



Lexy's Danes



"Once You Go Dane, Your Life Is Never The Same"

34552 US Route 11

Philadelphia, New York 13673

Phone: (315) 642-3191

Cell Phone: (315) 408-7717

Email: lexysdanes@lexysdanes.com

Web Site: www.lexysdanes.com

Adult Dane Booklet

- ***Please Read my [About Danes](#) Page for more information***
- ***Research and Training is a must to make sure your Dane is happy, healthy and well mannered.***
- ***Never stop learning about the breed.***

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Lexy's Danes Dog-Dog Feeding Guidelines

Your Dane is currently eating Premium Edge Adult Dog Chicken, Rice & Vegetables Formula



NEVER FEED YOUR GREAT DANE ANY TYPE OF DOG DOG FOOD OR TABLE SCRAPS.

- If changing their food: do it gradually over 1 – 2 week's time so they do not get an upset tummy and/or diarrhea.
- It is very important that Danes be fed multiple times per day, at least twice a day, as this will reduce the incidence of bloat and torsion.
- Raise their food and water dish as they grow. (It should be at least 16 inches high.)
- Be sure that the dog has not exercised for at least 30 minutes before eating and do not exercise him for 1 – 2 hours after eating. This will make sure his stomach is settled during the critical time around his meal during which he is very susceptible to bloat.
- Free feeding is an alternative to feeding schedules, but can result in problems. We free feed our older puppies – dogs because none of our babies are over eaters and they have access to a dog door 24 – 7 but some dogs will eat whatever you leave out, so that destroys the purpose of free feeding. Other dogs will have house soiling problems.

When trying to decide which commercial dog food is appropriate for PROPER DANE growth, there are very specific things you must look for.

The 10 most essential items to look for when selecting an adult formula dog food for your Dog, which is suitable for proper growth for the giant breeds, are as follows in order of importance from my research and experience:

1. First ingredients must be multiple Meats or Meat Meals. (Chicken, Turkey, Beef, Fish, etc.) NOT YELLOW CORN or WHEAT. If ground corn meal is further down the line on the ingredients list that is ok but try to stay away from wheat because your Dane may be or become allergic to it.
2. Moderate calories range (320 –365 kCals per cup) If the Dog is active, a higher calorie count might be beneficial but not to exceed 475
3. Protein range of 21% - 26% maximum
4. Fat range 12% - 16% maximum
5. Calcium—no more than 1.5%
6. Glucosamine & Chondroitin (This can be supplemented with Cosequin DS)
7. Ingredients listed as human grade, human edible or organic and naturally preserved.
8. Chelated or sequestered minerals.
9. Balanced Omega 6:3 fatty acids.
10. Probiotics/Digestive enzymes, but can be supplemented with [NZYMES](#) if it's not in the food already.


Our Feeding Schedule: We free feed our Danes but they normally eat around 6am & 5pm:

“Other food suggestions”

1. [Eagle Pack Holistic Large & Giant Breed Dog or Adult Formula](#)
2. [Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover’s Soul Large Breed Adult or Adult Formula](#)
3. [Taste of the Wild Pacific Stream Canine Formula](#)
4. [Nutro Natural Choice Chicken Meal, Rice & Oatmeal Adult Formula](#)
5. [Diamond Large Breed 60+ Adult Dog Formula](#)
6. [Diamond Naturals Lamb Meal & Rice Adult Dog Formula](#)
7. [Nutro Natural Choice Lamb Meal & Rice Large Breed Adult or Adult Formula](#)

FEEDING AMOUNTS: GUIDELINES ONLY

Adjust Accordingly

 18 + months.... 8-11 cups a day (divided into 2 meals daily)

“Foods that are not recommended for Great Danes because the levels may not be correct, and/or they may contain wheat and/or corn which can make the Dane have an allergic reaction”

1. Any cheap store brand etc.
2. If it doesn’t follow my feeding guidelines, don’t use it

Supply Suggestions for your new Dog (Basic Dog Needs)

➔ Canned and dry food/diet schedule	➔ Feeding and water bowls
➔ Collar and leash	➔ Soft Bed
➔ Fun toys to keep their attention	➔ Grooming supplies (brushes, shampoo, etc.)
➔ Muzzle/first aid kit	➔ Flea collar and preparations
➔ Safe chew products	➔ Edible chew products (treats/rewards)

Nail Clipping: Try to get your puppy used to getting his/her nails trimmed on a regular basis; otherwise you will have the time of your life trying to trim the nails. For a Great Dane you will need one that is a little sharper and able to cut through their big nails. Remember, big dog, big nails. Some owners use a grinder. You can find a grinder at your local pet store. You must get the dog used to the sound of the grinder before you attempt to trim his/her nails. You can also take the dog to the veterinarian or groomers to have the nails trimmed.



Brushing: Danes have very short, shiny hair. They are a pleasure and easy to groom. Brushing or combing them on a regular basis will release the natural oils in their skin and keep the coat very shiny as well as removing any dead hair, dust and skin scales. Daily grooming also eliminates the necessity of frequent bathing. You may bathe your dog or puppy any time you think it necessary, as long as you do not think it is necessary too frequently. In cold weather, make sure he is fully dry before you let him/her outside.

