

Puppy Love

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Why is a Dog's Nose Always Wet?



According to legend, God bestowed cold, wet noses on dogs for saving Noah's Ark from sinking. As the story goes, two dogs patrolling the ark discovered water pouring through a hole in the hull. The quick-witted dogs immediately went into action. One of the courageous dogs stuck his nose in the small hole to keep water from flooding the ark and the other dog ran off to alert Noah. The ark was quickly repaired, the brave dogs had saved the day. For their actions, God made a cold, wet nose a symbol of good health for a dog. Legend aside, a dog's nose secretes a thin layer of mucous when it sniffs the air that absorbs scent chemicals. When the dog licks its nose to sample the chemicals it allows the smell to permeate to their olfactory glands in the roof of their mouth. If your little doxie is a big sniffer he is usually going to have a wet nose.



Cooper is enjoying spending the holidays with his family in New Jersey.

The Warm Nose Myth



According to Dr. Marks, at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, the moistness of a dog's nose is not an indicator of health. "In a very dehydrated dog, yes, the nose might be dry," he says. "But dogs can have a moist nose because they're healthy, and they can have a moist nose when they are seriously ill or have suffered a critical injury. It's just not a reliable sign." Normally the temperature of a dog's nose fluctuates day to day, even hour to hour. It is not known exactly why, but it generally accepted that a dog's environment can play a significant role in its "nose control." Some of the leading causes leading to a dry nose include:

- Extreme Weather – sun exposure can lead to sunburn, dry heat can cause dry skin.
- Allergies – foods and chemical exposure are always suspect, but plastic food bowls is a strong possibility.
- Dehydration – can occur year round, always make water available throughout the day.
- Underlying Medical Issues – canine skin disorder is top of the list.



Time to See the Doctor...

If your dog has a dry, red nose or the nasal skin is flaking.

If your dog's nose runs and has bubbly, thick, yellow, green or black mucus.

If your dog's nose is cracked, has scabs or sores, he may have a skin disorder.