

EXTENSION TO THE FRENCH BULLDOG BREED STANDARD



January 2016

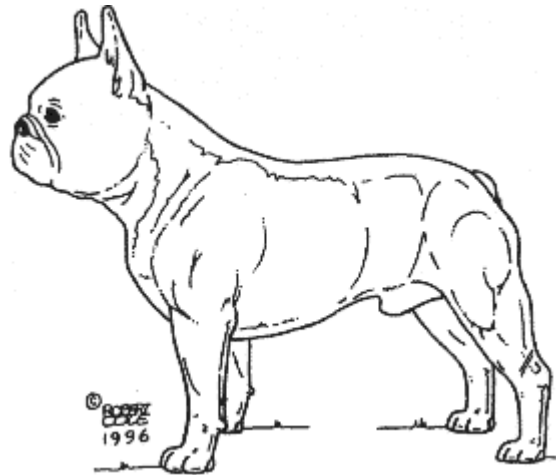
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FRENCH BULLDOG BREED STANDARD

Updated December 2015



A breed standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament, and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function with soundness essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be mindful of features which could be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

General Appearance

Sturdy, compact, solid, small dog with good bone, short, smooth coat. No point exaggerated, balance essential. Dogs showing respiratory distress highly undesirable.

Characteristics

Full of courage, yet with clown-like qualities. Bat ears and short tail characteristic features of the breed.

Temperament

Vivacious, deeply affectionate, intelligent.

Head and Skull

Head square in appearance and in proportion to dog's size. Skull nearly flat between ears, domed forehead. The skin covering the skull and forehead should be supple enough to allow fine wrinkling when the dog is alert. Well defined muzzle, broad, deep and set back, muscles of cheeks well developed. Stop well defined. Lower jaw deep, square, broad, slightly undershot and turned up. Nose black and wide, relatively short, with open nostrils and line between well defined. Lips black, thick, meeting each other in centre, completely hiding teeth. Upper lip covers lower on each side with plenty of cushion, never so exaggerated as to hang too much below level of lower jaw.

Eyes

Preferably dark and matching. Moderate size, round, neither sunken nor prominent, showing no white when looking straight forward; set relatively wide apart and on same level as the stop.

Ears

'Bat ears', of medium size, wide at base, rounded at top; set high, carried upright and parallel, a sufficient width of skull preventing them being too close together; skin soft and fine, orifice as seen from the front, showing entirely. The opening to the ear canal should be wide and open.

Mouth

Slightly undershot. Teeth sound and regular, but not visible when the mouth is closed. Tongue must not protrude.

Neck

Powerful, well arched and thick, of moderate length.

Forequarters

Legs set wide apart, straight boned, strong, muscular and short.

Body

Cobby, muscular and well rounded with deep wide brisket and ribs well sprung. Strong, gently roached back. Good 'cut up'. The body while broader at the shoulders should narrow slightly beyond the ribs to give definition to the relatively short, thick, strong, muscular loin.

Hindquarters

Legs strong, muscular and relatively longer than forelegs with moderate angulation. Absolute soundness essential. Hocks well let down.

Tail

Undocked, short, set low, thick at root, tapering quickly towards tip, preferably straight, and long enough to cover anus. Never curling over back nor carried gaily.

Gait/Movement

Free and flowing. Soundness of movement of the utmost importance.

Coat

Texture fine, smooth, lustrous, short and close.

Colour

The only correct colours are : Brindle; Fawn; Pied;

Brindle – Colour pattern caused by a mixture of black hairs and fawn hairs. White markings permitted provided that brindle predominates. Eye rims, eyelashes and lips black.

Fawn – Clear, self-coloured fawn with or without a black mask. White markings permitted, provided that fawn predominates. Cream and red shades less desirable. Eye rims, eyelashes and lips black.

Pied – Brindle Pied : White predominates with brindle patches. (The brindle as defined above.) Fawn Pied : White predominates with fawn patches.

Whites are classified with peds for show purposes.

In peds, eye rims, eyelashes and lips should preferably be black.

Any white in the above colours should be clear with no ticking or spots.

All other colours highly undesirable, including solid black, black and white, black and tan, mouse, grey/blue, liver/chocolate and all patterns of these colours.

Size

Ideal weight dogs : 12.5 kgs (28 lbs); bitches : 11 kgs (24 lbs). Soundness not to be sacrificed to smallness.

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Note

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



French Bulldogs became popular among the Parisien *ladies of the night* and quickly gained popularity with French society. Artists, businessmen and aristocrats owned frenchies. Toulouse Lautrec and Degas painted pictures that included French Bulldogs. Colette wrote stories about her beloved frenchies. Wealthy Americans visiting Paris fell victim to the charms of the frenchie and took them home to America.

The French Bulldog is one of only a few breeds which owes its existence to the efforts of breeders in different countries - France, America, England and Germany. The first breed club was founded in 1880 in Paris with the first registration dates from 1885. The first breed standard was established in 1898, the year in which the French Kennel Club recognised the French Bulldog breed.

In America the breed was first exhibited at Westminster in 1896. The French Bulldog Club of America was formed the following year in 1897. England followed with the establishment of The French Bulldog Club of England in 1902. The Internationaler Klub für Französische Bulldoggen was founded in Germany in 1909.

The French Bulldog was originally seen with both rose & erect ears. America favoured the erect ear and it was largely due to the Americans that the unique 'Bat Ear' was adopted.

In Australia the breed was relatively rare and it was not until 1983 that there were sufficient numbers to form a breed club. The French Bulldog Club of NSW was founded in 1983 being fully affiliated on 15 November 1985 and was the first breed club for frenchies in Australia. Breed clubs have since been established in Victoria and Queensland.



