

Great Dane

Height - Dogs over 32" (Min. 30"), Bitches over 30" (Min. 28")

General Appearance - Great size, powerful, well formed, smoothly muscled, squarely built. Lack of type is most serious fault.

Head - Rectangular, long, finely chiseled, parallel planes equal in length; full, square jaw with a deep muzzle. **Stop** - Strongly pronounced. Bitch's head more delicately formed. **Eyes** - Deep set, medium size, dark, almond shaped. In Harlequins and Merles should be dark, but blue eye(s) and eyes of different colors permitted. **Ears** - Cropped or uncropped. Medium size, set high. **Nose** - Black, except in Blues where it is dark blue-black. A black spotted nose is permitted on Harlequins and Merles. Pink is not desirable. **Teeth** - Scissors, full dentation preferred.

Body - Neck - Long. **Topline** - Short level back. **Chest** - Broad and deep. Brisket to elbow, well sprung ribs. Tuck up well defined. Forechest well developed without pronounced sternum. **Croup** - Very slightly sloping. **Tail** - Set high but not quite level with back, falls straight at rest. May curve slightly when moving, never above the level of the back. **Forequarters and hindquarters** - Strong, muscular and well angulated. **Feet** - Round, compact, with well arched toes. Nails dark except in Harlequins, Mantles, and Merles.

Color - Brindle - Base color yellow gold, always brindled with black cross strips with black mask **Fawn** - Yellow gold with black mask. **Blue** - Pure steel blue. **Black** - Glossy black. **Harlequin** - Base color white with black torn patches. Merle patches normal. **Mantle** - Black and white with black blanket extending over the body. Black skull; white muzzle, chest, whole or partial white on neck, legs, white tipped tail. **Merle** - Pale gray to dark gray merle base color with black torn patches within. May be solid merle or merle with mantle pattern with white placed as in Mantles.

Gait - Powerful, front and rear with long, easy strides.

DISQUALIFICATIONS: *Danes under minimum height. Split nose. Docked tail. Any color other than seven colors described. Merlequin.*