

**THE GREAT DANE CLUBS  
GUIDE TO  
GOOD OWNERSHIP**



**Leading the way since 1883**

# **THE GREAT DANE CLUB**

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**We are indebted to Colin Reeves for the original  
"Baby Dane" cartoons he has given us for this book.**

# INTRODUCTION

*The Great Dane Club hope that this small booklet will help you master the essentials of Great Dane ownership.*



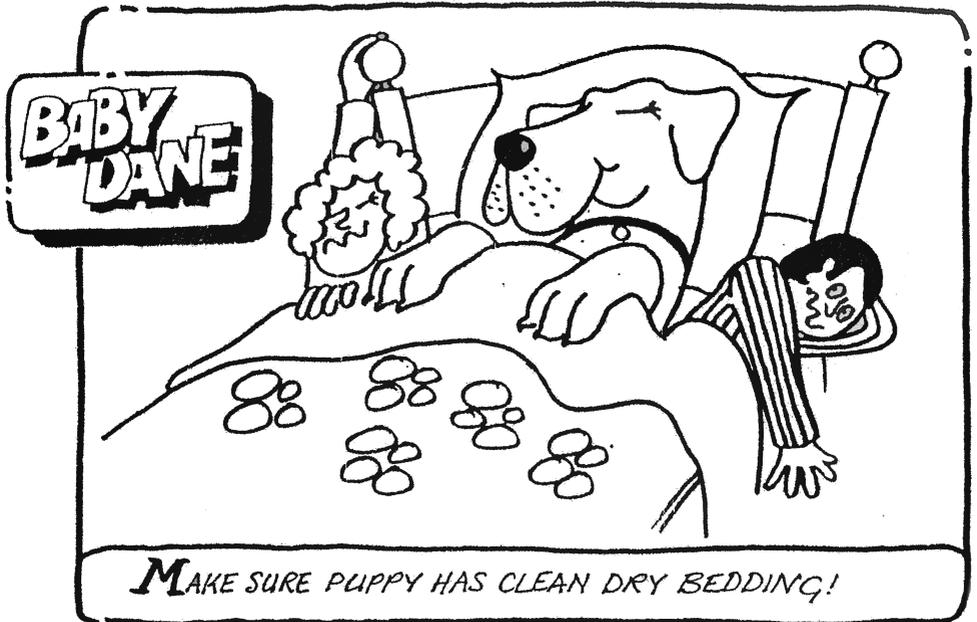
It is not intended to be a complete guide to the breed, the internet, your local library or bookshop should be able to supply that. The Great Dane Club support The Kennel Clubs' Code of Conduct for Pet Owners. If you decide to join The Great Dane Club you will receive a copy of it, together with your Club Rules. Details of Club fixtures, and schedules of forthcoming shows run by the Club are available on our website and Social Media pages.

You will not have chosen a Great Dane purely for its grace and beauty, its reputation as a breed with wonderful temperaments will have played a big part in your decision. It is now your duty to help uphold this distinguished reputation as a "Gentle Giant" by being a considerate and responsible owner.

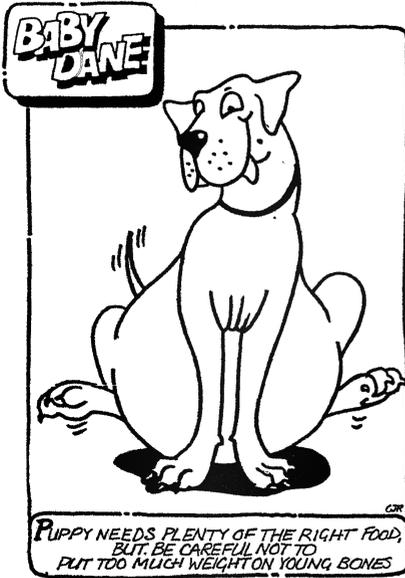
# SOMEWHERE TO SLEEP

Danes love their comfort, and being heavy and short coated they need something soft to sleep on. Slightly raised beds, protected from draughts at floor level are ideal. Great Danes lying frequently on hard surfaces may suffer from calluses to the the elbow which appear like abnormal growths with elephant-like skin surfaces. These calluses usually develop due to the size and pressure a Dane exerts on the elbow and other bony projections of the joints in the hips, sternum, and hock.

After a very exciting day, there's nothing more a Great Dane likes better is to have a nap. Fortunately there are now a large suitable variety of raised, soft and memory foam beds available to order online.



## SOMETHING TO EAT



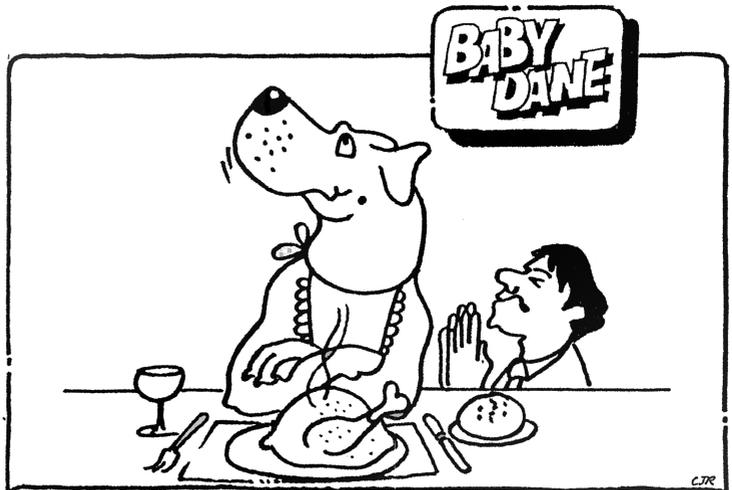
If you have obtained your Great Dane from a reputable breeder, you will have been given a diet sheet to follow and plenty of advice regarding feeding.

Some breeders use a "Complete" feed whilst others prefer giving a raw diet composed of meat and fresh vegetables. There are hundreds of Complete feeds available and any breeder or owner will be pleased to guide you, as some feeds are more suitable for Giant Breeds than others.