Baby Gates: A baby gate works well if you train your Dane to respect it at a young age. For adult Great Danes you may have to stack two baby gates together so it will be tall enough to keep him secure. Believe it or not the Great Danes are very well behaved and will stay behind the gates if you teach them properly.



Shading: Remember Danes do not do well being left outside without human companionship. Also according to my contract they must not be left to live as an outside pet. If want an area to keep your Dane safe for a little while, what you might want to invest in for your dogs' sake is the enclosed run as in the pictured. However it is constructed; make sure it will be safe for your dog. Also make sure that he will be protected from bad weather.

Congratulations on choosing a Great Dane



CONGRATULATIONS on choosing a Great Dane as a member of your family. We would like to offer you some basic information which we believe will help you in the developing relationship with your Dog.

The Great Dane is one of the most elegant and distinguished of the giant breeds. It is believed that the breed's origins can be traced to Irish Wolfhound with mixture of old English Mastiff. The breed itself having existed for over 400 years to serve as a Boar Hound in Germany. Europe's erstwhile boar was one of the most savage, swift, powerful and well armed requiring a super dog to hunt it.

As early as 3000 BC carvings of dogs on Egyptian tombs depict the Great Dane. Archeological evidence exists of a Dane-type dog used for hunting and to fight bears and bulls. However, the Great Dane as we know it today was developed in Europe during the 1800's and declared the national breed of Germany in 1876. As a boarhound, the Dane of yesterday was very different, both in structure and temperament from the Dane of today. When no longer used for hunting, the breed changed to one of a companion and estate guard dog.

Today, correctly bred Great Danes have a gentle and loving disposition that makes them a wonderful family companion. Their primary asset in training is their desire to please. It is imperative that your Dog be well socialized from the time you bring it home; kindergarten Dog classes for puppies three to six months old are strongly recommended. These classes should be followed with a basic obedience class. Your Dog will grow as much his first year as a child grows in fourteen years. It is vital that you provide it with the basic structure and consistent training that every Dog needs to make it a happy and well-adjusted member of your family.

Great Danes should be raised in the house as a family member; they do not do well as yard dogs, although they do need a fenced yard for exercise and playtime. Just as you would not leave older siblings alone with a baby, young children should never be left unattended with your Dog or dog. Because a Dog is not a toy, children must be taught the correct way to interact with a Dog; fair play and respect are a must. Puppies often think of toddlers as other puppies since they are close to the same size and make similar sounds. As the parent, you must teach and monitor correct behavior on the part of the child and the Dog. Puppies chew on each other, wrestle, and growl to determine their pack structure. With correct and consistent training, your Dog will learn that your children are not puppies, but small humans. Quick movements and high-pitched squealing will excite a Dog or dog while loud, harsh corrections will confuse and intimidate it. Dogs learn through consistency and repetition, with love and positive reinforcement. The adults in your household must assume the role of pack leader in order for your Dog to grow up secure and confident.

We also recommend crate training your Dog. The crate, when placed in the living area of your home, will become your puppies "den." Keep soft, washable bedding and toys in the crate; newspapers just inside the crate door can help with the baby accidents. The crate door should be left open while you are at home with the Dog so that it can go to the den at will. Children should be taught that they are never to bother the Dog when it is in its den - this is a safe place. The Dog should also sleep in its crate until it is old enough to sleep through the night without accidents. If you do not have room for a crate in your bedroom, be sure to leave soft music and a large, stuffed toy for it at night so that it does not feel completely alone. You should also use a crate or seatbelt harness in your vehicle for the same reasons that your child rides in a car seat.

As you have probably come to realize, prior to approximately four months of age puppies eat, sleep and potty a lot! The initial 3-4 meals each day can be reduced to 2 meals per day by 6-9 months of age. The last meal and water should be approximately two hours before bedtime with one last play period and potty break just before going to bed. While still a Dog it will need to potty immediately after a nap, upon coming out of its crate after eating, and after (if not during) a good round of play. Accidents in the house are not the fault of the Dog. If you take the Dog out often, stay with it, and give soft praise, it will soon be housebroken. Your Dane should continue to eat twice each day its entire life. Follow your breeder's advice on feeding and nutritional supplements.

Great Danes are predisposed to a number of health problems. An ethical private breeder will screen his breeding stock for specific diseases and make clearance certificates available to prospective Dog parents.

The primary purpose of dog shows is to evaluate potential breeding stock. Along with this evaluation goes many years of education in order to make qualified decisions about breeding. For these reasons the ethical private breeder will usually require that any Dog going to a companion home be neutered; this is the only way we have of protecting the future of our breed.

We recommend that you have your Dog spayed or neutered before puberty. Many behavioral problems are hormone related. By making the responsible decision to spay or neuter, you will make your pet much easier to train and protect it from mammary or prostrate cancer. You will also not produce unplanned puppies and set a very good example for your neighbors and friends

If you are interested in becoming involved in different show events, your breeder should have all the information you could want and be willing to guide you. Most of us started with a companion dog that was not of breeding quality. We neutered our pet and got involved in obedience, agility, therapy work, etc. Our first pet was our introduction to the breed; while training and enjoying our first Dane, we studied and learned in preparation for acquiring our next Dog, which we decided to show. It is a process that is well worth the effort.

Great Dane Did You Know?

