



# Guarantee and Client Information

Harlequins, Mantles, Blacks, Mantle Merles and Merles

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## **DANES IN OUR BREEDING PROGRAM HAVE AN AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF TEN TO THIRTEEN YEARS**

### **SOULFUL GREAT DANES GUARANTEES:**

- **GENERAL HEALTH**
- **AGAINST *GENETIC* HIP DYSPLASIA FOR FIVE YEARS**
- **AGAINST ENLARGED HEARTS FOR SEVEN YEARS**
- **WE BACK OUR DANES WITH A PUPPY REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE**

**The following instructions/information are designed to help you keep your Dane healthy, happy and safe. Please follow them. If you have any questions, NEVER HESITATE TO CONTACT US BY EITHER PHONE CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL. If you call and you get our voicemail, leave your name, your area code, your number, and your state, or text us. We will call you back. If it is an emergency, state so, and we will return your call as soon as we get the message, regardless of the hour!!!!**

### **General Information about the Great Dane**

Great Danes are a giant breed and, therefore, have the potential for health problems not normally encountered in an average size dog. Our Great Danes (The Danes used in our breeding program and in our pedigrees) are living an average of 10 to 13 years. The average life span of most Danes is *supposed* to be seven to eight years, but has declined to an average of about five years. The short life span is partially due to their extreme size and partially due to the fact that many owners are unaware of simple steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of life-threatening health problems.

The primary health problems that result in premature death in Danes are hip dysplasia, heart trouble, and, first and foremost, torsion (stomach/spleen twists) and BLOAT (stomach fills with air).

Hip dysplasia is not fatal, however, a severely dysplastic dog may require extensive and expensive surgery. Many Danes are put down because their owners can't afford the required surgery, and the Dane is either in pain or can't walk or climb steps without the surgery. The incidence of hip dysplasia can be drastically reduced through careful breeding. Hip dysplasia can also be environmental (meaning it can be caused by running with your Dane, inappropriate exercise while they are growing, and several other things). When I say "running", I don't mean playing, I mean running miles daily with your Dane as your companion. Just as it is hard on our bodies, it is hard on theirs as well.

Probably the number one "PREMATURE KILLER" of Danes is Bloat & torsion. Bloat is a gas build up in the stomach. If not relieved immediately, bloat can progress and torsion can result. Torsion occurs when the stomach and/or spleen flips, and, without immediate surgery by a surgeon experienced in torsion surgery, it is usually fatal. Even with surgery, the mortality rate is extremely high. Improper feeding, improper timing of exercise, a sudden change in the diet, and stress are just some of the factors that can contribute to the development of bloat and/or torsion.

After acquisition of a puppy, weight and exercise control, proper diet, provision of adequate water, housing, and shade are about all we can do to avoid heart problems. We guarantee against enlarged hearts for seven years.

### **Training Your Great Dane**

If you raise your Dane as you would a child with love, (discipline, rules, and praise, you will have a super pet. These guys are not dumb animals. They are intelligent, often stubborn...don't sell them short! They are capable of every emotion that you experience. When you are having a bad day, your Dane may be smarter than you are. Do not allow a puppy to do anything that you would not want a 150 pound Dane doing!!

Do NOT leave your Dane with a trainer. If you do this, you void your guarantee, and also risk your Danes life. YOU (and your family if applicable) and your Dane need to do the training together.

Our Danes, unlike many American Danes, are quite intelligent and are also stubborn. They are also extremely resourceful. We do not want them to get out of control. They are gentle giants, and, when properly raised, are wonderful, loving pets. There are many people who claim to be trainers who are not what they claim to be. Some use unacceptable methods and can actually injure your dog physically or emotionally. If you are unsuccessful in getting your Dane to do something that you want it to do or to stop a specific behavior that you do not like, give us an immediate call. We will provide tips and solutions for you at no charge. We expect you to take full advantage of our expertise. We do not want our pups to be ill behaved adults! If you are having a bad day, your Dane may well out-think you. It happens to us all the time.

