

BACKGROUND of the PUG

It is not generally known that the Pug was the most popular of all dogs in England and the Continent many years ago. It is generally accepted that the Pug originated in China and made its way to England via Holland.

A Pug is the hero of a story on the Dutch-Spanish war. The enemy surprised troops under the banner of the Prince of Orange at night. The Prince, a sound sleeper, was not awakened by the attack and would have been taken but for his Pug, which leapt up and down on his master's face. Thus aroused, the Prince made good his escape. Pugs were acclaimed national heroes in Holland. They became fashionable at the Dutch Court, and afterwards were taken up by wealthy folk in other countries.

In Italy these dogs were seen wearing gaily coloured and well cut jackets and pantaloons.

They became objects of contempt. With the introduction of other toy dogs, the Pug began to lose its popularity in England and has never quite regained its former high place.

There was a danger at one time that the breed would become extinct but more stock was introduced from Holland and Austria in the reign of George the third, and this gave the breed a new lease of life. Until recently, Pugs in Australia have never been very numerous although a few were seen at most shows. The breed was kept going by importations from England at different times.

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN:

Pugs can live in excess of 12 years. Prospective owners should give consideration, to the commitment they are making before purchasing a puppy.

AVERAGE SIZE & WEIGHT:

There is no size requirement for a Pug but the weight should be between 6.3 kg and 8.1 kg

THE CHARACTER OF THE PUG:

The perfect blend of little dog appeal and wistfulness and big stamina and courage is to be found in the adorable creature - the PUG.

You want a personality dog? The PUG is it. If you only have a small yard or live in a flat, the PUG is for you, as he is a small fellow who can make the most of his area. He is remarkably free of "doggy" odours, his coat is short and he sheds very little, he is also exceptionally clean. But maybe you have hectares of ground and still prefer a small dog. Then the PUG is still the dog for you, as he is sturdy and swift. He can run like a rabbit and loves to, or he can cuddle up on a sofa and he loves that too.

CARE & MAINTAINENCE

BATHING: Bathe your Pug at least four or five times a year, and whenever he is particularly dirty. Use a tearless shampoo (Baby Shampoo is excellent) in luke warm water. Lather twice and rinse well.

Conditioner is unnecessary. If your parasite control program includes an insecticidal rinse ensure you follow the instructions on the label very carefully, as incorrect use of these products can be harmful. Towel dry vigorously (most Pugs love this part!) and keep the dog out of draughts until completely dry.

GROOMING: Brush regularly with a hound glove or a close bristled brush or comb with a close toothed grooming comb, from head to tail in the direction of hair growth. Check ears - clean with a slightly damp cotton bud if dirty, (NEVER clean further into the ear than you can see). If the ears are dirty and smelly see your vet. Gently clean the nose leather and under the NOSE ROLL with a damp cloth or lanolin towelette. Smear Vaseline on the nose (NOT UNDER THE NOSE ROLL) to discourage mould and to prevent drying out. Black Pugs should be regularly oiled to prevent sun browning their coats: hand rub them with a mixture of 1 part glycerin to 3 parts lanolin and a few drops of Eucalyptus oil or use a commercially available LANOLIN based grooming spray from your pet shop.

EXERCISE: Most Pugs tend to laziness if left to their own devices. Following the "housekeeper" around during daily chores is okay, otherwise a brisk walk or a vigorous game of ball every day is needed. Pugs love to be walked every day, but won't suffer if they miss out occasionally. Do not allow strenuous exercise in hot weather or just after meals.

OBEDIENCE: Pugs, being intelligent and tending to independence, are not the easiest dogs to train, but they are most certainly trainable, it does them a lot of good to

have a purpose in life. A local obedience club will put you on the right track and introduce you to another aspect to owning a dog and it becoming a companion, not just a pet!

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: EYE CARE:

due to the shape of the eyes and face, Pugs are prone to eye injury. If your Pug is rubbing his eyes or he is squinting with one eye or his eyes are watering or there is any discolouration of the eye, **SEE YOUR VET IMMEDIATELY**

BREATHING PROBLEMS:

The Pug, being a brachycephalic (short faced) breed, is prone to have difficulties with his soft palate. In some cases, when the dog gets too hot or excited, his soft palate is drawn back into the larynx with a deep breath and becomes wedged there, thus preventing air from reaching the lungs. When this happens, the dog will stiffen and draw loud shuddering breaths like an asthmatic in an attempt to get more air. If this is permitted to continue, the dog will lose consciousness from the lack of oxygen.

If you see your Pug having these breathing difficulties. Quickly insert your forefinger into his mouth to free the soft palate obstruction, which is at the root of the tongue, so you have to really poke your finger a long way down the throat. The dog will cough, then close his mouth with your hand and rub his throat (about where a man's Adam's apple would be). This will encourage him to swallow and so lubricate his throat.

PUGS ARE GREAT BECAUSE:

They are good with children. They are excellent companion dogs, they love to be with people. They are sturdy little dogs. They give you lots of big wet kisses. They are natural downs and they will keep you laughing. They snore, wheeze, grunt, snort and sneeze in your face.

