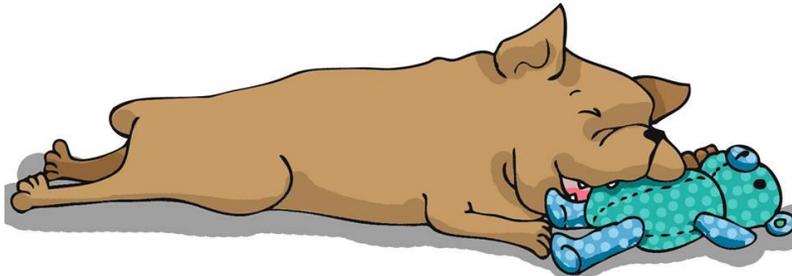


SICKNESS IS NOT CUTE

There are many videos and pictures of Frenchies shared in social media that might seem cute at first glance.

The truth, however, behind these seemingly cute videos might actually show features of serious medical conditions.

Below are featured some of the most common misconceptions which should be seen as warning signs that everything is not ok with the dog.



Breathing problems (BOAS)

Dog sleeping with a toy in his mouth looks adorable, right? The truth, however, is quite gruesome for the dog is using the toy to keep his airways open. This behavior usually tells that the dog can't breathe through his nose when sleeping.

Other breathing-related problems are loud breathing and snoring. Also lowered tolerance for heat and strain as well as fainting, sleep apnea (breathing stops while sleeping) and frequent vomiting are telltale signs of BOAS.

Breathing-related issues can be reduced by breeding only dogs that are unaffected by BOAS.

Dog that already suffers from any of these complications can be helped surgically by opening the nares and by shortening the soft palate that blocks the windpipe.



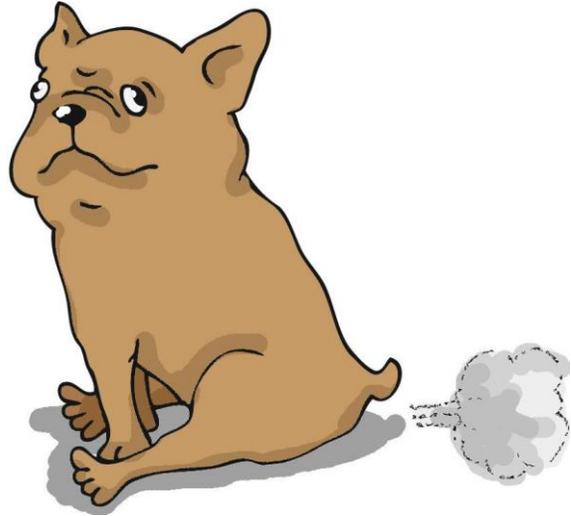
Allergies and itching

A dog shakes his booty with the music, what could be funnier? It's just not that funny for the dog. That's because this behavior is not intended for making the owners laugh but to relieve the unbearable itching in the dog's backside. Reason for itching may vary but it should always be solved with a veterinarian to improve the dog's quality of life.

Causes for the itching are usually allergy, atopy or infected anal glands and these usually need vet's attention.

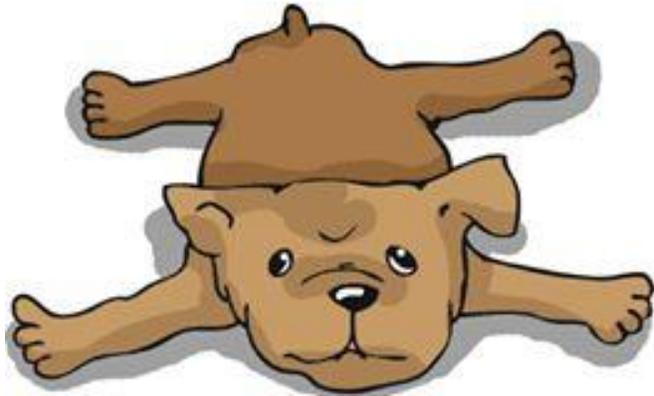
Consulting a dog nutrition specialist might be helpful too in case of allergies.

Inverted tail or "tail pocket" might also be troublesome and cause the dog to shake his bum on the floor, in case there is debris trapped under the kinked tail. It is important to keep the bum clean. In severe, chronic cases a vet can surgically dock the tail to prevent further infections.



Wind

Ah, fart jokes! They make everyone laugh and farting is often seen as an adorable feature with French bulldogs. However, constant gassing is NOT normal for any breed. It can be painful and even a sign of BOAS, in case dog with breathing issues keeps swallowing air. Excessive farting might indicate problems in the bowels and checking the dogs diet tends to help with this smelly problem. If not, seek help from a vet.



Swimmer puppy

Tiny puppy on a slippery floor, flat on his tummy and all his limbs sticking out in all directions. So adorable! And so sick. This condition is called swimmer puppy syndrome which causes deformities like flat chest and loose joints. What causes this disorder is not exactly known but with early rehabilitation many of these puppies can grow to be reasonably normal pets. In worst cases there is no cure for these puppies and they need to be euthanized.

In case you notice this kind of behavior in your dog, seek advice from a vet specialized in brachycephalic (flat-faced) breeds and consult the breeder of your dog as well.
The health of the breed can be improved by using only healthy parents for breeding!