

Your Quick 'Healthy Puppy' Checklist

These are the basics of what you can expect to see in a healthy puppy:

CLEAR EYES

Bright and clear, no discharge, redness or tearing.

CLEAN NOSE

No discharge or crusting

CLEAN EARS

No redness, irritation, discharge, crusting or bad odor

STURDY BODY

Sturdy and compact, not skinny or with disproportionately distended belly.

SHINY, CLEAN COAT

No bare patches or areas of redness/ inflammation. No sign of dried feces on rear (which could indicate diarrhea).

GOOD ENERGY LEVEL

Puppies vary in personality and energy, but a healthy puppy is bright, alert and playful. A little shyness isn't a problem, but lethargy or dullness could be.

FRIENDLY

Some puppies are bold, others more cautious and both are normal. But a pup who tries to avoid all contact or gets snippy if approached is not a good choice.

HEALTHY GUMS

Should be pink and moist (may have darker pigment depending on breed/coloring). Rubbery-feeling gums could indicate dehydration and very pale/white gums could indicate a worm infestation or illness.

NORMAL RANGE OF MOVEMENT

Puppies should run, jump, play and tremble without issue. There shouldn't be limping, stiffness or signs of limited motion.

FIRM, REGULAR STOOLS

Diarrhea is often the first sign of many canine diseases, some of them can be very serious in puppies.

GOOD APPETITE

Loss of appetite is another common sign of illness in puppies. A healthy puppy will have a good appetite, although obviously there are variations between pups.

To get more detailed information you can check out these links to full pages/articles on my website:

<https://www.fidosavvy.com/puppy-health.html>

<https://www.fidosavvy.com/a-sick-puppy.html>

<https://www.fidosavvy.com/dog-illnesses.html>

<https://www.fidosavvy.com/puppy-diarrhea.html>

<https://www.fidosavvy.com/puppy-hair-loss.html>