

# WHAT IS A PUG?

By Del Richards

**W**hen I was asked to write this article I thought “what would people want to know about pugs?”

The breed originated in the orient and dates back to the pre-Christian era. They were prized possessions of the Emperors of China and lived in a most luxurious atmosphere, at times, even guarded by soldiers. Dutch traders brought Pugs from the East to Holland. In 1688 William II brought his Pug to England when he was crowned King. By 1790 the Pug’s popularity spread to France where Josephine, wife of Napo-

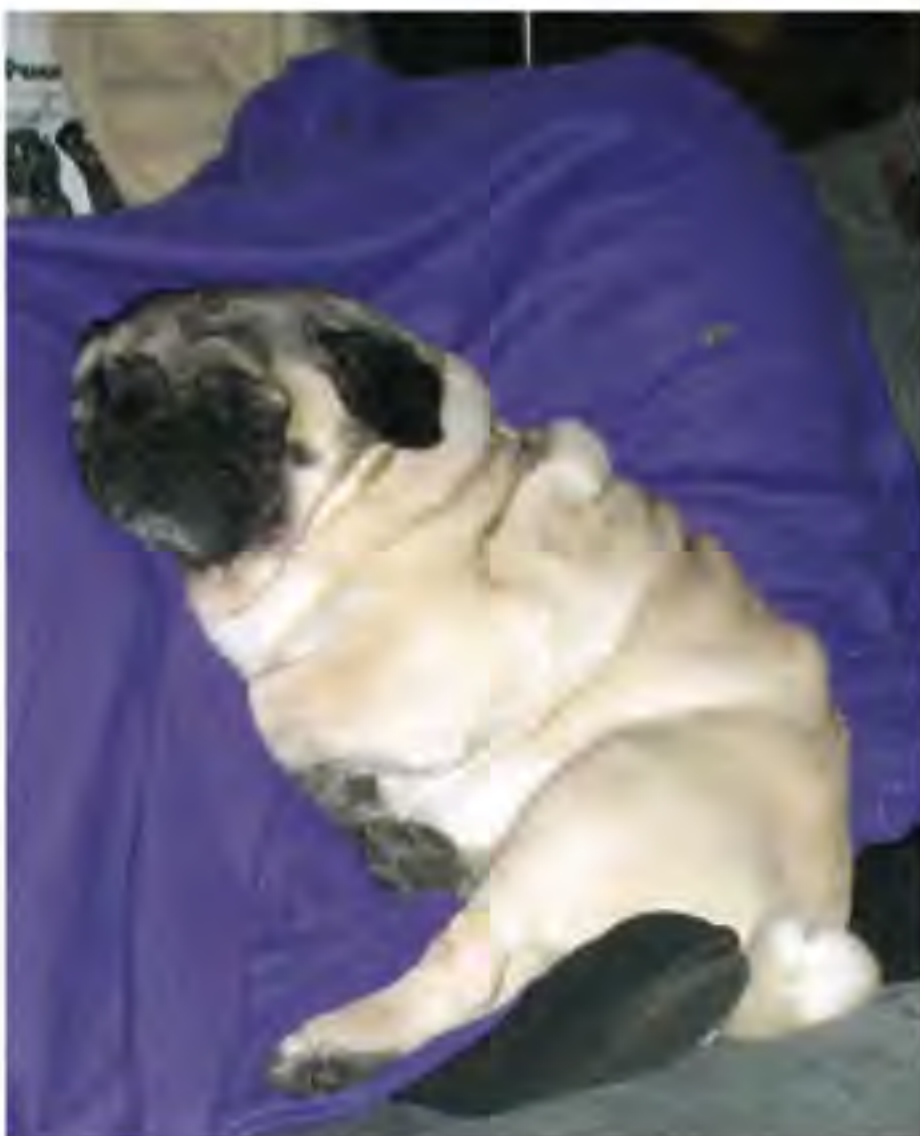
leon, depended on her Pug “Fortune” to carry secret messages under his collar to her family while she was imprisoned at Les Carmes. Queen Victoria of England had several pugs and to this day the Pug remains a favorite with royalty and discerning people all over the world. For many centuries the Pug has been bred to be a companion dog and a pleasure to his owners. Black Pugs were imported from China and exhibited for the first time in England in 1886. The American Kennel Club first recognized the Pug in 1885.

