



THE
GREAT DANE
PUPPY GUIDE

VS. 1

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Cheers!

WELCOME



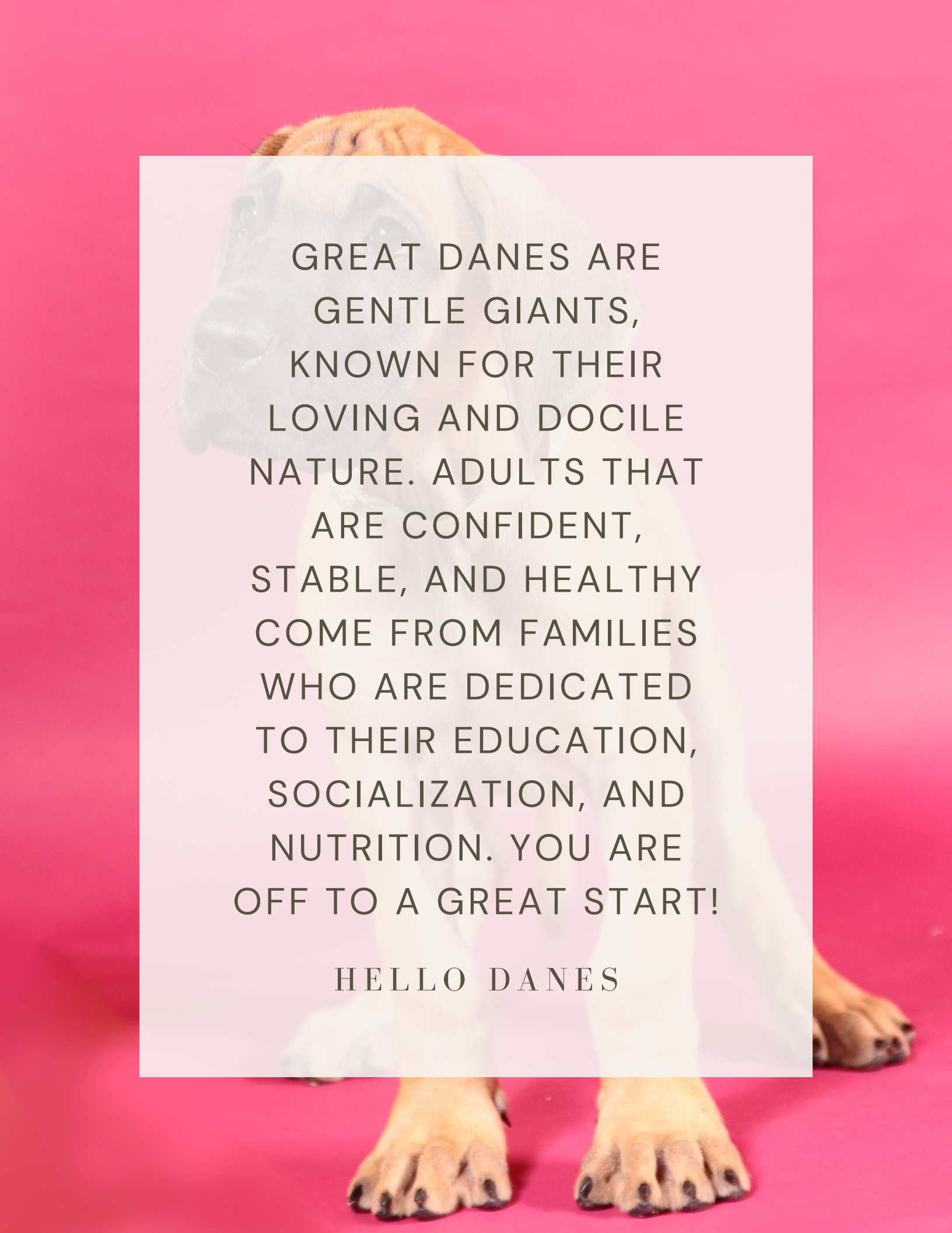
MUST HAVES

SOCIALIZATION

TRAINING

NUTRITION

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A Great Dane dog is sitting on a bright pink background. The dog's head is on the left, and its large, light-colored paws are visible at the bottom. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area in the center of the image.

GREAT DANES ARE
GENTLE GIANTS,
KNOWN FOR THEIR
LOVING AND DOCILE
NATURE. ADULTS THAT
ARE CONFIDENT,
STABLE, AND HEALTHY
COME FROM FAMILIES
WHO ARE DEDICATED
TO THEIR EDUCATION,
SOCIALIZATION, AND
NUTRITION. YOU ARE
OFF TO A GREAT START!

