

**So, You Are Thinking Of Buying A Puppy...  
Well, STOP Right There!**

**BEFORE you do, read this very carefully.**

**It Could Be The Most Important Advice  
You Ever Get From A Veterinarian!**

## **“The 5 Tragic Mistakes That Haunt Puppy Buyers”**

**W**hen you buy a puppy, you are committing yourself ..and your family.. for the lifetime of your dog, however that unfolds. And it's a big decision – bigger than you might realize!

Will your dog give you 16 trouble-free years of health and vitality, or will it have an abnormally short life marked by ongoing expense and worrying illnesses?

You deserve a healthy pet! And you can choose wisely if you avoid the **5 tragic mistakes** that commonly haunt puppy buyers who aren't so well informed.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Tragic Mistake – Design Matters!**

Would you buy a car with wonky wheels, or a house whose doors and windows didn't fit properly? No, most people would not!

But it's amazing how all that natural good sense goes out the window when it comes to choosing a dog!!!



You see, a lot of dog breeds are actually derived from the chance birth of a puppy with a genetic malformation.

Some enterprising person thought “that looks novel” and viola! - it was deliberately perpetuated and a new breed was born!

Trouble is, these malformations are really mistakes in God's natural design for the dog.

Dogs have a proper shape that functions well - being the result of millions of years of evolutionary improvement (if you want know what that looks like, look at the wolf or dingo).

When I was training to be a Veterinarian we were taught that poorly designed dogs are prone to massive health problems.

Once you read this, you may even think – like I do – that it is in fact cruel to breed dogs with bad design... and certainly inadvisable to own any!

## The Chondrodystrophoid breeds

The abnormality of being chondrodystrophoid has been established as the breed standard for many dog breeds. "Chondro" means cartilage and "dystrophoid" means abnormal growth – basically the cartilage in the growth plates at the ends of these some of these dogs' bones doesn't grow properly, resulting in short, deformed legs.

Affected breeds have angular deformities of the limbs and include the Dachshund, Pekingese, French bulldog, Beagle, Basset hound, American cocker spaniel, Shih tzu, Lhasa apso, and generally any dogs with short thick legs.

Degeneration of the intervertebral disk at an early age is just one unfortunate disease that goes with this trait.

In these breeds, there is degeneration of the disks within the first few months of life. A slipped disc in the spine can occur as early as 1-2 yrs of age causing acute pain, lameness and paraplegia.

*Disc prolapsed dachshund permanently paralyzed from the waist down – destined to a life in a wheelchair.*



Their abnormally short and twisted legs are also more prone to slipped or broken ligaments, and to the development of arthritis.

## The Brachycephalic breeds

Here's some more Greek for you: "brachy," means short, and "cephalic," means head. So the Brachycephalic breeds are marked by having pushed in, short faces, for example: Pug, Boston terrier, Pekingese, Boxer, Bulldog, and Shih tzu.

They might look "cute" but these poor dogs are prone to a whole suite of health issues you don't want to have first hand experience with!



*A bulldog's skull - notice the characteristic underbite.*

- They can't chew their food properly

While their upper jaw is squashed, in these breeds the lower jaw is usually in proportion to the body size resulting in a characteristic underbite. The poor dog can't chew its food properly and is destined for a lifetime of suboptimal health caused by poor digestion.

The Brachycephalic dog has less space to fit its teeth into so they are crowded and tend to grow at odd angles, trapping food and predisposing these breeds to periodontal disease at a young age.

- Prone to various eye problems

With most of the bones of the nose squashed up, the eyes of these breeds often don't sit neatly in the head but tend to bulge. As a result the eyes are prone to fall out after a minor blow to the back of the head, or even from straining on the lead.

The eyelids might even have trouble covering the eye, exposing it to drying, irritation and trauma. The eyelashes often even brush against the eye itself, causing damage. Tear drainage can also be impaired, giving the eyes a perpetually wet appearance.

- They can't breath properly

The squashed upper jaw compresses the respiratory system of the nose too! Brachycephalic breeds may suffer from abnormally narrow nostrils that make breathing difficult, and a bee sting on the nose life threatening.

The soft palate inside the mouth is normal-size and so has difficulty fitting within the compressed space. Normal breathing results in snorting sounds and excess panting or barking can cause the throat to swell resulting in respiratory distress.

Even the windpipe can be dangerously narrowed in places, making the dog susceptible to dying under anaesthesia if it needs an operation.

