

Feeding your Great Dane

A good quality adult food, that is no more than 23% protein and 12% fat should be fed to Danes of all ages. Puppy food or growth formula foods should NEVER EVER be fed to Dane puppies. They grow fast enough without the encouragement that growth and puppy formulas provide. Feeding a Dane growth or puppy food is asking for bone and growth problems.

Danes are very susceptible to bloat and torsion, so the less stress on the gastrointestinal tract, the better. Good highly digestible diets are a MUST for this breed, many even recommend a raw foods diet. To read about different dog foods, good and not so good, research the following websites:

www.aloha.com/~wolfepack/food.html

www.doglogic.com

www.danerescue.net (look for Linda Arndt's Feeding Guide Link)

Foods should have 23% protein and 12% fat or lower. The following are recommended foods for Great Danes and Large Breeds (remember: always use the adult maintenance no matter what the age of the Dane): *call and ask for a distributor in your area*

Back to Basics 1-800-219-2558 or www.backtobasicspetfood.com

Eagle Natural Pack 1-800-255-5959

Innova (switch over slowly) 1-800-532-7261

Nutro Natural Choice Lamb and Rice (available at Petco & Petsmart)

Nature's Recipe 1-800-933-2880 (also available at Petsmart)

Danes should be fed 3-4 times a day as pups, decreasing to 2-3 times a day at around 6 months of age. It can be dangerous to feed a Dane only once a day, due to the increased chance of bloat and stomach torsion (see bloat/torsion article on the back of this sheet). You can also decrease the risk of stomach torsion by limiting activity for at least 60-90 minutes following a meal, and 30 minutes prior to a meal. Some people feed two or three antigas (simethicone) tablets or capsules with every meal to their Danes to lessen the gas in the stomach. Simethicone is the active ingredient in Maalox anti-gas, Di-Gel, Phazyme, etc.

Danes should be fed with their food raised off of the floor. There are commercially made raised feeders that can be purchased at pet supply stores and through mail order pet supply catalogs. Or you can feed them with the bowl on a kitchen chair or stool, etc. This helps to lessen the air intake during feeding and also will prevent the dog from straining his back at mealtime. (hey...it's a long way down to the floor!). If you have any other feeding questions, please do not hesitate to contact a Great Dane Rescue of North Texas representative.