

Dynamite Danes

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Puppy Care and Information

- ***Research and Training is a must to make sure your Dane is happy, healthy and well mannered.***
- ***Never stop learning about the breed.***

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dynamite Danes Puppy-Dog Feeding Guidelines

I use the Diamond food and have had very good results for many years. Your puppy will be on a ration of 1/2 :

http://www.diamondpet.com/products/diamond_naturals/puppies/dry_food/large_breed_puppy_lamb_and_rice_formula/

and 1/2:

http://www.diamondpet.com/products/diamond_naturals/dogs/dry_food/large_breed_lamb_and_rice_formula/

or this:

http://www.diamondpet.com/products/diamond_naturals_grain-free/dogs/dry_food/beef_and_sweet_potato_formula_for_dogs/

Then after 4 months of age, I would recommend any one of these formulas:

http://www.diamondpet.com/products/diamond_naturals_grain-free/dry_food/ or the Large Breed adult. He/she should not have any sort of puppy food in his diet after 4 months of age

- ❖ The food that you choose must have the proper nutrition levels to help your Dane grow slowly and evenly.
- ❖ If changing their food: do it gradually over 1 – 2 week's time so they do not get an upset tummy and/or diarrhea.
- ❖ It is very important that Danes be fed multiple times per day, at least twice a day, as this will reduce the incidence of bloat and torsion.
- ❖ Raise their food and water dish as they grow. (It should be at least 16 inches high.)
- ❖ Be sure that the dog has not exercised for at least 30 minutes before eating and do not exercise him for 1 – 2 hours after eating. This will make sure his stomach is settled during the critical time around his meal during which he is very susceptible to bloat.
- ❖ When trying to decide which commercial dog food is appropriate for PROPER DANE growth, there are very specific things you must look for.

The 10 most essential items to look for when selecting an adult formula dog food for your puppy, which is suitable for proper growth for the giant breeds, are as follows in order of importance from my research and experience.

1. First ingredients must be multiple Meats or Meat Meals. (Chicken, Turkey, Beef, Fish, etc.) NOT YELLOW CORN or WHEAT. If ground corn meal is further down the line on the ingredients list that is ok but try to stay away from wheat because your Dane may be or become allergic to it.
2. Moderate calories range (320 –365 kCals per cup) If the puppy is active, a higher calorie count might be beneficial but not to exceed 475
3. Protein range of 21% - 24% maximum
4. Fat range 12% - 16% maximum
5. Calcium—no more than 1.5%
6. Glucosamine & Chondroitin (This can be supplement with Cosequin DS)
7. Ingredients listed as human grade, human edible or organic and naturally preserved.
8. Chelated or sequestered minerals.
9. Balanced Omega 6:3 fatty acids.
10. Probiotics/Digestive enzymes, but can be supplemented with [NZYMES](#) if it's not in the food already.

Feeding Time Tips:

- ❖ Watch puppy carefully when eating. If pup is eating too fast.
- ❖ Pull him/her away from food for a couple of minutes and then let the pup go back to eating
- ❖ Put a good size rubber ball or another good sized toy that the puppy would have to work around so he will eat slower.
- ❖ Give a little bit every couple of minutes until they eat all their food.
- ❖ FYI: If they eat too fast there is a *fatal* chance of the pup inhaling the food into their lungs.
- ❖ Our Feeding Schedule: 5am & 5pm: 2 cups of Diamond Naturals Large Breed Adult Lamb & Rice Formula supplemented with ½ cup of cottage cheese or plain yogurt in AM & approximately ½-1 cup of fruit or veggies in evening added to kibble.

FEEDING AMOUNTS: GUIDELINES ONLY (adjust accordingly)	“Other food suggestions”
2 months 2-4 cups per day - (divided into 3 meals daily if possible)	1. Eagle Pack Holistic Large & Giant Breed Puppy or Adult Formula
3 months 3-5 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)	2. Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul Large Breed Adult or Adult Formula
4 months 4-6 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)	3. Taste of the Wild Pacific Stream Canine Formula
5 months 5-7 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)	4. Nutro Natural Choice Chicken Meal, Rice & Oatmeal Adult Formula
6 months 6-8 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)	5. Diamond Large Breed 60+ Adult Dog Formula
7 months..... 6-9 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)	6. Diamond Naturals Lamb Meal & Rice Large Breed Adult Dog Formula
8 months..... 6-9 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)	7. Nutro Natural Choice Lamb Meal & Rice Large Breed Adult or Adult Formula
9 months..... 7-10 cups per day- (divided into 2 meals daily)	
10 - 12 months....7-10 cups per day - (divided into 2 meals daily)	
12 -18 months.... 8-11 cups a day (divided into 2 meals daily)	

Supply Suggestions for your new Puppy (Basic Puppy Needs)

Canned and dry food/diet schedule	Feeding and water bowls
Collar and leash	Soft Bed
Fun toys to keep their attention	Grooming supplies (brushes, shampoo, etc.)
Muzzle/first aid kit	Flea collar and preparations
Safe chew products	Edible chew products (treats/rewards)
<p>Nail Clipping: Try to get your puppy used to getting his/her nails trimmed on a regular basis; otherwise you will have the time of your life trying to trim the nails. For a Great Dane you will need one that is a little sharper and able to cut through their big nails. Remember, big dog, big nails. Some owners use a grinder. You can find a grinder at your local pet store. You must get the dog used to the sound of the grinder before you attempt to trim his/her nails. You can also take the dog to the veterinarian or groomers to have the nails trimmed.</p>	
<p>Brushing: Danes have very short, shiny hair. They are a pleasure and easy to groom. Brushing or combing them on a regular basis will release the natural oils in their skin and keep the coat very shiny as well as removing any dead hair, dust and skin scales. Daily grooming also eliminates the necessity of frequent bathing. You may bathe your dog or puppy any time you think it necessary, as long as you do not think it is necessary too frequently. In cold weather, make sure he is fully dry before you let him/her outside.</p>	
<p>Baby Gates: A baby gate works well if you train your Dane to respect it at a young age. For adult Great Danes you may have to stack two baby gates together so it will be tall enough to keep him secure. Believe it or not the Great Danes are very well behaved and will stay behind the gates if you teach them properly.</p>	
<p>Shading: Remember Danes do not do well being left outside without human companionship. Also according to my contract they must not be left to live as an outside pet. If want an area to keep your Dane safe for a little while, what you might want to invest in for your dogs' sake is the enclosed run as in the pictured. However it is constructed; make sure it will be safe for your dog. Also make sure that he will be protected from bad weather.</p>	

CONGRATULATIONS on choosing a Great Dane as a member of your family. We would like to offer you some basic information which we believe will help you in the developing relationship with your puppy. The Great Dane is one of the most elegant and distinguished of the giant breeds. It is believed that the breed's origins can be traced to Irish Wolfhound with mixture of old English Mastiff. The breed itself having existed for over 400 years to serve as a Boar Hound in Germany. Europe's erstwhile boar was one of the most savage, swift, powerful and well armed requiring a super dog to hunt it.

As early as 3000 BC carvings of dogs on Egyptian tombs depict the Great Dane. Archeological evidence exists of a Dane-type dog used for hunting and to fight bears and bulls. However, the Great Dane as we know it today was developed in Europe during the 1800's and declared the national breed of Germany in 1876. As a boarhound, the Dane of yesterday was very different, both in structure and temperament from the Dane of today. When no longer used for hunting, the breed changed to one of a companion and estate guard dog. Today, correctly bred Great Danes have a gentle and loving disposition that makes them a wonderful family companion. Their primary asset in training is their desire to please. It is imperative that your puppy be well socialized from the time you bring it home; kindergarten puppy classes for puppies three to six months old are strongly recommended. These classes should be followed with a basic obedience class. Your puppy will grow as much his first year as a child grows in fourteen years. It is vital that you provide it with the basic structure and consistent training that every puppy needs to make it a happy and well-adjusted member of your family. Great Danes should be raised in the house as a family member; they do not do well as yard dogs, although they do need a fenced yard for exercise and playtime. Just as you would not leave older siblings alone with a baby, young children should never be left unattended with your puppy or dog. Because a puppy is not a toy, children must be taught the correct way to interact with a puppy; fair play and respect are a must. Puppies often think of toddlers as other puppies since they are close to the same size and make similar sounds. As the parent, you must teach and monitor correct behavior on the part of the child and the puppy. Puppies chew on each other, wrestle, and growl to determine their pack structure. With correct and consistent training, your puppy will learn that your children are not puppies, but small humans. Quick movements and high-pitched squealing will excite a puppy or dog while loud, harsh corrections will confuse and intimidate it. Dogs learn through consistency and repetition, with love and positive reinforcement. The adults in your household must assume the role of pack leader in order for your puppy to grow up secure and confident.