HELLO DANES

M U S T - H A V E P U P P Y I T E M S

We've included links for your convenience!

Click to see.



[CRATE](#) >



[LONG RECALL LEASH](#) >



[TREATS](#) >



[STAINLESS SLOW FEEDER](#) >



[INDESTRUCTIBLE COT](#) >



[NAIL DREMEL](#) >



[STAINLESS WATER BOWL](#) >



CRATE

The crate is a must-have item that will help you with calm behavior, potty training, and containment when there are guests or if you have to leave the house.

Crates are not cruel! Use positive methods to crate train and develop confident independence.

PRO TIP: Make sure your puppy gets a potty and play break that follows this rule: one hour of crate time per month of life.

View our [crate-training_guide](#) here.

[SHOP CRATES HERE](#)





CRATE TRAINING 101

The last thing you want is for your puppy to practice the WRONG behavior in the crate!

Great Danes can be prone to separation anxiety. Allowing your scared and immature dog to cry to extinction can lead to other behavioral problems in the future. Do not allow your puppy to escalate to crying and panic in the crate!

We recommend a positive approach that includes offering meals in the crate and using treats to reward 'crate up' (go in) and 'free' (release) commands.

Make sure the crate is always a positive, welcoming, comfortable environment. A few days of actual training will pay off in dividends!

View our [crate-training_guide](#) here.

[SHOP CRATES HERE](#)





INDESTRUCTIBLE COT

An indestructible cot is an amazing tool for puppies & adults! These are comfortable to lay on and provide a safe spot for training calm behavior and the 'place' command.

We recommend starting cot ('place') training from day one. Make this a positive place for your pup to lay down and use a lot of rewards to encourage the behavior!

Add the 'place' and 'free' commands to teach your puppy how to go to their cot when asked, and release (free) when you are ready for them to move about again.

This will be an incredibly helpful behavior for your puppy when you are around children, guests, open doors, and cooking!

[SHOP COTS HERE](#)





PLACE TRAINING 101

Place training is easy and fun!

Begin by always making sure your puppy finds rewarding things on their cot. Novel toys, random treats, and your attention.

Lure your puppy onto the cot and say 'PLACE'. Follow with 'yes' and then offer a treat.

Then say 'FREE' and toss a treat off the cot so they run to get it.

Repeat this game and gradually add distance to get to the cot and time between the 'place' and 'free' commands. As your puppy matures, you can reduce the treats and use only praise.

By the time your puppy is a mature teen (6 months +) they will be very reliable at this behavior!

[SHOP COTS HERE](#)





NAIL DREMEL

Weekly nail maintenance is an extremely important but often-overlooked task.

If you want your Great Dane to accept nail trimming, start now! Good habits begin with positive exposure.

We recommend using a Dremel to round the nail off short and smooth. Make a habit of this for life.

Keeping nails short and round is better for your furniture and floors, not to mention necessary for good orthopedic health for your Dane!

Read our [Great Dane Puppy nail trimming guide](#) here.

[SHOP DREMELS HERE](#)



S O C I A L I Z A T I O N

Socialization is about positive exposure to novel things.



THINGS



SOUNDS



SIGHTS



PLACES



PEOPLE



ANIMALS



TACTILE & HANDLING



THINGS

Gently expose your puppy to a wide variety of objects and obstacles. Encourage free-exploration.

Examples include:

Tunnels

Ramps

Vacuums, drills & appliances

Shiny things

Things that roll or bounce

Gym mats

Trampolines

SOUNDS

Desensitize your puppy to sounds and noises in the environment that they may encounter as an adult. Play these sounds on your phone at low volume so your dog learns to ignore them.

Examples include:

Thunder & rain

Babies crying

Cars backfiring or backing up

Door knocks

Doorbells

Machinery & equipment





SIGHTS

Visit different places and see different sights!

Examples include:

Watching ducks at the park
Standing in a parking lot and watching cars and people go by
Seeing children play from a distance (and ignoring them)
Sitting on the lawn on a long leash and watching people walk their dogs.

PLACES

Visit different places and learn to ignore things in these environments. These things may include:

The park
The pet store
The veterinarian's office
A friend's house
A brewery that allows dogs on the patio
A farm store
A plant nursery
Home Depot or Lowe's

Always call and ask permission before going into stores.





PEOPLE

Meet with a variety of people. Do not let people hover, squeal, or be rude to and scare your puppy.

