Locus Danes’ Great Dane Care Sheet

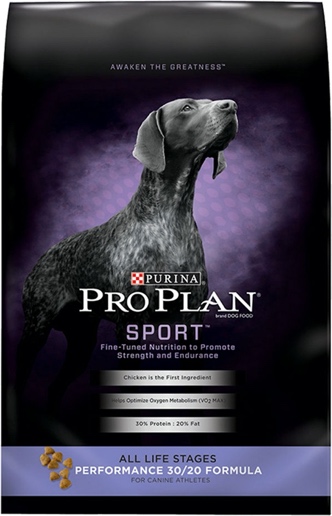
# Food

Great Danes thrive better when their food has

* 1.2-1.5% calcium (*IMPORTANT*)
* .08-1.1% phosphorus (*IMPORTANT*)
* 23-30% protein (RECOMMENDED)
* 12-20% fat (RECOMMENDED)

We feed the brand Purina Pro Plan, which can be purchased on Chewy.com or TSC (not always available)

We recommend the Purina Pro Plan Sport High Energy 30/20 formula (purple bag) for Great Danes of all ages:



We also recommend Purina True Instinct (we feed turkey & venison as well as the salmon formula), Victor, Royal Canin, SPORTMiX, Diamond Naturals, Fromm, and American Journey. ***\*\*ABSOLUTELY NO GRAIN FREE FORMULAS AS THE FDA HAS SINCE PROVEN THAT GRAIN FREE FORMULAS ARE LINKED TO CARDIOMYOPATHY AND DCM IN DOGS!!!\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****

# Spaying/Neutering & Stomach Tacking

Great Danes are recommended to be spayed/neutered at 18-36 months old. By this age, their hormones have developed. Spaying/neutering at this age will decrease the chances of disease. It is recommended that if a female has not had her first heat by the age she would usually be getting spayed, to wait until her first heat has occurred before spaying, regardless of age (18+ months old). Spaying/neutering early has also been proven to create behavioral issues including skittish and aggressive behaviors. Overall we recommend waiting until at least 16 months if you cannot wait until 18-36 months of age.

During this procedure you will have the opportunity to tack your dog; in short this does NOT decrease the chances of bloat BUT allows more time for the vet to reverse/treat the bloat. Please note, there have been occurrences of tacks coming undone and puncturing the dog’s insides resulting in death, occurring even when the dog was not bloating. Ultimately it is your decision as the pet owner if you would or would not like to tack your dog’s stomach during the spay/neuter.

# Socialization

It is easy to forget about socializing your new puppy, but, it is actually very important. You will need to familiarize them with being around strangers. These are big dogs, you don’t want them to be skittish and therefore unpredictable. Great Danes are a giant breed, but they are big babies. If not socialized your Dane MAY become very timid around new people and possibly aggressive. Dog parks are a wonderful way to socialize a dog with people as well as unfamiliar dogs. You will want to wait until your dog is fully vaccinated at 16 weeks old before bringing them to a dog park. Also, please remember that dog parks are full of germs so be careful when introducing a pup to areas with high dog traffic. There are also multiple human stores that allow pets, such as Home Depot, where you can take your puppy to meet strangers as well as introduce them to an unfamiliar environment. Another great way to socialize your puppy is to take them to training courses!

# Training

Great Danes grow FAST. It will be most beneficial for you to start training at a young age while you can still control the dog easily. Start with small commands, make sure you are in control. Taking a puppy course can be a great idea too and will help with socialization! If you are finding it hard to train your quick-growing pup, we do recommend e-collars which have several options (beep, vibrate, shock) and ARE humane.

# Toys

Please make sure all toys are big enough that they will not be swallowed. Also, be cautious of toys that can be easily ripped up and eaten… Great Danes can be big chewers, bigger destroyers and the biggest culprit of eating non-edible items. Typically this happens when a dog or puppy is bored. We have had great success with KONG toys as they are practically indestructible, too big to consume (get the bigger one of course) and provide hours of entertainment when filled with yummy goodies (we use peanut butter, dog food, yogurt, cottage cheese, blueberries, treats, and then freeze so it takes the pup awhile to clean out!).

# Crating

Great Danes are people dogs. If you are planning on crating your puppy/dog, the below list may help you

* use divider to make the crate only big enough that the dog can lay comfortably
* do not put pee pads in the crate with the puppy/dog unless you plan on having them use potty pads continuously
* make crate puppy/dog’s safe space
* do not use crate as punishment
* if you are leaving for long periods of time, KONG toys are great for entertainment

*Canine Bloat/GDV*

Great Danes are prone to bloat; it is the top killer in the breed. In short, bloat is what happens when the dog’s stomach twists. It does not only occur in Great Danes, but in other deep chested dogs as well. Here are some symptoms and causes of bloat.

Symptoms of bloat:

* Anxiety, Nervousness, Restlessness - one of the earliest warning signs
* Hunching up, or roaching back, not wanting to move
* Lack of normal gurgling and digestive sounds in the tummy
* Pale or off-color gums - Dark red in early stages, white or blue in later stages
* Coughing
* Unproductive gagging
* Heavy salivating or drooling
* Foamy mucous around the lips, or vomiting foamy mucous
* Licking the air
* Seeking a hiding place
* Looking at their side or other evidence of discomfort in the abdomen
* May refuse to lie down or sit
* Unproductive attempts to defecate
* Whining
* Pacing
* Drinking excessively
* Heavy or rapid panting
* Shallow breathing
* Cold mouth membranes
* Apparently weakness, unable to stand - especially in advanced stage
* Weak pulse
* Collapse
* May lie down and refuse to get up
* May stand spread-legged
* May curl up or go into a crouched position
* May attempt to eat grass, stones or twigs

Causes of bloat:

* Stress - Boarding, change in routine, pack order issues, new dog household, etc.
* Activities that result in gulping air
* Rapid eating
* Eating dry foods that contain citric acid as a preservative (risk is worse if food is moistened)
* Extruded dry food that swells when wet
* Eating dry foods that contain fat among the first four ingredients
* Insufficient Trypsin (a pancreatic enzyme present in meat)
* Drinking too much water before or after eating
* Eating gas-producing foods (especially soybean products, brewer's yeast, and alfalfa)
* Exercise before and especially after eating or drinking
* Heredity (especially having a first-degree relative who has bloated)
* Having a deep or wide chest
* Older dogs, big dogs, male dogs
* Fearful and anxious temperament
* Prone to stress
* Dog and people aggression history

