



Buying a French Bulldog 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 wider nostrils, longer noses, 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 diseases)

DNA tests relevant to breed

- Hereditary cataract

Other relevant health tests

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

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





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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

Hereditary cataract - eye disease leading to blindness

Other common diseases

BOAS - brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome - serious breathing difficulties

Corneal ulceration - painful and slow-healing ulcers on surface of eyes

Dystocia - problems giving birth

Luxating patella - abnormal kneecap causing pain & 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 French Bulldog club of England runs a Health Scheme at bronze, silver and gold levels. All levels require a basic health check and RFGS. Gold level recommends eye screening & requires all other tests listed here