



# Buying a Pug 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 cause breathing & swallowing problems; spinal deformities causing pain; difficulties coping in hot weather & exercise intolerance.*

## ✓ 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)

### DNA tests relevant to breed

- PDE - Pug dog encephalitis

### Other tests

- Putnam scoring for patella luxation
- Spine X-rays and evaluation, particularly for hemivertebrae

**Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP)**  
[www.pughealth.org.uk](http://www.pughealth.org.uk)  
[www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html](http://www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html)



# Buying a Pug Puppy

Brief explanation and other diseases that may be more common in the breed

If in doubt ask your vet for guidance



## Official Health Schemes

**RFGS** - assesses nostril size, respiratory noise and function

## DNA tests relevant to breed

**Pug dog encephalitis** - progressive, fatal inflammatory disease of central nervous system

**Other Diseases** - no current health scheme or DNA test available

**Cancer** - particularly mast cell tumours

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

**Dermatitis** - particularly inflammation in crevices of wrinkled skin and **demodicosis** (skin mites)

**Dystocia** - problems giving birth

**Entropion** - inward turning eyelids, leading to pain

**Hemivertebrae and other spinal deformities** - can cause pressure on spinal cord and progressive disability

**Luxating patella** - slipping of the kneecap, can cause pain and lameness

**Obesity** - excess body fat ( overweight)

There are two health schemes for Pugs, the Breed Club 5 Star Health Scheme and the National Pug Health Scheme. Both are awarded to dogs that pass the health tests listed on the previous page and a visual health assessment by a vet

[www.dbrg.uk/breed-health-information.html](http://www.dbrg.uk/breed-health-information.html)

