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Inbreeding, or the act of deliberately breeding two related animals together, is a controversial topic. Sadly, inbreeding is all too common in the world of our canine companions. According to a veterinary study conducted by the University of California at Davis, scientists discovered an inbreeding level of roughly 25%. Many dog breeders intentionally choose to inbreed dogs to strengthen certain physical and behavioral traits, as well as to keep the breeds bloodline pure. But this pure bloodline comes at a cost. Well go over the five most common signs of inbred dogs and discuss why each is potentially dangerous for these unfortunate pups. What does an inbred dog look like? nicolecedik / Adobe StockYou may wonder if any of the signs of inbred dogs are easy to spot by appearance. Certain dog breeds are renowned for possessing specific traits. From the French bulldogs precious face to the German shepherds trademark stance, dog breeders have relied on selective breeding for centuries. Unfortunately, some physical signs of inbreeding arent as endearing as the Frenchies stunted snout. Inbreeding not only results in reduced litter size, but it also leaves inbred dogs have asymmetrical features, ranging from eyes of different sizes to misaligned jaws. Inbreeding also makes dogs much more likely to develop a genetically predisposed disorder at some point during their life. Can a vet tell if a dog is inbreeding, or COI, developed by Sewall Wright in 1922. The most inbreed dog breeds on record are Norwegian Lundehunds, pugs, English bulldogs, basset hounds, golden retrievers, Labrador retrievers, and boxers. Vets know the likelihood of inbreeding is high when they encounter these breeds, but genetic testing, such as this genetic COI kit, is the only way to know conclusively just how inbred your dog is. However, as we mentioned earlier, inbreeding can leave behind physical clues. If a dog from a breed known for being inbred is small for his breed, has congenital birth defects, or shows symptoms of having special intellectual needs, its highly likely that inbreeding is a contributing factor. What is inbreeding vs. linebreeding? Karen Dole / ShutterstockSo long as you arent the one breeding dogs, you dont need to know the particulars of mating selection, but its good to have an idea about acceptable practices. Unlike inbreeding, linebreeding means you specifically dont mix closely related animals. As in, you would never put together two pups from the same parents or even grandparents. Instead, breeders look to pick dogs that have a more distant relationship but still have similar traits its basically the equivalent of you marrying your second cousin. While theres no way to totally rule out some of those negative recessive traits any time you try to mate dogs of the same breed, linebreeding certainly assuages many of the fears and can reduce the prevalence of birth defects. What problems do inbred dogs have? Ahmed / Adobe StockNot only does inbred dogs. Here are the five major signs of inbred dogs. #1: Damaged DNA makes health problems more likely Inbreeding results in broken genetics. The three forms of harmful mutations (additive, dominant, and recessive) are easily bred out of dogs with greater generic variance, especially when it comes to a damaged sequence responsible for recessive genetic traits. With inbred dogs, a damaged or broken genetic traits. problems According to the Institute of Canine Biology, dog breeds with greater than 5% inbreeding are at an increased risk of reduced fertility and smaller litters. 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Just because an animal makes it on the wrong side of this graph doesn't mean you cant get that breed. Look for a reputable expert breeder who does genetic testing and takes care of moms and dads. Or, better yet, decide to adopt a mix that has enough variable parentage to avoid the common pitfalls of pure-bred dogs. While many dog breeds have high degrees of inbreeding, some are worse than others. If you want to ensure your new pup is as healthy and well adjusted as possible, we recommend thoroughly researching breeders and requesting a genetic COI before you purchase a puppy. Another great idea? Try your local animal shelter. Youd be surprised by how many purebred dogs you can find right around the corner. (And dont forget about mutts! Some of the best dogs are mixed breeds.) Mary Johnson is a writer and photographer from New Orleans, Louisiana. Her work has been published in PawTracks and Inbreeding is all too common in the world of our canine companions. 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Unfortunately, there are very few dog breeds without high degrees of inbreeding Shockingly, its estimated that only 20 breeds in the world have less than 25% inbreeding in their genes.#3: The strange phenomenon called inbreeding depression. known as an unspecific decrease of fitness, drastically reduces the quality of an inbred dogs life, leading to higher incidents of mortality in puppies and shortened lifespans due to a weakened immune system. Common health issues include neurological conditions, skin problems, gastrointestinal matters, and joint problems, such as hip dysplasia.