

Health Concerns for the Dogo Argentino

The Dogo Argentino is a young and healthy breed, however like all breeds certain genetic disorders may be of concern.

Deafness:

- Like most primarily white dogs, the Dogo Argentino can be born partially or completely deaf.
- Inherited deafness in one or both ears is due to degeneration of sensory inner ear structures within a few weeks of birth.
- Deafness occurs in many breeds and is especially common in the Dalmatian.
- There is a strong association of deafness with increased amounts of white in the coat and blue eyes in breeds with merle and piebald coat coloring.
- Deafness can occur in both ears, or just in the one ear.
- When the dog is deaf in one ear, it's really difficult to notice this.

Hip Dysplasia:

- Canine Hip Dysplasia afflicts million of dogs each year and can result in debilitating orthopedic disease of the hip.
- It is caused when the femoral head does not fit properly in the hip socket, causing instability of the joint.
- Over time, his malformation can cause Degenerate Joint Disease which causes increased pain and immobility.

Hip Dysplasia is the most common inherited orthopedic disease in large and giant dog breeds, and also occurs in several medium sized breeds. The disease is inherited with a polygenic mode of inheritance, meaning that multiple genes must be present for the disease to exhibit itself. It is not known however which genes are involved nor how many. Hip Dysplasia occurs bilaterally (in both legs). However, in approximately 7% of the cases, only one hip is affected.

Demodectic:

- Lots of white dogs, like a Dogo Argentino, Bullterrier, Mini Bull terrier, white Boxer, are vulnerable for Demodectic, or Demodex, or Demodectic Mange.
- This can happen in a time that the puppy's are teething, and also when a young female is coming into her first heat.
- Physiological stress is a important factor determining the degree of severity of demodectic mange.
- The younger the dog, the better the chance of cure.
- In many cases of adult-onset demodicosis, the disease is controlled by dips and baths but a cure is not always possible.

Demodectic is caused by a microscopic mite called Demodex canis. For some reason (teething, heat) in every case condition change in certain dogs will allow demodex mites to gain the "upper hand" and cause serious skin disease. Mites live inside hair follicles. If you don't treat it, it will causes permanent bald spots on the skin. Mites are a normal resident of dog skin; it is only in some individual dogs that mites cause problems. If you think your dog has demodectic, just ask your vet to take a skin scrape and put in under the microscope, this is the only way you can tell, if there are any mites. And if so start the treatment as soon as possible.