We also recommend crate training your puppy. The crate, when placed in the living area of your home, will become your puppies "den." Keep soft, washable bedding and toys in the crate; newspapers just inside the crate door can help with the baby accidents. The crate door should be left open while you are at home with the puppy so that it can go to the den at will. Children should be taught that they are never to bother the puppy when it is in its den - this is a safe place. The puppy should also sleep in its crate until it is old enough to sleep through the night without accidents.

If you do not have room for a crate in your bedroom, be sure to leave soft music and a large, stuffed toy for it at night so that it does not feel completely alone. You should also use a crate or seatbelt harness in your vehicle for the same reasons that your child rides in a car seat. As you have probably come to realize, prior to approximately four months of age puppies eat, sleep and potty a lot! The initial 3-4 meals each day can be reduced to 2 meals per day by 6-9 months of age. The last meal and water should be approximately two hours before bedtime with one last play period and potty break just before going to bed. While still a puppy it will need to potty immediately after a nap, upon coming out of its crate after eating, and after (if not during) a good round of play. Accidents in the house are not the fault of the puppy. If you take the puppy out often, stay with it, and give soft praise, it will soon be housebroken.

Your Dane should continue to eat twice each day its entire life. Follow your breeder's advice on feeding and nutritional supplements.

Great Danes are predisposed to a number of health problems. An ethical private breeder will screen his breeding stock for specific diseases and make clearance certificates available to prospective puppy parents.

The primary purpose of dog shows is to evaluate potential breeding stock. Along with this evaluation goes many years of education in order to make qualified decisions about breeding. For these reasons the ethical private breeder will usually require that any puppy going to a companion home be neutered; this is the only way we have of protecting the future of our breed.

We recommend that you have your puppy spayed or neutered before puberty. Many behavioral problems are hormone related. By making the responsible decision to spay or neuter, you will make your pet much easier to train and protect it from mammary or prostate cancer. You will also not produce unplanned puppies and set a very good example for your neighbors and friends

If you are interested in becoming involved in different show events, your breeder should have all the information you could want and be willing to guide you. Most of us started with a companion dog that was not of breeding quality. We neutered our pet and got involved in obedience, agility, therapy work, etc. Our first pet was our introduction to the breed; while training and enjoying our first Dane, we studied and learned in preparation for acquiring our next puppy, which we decided to show. It is a process that is well worth the effort.

Great Dane Did You Know?

The Great Dane's name is the English translation of the breed name in French: grand Danois, meaning "big Danish."

The Great Dane had a half-dozen names used for centuries in France, including dogue allemand ("German Mastiff"); "Mastiff" in English, dogue or dogo in the Latin languages, and dogge in the Germanic languages all meant the same thing: a giant dog with heavy head for fighting or hunting purposes.

There is no known reason for connecting Denmark with either the origin or the development of the Great Dane; it was "made in Germany", and it was German fanciers who led the world in breeding most of the finest specimens.

The earliest written description of a dog resembling the Great Dane may be found in Chinese literature of 1121 BC, according to an article by Dr. G. Ciaburri in a Great Dane Club of Italy publication (1929).

The Great Dane is a very old breed, cultivated as a distinct type for probably 400 years, if not longer. The Dane was developed as a boarhound by the Germans.

About Bloat

Bloat, Torsion. Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV). Call it what you will, this is a serious, life-threatening condition of large breed dogs. While the diagnosis is simple, the pathological changes in the dog's body make treatment complicated, expensive, and not always successful. A typical scenario starts with a large, deep-chested dog, usually fed once daily. Typical breeds affected are Akita, Great Dane, German Shepherd, St. Bernard, Irish Wolfhound, and Irish Setter. Sight hounds, Doberman Pinschers, Weimaraners, Bloodhounds, other similar breeds, and large, deep-chested mixed breeds are also affected. Factor in the habit of bolting food, gulping air, or drinking large amounts of water immediately after eating to this feeding schedule and body type. Then add vigorous exercise after a full meal, and you have the recipe for bloat. Of course, the fact that not all bloats happen in just the same way and the thought that some bloodlines are more at risk than others further complicates the issue. Simple gastric distention can occur in any breed or age of dog and is common in young puppies that overeat. Laymen sometimes refer this to as pre-bloat. Belching of gas or vomiting food usually relieves the problem. If this condition occurs more than once in a predisposed breed, the veterinarian might discuss methods to prevent bloat, such as feeding smaller meals or giving Reglan (metoclopramide) to encourage stomach emptying. Some veterinarians recommend, and some owner's request, prophylactic surgery to anchor the stomach in place before the torsion occurs in dogs that have experienced one or more bouts of distention or in dogs whose close relatives have had GDV.

The Physiology of Bloat:

Torsion or volvulus are terms to describe the twisting of the stomach after gastric distention occurs. The different terms are used to define the twisting whether it occurs on the longitudinal axis (torsion) or the mesenteric axis (volvulus). Most people use the terms interchangeably, and the type of twist has no bearing on the prognosis or treatment. When torsion occurs, the esophagus is closed off, limiting the dog's ability to relieve distention by vomiting or belching. Often the spleen becomes entrapped as well, and its blood supply is cut off. Now a complex chain of physiologic events begins. The blood return to the heart decreases, cardiac output decreases, and cardiac arrhythmias may follow. Toxins build up in the dying stomach lining. The liver, pancreas, and upper small bowel may also be compromised. Shock from low blood pressure and endotoxins rapidly develop. Sometimes the stomach ruptures, leading to peritonitis. Abdominal distention, salivating, and retching are the hallmark signs of GDV. Other signs may include restlessness, depression, lethargy, anorexia, weakness, or a rapid heart rate.

Treatment:

GDV is a true emergency. If you know or even suspect your dog has bloat, immediately call your veterinarian or emergency service. Do not attempt home treatment. Do take the time to call ahead. While you are transporting the dog, the hospital staff can prepare for your arrival. Do not insist on accompanying your dog to the treatment area. Well-meaning owners are an impediment to efficient care. Someone will be out to answer your questions as soon as possible, but for now, have faith in your veterinarian and wait. Initial diagnosis may include x-rays, an ECG, and blood tests, but treatment will probably be started before the test results are in. The first step is to treat shock with IV fluids and steroids. Antibiotics and anti-arrhythmic may also be started now. Then the veterinarian will attempt to decompress the stomach by passing a stomach tube. If this is successful, a gastric lavage may be instituted to wash out accumulated food, gastric juices, or other stomach contents. In some cases, decompression is accomplished by placing large-bore needles or a trochar through the skin and muscle and directly into the stomach. In some cases, this medical therapy is sufficient. However, in many cases, surgery is

required to save the dog. Once the dog's condition is stabilized, surgery to correct the stomach twist, remove any unhealthy tissue, and anchor the stomach in place is performed. The gastroplexy, or anchoring surgery, is an important procedure to prevent recurrence, and many variations exist. Your veterinarian will do the procedure he feels comfortable with and which has the best success rate. Recovery is prolonged; sometimes requiring hospital stays of a week or more. Post-operative care depends on the severity of the disease and the treatment methods employed and may include a special diet, drugs to promote gastric emptying, and routine wound management. Costs may run \$500-1000 or more in complicated cases.

