

### Some interesting facts about the Great Dane and its color patterns:

- Harlequins can produce Merles, as Merles can produce Harlequins;
- Just as harlequins can produce merles, merles can also produce harlequins, blacks, mantles and piebalds. All these color variations are part of the genetic heritage of this Great Dane variety;
- According to DDC breeding rules, harlequins should NOT be bred to other harlequins, neither merles to merles, nor harlequins to merles, since this breeding mates can often produce white puppies that are frequently deaf and/or blind;
- Due to the reasons above, HARLEQUINS or MERLES should only be bred to BLACKS or BLACK MANTLE Danes;
- To avoid non-standard colors and patterns in the bred, the DDC\* breeding rules and the GDCA\* Breeders Color Code are unanimous: BLACK from Blue breeding should not be bred in the Harlequin variety /color strain, whereas BLACK from Harlequin breeding should not be bred in the Blue breeding variety/color strain;
- Mantles can be bred to Harlequins without the risk of producing white puppies;
- A Mantle bred to another Mantle will not produce Harlequins;
- Mantles are strictly black and white, they cannot have any Merle markings or, otherwise, they should be considered a heavily marked Harlequin;
- When all the markings have rounded, well defined edges (spots) the Dane is most likely to be considered as a piebald, in opposition to a harlequin which has irregular, black torn patches;
- Harlequins sometimes can be so heavily marked that they look like a Mantle, with the only noticeable difference that they might have some merle patches somewhere throughout their bodies;
- Acceptable, but less desirable are gray or blue ticking hairs showing through the white base color in Harlequins, which tend to give a salt and pepper or sort of dirty effect;
- There are other breeds in which we find a Merle coat color, such as Collies, Australian Shepherds and Corgis;
- Danes with a coat color known as harlequin (white base with black torn patches) are often mistaken as Dalmatians by the general public. Great Danes are the only breed of dogs in which a typical harle color pattern occurs;
- A **white** Dane with MERLE patches should **not** be mistaken with a **white** Dane **with** blue or blue/grayish markings or patches, the latter being the result of cross breeding between different varieties, which are called "porcelain", such as other coat patterns resulting from color mix breeding (from different varieties) that have a **white base color with fawn, brindle or blue** patches and markings, also known as porcelain Danes;
- Most harlequins have some merle patches somewhere throughout their bodies.

**Note of the Author:** We do not condone or support mix color breedings (between different varieties), due to the reason that there are many bad breeders all over the world that cull (euthanizing) **healthy** puppies whenever they don't have the desired patterns and colors. Just as Mad-ellia, they want to be like God, they want to decide over life and death.