

# French Bulldog Club of NSW Inc Championship Show 16/9/2017

## Judge's Critique

Writing up this critique has given me time to reflect on a wonderful judging experience, so once again, I would like to thank the committee and members of the French Bulldog Club of NSW Inc for the invitation to judge their 63<sup>rd</sup> Championship Show. It was a great honour. I would also like to say how impressed I was by the fact that the people in your breed appear to be so supportive of the club, giving me a delightful entry on the day. The exhibitors' sportsmanship was refreshing to see. The quality of the entry was also very pleasing, and in every class I could find numbers of typical, sound dogs exhibiting the breed hallmarks, and I think this is reflected in a largely positive critique from me. There are a couple of things I feel need watching, such as hindquarters that are too straight and lack strength, and toplines that are either too roached or too flat. Heads on the whole were very good, but like my own breed, some mouths need work. Overall, I was impressed by expression, temperament and generally movement was sound. I did not see too many with breathing difficulties, even though the day was quite warm. To an outsider, it looks like the French Bulldog is in very good hands!

### Class 1:

1. Exhibit 4: Quality pied puppy with correct overall shape, cobby body and excellent strong, straight bone in front. Correct, gently roached topline. Very typical, well proportioned square head with deep muzzle, open nostrils and good mouth. Pleasing expression from dark, round, well placed eyes. Ears were correct in shape and size. Moved soundly. A most promising puppy I was happy to make Best Baby in Show.

2. Exhibit 3: A 13 week old brindle puppy giving a lot away in age and experience to the first placed puppy. Energetic and happy, he has all the makings of a typical dog with excellent head, correct bat ears, and well-placed, dark eyes. Good mouth, balanced deep muzzle. When settled, moved soundly.

3. Exhibit 6: Although 13 weeks old as well, just the baby of the class, being slightly smaller and finer in bone than second place. Still showed correct overall compact shape with balanced angulation. Head was typical with good turn up, cheeky expression and medium sized bat ears. Hard to assess on the move today.

### Class 2:

1. Exhibit 9: Excellent fawn puppy with sturdy, compact and solid appearance. Excellent straight, strong bone, with balanced proportions, a gently roached topline and an excellent hindquarter. Fine, smooth coat in excellent condition. Very pleasing head with a square appearance, good depth and breadth of muzzle, and excellent dark round eye and expression. Moved with freedom.

2. Exhibit 8: Well marked 7 month old pied puppy. Not quite the overall balance of the first place, being slightly longer in body and loin. Well arched topline. Typical head with excellent, well shaped and placed bat ears. Muzzle could have more width to balance the square skull. Showed some tongue on occasion. Moved soundly.

### Class 3:

1. Exhibit 13: 9 month old pied dog with excellent compact, cobby body, and good strong, straight bone. Excellent, gently roached topline and overall balance. Upper arm could have a little

more return. Head is very typical with excellent bat ears, correct turn up and lively expression. Moved soundly.

2. Exhibit 11: Another typical dog with much to like. 11 month old brindle dog, well proportioned and correct shape, being slightly broader at front than rear. Slightly longer in loin than first place. Correct, gently roached topline. Typical head with well developed cheeks and pleasing balance between square skull and strong muzzle. Correct turn up. Eye could be slightly darker. Movement was sound.

3. Exhibit 15: Short cobby dog of 9 months old. Not the front construction of other two dogs, needing a little more return of upper arm and fill of chest to make him cleaner coming towards me on the move. Pleasing head with dark, round, well placed eyes giving correct expression. Ears could be slightly higher set to make them more parallel when alert.

#### **Class 4:**

1. Exhibit 19: Quality brindle dog of excellent overall type. Compact and solid, well proportioned with good bone and shape. Excellent front. Topline had just enough roach. Rear end could do with slightly more angulation and development of second thigh, but he used what he had in balanced, sound movement. Excellent head and expression from dark, round, well placed eyes and correct bat ears.

2. Exhibit 22: Fawn dog of correct overall shape and balanced proportion. Good bone for size. Roached topline. Typical square head with well developed cheeks and sufficient balance from muzzle. Correctly placed, round eye was dark enough to give good expression, and bat ears were well placed.

3. Exhibit 21: Typical, showy pied dog who excelled in overall balance and proportion, showing this in his free and flowing side gait. Correct, gently roached topline. Head was typical, with well-developed cheeks and correct turn up, but a little over wrinkled for me, and his muzzle could have been broader to provide more balance with skull.

#### **Class 5:**

1. Exhibit 25: Quality, sturdy pied dog of excellent overall breed type, excelling in balanced proportion, reflected in his shape, solid bone and excellent front and rear assemblies. There was no exaggeration, and this showed in his free flowing, sound movement. Excellent roached topline. Front bone straight enough. Very typical, square head with flat skull and developed cheeks. Good width of underjaw. Dark, round, expressive eye. Correctly shaped and sized bat ears could, for perfection, be slightly higher set. An impressive young dog who performed well to take the RCC and opp. Best Intermediate in Show.