Nottingham Frank circa 1849

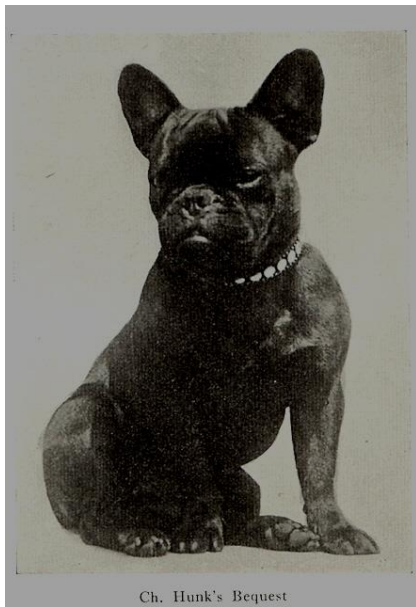
Toy Bulldog



Ch Nellcote Gamin

Born in France circa 1904

Regarded as the most influential sire
in the breed's development in
America.

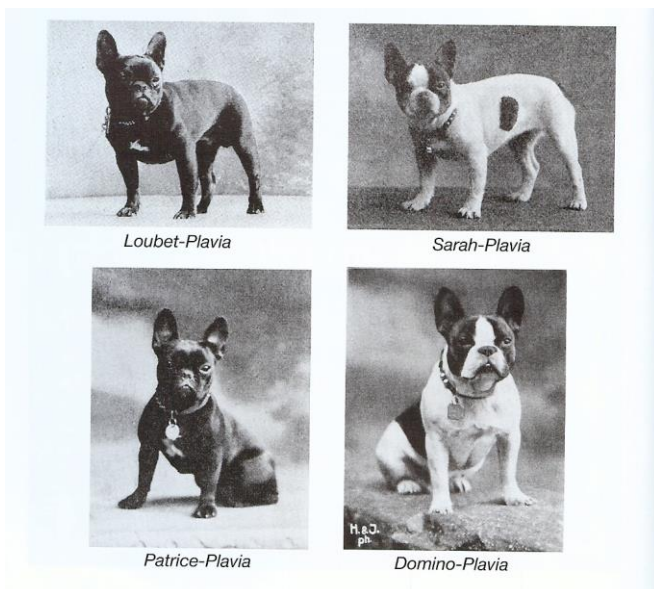


Ch. Hunk's Bequest

Ch Hunk's Bequest

Son of the great Nellcote Gamin

Hunk was bred in America arrived in England in
1913 and became the cornerstone of the breed in
the UK.



Loubet-Plavia

Sarah-Plavia

Patrice-Plavia

Domino-Plavia

Max Hartenstein's Plavia French Bulldogs circa 1904

One of the first breeders
in Germany to import
French Bulldogs from France

Extension to the French Bulldog Breed Standard

Comparison of the French Bulldog Breed Standards (UK, FCI, USA)

GENERAL APPEARANCE

UK - Sturdy, compact, solid, small dog with good bone, short, smooth coat. No point exaggerated, balance essential. Dogs showing respiratory distress highly undesirable.

FCI - Typically a small size molossian. Powerful dog for its small size, short, stocky, compact in all its proportions, smooth-coated, with a short face, a snub nose, erect ears and a naturally short tail. Must have the appearance of an active, intelligent, very muscular dog, of a compact build with a solid bone structure. No point is exaggerated compared to the others, which could spoil the dog's general harmony, in appearance and in movement.

USA - The French Bulldog has the appearance of an active, intelligent, muscular dog of heavy bone, smooth coat, compactly built, and of medium or small structure. Expression alert, curious and interested. Any alteration other than removal of dewclaws is considered mutilation and is a disqualification.

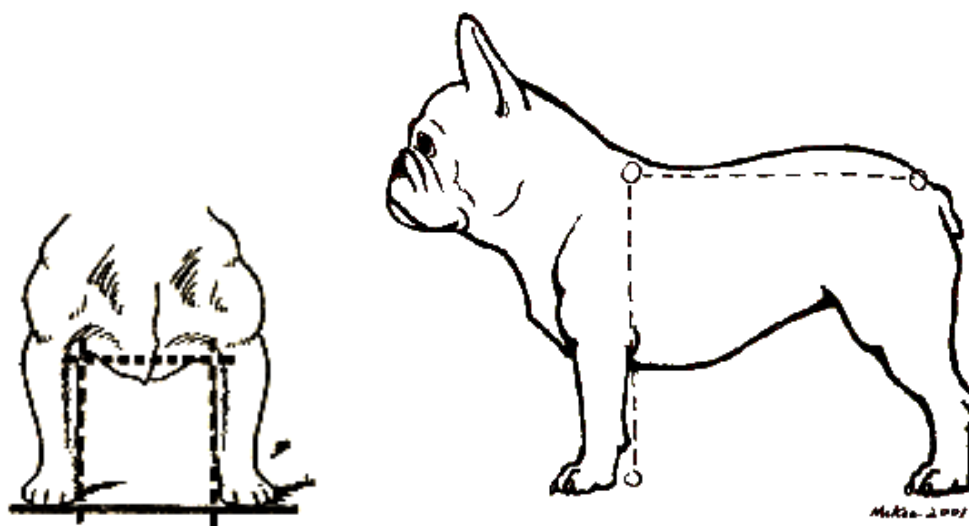
Discussion

A 'molossoid' [Mastiff type] dog is typically one with a large head and strong bone. The head "has a deep, abrupt stop and a muzzle that is strong but proportionally shorter than the capacious back skull". This is a general description of heads of this breed type. Typically these breeds are short coated. The French Bulldog is a miniature molossoid and still retains the larger head and strong bone for the size. The UK and FCI standards call for a small, sturdy and compact dog which is powerful for its size and has strong (solid) bone. Whilst there are no size limits to the breed under the UK and USA standards, the FCI standard was amended on 17.4.2015 to set a size of 27-35 cm for males and 24-32 cm for females with a tolerance of 1 cm above and below. Size is generally limited by the weight restrictions (8-14kg in the FCI standard, 11-12.5kg UK standard, not to exceed 28 lbs [12.5 kg] under the USA standard).

