



BREEDERS PANEL NEWSLETTER WINTER EDITION 2017

Dear Readers

We hope you and Boxer(s) are doing well and that you will enjoy our 2017 Winter Newsletter. We have some interesting articles again:

- **Boxer teeth and dental care:** Dental health is an important part of our Boxer's overall wellness and should not be overlooked. While a yearly dental cleaning is likely recommended by your veterinarian, there are also things we can do at home to help keep our Boxer's teeth squeaky clean. This article will give you some insight on how to take care of your Boxer's teeth and how to train your dog to let you do it!
- **Bloat**, which can lead to a twisted stomach in dogs is a serious health condition that can threaten the life of your pet. Though the level of risk is incredibly high there are only few dog owners who are aware of the symptoms and know how to act when they spot them. Studies show that big breeds are more prone to suffer from bloat because they are deep-chested dogs. As this health issue can lead to death, it is important to be aware of the signs, methods of prevention and treatment in order to keep your four-legged friend away from potential risks. In this article, you will find useful data that can aid you approach this issue.
- We have then ended off with a few notes on **how to keep your Boxer healthy**.

Who can you contact if you need any breed-related assistance or questions answered?

- **Breeders Panel secretary:** Els Sporen (els.sporen@gmail.com)
- **Breeder Help:** Ute Füglistner (breederhelp@fbcsa.net)
- **Logix and puppy registrations:** Karin Schoeman (KarinS@bpl.za.com)

Make yourself comfortable with a nice cup of hot chocolate and enjoy reading our Newsletter.

Els Sporen

Secretary: Breeders Panel 2017





BOXER TEETH AND DENTAL CARE

Dental health is an important part of your dog's overall wellness and should not be overlooked. This is even more so if you own a Boxer, who is more prone to dental problems than some breeds. Keeping your pup's teeth clean has been emphasized relatively recently and a lot of people are still simply unaware of the risks. However, just like people, there are many oral diseases that dogs can and do get that could lead to even greater problems down the road. While a yearly dental cleaning is likely recommended by your veterinarian, there are also things we can do at home to help keep our Boxer's teeth squeaky clean.

Learn how to take care of your Boxer's teeth and how to train your dog to let you do it!

Are Boxer Teeth Unique in Comparison to Other Breeds?

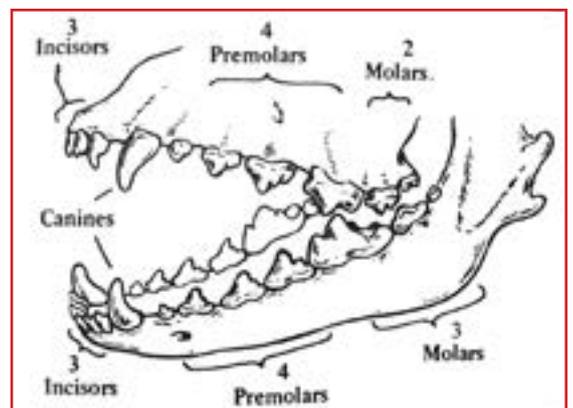
They do appear to be different, however, the difference is actually in the jaw structure of this breed and how the jaw sits. Per breed standards, the bite is undershot. This is a desired trait and proper breeding is done to preserve this element of the Boxer's appearance.

This means that the lower jaw juts out a bit past the upper jaw. As it does, it curves slightly upward. This gives the Boxer its distinct look. And because of this unique facial structure, one may assume that the Boxer teeth themselves are different in structure.



