

## = Pug =

The Pug is a breed of dog with a wrinkly , short @-@ muzzled face and curled tail . The breed has a fine , glossy coat that comes in a variety of colours , most often fawn or black , and a compact square body with well @-@ developed muscles .

Pugs were brought from China to Europe in the sixteenth century and were popularized in Western Europe by the House of Orange of the Netherlands , and the House of Stuart . In the United Kingdom in the nineteenth century Queen Victoria developed a passion for Pugs which she passed on to other members of the Royal family .

Pugs are known for being sociable and gentle companion dogs . The breed remains popular into the twenty @-@ first century , with some famous celebrity owners . A Pug was judged Best in Show at the World Dog Show in 2004 .

## = = Description = =

### = = = Physical characteristics = = =

While the Pugs that are depicted in eighteenth century prints tend to be long and lean , modern breed preferences are for a square cobby body , a compact form , a deep chest , and well @-@ developed muscle . Their smooth and glossy coats can be fawn , apricot fawn , silver fawn or black . The markings are clearly defined and there is a trace of a black line extending from the occiput to the tail . The tail normally curls tightly over the hip .

Pugs have two distinct shapes for their ears , " rose " and " button " . " Rose " ears are smaller than the standard style of " button " ears , and are folded with the front edge against the side of the head . Breeding preference goes to " button " style ears .

Pugs ' legs are very strong , straight , of moderate length , and are set well under . Their shoulders are moderately laid back . Their ankles are strong , their feet are small , their toes are well split @-@ up , and their nails are black . The lower teeth normally protrude further than their upper , resulting in an under @-@ bite .

### = = = Temperament = = =

The breed is often described by the Latin phrase multum in parvo , or " much in little " or " a lot of dog in a small space " , alluding to the Pug 's remarkable and charming personality , despite its small size . Pugs are strong willed but rarely aggressive , and are suitable for families with children . The majority of the breed is very fond of children and sturdy enough to properly play with them . Depending on their owner 's mood , they can be quiet and docile but also vivacious and teasing . Pugs tend to be intuitive and sensitive to the moods of their owners and are usually eager to please them . Pugs tend to have a somewhat lazy nature and spend a lot of time napping . They are often called " shadows " because they follow their owners around and like to stay close to the action , craving attention and affection from their owners .

## = = History = =

### = = = Chinese origins = = =

In ancient times , Pugs were bred to be companions for ruling families in China . The pet Pugs were highly valued by Chinese Emperors , and the royal dogs were kept in luxury and guarded by soldiers . Pugs later spread to other parts of Asia . In Tibet , Buddhist monks kept Pugs as pets in their monasteries . The breed has retained its affectionate devotion to its owners since ancient times .

The early history of the Pug is not attested to in detail ; it is accepted that modern Pugs are

descended from dogs imported to Europe from China in the 16th century . Similar dogs were popular in the Imperial court during the Song Dynasty .

= = = 16th and 17th centuries = = =

Pugs were popular at European courts , and reportedly become the official dog of the House of Orange in 1572 after a Pug named Pompey saved the life of the Prince of Orange by alerting him to the approach of assassins .

A Pug travelled with William III and Mary II when they left the Netherlands to accept the throne of England in 1688 . During this period , the Pug may have been bred with the old type King Charles spaniel , giving the modern King Charles Spaniel its Pug characteristics .

The breed eventually became popular in other European countries as well . Pugs were painted by Goya in Spain , and in Italy they rode up front on private carriages , dressed in jackets and pantaloons that matched those of the coachman . They were used by the military to track animals and people , and were also employed as guard dogs .

= = = 18th century to present day = = =

The English painter William Hogarth was the devoted owner of a series of Pugs . His 1745 self @-@ portrait , which is now in London 's Tate Gallery , includes his Pug , Trump . The Pug was also well known in Italy . In 1789 , a Mrs. Piozzi wrote in her journal , " The little Pug dog or Dutch mastiff has quitted London for Padua , I perceive . Every carriage I meet here has a Pug in it . " The popularity of the Pug continued to spread in France during the eighteenth century . Before her marriage to Napoleon Bonaparte , Joséphine had her Pug Fortune carry concealed messages to her family while she was confined at Les Carmes prison , it having alone been given visiting rights .

In nineteenth century England , the breed flourished under the patronage of Queen Victoria . Her many Pugs , which she bred herself , included Olga , Pedro , Minka , Fatima and Venus . Her involvement with dogs in general helped to establish the Kennel Club , which was formed in 1873 . Queen Victoria favoured apricot and fawn colours . Queen Victoria 's passion for Pugs was passed on to many other members of the Royal family , including her grandson King George V and his son King Edward VIII . Many responded to the breed 's image of anti @-@ functionalism and diminutive size during this period .

In paintings and engravings of the 18th and 19th centuries , Pugs usually appear with longer legs and noses than today , and sometimes with cropped ears . The modern Pug 's appearance probably changed after 1860 when a new wave of Pugs were imported directly from China . These Pugs had shorter legs and the modern @-@ style Pug nose . The British aristocrat Lady Brassey is credited with making black Pugs fashionable after she brought some back from China in 1886 . Ear cropping was made illegal in 1895 .

