

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.