Considering how important training is to your overall experience of successful dog ownership, in addition to how much we believe in BAXTER & Bella, we are happy to announce we include their signature Lifetime Membership with every puppy!

The BAXTER & Bella Lifetime Membership never expires, includes unlimited access to everything they offer, and has been included in the price of your puppy!

We do require you to complete their step-by-step program "PREPARING FOR MY PUPPY" which is their first learning module. Your membership includes hundreds of videos to watch, games to play, activities for socialization, in addition to classes & courses to attend, unlimited one-on-one phone calls and one-on-one virtual coaching sessions too at no additional cost and so much more!

Using ANY type of Board and Train or even leaving your Great Dane with someone to train for you will VOID YOUR GUARANTEE! Using ANY type of electronic collar (shock, vibrate or bark, etc) will void your guarantee. I don't care if it's "only on vibrate". If it turns on, and your Dane is wearing it, you void your guarantee and are potentially ruining your Danes temperament FOR LIFE!!!

I want YOU and YOUR FAMILY to train your Dane, not someone else. I spend COUNTLESS HOURS working with each and every puppy during the 8 weeks that they are growing up. If you don't have time to train your puppy to be the Dane they should be, you shouldn't get a puppy!

## **Pet Insurance**

With so many things to do, the last thing you want to think about is your new Great Dane Puppy getting into mischief. Medical insurance for pets can be an important step in bringing home your new puppy with their best paw forward, which is why I chose to partner with Trupanion.

As a partner with Trupanion, I am able to offer you **immediate** insurance coverage through the "Go Home Day Offer". This offer will provide the first month of coverage for your new Great Dane Puppy with no payment required or obligation to enroll. Most importantly – you will get *waived waiting periods*, meaning your puppy will be **immediately** covered for any new accidents or illnesses.

To activate your offer, you can call Trupanion's 24/7/365 Customer Care Team at 855-266-2156 and provide my code: BR1SG071421 (separate flyers will be provided in your go home packet on this)

We strongly suggest that you activate this offer as close to the pick up date as possible and either continue with Trupanion or another pet insurance for your puppy. Before you take on the responsibility of a new Great Dane puppy, make sure that you are able to shoulder the burden of unforeseen expenses. If you can't then don't get a Great Dane as it is unfair to them.

## **Spay/Neuter Policy and AKC Registration Papers**

We recommend spaying your **female AFTER 8 months** of age and neutering **males AFTER they are 11 months old**. Ideally waiting a few months longer for both males/females is better, but not required. Do not alter your Soulful Great Dane before these ages!!! These Danes need the hormones to tell their bodies to STOP growing. Spaying/Neutering your Dane puppy BEFORE these ages can cause growth issues (and other life shortening issues) because they grow too much. **Spaying/Neutering sooner than these ages voids your health guarantee, UNLESS you have written permission from me to do so sooner.**

Upon receipt of proof of spaying/neutering, we will be happy to provide you with AKC's limited registration papers for your pup. These registration papers will enable you to register your pup with the American Kennel Club. We provide AKC's limited registration papers with pet pups upon receipt of proof of spaying/neutering. Although we do not force you to spay/neuter your pet, no AKC registration papers will be provided until we receive a spay/neuter certificate from your veterinarian stating that your pup has, in fact, been spayed/neutered.

You can not register puppies from a purebred dog who has AKC's LIMITED registration papers. You cannot show a purebred pup with AKC's limited registration papers in Conformation Shows. This means that although you do not have to spay/neuter your pup, if you do not spay/neuter and furnish us with proof of spaying/neutering, you will not receive any AKC registration papers on your puppy. However this is on a client by client basis. If we have agreed in writing on full registration the above is null.

