

The Great Dane

Recommended Health Screenings for a Giant Breed

The Great Dane is a giant breed with a big, loving heart — and giant breeds deserve thoughtful, health-conscious breeding. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), together with the Great Dane Club of America, recommends the following core health screenings for breeding dogs through the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) program. This reference is provided to help you understand what responsible Great Dane health testing looks like.

Recommended Health Screenings

Hip Dysplasia

Evaluation of the hip joints (OFA or PennHIP) to screen for the malformation that can lead to arthritis and mobility issues, especially important in giant breeds.

Cardiac Evaluation

Screening for inherited heart conditions. An echocardiogram is recommended for adult Great Danes used for breeding, and is particularly important for stud dogs.

Autoimmune Thyroiditis

A blood-based thyroid evaluation to screen for autoimmune thyroid disease. Recommended to repeat periodically, as young-adult results do not remain valid for life.

Eye Examination

An examination by a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist (ACVO / CAER) to screen for inherited eye conditions.

This document is provided for general educational reference and reflects the OFA/CHIC breed screening recommendations established with the Great Dane Club of America. It is not veterinary advice or a diagnosis. A CHIC number reflects that required tests were completed and results made public — not that every result was normal. Always consult your veterinarian, and verify any breeder's testing at ofa.org.