Prevention:

Clearly, prevention of GDV is preferable to treatment. In susceptible breeds, feed two or three meals daily and discourage rapid eating. Do not allow exercise for 1 – 2 hours before or after a meal. As previously mentioned some owners feel that certain bloodlines are at greater risk and choose to have gastroplexy performed as a prophylactic measure.

Health and Welfare Information from GDCA

Inherited and other health concerns in the Great Dane

Items that are underlined can be identified through testing

DCM: CARDIOMYOPATHY - is suspected to be an inherited disease in the Great Dane and current (preliminary) research indicates that this disease may be sex-linked in our breed. Research is ongoing. An echocardiogram of the heart will confirm the disease but will not guarantee that the disease will not develop in the future. There is some congenital heart defects also occasionally found in the breed.

K9HD: HIP DYSPLASIA - is an inherited disease with multi-factorial expression. Clinically the disease may be seen as simply poor rear end conformation or lessened athleticism to such malformation of the hip joint that the dog becomes crippled.

HYPOTHYROIDISM - in dogs is generally the result of a heritable disorder of the immune system. This condition results when the thyroid gland is not producing enough hormones to adequately maintain the dog's metabolism. Happily, it is easily treated with thyroid replacement pills.

CATARACTS - although not common, cataracts have been described in the Great Dane and can be blinding. Eyelid abnormalities (e.g. entropion) are also not unheard of in the breed.

GDV: Bloat - is the number one killer of Great Danes & Great Danes is the #1 breed at risk for bloat. For reasons not fully understood, in certain deep-chested breeds in particular, the stomach distends, and then has a tendency to rotate, which cuts off the blood supply to various parts of the body, as well as effectively shutting down digestion. This condition is extremely painful as well as a true emergency that is rapidly life-threatening. A dog with a bloated, twisted stomach (technically called "Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus") will die in great pain in a matter of hours unless drastic steps are taken: surgery is normally necessary. The reasons for GDV are

currently not understood, however most would agree that multiple small meals per day and preventing vigorous exercise around mealtimes can help reduce the chances of bloat. Many breeders and owners of Great Danes consider a surgery called a prophylactic gastropexy ("preventative tack") which can help prevent some of the more serious aspects of GDV. Discuss this with your veterinarian and your Dane's breeder.

CANCER: Danes can suffer from a variety of cancers as do many other breeds of dogs as well as many mixed breed dogs. Bone cancer (osteosarcoma) and lymphoma appear to be the two forms of cancer most commonly seen in the Great Dane, and along with heart disease and bloat (GDV); cancer is a leading cause of death in Great Danes. Research into both types of cancer is ongoing and treatment options are improving every day.

CVI: Wobblers - is a result of pressure on the spinal cord in the neck region and results in a "drunken" gait & increasing instability. It thought to result from a combination of nutritional effects and inherited traits and is considered a form of DOD (Developmental Osteodystrophy) along with such as OCD. Great Danes are considered at risk for Wobblers. CVI stands for Cervical Vertebral Instability.

HOD and Pano - these are painful conditions of the bones that occur during the rapid growth phase of puppyhood causing lameness and general malaise. By far HOD is the more serious one and can be deadly. Pano is usually self-limiting and may not need treatment. HOD stands for Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy. Pano is short for Panosteitis.

About Ear Cropping

FYI: AKC accepts ears natural and/or cropped in the show ring.

Puppies are put under general anesthesia between the tender ages of 7-12 weeks old. Any general anesthesia always poses a risk, something could go wrong. Puppies can and have died under anesthesia or just after coming out of anesthesia.

2/3 of the earflap, including many nerve endings and acupuncture zones, are removed during cropping. The raw, bloody edges are then closed with stitches from the bottom to the tip of the ear. Many breeders will say that it doesn't hurt the puppy, but when the puppy cries out in pain when it bumps or scratches the ear, is a sign of pain. Regardless of how long the pain lasts or how intense it may be, the puppy shouldn't even have to go through this at such an impressionable age. Now that you have raw and exposed edges that are waiting to heal, you are also running a high risk of infection at the incision

Ears are now cropped and stitches have been removed; now the puppy has to go through months of mandatory ear taping. The tape has to be changed at least once a week. This is very time consuming and expensive. There is no set time limit to taping the ears; it can take 4 weeks to 12 months or longer. In some cases, the ears may never stand and the dog could be subjected to a second crop, at a much older age, to create scar tissue to help strengthen the ear leather or to take more of the ear flap off to reduce the lengthy/weight of the ear. For those that choose not to re-crop a failed ear crop, the dog is stuck with an ugly, cropped ear that flops either over the head or down the cheek.

There is NO proven medical benefit to cropping; it has never been scientifically proven that it will cut down on the amount of ear infections by increasing ventilation of the ear canal. Keeping the ears clean from dirt and debris is the job of every dog owner, its basic maintenance, regardless if the dog is cropped or uncropped.

The vast majority of Europe, all of Australia, and New Zealand has banned ear cropping. The AVMA doesn't endorse this practice and an increasing number of US Veterinarian's refuse to perform this procedure.

One of the reason most breeders crop their Danes ears is to successfully compete in the show ring. AKC accepts them either way. However, the ears do not determine the quality of a dog. If the dog is good enough and is presented well, he/she will have the same chance any other dog has. Natural eared dogs can – and – do win and finish their championships. More and more judges are opening their minds to natural eared Dogs in the ring.

Many pet owners see show pictures of Danes and like the "Look" of the cropped ears and so the cycle continues. For some people the "Look" is worth all the time' effort, money and discomfort to the animal, to those I say "Do as you must". For those of you, who are undecided, educate yourself prior to making this life altering decision for you puppy.

Benefits of Spaying or Neutering Your New Companion

There is no medical reason why a dog should be intact if they are not going to be shown in the Conformation ring or used for breeding (that is of course if all the testing comes back normal etc.).

Spay/Neuter procedure should be done no earlier than 6 months of age and no later than 12 months of age. You want the pup to grow up a bit before the procedure is performed since there might be a chance of the pup not growing to their full potential if it is done at a very young age. It is not a proven fact but it can happen. If you get an older Great Dane and they are not altered, it is a very good idea to get the procedure done immediately. Older adult males can be prone to prostate infections and marking their territory in the house, and adult bitches to false pregnancies and uterine infections. Spaying or neutering pets is a good idea for the health of the dog and is required by most ethical breeders. If you have a female Great Dane and she is in her cycle, you must wait at least 2 months after the end of her cycle before you can get her spayed. This way you make sure her hormones are back to normal levels and there is no chance of her bleeding out after the procedure.

Spaying or neutering your dog or cat is beneficial to both you and your pet.

Some of the advantages are:

- 1) Your pet's life expectancy is generally increased and their disposition becomes more gentle and affectionate;*
- 2) Pets are less likely to stray from home, or attract unwanted visitors; plus*
- 3) Spaying a female helps prevent uterine infections, such as pyometra, and breast cancer;*
- 4) Neutering a male helps reduce the risk of testicular cancer, prostate disease and hernias;*
and
- 5) The dog license fee is lower*

Vaccination Information

Description of Dog Diseases

"D" stands for distemper. Distemper is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus that often results in the death of the dog. It affects the gastrointestinal tract and respiratory system. If the dog survives the initial infection, the illness often spreads to the nervous system, causing death. There is no specific treatment except supportive care, and over half the infected dogs die. Additionally, many more have to be euthanized due to seizures and other chronic problems. Vaccination is the key to prevention and all dogs that are able to be vaccinated should receive distemper vaccinations.

"P" typically stands for Parainfluenza. Parainfluenza is a virus that causes respiratory infections in dogs. It is also one of the culprits involved in infectious canine bronchitis, commonly called 'kennel cough'. Vaccination with Parainfluenza vaccine is important to protect dogs from respiratory disease. All dogs that are able to be vaccinated should receive Parainfluenza vaccine as part of their vaccination regime.

