

THE BRITISH BULLDOG



March 2008 Bullmighty Kennels

Why buy a pedigree purebred dog?

A Pedigree Pure Bred Dog has parentage that is known AND:

- Both parents are of the same breed.
- The breed is recognised by the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) or one of its Affiliates.
- The dog's breeders are registered to breed puppies.
- The parents of any puppies are registered with the ANKC or one of its affiliates to be bred from and it has a pedigree showing at least 3 generations of parentage.

A Designer Dog is many things including:

- A puppy resulting from the deliberate mating of two unrelated breed types.
- A puppy resulting from an accidental mating of two different breed types (note these dogs used to be called mongrels or cross breeds).
- A puppy resulting from the mating of two cross bred (or designer bred) dogs.
- A puppy resulting from the mating of one pedigree or pure bred parent and one cross bred or designer bred dog.
- A designer dog has not been bred by a registered breeder.
- A designer dog is not pure bred or pedigree.

Pedigree Pure Bred VS Designer Dog

The Cost Factor

Many people believe that pedigree dogs will be out of their price range. You may be pleasantly surprised. Some pedigree breeds cost more than designer or cross bred dogs, some cost considerably less. The amount of money and work that goes into properly raising a litter of puppies does not vary. Most of the expenses that pedigree owners face, breeders of designer breeds don't. These include:

- Stud Fees
- Importing new blood lines (spending \$8,000 - \$10,000 to import a dog from the UK would be an average, some dogs cost a lot more).
- Importing frozen semen (average cost of \$5,000 from USA).

- Raising promising stock for showing and future breeding (note: some of these dogs will not measure up and will be placed into homes, it has cost time and money to get to that decision).
- Air freight to access stud dogs. To send a 13kg dog interstate and back can cost approx \$400 each way.
- Vet checks and assessments for inheritable diseases such as hip dysplasia, eye disorders, blood disease, heart defects etc. These tests are sometimes performed on parents before breeding or on the puppies.

Hybrid Vigour

A lot of the hype with Designer dogs is due to the mistaken belief that they are healthier than the pedigree pure bred dog due to so-called 'Hybrid Vigour'.

Hybrid vigour can only occur when both parents are clear from genetic problems. Their breed does not matter. It is the genetic make up of the parents that counts! The only way to be sure is to ask the breeder if they have tested for known problems.

It is easy for you to research these problems on the internet these days, not all information is accurate with some one-off cases often being attributed to an entire breed but it gives you a guide.

When looking at Designer Dogs (cross breeds), you need to consider two breeds, not one. First look at the problems that are common to those two breeds. For example, does hip dysplasia show up for both breeds? If it does, then that lovely designer breed could be a real problem. Check if the parents were tested and ask what the results were. Second, look at the unique problems for each breed and then do more research. Some genetic problems only need one parent to have the disorder, just the same as in humans. Once again ask if any testing has been done.

Today Tonight (an Australian television current affairs show) ran a story in 2003 regarding the misconception that the public has about the health of designer dogs. After the story aired, the station was inundated with other owners of designer dogs who also advised of similar health problems with their dogs so they ran a follow-up story the next night.

As a dog is a living creature, there is no guarantee, with either a pure bred or a designer dog, that the dog will be disease free for its entire life. Buying a pedigree pure bred dog from a registered breeder who tests for hereditary diseases, is however your best chance of getting a healthy dog. Breeders of designer dogs will generally just take 2 dogs and breed them without any thought of testing first.

The Known VS the Unknown

The pedigree dog is infinitely more predictable as to size, characteristics, temperament and coat than its crossbred relatives.

The designer dog (or crossbred dog) is a gamble as to how it will turn out. As many of the designer dogs are first crosses, no-one can really say what its coat will be like, how big it will grow etc. Just ask many professional groomers of the coat problems with designer dogs.

Breeders of Designer Dogs may tell you by crossing 'x' and 'y' breed that they are taking the best from both breeds. They however have no control over which attributes from the parents will be used. The puppy could quite possibly get the worst attributes of both parents.

Wally Conron (the man who first bred the Labradoodle for the Royal Guide Dogs Association in Victoria, Australia) once said

"I have opened a Pandora's Box. I'd be the first to come out and admit that. It's a pity, really...we had gone to great lengths to ensure the poodles we used did not have any problems," notes Conron, who feels the same cannot be said of many of today's breeders.

"I think it is a recipe for disaster because they are breeding with dogs that have hereditary problems".

