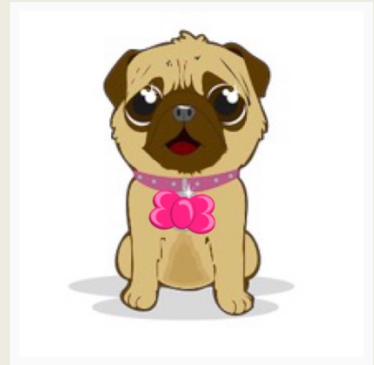


Pug Mania

DOG HEALTH CHECKLIST



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City and Guilds Level 3 Grooming

Dog Health Checklist

	How is the dogs demeanour? Alert, excited, aggressive, scared?	Self explanatory.
	Anything immediately obvious? Stiff, amputation, hunched?	Also think about lameness, licking a particular area, holding an eye closed, lack of appetite etc
	Eyes. Clear and shiny? Any discharge? Mucous membrane colour?	Colour of the whites of the eyes should be white or creamy coloured and possibly a few blood vessels present. Yellow eyes should be investigated as should blood weeping from an eye. Also notice any scarring or dents on the eye ball indicating trauma. Mucous membrane colour should be pale pink. Brick red or white mucous membranes need veterinary investigation.
	Nose. Wet or dry? Normal for this dog? Any discharge?	Normal discharge maybe slightly green/yellow or clear and very small quantities. Abnormal discharges include blood and thick mucous.
	Ears. Colour? Smell? Anything inside?	A small amount of smell is inevitable, but shouldn't be overly smelly musty or mouldy. A small amount of wax may be present but large quantities of wax, blood or dark gritty debris should be investigated. Remember to check the leather for ticks, lumps, bumps, grazes or rashes.
	Mouth. Does it look clean and healthy? Smell? Condition of teeth? Any lumps? Mucous membrane colour? Capillary refill time?	Again there may be a slight smell, but gums should be pale pink with a capillary refill time of two seconds or less. There should not be any skin tags or lumps present, if there are they should be investigated. Teeth should be clean or with a small amount of inevitable tartar present. Strong smells need veterinary investigation.
	Check main body, legs and tail. Lumps? Bald patches? Wounds?	Feel all over for lumps and bumps, note any down also recording size and if they feel hard or soft and if you can move them. Check skin for bald patches, grazes and of course fleas and ticks.
	Check feet, including pads. Sore? Nail length, include dew claws.	Check for soreness, particularly in cold or hot weather, and for dogs that gnaw their feel. Check nails are not digging into pads.

	<p>Genitals including anal area. Lumps and bumps? Discolouration? Discharge? Clean?</p>	<p>All lumps should be investigated. Anal glands should be emptied by a vet unless they have shown you how. Females will produce bloody discharge when in season. Any pussy discharge or discharge with a strong smell should be investigated immediately. Male dogs may produce a small amount of yellow discharge at the tip of their penis/sheath this may be normal for your dog. If there is more than normal or causes the dog to lick excessively it should be investigated.</p>
	<p>Heart rate. 70-140 beats per min Respiration. 10-30 breaths per min Temperature. 38.3-39.2 deg C</p>	<p>Heart rate and respiration is best noted when your dog is at rest. Place your flattened out four fingers onto the dogs ribcage, behind the elbow and feel for the dogs heart beating, count the beats for fifteen seconds and multiply by four to get the beats per minute. Bear in mind this is at rest so may increase with exercise or excitement. You can also check the heart rate of your dog by feeling for the femoral artery. Again make a flat four fingers with your hand and slide it up high into the dogs groin, the femoral artery lies along side the femur, the big bone in your dogs thigh. You may need to apply firm pressure to find this pulse. With practice you will be able to locate these pulses easily. The easiest way to note respiration is to watch your dog breath in and out, one in and out counts as one breath. Again count over fifteen seconds and multiply by four to get your respirations per minute. Temperature is best monitored via a digital thermometer, follow manufacturers instructions. Most dogs temperature comes in at around 38.5Degc, but again note what is normal for your dog.</p>