Look for a list of contents and comprehensive guide on the bag. Don't buy the local pet shop mix for young puppies and don't buy out of date food.

Several of the big companies have done considerable research into rearing, but the best recommendation is from other Dane owners.

Use your common sense. Feed your Dane for how he looks, if he is energetic and slender, give him more. Loose sloppy motions (not real diarrhoea) are a sign of overfeeding.



Complete feeds usually need no supplements. Vitamin and mineral preparations added to an already balanced diet can be very dangerous. Your Dane will reach his destined size in his own time.

Don't push him. Don't rush him. You won't make him any bigger and you may well be killing or crippling him !

# SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH

There are many good toys and playthings for dogs available but a few words of caution. Great Danes have very strong jaws. The words on the toy "Will last your pet for hours" do not really apply to Great Danes.

There are some however that may last a bit longer than others, great examples of these are XL Kong toys made from tough natural rubber. For persistent chewers natural antlers are durable lasting longer than many other forms of chews. Avoid rawhides which may cause choking, internal blockages or gastric irritation.

Generally soft toys tend not to last long, if your Dane loves a soft toy look for something that has different textures and noises such as Floppy Knots. It is important to choose something without stuffing inside to prevent accidental ingestion and something that is strong enough for some rough play.

Don't give him balls that are smaller than his jaw or he may accidentally swallow them. Tennis balls are just the WRONG size.

# HEALTH CARE

One of the first people in your Great Danes life will be your local Vet. Don't wait until the dog is sick to find a good one. Your breeder should have had a puppy health check prior to you picking up your new companion, it is always advisable that once your puppy has settled into their new home that you have your own veterinary practice give them a once over.

Ideally choose a vet that likes large breeds - not all of them do.

Your veterinary surgeon should be prepared to make home visits as it can be very difficult to transport a heavy sick Dane.

Be sure that the practice runs a 24 hour emergency service - some illness just can't wait.

Unfortunately there is no National Health Service for pets and, as veterinary medicine can be very expensive, you would be well advised to take out medical insurance to cover the cost of major Vet's bills for accident or illness. Your Vet, breeders or the Kennel Club can advise you.

# VACCINATION

Your first duty is to give your Great Dane protection from the 4 main dangerous and often fatal canine diseases.

**Distemper / Hardpad** - A highly infectious virus disease. Still a prime cause of death in non-vaccinated pups.

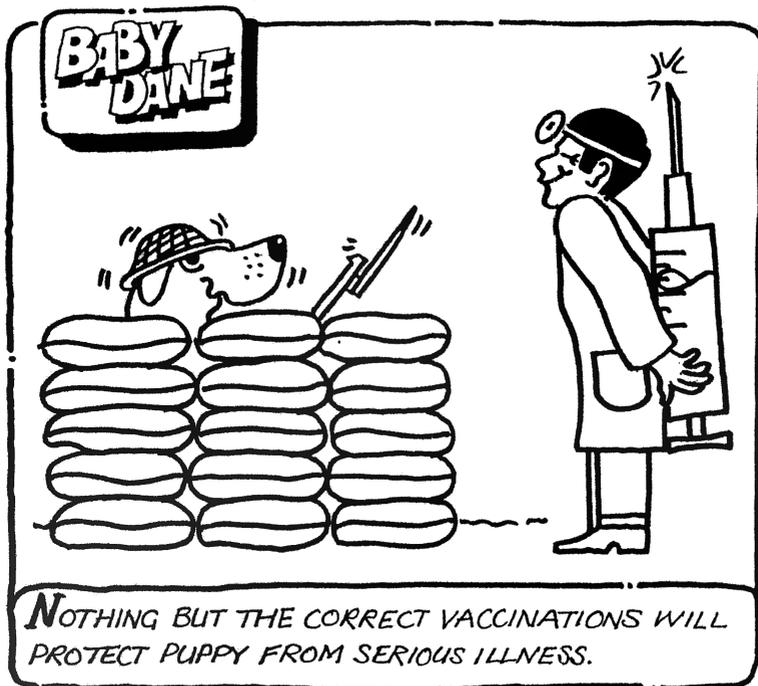
**Hepatitis** - A virus causing Liver failure and Haemorrhage.

**Leptospirosis** - A disease passed in infected urine causing Kidney and Liver failure.

**Parvovirus** - A disease typified by profound diarrhoea and vomiting

**Kennel Cough** - Is a respiratory infection that can be caused by different viruses and bacteria and is easily spread between dogs. Infected dogs develop a hacking cough a few days to two weeks after being exposed to the virus and lasting up to three weeks. An annual vaccination is required.

Your Vet will advise you regarding vaccinations. Usually between 8 and 14 weeks old made up of two or three injections. Keep puppies away from public doggy places until his immunity has had time to develop. Booster Vaccinations are usually given every 12 months.



# WORMING

Worming your Great Dane throughout its lifetime is important, and you should talk to your vet about a suitable worming programme for your puppy at the earliest opportunity. Regular worming not only protects your dog's health, but helps to prevent the spread of infection and potentially health risks to other animals and humans too. Worm infections carried by your dog do not always display obvious symptoms, so an adequate treatment schedule is vital.

Worming treatments should have been carried out prior to you receiving your puppy and a record of this provided from your breeder.

Dogs can appear healthy even when they have worm infections. Detecting an infection can be tricky, particularly as worm eggs are too small to be easily visible in your pet's faeces. In addition, your dog may be more at risk from some worm infections than others depending on where you live. It is therefore extremely important to keep your dog's treatment regular and up to date.

Specific signs will be described for each worm, but remember that not all worm infections will be obvious in your dog, so some more general signs to look for include:

Your Dane is 'scooting', whereby they drag their bottoms along the ground with their back legs. Other signs are Weight loss: Vomiting: Diarrhoea: A dull lifeless coat: A change in appetite (it may be either increased or decreased depending on the worms present): A lack of energy: A pot-bellied appearance (most commonly seen in puppies): Breathing difficulties and coughing: General changes in behaviour:

You should seek advice from your vet if you see any of the above signs in your dog. Many of these symptoms may be indicative of other illnesses. Your vet will be able to investigate the problem and provide appropriate advice and treatment.

