



HOUSE OF APOLLON

Great Dane

National Breed of Denmark

# ALL STANDARDS

*- english version*

## GREAT DANE

This is a comparison of the following 4 Great Dane standards:

The FCI standard,  
The Kennel Club (UK)  
The American Kennel Club (AKC)  
The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC)

### GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Great Dane in his noble appearance combines a large, powerful well constructed body with pride, strength and elegance. By substance together with nobility, harmonious appearance, well proportioned outlines, as well as a specially expressive head, the Great Dane strikes the onlooker as a noble statue. He is the Apollo amongst all breeds.

Very muscular, strongly though elegantly built, with look of dash and daring, of being ready to go anywhere and do anything. Head and neck carried high, tail in line with back, or slightly upwards, but never curled over hindquarters. Elegance of outline and grace of form most essential. Alert expression, powerful, majestic action displaying dignity.

The Great Dane combines, in its regal appearance, dignity, strength and elegance with great size and a powerful, well-formed, smoothly muscled body. It is one of the giant working breeds, but is unique in that its general conformation must be so well balanced that it never appears clumsy, and shall move with a long reach and powerful drive. It is always a unit-the Apollo of dogs. This physical and mental combination is the characteristic which gives the Great Dane the majesty possessed by no other breed. It is particularly true of this breed that there is an impression of great masculinity in dogs, as compared to an impression of femininity in bitches.

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### IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS

Almost square in build, this applies particularly to males. The length of the body (point of sternum to point of buttocks) should not exceed height at withers in dogs by more than 5%, in bitches by more than 10%.

The male should appear more massive throughout than the bitch, with larger frame and heavier bone. In the ratio between length and height, the Great Dane should be square. In bitches, a somewhat longer body is permissible, providing she is well proportioned to her height.

In the ratio between length and height, the Great Dane should appear as square as possible. In bitches, a somewhat longer body is permissible. Substance is that sufficiency of bone and muscle which rounds out a balance with the frame.



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## BEHAVIOUR/TEMPERAMENT

Friendly, loving and devoted to his owners, specially to the children. Reserved towards strangers. Required is a confident, fearless, easily tractable, docile companion and family dog with high resistance to provocation and without aggression.

Kindly without nervousness, friendly and outgoing.

A Great Dane must be spirited, courageous, never timid; always friendly and dependable. The Great Dane must be spirited, courageous, always friendly and dependable, and never timid or aggressive.

He must be spirited and courageous – never timid. He is friendly and dependable

## HEAD CRANIAL REGION

### Head in general

The skull should be in harmony with the general appearance. Long, narrow, distinct, full of expression. Finely chiselled, specially under the eyes.

Head, taken altogether, gives idea of great length and strength of jaw.

The head shall be rectangular, long, distinguished, expressive, finely chiseled, especially below the eyes. The masculinity of the male is very pronounced in structural appearance of the head. The bitch's head is more delicately formed. The head should be angular from all sides and should have flat planes with dimensions in proportion to the size of the Dane. Whiskers may be trimmed or left natural.

Long, narrow, distinguished, expressive, finely chiselled, especially the part below the eyes. The masculinity of the male is very pronounced in the expression and structure of head (this subtle difference should be evident in the dog's head through massive skull and depth of muzzle); the bitch's head may be more delicately formed. The head should be angular from all sides and should have definite flat planes and its dimensions should be absolutely in proportion to the general appearance of the Dane.

### Head – seen from the side

The distance from tip of nose to stop and from stop to the lightly defined occipital bone should be as equal as possible. The upper lines of muzzle and skull should run parallel.

Length of head in proportion to height of dog. Length from nose to point between eyes about equal or preferably of greater length than from this point to back of occiput.

Seen from the side, the Dane's forehead must be sharply set off from the bridge of the nose, (a strongly pronounced stop). The plane of the skull and the plane of the muzzle must be straight and parallel to one another. The length from the tip of the nose to the center of the stop should be equal to the length from the center of the stop to the rear of the slightly developed occiput.

Seen from the side, the forehead must be sharply set off from the bridge of the nose. The forehead and the bridge of the nose should be straight and parallel to one another. The front part of the head, from the tip of the nose up to the centre of the stop should be as long as the rear part of the head from the centre of the stop to the only slightly developed occiput.

### Head – seen from the front

Superciliary ridges well developed but not protruding (Øjenbrynsbuerne veludviklet, men ikke udstående).