*An important description to remember from both a conformation and health viewpoint is - **no point exaggerated, balance essential.***



The other point in all 3 standards is that this is a compact dog. When viewed from the front, ideally the straight forelegs and bottom of the chest should form a square. From the side, the length from the wither to the ground should be approximately equal to the length from the wither to base of tail.



CHARACTERISTICS

UK - Full of courage, yet with clown-like qualities. Bat ears and short undocked tail essential features of the breed.

FCI - ***IMPORTANT PROPORTIONS:** The length of the body – between the point of the shoulder and the point of the buttocks – slightly surpasses the height at the withers. The length of muzzle is about 1/6 of the total length of the head.*

USA - **Proportion and symmetry.** All points are well distributed and bear good relation one to the other; no feature being in such prominence from either excess or lack of quality that the animal appears poorly proportioned. **Influence of sex.** In comparing specimens of different sex, due allowance is to be made in favor of bitches, which do not bear the characteristics of the breed to the same marked degree as do the dogs.

Note - A further section on proportions appears at the end of the USA standard giving a more exact ideal picture of body proportions. **Proportion.** Distance from withers to ground in good relation to distance from withers to onset of tail, so that animal appears compact, well-balanced and in good proportion. **Substance.** Muscular, heavy bone.

Discussion - Some of the characteristics are covered under the general appearance section, but the main points are highlighted in the UK standard. The stand out characteristics of the breed are the head type with its distinctive bat ears, the strong compact but balanced body structure with a short tail and the courageous but “clown-like” qualities. The proportion description of the FCI and USA standards give a good outline of the desired height to length proportions.

TEMPERAMENT

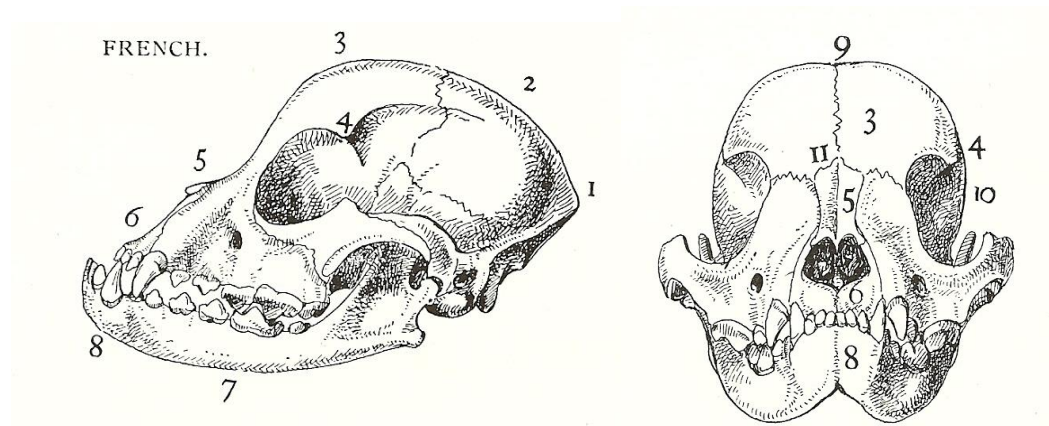
UK - Vivacious, deeply affectionate, intelligent.

FCI - Sociable, lively, playful, possessive and keen companion dog.

USA - Well behaved, adaptable, and comfortable companions with an affectionate nature and even disposition; generally active, alert and playful but not unduly boisterous.

Discussion – all of the above descriptions can apply to the breed, the UK standard is short and to the point.

HEAD AND SKULL



1. Occipital Crest or rear end of skull
2. Parietal bone or back part of skull
3. Frontal bone or fore part of forehead
4. Top part of bony cavity of the eye
5. Nasal bone
6. End of upper jaw bone
7. Centre of underjaw bone
8. Turn up of underjaw at end
9. Centre of upper part of skull
10. Proportional fullness of skull when compared to the British Bulldog
11. Relates to the furrow in the British Bulldog which is absent in the French Bulldog

UK - Head square in appearance and in proportion to dog's size. Skull nearly flat between ears, domed forehead. The skin covering the skull and forehead should be supple enough to allow fine wrinkling when the dog is alert. Well defined muzzle, broad, deep and set back, muscles of cheeks well developed. Stop well defined. Lower jaw deep, square, broad, slightly undershot and turned up. Nose black and wide, relatively short, with open nostrils and line between well defined. Lips black, thick, meeting each other in centre, completely hiding teeth. Upper lip covers lower on each side with plenty of cushion, never so exaggerated as to hang too much below level of lower jaw.

FCI - The head must be strong, broad and square, covered by the skin of the head which forms symmetrical folds and wrinkles, without excess.

CRANIAL REGION :

Skull : Broad, almost flat from ear to ear, domed forehead. Prominent superciliary arches, separated by a particularly developed furrow between the eyes. The furrow must not extend onto the skull. External occipital protuberance is barely developed.

Stop : Pronounced.

FACIAL REGION : The head of the Bulldog is characterised by a shortening of the maxillary-nasal part as well as a slight to moderate slope of the nose backwards. The nose is slightly upturned ("snub nose").

Nose : Black, broad, snubbed, with symmetrical and well opened nostrils, slanting towards the rear. The slope of the nostrils as well as the upturned nose must, however, allow normal nasal breathing.

Muzzle : Very short, broad, with concentric symmetrical folds.