Teach calm manners!

Make sure you expose your puppy to children, infants, toddlers, teenagers, and adults.

Give your puppy a treat for ignoring people, especially if they wear hats, use a walker, or ride a skateboard.

ANIMALS

Meet calm, friendly adult dogs and other puppies in a controlled environment (not the dog park).

Sit on the lawn and watch other dogs walk by; learn how to ignore them with positive reinforcement.

Walk by an equestrian center, watch wildlife from afar, visit the chicks at a farm store (and politely ignore them) and look for places to expose your puppy to chickens, cats, goats, and more.





TACTILE

Find a variety of tactile things to expose your puppy to.

Examples include:

- Wood chips
- Puddles and water
- Brushing all over
- Things that make noise when touched
- Slick or rough surfaces
- Rocks and gravel
- Sand

HANDLING

Make handling a positive experience. Avoid training techniques that utilize hitting, pinching, jabbing, squirting, or pinning that can cause a dog to become resistant to handling.

Examples include:

- Teeth brushing
- Full body exam
- Ear exam
- Teeth exam
- Nail maintenance
- Tail exam
- Picking each paw up



T R A I N I N G

We recommend positive reinforcement + balanced training. Say yes often, say no when needed. All Great Danes should know the following commands at a basic kindergarten level by 4-6 months.



SIT



DOWN



TOUCH



PLACE or STAY



LEAVE IT



HEEL



COME



POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

All of those behaviors above are easy to teach by using positive reinforcement.

This means giving the dog treats, praise, play, fun, freedom, and access to things as a reward for completing and repeating the behavior.

Science shows us that positive reinforcement is the best way to teach new behaviors!

We recommend that all Great Danes start in puppy class and work with a trainer towards their Canine Good Citizen Title.

[SHOP TREATS HERE](#)





TRAINING CLASS

We recommend starting training and early puppy socialization classes as soon as possible!

As a general rule, you'll find a higher level of training and experience from independent trainers than you will find at franchises or large pet stores.

Look for obedience clubs that offer agility, handling, sports, tricks, scent work, and Canine Good Citizen! Ask around your community for referrals as well, and make sure to find out what methodology the trainer uses.

The extremes in dog training ('force free' vs. 'dominance' or 'compulsion') should be avoided, as they are inherently unfair to dogs.

We recommend working with trainers that use a lot of positive reinforcement, but also take the humane 'balanced' training approach.

[SHOP TREATS HERE](#)





BALANCE

There are also times when you need to reduce behaviors such as puppy biting, pulling, stealing food, jumping, barking, and running out of doors.

With training, you have two choices: manage those behaviors OR teach your dog that doing those things is never an option.

We recommend a balanced training approach that pairs a lot of positive reinforcement with occasional humane and fair corrections.

Teach your dog not to do those behaviors at all, so that you don't have to rely on management or behavior restrictions to prevent them.

Contrary to popular belief, Great Danes do NOT need a firm hand. Fair corrections don't require excessive force or frustration!

Always use positive reinforcement to teach the behavior that you want, BEFORE you correct the behavior that you don't.

Never punish a dog for growling: always address the root cause.



STOP PUPPY BITING

Puppy biting and rough, noisy play are natural behaviors and not an indication of future aggression.

We recommend the following:

- Stay calm
- Cross your arms
- Sigh
- Immediately disengage and walk away
- Manage (prevent) the behavior
- Make sure your puppy is getting enough sleep and calm enrichment, such as [high-quality chews](#)

Losing your attention is a *powerful* but gentle correction that tells your puppy you don't play if teeth touch the skin.

Do not reward the behavior of puppy biting by offering a toy, tugging your clothes, yelping or repeating 'NO'.

[SHOP CHEWS HERE](#)





E-COLLARS

E-Collars are different from shock collars and are the most humane, effective, and gentle training tool available for Great Danes.

They are more gentle than front clip/no-pull harnesses, head collars, or a lifetime of reliance on leashes and management!

A proper E-Collar uses muscle stimulation as a form of communication that can allow your dog to have complete off-leash freedom and more. It's a tapping sensation that allows you to communicate from a distance.

A long leash is a landline. An E-Collar is a cell phone. Nothing at all is a liability.

We recommend starting positive [E-Collar training](#) with Great Dane puppies when they are 5-7 months old and pairing the gentle tactile sensation of the collar with treats.

Now is the time to learn about the method and prepare!

[ALL ABOUT E-COLLARS](#)





WHY E-COLLAR TRAIN?