The head must appear narrow seen from the front with bridge of nose as broad as possible. Cheek muscles only slightly defined and in no way protruding. The stop should be clearly defined.

Muzzle broad, skull proportionately narrow, so that whole head when viewed from above and in front, has appearance of equal breadth throughout. Skull flat, slight indentation running up centre, occipital peak not prominent. (Skallen er flad, let fordybning løbe op centrum, occipital top ikke fremtrædende). Decided rise or brow over the eyes but not abrupt stop between them; face well chiselled, well filled in below eyes with no appearance of being pinched: foreface long, of equal depth throughout.

The skull plane under and to the inner point of the eye must slope without any bony protuberance in a smooth line to a full square jaw with a deep muzzle

The skull plane under and to the inner point of the eye must slope without any bony protuberance in a pleasing line to the full square jaw), with strongly pronounced stop. Seen from the front, the head should appear narrow, the bridge of the nose should be as broad as possible. The cheek muscles must show slightly but under no circumstances should they be too pronounced (cheeky).

#### Head – seen from the top

Seen from the top, the skull should have parallel sides and the bridge of the nose should be as broad as possible. The cheek muscles should not be prominent.

### HEAD FACIAL REGION

#### Nose:

The nose should be well developed, rather broad than round with large nostrils. Must be black with the exception of harlequins (white with black patches). In these a black nose is desired but a butterfly nose (black with pink patches) or flesh coloured nose is tolerated. In blue dogs the colour of the nose is anthracite (diluted black).

Bridge of nose very wide, with slight ridge where cartilage joins bone (this is a characteristic of breed). Nostrils large, wide and open, giving blunt look to nose. Nose always black, except in blues (blue nose) and harlequins.

Nose shall be black, except in the blue Dane, where it is a dark blue-black. A black spotted nose is permitted on the harlequin; a pink colored nose is not desirable.

The nose must be large and in the case of brindled and “single-coloured” Danes, it must always be black. In harlequins, the nose should be black; a black spotted nose is permitted.

#### Muzzle:

Deep and as rectangular as possible. Well defined corners of lips. Dark pigmented lips. In harlequins not totally pigmented or flesh coloured lips are tolerated.

Underline of head, viewed in profile, runs almost in a straight line from corner of lip to corner of jawbone, allowing for fold of lip, but with no loose skin hanging down. Lips hang squarely in front, forming right angle with upper line of foreface. Cheeks showing as little lumpiness as possible, compatible with strength.

The muzzle part must have full flews and must be as blunt vertically as possible in front; the angles of the lip must be quite pronounced.

#### Jaws/Teeth:

Well developed broad jaws. Strong sound and complete scissor bite (42 teeth according to the dentition formula).



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Teeth level. Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

Teeth shall be strong, well developed, clean and with full dentition. The incisors of the lower jaw touch very lightly the bottoms of the inner surface of the upper incisors (scissors bite).

Teeth strong, well developed and clean. The incisors of the lower jaw must touch very lightly the bottoms of the inner surface of the upper incisors (scissors bite). If the front teeth of both jaws bite on top of each other, they wear down too rapidly.

## **Eyes:**

Of medium size with lively friendly intelligent expression. As dark as possible, almond shaped with close fitting lids. In blue dogs slightly lighter eyes are tolerated. In harlequins light eyes or two differently coloured eyes are to be tolerated. Fairly deep set, not giving the appearance of being round, of medium size and preferably dark. Wall, or odd eyes permissible in harlequins. Blue in blue.

Shall be medium size, deep set, and dark, with a lively intelligent expression. The eyelids are almond-shaped and relatively tight, with well developed brows. In harlequins, the eyes should be dark; light colored eyes, eyes of different colors and walleyes are permitted but not desirable.

Eyes of a medium size, as dark as possible, with lively intelligent expression; almond-shaped eyelids, well-developed eyebrows.

## **Ears:**

Naturally pendant, set on high, of medium size, front edges lying close to cheeks. Triangular, medium size, set high on skull and folded forward, not pendulous.

Ears shall be high set, medium in size and of moderate thickness, folded forward close to the cheek. The top line of the folded ear should be level with the skull. If cropped, the ear length is in proportion to the size of the head and the ears are carried uniformly erect.

Ears should be high, set not too far apart, medium in size, of moderate thickness, drooping forward close to the cheek. Top line of folded ear should be about level with the skull. Cropped ears; high set; not set too far apart, well pointed but always in proportion to the shape of the head and carried uniformly erect.