"B" - BORDETELLA BRONCHISEPTICA - one of the most common causes of Canine Upper Respiratory Disease Complex, known as "Kennel Cough". Bacterial illness. The symptoms include a harsh, dry cough, aggravated by activity or excitement. The cough is followed by retching or gagging in an attempt to clear small amounts of mucus from the throat. Body temperature may be elevated as secondary bacterial infection takes place. Highly contagious, this disease is readily transmitted to susceptible dogs. Most common among dogs that congregate at dog shows, kennels, etc.

"H" and "A2" stand for hepatitis and canine adenovirus type 2. The disease that both these vaccines protect against is infectious canine hepatitis. This illness is caused by a virus, the canine adenovirus type 1. Both canine adenovirus type 1 and type 2 are used to make vaccinations, so you may see both in the name of the vaccine. Canine infectious hepatitis can cause liver and blood vessel disease. Dogs may recover from the disease, die rapidly, or develop chronic liver problems. There is no specific treatment, except supportive therapy. Vaccination is highly effective at protecting dogs from this illness and all dogs that are able to be vaccinated should receive canine infectious hepatitis vaccinations.

"CV" and "CVK" stand for Coronavirus disease. This contagious viral disease causes intestinal illness that can be mild or severe, and has been associated with death, especially in young puppies. It is especially dangerous if it infects a dog at the same time as canine parvovirus. As with the other viral diseases, there is no specific therapy that eliminates the virus. Animals are treated with supportive and nursing care. It is often included in the vaccinations given to young dogs, as well as older animals.

"PV", "Pv", "CPV", and sometimes "P" stand for canine parvovirus. This highly contagious viral disease is a well-known cause of gastrointestinal disease and death in many dogs. It is especially lethal to young dogs or those with inadequate immune systems. Because there is no specific cure, treatment is primarily intensive in-hospital nursing and supportive care. Vaccination can be highly effective at reducing the disease. Canine parvovirus vaccination should be included in the vaccination regime of all dogs that are able to receive vaccinations. "L" and "4L" stand for leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that can cause several problems, including liver and kidney disease. The illness may be acute or chronic, in apparent or severe, and can cause death. The bacteria exist in many different subtypes, called serovars. Several of these serovars are known to cause disease in dogs. Most available vaccines protect against two of these serovars, *L. canicola* and *L. icterohaemorrhagiae*. A few vaccines protect against two additional serovars, *L. grippityphosa* and *L. pomona*. It is important to read the

vaccine label carefully to identify which serovars are present in the vaccine. Although vaccination against leptospirosis is very important for many dogs, not all dogs should receive this vaccine. Discuss the use of leptospirosis vaccine with your veterinarian.

Please Note: For Danes: Different vaccinations should be given by itself, 7-10+ days after any other type of vaccine.

For example: if your Dane got a Rabies vaccination wait before you give him a booster. Same thing goes for Lyme, Lepto etc.

Intra-nasal Bordetella seems to be the only safe vaccine to give along with any others.

6 weeks of age: Give first combination vaccine. (Distemper, Hepatitis, Para influenza, Parvovirus, Corona virus)

9 weeks of age: Give second combination vaccine. (Distemper, Hepatitis, Para influenza, Parvovirus, Corona virus,

12 weeks of age: Give third combination vaccine. (Distemper, Hepatitis, Para influenza, Parvovirus, Corona virus)

Leptospirosis and/or Lyme Vaccine if needed. No earlier than 12 weeks of age and again 7 -10 days after the previous shot. Generally a Lyme vaccine is then repeated two weeks later, then once a year.)

16 weeks or older not to exceed the age of 6 months: Rabies vaccine is given. (Local and State laws apply regarding Rabies vaccine since this can be a human disease, too. Your veterinarian will tell you the proper time intervals for booster vaccines for Rabies.)

CAUTION! If your puppy has any trouble breathing after a vaccination, or seems weak, staggers, has pale gums or seems at all unresponsive... get back to your veterinarian immediately!

Why so many? As with children, the same goes for animals. The pup will start to get his immunities from his mother but will need some assistance in building those immunities up to where they need to be. That is where the vaccinations come into play. Keeping your dog on a proper vaccination schedule will help them continue to build their immunities and therefore assist in not contracting any diseases.

On very rare occasions any animal or human may have a reaction to a vaccination. These are just like the reactions that can occur after an insect sting or medication hypersensitivity. This kind of reaction can be very serious and life threatening and thankfully is very uncommon. If your pup simply seems a little tired or slightly uncomfortable where it was vaccinated, that is an entirely different and mild response to the vaccination. If you are not sure that your pup is OK, call your veterinarian for advice.

Different Types of Worms that may affect your dog.

Roundworms

A large percentage of puppies and kittens are born with microscopically small roundworm larvae in their tissues. The larvae got there via migration through the mother's tissues right into the developing pup or kitten in the mother's uterus! The worm larvae can also be transferred to the nursing pup or kitten from the mother's milk. The larvae make their way to the intestinal tract where they can grow up to five inches in length. They start shedding eggs and try desperately to keep house in the small intestine of the pup or kitten. The eggs that the adult worms pass in the stool can now re-infest the same pup or kitten or other dogs and cats if somehow the egg-bearing stool is eaten. When the worm eggs hatch, larvae are released internally to migrate to the animal's lungs where the larvae (remember, the larvae are microscopic in size) are finally coughed up, swallowed, and finally grow up to adults in the small intestine. So you can see that repeated exposures to egg-bearing stool or stool-contaminated soil can cause additive numbers of parasites to a dog or cat's load. Not good! Roundworms are active in the intestines of puppies and kittens, often causing a pot-bellied appearance and poor growth. The worms may be seen in vomit or stool; a severe infestation can cause death by intestinal blockage. Females can produce 200 thousand eggs in a day; eggs are protected by a hard shell and can exist in the soil for years. Roundworms can infest adult dogs and cats, too. However, as mentioned above, the larvae can encyst in body tissue of adult dogs and cats, remain dormant for periods of time, and can activate during the last stages of pregnancy to infest the puppies and kittens. Worming the mother has no effect on the encysted larvae in the body tissues and cannot prevent the worms from infecting the newborn. Almost all wormers work only on the adult parasites IN THE INTESTINAL TRACT.

Hookworms

These are much more common in dogs than in cats. They are very small, thin worms that fasten to the wall of the small intestine and suck blood. Dogs get hookworms from larval migration in the uterus, from contact with the larvae in stool-contaminated soil, or from ingesting the eggs after birth. As with roundworms, the hookworm larvae can also be transferred to the nursing pup from the mother's milk.

A severe hookworm infestation can kill puppies, often making them severely anemic from the loss of blood to the hookworms' vampire-like activities! Chronic hookworm infestation is a common cause of older dogs not performing optimally, having poor feed efficiency and weight maintenance, and having poor stamina. Often the signs include bloody diarrhea, weight loss, anemia, and progressive weakness. Examining the feces for eggs under a microscope makes diagnosis.

Whipworms

This parasite is more often seen in dogs than cats. Adult whipworms, although seldom seen in the stool, look like tiny pieces of thread with one end enlarged. They live in the cecum, the first section of the dog's large intestine. Infestations are usually difficult to prove since the whipworms shed comparatively few eggs; so an examination of even several stool samples may not reveal the presence of whipworms. If a dog is presented

with chronic weight loss and passes stool that seems to have a covering of mucous (especially the last portion of stool the dog passes), and lives in a kennel situation or an area where whipworms are prevalent, the veterinarian may prescribe a whipworm medication based upon circumstantial evidence. Repeat worming may be necessary especially if there is a probability that the dog will become re-infested. Although they seldom cause a dog's death, whipworms are a real nuisance for the dog and can be a problem for the veterinarian to diagnose.

