



“An Insider’s Guide To the Healthiest, Happiest and Most Well Behaved Pug On the Block”.....

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Foreword

If you are considering bringing home that snub-faced toughie, it's more a brave decision than a wise one unless you are well prepared. Pugs by nature are adaptable, calm and even-tempered, just as they are also affectionate, charming, outgoing and playful, making them excellent family pets for either life in the city or country. In fact, there is no other pet as cute and as full of personality as a Pug, but they do come along with responsibilities for you.

His wrinkled face and soft puppy skin win even the meanest hearts. But after all the love and adoration, let's get practical: cute as a Pug may be, he can also be a lot of work for his owner. Think about it as you read this book and decide carefully whether or not to bring home this wonderful pet.

Originally bred as lap dogs, Pugs are people-centric and make for wonderful family pets. If you already have a pet or two, your Pug will befriend them. Your Pug really wants nothing more than to please you, his owner, so you will have to teach him what exactly you want. And he's sure to have a mind of his own and can be very stubborn, though training can make a big difference to them and Pugs reciprocate your love immeasurably.

This breed was first recognized by The American Kennel Club in 1885 and is today a recognized breed by the FCI too in the Toy Dogs group. Over the last few years, this breed has grown in popularity and was ranked #15 in the AKC Dog Breeds 2000 Top 50 in 2000. Today, more people recognize and appreciate this breed for its clownish ways and loving character.

Being so cute, it's not difficult to resist these pets and so very often are bought on impulse. But it is necessary to be practical and check out his antecedents, characteristics, illnesses, needs and weaknesses. I do hope this book answers all your questions about Pugs and that you find that this truly remarkable dog is suited to you.

Happy days with your Pug!

Chapter 1

Where did this wonderful creature come from?

The mysterious Orient has gifted the world dog breeds ranging from Tibetan Mastiffs to Chow Chows to Lhasa Apsos, Shih Tzus, Akitas and Shiba Inus. Undoubtedly however, the Pug is the most popular and lovable of them all. This small, ugly to some but endearing monkey-faced pet has a heart of gold and a huge fan following all over the world. Let's take a world tour of all those parts of the world that the Pug has populated:

- **The Pug in faraway Tibet and ancient Egypt:** The Pug was worshipped much like the cats of ancient Egypt. It is one of the world's oldest known breeds, dating as far back as 700 BC. First bred as pets for Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, it was one of the three main dog breeds by the 1300s, said to be the fathers of dog breeds today. These are the Pekingese, the Japanese Spaniel and the Pug.

Part of the mystique of ancient civilization of the Orient, the coming of the Pug and its history are caught in a veil of other more important happenings of the times. Claimed to be over a 1000 years old, it was bred to be the closest and dearest companion of members of the royalty from the same line that produced the Pekingese.

- **The Pug in China:** A page of Chinese history reveals important information about the Pug. It reveals that Chinese emperors belonging to various dynasties beginning with the Shang dynasty 3000 years ago were said to have bred a variety of small companion dogs. These pets received royal and courtly attention and basked in it. They were privileged to have attendants to look after them and rode in specially designed and built carriages.

Historical accounts refer to "short-mouthed dogs" regarded as good luck symbols by Chinese emperors because of the symbols that lay hidden among their wrinkles. History also points to ancient Chinese law that stated that only the emperor could own or gift a Pug and if anyone broke this law, he was liable to be punished to death.

Until the period 1368-1644 when cat breeding was the fashion, these small dogs were the hot favorites and a fashion statement too. At the close of the 17th century, breeders began bringing forth what were popularly called "sleeve dogs" or dwarf versions of this breed that were in fact small enough to fit into the huge sleeves of members of the royalty.

By this time, the Pug had evolved into a breed different from the Pekingese and the Lion Dog. Meanwhile, China had opened its ports to European traders and the over-enterprising Chinese sold not just all things beautiful and Oriental, but their dog breed of pride too—the Pug.

The Pug in Holland: When Chinese traders allowed the sale of their Pugs, this breed was taken to faraway Europe—Holland, to be precise—with the Dutch East India

Company. From here, it also went on to England and to the rest of the world. Soon after, Pugs became the choice of aristocrats and royalty and symbolized high status amongst dog breeds. In Holland, the Pug is referred to as “Mopshond” from the Dutch word meaning “to grumble.” This probably refers to the Pug’s habit of snuffling and “talking.”

In 1572, Prince William’s Pug saved his life by alerting the prince to Spanish invaders. Due to the Pug’s timely help, the prince was able to avoid being taken prisoners by the invaders. As a token of his gratitude to his pet, the prince declared the Pug as the official dog of the House of Orange. Despite this, there were many people who didn’t know this breed’s early history. They believed that the Pug had originated in Holland because it had been a Royal favorite since the 16th century.

- **The Pug in England:** William III arrived in England in 1688 to ascend the throne with a whole host of Pugs, each with an orange ribbon, the symbol of Holland’s House of Orange. The British welcomed these cute little dogs in their midst and, a century later, Queen Victoria and France’s Josephine took to them in a big way.

In fact, the Queen was so fond of her pet Pugs that she called a ban on the practice of cropping their ears and she went so far as to bring all dog breeds in England under the purview of this law. Towards the end of the 1800s, the British took the breed from the Imperial Palace in Peking to England where they began the Pug breed blueprint.

- **The Pug in France:** The Pug was also a favorite in France during the Napoleonic reign. In fact, interestingly, Josephine and Napoleon Bonaparte owned a pug called Fortune who didn’t like his master Napoleon, though Josephine loved the animal. The story goes that Fortune once bit Napoleon as he climbed into the nuptial bed.

Rather than sympathize with the man she loved, Josephine told Napoleon in no uncertain terms that the Pug was there to stay and if she was forced to make a choice between pet and master, he could leave. The shrewd master, however, worked out a truce so that they all could be happy together.

- **The Pug in Australia:** One of the earliest pure breeds in Australia, there are no historical records of when they arrived in the country, though records in the Agricultural Society of NSW list two pugs exhibited in 1870.

No matter what the history of the breed may be, this breed is now taken to be an Oriental one and a shorthaired cousin of the Pekingese. In fact, the origin of its name goes back to two sources: one, from the old English word “Pugg,” then used as a term of endearment; and secondly, it is attributed to the Chinese emperor Kang Hsi who referred to a dictionary of all the Chinese characters. Here, he found two references that could fit this breed. The first said, “dogs with short legs” while the second read, “a dog with a short head.” Since both matched the word Pug, this breed was called so.

Yet another explanation is attributed to the Pug’s facial expression that resembles a Marmoset Monkey. It is also popularly known by the names of Mops and Carlin.

Chapter 2

Pug appearance and characteristics

When the British called the first Pugs in their country “Dutch Mastiffs,” surely they were complimenting these medium-sized but substantial dogs. The breed standard describes the Pug as *multum in parvo* or “much in a small package”—perhaps the right name for this sturdy but compact, muscular, well balanced dog. However, a plump Pug is as undesirable as a scrawny one.

In the U.S, Pugs are classified as a Toy breed, and in this category, they are the largest. At a weight ranging between 6-8 kg, they are very sturdy. This dog's most distinctive features are its head and tail. Its muzzle is foreshortened but happily, it is not laid back as in the Bulldog or Brussels Griffon.

Its heavy face is laden with wrinkles, giving him an air of great wisdom or sorrow. While his skull lies flat between his ears and looks square from the front, his jaw is strong. His ears, you will find, flop and fold over with their tips brushing the sides of his face.

Overall, his skin is loose and wrinkle-free, except on his head. He has a short double coat with a fine undercoat and a glossy outer coat. You can find Pugs in either black, silver fawn or and apricot fawn. Though the silver fawn is really a clear fawn or grayish silver, the apricot fawn ranges from cream to deep apricot. However, both have a black mask, black ears and a fine black line or trace from the back of the skull occiput to the tail.

If you find that your Pug bears a black diamond on his forehead or a black mole on his cheek, don't worry because this conforms to the standard, though his muddy color may not. This blurring of colors may be due to breeding black Pugs with fawn-colored ones—something only irresponsible breeders could do.

Does your Pug appear strong with tough muscles, straight legs and topline, matched by a determined gait and a hint of a roll? Well, then you've got a typical Pug. If his tail curls tightly over his hip, this is yet another indication you've got the right Pug.

The body of your Pug, you will notice, is quite similar to that of a Bulldog, except in size. With a square overall look, the height from the floor to the top of the withers should ideally be equal to the length from the breastbone to the rump.

- ❖ **Physical characteristics of the Pug:** Known as the Himalayan of the Dog world, you should expect your Pug to live 12-14 years. Be careful of his dietary habits, because if you indulge him, he will be very happy to overeat. Ideally, he should weigh not more than 6.3-8 kg and should be seen only in recognized coat colors such as silver, apricot fawn and black.

- ❖ **Pug temperament:** Temperamentally too, you will find that he is indeed a family dog. A stable and even-tempered dog, he is playful and an extrovert, a big hit with your children and with adults without children. He is low on activity and maintenance, and just right for life in an apartment or condo. He is equally comfortable in small towns and large cities and is ideal for the elderly or the disabled.

He is playful, mischievous, intelligent and affectionate and gets along well with family and other pets. He loves any attention, especially if it comes from children, but be careful with very young children. He is loyal to his owner and family members and will warn them against strangers

The Pug is a veritable companion dog that loves others and must be loved in return. This is why, being people-centric, he is cherished as a companion dog. He demands human companionship and needs it for his emotional survival. The flip side of this is that he cannot be left alone for long stretches of time, but you can alleviate this problem if you have an animal companion for him, perhaps another Pug too.

Your Pug is an outdoorsy pet who loves playing and going for walks. As an owner of a Pug, you will need to take care that he is not harmed, since he isn't too big.

The Pug is also quite trainable, if you're patient and persistent. But having said that, don't make the mistake of yelling at him during the training session, and don't hit him either because he, like most dog breeds, will respond best to positive reinforcement. So, praise him every time he does something well, such as having a pee pee outside of your house. You will find that he is also very eager to please you and will shine with pride if you praise him often.

- ❖ **Health problems:** For all his positive traits, he has a tendency to several genetic disorders such as encephalitis, mange and dry eyes and, due to his bulging eyes he may also suffer from a range of eye injuries. The structure of his skull also poses breathing difficulties and therefore it is necessary that you keep him away from very hot environments. More on this later.

Chapter 3

Breed Standards of the Pug

Way back in 1885, the American Kennel Club (AKC) first recognized the Pug breed. Today, it is an AKC and FCI recognized dog breed and classified in the Toy Dogs group. Over the last few years, this breed has grown more popular and is ranked at #15 in the AKC Dog Breeds 2000 Top 50.

- ❖ **All about the Toy Pug Breed:** Dogs in this Toy category were particularly developed only to bring more comfort and ease to an elite lifestyle, while also amusing the rich. Since the rich first owned them, they soon became status symbols. When European society saw a change in their economy and lifestyles, owning a Pug became more of a pleasure and a symbol of luxury.
- **General appearance:** Its body symmetry and general appearance are a definite square, giving him a stocky appearance. While this is the standard, if your Pug is thin and leggy, or if he has short legs and a long body, they go against the standard.
- **Size, proportion and substance:** As mentioned before, your Pug should ideally be *multum in parvo*. This would be evident in his compact and proportionate body and tough muscle structure. If he weighs about 6-8 kg, that's desirable.
- **Head:** If his head is large, bordering on massive but round and without any furrow of the skull, you've got yourself a typical Pug. His eyes should be dark, large, bold and prominent and almost globular in shape and sharply offset by a soft and gentle expression. His eyes should also be shiny at peacetime and full of fire, when angry.

Check if his thin and small ears are soft and velvety to touch. Pugs may have either the "rose" kind of ears or the "button," though the latter is preferable. While button ears fold over with the fold of the ear level with the top of the skull and do not hang lower than the corner of the eye, rose ears appear smaller and fold with the inner edge of the ear against the side of the head. The latter also gives the Pug's head a smaller and fuller appearance.

While wrinkles on the Pug head should ideally be deep and easily visible, generally just one large, unbroken wrinkle on the nose is preferred. The wrinkles on his face, though large and deep, are an endearing aspect of his features. His muzzle is short, blunt, square but not turned up.

- **Neck, top line and body:** Is his neck slightly arched, strong, thick and long enough for him to carry his head with pride? That's the demeanor of a typical Pug. If you notice, he has a short back that runs level from the withers to his tail set high. Besides, his short body is stocky too and consists of a wide chest and well-structured ribs. Set high over his hip is his tightly curled tail, though if it is doubly curled, he conforms to the standard. He should neither have a loose tail that bounces over his back nor an uncurled one.

- **Forequarters:** Your Pug should have strong and straight legs of medium length and set under well. When viewed from the side, are his elbows directly under the withers? If yes, that's ideal.

His shoulders should ideally be laid back but only moderately so. His pasterns should look strong and should neither be steep nor down. His feet should not be so long that they are neither disproportionate with the rest of his body nor overly round. He should also boast well split-up toes ending in black nails. Discuss with your vet if the dewclaws are to be removed or not.

- **Hindquarters:** His strong hindquarters will usually reveal a slight bend of stifle and hocks, short but perpendicular to the ground. When viewed from the rear, his legs will appear to be parallel. You will find that usually his hindquarters balance his forequarters, while his thighs and buttocks look not just full but muscular too. .
- **Coat:** His coat is usually fine and smooth; short and soft; and glossy though not hard nor woolly.
- **Color:** Recognized colors of his coat are silver, apricot-fawn or black. These colors, barring the black, should be decided so that the contrast between the color, trace and mask are easily evident. Often, fawn Pugs are called "apricot fawn," "silver fawn" or "stone fawn," only to differentiate them, but really they are all fawn Pugs.

However, apricot fawns have a peach or apricot tint to the coat which otherwise would have been a clear, cream based one. Alternatively, a fawn coat could also have a mix of black-tipped guard hairs in it, making him look not just darker but "cooler" in color too.

All these colors are acceptable, but the dark coloration all over the body is said to be "smutty" and is therefore undesirable. But if these basic colors come with a few white hairs on the chest, that's acceptable. In that case, both colors will turn gray in the muzzle as the dog ages. However, take care not to pick up Pugs that are striping, brindling or come with pinto spots, as they are not desirable colors of this breed.

- **Markings:** The markings on a true-blue Pug are clearly defined. You will notice that his muzzle or mask, ears, moles on cheeks, thumb mark or diamond on forehead and the back trace are black. To conform to the standard, he should have a black mask. The nearer these features are to black, the more well defined and the better. Usually, the trace in a Pug begins in the occiput region and goes on to his tail.
- **Gait:** When viewed from the front, his forelegs should give him a good carriage—one that shows no weakness in his pasterns, with his paws resting squarely ahead with the central toes. The rear action should be strong and free and generated through hocks and stifles, without any reason to twist or turn in or out at the joints.

The hind legs should move in harmony with the front. You will find that there is a slight natural meeting of the limbs—both front and rear. From a slight roll of his hindquarters, you can expect him to have a free and confident stride, and perhaps just a little jaunty too.

Chapter 4

Pug coat colors

Time and time again, you hear of a new owner disappointed with the coat color of his darling Pug: what was thought to be a “rare silver Pug” turns out to be a dark, ordinary one—and that’s neither rare nor standard.

Officially, however, the Pug comes in only two recognized colors—fawn and black. We now learn that there are various shades of blacks and different types of fawns, and it’s easy to understand the differences. It’s easy to accept that no two dogs are ever alike. This is why you commonly find variations of black and fawn within the breed, that only ends up confusing the not-so-knowledgeable buyer. This is how descriptions such as “apricot fawn” and “silver fawn” come about.

- **Black Pugs:** There are two kinds of black Pugs—one that appears blue-black in the sun and is therefore called the blue-black Pug. Its highlights or tints shine with a blue shade instead of red. This color of Pug is in complete conformity with the standard.

The second shade of black is a blend of rust and black—one that fades or tans in the harsh sun and develops into a rusty black. The texture of his coat is softer than the blue-black.

- **Fawn Pugs:** Pugs of this shade should ideally have a bold black pigment on the mask, ears, eye rims and toenails. The coat should really be clear or without a heavy layer of dark black guard hairs or stiff outer hairs on the coat. You will find that the Pug’s black mask, fawn coat and facial hairs set him apart, revealing a fine defining line between them. Therefore, there is no smudging of colors or one shade running into the other.

An apricot fawn is a fairly rare variation of the breed whose color is eye-catching, pleasant and warm. This is easily distinguishable from other fawn colors as the darker ones are more orange than apricot in color.

- **The rare silver Pug:** Though these dogs have been around, they are the truly rare ones of this breed. Silver Pugs are those that do not have any black hair on their bodies. Unscrupulous breeders may try to pass off Pugs with unknown colors to you, claiming they are rare silvers, so be careful!
- **Brindle Pugs:** Brindle colored Pugs are very popular now but are the result of crossbreeding a Pug with other breeds. The resulting Pugs are brindles and those with “pinto” colors.

According to the genetics of colors in dogs, there is not gene to account for brindling in the Pug. Obviously then, this gene must have come from a breed that carries it—an idea

that gives more shape to the notion of crossbreeding. Many breeds carry this gene, for instance, the Boston terrier and the French bulldog. These breeds are the closest in body structure to the Pug, so it is likely that breeders have mated these breeds with their Pugs.

Dogs can and do have pups within a litter that are sired by different fathers. In such cases, it is difficult to determine the father without a DNA test of each puppy of that litter. But with rapid strides in DNA research, it will be possible to determine if a dog is "pure Pug" or "Pug mixed with another breed." Till then, it is better to be wary of this type of Pug.

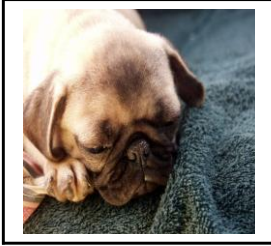
When you come across the term "DNA tested" brindles, be wary because what really happens is that breeders have a cheek swab done that costs about \$35 - \$40. This only proves that the pup is the baby of his registered parents. Big deal!

- **Albinos:** Albinism is a special genetic mutation that can occur within any breed of dog or any other animal. This type of genetic mutation is so well known among breeders that they have already documented it. It is a recessive gene and only when two albinos mate can an albino be born.

An albino has a white coat, pink skin, pink nose and eye rims. This shade of pink points to the fact that there is a lack of pigmentation and is therefore the exact opposite of a dog with full and rich pigment. If your Pug is an Albino, beware as he can sunburn easily.

Chapter 5

Why choose a Pug—is he really right for you?



There's no doubt that bringing home a Pug is indeed a big decision. It is a 24/7 responsibility—one that can turn your whole world upside down for a while. And to top it all, it's a commitment of about 12-15 years and will lock up not just your time but your money and freedom too. Are you ready for this? Before setting your heart on a Pug, ask yourself the following questions:

- **Do you want a dog that will amuse you?** Only then should you choose a Pug, as he is a natural clown and show off.
 - **Do you need a dog that is good with your kids?** A Pug is the best choice as he is a natural with kids but care with toddlers.
 - **Do you want someone to guard your kids when they are out cycling or running about in the street?** If this is your requirement, pass up the Pug, as he gets very tired in the heat.
 - **Are you on the lookout for a small watchdog for your apartment?** A Pug may or may not be the best choice as he is not the best watchdog, as he cannot recognize a stranger from a burglar.
 - **Is your need for an easy-to-train dog?** Your Pug will only want to please you, but that doesn't mean that he understands your commands straight off. If you're patient, he can learn though he may take a little longer than many other breeds.
 - **Is coat hair one of your concerns?** Well, keep miles away from the Pug because he sheds huge amounts every season.
 - If you want someone who has human understanding and compassion, then you could consider a Pug as it has a sensitivity we know nothing of.
- ❖ **Why choose a Pug:** Pugs are affectionate, clean and peaceful, love traveling and are adaptable, good with children, don't bark too much and get along with other pets. You'll also find that your Pug is intelligent, loves human company and lots of attention, has a great sense of humor, is stubborn at times and suffers from a range of genetic and other medical problems.

You could choose a Pug for these reasons too:

- **Size:** They're small, but don't be put off by that. They're proof of the statement, "Big things come in small packages."

- **Temperament:** Pugs are people-friendly, playful and are natural entertainers—so you will never have a dull moment. They are also good with children and older members of the family. They aren't aggressive; neither are they intimidated by any other breeds but are loving and loyal to their masters.
- **Exercise:** They are both indoor and outdoorsy guys. They love to get out and walk and play, but stay indoors when the heat gets oppressive. The Pug, as you perhaps know, cannot bear too much of the heat and must therefore stay away from the harsh glare of the sun.

Despite knowing these few facts about the Pug, you still need to do some more soul-searching before buying a Pug. Consider the following:

- **Evaluate your lifestyle:** As an idea, buying a Pug sure sounds good. But think a little further: Sure, this is perhaps the right time in your life to go out and bring home a pet. Perhaps a Pug? It could also be that you've always wanted a dog but you've been limited by various factors in the past, and perhaps now seems like a good time to bring one home.

Or have you just moved to a big city where your paycheck is large enough to let you take care of a pet with time to spare to be with him. In such a case, should you rush out and bring one home?

Yes and no. True, you've heard right that a Pug is great company and a good listener when you've had a hard time at work. Besides, if you live by yourself, he can be good security when a stranger comes knocking at your door. But you still have to think of a few more things: if you live alone and go out to work each day, your pet will have to wait for you to return and when you do, he will be bursting with joy and energy. He may want you to go out and play with him in the yard or to take him out for a walk, though all you may want to do is to flake out on the sofa.

- **Do you have the time?** Since they were bred to be lap dogs that kept people company, they expect to be right next to you, at least for most of the time. So, if you don't enjoy this, don't go in for a Pug. If you work for long hours away from home, you'd be very cruel to leave him all alone at home all day. He may end up having behavioral problems and depression due to the boredom. In your absence, he may also chew your furniture unless trained from day one.
- **A Pug is not a yard dog:** Their short noses make them sensitive to heat, humidity and cold. When exposed to extreme heat or cold, they can become ill quickly. For this reason, you should never leave him out in the yard indefinitely and unattended.

They are also sensitive to bee stings, so if he reacts to a sting, he will die instantaneously. And lastly, don't be surprised if your Pug is stolen out of yard when your gardener, meter reader or postman leaves a gate open by mistake or carelessly.

- **Pugs shed copiously:** Having short hair doesn't mean the coat is short too. The Pug has both short hair and a double coat, so naturally he sheds twice as much hair as other dogs.
- **They don't do well with very small children:** Despite being peace-loving dogs, Pugs are not generally aggressive dogs. However, their curly tails and huge, bulging eyes fascinate little kids, who may get carried away thinking your Pug is a "toy". A Pug's eyes are extremely sensitive and easily injured. Also if a small child pulls their tail, they may snap immediately, as do many other dog breeds I might add.
- **Pugs need special care:** There's always a wrinkle over your Pug's nose. Here's where dirt and moisture get in and infect the nose wrinkle. To avoid such a situation, clean this wrinkle daily.
- **Your Pug is not an exercise freak:** Apart from the dirt collecting over his short nose, this facial feature can pose yet another problem—he can't exercise too much as he has no stamina. This is why he can't go running, hiking or bicycling with you, unless you take him along in a little carrier or sling him against your chest. For these reasons, your walk will have to be shorter or you can take him along only when the weather permits it.
- **Pugs have several physical problems:** Pugs are more prone to eye problems than anything else. At any point of their lives, almost half or more of all Pugs experience eye problems and need medical help. Common problems they experience are luxating patellae or slipping knees, elongated soft palates, pinched or undersized nostrils, narrow tracheas, spinal problems, pug dog encephalitis and liver shunts.
- **Housebreaking can be a quite a job:** Though quick to learn, they often have accidents at some time or other. Are you prepared for that?
- ❖ **The ideal Pug owner:** You can be an ideal Pug owner if:
 - You have a lot of time for your dog and can be patient with him
 - You like cuddling your pet
 - You can make your pet work for you
 - You can be strict when you need to be and can laugh at his antics
 - You're aware of his weaknesses and alert to his illnesses
 - You don't want to keep him outdoors only
 - You don't want an athletic dog, or like the idea of going for long walks every day or take part in competitive agility
- ❖ **Why you shouldn't choose a Pug:** Yes, Pugs are wonderful, but they aren't meant for everyone. Let's tell you why. When you select a dog, it is important that there be a perfect fit between owner and dog, since this is the beginning of a positive and longstanding relationship. But before you get to this stage, there are a few vital

things to consider. Please consider these seriously and carefully before you decide on buying yourself a Pug.

- **Health problems:** As you are now learning, Pugs are prone to a whole spectrum of genetic health problems for which they may need a veterinary care. This is the first thing that you need to internalize—that you will be making some trips to the vet. This means that you need to take time off from your busy schedule and often, besides also forking out money at the vet's clinic. But if you think that this is a complete nuisance, particularly over a 12-15 year period, please don't invest in a Pug. Mind you, all dogs require a certain amount of vet care from time to time.
- **Housetraining:** As mentioned earlier, these dogs are difficult (but certainly not impossible) to housetrain. Being so small in size, they can be difficult to hold. Also, their stubbornness sometimes prevents them from co-operating with their trainers or masters. But if you are a skilled and experienced dog owner, you should be able to housetrain your Pug within the first three months. This may take up to a year or longer in some cases. So, if you find this too long drawn out a task, abandon the idea of getting a Pug.
- **He'll cling to you:** Since Pugs love and thrive on human companionship they will cling to you. By doing this, they are sticking to their original duty in life—to be companion dogs. So if you do get a Pug, you can safely expect it to be around you for all his waking hours. He will follow you from room to room, and while you may find this charming, there are those people who can't take too much of it. So, think about it.
- **They are low activity dogs:** Pugs are not so energetic that they would enjoy fetching Frisbees for you all day long. They sleep long hours, perhaps 14 hours a day. But they are blessed with short bursts of energy, so you may be lucky to see him run long and fast and then quickly sink to the floor for a nap. If you are an outdoor person, this breed can't share that hobby with you all the time.
- **It's a stay-at-home breed:** This is one breed that immediately reacts to high temperatures and humidity. This makes him sick and an over exposure to this type of weather can cause either immediate or long-term health problems in him, beginning with heat stroke and going on to organ damage. Reconsider your decision to buy a Pug if you live in a very warm and humid climate without air conditioning.
- **A high maintenance pet:** Pugs need a lot of grooming and general care. First, to counter their copious shedding, their coats have to be brushed frequently. Then, their facial folds must be cleaned, every other day or oftener, depending on how dirty they get themselves. Their nails grow fast and need regular trimming.

They are also prone to having their anal sacs fill which must be drained from time to time. This is not a pleasant task, if you do it yourself. Alternatively, you could take him

to the vet to have it done, perhaps a few times a year. If these things aren't your cup of tea, consider another breed.

In addition, they can be hyperactive, though they behave as pups until they are two years old.

❖ **Other problems:** Pugs suffer from a whole host of medical problems such as:

- **Pug Dog Encephalitis (PDE):** This form of encephalitis is seen only in Pugs and is fatal.
- **Eye problems:** Pugs are prone to eye problems and that includes cataracts. Ulcers too can sometimes be caused due to a scratch or injury, dry eye, generalized progressive retinal atrophy, pigmentary kerinitis and other problems.
- **Elongated soft palate:** The soft palate is part of nose and mouth. If it is too long, it can block some of the air passage to the animal's lungs and may require surgery.
- **Entropion:** When his eyelids roll in and his eyelashes rub on the surface of his eyes, it causes him to feel the irritation and induces him to scratch the area. If you don't attend to it, it can lead to him having reduced eyesight and eventual blindness.
- **Slipped stifles or patellar dislocation:** A dislocated kneecap can be either hereditary or due to an accident. If the problem is acute, it may call for surgery.
- **Stenotic nares:** When the Pug's nostrils are too small and/or their cartilage is far too soft for the dog to breathe, then, on inhaling, they tend to collapse. The best treatment for this is surgery.

Despite this, diehard Pug owners feel that if you are a first-time owner of this breed, you'll always have one in your life from the day you first own one.. Medical problems and management will be covered in more depth in chapter 12.

Male or female: The next issue you need to tackle is whether you want a male or a female Pug. Some pet buyers wanted a male. They do not want the bother of the female's seasons. Then there were those pet buyers who want females, having heard of the persistent efforts required to houstrain a male, especially as he is inclined to "mark" his territory, even indoors!

Whether you buy a male or a female, there are advantages and disadvantages of both decisions. Make an informed choice - for instance, there is a myth that spaying a female made her fat and lazy. Nothing is further from the truth. Spaying does not alter the Pug's personality, weight or energy level in any way. It only alters their sex drive.

Then again, it is a myth that females are more affectionate than males, while males are more energetic and will need more exercise. The temperament of a breed is common to

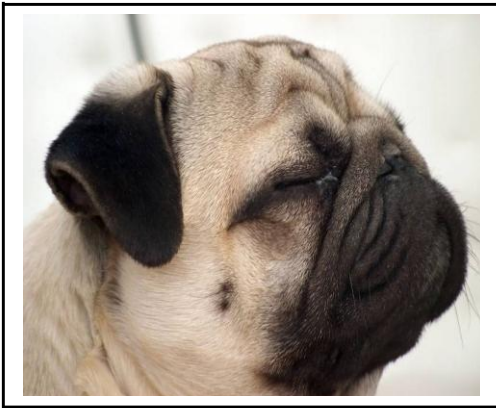
both sexes and both male and female Pugs are equally affectionate and need to be exercised a little every day.

There really is no reason to prefer one sex to the other. Chances are, your decision will eventually be based on availability, as there are generally more male pups available. Breeders tend to keep the females to breed from.

Once you have made the decision to buy a Pug, locate a good breeder. If you need to talk to or visit a number of them to research the breed, by all means do so. The last thing you want is to be stuck with an unhealthy dog or with one whose needs you had not anticipated. Chapter 8 covers all you need to know about finding a good breeder.

Chapter 6

Are you planning on getting a Pug, then?



Many owners wonder about the possibility about bringing home a Pug. Will it bring about a complete change of lifestyle? Will your life revolve around the animal? Will this cause a lot of heartburn among the family? How will your husband and little kids accept this new member of the family?

But if you have resolved these and any other problems and you as a family are mentally ready for a pet—and a Pug at that—you'll have to get down to some serious hard work. You'll have to prepare your house for the new member. Enlist your family's help for this:

❖ Getting your house ready for your pet Pug:

- **Make your house confusion-free for your new Pug:** Before you actually drive down to bring home your new pet; prepare your home for any unnecessary and unprecedented stress and confusion both to yourself and your pet. In order to do this, you need to begin by laying down the rules. Who among your family is going to be responsible for this pet? Set up a schedule for his various activities such as grooming, feeding, exercising, cleaning, and playtime and off-limit areas.
- **First, the necessary supplies:** Have you bought all the necessary supplies already? Good. This should include your Pug's food, food and water bowls, leash, collar, identification, brush, bed and shelter.
- **A local vet:** Now, find a local veterinarian for your pet. Ask around and find out by word of mouth if you can who is a good vet. Take your pup to the vet within the first 10 days of buying him. If you do this, your vet will do a complete body examination so that he can verify the breeder's certificate of health. After this, he will give your pup another batch of vaccinations. Take care to see that your pup is vaccinated at the ages of eight, 12 and 16 weeks.

