

SIMKO DANES "HAPPY TAIL" GUIDE

Not so Happy-Happy Tail

Great Dane-Great Tail. Great Danes are prone to a condition called happy tail. Happy tail occurs when your giant dog has giant happiness and wags their tail so hard that they injure it. Sometimes the injury is superficial like breaking the skin open on the end of the tail. These injuries tend to bleed a lot! All in all they are generally not too serious. I have some tips and fixes below that I have found to work.

Sometimes, "happy tail" can be more serious, resulting in broken bones in the tail. In these instances, you will want to seek vet attention immediately! If the injury is serious enough, your vet may suggest amputation.



What to do?

If your dog has “happy tail”, and has not broken any bones, there are a few things you can do at home to assist in healing and care. I have found that treating “happy tail” with a topical antibiotic like Neosporin and keeping the injury open to air works best.

You can use a pool noodle or plumber’s pipe insulation to keep the area from re-injury while it is healing. Pipe insulation is hollow and generally has a slit that you can slide over the tail. Make sure that the insulator goes out over the end of the tail to protect it. This will still allow air to the tip for healing. You can use vet wrap to secure the pipe insulator to the tail so that it doesn’t go flying when happiness strikes again!

**Do not wrap the tail too tightly, as more damage can occur, such as, blood loss, and necrosis (death of tissue).



You can also make a “sling” as pictured below:



Examples of Danes with docked tails:

Docking of a Dane's tail is only to be done for medically necessary purposes, NOT AESTHETICS.