Pugs arrived in the United States during the nineteenth century and were soon making their way into the family home and the show ring . The American Kennel Club recognized the breed in 1885 . The Pug Dog Club of America was founded in 1931 and was recognised by the American Kennel Club that same year . In 1981 , the Pug Dhandys Favorite Woodchuck won the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in the United States , the only Pug to have won there since the show began in 1877 . The World Champion , or Best in Show at the 2004 World Dog Show held in Rio de Janeiro , Brazil , was a Pug named Double D Cinoblu 's Masterpiece .

= = Health problems = =

Since Pugs lack longer snouts and prominent skeletal brow ridges , they are susceptible to eye injuries such as proptosis , scratched corneas , and painful entropion . They also have compact breathing passageways , leaving many prone to breathing difficulties or unable to efficiently regulate their temperature through evaporation from the tongue by panting . A Pug 's normal body temperature is between 101 ° F ( 38 ° C ) and 102 ° F ( 39 ° C ) . If this temperature rises to 105 ° F

( 41 ° C ) , oxygen demand is greatly increased and immediate cooling is required . If body temperature reaches 108 ° F ( 42 ° C ) , organ failure can occur . Their breathing problems can be worsened by the stresses of travelling in air cargo , which may involve high temperatures . Following the deaths of Pugs and other brachycephalic breeds , several airlines either banned their transport in cargo or enacted seasonal restrictions .

Pugs that live a mostly sedentary life can be prone to obesity , though this is avoidable with regular exercise and a healthy diet . The median life span of Pugs is 11 years , which is in line with other breeds of the same size .

= = = Common conditions = = =

Pugs , like other short @-@ snouted breeds , have elongated palates . When excited , they are prone to " reverse sneezing " which causes them to quickly ( and seemingly laboriously ) gasp and snort . The veterinary name for this is pharyngeal gag reflex and it is caused by fluid or debris getting caught under the palate and irritating the throat or limiting breathing . Reverse sneezing episodes are usually not harmful , and massaging the dog 's throat or covering its nose in order to make it breathe through its mouth can often shorten a sneezing fit .

Some pugs are also born with stenotic nares which can also inhibit their breathing . In serious cases , the pinched nostrils make breathing even more difficult for this breed and put added pressure on the larynx . In some cases , the dog could pass out from blocked airways . If this happens , one should inquire with their veterinarian whether or not surgery is needed to modify the breathing passages .

Eye prolapse is a common problem among Pugs and other brachycephalic breeds ( see Brachycephalic syndrome ) and can be caused by a trauma to the head or neck , or even by the owner using a tight leash instead of a harness . While the eye can usually be pushed back into its socket by the owner or by a vet , veterinary attention is usually advisable . If the prolapse happens on a regular basis , the Pug might require surgery .

Pugs have many wrinkles in their faces , so owners will often clean inside the creases to avoid irritation and infection . If this is not done , the dog may develop a condition known as skin fold dermatitis .

An abnormal formation of the hip socket , known as hip dysplasia , affected nearly 64 % of Pugs in a survey performed by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals ; the breed was ranked the second worst @-@ affected by this condition out of 157 breeds tested .

Pugs are one of several breeds that are more susceptible than other dogs to demodectic mange , also known as " demodex " . This condition is caused when parasitic mites , that are often present in a dog 's skin without causing symptoms , are allowed to do damage because their host has a weakened immune system . It is a problem for many young Pugs , although not usually a major one , and is easily treatable , but some are especially susceptible and present with a systemic form of the condition . This vulnerability is thought to be genetic and breeders will avoid producing puppies from adults who have this condition . In 2008 , an investigative documentary carried out by the BBC found significant inbreeding between pedigree dogs , with a study by Imperial College , London , showing that the 10 @,@ 000 Pugs in the UK are so inbred that their gene pool is the equivalent of only 50 individuals .

= = = Serious issues = = =

Pugs can suffer from necrotizing meningoencephalitis ( NME ) , also known as Pug dog encephalitis ( PDE ) , an inflammation of the brain and meninges . NME also occurs in other small dogs , such as the Yorkshire Terrier , Maltese , and Chihuahua . There is no known cure for NME , which is believed to be an inherited disease . Dogs usually die or have to be put to sleep within a few months of onset , which , in those susceptible to this condition , is typically between six months and seven years of age .

This breed , along with other brachycephalic dogs ( e.g. , boxers , bulldogs ) , are also prone to

hemivertebrae . The curled tail of a British bulldog is an example of a hemivertebrae , but when it occurs not in the coccygeal vertebrae but in other areas of the spine , it can cause paralysis . The condition occurs when two parts of a spinal vertebra do not fuse properly while a young Pug is still growing , resulting in an irregularly shaped spinal cavity which can put pressure on the spinal cord .

= = Historical depictions of Pugs = =