- ➡ The Great Dane's name is the English translation of the breed name in French: grand Danois, meaning "big Danish."
- ➡ The Great Dane had a half-dozen names used for centuries in France, including dogue allemand ("German Mastiff"); "Mastiff" in English, dogue or dogo in the Latin languages, and dogge in the Germanic languages all meant the same thing: a giant dog with heavy head for fighting or hunting purposes.
- ➡ There is no known reason for connecting Denmark with either the origin or the development of the Great Dane; it was "made in Germany", and it was German fanciers who led the world in breeding most of the finest specimens.
- ➡ The earliest written description of a dog resembling the Great Dane may be found in Chinese literature of 1121 BC, according to an article by Dr. G. Ciaburri in a Great Dane Club of Italy publication (1929).
- ➡ The Great Dane is a very old breed, cultivated as a distinct type for probably 400 years, if not longer. The Dane was developed as a boarhound by the Germans.

About Bloat



➔ Introduction:

Bloat, Torsion. Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV). Call it what you will, this is a serious, life-threatening condition of large breed dogs. While the diagnosis is simple, the pathological changes in the dog's body make treatment complicated, expensive, and not always successful. A typical scenario starts with a large, deep-chested dog, usually fed once daily. Typical breeds affected are Akita, Great Dane, German Shepherd, St. Bernard, Irish Wolfhound, and Irish Setter. Sight hounds, Doberman Pinschers, Weimaraners, Bloodhounds, other similar breeds, and large, deep-chested mixed breeds are also affected. Factor in the habit of bolting food, gulping air, or drinking large amounts of water immediately after eating to this feeding schedule and body type. Then add vigorous exercise after a full meal, and you have the recipe for bloat. Of course, the fact that not all bloats happen in just the same way and the thought that some bloodlines are more at risk than others further complicates the issue. Simple gastric distention can occur in any breed or age of dog and is common in young puppies that overeat. Laymen sometimes refer to this as pre-bloat. Belching of gas or vomiting food usually relieves the problem. If this condition occurs more than once in a predisposed breed, the veterinarian might discuss methods to prevent bloat, such as feeding smaller meals or giving Reglan (metoclopramide) to encourage stomach emptying. Some veterinarians recommend, and some owners request, prophylactic surgery to anchor the stomach in place before the torsion occurs in dogs who have experienced one or more bouts of distention or in dogs whose close relatives have had GDV.

➔ The Physiology of Bloat:

Torsion or volvulus are terms to describe the twisting of the stomach after gastric distention occurs. The different terms are used to define the twisting whether it occurs on the longitudinal axis (torsion) or the mesenteric axis (volvulus). Most people use the terms interchangeably, and the type of twist has no bearing on the prognosis or treatment. When torsion occurs, the esophagus is closed off, limiting the dog's ability to relieve distention by vomiting or belching. Often the spleen becomes entrapped as well, and its blood supply is cut off. Now a complex chain of physiologic events begins. The blood return to the heart decreases, cardiac output decreases, and cardiac arrhythmias may follow. Toxins build up in the dying stomach lining. The liver, pancreas, and upper small bowel may also be compromised. Shock from low blood pressure and endotoxins rapidly develops. Sometimes the stomach ruptures, leading to peritonitis. Abdominal distention, salivating, and retching are the hallmark signs of GDV. Other signs may include restlessness, depression, lethargy, anorexia, weakness, or a rapid heart rate.

➔ Treatment:

GDV is a true emergency. If you know or even suspect your dog has bloat, immediately call your veterinarian or emergency service. Do not attempt home treatment. Do take the time to call ahead. While you are transporting the dog, the hospital staff can prepare for your arrival. Do not insist on accompanying your dog to the treatment area. Well-meaning owners are an impediment to efficient care. Someone will be out to answer your questions as soon as possible, but for now, have faith in your veterinarian and wait. Initial diagnosis may include x-rays, an ECG, and blood tests, but treatment will probably be started before the test results are in. The first step is to treat shock with IV fluids and steroids. Antibiotics and anti-arrhythmic may also be started now. Then the veterinarian will attempt to decompress the stomach by passing a stomach tube. If this is successful, a gastric lavage may be instituted to wash out accumulated food, gastric juices, or other stomach contents. In some cases, decompression is accomplished by placing large-bore needles or a trochar through the skin and muscle and directly into the stomach. In some cases, this medical therapy is sufficient. However, in many cases, surgery is required to save the dog. Once the dog's condition is stabilized, surgery to correct the

stomach twist, remove any unhealthy tissue, and anchor the stomach in place is performed. The gastroplexy, or anchoring surgery, is an important procedure to prevent recurrence, and many variations exist. Your veterinarian will do the procedure he feels comfortable with and which has the best success rate. Recovery is prolonged; sometimes requiring hospital stays of a week or more. Post-operative care depends on the severity of the disease and the treatment methods employed and may include a special diet, drugs to promote gastric emptying, and routine wound management. Costs may run \$500-1000 or more in complicated cases.

👉 Prevention:

Clearly, prevention of GDV is preferable to treatment. In susceptible breeds, feed two or three meals daily and discourage rapid eating. Do not allow exercise for 1 – 2 hours before or after a meal. As previously mentioned some owners feel that certain bloodlines are at greater risk and choose to have gastroplexy performed as a prophylactic measure.