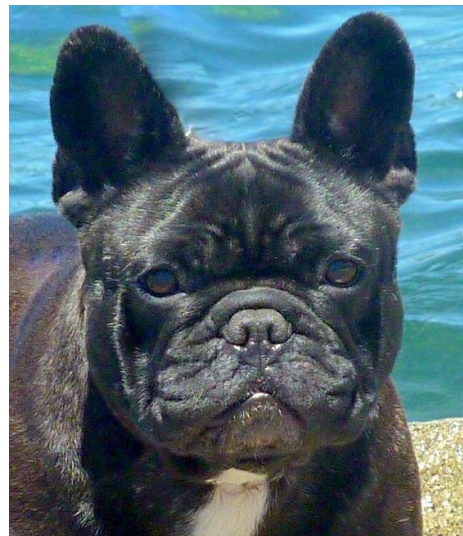
Cheeks : The muscles of the cheeks are well developed, but not prominent.

USA - Head large and square. The top of the **skull** flat between the ears; the forehead is not flat but slightly rounded. The **muzzle** broad, deep and well laid back; the muscles of the cheeks well developed. The **stop** well defined, causing a hollow groove between the eyes with heavy wrinkles forming a soft roll over the extremely short nose; nostrils broad with a well defined line between them. **Nose**. Black. Nose other than black is a disqualification, except in the case of the lighter coloured dogs, where a lighter colored nose is acceptable but not desirable. Flews black, thick and broad, hanging over the lower jaw at the sides, meeting the underlip in front and covering the teeth, which are not seen when the mouth is closed. The **underjaw** is deep, square, broad, undershot and well turned up.

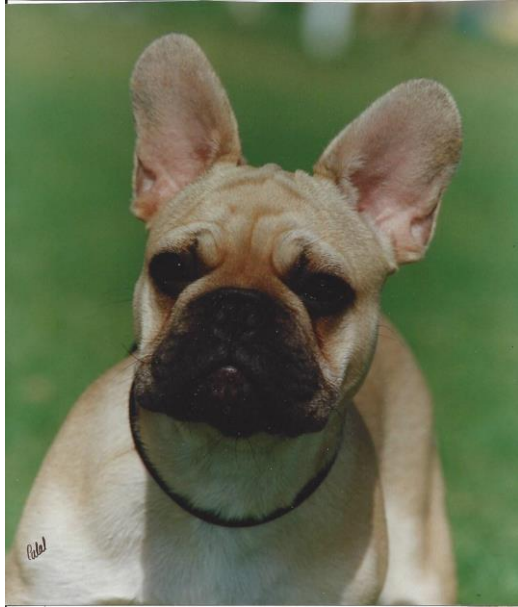
Discussion – each of the standards has some points to offer in understanding and looking at the head construction. Overall, the UK standard is easier to follow. The USA standard correctly highlights the nose colour- black.



Brindle Male



Brindle Female



Fawn Male Puppy



Fawn Female



Brindle Pied Male



Brindle Pied Female

EYES

UK - Preferably dark and matching. Moderate size, round, neither sunken nor prominent, showing no white when looking straight forward; set wide apart and on same level as the stop.

FCI - Clearly visible eyes, striking with lively expression, set low, quite far from the nose and the ears, dark coloured, rather large, rounded, showing no trace of white (sclera) when the dog is looking straight forward. Rims of eyelids must be black.

USA - Dark in color, wide apart, set low down in the skull, as far from the ears as possible, round in form, of moderate size, neither sunken nor bulging. In lighter colored dogs, lighter colored eyes are acceptable. No haw and no white of the eye showing when looking forward.

Discussion – due to the shortened skull, the eyes are round, moderately well sized, forward placed but set well apart. Due to the prominent skull, the eyes are relatively low set (around the vertical midline of the head). Ideally the eyes should be dark, and the eye rims must be black and tight.

EARS

UK - 'Bat ears', of medium size, wide at base, rounded at top; set high, carried upright and parallel, a sufficient width of skull preventing them being too close together; skin soft and fine, orifice as seen from the front, showing entirely. The opening to the ear canal should be wide and open.

FCI - Medium size, wide at the base and rounded at the top. Set high on the head, but not too close together, carried erect. The ear is open towards the front. The skin must be fine and soft to the touch.

USA - Known as the bat ear, broad at the base, elongated, with round top, set high on the head but not too close together, and carried erect with the orifice to the front. The leather of the ear fine and soft. Other than bat ears is a disqualification.

*Discussion – bat ears are a distinguishing feature of the breed. Medium sized ears, broad at the base with well rounded tips are a **highly desirable characteristic**. Set preferably high on the head but not too close.*