## **WORMING PRODUCTS**

There are a wide variety of worming products available from a number of different sources. Always check with your vet before initiating a worming regime. This way you can be confident that you are using the most appropriate products, and following the best treatment for the needs of your dog and family.

## PREVENTION

As well as following a worming plan following consultation with your vet, there are also many other practical things you can do to help prevent the spread of worm infections among your pets and family. These are as follows:

'Poop scooping' - make sure you pick up your dog's faeces immediately on a walk and remove it from the lawn or surrounding outdoor environment daily - bag it, and put it in designated poop bins, double bag it, and put it in with the domestic waste, or check with you local council.

Ensure you and your children wash your hands after handling/stroking your dog.

Wash all food including fruit and vegetables before eating them

Don't allow children to put dirt in their mouths

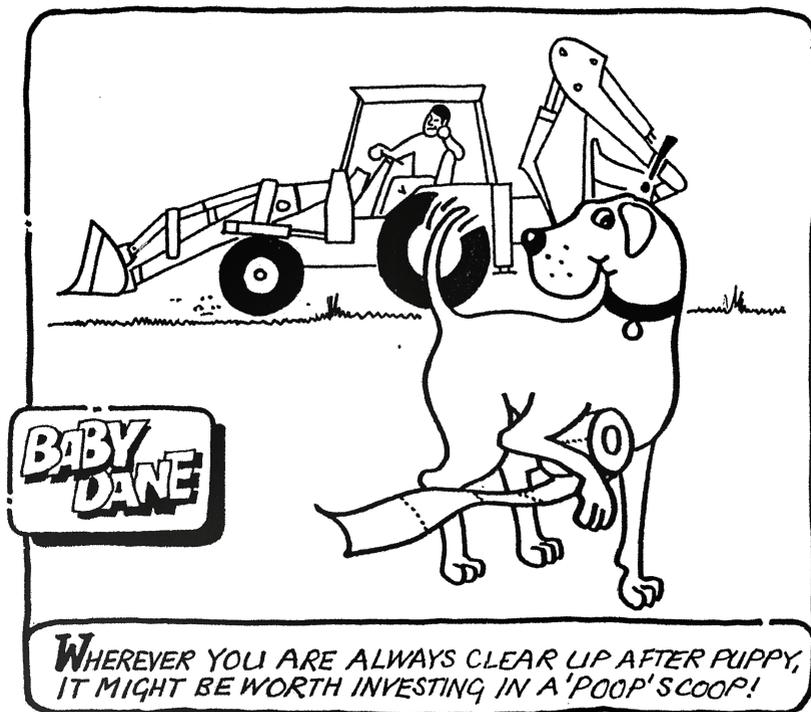
Throw away any food dropped on the floor/ground rather than eating it

Cover children's sandpits when not in use

## TRAVELLING PETS

There are specific parasitic worms to which your pet may be exposed to on visiting countries outside the UK.

If you are intending to travel abroad with your Dane, you should talk to your vet in plenty of time to establish the best worming regime to ensure the protection of both your dog's health and that of your family.



# SOCIALISATION

Socialisation is critical throughout a Great Danes life especially as a puppy from birth up to 16 weeks of age, otherwise important learning and development phases have passed. You need to plan and incorporate some extremely important lessons during the early stages of your puppy's development so that you end up with a well balanced and sociable dog. Allow your puppy to meet people especially those doing an activity such as jogging, wearing a hat or even sporting a beard. Day to day noises such as washing machines, hoovers and general kitchen noises are a really important development for puppy's and the more different noises they can get used to the better. Also include different textures under feet such as grass, gravel and slippery floors. Crowded places are an ideal place for your puppy to get used to people and individual noises. Get your puppy used to some gentle handling include the head, ears, tail, and legs and groom for short periods regularly. Some veterinary practices hold regular puppy parties allowing your Dane to socialise under supervision. The most important thing is to let it be a fun and positive experience.

Bringing your puppy home for the first time is naturally a happy and exciting occasion, but it can be a little daunting too – there is so much for both you and your puppy to learn!

