you relevant books / DVDs on the topic.