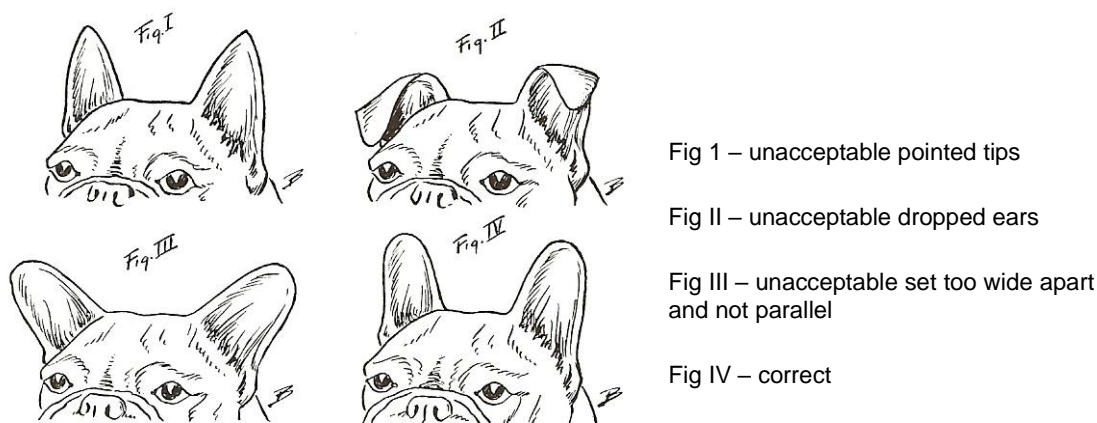


Fig 1 – unacceptable pointed tips

Fig II – unacceptable dropped ears

Fig III – unacceptable set too wide apart and not parallel

Fig IV – correct

MOUTH

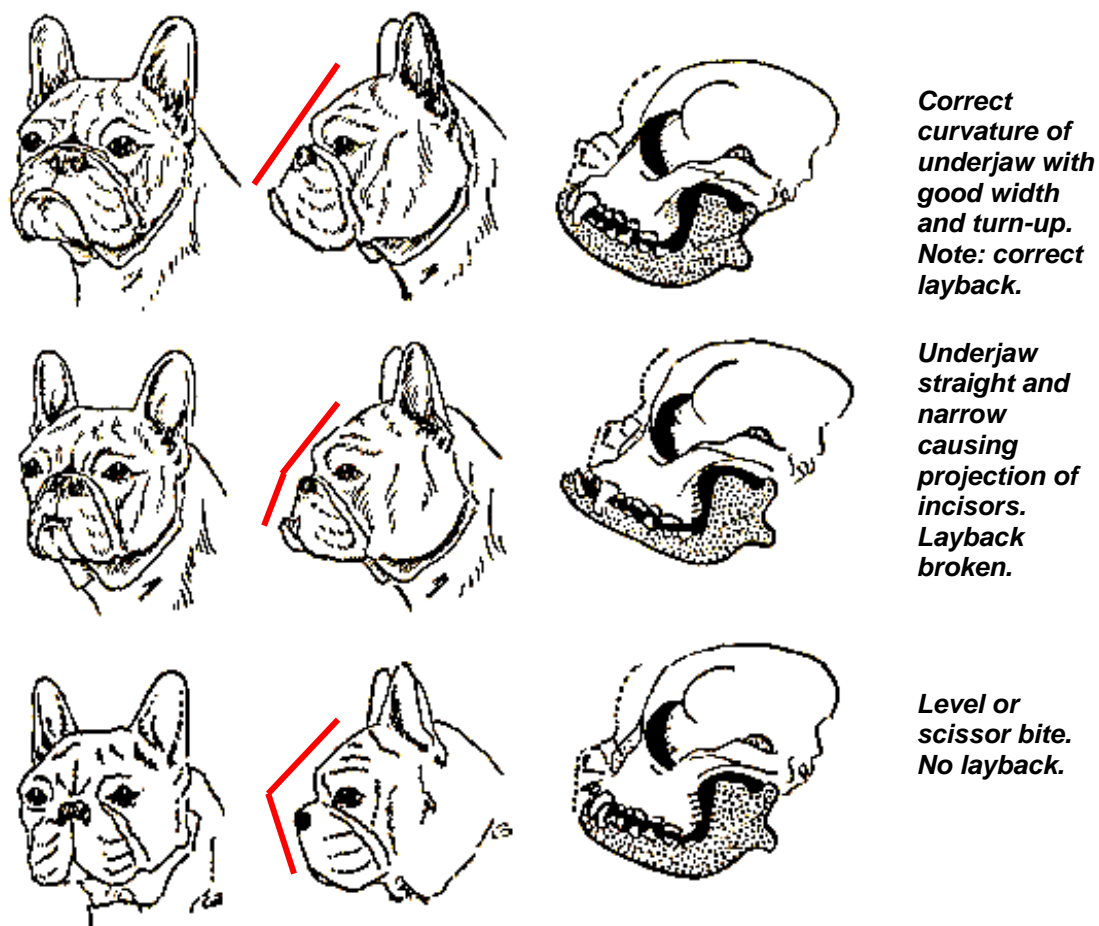
UK - Slightly undershot. Teeth sound and regular, but not visible when the mouth is closed. Tongue must not protrude.

FCI - Lips : Thick, a little loose and black. The upper lip meets the lower lip at its middle, completely covering the teeth. The profile of the upper lip is descending and rounded. Tongue must never show when the dog is not excited.

Jaws/Teeth : Broad, square, powerful. The lower jaw projects in front of the upper jaw and turns up. The arch of the lower incisors is rounded. The jaw must not show lateral deviations, or torsion. The gap between the incisors of the upper and the lower jaw should not be strictly delimited, the essential condition being that the upper and the lower lips meet to completely cover the teeth. The lower incisors surpass the upper incisors. Sufficiently developed incisive and canines. Complete bite is desirable.

USA - Flews. Black, thick and broad, hanging over the lower jaw at the sides, meeting the underlip in front and covering the teeth, which are not seen when the mouth is closed. The **underjaw** is deep, square, broad, undershot and well turned up.

Discussion – The teeth and tongue should not be visible when the mouth is closed. Equally the lips should not be too loose or pendulous such as to dip below the line of the lower jaw. The lower jaw should be strong and broad, arch slightly upwards at the front to form the well aligned slight overbite.



NECK

UK - Powerful, well arched and thick, of moderate length.

FCI - Short, powerful, slightly arched, without dewlap, broadens towards the shoulder.

USA - The **neck** is thick and well-arched with loose skin at the throat.

Discussion – here the standards differ in the length, but would suggest that the UK standard description is more correct. Too short a neck is usually associated with loaded or forward placed shoulders which are not desirable in the breed. The word powerful and well arched certainly applies as does the FCI standard of “without dewlap” – loose skin is allowed but certainly not to the point of a dewlap.

FOREQUARTERS

UK - Legs set wide apart, straight boned, strong, muscular and short.

