

WHY GREAT DANES?





Contents

What is a Great Dane?	4
10 Suprising Facts	6
Great Dane Personality	8
Caring for a Dane	9
The Many Colors of Danes	10

It's a Great Dane. Yes, it's friendly. No, I don't have a saddle for it. Yes, it's a house dog. No, I don't have a huge house. Yes, you may pet it. No, it doesn't eat that much, I know it's the biggest dog you've ever seen. It's the biggest dog I've ever seen, too.

~ Things every Great Dane owner says ~

What is a Great Dane?

A HISTORY AND OVERVIEW OF THE BREED

A Great Dane is truly a great dog breed — large and noble, commonly referred to as a gentle giant or as the “Apollo of dogs.” Apollo is the Greek god of the sun, the brightest fixture in the sky. The Great Dane certainly holds stature in the dog world; but though he looks terribly imposing, in reality he’s one of the best-natured dogs around. For all of his size, a Great Dane is a sweet, affectionate pet. He loves to play and is gentle with children.

HISTORY

The Great Dane is probably the product of two other magnificent breeds, the old English mastiff and the Irish wolfhound. Its ancestors were used as war dogs and hunting dogs; thus, its ability as a fearless big-game hunter seemed only natural. By the 14th century, these dogs were proving themselves as able hunters in Germany, combining speed, stamina, strength and courage in order to bring down the tough wild boar. The noble dogs became popular with the landed gentry not only because of their hunting ability but also because of their imposing yet graceful appearance. They made gracious additions to any estate.

British people familiar with the breed first referred to Great Danes as German boarhounds. Exactly when and why the breed was later dubbed the Great Dane is a mystery because, although undeniably great, it is not Danish. It is a German breed, and in 1880 German authorities declared that the dog should only be referred to as the Deutsche dogge, the name by which

it still goes in Germany. The English paid no heed, and the old name stuck for the English-speaking world.

By the late 1800s, the Great Dane had come to America. It quickly attracted attention, as it does to this very day. The breed has since achieved great popularity in spite of some of the difficulties that owning a giant dog entails.

OVERVIEW

Although the Great Dane was originally bred to hunt wild boar, he probably wouldn’t be very good at it today. The ferociousness necessary to track down such a large, wily animal was eventually bred out of the Great Dane.

He’s now a gentle soul who generally gets along well with other dogs, animals, and humans. However, his size and his power bark will scare the wits out of a burglar. Anyone who owns one of these dogs eventually understands that while you may be used to his awesome size, others usually need a little time to get there.

Though the Great Dane was developed from Mastiff-type dogs, he’s more refined than other descendants of this ancient breed.

A Great Dane is

sleek and elegant. He has an athletic, muscular body. His massive head — and massive is the right word — is long and narrow. He’s got a long, graceful neck. His ears can be cropped or left natural. (Cropped ears are common in the U.S., but in other countries, ear-cropping is banned.)

His size can present problems. Eyeballing a dog who weighs what you do makes some folks nervous. His tail can knock over a lot of things, particularly in a small space. And given the opportunity, he’s an impressive counter surfer. Luckily, he isn’t rambunctious or highly energetic.

Size notwithstanding, a Great Dane is a sweet, affectionate companion. He loves to play and is gentle with children. He has a peaceful disposition, although he hasn’t lost any of the courageousness that helped him hunt wild boar. Although he isn’t particularly vocal (despite his killer power bark), he wouldn’t hesitate to defend his family.

Even given his inherent gentleness, it’s advisable to teach him good manners and attend obe-

dience training classes when he’s young. His sheer size alone could make him impossible to control when he’s an adult, and — as with any dog — you never know when he might see something he just has to chase.

He’s eager to please and highly people-oriented, demanding a great deal of attention from those around him. He tends to nudge people with that big old head of his when he wants to be petted. Sometimes you’ll meet one with lapdog tendencies who see no reason not to hop onto the sofa and drape themselves on you.

Because of his beauty and gentle nature, more and more people are discovering the Great Dane. He currently ranks as the 24th most popular dog breed, according to registrations with the American Kennel Club. 🐾

THE GREAT DANE STATS

Height	28"-36" to the shoulder
Weight	100-200 pounds
Lifespan	6-8 years
Energy level	Low energy
Playfulness	Not very playful
Affection level	Very affectionate
Friendliness toward other dogs	Shy
Friendliness toward strangers	Very friendly
Ease of training	Moderately easy to train
Watchdog ability	High
Protection ability	Moderately protective
Grooming needs	Low maintenance

More info at:

