

MONTERAL GREAT DANES

Specialist Breeder of Blue & Black Great Danes

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DIET SHEET

Important:

Pups must be fed at chest height to prevent any bone problems. I recommend that you also feed adult Danes at chest height (a beer crate makes a good base). Grow your puppy slowly and he/she will reach their full potential in better health than if he/she grows too fast. I strongly recommend that you keep feeding your pup the recommended diet as it is one that he/she is used to. I also recommend that you give your puppy right through to adulthood Vitamin C. Ester C is best because it is less acidic than normal Vitamin C give them anywhere between 250mg's and 550 mg's. (This can be obtained from any Health food shop)

For the first 1 ½ to 2 years quality in feeding is essential! At his/her heaviest appetite period eg: 9-15 months he/she can consume up to 1 1/2 - 2 ½ kg of cooked chicken mince and rice mixed with biscuits per day or more! I use a cup of Brown rice to every kilo of Chicken mince being cooked. (Boiling it is the way I've done it) also pour off excess water and fat after the cooking process is done.

8 weeks to 3 Months: At first your pup will need four meals a day - Nutrience

STEP ONE you'll be using at this stage. (1 1/2 to 2 cups of cooked chicken mince & rice plus 1/2- 1 cup of the Nutrience per meal) Roughly around ¼ a kilo. Your pup should look well covered, but you should still be able to feel your pup's ribs (You should not keep your pup fat and roly but neither should they look too thin). **NB: Amounts shown are guidelines only some pups may require more some less.**

3 to 6 Months:

You will now change pup over to Nutrience Large Breed puppy Junior mixed with cooked chicken mince & brown rice. You can now probably reduce the number of meals to 3 a day (remember to increase the quantity of food with the pups weight).

At 12 Months: Reduce to 2 meals a day. I would prefer that Nutrience puppy food mixed with the cooked chicken mince and **rice** be used until the pup is 18 months old. After that an adult formula is a good idea or you may change to a diet that suits you. (Bone's or biscuits may be given at lunch times) Remember if you should choose to change the diet do it gradually as Dane's don't have a strong constitution when it comes to dietary changes and it may upset their stomach's and give them diahorrea

Vegetables: Vegetables are full of vitamins, if fed raw, pureed vegetables are best as the puppy gets all the nutrients from them. If not pureed a dog cannot break down the vegetable cells and they can't get all the goodness from them. Any type of vegetable can be given in moderation, every 2 to 3 days. Also bits of fruit are good in chunks i.e. apple.

NOTE: Pups have not had vegetables in their diet, so if you choose to include them introduce in small amounts! This is the case with anything new you give them.

Calcium Supplements:

Calcium supplements are not needed as the Nutrience contains all that is needed. Extra calcium could do more harm to your growing pup.

Extras: Do give a variety of RAW meaty bones occasionally, as these are good for keeping the **teeth** and gums healthy. (Perhaps twice a week would be ideal) You may also give raw **chicken** necks as well if you wish? NEVER feed cooked bones as these can splinter and cause major problems which may require expensive surgery to correct!! Also a small amount of cheese and acidophilus yoghurt is very good for your pup. Acidophilus yoghurt is also good to give your dog if he/she is taking antibiotics at any **time**. Fish is good and most dogs love it, but be sure to remove any bones.

You may also give Macaroni cheese or scrambled eggs as an extra remembering that any New foods should be introduced gradually otherwise you may give your puppy Diarrhea. If your puppy leaves food uneaten regularly then cut down the amount given per meal -if your puppy eats meals within a

few seconds and is looking for more increase amount given slightly. Table scraps may also be included into the pups meals so long as it's not too spicy and there are no cooked bone's in it!!