Health and Welfare Information



Inherited and other health concerns in the Great Dane
Items that are underlined can be identified through testing

DCM: CARDIOMYOPATHY - is suspected to be an inherited disease in the Great Dane and current (preliminary) research indicates that this disease may be sex-linked in our breed. Research is ongoing. An echocardiogram of the heart will confirm the disease but will not guarantee that the disease will not develop in the future. There is some congenital heart defects also occasionally found in the breed.

K9HD: HIP DYSPLASIA - is an inherited disease with multi-factorial expression. Clinically the disease may be seen as simply poor rear end conformation or lessened athleticism to such malformation of the hip joint that the dog becomes crippled.

HYPOTHYROIDISM - in dogs is generally the result of a heritable disorder of the immune system. This condition results when the thyroid gland is not producing enough hormones to adequately maintain the dog's metabolism. Happily, it is easily treated with thyroid replacement pills.

CATARACTS - although not common, cataracts have been described in the Great Dane and can be blinding. Eyelid abnormalities (e.g. entropion) are also not unheard of in the breed.

GDV: Bloat - is the number one killer of Great Danes & Great Danes is the #1 breed at risk for bloat. For reasons not fully understood, in certain deep-chested breeds in particular, the stomach distends, and then has a tendency to rotate, which cuts off the blood supply to various parts of the body, as well as effectively shutting down digestion. This condition is extremely painful as well as a true emergency that is rapidly life-threatening. A dog with a bloated, twisted stomach (technically called "Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus") will die in great pain in a matter of hours unless drastic steps are taken: surgery is normally necessary. The reasons for GDV are currently not understood, however most would agree that multiple small meals per day and preventing vigorous exercise around mealtimes can help reduce the chances of bloat. Many breeders and owners of Great Danes consider a surgery called a prophylactic gastropexy ("preventative tack") which can help prevent some of the more serious aspects of GDV. Discuss this with your veterinarian and your Dane's breeder.

CANCER: Danes can suffer from a variety of cancers as do many other breeds of dogs as well as many mixed breed dogs. Bone cancer (osteosarcoma) and lymphoma appear to be the two forms of cancer most commonly seen in the Great Dane, and along with heart disease and bloat (GDV); cancer is a leading cause of death in Great Danes. Research into both types of cancer is ongoing and treatment options are improving every day.

CVI: Wobblers - is a result of pressure on the spinal cord in the neck region and results in a "drunken" gait & increasing instability. It thought to result from a combination of nutritional effects and inherited traits and is considered a form of DOD (Developmental Osteodystrophy) along with such as OCD. Great Danes are considered at risk for Wobblers. CVI stands for Cervical Vertebral Instability.

HOD and Pano - these are painful conditions of the bones that occur during the rapid growth phase of puppyhood causing lameness and general malaise. By far HOD is the more serious one and can be deadly. Pano is usually self-limiting and may not need treatment. HOD stands for Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy. Pano is short for Panosteitis.

Benefits of Spaying or Neutering Your New Companion



There is no medical reason why a dog should be intact if they are not going to be shown in the Conformation ring or used for breeding (that is of course if all the testing comes back normal etc.).

Spay/Neuter procedure should be done no earlier than 6 months of age and no later than 12 months of age. You want the pup to grow up a bit before the procedure is performed since there might be a chance of the pup not growing to their full potential if it is done at a very young age. It is not a proven fact but it can happen. If you get an older Great Dane and they are not altered, it is a very good idea to get the procedure done immediately. Older adult males can be prone to prostate infections and marking their territory in the house, and adult bitches to false pregnancies and uterine infections. Spaying or neutering pets is a good idea for the health of the dog and is required by most ethical breeders. If you have a female Great Dane and she is in her cycle, you must wait at least 2 months after the end of her cycle before you can get her spayed. This way you make sure her hormones are back to normal levels and there is no chance of her bleeding out after the procedure.

Spaying or neutering your dog or cat is beneficial to both you and your pet.

Some of the advantages are:

- 1) Your pet's life expectancy is generally increased and their disposition becomes more gentle and affectionate;
- 2) Pets are less likely to stray from home, or attract unwanted visitors; plus
- 3) Spaying a female helps prevent uterine infections, such as pyometra, and breast cancer;
- 4) Neutering a male helps reduce the risk of testicular cancer, prostate disease and hernias; and
- 5) The dog license fee is lower

Reducing pet overpopulation is beneficial for every community as millions of cats and dogs are euthanized or suffer as strays every year. Further, each time a municipality seizes a stray animal; the municipality is responsible for sheltering, feeding and possibly euthanizing the animal. This results in added expenses to the municipality.

Vaccination Information



Description of Dog Diseases

"D" stands for distemper. Distemper is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus that often results in the death of the dog. It affects the gastrointestinal tract and respiratory system. If the dog survives the initial infection, the illness often spreads to the nervous system, causing death. There is no specific treatment except supportive care, and over half the infected dogs die. Additionally, many more have to be euthanized due to seizures and other chronic problems. Vaccination is the key to prevention and all dogs that are able to be vaccinated should receive distemper vaccinations.

"P" typically stands for Parainfluenza. Parainfluenza is a virus that causes respiratory infections in dogs. It is also one of the culprits involved in infectious canine bronchitis, commonly called 'kennel cough'. Vaccination with Parainfluenza vaccine is important to protect dogs from respiratory disease. All dogs that are able to be vaccinated should receive Parainfluenza vaccine as part of their vaccination regime.

