

# Patrick

## PUG...HEALTH & WELFARE

### DOG COMPANIONSHIP

Owning a dog brings companionship, enjoyment and other benefits to millions of families. In return, dog owners should do everything possible to ensure their dog has a long, healthy and happy life.

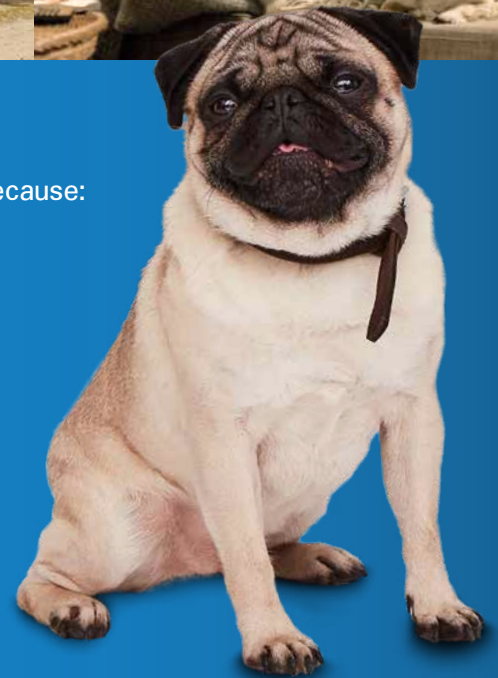


### IF YOU ARE THINKING OF GETTING A DOG,

think carefully before getting a flat-faced breed (e.g. Pug, French Bulldog) because:

- 🐾 Flat-faced dogs are prone to serious health problems which adversely affect their welfare- e.g. breathing difficulties, eye ulcers, skin disease and spinal problems.
- 🐾 These conditions reduce the dogs' quality of life and many require veterinary treatment and/or surgery.
- 🐾 Many puppies of highly-popular breeds are bred primarily for profit in low-welfare puppy farms either in the UK or abroad.

Visit "Getting a dog" on [www.thekennelclub.org.uk](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk) to find out more about known health issues and help in finding a responsible breeder.



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## IF YOU ALREADY OWN A FLAT-FACED DOG

(or know someone who does):

- 🐾 Noisy breathing sounds such as snorting, snuffling and snoring can be signs of obstructed breathing.
- 🐾 You can help a flat-faced dog enjoy a happier life by:
  - 🐾 Making sure they don't become overweight or obese, by keeping a close eye on their diet and exercise.
  - 🐾 Getting them regularly checked by a vet, who may recommend treatment such as weight loss or specialist surgery to help them if breathing is obstructed.
  - 🐾 Taking care to avoid over-exercising them, especially in hot weather.
  - 🐾 Keeping them cool in warmer weather and being especially vigilant when the dogs are in cars.



## IF BUYING A FLAT-FACED BREED AS A PET:

- 🐾 Look for a puppy with a relatively long muzzle and nice wide open nostrils and parents with similar attributes.
- 🐾 Check that the puppy's nose and eyes are not obscured by a large over-the-nose skin wrinkle.
- 🐾 Ask if the parents have been health-tested and ask to see the Health Certificate. Being health tested isn't a guarantee that a dog won't develop health problems but shows that breeders are trying to address some breed-related problems.

## DOWNLOAD THE FREE PUPPY CONTRACT AND PUPPY INFORMATION PACK

([www.puppycontract.org.uk](http://www.puppycontract.org.uk)), to help you ask the right questions and give you the best chance of getting a dog that is healthy and happy.

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#Patrick #PugActually

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