

Coton de Tulear Health

This guide has been produced by the club's Health Subcommittee, which is led by Jo Scott and includes healthcare professionals.

This guidance will provide you with information regarding the health of the Coton de Tulear breed. We will consider:

1. General health;
2. Bones;
3. Eyes;
4. Other conditions;
5. Food intolerance;
6. Skin disorders;
7. Yeast infections; and
8. Health monitoring.

Please note – any underlined text contains a link to an unrelated third party website.

General health

The Coton de Tulear is a healthy breed.

Thanks to advances in medical research more canine health problems can now be identified and treated effectively. No breed is known to be 100% free from health problems.

Some of the conditions listed below are common to many breeds, others are determined by evolution and the breed's genetic profile. There are tests available for all conditions that have been found in Cotons.

The Kennel Club website has extensive health information. The section on DNA testing is particularly important for breeders.

Bones

Chondrodystrophy is a cartilage disorder that causes premature degeneration of intervertebral discs; they become more susceptible to herniation. Intervertebral Disc Disease, known as IVDD, is the most common spinal disease in dogs; it can also be found in cats. Animals with shorter legs and longer bodies are at higher risk than those with longer legs and shorter bodies. Further information regarding IVDD is available within the member's section of the Club's website.



Chondrodysplasia is an abnormal formation of cartilage that produces elements of dwarfism. Known as CDPA, this condition is more common in dogs with longer bodies and lower dogs; Dachshunds and Corgis are more susceptible than Cotons.

Angular Limb Disorder, known as ALD, is an abnormal development of the foreleg bones (radius and ulna) that can result in shortened limbs and bending or twisting of leg. ALD can affect all 'dwarfism' breeds.

Degenerative Myelopathy is a progressive neurological disorder, known as DM, that affects the spinal cord. Initially an affected dog can have an unsteady gait. As the disease progresses the hind legs will weaken until it will be unable to walk.

Patella luxation is a condition of kneecap (patella) that can affect one or both knees. When the patella 'wobbles' the dog may skip, hop or hold its leg up. When both knees are affected the dog may hop like a bunny for short periods

Eyes

Canine Multi-Focal Retinopathy (CMR2) is a recessive disorder that causes raised lesions on the retina. The lesions alter the appearance of the eye but usually do not affect sight.

Primary Lens Luxation (PLL) is a disorder that is characterised by weakened zonal fibres that eventually lead to dislocation of the lens of the eye.

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA-PRCD) is a disorder that causes the cells in the retina of the eye to degenerate and die. PRA is known to affect over 40 breeds of dogs.

Dry eye is a painful condition that develops when the dog is unable to produce a normal amount of tears. It usually affects both eyes causing inflammation.

Other conditions

Hyperuricosuria - Hyper/High Uric Acid (HUU) causes hard stones to form in the bladder resulting in difficult urination and bladder inflammation.

Von Willebrand Disease Type 1 (VWD Type 1) is an inherited bleeding disorder that inhibits the normal blood clotting process, causing prolonged bleeding after injury.

Primary Hyperoxaluria (PHPT) is a metabolic disorder caused by deficiency of a liver enzyme, that can affect the kidneys, joints, bones, eyes, and other tissues.

Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) is a dominant genetic mutation that can cause causes muscle contractions, increased metabolism, rapid heartbeat and elevated temperature in response to specific triggers, such as exposure to certain drugs, inhaled anaesthetic like halothane.



Triggers can also be certain ingredients in foods like caffeine. MH is also known as 'canine stress syndrome' because the condition can become apparent when a dog is under stress or over stimulated.

Neonatal Ataxia (NA) known as NA is a genetic mutation that affects the nervous system and damages the part of the brain that controls coordination and movement. Symptoms usually start at three weeks of age; affected puppies are usually put to sleep at eight weeks. *Breeders can test for this disorder.*

Food intolerance

Some of the visible signs that your dog is not on the correct diet can be tear staining, saliva staining, and a tendency to lick feet and other areas of the body. Others may include diarrhoea, bloating, flatulence, frequent scratching, hair loss, red inflamed skin, chronic ear problems, poor growth in young dogs, coughing, wheezing, sneezing and abdominal discomfort.

Skin disorders

Skin Hypersensitivity, known as Allergic Dermatitis, is the most common allergy in dogs caused by sensitivity to pollen, grass, dust, house dust mites, moulds, grass, trees, fleas or certain foods.

Symptoms include, itchy skin, rashes and redness, hair loss, infections of skin and ears, over grooming by dog and saliva stained skin, dark, thickened skin, weepy eyes, and acute moist dermatitis.

Yeast infections

Redness and swelling are the first signs of a yeast infection. A dog's symptoms can progress to swelling warmth and pain in the infected area. The infection's distinct smell will probably be the first indication that your dog has this condition.

Demodectic Mange most often occurs when a dog has an immature immune system, allowing mites to grow rapidly. It occurs primarily in dogs less than 18 months of age.

Health monitoring

While this is a comprehensive schedule of issues that may affect a dog, it is important to remember that many are found in all dog breeds and the Coton de Tulear is a healthy breed.

However, monitoring a dog's health throughout its life is important. Before getting a puppy it is critically important to have confirmation of health testing from the breeder.

