Great Dane Drawing: Head Proportions, Ear Shape, and Stance

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

With 1 unit = 1.5 cm, draw a head rectangle 6 units wide and 8 units tall. Mark the eye line at the midpoint and the nose at the center of the third band. Report the rectangle’s width and height in centimeters and the eye-line distance from the top in units.

Answer: Width = 9 cm, height = 12 cm, eye line = 4 units from the top.

Reason: Multiply each unit dimension by 1.5 cm: 6 × 1.5 = 9 cm and 8 × 1.5 = 12 cm. The height has four 2-unit bands, so the midpoint is 4 units from the top.

Check: Verify that 4 units from top plus 4 units to chin equals 8 units, and that 9 cm divided by 12 cm reduces to 3:4.

Task 2

Choose the upright-ear convention. Draw ear bases 2 units wide at the top corners, 1 unit below the top edge, and make each ear 4 units long. State the ear length in units and describe how you would check symmetry without a ruler.

Answer: Ear length = 4 units. Check symmetry by folding a paper strip to the ear length and comparing each tip’s distance to the centerline; both should match within half a unit.

Reason: The upright convention sets ear length at 4 units, longer than the folded example’s 3 units. Symmetry is a comparison of equal distances, so a marked strip works as a simple gauge.

Check: Measure both ear tips to the centerline with the same strip and confirm the two distances differ by no more than half a unit.

Task 3

Using the stance example, place front paws 3 units apart and rear paws 4 units apart, with the front pair 10 units ahead of the rear pair. If 1 unit = 2 cm, what is the distance between the front and rear paw pairs in centimeters?

Answer: 20 cm.

Reason: The front pair is 10 units ahead of the rear pair. Multiply 10 units by 2 cm per unit to get 20 cm.

Check: Confirm that 10 × 2 = 20 and that the rear spacing (4 units = 8 cm) is wider than the front spacing (3 units = 6 cm).

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a light body box 14 units long and 12 units tall with a level topline. Mark the chest drop at 6 units below the topline. If the shoulder height is 12 units and 1 unit = 1.5 cm, what is the shoulder height in centimeters, and how far below the topline is the chest in centimeters?

Answer: Shoulder height = 18 cm; chest drop = 9 cm below the topline.

Reason: Multiply 12 units by 1.5 cm to get 18 cm for shoulder height. Multiply 6 units by 1.5 cm to get 9 cm for the chest drop.

Check: Verify that 12 × 1.5 = 18 and 6 × 1.5 = 9, and that the chest drop is half the shoulder height (6 of 12 units).

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Head rectangle uses a consistent unit scale and a width-to-height ratio close to the 3:4 example, with the eye line near the midpoint.
- [ ] Ear style is explicitly labeled as folded, upright, or partially folded, and both ears are symmetrical in length and angle within half a unit.
- [ ] Stance shows four paw points on a ground line, a level topline, and a nose-to-ground vertical that falls between the front paws.
- [ ] All labels use a consistent x-height convention, and the unit scale is recorded on the plate.
- [ ] Final contours are clean, construction lines are mostly erased, and measurements are re-checked against the chosen unit.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?