As a new owner, you should take precautions to see that your pup is not exposed to any other dogs before he has been given his last set of vaccinations. If you go against this rule

by taking him to the dog park, your pup may just be exposed to illnesses that his body is still ill equipped to resist. More on vaccinations later.

Often, Pug pups are born with a problem of worms or a lactose infection. This results in loose bowels but can be easily tested by doing a stool culture. If he tests positive, your vet could give him oral medicine to set him right.

- **Put your Pug's best foot forward:** Your next job is to introduce your new Pug to each of your existing pets. Do this slowly and one by one, until they grow used to each other. In their first encounter, they will size each other up on their species, breed, size, gender, age, temperament and health.
- **Close all doors:** Keep all the doors of your house closed, particularly those of the washer/dryer, closets and cupboards and any other areas you don't want him to enter. Lastly, be patient and loving, and encourage him to adjust to his new life in your home.
- **Pet-proofing your home:** Now, pet-proof your home. This means putting away all household chemicals such as cleansers, insecticides and antifreeze. Also, remove rat or mouse poisonings and windshield wiper fluid from your house. Are all the poisonous substances and sharp objects in your home out of your Pug's reach? And what about garbage, medicine, pins, elastic, needles and thread? Keep them away from his reach and scrutiny too.

If you have houseplants, figure out the poisonous ones and keep them out of his reach. Determine areas where the new pet may roam about in and other areas where your existing pets may use.

Poisonous household plants and items

Alcohol	Almonds	Amaryllis bulb	Anthurium	Apricot
Aspirin	Avocado	Buttercup	Caffeine	Cherry
Chocolate	Chrysanthemum	Garlic	Grapes	Hyacinth bulbs
Lily	Lily of the Valley	Mistletoe Berries	Morning Glory	Mountain laurel
Narcissus	Oleander	Onion	Painkillers	Peach
Pencil Cactus	Philodendron	Poinsettia	Potato	Rhododendron
Rhubarb leaves	Raisins	Shamrock	Tomatoes	Vitamins

- ❖ **Bringing home the second dog:** Perhaps you are bothered about how your existing pets are going to react to a new one. Will they or won't they get along? This may hard to predict because there are such huge differences among dog breeds and between two dogs of the same breed. Besides, dogs tend to display innate behavioral instincts such as territoriality and dominance that are the bases of problems when a new dog comes home, notwithstanding the latter's breed.

Before you get into those issues, stop awhile and consider your own family set-up. Ask yourself why you chose another dog. Is your existing dog much older? It could be that you have an older Pug and by now you have adjusted to their playful ways, their obedience and you've cracked the code of housebreaking them. With this confidence in hand, you now wanted yet another Pug because you think they are the greatest. Maybe you just wanted to give company to your older Pug.

If your new and existing dogs are both young, your existing dog may behave like the newcomer because he's really not so much older than the new pup. Your existing Pug may revert to his untrained state. This isn't a welcome situation—naturally, piddling all over the place couldn't really be!

The second most important factor that determines the success you have in introducing your pup to your dog is dominance. If they have to live peacefully together, they need to establish a dominance pattern or a "pecking order" acceptable to both parties.

Often, when one just glares at the other who turns his face away or lowers his eyes, this issue is settled. But sometimes, one dog may place his paws on the shoulders of the other or press his chin on to the back or shoulders of the other. Extreme cases include growling, baring his teeth, snapping or fighting.

At times like these, it's generally best not to interfere—let them sort out their hierarchy, unless of course there is fierce fighting. In this case you must separate the dogs and let them know they have done the wrong thing and that you are the boss! Don't seek parity between them; instead, support the hierarchy they set up by placing a bowl of food in front of the dominant dog, let him enter your car first, greet him first when you return in the evening. To establish dominance, size, age, gender and temperament are qualifiers. But this is something your dogs need to resolve on their own while you only supervise the proceedings. Having said this, Pugs should not pose any more problems with any other breed. Well, if that's no longer a problem, how do you go about choosing a dog? Here's how:

❖ **Selecting your second dog:**

- **Choose by temperament:** To bring in a pup rather than an adult may be the best solution if you already have an existing adult, because then the latter will not see the newcomer as a rival. While the older one may allow the pup to frolic around till he grows up, the question of dominance will either be challenged or sorted out quickly.

While introducing the pup to the older dog, supervise the meeting closely. If your adult dog is socialized and is even-tempered, he will respond by setting limits for pups with a growl or snarl, but if poorly socialized, he will fight and be aggressive, not knowing how to send across subtle messages. Give the adult some time on his own and away from the pup; and while you are away, separate them until they are comfortable with each other.

- **Choose by gender:** Should you choose a male or female? As mentioned earlier, if you're a responsible owner with spayed or neutered pets, then you won't give too much thought to the pet's gender. If un-neutered or unspayed, your male or female Pug may be aggressive towards the pup. Choose a spayed or neutered Pug as this reduces their aggression towards animals of the same sex.
- **Choose neutral territory:** If you introduce both pets in an unfamiliar, neutral territory, it reduces the chances of your current dog feeling threatened by the pup on home ground. Take him to a park or an unfamiliar fenced yard.
- ❖ **How to introduce him or her:** Make this experience a happy one by taking each dog on a leash—you take one dog and your husband or son or daughter the other. Bring them face-to-face and watch their reactions. They will first sniff each other, while you and the other person should immediately say, "Good boy! Good boy! Now, Toby, you have a new friend. Go on, play with him!"

A short while later, call the dogs to you and praise and reward them with treats for their good behavior. By this, you want both of them to recognize the presence of the other and with other things such as praise, attention, rewards, love and food. Walk them for a while and let them stop every now and then and examine each other.

If you find them adapting to each other, let them spend more time together. Do this by using 30-40 foot leads or just dropping their leashes if you are in an enclosed area. Watch out for any signs of aggression such as hair rising along the back, prolonged staring, growling, baring the teeth or walking stiff-legged.

Don't interrupt this or prevent it from happening, instead call them over to you and give them praise and food. Repeat this process for short periods, separating them each time before they turn aggressive.

- ❖ **First aid for your new pet:** Before you bring home your pet, you need to set up a first aid box just in case he meets with an accident or falls sick. The following information relates to accidents/illnesses at home and what you should do.
- **Road accident:** If your dog meets with a road accident, take him away from the scene of injury (only if it safe for you to do so) and rest him in a quiet spot and make him comfortable there. Restrain him if necessary to prevent further injury. Bandage his wounds with a clean cloth and call your vet as soon as possible.
- **Cut paw:** If he is cut by a sharp object such as a piece of glass and he bleeds profusely, wrap his injured paw in gauze dressing or clean cloth and put a firm ace bandage with even pressure around the paw. Now, take him to the vet for professional treatment, but remember not to use an elastic band or any other kind of tourniquet around the limb indefinitely.

- **Vomiting:** If you find your Pug pup vomits occasionally , don't take that too seriously but if this happens frequently or if he is ill, you need to be concerned. Before you take him to the vet, make a note of how he vomits and the kind of vomit so that you can explain these to the vet. Collect some of it in a bottle so that the vet can examine it. Don't feed him until you've called your vet for advice on feeding him.
- **Acute diarrhea:** In this case, your Pug pup may have loose stools with blood and/or mucus. This may be accompanied by vomiting. To prevent further damage to his health, don't feed him but keep him warm. Give him a little water, every few minutes with glucose or weak soup.

If you find he's weak, sluggish or depressed, let the vet take a look at him. But if he continues to be bright and active, let the vet see him at his convenience. But ask your vet for advice on the phone to avoid any waste of time.

- **Stings and snakebites: In these conditions, your pup may experience** sudden sharp pain leading to a swelling of the area and a pale skin. Has he been stung in the throat? Then, his breathing will be difficult. Rest him in a cool and quiet spot and don't let him exercise. Check the swelling—if it persists for over an hour, or if he has been stung on the face or neck, don't waste any time but rush him to the vet. In addition, encourage him to leave his tongue out so that he can breathe without any difficulty.

If a snake has bitten him, tie a tight bandage around the affected area. Try and spot the kind of snake responsible for the bite and let the vet know immediately.

- ❖ **Taking your pup to the vet in an emergency:** It's better for you to take your pet over to the vet rather than wait for the vet to come home. This is so because the vet's clinic has all the specialized equipment, medication and trained personnel required for immediate help and relief. Before taking him there, don't feed him or give him anything to drink, just in case your vet feels the need to give him a general anesthetic.

Instead, slide him gently onto an old blanket or coat on the floor, and drag the cloth with the body first. Take the help of two people to carry him, using the coat or blanket as a makeshift stretcher and then place him in the backseat of your car, lowering him there gently.

One person should sit by his side on the backseat on the way to the clinic. If you find him trying to bite, tie a necktie or bandage around his muzzle but take it off at the earliest or this will affect his breathing. Lastly, as you set out in your car, call the vet and let him know so that he can prepare for your arrival.

Remember though, when in real doubt and worried about your Pug's health, see or chat with your vet as soon as possible.

Chapter 7

How much does that Pug cost?



Once you buy your Pug, you imagine there are no more major expenses. That's where you're wrong. Like a child, Pugs too need love, food, training, medical care and miscellaneous items. So, consider the costs before you invest in one. Remember, these costs multiplied by 14 will give you the costs you will bear in a 14-year period.

While it's difficult to give a concrete figure that will apply to everyone no matter where you live, much depends on the nature of your Pug's problem. I say again though, all pets require an investment in caring for them. I think the benefits such as the joy and loyalty we get from them easily outweighs the costs. These costs can be minimized somewhat by careful choosing of your Pug.

❖ **The range of costs:**

- **Cost of the pup:** Your expenses begin when you pay for your pup. If you buy from a reputable breeder, it will cost you \$400-800, depending on the breeder. A "pet quality" may come for slightly less, while a "show quality" dog may cost much more.

Besides, prices also vary within the area you live, so the range is broad. You can also buy from a rescue organization which may charge you \$250, while one rescued from the local shelter will charge adoption fees of about \$30-\$100.

- **Vet expenses:** Then come vet expenses that comprise the initial "well puppy exam," the series of shots and wormings etc, that will set you back by about \$150-\$250 over a sustained course of time. If you buy an adult dog, your initial vet check and shots will cost you about \$75.

But if you adopt from a shelter, these fees could be included in the adoption fee. But this still means that you do have a vet checkup, at least so that you may locate a good vet for your future visits.

And remember to have your Pug spayed or neutered—something that will cost you between \$75-\$175 for the puppy. But if you wait till he's an adult before you can do this, this will set you back by \$250 or thereabouts.

- **Puppy food:** Depending on the brand you choose, you could spend \$20 a month for the first six to eight months before you get your pup onto adult food. However, there are those breeders who will recommend you keep your pup on puppy food until they are a year old. Though higher quality foods are more expensive, don't cut corners though on this aspect of your pup's expenses.
- **Miscellaneous expenses:** These items aren't what you anticipate but can surely burn a small hole in your pocket. These are some vital items you must invest in before bringing home the baby:
 - **Bowls:** Steel or porcelain bowls are better because otherwise your pup will end up tipping over the bowl. Buy one large enough for the adult he'll grow into—the 6" diameter ones cost \$10-\$12 each.
 - **Crate:** You may choose not use one while house training your Pug, but you're probably going to use one to transport your dog eventually. You could also choose from the wire see-through crates or the airline shipping type. Usually, people use the size referred to as "200" for shipping or traveling. That would cost you about \$40-\$70. Your crate should allow your Pug to stand up, turn around and stretch out comfortably while inside it.
 - **Dog bed:** People usually use both beds and crate pads or cushions for their Pugs. But even if you don't go in for a bed, you're going to need to line the crate with a removable-cover crate pad, for about \$40 or so.
 - **Grooming tools:** Initially, all you'll need are a brush, shedding comb, nail clippers and shampoo—expect to pay about \$40.
 - **Harnesses, collars and leashes:** These items can be inexpensive, depending on quality. A nylon slip collar and short lightweight leash when puppy training range between \$18 and \$20. Nylon buckles on the collar are good for Pugs as they have larger heads than usual. If you intend walking a lot with your Pug, you may settle for a Flexi-lead or long leash that stretches out from the handle and bounces back, and costs \$40. These flexi leads are better used once you Pug is good at walking on a leash.
 - **Toys:** Your Pug is going to need toys, chews, squeakies, fuzzies, bones, ropes, etc. These will cost you about \$50, but that's cheaper than a new sofa set, right?

- **Enzyme cleaner:** This is to clean with after your puppy has urinated on the rug. This kind of cleaner helps remove the stain and odor on the rug. Starting prices for a big bottle are about \$10-\$12.
- **Puppy proofing:** You can't possibly block off parts of your house and yard so that your pup doesn't wander into the rest of the house. So, invest in a baby gate that will block off doorways in the bathroom or kitchen (\$45).

Cable ties to get electrical cords off the floor will be another \$15-\$20 while cord covers can cost you \$50 or more. To either set up a fenced yard or invest in a chain link kennel, you will have to spend about a few hundred dollars. If you build or buy one, it will cost you \$100-\$200.

- **Ongoing annual expenses:** Let us assume the first year of maintaining a Pug is over. This means that the cost of shots is no longer there. But you do have annual vaccinations to pay for. Annual vet costs that cover costs due to cut paws, scratched eyes, ate a shoelace, worm problems could go up to \$1000 a year but for healthy dogs, it would barely be \$250.

Besides, an annual standard office visit will cost you \$50, depending on your location and vet. Be prepared for an emergency a year, tests for which will set you back by a minimum of \$500.

On an average, you should expect to foot this kind of bill in the year:

A first year cost between \$700 and \$1,000

An annual cost over 12 years: \$320 and \$445

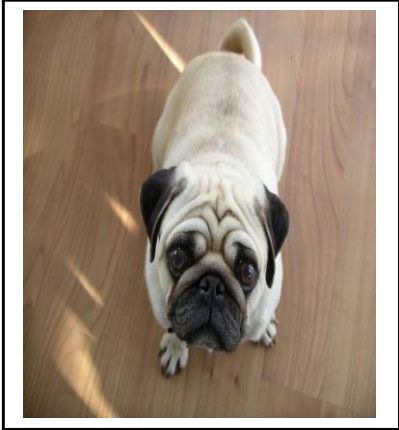
One annual emergency: \$800 and \$1,000

Total veterinary cost: \$5,020 and \$6895 (over 12 years) + emergencies

Average annual cost over a 12-year period: \$418 and \$575

Chapter 8

Buying from a breeder—all that you need to know



If you're looking for a reliable Pug pup, you need to get it through a reliable person, usually referred to as a breeder. It is important you know that there are all kinds of people posing as breeders, but it is essential you know just who to place your trust in.

Of all of them, the knowledgeable breeder is the one whose help and support you should seek. Who are they and how do you go about finding this man or woman?

- ❖ **First, who is a breeder?** High standards of rearing a Pug and several other factors set off a knowledgeable and reliable breeder from the rest. If the following conforms to the breeder you've recently met, consider going ahead with him, he's may be the best for you:
 - He has a lifetime and enduring commitment to the well being and improvement of perhaps any one or two breeds of dogs. If he's a fly-by-night kind, dump him right away.
 - He must know the breed he's rearing so well that he knows their health and genetic problems so that he should not pass on pups with such problems to unwary buyers. He will health test his breed to lessen financial burden to you. Reputable breeders check their adult stock for signs of hip and elbow dysplasia, eye diseases, thyroid and hormone trouble, skin problems and allergies, bleeding disorders and other problems before deciding to breed them.
 - He has in-depth and formal education and has researched his breed. They know it's purpose, history and standard, its strong and weak points and tell their prospective clients all he knows without fear. He will also tell you all about the problems the parents might have had and what the pups you see before you might well have inherited.

- He builds on his knowledge of the breed by improving the health and qualities of his breeding stock. He spends substantial amounts of time, effort and money trying to do this.
- He plans a litter only to improve the strain of the litter, not for commercial gain.
- He considers his dogs' health and well being far more important and precious than just another litter or the dogs' continuing ability to reproduce.
- He is there for his bitches and pups whenever they need him, particularly at a birthing. He not only evaluates the litter but the prospective buyer too, and then tries to make a perfect match between the two. The fit is usually in terms of temperament, attitude, physical qualities and energy level. If he does this, there's a greater chance of pups being in homes a lifetime than not. He also knows that by taking this bit of extra effort, he will ensure that there are fewer dogs returned to him while they are still small and defenseless.
- A reputable breeder usually sells to equally responsible people and therefore does not bind them down to a contract or arrangements for "puppies back". Instead, he needs to go to a home where he's going to be loved. Sure, the breeder will enforce a spaying and neuter contract, but this only proves how much he cares for the good health of his breed.
- Don't be surprised if he keeps in regular touch with you, after you've bought the pup. This is not just to check the development of his breeding program, but also because he cares about them and how they are adjusting to their new homes.
- He takes complete responsibility for the dog—whether a loving one or vicious.
- Since he is selective about the dogs he breeds, he is never so overworked that he has no time for individual attention, play and grooming.
- A reputable and knowledgeable breeder takes full responsibility for his pups by carefully screening potential owners, finding his pups and dogs suitable homes, making his retirees' lives comfortable and choosing to euthanize a puppy born deformed that cannot live like any other dog.
- His is a life built on the pillars of honesty, dedication and consistent quality. If your breeder does not have many pups at any given time, people will refer him to others as being good and reliable. If he is over busy, he won't have healthy, well cared for and socialized pups. All breeders know each other and especially those they would buy from. So, it's well worth asking around.
- By updating his knowledge about the breed, a good breeder will work to reduce the number of ill bred and poorly cared for dogs. And he will spend a good part of his

time educating others and informing himself of newer ways of looking after the breed he cares for.

- A good breeder breeds not for winning dog shows but for contributing to build a better, fitter dog society.
- ❖ **Finding a good breeder:** To find a good quality breeder, first attend a dog show in your area since most good breeders participate in them. This will also give you a chance to see the dogs all around looking their best and to mingle with the crowd and speak to a clutch of breeders.

They will be only too glad to talk to you and answer your questions. You might also be able to get yourself a dream dog although more expensive than at the breeder's farm. But on the brighter side, you end up spending less on vet bills, plus you jump ahead of the long waiting lists breeders usually have.

- ❖ **How to find a breeder:** There are a few reliable methods of finding a breeder. Here are some of the better ones:
 - **Breeder referral list:** Ask the Pug Dog Club of America's (PDC of A) Breeder Referral List contact person for a list of good and reliable breeders in your locality. Being listed with the PDC of A, this is usually thought to be a comfortable point to begin your search. If the breeders you call do not have a Pug pup, they will put you on to others who might.
 - **Referenced breeders:** Ask your friends and family whom they got their pets from and whether they have had good experiences with those particular breeders. If they have, you can tap them for a pet. Limit your going by references to those you trust, as word of mouth advertising may not be reliable.
 - **Newspaper ads:** This is not a recommended way of finding a reliable breeder. If you tie up with a good and reputed breeder, you will find that he has repeat customers and is registered with organizations such as the PDC of A and therefore does not need to advertise in the newspaper.

On the contrary, they have just a few litters per year, but due to their reputation, have little difficulty selling their pups. This is why they can "promise" their pups months in advance.

- ❖ **Meeting a breeder:** With your research on breeders complete and in hand, you now have to get on to that difficult part of this procedure and ask for the paperwork associated with your prospective Pug pup before you fork out big money for him. Here goes:
 - **Health certificate:** This is the most important of those that follow here—something the breeder must be able to provide you with. A vet should certify it, and attest that

the pup you're considering buying now is healthy and free of illness, fault or disease. You could ask for this on the phone, if you like, in your initial tele-talk, but if you find him hedging or fobbing you off, dump him and move on to the next breeder on your list.

- **De-worming and vaccination records:** These records are also necessary to have, as they are proof that the pet you're considering has been de-wormed and vaccinated. If the breeder doesn't have these or won't give them to you, move on to the next breeder.
- **Sales contract:** This is one more document you must keep handy and take with you when buying a puppy. If you find the breeder reluctant to sign it, you've contacted the wrong person. But take a good look at it, reproduced here:

Agreement of Sale

Date _____
Sold to _____
Breed _____ M F Reg # _____
Price \$ _____
Sire _____ # _____
Dam _____ # _____
whelped _____ Sales Tax _____

(One third of the sales price is to be forfeited if the dog is returned for any other reason than failure to pass Veterinarian examination.)

Total \$ _____ Paid cash _____ or check _____

Driver license # _____

Sale is contingent on Full Veterinary Approval within _____ hours.

What it should contain:

- i. That as the buyer, you will take your pup to a vet of your choice within a specified period, i.e. between two and six days after you buy him. If the examinations throw up any pre-existing problems such as luxating patella or irregular heartbeats, you will then be able to return the pup to the breeder and get a full refund on the purchase price.
- ii. If at any time after taking the Pug pup home and living together, you find yourself incapable of taking care of him, you will give the breeder the first option to repurchase it from you at the going price of a dog of his age. Since your breeder is

responsible for his coming into the world, he will naturally want his pup back. Also, he knows that abandoned pups suffer a very bad life, so he will want to save this one from that life.

iii. The contract should also state the name of the dog or another equally acceptable identifying factor, his selling price, the required deposit for holding the puppy for you (with indication of refundability), the date when the full balance is due, the balance amount and the total cost. Your name, the breeder's name or the name of his company and the dog's name should all be in the contract.

❖ **Dog not for resale purposes:** By signing the bill of sale, the breeder or seller and buyer certify that this dog is not sold for resale purposes and that if it is necessary for the dog to change ownership, the breeder will be notified and have right of first refusal.

Breeder/seller is transferring this dog as.
Show Potential _____ Breeding _____
Pet Quality only _____
(Breeder's initials will show intention)

To the best of my knowledge, this pure bred dog is in good healthy condition with the following exceptions.

- **Parent on premises:** The breeder should make available either parent if not the mother for you to meet. By meeting her, you will be able to get a better idea of the pup's possible temperament and health, and you will be able to see how the breeder looks after his dogs.
- **Free look around his premises:** He should also allow you to inspect his premises or the breeding facility or just where the pups and parent(s) live, sleep, feed and are cared for. If the breeder is reputable and scrupulous, he will let you look around his grounds willingly.
- **Spend time with the pups:** You might wonder why this needs to be told, but there are many people who buy pups without interacting them or even seeing, touching or holding them since they have them shipped from somewhere far off and from a breeder who's a complete stranger to them.

Your breeder should allow you to spend as much time as you like with all his pups that are on sale. He should not rush you, prevent you from being with the pups or limit you while you're with them. If he does any or all of these three things, he is hiding something from you, so it would be wise for you to move on to the next one.

- ❖ **What you must have from your breeder:** By now, you've seen your breeder's facilities and even spoken to him. Now it's time to ask your breeder a few important questions. Begin by asking him a few general questions to break the ice and just so he doesn't feel you're interrogating him. Then, move on to ask him specific and pointed questions so that you make an informed decision about dealing with him and to ease yourself of any concerns.

If you ask these questions, you're on safe ground, so take a look at them:

- Do you give out a purchase contract?
- What are the purchase or sale terms of the contract itself?
- Do you give health certificates with your pups?
- What about issuing de-worming and vaccination records?
- For how long will I have to take my Pug to my vet?
- What if my vet finds pre-existing conditions in the pup after I've bought it? Can I return it to you for a refund?
- What pre-existing conditions does the contract cover?
- Could you show me the mother of these pups and the father too?
- Could I spend time with her?
- Is it possible to spend time with your pups on sale?
- Have your pups been under the vigil of a vet?
- Who generally administers the vaccinations and provides the care they require?
- Could I take a look around your grounds?
- If my pup turns out to be show quality, is it necessary I show him? What are the terms of this agreement where a show quality pup is concerned?
- Can I take a look at some references of your customers?
- How many litters do you produce each year and from how many mothers?
- Are the parents well screened?
- How long have you been in this field?
- Which other dog breeds do you breed?
- If the sire is not on the premises, where is he?

Don't hesitate to ask these questions and any others that might crop up in your mind. He will be only too happy to answer your questions satisfactorily. And if you think that all the aces are with you, let me tell you that you are as much under your breeder's scrutiny as he is under yours. So, he too will ask you a lot of searching questions before he can trust you with his pups.

This is because he cares a lot about the dogs he breeds and sells only because he is genuinely interested in the future and well being of his pups.

A reputable breeder will ask you questions about your lifestyle, experience with dogs, your knowledge of caring for them, etc. He is genuinely interested in knowing if you are as sincere about your passion for dogs as you reveal or not. If you don't sense this, try the next breeder on your list.

- ❖ **Questions your breeder will ask you:** You might well have fallen in love with one of the adorable Pugs you've seen but that doesn't mean the breeder's going to part it with just like that. He's going to ask you a lot of searching questions, just as you grilled him—questions that will relate to why you want to take in a pet, etc.

It is in your interests to cooperate with the breeder by answering all his questions, as I'm sure you realize that he has invested considerable amounts of time, money and effort in breeding the pup you love so much. So, he needs to be sure he's giving his pup to a good home where his little one will be taken care of well.

But even as I say this, I must sound alarm bells in your mind about those breeders who don't allow you to ask any questions, but sell you the pup you choose without asking any questions. If this is the kind of breeder you're dealing with, you will realize that he hasn't spent enough time to plan a healthy litter free of all genetic faults.

You will also see that he is unconcerned about your credentials, a fact as disappointing as the fact that he knows very little about the breed you're considering—the Pug—except that he is lovable and intelligent.

One more way of knowing a good breeder from a sham is to check out his attitude to the pup's sale price. While a good breeder will worry more about who's taking his pup and whether they are reliable or not, the sham will only wonder about the money and when he can pocket it. But the genuine breeder's mind will be filled with questions such as:

- Why do you want a puppy and why a Pug?
 - Is this your first pet or have you had others in the past?
 - What are your experiences with having a pet at home?
 - Do your pets live a health life? And do they live long?
 - Do you live in an apartment or a house? If in a house, does it have a fenced yard too?
 - Right now, do you have pets?
 - Are they neutered or spayed?
 - How old are they?
 - How are they by temperament?
 - Which vet do you visit and will you continue to go to him for this one?
 - What do you know about obedience training?
 - Have you ever trained your dogs?
 - Why do you want a dog?
 - Do you have any other pets?
- ❖ **When dealing with Pug breeders:** There are a number of things you should consider while dealing with your breeder. They are:
 - What is his motivation for breeding?

- If he tells you he is breeding dogs only because it is lucrative, it should make your hackles rise since reputable breeders don't breed dogs for money but to improve the strain.
 - Ask him if he has had both the parents of the pup screened for genetic health problems or not. He should also be able to show you medical records of his Pugs to prove to you that he gives them proper care.
 - Check to see if he keeps a well-ventilated, clean and odorless site.
 - If your pup suffers from a health problem after you take him in, your breeder is duty-bound to offer a guarantee against them. He should also offer to take back the animal if you are unable to look after him.
 - If he is a responsible breeder, he will not entertain prospective owners who are investing in a pup only on a whim. This is why good breeders do not advertise in newspapers or sell their puppies on the Internet but have long waiting lists and sell through personal contact with owners even before the litter is born.
 - Breeder references are some of the best ways to find out all about a particular breeder. Or ask him for references, contact Pug Clubs or other Pug organizations to see if they have any information about this breeder. Check with your vet for more advice.
- ❖ **Screening the breeder:** If you've decided that a Pug is *the* breed for you and that it fits your family and lifestyle, that if he sheds copiously, snores and snuffles, has bad breath and scratched eyes and suffers from flatulence, it doesn't matter but you must have him for his cute face and cheerful temperament.

Well, don't ignore the problems they come with but be realistic in your expectations. Anyone can find you a good breeder, but only you can educate yourself on him or her before actually finding one. Here are some self-help tips:

- **Whom to contact:** Your local specialty breed dog club, your local all breed dog club or your local rescue dog group are good places to start with. Plus, the AKC also maintains an up to date geographical list of dog clubs of all types and for all breeds for those in the US. Besides, The Pug Dog Club of America keeps a list of specialty breed clubs too. If you call the club, ask them if they could recommend a few breeders to you in your area.
- **Call the breeder:** Be prepared to answer his questions about yourself and your family. Answer him freely and frankly and ask him as many questions as come to your mind.
- **Health checks:** Ask him if he has had health checks done on the parents of your pup —perhaps an OFA x-ray on their hips, checking for hip dysplasia, CERF testing of

their eyes for cataracts or other forms of inherited early blindness. See if either parent has a recurring history of seizures or other neurological problems. Also, see that he gives you the following health certificates for these specific problems:

- **CERF certificates:** These certificates prove that your breeder is concerned enough about your Pug's vision to have the sight of his parents tested. By making them undergo an eye examination, a specialist determines whether, at the time of the eye examination, the Pugs had any eye disease. An eye specialist must conduct this not a vet, as a vet cannot perform such a specialized examination. The Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) gives certificates for this.

Though these certificates prove that both parents underwent and passed the eye examinations, it is equally possible that eye diseases can develop at any stage. So, these certificates are valid only for a year. With every passing year, the Pug family will have to undergo additional examinations. As a prospective buyer, you must see if these certificates were valid when the Pug's parents were mated.

This test proves that the Pug's parents did not have any eye disease when bred. Apart from this, the results of the test can also bring to light potential disease carriers, thus helping the breeder decide if these Pugs should be bred again or not. By taking this decision, a breeder does all he can to ensure that the best Pug strain develops.

- **Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA):** It is the breeder's duty to have the hips of the sire and dam of your Pug X-rayed for possible hip dysplasia. Your breeder's vet will X-ray the dogs that are then sent on to the OFA to be evaluated by three vets.

If your Pug pup's sire and dam have malformed hip sockets and heads of femurs, caused due to the lack of a snug fit, then they obviously fail the test. Examinees must reach one of the three levels of grades: Fair, Good and Excellent. If your pup makes the grade, he can be bred, but if yours is a careful breeder, he won't think of it if your Pug has secured a Fair rating.

Usually OFA determinations are held over till the dog is two years old. This is the right time for the breeder to show you the OFA certificates that reveal that the sire and dam have passed the hip dysplasia tests.

If you come across a breeder who claims never to have encountered such a problem with any of his dogs so didn't have to resort to the OFA tests on his pups, be very cautious dealing with them.

- **Patella tests:** A breeder's duty also lies in having the rear kneecaps or patellae of his pups examined to check for luxation or looseness or a bad fit in the kneecap. Your breeder's vet usually conducts this test. Once done, his vet sends the test results to the OFA who will issue the breeder a certificate of passing patellae. This certificate must

then be shown to prospective buyers. If your breeder doesn't seem to have heard of this test, don't deal with him.

- **Visit the breeder:** Look around at the site where the puppies are being raised. By staying where they are, are they able to socialize with the family or are they raised in an isolated location? Is their home clean and odorless? Does the breeder paper-train them? Ask to see a copy of the pedigree and registration slips and any health records or other relevant information. Check if your breeder would allow you to call any of his previous buyers for references.

