



The Northern Dogue De Bordeaux Club

Promoting a healthy Dogue

www.nddbc.co.uk

Our website at offers a wide range of health topics that are relevant to our breed, some more common than others. However this information pack focuses on points raised by breeders, the Kennel Club and Championship Show judges. These points focus not only in the show ring but something we expect our members to take into consideration when breeding a healthy pet dog too.

The Northern Dogue De Bordeaux Club wants to explain to unsure breed enthusiasts why we are on the high profile breed list and a little more on the points of concern that must be addressed. The Northern Dogue De Bordeaux Club will be hosting sessions at club shows to give advice in person on the following and more on exhibiting a healthy dog.

Excessive facial skin

The Dogue De Bordeaux head should be slightly furrowed with fine symmetrical wrinkles on each side of the median groove, **but without excess.**

It is very important that the breed standard is adhered to and the wrinkles are fine and kept clean. This is a necessity for the show ring and the welfare of your dog.

Eyelid defects

There are many eye conditions dogs can suffer with and as a club we find there are 2 that stand out, Entropion and excessive haw. The standard quotes - Oval, set wide apart. Frank expression. **Showing no haw.**

Now while we believe it isn't always realistic that our breed can show no haw at all it is something we must take into consideration when we breed. Sometimes haw in excess can be a result of heavy wrinkles which again should be avoided.

As you may know that every Dogue De Bordeaux, Best of Breed winner at any championship show must take part in a health check up by a vet and must pass before he or she is allowed into the group ring. The veterinary surgeon is expected to take note of any readily apparent eye problems. Examples of these would include:

Inflammation of the white of the eye, scarring or pigmentation indicating previous conformation-related damage to the cornea (the transparent front of the eyeball),

Evidence of surgery to the eyelid,

Distichiasis (extra eyelashes rubbing on the eyeball),

Ocular discharge,

Epiphora (significant overflow of tears) or where the dog is blinking excessively or the eyelids appear to be half closed or tightly closed (blepharospasm).

Signs of this nature will be helpful in establishing if any eyelid problem is causing the dog pain or discomfort. In particular, the veterinary surgeon is asked to look for: Entropion or Ectropion.

Entropion – where part or all of an eyelid is turned inwards and rubs on the eyeball, and the abnormality is sufficiently severe to cause signs of discomfort. The veterinary surgeon may need to move the eyelids to confirm the presence of entropion.

Ectropion – where part or all of a lower eyelid is turned outwards or gapes away from the eyeball, and the abnormality is sufficiently severe to be associated with significant reddening, swelling or thickening of the conjunctivae (the delicate membranes which surround the eyeball and cover the inner surface of the eyelids), or other signs of discomfort. This should be visible without need to manipulate the eyelids.

Signs of inflammation

Damage to the cornea, including ulceration

Scarring or pigmentation associated with conformational exaggeration

Evidence of visual impairment

Signs of pain or discomfort

Abnormal shape of the eyelids sufficiently severe that the lids do not meet normally when the eye is closed

We don't know how or why these conditions are hereditary anyone who has a dog with any eye conditions should really seek advice from an ophthalmologist. Ophthalmologists are present at a number of General Championship shows and details can

be found in show schedules. The BVA also has a list of nationwide ophthalmologists. More information on eye issues can be found on our club website at www.nddbc.co.uk/breedhealth.html

Pinched Nostrils

The Dogue De Bordeaux should have well-opened nostrils. In some cases our breed can suffer with pinched nostrils which is not pleasant for any dog. Although it may not be seen as life threatening it is certainly cause for concern. Any dog that does have this may struggle to breathe through their nose in time of stress and sometimes when relaxing, this im sure you will agree can be very stressful for any animal and should be absolutely avoided when deciding to breed.

Grossly undershot

Now while the Dogue De Bordeaux must have an undershot as it is infact one on the main characteristics of our breed we should not breed this to excess. The breed standard states the following, Undershot, the back of the lower incisors not in contact with the front of the upper incisors. Strong teeth, particularly the canines. Lower canines set wide apart and slightly curved. Incisors of good size, well aligned, especially in the lower jaw where they form an apparently straight line. **Teeth not visible when mouth closed.**

Although there are no exact markers given to exactly what is considered to be a correct undershot we should assume as breeders that if the teeth show then that certainly is too much. Again something to take into account when choosing to breed.

Coat condition

Again like any breed the Bordeaux can suffer with skin condition, dermatitis, demodectic mange which are focused on our breed health page in more detail. These conditions must be dealt with efficiently by the owner of the dog. In the more severe cases scar and bald patches may always be visible afterwards. In this instance you must ask yourself, would I want to put any puppies I produce through that? Do I expect to win a dog show when my dog is not in peak condition? With championship status just around the corner, will the judges expect more of me than to exhibit such conditions before him?

Laboured breathing

Labored breathing is distinguished from shortness of breath or dyspnea, which is the sensation of respiratory distress rather than a physical presentation. It is an abnormal respiration characterized by evidence of increased effort to breathe.

The Dogue De Bordeaux is a working breed and should be able to work, run round a ring, play etc without distress. If your dog suffers with laboured breathing we believe this is a cause for huge concern and your vet should be consulted.