#4: Inbreeding can lead to aggressionInbred dogs tend to be less intelligent than other members of their breed, and while its not always the case, inbreeding can lead to higher rates of behavioral issues. Aggressive behaviors, such as rough play, snapping at or biting people or other animals, and even serious attacks are all more common in inbred dogs. #5: Inbred dogs are more likely to suffer from anxiety In addition to aggressive behaviors, inbred pups are more likely than other dogs to have personality disorders. Severe separation anxiety, impulsive behaviors (compulsively chasing vehicles or running out into the street), fearfulness, and even a complete lack of affection for their human family are all more common in inbred dogs. Do inbred dogs live long? Laura Stanley / PexelsThats relative. However, inbreeding does shorten a dogs life, according to research. A recent study from 2021 found that there were significant differences in life span between pups that had low levels of inbreeding versus ones with high levels of inbreeding. Other estimates put the reduction in the life span of an inbreed dog at 6 to 10 months shorter than had they not been inbreed. Whats more, inbreed dogs are more likely to have health problems that can decrease the number of years you have with them. You cant always control whether your dog is inbred all you can do is give them the best life possible and keep an eye out for health issues. However, its best to avoid contributing to the issue of inbreeding. What is the most inbred dog breed? Nikita Telenkov / Pexels The Norwegian Lundehund ranks by far the most inbred dog, but a couple of mainstream breeds top this list as well. The bull terrier, collie, Airedale terrier, and pug all wind up there with pretty significant interbreeding. On the flip side, the Sloughi, Chihuahua, Spanish water dog, and Jack Russell terrier mark the bottom of the list or the least amount of DNA overlap, Just because an animal makes it on the wrong side of this graph doesnt mean you cant get that breed. Look for a reputable expert breeder who does genetic testing and takes care of moms and dads. 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Her work has been published in PawTracks and In the same way that inbreeding among human populations can increase the frequency of normally rare genes that cause diseases, the selective breeding that created the hundreds of modern dog breeds has put purebred dogs at risk for a large number of health problems, affecting both body and behavior. Some conditions are directly related to the features breeders have sought to perpetuate among their dogs. As they deliberately manipulated the appearance of dogs to create or accentuate physical characteristics that were considered aesthetically pleasing, like the flat face of a bulldog or low-slung eyelids of a Bloodhound, breeders also created physical disabilities. The excessively wrinkled skin of the Chinese Shar-Pei causes frequent skin infection; Bulldogs and other flat-faced (or brachycephalic) breeds such as the Pekingese have breathing problems because of their set-back noses and shortened air passages; Bloodhounds suffer chronic eye irritation and infection. The unnaturally large and small sizes of other breeds encourage different problems. For example, toy and miniature breeds often suffer from dislocating kneecaps and heart problems are more common among small dogs. Giant dogs such as Mastiffs, Saint Bernards, and Great Danes are nearly too big for their own good. Researchers have found a striking correlation between a dogs large size and a frequency of orthopedic problems like hip dysplasia. Large dogs are often prone to heat prostration because they cant cool down their bodies (tiny dogs, by contrast, have a hard time staying warm), and because of the massive weight they must support, these breeds are prone to malignant bone tumors in their legs. Meanwhile, the huge head and narrow hips of the Bulldog can necessitate that their pups must be born by Caesarean section. Other health problems among purebreds are the product of both inbreeding and bad genetic luck. The genes responsible for many genetic diseases are recessive, which means that two copies of a damaged gene, one from the father, must be present in an individual for the disease are recessive, which means that two copies of a damaged gene, one from the mother and one from the father, must be present in an individual for the disease are recessive, which means that two copies of a damaged gene, one from the father, must be present in an individual for the disease gene dont have the condition, and are carriers of the disease. Normally, because disease genes are relatively rare, it is unlikely that both the mother and the father will be carriers, and even less likely that theyll both give the disease gene to their offspring. But thats not the case for purebred dog breeds, where genetically similar individuals are intentionally mated, increasing the concentration of disease genes. Its like stacking a deck of cards with ten extra face cards; the loaded deck increases your chance of hitting blackjack in a game of 21-but what you win might be allergies or a predisposition to cancer. Bloodhounds suffer chronic eye irritation and infection. Skin problems A skin allergy, atopic dermatitis, inflicts itchy, inflamed skin on as many as 15 percent of all dogs, but certain breeds are particularly susceptible. Dog breeds prone to atopic dermatitis include Dalmatians, Vizslas, and several terriers, such as the Boston Terrier, Bull Terrier, and the West Highland White Terrier. The numerous skin folds of a Chinese Shar-Pei, so valued by some