Now, with this being said, an adult Boxer has the same set of teeth as any other medium to large breed dog:

- Newborns are born with no teeth at all. They are present under the gums but at birth, have not erupted yet.
- By the age of 6 weeks, most of the milk teeth will be there. There will be 6 incisors (the front ones) on both the top and the bottom for a total of 12. To the sides of the incisors will be the premolars, 3 on each side, on both top and bottom. There will be Boxer teeth 28 in total for the puppy.
- Teething begins when the milk teeth fall out and are replaced by canines (adult, permanent Boxer teeth). This phase happens at approximately 5 months of age, but there can be early bloomers (4 months) or late bloomers (7-8 months). If a puppy has not begun to lose their milk teeth by the age of 7 months, it is strongly recommended to have a veterinarian perform a dental check to look for potential issues that would be preventing this natural stage in the Boxer's teeth.
- Once all of the Boxer's teeth have broken through the gums, the adult will have a set of 42. There will be 6 incisors on the top and another 6 on the bottom as before, but of course, these will be larger to accommodate the larger jaw. There will be 4 premolars (as opposed to 3) on both top and bottom.
- Additional Boxer teeth for the adult dog will be the molars. There will be 2 on each side on the top. And 3 on each side on the bottom of the dog's mouth. The total will be 42.
- The 4th premolar on the top and the 1st molar on the bottom combine to create what is called the Carnassial teeth. This is the term given to these particular Boxer teeth which are the largest of all and work well to slice through food.



Yellow, Decayed or 'Rotted' Teeth

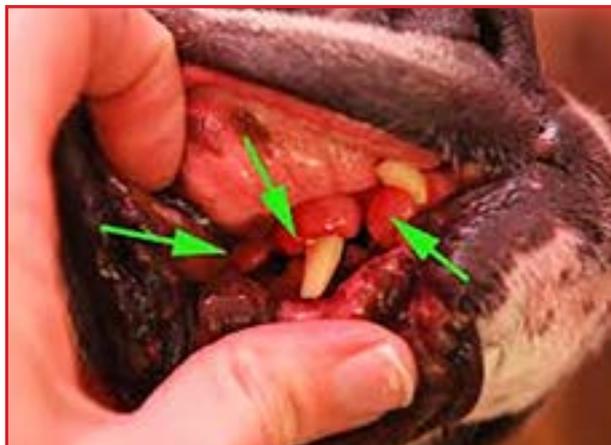
Some owners become concerned when they realize that their Boxer's teeth do not look healthy. The colour may be yellow, the gums may bleed, teeth may be crooked and sometimes they can appear to be rotted. This can all be attributed to poor dental care or a complete lack of dental care.

Sadly, this is sometimes not noticed until it is too late. At this point, teeth may need to be pulled and medication given to clear up infections (which can spread to other areas of the body). Before and even after these procedures, eating and chewing can be impaired.

The best method to make sure that the teeth of a Boxer stay clean, straight and healthy is to provide DAILY dental care at home. And to allow for one professional cleaning 1 time per year. It only takes a few minutes to perform this element of grooming and makes a HUGE difference in the health and appearance of the Boxer.

Gingival Hyperplasia in your Boxer's teeth

Gingival hyperplasia is also sometimes referred to as Fibromatous Periodontal Hyperplasia which is so severe and excruciatingly painful due to some dreadful swelling on gingival. This condition is relatively common amongst dogs and affects the gums in that they appear to grow up and over the teeth, expanding in size. It is an inherited disease normally occurring in many Boxer dogs. Gingival hyperplasia can affect a single tooth or all the teeth and although not inflammatory at first, can be affected by food debris and bacteria concentrating in the deep pockets or folds of the growing gum. This leads to inflammation and periodontal disease. Often, this condition causes the gum to overgrow so severely that your dog may end up chewing on its own tissue. The gums can be smooth or they may appear bumpy and rough. In itself, this condition is not malignant but it can develop into increased plaque and tartar accumulation which leads to tooth and gum disease. This might continue, even if you are cleaning your Boxer's teeth on regular basis. It can be treated through Gingivoplasty surgery.



At-Home Dental Care

When Should Dental Care Begin?

Dental care for Boxer dogs should begin from the day that you bring your dog into your family. There is no age in which a Boxer dog is not vulnerable to canine tooth decay.

What is the difference between human tooth care and dog tooth care?

With dogs, very few will ever get cavities. However, it is plaque, tartar and bacteria build up that can cause serious health problems.

Doesn't a dog clean their teeth when they chew on bones?