FCI - Forelegs upright (and straight) seen in profile and from the front.

Shoulder : Must be well laid back.

Upperarm : Short, thick, muscular, slightly curved.

Elbows : Close and tight to the body.

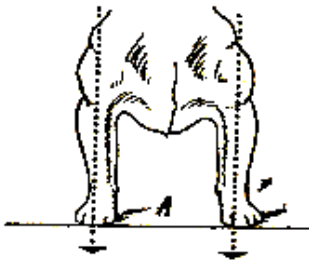
Forearm : Short, straight and muscular.

Carpus (Wrist) : Solid and short.

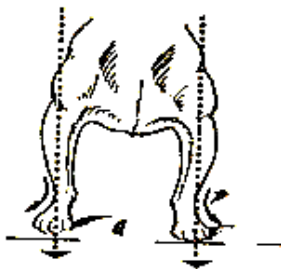
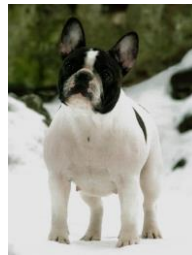
Metacarpus (Pastern) : Short and slightly oblique seen in profile.

USA - **Forelegs** are short, stout, straight, muscular and set wide apart. Dewclaws may be removed.

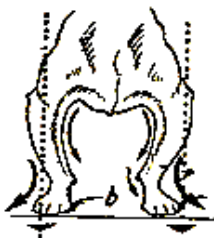
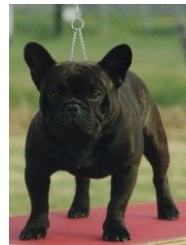
Discussion - viewed from the front, the front legs are straight and should not deviate. The front legs and the chest should ideally form a square outline in the adult dog.



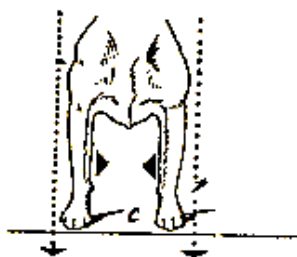
Correct



Weak pasterns



Cabriole



Narrow



BODY

UK - Cobby, muscular and well rounded with deep wide brisket and ribs well sprung. Strong, gently roached back. Good 'cut up'. The body while broader at the shoulders should narrow slightly beyond the ribs to give definition to the relatively short, thick, strong, muscular loin.

FCI - Topline : Rising progressively, but not excessively, from the withers towards the loin. That conformation – also called roach-back – is typical for the breed

Back : Broad and muscular, firm without slackness.

Loin : Short and broad and arched.

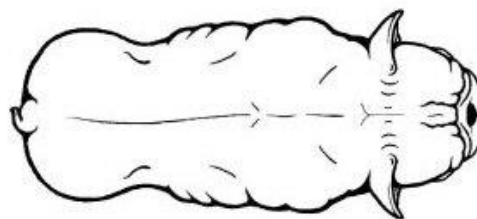
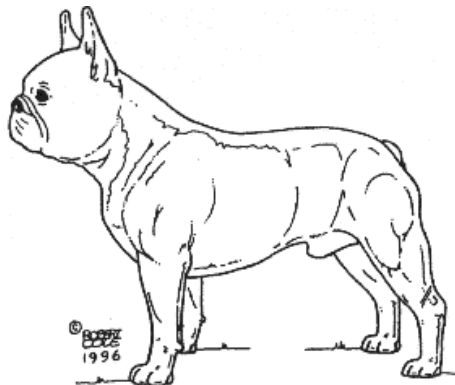
Croup : Well sloping.

Chest : Cylindrical and well let down (slightly under the elbows); very well sprung ribs, so-called "barrel shaped". Fore chest, broad and square-shaped, seen from the front.

Underline and belly : Tucked up but not whippety.

USA - The **back** is a roach back with a slight fall close behind the shoulders; strong and short, broad at the shoulders and narrowing at the loins. The **body** is short and well rounded. The **chest** is broad, deep, and full; well-ribbed with the belly tucked up.

Discussion – the line of the back is another characteristic of the French Bulldog. The correct topline shows a "slight" dip behind the withers rising gently to a "slight" roach over the loin [not in front of the loin]. The croup should be of a good length and sloping [not short and steep]. The FCI standard gives a clearer picture of the required topline and chest.



HINDQUARTERS

UK - Legs strong, muscular and longer than forelegs with moderate angulation. Absolute soundness essential. Hocks well let down.

FCI – General appearance : The hindlegs are strong and muscular, a little longer than the forelegs, thus raising the hindquarters. The legs are upright as seen both in profile and from behind.

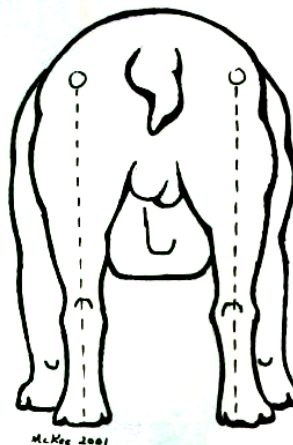
Thigh : Well muscled, firm..

Hock joint : Quite well let down, neither too angulated nor too straight. Tarsus : solid.

Metatarsus (Rear pastern) : Short.

USA - Hind legs are strong and muscular, longer than the forelegs, so as to elevate the loins above the shoulders. Hocks well let down.

Discussion – again the FCI standard is a little more informative of each section of the hindquarters. The French Bulldog should be quite powerful behind and the breed are on the whole, excellent jumpers, springing up onto sofas etc with little trouble. The hindquarters should be muscular, have good breadth of thigh, and not be too straight [moderate angulation] when viewed from the side as the standard calls for hocks well let down.



FEET

UK - Small, compact and placed in continuation of line of leg, with absolutely sound pasterns. Hind feet rather longer than the fore-feet. Toes compact; well knuckled; nails short, thick and preferably black.