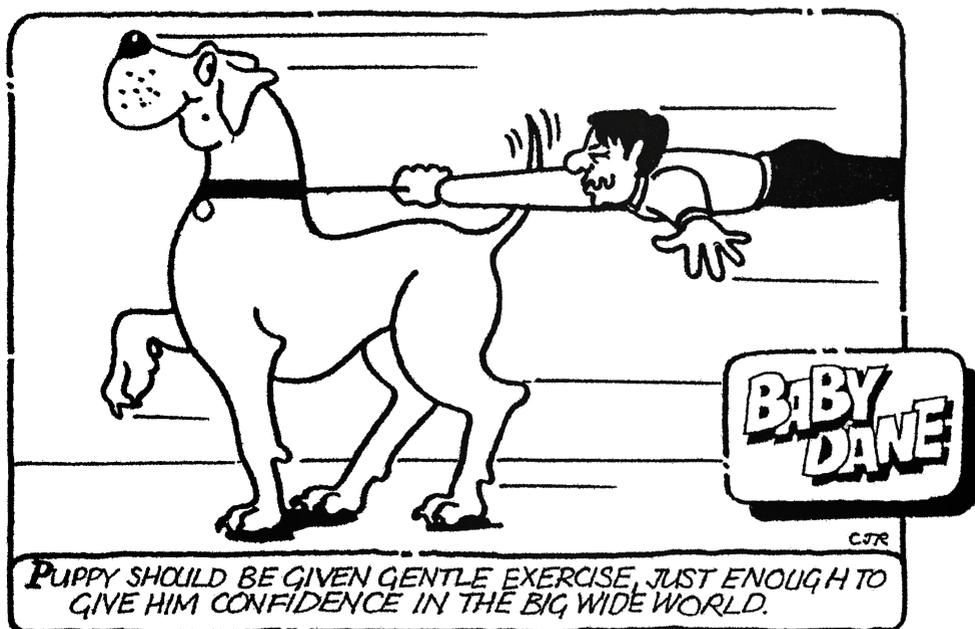
## **IMPORTANT TIPS**

- Start as you mean to go on. If you are always consistent you will avoid confusing your puppy.
- Puppies have a very short attention span so train for short spells on a regular basis.
- Keep it short and keep it simple, but most of all keep it fun. Gentle play builds trust and a strong bond between you and your puppy as well as making training enjoyable.
- Patience is the key ingredient in dog training. If you try to rush things you will only get frustrated and confuse your puppy.
- Keep it interesting. Cultivate a range of different rewards incorporating play, fuss, praise, treats and toys - this will stop both of you from getting bored.



# EXERCISE

An important part of a dog's life is exercise, not only for fitness, but also for mental stimulation. Exercise times and feeding times are often the most exciting parts of a dog's day, and your Great Dane will grow to keenly anticipate them.



Puppies need much less exercise than fully-grown dogs. If you over-exercise a growing puppy, you can quickly overtire it, and more importantly damage its developing joints. Over-exercise places strain on rapidly growing joints and bones that could create growth problems and pain and discomfort in adult Great Danes.

## **EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS**

### **0-12 weeks**

Until a puppy has completed its course of vaccinations, there is a risk of infection. Therefore, it is usually better that exercise is restricted to within the confines of your own garden. Exercising in the garden also provides an excellent opportunity to start early training, and to get your puppy used to wearing a collar. Make sure your puppy has a number of safe toys, and always accompany them in the garden. This way, you can engage your puppy

in suitable levels of activity, and start to reward good toileting behaviour, which can usually provide all the puppy's exercise needs during this time. If the opportunity arises, take your puppy to other safe environments where there is no risk and it is able to mix with other animals and people, such as private gardens where only vaccinated dogs have access. Socialising at an early age is a vital part of your dog's development.

### **3-6 Months**

Once vaccinations have been completed puppy's under the age of 6 months old should not be walked for any longer than 5 to 15mins.

### **6-12 Months**

From 6 - 12 months old you can start to gradually increase the time and distance but still no longer than 30 minutes a day.

### **From 12 months**

From 12 months most Great Danes will benefit from 30 minutes plus of physical activity per day which can be gradually increased and broken down in to two or three walks a day.

All Great Danes require regular exercise to remain fit and prevent them from becoming overweight, which may also lead to health problems. You should remember however, that exercise needs to be introduced gradually, and that a young puppy will not have the same exercise requirement as an adult dog.

The duration and frequency of exercise should remain fairly consistent and any increases should be gradual. Exercise is an important part of their life and so they will take as much as you can give.

A fully grown Great Dane will normally be capable of walking to the same capability as its owner, however as a dog becomes older, exercise should be reduced and your dog should be allowed to walk at its own pace.

### **Dog tags & microchips**

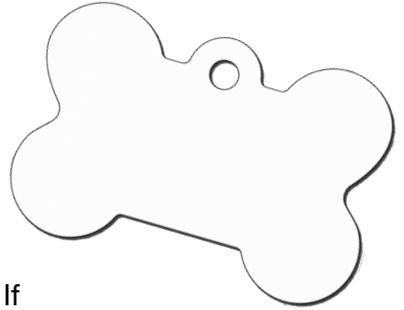
In the UK, the Control of Dogs Order 1992 states that any dog in a public place must wear a collar with the name and address of the owner engraved or written on it, or engraved on a tag. Your telephone number is optional.

As of the 6th April 2016, Every non-certified working dog older than 8 weeks of age **MUST** be microchipped and registered by the keeper of that dog in the UK and registered on one of the authorised commercial databases. Even if your dog is microchipped it must still wear a tag on its collar.

If your dog is found without a dog tag or microchip you may be fined up to £5000.

If you sell or pass your dog onto someone else, you as the previous owner must register the new keepers details against the microchip. You must also inform the database you are using if your dog passes away.

If you have brought a dog into the UK from abroad, your dog will have had to have a pet passport issued. As part of the pet passport scheme, your dog will have been microchipped. If you are living in the UK, you must ensure the microchip is registered with a UK microchipping database to comply with the law.



## **TRAINING**

Bringing your puppy Great Dane home for the first time is naturally a happy and exciting occasion, but it can be a little daunting too – there is so much for both you and your puppy to learn!.

Dogs were originally pack animals and every pack has a leader. Through basic training your Dane will accept you in that role and build up a happy relationship founded on respect and trust

- Start as you mean to go on. Be consistent this will avoid confusing your puppy.
- Puppies have a very short attention span so train for short spells on a regular basis.
- Keep it simple, interesting, but most of all keep it fun - puppies respond better to cheerful voice tones rather than to threatening orders. Gentle play builds trust and a strong bond.
- Patience is the key ingredient in dog training. If you try to rush things you will only get frustrated and confuse your puppy.
- Do not teach, or tolerate, behaviour in a puppy that would not be welcome in a fully grown Dane.
- Do not "Rough-house" with your Dane as you will always want to stop before he does and to stop him in his excited state you will have to get cross with him. Why should you get cross ? You started it!
- Don't encourage aggressive tendencies in your Dane. This is a gentle giant who will guard you and your family by his size and presence. Aggression is not a desirable trait.

Most owners can benefit from attending good training classes, and training in the company of other dogs is very useful, because of the realistic distractions it involves. Ideally, you should start your classes as soon as your puppy's vaccinations are complete, but classes can be invaluable for older dogs too, and continue throughout the dog's life.

There are lots of schools of thought on dog training and it is naturally important that you find a class and training instructors with the right approach for you and your Great Dane. Dog training can be lots of fun and very rewarding. After all, a trained dog is a happy dog, and a happy dog makes for a happy owner too.