- They can't pant properly

Dogs don't sweat and can only cool themselves down by panting. Panting in the brachycephalic breeds is inefficient, predisposing them to heat stress and even heat stroke.

- Skin fold infections

Having the normal amount of skin over a smaller area produces lots of skin folds on the face of these dogs. These folds trap moisture and bacteria so that skin fold infections are common.

- Problems giving birth

The broad headed nature of these breeds makes reproduction a tricky matter and Caesarean section is frequently needed. Difficult labor is common and, as surgical assistance is often necessary.

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tragic Mistake – Size Matters!**

Why you are getting a dog? Most people want their dog to be a great companion, and a good watchdog too. This leads some people to go for the larger breeds...

Well, unless you actually want a dog that is aggressive and physically capable of hurting someone, this is a very expensive mistake!

Apart from the fact that a lot of the smaller breeds are great watchdogs, big dogs equal bigger problems and expenses on all levels.

- For a start they cost more to feed.

A dog weighing 40 kg will naturally cost three to four times as much to feed



as one that weighs 10 kg. Over the lifetime of your pet this difference can really add up! A dog food bill of \$30 a week instead of \$10 a week will cost \$15,000 more by the time your dog is 15 years old!

- Routine medicines are more expensive

The doses of routine medicines needed for regular control of heartworm, fleas and intestinal parasites depends on the size of the dog. For example, while it may cost \$10 to worm a small dog, you could be looking at \$40 for a big one! And that's over and over again...

- Veterinary bills are higher

The cost of just about every veterinary procedure is worked out by the dog's weight. That's because bigger dogs need higher doses of anaesthetic and medicine, have to be housed in larger kennels, and use up more suture material during surgery.

- Some diseases are peculiar to the really large breeds

Because of their abnormally large size, really big dogs grow rapidly. As a result they are highly prone to joint problems (especially the hips e.g. hip dysplasia), and even bone cancer.

- They cost more to kennel

Kennel accommodation is more expensive for bigger dogs. And you'll need a larger property with a bigger backyard, higher fences and bigger kennel to house them too!

- They are capable of doing greater damage

A big dog digs bigger holes, is more apt to knock people over, can inflict a more severe bite on other dogs or people, and is more capable of killing livestock.

- They are harder to control

It's a lot easier to win a disagreement with a little dog than it is with a big one! And while a small dog that pulls on the lead is annoying, a large dog that pulls can dislocate your shoulder! I've seen big dogs on leads attack other dogs – their owner was still hanging on but had no hope of controlling the situation.

- They do more poo!

Years and years of cleaning up Shetland-pony sized poos just might get you down after a while if you own a big dog!

- It's less ethical to own a big dog

In a world where many people don't get enough to eat – smaller breeds are a more ethical choice.

If you are going to have a dog – and you deserve one; the health and social benefits of dog ownership are well-known – choosing a smaller breed has less ecological impact on the planet and uses up less of the resources that should rightfully be available to the world's hungry.

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tragic Mistake – Inbreeding Matters!

You're probably aware that every purebred dog breed has particular diseases lurking in its gene pool.

*Like to get your head around genetics?*

Then visit [http://www.miniature-schnauzer-australia.com/genetics\\_of\\_dog\\_breeding.html](http://www.miniature-schnauzer-australia.com/genetics_of_dog_breeding.html)

Why is this? Well purebred dogs derive from a very small number of original ancestors – the whole breed is sometimes based on just a single dog when you go back far enough!

So purebred dogs tend to carry more “defect” genes than the average mongrel, and each breed has particular “favorites” peculiar to itself. As a result purebreds tend to live shorter, less healthy lives and have poorer reproductive performance than mongrels.

- Why is that a problem to you?

Because the genetic pool for purebred dogs is rather small – the rarer the breed, the smaller the pool – individuals have a high chance of inheriting the same “defect” genes. These genes only cause problems when a dog inherits two of them – one from mom and one from dad. If a dog only has one of the “defect” genes it will often appear completely normal – even when tested.

Some of these genetic diseases are screened for by reputable breeders and some aren't. But even if you buy a puppy whose parents have both passed their screening tests, these genetic diseases can still crop up, especially where there's inbreeding going on.

So when bred together, the chances that purebreds of the same breed will pass the same “defect” gene onto their offspring is much, much higher than it is for crossbreeds...especially if they are closely related. The more closely related the two parents happen to be, the more genes they'll have in common and so, the higher the risk of breeding genetically defective pups.

