

## **"Warlocks" Myths**

What is a "Warlock" Doberman (also known as "Kings" or "Goliaths")?

Back in the 1970's, Dobermans experienced a sudden surge in popularity. Many inexperienced and naive people were lining up to acquire a Dobe and, they oftentimes wanted a stereotypical "big, bad guard dog". Unfortunately for the breed, money-hungry and unscrupulous breeders responded to the demand by breeding for grossly oversized dogs. Sometimes, it is believed, Dobs were bred to Great Danes and other larger breeds, breeding reports and registration applications were falsified and the Doberman breed suffered long-term damage.

To this day, people who are uneducated about Dobermans still proudly proclaim their ownership of a "Warlock". Technically, there is no such thing. The term "Warlock" (or "King" or "Goliath") simply refers to a poorly-bred, oversized dog that does not conform to the breed standard and is just as undesirable as a Dobe who is significantly smaller than the breed standard calls for.

The Doberman breed standard regarding size (as maintained by the Doberman Pinscher Club of America and the American Kennel Club) is:

**General Appearance:** The appearance is that of a dog of medium size, with a body that is square. Compactly built, muscular and powerful, for great endurance and speed. Elegant in appearance, of proud carriage, reflecting great nobility and temperament. Energetic, watchful, determined, alert, fearless, loyal and obedient.

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** Height at the withers: "Dogs 26 to 28 inches, ideal about 27 1/2 inches; Bitches 24 to 26 inches, ideal about 25 1/2 inches. The height, measured vertically from the ground to the highest point of the withers, equaling the length measured horizontally from the fore chest to the rear projection of the upper thigh. Length of head necks and legs in proportion to length and depth of body. "

Oversized Dobermans lose the agility, speed and ability to turn and maneuver quickly, all traits and qualities necessary for a working breed. The bigger the dog, the less agile, quick and maneuverable he is. He is also likely to be more prone to joint and bone problems, as well as other health problems associated with very large breed dogs. Unfortunately, to this day, unethical breeders continue to prey on the unknowledgeable public by charging outrageous prices for dogs with this undesirable size fault. If you already own a "Warlock", please love him for the rest of his life. He deserves it. But next time, if you want a giant-sized dog, buy a Great Dane. Where Dobermans are concerned, bigger is definitely NOT better. (We're waiting anxiously to see how popular a 24-inch, 40-pound Chihuahua might be.