Check them out and then go back in your mind over the questions you asked him on the phone and by checking your notes, see if the answers match those that you heard on the phone. This should give you an overall picture of the kind of person your breeder is.

In your quest for the right breeder, you may come across a few breeders who keep their pups in completely inhabitable living conditions or puppy mills where 20 or more dogs live in small cages or barrels. Do not buy your pup from them as you are only adding to the problem of unethical breeders producing volumes for a hungry and unscrupulous market.

- ❖ **A puppy mill:** This is a mass dog breeding facility where pups are bred for profit by selling them wholesale to the pet industry. These grounds are known for their cramming pets in small places or cages, filth, inadequate shelter and little food, water and veterinary care. Usually, puppy mill owners sell their dogs wholesale to brokers, who sell them to pet stores.

Since money is the objective, quality is overlooked, breeding practices are often shoddy, and the breeding dogs are kept under the most inexpensive and inhuman conditions where all they are required to do is to breed.

The slot between the puppy mill operators and the responsible kennel owners are the "backyard breeders" who advertise regularly in the newspapers. They own one or two purebred dogs and produce a litter of puppies once a year or so for a little extra money. As in puppy mills, these pups too are bred haphazardly with scant regard for the consequences—a consequence their offspring will suffer too.

- ❖ **How to stop a puppy mill:** There are several things you can do to stop a puppy mill, depending on where you live or how far the puppy mill is from your house. They are:
 - You must realize that you can't stop a puppy mill on your own but in order to try it, you need to have a complete dossier on it.
 - Ask yourself if you have visited this place or are you depending on information given by others?
 - Do you know how many animals live there?

The power of first hand information and experience can never be undermined, particularly in this situation, though any reliable tip you receive could go a long way. Take photos of the puppy mill without getting caught—that would be a big help.

All commercial breeders must have licenses—whether state, county (or city) and USDA—solely because breeding is viewed as a “business” and therefore subject to inspections. These are the breeders who work without licenses but are still under the purview of the laws that relate to animal breeding. They also need business licenses, so if you come deal with an unscrupulous breeder, you can report him to the authorities.

The US Department of Agriculture monitors dog and cat breeding and animal welfare laws just as most state agencies do too. Cities and counties regulate animal breeding under animal control.

❖ **What you can do:**

1. Contact your state's agency or department that issues licenses to breeders and tell them about the puppy mill breeder you know.
2. Complain to the county or city where the puppy mill is located.
3. You can also register a complaint to your nearest Humane Society and or ASPCA. Such groups are vested with the authority to investigate and shut down puppy mills.

While you go around trying to build a case against puppy mill breeders, remember it takes the authorities a while until their investigation is complete. So, be patient until they can get their warrants and evidence together. But puppy millers are smarter than you think: in order to evade suspicion, they hide most of their animals in remote parts of rural estates, so that inspectors don't suspect them at all.

Puppy mills are blights, so we must do all we can to ease innocent pets from leading such miserable lives.

❖ **The price of a Pug:** Having spoken so much in defense of dogs in general and Pugs in particular, do you still want a Pug? Yes? This means you're ready to fork out good money for a pet. But how much does this mean?

The way dogs are priced varies not just according to location but also according to the breeder. You, as the potential buyer, must decide whom to buy from and at what best price.

Although it is essential to be concerned about whether you are taking home a happy and healthy pup, it is equally essential for you to know just how much he's going to cost you. For all the Pug's specific personality and health problems, he will be an expensive pet to maintain. So, if right now, your pockets aren't deep enough to take care of a Pug comfortably, wait until you can invest in one comfortably.

Be sensible when you choose your Pug, but be practical too as bills will come with every demand that you try to fulfill for your little Pug.

Chapter 9

The seven stages of puppy development



Are you worried because your Pug puppy won't listen to you sometimes? To know why this happens, you need to understand each stage of development that your pup goes through to become an adult. As we go through these seven stages, let's take a moment to realize that these stages are but generalizations, and that each dog will grow at his own special pace.

- **Stage 1: The transitional stage:** Beginning from day one of his birth, this stage lasts till the end of his first two or three weeks of age. In this stage, your Pug pup will first open his eyes, and begin to respond to light and movements and sounds around him. At this stage, he will begin to move around a little, adjusting to the earth beneath his feet and crawling in his box. He will begin to recognize his mother and his siblings and any objects you place in his box.
- **Stage 2: Getting ready to be part of the world:** When the transitional stage is passed, for the next three to four weeks, your Pug pup will begin to experience rapid sensory development. He will be alert and sensitive to his environment and begin to recognize you and your family. Don't expose him to loud noise or sudden change as these negative events can have a devastating effect on him and his personality development. This is a crucial stage in his growth as now he learns all it takes to be a dog, so let him be with his mother and siblings.
- **Stage 3: The social interaction stage:** When he is about four weeks old and until he reaches seven weeks of age, he will learn more crucial lessons. He will learn now to interact with his littermates and play and how to overcome his bite inhibition. In addition, he will learn to be disciplined while his mother weans him and teaches him dog manners, as also that she is the leader of the pack. At this stage, you can safely introduce him to food at the same time as the mother is weaning him.

While his mother does her bit by her pups, you should not give up handling your pup every day, at least for 10 minutes at a time. Take care not to completely separate your pup from his mother's warmth too early as this will make him nervous, barking-prone and will bite, apart from also being difficult to socialize and train. It is best to leave newborns with their mother until seven weeks of age if not longer so that they are better socially developed.

According to canine experts, the best time a pup can learn social skills is when he is between three and 16 weeks of age because anything he learns now contributes to making him a well-adjusted dog. So, leave him with his mother and siblings now for as long as possible. This is not the appropriate time for disciplining him if he is play-fighting or has housebreaking mistakes because this is a normal step in his growth.

- **Stage 4: The fearful stage:** Between eight weeks and three months of age, your Pug pup will learn very rapidly, while also going through what is called a “fearful period” beginning around the eighth and 10th weeks. So don’t be worried if your pup appears frightened of just about everything or those things that he took for granted earlier. Don’t discipline him now, as it is still not the opportune time for that. No harsh talk or loud voices either or even traumatic events.

Now’s the time your pup will gain enough control over his bladder and bowel movements, and he will sleep comfortably right through the night. If you like, you could now begin to teach him simple commands such as come, sit, stay and down. Accustom him to using a leash now and take care not to keep him away from the rest of your family, as he must continue to learn social etiquette and behavior that he will need for the rest of his life.

- **Stage 5: The toddler stage:** When he is about three to four months old, he is a toddler. At this stage, he will appear to be just a little more independent and might even start ignoring all the commands you taught him only recently. Don’t beat him or manhandle him for this, but teach him to be obedient by being firm and gentle with him and train him, if required.

Take care, however, as he might just bite you or nip you in an attempt to challenge your power over him. Retort by saying “No!” or “No bite!” sharply so that he knows you mean business, and follow this up by ignoring him for a few minutes.

Don’t stop handling him as you have been, but don’t play rough games with him such as tug of war or wrestling. He may interpret the former game as a sign of dominance, especially if he wins while with wrestling, things can get completely out of control. As your puppy grows in strength, he will want to play games of strength, perhaps even with you. If you win, he will understand that it’s all right to fight with you. But surely that’s not ok with you!

- **Stage 6: The brat stage:** At age four to six months, your Pug puppy will be even more independent and willful. He will no longer be keen to please you and will display cheeky behavior. He will now begin teething and will search for things to chew on if only to relieve the pain and pressure. To help him through this period, give him frozen doggie bones.

He may try to bully over other members of your family, especially children. But don’t stop training him in obedience and basic commands and make sure you don’t leave him

unleashed, unless he is in a confined area like your yard. If you shout out to him to come over to you, at this stage he will choose to ignore you.

This can be a dangerous situation, because if he does this in a public place and runs away from you, he may meet with an accident and injure himself badly and even die. So, don't risk it.

At this stage, he will also go through all the hormonal changes a teenage boy or girl would. He will now be sexually ready and may display a rebellious streak. This is the right time to have him neutered or spayed if you have a female.

- **Stage 7: The young grown-up stage:** Between six months of age and 18 months, your Pug pup sets off on a course of being a young adult. This is the best time of his life when he's young, with loads of attitude, joie de vivre and full of beans.

Though he is not seasoned and experienced in the ways of the dog world, you still need to treat him as you would an adult son or daughter. Be realistic about him and give him his freedom. You can do this by increasing the scope of his activities and his training. Give him advanced training sessions, if you choose, such as herding or agility training. Or you could include more people and animals in his sphere of contact so that he learns not to be aggressive or jealous or even a threat to other dogs and people.

Now you've got your adult Pug, life doesn't end there. You need to give him his shots and look after his health too. Here's all that you need to do to have a healthy Pug:

- ❖ **Give him his shots:** Between the ages of six and 16 weeks of age, your pup is very likely to lose the immunity to disease he receives from his mother and develop his own protective sheath to disease. There is often a period between losing their mother's given immunity to disease and forming their own, and owners can never pinpoint this period.

Fortunately, there are now new vaccines for distemper and parvovirus that are said to be much more effective than earlier brands and that also serve to eliminate many earlier problems. This also takes away the need to give the pup as many shots, thereby saving you money.

As a precautionary measure, until your pup is about four or five months old, restrict his interactions with stray or sick dogs. Also, keep him more at home and certainly do not take him to public places such as highway rest stops where the chance of meeting up with many other dogs is high.

- ❖ **Vaccines to give your pup:**

- **Distemper:** This is a combination vaccine (DHLAPPC) that protects your pup against a group of diseases such as:

- **Infectious canine distemper (ICD):** This is a highly infectious viral disease attacking and affecting your pup's lungs, brain and spinal cord just as polio affects human beings.
- **Infectious canine hepatitis (ICH):** When dogs come in contact with infected urine, this infection develops and then spreads rapidly among dogs. This does its damage in the liver of the dog and can also cause blindness among pets.
- **Leptospirosis:** This damages the pup's kidney and liver, and is almost always spread through infected urine. If you make a mistake of administering this vaccine repeatedly to your Pug pup, it can have an adverse reaction on him. So, it is best to immunize your pup against this disease twice during the vaccination series.
- **Canine adenovirus type 2 (CAV-2)** is that respiratory virus which causes an extreme form of "kennel cough" in Pug pups.
- **Para influenza** is yet another infectious respiratory virus that causes your pup to have a terrible cough.
- **Canine parvovirus (CPV):** When your pup is diagnosed with this, the lining of his intestinal tract is attacked, and if very young, this can damage his heart too. This can be fatal too and is the commonest of fatal infectious diseases, besides also being the most difficult to protect against.
- **Canine corona virus (CCV):** This either causes or sometimes even contributes to an intestinal disease much like parvovirus and severe diarrhea. This vaccine is expensive and the disease treatable, so vets usually do not add any protection to this disease in their package of shots to pups, though they may sometimes charge you for this separately.
- **Rabies:** A disease that is spread by animal bites or through the saliva of an infected animal, rabies is fatal. Rabies can cause people to be highly infected or die, so immunizing your pet against this is imperative.

Usually, your vet will give your pet rabies shots when he is 16 weeks old, followed by a booster dose a year later and then one every year or three years after that, in accordance with the local laws and your vet's recommendation. If your dog is not vaccinated but comes in contact with a skunk, your pet will have to be quarantined or put to sleep. If vaccinated, he will have to be given a rabies booster shot without delay, never mind when you last immunized him.

- **Lyme disease:** This disease is spread by ticks and is cured with antibiotics. This is common among those dogs that roam around in bushy areas and come home with loads of ticks. They need to be vaccinated. But if your dog is restricted to your area, he won't need to be immunized against this disease, as he will perhaps never contract

ticks. To immunize your pet against this disease, he will be given an initial series of two injections three weeks apart, and every year a booster dose.

- **Bordetella:** A common cause of “kennel cough,” Bordetella is a severe disease, though rarely ever is it a fatal respiratory disease. This is spread through the air in confined closed in areas, so it is a common problem in boarding kennels. He may also contract it if you leave him for long periods at the groomer's salon or at a kennel.

If you do because of lack of choice, then you need to protect him against the disease. To protect him against this disease, administer the vaccine about two to four weeks before you send him into a kennel.

- **Worms:** For protection against roundworms and hookworms, give your Pug pup Heartguard Plus and Interceptor, that together kill intestinal worm. If you use either of these preventives, you will also eliminate the need for routine fecal examinations and separate worming medications. But if your pup has persistent diarrhea, go in to meet your vet with a sample of your Pug pup's feces to check for other lesser-known parasites.
- **Tapeworms:** If you've noticed little short white worms, about ½ inch or less in length, these are probably tapeworm segments. When dry, these segments resemble grains of brown rice and may stick to your dog's coat. However, prescription tapeworm drugs are effective and safe for your pet. But this is not the case with non-prescription tapeworm medications, which are ineffective and cause your pet intestinal cramps and diarrhea.

Before medicating your Pug against tapeworms, check his weight. If he is neither too small nor not too large that he can't be lifted, you can make sure by first weighing yourself with the dog and then without him. Once his weight is ascertained, your vet will prescribe medicines appropriately.

- **Heartworms:** This is caused by a certain species of mosquito that is in the air and will infect your pup if he doesn't receive prevention medicine, especially if he sleeps outdoors. If checked in time, heartworms can be eliminated, though treatment can be difficult, dangerous and expensive. Even if treated, heartworms cause permanent damage.
- **Preventing heartworms:** Give your Pug Interceptor Chewable Tablets once a month since they kill hookworms, whipworms and roundworms, and do the job of giving worming medications and routine fecal examinations. Be sure you give these tablets to him every month without any break.
- **Testing for heartworms:** If your dog has been tested to have heartworm disease, this means that these worms reside in their hearts, with microscopic baby heartworms roaming freely in their bloodstream. Baby heartworms grow into adults after having lived inside a mosquito and then moving into another dog when the mosquito bites it.

Usually, heartworms cannot be detected until six months after infection, so this makes it difficult for your vet to say whether your pup is free of this disease or not. This may certainly be worrisome, but in puppy hood this is a controllable infection and an initial heartworm test can sometimes be postponed until your Pug pup is 15 months of age when you will give him his rabies and distemper booster vaccinations.

Once this is done, you should set up a regimen by which you have him tested for these diseases every couple of years as a preventive measure and as an antidote in case the vaccine given earlier isn't working.

Chapter 10

Pug behavior problems

The Pug's temperament is probably one reason why he is so sought after, this is why it is difficult to imagine he presents his owners with any behavioral problems. Usually friendly and outgoing, Pugs love everyone and everyone loves a Pug.

Still, it is best that as a prospective owner of a Pug you be prepared for some regressive behavior that would otherwise knock you back in shock. So, here's the lowdown on what a bad Pug or an unsocialized one could be like:

- ❖ **Five ways your Pug is different from you:** Dogs and your Pug too see things differently from human beings though they share the same basic senses with us. Like us, they too can see, hear, touch, smell and taste. But the difference lies in our levels of senses being different. This is an important distinction between them and us and is particularly applicable when you're trying to see what your pet is up to.



- **How your Pug sees:** There was a time when it was thought that dogs were color blind—that they could only see shades of black and white with some gray, though that is now no longer true. It is now believed that dogs can see in a range of colors—blues, greens, grays, crèmes, and of course, black and white.

Dogs beat us in the area of detecting motion: we now know that your pet will be able to see a cat up a tree much, much farther off than you can. Their night vision too is better than ours. This is due to the additional reflective layer in the eye called the *tapetum lucidum*, whose duty it is to reflect light back into the receptor cells of the eye. This layer not only increases their night vision but also gives dogs a spooky appearance in their eyes that glow in the dark.

- **How your Pug hears:** Does it bother you when your dog barks in the middle of the night? Do you turn in your bed assuming that he's just lonely and needs a female companion? However, that's not true. Perhaps he is listening to a sound you can't hear that upsets him, considering dogs can hear up to four times the distance humans can. So, perhaps he can hear a burglar breaking into your home.

Besides, their ears are specially designed to accept more sound waves. They have 15 different muscles that move their ears in different directions, besides also moving one ear at a time, and independently of each other so as to take in more information.

- **How your Pug has a sense of touch:** Your Pug, you will notice, also has a heightened sense of touch. That's not surprising if you consider that at birth, pups have sensory receptors in their faces by which they locate their mothers, just in case

they are separated at birth or before they can open their eyes. All over their bodies too, they have a fully developed sense of touch, just as we do.

- **How your Pug smells:** In their ability to smell, dogs are leaps and bounds away from us, with an estimated capacity of smelling over 100,000 times more powerfully than us. If we have 40 million olfactory receptors, your Pug has two billion! That's what makes them such good trackers and can easily trace scents despite all kinds of distractions such as dense forests or roadways.

To your Pug, his sense of smell is also a means of communication—right from running around the park with their noses to the ground to sniffing everything at home or out in the yard. They need to recognize people and things by their scent.

- **How your Pug tastes:** Dogs are instinctively attracted to nasty smells and will eat anything that smells bad. Your Pug will eat anything they see before giving themselves time to taste it.
- ❖ **Understanding your Pug's aggressive behavior:** Any canine behavior that is meant to cause harm to another dog or animal or human being in the former's vicinity is termed dog aggression. This includes growling, baring teeth, snarling, snapping and biting. Though they are considered part of an animal's genetic make-up, yet they are unacceptable forms of behavior among humans.

However, we must also view this situation from a Pug's perspective. First, there's a communication problem between Pugs and their masters, giving rise to misunderstandings between the species. You may want to be friends with your Pug, but he may perceive this as threatening or intimidating. So, don't misinterpret your Pug's behavior as being crazy, mad, schizophrenic, psychotic, unpredictable or "vicious."

You must understand that aggression is complex and the consequences serious. Therefore it is advisable to bring in professional help, if your Pug displays aggressive behavior.

❖ Types of aggression:

- **Dominance aggression:** When a dog feels challenged within his own sphere of influence in terms of status or his control of a social interaction, it results in a feeling of dominance aggression. By nature, dogs are social animals and see the families they live in as a social group or "pack." When they try to establish their superior status based on the challenges they face socially, they set the "pecking order."

If your Pug sees himself as of higher rank than yours, then he will fight and challenge you to gain that position. But as mentioned earlier, dogs and humans speak different languages and therefore don't understand each other completely all the time. So, it is highly possible that you may challenge your dog's social position.

If you have a highly aggressive dog, he may growl even as he rests or sleeps or if you ask him to vacate his favorite spot for someone else. Even if you bend to hug or caress him, he will view it as harming him and will revolt by snapping at you or baring his teeth to frighten you.

- **Overcoming dominance aggression:** Don't think you can resolve the problem by punishing him as destructive behavior problems can only worsen with punishment. Don't discipline him after the event, as this doesn't work either. If, for instance, you notice that your shoe has been eaten at the corners, don't punish him when you notice it as this might have been done either a few minutes ago or several hours.

The point is that you need to catch your dog red-handed rather than set about punishing him after he's finished his act of destruction. This is because your Pug can't make the connection between an act committed earlier and your reaction now. But people believe your pet does understand what he has done and therefore bears a guilty expression, and sometimes runs and hides.

But it is widely believed that dogs don't feel guilty but display submissive postures such as cowering, running away or hiding, as soon as they feel threatened by the anger in your voice, body posture or facial expression. It is difficult for your dog to know where he's gone wrong, but he does know you're angry about something. Therefore, to punish him after the event doesn't serve any purpose—it neither eliminates the behavior you don't like nor does it take away similar undesirable behaviors.

- ❖ **Possession aggression:** Don't ever make the mistake of going over to your dog while he eats. This is because a lot of dogs—your Pug included—have a problem of Possession Aggression. This means that they function on the principle that whatever is given to them is theirs completely and once given to them, you lose the right to even look at it.

Dogs don't know the meaning of sharing, especially if he the only family pet. Dogs who suffer from possession aggression will guard their resources fiercely—whether food, toys or even you.

The best way of overcoming this problem is to start when he's just a pup. Do this often: go over to him and take some of his things from him. Then, after a while, give them back, and then take them again. After a while, he will understand that even someone else has something he wants and that he must wait patiently he will get it back.

If he's aggressive with other dogs: This proves that your dog hasn't been socialized well enough or at all. If he was, he would co-operate and be friendly with other dogs, not harm them to show his might over them.

Part of this whole picture of dog aggression belongs to dominance aggression. The need to establish himself as a leader of the pack is a trait common to strange dogs and those belonging to your family.

If this trait exists among all your dogs, leave it to them to sort it out. If you do interfere, it will only prolong the matter, so keep out of it. If you take your dog out somewhere and he displays this behavior there towards strange dogs, examine the situation closely and take stock of it immediately.

- **Overcoming possession aggression:** Your Pug is sure to raise his tail high and have his ears laid back. If he holds his head high, it's a sure sign of dominance, and you should take care to separate such dogs. This feeling of fear aggression sets in when your Pug feels cornered and is pretty sure that the only way of overcoming this problem is to find a way out on his own.

With ears laid flat against his head, his head held low and his tail between his legs, he will growl and snap too—all sure signs of growing fear aggression. Take him away from where people or other dogs are, and take steps to socialize him. He needs obedience classes desperately.

- ❖ **If he's chained, he'll bite:** Some owners bring home a pup with all the pomp possible and then set about to keep him tied all day, while he watches the world go by happily. So to let everyone know that he's around and needs his freedom, he barks and lunges at the kids, because they look like they're enjoying themselves. And what does he get in return for it? Everyone around him just yells at him and then ignores him for just a little longer.

If this continues as he grows older, he begins to feel territorial about his own space that's he's tied up in. Now, he no longer wants to play and can't understand why he wanted to, earlier. Now, his mental association with his owners is that they were supposed to love him and care for him, but have been shamelessly ignoring him. They let other kids taunt him and tease him, knowing that he can't reach out and bite them.

When he gets an opportunity when the kids aren't fast enough to get out of his way, he reaches out and bites them. The result: the kid needs shots and stitches and your pet dog is carted off to the pound because he's now labeled a biter. Please don't be unfair to your dog. Treat him as family and love him, and if you can't do that, don't take in a dog to your home.

- **Overcoming the problem:** If your Pug bites or nips, grab his muzzle or face from the top of his muzzle and close in on the bridge of his nose. If your hand can extend over the side of his lips, that's better. Now, squeeze hard so that he understands never to repeat it. With practice, this can be perfect and will work wonders. Also, learn to give your "no" command forcefully, so that your pup knows that he's hurting you.

- ❖ **Destructive chewing:** It is normal for dogs to explore the world with their mouths. However, you can train your dog to chew appropriately so that they don't ruin

anything precious around the house. Once he has learnt what he can and cannot chew, you will have to manage the situation as best as you can, so he doesn't chew on whatever he finds.

▪ **Overcoming destructive chewing:**

- Look after your own things if you don't want your Pug to chew it.
- Keep all your clothes, personal things, books, cell phones and remote controls away from your Pug.
- If you offer your Pug your shoes and socks as toys, and later expect him not to chew them because they are yours, you need to learn to distinguish between your Pug's toys and household goods.
- Confine him to that part of the house from where you can keep an eye on him, at least in the early days. Choose a safe dog proof area with fresh water and safe toys.
- Give him enough time to learn to behave the way you want him to. Don't confuse him by teaching him alternatives to inappropriate behavior, which he can't learn while being in the yard all by himself.
- Enroll him in an obedience class where he can learn commands such as "Leave it." At these classes, he may also learn how to be less destructive in his behavior because they will focus on ways of burning off his excess energy.
- You should take care not to interrupt your Pug's behavior only if you catch him chewing on something he shouldn't. In such a case, make a loud sound and give him a chew or treat instead. Praise him as generously as you can when he begins to chew on the toy.
- Be realistic; believe that at some point in his growing days, he will chew up something that you like immensely. This is very often part of moving into a new environment. Besides, chewing is normal teething and an act of curiosity for your pup. But your Pug could be destructive in nature for a whole host of reasons, which you must determine before setting the matter right.

- ❖ **Submissive urination:** In this condition, as a Pug owner, you know that the moment you return home in the evenings, your Pug is going to get you right at the door. He's going to jump on you as you turn the key in the lock and open the door. Are you ready for it?

Well, there he is, jumping all over you ecstatically and then on to doing rollovers, spins, jumps and crawls. You respond by hugging and crooning all over him, then suddenly you straighten up and he follows you into the kitchen where you get ready to wipe his puddle, made specially to greet you.

- **Overcoming submissive urination:** At first, ignore your pup and let him get used to your being in the house before you greet him. Dogs usually outgrow this behavior but for those who don't, the best treatment is with anti-anxiety medications or phenylpropanolamine. But it has been found that not all dogs respond well to medical or behavioral therapy for this problem. Alternatively, you could also place throw rugs or plastic runners at strategic points of your house since you know where and when he urinates.

❖ **Separation anxiety:** If your Pug suffers from separation anxiety, it shows that he is very strongly attached to you. Because of this, he will follow you from one room to another, greet you frantically and react anxiously when he knows it's time for you to leave home.

▪ **Causes:**

- A change in your family's schedule, which means your dog, stays alone for longer periods.
- Moving home.
- The death of a member of your family or another pet.
- Time spent at a shelter or boarding kennel.

The reactions that separation anxiety brings about are born of anxiety, not spite or revenge. So, don't punish your Pug or the problem will only worsen.

- **Overcoming separation anxiety:** Counter-conditioning and desensitization are the best techniques to overcome separation anxiety. When you tie him up for long, he attracts your attention by barking, whining and crying—all natural reactions for him to be with the family again. He may also dig, scratch at your door or window and become so anxious that he tears up objects at random, defecates or urinates. If you punish him for this, it will only worsen the situation.

To treat this problem, ignore the destruction he has caused. Try and find the cause of the problem and ways of handling it. For this, the first thing for you to do is to watch him and see how long he can hold out before destroying things in your absence. Some do it in a minute; others take an hour or so. Now, you can solve the problem. Teach him to "sit" and "stay" before working out a solution. Now begin to leave the house for short periods and come home immediately. Stand outside your house for a while before entering. Slowly lengthen the time you spend outside.

Vary the time so that he doesn't expect you to leave and return at the same time each day. Continue in this way and when you return don't play it up but greet him quietly. Once he gets used to your absence, increase your time spent outside. If you have been giving him anti-anxiety medication, such as amitriptylline (Elavil Rx) or buspirone (Buspar Rx), wean him off them now.

- ❖ **Attention-seeking behavior:** Unknowingly, we pay more attention when our pets misbehave rather than when they display exemplary behavior. When you do this as a rule, your Pug's appropriate behavior goes unrecognized and he doesn't receive the reinforcement for good behavior.

As a result, he goes unpraised and may therefore retaliate by engaging in destructive behavior, if only to attract your attention, so what if the attention is negative i.e. if you scold him or shout at him. As far as he is concerned, even negative attention is better than no attention at all.

▪ **Overcoming attention-seeking behavior:**

- Ensure your Pug gets a lot of positive attention every day. So, play and walk with him, groom or pet him.
- Reward only his good behavior and ignore everything else.
- The objects you don't want him to chew should be covered in things he doesn't like, such as plastic so that he isn't tempted to put it in his mouth.
- Teach him to respond to the command "Drop it" so that whenever he puts something in his mouth that you don't want him to, he drops it immediately and you respond by praising him for his obedience. To encourage him to "drop it" you could exchange his toy for a bit of food.

- ❖ **Obsessive-compulsive disorders:** This is a behavior that is directed only towards objects, inanimate objects such as a food dish, or wheeled things like cars, bikes, or strollers or the dog himself.

This shows up in dogs—Pugs included—who are stressed out, anxious and bored. If they internalize such behaviors, they can end up destroying things around the house, your yard, attack angry neighbors and display uncontrollable aggression. You may catch them digging obsessively, biting their own feet, barking at nothing and attacking inanimate objects.

If a dog is very "stressed", this may be a dangerous sign and is a pet to keep miles away from. If he is bored, he will dig, bark and chase his own tail. To overcome this, you need to make him more active. Take him out and make him play, fetch and exercise. This will make him feel useful, happy and de-stressed. Besides, it strengthens your bond with him and reduces health risks such as accidental ingestion of poison and obesity. Obsessive-compulsive disorders can also be part of your dog's genetic make-up.

Overcoming obsessive-compulsive disorders: Play, Boredom and/or Social Isolation

Normal play behavior can result in destruction, as it may involve digging, chewing, shredding and/or shaking toy-like objects. Since dogs investigate objects by pawing at them and exploring them with their mouths, they may inadvertently damage items in their environment. Your dog may be chewing for entertainment if:

- He's left alone for long time periods without opportunities for interaction with you or other family members.
- His environment is relatively barren, without playmates or toys.
- He's a puppy or adolescent (under 3 years old) and he doesn't have other outlets for his energy.
- He's a particularly active type of dog (like the herding or sporting breeds) who needs an active lifestyle to be happy.

Solutions:

- Play with your dog daily in a safe, fenced-in area. If you don't have a yard, a tennis court can be a good place to play. Fetch is a great game that will use up your dog's excess energy without wearing you out!
- Go for a walk. Walks should be more than just "bathroom time." On-leash walks are important opportunities for you and your dog to be together. Don't forget to allow time for sniffing, exploring, instruction and praise.
- Increase your dog's opportunities for mental stimulation. Teach your dog a few commands and/or tricks and practice them daily. If you have time, take an obedience class.
- Provide your dog with lots of toys (see our handout: "Dog Toys and How to Use Them").
- Rotate your dog's toys to refresh his interest in them. "New" toys are always more interesting than old ones.
- Try different kinds of toys, but when you introduce a new toy, watch your dog to make sure he won't tear it up and ingest the pieces.
- Consider the various types of toys that can be stuffed with food. Putting tidbits of food inside chew toys focuses your dog's chewing activities on these toys instead of on unacceptable objects.
- Make your dog's favorite off-limits chew objects unattractive to him by covering them with heavy plastic, aluminum foil, hot pepper sauce or a commercial "anti-chew" product.
- Consider a good doggie day care program for two or three days a week to work off some of your dog's excess energy.

❖ **Social anxiety:** This sets in when you don't consider the importance of socializing your Pug pup, resulting in a pet with social anxiety. This phenomenon is often seen in pups from puppy mills, who have had the minimal contact with human beings.

When such a pet is placed in a social setting such as a crowd, dog park or vet's office, he may feel trapped and claustrophobic, leading him on to display fear aggression. When this dog feels cornered he has no "flight or fight" option, so he prefers to fight.

But by socializing him early in life, you keep this anxiety away from his personality. He can now handle himself in busy and social situations and will appear confident crowds, and plays well with other dogs.

- **Overcoming bouts of anxiety:** To relieve him of his anxiety, your vet may suggest a medication which helps calm him quickly. Then, take him to different places, preferably once he is immunized against Parvo and Distemper. By exposing him early in life to a variety of sights, sounds and people, you teach him to accept these as normal, and you begin to live with a happy, confident and well-adjusted pet.

But if he is already anxious by nature, begin overcoming this fear in slow and small steps. Bring home a friend and let your dog walk over and make contact with him. Keep a door open near him so that he can run away from there, if he feels frightened or overwhelmed.