Tapeworms

Another intestinal parasite, the tapeworm, is transmitted to dogs and cats that ingest fleas (fleas think tapeworm eggs are real tasty!) or that hunt and eat wildlife or rodents infested with tapeworms or fleas. If you were to see an entire tapeworm you would notice that they are arranged with a small head at one end and many tiny brick-like repeating segments making up the rest of the worm. There are generally two types that infest dogs and cats; tapeworms can reach 4 to 6 inches in length within the intestine. It is the last segments in the chain that are released from the worm that can be seen in the dog or cats' stool. An entire tapeworm may have 90 segments! Many cases are diagnosed simply by seeing these tiny terminal segments attached to the pet's fur around the anus or under the tail; they even move around a bit shortly after they are passed and before they dry up and look like little grains of rice or confetti. These segments of the tapeworm contain the eggs. The typical generic, over-the-counter wormers cannot kill tapeworms; see the veterinarian for prescription-only treatment that really works. Don't waste your time or money on non-prescription tape worm medications... they don't work very well.

Heartworm

It is a parasitic roundworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) that is spread from host to host through the bites of mosquitoes. Heartworm is a type of filaria, a small thread-like worm. It can affect dogs, cats, wolves, coyotes, foxes, and some other animals, such as ferrets, sea lions, and even humans. The parasitic worm is called a "heartworm" because the parasite, in the final reproductive stage of its life cycle, resides in the heart of its host where it can live for many years and kill its host through congestive heart failure. Heartworm infestation is extremely serious for the host; infected dogs that go untreated can die and even treated dogs must go through a long period of uncomfortable treatment (sometimes requiring surgery) in advanced cases to remove the worms from the right atrium). The best defense against heartworm is the use of prophylactic treatment given monthly. A course of heartworm prevention begins with a blood test to see if the parasite is present. If the dog is parasite free, a prophylactic medication can be used to prevent heartworm infection. A positive test result usually requires treatment to eradicate the worms.

Information about

Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy (HOD), Panosteitis (PANO), Osteochondritis Dissecans (OCD)

A Note For Your Veterinarian (from Linda Arndt: GrDaneLady@aol.com)

Understanding the problems and needs of the large/giant breeds can be difficult, and understandably so, if you have not had the experience of dealing with many in your practice. Great Danes in particular are a fragile breed and particularly prone to orthopedic and immune problems, which are often difficult to diagnose, based on a number of confusing issues and peculiarities of the breed.

It is in this light, that I offer you this article to assist you in working with the large/giant breeds. First, I understand as a layperson you are hesitant to put much stock in an article brought to you by your client. On the other hand, let me give you some background to assure you my experience is worth considering.

My name is Linda Arndt, owner of Blackwatch Great Dane Kennels and I have been involved in exhibiting, breeding, and training in conformation and obedience for 30 years. I am also a full professor at Ball State University where I have taught for almost 30 years, in the College of Fine Arts. My last 15 years of involvement in dogs have been focused on the education of breeders and veterinarians, involving health issues and feeding programs as it relates to the giant breeds. I work closely with the Great Dane Club of America's and their Health and Welfare Committee, to find solutions to the many problems within our breed.

In 1989 - 1995 I conducted the National Bone Disease Survey in Great Danes, which supplied data from 5200 cases of veterinarian diagnosed DOD - Developmental Orthopedic Diseases.

HOD, OCD and Pano were the primary focus of the survey.

I gathered information on age, sex, diets - types and amounts, medications, vaccine protocols. Whereby this is not scientific research, it does give us the most extensive data on DOD problems within our breed. This survey also revealed antibiotic sensitivities in this breed, as well as a large number of vaccine reactions, which led to the current vaccine research being funded by the Great Dane Club of America, under the direction of Dr. Harm HoganEsch and Dr. Larry Glickman, at Purdue University. The research is in year 5 of a 7-year study on Vaccine Mediated Responses in Canines.

I mention this information to you because there is evidence, based on the national survey, that vaccine reactions, allergic reactions to certain antibiotics, and septicemia (generally from cropping), are often misdiagnosed as HOD. These conditions can "mimic" the same symptoms as HOD, making it very difficult to diagnose.

With that in mind, I offer this article to you for consideration - a checklist of "things to consider" when searching for the answers to a potential developmental orthopedic disease.

It is with the greatest respect that I offer this information. I have worked with many veterinarians and breeders in collective problem solving for the benefit of this breed. Feel free to contact me at any time that I can be of assistance.

Linda Arndt GrDaneLady@aol.com

Introduction

Raising a large/giant breed that first year can be somewhat difficult. One of the major stumbling blocks is 3 common bone diseases we often deal with in these breeds. I would like to discuss the facts/myth of these diseases and give you a way to determine which disease you may be dealing with regarding your puppy. This is not meant to take the place of seeing a veterinarians care. If you suspect your puppy is not well, use this as support information for you and your vet in diagnosing the health problem of your puppy. The problem today is the use of multivalent vaccines, particularly on the giant breeds, puts them at great risk. Their fragile immune systems cannot handle the assault of multivalent vaccines and we lose them to autoimmune response, which is misdiagnosed as HOD in the early stages. This article will help you and your vet determine whether or not your dog has true HOD.

Distinguishing Fact from Fiction

Fact: In the textbook Small Animal Clinical Nutrition, 4th edition 2000 has these diseases HOD, OCD and Panosteitis (Pano) listed as DOD - Developmental Orthopedic Diseases and nutritionally related, not genetic in origin.

Fact: HOD and Septicemia are NOT the same disease, but share the same symptoms, making it difficult to diagnose.

Fact: All growing puppies, if x-rayed, look as if they have HOD due to fast rate of growth. Therefore, x-rays are not all that useful in diagnosing HOD.

Fact: Vaccine reactions, from combo shots, can produce the same symptoms as HOD and therefore the problem is misdiagnosed as HOD when in fact it is a Vaccine reaction.

Fact: Rabies vaccines given before 6 months of age (particularly in Great Danes) and at the same time as combination vaccines, can cause HOD -like symptoms, but not true HOD. These symptoms of fever, swollen joints, excruciating pain are often irreversible and result in the need for humane euthanasia.

Fact: Most research on orthopedic diseases has been done in the equine field.

Fact: These 3 diseases HOD, OCD, Pano are definitely treatable and do not have to be life threatening. Proper diagnosis and change in feeding program is necessary to correct the problem.

Fact: Euthanasia does not have to be an option with "true" HOD, OCD and Pano, with vaccine reactions there is little that can be done for them.

Fact: Septicemia or Septic Arthritis is erroneously labeled as pseudo HOD by breeders/owners. If the dog is septic and misdiagnosed as HOD, it can be life threatening. Make sure a blood test and culture is run to correctly diagnose Septicemia.

How To Determine Your Puppy has "True" HOD

Again True HOD is a nutritionally caused disease so in order to determine if this is the problem or not, we must go through a series of questions to draw a conclusion as to what is going on with your puppy. Most of the time your puppy will be at stage three (see above) before a veterinarian will be called on for help. Unless your veterinarian has dealt with many large/giant breeds, they may not be sure how to handle this problem. You can give them a copy of this guideline and it will assist them in determining the cause for your puppies' symptoms (as described in stage three). When I receive phone calls from breeders/owners or veterinarians for guidance in this particular disease (HOD) we go through a series of questions.

Why Diagnosing HOD Can Be VERY Confusing!!

In diagnosis HOD, it is very confusing because the symptoms I have listed above, are also the same symptoms that your puppy can have with a reaction to vaccines, antibiotics or septicemia.

The following things "mimic" the symptoms of HOD.

- ❖ Vaccine Reactions or Vaccine Mediated Response
- ❖ Allergic Reactions to Antibiotics - Sulfonamide Drugs (Ditrim, TMZ, TMP/SDZ, Bactrim, Primor, Tribissen, trimethoprim sulfa, sepra, cotrim, sulfatrim). OR Cephalexin (Keflex - Cefa-Tabs,)
- ❖ Septicemia - also known as septic-arthritis. This is a "systemic" infection also known as blood poisoning

These 3 things "Mimic" the same symptoms as HOD, which is why so many puppies are misdiagnosed.

Note: After consulting with my own veterinarians, we have decided not to use any sulfonamide antibiotics on Great Danes because of their hypersensitivity and potential life threatening effect on this breed. We will use Cephalexin, when it is appropriate, but with a watchful eye and stop it immediately, if there are any adverse reactions.