No. This is a common misconception. Some dog treats and certain quality toys will help clean a dog's teeth a bit, by loosening plaque. They will not clean the teeth enough to prevent eventual infection and decay. Dogs can develop some pretty serious ailments if they do not receive these regular brushings.

Some chews work to scrape the teeth to a certain degree. This is good for your Boxer dog, but not enough. For excellent oral health, daily care must be taken to keep teeth and gums clean and healthy. This routine should be as normal as taking your dog for a walk or feeding him dinner.

Won't it take up too much time to keep cleaning my Boxer dog's teeth?

Once a dog is trained to sit nicely, this will only take about 5 minutes per day and can save your dog's life. Once you fall into a normal schedule, this should become as natural as any other grooming or care element.

**i ♥ My
BOXER**



What do I do if my Boxer hates having his teeth cleaned?

Not to worry. With repetition, just about every dog can be trained to sit nicely while you brush his teeth just like dogs learn to sit for grooming of the coat. All this take is your effort to not give up on doing this task and allow your dog a week or so to become used to it.

Before you begin, some things to remember:

- Never use human toothpaste. Canine specific toothpaste is not a marketing scheme or an unnecessary product. Human tooth paste is dangerous to dogs. Because so much of the paste can be swallowed, the buildup of ingested ingredients can be toxic. While smaller breeds would be more likely to become ill even a large Boxer could. Do not take a chance with your Boxer's health and please purchase a high-quality canine toothpaste.
- Begin as soon as possible. Puppies that are taught to have their teeth cleaned will grow up knowing it is a normal part of their day.
- Do not give up if your dog tries to run away from you when you begin; with time and repetition a dog will learn that it is a routine part of the day.

What You Will Need:

- A finger brush for dogs - this can be used first, if your Boxer dog is not used to having his teeth cleaned
- A dog tooth brush - Much different than a human brush, you should make all attempts to train up to the level of using a dog tooth brush
- Canine tooth paste - never underestimate the importance of using this.



If you want to buy, below are the links?

https://www.petheaven.co.za/pet-dent-dog-toothpaste.html?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=200517shopping&SFDRREF=SFDR_57386291&gclid=CjwKCAjwqchLBRAqEiwA-j4AyOfMoSa-EXir8Fd6_UjOuVJQDXI_zQ_rQBcKN-KUWijOOBveE7EUvx0CvNYQAvD_BwE#134=458

https://pethero.co.za/en/dental/529-kyron-pet-dent-toothpaste.html?gclid=CjwKCAjwqchLBRAqEiwA-j4AyEHMEaPB12XuVYDZIGSAt0Bz9sk_OpakVBwih8wtWKUYO2F_tgdB6zBoCBf4QAvD_BwE

How to Brush Your Boxer's Teeth Step-by-Step:

01

Have all needed supplies on hand.

02

Have your Boxer sit.



03

Give the "Open mouth" command and use your hand to manipulate the jaw open; within a week or so a dog will begin to learn to do this himself with very little strength needed on your part.

04

Brush swiftly and firmly on all surfaces of the teeth. Do not just brush the front ones! Do the front and both sides.

05

You can hum to calm your Boxer puppy or dog down or simply speak in a matter-of-fact way.

06

After a full minute or so, wipe out the mouth with a wet washcloth; but don't worry that paste is being swallowed since a good canine brand will be perfectly edible and digestible.

07

Offer praise and a treat (preferably a dental hygiene treat) if your Boxer at least made an effort.

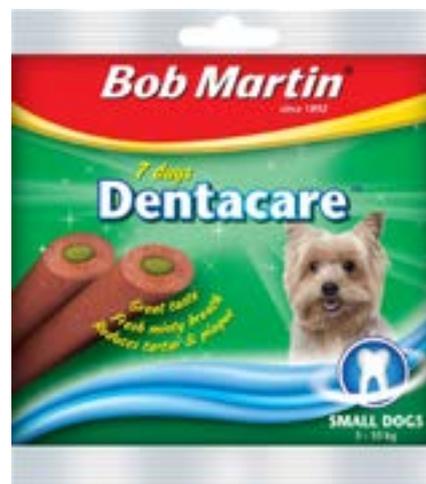
What if my Boxer dog refuses to let me use a brush?

