



Getting started with health testing



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First things first – how can you be sure these puppies will have the best chance at a healthy, happy, active life, free from chronic pain and disease? That's where health testing comes in.

Health testing can seem intimidating at first as there are lots of health tests available. It can be hard to know which ones are recommended for your dog breed but this handy guide will give you an overview of why and how to health screen your dog to provide peace of mind both for you and for puppy buyers.

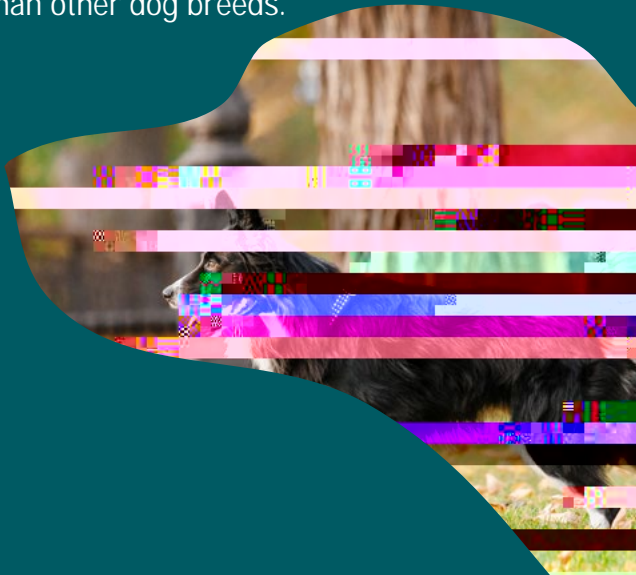
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For example, Labrador Retrievers have a higher rate of hip dysplasia, and English Springer Spaniels are more often affected by inherited eye disease than other dog breeds.

The Kennel Club Breeds A to Z, (access through the button below), offers helpful information and recommended health tests for every dog breed.



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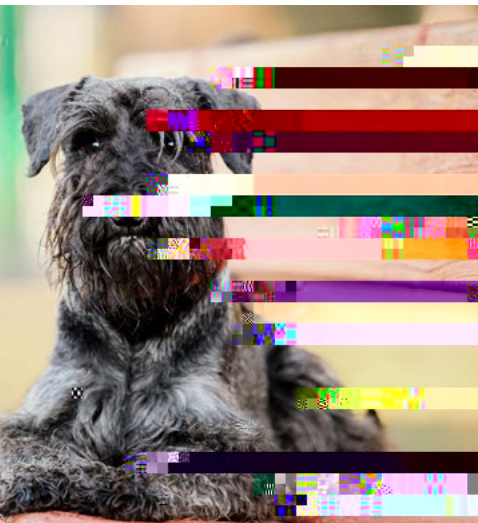
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Getting your dog's hips and elbows checked enables you to make an informed decision about whether to breed from them or not. Your actions can help reduce the risk of puppies developing painful joint conditions.

To get your dog's hips or elbows checked, a vet will take an X-ray and send the images to a screening specialist. Dogs with lower scores/grades have healthier joints, and are better choices to breed from.

The Canine Health Schemes has a panel of expert veterinary specialists with decades of experience who check hip and elbow X-rays for signs of dysplasia.





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The schemes are run by the British Veterinary Association and the Kennel Club, helping dog breeders screen for a range of conditions to make informed breeding decisions, produce healthier puppies and work towards eliminating debilitating inherited diseases.