Discussion of 3 Bone Diseases HOD, OCD and Pano

HOD - Hypertrophic Osteodystrophy

- ❖ Normally Affects the Large/Giant Breeds
- ❖ Dogs Grow Too Fast
- ❖ A Problem of More Food Calories (Energy Eaten Than Expelled in Activity)

- ❖ **Nutritionally Caused By:**
- ❖ Too many calories consumed
- ❖ Unbalanced diet disrupted by supplementing

Age Range for Disease: 10 weeks - 6 months (worst time is 3 months - 6 months)

Symptoms

- ❖ Early stages: large knotty joints, toes turning in or out
- ❖ Middle stages: large knotty joints, toes turning in or out, roached topline, pinched rear end assembly
- ❖ Advanced stages: fever (104-106), refusal to eat, jaw tender, swelling of joint areas often hot to the touch animals cry in pain, unable to get up, flat feet, bowing of the limbs, lack of mobility, depression polyarthritis in all limbs.
- ❖ Based on the National Bone Survey and my experience in this breed HOD does not happen in puppies past 6 months of age.

Course of Action:

1. Is the dog having an allergic reaction to one of the drugs listed below in the section on antibiotic reactions, rule that out first?
2. Look At Diet and Amount Being Fed If the dog is being feed a quality diet and in appropriate amounts that are listed in the Puppy Feeding Guidelines, then you can rule out diet.
3. Has the dog had a vaccination within 24 - 48 hours prior to the fever and lethargy? If so then this could be a vaccine reaction.

Once you rule out vaccine, allergic reaction to drugs and blood infection, then the problem has to be diet. Include these two supplements. A shot of dexamethsone will help in getting this puppy back on its feet and you may have to follow up with some Azium tablets. This works better than prednisalone.

Use a good joint support product like Flexicose

Nzymes - dietary enzyme (877-816-6500) - a natural anti-inflammatory

Change in diet

OCD - Osteochondritis Dissecans

1. The Separation of Joint Cartilage from Bone.
2. Cause is Rapid Growth.
3. Ages 4-12 months of age.
4. Affects Shoulder, Hocks, Stifles.
5. Cause Excessive Calcium or Mineral Imbalance.
6. Nutritionally Caused Disease (as proven in Equine research).
7. Symptoms - Lameness. Pain present at flexing the joint
8. Can happen in more than one joint.

This is defect in the cartilage the overlaying or attaching to the bone does not take place properly and a small piece or flap peels up and acts as an irritant. Sometimes there is fluid build up in the hock area due to loose cartilage.

Suggestions for Prevention:

- ❖ Feed a meat based, moderate protein/calorie, super premium quality food in normal amounts - see my list of better foods:
http://www.greatdanelady.com/articles/criteria_list_of_better_foods.html
- ❖ Feed only a food that has chelated or sequestered minerals in it for proper utilization and making bone and cartilage.
- ❖ A good joint support product such as Flexicose

Course of Action:

If this is diagnosed early enough (6 mo. and under) it may be possible to repair the problems with changes in diet and the use of Adequan shots AND a product that support joint nutritional supplement such Flexicose. Sometimes surgery to remove the piece of cartilage is the only option. Discuss this with an Orthopedics veterinarian if surgery is a possibility. Most vets will not know about the ability to repair a lesion with joint supplements, Adequan shots and change in diet to a kibble with chelated or sequestered minerals.

The National Bone Survey in this breed had over 5200 cases of veterinarian diagnosed bone diseases reported to the survey. Of those numbers, 517 were OCD cases. Of those cases all were fed the same commercial dog foods. No, I will not name these foods. Simply stick to the foods on my list of better foods and you minimize your chances for OCD problems because they use chelated or sequestered minerals which are higher quality and usable by the system. Once in a while an animal has been injured; the trauma to that area will cause OCD in a joint. When it is nutritionally cause is it often in more than one joint. Make sure you don't excuse your feeding program problems and call the problem "injury" related.

Panosteitis (Pano)

- ❖ Pano is what breeders call this disease. It is the least invasive and least threatening of the three bone diseases discussed in this article. Wandering Lameness (Eosinophilic Panosteitis)
- ❖ Also Known As Growing Pains in Dogs (and Children) soreness in the long bones.
- ❖ Rapid Rate of Growth
- ❖ Spontaneous Recovery/ Self Limiting Disease

- ❖ Achy Arthritis, if it lasts long periods of time their may be muscle wasting
- ❖ 6 - 14 months (9-12 months being the likely period)

ALERT: An allergic reaction Cephalixin or the Sulfonamides is often misdiagnosed as Pano in an adult dog. True Pano does not happen in dogs after the growth plates are closed at 18 months but an allergic relation to antibiotics can happen at any stage of the dogs' life. Please do not use Rimadyl on this breed. They are fragile enough without compromising their liver functions. We have other options such as Flexicose along with Nzymes that helps with pain management in a natural way.

Suggestion for Prevention:

- ❖ Feeding a moderate (protein/fat/calorie), meat based high quality diet in moderate amounts to keep growth slow and even. Excessive feeding can actually alter the length of bone and shape of muscle making an animal unsound in their development.
- ❖ Moderate High Quality Meat Based Food
- ❖ A diet that uses chelated/sequestered minerals
- ❖ Nzymes (877-816-6500) a dietary enzyme that is a natural anti-inflammatory.
- ❖ Joint Support supplement Flexicose

Course of Action:

- ❖ Is the dog having an allergic reaction to one of the drugs listed, rule that out first see information below?
- ❖ Look At Diet and Amount Being Fed
- ❖ A joint support product such as Flexicose
- ❖ Nzymes - dietary enzyme (877-816-6500) - a natural anti-inflammatory

HOW TO DETERMINE IF THIS IS A CASE OF REAL HOD OR SOME OTHER CAUSE?

STEP 1: IS DIET AT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM?

Diet - Are you feeding a moderate protein/moderate fat diet? (22%-24% max. protein and 12%-15%fat, 320 - 350 Kcalories per cup) this is considered moderate.

If so, this means you are feeding a moderate calorie diet which we know is appropriate for the large breeds to grow slow and even. Not all adult brands of dog foods are appropriate to feed a growing giant breed, because they will not get adequate amounts of nutrients on an adult formula. Certain brands are notorious for causing orthopedic problems due to poor quality mineral absorption.

That is why it is very important to feed only certain brands of moderate adult formulas to puppies.

NEVER FEED A LOW PROTEIN AND NEVER FEED A HIGH PROTEIN. One is not enough in calories or nutrients the other is too much calories for a growing animal. It is too difficult for the owner to regulate the caloric intake necessary when we are not using moderate foods.

Amount to Feed - this is a general guideline for the giant breeds being fed a moderate food. If your puppy is consuming more then these recommendations, they may be consuming more calories than they need the results will be "true" HOD. See puppy-feeding guidelines.

Remember the most critical time to control growth is 12 weeks - 6 months of age - this window of growth is the most rapid.

Are You Supplementing? - if you are supplementing with vitamins, minerals, (calcium) and certain people foods such as rice, cottage cheese, eggs, meat, you might be throwing the calcium and phosphorus balance off of your commercial food, as well as adding to the extra calories.

"NEVER SUPPLEMENT CALCIUM WITH TODAY'S COMMERCIAL DOG FOODS" - quote from *Small Animal Clinical Nutrition Textbook* - 4th edition 2000. This is not to say you should not use real "foods," but during these delicate growing stages 3-6 months, I recommend we go easy and use only fruits veggies.

If you have a puppy that has been diagnosed with HOD, use the feeding guidelines to determine if the dog is consuming more food than he needs and/or the diet is being unbalanced by supplementation. If not, then we must look at other factors causing HOD like symptoms rather than actual HOD. If diet is a problem adjust feeding accordingly.

STEP 2: COULD IT BE AN ALLERGIC REACTION TO ANTIBIOTICS?

Has your dog been on these Antibiotics? Sulfonamide Drugs - Ditrim, TMZ, TMP/SDZ, Bactrim, Primor, Tribissen, trimethoprim sulfa, sepra, cotrim, sulfatrim OR Cephalexin, Keflex or Cefa-Tabs (all the same antibiotic).

