

Dog Breeds With the Highest Health Risks

Dog breeding has been a common practice for hundreds of years and its main purpose has always been to manipulate the way dogs look. But playing around with genetics can be a very dangerous thing – especially when many people and dog breeders create the goal of having a dog be cute.

When it comes to dogs, some breeds have been genetically bred to have features like short legs or scrunched noses. This can make it difficult for them to walk – possibly making it easier for them to have health issues like arthritis. And those cute wrinkly noses are very hard to breathe through.

Even if you have a dog who is likely to suffer from genetic health issues, it doesn't mean your furry family member deserves any less love. After all, it's not their fault!

Still, a good health insurance plan is going to be necessary for any pet. Market Watch has compiled a list of the best [pet insurance plans](#) based on needs that are most important to the consumer and their pets.

Dachshund



One breed with the highest rate of complications in life is the dachshund. While their long bodies and wagging tails win the hearts of many, they unfortunately suffer many long-term effects from being bred this way.

Because their legs are so short, they run the risk of developing Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD), a disease that makes it very hard for these dogs to walk. Compared to other breeds, these dogs are 12x more likely to suffer from this disease.

German Shepherd



Because they are bred to be so strong and capable of carrying their weight. However, this breed is known to be one of the most common poorly bred dogs. They are often bred too close to their parents and siblings which creates many psychological issues within this dog's brain – causing them to be overly anxious, unpredictable and even depressed.

On top of this, the German Shepherd is also susceptible to arthritis, hip dysplasia, cancer, degenerative spinal disorders, and osteoarthritis.

Pug



Pugs are probably one of the biggest sufferers when it comes to breeding. Their extremely flat and wrinkly faces are adorable, but they come with a price. Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome (BOAS) is a disease that makes it very difficult for this breed to breathe.

Sometimes the folds of the skin on their faces can get so prominent that bacteria and water can get caught in them and cause infection. Their large eyes are also more prone to different diseases as they age, including ulcers.

Weimaraner



These dogs are adorable with soft, short hair and floppy ears. However, they have a few rare health conditions that make it difficult for them to heal from wounds. A blood clotting disorder means that for some of these dogs a few bumps and scrapes could land them in veterinarian care.

Irish Setter



Irish Setters were bred across Ireland originally and seemed to have come into close contact in the breeding process. They suffer a lot of the same problems that crossbred German Shepherds do from being too closely bred. This breed is known to have seizures, epilepsy and even quadriplegia.

If you are someone who is worried about animal welfare or you're considering getting a pup but don't want to contribute to poor breeding practices, consider adoptions!