## **Notification Requirement: All Potential Puppy Problems**

In an attempt to minimize every type of potential problem for our puppy buyers and puppies, including, but not limited to; stress, inconvenience and expense. To ensure that our pups are properly raised, and trained using only positive based techniques, and to enable us to keep accurate health records with regard to our breeding program. We require immediate notification (within 24 hours) of any behavior, health, or temperament problem (If you aren't sure what constitutes a "problem", error on the side of caution and contact me within the 24 Hour Window to be safe). I would much rather have you ask and it NOT be a huge problem, then not know at all until it's BEEN an issue for months and you are just now telling me about it.

Failure to provide us with **immediate (within 24 hours)** notification of any potential behavior, health, or temperament problem will void any and all guarantees! The only problem exempt from this requirement is a life threatening medical emergency. In the case of a life-threatening emergency, we would like to be notified of the problem once the emergency has been dealt with. We can frequently provide you with very helpful input. We may refer you to schedule a phone call or video chat with a Baxter & Bella Trainer (lifetime membership with Baxter & Bella the Online Puppy School is included in the price of your puppy).

We can evaluate most problems via a phone conversation with a description of the problem. We might ask for a video if a telephone conversation will not adequately define the problem. In the long run, we will save you money and reduce your stress, and help keep your Dane happy and healthy. We can often provide input to eliminate the problem quickly with little to no expense. We have had several incidents of owners reduced to tears by veterinarians who are unfamiliar with the structure and growth patterns of Euro Danes. One poor lady was told that her Dane needed casts on both front legs because the Dane obviously had a problem. The Dane was not limping but had large knee joints. At our request, she brought the pup over. To her relief, her pup had totally normal front legs for a Euro Dane. Her vet was unfamiliar with the Euro type of structure. If you have reason to suspect a health or development problem, call/text us immediately (within 24 hours) **before** you invest in expensive tests and/or therapies.

You aren't bothering me, and you have not only all of my knowledge and expertise but I have a vast network of fellow dane breeders and owners with combined experience of over 40 years. So, if I don't have an answer for you, I will do my best to help find one!

### **Before Going to Your Vet**

Always call your vet **before** you go in for any routine or non-emergency visit. Ask the receptionist if any parvo or distemper dogs have come in that day or are in the clinic receiving treatment. If the answer is yes, change your appointment to another day or utilize another vet.

Carry your puppy into the office and keep him on your lap. Do not let him down on the floor or on the vet's furniture. When he is old enough to walk on a leash, always keep him on the sidewalk and do not let him stray to the grass as sick animals eliminate on it and grass cannot be cleaned like sidewalks.

We have vaccinated your puppy as follows (you will receive proof of all of this upon receiving your puppy:

6 weeks with NEOPAR® (Canine Parvovirus Vaccine).

7 weeks with NEOVAC® DA2 (Canine Distemper-Adenovirus Type 2 Vaccine).

When your puppy is 10 weeks he will start his DHLPP vaccinations from your veterinarian. **Do not allow your vet to give the rabies shot with ANY OTHER VACCINE.** Wait at least a month and then give the rabies vaccine. If you have the rabies done with any vaccine, you void this health guarantee. A good rule of thumb is ONE POKE per visit/month. This gives their bodies time to deal with one vaccine at a time and doesn't overload their immune system.

### **Anesthesia and Tranquilizers (for surgery or procedures)**

If your Dane ever has to be anesthetized or tranquilized for any reason, including spaying, neutering, etc., please inform your vet each and every time that Great Danes are extremely sensitive to both and that one fourth to one third of the recommended dose for the Dane's weight is generally enough. If they start with one half or more of the recommended dose for the Dane's weight, your Dane's life may be at risk!!!!!!

I've included in your puppy packet information on what to ask your vet BEFORE surgery, as well as what to look out for afterwards.

## Heartworm Medication

Put your Dane on heart-worm preventative at three months of age and give the medication year round, no matter what climate you live in! If you prefer not to give daily medication, a monthly wormer is available. Do not miss medication! Do not discontinue medication during winter months.

Please let me stress again, your dog's health and well-being is dependent upon receiving this preventative year round with no interruptions. If you do not keep your Dane on a scheduled heart-worm preventative your guarantee will not be honored.

