

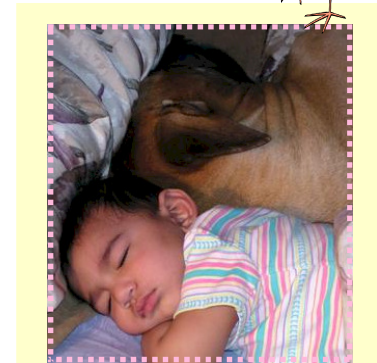
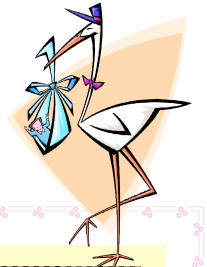
MID-ATLANTIC GREAT  
DANE RESCUE LEAGUE



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Mid-Atlantic Great  
Dane Rescue  
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**WHEN BABY  
MEETS  
DOGGIE**

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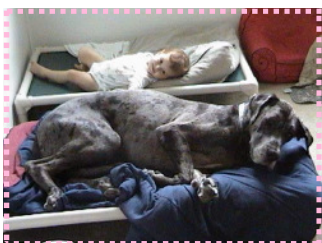
## WHEN BABY MEETS DOGGIE



Congratulations! You're having a baby!

You probably already know that adults with pets are healthier. But did you know that babies in families with pets have 50% fewer allergies and asthma? According to the Delta Society and NIH, kids in families with pets have accelerated motor skills and social development. And kids with pets have statistically higher IQs than those without. Why on earth wouldn't you have an animal family member? And why not a sweet Great Dane?

You may be concerned about germs and infectious disease. According to the CDC, contact with domestic pets that are well-maintained and up-to-date on their shots is harmless. CDC also recognizes the benefits of living with pets.



If you adopt while you are pregnant, how will your dog react to the new baby in its home? If you adopt after birth, will he be jealous of the baby? Or will he sense the importance that the infant has in your "pack" and act as a gentle and loyal protector?

Your preparation and awareness can make all the difference in the world when your Dane and baby meet. Take a few minutes to find out how to prepare your Dane to live successfully with its new family member.

### Before your baby is born

Socialize your Dane with babies and small children as soon and as often as possible. Invite your dog-loving friends with newborns over to meet your dog. This will help him get accustomed to some of the sights, smells, and activities associated with babies that he'll be experiencing in the months to come.



Let your Dane check out the baby's room so that he can get used to the new furniture, toys, smells, clothes, etc. Some owners even purchase 'baby sounds' tapes to play for them.

Buy a baby-sized doll or teddy bear and carry it around in your arms like you would the real thing. Talk to this "baby" and fuss over it so that your Dane realizes that the thing you're holding is something important.

Buy a couple of your Dane's favorite toys and put them away until you bring the baby home. If your dog gets too excited when he first meets the baby, give him the toys to distract him. Also, by presenting him with these gifts, you'll make the baby's arrival a happy experience for him and help him learn that the baby's presence is a positive thing.

Arrange for someone to care for your Dane in your home while you're in the hospital. It's important to keep your pet's schedule as close to normal as possible (same feeding times, same walking schedule, etc.) to avoid unnecessarily stressing him out.

While you're still in the hospital, have someone bring something of the baby's home for the Dane to smell (e.g., a blanket, shirt, or diaper). This way, when you first bring the baby home, it won't be totally unfamiliar to the dog.

### When your baby arrives

Make sure you introduce your Dane to the baby. Let him lick the baby's feet and hands if you like. This helps establish the baby as a new member of your pack. Don't constantly reprimand your pet around the baby or it may view the baby negatively.

If you exclude your Dane from the baby, you may unknowingly teach him that your new arrival is an "intruder." Your behavior will make him protective of his established pack members.

Devote the same amount of time and attention, if not more, to your Dane as you did before the baby came. A neglected pet may revert to immature destructive behavior because, in his eyes, negative attention is better than no attention.

Include the Dane in as many family activities as possible. If you're taking the baby out in its stroller, bring the dog along for the walk. If you have any doubts about your ability to handle both dog and baby at the same time, ask another individual to walk the dog with you.



Above all, NEVER leave your baby unattended with your Dane, no matter how well-trained he is or how good a temperament he has. There is always the danger of suffocation if the dog decides to lie down on or near the baby.