



**VICTORIAN DANES**

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**VICTORIAN DANES**

**Ear  
Cropping  
Information**

**"Once You Go Dane, Your Life Is  
Never The Same"**



**If You Have Any Questions,  
Please Do Not Hesitate To  
Ask.**

## About Ear Cropping

Puppies are put under general anesthesia between the tender ages of 7-12 weeks old. Any general anesthesia always poses a risk, something could go wrong. Puppies can and have died under anesthesia or just after coming out of anesthesia.

2/3 of the earflap, including many nerve endings and acupuncture zones, are removed during cropping. The raw, bloody edges are then closed with stitches from the bottom to the tip of the ear. Many breeders will say that it doesn't hurt the puppy, but when the puppy cries out in pain when it bumps or scratches the ear, is a sign of pain. Regardless of how long the pain lasts or how intense it may be, the puppy shouldn't even have to go through this at such an impressionable age. Now that you have raw and exposed edges that are waiting to heal, you are also running a high risk of infection at the incision areas.

Ears are now cropped and stitches have been removed; now the puppy has to go through months of mandatory ear taping. The tape has to be changed at least once a week. This is very time consuming and expensive. There is no set time limit to taping the ears; it can take 4 weeks to 12 months or longer. In some cases, the ears may never stand and the dog could be subjected to a second crop, at a much older age, to create scar tissue to help strengthen the ear leather or to take more of the ear flap off to reduce the lengthy/weight of the ear. For those that choose not to re-crop a failed ear crop, the dog is stuck with an ugly, cropped ear that flops either over the head or down the cheek.

There is NO proven medical benefit to cropping; it has never been scientifically proven that it will cut down on the amount of ear infections by increasing ventilation of the ear canal. Keeping the ears clean from dirt and debris is the job of every dog owner, it's basic maintenance, regardless if the dog is cropped or uncropped.

The vast majority of Europe, all of Australia, and New Zealand have banned ear cropping. The AVMA doesn't endorse this practice and an increasing number of US Veterinarian's refuse to perform this procedure.

One of the reason most breeders crop their Danes ears is to successfully compete in the show ring. AKC accepts them either way. However, the ears do not determine the quality of a dog. If the dog is good enough and is presented well, he/she will have the same chance any other dog has. Natural eared dogs can – and – do win and finish their championships. More and more judges are opening their minds to natural eared Dogs in the ring.

Many pet owners see show pictures of Danes and like the "Look" of the cropped ears and so the cycle continues. For some people the "Look" is worth all the time' effort, money and discomfort to the animal, to those I say "Do as you must". For those of you who are undecided, educate yourself prior to making this life altering decision for you puppy.

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