"B" - BORDETELLA BRONCHISEPTICA - one of the most common causes of Canine Upper Respiratory Disease Complex, known as "Kennel Cough". Bacterial illness. The symptoms include a harsh, dry cough, aggravated by activity or excitement. The cough is followed by retching or gagging in an attempt to clear small amounts of mucus from the throat. Body temperature may be elevated as secondary bacterial infection takes place. Highly contagious, this disease is readily transmitted to susceptible dogs. Most common among dogs that congregate at dog shows, kennels, etc.

"H" and "A2" stand for hepatitis and canine adenovirus type 2. The disease that both these vaccines protect against is infectious canine hepatitis. This illness is caused by a virus, the canine adenovirus type 1. Both canine adenovirus type 1 and type 2 are used to make vaccinations, so you may see both in the name of the vaccine. Canine infectious hepatitis can cause liver and blood vessel disease. Dogs may recover from the disease, die rapidly, or develop chronic liver problems. There is no specific treatment, except supportive therapy. Vaccination is highly effective at protecting dogs from this illness and all dogs that are able to be vaccinated should receive canine infectious hepatitis vaccinations.

"CV" and "CVK" stand for Coronavirus disease. This contagious viral disease causes intestinal illness that can be mild or severe, and has been associated with death, especially in young puppies. It is especially dangerous if it infects a dog at the same time as canine parvovirus. As with the other viral diseases, there is no specific therapy that eliminates the virus. Animals are treated with supportive and nursing care. It is often included in the vaccinations given to young dogs, as well as older animals.

"PV", "Pv", "CPV", and sometimes "P" stand for canine parvovirus. This highly contagious viral disease is a well-known cause of gastrointestinal disease and death in many dogs. It is especially lethal to young dogs or those with inadequate immune systems. Because there is no specific cure, treatment is primarily intensive in-hospital nursing and supportive care. Vaccination can be highly effective at reducing the disease. Canine parvovirus vaccination should be included in the vaccination regime of all dogs that are able to receive vaccinations.

"L" and "4L" stand for leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that can cause several problems, including liver and kidney disease. The illness may be acute or chronic, in apparent or

severe, and can cause death. The bacteria exist in many different subtypes, called serovars. Several of these serovars are known to cause disease in dogs. Most available vaccines protect against two of these serovars, *L. canicola* and *L. icterohaemorrhagiae*. A few vaccines protect against two additional serovars, *L. grippityphosa* and *L. pomona*. It is important to read the vaccine label carefully to identify which serovars are present in the vaccine. Although vaccination against leptospirosis is very important for many dogs, not all dogs should receive this vaccine. Discuss the use of leptospirosis vaccine with your veterinarian.

Please Note: For Danes: Different vaccinations should be given by itself, 7-10+ days after any other type of vaccine.

For example: if your Dane got a Rabies vaccination wait before you give him a booster. Same thing goes for Lyme, Lepto etc.

Intra-nasal Bordetella seems to be the only safe vaccine to give along with any others.

➡ A yearly booster must be given.

➡ Rabies vaccine is administered every 3 yrs. Consult your veterinarian for details.

➡ Leptospirosis and/or Lyme Vaccine if needed. Check with your Vet for your area. Remember to not give the vaccine until 7 -10 days after the previous shot.

CAUTION! If your Dog has any trouble breathing after a vaccination, or seems weak, staggers, has pale gums or seems at all unresponsive... get back to your veterinarian immediately!

On very rare occasions any animal or human may have a reaction to a vaccination. These are just like the reactions that can occur after an insect sting or medication hypersensitivity. This kind of reaction can be very serious and life threatening and thankfully is very uncommon. If your pup simply seems a little tired or slightly uncomfortable where it was vaccinated, that is an entirely different and mild response to the vaccination. If you are not sure that your pup is OK, call your veterinarian for advice.

What Pet Owners Need to Know About Rabies Vaccinations in New York State
(Effective November 20, 2002. This information sheet must be provided by pet dealers to consumers upon point of sale of cats, dogs, and ferrets.)

State law requires rabies vaccinations (shots) for all cats, dogs and domesticated ferrets!

➡ Where can I get my pet vaccinated?

All counties are required to provide a free vaccination clinic every four months. Contact your county health department for the schedule in your area. Rabies vaccinations are also available from your veterinarian. If you have questions about new vaccines developed specifically for cats and for pets at younger ages, contact your county health department or veterinarian.

➡ When should my pet receive its first rabies vaccination?

The law requires that your pet's first rabies vaccination be given no later than four months after its date of birth. Many rabies vaccines are licensed for use at three months, although some may be given at younger ages.

➡ After my pet gets its second rabies shot, when is the next booster shot due?

After the second rabies shot, you only need to get additional booster shots every three years, if the vaccination clinic or your veterinarian is using a rabies vaccine licensed for three years.

➡ What proof will I have that my pet received its rabies shots?

The veterinarian, or a person under the veterinarian's supervision, will provide you with a certificate as proof that your pet has been vaccinated. The veterinarian's office will also keep a copy of your pet's vaccination certificate. The law requires the veterinarian to provide the vaccination certificate to any public health official for any case involving your dog, cat or ferret that may have been exposed to rabies, or in any case of possible exposure of a person or another animal to rabies.

➡ What if my pet needs to be taken to the veterinarian?