A pug is very moldable and wants to be very involved with your life and will adjust its life style to fit yours. As he loves

to please you he is easily trained. They do well in AKC Companion events like Obedience, Rally and Agility. They are known to be clowns and always make you laugh. If you don’t allow your pug to get overweight he can jump and retrieve very well. A Pug is always eager to please, eager to learn and eager to love. His biggest requirement is that you love him back.

Pugs have an even temperament, exhibiting stability, playfulness, litter mates with our granddaughter great charm, dignity, and an outgoing, loving disposition. If you want your Pug to runs the marathon with you – ok. If you want the Pug that just snuggles on your lap watching ‘Men

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Howdy's favorite pastime.



*“When not keeping any eye on you,  
THEIR FAVORITE PASTIME IS SLEEPING  
AND OF COURSE THEY SNORE.”*



Litter mates with our granddaughter.



in Black’ – ok. No other dog can equal the Pug in his virtues as a family pet. He appeals to mothers because of his natural cleanliness, intelligence, and the fact that he is a “Toy”. He appeals to fathers because he is a husky, sturdy dog needing very little upkeep. Children adore Pugs and Pugs adore children. They are not too delicate for fun and games. Older persons and shut-ins find them perfect as companions because their greatest need is to be by your side and accepted into your way of life.

They don’t like heat. If you are too warm and uncomfortable, they are also uncomfortable.

When not keeping any eye on you, their favorite pastime is sleeping and of course they snore.

Pugs are basically 24 hour companions. Once you own a Pug you will find it very difficult to not have one with you all the time.

**BIO**

*I grew up with a Dachshund, but my original AKC breeds were Pugs and Borzoi. My wife, Donnelle, and I obtained our first Pug in 1965 and our first Borzoi in 1968. I have been a member of the Pug Dog Club of America since 1970 and am a founding member of the Northern California Pug Club. I am also a “Life Member” of the Borzoi Club of America. Our first Borzoi Champion also earned a Utility degree in obedience.*

*I was active in the early days of open field coursing and open field coursed with Borzoi, Afghans, Salukis, Irish Wolfhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, and Whippets. I helped with the creation of ASFA (American Sighthound Field Association) and lure coursing equipment (the original was a hand crank lure). I was instrumental in working with ASFA to have AKC recognize lure coursing as an official AKC event.*

*In 1973, I was approved as an AKC Licensed Handler. I remained active as an all-breed professional dog handler until retiring from handling in 1999 to become an AKC approved judge. I have shown and finished champions in breeds from every group. I have owned Pug, Borzoi, Papillion, Belgian Sheepdog, Labrador Retriever, Dachshund, Border Terrier, and Whippet.*

*I am presently approved by AKC to judge all Sporting breeds, all Hound breeds, all Herding breeds, plus Pugs and Papillions, all Miscellaneous breeds, Best In Show and all breed Junior Showmanship.*

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**S**everal years ago we were at a dog show with Rowdy (CH. Glory’s Rowdy Moran, CD). We were handling at the time and while we were setting up our pens there was a class of young students who came to look at all the dogs. Rowdy went and greeted all the children. There was one young girl who obviously was afraid of dogs as she held her hands close to her chest and did not move. Rowdy went to the little girl and just sat beside her. He did not try to jump on her or anything. In a little while the little girl lowered her hand and petted him on the head. By the end of the day the little girl came back to Rowdy and was holding him and loving him. It really was wonderful to see just what intelligence he possessed and knew exactly what to do. He helped that little girl to become a dog lover.