Some dogs can be very stubborn. It is recommended to keep at it, but allow 2 weeks for each step. If that fails, you should then try using dog dental wipes. These are special wipes made for a dog's teeth. It will wipe off bacteria and will clean to a certain extent.

Does my Boxer Need to Have Professional Cleanings?

Yes. It is very important that you schedule a once-a-year dental appointment with your dog's veterinarian and not only go if there is a problem. This yearly cleaning will remove buildup that daily cleaning simply cannot do.

The vet will also be able to determine if there are any issues developing that need special care. If there are any serious problems, the vet will most likely refer you to a canine orthodontist.



Information taken from the following websites:

<http://www.allboxerinfo.com/boxer-dog-teeth-dental>

<https://iheartdogs.com/3-simple-ways-to-keep-your-boxers-teeth-clean>

<https://bestdogfoodforboxers.com/boxer-dog-teeth-dental>

Photos taken from:

<http://www.skullsite.co.uk/boxer/boxer.htm>

<http://www.louisdonald.com/anatomy.html>

<http://dailyboxer.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/boxer-teeth.png>

<https://petsexpress.co.za/pet-dent-toothpaste>

<https://apetslife.co.za/pet-dent-toothpaste.html>

BOXER BLOAT

medical emergency



There are several health issues that are more common with Boxer than others. One is cancer, another is Cardiomyopathy. And the one that we will discuss here is bloat.

Of the over 200 dog breeds that exist, the Boxer is the 16th most at risk. And the Boxer's risk ratio is 3.7; meaning that this breed is 3.7 times more likely to develop bloat than a typical mixed breed. Therefore, owners must know about bloat, signs and treatment.

This is also known as **Killer Bloat** and the official name is **Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (i.e. twisted stomach)**. This is a very serious canine health problem. When this strikes to a serious degree, it is fatal in up to 50% of cases.

There are actually 2 different ailments that are both referred to as bloat and each is serious in their own right.

- 1) The dog's stomach distends with gas and fluid. There may be a slight rotation of the stomach (less than 180 degrees).
- 2) The distended stomach twists anywhere from 180 to 360 degrees. The spleen, which is connected to the stomach wall, rotates out as well. This severe twisting is called volvulus.

It is this 2nd instance that is life threatening.

What Happens

Bloat occurs when food, water and/or air becomes trapped in the dog's stomach because of the stomach 'twisting'. This issue may seem bad enough, however other issues are taking place as well. In some cases, a dog may be unable to burp or vomit out the trapped food, air, and gases, because the area of the body called the gastroesophageal junction becomes obstructed during the rotation. This causes further bloating. Blood circulation is then cut off and the dog's life is in danger. Without immediate treatment, serious health issues begin to domino, including acute dehydration, bacterial septicemia (bacteria sweeps into the blood), circulatory shock (due to inadequate levels of oxygen in the body), cardiac arrhythmias (the heart's normal rhythm is disrupted), gastric perforation (a complete penetration of the wall of the stomach, resulting in intestinal contents flowing into the dog's abdominal cavity), peritonitis (a dangerous swelling of the thin tissue that lines the inner wall of the abdomen and covers most of the abdominal organs). Death is the final stage.

Owners must be aware of this issue to both take preventative steps and to keep an eye out for signs.

This can happen to Boxer puppies, however most cases happen to Boxers between the age of 3 and 7 years old. It can be surprising to owners to know that this can happen to the healthiest of dogs.

What Causes This?

- Overeating or eating too fast - this is the most common reason
- Exercising heavily right before or right after eating
- Gulping down a large amount of water directly after eating a meal
- Stress also plays a role

What are the Symptoms?