Believe me, it's not easy to desensitize your fearful dog, besides being a long, drawn out process, but certainly well worth it. You should be able to tell where your pet is happiest—indoors, outdoors, in his own territory or the yard. Begin your desensitization sessions in his favorite spot. But remember—start small, reward him for his good behavior, but don't comfort him, as this will give him the wrong cues for fearful behavior, rather than overcome them.

When you find your dog relaxing more as things become more familiar to him, he will be less fearful. You can give him a fear-free environment by making his every outing fun. Walk him on a busy street, and if he shows he's scared, take him to a park to play. In time, even if he is still a wee bit nervous about being in busy areas, he will learn to tolerate it, if only for the treats you give him later.

- ❖ **Dog chewing:** Dogs usually throw in destruction as part of their playtime. This may include digging, chewing, shredding and shaking toy-like objects. Since dogs check out foreign objects by pawing them or eating them, they may harm themselves or damage items in the environment.

Your Pug, however, could also chew strange objects if:

- You leave him alone for long periods without a chance of meeting you or other members of your family.
- He has no playmates or toys.
- He's too small to do anything on his own and has no way of spending his energy.
- He's an active dog who needs to be stimulated with games and an outdoor life.

- **Overcoming dog chewing:**

- **Ignore his behavior completely.** If yours is a submissive dog, he will react in accordance to your presence. So, if you choose, you could ignore his outburst when you return home or her great love for you, and you will notice that he will stop displaying these behaviors.
- **Give him enough time so that you can play together** in a safe space such as a yard. But if you don't have a yard, try using a tennis court. Play fetch with him, as this is sure to burn up his excess energy.

- **Take him for walks.** Treat walks as perfect opportunities for you and your dog to spend time together. On walks, give him enough time to smell, sniff, explore and praise him for everything he does.
- **Stimulate him mentally** by teaching him a few commands and tricks and practice them every day. Alternatively, you can attend obedience classes.
- **Give him lots of toys to play with.** Rotate his toys to keep his interest in them alive. Keep trying out a range of toys and watch he doesn't tear to bits any new toy you give him.
- **Try giving him those toys that are filled with food.** If you surprise him with such toys it will help him focus his chewing on these toys instead of biting other things.
- **Cover all the objects you don't want him to chew** with heavy plastic, aluminum foil, hot pepper sauce or a commercial "anti-chew" product.
- **Consider putting him on a good doggie day care program** for two or three days a week to work off some of his unburned energy.
- **Crate train your pup** so that he stays away from all dangerous things and those things he loves to chew such as electrical cords of appliances that are plugged in. If you give in to his chewing habit by giving him discarded socks or shoes to chew, he will understand that all socks and shoes in the house are open to him to chew.

You could get a good long rope for recall training, or even a nylon buckle collar and a six-foot leash to start him off on a simple training regimen. Start him off on an exercise called the "tree" method in which you become an immovable object until your dog ceases to recoil at the leash and stops reacting to it.

- **If you want him to chew a particular thing, then give to him accompanied with praise, petting and positive reinforcement,** but if you want to negatively reinforce his chewing habits, take away what you don't want him to chew and say, "No, this is mine," and give him his ball or bone to chew, with the words, "Good boy!"
- **When he's cutting a tooth, give him frozen rubber teething rings** to ease the pain, something that will last from age five months to over one year.
- **Stand at a particular spot and allow him to sniff the area.** Let him wander off in a particular direction. You continue to stand immobile, letting him pull but not necessarily resisting his pull. When you notice his resistance to pulling receding, let him lead you by the leash where he wants to go and as you go with him, praise him loudly, fervently and repeatedly. If he gets back to pulling on the leash, stand immobile yet again. Keep going on this way and become a tree as and when he begins to pull.

- **Alternatively, you could keep walking in different directions.** If he walks ahead of you, walk in another direction very quickly. When he resists pulling the leash again, praise him once more.
- **Try using a good training collar** as a training aid rather than a permanent control solution. From these above-mentioned ways of dealing with your Pug, you probably realize that this works best if your Pug is still so small that he doesn't outweigh you.
- ❖ **Eating their own poop:** This habit of your Pug eating his own poop is called coprophagia . It may be due to several factors such as dietary deficiency or boredom due to prolonged kenneling in puppyhood. Some say puppies have to compete for food and have learnt to eat poop for survival in the wild. There are those who believe that by poop eating, Pugs hide their poop from predators so that they maintain a camouflage, while still others say they do this because they lack in certain vitamins.
- **Overcoming poop eating:** One suggested way of managing the problem is to add meat tenderizer in your Pug's food since it contains an ingredient that Pugs don't like. So, when they excrete it, they are sure not to be interested in eating it.

Secondly, you could try altering your pet's diet to premium dried foods or sterilized bone meal that are more easily processed by your pet's system before turning into feces that is now less palatable. You could also add pineapple chunks to his diet since it contains an enzyme that aids digestion. If you increase his fiber intake to 10 percent, it can help control the problem. Fiber in the form of bran or boiled green vegetables will help control the problem.

As a dog owner, your response to this habit may also trigger off a determination on your pet's part to continue doing it. That is, the moment he has passed a stool, don't rush out to clear up before he can get to eat it. By your action, the dog understands that he has a competitor in you and this may make him determined to beat you at your own game and eat what he has produced the moment it's before him.

So, teach him toilet training. When you let him out into the garden to defecate, stand unseen by the window and watch him. As he does his job, open the door to let him in and as soon as he comes in, reward him with a treat. Then, go out and clear up his mess. Do this a few times and your dog should begin to anticipate your arrival to give him his treat—something more interesting than what he eats outside. If he is already well into this habit, you will have to muzzle him so that he doesn't go for it instinctively.

To modify his behavior, go to where his feces lies with your Pug on a leash and throw training discs and a rattle can to stop him from going to the feces pile. The moment he makes the link between his action and yours he will show little or no interest in eating feces.

Lastly, you could try sprinkling Tobasco sauce or chilli powder on his feces so that they don't like the taste of feces and refuse to eat it. As a last resort, give him an emetic or

something to make him sick just when he tries to approach the feces. Speak to your vet about this first though.

- ❖ **Rolling in smelly things:** Dogs, including Pugs, love rolling in smelly things, and perhaps your pet will love to do this too. This may sometimes include rolling in dead fish, bird poop and garbage. The reason for this, according to animal behaviorists, is because this is a way for them to “scent camouflage” themselves. If they do this, their enemy will or prey will not be able to scent them out.

Your Pug could have a nasty smell due to a variety of other reasons such as:

- **Breath:** If he suffers from certain diseases such as kidney failure and diabetes, this can give him nasty breath.
- **Oral and gum disease:** Dental disease and infected gums usually give rise to foul breath just as a sore mouth can increase drooling. Your Pug's smelly saliva can coat the fur or furniture and you might never guess that it's coming from your pet's mouth.
- **Infected ears:** If your Pug's ears are infected with bacteria, they will smell awful. One sign of infected ears is scratching or shaking ears, but if you inadvertently pour water in his ears, it will get trapped in his ear canal, making him very uncomfortable.
- **Flatulence:** Also called gas or wind, this is an indication that your pet has a dietary or intestinal problem. Though some flatulence is normal in everyone, if it happens time and time again, you should see your vet.
- **Anal glands or sacs:** A common cause of dog malodor, anal sacs are those two small scent sacs in the anal area that are better understood as a kind of “marking” glands. When your pet has a bowel movement, these sacs normally constrict, giving off a foul smelling and oily liquid secretion that forms part of his feces.

He can also secrete the oily substance when he is very scared or excited. If it drops on your fur or furniture, it can stay there with a lot of odor. If these sacs are infected, it can result in being very painful for the animal.

- **Overcoming rolling in smelly things:** The way of preventing him from doing this is not to allow him to. Train him to obey you effectively and to listen to your commands. Reward him for doing this. Even though this is undesirable behavior, don't punish him for doing it. It is better to prevent him from doing this by watching his behavior. You will find also that once he grows older, this trait will disappear.

If it happens right after a bath, try a different shampoo. Lastly, remember this only means he needs a little more attention than what he's receiving now—so go ahead and give it to him.

❖ **Jumping on people:** What happens when your Pug meets people she likes? How does she respond to seeing them? Why, she jumps up and snorts and this makes the person feel very scared. But if she is on her leash, she darts in and out between the person's legs, sometimes causing problems and injury too. It's easier if she is on a leash and her owner can control her movements when approaching people.

■ **Overcoming jumping on people:** To stop this habit, try these suggestions:

1. Sit down on the floor and look into his face. Now, greet him at eye level.
2. Teach him to "sit." When he wants to jump, make him sit. Shower praise on him only when he sits.
3. Set the rules—don't let him jump on you when you're dressed to go out or when you're playing with him. Once he internalizes this behavior in puppyhood, he will continue it lifelong.
4. Do not let friends or family tease him into jumping.
5. Enroll in an obedience class to learn to train him.

❖ **Licking the floor:** Your Pug may lick the floor so thoroughly that if the sun shines in at a particular angle, his tongue marks will be clearly visible. He will also lick the carpet or just about any surface that is in contact with food eaten there. In addition, he will also lick your hands, arms and feet indefinitely. This is because Pugs love the taste of salt, which is a natural residue of our perspiration, left on our skin. And though we do give off feet odor, since Pugs are used to smelly stuff, our foot odor is heaven to him.

Lots of dogs lick floors, walls, concrete, metal, etc. There may be several reasons for this, but a few known reasons include Hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's disease), hypoadrenocorticism, liver failure, obsessive-compulsive disorders, seizures, hydrocephalus and other neurological diseases and other conditions related with this behavior.

■ **Overcoming licking the floor:** When your pet is stressed or very bored he develops obsessive disorders at times. He can be stopped from indulging in this behavior if you show him to a vet or vet behaviorist who can suggest a behavioral modification program and medical therapy to ease him out of this habit.

Another way of treating your Pug of this habit is to apply lemon juice on the floor. When he tastes the bitter liquid, he will refrain from licking the floor and slowly kick the habit. Next, be consistent: don't reward him for licking the floor today and scold him for the same tomorrow or he will be confused. Give him time to work his way out of this habit—after all, it will take him time to come out of it, particularly if it is a long-standing habit.

❖ **Runs in circles of eight:** If you watch your Pug closely, you'll find this a very entertaining dance he does. First, you will see that he walks in a straight line until he finds a good place to begin and having located that spot, he will search and sniff in

circles of eight that become smaller and tighter as he finds the spot he wants. You might have also noticed him walking or running around in circles, his nose touching the ground and sniffing the perfect spot to eliminate. If he begins this behavior as a puppy, he will continue to display it each time.

Occasionally, your Pug may run sideways, particularly in narrow hallways. If his space is constricted, this is his way of managing himself but if you watch him outdoors, you won't find this. Behaviorists say that this is because of a Pug's perception when in narrow enclosures such as a hallway, where his field of vision is so narrow that he sees walls very close and therefore slants his walking to one side in order that he may not bang into the wall and hurt himself.

- **Overcoming the problem:** Don't shout at him if you find him urinating or defecating. You should realize it's your fault for not housetraining him and looking for signals that told you he was urinating and defecating at will. Instead of losing your cool, pick him up and without raising your voice, sternly say, "No." Carry him to the yard outside or to his papers you use for paper training. If you carry him, automatically his tail will push itself downwards, thereby preventing him from urinating or defecating. To discipline your Pug, first spend the maximum amount of time with your pup.
- ❖ **Tilts his head:** Does your Pug's tilting his head bother you? If you can't understand why it's happening, don't worry too much because the reason is really quite innocent. This is his way of positioning his head and ears so that he doesn't miss a single sound or word you utter.

What is lesser known is that all dogs have this habit but it is pronounced among Pugs, perhaps because they respond more to their owners' voices than other breeds. Pugs are also smart that they realize that their owners love their tilted head so much that in some time, they will play to the gallery even if only to win a treat or two.

He may tilt his head for a variety of reasons such as a loss of balance or walking in a circle. His head tilt is due to an abnormality of the vestibular system, comprising parts of the inner ear, nerves and brain, which his body keeps his balance. Or it could be due to an infection in his inner ear or an inflammation of the brain, hypothyroidism, injury to nerves, cancer, toxic side effects of certain antibiotics and congenital defects. Some older dogs develop a temporary head tilt called 'old dog vestibular disease.'

- ❖ **Taking him on a car drive:** Like other dogs, your Pug too could experience fear and anxiety when seated in your car, but sadly not many people can understand the reason for such fears. Perhaps he associates it with trips to the vet—not his favorite place.
- **Overcoming a fear of car drives:** Fortunately, all the phobias and fears your pet is going through are eminently treatable through a lengthy desensitization process. This will have to be done slowly and gently, with each step being taken slowly and surely over the course of a few days so that he begins to see a car drive as a non-threatening activity.

This apart, your Pug could also become sick while driving solely because he is frightened rather than suffer from motion sickness. Reassure him that his fears are baseless. Next, get him accustomed to a car drive. Begin by sitting in start out by just sitting in the car together and giving him a treat after a few minutes. Then, as he adjusts to sitting in your car, take him out for drives so short that your dog doesn't feel car sick—so no drooling or vomiting. Follow up each drive with a treat. Increase the length of the drive as he shows more confidence in your car until he begins enjoying himself.

- **Motion sickness:** Your Pug may be very nervous of traveling in a car and as a result of his anxiety, may vomit. He may also vomit due to carsickness—due to the movement of fluids in his inner ear that trigger off nausea. He may pant or salivate due to anxiety. If you are forced to take him with you despite his problem of carsickness, control his nervousness with tranquilizers. This is particularly good if he suffers from motion sickness. In such a case, give him Dramamine or Acepromazine under your vet's advice.

Once you find the right treatment, take him on a series of journeys to accustom him to trips by car.

You can get him used to car drives by feeding him all his meals in the car for the next few days or weeks before the date of journey. Do this initially with the car engine off and after a few days, get it running so he can get used to that too.

If his condition is severe, he may need your vet's help. But if it isn't severe, you can help him out of it by taking him on short drives that end in a park or at a stall where he can find something to eat. Very gradually, increase the length of the drive until your Pug gains full confidence in car drives.

- **More support:**

1. When your pet is in the car, give him a treat. Now, start the car, drive a short distance and then stop and give him another treat. Is she nervous? Reassure her everything is fine. When she is fully relaxed, end the session.
2. Now, once he gains a little confidence of driving with you a short distance, reverse the car into the end of the driveway. Then, go forward to the garage. Let him get used to these smooth movements in opposite directions. If he responds with confidence, give him a treat and shower him with praise. Keep repeating until he gains completely mastery over this and is no longer fearful of car drives. There will come a time when he will regard the car as a great place to get several treats in one short drive.
3. If he is confident of driving with you, why not show him off to the neighborhood? With characteristic treats to start the fun time, reassure him on the way, stopping by for

another treat and dose of praise. Very slowly, increase the distance you drive with him and watch that he doesn't begin to nervous as you drive further away from home. .

- ❖ **Leash pulling:** You want to take your leashed Pug somewhere, but he tugs on the leash and wants to go in another direction. Is this a familiar scenario? If you keep moving—whether by car or walking—your dog is fine, but the moment you stop to have a chat with a friend, your Pug struggles and wants to break free of you. Training your dog to stop pulling on a leash can be very frustrating, especially if he is a strong

You need to check to see if you are using the right equipment. Don't use retractable leads, as they are useless on strong dogs that are 'pulling' a lot.



- **Overcoming your dog's habit of pulling on the leash:** If your dog is excited, he's sure to pull on the leash when he's out with you. He will pull forward on the leash. You have to teach him not to do this, as he will choke on it. To do this, you will first have to teach him on-leash manners. Use basic obedience techniques that will teach him to "heel" and walk comfortably on his leash, rather than drag you after him or make you run after him.
- ❖ **Fears of loud noises and other phobias:** Some dogs are afraid of loud noises. Your dog's destructive behavior may be caused by fear if the destruction occurs when he's exposed to loud noises, such as thunderstorms, firecrackers or construction sounds, and if the primary damage is to doors, doorframes, window coverings, screens or walls. As thunder rolls and lightning flashes, does your Pug cower under the kitchen table or your bed? Do you find him trembling in fear? Coaxing him to come out of his hiding place can be very difficult and finally you give up. Noise anxiety is not something dogs take kindly to. You can reduce severe noise anxiety if you want to desensitize your pup to noise.
- **Overcoming your dog's fears of loud noises and other phobias:** Your pup could be averse to a whole range of loud sounds such as thunder and lightning, firecrackers, the rumbling of an engine of a passing vehicle, deep voices, etc. To help him overcome his fears, the first step for you is to identify the ones that bother him most.

Next, set about an association reaction. The moment you hear the first clap of thunder, take out the dog treats and before he begins to cower, give him a treat for each time that he does not run away from the sound and you. If he sits in the stay position, reward him.

On a tape recorder, record the most severe noises of thunder or noises that your Pug fears. Play back the sounds, beginning on a low volume, gradually increasing it. Note your dog's reaction all the while. If he is desensitized to the sound, you will find him reacting less intensely to the loudest sounds you play. Though this process may take a while, you know best that you have helped your Pug overcome his fears when he sits by your side on a stormy night with thunderclaps fast and frightening.

- **What else you can do:**
 - **Keep pets indoors:** Draw the curtains and turn on the TV or radio for soothing music and to distract your pet's attention. Place him in a safe and quiet place like his carrier.
 - **Use a leash or carrier:** If you are outdoors with your pet, keep him on a leash at all times.
 - **Practice fire safety:** Keep him away from fires, matches, petrol and fireworks. Out of curiosity, your Pug may sniff or eat firecrackers, causing great damage to him; while he may also inadvertently set fire to his coat by going too close to an open fire.
 - **Accustom him to the sounds:** Send your pet to the restroom before the fireworks begin, as he would otherwise be too frightened to eliminate once he sees the firecrackers display. This may also lead to an "accident."
 - **Don't let go of his ID:** Keep the information on his ID tags current and at hand. In case he is frightened and runs away, this will make it easy for the local authorities to locate him.
 - **Speak to him gently:** There are some brave pets who don't seem perturbed by the sound and sight of fireworks. Others improve if their owners sit beside them, and speak to them gently and hold them while the noise is on, while others cannot be calmed down with soft soothing talk. If left alone, these animals can hurt themselves or can even die out of fear. If they run out in the street, a moving car might hit them.

If the carrier doesn't help calm your pet, give him a tranquilizer under your vet's supervision. Herbal remedies such as Rescue Remedy are efficient enough in this regard.

Before dispensing medicines, your doctor, your Pug and you need to build a relationship of trust. So, if your pet and your vet haven't met yet, set up an appointment so that your vet can check for any underlying heart or other problems.

Chapter 11

Nutrition for your Pug

As you perhaps know, each dog breed comes with its own unique set of nutritional requirements, passed down to him from earlier generations, just as his unique coat, body size and temperament have also come down to him. Since we can't change the Pug's genetic makeup by giving them a different diet for a short time, say 1,000-2,000 years, it would be better to feed them with foods that contain their breed requirements.

Ideally, this diet should contain:

- Nutrient sources similar to those of his native environment of the Pug's ancestors which are not foreign to his digestive and glandular systems and easy to assimilate
- A proper balance of proteins, carbohydrates, fatty acids, vitamins and minerals that match his specific nutritional requirements and those that he has inherited

As a Pug owner, you can feed your pet correctly and so save a lot of money that you would otherwise have spent on vets, medicines and expensive treatments. To avoid this, you should learn about the nutritional needs of your Pug and decide just what to feed him. If you do this, you are really in a comfortable position where you save money and your pet is high on health.



❖ **Choosing dog food:** Your Pug means a lot to you, so naturally you want to feed him well with healthy food, but from all the food out there for pets, how do you know what's best for him? Well, first of all, bear in mind that there is no one food that is the best for all dogs. Different dogs react differently to different foods, like us, so this makes it difficult to pinpoint any one pet food as being the one for your pet

Pug. Fortunately, there are some well-formulated dog food brands to choose from today. Figuring out which is the best for your pet really means sampling a few until you hit on the right one. But to do that, you would have to consider a few key points such as:

- **Your Pug's age:** How old is your pet? Bear this in mind when you decide just what to feed him. If you have a pup and you feed him an adult's food, he will not get the higher amounts of calories, protein, vitamins, and minerals he needs for proper growth, as you imagine. An adult dog eating puppy food is likely to become overweight. An older dog may need a senior food that is more easily digested. It is true, isn't it, that when it comes to choosing food, one size doesn't fit all?
- **Select a food type:** You might wonder whether to feed your Pug dry food, semi-moist or canned. This really depends on your pet, though usually many dogs are fed dry food.

- **Look at the ingredients:** Your Pug needs to eat a high-quality healthy diet. There are economy brands in the market made from inexpensive ingredients that your pet will find difficult to digest, and therefore do not provide the best nutrition. Though technically these brands may meet the legal specifications for percentages of protein, fat, carbohydrates, etc., they have lower energy values and lower-grade proteins.

Due to this, many health-building nutrients may not be absorbed into your pet's system. When you look for a healthy food for your dog, read the list of ingredients on the back of the pack. Look for the weight of ingredients such as meat, fish, egg, or some type of meat meal or fishmeal as the first or second ingredient. Meat, fish, and eggs have a high biological value. This means they have a high percentage of protein in the form of digestible, usable amino acids. As a consumer, you ought to read all the ingredients right to the very last one to see which type of preservatives and colorings have been used.

- **Compare the Guaranteed Analysis:** Now, check the Guaranteed Analysis on the back of the bag. Do you see a chart listing the percentages of various ingredients contained in that food? That's your Guaranteed Analysis. The numbers you read in percentages here don't take into account the amount of moisture in the food. Moisture levels can vary depending on whether it is a dry food pack or a canned food pack, sometimes in the range of six percent to 80%. Therefore, to determine the actual amount of an ingredient in a food, or to compare between brands or between wet and dry foods, you will have to convert to Dry Matter (DM) basis.
- **Check for the AAFCO statement:** To estimate the quality of a particular dog food pack, compare the DM ingredient amounts to the nutrition chart of the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) Dog Food Nutrient Profiles. If your dog food pack has been labeled 'complete and balanced,' it must meet the standards established by AAFCO either by meeting a nutrient profile or by passing a feeding trial.
- **Don't hurry to switch foods:** After making comparisons between dog food brands and choosing a well-formulated food, give your Pug ample time to transit from his current food to the new one. Bacteria present in his intestine will help him digest his food, but if you change his food all too suddenly, it can lead to changes in the number and type of these bacteria, raising the difficulty level of digesting it and ending in intestinal upset.

To avoid such problems, make the switch gradually, over about seven to 10 days. Begin by mixing 25 percent new and 75 percent old food, and continue to feed him in this proportion for the next three days. If he responds well to this slight change, add 50 percent of each type of food for the next three days, then 75 percent new and 25 percent old for three days. This should give your pet sufficient time to get used to the newness in his food. He will now be ready to eat only the new food.

A month after you have put him on this new food, step back and take a look at him. Are his eyes brilliant, his coat shiny and his body in good shape? Is he energetic? If you get a resounding yes to all these questions, your pet is fit because you made the right choice of food.

- **What to feed your Pug:** Your Pug being an individual, may be different from other dogs when it comes to food choices. So to make a decision about the kind of food to give him, you will have to consider his age, size, breed and any existing medical problems he might have. You also need to consider the nutrient content of the diet you are feeding him now. Pet owners usually feed their pets a premium-quality diet that meets the guidelines of the Association of American Feed Control (AAFCO) for the life stage of the pet. If meat is either the first or second ingredient listed and the food has no artificial preservatives or colors, it is a brand of choice.

Semi-moist foods are not usually chosen because they are high in salt and sugar, which dogs don't need in high measure. Besides, sticky, sweet foods can lead to dental problems in dogs such as gingivitis and periodontal disease.

For these reasons, people usually go in for a premium-quality dry or canned food. Dry food is as easy to transport, as it is to store and prepare. Canned food contains about 80-85 percent of water, dry food scores over it because it contains just about 10 percent water and is more economical to feed on a per-serving basis, especially when feeding a premium-quality food.

Pet owners also believe that by serving dry kibble, their pets are at an advantage. Dry kibble, they believe, has a scraping or wiping action on the teeth that helps slow down the accumulation of plaque and tartar. Besides, it exercises the mouth during chewing. These days, there are specially designed dental diets with a kibble designed to hold together longer, giving more tooth contact before the kibble shatters. Your Pug may eat lesser than larger dogs; so canned foods could be a good option in terms of pricing. Since he has more crowded teeth, plaque and tartar accumulate easily.

- **Carbohydrates for energy:** These are present in all dog foods since they give rise to many health problems, if not fed correctly. Often, this figure ranges between 30% and 70% in dry foods. Your pet has the ability to convert large amounts of carbohydrates into energy. They are used to add structure, texture and form to kibbled food so that it is easy to feed.

Soluble carbohydrates used in pet foods include the starchy portions of plants that can easily be broken down in your pet's digestive tract. They can be found in cereal grains such as rice, wheat, corn, barley, and oats. When cooked, they are easily and quickly digested. However, your pet cannot digest all forms of starch, for instance, raw cereal grains, raw potatoes and bananas.

Take care when you feed your pet carbohydrates as part of pet foods as sometimes, they can cause obesity and bad digestion. He suffers from obesity when his energy needs far outweigh his carbohydrate content, resulting in the extra glucose being stored as fat. Bad

digestion can manifest itself as excessive gas, bloating, and diarrhea in mild to severe forms.

- **Fats:** This is a very important nutritional need in pet diets. They supply energy to your pet's body, make the food more palatable, improve the texture of foods and carry fat- soluble vitamins. For these reasons, the type and quantity of fats in your pet's diet are extremely important since they can influence appetite and food intake, the ability of your Pug to do muscular work, the condition of his coat and the type of fat deposited in the body.

But an overdose of these fats leads to obesity in pets. It is better therefore to feed your Pug a special diet low in fat and high in fiber, though this may sometimes result in his having a dull coat and dry skin because of the reduction in fatty acids. The way out of this is to feed your Pug a concentrated fatty acid supplement that is low in calories.

Apart from obesity, your Pug can also suffer from pancreatitis, a severe and life-threatening disease caused due to feeding him with fatty table scraps. to prevent this, feed him a balanced diet, commensurate with his age.

- **Vitamins and minerals:** Different breeds of dogs assimilate different sources of vitamins and minerals differently. You perhaps do not know that there are over 170 different molecular forms of the mineral calcium. Whereas the source of the mineral calcium that a Pug can assimilate easily can be hard for any other breed, leading to developing kidney stones in him.

Listed below are a range of the best sources of vitamins and minerals for your Pug without stating amounts as each Pug's individual demands are different and depend largely on his sex, age, activity level, stress levels, medical conditions and other dietary factors.

Vitamin and best source	Mineral and best source
Vitamin A Palmitate	Calcium Oyster Shell
Vitamin B-1 Thiamine Hcl & Yeast	Copper Gluconate
Vitamin B-2 Riboflavin & Yeast	Iodine Sea Kelp
Vitamin B-6 Pyridoxine Hcl & Yeast	Iron Ferrous Fumerate
Vitamin B-12 Cyanocobalamin & Yeast	Magnesium Magnesium-Gluconate

Vitamin D D-activated Sterol	Manganese Manganese-Gluconate
Vitamin E dl-alpha tocopherol acetate	Phosphorus Oyster Shell
Niacinamide	Potassium Potassium-Gluconate
Biotin	Zinc Zinc-Gluconate
Folic Acid	
D-Calcium Pantothenate	
Para Amino Benzoic Acid	

Desist from feeding your Pug any supplemental vitamin C (including ascorbic acid, sodium ascorbate, calcium ascorbate or ascorbal palmitate) because this will damage his kidney and liver.

- **Antioxidants:** These substances help keep fats and fat-soluble ingredients including vitamins A and E from becoming oxidized. Once oxidized, fats begin to taste stale and lose their nutritional value. Since your pet's food contains high levels of fat, it is prone to oxidation. Canned foods, being airtight, don't have this problem of oxidation, but dry foods must necessarily contain antioxidants to preserve them. If your dog food contains an antioxidant, AAFCO requires that its common name appear on the label, along with a mention that it is being used here as a preservative.

Dog food stays preserved from oxidation due to natural and artificial antioxidants. Common artificial antioxidants for pet food are ethoxyquin, butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) and butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), while natural antioxidants include tocopherols (Vitamin E), ascorbic acid (Vitamin C), citric acid and rosemary.

Artificial preservatives contribute to keeping ingredients stable longer and giving pet foods a longer shelf life than natural antioxidants. Natural preservatives or antioxidants in your pet's food include Vitamin E, Vitamin C, citric acid and rosemary. If you choose these, remember its shelf life is very short. So, buy small quantities of such foods and use them up as fast as possible or it will taste stale and have a lower nutritional value. Look for foods that read "Best if used by" date stamped on them. Store them in cool dark places away from the harsh sunlight or intense humidity.

Make wise decisions about your dog's food by reading all about the role of various ingredients in pet food. Watch out for claims that can't be backed by scientific evidence

or are not commonsensical. Update yourself on new developments in the world of dog food so that you can help your pet lead a very healthful life with you.

- **Beet pulp:** A common ingredient in most pet foods, this has been recognized as a popular feed additive for horses and other livestock and, now canine and feline foods. A by-product of the extract of raw sugar from sugar beets, they are grown on a commercial scale to produce sugar. The pulp that remains after sugar has been extracted is beet—rich in fiber and energy.

It is an insoluble fiber source that is to some extent fermentable. So, while providing energy that can enhance the health of your Pug's colon, beet pulp also helps by adding bulk and moisture to his stools. This is recommended as one of the best sources of fiber for dogs in general and your Pug in particular. Although beneficial, only a small amount of it is eaten by your pet every day. When fed correctly, it can prove to be beneficial to your pet. It could, however, cause your Pug's stomach to swell, affect his palatability and block his intestinal villus.

- **Fiber:** Though you will find this listed on all pet food packs, its importance has been doubted. Fiber is beneficial to your Pug in aiding digestion. This is because it comprises several different compounds that are all carbohydrates. The type of fiber you choose determines its effectiveness and role in the digestion process.

Fiber can be found in the cell walls of plants and grains present in the food. Other sources of fiber include rice hulls, corn and corn by-products, soybean hulls, beet pulp, bran, peanut hulls and pectin.

Though fiber is not seen as an essential nutrient in dog diets, yet it is contained in all dog food. Your pet will not get the benefit of any energy from fiber but it will benefit with an improved colon. It helps treat diarrhea and constipation, helps colon cells recover from injury, reduces the animal's risk to colon cancer, keeps his weight down and controls diabetes mellitus.

- **Water:** This is his most critical nutrient without which he cannot survive. Even a loss of about 10 percent of body water can lead to serious illness. Water makes up 84 percent of a newborn puppy and 60 percent of an adult dog and is necessary for all his bodily functions. Though water is so essential to the life of a dog, he drinks very little of it, except on hot days. At such times, if he skips drinking water, he can be quickly dehydrated. Considering its place in the life of a dog, fresh and clean water should always be made available to him.

By and large, an animal needs 2.5 times the amount of water as his daily intake of food. So if he eats four ounces of dry food, give him 10 ounces of water. If he eats canned foods, he gets his moisture content from the food and may therefore drink much less water than a dog who eats only dry food.