FCI - Forefeet : Round, compact, of small dimension, i.e. “cat feet”, turning slightly outward. The toes are tight, nails short, thick and black.

Hindfeet : Round, compact, turning neither inward nor outward.

USA - (Forequarters) Feet are moderate in size, compact and firmly set.

Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short, stubby nails.

(Hindquarters) Feet are moderate in size, compact and firmly set.

Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short, stubby nails; hind feet slightly longer than forefeet.

Discussion – the feet are more moderate in size, so the USA description is probably more accurate. Small feet implies small relative to body size, whereas moderate indicates the feet are in proportion to size. The feet should be tight and compact, well knuckled both front and rear. Nails are preferably black. However, brindles carrying fawn or pied may have lighter nails; fawns carrying pied may have lighter nails; pied dogs may have white nails on white toes/feet.

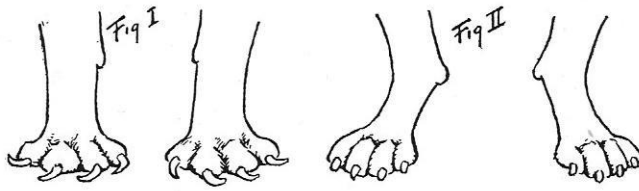


Fig I Splayed

Fig II Weak pasterns

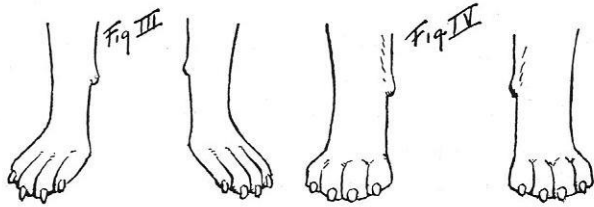


Fig III Hare foot

Fig IV Correct small compact foot with sound pasterns

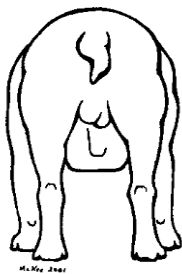
TAIL

UK - Undocked, short, set low, thick at root, tapering quickly towards tip, preferably straight, and long enough to cover anus. Never curling over back nor carried gaily.

FCI - Naturally short, ideally long enough to cover the anus, set low, rather straight, thick at the base and tapering at the tip.

USA - The **tail** is either straight or screwed (but not curly), short, hung low, thick root and fine tip; carried low in repose.

Discussion – the UK standard description is probably the clearest. The short undocked tail is a breed characteristic. The French Bulldog is born with a natural screw tail, it should never be docked – a docked tail is a disqualification point. Generally the tail is between 1-3 inches in length, thick at the base and tapering to a fine point. The tail is usually very kinked or “screwed” throughout its length. It should never be carried above the line of the back.



Correct tail set

Tail long enough to cover anus



Good length of tail but here tail is set too high because of the flat croup

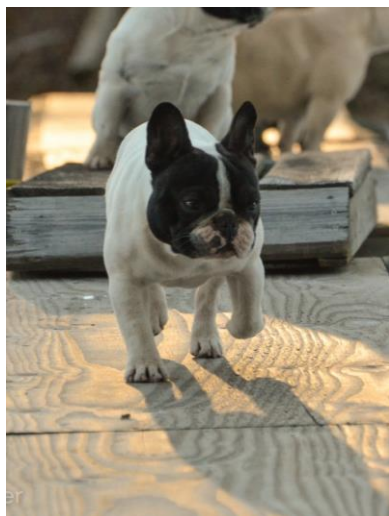
GAIT/MOVEMENT

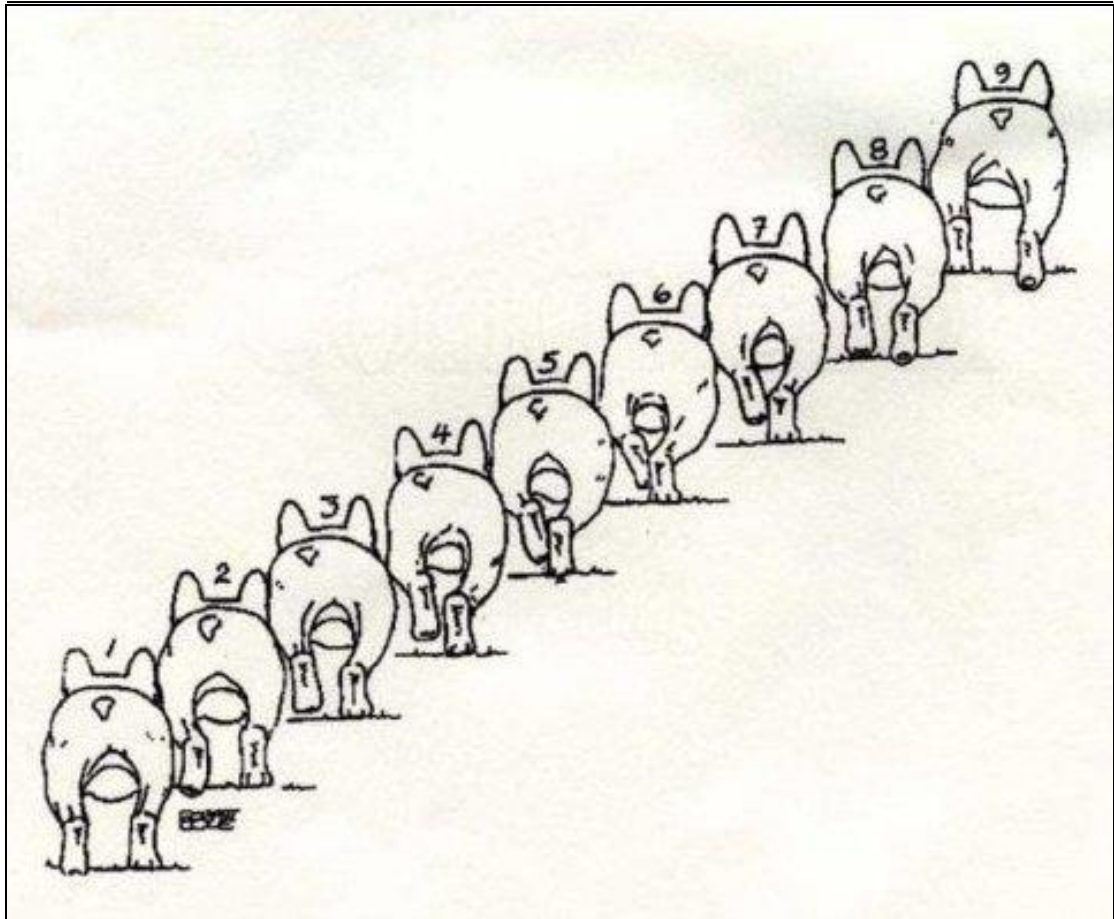
UK - Free and flowing. Soundness of movement of the utmost importance.

