



## PUG FACTS

### HISTORY

The Pug is an AKC and FCI recognized dog breed, classified in the “Toy Dogs” group. The American Kennel Club first recognized the breed in 1885.

Pugs are thought to have originated in China. They were bred to adorn the laps of the Chinese sovereigns during the Shang dynasty (1600-1046BC).

Over the last several years the Pug has become more and more popular. Pugs are ranked #14 in the AKC Dog Breeds 2007 top 50. Many famous people owned pugs as pets. Marie Antoinette, Queen Victoria, and Tori Spelling, the actress, to name a few.

A Pug is a toy dog breed with a wrinkly face and medium-small body. Pug puppies are often called “Puglets”. The word “Pug” may have come from the Old English *pugg*, which was an affectionate term for a playful little devil or monkey.

In Germany Pugs are called “mops” and in Italy they are called “Carlin”. The Pug is considered to have ancestral ties to the Pekingese and possibly the Shih Tzu.

The Pug was introduced to America just after the Civil War and was recognized by the American Kennel Club in the mid 1880’s.

### APPEARANCE

The average weight of a Pug is 13-20 pounds and the average height is 12-14 inches tall.

The colors of a Pug are Apricot, Fawn, Black or Silver. They have a black mask and a black trace along the back.

Pug's tails are usually in a curl. There are Pugs with a single curl in their tail or a double curl. When a Pug is scared or nervous they tend to straighten their tail and put their tails down.

Pugs have large expressive eyes and a wrinkled face.

They have short snouts and elongated palates. This can sometimes cause them to "reverse sneeze" where the dog will quickly, gasp and snort. This is caused by fluid or debris getting caught under the palate and irritating the throat or limiting breathing. This doesn't hurt the Pug, but may scare him/her and their owner. To calm them down gently rub their throat and talk to them quietly and they will settle down. Along with snorting many pugs will snore when they are sleeping.

The average life span of a Pug is 12-15 years, but they can live as long as 18 years.

### SHEDDING

Fawn Pugs have both an undercoat and an overcoat and are the notorious for shedding. They shed year round. Regular grooming with a rubber brush can help control their shedding but will not eliminate it. If a Pug is scared or nervous they tend to shed more.

### TEMPERAMENT

Pugs are an intelligent breed. They are a very non-aggressive dog. Pugs show behavior of a puppy for a long time, more mature behavior is usually not shown until a Pug reaches the age of 3 years. Pugs are sociable dogs, and can be stubborn about certain things. They are playful, charming, clever, loyal and are known to succeed in dog obedience skills. They are moderately easy to train. Positive reinforcement training with the use of a treat helps. They are sensitive to the tone of a human voice. Harsh punishment is generally unnecessary. Pugs usually get along well with other pets and dogs, but generally prefer the company of humans and require a great deal of human

attention. Pugs love to cuddle. They are very attentive dogs, always at their owner's feet or in their laps. They also like to follow their owner from room to room. They love to be the center of attention. They make calm indoor dogs and are very pliable and straightforward to care for. Pugs are not outdoor dogs. They tend to get along well with children and visitors as well as other pets. Pugs are lap dogs and like lots of attention.

## CARE

Pugs have many wrinkles on their face and these wrinkles must be taken good care of. Make sure to keep them clean and dry. Wipe them out with a tissue or washcloth. When bathing make sure to clean them and then dry them well. If this isn't done it is possible for an infection to occur there.

Bathe Pugs only as needed. If they are over bathed this takes essential oils off of the skin and fur. Usually once every 2 weeks is enough.

Pay attention to your dog's ears and clean them regularly with an ear wash. If you notice redness, heavy discharge, odor or headshaking, take your dog to a vet.

## HEALTH

Pugs tend to be a healthy breed. The number one problem seen by vets is overweight /obese Pugs. Pugs will eat until they burst and always act hungry even if they are well-fed. Base the correct amount of food you feed your Pug by how they look, not by what a bag says. You should just be able to feel your dog's ribs and be able to see a waist.

Pugs do not tolerate extreme temperatures well. Do not leave them outside in the heat or cold for long periods of time. They can't be kept as outside dogs. They are very sensitive to heat, humidity and cold. They can also become dehydrated easily, so when going on walks bring along extra water.

Pug's large slightly bulging eyes are very sensitive to scratches and irritation.

## DIETARY DANGERS

Chocolate: contains theobromine which can cause vomiting, diarrhea, muscle tremors, seizures and abnormal heartbeat in dogs. Different types of chocolate contain different amounts of theobromine. A very small amount can be toxic to a Pug.

Onions: (raw or cooked) contain a substance that causes rupture of the red blood cells, which can lead to severe anemia. Garlic can cause similar signs.

Macadamia Nuts: can cause weakness, depression, vomiting and other signs. Amounts, as small as two teaspoons, can be toxic in a small dog.

Raisins and Grapes: can cause kidney failure in some dogs.

