

SWITCHING FOODS

Changing foods often causes vomiting or diarrhea if done too quickly. A 5-day minimum transition period is recommended:

Day One: 1/4 new food - 3/4 old food

Day Two: 1/3 new food - 2/3 old food

Day Three: 1/2 new food - 1/2 old food

Day Four: 2/3 new food - 1/3 old food

Day Five: 3/4 new food, 1/4 old food

After Day Five: All new food

HINT: Slow down if your Great Dane develops diarrhea. Resume when it clears up, but proceed to switch more slowly.

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Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League

FEEDING YOUR GREAT DANE



Mid-Atlantic Great
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FEEDING YOUR NEW GREAT DANE

Feeding Your Dane Puppy

Great Danes are giant breed dogs. During their first two years, their size increases exponentially. Because of their massive size and slow growth, this breed is considered a puppy until age 8 months; a junior until age 24 months, and an adult after 24 months.

With giant breed puppies, feeding high protein, high calorie foods can lead to an increased frequency of diseases including hypertrophic osteodystrophy (HOD), osteochondrosis (OCD) and hip dysplasia. The formation of growing bones is disrupted and results in malformation, lameness, pain and serious musculoskeletal disease.

With Great Dane puppies, it is important to aim for a slower rate of growth. Never add vitamins or additives unless prescribed by your vet. Do not over-feed or try to push the growth rate too fast. Controlled feeding of a balanced diet specifically made for giant breed puppies facilitates optimal skeletal development.



8-week old Great Dane puppies.

Remember, the adult size of a dog is determined genetically, not by how fast it grows.

For optimal health, elevate the feeding bowl as your pup grows. Do not feed puppy food! Feed your pup a low-protein, low fat adult formula to ensure slow growth. Puppies to age 8 months should be fed three to four times a day. As your dog reaches junior stages, you may cut back to two meals a day for the remainder of its life.

HINT: Opinions differ on using a raised food platform to prevent bloat. Use your own judgment on what is appropriate for your Great Dane.

Feeding Your Adult Great Dane

Care in feeding your Great Dane is crucial to avoid growth and dietary-related health issues including one commonly fatal ailment of this breed: **Bloat**

General rules of thumb:

- Feed two or more meals a day.
- Before/after meals, do not allow vigorous exercise for 1 hour.
- Feed no more than 1 cup kibble per 33 pounds of body weight per meal when feeding two meals a day.
- DO NOT MOISTEN your Dane's food
- No corn in the diet, minimize other grains, and meat should be the 1st ingredient.
- If your dog eats rapidly, find ways to try to reduce his speed of eating.
- No artificial preservatives or food coloring. Look for 'human grade' ingredients.
- Allow 10 minutes for your dog to finish a meal. If they do not eat in that time, remove the food and discard or refrigerate until the next meal.
- NO CALCIUM (MINERALS) OR GROWTH SUPPLEMENTS
- TREATS: No pig ears, rawhide chews, Booda Bones or cooked bones. Colossal Kong bones with tasty filling or indestructible bones are fine.

HINT: It may be necessary to feed your dogs in separate rooms, particularly if they are the same gender.

HINT: NEVER "free-feed" your dog by leaving food out for the dog to eat at will. The dog will either under-eat or over-eat. Neither is beneficial for this breed.



MID-ATLANTIC GREAT DANE RESCUE LEAGUE

Dog Food Recommendations

MAGDRL does not endorse any food. However each year, Whole Dog Journal evaluates and recommends top holistic dog foods. See their web site here: <http://www.whole-dog-journal.com/>

Great Danes Online is an international group of Great Dane owners, breeders, and canine health care providers. Established in 1999, DOL members have determined that the following foods are healthiest for this breed:

- Burns Pet Nutrition 1-877-983-9651
- Canidae 1-800-398-1600
- Chicken Soup 1-800-658-0624
- Eagle Pack Dog Food 1-800-255-5959
- Flint River Ranch 1-909-682-5048
- Innova (switch over slowly) 1-800-532-7261
- Natural Balance 1-800-829-4493
- Solid Gold 1-800-364-4863
- Timberwolf Organics 1-863-439-0049
- Wysong (switch over slowly) 1-800-748-0188

Raw feeding

BARF (Biologically Appropriate Raw Food) and rawfeeding diets are movements promoted by pet owners, breeders, and some veterinarians who feed their pets with foods fresh from grocers, restaurant suppliers, or farms. They follow feeding plans and recipes described on dozens of web sites and in many books on this topic.

For information on raw diets, please see the many web sites and books by, Susan K. Johnson, Ian Billingham, Tom Lonsdale and others, as well as several Yahoo Groups on rawfeeding.