



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.dogsonline.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!

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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.