Weight

The Dogue De Bordeaux is a large breed and his weight should be correctly maintained, not only for nutritional reasons but also for their physical stability and soundness. This is especially important throughout the breeds growth process, a healthy balanced diet is paramount in the growth of our breed.

It is impossible to give ideal weight to which your dog should be as most of this comes down to their overall size and common sense but hopefully this may be useful.

Look at the dog's ribs. When you feel for the ribs, you should be able to feel each individual rib, with a thin layer of fat over the bone. If you can see each rib, the dog is too thin; if you cannot feel any ribs at all, the dog is too heavy.

Check the dog's back near the base of the tail. There will be a little fat covering the area. This is a sign of a healthy dog. Again, if you can actually see the bone sticking out, the dog is too thin; if you are unable to locate any bones while feeling the area, the dog is too heavy.

Feel around the dog's spine, hips and shoulders. Like the ribs, these should be covered in a thin layer of fat, but you should still be able to locate them with your hand. If these bones stick out and are not covered in that thin layer of fat, the dog is too thin. If those bones are hidden from view and you cannot locate them by feeling around, the dog is overweight.

Movement

Now while unsound movement can be caused by many things, some may be temporary like a cut paw, some may be far more serious. If the issues persist, veterinary attention is a must.

Our breed is under scrutiny in the show ring and not only is it a beauty competition it is also apparent that our breed is fit for function and a limping dog is not.

Possible causes of the lame dog both from in front and the hindquarters (please see our breed health page on our website for much more information)

Panosteitis

OCD (Osteochondritis Dissecans)

Hip and elbow dysplasia

Sprains and tears in muscles and ligaments

Inflammatory and degenerative processes affecting joint tissues

Things also to take into account that when you own a large breed puppy you have to remember they are so fragile and your exercise regime must accommodate that. Be careful not to overdo any exercise or play with your puppy until he is older and stronger. Please make sure they have an appropriate diet that will enable them to develop correctly.

Nervous temperament

The Dogue is such an imposing breed, surely no one would think they could be nervous. Well in fact they do suffer from time to time with this behaviour. This is where breeders and newly found owners play a crucial part in the development of a puppy.

Like children, puppies have a small window of time during brain development when they are most impressionable. This is called the imprinting, or critical learning period. For puppies, the imprinting period is during the first 16 weeks of life. Puppies learn more during this time than they can learn in a life time. Therefore, the quality and quantity of what they experience will have a huge impact on their future personalities and determine the formation of many of their "good" or "bad" behaviour tendencies.

Socialise, Socialise, Socialise.... Is the key to confident, pleasant and self-assured adult dog!

It is vitally important that you socialise your dogue de Bordeaux puppy from a young age. Socialising is the process by which puppies learn to relate to their environment, people and other animals.

The best and most successful way is through positive encounters and positive reinforcement. As an owner it is your responsibility to socialise your dogue de bordeaux puppy to ensure that it is emotionally well adjusted and balanced.

Failing to socialise your dogue de Bordeaux puppy may result in it being a fearful and insecure puppy which may result in it growing to be an aggressive adult. The dogue de Bordeaux breed does have an issue with

Aggression and in most aggressive cases this is as a result of poor socialising as a puppy. Poor socialising also affects our dogues in the show ring as they tend to be insecure and therefore fail to show themselves off to the best of their abilities.

It is important that you book your dogue de Bordeaux puppy into puppy classes from a young age this will help with the socialising as the puppy will get to mingle and socialise with other puppies and people. The trainers are also at hand to give you tips and support, if you intend to show your puppy then attending ring craft training is also a very good idea. It will give you a good introduction to showing but also assist with the socialising of your puppy. Remember you can't socialise your puppy too much, the more the merrier.

In the older dog, their behaviour in day to day life must be taken into consideration when deciding to breed, could they cope with whelping a litter, can you cope with a male once he has been used at stud. Does my dog act differently in the show ring? Answering these questions honestly first will determine the best thing for your dogue and the breed as a whole.

Please find below the table showing the Breed Watch points for Dogue de Bordeaux reported by Judges from 2014 through to May 2015

In order you will see columns of the number of shows, number of dogs exhibited, number of dogs affected and the percentage of dogs affected. Please bare this in mind before you step into the ring, ask yourself does your dog have any of the following? Could I be making things worse? We do also wants to emphasise that while we ask our members not to exhibit dogs with such issues we also ask that you take each individual case with a sensible approach before deciding to breed.

Non Specialist Judges	44	1902	149	8%
Excessive facial skin with eyelid defects	8	280	38	14%
Grossly undershot Jaw	5	200	19	10%
Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis	1	48	1	2%
Laboured breathing	1	67	18	27%
Nervous temperament	6	335	13	4%
Pinched nostrils	1	48	1	2%
Significantly overweight	4	170	7	4%
Significantly underweight	1	67	5	7%
Unsound movement	1	156	3	2%
Unsound movement from weak hind movement	9	323	44	14%
Breed Specialist Judges	12	663	11	2%
Excessive facial skin with eyelid defects	1	122	1	1%
Hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis	3	188	3	2%
Nervous temperament	1	20	1	5%
Unsound movement from weak hind movement	3	202	6	3%

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