



## **The Great Dane Club of Wales Code of Ethics**

All members of The Great Dane Club of Wales undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics

### **PART 1 Kennel Club General Code of Ethics**

#### **Club members:**

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operations to the Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home
12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as standalone items (not accompanying a dog).
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.

**Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate. KC/GJ September 2008**

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## **PART 2 The Great Dane Club of Wales Code of Ethics as agreed by The Kennel Club.**

### **SECTION A**

#### ***INTRODUCTION***

15. CLAUSE 2 of the Club Rules states one of the Objects of the Club as being the improvement of the breed. This document amplifies that statement by giving guidelines intended to assist Members in attaining this worthy objective; it also complements the Kennel Club's General Code of Ethics which is reproduced in full in Part 1.

16. In all matters affecting the breeding, health and fitness of a dog the professional advice of a qualified veterinary surgeon takes precedence over these guidelines.

17. Members may disagree in part with these guidelines because of their experience and the idiosyncrasies of their stock, nevertheless, they must remember that these guidelines have been adopted by a majority of Club Members and should give each clause due consideration.

18. The title "Ethical Guidelines" implies a moral aspect. Clearly, the Club and every member of the Club has a moral duty to do everything possible to improve the breed. The Club wishes to discharge its duty without having to resort to the imposition of rules which it would find difficult to enforce.

19. The Committee commends these guidelines to you and urges all Members to:

- a) Accept them in the spirit in which they are issued.
- b) Abide by them as far as is humanly possible in support of Club Rule and the betterment and welfare of the breed

20. If you can work to the word and spirit of these guidelines then you will be a welcome member of the Club; the converse is also true.

### **SECTION B**

#### ***BREEDING***

21. BETTERMENT OF THE BREED:

- a. Members will when breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum standard the principles, requirements and recommendations as embodied in the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder scheme. It is strongly recommended that members who breed should apply to join the Scheme.
- b. Breeding should only take place for the betterment of the breed. To avoid mating's which could be detrimental to the breed members are advised to:
  1. Spend at least 3 years in the breed before even thinking about breeding.
  2. Think and check carefully before allowing your Dane to be used for breeding.
  3. Think long and hard about what is going to happen to the puppies you cannot sell.
  4. Check prospective homes for puppies very thoroughly and, ideally, check on their welfare after sale.
  5. Only established breeders should consider having bitches out on sub-contract breeding terms when, ideally, it would be limited to no more than two.

**IF you are NOT prepared to do this DO NOT BREED.**

22. SOUND STOCK:

Owners should only breed from sound, healthy Danes which are free from contagious diseases and are registered with the Kennel Club. Before starting a mating the backgrounds of both Danes should be thoroughly investigated. No Dane should be used for breeding purposes which carries a serious hereditary defect adversely affecting the Dane's wellbeing.

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23. TIME OF FIRST MATING:

A bitch should be allowed to have her first season naturally (that is to say without the use of any artificial preventatives such as Ovarid) before she is used for breeding.

- a) Bitches should not normally be whelped before 2 years of age.
- b) No bitch should be bred from at consecutive seasons; at least one full season should elapse between matings and then only if the bitch is in good health. If, however, on a veterinary surgeon's advice a bitch is bred from on consecutive seasons she should then be rested.

24. AGE OF FINAL WHELPING:

No bitch should be allowed to whelp after 7 years of age.

25. RECORDS:

A breeder should keep accurate, colour coded pedigrees, stud details, breeding records and Kennel Club documentation.

26. FACILITIES:

Breeding should not be attempted unless adequate facilities and personal attention are available. Advice from an established breeder and your veterinary surgeon should be sought before embarking on this serious matter.

27. ADVERTISING:

Advertising must be honest and free of ambiguity. It must not be open to misrepresentation or fraudulent application.

## **SECTION C**

### ***SELLING DANES.***

28. BEFORE SELLING:

Do everything you can to ensure that the prospective owners:

1. Really want a Great Dane and are aware of its adult size, appetite, housing needs and the costs involved.
2. Are aware of the Kennel Club's General Code of Ethics.
3. Will follow your advice on rearing.

29. AGE AT WHICH TO SELL A PUPPY:

Ideally a puppy should not leave its breeder until it is 8/10 weeks old.

30. DANES WITH OBVIOUS DEFECTS:

No puppy which has any known defect or which shows any definite departure from the Standard should be sold without the buyer being made fully aware of such defect or departure from the Standard and its possible consequences. Members should sell only puppies which to the best of their knowledge are in good health at the time of the sale'.

31. PUPPY DIET SHEET and ADVICE:

A full diet sheet from date of sale to maturity (18 months ) should accompany each puppy when sold. If the new owner is not a knowledgeable Dane person, he/she should also be given details and advice on such matters as worming, exercise, training, showing and useful Dane books to read, together with the breeder's telephone number and the address of an experienced Dane person in their own area to whom they may go for help and advice.

32. SALE DOCUMENTATION:

Full pedigree and confirmation of Kennel Club registration should generally accompany all Danes sold

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33. PEDIGREES:

All pedigrees must be correct, up to date and explicitly colour marked. Apart from Merle, which should be entered in full, suggested abbreviations for colour marking are as follows:

F	Fawn
BR	Brindle
BL	Blue
BK	Black
H	Harlequin
BLH	Blue Harlequin
M	Mantle

**SECTION D**

***WELFARE OF DANES.***

34. BREEDERS RESPONSIBILITY:

A breeder should take full responsibility for re-homing a Dane which he/she has sold and which has subsequently become unwanted

It should be impressed on the person buying a Dane that the breeder is the first one to be informed if they have problems with the Dane or are no longer able to cope with it.

35. GENERAL:

All members of the Great Dane Club of Wales shall conduct themselves in such a way as to reflect credit on the ownership of dogs

They must treat all dogs with such kindness and consideration as to ensure their happiness, dignity and continuing well-being; and to demonstrate to prospective dog owners what standards will be expected of them as owners and as members of The Great Dane Club of Wales

THE MIDLAND & WEST OF ENGLAND GREAT DANE CLUB HAVE GIVEN WRITTEN PERMISSION FOR THE GREAT DANE CLUB OF WALES TO ADOPT THE ETHICAL GUIDELINES CONTAINED IN THIS WEB PAGE

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