

## THE GREAT DANE OR GERMAN MASTIFF by Edwin Morris (circa 1891)

The following are the points, and their value, of the German mastiff or Great Dane, adopted by the German Mastiff or Great Dane Club of America:

1. General Appearance.—Of powerful and elegant build, strong and muscular, supple action, graceful and dignified carriage and movement, coat short and fine. Head and neck carried high.
2. Height.—In height dogs should not be less than thirty inches straight measurement at the shoulders, and bitches not less than twenty-eight inches.
3. Weight.—Dogs of the above height should weigh not less than one hundred and twenty pounds, and bitches not less than one hundred pounds.
4. Body.—The body should be long, somewhat inclined to roundness and compact. Belly well drawn up, yet well proportioned, not gaunt nor tucked up like the greyhound, but showing muscle and strength.
5. Head.—The head or skull should neither be domed nor flat; rather lengthy and not too broad; the frontal bones slightly raised; little indentation between the eyes, with very little or no stop; cheek muscles well developed; face not too broad.
6. Ears.—The ears should be small and carried high, something like those of the greyhound. The ears may or may not be cropped. When cropped they resemble those of the bull terrier.
7. Eyes.—The eyes should be small, round and deeply set, with a sharp expression, and may be light or the various shades of brown or hazel, or in harmony with the general color of the dog.
8. Nose.—The nose should be large, with bridge well arched.
9. Muzzle.—The muzzle should be broad and strong, and rather square or blunt at the point.
10. Lips.—The lips in front should be blunt, not hanging too much over the sides, but with well-defined folds at the angle of the mouth.
11. Jaw.—The lower jaw should neither be short nor long, but should bring the teeth to meet evenly.
12. Neck.—The neck should be rather long, very strong and muscular, well arched, without dewlap or loose skin about the throat. The junction of the head and neck should be strongly pronounced.
13. Forequarters.—The shoulders should be sloping and muscular, the elbows well under and neither turned inward nor outward.  
Legs.—The forearms should be very muscular, with large bone, knees strong, not bent, ankles or pasterns muscular, and the whole leg straight, strong and well proportioned.
14. Chest.—The chest should be of good width, but not too broad; deep in the brisket.
15. Back.—The back should be muscular and not too long, nor hollow, nor quite straight, but showing a very slight tendency to arch.
16. Loin.—The loin should be broad, strong and well arched, and muscular above and below.
17. Tail.—The tail should reach to the hock, strong at the root, fine and tapering to the end, and be carried horizontally with the back, or very slightly upward, with a slight tendency to curve at the extremity; but must not curl, or be carried high or over the back.
18. Hindquarters.—The buttocks or hips should be well developed and strong, rounding gradually to root of tail, thighs muscular, with good bone, and second thighs long and strong; hocks well let down, or low, and straight, turning neither in nor out; ankles strong in bone and muscle.
19. Feet.—The feet should be large and round, and well set on ankles turning neither inward nor outward. Toes well arched and closed, nails strong and curved.
20. Hair or Coat.—The hair or coat should be short, hard and dense, with no fringe or long hair on legs or tail.

21. Color and Markings.—The recognized colors are the various shades of gray or blue, mouse color, black, white, red or fawn; also brindle, or tiger striped on white ground, with patches of dark colors.

22. Symmetry.—The symmetry of the whole body should be of a high order, with well defined and gracefully curved lines, and the whole appearance should indicate power, activity, courage and nobility of character.

23. Faults.—The faults most common are too heavy or too houndy a head, too highly arched frontal bone and deep “stop” or indentation between the eyes, too broad a face, too short or too light a muzzle, too long ears and hanging flat to the face, too short a neck, full develop or loose skin on neck, too narrow or too broad a chest, sunken or quite straight back, bent forelegs, over bent fetlocks, cow hocked hind legs, dew claws, if loose, better none. Not permissible, twisted feet, spreading toes, too coarse or long coat, too heavy or too highly carried or curved tail, or with a brush underneath, weak or narrow loin or hindquarters, a general lack of muscle, want of symmetry and a general absence of character in appearance.

**Minimum Size and Weight:**

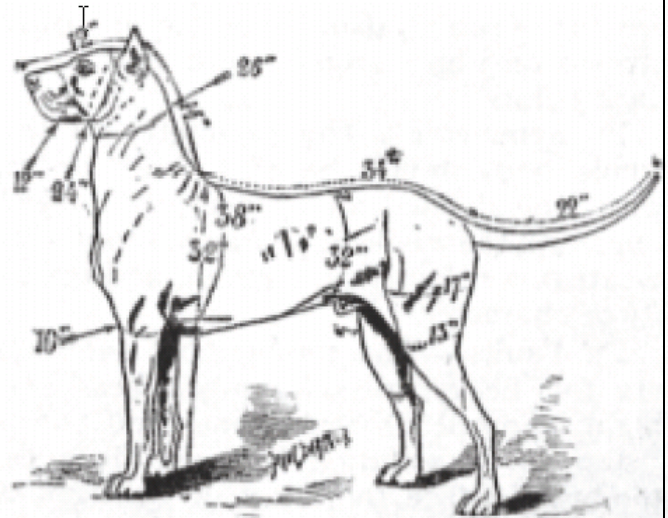
Dogs . . . . . 30 in. 120 lbs.  
 Bitches . . . . . 28 in. 100 lbs.

**Approximate Measurements:**

	Dogs.	Bitches.
Height . . . . .	32 in.	30 in.
Weight . . . . .	140 lbs.	120 lbs.
Length, from tip of nose to occiput . . . . .	12 in.	11 in.
Occiput to middle of shoulders..	14 in.	12 in.
Middle of shoulders to set on of tail . . . . .	34 in.	32 in.
Length of tail . . . . .	22 in.	20 in.
Girth of skull . . . . .	24 in.	22 in.
Girth of neck . . . . .	26 in.	24 in.
Muzzle, between eyes and nose . . . . .	12 in.	11 in.
Girth of chest . . . . .	38 in.	34 in.
Girth of loin . . . . .	32 in.	30 in.
Girth of thigh . . . . .	17 in.	15 in.
Girth of second thigh. . . . .	13 in.	11 in.
Girth of forearm . . . . .	10 in.	3 ½ in.

**Value of points:**

Height . . . . .	10
General appearance and symmetry. . . . .	10
Action. . . . .	7
Temperament and character. . . . .	4
Head-Skull . . . . .	5)
Ears. . . . .	3)
Eyes. . . . .	3)
Nose, muzzle and lips . 4).....	15
Neck . . . . .	5
Forequarters-	
Shoulders. . . . .	5)
Legs. . . . .	5).....
Body-	
Chest . . . . .	5)
Back . . . . .	4)
Belly.....	2)
Loin.....	4).....
Tail . . . . .	5
Hindquarters—	
Buttocks or hips . . . . .	5)
Thighs and legs. . . . .	5).....
Feet, toes and nails . . . . .	5
Coat . . . . .	4
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>100</b>



STANDARD. (SEE PAGE 222.)