Buying a Bulldog (English) Puppy

What to expect from a Breeder who puts
Health, Welfare and Temperament First

'Stop and think before buying a flat-faced dog'

Brachycephalic (short faced) breeds frequently have serious health problems due to their body and head shape: eye problems due to large protruding eyes; skin folds causing inflammation, infection and soreness, narrow nostrils causing breathing difficulties; excess flesh in throat & narrow windpipe causing breathing & swallowing problems; spinal deformities causing pain; difficulties coping in hot weather & exercise intolerance.

Dogs with bigger nostrils, longer noses, less wrinkled skin, thinner necks and longer tails are less likely to have these health problems

☑ Essential Documents

- Signed AWF Puppy Contract
- KC Registration Certificate (if applicable)
- Microchip Registration Certificate
- Temporary Pet Health Insurance
- Vaccination Certificate
- Copies of Health Certificates

A good breeder will

- have socialised and habituated the puppy
- provide a supply of food
- provide a blanket smelling of Mum
- follow the Code of Practice for Dog Breeding

☑ Health Certificates (both parents)

Official Health Schemes

- **KC/University of Cambridge Respiratory Function Grading Scheme (RFGS)**
- **BVA/KC screening for eye disease; full ophthalmological testing before breeding (includes checks for multiple inherited and conformation-related diseases)**

DNA tests relevant to breed

- **Hyperuricosuria (HUU)**

Other relevant health tests

- **Putnam scoring for patella luxation**
- **Heart testing**
- **Spine X-rays and evaluation**

Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP)
www.bulldogbreedcouncil.co.uk
www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html

DBRG

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Brief explanations and other diseases that may be more common in the breed - If in doubt then consult your vet for guidance

Official Health Schemes

RFGS - assesses nostril size, respiratory noise and function

DNA tests relevant to breed

Hyperuricosuria (HUU) - painful bladder stones

Other common diseases

'**Cherry eye**' - protruding gland of third eyelid in young dogs, may require surgery
Corneal ulceration - painful and slow-healing ulcers on surface of eyes
Dystocia - problems giving birth
Luxating patella - abnormal kneecap causing pain and lameness
Skin inflammation and allergies
Spinal deformities including hemivertebrae and screw tail (abnormal tail bones) - can be associated with pain and loss of function

Puppies that are mostly or entirely white have a higher risk of deafness

The Bulldog Breed Council runs a Health Scheme at bronze, silver and gold levels.

All levels require a basic health check.

Silver level upwards require RFSG and various other tests

www.dbrg.uk/breed-health-information.html