I've been a registered breeder of Miniature Schnauzers for 18 years. In that time I've been truly shocked at the level of inbreeding that goes on by so-called “reputable” breeders of purebred dogs.

- Does “line breeding” = “inbreeding”?

While most of us can understand the logic here, many “professional” breeders seem to miss the point. They exacerbate the problem by practicing “line breeding” which is where the same dog might appear several times in a three generation pedigree record. They'll routinely mate granddad to his granddaughter, half brother to half sister, or even mother to son!

*To view a real example of line breeding – and the dangers - check out*  
[http://www.miniature-schnauzer-australia.com/line\\_breeding\\_dogs.html](http://www.miniature-schnauzer-australia.com/line_breeding_dogs.html)

Why do they do this? They do this to “fix” certain show winning characteristics into their breeding lines (and sometimes simply because they are too ornery to share bloodlines with each other!) However, it is basically inbreeding by another name, with all the associated dangers to innocent puppy buyers investing in the offspring of such breeding practices.

So ask to look at the pedigree of any puppy you are considering buying.

If you see the same individual dog's name appear more than once in the ancestry, my advice is to find your puppy elsewhere! It might be a fine example of the breed, a potential show winner even, but as your pet it could be a ticking health time bomb waiting to go off!

## The 4<sup>th</sup> Tragic Mistake – Shedding Matters!

It is estimated that around 10% of the human population suffers from allergies to animals. Because they live inside our homes, dogs and cats are the most usual triggers for these allergies.

This can be a real tragedy...

Imagine investing money, time and love into your new puppy only to realize, a few months down the track, that she is causing a health problem for a family member!

Often it is the very person most attached to your new puppy – and constantly cuddling up to it – who is most affected. Then you are faced with the distress and heartbreak of having to find a new home for your beautiful dog.



Allergy causing allergens can be present in dog saliva and skin cells (dander). A person who is allergic could suffer nasal congestion, sniffing and sneezing, conjunctivitis, contact dermatitis (skin rash) or even asthma.

So, while there is no totally non-allergenic dog, fortunately some breeds do seem to cause fewer allergies.

It's typically because these breeds don't shed as much fur. And the smaller breeds also produce less saliva than the bigger breeds.

*Photo:*

*The Miniature schnauzer - a non-shedding, hypoallergenic breed*

The most hypo-allergenic breeds are:

- Poodles (and poodle crosses like the Cocka-poo, Labradoodle or Snoodle),
- Schnauzer,
- Portugese water dog (a close relative of the poodle),
- Maltese,
- Soft-coated wheaten terrier,
- Lhaso apso,
- Kerry blue terrier,
- Irish water spaniel,
- Shih tzu and
- Yorkshire terrier.



## The 5<sup>th</sup> Tragic Mistake – Popularity Matters!

And this leads us to the last tragic mistake people make when choosing a puppy – they pick an unpopular, non-profitable breed! Why could that be important to you?

Did you realize an amazing business lies hidden your pets? A way to solve your problems of lack of money and lack of time could be sitting in your own backyard...

- This opportunity is not open to everyone.

Lots of people who wish they could take advantage of this chance to become financially free – and have fun doing it – already have dogs.

There's simply no room in their life to start afresh with the right breed and the right dogs to form the foundation of a great work at home business.

...But as someone thinking of buying a new puppy YOU are in the perfect position to get started! With the right guidance, your pet could transform your life.



Imagine earning enough from your adored pets to be really free, with flexible low hours, and opportunities for responsibility, education and fun for your children – all from your own home!

Dog breeding is not only fun for you and the kids, but also can generate enough income to more than replace the need for a part-time job, in a fraction of the hours.

**It's an easy, feel-good business that brings bundles of joy into other people's lives – and lots of cash into yours... when you know the simple secrets of success!**

So...at least keep your options open by choosing the right puppy:

- Is it of a high demand/low supply breed and attracts a high sales price?
- Is it part of a large litter for its breed (so will tend to produce large litters itself)?
- Does it pass all the other "tests" I've already explained above?

**Interested? Before you do ANYTHING read the Dog Breeding Guide at**  
**[http://www.miniature-schnauzer-australia.com/dog\\_breeding\\_guide.html](http://www.miniature-schnauzer-australia.com/dog_breeding_guide.html)**