## **Toilet Training**

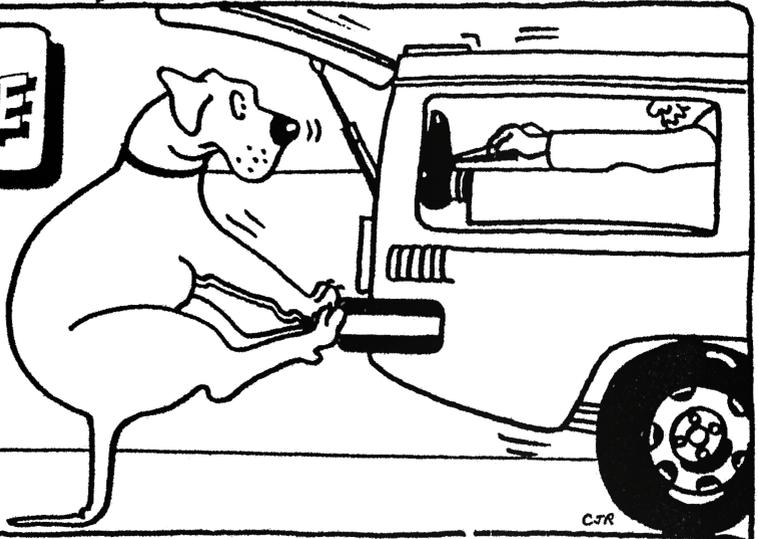
Toilet training is obviously a crucial part of your Great Dane's early learning. Getting it right is relatively simple, and will make those first weeks so much more enjoyable for you both. However, like all things, bad habits learnt early on can lead to problems that may take weeks or even months to resolve.

Initially, you will have to build your daily routine around your puppy's needs.

### **The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme**

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme is the UK's largest dog training programme, and has been introduced to assist owners in training their dogs to be obedient in everyday situations. Its simple but effective dog training techniques encompass all the skills necessary for a happy and rewarding partnership with your dog. There are four levels of the scheme, namely Puppy Foundation, Silver, Bronze and Gold. Each level is designed to further develop an owner's understanding of training, while building a dog's confidence and levels of obedience. All dogs are eligible to take part, whether they are young or old, pedigree or crossbreed. Over 2000 dog training schools throughout the UK offer our Good Citizen Scheme training courses.

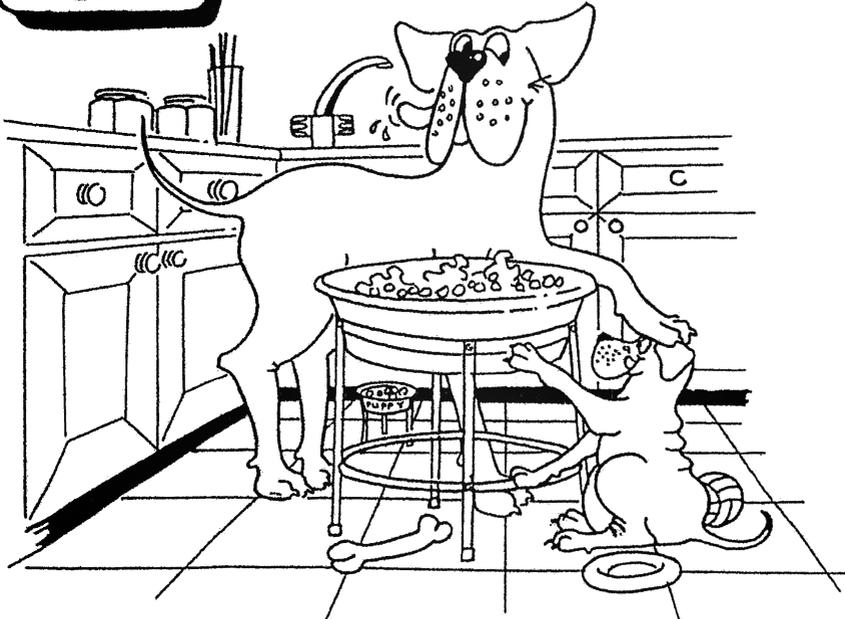
**BABY  
DANE**



CJR

*PUPPY WILL LIKE TRAVELLING IN THE CAR, ALTHOUGH FIRST TIME OUT HE MAY BE A LITTLE APPREHENSIVE.*

**BABY  
DANE**



Puppies have poor bladder control, and need to go to the toilet several times an hour when they are awake. They will also usually need to be taken outside first thing in the morning, last thing at night, after each meal, waking from a nap, and after any exercise, play or excitement.

Always go with your puppy into the garden and establish a regular spot. Puppies are creatures of habit, so as long as you introduce the garden to the puppy as its toilet area early on, you should be able to avoid most accidents. Decide on a cue word or phrase to use when the puppy is actually going to the toilet, so that the puppy will start to associate the word with the action and should learn to go on command. By accompanying your puppy into the garden each time, you will be there to attach cue words and praise to any successful actions. Try to avoid saying "good boy/girl" when your puppy is going to the toilet - you don't want your puppy going to the toilet every time it is praised.

Many owners are left frustrated when their young puppy does not initially toilet when first venturing out on walks. Often, your puppy will only relieve itself the second you get home. This is because the puppy has not yet associated going out for a walk as an opportunity to go to the toilet, so will wait until they return home to their garden, which they know is a good place to go. Don't worry this won't last long and they will soon learn.

