

Benefits of Spaying or Neutering Your New Companion

Spaying or neutering your dog or cat is beneficial to both you and your pet. It is recommended that the surgery be performed before six months of age or the first heat cycle (whichever is earlier).

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.

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Health And Welfare Information



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

If You Have Any Questions,
Don't Hesitate To Ask

Inherited and other health concerns in the Great Dane

The following health conditions have been identified in the Great Dane.

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.

K9HD: HIP DYSPLASIA - is an inherited disease with multifactorial 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 hormone 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.

GVD: Bloat - is the number one killer of Great Danes & Great Danes are 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 GVD are currently not understood, however most would agree that multiple small meals per day and preventing vigorous exercise around mealtimes could 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 GVD. Discuss this with your veterinarian and your Dane's breeder.

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 puppy hood 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.

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