

# The Puppy Diaries

## Meet Dinky the Great Dane and follow him on his adventures



By Viki Barnett  
FACILITIES COORDINATOR, BLACKS VETS

Hi, I'm Viki and I am the Facilities Coordinator here at Blacks Vets in Dudley. I look after the day-to-day running of all five of our Black Country practices making sure that our buildings are beautifully maintained and our IT and phone systems all work effectively. I'm also a real animal lover and proud owner to my horse Gem and my Great Dane pup, Dinky.

Regular readers will know that Spring and Summer are really popular times to introduce a new four-legged member to the family, which is why I'm excited to bring you the Puppy Diaries; my story of bringing Dinky home and welcoming him into our world. Here's our story so far....

### In the beginning...

I first fell in love with the Great Dane breed when I rescued my beautiful dog, Tyra. She was just 18 months old when she came to live with us and was initially very scared of other dogs. But with lots of love, patience and encouragement, she blossomed into a happy, friendly dog that everyone adored. A beautiful blue grey in colour, she was both the love of my life and partner in crime, right up until she passed away in 2018. Though I felt completely heartbroken I knew that at some stage I wanted big blue paws around me again and after a great deal of discussion, my family and I made the decision to find a breeder and bring a puppy into our lives. Knowing that no-one could ever compete with Tyra, we decided to go for a male pup so that our

experience would be completely different. After a lot of research and visiting many Great Dane shows, we found our breeder and the waiting began. Once a pregnancy had been confirmed, we waited with bated breath to see if there was a male amongst the litter and luckily, there were three!

**6 WEEKS OLD**



I met Dinky at six weeks old and knew instantly he was the one for me by the way he bounded up to me for a cuddle.

Having a puppy is a big commitment whatever size and shape your dog will be, but knowing that our dog would be on a scale quite unlike any other, certainly made us think long and hard about the practicalities. Once fully grown, giant breeds such as Great Danes eat more and need regular exercise. They also need larger quantities of preventative treatments to keep them happy and healthy.



Luckily, Blacks offers a brilliant plan that helps manage these costs so I know I'm doing the best for my pet and my pocket! As a member of Protect My Pet Club™ I'll save an incredible **£265\* per year** on essential boosters, Lungworm, flea and parasite treatments as well as benefitting from discounts on vet recommended nutrition ranges and some dental services. The club will also send me handy text reminders when it's time to apply treatment or I have an appointment coming up, meaning it will be easy for Dinky to stay on track with his proactive healthcare once he's a big boy!

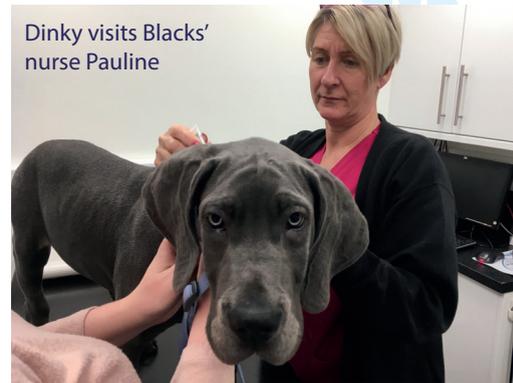
But whilst he's little, there's still plenty that we need to keep on top of. We were able to collect Dinky from the breeder at 10 weeks old. It was a long journey and we prepared well for all eventualities. We asked the breeder not to feed him breakfast to reduce the risk of car sickness which is very common in young dogs. We also armed ourselves with puppy pads and kitchen roll in case of any accidents and took soft blankets and toys so that we could amuse and comfort him. We invested in a special back seat cover with a seatbelt harness to keep him safe and secure when travelling and this can adapt in size as he grows; something that will happen very quickly with a Great Dane!

When we arrived home, I took him straight to the area of the garden we wanted to toilet train him in so that he immediately began to build an association with what he needed to do. Lots of praise followed and our first successful toilet trip was completed! Once inside, we kept the atmosphere calm and low key so that Dinky could get used to his new space. We decided not to give him the run of the house for the first few days as this could prove overwhelming so we fed him, made him comfortable with the blankets and toys from the trip home and allowed him to settle. By the end of the first day he was tired, happy and seemed thoroughly at ease with his new family.

\*Saving based on an insured dog weighing over 40kg. Savings vary based on the weight of your pet.



Our first trip to Blacks was to sort Dinky's essential primary vaccination and preventative healthcare treatments. Our popular **Pet Starter Pack** is a brilliant way to make sure you have provided your pet with a really good start in life. It includes a full primary vaccination course, flea, mite and worming treatments, a microchip, a vet recommended nutrition trial pack and a full veterinary health check. **The offer is available for puppies, kittens and rabbits and also includes a follow-up nurse led health check at 6 months. Best of all it costs just £49, making it a real bargain!**



Dinky visits Blacks' nurse Pauline

At Blacks, we know that we have a golden opportunity to build a positive association with going to the vets when young pets visit us for the first time, so you can expect fuss, treats and lots of reassurance. Once his primary vaccination course is complete, Dinky can start venturing out into the wide world to meet other dogs and enjoy new and exciting experiences. Catch up with us in the next issue and follow Dinky as he goes to a Puppy Party, a weigh-in and training classes.

For details of **Protect My Pet Club** or **Pet Starter Pack** please visit [www.blacksvets.co.uk](http://www.blacksvets.co.uk) or call any of our five **Black Country** branches in **Dudley, Lye, Sedgley, Quinton and Oldbury.**

[www.blacksvets.co.uk](http://www.blacksvets.co.uk)