- ✓ **Which water is best for him:** If the water you give him to drink contains less than 5000 parts per million of total dissolved solids, this is good for him. If the water is untreated, it can contain bacteria, viruses and parasites and can give rise to problems such as giardia.

Household tap water is very safe for your Pug but if your water contains high doses of nitrates, iron or magnesium, he can be affected in the long run. Mineral water is fine if you place it in clean water bowls that are washed every day and disinfected from time to time. Among bowls, the ones in stainless steel clean best and are scratch-resistant, thereby negating the presence of bacteria. Stoneware crock-style dishes are also good options.

Give your pet cool water in the summer and room temperature water in the winter. If he is a yard dog, give him a heated water bucket or container in the winter. If he falls sick, give him a lot of water so that he remains hydrated.

❖ **What to feed your Pug:**

- **Commercial dog foods:** There are some pet owners who like to give their pets freshly cooked food every day—and this is the best—while others prefer to rely on commercial dog food. If you fall in this latter category, these are what you should look out for on a commercial dog food label:
 - **Human grade ingredients** (USDA approved)
 - **No meat by-products or digest** (meal is fine)
 - **No generic fats or proteins** such as animal fat, poultry fat or meat meal. Instead, choose those that have beef fat, chicken fat or lamb meal
 - **No preservatives such as BHA/BHT or Ethoxyquin**
 - **No artificial colors, sugars and sweeteners** such as corn syrup, sucrose, ammoniated glycyrrhizin or propylene glycol to make the food moist and toxic
 - **Just a few grains**—ground yellow corn and corn gluten meal
 - **A dash of taurine:** Taurine is considered an essential amino acid that helps fight blindness in animals because it can convert carnitine to taurine
- ❖ **Foods to supplement a commercial diet:** Supplement your dog's diet with the following:
 - **Muscle meat:** Give him any kind of meat including heart in either chunks or ground form. Don't cook it though, unless it's boneless, as cooked meat with 'sharp' bones in it may be dangerous to the intestine.. If boneless, add ½ teaspoon ground eggshell

to a pound of meat to give him the right ratio of calcium: phosphorus. If this is just a small part of his diet, you don't need to add any calcium to his diet.

- **Liver or organ meat:** Don't go overboard feeding him with large amounts of liver, but keep the portions small as it is rich in protein and can lead to diarrhea, though nutritionally very good. Though kidney is not as rich a food, treat it as you would liver. Ditto with other organ meats such as heart and gizzard.
- **Fish:** You might feed your pet sardines if tinned in water or even canned salmon since these foods have a perfect ratio of meat to bones, and are full of omega-3 essential fatty acids. However, don't feed him raw salmon or trout from the Pacific Northwest, as it could well contain a parasite that's fatal to dogs. Tuna too is a complete no-no for your Pug for two reasons—it is likely to be contaminated with mercury and does not include bones.
- **Eggs:** Give your Pug eggs, preferably raw, or you may also lightly scramble them or serve them hard-boiled. Whole eggs are fine too, as the yolks contain plenty of biotin that make up for all that the whites destroy.
- **Yogurt:** Serve him plain whole milk yogurt.
- **Cottage cheese or Ricotta cheese:** The low-fat variety is best.
- **Garlic:** This is good for him as garlic helps keep fleas at bay, besides also having other health benefits. But be careful, as garlic in large quantities can be toxic. Optimally, he should be given not more than ½ to 1 clove of garlic, either raw or crushed per 20 pounds of body weight.
- **Recreational bones:** These can help keep his teeth clean and gum diseases at bay. You could also try giving him large beef ribs and take them away once he has eaten the meat off the bones. For this purpose, knuckle bones are also very good though marrow bones can pose a problem if your Pug can't get the bone between his molars and grind them down as these are thick and heavy bones. Too much pressure can break his teeth, so be careful.

Also, marrow is nutritious but may give him diarrhea, so it would be wise if you scooped it out and fed him the marrow. Let him play with these bones for a few hours after which you should take them away as they may just dry out and get harder, causing broken teeth.

- **Vegetables:** Put him on a diet of preferably pureed raw or steamed veggies such as broccoli or carrot sticks, which he would not be able to digest otherwise. You could also give him celery, kale, collard greens, mustard greens, bok choy, cabbage, spinach, chard, parsley, cilantro, lettuce, Brussels sprouts, zucchini, asparagus, turnips, parsnips, etc, but not onions.

However, if he has some symptoms of arthritis, inflammation, respiratory problems or any other conditions that involve swelling or mucous secretion, exclude potatoes, tomatoes, peppers and eggplant from his diet.

- **Fruit:** Banana, papaya, apple, pear and avocado, among others, would be good for your growing Pug.
- **Kibble:** This diet consists of about 65% carbohydrates, whereas dogs have no nutritional need for carbohydrates, since they are better off with more animal-based foods. For a good kibble-based diet, feed him in the ratio of ½ meat to ½ kibble, plus fish oil but not cod liver oil for the omega-3 fatty acids.

If you would like to add meat, make it canned fish such as mackerel, salmon or sardines, hamburger or beef chunks including heart, ground turkey and organ meats. For veggies, add a tablespoon or two of the veggies of your choice since kibble already has a lot of fiber.

If you add a tablespoon or two of whole milk yogurt and a raw egg that will be good for your Pug. You could also give him food supplements such as vitamin C, vitamin E, kelp, alfalfa and Probiotic Powder.

- ❖ **Foods to avoid:** Just because certain foods are good for us humans doesn't necessarily mean they are equally good for your Pug. They can be harmful for your pet because of their different metabolism. Some may react by having mild digestive upsets, but in others sever illnesses can result, and at times, they could die too. Listed below are those foods that you should never feed your pet, intentionally or not.

What not to feed your Pug

Alcoholic beverages	Cause intoxication, coma and death
Baby food	Sometimes contains onion powder that is toxic to dogs; can also result in nutritional deficiencies, if fed in large amounts
Bones from fish, poultry or other meat sources	Obstructs or lacerates the digestive system
Bugs, dirt, plants and things usually found outside your house	These may not kill him, but you will find it disgusting to watch him eat garden bugs and pests
Cat food	High in protein and fats.
Chicken bones	Being brittle, they can splinter and puncture your Pug's palate, throat or intestines or even kill him

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Chocolate, coffee, tea and other caffeine drinks	Caffeine, theobromine or heophylline is toxic and affect the heart and nervous systems
Citrus oil extracts	Can cause vomiting
Fat trimmings	Can cause pancreatitis
Grapes and raisins	Contain an unknown toxin that can damage the kidneys
Hops	An unknown compound causes panting, increased heart rate, elevated temperature, seizures and death
Human vitamin supplements containing iron	Can affect the lining of the digestive system and be toxic to the other organs including the liver and kidneys
Large amounts of liver	Can cause Vitamin A toxicity, leading to damaging muscles and bones
Macadamia nuts	Contain an unknown toxin which can affect the digestive and nervous systems, and muscle.
Marijuana	This depresses the nervous system, causes vomiting and changes in the heart rate
Milk and other dairy products	Absence of lactose in milk among adult Pugs results in diarrhea
Moldy or spoiled food, and garbage	These contain multiple toxins causing vomiting and diarrhea and also affect other organs
Mushrooms	Can be toxic, affecting multiple systems in the body, causing shock and eventual death
Onions and garlic	Whether raw, cooked or powdered, they contain sulfoxides and disulfides, which damage red blood cells and cause anemia. Garlic is less toxic than onions
Paper	Keep him from eating this—a favored pastime
Pieces of Lego's, disposable razors and other things that have our scent on them	They will scrape and hurt the walls of his intestines when he defecates
Raw fish	Eating this can result in a thiamine (a B Vitamin) deficiency causing loss of appetite, seizures and death
Salt	When eaten in large quantities, leads to electrolyte imbalances

String	This can be trapped in the digestive system and is called a "string foreign body"
Sugary foods	Lead to obesity, dental problems and diabetes mellitus
Table scraps	If eaten in large amounts, should never exceed 10 percent of the diet. They are nutritionally imbalanced. Trim the fat from the meat; don't feed bones
Tobacco	Nicotine in tobacco affects the digestive and nervous systems resulting in rapid heart beat, collapse, coma and death
Yeast dough	Expands and produces gas in the digestive system, causing pain in the stomach and possible rupture of stomach or intestines

- ❖ **How much to feed your pup:** It is important for your pet to maintain the proper weight for good health. If underweight dogs suffer from poor muscle tone, delayed healing, loss of energy and metabolic and reproductive disorders, overweight dogs suffer from arthritic problems, an increase incidence of metabolic disease including diabetes and liver problems, and little energy, skin problems and shortened life expectancy.
- **Understand your Pug's needs:** Before you get down to feed your pet, you need to understand his energy requirements. This will depend on his breed, size, growth rate as a puppy, activity level, skin and coat thickness and living conditions.
- ❖ **How to feed your Pug:** A good place to start is to give him a good quality food. Read the recommendations on the label; this will give you an accurate weight of the dog and a estimated target weight. Now, from the table, figure out his activity level. Also factor in the other environmental variables and any additional calories that he may put on, in the form of treats or table foods, and then adjust the starting amount. Perhaps your vet should be able to tell you what your dog's ideal weight should be. Factor this too in your feeding amount. Take into consideration that most dogs are overfed and do hardly any exercise. If this is the case with your pet too, then it's wise to feed him just a little less.

Once you begin feeding him the amount as per your calculations, weigh your Pug once a month to determine if the feed is appropriate. If necessary, increase or decrease the amount of food slightly until your pet achieves his ideal weight. If he gets too frisky on the weighing scale, one good way of doing it is to get onto the weighing scale with him and then release him and weigh yourself without the dog. Subtract the difference to get his weight.

As time passes and your Pug grows older, you will find that the amount you feed him changes. He will put on weight and might be overweight as he grows into an adult. This is the time his appetite is far larger than his need for food. His weight also increases when he begins to age and his physical activity level begins to wane. At this time too, you could adjust his calories and conduct periodic weight checks, and reduce the quantity of each feed.

- ❖ **How often to feed your pup:** Feed your hungry Pug pup not more than three times a day. If you find he isn't hungry that often, reduce the number of meals. At age 10-12 weeks, begin feeding him just twice a day.

Ideally, you should give him just two meals, morning and evening, leaving his bowl of food before him for 15 minutes each time, so that he eats as much as he can within that time. Then, pick up his bowl of unfinished food.

The reason for doing this is that he won't be encouraged to overeat, which he would if he has the bowl of food before him for as long as he wishes. If, as a pup, he is overweight, he is more likely to suffer from hip dysplasia and other weight problems as he grows.

Also, if you continue to feed him through the day, he will never be hungry for his meal, and so won't enjoy it unless it comes with special treats. This combination of special treats and freely available food leads him to be bored, picky and overweight.

- ❖ **People food:** Don't give your Pug the food you eat. Food meant for humans and scraps from your dining table should never be given to dogs. If you begin with giving him a balanced diet and to that add goodies from your table, there won't be much of a balanced diet for him anymore, but certainly you will give him a lot of digestive trouble.

You could, however, do the reasonable thing by balancing treats such as milk bone biscuits with his canned food, but again, don't overdo it. Apart from the above, you may confidently feed your Pug any proprietary dog biscuits, fresh, cooked or canned meat, an egg, vegetables, rice or pasta but in reasonable quantities.

Some pet owners feed their dogs just dog foods that, though are less natural, and are completely balanced diets. You will find that they come in many forms and shapes—for instance, they may be biscuits, kibble or flakes.

If you feel that your Pug's diet must also take into consideration problems such as scratching, overweight or poor coats, ask your vet to advise you on the local products available. Perhaps your Pug does not need a high protein diet that might otherwise have made him prone to scratching and perhaps a mild form of eczema too.

No matter what diet you eventually follow, bear in mind that the protein content of your Pugs diet should be kept very low. His grain content should come solely from barley,

wheat and rice. Desist from feeding him lamb, poultry, ocean fish, avocado or yellow corn. In fact, they will eat pretty much anything just so long as it is delicious. A friend's Pug eats homemade cooked bacon, steaks, lamb chops and stew.

- ❖ **Food for his coat:** When you look for good food for your Pug's coat, fatty acids and oils are important. To test, take about a cup of dog food and put it into a small brown paper bag. Leave it for about an hour and then check it. If the food has been cooked in a lot of oil, the paper bag will have oil stains on it.

There are a number of good foods that will behave in a similar manner. So, when you choose dog food, look into a whole lot of other things too such as food allergies your dog may suffer from, what makes up dog food and its quality and availability.

- ❖ **Shelf life of pet food:** When you select a high-quality food for your pet, you will also have to handle and store the food pack so that the taste and freshness are not affected. When buying a bag or can of pet food, look for the "Best if used by" date stamped on the container. Usually, dry foods have a shelf life of a year while canned products stay fresh for two years from the date of manufacture. Ensure that you will serve this to your pet before the date of expiry.

The kind of preservative used in dog food affects the product's shelf life. Natural preservatives such as Vitamin E break down faster than artificial preservatives such as ethoxyquin.

- **Storing pet food:** If exposed to oxygen, heat, humidity and light, pet food can be damaged. When exposed to oxygen and heat, a chemical process called oxidation takes place by acting on the fat in the dog food. It makes the food taste rancid, depletes vitamins and other nutrients and leads to serious disease.

Ideally, you should store canned and dry foods at room temperature—not above 90°F. If stored below 50°F for long periods of time, the food may change in appearance, texture and palatability, though the nutritional value will remain unchanged. After you open a can of food, cover it with a tight-fitting lid, refrigerate it and use within the next three days.

Don't store dry food in damp basements, bathrooms or laundry rooms, since moisture could make the food moldy. Keep it in its original bag and place it inside another clean, dry, container with a tight-fitting lid to eliminate light, air, rodents and insects.

- ❖ **Treats or table scraps:** Though we all do give our pets table scraps from time to time, really we shouldn't and if we do, we need to do this only seldom. If you limit your table scraps to an occasional morsel of leftover lean meat, non-battered vegetables and a little rice, that's fine, but indulgent owners don't stop there.
- **Don't reward begging:** If you begin the practice of giving him a bit of your food at every meal, this will be a lifelong habit. And it will boomerang on you when you

have guests at dinner and you find your pet doing the same thing with them. This is enough to disrupt your dinner. At this stage, it will be difficult to train him not to do this.

- **No nutrition for him in table scraps:** If you continue to give him tasty table scraps, he isn't going to have much of an appetite for his own food. Trouble begins when you realize that his nutritional needs are different from ours, so he ends up getting less vitamins and minerals than he needs and probably more of those that he doesn't. Instead, give him quality dog treats that are developed just for pets.
- **Table scraps cause obesity:** Often, table scraps are just plain calories. Think of that hunk of bacon or pastry that you ate last night and fed some of it to your Pug. He might love the taste but it's the wrong food for him. By being overweight, not only does he not look his best, but will also run into a range of health problems.
- **Table scraps cause digestive disorders:** Rich table scraps can also cause problems with your dog's digestive tract. Instead, give him a simple meal consistently to keep his system functioning smoothly. If you do add to it different foods and hot spices, it can only result in your Pug suffering from bad gas, bad breath and loose stools.
- **Your Pug could be a finicky eater:** Once he likes your food, he will prefer that over his own. What will you do then?
- **A thief in your home:** If you leave some of your food on your kitchen or dining table, you can be sure your food lover pet will attack it the moment he sees it. If you don't allow that, he will rush across to the garbage can to get the food you stopped him from eating. He may then eat foods not meant for dogs in general such as thin chicken bones, chocolate and other food items.

To give your Pug quality dog treats, try giving him nutritious dog food that has fewer calories than most table scraps. Liver products are good nutritive value, or you could give him biscuits that get rid of plaque and tartar, rawhide that relieves boredom and is good for teeth, salmon treats, fruit and vegetables such as carrots, celery, all kinds of greens such as kale, collard greens, mustard greens, bok choy, cabbage, spinach, chard, parsley, cilantro, lettuce, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, zucchini, asparagus, turnips and parsnips but not onions. Among fruit, give him grapefruit, bananas and papayas or any other.

❖ Some easy to make Pug fare:

Pug Crunchies

1 large jar baby food (turkey, chicken, beef and/or veggie)
1 egg
1 to 1 ½ cups wheat flour
1cup wheat germ

▪ **Method:**

1. Preheat oven to 300° F.

2. Mix all ingredients together until firm.
 3. Roll dough on floured surface to ½" thick, and cut into shapes with cookie cutter.
 4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake for about 45-60 minutes.
 5. Cool on rack and store in airtight container.
- ❖ **Pugs and obesity:** Obesity is a contributory factor leading to ill health among Pugs, so care must be taken not to get your Pug to that stage. Apart from aggravating locomotor problems, obesity causes collapsing trachea, a hereditary condition among all toy breeds, or a condition where the rings of cartilage in the windpipe collapse.

Excessively hot weather also makes it difficult for Pugs to lose heat. So, don't leave him out in the heat for more than five to 10 minutes in temperatures of about 85° F. And when your fat Pug grows old he's bound to have more problems and greater difficulty fighting disease and sickness.

While it is difficult to say at what exact point your Pug's weight could be the cause of his ill health, there are certain indications that he is putting on just a little more weight than he should. Can you find his ribs without searching hard for them? Then he's fine. But if you find layers of fat on the brisket or the area just below the chest and between the forelegs, the neck, abdomen and the tailbone, then your Pug needs to go slow on his eating.

It is also difficult to say just how much to feed your Pug because metabolism varies from pet to pet as much as it does from Pug to Pug. So, while new owners of Pugs have this nagging problem dodging them about what to feed their Pug pet, the truth is that there are several types of foods available for your Pug—Generic foods made by local companies who sell them at low prices to the stores; Store Label foods or branded food that's sold at all supermarkets at a lower price than the big standard brand name foods.

- **Slimming your Pug down:** Obesity is the number one problem dogging vets today. With pet owners feeding their pets too much, this isn't surprising but unfortunately many owners are not aware that their pet is overweight and that this could be a serious health problem in itself. Studies point to the fact that lean dogs when compared with their obese counterparts live two years longer.

To rule out all medical problems, your vet will have to conduct a complete vet examination and ask for a complete blood picture, and possibly a thyroid profile too. Managing the weight of our pets is a sure shot way of solving this problem, because his master determines what the pet eats.

Your Pug can lose weight by dieting and exercising. To do this, first set a weight goal and a time frame within which to lose that weight, aided by your vet. Next, go in for a high quality diet and an appropriate volume of that diet. If you want to stay with the diet you've been feeding him all this while, reduce his intake by 25%.

Do this for a fortnight, so he begins to get adjusted to this new quantity of food. Now, eliminate high calorie snacks and replace them with carrots or very small pieces of meat or cheese.

The next major change that will help your Pug lose weight is a lifestyle change. Take him leash walking, beginning with short distances and slowly increasing them. A large component of success is to make it fun. To encourage him, take his dinner along on your walks and feed for treats to reward him for his attentive behavior.

You could also include play dates with a puppy or if he is socialized, try getting him interested in dog sports such as obedience, agility, flyball or Frisbee. Check your Pug out physically with your vet, as some of these activities can be quite demanding.

It sure takes a lot of your time, sweat and determination to achieve weight loss in your Pug. But go ahead and achieve it because this means living with a healthier dog longer.

Chapter 12

Medical care of your Pug

Are you considering breeding or taking care of a Pug? Then, perhaps you ought to know just which medical problems they usually suffer from so that you can be prepared for them. Also, before buying, you can ask the breeder for medical certificates of the Pug so you know which disorders he is particularly prone to.

- ❖ **Home care for your Pug:** To begin your Pug's regimen of health care, begin with the use of home health exams. Learn to diagnose that something is wrong early enough as even you realize that animals don't speak, so enduring pain and discomfort is so much more difficult for them.

A simple and easy way of keeping your Pug healthy is to have a regular home examination. Begin with his head. Are his eyes bright and clear? While older Pugs do have a blue-gray haze over their eyes, this is certainly natural. Are there scratches or blemishes on his corneas?

Yet another way of testing his eyes is to shine a light into your Pug's eyes and then turn the light away. Do your Pug's pupils contract when the light is shone on his eyes and do they expand when the light is removed?

What about his face? If his nose and folds are left dirty and are not dried regularly, it will give rise to a yeast infection that will make his face stink. To treat this, wash his face with a solution of four parts of water to one part hydrogen peroxide.

Dip a napkin in the solution and run it over his nose fold and face wrinkles, but see that it doesn't get into his eyes or nose. Ensure that his nose and folds are completely dry by wiping them dry with another washcloth. Now dab diaper rash medication to help keep the area dry, but never use powder as it will only cake up and cause more problems. For more advice, speak to your vet.

Now, travel down to his ears, a source of infection and infestation. Since the Pug's ears lie flat against the head, they invite a series of problems. In this position, they resemble the front flap of a purse and are helpful for preventing debris and dust from entering the ear, though it does manage to trap in moisture and heat.

This area is also a fertile ground for bacteria and parasites. If you do examine your Pug's ears, let your eye travel as far down his ear canal as possible. If you see what looks like very dark "dirt" deep down in his ear, this may be ear mites. Take him to the vet and have his ears attended to.

Now, over to his mouth. Open his mouth gently with your fingers. Go so close to his mouth that you can smell his breath. If you get a nasty smell, it means he has dental problems. Next, check his teeth and gums. If they are firm and pink, they're healthy.

Press a part of his gums and wait. If his gums turn white, release the pressure and remove your finger and watch the rosy pink color return.

Examine the Pug's teeth in the same way as you would yours. Check for signs of neglect, perhaps dark tartar and stained teeth. Broken or chipped teeth are signs of infection and the source of serious medical problems.

Now, examine his forelegs, neck and shoulders. Pat his coat all over his body, checking for abrasions, cuts and bumps. If his coat is shiny, he's doing fine. Now, look closely at your Pug's paws, toes, nails and the rectal area. Now, roll him over on his back and look at his chest, belly and groin too.

Routine examinations are a great way of keeping your Pug in great shape. As soon as you find your pet is hurt or injured, start the treatment. Ask your vet to set up a regular diagnostic checkup routine that you can perform. If you spend this kind of time with your Pug, you can let him lead a healthful life.

❖ **Signs he is sick:**

1. His tail is no longer curled
2. There's a discharge from his nose or mouth
3. He runs a temperature of about 101°F
4. His ears turn red
5. He may vomit too and he may eat grass to induce vomiting.

❖ **Problems of the eye:**

- **Generalized progressive retinal atrophy (GPRA):** This is a genetically inherited disease of the general degeneration of the cells of the retina, leading to eventual blindness in midlife when your Pug is barely between five and seven years of age. As this problem starts small as night blindness in younger dogs, and as their vision deteriorates progressively, blindness sets in. Because it grows gradually, owners don't usually realize it exists until very late. This is a genetically inherited disease and has no known cure.
- **Pigmentary keratitis:** This is a broad term to describe the laying down of dark pigments and inflammation of the cornea. It is characterized by an abnormal pigmentation deposited on the white surface of the eyes in order to protect it from any other issue that irritates the eye. Pigmentary keratitis is the result of many factors that either irritate or inflame the cornea.

People usually look for it in the corners of the dog's eyes or in their corneas, but it can appear at any point on the surface. You can tell it is Pigmentary keratitis if you see a flat, dull point that sits on the surface of your Pug's eyes. If you do find it, have him checked by your vet and have it surgically corrected.

- **Causes:** Pigmentary keratitis is caused by chronic irritation due to a number of reasons. Causes range from small hair rubbing on your Pug's cornea (districhiasis or trichiasis), dry eye or Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (KCS) or perhaps exposure due to protruding eyes or lack of eyelid closure.

Several surgeries can help correct the problem, depending on the primary cause. Of them, the eyelid tuck is usually very successful. To correct this situation, the small hair can be removed surgically. Surgery can also be used to correct eyelids that roll in or even wrinkle reduction. Treatment would also include putting them on Optimune if KCS is suspected. In some cases, topical steroids can be used if no corneal ulcer is present and the primary cause of the irritation has been corrected.

- **Tears and tearstains:** Your primary task is to determine the cause of the tearing. Is it a new phenomenon or has it always been there? People usually believe that there are a number of causes of this condition, so the cause must be looked into before attempting to cure it.
- **Causes of tears:** Excessive tears could be due to ingrown eyelashes or blocked tear ducts. Have your vet check them. This could be because Pugs and other small short-nosed breeds could well have an over-the-nose wrinkle that develops when he grows to his full size and sends small hairs from on the wrinkle in the direction of the eye by either scratching or irritating it.

Perhaps your water contains a high level of minerals that lead to darker, staining tears. If you switch over to mineral water for drinking purposes, it might help. Lastly, don't add additives, preservatives or food colors to your dog's diet. If you color his food red, it is said to produce tears that cause stains.

Besides, just like us, dogs too cry or produce tears when they have irritants in their eyes. Tearstains usually leave the dog's face moist and dark, and render it a major breeding ground for bacteria and yeast growth. In fact, commonly found yeast is *Ptyosporin* (red yeast), reddish-brown in color. Since he rubs the area with his paws, not only is the area under his eyes stained but his paws too.

For relief from yeast infection, your vet may give your adult Pug tetracycline for 10 days. But if your pup suffers from this, be careful with tetracycline since if your pup still hasn't got his adult teeth, it could yellow his teeth permanently. This is why some vets use Lincocin instead. Alternatively, give him half a fruit-flavored Tums pill twice a day. A source of calcium, it also helps cause a change in the pH of the tears. By this, the wet areas are less fertile ground for yeast and bacteria.

- **Corneal dystrophy:** This is an abnormality of the surface of the cornea, normally seen as shallow pits in the surface.
- **Entropion:** In this condition, your Pug's eyelid rolls in or under towards the eye.

- **Keratitis sicca:** This occurs when one or both of your Pug's eyes do not produce a normal amount or type of tears. This is also a cause of dry eye.
- **Pannus:** This is an eye disease characterized by abnormal growth of tissue over the cornea.
- **Ulcerative keratitis:** This is a corneal inflammation characterized by the formation of ulcers.
- **Injured eye:** Your Pug could injure his eye with a foreign object such as a grass seed. To remove it, your vet will place your pet under general anesthesia and then perforate the foreign body. Then, he will flush the eye with clean, warm water. For after care, prevent your pup from rubbing his eye with his paws or on furnishings, and take him regularly to a vet for examination and treatment. But if his eye is badly injured, cover it with damp gauze and take him to the vet without any delay.

❖ Problems of the joints:

- **Hip dysplasia:** This condition is due to malformed hip joints where the head of the femur joint does not fit perfectly inside the cup of the hip socket, causing the joint to be loose and painful whenever the animal walks or runs. Being a mid-sized dog, the Pug may feel this early in life and he may or may not require surgical correction, depending on the severity of the problem. Your vet will have to X-ray his hip to find the magnitude of the problem.
- **Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease:** This is caused due to the destruction of the ball head or the head of the femur in the hip joint due to an insufficient or improper blood supply to the region. This condition is seen in Pugs aged between six months to a year. To treat it, the head of the femur is removed by surgery.
- **Luxating patella:** This is a genetic issue with Pugs, often aggravated by overweight. It occurs when the small, flat and moveable bone at the front of the knee is dislocated. An inherited tendency, luxating patella can be aggravated by excess weight but is often corrected by surgery, though he may never need it. Some Pugs can go through life with luxating patella absolutely trouble free.

If your Pug has this condition, it is obvious one of his parents had it too. Buyers should therefore ask if both sire and dam are declared clear of luxation by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. Do not believe the breeder until he shows you the relevant certificate, and ask for a copy to take to your veterinarian.

If this affects your Pug, you will see him favoring the affected leg when he runs or walks, placing it down first after taking a few steps. He may also find it difficult to sit down and get up, and choose to run in a bunny hop style, lifting up both legs together and jutting them outward.

- ❖ **Dental care:** By the time a dog is three years old, he develops gum disease—a fact common to over 80 percent of dogs. Of them, periodontal disease is the most common dental condition. When plaque and calculus or tartar build up on the teeth, bad breath and bleeding gums result, leading to a loss of teeth.

Some fortunate Pugs never have a tooth problem all their lives while others have chronic problems from an early age. If you examine your Pug's teeth regularly, you could help prevent any dental problems from developing.

Could my Pug have bad teeth? Yes, he could and that's because of the shape of his head and the fact that, on an average, they have as many teeth as the Doberman or Great Dane—42. But the Pug's jaw has just four or five inches of space instead of other dogs whose jaw has about six to eight inches.

Therefore, in a smaller space they have to accommodate the same number of teeth—to do this the teeth rotate out of line and squish together. Your Pug's premolars move forward only to make room for molars that don't have a place anywhere, causing all the teeth to touch each other. These tight spaces allow the calculus and plaque to grow and the problems begin from there.

- **Condition of his gums:** If your Pug has healthy, pink and firm gums, he's doing fine. They should lie close against the tooth and reveal no gaps or space for food to get between the tooth and gum.

Oral problems begin with bad gums and gingivitis. The latter makes the gums turn red and swollen and will bleed if you apply a little pressure. With time, the gum will recede from the tooth and leave a small gap where food particles will collect and bacteria will begin to grow. The gap will soon widen and make a pocket between the gum and tooth.

Tarter builds up on the tooth at the site of the pocket and is off-white to tan or brown in color. Scrape the tartar off your Pug's teeth. Tartar can be off-white to tan to brown, and is a haven for bacteria.

- **What you can do:** Get on to the oral hygiene program your vet recommends that includes brushing your pets' teeth regularly with a toothpaste meant for animals. You could also clean his teeth with a piece of gauze wrapped around your finger for a brush. Or make a thick paste of baking soda and water and clean your Pug's teeth.

Refrain from using any of our toothpastes as they contain chemicals that can thin your Pug's blood if he swallows it. To avoid a build-up of tartar, avoid giving your pet soft, chewy or sticky foods or canned food as they too collect between the teeth and in dental pockets. Instead, feed him a dry kibble or dog biscuits every day to

help keep his teeth clean by friction as the little leftover bits help scrape the teeth clean.

There are some people who believe that an all-natural diet using raw meat is ideal for your pet's teeth. You could try that but also give him chewing toys like hard nylon bones, though not all dogs like it. They prefer large natural raw bones, say a good knuckle bone, which are also good for teeth cleaning, especially if there's a little bit of tendon or gristle left on to act like dental floss.

As a concerned owner, you should always supervise bone chewing. If you have multiple pets, don't leave them alone with their bones, as even the sweetest Pug can be fiercely protective of his real bones and can kill for what's his.

- ❖ **Retained puppy teeth:** Pug puppies have 28 baby teeth comprising canines, incisors and the premolars. Their teeth are visible when they are about three or four weeks old, the entire set of teeth culminating to a whole at age six weeks.

At four or five months, they begin to get their permanent teeth, and within the next two months, they get the entire set of permanent teeth. As in our case, the baby teeth are pushed out, making room for the permanent set—a condition that comes with the usual soreness in the mouth, which your Pug pup will relieve by chewing.

