

Great Dane

This large Mastiff is thought to be descended from the Tibetan Mastiff introduced in Europe by the Phoenicians, then by the nomadic Persian Alani. In the Middle Ages, there were two varieties of this Mastiff: the Alan Gentil, a smaller, powerful, agile and streamlined alaunt that hunted in packs for boars, wolves and bears; and the Alan de Boucherie, a more compact alaunt used for guard duties.

The immediate ancestors are the Bullen beisser (now extinct) crossed with large hunting dogs (Hatzrüde) descended from the Alan Gentil.

Later, names such as Ulm Mastiff, Wurtemberger Dog and Great Dane were used to indicate the different types of this breed. In 1878, all varieties were placed under one name, Great Dane. The German Doggen Club was formed in 1888 and the standard was written around 1890 in Germany.

HEAD

Finely chiseled. Elongated, narrow. Very expressive. Always carried high. Strongly pronounced stop. Well developed superciliary arches. Broad nose bridge. Deep, rectangular muzzle. Black nose (lighter in the harlequin).

EYES

Medium size. Round. As dark as possible. Lighter eyes permissible in blue danes. Lighter eyes or eyes of different colour permissible in harlequin danes.

EARS

Set high, naturally drop. Cropped to a point, carried rigid and erect.

BODY

Square outline. Long, dry, muscular, well arched neck. Prominent forechest. Ribs well sprung. Wide croup sloping slightly. Belly well tucked up. Short, almost rectangular back. Broad, slightly arched loin.

LIMBS

Strong, muscular legs. Round cat feet. Very compact, arched toes.



TAIL

Medium length reaching the hocks. Set high, broad at the root tapering to a narrow tip. Curved slightly in the form of a sabre when in action.

COAT

Very short, thick, smooth, shiny, lying close to the skin.

COLOUR

Brindle: background colour is light to dark yellow gold always with strong, black cross stripes; a black mask is preferred.

Fawn: light to dark yellow gold; a black mask is preferred.

Black: glossy black; white

markings are permissible. Blue: pure steel blue; white markings on the chest and feet are permissible. Harlequin: pure white background with glossy black torn patches of differing sizes well distributed over the entire body.

SIZE

Dog: at least 80 cm (31,5 in).
Bitch: at least 72 cm (28 in).

WEIGHT

50 to 70 kg
(110.5-154.5 lb).



Large. Powerful. Harmonious build. Robust, strong, elegant, regal. The Apollo of dogs. Proud. Pigmented skin. Harmonious, supple gait.

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MASTIFF TYPE
MOLOSSIANS

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Germany

ORIGINAL NAME
Deutsche Dogge

OTHER NAME
German Mastiff



Giants Breeds
over 45 kg
(over 100 lb)

Character, special skills and training

The Great Dane may be the most peace-loving of all the Mastiffs. He is a gentle, tender, kind, sensitive and affectionate dog, particularly with children. This stable, calm dog rarely barks and is never aggressive unless the situation warrants. He is alert, protective of his territory and his owner's property, wary around strangers and not easily swayed. His formidable size is enough to dissuade almost anyone. Training must start early. It should be firm, but undertaken with patience.

Care and functions

The Great Dane can be content living in an apartment, but he must get out daily to stretch his long legs. This athletic dog needs space and exercise. However, he should not exercise too vigorously until he has stopped growing, or he may damage his joints and ligaments. This dog has a short life expectancy of only eight years.

- Guard dog.
- Pet.

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