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Bulldog breeds (English Bulldogs, Olde English Bulldogs, French bulldogs, and some mastiffs), although sweet and loveable, are often known for their unique medical and behavioral issues. Because of this, it is extremely crucial that these dogs be seen by a veterinarian regularly. Many bulldog owners have claimed to have spent thousands of dollars at a time to provide necessary veterinary care to their dogs. Some of the most common medical issues are:

- **Respiratory problems**
 - Bulldog breeds are brachycephalic (“short-headed”). Because of their shortened heads they often have smaller than normal or narrow nostrils, a narrower trachea, and elongated soft palates (the soft tissue on the top of the mouth—when elongated it extends into the back of the throat causing blockage to the trachea).
- **Overheating**
 - Due to the inability to breathe well, bulldogs are known to overheat quickly and cannot be outdoors for an extended period of time.
- **Exercise Intolerance**
 - All dogs should be exercised regularly. However, bulldog breeds may not tolerate *rigorous* exercise and may have to be walked more frequently for shorter periods of time.
- **Skin Allergies**
 - Moisture often gets trapped in the skin folds (or wrinkles) of bulldog breeds. Inflammation may occur because of the rubbing of the skin and trapped moisture. Skin folds need to be kept dry and clean and if inflammation occurs, should be seen by a veterinarian.
- **Arthritis/Hip Dysplasia/Degenerative Spine Disease**
 - Because of selective breeding, many bulldogs suffer from painful joint and bone diseases. Exercise and a good body condition are crucial to reducing the chances of these occurring (however, exercise and a good body condition will not always prevent these maladies).
- **Cherry Eye**
 - Dogs have a third eyelids inside their lower eyelid. When “cherry eye” occurs a gland within the third eyelid prolapses and “pops out.” Surgery is the only option to correct this.

- **Gastrointestinal Issues**
 - Many bulldog breeds suffer from food allergies, vomiting, and regurgitation. All of these issues must be seen by a veterinarian.
- **Underbites**
 - Some underbites can lead to serious health issues because normal functioning can be impaired. An inability to tear and grind food is among the problems a dog with a more severe underbite can suffer. More severe things can happen when a tooth comes in wrong, doing unintended damage or wounding sensitive parts of the mouth, whether the cheek, gums or the roof of a dog's mouth. However, physical traumas from misaligned teeth that make regular and inappropriate contact with the mouth's interior can lead to complications like infections and formation of cysts, and can even accelerate the process of tooth decay. Baby teeth that do not erupt properly or remain impacted can also lead to pain and suffering

The temperament of most bulldog breeds is loving, goofy, and all around pleasant. However, they are known for their stubbornness and benefit the most from positive reinforcement training.

There are a multitude of groups and clubs specific to each bulldog breed that can provide a wealth of information. First time bulldog owners should do thorough research on the breed before adopting, taking into consideration the higher than normal vet bills. These groups and clubs are a great resource for breed specific questions about behavior and medical conditions.

- French Bulldog Club of America - <https://frenchbulldogclub.org/>
- The Bulldog Club of America - <https://bulldogclubofamerica.org/>
- The Mastiff Club of America - <https://mastiff.org/>
- Cane Corso Association of America - <https://canecorso.org/>