While they are in pain, they will prefer not to eat, and lose interest in food particularly when they are about to lose a tooth. However, this condition is so short lived that by going off food, they don't lose weight. Their incisors are the first to be replaced, followed by the canines and then the premolars. Molars arrive at about six or seven months.

Retained baby teeth are a common problem among Pugs. If you open your pup's mouth and look at the canine teeth, you may find one sharp canine stacked behind one of the four. This is one tooth that should have dropped off but didn't. When such teeth remain in the mouths of Pugs, this condition is referred to as "retained baby teeth." This is a tendency that runs through quite strongly in this breed.

The problem this condition poses is of overcrowded teeth in a small mouth. As a result, the other teeth will grow crooked and will even point to or rub against the tongue or the palate. This makes chewing a difficult task for your Pug. Also, if your Pug presses both his teeth close together, this only proves to be an excellent hiding place for bacteria to grow, giving birth to oral and gum problems.

The problem of a retained baby tooth is further compounded when you realize that if it doesn't fall off naturally by the age of one year, it never will. Whenever this tooth seems to cause a problem of crowding the area or forcing other teeth to deviate in an unhealthy way, have it removed by your vet.

For this, your vet will have to undergo general anesthesia—a risky proposition among Pugs. If you haven't asked your breeder about this problem of Pugs, you might like to check out exactly what the state of your prospective Pug's teeth are—you know, retained teeth or not?

- ❖ **Ear infections:** Ear infections are common among dogs and Pugs because of the shape of their ear canal. Unlike our ear canals, it has a part of the canal going down and then another that turns horizontal. Due to this awkward shape, ear infections occur easily with the coming in of a foreign object or accumulation of debris within the ear.

To remove this foreign object, it must be moved out of the inner ear and then upward to get it out of the ear completely. If your Pug feels an itch or irritation in the ear, it means wax is being produced. Irritation could also be due to the presence of foreign material, hair growing deep inside the ear canal, ear mites and allergic reactions. Once irritation sets in, wax is formed; the wax in turn helps hold moisture within it. Moisture, in its turn, encourages the growth of bacteria, leading to infection.

- ❖ **Signs of irritation:** To know that your Pug has an ear irritation, see if he shakes his head vigorously or scratches his ear. If you get a nasty smell emanating from his ear, that's part of the infection. If the infection worsens and is untreated, your Pug will react by losing his balance and keeping his head at a tilt constantly.
- ❖ **Smelly ears:** He probably has a yeast infection or ear mites, if he has smelly ears. To treat this, take a Q-tip, moisten it and run it over his inner ear without actually going right into his ear canal. If the Q-tip comes out with black to reddish residue that has a grainy texture, these are ear mites, but if it is anything other than a light amber-colored earwax, ask your vet for treatment.
- **Treating ear infections:** This is pretty easy usually. Your vet will clean his ears out, disinfect and wash them. He may also sedate the pet just a little if the ear is slightly swollen or sore as the instruments he uses may cause the Pug pain. For follow-up treatment, you will have to clean his ears at home with an oral antibiotic.

For chronic ear infections, where the infection returns every time your pet goes off the medication for a length of time, your vet may culture the bacteria growing in his ear to test if a specific medication is required. Allergy testing is yet another method of seeing if he's allergic to the cause of the swelling.

This could be due to narrow ear canals or tubes. Your vet can conduct a simple surgery to open up the ear tube and allow more air to circulate within the ear and medication to penetrate further, besides also allowing for debris to be removed easier.

- ❖ **Pug Dog Encephalitis (PDE):** In clinical terms this is called necrotizing meningoencephalitis of the cerebral hemispheres and refers to the brain and the layer of tissue surrounding it that is abnormally inflamed. This is a fatal disease among Pugs aged six to seven years, though the majority of afflicted Pugs are between nine and 19 months of age.

Certain other portions could also be dying. Though small, these portions are many and cause neurological symptoms. Symptoms include seizure, pressing of the head against a wall or furniture, a staggering walk, apparent blindness, lethargy, depression and neck pain.

- **Treating PDE:** Your vet may consider prescribing certain medication to make the Pug feel more comfortable, but there is no known cure for PDE.
- ❖ **Seizures and epilepsy:** It is really scary to watch your innocent Pug all convulsed, experiencing a seizure. Watch out, for he will exhibit strange behavior such as personality changes, fall over, lose bladder or bowel control, chomp his lips or chew at nothing or foam at the mouth, collapse to the ground and have a jerking or running motion of the legs.

He may also go blind and bang into walls, snap at nothing or bark at imaginary objects or people. Or he may just “zone out” or stop and stare at nothing for a few seconds, then continue his earlier behavior.

- **Causes:** Caused by an abnormal electrical activity in the brain, this can be due to a variety of reasons. Chief among them are a blow to the head or head trauma, inflammation of the brain, poisoning, brain tumors, thyroid disorder, calcium and other mineral deficiencies. Your pup can also have a seizure if he is hypoglycemic or has low blood sugar levels or is heavily infested with worms.

When the epilepsy is due to a blow on the dog's head or bacterial infection of the brain, it is called acquired epilepsy. If caused by a birth defect or a malformed skull, it is called congenital epilepsy.

Among dogs in general and Pugs in particular, a seizure could also be due to poisoning. This includes the usual organophosphates or flea dips, lead, strychnine or rat poison. Animals find the husks of walnut trees poisonous and can lead to seizures. Bee stings may cause your dog to bark crazily for a few minutes before he collapses or even suffers a heart irregularity problem.

Your pet could also suffer anxiety attacks that resemble seizures but are not. Your vet will also check for thyroid levels and cardiac activity since certain heart conditions resemble seizures as well as disorders like narcolepsy. If your Pug has recurrent seizures not linked to physical causes, your vet will look into the possibilities of epilepsy and encephalitis.

- **Stages of epilepsy:** There are three distinct phases of epilepsy—the aura or pre-seizure stage, the rigid stage and the post-seizure stage. Triggers may vary from dog to dog and could range from overheating, stress, excitement, loud noises, and bright lights to a reaction to food or a vaccination.
- **Pre-seizure** is when the dog appears restless or lost or may also suffer a focal seizure. This is when he snaps in air for no reason.
- **The rigid stage** is when he collapses to the ground or becomes absolutely stiff. He can slobber, twitch his facial muscles or throw his head back, cry out or scream as if in pain. Other symptoms include making running or swimming or paddling motions with his legs in air. At this stage, he may lose control of his bladder or bowel.
- **The post seizure stage** is when your Pug begins recovering from the seizure, but remains in a dazed and confused stage. You must do all you can to keep him quiet and calm now as any sudden movement or noise can give him yet another seizure.
- **Rendering first aid:** Stay calm while he has a seizure. Remember, your Pug is already frightened, so you have to show you're not. Reassure him by placing your hand in front of his nose, but take care not to cover it completely or he won't be able to breathe. He should be able to smell you and know you're near him.

To help, first remove his collar and keep him away from any potentially dangerous place such as a fireplace, stairs or unstable tables. Make him breathe by holding his head and neck back. No matter what he goes through, don't put your fingers inside his mouth if only to ease his breathing. Let him lie in a cool and darkened spot so that he is far away from any noise. Try to note down his symptoms before the fit, during and after so that you can give your vet a complete picture.

Stop him from hurting himself, so if he throws his head back or from side to side, don't let him hit the floor or wall and hurt himself more. Try to time the frequency of each seizure and write it down as soon as possible so that you can report it to your vet.

Give your vet an elaborate description about the type and length of the seizure. Maintain a log of dates and times that the seizures occur so that you can try to make out a pattern to them. Perhaps an external source sets off the seizure. If his seizures last for longer than five minutes, consider it an emergency and rush him to the vet.

- **Treating epilepsy:** Though there's no known cure for epilepsy, it can be controlled by something that slows down the nervous system. While some medications take a few days to work, other high doses of medicines work faster and arrest seizures in your dog.

- ❖ **Shedding:** This is a recurring problem with all Pugs and the best-known cure for this is to groom him regularly. So, take 10-15 minutes a week to check out your Pug, keep him looking clean and neat with a good brushing.
- ❖ **Brachycephalic Syndrome:** This is a group of conditions that result in resistance to airflow through the upper respiratory tract. It is due to anatomic abnormalities relating to the shortened bones of these dogs' compressed faces but without the same proportionate shortening of the overlying soft tissues. Due to an excess of soft tissue, the airway is compromised. It could happen to either sex of the same breed.

If this persists for long, it can lead to further respiratory difficulty in which the larynx and trachea become weaker and collapse eventually, causing a greater obstruction of the airway. It can also cause a condition called cyanosis or blueness of the oral membranes and possibly death.

The three primary symptoms that make up Brachycephalic syndrome are:

- Stenotic nares or pinched nostrils
- Elongated soft palate
- Everted laryngeal sacculles in the throat

Generally, abnormalities are present at birth, but such clinical signs of respiratory difficulty often begin in early middle age.

To diagnose the problem, your vet will have to see the reports of a complete physical to x-rays to examination under sedation to see if the palate is overly long or the laryngeal sacculles have been sucked outward by trying too hard to breathe.

❖ **Symptoms to watch for:**

- Noisy breathing, particularly on inhaling
 - Snoring
 - Exercise intolerance
 - Cyanosis
 - Fainting
- **Treatment:** If the condition is mild, the problem can be solved either by surgery or medically by tranquilization, administration of oxygen and hospital use of anti-inflammatory steroids. You will need to monitor his condition closely to check for signs that his condition is worsening.

Treatment by surgery while the problem is still not critical is the better option that gives better results rather than treating it at a later stage. Depending on the severity of the condition, surgeries could include removal of a portion of the nostril so that the passage of air increases, shortening the soft palate and removing the everted laryngeal sacculles.

▪ **What you can do:**

- If you are treating your Pug medically for this problem, keep a close vigil on his condition, lest he worsens.
- Keep him trim and away from overeating as this will make it difficult for him to breathe easily.
- Keep him sheltered from direct contact with the heat and humid weather.
- Instead of a neck collar, use a harness.
- If he has trouble breathing, becomes cyanotic or collapses, rush him to your vet immediately.
- Once surgical therapy is done, your Pug may not need any special care, but you should continue to monitor him in case his previous symptoms recur.
- To treat stenotic nares, a portion of the nostril is removed, allowing for wider and larger nasal passages and increased airflow.
- If the palate is shortened, it prevents the air from being inhaled into the stomach, and increases the amount of air the Pug can take in with each breath.
- When everted sacculles are removed, they are not usually extended from their spot near the vocal cords. If pulled out of place or swollen up, they cannot be “put back” and are therefore removed.
- If your vet does not go in for surgery in a mild situation, it means you need to watch for recurring symptoms. If he takes much longer now to inhale air, it will lead to respiratory distress and laryngeal collapse.
- If your Pug ever collapses or faints, see your vet.
- ❖ **Itchy butts and butt scooting:** Often, you will find your pet scooting their bottoms on the floor, dragging himself by the butt all over the place. When Pugs do this, it could be for three reasons: One, they itch but with Pug noses as short as they are, they can't reach the area at the bottom of their tails easily. But then, itching could also mean fleas or flea allergies.

Second, your dog scoots because he has full, impacted or infected anal glands. Third, he probably has tapeworms crawling out of his anus that causes the itch. You can see the tapeworms—they are white moving sections when they first begin to leave the anus or they are dried up pieces of rice in the hair near the rear of the dog.

- ❖ **Anal sacs:** On either side of your Pug's rectum you will find two anal sacs or glands, set in a four o'clock and 8 o'clock position. Small in size, these glands are barely ½" in diameter and serve as storage areas for a highly smelly secretion that usually coats the stool when he eliminates. It has a distinctive smell, which identifies the stools.

Often, these sacs are blocked due to an unhealthy diet: how it works is that if the stools don't rub against the sacs internally, then the liquid doesn't come out with the stools. If the liquid does come out, the sacs can then be emptied. Either you can help your Pug relieve himself or you can go in for professional help to your vet. All you have to do is to feel the sacs on either side of the anus. If you find it has firm lumps, then it's time to empty them.

It's not all dogs that need to undergo this procedure, while others may need to have it done just once or twice in their entire lifetime. Still others might develop chronic anal sac problems that need regular attention. To avoid such complications, show your Pug to your vet and let him show you how to go about it. Gentle care will have to be taken so that you don't squeeze the sacs and rupture them.

- ❖ **Anal sac draining:** You may also know when your Pug has full sacs when he sits on your lap and when he gets off you feel a sticky, slimy discharge on your clothes. This happens when his sacs are full or when he has infected anal sacs. At such times, it is very uncomfortable and painful for him when you squeeze these sacs. He may yelp in pain or fight you. Use your best judgment to decide whether you should stop or continue and finish. But be careful and see your vet in case you damage his sacs while wrestling with him.

In case you want to empty his sacs, here's how to go about it: Straddle the Pug on his stomach and hold him between your feet so that he doesn't escape. Bend down; hold his tail in one hand and with the other, press your thumb and index finger on either side of his anus. Now, use your fingers to pinch the rectal area, using moderate pressure. The Pug will begin to expel the matter contained in the sacs.

Now, you will see a discharge from either side of the anus. It can come out in short squirts and there are times when it can squirt to a distance of about three or four feet. It can be thin and dark or thick and light; but is usually in a shade of brown, ranging from tan to very dark brown or black. It is smooth-textured or similar to that of cottage cheese.

If blood is part of the discharge, this is proof that there is infection or impaction of the glands. You need to take your Pug to the vet without delay.

- ❖ **Infected anal glands:** When they become infected, anal sacs are all the more difficult and frustrating to treat. To treat it, you may need to put your Pug on to a course of antibiotics for quite a while and flush out the anal sacs with antibiotics

or antiseptic. If the problem aggravates, it would be best to have the sacs removed, especially if your Pug resents having them squeezed.

But take care when having them removed surgically, as there could be some dangers to it, for instance, your dog could lose control of his bowels. So, give it a good thought before letting your vet know and ask him for his opinion too. Ask your vet to do a culture to determine the kind of bacteria present in the infection and to ensure the antibiotic given to the dog will actually kill the specific bacteria.

If you establish a good working relationship with your vet, you will have more faith in him and in your Pug's health. Speak unafraid to your vet, ask him as many questions as bother you and learn the procedures he wishes to follow.

❖ **Canine skin disorders:** Skin disorders are perhaps the most common conditions for vets to treat particularly since a dog's general health depends on the condition of his coat and skin. This is why it is important that owners recognize the need for preventing skin disorders from developing, and should they develop, learn how to treat them in time. Unfortunately, some skin diseases continue through life requiring constant attention by owners and veterinarians.

In particular, Pugs experience a whole wide variety of skin problems, some of which are serious. People believe that some skin problems are related to each other, while others believe that they are congenital.

Take a look at the state of your pet's skin to estimate his general health. If his skin is damaged, it can spread among dogs rapidly. So, conventional wisdom will tell you to nip the problem in the bud by treating it the moment you spot it, rather than later.

❖ **Common skin problems:** Skin problems can be split up into Itchy skin, Allergies, Hair loss and Skin infections:

- **Itchy skin:** This happens when your Pug scratches himself at one particular spot all the time or when he licks or bites his skin. Pugs do this in their flanks usually. Or he could rub against things in order to scratch himself. Itchy skin can be due to the action of fleas.
- **Ringworm:** This isn't caused by a worm but a fungus that resides in the outer layers of skin, hair shafts and toe nails and invades the hair follicles damaging the actual hair itself. The hair becomes fragile and brittle, causing your pet to lose his hair progressively.

Ringworm develops when dogs are infected with the fungus when they come in contact with other infected animals such as cats or contaminated soil.

✓ **Treatment:** The hair in the affected areas is shaved after which medicated shampoos and dips are used. Anti-fungal medicine, usually oral, is given to the

animal. For local infections, anti-fungal ointments or creams are applied to the skin lesions several times a day. To apply these, wear gloves since ringworm is contagious. Wash your pet's bed and kennel thoroughly with Clorox and water.

- **Fleas:** If you find your Pug itching and scratching himself at his rear end, you know he has fleas. If you comb his coat backwards, you'll see black specks in his coat that is really the feces of fleas and white specks that are its eggs.
- ✓ **Treatment:** Keep your dogs protected to avoid fleas. Use gentle and natural products on your Pug for his skin problems. You could also alter his diet as often skin problems are due to a lack of zinc in their diets or too much fat.

- **Allergies:** Pugs suffer from a variety of allergies, some of which are seasonal. They can be very itchy and sometimes even chew their feet. This can be limited to a particular season or be present right through the year.
- **Kinds of allergies:** Allergies take many forms. Let's examine them:
 - ✓ **Inhalation allergy:** Your Pug will experience this allergy with severe itching, face rubbing and paw licking. He may also sneeze, have watery eyes and a runny nose, just like we do. It may also be experienced every year at the same time, if it is due to pollens. These inhalant allergies are usually genetically passed on.
 - **Treatment:** Inhalant allergies respond well to respond to omega-3 fatty acids.
 - **Flea allergy dermatitis:** Once your Pug has found to have fleas, he will have a rash at the site where the fleas were concentrated. Long after the fleas have been killed, your Pug will continue to feel itchy and scratch the area only because he is by now allergic to the flea saliva, which still circulates in his bloodstream.
 - ✓ **Treatment:** To prevent fleas from spreading and biting your Pug, you also need to control it on your pet and in the environment, and suppress the allergic reaction. From time to time, it is good to desensitization him by giving him allergy shots. You can also notify your vet if your pet damages his skin by biting it or scratching and if it turns red, hot or puffy or oozes fluid.
- **Allergic dermatitis and contact dermatitis:** If your Pug is diagnosed with contact dermatitis, he is really reacting to something he has come into contact with—usually a plant—at the most a skin irritation. It becomes allergic when he is repeatedly exposed to normal substances such as grass or poison ivy that causes the problem.

Treatment: If you can't identify the cause of the allergy, you should consider seeing a veterinary dermatologist, who may conduct tests to identify the offending agents and give your pet a series of "desensitising" injections. This treatment is preferable to

long-term maintenance of the condition through continued use of anti-inflammatory drugs.

❖ **Diagnosing allergies:** Allergies could be the inhalant type and are seasonal such as tree pollen that is present for about three weeks a year. The allergy could also be mild and result in irritation of the skin with bacterial infection. For this, an antibiotic will be diagnosed. A diagnosis can be made in two ways:

- Allergy testing (intradermal or blood testing)
- Eliminating causes from the animal's environment thought to be responsible for the allergy

❖ **Treating allergies:** Elimination is a good way of ruling out the causes of allergies and homing in on the right one. As the owner, you will play a crucial role in listing possibilities for the vet to consider. This is called the 'avoidance therapy' where offending substances or causes are put through intradermal skin testing. It is not used by itself but in conjunction with other treatments.

To treat allergies, antihistamines, steroids and special shampoos are needed. A vet dermatologist usually tests the dog to see what is causing the allergy and special allergy injections are given to desensitize the dog.

It has been found that allergies are caused due to house dust, house dust mites, molds and pollens and can be remedied in the following ways:

- **House dust:** While vacuuming, keep pets away from the room for a few hours
- **House dust mites:** cover your Pug's bed with a plastic sheet
- **Molds:** Wash his bedding in very hot water
- **Pollens:** If attacked by pollens, don't let your pets get on to stuffed furniture

▪ **More help at hand:**

In general, to avoid allergies, do the following:

- Clear basements of pets
- While mowing the lawn, keep your Pug indoors
- Avoid dusty pet foods
- Use dehumidifiers
- Avoid houseplants in large numbers
- Keep dogs out of fields
- Cut your lawn short
- Give your Pug a bath after he returns from a walk in high grass and weeds
- Keep pets indoors during periods of high pollen season

- ❖ **Hair loss:** This doesn't bring a lot of discomfort to the Pug as hair loss can be in clumps, or it could be that new hair doesn't grow properly. It could also be due to a change in the coat where it doesn't seem right to you.

These skin ailments are not accompanied by itching or pain and are said to be hormonal in nature. They can continue unchecked till the time a secondary infection causing the itch is discovered. The kinds of hair loss problems are:

- **Hypothyroidism:** Check if his coat is thin and brittle, or if it is tough, dark or black. If so, then your Pug could be suffering from a lack of thyroid hormone. You will find that he puts on weight easily, is sluggish and if yours is a female Pug, she will experience irregular heat cycles, if at all. This is a slow process and will take months before it becomes obvious in your dog.
- **Treatment:** This disease involves lifelong treatment with thyroid replacement hormone. It should be monitored for concentration with a biannual blood test. If your Pug experiences any sensitivity to the amount of thyroid supplementation given, the indications are a rapid heart beat rate, increased water consumption/urination, change in temperament, or weight loss. Blood tests should be taken every six months. Treatment is life-long as there is no true cure for hypothyroidism.
- **Cushing's disease:** Known also as hyperadrenocorticism, in this condition, there is an excess of production of the adrenal hormone, particularly corticosteroids. This can either be caused due to natural reasons or due to an over administration of corticosteroids to treat other problems.

The fallout of this disease is that your Pug will drink a lot of water and urinate excessively too, have a large appetite, pant furiously, have high blood pressure and experience hair loss all over his body. Usually, as an owner, you will see the first signs of this problem when you realize that he drinks a lot of water and urinates just as much.

- **Treatment:** As far as possible, cortisone and other such hormones should be administered as seldom as possible, perhaps on an alternate day schedule.
- **Demodectic mange:** If your Pug is under a year of age, he is highly likely to contract this skin disease, though any Pug with a stressed immune system is also susceptible to it. The Demodex mite breeds on all dogs and without causing them any problems. When the dog's immunity to the mite reduces, he develops demodex.

This takes two forms—the localized one that is found in pups and perhaps just in a couple of patches on the body, giving them a “moth eaten” look. The second form is generalized and is a follow-up of the localized form. Here, the dog's condition

worsens until the patches grow over most parts of the Pug. Both forms require medical attention.

- **Treatment:** A topical ointment containing either benzoyl peroxide gel (OxyDex or Pyoben), or a mild topical preparation used to treat ear mites can be massaged into the affected area once daily. This may shorten the course of the disease. The medication should be rubbed with the lay of the hair to minimize further hair loss. Treatment may cause the area to look worse for the first few weeks. There is no evidence that treating localized mange prevents it from becoming generalized. Have the puppy rechecked in 4 weeks.

- **Skin infections:** Whenever your Pug rubs, chews or scratches himself, he can tear the skin and infection can set in.

These are very painful to your Pug, with open sores on or beneath the skin, accompanied by puss. This is called pyoderma and is usually the result of some underlying cause.

- **Sarcoptic mange:** Caused by *Sarcoptes scabiei*, it is also called scabies. It is highly contagious from pet to pet and from pet to owner. When the mite and its larva burrow and wander in tunnels under the skin, it causes extreme pruritus, red skin, and secondary scab and crust lesions from the dog traumatizing the area.
- ✓ **Treatment:** Either the pet is given weekly permite dips or biweekly injections with ivermectin until mites are absent on skin scrapings for two consecutive scrapings.
- **Puppy impetigo:** Also called “milk rash,” it first appears as pus-filled blisters on the stomach and in the groin when pups are barely in their first year of life. This is a rare condition and usually clears up if you wash the skin with a surgical or anti-bacterial soap.
- ✓ **Treatment:** Mild topical antibacterial therapy or a short course of oral antibiotics is quite sufficient to treat this condition.
- **Acne:** Puppy acne or pimples don't usually last past the Pug's first couple of years of life. It takes the form of Folliculitis in which pimple-like bumps appear on the face, sides, back and legs of the Pug. If left untreated, they can become deep-seated, drain openly and cause hair loss. Don't make the mistake of squeezing or draining them, unless under your vet's instructions as the infection could spread into the muscle and skin.
- ✓ **Treatment:** This usually needs long-term oral antibiotics, and topical therapy to clean the follicles and soothe the skin. A change in your pet's play and eating

habits is also called for. You need to reduce the activities that cause your Pug to bump his chin and lips into hard objects by giving him shallow dishes for drinking and eating. No hard chew-toys, especially during rough play.

- **Skin fold pyoderma:** Ideally, fertile grounds for bacteria to grow are your Pug's wrinkles and folds. But if his wrinkles become infected, the first sign is staining, followed by irritation and then a bad odor emanating from them.

Your vet will have to see if the excessive draining is due to an optic problem or any other underlying reason for moisture to be retained in the wrinkles. Monitor his wrinkles for skin problems and wipe the fold across his nose with lanolin or Vaseline.

- ✓ **Treatment:** For deep pyodermas that may be localized or generalized, but usually can be seen on the face, feet and pressure points, your pet will need long term antibiotic therapy and medicated baths. Immune stimulants, such as immunoreglan or staph lysate can also help heal these serious infections.
- **Hot spots:** Surface pyoderma is called hot spots. These are painful, oval patches of raw open sores found on your Pug's skin that have a nasty smell and may easily become infected. They may appear suddenly and rapidly overnight and quickly grow by an inch or two across.

Before healing can begin, your Pug will experience hair fall. This is really a bacterial infection for which there are numerous home remedies, but you need to be sure that what you see are hot spots and then, under your vet's instructions, use such remedies. Experts also state that this occurs when owners don't dry their Pugs' coats after a bath.

- ✓ **Treatment:** This is caused due to allergies, parasites and poor grooming. Lesions often spread rapidly to the surrounding skin. To treat hot spots or surface pyoderma, control the itch with corticosteroids and spray and clip the hair away to prevent spreading.
- **If you avoid skin problems:** The best way to control a skin problem or disease is to see that it never occurs. By grooming him regularly and well you bring down the possibility of this greatly. Let your vet examine your pet as early as possible to prevent spreading the problem or create new ones.
- **Treating your Pug of skin problems:** To treat your Pug of skin problems, comb his coat against the direction of his natural growth. Second, try and recollect when you first spotted the problem, whether it was due to a dietary change, activity, and exposure to other animals or skin irritants.
- ❖ **Vaccine schedule:** This is a suggested vaccination schedule that should provide adequate protection at minimum cost. It is not meant to replace the vaccination

regimen suggested by your personal veterinarian. Rather is meant to provide pug owners with a baseline of knowledge when it comes to making sure that their pugs are well vaccinated against preventable diseases.

VACCINE SCHEDULE FOR YOUR PUPPY

AGE OF PUP V	RECOMMENDED VACCINE
5-6 weeks	Distemper, Measles, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus
8 to 12 weeks	Coronavirus, Leptospirosis, Bordetella, Lyme Disease
12 Weeks	Rabies
16 Weeks	DHPP, Coronavirus, Lyme Disease, Leptospirosis
15 to 16 months (first booster)	Rabies, DHPP, Coronavirus, Leptospirosis, Bordetella, Lyme Disease
Annual Booster (12 months after the first booster)	DHPP, Coronavirus, Leptospirosis, Bordetella, Lyme Disease
Booster every 1 - 3 years	Rabies

- ❖ **Home remedies for all skin problems in your Pug:** Here are some tried and tested home remedies that are safe on your pet's skin and will help to ease the problem till you see the vet:
 - **Tea bag compresses:** Either black or green tea helps dry the affected area out. Use it as a wash or compress.
 - **Echinacea, Vitamin C, Goldenseal and garlic:** Taken internally, these products help boost the immune system.
 - **Domeboro's (Burow's) solution (aluminium acetate):** They help dry out the skin out and can be used as a compress or spray.
 - **Rescue remedy cream or liquid:** A good remedy for hotspots.

- **Betadine solution:** For relief on torn or damaged skin, clean with a cotton swab soaked in an antiseptic solution such as Betadine Solution.
- **Bach flower remedy:** Crab apple is good for relieving hotspots.
- **Hibiclens Antiseptic Solution:** Use several times daily to swab with Hibiclens, then rinse with plain water. Dry surrounding hair with hairdryer on low heat.
- **Milk of magnesia:** To soothe irritated skin, dab a little milk on a cotton swab and apply to the affected area.
- **Colloidal Silver:** Use this spray several times a day to calm damaged skin.
- **Fleas:** Tear open a few tea bags and scatter the tea on your carpet and vacuum the area a few days later. You'll see the fleas fleeing forever.
- ❖ **Tips to a healthy Pug:** Your Pug's health costs should be budgeted for, considering the fact that you can expect him to require more than one or two trips to the vet. But since this is the state of the breed, you really can't change things but you can help to give him a good chance at a long and healthy life. Here are some ways:
 - **Make him look slim and trim:** It is a widely accepted belief that a Pug ought to look fat, something that is far removed from the truth. Though Pugs are structured to be muscular and solid with round features, if yours looks like a ton of bricks, he should lose weight.

If when viewed from the top, your Pug is narrow at the neck, broad at the shoulders, and tapers down from the shoulders with slight widening at the rump, then he's doing fine. If you take care not to overfeed him, feed him dry food instead of canned, limit his treats and consult your vet about his diet, then you have a fit Pug.

- **Exercise him:** Be prepared to watch your Pug sleep 14 hours a day on average, but that doesn't mean that he should always be so. He too needs exercise first, because it lowers his weight and chance of being overweight, and secondly, because it is good for his heart and lungs.

To do your best for him, don't go running with him, but certainly take him out for a brisk walk every day. Monitor his breathing while on your walk and take care not to push him beyond comfortable limits. When you catch him slowing down, breathing heavily and showing reluctance to walking, stop the exercise session for the day. Even if you walk him for a few minutes a day, it's a big help to him and his health, so do it.

- **Quit smoking when with him:** As it is, your Pug has so many problems with his breathing. So don't compound his problems by smoking near him and

making him inhale the smoke because this will make things worse for him. So if you must smoke, do it away from him.

- **Have your yard fenced:** Your Pug needs a fenced yard to run about in and release all his pent up energy.
- **Keep him on a leash:** Keep him leashed whether you're out of the house or in the yard or carrying him in your arms, don't let go of the leash. Instead, roll it up and wrap it around the back of your palm. Do this so you can be sure he won't run away from you.
- **Keep him away from the sun:** Pugs are so sensitive to the sun that it makes sense to keep them away from it rather than watch them suffer a heat stroke and other attendant problems such as those of the heart, kidneys, seizures and major organs. While some Pugs do recover, others suffer permanent damage while still others die.

Even if your Pug doesn't show any sign of being affected by the heat doesn't mean he's fine. Actually, constant over-exposure to temperatures over 80° F can do long term damage.

- **Look after his teeth:** If your Pug's teeth are clean and healthy, he can lead a longer and fitter life because he will be able to digest his food better and therefore reduce the chances of intestinal blockages and stomach-related illness. On the other hand, if you ignore the state of his teeth, they may rot and lead to abscesses, causing a whole range of secondary infections, of which some may be serious infections and diseases.

A fact often overlooked is that these pets don't take kindly to anesthesia, something they will need for their teeth to be extracted. To look after his teeth, you need to give him treats of choice Milk Bones or a similar product. It helps reduce plaque and tartar deposits. In addition, you should brush his teeth every now and then.

You could get him liver-flavored toothpaste from your nearest pet store. You could also wrap him in a towel so that he doesn't squirm and be nervous while you take the help of a family member or neighbor to keep his mouth open while you assiduously brush his teeth.