## **NECK**

Long, clean, muscular. Well formed set on, tapering slightly towards the head, with arched neckline. Carried upright but inclined slightly forward.

Neck long, well arched, quite clean and free from loose skin, held well up, well set in shoulders, junction of head and neck well defined.

The neck shall be firm, high set, well arched, long and muscular. From the nape, it should gradually broaden and flow smoothly into the withers. The neck underline should be clean.

The neck should be firm and clean, high set, well arched, long, muscular and sinewy. From the chest to the head, it should be slightly tapering, beautifully formed, with well-developed nape.

## **BODY**

### **Withers:**

The highest point of the strong body. It is formed by the points of the shoulder blades which extend beyond the spinal processes.

Withers shall slope smoothly into the back.

The withers form the highest part of the back which slopes downward slightly



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toward the loins, which are imperceptibly arched and strong.

## **Back:**

Short and firm, in almost straight line falling away imperceptibly to the rear.

Back strong.

A short level back.

The back should be short and tensely set and slopes downward slightly toward the loins.

## **Loins:**

Slightly arched, broad, strongly muscled.

Loins strong, slightly arched.

A broad loin.

The loins are imperceptibly arched and strong.

## **Croup:**

Broad, well muscled. Sloping slightly from hipbone to tail set, imperceptibly merging into the tailset.

The croup should be broad and very slightly sloping.

## **Chest:**

Reaching to the elbows. Well sprung ribs, reaching far back. Chest of good width with marked forechest.

The chest shall be broad, deep and well muscled. The forechest should be well developed without a pronounced sternum. The brisket extends to the elbow, with well sprung ribs.

Chest deals with that part of the thorax (rib cage) in front of the shoulders and front legs. The chest should be quite broad, deep and well muscled. Ribs and brisket deals with that part of the thorax back of the shoulders and front legs. Should be broad, with the ribs sprung well out from the spine and flattened at the side to allow proper movement of the shoulders extending down to the elbow joint.

## **Underline and belly:**

Belly well tucked up towards rear, forming a nicely curved line with the underside of the brisket.

Very deep, brisket reaching elbow, ribs well sprung, belly well drawn up

The body underline should be tightly muscled with a well-defined tuck-up.

The belly should be well shaped and tightly muscled, and with the rear part of the thorax, should wing in a pleasing curve (tuck-up).

**Tail:** Reaching to the hocks. Set on high and broad, tapering evenly towards tip. In repose hanging down with natural curve. When dog is alert or moving, carried slightly sabre-like but not markedly above the backline. Bristle hair on tail undesirable.

Tail Thick at the root, tapering towards end, reaching to or just below hocks. Carried in straight line level with back, when dog is moving, slightly curved towards end, but never curling or carried over back.

The tail should be set high and smoothly into the croup, but not quite level with the back, a continuation of the spine. The tail should be broad at the base, tapering uniformly down to the hock joint. At rest, the tail should fall straight. When excited or running, it may curve slightly, but never above the level of the back.

Tail Should start high and fairly broad, terminating slender and thin at the hock joint. At rest, the tail should fall straight. When excited or running, slightly curved (sabre-like).



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## LIMBS FOREQUARTERS

### Shoulders:

Strongly muscled. The long, slanting shoulder blade forms an angle of 100 to 110 degrees with the upper arm.

Shoulders muscular, not loaded, well sloped back

The forequarters, viewed from the side, shall be strong and muscular. The shoulder blade must be strong and sloping, forming, as near as possible, a right angle in its articulation with the upper arm. A line from the upper tip of the shoulder to the back of the elbow joint should be perpendicular. The ligaments and muscles holding the shoulder blade to the rib cage must be well developed, firm and securely attached to prevent loose shoulders.

The shoulder blade must be strong and sloping and seen from the side, must form as nearly as possible a right angle in its articulation with the humerus (upper arm) to give a long stride. A line from the upper tip of the shoulder to the back of the elbow joint should be as nearly perpendicular as possible. Since all dogs lack a clavicle (collar bone) the ligaments and muscles holding the shoulder blades to the rib cage must be well developed, firm and secure to prevent loose shoulders.

### Upper arm:

Strong and muscular, close fitting, should be slightly longer than the shoulder blade.

Forelegs perfectly straight with big flat bone.

