

Purebred Dogs

A Warm up

1. Do you know the following breeds of dogs? Write the breed under each photo.
2. What do you think are the most popular breeds in Japan? How about the world?



B Vocabulary

1. Match the words with their definitions, then complete the sentences.

- a) mate _____ rich
- b) cesarean section _____ the quality or state of having many different forms, types, ideas, etc.
- c) wealthy _____ to bring (animals) together so that they will breed and produce young
- d) mutation _____ a new form of something that has changed
- e) diversity _____ an operation for giving birth in which a baby can be removed through a cut in the mother's body

1. The doctor believed that she might have difficulty while having her baby, so he recommended a _____.
2. Some cats have no tails because of a genetic _____.
3. Sailing is a very expensive hobby. Only _____ people can afford to do it.
4. There is much more _____ in New York than Tokyo; we can meet people from various backgrounds there.
5. Jim works at an office downtown, but he also _____ beagles for extra money.

2a. What do you think these words mean?

- pure breed
- cross breed
- inbreed
- dog breeding

2b. What do you think these words mean?

- genetic disease
- genetic mutation
- genetic diversity

3. Match the words with their definitions, then complete fill in the blanks on the next page.

- a) riddled with _____ the average number of years that a person or animal can expect to live
- b) mutt _____ brothers and sisters
- c) eugenics _____ the structure of bones that form the head and face of a person or animal
- d) arbitrary _____ pressed flat
- e) siblings _____ full of
- f) skull _____ something used to end a problem
- g) squashed _____ almost or nearly
- h) life expectancy _____ not planned or chosen for a particular reason
- i) borderline _____ a science that tries to improve animals by controlling who become parents
- j) solution _____ a dog that is a mix of two or more breeds

C Discussion

Ask your classmates the following questions

1. What's your favorite breed of dog? Why?
2. Why do you think purebred dogs are more popular than crossbreeds or mutts??

Adam Ruins Everything



Girl: Oh my God, look at that pug! I want him. Oh but that shitzu, I want him. These are the best dogs.

Adam: Actually, those are the worst dogs.

Girl: Adam, please don't ruin this for me.

Adam: Sorry, I'm going to....Hi. I'm Adam Connover. And not only are so-called "purebred" dogs _____ genetic disease, but dog breeds aren't even a real thing - we made them up! We talk about dog breeds as though nature created them that way. And as though every _____ were just a mix of different pure breeds.

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Adam: But in fact, mutts are dogs in their natural healthy state, and pure breeding is a form of genetic manipulation that humans made up just to amuse ourselves. Outside of a few traditional working dogs, 90% of all dog breeds were created in just the last 100 years.

Girl: Just to be clear, I'm not enjoying learning any of this.

Adam: In 19th century Victorian England, _____ was all the rage, and competitive dog breeding became a fad among the wealthy.

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After these Dr. Frankenstein's had played God for a while, they declared their weird little monster a "pure breed".

And that's all a purebred dog is; it's totally _____.

Girl: Wait, a pure breed. That means a good, healthy dog?

Adam: No. When you hear "purebred", you should think "inbred".

Kennel clubs prohibit purebred dogs from ever mating outside their own breed. And often, mate them with their own parents and _____. One study found that 10,000 pugs have the

same genetic diversity as 50 individuals, making this little guy as inbred as an Austrian Duke.

All of this inbreeding means that the average purebred dog is sicker then, well... a dog. 60% of golden retrievers die of cancer. A third of King Charles spaniel's have a _____ that is too small for their brains. Great Danes are so huge that their hearts cannot support their bodies, and... well, as for little tiny dogs... Have you ever seen a little tiny dog that looked happy? They know there's something wrong with them. And they know that we did it to them.

And now, we come to the bulldog.

Girl: Oh...he's so cute.

Adam: Yeah, he is. If you find total genetic failure "cute". 100 years ago, the bulldog was a proud breed. But a century of inbreeding has ruined them. Their noses are so _____, they can barely breathe. Their heads are so big, they can only give birth by cesarean section. Their tails can become ingrown. They basically all have hip dysplasia. And their average _____ is six years. Let's face it, these dogs shouldn't even be alive.

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The sad part is, kennel clubs could cure all of the Bulldogs problems if they just allowed them to cross breed. But they won't, because then they might not look like the cute little Bulldogs that everyone loves. But our insistence that these dogs live up to our arbitrary standards is causing them to get sick and die. As much as you love the bulldog, the fact that it exists at all is _____ animal abuse.

Girl: Why do I hang out with you?

Look, there's an easy _____. When you get a dog, don't worry about what breed it is. Just go to your local shelter, and get yourself a little puppy mutt. He'll be happy, healthy, and 100% all natural dog.

D Check Your Understanding

Circle true (T) or false (F) for the following statements about the article.

- 1. Most dog breeds are less than 100 years old. T / F
- 2. Dog breeds originally became popular among poor people. T / F
- 3. Kennel clubs encourage dog owners to cross breed. T / F
- 4. Bulldogs have not changed very much in the past 100 years. T / F
- 5. Adam recommends buying a puppy at a pet store T / F

E Find someone who...

Meet your classmates. Ask other students questions so you can complete the task sheet below. Ask one follow-up question for each person you talk to.

_____	...loves dogs.
<i>Do you love/like dogs?</i>	
_____	...doesn't like dogs.
<i>Do you love/like dogs?</i>	
_____	...has a dog at home.
<i>Do you have...?</i>	
_____	...used to have a dog.
?	
_____	...likes cats better than dogs.
?	
_____	...has a favorite breed of dog.
?	
_____	...doesn't have a favorite breed of dog.
?	
_____	...thinks pet stores should sell dogs.
?	
_____	...thinks pet stores shouldn't sell dogs.
?	
_____	...has never been kissed by a dog.
?	