OTHER INFORMATION

Your puppy has just been wormed; he/she will need worming again on the date in his vaccination card, then every 2 weeks until 16 weeks, then you can use an all wormer such as Drontal or Endogard (**but not before the age of 16 weeks or four months**)

After this I suggest that once or twice a year worm with Drontal or Endogard all wormer, as this includes tapeworm. (Sometimes a dog may take Endogard better as some dog's vomit after Drontal). Unless you are taking your dog to parks etc where they are likely to come into contact with other animals fecal deposits? In which case I would do them twice a year with an all wormer and twice a year with ordinary canicare worming tablets

Your puppy has been vaccinated at 6 weeks, he/she will need another at 9 weeks, (the date is on your vaccination card) then again at 12 weeks. After this he/she requires an annual booster shot. Check with your vet on this as some vets vary in their regime. *Until your puppy has completed his/her initial regime and for 2 weeks after, it is not advisable to take him/her anywhere where other dogs may have been walking, urinating etc because of the high risk of contracting Parvo virus. (Avoid parks & streets). Also if you live up North in Auckland region it may be worth discussing with your vet about immunisation against Leptospiroses.*

I also get my dogs done with a nasal spray to cover the Viral side of kennel cough even though it is included in the three in one inoculation, it doesn't protect against the Bordatella the viral side of it. This is an optional extra as far as inoculations go but in my books its money well spent when it comes to the health of my dogs!!

Socialization with other dogs and people is important particularly around your pups 10 to 12 week age period. Some areas have puppy pre-school classes through vet clinics, if you have one of these classes available do use it, the socialization at this age is important for the dogs future well being.

I recommend that you brush your dog daily to keep him/her clean. (I use a latex type brush put out by Kong (brand name) called a ZOOM GROOM and available in some vet clinic's or pet stores.

Do not hesitate to bath a dirty or smelly dog but in saying that they don't need frequent bathing unless they are dirty or have been rolling in something they shouldn't have, because you don't want to strip the natural oils from their coats by over bathing them!

Because they are short coated and generally keep themselves clean Dane's are virtually odorless and a pleasure to keep as a house dog. Be sure to keep your dog warm until dry after bathing. I use Triocil; this is a good medicated shampoo that keeps the skin and coat healthy. Dane's love swimming if you get them used to it right from a young age (but beware of those big paws coming at you if you're swimming with them as they leave big scratches on a person's body ,so it's advisable to keep a good distance between you whilst swimming with a Dane!!)

If you want your dog to wear a collar, please make sure it is a loose soft collar until your dog becomes accustomed to wearing a collar. Remember to change the size of the collar as your dog grows.

Your puppy is partially house trained, but it is up to you to complete that training. When your pup wakes up, take him/her outside immediately and stay with your pup until he/she goes to the toilet. Reward with heaps of praise immediately. Repeat this after every meal and playing. If you see your pup sniffing around, take him/her outside.

A Danes bed must be thick to avoid the development of corns on your dog's elbows and heels. A 3' x 3' foam squab or bean bag works well.

Exercise for your Dane should be kept to a minimum until 12 months of age, as long walks may harm bone development. Don't let you Dane jump into or out of cars, or go up and down stairs until his/her bones are strong (approx. 8 months).

Nails must be trimmed 2 to 3 times a month. Miki Nail clippers are good.

Also remember a Dane is an important member of the family and they like nothing more than to be around their human companions (constantly if they can)

They enjoy nothing better than lounging around and just being with you, but they're also always ready to go anywhere with you too.

Just pick up a set of keys once a Dane has been accustomed to car rides and see what happens??

NEVER TIE UP A DANE!!

I hope you find this helpful, remember this is just a guide, your puppy may need more or less food and it will depend on appetite.

If you have any problems, queries, questions or just need advice, don't hesitate to give me a call. I am only too happy to help you in any way I can.

Some helpful books:

"All about the Great Dane"

Bruce MacDonald
Pelham Books 1987
IS BN 0.7207.1724-8

"Every Dog – The Complete Book of Dog Care"

- Rowan Blogg & Eric Allan