We use products that ONLY contain Ivermectin and have with great success and little to no side effects for over 30 years. There are others on the market, but if it works, why not use it?

## Food (What to feed, how much, etc)

Proper feeding is of critical importance. Many foods feature puppy, maintenance, less active, and high protein formulas, but are formulated for the "average" dog.



There is so much differing opinion on what to feed a growing Great Dane. Please know that I know my Danes and have raised several through the years, as well as all of my past puppies. I also have a large network of fellow Dane breeders who have decades of experience as well. WE KNOW WHAT WORKS FOR THESE DANES. I continue to educate myself on the food, so if you can't find the food we require you use, please let me know ASAP as I am willing to help you find one that I'm okay feeding to a growing puppy or adult Dane. I've even had a few families call/text me from the store because they are out of the food we require and don't know what to get. I DO NOT MIND THIS!!! I would MUCH prefer to help you give your Dane the best, longest possible life ever! Your puppy will be on **Iams Proactive Health Minichunks with Real Chicken & Whole Grains Dry Dog Food**

In the green bag.

This is one of the ONLY formulas/flavors that I want fed, other formulas have ingredients that are not good for your Dane (too much protein/calcium/etc).

While we would prefer you feed Iam's Proactive Health Minichunks with Real Chicken Dry Dog food for their entire life, you are REQUIRED to feed this food for the first 2 Years of your Danes life to prevent growth issues. Failure to do this without my consent voids your health guarantee. Am I being picky? Yes, because I know that feeding the wrong food/ingredients can cause a wealth of health issues in your Dane!!!!

You will always feed a minimum of twice daily. Once in the morning and once in the evening. This is to help prevent bloat/torsion. Start with two cups of kibble (per meal) when you get your puppy home and adjust the portions from there. Remember that all of our puppies eat out of the same bowls and we have no idea exactly how much each puppy eats.

This chart is a guideline on approximately how much to feed as they grow. It's always best to error on the side of having some food leftover at each meal than to have them so hungry they are looking for food constantly. Dane puppies seldom overeat, so you don't typically need to worry about a Dane puppy being overweight.

**2 months or 8 weeks = 2-4 cups per day - (divided into 3 meals daily)**  
**3 months or 12 weeks = 3-5 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)**  
**4 months or 16 weeks = 4-6 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)**  
**5 months or 20 weeks = 5-7 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)**  
**6 months or 24 weeks = 6-8 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)**  
**7 months 6-9 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)**  
**8 months..... 6-9 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)**  
**9 months..... 7-10 cups per day- (divided into 2 meals daily)**  
**10 - 12 months....7-10 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)**  
**12 -18 months males - 8-10 cups a day (divided into 2 meals daily)**  
**12 -18 month females -6-9 cups a day (divided into w meals daily)**

If you don't want to feed the Chicken, you can feed them Iams Minichunks High-Protein with Real Lamb Dry Dog Food instead (pic below). You will need to switch them over VERY gradually so their stomach can adjust to digesting the lamb protein instead of the chicken which they have been weaned on.



You will always for the entire life of your Great Dane wet the food (with just a few tablespoons of hot water). You can also add a couple of tablespoons of a good canned food or shredded cheese. We use Pedigree Puppy canned to add in. Once in awhile we add in chicken. **We never free feed. You give them 15 minutes to eat and then PICK IT UP!** If you free feed, how do you keep them calm to prevent bloat????? Never leave moistened kibble down for more than 15 minutes to 20 minutes. Moistened kibble sours quickly outside in the summer and will also sour at room temperature. Sour food can contribute to the development of bloat and/or torsion.

A sudden change of food can result in a case of bloat and/or torsion. It can also cause diarrhea and upset stomach too.