- **Keep parasites at bay:** Don't just consider fleas and ticks to be the only enemies of your Pug's coat. What about worms such as hookworms and roundworms? You ought to learn to protect him from worms and other parasites. Ask your vet for a good flea and tick repellent such as Frontline, but don't take ticks lightly because ticks can be found just anywhere, so you're never safe from them.

To minimize the chances of catching worms, clean up your Pug's poop immediately after he does his job. Otherwise, it won't take hookworms long to lay their eggs dormant in the grass for a whole year and before you know it you'll find it in your pet's stool. Also, keep mosquitoes away by spraying your Pug with bug repellent before taking him out on a walk or wherever he accompanies you. Also, remember to spray yourself with the same repellent and stay close to him at night when the mosquitoes are out.

- **Take him out for a drive:** You love being with your Pug and he loves a drive now and then, so why not go out together for a drive? You could certainly start your drive by taking him to the vet and the salon to get his nails clipped.
- **Spend quality time with your Pug:** Pay a little attention to your Pug every day, play with him, sit and talk to him and watch his face as he loves to hear your voice. To be really happy, your Pug needs your attention and the happier he is the longer he will live.

Chapter 13

Grooming your Pug

All pets require a fair amount of consistent and ongoing care, and so with your Pug too. On the surface, grooming may seem like an onerous task, but as you do it on a regular basis, it won't seem like much at all. You'll realize that you need to set aside just a few minutes every week, a fair amount of common sense and a huge dollop of vigilance.

On the whole, Pugs are very easy to groom. Just as all dogs need a certain amount of grooming and care to look their best, so also do Pugs. Grooming your Pug doesn't just consist of brushing his coat and bathing him, but also includes caring for his eyes, teeth, ears, feet and nails. It also takes into account identifying and registering any potential health problems as soon as possible, especially among pups and older Pugs.

- ❖ **How to groom your pet:** If you brush his coat regularly with a natural bristle brush, it helps keep his coat neat and shiny and keeps the dead hair from floating around your house and settling on the carpet and your clothes.

It is essential to start with his coat and travel all the way down to his feet and nails, keeping him looking clean and healthy. Let's begin at the beginning.

- **Teeth cleaning:** Looking after his teeth is one of the most overlooked aspects of Pug care. Milk Bones may be good for your pet's minimal maintenance, but it's a better idea to clean your Pug's teeth every now and then, besides also being very easy. Your local pet store will have a range of small, soft-bristled toothbrushes that you can choose from and remember to take along flavored toothpaste too.

If your Pug gets used to this, he will encourage you to brush his teeth with the tasty toothpaste. If you find you can't brush his teeth, ask your vet to oblige. Your Pug could also get cavities and develop periodontal disease, one more reason to brush his teeth often.

- **Ear cleaning:** For this, dip cotton balls in hydrogen peroxide or a little mineral oil and gently wipe clean the opening into the canal and the flaps. Don't go in further than that nor should you push the cotton ball in your pet's ear. Depending on the condition of his ears and how much cleaning is required, determine the frequency of cleaning his ears, but usually cleaning and plucking should be done weekly.

Look for dirt and clean them thoroughly. Be on the lookout for ear infections as they can be painful and lead to eventual deafness. Your Pug could have ear problems if his ears turn red, he scratches constantly, shakes his head and his ears smell. To check his ears, look at the inner skin of his ears and the flaps and see if they are a pale pink. If the skin is red, brown or black and a foul smell emanates, let your vet deal suggest a cure.

- **Facial folds:** The wrinkles and crinkles that mark a Pug's face are called folds. The areas between his folds are where the cleaning has to be done. A lot of dirt collects there because Pugs spend a good deal of time with their faces against the carpet, the floor and their food bowls, not forgetting dried tears and mucus.

A mix of all these form the stuff that collects in his facial folds. As a responsible Pug owner, you need to clean these facial folds out so that the possibility of fungus is negated, and the smell that results due to this accumulation is also taken away.

If your Pug cooperates with you, cleaning his facial folds can be pretty easy. You need to start him off on this early in life or he will be resentful of your touching his folds. For this, you need a Q-Tip, a cup of warm water and some Vaseline. Dip the Q-Tip in warm water and run it between folds and above his nose and below his eyes.

Once the dirt is out of the folds, apply a thin layer of Vaseline inside the fold and above the nose and your Pug is clean of the dirt in his folds. Repeat when he begins to smell.

- **Coat:** Pugs have a fine short coat that can be kept clean very easily. A good breeder will recommend that you groom him for up to 10 minutes a day, first combing his coat with a fine steel comb and then with a good bristle brush. If left ungroomed, your Pug may not suffer but he will shed his coat twice a year and that will be copious.

If you brush his coat every day, it will be in good condition since the dirt and debris will be out. Besides, combing will spread the natural oils all over his coat, leaving it tangle-free and giving him a clean skin, free of irritation.

To brush his coat, you will need:

- A grooming table on which you can place your Pug and work comfortably
- A natural bristle brush or shedding comb
- A brush with stainless steel bristles and a flea comb during the flea season.

Brush in the direction of the growth of the fur grows, with gentle strokes.

- **Nail clipping:** You should be warned that Pug's nails grow very fast, making more work for you. Either you do it yourself or take him to a vet or groomer's salon and have it done there. They will charge you a small fee, but if your Pug does not resent it, why not do it yourself?
- **To begin:** Be patient and get down to work on your dog's nails. This regular activity will accustom him to your handling his feet. Do this gradually, there's no rush. Begin with one foot and do this while he is asleep. If he wakes up, be casual about touching his paw. Take your hand away as if you touched him involuntarily.

The key is not to react but to ignore the fact that you ever held his paw. After a while, try once more. Repeat the process and soon you will find your Pug adjusting to your handling his feet and perhaps you can then go on to touch each of his toes on his other feet too.

When he permits you to touch his feet, praise him generously for it and give him a treat—perhaps salmon treats or some biscuits. This will link eating tasty treats with holding out his paw for you to touch and cut his nails—a pleasant experience for him. In fact, you should keep a range of dog treats handy to reward your Pug for his good behavior. Treats work wonders if you want to distract your Pug's attention away from a bleeding nail. As time passes, and he grows comfortable with you handling his feet, bring out the clippers and get down to work.

- **How to cut his nails:** Cutting your Pug's nails is a difficult task, chiefly because you get no co-operation from him—they can't stand you touching their feet! This task is made more difficult by the fact that Pugs have very dark—almost black—nails, making it difficult to spot the quick or the vein that runs through his nail. This is the vein that bleeds when you cut too close to the quick, and results in being slow and challenging to stop. Often, people who find this whole task of grooming their pets something they can't handle allow a groomer in to their homes or go over to their salons.
- Seat your Pug down beside you, and place one of his paws in your hand while you gently pull it forward.
- Cut one nail short but not so short that it cuts into the quick and causes it to bleed. If you can't see the quick clearly, cut a little less at the point where the nail begins to curve downward. If you do cut into the quick, blot the bleeding with a moist cotton swab and press it down firmly against the nail for a few seconds.
- Do this every fortnight because if his nails grow too long, they can prove very uncomfortable to your Pug. He will not be able to stand high on his paws, and as they grow, his nails will bleed and his pasterns will break down and cause him tremendous discomfort while walking.
- In severe cases, your Pug's nails could also curl under his foot and grow into the pad of his paw, leading to a very serious and painful infection. Such kinds of ingrown nail problems are common on the dewclaws.
- **When to cut his nails:** When you find your pet's nails beginning to curve, or if you hear a clicking or tapping sound as he walks on a bare floor, his nails need a trim. But as a rule, once or twice a month is considered good.

The best time to do it is when your Pug is in deep sleep on your lap at night. Even if he does wake up, he'll be too sluggish to fight you. In case you cut too close to his skin and clip the vein, apply styptic powder on the affected part. To avoid such a mishap, cut along the curved part of the nail and let someone with a steady hand clip the Pug's nails.

If they grow too long, it could take a long while to get them back to a healthy length. So, trimming them regularly is best. You will need to inspect his nails often enough to gauge

when to cut them next. So, make nail inspection and trimming parts of your grooming regimen.

Breeders usually remove his dewclaws, located on the inside of his paws, soon after the pup is born. But if your pup still has them, you could go ahead and have them removed. Fortunately, these nails don't touch the ground and so don't wear down as fast as others when walking on rough surfaces.

If done often enough, this can be a rewarding experience for both of you if you give him rewards and treats for his good behavior. But if not done well, with a good fit of technique and reward giving, your dog can look on it as a frightening experience.

➤ **How to make nail clipping less onerous:**

- Have your pet's nails trimmed by someone he is familiar with since dogs don't like getting this done by strangers.
- In order that he doesn't behave this way as a rule, touch his paws now and then so as to get him accustomed to being handled. In time, he will get used to your touching his paws and, by then he will be less possessive or "touchy" about his body.
- Do avoid the quick, because if cut, it will bleed and your Pug may be encouraged not to have any nail-trimming in future, so be careful. If by mistake you do cut the quick, your pet won't realize it if you quickly give him a tasty treat. While he enjoys it, you can trim his nails and he won't mind at all. In about five or 10 minutes, the bleeding should stop.
- Don't fuss over him just because he's injured. Just watch him make nothing of his injury only because he's got a delicious treat. If this is his reaction, stay calm and finish your task.
- To avoid inflicting your Pug with pain, trim his nails with a sharp nail trimmer, taking care not to clip his nails too close to the quick. If you use a dull trimmer, you will need to exert a lot of pressure on your dog's nails before you can get to cut it. If so, he will feel like you've pinched him chiefly because you've pinched the vein in his toenail. So, make sure you use a sharp pet nail trimmer.
- If you didn't finish with the paw that you were working on you may want to continue on another paw and come back to that one after you have finished the rest. If your dog is too excited you may need to try again at a later time. Don't be discouraged, even professional dog groomers occasionally cut into the quick.
- You will notice that if your Pug tends to walk a lot out of doors, you won't need to trim his nails often. This is because his nails come in contact with the sidewalk and are naturally abraded and filed.

- **Tools to trim your Pug's nails:** You will need a sharp clipper designed for dogs' nail trimming. Choose the size appropriate to your pet's nails. They usually come in three sizes—Guillotine, Pliers and Scissor styles.
 - i. **Guillotine style dog nail trimmers:** Here, the dog's nails must be inserted through a hole at the top of the trimmer. When the handles are squeezed together, the blade comes down and cuts the nail. People find this difficult to use on large breed dogs with thicker nails. These trimmers need cutting blades that must be changed often.
 - ii. **Pliers' style dog nail trimmers** are similar to pruning shears. There are two notched blades that surround the nail and cut through it as the handles come together. People prefer this trimmer because they can see where the blade will cut through the nail. It is ideal for thick nailed dogs. Pliers' style trimmers are available in small, medium and large sizes and unlike the guillotine trimmer; don't need to sharpen their blades when they become dull.
 - iii. **Scissor style dog nail trimmers** are a pair of scissors. The two scissor-like notched blades surround the nail and cut through it as the handles come together. These are used more for cats, birds and other small animals, and so are called cat/bird claw clippers.

Now, it is up to you to choose your style of clippers. You can also choose to have a pet nail file so that you can file down the rough edges of the nails and shape them, much like we do ours.

- **If he can't sit still while trimming his nails:** Dog don't like to get their nails trimmed but if it is done regularly, they can learn to sit through this routine grooming procedure. But if you know that he bites when he's stressed, muzzle him and then begin trimming his nails. If you learn all the tricks to proper dog nail trimming, train him with positive feedback and shower your pet with love and patience, all the time you spend together will be well rewarded.
- **Bathing your Pug:** To bathe your Pug, you will need a good shampoo for pets, cotton balls, a washcloth and a towel. Here is some valuable information on how to go about bathing and shampooing your Pug.
 - **Before a bath:**
 - ✓ Begin by brushing your Pug's coat thoroughly and remove all tangles and mats that you would not be able to untangle while your pet's fur is still wet. If his coat is badly matted, snip the mats with scissors but be careful as it is very easy to nick your pet's skin in the process.
 - ✓ If in the course of brushing his coat, you find any ticks, foxtails or other embedded bits of dirt, take them out carefully by using a pair of tweezers. If a few hair of his coat is covered in paint, tar, pinesap or other sticky substance, soften it and clean with petroleum jelly or soak the area with vegetable oil or mineral oil for 24 hours. Or you

could use Dawn liquid dishwashing detergent. But if the problem persists, trim it away.

- ✓ Take care not to use solvent, paint stripper, concentrated detergent or fabric softener on your pet since these are toxic substances especially when ingested and can also hurt your Pug's skin. Before getting him into the bath, it's a very good idea to trim and file your Pug's nails, especially since there is a good chance of your pet clawing the floor or scratching it or you, in an attempt to run away from a bath.
- ✓ Wear a smock or old and comfortable clothes since you will get wet. Then, pick a suitable location for the bath, perhaps a room with a door that you can close so that he doesn't escape and will not get the house wet. Keep the room as bare as possible so that it doesn't get wet or harm you and your pet as he moves around. Line the floor with a plastic sheet, an old shower curtain and large cut-open trash bags or sheet.
- ✓ Get your bath supplies together—shampoo, brushes, comb, washcloth and/or sponge, towels, cotton balls, mineral oil, petroleum jelly and detangler and moisturizer. Use a soft brush to clean around the paws. Place these products in a plastic bucket to carry around easily. Keep bottles open, removing their caps so that you don't have to struggle with them while your dog plays up in the bath. You could also add a few tasty treats in a plastic bag to reward your dog for being good.
- ✓ For easy washing and rinsing, use a detachable shower spray nozzle or use a pitcher.
- ✓ Take off his collar and to help you hold him down, use a nylon collar and leash. Leather in the water is bad as it can shrink and leak dye on your dog's fur. These days, groomers recommend using a bathing tether. If he tries to bite you, use a muzzle.



- ✓ Use a gentle shampoo formulated for dogs—one that won't strip his of natural oils of his coat. Read the directions since not all shampoos are right for all dogs. If your pet has itchy skin, use oatmeal shampoo, though many people use dog shampoos that contain chlorhexidine, which has anti-bacterial qualities. If shampoos contain insecticides, avoid them, as they will be too harsh on your pet's coat. If he has fleas, use a gentle shampoo containing pyrethrin, pyrethrum or citrus oil.

- ✓ Make a weak solution of salt and water swab around your Pug's eyes to clean away debris. To protect his eyes from bath water and soap, apply some petroleum jelly or mineral oil around them. You could also add a drop of mineral oil in each eye to protect against irritation.
- ✓ Stuff his ears with cotton balls to keep water out. Ensure the cotton ball is large enough not to get caught in the ear canal.

- ✓ Wipe around his anal area with a baby wipe before the bath and clip any long soiled fur beneath the tail and around the anus.
- ✓ At the base of the tub, place a nonskid rubber mat to prevent your Pug from slipping.
- ✓ Choose a warm area to bathe and dry him.

➤ **During the bath:**

- ✓ Make sure water is warm, and then fill the water to knee level.
- ✓ Put your nylon collar and leash to stabilize your dog during bathing.
- ✓ Lift your Pug and place him in the tub. Do this gently so that he is not hurt. Stay upright and lift with your legs, not your back. If he is heavy, take assistance to get him into the tub.
- ✓ To get him used to the water, spray his back and shoulders. Be gentle and give him enough time to acclimate. Keep the spray nozzle about an inch from the dog so that the water gets into the fur.
- ✓ Now, wash his head. Don't spray his face with water, but run water down the back of the head. With your fingers, a washcloth or sponge, swirl the water around his eyes, nose and mouth.
- ✓ Work up a rich lather with shampoo and massage all over his body. Now, go over to his rear and then move to his head. Keep soap away from his eyes. Use a rubber brush if he has shorter hair to help the shampoo enter his coat. The rubber brush can also be used to remove debris clinging to hair.
- ✓ Work the suds down and under his tail, underside and legs and around the paws. Clean under the neck, in facial wrinkles and earflaps. Use a soft brush to clean around the paw pads and other small areas.
- ✓ After thoroughly lathering, rinse the dog with lukewarm, never hot, water. A detachable shower spray nozzle is most convenient. Check the temperature and make sure the spray is not too strong before aiming at the dog. Or use a large pitcher.
- ✓ Rinse him with warm water, using a spray hose but don't spray his face. Apply a pet shampoo, using small amounts and working up a rich lather from his head to his tail. Clean his rectum, between his toes and ears and under his chin.
- ✓ Don't let shampoo get into his eyes. Rinse him with warm water, face and head first. Cover his eyes with one hand and rinse the top of the head and around the eyes. Now,

move down to cover his nose while you rinse the rest of the face and neck. Work down the body. Dry him thoroughly with a towel.

- ✓ Bathe him periodically but don't overdo it as his skin can become dry and flaky. A bath once or twice a month is best. Use shampoo but not dishwashing soap or human shampoos.
- ✓ See that no residue remains and until then, continue to rinse. If you don't, the remaining soap can trigger off skin irritation or allergic reactions. Your pet may also eat or drink the residue when licking himself. To remove remaining soap, knead the fur with your hands. Spray his coat with a detangler spray.

➤ **Between baths:**

- ✓ Brush and comb his fur every day and check for fleas, ticks, debris, foxtails and skin conditions.
- ✓ If you don't want to add water to his bath, sprinkle on baking soda and dust the excess.

➤ **After the bath:**

- ✓ With your hands, squeeze the excess water from his coat, beginning with his tail and paws.
- ✓ Wrap him in a large, absorbent towel and rub him dry gently.
- ✓ Take off the cotton balls from his ears and wipe the moisture from his ears or it can lead to infection.
- ✓ If he tends to urinate after a bath, place a towel under him.
- ✓ Use a pet dryer or blow dryer on a low setting, but don't aim at his face. Use warm air, which can dry out the skin, not burn him. If using an automated dryer, test the temperature before starting and check on the animal at least every 10 to 15 minutes
- ✓ Don't let him out of doors until he is completely dry.

For more advice, call Expert Dog and Cat Grooming: Call 1(888) FOR-PETS for a grooming appointment at the Center nearest you, or to meet a qualified dog groomer!

Chapter 14

Housetraining your Pug

- ❖ **Why train your Pug:** It's not enough to own a pet, Pug or any other breed. An essential component of pet ownership is to see that the pet you've brought home is well trained too. This is important because your lives together will be happy if your Pug learns what exactly to do and what you want him to do when you want it. If you train him, he will be taken for a safe dog to be with.

Besides, to be the master of a well-trained pug reflects well on you. When you have guests or family visiting, it's nice to have a well-trained dog, more so because it says a lot about your character. All dogs training should ideally begin when you have a pup with you rather than a grown-up, though adulthood doesn't really mean it's too late to train your Pug.

And dog training needn't be difficult either, if you make it part of your daily routine by spending just five or 10 minutes a day or on alternate days to learn a few commands. Lastly, take care not to hit your dog because he is sensitive to the tone of your voice, so if you shout at him, it's enough to teach him his lesson.

- ❖ **The importance of training your Pug:** In order to settle in well with their masters, pups of all breeds must learn several things. To begin with the notion of management, let us understand that there are three elements that control a dog. They are:

- **Containment**
- **Restraint**
- **Training**

- ❖ **Contain, restrain or train:** If you look at these words carefully, you will realize that the more you use one of these elements, the less you will need of the others.
- **Containment:** This refers to using a crate to place a pup in to give him a feeling of security and a place far from any kind of trouble. This concept can best be used while the owner is around and living life with his Pug pet. In such a case, the Pug pet should be allowed exercise and training when out of his crate. But if he cannot be easily supervised, he should be contained in any better way possible.

By looking for a better means of crating your Pug pup, you will only be hastening the housetraining duration, while also preventing your unsupervised pup from getting into trouble by chewing on precious and inappropriate items. For the period you are unable to supervise over him, he can be crated and thus keep out of harm's way.

Besides, dogs are denning animals, so for them to live indefinitely in an enclosed area is not alien. While some pups may take to living in a crate, others may not. If you are a

smart dog owner, you will try your hand at manipulation. If you respond to your pup's protest, he can train you to let him out when he wants to be out and demand a little praise too. But if you choose to ignore him, he will settle down and accept what you give him as his lot.

- **Restraint:** Here, your puppy can't cause any trouble if a leash restrains him. If you use the concept of restraint improperly, this may lead to behavioral problems, such as boredom, frustration and death. If you train him, you can save the practice of restraint for when it is really necessary.
- **Training:** A dog can't do anything right or wrong spontaneously—he needs practice, or in other words, training. Training is essential for your pet because this is a way of his being much happier and more independent than if untrained. If he is left untrained, he will be forced to endure things like being choked only because he hasn't learnt how to walk on a loose lead.

If untrained, people are annoyed by them and eventually you will perforce have to place him in a crate or spare room when guests visit you. Often, people also beat their dogs only because the animal hasn't learnt the fundamentals of good communication and obedience. From these three concepts, it is obvious to everyone that training has the most benefits to it.

- ❖ **What you need to train your Pug:** First, you need to invest in a leash and collar, though you may safely avoid buying a training collar that constricts when you pull it. Constriction collars include the following:
 - **Common slip collar or choke collar:** Made of nylon or leather, when the leash is pulled, it closes around the dog's neck, causing him to choke on it.
 - **The limited slip or Martingale collar:** A gentler version of the slip collar, these collars have a "stop" built in that stops them from choking the dog when you pull the leash. To use this well, you need to learn the skill behind it.
 - **Prong or pinch collar:** It works pretty much like the Martingale collar, but it has rounded metal "fingers" that squeeze the dog's neck when you pull the leash. If used properly, they are safe for the dog. By applying a slight tension, you get the dog's attention.
 - **Flat buckle collar:** This collar too can cause your Pug pup to choke if pulled on. If you pull on the leash from behind, the pressure reaches the dog's throat. This is just how dangerous it is for your Pug.

Leashes or leads can be chosen from a variety of lengths and materials such as:

- **A flat six-foot long leash** made of leather, nylon or cotton. Leather is best for everyday walks and for working on the commands that happen close to the owner or trainer.
- **A 15-foot long straight lead:** If this length is too much for your pet, use a cotton clothesline or nylon rope.
- **Retractable leashes:** These are not ideal for training because they can get tangled around the legs of the owner and the animal, sometimes injurious to the latter. This lead is best after your pet has been trained.

Now that you've introduced your pup to the equipment you're going to use with him, you need to add just a few treats, hold the collar in one hand and offer him a reward whenever he does well. A few minutes later, you should have no problem putting the collar round his neck. Take care to see that the collar isn't so tight that he chokes on it and not so loose that he can escape from it.

Now, snap the lead onto the collar, let him drag the short lead for a little while he gets accustomed to it. Move around a little and encourage him to follow you. Offer him a reward for obeying you. You could use this opportunity to teach him the "come" command. If he has already walked up to you, reward him for this.

Methods of houstraining: Choose the method of houstraining that suits you best. If you're home most of the day or if you've set up someone to take him for a walk while you're at work, then perhaps the Schedule Based Training method will work for you. But if you're away from home during the day, paper training might be good for you. Crate training might be best for you if you're home often enough to use this method from start to finish.

- ❖ **What is Schedule Based Training?** This is an effective method of houstraining your Pug and is easier to manage than both Crate Training and Paper Training. It is easier to implement because it lacks the complexity of Crate Training and the abstractness of Paper Training.

Though crate training is a good houstraining technique, it must be followed to the letter and is quite inflexible and paper training has an abstractness that puzzles people.

Schedule based training is that method of houstraining which teaches dogs to defecate outside the house at certain times of the day. It focuses on the only two factors involved in training a dog—the dog and his owner.

- **His physiology:** It is based on an understanding of your Pug's physiology and his mentality. Your Pug puppy cannot control its urinary or bowel movements before he is 11-12 weeks old since his muscular control to hold an urge is still undeveloped, so he must go when he wants to.

He also processes and digests his food, like we do. If you feed him at 5 pm, he can pass a stool only 4-6 hours later because it takes him that long to digest his food.

- **His mentality:** Your Pug is sensitive and eager to please. He needs human interaction and because of this, his psyche plays a significant role in good housetraining. If he gets to sit on your lap in return for pleasing you, he wants nothing more. He only wants to be on the right side of you to get what he wants when he wants it.

He loves his food too and knows that you can give it to him, that's why he hovers close to you. Apart from your company, if he gets a treat for doing something good like passing a stool outside, why that's big motivation for your Pug!

- **The Schedule Based Training Plan:** On the basis of his physiology and mentality, here is a plan for your Pug. You'll need commitment, consistency, a bottle of odor neutralizer, a supply of your Pugs regular chow stashed away near the door, a pocket to put the chow in and an umbrella near the door.
 - **Until he is 12 weeks old:** Till he reaches 12 weeks of age, reward him when he goes out of the house to defecate. Get him used to the reward structure, even if he can't conform to your schedule. Till he gets a hold over his urges, take him outside every couple of hours to pass a stool and stay there for at least 15 minutes.
 - **Look for the best fit:** Create a schedule that will work well for your Pug, so customize it to suit him. Fit in your schedule to suit your Pug's timings to pass stools and go on walks, etc.
 - **Two meals a day:** Pugs eat just two meals a day. They may love to eat but that doesn't mean you keep feeding him. If you feed your Pug twice a day based on your veterinarians' recommendation, he may not need to go outside in search of food.
 - **Before a meal:** Take him outside for a stool before he gets down to a meal.
 - **His comfort zone:** He will be comfortable for about 4-6 hours before he has a stool.
 - **A sample of a schedule:** Here is a sample schedule, but you must really customize it to suit your Pug's needs.

7.00 am: Pug goes outside

7:20 am: Breakfast

12.00: Pug goes outside

5.00 pm: Pug goes outside

5:20 pm: Dinner

11.00 pm: Pug goes outside

- **Why this schedule works:** This works because it does not force your pet to control his urges to defecate or urinate. Second, it gives the digestive process the time it needs to digest the Pug's meal and then takes him out of the house to defecate when the animal is ready. Lastly, your Pug has by now been conditioned not to go out and forage for a meal since there is a meal waiting for him at home.
- ❖ **What is crate training?** This is one of the most efficient ways of houstraining your Pug. According to this method, you reward and praise your dog or puppy each time he does the right thing. So, praise him when he chews his toys, goes out and eliminates. Spend as much time as you can with him so he trains faster and better.

Crate training relies on the fact that dogs don't like their sleeping area to be soiled with their poop. So, by confining your pup to a crate or wooden box, his tendency to urinate or defecate will be reduced. If he does not do this in confinement, he will need to go when he is out of the crate. This means that since you release him from his crate, you are present when he does his job and you immediately reward him for doing it on time and out of the crate.

The need to confine your pup to a crate is to stop him from eliminating when in it and will only do it when released from the crate in an appropriate area that you take him to. Crate training also instills the lesson in your Pug of control over his bladder and bowel control. Now, he goes only when he learns to hold it and go at preset times. But if you crate your pet while you're out of the home, you do it with the sole purpose of keeping him safe in a particular area.

The crate was never intended to be an area where you lock up your pet and forget about him for long periods. He may soil his crate if you do so, and this will give a setback to your house training process.

- ❖ **What is paper training?** One of the most widely used methods of housebreaking is by using paper. For this, you must cover the entire floor of the room you place your pup in with several layers of newspaper and replace any soiled sheets with new ones.

Walk your puppy to his papers, stay with him there till he eliminates. Praise him enthusiastically the moment he begins to go. If he doesn't eliminate, keep him in his crate for 10 to 15 minutes and try it again till he is successful. After three days, change some of the papers from one side of the room to the other. If he wants to defecate or urinate there, say "No" and set him down on the paper. For this method to work effectively, you need to catch him red-handed.

As he learns to use the paper, gradually remove some more of the covered floor papers until there're just a few sheets left. Let him use this paper while you teach him to go outdoors. When he understands that going outdoors is the correct place to pass his stools, remove the paper and wait for any signs from him of wanting to go out. You'll find him looking for the papers or sniffing the floor for them. This is your cue to let him out immediately.

- **Apply your choice of method correctly:** The method you choose should be used thoroughly to the letter.
- **Understand your pet's psyche:** Sadly, this is the most overlooked fact of training Pugs. These are small dogs with small bladders, so they don't have the muscular abilities to hold on to their bowels or urinate until they are 12 weeks old. Their digestive system too works very like ours: though they do digest their food like we do, they don't move from food to movement in a flash.
- **Be cool and calm:** Be realistic too, as your little Pug is bound to have accidents. Even if you do lose your temper, it's not going to make any difference to the pet since he doesn't know any better, just like he doesn't understand why you yell and scream. So, be neutral and take it in your stride.
- **Be patient:** Houstraining methods don't work overnight, they take time and you have to give your little pet that time.
- **Be committed to succeed:** By buying a Pug, you are really making a commitment to it to look after as best as you can. Do your best to live up to it.
- **Be consistent:** Whichever training method you choose, be consistent with it, or it won't succeed. If you are consistent, you'll houstraining your puppy with ease.
- ❖ **Initial training—those first six months:** Right from the time you bring home your Pug puppy, you will have to start teaching him things to do—sitting, staying and coming over to you, to begin with. And then, you have to train him with what not to do—like not jumping on you, biting your hands or feet, fighting with your other dogs, etc.

This is why the first six months of life with your pet is a crucial one because it sets the tone for how well trained or not he's going to be. This is the time when dog owners unknowingly train their pups to do the things they don't want the animal to learn.

For instance, when the pup jumps on to the couch, you ignore it or you smile at him, he takes this to be acceptable behavior. If he bites you while playing, you just keep on playing. By this, you've conveyed to him that it's all right to bite.

When he hears a strange sound and barks, you pat him on the head and say, "Good boy," and with this, he learns to bark. With each time that you allow for this behavior, it

becomes more ingrained in him because you have trained him so. This is the time when they learn to bite, jump, bark, fight with alarming frequency. This gives you very little opportunity to train him to behave the way you want him to.

This negative training happens when you bring him home and think that everything about him is so cute. His nipping, jumping about and fighting with others is always encouraged. Each time you shrug off his behavior, you are training him to be that way and if he continues to do it all the way to adulthood, you're not going to find that cute.

- ❖ **Crate training for pups:** Many owners are reluctant to place their puppies in crates, but as mentioned earlier this is a good training practice. First, crate training can make the housebreaking period easy to bear. Second, it helps puppies grow used to traveling safely.

Puppies usually make their crates very quickly, either padded with a towel or pillowy liner, into a den or crate. They don't prefer to soil their dens, so by giving them the create habit, they use it during the housebreaking period to learn when and where they can eliminate.

- **Give him sufficient room:** Either buy or build a well-ventilated crate, large enough for him to stand up in comfortably and turn around too. Having said that, the crate shouldn't be so large that it's too big for him, since he might assume that he can use a part of it to soil in, while still retaining the rest of it as his sitting room and bedroom, and keeping it clean too!

If the crate is really all that large, consider making a partition within the crate that can be moved farther away from him as he grows older and needs more leg room.

- **Don't over-crate him:** You should neither keep him too long or for too short a period in his crate. Despite the fact that the crate is a good way of housebreaking your Pug, he needs also to be taken out for walks and praised while he eliminates outside the house.

Usually, pups have no problems staying crated through the night, but during the day they prefer to be in the crate for just a few hours, and should be given a lot of fresh drinking water.

