

Common Bulldog Issues



These are the most common health concerns we have witnessed in the breed.

ALLERGIES

Red bumps on belly/insides of arms/legs or raised bumps under fur is likely an allergic reaction to grass or weeds and can be treated with Benadryl, Chlorhexidine and ointment. Bumps, rashes, patchy hair loss and itchy skin/eyes/feet can be environmental or food allergies, in which case some troubleshooting to find the cause may be needed. Consult your breeder for assistance.

EAR INFECTIONS

Clean ears often with baby wipes or q-tips, avoid getting wet, and dry thoroughly after bathing. If you see excessive scratching or head shaking, clean and apply violet ear drops (find at fieldsfolly.com/puppyessentials). If infections persist see your vet.

HEAD TREMORS

If you see head shaking resembling Parkinson's or what you think may be a seizure, it's likely an idiopathic head tremor. Common in bulldogs and the cause inconclusive, these are harmless and your dog can usually be snapped out of it by feeding them 1-2 Tbsp of honey.

TIGHT TAIL POCKET

Some tails grow tightly to the body. This can create a deep pocket that is hard to clean and dry and can get itchy or infected. Some are so problematic tail amputation is required to provide relief. Keeping dry is key. You can treat with Chlorhexidine or ointment.

UMBILICAL HERNIA

This is common where the umbilical site doesn't close completely at birth underneath the skin, resulting in what appears to be an 'outie' belly button. Some close on their own. For those that don't your vet will monitor then typically close during your spay/neuter surgery.

ENTROPIAN

As your puppy grows, sometimes the eyelids will grow inwards towards the eye and cause irritation. You can treat with eye drops and prescription ointment. For more severe cases a simple surgery will fix. Sometimes it takes a couple of surgeries if your puppy is still growing.

CHERRY EYE

Common in bulldogs but extremely rare in our lines, cherry eye occurs when the third eyelid gland prolapses as a result of weakened fibrous tissue. When minor, these can be massaged back in using your fingers. In more severe cases, surgical correction resolves.

ELONGATED PALATE

Common in brachycephalic dogs, this occurs when the soft palate (roof of the mouth) is too long, potentially causing obstruction to the airway and difficulty breathing and eating. A simple surgery will correct this.

STENOTIC NARES

Common in brachycephalic dogs, sometimes the nostrils are too tight, restricting air intake. A simple surgical procedure to open up the nostrils can improve breathing.

PROLAPSED URETHRA

In males, the tip of the penis protrudes, looks swollen and can bleed. Use belly wrap diapers to protect the site and control bleeding. Your vet will wait to fix during neutering, unless bleeding doesn't resolve in a couple of weeks.

We ask that you contact us first when experiencing any health issues or questions with your dog. A lot of times we have the experience and knowledge to help with your issue and can save you a trip to the vet!

We recommend any surgery be performed after the dog is over 12 months of age and combined with spay/neuter if possible, unless it's an emergency situation.