

BREED PREDISPOSITIONS TO DISEASE IN PUPPY SCHNAUZER CROSSES

Many disease problems are genetic or inherited. Certain breeds are at risk for certain diseases. This doesn't mean that just because your dog belongs to a certain breed he will always develop these problems – it just means that he's more at risk than the average dog. It also doesn't mean that these are the only diseases your pet could get – life is not that simple. It does, however, help to guide the medical care your pet needs.

Just as some genetically related diseases in humans don't begin to cause problems until later in life – heart disease or breast cancer, for example – many genetic diseases in dogs appear late in life. Some of these can be tested for, enabling earlier diagnosis and intervention. Some simply require awareness on the part of the owner as to what to watch for and when to call the veterinarian. We try to make sure that every owner of an at-risk breed knows about the diseases and problems that could affect their dog.

PUPPY

Periodontal Disease: Dental disease is the most common chronic problem in pets, with 80% of cats and dogs being affected. The health of your pet's teeth is directly related to the length and quality of your pet's life. Your pet's oral health affects all body systems. When the teeth become covered in plaque and tartar, bacteria take up residence in this plaque and pockets of bacteria begin to form under the gums damaging ligaments that hold the teeth in place. Any pocket formation under the gum line is painful. The bacteria in these pockets enter the blood stream and travel to organs such as the heart, lungs, liver, spleen and kidney causing premature damage to these organs. A healthy mouth will add one to three years of life expectancy for your pet!

Recommendations: Have your dog's teeth professionally cleaned as recommended by our team. Home care, including tooth brushing and/or T/D diet can help immensely.

Ear infections (otitis): Schnauzer crosses can be prone to ear infections because they grow a lot of hair in their ears which can trap in moisture and cause an infection. Signs of ear infection include scratching the ears, shaking the head or pain when the ears are rubbed. There may be a foul smell from the ear and it may be red and sore. Ear infections are very painful and require attention.

Recommendation: Get your puppy used to regular ear cleanings, so he or she will be easy to medicate if otitis occurs. Use an ear drying solution recommended by your veterinarian after your pet has been in the water or bathed. Have any ear symptoms treated promptly.

Portosystemic shunt: In this disorder some of the blood supply that should go to the liver goes around it instead, depriving the liver of the blood flow it needs to grow and function. A small, poorly nourished liver cannot remove toxins from the bloodstream properly, leading to the build-up of these toxic waste materials, such as ammonia and bile acids, in the bloodstream. Affected animals have trouble handling drugs and anesthetics, and in severe cases high blood ammonia levels cause neurological signs.

Recommendation: Liver testing before surgery in addition to a standard pre-anesthetic panel. Blood testing and a liver ultrasound scan are done if symptoms develop.

Bladder Stones: There are different types of stones that can form in the bladder, and certain breeds of dogs are prone to certain types of stones with Schnauzer crosses being prone to ammonium urate stones (usually as a consequence of a Portosystemic shunt as described above). Symptoms of bladder stones include blood in the urine, straining or inability to urinate if the urethra is blocked with small stones or crystals.

Surgical removal is the preferred treatment for all bladder stones. We can obtain a definitive diagnosis when the stones have been removed and sent for analysis.

Recommendation: Pets that develop bladder stones do so because they are genetically predisposed to develop them. This means that they are at risk for their lifetime. The key to prevention is dietary management and regular monitoring for the life of the pet. We recommend a complete analysis of your pet's urine annually or immediately if they develop symptoms. An abdominal x-ray confirms the presence of this type of stone in the bladder.

Digestive disorders: There are several inherited conditions or tendencies that can cause recurrent or chronic vomiting, diarrhea or weight loss/anorexia in dogs. Schnauzer crosses are prone to pancreatitis, an inflammation of the pancreas. This is an extremely painful condition. High fat meals or sudden changes in diet can lead to pancreatitis.

Recommendation: Feed a good quality pet food recommended by us. Most importantly, avoid snacks and table food, as treats high in fat, sodium or artificial ingredients are not likely to be helpful for any gastrointestinal disease. For example, pig ears contain about 800 fat calories each and are a common trigger for pancreatitis.

RISK	ACTION	Time
Otitis	Use ear cleaning solution when bathed	
Periodontal Disease	Brush teeth and have professionally examined and cleaned once a year to	

	prevent irreversible damage from infection.	
Portosystemic shunt	Blood testing prior to spay/neuter	
Bladder stones	Annual urine testing, appropriate diet	
Digestive disorders	Feed a good quality diet, avoid table food and high fat snacks	

Compassionate – as we tend to your pet’s needs.

Committed – to offering the best care for your pet.

Creative – in our use of new technology.

Connected – to our team, to our community and to the leaders in our industry.

Clean – Our hospital will be spotless and odor free.