



DOG HEALTH CHECK SHEET

- EYES
- EARS
- NOSE
- MOUTH
- THROAT & CHEST
- PAWS & CLAWS
- ABDOMEN
- FUR & SKIN
- TAIL & BUM

Eyes - Have a look at your dog's eyes and watch out for discharge, redness or blinking. These can all be signs of infection, pain or serious issues like scratches on the eye.
Your dog has third eyelids – these are there to help protect the eyes. If they can be seen it can be a sign that your pet is unwell or dehydrated.

Nose - Dogs have an amazing sense of smell. Look at the nostrils and look for discharge or sneezing which might be something up there or an infection.

Mouth - If it is safe to do so have a look in your dog's mouth. Look for tartar or staining. If your dog will safely let you then you can brush their teeth or there are dental chews to help with this.
Check your dog's gum colour. It should be a pink colour showing they have a good circulation of blood pumping around their body.

Throat and Chest - If your dog is coughing or sneezing it can be a sign of infection or inflammation in their airways. If your dog coughs, especially when you gently pinch on their windpipe then it could be a sign of Kennel cough. Some dogs may struggle to breathe because of the shape of their head and airways. Listen to your dog breathing. It shouldn't be wheezy or difficult for them to breathe. Their respiratory rate should be between 25-40 breaths a minute.

Ears - Dogs ears shouldn't have scabs or red skin on them. Dogs have ear canals just like us but sometimes these can become infected, inflamed or get stuff stuck inside them.
Signs of ear problems can include your dog shaking their head, their ears looking red or smelling different. There might be black wax in there too which can build up. Look for a head tilt or loss of balance as a sign of inner ear problems.

Fur & Skin - Look for scabs, hair falling out or redness. If the skin feels greasy or smells then they might have developed a skin infection or yeast problem. Always keep parasite treatment up to date for your pet. You might see fleas which can jump or their dirt which is black on the skin but turns red if you place it onto wet cotton wool.

Tail and bum - It's important to check your dog's poo. Never touch it but take a look from a distance. You might see worms which would need treating. Make sure your dog's poo is formed and has no blood or slime on it. Sometimes your dog might drag their bottom along the ground or chew around the top of their tail. This could be signs of worms, fleas or anal gland problems.

Paws and Claws - Look out for split pads or nails and seeds and thorns in your dog's feet. Signs to watch out for include limping or licking to point out there's a problem. Look for cuts or bleeding too.

Abdomen - Your dog's abdomen contains some very vital organs. These assist your dog in digesting food, storing blood, processing fluid and urine, as well as having reproductive organs until your dog is neutered. Just like us, dogs can get stomach upsets and signs of this can include gurgling, stretching and not wanting to eat. Your dog might also have bring up food or liquid and might pass loose faeces. Most dog's abdomens are soft and relaxed but dogs can get bloated and will develop a swollen abdomen. This is an emergency so speak to a vet as soon as possible.



If you notice any problems with your dog, see your vet as soon as possible.