March 28, 2015

Great Danes are predisposed to a number of health problems. An ethical breeder will screen his breeding stock for specific diseases to try to prevent them in future litters and will always make clearance certificates available to prospective puppy parents.

Appropriate health testing was unanimously approved by the Great Dane Club of America Board of Directors on January 18, 2003.

The Great Dane Club of America recommends the following health clearances for Great Danes used for breeding: OFA or PennHip Hips, Cardiac, Thyroid, and OFA Eye clearance.

In addition, The Board of Directors of the Great Dane Club of America strongly recommends that any Great Dane being bred have a CHIC certificate from OFA, The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. Currently in order for a Great Dane to receive a CHIC number, the dog must have test results on record for:

- Hip Dysplasia - Results accepted from OFA or PennHIP.
- Eyes - Results accepted from OFA.
- Congenital Cardiac Disease - Results accepted from OFA.
- Autoimmune Thyroid Disease - Results accepted from OFA.