

Swiss Run Dogue De Bordeaux

Health Concerns

The Dogue lives on an average of 12yrs. Like most large-boned dogs, hip dysphasia is the most common problem of the breed. Good breeders have their Dogues screened for hip dysphasia. Unfortunately, the popularity of the breed has resulted in many incompetent breeders who have bred unsound, inferior Dogues with bad hips. Eliminating this condition is a constant battle. Heart murmurs and skin diseases are also problems with the Dogue. Heart murmurs can attribute to the small gene pool that composes our Dogues today. Demodex mange is a skin problem rarely discussed amongst breeders, yet seems to be a problem for the Dogue de Bordeaux. This irritation is the result of a mite that lives on the dog and compromises the dog when the immune system is low. These mites feed faster than the body can reproduce cells, and they take over. Often this is mistaken for staff infection unless skin scrapings are done.

The Dogue de Bordeaux is a fast-growing dog. Puppies can gain 1-2 pounds a week on average and may experience Eosinphilic panosteitis (pano), better known as 'growing pains' or wandering lameness. Pano is an acute lameness unrelated to trauma. It shifts from one location to another and is accompanied by a fever. Dogues de Bordeaux are also prone to bloat, a twisting of the stomach that could lead to death. Bloat is most commonly traced to the dog's gulping of air that gets caught in its stomach. To prevent this, avoid feeding your Dogue de Bordeaux immediately before or after exercise, and feed several small portions throughout the day. Do not fill a huge dish with food and leave it there all day. Rather, keep feeding times consistent, and remove the food bowl from the dog's reach when he has finished eating. The Dogue needs a lot of exercise to develop its muscle structure. As with all large and heavy breeds, problems with tendons and ligaments can occur during the periods of quick growth. During these times the Dogue de Bordeaux puppy should not be strained. Young pups get much of their exercise from regular play rather than from strenuous exercise, but as the Dogue gets older, it is very important that he receive the proper amount of exercise. Your Dogue de Bordeaux will get the exercise he needs if you include him your daily routine and take him on special jaunts such as hikes, hunts, jogs, etc. You should walk your Dogue at least twice a day and try to find time for an extended run or playtime a few times a week.

Special note: The Dogue de Bordeaux is very sensitive to anesthesia's 'normal' dose can be lethal. Take extra special care in choosing a veterinarian who is familiar with the breed and its idiosyncrasies-it could save your Dogue de Bordeaux's life!