Early Signs:	Symptoms once Volvulus begins (the actual twisting of the stomach and a serious stage of bloat that requires emergency attention):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacing • Drooling • The stomach will not show the bloat yet, but it will feel “tight” • Weakness • Appearing to be uncomfortable • Hanging the head low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vomiting or dry heaving • Excessive drooling • Whining, moaning • A tight stomach that is clearly visible to you - it will appear distended and protrude more than normal. • The dog may walk in a strange way due to the pain and twisted stomach • Signs that your Boxer dog is in pain and discomfort - a dog may want to be alone or may act aggressive if you try to go near him...a dog may feel vulnerable when in pain and many will become very defensive. • Signs of shock - pale gums, shallow breathing, a slow heartbeat and a coolness of the skin

Prevention

There are several causes for this canine health problem, all which an owner can beware of to prevent this.

- 1) Do not allow your Boxer to exercise immediately after eating - a Boxer should not be taken for a walk within 1 hour and should not engage in heavy exercise for 2 hours.
- 2) Food should not be gulped down fast. Use a stainless steel slow-feeder bowl that encourages slow eating or place a portion placer into the bowl that you have.
- 3) Drinking water fast can cause bloat too. Slow-feeding bowls should be for water as well. Also make sure your Boxer is well hydrated before walks or exercise and take water with you. Halfway through the session, have your Boxer rest and hydrate. Both of these steps will help your Boxer not drink so fast when he returns homes.
- 4) Only feed your Boxer a high-quality food (brands containing fillers can cause bloat, so please only choose a top-end brand) or healthy home cooked food.
- 5) Spicy or greasy human food is not only unhealthy for a Boxer, it can also lead to canine bloat. Be sure not to overfeed him or her. Follow proper feeding guidelines in regard to both quantity and timing.
- 6) Recent studies have proven that raised bowls increase the chances of bloat for large dogs; therefore, a Boxer should have both food and water bowls at floor level.

Treatment

A Boxer with Bloat must be taken to an emergency animal hospital. Only there can a dog receive the treatment for this serious issue. A tube will be inserted into the stomach to help remove gas and food, it usually rushes out rather quickly when this is done. The veterinarian will then cleanse the Boxer’s stomach. Food and water will be restricted for 36 to 48 hours afterward. In many cases, the dog will need to remain in an animal hospital in order to receive hydration and nutrients via an IV during this time.

If this does not work, surgery will be done on the dog. Gastroplexy may be done, a procedure in which the Boxer’s stomach will be attached to the wall of their body in order to prevent the twisting. If irreparable damage has been done, parts of the stomach and/or spleen may need to be removed. When gastroplexy is performed, the odds of a Boxer having bloat again is greatly reduced. Although, one should still follow the preventative advice above.

Taken from:

