

## Hips

I have learned from the OFA website and research that OFA hip clearances of the parents cannot guarantee that your puppy will be free of hip dysplasia. Parents with OFA hip clearances can produce puppies with bad hips.

It is important to understand that there is a possibility that a puppy from our kennel can develop hip dysplasia, even though every dog we breed has good hips. But this does not change the fact that Great Danes all have the ability to produce occasional bad hips in their off spring. Here is why....

It is felt that genetics play between a 25% and 30% role in a dog having hip dysplasia. This means that new owners can assume a great deal of responsibility (70% to 75%) in their dog developing good hips.

This begins with feeding an appropriate diet. (Refer to FOOD page) It also means that you should keep your dog lean. Carrying too much weight at a young age is going to add stress on soft puppy bones and ultimately negatively effects skeletal development of a young dog.

New owners need to be very careful of over exercising a pup. This means no jogging until after the dog is 12 months old. This means not exercising to the point of exhaustion, or taking the pup for long walks. Around the block is fine, but don't go on a run or couple mile hike.

Hip dysplasia has five major causes:

- genetics
- diet
- over feeding
- too much exercise at a young age
- \* Environment

This is a direct quote from the OFA web site, as of 12/11/08.

Please sign below. This form must be returned before your puppies can be released.

I \_\_\_\_\_ have received info and understand that Adelina Great Danes does not guarantee my puppy will not develop hip dysplasia.

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Signature

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Date