

THE PACK

Congratulations, you have just joined a dog pack! Your new family member looks at you as one of the pack. It is a good idea to understand some simple rules of pack order to help your dog understand how he fits in.

DO NOT kiss your dog on the lips. This is a sign of submission. This is what your dog did to its mother as a pup when it wished to nurse. Dogs don't look at kissing as affection like humans do. Kissing your dog puts you below your dog in the pack and can cause some confusion and aggression with your dog.

DO NOT alpha roll your dog or challenge your dog by staring straight into his eyes and holding his/her gaze. This is perceived as a direct threat by even the most passive dog.

When your dog first comes to your home, it is best to make your dog work for its dinner. This helps establish you as leader of the pack. This is very simple. **DO NOT** free feed your dog. Feed your dog twice a day. When it is time to eat tell your dog to sit before he receives his dinner, treats, or before being petted. Have your dog sit before going through doors in and out of the house.

Your dog should not be allowed up on the bed or sofa when it first comes into your home. These are all privileges that should be earned. Some dogs, if they are not sure where they fit, or feel they are TOP dog and not you, will start guarding the sofa or bed and not allowing others to sit on them. This is why it is important to establish from the beginning who is TOP dog and it has to be you. It helps take the pressure off the dog if he understands that he must follow your lead and he doesn't have to be in charge.

Pack order also involves all other pets in the house. The dog that has been there longest may not necessarily be top dog or care to be. It's best to allow your dogs to establish their order on their own without interfering if possible. Too much interference from you can make matters worse. You may expect that your dogs will have a few scuffles in the beginning. As long as one dog is backing down, they are on the right path to establishing who's in charge. If things appear to be getting out of hand, never reach into a fight to break it up. Use something safe to separate the dogs and have a cooling off period.

If you have any questions at all about your new Dane please do not hesitate to contact your area coordinator. No question is to silly or to small. We are here to help you with the adjustment of your new pet.

Thank you for giving a loving home to one of MAGDRL's orphans.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Consider volunteering some time in the following ways:

Fundraisers

Meet & Greets at local Pet Stores

Phone Interviews

House Checks

Orphan Evaluation

Foster Home

MAGDRL is always in need of the following items—consider making a donation today.

Stamps

Leashes & Collars

Dog Toys

Printing Ink & Supplies

Of course a monetary donation is always greatly appreciated. As little as \$5.00 can pay for a rabies vaccine.

Consider sponsoring a MAGDRL orphan for \$10.00 a month.

All donations can be made to your area coordinator or through our website with a credit card.



For more information visit our website :
WWW.MAGDRL.ORG



Mid-Atlantic Great Dane
Rescue League, Inc.

Your
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*Help for the new
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Guidelines For Helping Your Dane Adjust

DO'S AND DON'TS

Remember love and patience make a happy home, and your reward will be a long and mutually satisfying relationship.

DON'T have a welcome home party or too many visitors the first month. Let your Dane adjust to his new family first.

DON'T take your pet out to visit family members or friends at their homes for the first month. This can be very stressful for your new pet.

DO enroll your dog in an obedience course as soon as possible. This helps with bonding.

DON'T kiss your dog on the lips or attempt to hug your dog. Kissing your dog on the lips is a sign of submission to your dog and hugging your dog before he/she is comfortable with you can be very threatening to your pet.

DON'T rub your dog's nose in her accidents. She knows she did wrong. She's learning a new schedule.

DO praise your pet when he potties in the correct area. Put the dog on a schedule.

DON'T put your baby or child on the Dane's back. This can paralyze the Dane as well as provoking a dog bite.

DON'T allow children to remain unattended with your pets. This rule applies to **ALL** pets.

DO always supervise all pet and children interaction.

DON'T allow children to hit, bite or step on your Dane. The child may or may not know how hard it has hit the dog. Correct the child for this behavior. Remember children need training and discipline, too.

DON'T hit your pet as punishment. Treat your pet as an intelligent animal. Remember unless you catch your pet in the act of making a mistake he won't know why he is being punished.

