



DANE OUTREACH

A 501(c)(3) charitable organization devoted to the placement of Great Danes who have lost their homes.
EIN 91-1702192

P.O. Box 803
Lynden, WA 98264
206-654-5111
admin@daneoutreach.org
www.DaneOutreach.org

DANE OUTREACH'S MINIMUM RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEING A RESPONSIBLE BREEDER

Dane Outreach believes that wonderful pets can be found by adopting one of its rescued Great Danes. However, if a younger Dane (or a "show dog") is desired, and a purchase from a breeder is considered, Dane Outreach offers the following considerations when deciding where to purchase:

The Parents Should Be:

- On full (not "limited") registration with the American Kennel Club. It is only through AKC registration that detailed parentage can be traced for many generations. Pedigree information includes color (<http://www.gdca.org/colorcode.htm>), health certifications and titles of ancestors. Pedigree information becomes a valuable working tool in a responsible breeding program. Information on the AKC (a nonprofit organization) can be found at www.akc.org. The "Canadian Kennel Club" (CKC) is the AKC equivalent in Canada. [NOTE: The CKC should not be confused with a new, for-profit registry business headquartered in Louisiana called the "Continental Kennel Club" which uses the same "CKC" initials. Continental is a commercial registry which does not offer conformation shows, health certification tracking, or other similar breeding benefits that the AKC offers.]
- Health testing as recommended by the Great Dane Club of America. Health testing both potential parents is a very important step in helping to produce healthy, disease-free puppies. Health testing includes OFA hips, OFA cardiac, OFA thyroid (see www.offa.org) and eye CERF (see <http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html>). See additional information on Great Dane health at <http://www.gdca.org/healthandwelfare.htm>.
- Sound of body and mind. It is important that parents have an outstanding Dane temperament. Shy or aggressive dogs should never be bred, as temperament is hereditary. Nor should parents possess undesirable physical traits, as those could also be passed on to the detriment of the puppies. Doubling up on unsound traits can produce puppies with severe physical defects. See the Great Dane standard at: <http://www.gdca.org/standard.htm>
- Of proper age and condition. The minimum proper age for breeding is to be two years of age, when the dog is physically mature and also is old enough to receive the appropriate health certifications.

The Puppies Should Be:

- Raised in the house in clean, warm surroundings. Puppies raised in clean surroundings are healthier and easier to housebreak.
- Handled and socialized correctly from time of birth. Proper socialization is critical to the mental well-being of the puppies. For more information, read "How To Raise A Puppy You Can Live With" by Rutherford and Neil, Alpine Publishing. For further information on social development, see http://www.nwk9.com/dehasse_pupdev.htm.

- Remain with their litter until at least seven weeks of age. This is very important for learning proper canine interaction.
- Be vaccinated, wormed, and veterinarian health-checked prior to sale.
- If sold as “pets” placed only into loving, responsible homes on non-breeding (spay and neuter) contracts.
- If sold as “show quality”: Be from AKC or Canadian Champion parents. Puppies advertised as “from Champion lines” usually means puppies with one or two Champions somewhere back in the pedigree and are **very** rarely show quality themselves. “Show” puppies should also be: From a breeder who has actively exhibited successfully at AKC shows; produced several Danes who have completed the requirements for their AKC Championship; evaluated for show potential by a recognized show breeder, handler or long-time exhibitor prior to sale; and placed in a loving, responsible home on a contract requiring either limited, responsible breeding, or no breeding, as appropriate.

The Breeder Should:

- Be prepared to be responsible in all aspect of the breeding and rearing of puppies. See http://www.akc.org/breeders/resp_breeding/index.cfm.
- Screen prospective owners, (ideally through a written application, reference/vet check, and a visit to the home), to be sure they are an appropriate home for a Great Dane, and that they are fully aware of what Great Dane ownership entails.
- Be able to accurately tell the new owner how to care for their puppy.
- Require the owner to attend a puppy kindergarten class. See information on puppy classes at: http://www.clickertraining.com/training/dogs/index.htm?loaditem=0607_school_for_puppies and http://www.raisingspot.com/training/why_dog_obedience_training.php
- Provide a written sales contract/bill of sale.
- Provide *documentation* of AKC registration, four-generation pedigree, and health certifications (which should include numbers which can be verified through www.offa.org.)
- Be willing and able to answer questions at the time of sale and throughout the lifetime of the dog, including mentoring owners through showing and breeding if a show puppy becomes appropriate for breeding.
- Be willing to take any dog of their breeding back, during the lifetime of that dog, if the purchaser cannot keep it.

The Purchaser Should:

- Exhibit accurate understanding, knowledge, and expectations of the breed, whether through experience or research.
- Be provided with written feeding instructions appropriate for a Great Dane puppy.
- Be provided with housebreaking and crate training information. See http://www.raisingspot.com/intro_crate_training.php for information on crate training.
- Be provided with written vet records and care information.
- Agree, through signing the contract, to spay/neuter non-show puppies (*and show dogs* if the health, conformation and show career does not support breeding or, if breeding *is* appropriate, agree to breed show dogs responsibly), and to provide appropriate care and training for the dog through its lifetime.