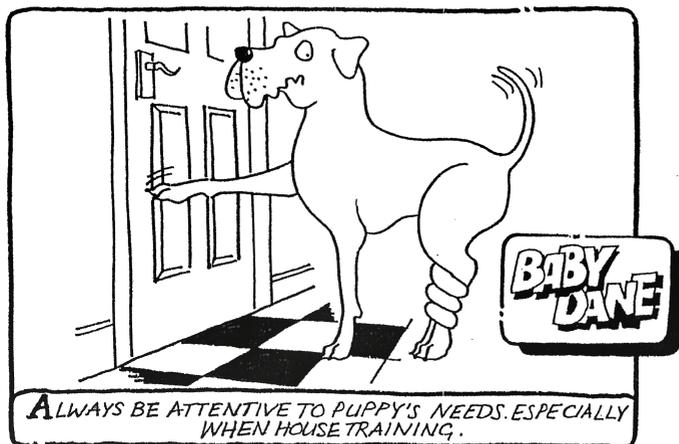
When you do start to take him out please clean up his mess. It's your dog and so is it's mess.

**DON'T** let it foul public places.

**DON'T** let it play on or foul Children's Play Areas.

**DON'T** let it foul sports fields.

**REMEMBER** that even the most avid dog enthusiast does NOT like treading in dog excretia.



**Remember, patience and consistency is key.**

**All puppies take different amounts of time to learn, so don't worry if your puppy seems to be taking longer to get the hang of things.**

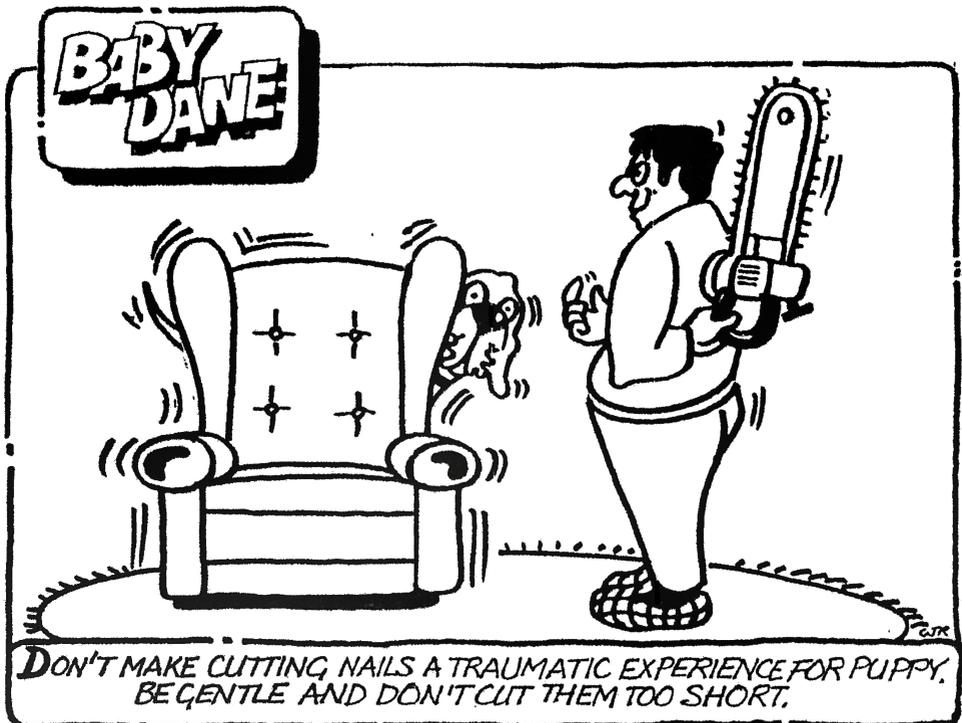
**Your patience will pay off and you will both get there in the end.**

## GROOMING

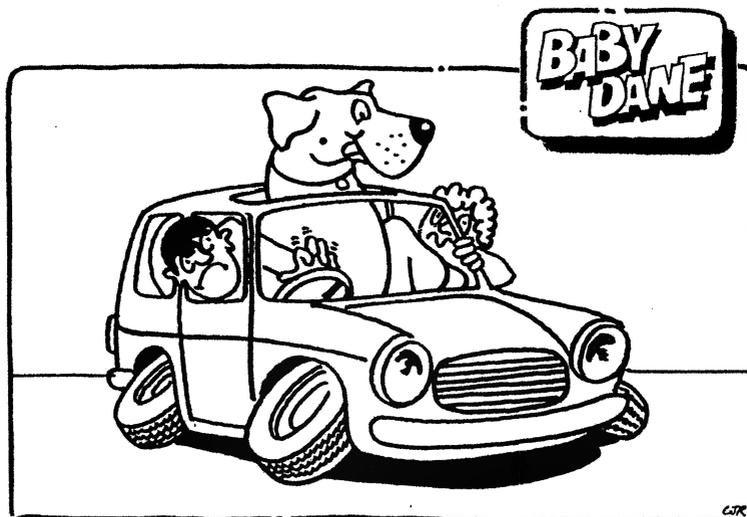
Every day give your Dane a quick once over with a brush or rubber beaded glove. This way you will quickly become aware of his coat condition, any unwanted livestock, fleas or ticks, lurking there or small injuries that may need attention. Spray with flea spray regularly in the Summer especially if you have cats in the house, do them as well!

Clean his ears once a week, you can buy special ear wipes for this but baby wet wipes are just as good. Don't poke down into bits of the ear that you cannot see. Try to get puppy used to having his nails cut regularly when he is young. There are many good nail clippers on the market which can cut the nail without squeezing it unduly.

Some breeders recommend doing young puppies while they sleep but it's best to get them used to having them done in a standing position. Hold the paw firmly and avoid cutting the quick.



## HOLIDAYS AND GOING AWAY



If you take your Dane on holiday (surely the ideal solution) do make sure that the "Pets Welcome" notice includes Great Danes ! Don't let your dog annoy other guests, get on beds without doggy covers, or enter the Restaurant area. Don't spoil things for other Dane owners who follow you.

In hot weather always carry water and a container (to drink from) in the car in case you get stuck in a traffic jam. Wet towels are very good at quickly cooling down a very hot dog. Wet his head, ears and back.