If you want to change kibble, do so over a few days, the slower you switch the easier on their stomach. The first 3 days, feed  $\frac{3}{4}$  old brand food and  $\frac{1}{4}$  new brand food. The next 3 days, feed  $\frac{1}{2}$  new brand kibble and  $\frac{1}{2}$  old brand kibble. The next 3 days feed  $\frac{3}{4}$  new brand kibble and  $\frac{1}{4}$  old brand kibble. Then you can feed all the new brand kibble.

## **DO NOT ALLOW EXCESSIVE WATER CONSUMPTION WITH MEALS OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEALS**

Consumption of a small amount of water with meals or immediately after meals is normal. Excessive water consumption (drinking an entire bowl of water) with or immediately after meals can contribute to bloat and/or torsion problem. If your Dane attempts to consume an excessive amount of water with or immediately after meals, limit his or her water intake to about eight ounces for an hour after meals. One hour after meals, you can allow free consumption of water.

With the exception of possible controlled water intake within an hour of eating, always have plenty of clean, fresh water available for your Dane. Not giving them enough water can also cause stomach upset.

## **KEEP YOUR DANE CALM FOR 60 to 90 MINUTES AFTER MEALS**

Excessive exercise immediately after meals can contribute to the development of bloat and/or torsion. This is very important!!

## **TOYS AND CHEWABLES**

Do not allow your Dane to play with or chew old shoes, rawhide, cow hoofs, pig ears!!! Who is to determine what is an old shoe and what is a "good" shoe? Shoes are off limits. Rawhide, cow hoofs, and pig ears can choke Danes not to mention are full of nasty chemicals!!!

Give your Danes ONLY beef shank and/or knuckle bones. They don't splinter.... they chip. Other bones can choke your Dane. Do not feed pork or chicken bones at all. We let our guys have a couple of hard dog bones a day, and a beef knuckle bone periodically. Your grocer or a local butcher may be willing to provide them. You can bake them for just a little while so they do not get extremely slimy.

We also let the Danes play with gallon milk jugs, litter drink bottles, and stuffed toys with no plastic eyes or nose. Once they rip a jug or drink bottle, we throw it away and give them a new one.

## **BEDDING**

This is a heavy breed and they have a tendency to "plop" when they go from a standing position to lying down. Always provide a soft surface for them to do so. If they are allowed to lay on hard surfaces continuously, they could develop fluid filled areas on their elbows called "hygromas" that sometimes require draining and can be quite painful.

After spending THOUSANDS of dollars over the years on various beds, couches, futons, baby mattresses....we finally splurged and invested in Kuranda Beds. I will never own anything BUT!!! They are sturdy, if you get the aluminum frame, they are pretty much chew proof! And you can even buy covers/pads for them (that are really a good price considering), with elastic that wraps around the legs.

## **SUPPLEMENTATION**

Many vets want to give Dane pups calcium supplements. Calcium supplements are only not necessary, but too much calcium can be harmful. DO NOT GIVE YOUR PUPPY CALCIUM SUPPLEMENTS.

The only supplement we suggest is at 3 months of age you start giving your puppy 250 mg of Ester C (Vit C, just easier on their stomach as "ester c") once a day. After 2 weeks, increase it to 250 mg, twice daily.



## **WEIGHT CONTROL**

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR DANE TO GET GROSSLY OVER-WEIGHT!! Do not confuse large with fat. Excessive weight can result in a fatal heart attack. So, once again, please do not confuse large with fat. You should be able to easily feel your Dane's ribs. The ribs should not be readily visible.

You should be able to see faint rib ripples, not protruding ribs. During the winter, the ribs should be well covered but easily felt. This means a 10-15 pound adjustment from summer to winter and again from winter to summer. The weight adjustments should be made slowly over a three-month period. If your Dane is a house-dog, a constant weight should be maintained. Remember, you should be able to easily feel the ribs, but they should not protrude. If in doubt, ask and we will tell you what we think.

