



Read about the Breed

Great Dane

Working Group



The Great Dane is a Large and Powerful Dog that is Not for the Novice Owner

Breed History:

- Great Danes are thought to have originated in Britain or Germany (they're not Danish!) from mastiff-like boar hunting dogs.
- The breed was gradually re-fined in Germany from aggressive hunters into guard dogs and companion animals.
- In 1891, the Germans adopted the first precise breed standard, or official description, for the Great Dane.



Keys to the Breed:

- High Energy Indoors
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- Special Exercise Needs
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- Special Grooming Needs
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- Good Watchdog
- Good with Kids

Breed Characteristics:

- **Appearance** — A giant dog with a smooth, short, glossy coat. Colors are brindle (yellow gold with black stripes), fawn (yellow gold), blue, black, and harlequin (black and white). Ears may be cropped.
- **Grooming** — Relatively easy to care for — weekly brushing with a hound glove or bristle brush will suffice. Baths should be relatively infrequent to prevent drying of the coat and skin.
- **Exercise** — Calmer than some other breeds, the Dane adapts well to country and city and benefits from regular walks. Walks should be started young, to socialize the dog so it can be controlled when grown.
- **Temperament** — Often quite sensitive, but not a pushover. Typically spirited, friendly, and dependable with children and other pets. Danes require a commitment to training and regular attention. Not always fond of strangers, but not usually a problem if socialized.

Vital Stats:

- **Size** — Dogs (males) stand 30-32 inches!, bitches (females) 28-30 inches!
- **Weight** — Average of 100-130 lbs
- **Life span** — Not long lived, about 7-10 years on average
- **Common Health Issues** — Hip dysplasia, bloat, osteosarcoma (cancer), osteodystrophy (bone disorder), hypothyroidism
- **Breed Clubs** — Great Dane Club of America

Go to www.northwestpets.com for more breed profiles!

AKC Standard Says:
The Great Dane "is one of the giant working breeds — the Apollo of dogs"