"Another concern is that people are being misled into believing that labradoodles as well as other poodle crosses all have allergy friendly coats and do not shed. This is not the case and their coats and saliva have to be specially tested," Conron says. "At the Royal Guide Dogs, for instance, we had one litter where there were ten puppies and out of those only two were non allergenic."

Final word

Adding a dog to the family is a big step (a 10 to 15 year commitment) and the final choice of a pedigree dog or a designer dog is up to you.

Most people undertake a lot of research into the type of dog they want with consideration being given to looks, size, coat, temperament, health, longevity etc. The safest way of getting what you want or need is to consider a Pedigree Pure Bred dog. There is over 180 pedigree breeds recognized by the Australian National Kennel Association so there is one to suit everybody's situation.

If you still want a cross breed after reading this (and we have no problem with that), then please do the right thing and visit your nearest dog shelter and help save one of the thousands of homeless dogs that are put down each year. They will give you the same amount of love and enjoyment and cost a fraction of the money that you would pay for a designer dog from a pet shop. Buying from a pet shop could also inadvertently support puppy farms and possible serious neglect of dogs.

With thanks to Dogsonline.com.au who provided the content for the above article.

So You think you want a Bulldog



Buyers are intrigued by the Bulldog's many charms, when they don't buy one just as a status symbol, only later to discover the special care and attention that may come with their wrinkles and flat faces, persistent chewing habits or irregular energy levels. Be honest with yourself and your future companion and ask yourself what you're able and willing to do with your dog, what your lifestyle is, what your experience is with other dogs, etc. Consider the following points to find out if a bulldog is right for you:

WHY do you want to get a dog ?

Are you seeking a loyal companion, a guard dog or do you want to start exploring the many activities you can do as a dog-person, things like dog showing, agility, obedience, skimming flea markets for collectibles, etc.?

Bulldogs are real companion dogs. They are happiest when they live indoors with their owner and share every part of his daily activities. If you want a dog to keep you and your family company and if you have the room and the time to fit him within your home and schedule, a bulldog is an excellent choice. As to their guard dog abilities, Bulldogs are certainly not the first breed that comes to one's mind when one wants a true guard dog. Nevertheless, many bulldogs do show great courage in protecting their owners and family and their appearance alone often is enough of a deterrent to scare off any would-be intruders. This notwithstanding, if you are looking for a good guard dog or a good watch dog, you may want to consider another breed.

Having a bulldog may soon grow into a real hobby, whether through the research of all possible information about the breed and collectibles related to your favourite breed or by entering the world of show dogs. If you don't like people who seem obsessed by their dog, this may be not the right breed for you, because chances are high that you will become just like them! Join the club!

WHAT characteristics do you expect in your dog?

Think of which words first come to your mind. Is it being independent, energetic, active, obedient, affectionate, protective, quiet, funny or sociable? And see from the different articles about the characteristics, needs and breed description if the bulldog's character and temperament fits these words. If you'd like an active dog, for example, to go for long walks or motivate you to go jogging or cycling, a bulldog is probably not the right breed. Bulldogs do need some exercise at regular intervals but they are very intolerant to excessive exercise. If you are going running, just leave your bulldog at home! Otherwise, if you go for a walk in the park or on the beach your bulldog will love to go for a short walk with you.

Also, if you want an obedient dog who will jump at your every command, don't get a bulldog! Bulldogs have the tendency to examine every command you give them before deciding whether this is a worth while thing to do or not. It is a common misconception that bulldogs are not intelligent or can not be trained. On the contrary, they are usually very intelligent and have lots of common sense. If they have a smaller child or puppy under their custody they will also amaze you by their sense of responsibility. However, it is true that they do not 'blindly' obey but seem to evaluate your suggestions against their own value system. This is one of the typical bulldog characteristics that bulldog fanciers love about this breed, but it is also the kind of behaviour that dominant personalities may not accept. If this is your case, don't get a bulldog!



WHERE will the dog be during the day?

Bulldogs should live inside and should never be left alone outside for long periods of time. If you live in an apartment, your dog will need to have regular exercise. Bulldogs can usually not restrain themselves for very long periods of time (10 to 12 hours is REALLY too much!) This can lead to destructive behaviours as well as loss of house training as the end result. Leaving your bulldog outside in a fenced yard is risky, not only for your bulldog's health (humidity, cold, heat, sun) but also because bulldogs are a sought after breed and may be the object of theft.

HOW much time can you spend with your dog each day?