<http://dogtime.com/dog-breeds/great-dane>

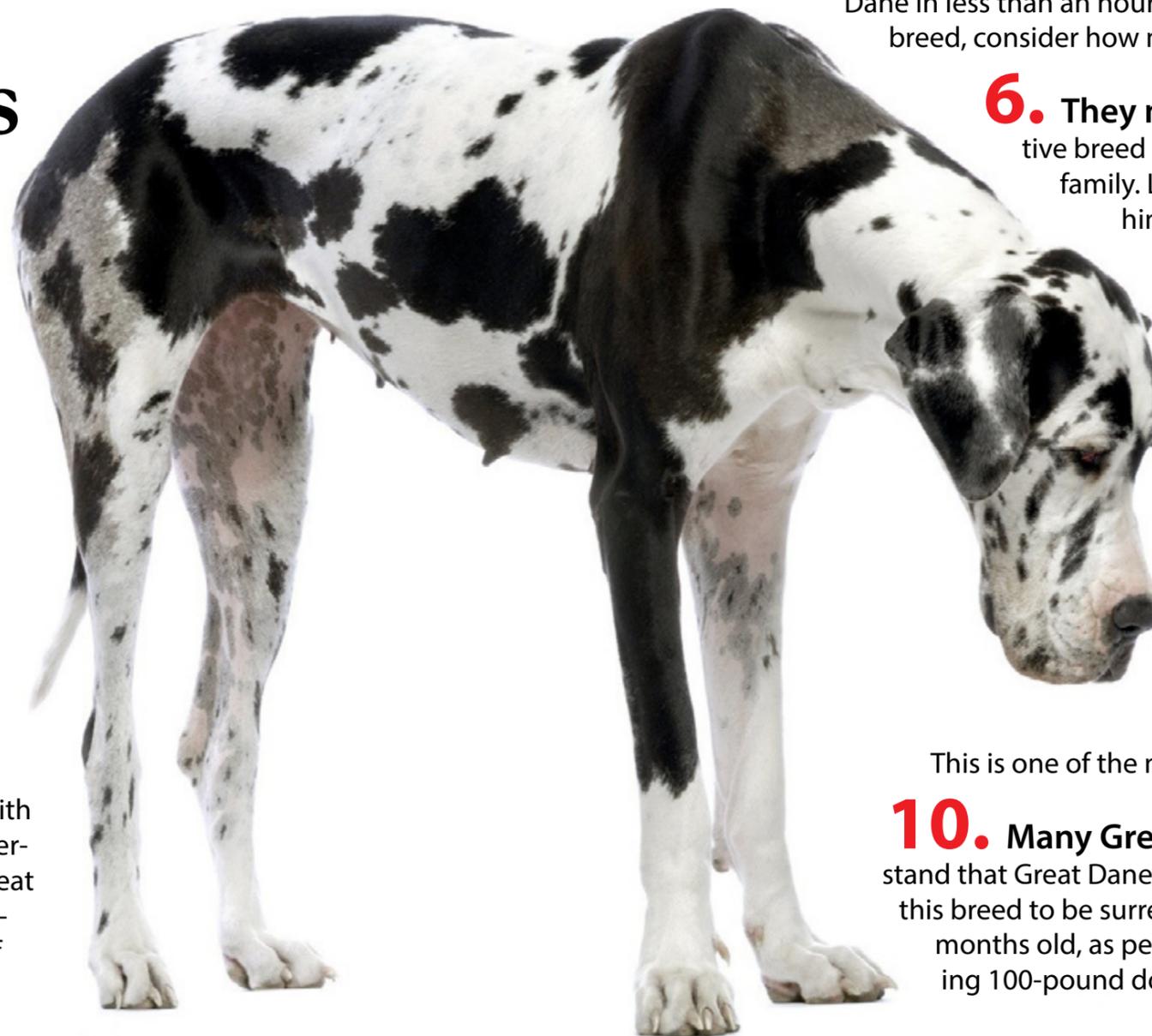


10 *surprising facts* about Great Danes

1. Apartment life is just fine for Great Danes. Despite their size, according to the AKC, life in an apartment can suit a Great Dane quite well. They are not as high energy as other breeds, but despite their couch potato ways, daily exercise is important. A brisk half hour walk a day will do, especially if complemented with some run time at a dog park or secure area a few times a week. No fenced area? A 50-foot training leash and a ball can help your Dane keep fit.

2. Great Danes grow incredibly fast. Within a span of just 1 year, Great Danes go from just a handful of fluffy puppy to being able to stand up on their hind legs and look a 6-foot tall man eye-to-eye. During their rapid growth spurts, puppies can be visibly bigger after a night's sleep.

3. Great Danes can be shockingly aggressive. Modern breeders have worked hard to eliminate the centuries of breeding for the aggression necessary to hunt such prey as wild boar. While they've met with great success, poorly bred Danes can display dangerous throwback temperament traits. Not every Dane is Scooby Doo friendly. Never approach a Great Dane on the assumption of friendliness, especially if the Dane is accompanied by the children in his family, as the drive to protect the youngsters of the pack from perceived danger isn't something that is so easily bred out.



4. Great Danes can be remarkably gentle. That is, once the period of rapid growth passes and they gain full control of their body, bringing an end to accidental injuries due to clumsiness. Many Danes share their homes with small dogs and cats. Great Danes have a well-deserved reputation for being wonderful with children and sometimes work as therapy dogs. However, no animal should be fully trusted with young children, especially one of such a size that a single mistake could be tragic.