The shoulder blade and the upper arm should be the same length.

The upper arm should be strong and muscular.

### Elbows:

Turned neither in nor out.

elbows well under body.

The elbow should be one-half the distance from the withers to the ground.

### Forearm:

Strong, muscular. Seen from front and side, completely straight.

Seen from the side or front the strong lower arms run absolutely straight to the pastern joints. Seen from the front, the forelegs and the pastern roots should form perpendicular lines to the ground.

### Carpus (pastern joint):

Strong, firm, only slightly standing out from the structure of the forearm.

### Pastern:

Strong, straight when seen from the front, seen from the side, barely slanting forwards.

The strong pasterns should slope slightly.

Seen from the side, the pastern root should slope only very slightly forward.

### Front feet:

Rounded, well arched, well-knit toes (cat feet). Nails short, strong and as dark as possible.

Cat-like, turning neither in nor out. Toes well arched and close, nails strong and curved. Nails preferably dark in all coat colours, except harlequins, where light are permissible.

The feet should be round and compact with well-arched toes, neither toeing in, toeing out, nor rolling to the inside or outside. The nails should be short, strong and as dark as possible, except that they may be lighter in harlequins. Dewclaws



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may or may not be removed.

Paws round and turned neither toward the inside nor toward the outside. Toes short, highly arched and well closed. Nails short, strong and as dark as possible.

## LIMBS HINDQUARTERS

The whole skeleton is covered by strong muscles which make the croup, hips and upper thighs appear broad and rounded. The strong well angulated hind legs, seen from behind, are set parallel to the front legs.

**Extremely muscular, giving strength and galloping power.**

The hindquarters shall be strong, broad, muscular and well angulated, with well let down hocks.

The croup must be full, slightly drooping and must continue imperceptibly to the tail root.

Seen from the side, the angulation of the first thigh with the body, of the second thigh with the first thigh, and the pastern root with the second thigh should be very moderate, neither too straight nor too exaggerated.

### Upper thigh:

Long, broad, very muscular.

Hind legs, the first thighs (from hip joint to knee) are broad and muscular.

### Stifles:

Strong, positioned almost vertically under the hip joint.

Good turn of stifle (godt vinklede knæ)

### Lower thigh:

Long, of approximately the same length as the upper thigh. Well muscled.

**Second thigh long and well developed**

The second thighs (from knee to hock joint) are strong and long.

### Hocks:

Strong, firm, turning neither in nor out.

**Hocks set low, turning neither in nor out.**

Seen from the rear, the hock joints appear to be perfectly straight, turned neither toward the inside nor toward the outside.

Seen from the rear, the hock joints appear to be perfectly straight, turned neither towards the inside nor towards the outside.

### Metatarsus (rear pastern):

Short, strong, standing almost vertical to the ground.

### Hind feet:

Rounded, well arched, well-knit (cat feet). Nails short, strong and as dark as possible.

The rear feet should be round and compact, with well-arched toes, neither toeing in nor out. The nails should be short, strong and as dark as possible, except they may be lighter in harlequins. Wolf claws are a serious fault.

Paws, round and turned neither towards the inside nor towards the outside. Toes short, highly arched and well closed. Nails short, strong and as dark as possible.



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## GAIT/MOVEMENT

Harmonious, lithe, ground covering, slightly springy. Legs must be parallel in movement coming and going.

Action lithe, springy and free, covering ground well. Hocks move freely with driving action, head carried high.

The gait denotes strength and power with long, easy strides resulting in no tossing, rolling or bouncing of the topline or body. The backline shall appear level and parallel to the ground. The long reach should strike the ground below the nose while the head is carried forward. The powerful rear drive should be balanced to the reach. As speed increases, there is a natural tendency for the legs to converge toward the centerline of balance beneath the body. There should be no twisting in or out at the elbow or hock joints.

Long, easy, springy stride with no tossing or rolling of body. The back line should move smoothly, parallel to the ground. The gait of the Great Dane should denote strength and power. The rear legs should have drive. The forelegs should track smoothly and straight. The Dane should track in two parallel straight lines.

## SKIN

Tight fitting. In solid colours, well pigmented. In harlequins, the distribution of pigment mainly corresponds to the markings.

## COAT HAIR

Very short, dense, smooth and close lying, glossy.  
Short dense and sleek-looking, never inclined to roughness.  
The coat shall be short, thick and clean with a smooth glossy appearance.  
The coat should be very short and thick, smooth and glossy.