Whenever you bring your pet to a veterinarian, s/he will verify if the animal is up-to-date on its rabies shots. If the animal is not up-to-date on its rabies shots or exempt as stated below, or if the veterinarian cannot find proof of the animal's rabies vaccination history, you may request your pet be vaccinated at that time.

➡ If my pet bites a person, does it have to be euthanized (put to sleep)?

If your pet bites a person and you wish to avoid euthanizing and testing it for rabies, it must be confined and observed for ten days. If your pet is not up-to-date on its rabies shots, the ten-day confinement/observation period must take place at the owner's expense, at an appropriate facility such as an animal shelter, veterinarian's office, or kennel. If your pet is up-to-date on its rabies shots, the county health department may allow the ten-day confinement/observation period to take place in your home. During the ten-day confinement period, the county or a designated party must verify that your pet is under confinement and observation, has remained healthy during and at the end of the ten-day period.

➡ Fines

If your dog, cat or domesticated ferret is not vaccinated, is not up-to-date on its vaccinations, or is not properly confined after biting someone, as the owner you shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$200 for each offense.

➡ Exemptions

The vaccination requirements shall not apply to any dog, cat, domesticated ferret if the animal is transported through New York State and remains in the state 15 days or less; the animal is confined to the premises of an incorporated society devoted to the care of lost, stray or homeless animals; a licensed veterinarian has determined that the vaccination will adversely affect the animal's health; the animal is confined to the premises of a college or other educational or research institution for research purposes; or if the animal is unowned (feral, wild, not socialized). NYSDOH, 11/20/02

Different Types of Worms that may affect your dog.



👉 Roundworms

A large percentage of puppies and kittens are born with microscopically small roundworm larvae in their tissues. The larvae got there via migration through the mother's tissues right into the developing pup or kitten in the mother's uterus! The worm larvae can also be transferred to the nursing pup or kitten from the mother's milk. The larvae make their way to the intestinal tract where they can grow up to five inches in length. They start shedding eggs and try desperately to keep house in the small intestine of the pup or kitten. The eggs that the adult worms pass in the stool can now re-infest the same pup or kitten or other dogs and cats if somehow the egg-bearing stool is eaten. When the worm eggs hatch, larvae are released internally to migrate to the animal's lungs where the larvae (remember, the larvae are microscopic in size) are finally coughed up, swallowed, and finally grow up to adults in the small intestine. So you can see that repeated exposures to egg-bearing stool or stool-contaminated soil can cause additive numbers of parasites to a dog or cat's load. Not good! Roundworms are active in the intestines of puppies and kittens, often causing a pot-bellied appearance and poor growth. The worms may be seen in vomit or stool; a severe infestation can cause death by intestinal blockage. Females can produce 200 thousand eggs in a day; eggs are protected by a hard shell and can exist in the soil for years.

Roundworms can infest adult dogs and cats, too. However, as mentioned above, the larvae can encyst in body tissue of adult dogs and cats, remain dormant for periods of time, and can activate during the last stages of pregnancy to infest the puppies and kittens. Worming the mother has no effect on the encysted larvae in the body tissues and cannot prevent the worms from infecting the newborn. Almost all wormers work only on the adult parasites IN THE INTESTINAL TRACT.

👉 Hookworms

These are much more common in dogs than in cats. They are very small, thin worms that fasten to the wall of the small intestine and suck blood. Dogs get hookworms from larval migration in the uterus, from contact with the larvae in stool-contaminated soil, or from ingesting the eggs after birth. As with roundworms, the hookworm larvae can also be transferred to the nursing pup from the mother's milk. A severe hookworm infestation can kill puppies, often making them severely anemic from the loss of blood to the hookworms' vampire-like activities! Chronic hookworm infestation is a common cause of older dogs not performing optimally, having poor feed efficiency and weight maintenance, and having poor stamina. Often the signs include bloody diarrhea, weight loss, anemia, and progressive weakness. Examining the feces for eggs under a microscope makes diagnosis.

👉 Whipworms

This parasite is more often seen in dogs than cats. Adult whipworms, although seldom seen in the stool, look like tiny pieces of thread with one end enlarged. They live in the cecum, the first section of the dog's large intestine. Infestations are usually difficult to prove since the whipworms shed comparatively few eggs; so an examination of even several stool samples may not reveal the presence of whipworms. If a dog is presented with chronic weight loss and passes stool that seems to have a covering of mucous (especially the last portion of stool the dog passes), and lives in a kennel situation

or an area where whipworms are prevalent, the veterinarian may prescribe a whipworm medication based upon circumstantial evidence. Repeat worming may be necessary especially if there is a probability that the dog will become re-infested. Although they seldom cause a dog's death, whipworms are a real nuisance for the dog and can be a problem for the veterinarian to diagnose.

👉 Tapeworms

Another intestinal parasite, the tapeworm, is transmitted to dogs and cats that ingest fleas (fleas think tapeworm eggs are real tasty!) or that hunt and eat wildlife or rodents infested with tapeworms or fleas. If you were to see an entire tapeworm you would notice that they are arranged with a small head at one end and many tiny brick-like repeating segments making up the rest of the worm. There are generally two types that infest dogs and cats; tapeworms can reach 4 to 6 inches in length within the intestine. It is the last segments in the chain that are released from the worm that can be seen in the dog or cats' stool. An entire tapeworm may have 90 segments! Many cases are diagnosed simply by seeing these tiny terminal segments attached to the pet's fur around the anus or under the tail; they even move around a bit shortly after they are passed and before they dry up and look like little grains of rice or confetti. These segments of the tapeworm contain the eggs. The typical generic, over-the-counter wormers cannot kill tapeworms; see the veterinarian for prescription-only treatment that really works. Don't waste your time or money on non-prescription tape worm medications... they don't work very well.