2. Exhibit 27: Very typical, compact brindle dog with enough bone for size. Correct, gently roached topline and pleasing overall shape, but could do with more development of his hindquarter for better balance, although he moved soundly. Excellent head type with good balance between muzzle and skull, well-developed cheeks, an interested expression coming from correctly placed, dark eye and excellent bat ears. Showed well.

3. Exhibit 29: Another very typical brindle dog, being sturdy and strong. Larger overall, he has excellent bone and a correctly roached topline. I'd like him slightly shorter in the loin and more developed in the rear for overall balance. Excellent head type, with outstanding combination of muzzle/skull balance, turn up, eyes and ears giving him a lovely expression.

### **Class 10:**

1. Exhibit 34: Quality dog, of smaller size but very compact and solid. Typical roached topline. Correct front, and just enough development of rear end to give him efficient and sound movement. Very pleasing head and expression with well developed muzzle and excellent placement of dark eyes. Underjaw had good width although mouth could be tidier. Excellent bat ears.
2. Exhibit 31: Another quality dog exhibiting correct overall breed type. Lovely size, bone and compact shape, but although he had a gently roached topline on the stack, he just levelled out on the move, not holding his shape. Head was square and well developed with excellent expression from dark, well shaped and placed eyes and correct bat ears.
- 3: Exhibit 30: Overall a typical dog showing some very good features for the breed. Solid bone, but lower and longer than the other two, needing a slightly shorter loin to make him more compact. Roached topline. Typical head with correct expression from dark eye and well placed bat ears. Movement could be truer.

### **Class 11:**

1. Exhibit 35: Quality fawn dog who excelled in overall construction and shape appropriate for this breed. Solid and compact, with excellent bone, no exaggeration and sound, free flowing movement. Powerful, arched neck, and a rounded and muscular body. Fine, smooth coat in excellent condition. Head was very typical, with excellent balance between a square skull, well developed cheeks, strong muzzle and correct turn up. Alert expression coming from dark, well placed, good sized, round eye. Bat ears that were set high and when alert, were just large enough. He showed himself to advantage, and won on his overall balance. I was pleased to be able to award him the dog CC and RUBIS.
2. Exhibit 37: Another quality dog of excellent breed type. Compact and solid, he has correct strong bone and a good topline, giving him a pleasing body shape. Would like more development behind to allow for a more free flowing movement. Excellent head, being well balanced and square, with a lovely expression. Ears were well placed of correct size.
3. Exhibit 38: Larger dog of excellent bone and substance, giving him a sturdy appearance. Well roached topline and balanced front and rear assemblies, giving him sound movement. Head was typical and strong with well-developed cheeks. Would like a slightly darker eye to just make expression more appealing.

### **Class 1A:**

1. Exhibit 41: Quality brindle puppy who showed like a veteran. Excellent overall shape, of balanced proportions. Good bone with correct topline and the makings of a strong rear end. Typical head with alert and cheeky expression from dark round eyes. Well-placed bat ears. Moved well for one so young.
2. Exhibit 42: A close up decision for this very promising brindle and white marked puppy with excellent bone and substance, giving a solid, cobby appearance. Very well proportioned, again with a strong rear. Very typical head with alert expression.
3. Exhibit 43: Another typical puppy with good size and substance giving a compact appearance. Correctly roached topline. Head is pleasing with excellent set and shape of moderate bat ears. Just lost out on expression from a smaller eye.

### **Class 2A: A pleasing class.**

1. Exhibit 53: Typical, strongly built puppy with solid bone and excellent body proportions. Well-balanced angulation both ends, with a gently roached topline. Body just short enough in loin for correct overall shape. Square head with well-developed cheeks, good development of muzzle with correct turn up. Eyes well placed, although could be slightly larger. Bat ears sufficiently high set. Movement was free and flowing, maintaining her shape.
2. Exhibit 54: Solid, cobby bitch with excellent bone, correct gently roached topline and low set tail. Very typical head of square appearance and good balance between muzzle and skull. Excellent mouth. Moved soundly, but without the purpose of first place.
3. Pied bitch of 8 months with just enough bone for size, giving some appearance of a cobby, well rounded outline. Balanced angulation that showed on the move, where she kept her topline. Typical head with excellent bat ears. Eye could be slightly darker.

### **Class 3A:**

1. Exhibit 61: Quality fawn bitch of excellent balanced proportions, and the substance and bone to give her a cobby appearance. Absolutely correct topline. Very good front with appropriate fill of chest. Very typical head, being square with good balance between skull and well developed muzzle. Excellent sound and free movement.
2. Exhibit 59: Very typical pied bitch shown professionally in outstanding coat and condition. Excellent overall breed type with very cobby body and good bone, although her loin was almost too short, and top line could do with slightly more arch. Not as sound coming towards me than first place. Very typical head with pleasing, alert expression.