## COAT COLOUR

The Great Dane is bred in three separate colour varieties: Fawn and brindle, harlequin and black and blue.

### **Fawn:**

Light gold fawn to deep gold fawn. Black mask desired.  
Colour varies from lightest buff to deepest orange, dark shadings on head and ears acceptable  
The color shall be yellow gold with a black mask. Black should appear on the eye rims and eyebrows, and may appear on the ears and tail tip. The deep yellow gold must always be given the preference  
Golden yellow up to deep golden yellow colour with a deep black mask. The golden deep-yellow colour must always be given the preference.

### **Brindle:**

Basic colours, light to deep gold fawn with black stripes as regular and clearly defined as possible, running with the direction of the ribs. Black mask desired.  
Must be striped, ground colour from lightest buff to deepest orange, stripes



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always black, dark shadings on head and ears acceptable.

The base color shall be yellow gold and always brindled with strong black cross stripes in a chevron pattern. A black mask is preferred. Black should appear on the eye rims and eyebrows, and may appear on the ears and tail tip. The more intensive the base color and the more distinct and even the brindling, the more preferred will be the color.

Base colour ranging from light golden yellow to golden yellow always brindled with strong black cross stripes. The more intensive the base colour and the more intensive the brindling, the more attractive will be the colour.

## **Harlequin (white with black splashed patches):**

Basic colour pure white, preferably with no ticking. Pure black patches well distributed all over the body, having the appearance of being torn.

pure white underground with preferably all black patches or all blue patches, having appearance of being torn.

Base color shall be pure white with black torn patches irregularly and well distributed over the entire body; a pure white neck is preferred. Merle patches are normal. No patch should be so large that it appears to be a blanket. Eligible, but less desirable, are black hairs showing through the white base coat which give a salt and pepper or dirty appearance.

Pure white with black torn patches irregularly and well distributed over the entire body; pure white neck preferred. The black patches should never be large enough to give the appearance of a blanket or so small as to give a striped or dappled effect. (Eligible but less desirable are a few small grey spots, also pointings where instead of a pure white base with black spots, there is a white base with single black hairs showing through which tend to give a salt and pepper or dirty effect.)

## **Black:**

Black: Jet black, white markings permitted.

Black is black.

Black: The color shall be a glossy black. White markings at the chest and toes are not desirable.

Black: Glossy black.

Mantel: Black covers the body like a coat ("mantel") or blanket and muzzle, throat, chest, belly, legs and tip of tail may be white. Also dogs with basic white colour and large black patches so called "Plattenhunde".

Mantle: Black and white with a solid, black blanket extending over the body. Ideally - black skull with white muzzle, white blaze optional, whole white collar preferred, a white chest, white on part or whole of the forelegs and hindlegs, white tipped black tail. Nose always black, eyes and nails preferably dark.

Mantle: The color shall be black and white with a solid black blanket extending over the body; black skull with white muzzle; white blaze is optional; whole white collar is preferred; a white chest; white on part or whole of forelegs and hind legs; white tipped black tail. A small white marking in the blanket is acceptable, as is a break in the white collar.

Boston or Black-Mantled: A black and white dog with a black mantle extending over the body; white blaze or muzzle or both; white chest; white on part or whole of forelegs and hind legs; part or whole white collar; white tipped tail; dark eyes; dark nose. Acceptable but less desirable--lack of collar.

## **Blue:**

Pure steel blue, white markings on chest and feet permitted.

Colour varies from light grey to deep slate.

The color shall be a pure steel blue. White markings at the chest and toes are



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not desirable.

The colour must be pure steel blue as far as possible without any tinge of yellow, black, or mouse grey.

## HEIGHT (MINIMUM)

### Dogs:

80 cm (at withers)

76 cm (30 ins) and 54 kgs (120 lbs) over eighteen months

76 cm (30 inches) at the shoulders, but it is preferable that he be 32 inches or more, providing he is well proportioned to his height.

76 cm (30 inches) at the shoulders, but it is preferable that he be 32 inches (81 cm) or more, providing he is well proportioned to his height.

### Bitches:

72 cm (at withers)

71 cm (28 ins) and 46 kgs (100 lbs) over eighteen months

71 cm (28 inches) at the shoulders, but it is preferable that she be 30 inches or more, providing she is well proportioned to her height.