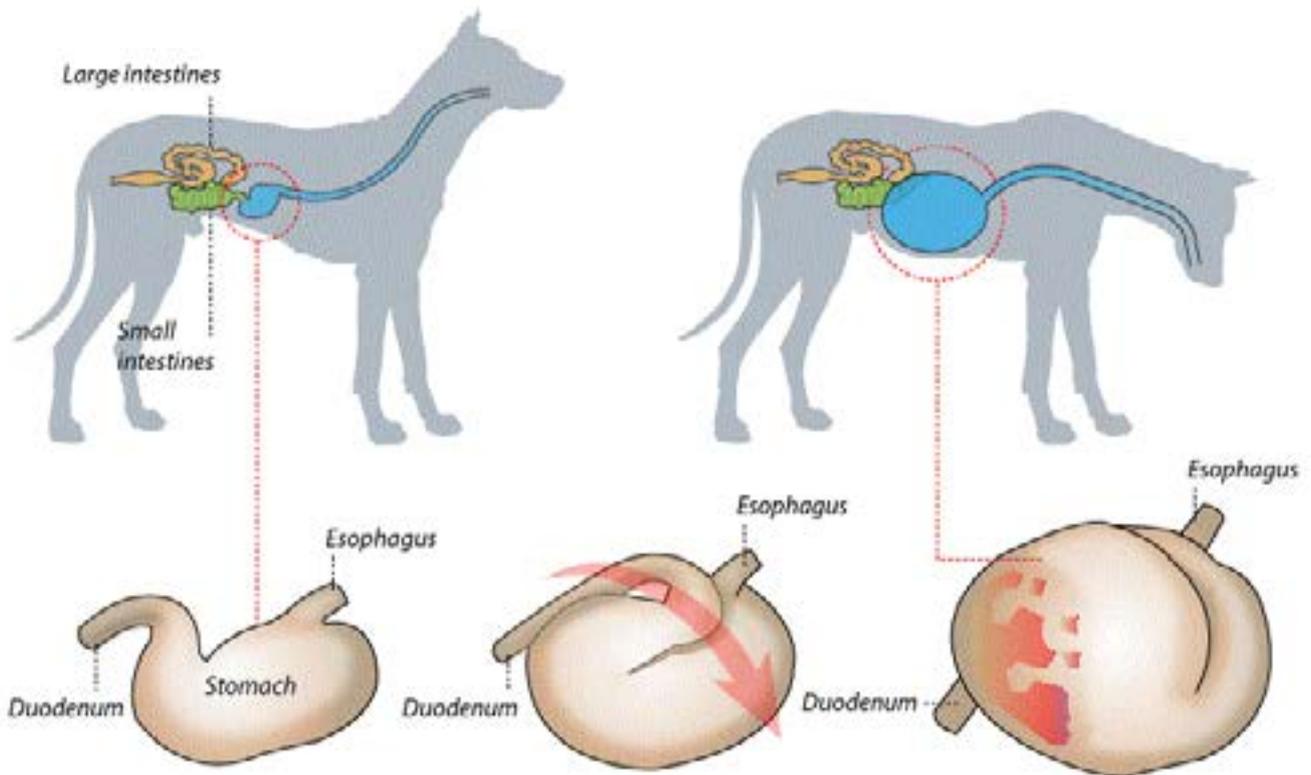
<http://www.allboxerinfo.com/boxer-dog-bloat>

<http://dogsaholic.com/care/twisted-stomach-in-dogs.html>

BLOAT:

Is Your Dog at Risk?

Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV), also known as bloat, is a life-threatening condition in which the dog's stomach fills with air, fluid and/or food. The enlarged stomach twists and puts pressure on other organs, causing difficulty breathing and eventually decreasing blood supply to a dog's vital organs.



Eating fast, stress and having one large meal each day can cause bloat.

Gas and fluid cause the stomach to expand and twist.

The distended stomach presses against vital organs compromising blood flow.

Breeds most at risk

Large and giant dog breeds are most at risk for bloat due to a deep and narrow chest.

- Great Danes
- Saint Bernards
- Weimaraners
- Golden Retrievers
- German Shepherd Dogs
- Wolfhounds
- Bloodhounds

Symptoms

There are three phases of bloat.

PHASE 1

- Anxious and restless
- Distended abdomen
- Unsuccessful attempts to belch or vomit

PHASE 2

- Excessive salivation
- Rapid heartbeat

PHASE 3

- Weakness
- Shortness of breath
- Pale gums

Treatment

Initial treatment involves:

- Relieving pressure on the stomach
- Treating for shock
- A stomach tube may be passed to allow gas to escape
- Intravenous fluids to maintain blood pressure and support the heart's function.
- Surgery (involves emptying the stomach, rotating the stomach and spleen back into their correct positions, and removing any tissue that is too damaged to heal)

Keeping Your Boxer Healthy



To keep your Boxer healthy and allow your dog to reach his/her expected life span:

- 1) Follow proper feeding guidelines. Never allow your dog to eat your food. Do not overfeed.
- 2) Give your Boxer plenty of exercise (but please be cautious for over exercising at a too young age!): walking, running and playing. Do not exercise him or her right after they have eaten.
- 3) Dental disease can kill. Be sure to keep up with grooming. Daily brushing must be done, as well as professional cleanings. Infections in the ears and on the face can be prevented with regular cleanings.
- 4) Be aware that the Boxer is capable of ingesting non-food items such as socks and objects that can cause internal blockage.
- 5) Offer your dog a safe, clean and calm environment. Stress can cause disease in dogs. Your Boxer should have a great family environment, plenty of interaction with humans and a warm and dry place to rest and sleep. Never allow your dog to overheat by being left outside in hot weather.
- 6) Make sure your Boxer is always up-to-date with vaccinations and preventative heart worm medication.
- 7) Bring your Boxer for regular check-ups to catch any problems early. Whenever your dog behaves outside of their regular pattern, such as not wanting to be touched, sleeping or resting excessively, not eating as usual, etc.; bring him or her to the veterinarian.