**NEVER** make arrangements which involve leaving a dog in the car in hot weather.

If you intend to leave him in Boarding Kennels, take time to check them out. No Boarding Kennel will mind a preliminary visit as long as you make an appointment. Good ones will be proud to show you around. The kennel runs must be large enough for a Dane. There must be enough Staff to run things efficiently. It may not be like home but it should be clean, dry and with a happy atmosphere. They should ask you to produce your Danes Vaccination Certificate - if they don't their standards are not high enough for you - go elsewhere. Book well in advance. Good Kennels get very full.

**Instead of kennels also consider having a dog sitter stay at your house whilst your away. House sitting services are a perfect choice for Great Danes that prefer to stay in the comfort of their own home.**

## IN YOUR CAR OR VAN

Your Great Dane may well be your best friend and regarded as part of the family, so it's natural to take them with you on any journeys you make in your vehicle. It's a good idea to get your Dane familiar with the car as soon as you can. The earlier they get used to travelling, the easier it will be in the long run. Ideally, before you even go anywhere, show your dog your car or van and let them have a good sniff around and get them used to sounds and vibrations. When you think they are relaxed, start with very short trips and keep each experience positive. If they think you are off to visit the vet each time they go in the car, their enthusiasm won't last long!

### **The law:**

Your dog must be suitably restrained so they cannot disturb the driver of the vehicle.

Driving with pets is covered under Rule 57 of the Highway Code that states: When in a vehicle make sure dogs or other animals are suitably restrained so they cannot distract you while you are driving or injure you, or themselves if you stop quickly. A seat belt harness, pet carrier, dog cage or dog guard are ways of restraining animals in cars.

You could be prosecuted for driving without due care and attention if your dog isn't properly secured. Many insurance company policies state that animals must be restrained in the car.

## **FINALLY**

Have you thought about what will happen to your Dane should something happen to you? Do your neighbours know what to do if you don't arrive home? Do they have a number to call for someone who knows about Danes or could look after yours if you suddenly became hospitalised?

Consider leaving the address and contact details of your registered vet in an easy to find / prominent place

Make some provision now. Let a good friend know what you would like to happen to your Dane if the worst did happen to you.

# **THE GREAT DANE CLUBS GUIDELINES** **TO RESPONSIBLE BREEDING**

These guidelines are intended to assist Members of The Great Dane Club who wish to breed a litter or own a Stud Dog. They are intended to be used in conjunction with the Kennel Club's General Code of Ethics which this Club supports and supplies to all members.

Use the available Health Tests where appropriate and be aware of the Coefficient of Inbreeding (C.O.I.)

After considering all of the pros and cons if you do decide to go ahead and have a litter, where possible speak to an experienced Breeder for advice. They will most likely be more than willing to help you through the journey.

1. One of the Great Dane Club's aims is to improve the breed of Great Danes. This objective should be a prime consideration in any breeding project that is undertaken.
2. Bitches should be of good quality and temperament, registered with the Kennel Club and not known to be carrying serious faults or hereditary defects which may adversely affect the health and well-being of her offspring. At the time of mating she should be fully mature and in good health.
3. The Stud Dog should be of good quality and temperament and registered with the Kennel Club. He should be free from serious defects and hereditary problems which may affect the health and well-being of his progeny. He should not be used indiscriminately on unsuitable bitches. He should not be used on bitches with poor or unsound temperament.
4. The breeder should be aware of the costs of rearing a litter and prepared to meet these costs and possible Veterinary expense. Great Danes can have large litters and if all are reared the breeder must be prepared to keep any puppies that are not sold for as many months as it takes to find good homes for them.

5. Prospective owners should be carefully checked and advised regarding all aspects of Great Danes. They should be supplied with a written diet sheet and instructions regarding worming, exercise and training. Information and advice should be freely available at any time during their ownership - including these guidelines.
6. The breeder should be prepared to take back or help re-home puppies they have bred should this be necessary. The breeder should keep accurate records of all transactions, stud details, litter records and Pedigrees.

It is not essential for the good health of a bitch that she produces a litter of puppies, nor for a male to be used at stud. Research has shown that an unbred bitch generally lives longer. Having a litter of puppies will not cure a bitch of "phantom pregnancies", it often makes the problem worse. If a Dane is kept purely as a pet, spaying or castration is a worthwhile consideration.

# KENNEL CLUB STANDARD

## FOR THE GREAT DANE

*(K.C. permission granted)*

A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Breed Watch information related to this breed for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure. However if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as undesirable or highly undesirable, it is strongly recommended that it should not be rewarded in the show ring.

### **General appearance**

Very muscular, strongly though elegantly built, with look of dash and daring, of being ready to go anywhere and do anything. Head and neck carried high, tail in line with back, or slightly upwards, but never curled over hindquarters. Elegance of outline and grace of form most essential.

### **Characteristics**

Alert expression, powerful, majestic action displaying dignity.

### **Temperament**

Kindly without nervousness, friendly and outgoing.

### **Head and skull**

Head, taken altogether, gives idea of great length and strength of jaw. Muzzle broad, skull proportionately narrow, so that whole head when viewed from above and in front, has appearance of equal breadth throughout. Length of head in proportion to height of dog. Length from nose to point between eyes about equal or preferably of greater length than from this point to back of occiput. Skull flat, slight indentation running up centre, occipital peak not prominent.

Decided rise or brow over the eyes but not abrupt stop between them; face well chiselled, well filled in below eyes with no appearance of being pinched: foreface long, of equal depth throughout. Cheeks showing as little lumpiness as possible, compatible with strength. Underline of head, viewed in profile, runs almost in a straight line from corner of lip to corner of jawbone, allowing for fold of lip, but with no loose skin hanging down. Bridge of nose very wide, with slight ridge where cartilage joins bone (this is a characteristic of breed). Nostrils large, wide and open, giving blunt look to nose. Lips hang squarely in front, forming right angle with upper line of foreface.

### **Eyes**

Fairly deep set, not giving the appearance of being round, of medium size and preferably dark. Wall, or odd eyes permissible in harlequins.

### **Ears**

Triangular, medium size, set high on skull and folded forward, not pendulous.

