

## Voluntary Self-Commitment for the Application of the Seal of Quality of the Association for Healthy Great Danes



1. I will only use health-tested dogs for breeding. The minimum is HD (A-C) and heart ultrasound (cardiologist, at least every two years, no DCM, no or minimal cardiovascular changes). ED (0-2), spine x-ray and other health tests are recommended. (Exceptions for frozen semen of dogs which have long passed away are possible.)
2. I take into consideration the genetic variety of the whole population and future generations when I plan a litter. I don't do inbreeding (COI higher than 6,25% for 6 generations). I don't use popular sires (males with more than 100 offspring at the time of mating until the age of 8, afterwards 150 offspring). I repeat litters only exceptionally.
3. I will not do double merle matings, as they can produce puppies with sensory defects and are therefore forbidden by the FCI
4. I take the age and the causes of death of the ancestors into consideration and breed only with dogs with many long-living ancestors to improve the health and longevity of the progeny.
5. I only use dogs with a sound temper for breeding.
6. My dogs live in the family and not in kennels.
7. I socialize my puppies well for them to become enjoyable company dogs.
8. I try to keep in touch with my puppies and gather information about their health/life age. I help my puppy buyers when they have problems and take my dogs back and/or help to rehome them in case of emergency.
9. I am transparent with health and death data of my breeding program.
10. I grant my females at least 10 months break between two litters (15 months when there were more than 8 puppies in the litter). My females have max. 3 litters in their lifetime.

11. I also don't let my stud dogs mate with too many females (max. 100 offspring until the age of 8, after the age of 8 years 150 offspring) and only females with HD A-C and heart ultrasound free of DCM not older than 2 years. I don't agree to matings with a COI higher than 6,25% (on 6 gen.)

12. I don't have more than 3 litters per year to have enough time and energy for each of the litters/puppies. This also applies if I breed other dog breeds as well.

13. I am focused on the written standard of the great dane and don't follow the current hypertype trend. I don't use dogs for breeding with severe or disqualifying faults such as ectropium, apple head, fluttering lips etc. I don't breed only for the show ring.

14. I sell my puppies with FCI pedigrees or papers of a club acknowledged by the FCI like the British KC or the American AKC.

15. I don't crop my puppies

16. I don't use my males and females before the age of 20 month for breeding (time of mating).