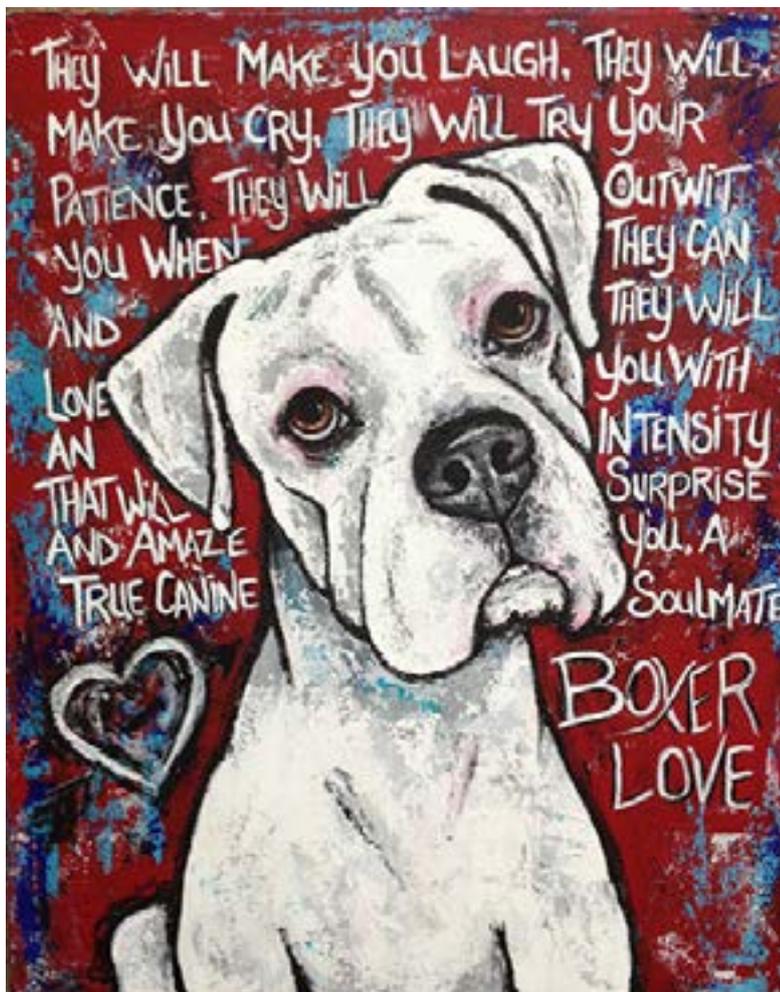
(Taken from: <http://www.allboxerinfo.com/boxer-dog-health-problems>)

Dog or Cat ?

- Do you prefer dogs or cats?
According to the University of Texas this depends a lot on your personality. Over 4500 people from all over the world took part in an on-line survey. They were asked if they preferred dogs or cats, liked both the same or disliked both.
- 45.7% preferred a dog and only 11.5% a cat. 27.7% liked both and 15% liked neither.
- But what is the difference between these people?
 - Dog people are more emotionally stable, more easy going, extravert and orderly.
 - Cat people proved more innovative, more open to change, curious and adventurous.

Warm greetings,

Breeders Panel
July 2017



Who serve on the 2017/2018 committee?

Chairperson: Prof Marinda Oosthuizen, **Secretary:** Mrs Els Sporen

Committee members: Mrs Karin Schoeman (FBCSA Representative), Mr Wolfgang Raschke, Mrs Monica Roos, Mrs Ilze van Dijk

Some funnies!