Some dog breeds thrive better alone than others. Bulldogs are not really a demanding breed or time-consuming breed, but when left alone for longer periods of time they get bored and may then become very destructive as a result. They really need the physical and mental stimulation you can give them while spending time with them. They do not typically beg for your attention, like some other dog breeds, they just want to be around you and will tranquilly sleep at your feet even when your are busy doing something else. If you have a very busy schedule and only return home to sleep, don't buy a bulldog (and may be reconsider your decision to get a dog all together!)

WHAT is your tolerance for dirt and noise?

Bulldogs do not bark much as compared to some other small and medium-sized breeds, so they are considered a relatively silent breed, certainly not a yappy breed. In fact, they only bark when it is really necessary, when someone knocks on the door or whenever they are confronted with someone or something they are unfamiliar with. It is not unusual for them to bark when something is not at its usual place in the house: they love order and routine.

Like most short-nosed dog breeds, bulldogs snore when they sleep. If you live in a studio apartment and you are very sensitive to noise during your sleep this may constitute a problem.

IF you are fanatical about cleanliness, you should know that bulldog's are a flat-faced breed, which means that when they drink water or eat they must lay their lips in their bowls. This will inevitably lead to dribble trails and food trails across the floor.



Like all short coated breeds of dogs, bulldogs shed as well. Regular grooming and brushing can help reduce the amount of hair winding up on your clothes, couch and carpets, though.

Bulldog History

The Bulldog is one of the few breeds of dogs that are symbolic of a nation. It may perhaps be claimed, with some justice, that he represents more truly and aptly the English spirit, than does the traditional figure of John Bull.



Authorities differ so completely about the origin of the Bulldog that the name itself is in dispute. While some feel the breed may derive its name from the bull-like shape of the head, others maintain it came from the ancient English custom of using Bulldogs in the sport of bull baiting.

There appears to be little doubt, however, than an early canine species resembling the Bulldog came into existence in the 1500's.

Because of their courage and apparent capacity to endure pain, Bulldogs were shamelessly exploited for many years in the sports of bull baiting, bear baiting and dog fighting. Bull baiting was made illegal in England in 1835 and eventually dog fighting of all kinds was prohibited, resulting in a steady decline in the breed.

Happily enough, the beginning of the dog-show era in 1859 saved this fine old breed. Because of the interest and untiring efforts of a small group of sincere experienced fanciers, this small number of bulldogs served as a nucleus for the dogs of today. Fortunately, this group of fanciers was determined to preserve the fine characteristics and just as determined to eliminate all fighting and viciousness.

The first written Bulldog standard was drafted in 1864. A Standard of Perfection was formulated and published in England in 1875.

General Appearance This bulldog from Britain has a wide and compact body that is medium-sized, with wide shoulders and sturdy limbs. It has an overly large head, which is considered the breed's most recognizable feature. It has a short muzzle, with a broad nose and large nostrils. The jaws are big, with its lower jaw protruding considerably. The British Bulldog's short glossy coat varies in the following colours: brindle, red, fallow or fawn, or in any combination of these hues. Its gait is like a waddle with a shuffling motion. With the wide shoulders and broad head, whelping puppies are sometimes difficult, with caesarean sections not too uncommon. The British Bulldog normally stands from 12 to 16 inches high, with males weighing around 25 kilo's and females around 23 kilos .

Temperament

The British Bulldog is one of the gentlest dog breeds despite its seemingly intimidating appearance. Even if there are few willing animals to risk a fight with a canine known for baiting bulls, the British Bulldog is always ready and brave to face any intruder. However, in some of today's breed, the aggression has been removed from the breed, and it is calm, kind, dignified and resolute. It is remarkable for its guarding abilities, but is very gentle and affectionate towards children. The breed requires much attention and an owner ready to display firm leadership. Young British Bulldogs are very energetic but tend to slow down when they reach maturity. The breed tends to snore loudly, slobber, and drool.



Dietary Information

(This information is NOT meant to replace the specific diet instructions provided by YOUR puppies breeder it is only a guide.)

Pups are fed 3 small meals a day up until 12 weeks of age where they are then fed 2 times daily until 12 months.

Pups are fed on a commercial premium dry food such as Eagle Pack large breed puppy, Pro plan large breed puppy, Science diet large breed puppy or Eukanuba large breed puppy.

They have mixed through the dry food at the recommended feeding dose according to the manufacturer (on the back of the bag) chicken NECK mince for 1 meal and beef or lamb mince for the others.

