

"Innate health" covers key body functions and life processes that every type of dog should expect to enjoy during their life. Dogs are the most diversely shaped species on the planet but some extreme body shapes (conformations) are known to lead to poor innate health in dogs.

When planning to get a new dog, owners can use the criteria below to ensure they only choose an innately healthy type of dog. Aim to only opt for a type of dog where the majority of the questions below can be answered as 'YES'. Before purchasing a dog, it is advisable to discuss your preferences with a veterinary surgeon.

EYES



Do my eyelids close fully to protect my eyes?



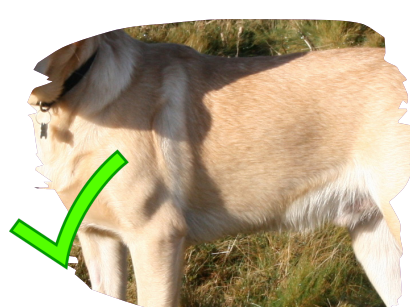
Can I see clearly?



Can I blink comfortably and easily?



HEARING



Is my coat colour unassociated with deafness issues?



Is my hearing unobstructed?



BREATHING

Does my nose and throat allow me to breathe easily and without obstruction?



Does my nose allow me to smell the world around me?

Can I sleep without having to wake up just to breathe?

CLEANLINESS



Can I clean my rear-end easily?



Is my skin smooth, without excessive wrinkles?



BODY TEMPERATURE CONTROL



Does my coat let me cool down easily?

Can my coat protect me from the sun and also keep me comfortably warm?



Is my skull long enough to cool incoming air so I do not over-heat?



STOP AND THINK

before buying a flat-faced dog

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