



MAGDRL



Questions? Contact Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League

LIFE WITH A GREAT DANE



FACTS ABOUT DAY-TO-DAY LIVING



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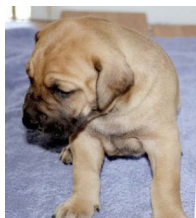
LIVING WITH A GREAT DANE

They're huge. They're beautiful. They're calm and quiet. You knew someone who had one. You fell in love. You've always wanted one. They stop traffic. They turn heads.

It's easy to look at Great Danes and think they would be a perfect addition to your family. That's wonderful — if you understand that you are making a lifetime commitment of time, care, and attention.

THE REALITIES....

We don't intend to scare you, but it's best to understand the realities of Dane stewardship. They are a short-lived breed that requires more care than most.



3-week old Dane puppy

First and foremost, Danes are the #1 breed to die from Bloat (gastric torsion.) It's a Dane owner's worst nightmare. Without immediate emergency intervention, bloat will kill a Dane in as little as two hours.

Second, they're the most expensive breed to own primarily due to the cost of health care. The cost of their annual checkup is about the cost of adoption. Health issues are not uncommon and may be expensive to treat. Most Dane owners invest in pet health insurance, have separate savings accounts, or keep a spare \$0-balance credit card handy.

Third, because of the size of Great Danes, owners must teach them to coexist successfully with humans and other animals. Harsh training methods, shock collars, or punitive measures most often have negative results. Using positive reinforcement training is most successful.

Also remember that consistency is key. Anything you don't want a 150 lb adult dog to do, you should not allow it to do as a puppy.

DAY-TO-DAY LIVING..

1. All Danes should be fed a nutritious, low-protein premium pet food. The average cost of food per Dane is \$ 1,000.00 per year. However, the higher quality food, the less they eat and the less poop to scoop.
2. Small meals should be served 2-3 times per day. **NO FREE-FEEDING!** Danes should never be allowed to overeat or become overweight. They should be slim, with hip bones and last ribs barely visible which avoids joint and spine problems as they age.
3. Opinions differ, but most Dane owners use elevated feeders for food and water for the comfort of their Danes.
4. Walks are fine, but do not allow strenuous exercise for at least an hour before and one to two hours after a meal so that their food starts to digest.
5. A Dane who vomits or dry-heaves may be bloating. Keep over-the-counter anti-gas pills handy and give a few at the first sign of distress. If no improvement within 10 minutes, go immediately to an emergency clinic.
6. Save yourself some headaches. Plan to take your Dane to a positive reinforcement class, especially those under age 2.
7. Ears should be cleaned on a regular basis with ear cleaner containing glycerides and alcohol. Your vet can show you how to do this. Unscented baby wipes may be used in between cleanings.
8. Teeth should be brushed with special toothpaste available at your vet or pet store. Do **NOT** use human toothpaste as it is poisonous to animals. Also, toenails should be clipped or Dremeled short.
9. Most towns have leash laws which you must obey. Many also require that you license your dog.
10. Dog obedience training is **STRONGLY** suggested, even with adult Danes. This enables owners to establish a positive way to communicate with a Dane. All members of the family should get involved in training.
11. Although Danes are generally great family dogs, children should never be left unsupervised. Dogs are animals whose natural instinct is to defend themselves from harm



Dane puppy and adult

12. Danes are indoor dogs that want to live with their family. They are not outside dogs and must **NEVER** be chained, staked, or put on a runner.
13. Underground electronic containment systems are not acceptable. Most Danes are so large they can run right through them. Also, other animals may come onto your property. MAGDRL does have fencing exception policies, but in general a permanent fence is best for the safety of the Dane.
14. Danes need soft bedding made of thick padding to protect their joints and avoid musculo-skeletal injuries as they age, Danes cannot sleep on hard surfaces.
15. Danes should have an annual vet check-up and be kept on Heartworm preventative year-round. Danes with health problems require the same level of health care as a human adult and the expense is usually comparable.
16. Indoor steps must be carpeted or have slip-resistant covering. A Dane can easily slip and fall, injuring itself or whoever is also on the steps.
17. Low cabinets containing anything poisonous (cleaners, chemicals, etc.) should have child-proof locks. Some Danes can even open high pantry doors or get ice from your icemaker!
18. You should remove anything breakable from low tables (glass vases, knick-knacks.) Items like this can be obliterated with one swipe of a Dane's tail.
19. Food on tables or counter-tops is an open invitation for counter-surfing Danes who can reach with their head and grab food. You may want to use baby-gates to restrict kitchen access, or teach the Dane to go to its bed in another area.



Senior Dane