5. Anxiety can kill Great Danes. There is increasing evidence that bloat, a condition in which the stomach gets air in it and twists, or torsions, is related to anxiety. This can kill a Great Dane in less than an hour. Make sure to learn the symptoms and, if considering this breed, consider how much time per day the dog will have to be alone.

6. They must have people. Great Danes are an extremely sensitive breed and do not fare well without close contact with their human family. Living outside in a doghouse can destroy a Great Dane, make him mentally unstable, depressed, and even aggressive.

7. They tend to be a lady's dog. That's only because of the difference in speech and mannerisms between men and women, however. Great Danes do not respond well to hard correction or training methods, as they are emotionally sensitive creatures.

8. They are not the tallest breed. Although the current holder of the world record for tallest dog is a 42-inch tall Great Dane, the Irish Wolfhound is the breed that tends to be tallest, though it is lighter in weight.

9. They like to lean on people. When Great Danes lean on people, many many take it as a sign of aggression. However, it's actually a display of affection to people and a seeking of attention.

This is one of the many ways Great Danes display their desire to always be *near* people.

10. Many Great Danes are thrown away. People don't seem to understand that Great Danes are giant, powerful dogs. One of the commonest periods for this breed to be surrendered to a shelter or rescue organization is after they are 9 months old, as people neglect to factor in the potentials of a still rapidly growing 100-pound dog that, because of his age, still acts like a crazy puppy. 🐾

Great Dane

Personality



A well-bred Dane is one of the best-natured dogs around. He's a gentle, sweet, affectionate pet who loves to play and is relaxed with children. He has a great desire to please, which makes him easy to train.

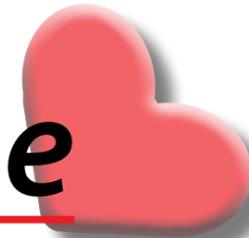
The Great Dane wants to be where the family is. He likes people a lot, including strangers and children, and will welcome visitors happily, unless he thinks you need defending. Then he can be fiercely protective.

Some Danes wish they were (or truly believe they are) lapdogs, and they'll keep trying to get there even if you and your lap mysteriously keep moving.

Good-natured as they are, Great Danes definitely need early socialization — exposure to many different people, sights, sounds, and experiences — when they're young. Socialization helps ensure that your Great Dane puppy grows up to be a well-rounded dog.

Enrolling him in a puppy kindergarten class is a great start. Inviting visitors over regularly, and taking him to busy parks, stores that allow dogs, and on leisurely strolls to meet neighbors will also help him polish his social skills. 🐾

Caring for a Dane



Despite his giant size, a Great Dane is mellow enough to be a good housedog, though he's not well suited to a tiny apartment if there are lots of things to get knocked over.

He can get cold in the winter, so he shouldn't be left outside in colder climates — but then no dog should. In fact, he would enjoy having a sweater or fleece coat to keep him toasty warm when you go for a walk in a winter climate.

He's relatively quiet indoors, but he needs a long walk at least once a day, or a large yard to play in. An adult Great Dane needs 30 to 60 minutes of daily exercise, depending on his age and activity level. Puppies and adolescents need about 90 minutes of exercise a day.

If you plan on keeping him in a yard occasionally, he'll need a six-foot fence, though he's not a jumper. If you're a gardening fan understand that he really enjoys destroying the landscaping (just a little safety tip in hopes of preventing human heart attacks).

While you may want a running partner, wait to take your Great Dane jogging until he's at least 18 months old. Before then his bones are still growing, and they're just not up to the task. In fact, he may not be ready to go jogging until he's two.

Crate training benefits every dog and is a kind way to ensure that your Great Dane doesn't have accidents in the house or get into things he shouldn't. A crate



Think
BIG!

(a really big one) is also a place where he can retreat for a nap. Crate training at a young age will help your Dane accept confinement if he ever needs to be boarded or hospitalized.

Never stick your Dane in a crate all day long, however. It's not a jail, and he shouldn't spend more than a few hours at a time in it except when he's sleeping at night. Great Danes are people dogs, and they aren't meant to spend their lives locked up in a crate or kennel. 🐾



The Many Colors of Danes

click thumbnail to enlarge

Fawn: yellow gold with a black mask. Black should appear on the eye rims and eyebrows, and may appear on the ears and tail tip.

Mantle: black and white with a solid black blanket extending over the body; black skull with white muzzle.

Harlequin: base color pure white with black torn patches irregularly and well distributed over the entire body.

Merle: have black spots on a grayish back coat. The shade of grey can range. Merles can vary in patterns as well. Not a standard color.

Brindle: base color yellow gold and always brindled with strong black cross stripes in a chevron pattern. A black mask is preferred.

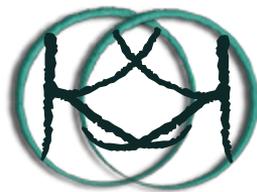
Fawnequin: harlequin-like markings but with fawn patches instead of the usual black. Not a standard color.

Blue: pure steel blue.

Black: a glossy black

More on pictures and information on at:
<http://www.6stardanes.com/colors.html>

I mean . . .
why **not** have a
Great Dane?



KENDRA HARVEY KREATIONS