71 cm (28 inches) at the shoulders, but it is preferable that she be 30 inches (76 cm) or more, providing she is well proportioned to her height.

## ANY DEPARTURE FROM THE ABOVE ARE FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

The faults below are important according to their grouping (very serious, serious, minor)

## FAULTS

### General appearance

Fault: Lack of male or female characteristics, lack of balance, too light, too coarse in built.

Serious Fault: Lack of true Dane breed type, as defined in this standard

Minor: Doggy bitches

Serious: Coarseness, out of condition.

Very Serious: Lack of unity. Poor bone development. Poor musculature. Light-weight whippet Danes. Rickets. Bitch dog.

### Temperament

Fault: Lacking self-confidence, nervous, easily provoked.

Serious Fault: Shyness.

Disqualifying fault: Aggressiveness, fear-biting.

Very Serious: Timidity.



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## Head

Fault: Lines of head not parallel, apple head, wedge shaped head, too little stop; too prominent cheek muscles.

Minor: Apple head. Small stop.

Serious fault: Deviation from parallel planes of skull and foreface. Wedge head. Poorly defined stop or none at all.

## Nose

Disqualifying faults: Liver coloured; split nose.

Harlequin; a pink colored nose is not desirable.

Disqualifying faults: A split nose is a disqualification.

Serious fault: In harlequins, a pink nose.

Disqualifying faults: Split noses.

## Muzzle

Fault: Pointed, lacking flews, lips too pendulous. Bridge of nose concave (dish shaped), convex (roman nose), falling away in front part (eagle nose).

Fluttering lips are undesirable.

Minor: Fluttering lips.

Serious: Narrow nose bridge. Snipey muzzle.

## Jaws/Teeth

Fault: Any deviation from a complete set of teeth (only the missing of both PM1 in the lower jaw may be tolerated). Irregular position of individual incisors as long as the bite remains otherwise correct. Teeth too small.

Serious Fault: Pincer bite.

Disqualifying faults: Overshot, undershot, wry mouth.

Minor faults: Even bites, misaligned or crowded incisors.

Serious fault: Overshot or wry bites.

Very serious fault: Undershot jaw.

Minor: Discoloured teeth. Even bite.

Serious fault: Missing teeth. Overshot teeth.

Very Serious fault: Undershot teeth.

## Eyes

Fault: Slack lids, haw too red. Light, piercing, amber coloured eyes. Wall eyes or differently coloured eyes in all solid coat colours. Eyes too wide apart or slit eyes. Eyes protruding or too deeply set.

Serious Fault: Ectropion, entropion.

Harlequin: Light colored eyes, eyes of different colors and walleyes are permitted but not desirable.

Serious Fault: Haws and mongolian eyes are serious faults.

Minor faults: Eyes too far apart. Drooping lower eyelids. Haws. Any colour but dark eyes in blacks, blues and harlequins. In blue and black Danes, lighter eyes are permitted but are not desirable. In harlequins, the eyes should be dark. Light-coloured eyes, two eyes of different colour and walleyes are permitted but not desirable.

Serious faults: Any colour but dark eyes in fawns and brindles. Mongolian eyes.

## Ears

Fault: Set on too high or too low. Standing off from the sides of the head or flat lying.

Faults: Hanging on the side, as on a Foxhound.



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## **Neck**

Fault: Short thick neck, ewe neck, throatiness or excess of dewlap.

Faults: Short, heavy neck, pendulous throat folds (dewlaps).

Serious fault: Heavy neck. Short neck. Dewlaps.

## **Back**

Fault: Sway back, roach back. Too long in back. Topline rising towards rear.

Fault: Receding back; swayback; camel or roach back; a back line which is too high at the rear; an excessively long back.

Serious fault: Receding back. Too long a back. Back high in rear. Poor tuck-up

Very serious: Sway back. Roach back.

## **Croup**

Fault: Falling away steeply or completely flat.

Fault: A croup which is too straight; a croup which slopes downward too steeply; and too narrow a croup.

Serious fault: Too straight croup; too sloping croup; too narrow croup.

## **Tail**

Fault: Too thick, too long or too short, set on too low or too highly carried above the back line. Hook tail or curled tail as well as tail carried sideways. Tail which is damaged, thickened at the tip or has been docked.

Serious Fault: Kinky tail.

Serious Fault: A ring or hooked tail is a serious fault.

A docked tail is a disqualification.