If so, it is not at all uncommon to have a reaction to these antibiotics that mimic the symptoms of HOD. In some animals this happens within 24 hours, with others it maybe up to 7-10 days on the therapy before you notice the symptoms of: achy and swelling joints, fever and loss of appetite. (All the same symptoms as in stage three of "true" HOD or in older dogs, it is often misdiagnosed as PANO)

Treatment:

If you determine the "HOD like" symptoms are due to an allergic reaction to antibiotics, generally the animal is treated with Dexamethsone and antibiotic is changed. Discuss the course of action with your veterinarian. Once you rule out antibiotic reaction we go to step 3.

STEP 3: COULD IT BE ADVERSE REACTIONS TO VACCINES

If you determine the "HOD like" symptoms or Pano symptoms are not due to diet, or antibiotics, then we must look at vaccine reactions. Did your puppy have an inoculation within the past 7 days? Normally this response happens within 24-48 hours but can come on as late as a week or more past the date of inoculations. They symptoms are the same as in stage three of "true" HOD. Polyarthritis, lethargy, swelling of the joint area, fever and loss of appetite.

Treatment: I have found 3 things helpful in cleansing the fibronectin carrier/preservative in the vaccines, which the body recognizes as a toxin. (Purdue Vaccine Research - 2000) But keep in mind, nothing is a guarantee and some dogs' immune systems are so compromised that we lose them to autoimmune disease. The best course of action is prevention of vaccine reaction. I have found this combination works as prevention for vaccine reactions in my own animals. This is a combination I have been using for 17 years.

Nzymes a dietary enzyme and major detoxifier (877-816-6500) website: www.nzymes.com

Nzymes is a dietary enzyme (not digestive enzyme) that provides food for the body so it can make the chemicals necessary to detoxify the body against free radical damage. These area natural anti-inflammatory and from a food source. I find it useful to prevent vaccine response, to help heal after a vaccine reaction and fast recovery from anesthesia.

Vitamin C with Bioflavonides - 1000 mg daily to detoxify the body. Human vaccine research shows us vaccines produce elevated histamine levels and Vitamin C is beneficial in lowing these levels during vaccines.

Step 4: COULD IT BE SEPTICEMIA (Septic-Arthritis)

When we see the term Pseudo HOD, note - this is an inaccurate term for Septicemia. This is term is taken from an antiquated article that is published on the internet and has no bearing on the real cause

of HOD. What this article is referring to is Septicemia, also known as blood poisoning or septic arthritis, which gets misdiagnosed as HOD. If you have ruled out diet, antibiotic reactions and vaccine response, we must take a look at the possibility of a systemic infection. This could be from taping a joint (avoid this at all costs), a puncture wound, from non-sterile ear cropping conditions, a bite or a wound that is undetected.

Treatment: Rather than use an antibiotic that may not be suited for the specific bacteria or use an antibiotic when it is not needed, run a blood test first to see if there is an elevated blood count, which indicates infection. I recommend a blood culture as well, to find the best antibiotic to fight the infection. You should avoid the unnecessary use of a very detrimental drug; one that breeders often push is called Chloremphenical. This is the year 2002; you have other options, ones that are not as likely to destroy your puppy's new and underdeveloped immune system. Chloremphenical suppresses the immune system and is not meant to be used on growing animals/children. Discuss other options with your veterinarian. It is my experience; the numbers of "real" Septicemia cases in this breed are not nearly as prevalent as breeders are led to believe from other breeders. When there is a case of Septicemia, more than likely it is due to unsanitary cropping and aftercare techniques.

Note: Of the 5200 cases of bone diseases reported to the NATIONAL BONE SURVEY, only two cases of "HOD-like" symptoms were the results of veterinarian diagnosed Septicemia.

In Conclusion:

The following 3 diseases are difficult to diagnose at times. It requires looking at a total history of the animal, including feeding, medications, vaccines, injuries, surgeries etc. I hope this method of discussing these problems makes it a little easier to understand and helps you find a solution, when and if you have these problems. Hopefully we can find the cause and treatment for the situation along with help from your veterinarian.

Linda Arndt

*This article, my opinion or if you ask for my assistance on health and feeding issues, is not to be used "in lieu of " veterinarian advise and treatment, and should be discussed with your vet for a comprehensive approach to better health for your pet.

TRAINING YOUR DOG

REMEMBER: If you don't want your Dane to do something as an adult, DO NOT let him do it as a puppy. i.e.: jumping on you, the couch or bed etc.

BASIC RULE OF TRAINING:

Never punish your puppy after you've called it to you. Don't say "Here, Max" and then let him have it. If you do, Max will stop coming when he's called.

HOUSE RULES:

Try to establish some house rules.

If your puppy gets on the sofa or bed and you don't allow him on there, then say "NO!" and put it down. Once the pup is on the ground, praise it. Say "Good dog!" Keep in mind that puppies have very short memories, so your correction must immediately follow the bad behavior. It's also important to be consistent. Everyone in the household must follow your lead. Otherwise, your puppy will become confused.

Shoe chewing. Well, this is definitely wrong, but you realize that teething puppies do need to chew. Take the shoe from the puppy and immediately say “NO!” Then give the puppy something it can chew on, like a chew toy, and praise it –“Good dog!” Never hit your puppy. Aggression will confuse and scare your puppy. Besides being cruel, hitting your puppy will make it timid. In addition, if you hit a large dog, it may feel threatened and turn on you. You might want to try having a fly swatter around the house. For some reason most Danes don’t like the noise they make thru the air or if you slap it on the table. I have had the experience that it gets their attention very quickly. A can full of coins is a similar item that can be used to get their attention.

HOUSEBREAKING:

Note: When the pup wakes up, the first thing they will want to do is pee pee. Before the pup fully wakes up, take the pup outside or the paper to go potty.

The way we train our puppies is we have them sleep between our heads and during the middle of the night if we feel the pup move towards the end of the bed we pick the pup up and take them to the papers or outside. Don’t let the pup touch the floor until you get them either outside or on the paper because they will go pee ASAP.

Young puppies have poor bladder control; they urinate about 6-8 times a day. Make sure you start a schedule/routine with your new puppy, so he/she knows when and where it should eliminate.

Pups older than 8 weeks old get used to eliminating on a certain surface.

Put a bell on the puppy’s collar if you need to, so you know where it is at all times.

Whenever you can’t watch the puppy, put it in its crate. This might sound cruel, but it’s not. Most puppies are reluctant to soil their living areas, so they won’t eliminate in their crates. They will also start seeing it as their little den and go in by themselves if you leave the door opened for them.

REMEMBER, puppies can’t hold it for long, so you can’t leave your puppy in its crate for long periods of time until they are a few weeks older.

Take your puppy outside to the same spot when it’s time to go. If your puppy is paper trained, you might put some newspaper down in your backyard. Doing this will help your puppy associate that particular location with elimination, so it will make the connection more quickly. Be patient, it takes time. Most pups will sniff for 15 or 20 minutes before they go. Avoid playing with the puppy until after it eliminates.

Use the same key words when you’re referring to elimination. For example: “go potty”, “go tinkle” or “go pee-pee”. The dog will associate the words with the action.

Feeding the puppy at the same time each day will help put it on a schedule. Puppies usually defecate 20 minutes after eating. **NEVER WITHOLD WATER IN AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL WHEN YOUR PUPPY ELIMINATES.**

When it comes to housebreaking, praise is paramount. Praise your puppy immediately after it goes every time.

If you catch your puppy eliminating in the house, make a loud noise, like clapping your hands, shout “NO” or stamp your foot. Then take the puppy outside to eliminate. Never hit or physically hurt your puppy or shove its nose in the soiled area. Punishment will only scare the puppy and make it timid.

If your puppy has an accident when you are not home, and you discover it later, it's too late to punish the puppy. The puppy won't know what it is being punished for. Be Patient.

TRAINING THE BASICS

Teaching your puppy commands will help you get control. Additionally, the time you spend together during your training sessions will help the two of you bond.

