



Buying a Maltese Puppy

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

Avoid extremely small dogs, or those with very domed heads, short muzzles or protruding eyes, as these exaggerated features are frequently associated with serious 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

- BVA/KC eye scheme - DBRG recommends that all dogs should be visually examined for inherited eye disease before breeding
- BVA/KC testing scheme for CM/SM – Chiari-like malformation/syringomyelia

DNA Tests available

- Glycogen storage disease

Other tests

- Putnam scoring for patella luxation





Buying a Maltese Puppy

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

The BVA/KC eye testing scheme is available for all breeds, and checks for many inherited abnormalities that can cause progressive blindness or pain

CM/SM - Chiari-like malformation/syringomyelia - mismatch in size between brain (too big) and skull (too short) causing pain and neurological signs/pockets of fluid in the spinal cord

DNA tests relevant to breed

Glycogen storage disease – progressive weakness and lethargy leading to death

Other problems

Dental problems – possible issues include retention of milk teeth, overcrowding of teeth due to the small jaw, and tooth infections

Fragile bones - due to extremely small size

Heart abnormalities (congenital defects in heart structure)

Hydrocephalus - fluid in the brain due to domed skull, causing pain, headaches, nausea

MVD – mitral valve disease – leaking heart valve in older dogs

Patella luxation - abnormal kneecap causing pain & lameness

Portosystemic (liver) shunt – congenital defect in liver blood supply causing digestive and neurological problems

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