Minor: Low set tail. Too long a tail. Too short a tail. Gay tail. Curled tail. Twisted tail. Brush tail.

Faults: A too high, or too low-set tail (the tail-set is governed by the slope of the croup); too long or too short a tail; tail bent too far over the back (ring tail); a tail which is curled; a twisted tail (sideways); a tail carried too high over the back (gay tail); a brush tail (hair too long on lower side). Cropping tail to desired length is forbidden.

Disqualifying faults: Docked tails.

## **Ribcage**

Fault: Flat or barrel-shaped ribs. Lack of width or depth of chest. Too strongly protruding breastbone.

Minor: Pigeon breast.

Fault: Narrow (slab-sided) rib cage; round (barrel) rib cage; shallow rib cage not reaching the elbow joint. A narrow and poorly muscled chest; strong protruding sternum (pigeon breast).

Serious fault: Narrow chest. Narrow rib cage; round rib cage; shallow rib cage.

## **Lower line**

Fault: Belly line not sufficiently tucked up. Teats not sufficiently retracted.

Fault: Poor tuck-up.

Serious fault: Poor tuck-up (except in bitches that have been bred)

## **Forelegs**

Fault: Insufficient angulation. Light bone, weak muscles. Stance not vertical.

## **Shoulders**

Fault: Loose or loaded. Upright shoulder blade.

Minor: Loaded shoulders.



Faults: Steep shoulders, which occur if the shoulder blade does not slope sufficiently; over-angulation; loose shoulders which occur if the Dane is flabbily muscled, or if the elbow is turned towards the outside; loaded shoulders.

Serious fault: Loose shoulders; steep shoulders.

### Elbows

Fault: Loose, turning in or out.

Minor: Elbows turned outward.

Fault: Elbows turned towards the inside or towards the outside, the former position caused mostly by too narrow or too shallow a chest, bringing the front legs too closely together and at the same time turning the entire lower part of the leg outward; the latter position causes the front legs to spread too far apart, with the pastern roots and paws usually turned inward.

Serious fault: Elbows turned inward.

### Forearm

Fault: Bent, enlarged above pastern.

Fault: seen from the side a forward bow in the forearm (chair leg);

### Pastern

Fault: Enlarged, markedly weak or knuckling over.

Fault: Seen from the side, a considerable bend in the pastern toward the front indicates weakness and is in most cases connected with stretched and spread toes (splay foot); an excessively knotty bulge (knudret bule) in the front of the pastern joint.

Serious fault: Knotty bulge in pastern joint (adult dog). Weak pastern roots.

### Metacarpus

Fault: Too sloping or too upright.

### Paws/toes

Fault: Spreading toes (splay foot), bent, long toes (rabbit paws); toes turned toward the outside or towards the inside; light-coloured nails.

### Hindquarters

Fault: Too much or too little angulation. Cow hocked, close together or open hocked when standing.

Faults: Hind legs: soft, flabby, poorly muscled thighs; cow-hocks which are the result of the hock joint turning inward and the hock and rear paws turning outward; barrel legs, the result of the hock joints being too far apart; steep rear. As seen from the side, a steep rear is the result of the angles of the rear legs forming almost a straight line; overangulation is the result of exaggerated angles between the first and second thighs and the hocks and is very conducive to weakness. The rear legs should never be too long in proportion to the front legs. Serious fault: Over-angulation. Steep rear. Too long rear legs. Poorly muscled thighs. Barrel legs.

### Hocks

Fault: Exaggerated large or unstable.

Very serious: Cow-hocks.

### Feet

Fault: Flat, splayed, long. Dewclaws.

Minor: Paws turned inward. Splay foot. Excessively long toenails. Light nails (except in harlequins).

Fault: Spreading toes (splay foot); bent, long toes (rabbit paws); toes turned towards the outside or towards the inside. Furthermore, the fifth toe on the hind legs appearing at a higher position and with wolf 's claw or spur; excessively long nails; light-coloured nails.

Serious fault: Paws turned outward; rabbit paws. Wolf 's claw. Hackney gait.

### **Gait/Movement**

Fault: Covering too little ground, lack of freedom in action. Frequent or constant pacing. Lack of co-ordination between front and hind movement.

Faults: Short steps. The rear quarters should not pitch. The forelegs should not have a hackney gait (forced or choppy stride). When moving rapidly the Great Dane should not pace for the reason that it causes excessive sidetoside rolling of the body and thus reduces endurance.