## **FENCED YARDS**

Never leave a Dane in a fenced yard when you are NOT home unless the gate is LOCKED. Leaving a Dane in the yard with an unlocked gate is asking for trouble. A child could open the gate to play with your Dane and accidentally let the Dane out. Your Dane could be hit by a car, get lost, be picked up by someone, etc. There are individuals who steal purebred dogs. Locking your gate will make theft more difficult, especially as the Dane matures, and will generally avoid unnecessary problems.

## **COLLARS**

Never leave a choke collar on a Dane, and never leave any collar on an unattended puppy. If a pup's collar gets caught on something, the pup will panic and can choke itself. We've known of several cases of adult dogs who, while playing with another dog, got their choke collars entangled; could not get the collars untangled; and choked to death.

And because it can't be said enough: Using ANY type of electronic collar (shock, vibrate or bark, etc) will void your guarantee. I don't care if it's "only on vibrate". If it turns on, and your Dane is wearing it, you void your guarantee and are potentially ruining your Danes temperament FOR LIFE!!!

## **EAR CROPPING**

We do not crop ears. There are just too many nerves in their ears and it's not necessary to cause them pain for "looks". Cropping your Danes ears voids this health guarantee!!!

## **PAIN MEDICATION**

Do not give your dog or puppy Rimadyl for pain for more than a couple days. If you will look this pain medication up on the internet you will see why. We recommend if needed for long term, either Previcox or Gabapentin.

## **WORMING**

Most Danes will require worming a couple of times a year, so have your Dane checked every four to six months by taking a stool sample to your vet and asking him/her to check for parasites. If you observe blood in your Dane's stool, or you can't seem to keep him/her in good weight, although food consumption is good, check for worms.

## **BOOSTER SHOTS**

Once your puppy has had the series of Distemper, parvo and rabies vaccines, you should only need them boosted every 3 years (not every year). Keep accurate records of your Dane's immunizations.

## **EXERCISE**

Most Danes do not require a vast amount of exercise. Walking with you is great. They can play fetch and retrieve a ball, but Great Danes are so large that all unnecessary stress to their skeletal system should be avoided, especially for their first two years. As most jogging is done on concrete, Danes are not good candidates for jogging partners. Jogging is very hard on their hips and can destroy a sound set of hips. Do not take your Dane jogging.

## **PROBLEMS**

If you have a problem with your Dane, never hesitate to call us. If our recorder answers, leave your name, area code, phone number, and state. We will get back to you as quickly as possible. If it is an emergency, so state on the recorder, and we will call you as soon as we get the message, regardless of the hour!

Never fail to call us if you need advice or suggestions with a physical problem, a medical problem, or a behavior problem. We are always willing to call you back. Remember, we cannot be expected to guarantee the Dane if we are unaware of the problem. If a problem exists, we need to know about it immediately in order to provide meaningful input for its resolution.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL CONFLICTS**

If you are using a veterinarian whose instructions conflict with ours, remember, we guarantee your Dane. Your vet does not. Our instructions must take priority.

If there are instructional conflicts and you are uncomfortable, please call us immediately so that the conflict can be quickly resolved.

## **Returning your puppy or dog to us**

If for any reason you cannot keep your puppy or adult, we reserve the right to be notified and may require you to board your Dane until we can locate a foster or new home for them. Please understand that this takes time, and we understand that things come up, but would really prefer more than a few days to make arrangements for your Dane. When we rehome the puppy/adult if we charge a rehoming fee, the fee will be sent to original owner.

We may ask if you know of anyone that you think would be a good fit for your Dane. We don't have a problem if you need to rehome your Dane, we understand that sometimes things come up. We just ask that you communicate what is going on with us BEFORE your Dane changes owners. If you place your puppy in another home that we haven't approved of we will not transfer the guarantee or the A.K.C. registration.

At no time do we agree to refund money. We are not responsible for any expenses incurred by one of our puppies. All puppies have a "puppy replacement" guarantee if they fall under our health clause. Such as hip dysplasia at less than 5 years of age, enlarged hearts at less than 7 years of age, or general health. (That does not mean that you return your dog to us. We would not expect you to give up a family member.)