### **Mouth**

Teeth level. Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

### **Neck**

Neck long, well arched, quite clean and free from loose skin, held well up, well set in shoulders, junction of head and neck well defined.

### **Forequarters**

Shoulders muscular, not loaded, well sloped back, with elbows well under body. Forelegs perfectly straight with big flat bone.

### **Body**

Very deep, brisket reaching elbow, ribs well sprung, belly well drawn up. Back and loins strong, latter slightly arched.

### **Hindquarters**

Extremely muscular, giving strength and galloping power. Second thigh long and well developed, good turn of stifle, hocks set low, turning neither in nor out.

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## **Feet**

Cat-like, turning neither in nor out. Toes well arched and close, nails strong and curved. Nails preferably dark in all coat colours, except harlequins, where light are permissible.

## **Tail**

Thick at the root, tapering towards end, reaching to or just below hocks. Carried in straight line level with back, when dog is moving, slightly curved towards end, but never curling or carried over back.

## **Gait/movement**

Action lithe, springy and free, covering ground well. Hocks move freely with driving action, head carried high.

## **Coat**

Short dense and sleek-looking, never inclined to roughness.

## **Colour**

Brindles: must be striped, ground colour from lightest buff to deepest orange, stripes always black, eyes and nails preferably dark, dark shadings on head and ears acceptable.

Fawns: colour varies from lightest buff to deepest orange, dark shadings on head and ears acceptable, eyes and nails preferably dark.

Blues: colour varies from light grey to deep slate, the nose and eyes may be blue.

Blacks:

a) Black is black.

In all above colours white is only permissible on chest and feet, but it is not desirable even there. Nose always black, except in blues and harlequins. Eyes and nails preferably dark.

b) Mantle: Black and white with a solid, black blanket extending over the body. Ideally - black skull with white muzzle, white blaze optional, whole white collar preferred, a white chest, white on part or whole of the forelegs and hindlegs, white tipped black tail. Nose always black, eyes and nails preferably dark

Harlequins: pure white underground with preferably all black patches or all blue patches, having appearance of being torn. Light nails permissible. In harlequins, wall eyes, pink noses, or butterfly noses permissible but not desirable.

## **Size**

Minimum height of an adult dog over eighteen months: 76 cms (30 ins); bitches: 71 cms (28 ins). Weight, minimum weight over eighteen months: dogs: 54 kgs (120 lbs); bitches: 46 kgs (100 lbs).

## **Faults**

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

## **Note**

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

## **\*Note for prospective puppy buyers**

Size – The Kennel Club breed standard is a guide and description of the ideal for the breed; the size as described does not imply that a dog will match the measurements given (height or weight). A dog might be larger or smaller than the size measurements stated in the breed standard.

Most modern Great Danes considerably exceed the minimum weight and size requirement given in the the Standard. Great height on its own, however, would not indicate a good specimen.

Merle is the term for a Dane coat that is flecked or ticked giving a mottled appearance, either in patches or nearly covering the body. Merle is a recognised naturally occurring colour and can be registered with the Kennel Club. It is not however a breed standard colour so can not be shown at KC registered events.

It is possible, through indiscriminate and negligent breeding, to produce almost any combination of the five acceptable Great Dane colours. Blue fawns (sometimes called champagne fawn), Blue striped Brindles, Harlequins with fawn patches, etc. These Great Danes are not listed registrable colours at the Kennel Club so cannot be automatically registered. Unrecognised colours should never be bred intentionally and Danes in these colours should never be bred from. They are not desirable and should not be described as Rare or Unusual.

# **GASTRIC DILATATION / VOLVULUS** **(BLOAT)**

## **A Brief Guide for New Owners of Great Danes**

Bloat is one of the most serious conditions that can affect the Great Dane and requires urgent veterinary attention.

Much has been written about bloat but this is a brief guide intended for new Dane owners.

### **1. Description**

The stomach becomes dilated due to an abnormal accumulation of gas / air. The enlargement often results in the gut twisting. This twisting (volvulus) then sets up a series of reactions within the body resulting in a critical condition which is frequently fatal. The series of events can take place very rapidly (e.g. within minutes). Bloat usually occurs after the age of 12 months.

### **2. Causes**

Many Theories exist as to the cause of bloat including :

#### a) Food Related

Certain types of food - i.e. soya-based cereal foods.

Eating too quickly / too much food at one meal.

Delays in the passage of food through the gut.

Presence of certain bacteria in the stomach, causing an abnormal level of fermentation to take place.

#### b) Physical

Weakness of abdominal ligaments which hold the stomach in place.

Stress - e.g. during showing, change of environment such as kennelling, adverse fear e.g. thunderstorms.

### **3. First Signs**

Restlessness

Unproductive vomiting / retching - often a saliva-type frothy substance; (undigested food is not usually seen)

Abdominal swelling (not always obvious).

**CALL YOUR VET AND EXPLAIN YOU THINK  
YOUR DOG HAS BLOAT**

## Later Signs

Difficulty in breathing.  
Shock - followed by collapse.

### 4. **First Aid (Action you can take)**

Give your dog 8 fluid ounces of an antacid. Brand names to look out for are Actonorm, Altacife Plus, Asilone, Infacol, Simeco and Polycol.

NB Ask the chemist for the activated type of antacid. Always keep an antacid in the house and regularly check the expiry date.

**Do not wait to see if the antacid improves the condition of the dog. Still get your dog to the vet - time is of the essence**

### 5. **Prevention**

- (a) Feed your Dane at least twice a day to prevent overloading the stomach.
- (b) Avoid excessive drinking at one time.
- (c) Avoid your dog gulping down its food.
- (d) Avoid exercise for at least one hour before and 2 hours after a meal.
- (e) Do not feed immediately before or after any situation that might cause your Dane stress e.g. dog shows.
- (f) Get to know your dog's normal habits well then you will recognise in good time when something is wrong.

### 6. **Treatment**

As mentioned before.