Please make sure all meat has been frozen and then thawed prior to use, you can give a couple of tablespoons per day of natural yogurt on top of 1 of the meals.

You can give a multi vitamin tablet per day use there are a number of dog multi vitamins available ask your veterinarian which one they recommend.

Pups are not covered fully by the 6 weeks vaccination as it is a temporary one. Two weeks after the second vaccinations given at 12 weeks (approx) they are fully covered.....this mean puppy stays in your yard until this time!!

Speak to your vet about heart worm and intestinal worming at this vet check.

We use Alloveen for sensitive skin shampoo for washing our dogs in. It is available from your vet.

NEVER feed any bones cooked or otherwise with the exception of a raw beef marrow bone split in half. Do not leave these bones with dog unattended they are a choking hazard and no matter how good natured you think your dog is he may get possessive over the bone.

Never give calcium or other mineral supplements with out a confirming blood test that proves they are deficient in the mineral.

Table scraps (meat veg) are okay as treats, not meal replacements. Some foods are a definite no as dogs can get very sick or are even allergic to some human foods, e.g. chocolate.



Training Advice

Bulldogs are a dominant breed so you need to understand that what is cute at 8 weeks can be dangerous at 2 years. Here are some common sense rules for raising your puppy.

Children and dogs

A few basic things for parents to instill in their children are:

Children should be taught not to run up to strange dogs but to ask the owners permission to pat the dog.

They should be taught not to hug strange dogs, or to reach over the dog's head to pat it on top of the head.

If a dog is uneasy or tired of playing with children and tries to get away from them, they must not follow it.

Dog owners should observe the following guidelines with visiting children:

Dogs which are unused to children may be uneasy with their movements and sounds. If a dog is uneasy with visiting children he is better secured in a favorite area where the children cannot go to him.

Don't try and force your dog to allow a child to pat or play with it.

The best relationship between dogs and children, whether active or quiet children, is between a good natured, kindly child and a good natured, good mannered and trusting dog who will listen to their woes, watch television with them, play ball, love them unconditionally and remain in their memories for the rest of their lives.



All humans must be understood by the dog to be higher in the pack than they are this is achieved in various ways.....

Do take your pup to obedience, make him learn what sit and stay mean and get him to do this with all members of the household.

Never let him up on the furniture no dog should ever have their eye level higher than yours.

Do not let the pup rush in front of people to get in the door first make him sit and wait.

Never hand feed the pup unless he has been made to sit first and never feed him from where you are eating always after you have finished.

NO jumping up on any person or child.

Dogs like humans do require their own space. It is essential that they have this provided in the way of a pen and kennel or similar area (definitely not a chain!!!) that they can be put for their own safety. An area that is off limits to anyone except those in charge of the dog. This way kids can run screaming SAFELY around your back yard.

Do not leave them unattended in a car even on a 20 degree day with the windows slightly down; they will over heat.

Get a pet crate or puppy pen (cheap as chips - the warehouse, etc., sell them) big enough so they have their own secure area, that they can be left with a bowl of water and news paper / bedding.

Most accidents happen when you encroach on a dog's space suddenly, or the dog thinks someone is a threat to its own people. Situations like this are easily avoided with a secured area for the dog to be.

Be aware that large breed pups grow awkwardly and are at risk of joint damage from over exercise and impacts like jumping up and down from a car or stairs.

Please keep in mind that in these days of anti dog sentiment that you need to do your part to make sure your dog is a good canine citizen. It is not wise to have dogs off lead dogs in public areas; they can be a dog aggressive breed and most problems start when other smaller dogs show aggression. You need to always be aware that the larger dog will get the blame so keep them on a lead and under control at all times.

Diseases Affecting The Bulldog Breed

A number of conditions or defects may be passed genetically from one generation to the next. Genetic inheritance is quite complicated; a dog can carry a defect without it ever becoming physically apparent and nevertheless pass the defect to his offspring in whom it may manifest itself. All breeds of dogs have conditions that are common to their particular breed, and the Bulldog is no different. Many conditions are in direct relation to the characteristics considered desirable in the breed. Following is a list of the existing congenital and hereditary diseases found in Bulldogs and a description of other common conditions that are thought to be genetic in origin because they appear with higher-than-expected frequency in certain breeds.

Skin Conditions

Acne: Same thing as in humans; affects the muzzle and lip areas.

Fold Dermatitis: An infection of the facial skin folds caused by unusual or excessive skin folds, especially in dogs with loose skin. Bulldogs are especially susceptible in the face and tail areas.