- Off-leash obedience
- Freedom of movement, free of physical restraint and frustrating management
- Better for orthopedic health
- Incredible obedience and safety
- Physical & mental wellness + enrichment
- More gentle and humane than a harness, head collar, or collar
- NOT shock collar training! We never recommend the use of shock collars or the shock collar training method on Great Danes

Dogs that are well socialized and properly trained with positive methods using the gentle touch sensation of the E-Collar are calm, friendly, and obedient!

No more restrictions, no more force, no more restraint. Freedom for dogs and for you!

We use and recommend only E-Collar Technologies.

[SHOP E-COLLARS HERE](#)



NUTRITION

The correct puppy food can mean the difference between robust health and orthopedic problems such as knuckling. We recommend looking for the following:



Proven + tested



Protein at or below 27%



Calcium at or below 1.4%



Phosphorus close to calcium



AAFCO 70+lbs statement



Formulated by a Veterinary
Nutritionist



Grain-inclusive or full raw



WE RECOMMEND ROTATING
PROTEINS ON OCCASION.

CHOOSE EITHER BALANCED
RAW OR A TESTED, PROVEN
KIBBLE FORMULATED BY A
VETERINARY NUTRITIONIST.

BALANCED RAW FOOD
MAKES A GREAT TOPPER
FOR KIBBLE AND MAY HELP
REDUCE BLOAT RISK!

GREAT DANE NUTRITION

B R A N D S

The following food brands meet the guidelines for Great Dane growth & nutrition, and are our top picks:



Purina Pro Plan Large Breed Puppy Sensitive Stomach
(Clean ingredients, professionally formulated and tested, great for sensitive Dane tummies.)



Eukanuba Large Breed Puppy



Just Food for Dogs *(A great choice if you want something professionally formulated and holistic to use as a fresh foods topper for kibble.)*

Look for the following statement on anything you feed:

[THIS FOOD] is formulated to meet the nutritional levels established by the AAFCO Dog Food Nutrient Profiles for all life stages including growth of large size dogs (70 lb. or more as an adult).

S U P P L E M E N T S

These supplements are recommended for gut health, joint health, and stress relief.

Chat with your veterinarian about the best use and dosage.

CLICK TO VIEW OUR FAVORITES



[Probiotics + Enzymes](#) >



[Vitamin C/Esther C](#) >



[Green Lipped Mussel](#) >



[Dasequin](#) >



[Olewo Carrots](#) >



[Fish Oil](#) >



[Collagen](#) >



PUPPY VS. ADULT

This does not matter.

Modern advances in nutrition and research have resulted in formulation changes.

Many large and giant breed puppy foods are appropriate for Great Danes and may actually be better than the comparable adult formula!

LIFE'S ABUNDANCE & NUVET

We do not recommend feeding untested, unproven foods that are sold via an MLM pyramid team-building marketing scheme; especially when they are required as part of a 'breeder contract'.

[Read more about this common and unethical breeder scheme here.](#)





BLOAT

Contrary to popular belief, resting after meals may actually have very little to do with 'preventing bloat'.

Bloat is primarily genetic and often related to stress, anxiety, and poor gut health.

[Read more about Bloat in Great Danes by clicking here.](#)

KNUCKLING

Knuckling is largely a nutritional problem that causes a 'bowed out' appearance to the front legs.

If you see problems with your puppy's front limbs, they may be knuckling or experiencing other growth-related orthopedic issues.

[Read our KNUCKLING RESOURCES HERE.](#)





LOOSE STOOLS

Loose stools are a chronic and common problem for Great Dane puppies.

We recommend having your veterinarian rule out parasites and giardia before changing foods over and over.

If necessary, your veterinarian may also rule out allergies with a dedicated food elimination test.


OLEWO CARROTS FOR BETTER POOP

We highly recommend using OLEWO CARROTS as a daily topper to help reduce bloat risk (added fiber and fresh foods), improve gut health, and firm up loose stools.

These work better than pumpkin.
PRO TIP: Rehydrate before serving!

[CLICK HERE TO SHOP OLEWO CARROTS](#)





WITH THESE
RESOURCES YOU ARE
WELL ON YOUR WAY TO
CREATING A STABLE,
CONFIDENT, FRIENDLY,
COURAGEOUS,
HEALTHY, AND ROBUST
ADULT GREAT DANE!

WANT MORE? VISIT OUR
SITE FOR TRAINING
GUIDES, NUTRITION, T-
SHIRTS, GEAR & MORE.

HELLO DANES