### **Class 4A: A strong class.**

1. Exhibit 66: Quality bitch of excellent breed type, with solid, well rounded cobby body, well balanced throughout with correct bone. Moved soundly up and back and going around. Clean, square head with well developed cheeks and good width of muzzle. Large round, dark eye and correctly placed and sized bat ears giving excellent expression.
2. Exhibit 72: Another excellent bitch of some quality, compact and sound, with excellent bone, feet and strength of body. Typical roached topline that she held on the move. Pleasing head of square and balanced proportions, excellent dark, round, well placed eyes with alert expression. Slightly too much wrinkling over nose. Large bat ears, well placed.
3. Exhibit 69: Smaller bitch of excellent overall breed type. Very compact with enough bone for size. Good topline that she held when moving soundly around the ring. Pleasing, typical head with excellent balance between skull and well developed muzzle, round, dark eye and correct bat ears.

### **Class 5A:**

1. Exhibit 80: Outstanding pied bitch of great quality and balance. Her sturdy, compact, totally unexaggerated outline, for me, showed the shape I was looking for as correct breed type. Lovely substance, with good bone, gently roached topline, low set tail established an outline that she maintained on the move. Her movement was very sound up and back, and she was free and flowing going around. Excellent head type with square appearance, blocky, well-developed muzzle, open nostrils, outstanding pigment, eyes and expression, and correct size and set of bat

ears. An excellent mouth with broad underjaw completed the picture. For me, on the day, she was the total package, and I was delighted to award her the Bitch CC and BIS.

2. Exhibit 74: Quality brindle bitch with compact, solid appearance, excellent bone and balanced angulation both ends. Strong, gently roached topline that she kept as she moved soundly around the ring. Very typical head with excellent expression from clean skull, well developed cheeks, slight up turn of jaw, dark round eyes and correct bat ears.

3. Exhibit 81: Very compact, solid bitch of excellent size and well rounded, muscular body with enough bone. Excellent head type with dark eyes, correct turn up, and well set bat ears. Moved soundly up and back, but just not the overall balance of the first two going around the ring.

#### **Class 10A:**

1. Exhibit 89: Strong, solid brindle bitch well up to size. Excellent bone, balanced angulation both ends and correct topline and tail set. Moved soundly, showing some freedom. Typical head with particularly excellent expression, well developed cheeks and correct turn up. Muzzle is well developed in depth and breadth. Good mouth.

2. Exhibit 85: Close decision for first place, this was another bitch of excellent breed type, being very solid and compact with strong development of rear quarters. Topline was slightly roached. Very typical head with supple wrinkling, fine skin, balanced muzzle and correct ear set and shape. Moved soundly.

3. Exhibit 83: Excellent smaller sized bitch of overall balance that showed in sound, flowing movement going around. Chest needs a little more fill, to give truer movement coming towards. Excellent lustrous coat and condition. Very pleasing head with good expression from dark, well placed eye and correct bat ears. Muzzle could do with slightly more depth, and a more square underjaw.

#### **Class 11A:**

1. Exhibit 91: Shown in excellent condition, this is a quality brindle bitch of excellent breed type. Very well proportioned with excellent bone for size, balanced, moderate angulation and correct, gently roached topline. Lovely head with supple fine skin/wrinkling, clean, square skull with enough development of muzzle to give correct balance. Expression is alert from dark, well placed eyes and excellent bat ears. Moved well and I was pleased to award her the RCC.

2. Exhibit 96: Compact and solid bitch with excellent balance and bone. Just enough roach to topline to give typical body shape. Excellent head type of square appearance, well developed cheeks and muzzle for correct balance. Well placed bat ears. Eyes could be slightly darker, although expression was alert. Moved soundly.

3. Exhibit 93: Very well constructed fawn bitch of good size and solid, compact appearance, with correctly roached topline and low set tail, giving typical overall shape. Head typical and square, but I found her slightly hard in expression, and her well-placed ears could have been slightly more rounded on top. Moved freely.

#### **Class Neuter Dog:**

1. Exhibit 98: 8 year old pied dog, well presented in excellent lustrous coat and condition. Very well proportioned throughout, with correct topline, excellent bone and well balanced angulation both ends. Very pleasing head with alert expression from dark, well-placed eyes, good turn up and excellent bat ears. Moved soundly up and back, and freely around the ring. Best Neuter in Show.

2. Exhibit 97: Fawn dog of good overall breed type and balanced proportions. Enough bone for size. Correct topline but could be slightly shorter in coupling. Typical head of square appearance, excellent set, shape and size of bat ears. Eye could be darker.

3. Exhibit 100: 3 year old fawn dog with good bone, giving a solid overall appearance. Had a well-roached topline, but he was too long in loin to give the compact, cobby look required. Head typical, but giving a slightly rounded appearance, with bat ears needing to be set slightly higher on skull. Moved freely.

Mark Johnston