

TRAINING YOUR DOG

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

➤ **Basic rule of training:**

Never punish your puppy 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 puppy 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 puppy 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 puppy and immediately say "NO!" Then give the puppy something it can chew on, like a chew toy, and praise it – "Good dog!"

Never hit your puppy. Aggression will confuse and scare your puppy. Besides being cruel, hitting your puppy 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:** (Your Puppy is Paper Trained, when they leave our home)

Note: When the pup wakes up, the first thing they will want to do is pee pee. Before the pup fully wakes up, take the pup outside or the paper to go potty.

The way we train our puppies is we have them sleep between our heads and during the middle of the night if we feel the pup move towards the end of the bed we pick the pup up and take them to the papers or outside. Don't let the pup touch the floor until you get them either outside or on the paper because they will go pee ASAP.

Young puppies have poor bladder control; they urinate about 6-8 times a day. Make sure you start a schedule/routine with your new puppy, so he/she knows when and where it should eliminate. Pups older than 8 weeks old get used to eliminating on a certain surface.

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

Whenever you can't watch the puppy, put it in its crate. This might sound cruel, but it's not. Most puppies 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.

REMEMBER, puppies can't hold it for long, so you can't leave your puppy in its crate for long periods of time until they are a few weeks older.

Take your puppy outside to the same spot when it's time to go. If your puppy is paper trained, you might put some newspaper down in your backyard. Doing this will help your puppy associate that particular location with elimination, so it will make the connection more quickly. Be patient, it takes time. Most pups will sniff for 15 or 20 minutes before they go. Avoid playing with the puppy 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 puppy at the same time each day will help put it on a schedule. Puppies usually defecate 20 minutes after eating. **NEVER WITHOLD WATER IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL WHEN YOUR PUPPY ELIMINATES.**

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

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

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

➤ TRAINING THE BASICS

Teaching your puppy commands will help you get control. Additionally, the time you spend together during your training sessions will help the two of you bond.

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 puppy by measuring around the largest part of the puppy's head and then adding an inch.

WALKING ON A LEAD

Let the puppy 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.

HEELING (First command to be taught)

The heel command is used to keep a dog beside the owner.

Keep your puppy at your left side and start to walk. Then call the puppy'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 puppy 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 puppy lavishly when it stays by your side. Wait until this is learned before you move onto the next command.

SITTING (Second command to be taught)

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

STAYING (Third command to be taught)

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

STANDING AND STAYING (Fourth command to be taught)

Like the sit command, the stand-stay command is taught from the heel position. Slow your puppy 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 puppy's right hind leg. (Remember, you taught your puppy to sit automatically whenever you stop walking.) Gently block your puppy's sit. Then start walking again using the heel command and stop again using the stand-stay command. In time, your puppy will realize that when you stop walking, it should sit unless you tell it otherwise. Remember to praise, praise, and praise.

LYING DOWN (Fifth command to be taught)

To teach your puppy 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 puppy "Max, down," and guide it into the down position by easing its body down. Release your grasp when the puppy is down while saying "Max, down, stay!" Try to get the puppy 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 puppy lie down, tell it to stay, and walk away from it. Praise, praise and more praise.

COMING (Sixth command to be taught)

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

OBEDIENCE CLASS

If you're really having a tough time getting your puppy 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. However, wait until your puppy is 6 – 8 months old before you try to teach it professional obedience commands.