breeders, can become breeding grounds for staphylococcus and other bacteria, which cause frequent skin infections. Also, excess wrinkles of skin on the face can rub on the eye, causing lesions and, potentially, blindness. Immune system diseaseIn autoimmune disorders, an individuals immune system, which normally works to fight off foreign invaders, launches a misguided attack against its own tissues and cells. A number of inherited diseases compromising the immune system have been noted in dogs, including primary severe combined immunodeficiency (a dog version of the bubble boy disease) among Basset hounds, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, and Dachshunds. Addisons disease, an autoimmune disease that affects the hormone-producing adrenal glands, occurs more frequently among several particular breeds, including the Bearded Collie, Portuguese Water Dog, and Standard Poodles. Diabetes mellitus, an autoimmune disorder affecting the bodys response to sugars, shows up more frequently among Samoyeds and Australian Terrier dogs.Blood disordersBassett Hounds are prone to an inherited abnormality the effects the ability of the platelets in the blood doesnt clot properly, leading to hemorrhage and bruising. Clotting problems also plague dogs with von Willebrands disease, a genetic condition frequent in Doberman Pinschers. Neurological, behavioral, and sensoryNeurological and behavioral problems afflict many pure breeds. Bull Terriers, for example, often compulsively chase their tails. Pugs are be predisposed to Pug Dog encephalitis, a fatal brain disease. Scottish Terriers are affected by Scottie Cramp, a disorder that causes the dogs to lose muscle control when they get excited. German Shepherds may inherit degenerative myelopathy, a crippling spinal cord disease that causes weakness and eventually paralysis. Hearing loss is common in Dalmatians, Australian Cattle Dogs, and English Setters. Alaskan Malamutes, Siberian Huskies, Samoyeds, Bichon Frise, and more than 60 other purebred dogs suffer from inherited forms of cataracts, while progressive retinal atrophy, a common cause of blindness in purebreds, is particularly a problem in Old English Sheepdogs and Papillons. Heart disease Sudden death from cardiac disease is recurrent in several dog breeds, including Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Irish Wolfhounds, and German Shepherds. Boxers can be genetically predisposed to an irregular heartbeat. High blood pressure afflicts many small breeds including Poodles, Cocker Spaniels, Staffordshire terriers, among others. Other organs and systems with the same of the sam Golden Retrievers, Keeshonds, Samoyeds, and Siberian Huskies. Gastric torsion, or bloat, a potentially life-threatening inability to expel gas from the digestive system, is common among deep-chested breeds such as the Great Dane, Doberman, and German Shepherd. An inherited form of kidney disease affects English Cocker Spaniels, while Dalmatians are prone to kidney stones and Basenjis suffer from Fanconi Syndrome, a potentially fatal inherited disease in which the kidneys fail to reabsorb nutrients. Liver damage and cirrhosis are common in Bedlington Terriers because of an inherited condition called copper toxicosis, in which high levels of copper accumulate in the liver.CancerCancers are strongly influenced by genetics, and so it is not surprising to find various types of cancer among different dog breeds. For example, bone cancer, or osteosarcoma, is considerably more frequent among large and giant breeds of dogs, such as the Irish Wolfhound, Great Dane, Rottweiler, Labrador and Golden Retriever, Greyhound, and Saint Bernard, because their bones are stressed by carrying so much weight. High rates of malignant blood vessel tumors are seen among Golden Retrievers, which are also prone to leukemia and brain tumors. German Shepherd Dogs and Chow Chows are predisposed to gastric cancer, while Scottish Terriers are 18 times more likely and the second stress of malignant blood vessel tumors. to develop bladder cancer than are other breeds. Orthopedic Hip dysplasia, in which looseness in the hip joint causes excessive wear that eventually leads to arthritis, is most common among large dogs, especially those like the German Shepherd Dog and the Saint Bernard which have heavy, broad hips. The long neck and large head of breeds such as the Great Dane and the Doberman can cause the compression of the spinal cord in neck vertebrae, leading to wobbling and falling (wobbler syndrome). Selective breeding of the disproportionately short legs and chronic problems with elbow dislocation; the short legs and long back of Dachshunds causes them to suffer more often from ruptured vertebral disks. Because of their small bones, toy and miniature breeds are more likely to experience patellar luxation, the slipping or dislocation of the kneecaps. Inbreeding, or the act of deliberately breeding two related animals together, is a controversial topic. Sadly, inbreeding is all too common in the world of our canine companions. 