

## Important Advice for Puppy Buyers

A wise buyer will beware when dealing with all dog breeders. You will want to consider many factors and come to your own conclusions. Remember to be skeptical and verify claims. Here are some considerations:

- A dog without AKC registration papers may not actually be a full-blooded Great Dane, however deserving it may be as a pet.
- Only dogs with AKC registration papers may be exhibited in dog show conformation events, and only dogs with unlimited AKC registration papers can produce puppies that are eligible to have AKC registration papers.
- Verify the AKC registration information of the dam (mother) and sire (father) through the American Kennel Club, at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org). Linked to each animal's individual AKC registration number, AKC maintains records including show records, titles and other information about the dog and its ancestry. If you wish, you can perform similar searches for each ancestor of interest.
- Littermates (brothers and sisters born from the same mother on the same occasion) have identical registration numbers except for the number at the end.
- If the breeder claims to have awards, certificates, titles or other honors, go to the website of the organization that gave the award, certificate, title or honor and verify the claim. The same website is the best place to look up what the award means.
- The four health tests that are most recommended for Great Danes by the Great Dane Club of America are:
  - Eyes
  - Cardio/Heart (may be auscultation or echocardiogram)
  - Hips
  - ThyroidThe tests are done on the dam and sire, not on the puppies. Be more cautious about accepting a puppy if these four test results are not available for both of the puppy's parents.
- A fifth health test often recommended for Great Danes is:
  - ElbowsThe tests are done on the dam and sire, not on the puppies. You have the right to limit your search and consider only puppies whose parents have verifiable results for all five of the recommended health tests. That is up to you.
- Each test has its own scale of results. All the tests have a result that is considered normal or good, all the tests have results that are considered worse than normal or less than good, and some of the tests have results that are considered even better than good. Educate yourself about this for each test. Do not just accept what the breeder tells you.
- Verify the health claims made by the breeder and the health testing that the breeder has had done. Most reputable breeders allow their health testing results to be published on the website of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, at [www.ofa.org](http://www.ofa.org). Be skeptical of breeders who give a reason for not publishing this critically important information, and remember that hard copies of results can be forged.

- A breeder may provide you a CHIC number for the dam (mother) or sire (father) of the puppies. Be aware, having a CHIC number does **NOT** imply normal or better health results. It only means that the tests most recommended for the given breed of the dog were done. You as the puppy buyer have to research the test results individually to see if they are each normal, good or better. Having CHIC is good only if all the individual results are good. Health problems are more likely in the puppy if all the individual results for the parents are not normal, good or better.
- Examine the dam and sire in person, if at all possible. Ask yourself if the dam and sire have a temperament with which you would want to live.
- Familiarize yourself with the guidelines AKC publishes for breeders, then find out how closely a breeder you are considering adheres to the AKC guidelines. Some of the guidelines have to do with how old the dam is. Some have to do with how often she is bred. Through AKC, you can verify her breeding history.
- Familiarize yourself also with the list of Strong Recommendations for breeders of Great Danes published by the GDC of America. The GDC of America is the foremost authority on what is best for Great Danes. If a breeder does not follow all of GDCA's Strong Recommendations, consider talking to more breeders before deciding to buy. The list is available below a list of other valuable ethics at: <http://www.gdca.org/codeofethics.html>
- The GDC of America publishes a Breeders Color Code. Again, the GDC of America is the foremost authority on what is best for Great Danes. Study the Breeders Color Code and decide for yourself whether a breeder meets it and how important that is to you. The color code is available at: <http://www.gdca.org/colorcode.html>
- Be wary if a breeder tries to dissuade you from a particular color or particular breeder.
- Remember that opinions among breeders can differ sharply. It is often best to evaluate one breeder's comments in view of the comments of other breeders.
- If the breeder is a member of our club, she or he is expected to speak respectfully in regards to other Great Dane breeders.

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This list does not rate, recommend or endorse breeders, their kennels or their Great Danes. The GDC of Arizona and the copyright holder do not intend this list as a tool to help any breeder sell puppies. The list is intended to help educate puppy buyers and direct the general public to Great Dane breeders that we know here in Arizona, or who are members of our club residing in other states, and specifically to Great Dane breeders who follow the Strong Recommendations for breeders published by the Great Dane Club of America.

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## Breeder Directory

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Breeder (by last name)	Kennel Name	Website	Email
Shayne Anderson *BOM	Solara Great Danes	<i>[no website]</i>	shakaban@yahoo.com
Nichole Bartlett *BOM	Enzo Great Danes	www.enzodane.com	enzodanegreatdanes@yahoo.com
Karen Burkhart *BOM	SunQuest Great Danes	<i>[no website]</i>	ckburkhart@aol.com
Lisa Hernandez *BOM	Syvile Great Danes	syvilegreatdanes.com	lisa@syvilegreatdanes.com
Pam Koerper *BOM	SunQuest Danes	<i>[no website]</i>	sunquestdanes@gmail.com
Pat McGoldrick *BOM	Sunstrike Great Danes	www.sunstrike-great-danes.com	goldstrike@cox.net
Kathy Munyan	KaDaDanes	<i>[no website]</i>	kathy@munyan.com
Tina Sparks	Show Stopper Danes	showstopperdanes.com	tinamariesparks@yahoo.com
Misty Winker	Velocity Great Danes	www.velocitygreatdanes.com	info@velocitygreatdanes.com

\*BOM = Recognized by AKC as a **Breeder of Merit** (verified as of 1/12/2018). Breeders who are not already recognized by AKC as a Breeder of Merit, may someday be accepted by AKC for that recognition, though in general only a minority of breeders will ever earn this distinction. Every Breeder of Merit experienced a time before they were recognized as such.

The GDC of Arizona reserves the right to refuse or withdraw any listing from our breeder directory without notice. Nothing compels us to include any individual or kennel in our breeder directory.

NOTE: The breeders in this directory only occasionally have litters. Often, they have waiting lists for puppies. When you communicate with these breeders, keep in mind they may be an excellent resource for advice as well as for additional referrals when they do not have a puppy in the near future that they can offer to you. Many of these breeders have connections to other reputable breeders from all over the country. Some breeders maintain wait lists for future puppies. Some breeders are willing to home their puppies out of state, so you need not restrict your search to local breeders. In fact, a local breeder may help connect you to the perfect puppy for you, from another state.