YOU WILL NEED: A CHOKE COLLAR AND LEAD (Some Danes need the spiked choker because they are knuckleheads. LOL It doesn't hurt them because the ends are not sharp, but it does get their attention. You must place it close to the ears because that is where the more sensitive nerves are.

You can determine the correct choke collar size for your puppy by measuring around the largest part of the puppy's head and then adding an inch.

❖ *WALKING ON A LEAD*

Let the puppy get used to wearing the collar before you attempt to walk him on a lead. Once he gets used to the collar, put the lead on. If he is afraid of the lead, make it fun for him by coxing him with a treat or toy. Always walk him on your left. This comes in handy if you decide to show him later on. Praise, praise, praise.

❖ *HEELING (First command to be taught)*

The heel command is used to keep a dog beside the owner.

Keep your puppy at your left side and start to walk. Then call the puppy's name and say "heel" – "Max heel". Give the command as you take the first step and then snap the lead so the dog moves. Each time the puppy moves away from your left side say, "Max heel" and snap the lead. Be patient and keep your first few training sessions short. Fifteen minutes, two or three times a day, is enough to start. In time you can increase the length of the sessions. Use the choke only when you have to with as little force as possible. Try to use quick jerks rather than strong pressure. Remember to praise your puppy lavishly when it stays by your side. Wait until this is learned before you move onto the next command.

❖ *SITTING (Second command to be taught)*

Start by heeling the puppy at your left side. When you stop walking give the sit command. Place your left hand on the puppy's rear and guide it into a sitting position. Use your right hand to hold the lead so the puppy's head stays up. Let the puppy remain sitting for a moment, then give the heel command and start walking again. Keep practicing and keep praising.

❖ *STAYING (Third command to be taught)*

Have your puppy sit and tell it to stay. (Make sure the puppy is on the lead when you do this.) After you give the command, place the palm of your left hand in front of the puppy's muzzle and move a step or two away. Repeat the stay command "Max, stay" – in a firm voice. Don't make your puppy stay very long at first – 10 or 15 seconds is good. Slowly increase the time of the stay and the distance you step away. Very well trained dogs only have to be told to stay once and will stay until their owners release them.

❖ STANDING AND STAYING (Fourth command to be taught)

Like the sit command, the stand-stay command is taught from the heel position. Slow your puppy down to a heel and give the command, "Max, stand," then "Max, stay." Now block the dog's sit by placing your left hand in front of the top of your puppy's right hind leg. (Remember, you taught your puppy to sit automatically whenever you stop walking.) Gently block your puppy's sit. Then start walking again using the heel command and stop again using the stand-stay command. In time, your puppy will realize that when you stop walking, it should sit unless you tell it otherwise. Remember to praise, praise, and praise.

❖ LYING DOWN (Fifth command to be taught)

To teach your puppy to lie down, sit it by your side. Kneel beside it and reach over its back with your left arm, taking hold of its upper left front leg. Then take its right front leg in your right hand. Tell the puppy "Max, down," and guide it into the down position by easing its body down. Release your grasp when the puppy is down while saying "Max, down, stay!" Try to get the puppy to stay for a few seconds before you release it. Get the dog to sit again and try once more. Eventually you'll be able to have the puppy lie down, tell it to stay, and walk away from it. Praise, praise and more praise.

❖ COMING (Sixth command to be taught)

Come is an important command for your puppy to learn. It is normally taught last since the come command works best if your puppy learns the other commands first. When your puppy is heeling at your side, step back and say, "Max, come." As you give the command, snap the lead and make the puppy turn around to its right while walking so it's standing facing you. Then get the puppy to come toward you by gently tugging its lead. Give the puppy lots of praise. In time, you and your puppy will be able to do this without the lead. Remember to praise.

The best course of action to take for you and your puppy is to try OBEDIENCE CLASS. In order to bond well with your puppy and to get your puppy to listen to you, consider enrolling it in a dog obedience class. A professional trainer will know how to handle your particular breed. Ask a local breeder, your veterinarian or look in the phone book for a class nearby. However, wait until your puppy is 6 – 8 months old before you try to teach it professional obedience commands.

Medications Safe for Dogs

From Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook 3rd Edition

1 teaspoon is 5 mL and 1 tablespoon is 15 mL

Aspirin (St. Joseph's Baby is best) Do NOT use anything with Acetaminophen	Analgesic, Anti-Inflammatory	5 mg per pound orally every 12 hours
Benadryl	Antihistamine	2 mg per pound orally every 8 hours
Betadine-solution	Topical Antiseptic	Dilute to 0.2% (2 mL to 2 quarts tap water)
Charcoal	Binds Stomach poisons	1 5gm tablet per 10lbs.; keep at least 30 tablets available
Chlorhexidine solution	Topical antiseptic	Dilute to 0.05% (25mL to 2 quarts tap water)
Dramamine	Motion sickness	2 to 4 mg per pound orally ever 8 hours
Gasex	Gas problem and assistance with first signs of Bloat	Follow directions on box and call your vet immediately in case it is Bloat
Hydrogen peroxide	Induce vomiting	1 teaspoon per 10lbs. orally; may repeat every 15 to 30 minutes (3 times only)
Kaopectate	For persistent diarrhea	1/2 to 1 mL per pound (or 1 to 2 teaspoons per 10lbs) orally every 4 hours
Milk of Magnesia	Antacid, laxative	2 to 5 mL per pound orally every 4 to 6 hours (antacid); or 7 to 25 mL per pound orally once only (laxative)
Mineral oil	Lubricant, laxative	10 to 50 mL per dog; add to food
Pepto-Bismol	For diarrhea or upset tummy	0.5 to 1.5 mL per pound orally every 12 hours
Robitussin	Expectorant	1 teaspoon per 20lbs orally every 4 hours, as needed
Robitussin DM or Benylin Expectorant	Cough suppressant	0.5 to 1 mg per pound (or 1 teaspoon per 20lbs) orally every 6 hours

References and Websites of Interest

Check my [Articles](#) page for further info

Websites I Recommend

American Kennel Club	http://www.akc.org/index.cfm
Breeders Assistant Program (Pedigree Software)	http://www.tenset.co.uk/ba/peds.html
Canine Nutritional Consultant	www.greatdanelady.com/index.html
Dog Crates	http://www.radiofence.com/dog-crates/cozy_crates.htm
Dog Doors etc.	http://gundogghousedoor.com
Dog Information	http://www.thepetcenter.com
General Information on Dogs	http://www.ginnie.com/greatdanes.htm
Genetics	http://www.greatdanerescueinc.com/events/genetics.html
Great Dane Information	www.doglogic.com
Great Dane Pedigree Search	http://www.pedigreedatabase.com/dogs/great_dane/breedinfo.html
N.Y.S. Agricultural and Markets	http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us
Orthopedic Foundation For Animals	http://www.offa.org
Pet Products	http://www.coastalpet.com/index.php
Veterinary Supplies	http://www.lambriarvet.com
The Merck Veterinary Manual	http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp
Veterinary Information For Dogs	http://www.vetinfo4dogs.com

Books I Recommend

Be The Pack Leader	Cesar Millan	2007
Cesar's Way	Cesar Millan	2006
Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover's Soul	Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Marty Becker, D.V.M., Carol Kline and Amy D. Shojai	2005
Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook	James M. Giffin MD & Liisa D. Carlson DVM	2000
Dr. Ackerman's Book of Great Danes	Lowell Ackerman DVM	1996
Great Danes	Diane McCarty	1990
Great Danes	Diane McCarty	1997
Great Danes	Jill Swedlow	1997
Great Danes	Joe Stahlkuppe	2002
The Complete Book Of Dog Breeding	DR. Dan Rice	1996
The Pill Book Guide to Medication for Your Dog and Cat	Kate A.W. Roby, V.M.D. & Lenny Southam, D.V.M.	1998
Therapy Dogs Today	Kris Butler	2004
Therapy Dogs Training Your Dog to Reach Others	Kathy Diamond Davis	2002
Your Great Dane	Lina Basquette	1972

