

# **ENGLISH BULLDOG BREED DISEASE PREDISPOSITIONS**

These two lists are not intended to be exhaustive, but are posted merely as an indication as to how susceptible the English bulldog breed is to ill health and inherited genetic morphology-based complications, very many as a direct result of their favoured, let alone exaggerated breed specific features. It is nevertheless interesting to note that it is extremely rare to witness a list of this nature on a bulldog website. I have never before my own effort here, witnessed more than a single line mentioning the existence of health problems and disease susceptibility on a bulldog breeder's website, let alone a detailed report of conformation-related welfare concerns as per my Gaia Research Bulldog report. Of course I do not suggest that all bulldogs will suffer from all of these conditions, though my Gaia Research report does indicate that a great many from the second list below do in fact affect all bulldogs.

## **A loose list of disorders afflicting the English bulldog includes the following:**

Ventricular septal defect - high risk in this breed;  
Tetralogy of Fallot;  
Aortic stenosis – high risk in this breed;  
Pulmonic stenosis;  
Muzzle folliculitis and furunculosis;  
Pododermatitis;  
Generalised Demodicosis;  
Hyperoestrogenism;  
Canine follicular dysplasia - marked predilection in this breed implies a genetic basis for this group of diseases;  
Seasonal flank alopecia;  
Intertrigo – probably occurs due to intentional breeding for excessive skin folding;  
Hypothyroidism;  
Cleft palate;  
Ununited anconeal process;  
Congenital elbow luxation;  
Hemivertebrae;  
Sacrocaudal dysgenesis;  
Brachyury;  
Hip dysplasia;  
Mast cell tumours;  
Primary brain tumour;  
Lymphosarcoma (malignant lymphoma);  
Congenital deafness;  
Hydrocephalus;  
Hemivertebrae;  
Spina bifida (and myelodysplasia);  
Sacrocaudal dysgenesis;  
Stenosis of the vertebral canal;  
Primary brain tumour;  
Entropion (usually lower lid);  
Macropalpebral fissure resulting in combined entropion–ectropion ('diamond eye');  
Distichiasis;  
Trichiasis;  
Keratoconjunctivitis sicca;  
Prolapse of the gland of the nictitating membrane;  
Refractory corneal ulceration;  
Multifocal retinal dysplasia;  
Achondroplasia – inexcusably accepted as a breed standard feature;  
Ectopic ureters;  
Urethrorectal fistula;  
Urethral prolapse;  
Cystine urolithiasis;  
Urate urolithiasis;  
Dystocia;  
Vaginal hyperplasia;  
Cryptorchidism;  
Urethral prolapse;  
Hypoplastic trachea - this breed accounts for 55% of reported cases;  
Brachycephalic upper airway syndrome – common in this breed and most probably due to selective breeding for certain facial characteristics.

**Specifically hereditary and congenital conditions include the following:**

Hydrocephalus;  
Dystocia;  
Anasarca;  
Clefts of lip and palate;  
Abnormal dentition;  
Tracheal hypoplasia;  
Pulmonic stenosis;  
Mitral valve defects;  
Arteriovenous fistula;  
Spina bifida;  
Oligodendroglioma;  
Brachury;  
Brachycephaly;  
Hemophilia a, factor viii or ahf deficiency;  
Vaginal hyperplasia;  
Entropion;  
Keratitis sicca;  
Facial fold dermatitis;  
Elongated soft palate;  
Distichiasis;  
Open urethra;  
Cranial bifida;  
Muzzle pyoderma;  
Arrested uterine development;  
Follicular conjunctivitis;  
Stenotic nares;  
Hip dysplasia;  
Prolapsed male urethra;  
Haws;  
Flaccid shoulder joints;  
Reflex regurgitation;  
Pyloric stenosis;  
Schistosomus reflexes;  
Canine lymphoma;  
Cutaneous mast cell tumors;  
Elbow dysplasia;  
Hypothyroidism;  
Deafness.

Reference: [http://www.vet.ksu.edu/studentorgs/Therio/pdf/Hereditary\\_Congenital.pdf](http://www.vet.ksu.edu/studentorgs/Therio/pdf/Hereditary_Congenital.pdf)

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