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Vets know the likelihood of inbreeding is high when they encounter these breeds, but genetic COI kit, is the only way to know conclusively just how inbred is small for his breed, has congenital birth defects, or shows symptoms of having special intellectual needs, its highly likely that inbreeding vs. linebreeding vs. l practices. Unlike inbreeding, linebreeding, linebreeding means you specifically dont mix closely related animals. As in, you would never put together two pups from the same parents or even grandparents. Instead, breeders look to pick dogs that have a more distant relationship but still have similar traits its basically the equivalent of you marrying your second cousin. While theres no way to totally rule out some of those negative recessive traits any time you try to mate dogs of the same breed, linebreeding certainly assuages many of the fears and can reduce the prevalence of birth defects. What problems do inbred dogs have? Ahmed / Adobe StockNot only does inbreeding cause health issues, but inbred dogs are also more likely to display behavioral problems than outbred dogs. Here are the five major signs of inbre especially when it comes to a damaged sequence responsible for recessive genetic traits. With inbred dogs, a damaged or broken genetic sequence is passed down by both parents. #2: Inbred dogs, a damaged or broken genetic traits. With inbred dogs, a damaged or broken genetic traits. fertility and smaller litters. Unfortunately, there are very few dog breeds without high degrees of inbreeding in their genes.#3: The strange phenomenon called inbreeding depression. known as an unspecific decrease of fitness, drastically reduces the quality of an inbred dogs life, leading to higher incidents of mortality in puppies and shortened lifespans due to a weakened immune system. Common health issues include neurological conditions, skin problems, gastrointestinal matters, and joint problems, such as hip dysplasia.#4: Inbreeding can lead to aggressionInbred dogs tend to be less intelligent than other members of their breed, and while its not always the case, inbreeding can lead to higher rates of behaviors, such as rough play, snapping at or biting people or other animals, and even serious attacks are all more common in inbred dogs. #5: Inbred dogs are more likely to suffer from anxietyIn addition to aggressive behaviors, inbred pups are more likely than other dogs to have personality disorders. Severe separation anxiety, impulsive behaviors (compulsively chasing vehicles or running out into the street), fearfulness, and even a complete lack of affection for their human family are all more common in inbred dogs. Do inbred dogs live long?Laura Stanley / PexelsThats relative. However, inbreeding does shorten a dogs life, according to research. A recent study from 2021 found that there were significant differences in life span between pups that had low levels of inbreeding. Other estimates put the reduction in the life span of an inbreeding. dog at 6 to 10 months shorter than had they not been inbred. Whats more, inbred dogs are more likely to have health problems that can decrease the number of years you have with them. You cant always control whether your dog is inbred all you can do is give them the best life possible and keep an eye out for health issues. However, its best to avoid contributing to the issue of inbreeding. What is the most inbred dog breed? Nikita Telenkov / Pexels The Norwegian Lundehund ranks by far the most inbred dog, but a couple of mainstream breeds top this list as well. The bull terrier, collie, Airedale terrier, and pug all wind up there with pretty significant interbreeding. 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The mixing of different genes and traits is necessary in order to produce ananimal that has a full range of health and behavioral attributes. By limiting the genetic stock that is used to produce offspring, you therefore limit the various attributes of those offspring as a result. Physical ProblemsDogs that are inbred dog has a weaker immune system function than other dogs. This means that they'll be much more likely to suffer from illnesses and harmful conditions of all types, from minor infections and colds to serious conditions. The inbred dog has a weaker immune system that is less able to fight off these infections than dogs that have a wider range of genetic diversity. Many inbred dogs of larger species are also predisposed to certain harmful mutations and conditions. Hip dysplasia, one of the most severe and potentially fatal conditions in young dogs, is much more common in purebred large breeds of dogs than it is in mixed large dogs from different breeds. The same can be said of a number of other predetermined health conditions that are based not on diseases, but on inborn features and traits. Behavioral problems. One of the most important of these to consider is that inbred dogs are often significantly less intelligent than ones that come from awider genetic stock. This manifests itself in a number of ways, but themost important to many owners is likely to be the fact that less intelligent dogs are much harder to train than smarter ones. Dogs that are inbred are sometimes much more aggressive than their mixed breed counterparts. This can result in behavioral problems including biting, chasing cars and other animals, escaping and playing too roughly, among many others. In order to avoid inbreeding in dogs, you may wish to look for potential pets that are not purebred dogs. If you are set on a purebred dog, be sure that you know the family history and that the dog comes from a wide enough mix of genetic stock before you purchase him

Inbred dog. Dogs inbreeding effects. Does inbreeding affect dogs. What problems do inbred dogs have. Inbreeding dogs. Can inbred dogs be normal.