Folliculitis: An infection of the hair follicles.

Furunculosis: An infection of the deeper structures of the skin.

Muzzle pyoderma: An infectious skin disease on the muzzle of an animal.

Demodectic Mange: An immune mediated disorder (mange) caused by microscopic/Demodex canis/mites living within the skin layers and producing an immunodeficiency syndrome. Some dogs appear to be genetically predisposed to it while others do not contract it even though exposed to infected animals.

Tail Fold Dermatitis: A skin infection caused by abnormal tissue folds around the tail.

Eyes

Entropion: An abnormal rolling in of the eyelid see corneal ulcers. Stitch skin so lashes don't rub.

Cherry Eye: A condition where the third eyelid is protruding. It may be stitched in place or removed as a last resort.

Cataract: A change in structure of the lens of the eye leading to cloudiness and usually to blindness.

Dry Eye: Can lead to corneal ulcers and cherry eyes if untreated.

Persistent Pupillary Membrane: A developmental abnormality where the membrane forming the iris does not form properly.

Mouth and Teeth

Abnormal Dentition: Abnormal placement, number, and development of teeth.

Bone Structure

Hemivertebra: A particular kind of malformation of the vertebra where only half of the structure is formed.

Hip Dysplasia: A developmental malformation or subluxation of the hip joints. Read more about Hip dysplasia in dogs.

Spina Bifida: Developmental abnormality where some vertebra are malformed thereby exposing the spinal cord.

Respiratory system

Brachycephalic Upper-Airway Syndrome: A grouping of conditions leading to decreased tolerance to exercise, excitement, high temperatures, and caused by compressed or narrowed air passages, which are typical of the brachycephalic dog breeds. The signs of brachycephalic airway syndrome include noisy or open-mouth breathing, snoring, panting, exercise intolerance, vomiting, and difficulty eating. An exaggerated movement of the animal's abdomen during respiration is seen commonly in more severely affected animals.

Elongated soft palate: The soft palate is abnormally long and causes breathing disorders.

Hypoplasia Of Trachea: A trachea that fails to develop fully.

Mitral Valve Defects: A group of abnormalities of the mitral valve of the heart. Arteriovenous fistula: an abnormal connection that forms between arteries and veins.

Pulmonic Stenosis: A condition where one of the valves of the heart does not open properly.

Von Willebrand's disease: a type of bleeding disorder caused by defective blood platelet function. Occurs in 59 dog breeds but most often in Dobermann Pinschers. An autosomal trait affecting both sexes.

Harelip: A condition where the two halves of the upper lip do not join together. Cleft palate and cleft lip are often seen together.

Cleft palate: A condition where the roof of the mouth is not closed and the inside of the nose opens into the mouth.

Overheating in Bulldogs.

The Bulldog's heat tolerance is a lot worse than that of humans'. Dogs do not have sweat glands all over their bodies. They can sweat only through their pads and they can dissipate heat effectively through panting.

Bulldogs suffering from chronic airway obstruction cannot pant freely and that is why they often die of overheating (hyperthermia). Corrective surgery performed in time can prevent a lot of faintings and unexpected deaths at summer outings and at home alike.

Testing For Diseases In Your Puppy

The above list of possible problems in a Bulldog is just that; possible. A competent examining vet with Bulldog experience, along with a breeder who is prepared to do preliminary x-ray's for hip dysplasia, patella and spine; assesses trachea size and soft palate length, plus (because this requires an anaesthetic) the pup will have been on a heart monitor, a good proportion of potential problems have been checked and the puppy cleared.

****We also, at this time, spay or neuter our pups so that they are completely ready to go to their new homes.**

Buyer Be Aware!

The High prices that purebred Bulldogs bring can attract the most unscrupulous people from scams that claim to be able to send you a Bulldog from another country cheap (import) to untested, unknown breeding stock.

These can be anything from a crossbred to a pet quality that should never have been bred from at all.

Please do your research, check with whichever state's controlling body for purebred dogs that the breeder you are buying from is ACTUALLY a registered breeder in that state.

Make sure you fully understand what health testing has been done on the parents of that pups.

Make sure you fully understand what, IF ANY, testing the pup has had. BEFORE you buy get the contact details of any/all examining vets who did this testing.

Be prepared to wait for the RIGHT puppy and make sure you understand that this breed needs your full commitment to keeping him/her safe and cool in our Australian summers.

