

Common Boxer Medical Information

Normal temperature: Adults= 100-102.5° F, average being 101.3° F.

Pulse Rate: Adults 60-160 beats per minute; Puppies 220 beats per minute.

Respiration: 10-30 breaths per minute, resting.

Toenails: It is important to keep your dog's nails short, the longer the nails become; the more pressure is exerted on the bones in the foot. This condition is painful and can lead to structural problems. Dogs must be taught that nail trimming is necessary and must be tolerated. My dogs & I prefer to use a nail grinder. I believe that one of the reasons most dogs do not like getting their nails cut is due to the pressure exerted by the clipper which is avoided when using a grinder. You can use a regular Dremel tool found at Lowes, Wal-Mart & other hardware stores.

Brucellosis: This disease of the dog is caused by a bacteria called *Brucella canis*. It is an important cause of reproductive failure in dogs. It is the leading cause of late abortions (45-55 days gestation) and may be the cause of stillborn or sickly puppies that die shortly after birth. It is highly contagious through contact (with infected animal, items that animal has touched, bodily fluids, urine, drool or through sexual contact); causes sterility without any obvious signs of disease. Testing is available through your vet and should be done on all dogs before breeding.

Reverse Sneezing: This condition is a cause of some alarm because it sounds like the dog has something stuck in his throat. It is believed to be due to a temporary spasm of the throat muscles or an accumulation of mucus. During an attack, the dog violently pulls air in through the nose, producing a loud snorting noise as if something is caught in the nose and the dog is trying to draw it in. The dog is perfectly normal before and after the attacks. It is said by some, that this is a side effect of vaccines, I don't know, but I do know that so far, the only dogs I've had do this, are the vaccinated ones. There is no treatment.

Mange: This condition is caused by the over abundance of the demodex mite that normally is found in small numbers on the dog's skin. There are 2 forms of Demodectic Mange.

Localized-Is characterized by a moth-eaten look due to hair loss around the eyelids, mouth and front legs. Patches are about 1" in diameter, fewer than 5 in number. Occurs frequently in dogs & bitches less than one year old. Often does not need any treatment and clears up within 3 weeks.

Generalized: Progression of the above. Numerous patches enlarge and coalesce, severe skin problem complicated by pyoderma. Affects dogs of all ages. This one requires veterinarian treatment

Bile Attacks: Bile is the fluid that is constantly being produced by the liver. In some Boxers, as well as Great Danes & Dobermans, it is produced in excess at certain times--usually in the morning. Your dog will not eat anything except grass, loud stomach noises can be heard, and he will be in obvious discomfort until he finally

vomits. (Vomited bile is yellowish foamy stuff.) After that, your dog is back to normal! It is a good idea to give him some yogurt after such an attack to replace the natural flora in the stomach. There is no cure or treatment (other than getting him out quickly!) and is usually outgrown. (It's thought, that this is from stomach being empty too long, and many people have good results by feeding their boxer a late night snack and contrary to "normal advise of routine feeding times", is rather to switch it up a bit so boxer does not anticipate exactly when food is coming so that their body doesn't jump start the process by making excess stomach acids in anticipation).

Bloat: Also known as gastric dilation-torsion complex. This is an emergency and a life-threatening disease that usually affects dogs in the prime of their lives. Mortality rates approach 50%. The term bloat refers to any of 3 conditions: acute gastric dilatation, torsion and volvulus. Bloat, also known as the over-feeding (or over-eating) syndrome involves the swelling of the stomach from trapped gas, fluid, or both. Once distended, the stomach may twist abruptly--the amount of twist determines whether it is torsion or volvulus. Some interesting facts about bloat: Dogs with bloat nearly always are between 4-7 years old; nearly 2/3 are males. Usually affects dogs of the larger, deeper chested breeds and rarely occurs in small breeds. Dogs who bloat tend to eat large amounts of dry kibble.

They exercise vigorously after eating, and tend to drink water in large amounts after meals. They may have a history of digestive upsets (gastritis).

<https://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/preventing-bloat-in-dogs-naturally/>

What should my puppy weigh, how big will he get, and when will he finish growing? In general, boxers will grow in height until around 12-15 months of age and then continue to fill out until they are two or three years old. The growth plates will not fully close until 18 months though, so be very careful to avoid over-exercising your puppy until this age. The final size a dog will reach is determined by genetics, so the best indication of how large any particular puppy will become is the size of his parents, any older siblings, and other close relatives.

What is the right age to take a puppy home?

Puppies are ready to leave their mother and littermates no sooner than 7-8 weeks of age. Many states have laws that say pups should be at least 8 weeks of age before placing in new home. The period 6-8 weeks is an important developmental one for puppies, and this is the time a puppy learns how to play, about bite inhibition and also how to accept discipline!

ACEPROMAZINE: Acepromazine, a tranquilizer often used as a pre-anesthetic agent, should not be used in the Boxer. It tends to cause a problem called first-degree heart block, a potentially serious arrhythmia of the heart. It also causes a profound hypotension (severe lowering of the blood pressure) in many Boxers that receive the drug. This drug is the most commonly prescribed tranquilizer in veterinary medicine. It is also used

orally and is prescribed for owners who want to tranquilize their dogs for air or car travel. I would strongly recommend that Boxer owners avoid the use of this drug, especially when the dog will be unattended and/or unable to receive emergency medical care if it is needed.

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In the 1993 edition of "Handbook of Veterinary Drugs" (which every vet has) it says this about the drug: "Prolonged effects of the drug may be seen in older animals. Giant breeds, as well as greyhounds, appear quite sensitive to the clinical effects of the drug, yet terrier breeds appear more resistant. Boxer dogs, on the other hand, are predisposed to hypotensive and bradycardic effects of the drug."

For safety's sake, we do not recommend using this drug on any boxer.