- **Make room for accidents:** Your Pug pup may have learnt quickly enough to control his urges, but they cannot always control their urge to urinate or move their bowels particularly when they are young and their bladder muscles aren't fully developed yet. If your pup does soil his crate, don't scold him but take it out quickly and praise him for going where you taught him to go. Clean the crate thoroughly; deodorize it so that he is not tempted to repeat the procedure there.
- **A home-away-from-home:** If you crate your Pug pup, it will not only serve as a comfortable retreat at home while you're away, but will also give him a sense of security if you're traveling with him either by air or by car. He will be less

traumatized when airborne and will receive protection from the bumps and jolts of car driving.

- **His own private space:** In some time, your pup will find it very difficult to be separated from his crate, and will treat it as his own private space.
- **Not a correction center:** When you're angry with your Pug, don't send him off to his crate as punishment. This is his private space where he sleeps, relaxes and spends time to get away from the world. When training him to potty train outside the house, wall off a small area in the yard meant only for him.

Apart from privacy, it lets him know just how far he can go so he doesn't need to explore the whole yard. Remember to always go outside with the puppy—at that age, no one can be left alone.

When playing with him indoors, keep him on a six feet lead or in a small, enclosed area. Sometimes, when running around the room, he may be quick enough to find a spot behind the sofa or chair where he can quickly eliminate before you realize it. So, don't take your eyes off him while he is still untrained.

For best results on potty training, you need to catch him in the act and firmly say, "No!" Then, quickly pick him up and take him to where you want him to do potty. Say to him, "Do potty" or "pee pee" or whatever phrase you choose. If he does it, praise him a lot.

But if you don't catch him in the act, take him to the spot where he's done his job and point to it and say, "No, No!" Don't rub his nose in the potty, instead pick up the mess and take him outside to the designated spot, put the mess on the ground with him and if he looks at it or sniffs it, then praise him for it. This means that he now knows that he has to do his job outside.

Don't bear him grudges for accidents or any misbehavior immediately after you have scolded him since this reinforces the idea that you love him but don't approve of his bad behavior. Fortunately, dogs forget fast so won't remember that it had ever soiled your carpet or chewed your furniture. So, if make a habit of scolding him will only take home the idea to him that you don't love him. Instead, reinforce good behavior with a treat, praise or both.

Usually, pups urinate the moment they wake up and poop 15-20 minutes after a meal. Initially, they need to eat three times a day but you must take care to wean them off the wet food as soon as you can, since dry food is better for their teeth. And yes, no table scraps for him since this can upset his tummy and give rise to accidents and therefore make potty training harder. It would therefore be better to put him on a consistent diet of quality puppy food, which will regulate the frequency of his poops.

We said that your pup would eliminate a few minutes after a meal. If you can't be around when he does his job, mark out a place where he can relieve himself. An exercise pen,

about 4'x4' with a bed at one end and newspapers at the opposite end would be good for him as he would then have an special area just to relieve himself. Ensure that the layers of paper are thick and many so that they can help in soaking up the urine.

When confined, pups naturally cry. At such times, slap your hand with a newspaper and say "Quiet!" sternly. Or you could try using a squirt bottle or gun to give him a quick squirt and then say "Quiet!" sternly.

❖ **What your Pug pup must learn:** These are the most valuable lessons your Pug must learn:

- **Praising:** Praise your pup whenever he's right but be genuine about it because he will be able to tell when you're faking and when you're honest. If you are excited and encourage him to be attentive to you, it will make your training sessions fun.

Remember, it pays to be positive, though there will be times when you need to be firm enough to say "No!" The moment he stops the behavior you don't like, praise him immensely. Soon, you will find that you have to say "No" very rarely.

- **Crate training:** If you designate his area as being the crate, a week into it and all you'll have to do is to say, "crate" and he will run to be inside it. Whenever you can't directly monitor him, let him go back inside the crate, because if you let him run loose all over the house, it will make potty training very difficult.

Besides, this will also teach him that he can go into any part of the house, just so long as you are not in the room. If this idea sets in, it will be a big mistake and difficult to undo. For the time that your pup is out of his crate, watch his movements with a hawk eye. As soon as he starts sniffing, take him outside. When he does go outside, praise him generously. "Good, good, puppy." Don't clean his poop right away as the smell will encourage him to go there in future, and you will soon see that he will do his job there, a spot that is now his favorite.

Like human babies, pups also do not have any control over their elimination. Again, like us, this develops with time, so it is wise not to leave him for indefinite periods and expect him to hold on till you're ready to take him out. Puppies can't wait, besides which they don't have full control over their bladder and bowel until they are six months of age.

- **Trick training:** The best way of teaching your pet any tricks, say experts, is to first use voice commands. Once your pet learns the trick or command, throw your vocal command at him accompanied by a hand signal. Soon, he will associate the command with the voice command and the hand signal and you will be able to get him to perform the action you want by just using hand signals.

Usually, these are the hand signals used while training a dog:

- **"Sit" command:**

- **“Speak” command**
- **“Down” command**

- **Teaching the “Sit” command:**
 1. Stand a foot away from your dog and face him. Point to his backside using your index finger and say simultaneously, “Sit.”
 2. Now gently run your hands over his body and settle him down into a sitting position, saying the word “Sit” every now then.
 3. Now praise him a lot and give him a treat.
 4. Repeat the earlier steps and eliminate Step 2 when your Pug learns to sit on his own.

- **Teaching the “Speak” command:**
 1. Get ready to play a game with a toy that your dog loves, perhaps fetch or hide and seek
 2. Now thrill him by saying, “Let’s play! Want to play?” and show him the ball or toy.
 3. You need to act silly so he barks and says, “Good dog, speak!” As a reward, play the game with him so he barks out of happiness.
 4. After a while, your dog will bark when you say, “Speak.”

- **Teaching the “Down” command:**
 2. Seat the Pug down in a sitting position.
 3. With your arm bent at the elbow and your palm facing downwards, slowly lower your hand to one side.
 4. Give the “Down” command and use the hand signal while holding a treat near his mouth or nose.
 5. Then, slowly lower the treat to the ground or floor between his legs.
 6. Since he wants the treat, he will be forced to adopt the “down” position.
 7. The moment he gets into the sitting pose, give him the treat and praise him.
 8. Repeat till he masters the command.

- **Teaching the “Come” command:**
 1. Do this one inside your home at a short distance of just a few feet from your Pug.
 2. Attract his attention by holding out a treat to him while also giving him the “Come” command and using the hand signal to come. Extend your arm straight up to do this effectively.
 3. When he reaches you, reward him with the treat you held out for him, and praise him generously.
 4. Repeat till he masters it.

- **Tone of voice:** Another important aspect of training is your tone of voice. Soon after birth, puppies are exposed to a set of voice tones that his mother and siblings use and so find these familiar. This dog language is also called para-language. For him, it’s not the words that are important but the tone of voice. As a rule, you should take care to use just three tones when training your dog—the command tone, praise tone and corrective tone.

- **Command tone:** With this tone, you convey that you expect to wield authority and firmness and that he should merely obey you. You would use this tone to teach him basic commands such as “Come, Heal, Sit, Down or Stay.”
- **Praise tone:** This is coaxing and cajoling tone used when you want to fuss over him or shower praise on him. To use this, you would say, “That’s a good boy.”
- **Corrective tone:** This conveys your “No!” in no uncertain terms. It means you will take no nonsense from him and is similar to the growl that his mother may expose him to when he misbehaves.

As a rule, you should not change your tone of voice as this will only confuse the dog and he won’t understand just what you mean. Ideally, you should use this sequence to train him: command, demonstration and praise. Once he has learnt the trick, change the sequence to: command, correction, and praise.

Some common dog commands are: Heel, Sit, Stay, Down, Come/Here, Stand, Retrieve, Fetch, Jump, Go out, Track, Guard, Bite, Out/Let Go, Speak/Bark, Narcotics/Dope, Find Narcotics Building/Blind Search, Kennel/Crate, Go Outside, Go Ahead, Go Inside, What is Going on, Good, No, Don’t Do that OK, Eat Food Helper stand Still Article Search, Leave It, Friend.

▪ **Tips for effective training:**

1. Never hit your dog even if you are provoked.
2. When heeling, don’t stop him but walk in squares rather than circles. Take care to see that your instructions are well timed.
3. Be alert so that you can correct your dog without delay and give the next command appropriately.
4. Praise every good and correct thing your Pug pup does.
5. If you repeat a command, you’ll only confuse him, so don’t.
6. Don’t let your body language be in conflict with your verbal command.
7. Timing is essential so you need to correct the dog immediately for not responding, and this will also teach him to respond quickly.
8. Every time you issue a command, use the dog’s name also, except when saying “No.”
9. Make your correction so bad that he will always avoid doing it.
10. If he suffers from “behavioral problems” confine him where you can see him and watch his actions.
11. When teaching the “stay” command, increase the time before you increase the distance.
12. Be patient and consistent.

❖ **Improving his concentration:** With so much done already, we must now turn our attention to improving his concentration power. Focus teaches your dog to pay rapt attention or he won’t be able to perform “tricks”. Here’s how you teach him to focus:

1. Keep your hands hidden from your Pug.
2. Lunge forward so that you're at his eye level.
3. Call him over to you and issue the "Sit" command. Then order him to "Focus" and hold his attention unwaveringly for a few seconds.
4. Reward him for his good work with praise or treat or hug.
5. Repeat until he understands your command.
6. Extend the "focus" to five seconds or more.
7. Soon, he will be able to "focus" when you need him to without blinking.

Another method to improve his co-ordination and focus skills are adaptations of the regular ball throw and retrieve play.

1. Face your Pug with a ball in your hand. Have him sitting before you.
2. Let him take the ball from you in his mouth. Now take it back from him.
3. Repeat until the dog has mastered the first step.
4. Now, slowly throw the ball in a curve till he learns to watch the ball leave your hand and catch it.
5. Introduce new challenges every now and then.

❖ Other training methods:

Eclectic Training Method: This is a combination of different training methods and evolving the one that fits best.

Koehler Method: This uses harshness, a heavy hand, strong words and compulsion. The emphasis here is on correction and discipline after a mistake has occurred.

Lure Training: This uses toys and treats as temptations so that the dog may obey your commands. No wonder it is a very popular training method. It follows a give-and-take policy—give the right command and take a treat. It is motivational in nature where you teach commands using voice and hand signals. It is usually recommended for puppies, timid dogs and aggressive or difficult pets.

Play Training: This motivational method incorporates play and prey drives.

Target Wand Training: This method uses non-force training methods and is therefore a very useful training tool.

- ❖ **Leash Training:** For city folks, leash training is a must. Pugs are so friendly that they want to know everyone they see, but that's not always safe. So, have a securely fenced yard and keep him on a leash at all times when outside.

Just so that he doesn't pull on the leash, stop and say "No pull." Stand very still till he stops pulling. Eventually he will stop and when he does, praise him and take one step forward. But if he pulls again, stop and say, "No pull," and wait for him to stop pulling. When he understands, he will stop and obey you.

- ❖ **Feeding and caring for your Pug:** Pugs eat all the time, to break this habit, put him on a feeding schedule. If you feed him 1/3 cup in the morning, 1/3 cup at lunchtime and another 1/3 cup in the evening, his potty schedule works like clockwork and also reduces his food cravings. Pugs need a lot of water, especially when it's warm outside. But unless you go over to them every 15 minutes with a bowl of water, he won't drink any.
- ❖ **When to begin training:** If you have a puppy, begin training early but easily and gently. After all, your puppy needs to build self-confidence before he can begin learning. a puppy is like a human baby—he has a growing body, short attention spans and will learn only under perfect conditions and when he understands you perfectly.

The best time to start is at eight weeks with simple commands like “Come” and “Sit” beginning at age 12 weeks, and a more intensive training at five to six months. Though you can begin to train your pup the moment you bring him home, ideally all training should begin when he's nine to 12 weeks of age.

- ❖ **Tips for problem Pugs:** If you have a problem Pug, here are some ways of resolving your problems. You need to understand why your Pug behaves the way he does and how to handle the situation effectively.

Tip #1:

Control your pug: Fix his training collar and lead. If he equates his training equipment with business rather than playtime, it can be a big help with problem behavior. As his owner, you can guide your Pug to understand what he should do by leading him with his leash and collar. Now, he can't get out of your control and run away, can he?

Tip #2:

Let him retain his individuality: Often, owners feel that the behavior that we find disgusting is really normal dog behavior. So when conflicts arise between master and dog, an imaginative solution that can keep both parties happy is essential.

Tip #3:

Be positive: Don't always say “No” to your Pug. Turn the “No” on its head by trying to give him something positive to do for you such as obeying commands such as “Sit” or “Heel.” He will understand that you can praise him generously for his good actions. He will also realize that you don't always just yell at him.

Tip #4:

Be consistent: To be fair to your Pug, you need to keep the rules of your training program consistent. If you allow him to sit on the sofa today and yell at him to get off it when you have guests, he's going to be confused. He needs to know what to do when.

Tip #5:

Don't give your Pug everything on a platter: If you give him everything he wishes for on a platter, he will not respect you. You probably don't realize that even your little fellow is looking to be a leader and will happily take your place if you let him. Teach him dog manners—make him say “please” in his own way, perhaps by following a command such as sitting or lying down before he gets what he wants.

Tip #6:

Be clear: Often, owners confuse their Pug pets by changing commands and repeating them, assuming that the dog understands the changes. You can't expect such high intelligence even from intelligent dogs; so if you feel he doubts your commands, guide him to understand what you mean. Give the command at the same time as you try to clear his confusion—this will help him associate the two.

Remember to use clear commands when training him and be sure you praise him enthusiastically and energetically. Also, bear in mind that your pet can read body language very well. If your voice and your body language are at variance, your intelligent Pug will believe your body language.

Tip #7:

Put him through exercise: If he is bored or does not get sufficient exercise, he will end up with problem behavior. If you don't urge him to play or exercise, your Pug will be very happy to sit by and loll about. So, find the time to play, jog or walk with him each day.

Tip #8:

He needs mental stimulation: Give him toys that will engage his attention for long. Understand his genetic heritage and realize that these lap dogs need a high dose of affection and personal attention.

Tip #9:

Train your pet: Teach your Pug basic manners and a code of conduct. Be consistent, kind and positive.

Tip #10:

Ask for help: If you face a problem of behavior for which you have no answer, ask for help without delay. The quicker you act on it, the faster it will be solved.

Chapter 15

Should you spay or neuter your Pug?

One way of being a good and responsible Pug owner is to consider spaying or neutering your pet. Considering your pet is fully capable of having litters every six months, and that's a lot of looking after for you, you ought to be selfish and spay her. Besides, your female Pug can lead a full life without the bother of motherhood, leading eventually to a healthy and long life. This should be part of all the duties you would perform for your pet, unless you plan to show your Pug and breed it.

- ❖ **Why spay:** There are several good reasons to spay your female Pug. Here they are:
 - **For the sake of your Pug's health:** This is always chiefly done in the interests of her health. If left unspayed, she may well develop mammary gland cancer, but if you spay her before she goes into heat the first time at age five or six months, she stands a much lower chance of developing breast tumors.
 - **Uterine cancer minimized:** She also has a vastly reduced chance of developing uterine cancer or pyometra, in which the uterine area is vastly inflamed. It is a common occurrence among older, unsprayed females and is often fatal.
 - **No heat cycles:** Female Pugs tend to be better pets if they lose the ability of experiencing estrus (heat cycles) every six-to-nine months. Since heat cycles result in hormonal changes leading to personality changes, your Pug can become aggressive. Besides, repeated heat cycles only end up increasing the risk of your female Pug developing uterine cancer or that of the mammary glands.
 - **Pregnancies leading to overpopulation:** In addition, if your female Pug goes into heat and gets pregnant accidentally, as a pet owner you will be adding to the vast and uncontrollable pet overpopulation problem.
 - **False pregnancies:** Sometimes, females also experience false pregnancies that can lead to uterine infections that are fatal and a bother for you to look after.
 - **Dog population:** By leaving your female intact or unspayed, it has been estimated that one female and her offspring could theoretically produce 67,000 dogs in just six years! Whether you are an owner or a breeder you don't want to be responsible for so many pups, do you?
 - **No spots or stains, no male visitors:** If the two occasions a year when female dogs come into heat and leave blood stains on your carpets and floor can be completely eliminated, then why not go in for spaying your female Pug? If not for the sake of your clean home, then go in for it because it helps her in the long run, besides also keeping all the neighborhood male visitors from visiting her and troubling her during the mating season.

- **No negatives:** Lastly, we can never overstate the point that there are no negative aspects to spaying. The fact that females get fat, lazy and lose the zest for life is all old wives' tales.
- ❖ **Why neuter:** Neutering your male Pug is loaded with benefits. Here they are:
 - **Healthier pets:** This eliminates the possibility of your dog ever developing testicular cancer—the second most common form of canine cancer. Male unaltered dogs above five years of age are known to suffer from enlarged prostates.
 - **Make better pets:** Neutered dogs make for better pets.
 - **Well-adjusted to their environment:** If unaltered, your Pug could be difficult to housebreak. But if you do have him neutered, he will also lose the desire to roam away from home or to fight with other dogs. He will also cease the familiar habit of winding his legs on to the leg of your guests and embarrass you.

He will also lose the zeal to mark territory by urinating on it, exert their superiority over the family by biting or humping, etc. He may mark territory either inside your house or outside. By neutering him, this habit of marking territory will cease, though it takes a maximum of 45 days after the surgery for the testosterone to pass through his body.

- **He lives long:** By not roaming out of your house and yard, he does not endanger his own life as he may just meet with an accident while out on the road. Don't be the cause of his early death but be the reason he lives long and well.
- **They make better housemates:** Altered dogs make for better housemates. Neutered males won't have the tendency to lift their leg on such objects as couch and table legs to mark their territory. In addition, they also won't "get intimate" with your houseguests legs during a family dinner, or an evening of socializing with friends.
- ❖ **Basics of spaying/neutering:** Vets usually recommend spaying your female Pugs at age six or seven months, while males can be neutered when they are about seven to 10 months old. Though at this age they are still puppies, they are sexually fully developed, so it isn't too early to spay or neuter them.

Canine experts believe that even if you don't intend breeding your Pug pup, it is still beneficial to the animal to have it spayed or neutered. And it is also a good idea to have your pet spayed or neutered, as the possibility of your female getting pregnant or your male getting a female pregnant is high. Considering the fact that there are so many abandoned dogs and so many more that are given over to shelters, each year over 1.5 million dogs are euthanized in shelters. If we claim to care for pets, we should accept this as a duty towards them. If you are a dog lover, have your dogs altered and urge your friends to do the same.

- ❖ **Change in your Pug's personality or activity level:** Since all Pugs are different, there is no one response to this question. While spaying or neutering does not cause an overall personality change, it does help reduce your pet's irritability and moodiness by reducing its hormones as a result of the surgery.

Dog owners say that female Pugs become less active after spaying, while males are very detached from their owners. While females do become less active, the fact that males are detached from their owners is more of a reading by owners, and it is perhaps just that the male feels different or unwell or not just as well as in earlier days.

People also say that after being neutered, male Pugs don't lift their legs to mark their territory, and neither do they cling to your friends' legs. More than a personality change caused due to neutering, it is a change in natural instinct since neutering suppresses the Pug's natural desire to mark territory and hump other living objects, people included.

Pugs, after alteration, become more affectionate companions too—a far cry from females who in heat cry and wail continuously, become nervous and attract undesirable male attention.

If you leave your Pug unspayed or unaltered, this habit of marking his territory will continue and it will be very difficult for you to train him out of it. It will be an uphill task for you to fight his well-developed natural instinct. If he is in the habit of marking territory before being finally neutered, then he will continue this even after alteration.

By being neutered, a dog is still physically able to mark territory, all neutering does is to suppress the desire to mark territory. Once this instinct is set firmly in his personality, you will find it very difficult to break.

If you are an ethical and established breeder, you will have all your pet quality puppies spayed or neutered so that the "Pug standard" is maintained and the breed improved.

Chapter 16

Pugs and children

If you want your kids and dog to get along, it depends on a variety of factors. This requires a lot of understanding of both parties and the problems each party can face. First, Pugs, like all dog breeds inherit their nature from their parents, which is molded by a trainer or owner and modified as he grows. Though usually friendly, tolerant and good with kids, they can sometimes bite, even unprovoked.

Rarely, however, does a dog bite unprovoked. Often, what we don't consider provocation is enough to make the animal angry and bite us. Besides, we need to consider also that Pugs are not people but animals whose minds we don't readily understand and who don't think like us. Most of their actions are guided by instinct first and then by training and socialization.

- ❖ **When a dog bites a child:** This could well be the scenario: a little girl likes a particular dog and wants to reach out and pet him. But the dog doesn't want this—either he's too old and has arthritis and joint pain or he's cranky and unpredictable, both of which the little girl is completely unaware. But he doesn't bite her straight off—he reacts by showing her his displeasure by merely walking away from her. This is the first warning of a mature dog to her.

If she continues to pet him or follows him or chases him, then he's bound to growl in response—this being a sterner warning. He may also stiffen up completely—yet another sign of his rising anger. You must remember that rarely does a housedog ever bite without giving any warning signals. It is we who don't see them at all.

What happens when your Pug gets tired and just wants to be by himself and take a nap? But if your children poke and prod him and irritate him, demanding his attention, he's bound to be angry and snap and perhaps even bite them. Yet again, it is the child's fault for teasing the animal and not being sensitive to his needs and temperament. Or perhaps his parents' fault for not paying serious attention to the Pug's warning signs.

Little children cannot be expected to understand a warning sign as some place they should back off from. He will continue to follow the dog and irritate him though the dog has shown what may happen if he continues in this way.

Now take the case of a little child innocently petting or hugging his pet Pug. This may be an act of innocence and spontaneity on the child's part, but according to dog psychology, the child has intruded on your Pug's safety zone. So the Pug begins by issuing his first warning sign but gets no suitable response from the child.

The Pug feels he has no other recourse but to be free of the child and if biting him is the only solution, why not? To the Pug, this is normal and instinctive behavior since he is responding to a perceived threat in the best way he knows and guided by his instincts.

Your Pug may be provoked to bite a child in other situations too such as when children run about, play roughly and scream while playing. These situations are enough to trigger an instinctive predator-prey reaction in your Pug and cause him to pursue your child with the intention of dragging him down as he would his prey on a hunt.

When children play a rough game and wrestle about and encourage their pets to join in only end up using their teeth to bite the kids they play with. Dogs do this because this kind of rough play is a throwback to them of their younger days when they played rough games with their littermates or siblings.

Your Pug could bite a child in one more situation—when the child startles him while he is asleep or pets him when he's eating.

❖ **Preventive measures:**

- **Understand dog psychology and give leeway:** It is necessary to understand and accept that any dog—trained or untrained—will bite if provoked. Remember, biting is the end of the tether for a dog, so you can imagine how he feels when he snaps or bites you. Second, animal behavior can never be fully predicted with complete accuracy, no matter how well you know your pet, so it is necessary to be careful with your pet and be sensitive to him.

You never know what he sees as a potential threat to his safety that causes him to bite, and there is an equal chance that the human being he is interacting with is at fault, causing him to react in this way.

- **Obedience training:** Obedience training and socialization are absolutely basic to your Pug's well being. If a dog does not receive obedience training or that training is not kept up regularly, your Pug's actions will always be guided by his instincts. He needs to be taught to obey commands, no matter how distracting. Learning commands can be useful and could save a life too.

Consider a situation where by responding to the "Come" command, you could save your Pug's life. Or another situation when by telling your Pug to "Leave it!" he saved a child from serious injury. So, there is merit in training your Pug.

- **Have well-mannered, pet-sensitive children:** Within your family, if there's one thing all parents can never compromise on it is to have unruly and ill-mannered children. If this is so, then why don't all parents sensitize their children to be kind and caring about house pets. They need to teach their children to be respectful to animals.

Parents must also teach their children to play the kind of games that won't set the dog on the children in anger—i.e. no rough games—as also how to touch pets, treat them and to understand the animal's body language and when not to disturb your Pug.

If you want your Pug and your kids to live peacefully together, teach your kids not to be mean and cruel to your Pug. As your children grow older and can understand the need to be kind to animals, involve them in training your pets. Teach them to give your Pug basic commands and to enforce them.

- **Supervise your child's behavior with your Pug:** Your child's behavior with your Pug needs to be supervised, if he is still very young and cannot be responsible for his actions. Never leave your small kids with a pet alone, no matter how responsible and reliable your dog has proved to be.

As a responsible adult, you must be on the scene to prevent any aggressive behavior on your Pug's part and to separate your child from the pet in a dangerous situation. Children can't smell danger, so merely telling your child to stay away from the dog isn't enough. It's up to you to physically keep them apart and safe from each other.

- **Give your Pug his own space:** Give your Pug his own private space where no children will ever bother him. For this, a crate is usually enough—if he enters his crate, children won't disturb him by dragging him out. This is therefore his safe spot and you should instill this in your children's minds that they should not disturb him once he is in there.

❖ **Tips to bring home a dog for your kids:**

- Don't rush out and buy a puppy soon after your baby is born. To your Pug, that would seem like adjusting to two new babies at once. On the practical front too, how are you going to house train a puppy and spend sleepless nights walking with your baby?
- Be careful if considering buying two puppies together to keep each other company. That would be like having twin babies which amounts to four times the work of one puppy.
- Take enough time to look around and buy only from a responsible breeder, and examine the personality of the dam and sire of your pup.
- Have a real estimate of the time it takes to raise a dog and child together and see if it is overwhelming. If it is, don't bring in the pup while you're still getting to grips with your baby.
- Since training is essential, ensure you have the time and money for it.
- Finally, do remember that just because your Pug is kind and gentle with your kids doesn't mean he will be so with all kids. So, monitor him when strangers surround him.

Chapter 17

The responsibilities of dog ownership

By now, your mind is perhaps made up to go out and get the Pug of your dreams. But if you are interested in bringing home this breed for the right reasons, ask yourself the following questions, before you go through the process of locating a Pug:

- **Are you and your family committed to spending the next 12-15 years with a Pug?** Will you take care of his tantrums, his good and bad days, and health problems and perform all your duties towards him such as grooming, health care, food and training? Does the rest of your family also feel this way?
- **Do you have adequate time and available resources for your Pug?** Do you have sufficient time and interest to take your Pug out for walks every day and to the vet and groomer when the need arises? Will you be there for him when he wakes in the morning to bathe and brush his coat, clip his nails and groom as often as necessary?

If he wants to play with you and you need to train him every day, could you accommodate that in your day too? Are you interested in taking your Pug to puppy socialization, kindergarten and basic obedience classes?

- **Is your life settled or are there likely to be changes in your personal life in the near future?** Perhaps you've just been married and are expecting a baby. Or perhaps you are caring for an elderly family member, are a divorcee, have job uncertainties, etc. With so many upheavals in your life, how would you expect to bear the financial strain of a dog?
- **Is your personality conducive to dog ownership?** Do you often feel 'stressed out'? Do you like to have total control over your environment or 'space'? Are you a 'neat freak'? Are you flexible? Patient? Answer honesty - nobody but you will know AND, more importantly, nobody but you will have to live with the results of your trying to 'fit' your personality to a dog.
- **Are you physically up to looking after a big and heavy dog like a Pug?** A pet can be physically strenuous. Can you take the strain?
- **Do you live in a dog-friendly neighborhood and do you have the time to invest in a dog and all its needs?** Do you have a yard where your pet can play? Or is there a dog park in your neighborhood where you can take him to relieve himself? Is your yard fenced? If your dog is likely to be out of the house for a considerable portion of time, will you provide him with a comfortable shelter?

Even if you do have a comfortable private space for your dog while he stays outdoors, yet he cannot be left unattended for any length of time. If you keep him tethered during this

period, it may lead to serious physical damage or harm or even death if the leash somehow gets entangled in his neck or an accident takes place. Prolonged tethering can also be the basis of undesirable behavioral and personality traits to set in. If you tie him up in your garage amid chemicals, tools and sharp objects, these may be harmful to him and dangerous if he swallows any chemicals or toxic substances.

- **Will your dog be by himself for the most part of the day?** If you leave your dog by himself, won't he become angry and frustrated and cause behavioral problems to arise such as relieving himself indoors or when he hears you enter; chew up a blanket or your shoes; barks non-stop causing your neighbors to be angry and call in the authorities against you? Instead, can you arrange for him to be let out from time to time during the day so he can have a romp, drink water, eat, take his medication, play and eliminate?
- **Will you spay/neuter your dog so that he does not get into any accidental breeding?**
- **Do you have a traveling job?** If you travel often, who will look after your dog, particularly when he is a pup and when he's old or if she's pregnant? What happens when you're away?
- **Are you passionate about dogs?** If you are truly motivated by your love of dogs, or a particular dog, you're ready for a lifelong commitment. You will train and play with your dog willingly and want to give him all your free time and attention. You will give him good and timely vet care and nutrition, you will keep him clean and healthy at all times.

Web Resources

<http://www.DogTrainingZone.com>
<http://www.ownedbypugs.com/article/6/1/>
www.pugs.org
<http://members.lycos.nl/huisdier/pugs/>
<http://www.ownedbypugs.com/article/7/1>
<http://www.ownedbypugs.com/article/4/1>
<http://www.ownedbypugs.com/article/12/1>
<http://www.mrbreeze.com/tracy/puglikes.html>
<http://www.pugpros.org/pugfacts.html>
<http://www.pugsavers.com/truthofpugs.html>
<http://www.tampabaypugclub.com/rpugs4u.htm>
http://www.bestfriendspetcare.com/dog_grooming/dog-grooming-Pug.cfm
<http://www.hagen.com/usa/dogs/basic/index.cfm>
http://www.hagen.com/usa/dogs/info_sheet.cfm?CAT=7&INFO=62
<http://www.barkbytes.com/bremed/pug.htm>
<http://www.eleanore.net/pug/training.htm>
<http://www.pug-dogs-galore.com/PugTraining.html>
http://www.pug-dogs-galore.com/problem_pugs.html
http://www.top-pugs.com/pug_diet.htm
<http://pugstories.org/forums/index.php?PHPSESSID=12371fcc989c16e743c06fd9e01a560a&topic=2260.0>
<http://members.aol.com/SEImonkee/facts-care.html>
http://rds.yahoo.com/S=2766679/K=diet+for+your+pug/v=2/SID=w/TID=F474_107/l=WS1/R=13/IPC=in/SHE=0/H=3/SIG=122ndb6ek/EXP=1112231259/*-http%3A//members.aol.com/PugDogClub/abc-care.htm
<http://www.procnny.homestead.com/puppy.html>
members.lycos.nl/huisdier/pugs/ -
<http://www.petpublishing.com/dogken/breeds/pug.shtml>
http://www.paw-rescue.org/PAW/PETTIPS/DogTip_Shampoo.php

<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1554&articleid=503>
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1661&articleid=2661> Dog Food Labels
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1661&articleid=668>
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1661&articleid=3328>
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1661&articleid=655>
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1661&articleid=664>
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<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1661&articleid=2804>
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1661&articleid=698>
<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?cls=2&cat=1661&articleid=834>