DO reward your dog for good behavior. The magic words are "Good Girl!" or "Good Boy!" You like to be praised when you do a good job—so does your dog. Positive reinforcement works!

DON'T let a problem escalate ask for help. Call before you get disgusted. When in doubt call your area coordinator. No question is silly or trivial.

COMMON PROBLEMS



DIARRHEA

This is the most common problem to arise. Do not change your pet's food for at least one month after adopting. You should introduce a new food gradually by mixing a small amount with the old food and gradually increasing the ratio of the new food to the old. A change in water sometimes triggers diarrhea, also. Diarrhea typically lasts one to two weeks. The usual cause is nerves. Once your Dane is completely settled, the diarrhea will stop. Until then, treat with Kaopectate, Imodium AD or Metamucil. Consult your veterinarian for correct dosage. If this treatment does not work in the first two days; it may be best to take your pet to the vet to be sure there are no other causes for the diarrhea.

CHEWING

This is a problem that also is due to anxiety. Your Dane is afraid it will mess up and lose his new home. They want only to please, but, as with children, sometimes the harder they try, the more they mess up. Be patient. Show your pet what he is allowed to chew and a firm "no" to what is not allowed. Put your pet in a crate when you can not be with it. Never leave your pet in a crate for more than 5 hours. Supply your pet with Nyla Bones, or treat-stuffed Kongs or other toys that he can chew. Rawhide, pig ears and cow hooves are not recommended for Danes.

POSSESSIVENESS

Some Rescue Danes become very possessive of one or all of the family members. This behavior should not be encouraged, but not severely corrected either. Again, a firm "no" usually works. As the Dane bonds and becomes more secure with the family—usually within a month—this behavior will disappear. If apprehensive of certain family members, have them feed the Dane and give the Dane "special" treats that only come from that family member. Remember the old "saw" *away to a man's heart*, it works with dogs too!

AGGRESSION

Aggressive behavior is usually related to possessiveness. The dog is trying to protect one or more family members. This can be more difficult to handle, but it usually lasts only two or three weeks. Sometimes aggression is caused by fear of new surroundings. If your Dane displays aggression, first don't have visitors—especially children. If you must have guests, but the dog in another room. Contact your local coordinator, they can put you in touch with an animal behaviorist that can help you with this problem. Two common areas for aggression with two dogs are, food and who goes through the door first.

DEPRESSION

This condition sometimes manifests itself as a refusal to eat. The adopted Dane may become depressed and refuse to eat. This is not an uncommon problem and normally disappears in the first 24 to 72 hours. Be patient and loving. Don't worry the dog will not starve itself and will start to eat in a day or two. If not contact your vet and have the dog checked for health problems. Do not change your dogs diet or give it people food to entice it to eat. This will only upset your dogs stomach. Do not free feed your dog. Feed your dog twice a day. This way you can keep track of how much your dog is actually eating and when your dog is off his feed.

SEPARATION ANXIETY

Sometimes this is a common occurrence and needs extra attention. Often it is the cause of chewing. It subsides within a month or so when your dog feels more secure. It is caused by a fear of being abandoned. The dog doesn't want a certain person to be out of his sight. In extreme cases, dogs have been known to jump through windows to follow the person! First, try placing the dog in a crate when you must leave. Second, enroll the Dane in an obedience class as soon as possible, even if you have trained a dog before. The obedience class is not so much for the training as it is to help the Dane to become secure with you as well as herself. If the problem persists, consult your local coordinator who can give you a name of a behaviorist to work with.

CRATE TRAINING

Most of our Danes are crate trained and love having their own space. We highly recommend that you continue the use of a crate when you cannot be with your Dane. But no more than 5 hours maximum. It gives them a sense of security much like a den would (covering all sides with a sheet except the front can increase the den like qualities) and also keeps them out of trouble when you cannot be with them.

ACCIDENTAL URINATION OR DEFECATION

Even though your new pet may be house trained, she may have an accident in your home the first or second week. This is because she is trying to learn your schedule. You must stick to a schedule whenever possible. You know that sometimes you have to go potty off schedule and just can't wait. Well, it happens to dogs too. Be Patient.