👉 Heartworm

It is a parasitic roundworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) that is spread from host to host through the bites of mosquitoes. Heartworm is a type of [filaria](#), a small thread-like worm. It can affect dogs, cats, wolves, coyotes, foxes, and some other animals, such as ferrets, sea lions, and even humans. The parasitic worm is called a "heartworm" because the parasite, in the final reproductive stage of its life cycle, resides in the heart of its host where it can live for many years and kill its host through congestive heart failure. Heartworm infestation is extremely serious for the host; infected dogs that go untreated can die and even treated dogs must go through a long period of uncomfortable treatment (sometimes requiring surgery) in advanced cases to remove the worms from the right atrium). The best defense against heartworm is the use of prophylactic treatment given monthly. A course of heartworm prevention begins with a blood test to see if the parasite is present. If the dog is parasite free, a prophylactic medication can be used to prevent heartworm infection. A positive test result usually requires treatment to eradicate the worms.

TRAINING YOUR DOG



REMEMBER: If you don't want your Dog to do something as an adult, DO NOT let him do it as a Dog. i.e.: jumping on you, the couch or bed etc.

➔ BASIC RULE OF TRAINING:

Never punish your Dog after you've called it to you. Don't say "Here, Max" and then let him have it. If you do, Max will stop coming when he's called.

➔ HOUSE RULES:

Try to establish some house rules.

If your Dog gets on the sofa or bed and you don't allow him on there, then say "NO!" and put it down. Once the pup is on the ground, praise it. Say "Good dog!" Keep in mind that puppies have very short memories, so your correction must immediately follow the bad behavior. It's also important to be consistent. Everyone in the household must follow your lead. Otherwise, your Dog will become confused.

Shoe chewing. Well, this is definitely wrong, but you realize that teething puppies do need to chew. Take the shoe from the Dog and immediately say "NO!" Then give the Dog something it can chew on, like a chew toy, and praise it –"Good dog!"

Never hit your Dog. Aggression will confuse and scare your Dog. Besides being cruel, hitting your Dog will make it timid. In addition, if you hit a large dog, it may feel threatened and turn on you. You might want to try having a fly swatter around the house. For some reason most Danes don't like the noise they make thru the air or if you slap it on the table. I have had the experience that it gets their attention very quickly. A can full of coins is a similar item that can be used to get their attention.

➔ HOUSEBREAKING:

Note: When the dog wakes up, the first thing they will probably want to do is pee pee. Take the dog outside immediately to go potty.

Make sure you start a schedule/routine with your new Dog, so he/she knows when and where it should eliminate.

Put a bell on the Dog's collar if you need to, so you know where it is at all times.

Whenever you can't watch the Dog, put it in its crate but not to exceed a couple of hours during the day. This might sound cruel, but it's not. Most dogs are reluctant to soil their living areas, so they won't eliminate in their crates. They will also start seeing it as their little den and go in by themselves if you leave the door opened for them.

Take your Dog outside to the same spot when it's time to go. Doing this will help your Dog associate that particular location with elimination, so it will make the connection more quickly. Be patient, it takes time. Most dogs will sniff for 15 or 20 minutes before they go. Avoid playing with the Dog until after it eliminates.

Use the same key words when you're referring to elimination. For example: "go potty", "go tinkle" or "go pee-pee". The dog will associate the words with the action.

Feeding the Dog at the same time each day will help put it on a schedule. NEVER WITHHOLD WATER IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL WHEN YOUR DOG ELIMINATES.

When it comes to housebreaking, praise is paramount. Praise your Dog immediately after it goes every time.

If you catch your Dog eliminating in the house, make a loud noise, like clapping your hands, shout "NO" or stamp your foot. Then take the Dog outside to eliminate. Never hit or physically hurt your Dog or shove its nose in the soiled area. Punishment will only scare the Dog and make it timid.

If your Dog has an accident when you are not home, and you discover it later, it's too late to punish the Dog. The Dog won't know what it is being punished for. Be Patient.

TRAINING THE BASICS

Teaching your Dog commands will help you get control. Additionally, the time you spend together during your training sessions will help the bond between you.

YOU WILL NEED: A CHOKE COLLAR AND LEAD (Some Danes need the spiked choker because they are knuckleheads. LOL It doesn't hurt them because the ends are not sharp, but it does get their attention. You must place it close to the ears because that is where the more sensitive nerves are.

You can determine the correct choke collar size for your Dog by measuring around the largest part of the Dog's head and then adding an inch.

1. WALKING ON A LEAD

Let the Dog get used to wearing the collar before you attempt to walk him on a lead. Once he gets used to the collar, put the lead on. If he is afraid of the lead, make it fun for him by coxing him with a treat or toy. Always walk him on your left. This comes in handy if you decide to show him later on. Praise, praise, praise.

