



Buying a Shar Pei Puppy

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

Shar Pei are physically distinctive because of their wrinkled skin, but excessive skin and exaggerated wrinkling can cause discomfort and serious health problems. Do not buy a puppy whose parents have such heavy wrinkling that the eyes are not clearly visible. Shar Pei puppies sometimes have temporary stitches put in their eyelids to reduce pain caused by inturned eyelids rubbing the eyes ('eye tacking'). Puppies with less extreme wrinkling are less likely to need this procedure.

✓ 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 screening for eye disease; full ophthalmological testing before breeding (includes checks for multiple inherited and conformation-related diseases). The BVA recommends annual examination for Shar Pei aged 3-9 years to check for POAG (primary open angle glaucoma).

DNA tests relevant to breed

- POAG/PLL – primary angle glaucoma/primary lens luxation
- SPAID – Shar Pei Autoinflammatory disease (see overleaf)



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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

The BVA/KC eye testing scheme checks for many inherited abnormalities that can cause progressive blindness or pain

DNA tests relevant to breed

POAG/PLL – primary angle glaucoma/primary lens luxation – increased pressure inside eyeball and displacement of the lens, causing pain and blindness

SPAID – Shar Pei Autoinflammatory disease – autoimmune disease that causes recurrent fever and inflammation. More common in dogs with very heavy wrinkling.

Other common diseases (many linked to SPAID or heavy wrinkling)

Allergies

Amyloidosis – buildup of abnormal tissue in kidneys or liver, linked to SPAID

Arthritis – linked to SPAID

Cancers (various)

'Cherry eye' – protruding gland of third eyelid in young dogs, may require surgery

Dermatitis, especially in deep skin folds

Entropion – inturned eyelids that cause discomfort, linked to heavy wrinkling

FSF – familial Shar Pei fever (part of SPAID)

Hypocobalaminemia – low levels of vitamin B12, causes lethargy

Luxating patella - abnormal kneecap causing pain & lameness

Otitis (ear infection, linked to SPAID)

Swollen hocks and face (part of SPAID)

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