Serious fault: Hackney gait.

Very Serious: Pitching gait. Short steps.

### **Coat**

Fault: Double coat (coarse, short coat), dull coat.

Excessively long hair. Excessively dull hair.

Faults: Excessively long hair (stand-off coat); dull hair (indicating malnutrition,worms, and negligent care).

Serious fault: Chair legs (front). .

### **Colour**

Any Great Dane which does not fall within the above color classifications must be disqualified. Any variance in color or markings as described above shall be faulted to the extent of the deviation.

Disqualifying faults: Danes with predominantly blue, grey, yellow or also brindled spots.

#### **FAWN**

Small white marks on chest and toes undesirable.

Faults: Grey fawn, blue fawn, isabella (cream) or sooty fawn colour.

Disqualifying: dogs with white blaze, white collar, white feet or socks and white tip of tail.

Fawn, brindle and black white is only permissible on chest and feet, but it is not desirable even there.

White markings at the chest and toes, black-fronted dirty colored fawns are not desirable.

Faults: Yellowish-grey, bluish-yellow, greyish-blue, dirty-yellow colour (drab colour), lack of black mask.

Serious fault: Any deviation from the standard on all colouration.

Disqualifying faults:white forehead line, white collars, high white stockings and white bellies.

#### **BRINDLE**

Small white marks on chest and toes undesirable.

Faults: Basic colour silver blue or isabella. Washed-out stribes.

Disqualifying: dogs with white blaze, white collar, white feet or socks and white tip of tail.

Fawn, brindle and black white is only permissible on chest and feet, but it is not desirable even there.

White markings at the chest and toes, black-fronted, dirty colored brindles are not desirable.



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**Brindle:** Too much or too little brindling are equally undesirable.

**Faults:** Brindle with too dark a base colour; silver-blue and greyish-blue base colour; dull (faded) brindling; white tail tip.

**Disqualifying faults:** white forehead line, white collars, high white stockings and white bellies.

## **HARLEKIN**

Grey or brownish patches undesirable.

**Fault:** Blue-grey ticked basic colour. Large fawn-grey or blue-grey parts in the patches.

**Disqualifying faults:** dogs with white without any black (albinos), deaf. So called Porcelain tigers (dogs that show predominantly blue, grey, fawn or brindle patches), so called "Grautiger" (dogs that have a basic grey colour with black patches).

In harlequins, wall eyes, pink noses, or butterfly noses permissible but not desirable.

Eligible but less desirable are a few small grey spots, also pointings where instead of a pure white base with black spots, there is a white base with single black hairs showing through which tend to give a salt and pepper or dirty effect. **Faults:** White base colour with a few large spots; bluish-grey pointed background.

**Disqualifying faults:** White Danes without any black marks (albinos).

## **BLACK**

**Faults:** Fawn, brown or blue-black colour.

Fawn, brindle and black white is only permissible on chest and feet, but it is not desirable even there.

**Faults:** Black Yellow-black, brown-black or blue-black. White markings, such as stripes on the chest, speckled chest and markings on the paws are permitted but not desirable.

## **MANTLE**

**Faults:** Any variation detracting from the general appearance.

**Disqualifying faults:** Merles, a solid mouse-grey colour or a mouse-grey base with black or white or both colour spots or white base with mouse-grey spots.

## **BLUE**

**Faults:** Fawn or black-blue colour.

**Disqualifying faults:** dogs with white blaze, white collar, white feet or socks or white tip of tail.

**Faults:** Any deviation from a pure steel-blue colouration.

Small white marks on chest and toes--blues, blacks, brindles, and fawns.

Few grey spots and pointings on harlequins. Any colour but dark eyes in blacks, blues and harlequins.

**Disqualifying faults:** white forehead line, white collars, high white stockings and white bellies.

## **Heights**

**Disqualifying faults:** Below minimum height.

Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.

**Disqualifying faults:** Danes under minimum height.

**Disqualifying faults:** Danes under minimum height.

N.B.: Male animals should have two apparently normally developed testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



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## References:

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### *The Kennel Club (United Kingdom)*

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### *The American Kennel Club*

*[http://www.akc.org/breeds/great\\_dane/](http://www.akc.org/breeds/great_dane/)*

### *The Canadian Kennel Club*

*<http://www.ckc.ca/en/Default.aspx?tabid=99&groupCode=03>*