2. HEELING (First command to be taught)

The heel command is used to keep a dog beside the owner. Keep your Dog at your left side and start to walk. Then call the Dog's name and say "heel" – "Max heel". Give the command as you take the first step and then snap the lead so the dog moves. Each time the Dog moves away from your left side say, "Max heel" and snap the lead. Be patient and keep your first few training sessions short. Fifteen minutes, two or three times a day, is enough to start. In time you can increase the length of the sessions. Use the choke only when you have to with as little force as possible. Try to use quick jerks rather than strong pressure. Remember to praise your Dog lavishly when it stays by your side. Wait until this is learned before you move onto the next command.

3. SITTING (Second command to be taught)

Start by heeling the Dog at your left side. When you stop walking give the sit command. Place your left hand on the Dog's rear and guide it into a sitting position. Use your right hand to hold the lead so the Dog's head stays up. Let the Dog remain sitting for a moment, then give the heel command and start walking again. Keep practicing and keep praising.

4. STAYING (Third command to be taught)

Have your Dog sit and tell it to stay. (Make sure the Dog is on the lead when you do this.) After you give the command, place the palm of your left hand in front of the Dog's muzzle and move a step or two away. Repeat the stay command "Max, stay" – in a firm voice. Don't make your Dog stay very long at

first – 10 or 15 seconds is good. Slowly increase the time of the stay and the distance you step away. Very well trained dogs only have to be told to stay once and will stay until their owners release them.

5. STANDING AND STAYING (Fourth command to be taught)

Like the sit command, the stand-stay command is taught from the heel position. Slow your Dog down to a heel and give the command, “Max, stand,” then “Max, stay.” Now block the dog’s sit by placing your left hand in front of the top of your Dog’s right hind leg. (Remember, you taught your Dog to sit automatically whenever you stop walking.) Gently block your Dog’s sit. Then start walking again using the heel command and stop again using the stand-stay command. In time, your Dog will realize that when you stop walking, it should sit unless you tell it otherwise. Remember to praise, praise, and praise.

6. LYING DOWN (Fifth command to be taught)

To teach your Dog to lie down, sit it by your side. Kneel beside it and reach over its back with your left arm, taking hold of its upper left front leg. Then take its right front leg in your right hand. Tell the Dog “Max, down,” and guide it into the down position by easing its body down. Release your grasp when the Dog is down while saying “Max, down, stay!” Try to get the Dog to stay for a few seconds before your release it. Get the dog to sit again and try once more. Eventually you’ll be able to have the Dog lie down, tell it to stay, and walk away from it. Praise, praise and more praise.

7. COMING (Sixth command to be taught)

Come is an important command for your Dog to learn. It is normally taught last since the come command works best if your Dog learns the other commands first. When your Dog is heeling at your side, step back and say, “Max, come.” As you give the command, snap the lead and make the Dog turn around to its right while walking so it’s standing facing you. Then get the Dog to come toward you by gently tugging its lead. Give the Dog lots of praise. In time, you and your Dog will be able to do this without the lead. Remember to praise.

When all else fails try OBEDIENCE CLASS

If you’re really having a tough time getting your Dog to listen to you, consider enrolling it in a dog obedience class. A professional trainer will know how to handle your particular breed. Ask a local breeder, your veterinarian or look in the phone book for a class nearby.



References and Websites of Interest

Check my [Links](#) page for further info

Websites I Recommend

American Kennel Club	http://www.akc.org/index.cfm
Breeders Assistant Program (Pedigree Software)	http://www.tenset.co.uk/ba/peds.html
Canine Nutritional Consultant	www.greatdanelady.com/index.html
Dog Crates	http://www.radiofence.com/dog-crates/cozy_crates.htm
Dog Doors etc.	http://gundoghousedoor.com
Dog Information	http://www.thepetcenter.com
General Information on Dogs	http://www.ginnie.com/greatdanes.htm
Genetics	http://www.greatdanerescueinc.com/events/genetics.html
Great Dane Information	www.doglogic.com
Great Dane Pedigree Search	http://www.pedigreedatabase.com/dogs/great_dane/breedinfo.html
N.Y.S. Agricultural and Markets	http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us
Orthopedic Foundation For Animals	http://www.offa.org
Pet Products	http://www.coastalpet.com/index.php
Veterinary Supplies	http://www.lambriarvet.com
The Merck Veterinary Manual	http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp
Veterinary Information For Dogs	http://www.vetinfo4dogs.com

Books I Recommend

Be The Pack Leader	Cesar Millan	2007
Cesar's Way	Cesar Millan	2006
Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul	Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Marty Becker, D.V.M., Carol Kline and Amy D. Shojai	2005
Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook	James M. Giffin MD & Liisa D. Carlson DVM	2000
Dr. Ackerman's Book of Great Danes	Lowell Ackerman DVM	1996
Great Danes	Diane McCarty	1990
Great Danes	Diane McCarty	1997
Great Danes	Jill Swedlow	1997
Great Danes	Joe Stahlkuppe	2002
The Complete Book Of Dog Breeding	DR. Dan Rice	1996
The Pill Book Guide to Medication for Your Dog and Cat	Kate A.W. Roby, V.M.D. & Lenny Southam, D.V.M.	1998
Therapy Dogs Today	Kris Butler	2004
Therapy Dogs Training Your Dog to Reach Others	Kathy Diamond Davis	2002
Your Great Dane	Lina Basquette	1972