

# Buying a Boston Terrier 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.*

### ✓ 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 diseases, particularly hereditary cataract)

#### DNA Tests relevant to breed

- Hereditary cataract

#### Other tests

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

[www.thebostonterrierclub.co.uk](http://www.thebostonterrierclub.co.uk)  
[www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html](http://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

**BVA/KC screening for eye disease** includes checks for multiple inherited diseases, particularly hereditary cataract

## DNA Tests relevant to breed

**Hereditary cataract** - *eye disease potentially leading to blindness*

## Other common diseases

**BOAS - brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome** - *breathing difficulties*

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

**Cushing's disease (hypoadrenocorticism)** - *hormonal problem causing thirst and lethargy*

**Dystocia** - *problems giving birth*

**Luxating patella** - *abnormal kneecap causing pain & lameness*

**Spinal deformities** including *hemivertebrae and screw tail (abnormal tail bones)* – can be associated with pain and loss of function