



HOUSE OF APOLLON

Great Dane
National Breed of Denmark

FCI STANDARD

- english version

GREAT DANE

STANDARD

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.

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%.

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.

HEAD CRANIAL REGION

Skull: In harmony with the general appearance. Long, narrow, distinct, full of expression. Finely chiselled, specially under the eyes. Superciliary ridges well developed but not protruding. 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. 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. **Stop:** Clearly defined.

HEAD FACIAL REGION

Nose: 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). **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. **Jaws/Teeth:** Well developed broad jaws. Strong sound and complete scissor bite (42 teeth according to the dentition formula). **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. **Ears:** Naturally pendant, set on high, of medium size, front edges lying close to cheeks.

NECK

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

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. **Back:** Short and



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firm, in almost straight line falling away imperceptibly to the rear. **Loins:** Slightly arched, broad, strongly muscled. **Croup:** Broad, well muscled. Sloping slightly from hipbone to tail set, imperceptibly merging into the tailset. **Chest:** Reaching to the elbows. Well sprung ribs, reaching far back. Chest of good width with marked forechest. **Underline and belly:** Belly well tucked up towards rear, forming a nicely curved line with the underside of the brisket. **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.

LIMBS FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders: Strongly muscled. The long, slanting shoulder blade forms an angle of 100 to 110 degrees with the upper arm. **Upper arm:** Strong and muscular, close fitting, should be slightly longer than the shoulder blade. **Elbows:** Turned neither in nor out. **Forearm:** Strong, muscular. Seen from front and side, completely straight. **Carpus:** 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. **Front feet:** Rounded, well arched, well-knit toes (cat feet). 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. **Upper thigh:** Long, broad, very muscular. **Stifles:** Strong, positioned almost vertically under the hip joint. **Lower thigh:** Long, of approximately the same length as the upper thigh. Well muscled. **Hocks:** Strong, firm, turning neither in nor out. **Metatarsus:** 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.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

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

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.

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. Small white marks on chest and toes undesirable. **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. Small white markings on chest and toes are undesirable. **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. Grey or brownish patches undesirable. **Black:** Jet black, white markings permitted. Included here are « Manteltiger » in which the black covers the body like a coat ("mantel") or blanket and muzzle, throat, chest, belly,



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legs and tip of tail may be white. Also dogs with basic white colour and large black patches so called "Plattenhunde". **Blue:** Pure steel blue, white markings on chest and feet permitted.

HEIGHT

Height at withers: Dogs at least 80 cm, Bitches at least 72 cm.

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.

General appearance

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

Temperament

Lacking self-confidence, nervous, easily provoked.

Head

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

Muzzle

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

Jaws/Teeth

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.

Eyes

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.

Ears

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

Neck

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

Back

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

Croup

Falling away steeply or completely flat.

Tail

Too thick, too long or too short, set on too low or too highly carried above the



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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.

Ribcage

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

Lower line

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

Forelegs

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

Shoulders

Loose or loaded. Upright shoulder blade.

Elbows

Loose, turning in or out.

Forearm

Bent, enlarged above pastern.

Pastern

Enlarged, markedly weak or knuckling over.

Metacarpus

Too sloping or too upright.

Hindquarters

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

Hocks

Exaggerated large or unstable.

Feet

Flat, splayed, long. Dewclaws.

Gait/Movement

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

Coat

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

Colour

Fawn: Grey fawn, blue fawn, isabella (cream) or sooty fawn colour. **Brindles:** Basic colour silver blue or isabella. Washed-out stripes. **Harlequins:** Blue-grey ticked basic colour. Large fawn-grey or blue-grey parts in the patches. **Blacks:** Fawn, brown or blue-black colour. **Blues:** Fawn or black-blue colour.

SERIOUS FAULTS



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Temperament

Shyness.

Jaws/Teeth

Pincer bite.

Eyes

Ectropion, entropion.

Tail

Kinky tail.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

Temperament

Aggressiveness, fear-biting.

Nose

Liver coloured; split nose.

Jaws/Teeth

Overshot, undershot, wry mouth.

Colour

Fawn or brindle: dogs with white blaze, white collar, white feet or socks and white tip of tail. **Blue:** dogs with white blaze, white collar, white feet or socks or white tip of tail. **Harlequin:** 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).

Height

Below minimum height.

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

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

Kilde: FCI standard Nr 235/version date: 09.08.2002

<http://www.fci.be/nomenclature.aspx>