

## Fila puppy health issues

- Umbilical Hernias** -Very common. Most will close all on their own by one year of age. Hernias that are the size of a quarter or less....very rarely require surgery. It is normal for a umbilical hernia to appear larger after the puppy has eaten. Be observant of your puppies hernia...watch for signs of “strangulation”...simply stating is when the umbilical is prevented from going back inside the body or drastic change in size. If any of these things occur, have your puppy checked by a veterinarian who is knowledgeable.
- Puppy Acne** -Very common. Male puppies are often prone to puppy acne worse than the females. Feed only in stainless steel dishes. Wash acne with pyoban shampoo (from veterinarian). In extreme cases, use cephabxin or cephabxin/prednisone. We recommend this only if your puppy has an important “date” (like a dog show) where the “complexion” should be clear. It is thought that the acne is related to hormonal changes and dogs grow out of it - similar to children.
- Entropion/Ectropion** - Common in all molossers. Less than 12% of these cases will need surgery. A vet has been quoted as saying that it takes longer to anesthetize the puppy than to perform the surgery. Beware of vets who charge in excess of \$100 per eye. A good median price should be approximately \$85 per eye.
- Puppy Vaginitis in females** - Very common. This is a yellowish/greenish thick vaginal discharge. Comes and goes in some females until their first heat cycle.
- Leaking Urine** - Common. Female puppies (some males as well) will leak urine while sleeping or while on their way to the door. This usually goes away after the first heat cycle. This is directly related to muscle control. This also occasionally will occur after altering. Use diethistilbestrol to fix the problem in altered females.
- Intermittent Limping** - Common. Some puppies will experience intermittent limping, discomfort getting up/down, soreness after exercise/play. This is due to rapid growth of a giant breed. Please make sure that your are following one of our recommended puppy feeding programs with supplementation. If the reason is due to uneven growth pattern i.e. bones, ligaments, tendons are not growing in sync then exercise may help. If the cause is other, limit exercise and consult your vet.
- Sudden Limping** - Puppies that suddenly begin limping in the rear often have a soft tissue tear, a hyper extended cruciate ligament, torn cruciate, or worse case scenario ruptured cruciate. Do not always assume Hip Dysplasia. Due to the inherent design of our breed, a cruciate problem is the most common reason for sudden limping. We do not recommend that you do surgery unless the cruciate is ruptured. Upon a proper diagnosis, immediately crate/kennel your dog and restrict their activity. The only allowed activity is leash walking. The healing process for this is slow...3 to 6 months.
- Over/Under Bite** - The overbite has a 85% chance to change to a scissor bite at 14 months of age. The underbite will often change to a scissor bite. A level bite is acceptable.
- Coat Color** - Very common. Fila puppies are born with guard hairs which are black in color. Gradually they will shed these hairs and typically have no evidence of them by one year of age.
- Swollen Lymph Nodes** - Common. This condition seemingly has no relation to poor health. The swelling comes and goes through out the Filas growth to adulthood. This is true with/without the use of antibiotics. Make sure there has been no change in activity, appetite, vomiting, fever....as long as these conditions do not exist....we recommend just observing your Fila. We have never experienced this to be anything of importance and have noticed a tendency for the condition to re-occur.