FCI - The legs moving parallel to the median plane of the body, whether seen in front or in profile. Free, powerful and smooth movement.

USA - Correct gait is double tracking with reach and drive; the action is unrestrained, free and vigorous.

Discussion – the action should be free and flowing, the legs moving parallel to the line of the body. The UK standard emphasises the need for soundness of movement. The USA standard emphasizes vigorous movement and echoes the FCI standard with a description of double tracking with reach and drive. Loaded fronts, loose elbows, cow hocks, lateral deviation of the knees or elbows are all highly undesirable.





This diagram shows the correct sequence of step and the slight roll seen from behind. One can see the roll in the changing position of the tail and the straightening of the hock as it lands.

COAT

UK - Texture fine, smooth, lustrous, short and close.

FCI - Hair : Smooth coat, close, glossy and soft, without undercoat.

USA - Coat is moderately fine, brilliant, short and smooth. Skin is soft and loose, especially at the head and shoulders, forming wrinkles.

Discussion – there is some variation between the standards on this issue – the UK standard would be the clearest and to the point. The “looseness of the coat” on the head and shoulders mentioned in the USA standard should not be taken to excess, rather minor wrinkles at most in these areas.

COLOUR

UK - The only correct colours are : Brindle; Fawn; Pied:

Brindle – Colour pattern caused by a mixture of black hairs and fawn hairs. White markings permitted provided that brindle predominates. Eye rims, eyelashes and lips black.

Fawn – Clear, self-coloured fawn with or without a black mask. White markings permitted, provided that fawn predominates. Cream and red shades less desirable. Eye rims, eyelashes and lips black.

Pied – Brindle Pied : White predominates with brindle patches. (The brindle as defined above). Fawn Pied : White predominated with fawn patches.

Whites are classified with peds for show purposes.

In peds, eye rims, eyelashes and lips should preferably be black.

All other colours highly undesirable, including solid black, black and white, black and tan, mouse, grey/blue, liver/chocolate and all patterns of these colours.

FCI - Colour : fawn, brindled or not, with or without white spotting.

Coat with colouring:

Brindle: Fawn coat moderately characterized by transversal dark brindling creating a 'tiger-marked' effect, strongly brindled coats must not cover out the fawn ground colour. A black mask may be present. Limited white spotting is admissible.

Fawn: Solid coat, from light fawn to dark fawn, sometimes presenting a paler colouring of the inclined parts, with or without a black mask, although masked subjects are preferred. Sometimes accompanied by limited white spotting.

Coat with white spotting:

Brindles with moderate or important white spotting: So-called 'ped', the spotting being ideally distributed over the entire subject. Some blotches on the skin are admissible.

Fawn with moderate or important white spotting: So-called 'fawn and white', the spotting being ideally distributed over the entire dog. Some blotches of the skin are tolerated. The nose is always black, in all coat colours, never brown or blue. The all-white subjects provided the edge of eyelids and nose are black – are admitted but not bred for, because of a risk of deafness.

USA - Acceptable colors: all brindle, fawn, white, brindle and white and any color except those which constitute disqualification. All colors are acceptable with exception of solid black, mouse, liver, black and tan, black and white and white and black which are disqualifications. Black means black without a trace of brindle.

*Discussion – in this area what **must** be remembered is that **all French Bulldogs must have black noses and lips.***

Permitted colours

- *All shades of fawn (cream and red shades less desirable),*
- *Brindle – from red/light brindle to black brindle- where there must be at least some fawn hairs present.*
- *Pied – both fawn and brindle peds. Peds include extreme whites where the majority of the dog is white with some fawn or brindle patches.*

*Colours that are not permitted for exhibition:- The best description of what is **not** desired is in the USA standard. This includes any dilute ie. Liver (chocolate) or Blue (mouse), be it of a solid colour, brindled or pied is not permitted. Neither are solid black dogs, black and tan (solid, brindled or pied), black and white or white and black – black means black without a trace of brindle (fawn) hairs.*

Occasionally there may be a ticking effect seen in pied and white dogs. This is considered a fault, usually in the degree to which it occurs. The cleaner white background coat is to be desired.

SIZE

UK - Ideal weight: dogs: 12.5 kgs (28 lbs); bitches: 11 kgs (24 lbs). Soundness not to be sacrificed to smallness.

FCI - Heights at the withers: Males 27-35 cm. Females 24-32 cm.

A deviation of 1 cm above and below the standard is tolerated.

Weight: Males 9-14 kg. Females 8-13 kg.

500 g more than the standard weight is allowed when the subject is typical.

USA - Size, Proportion, Substance

Weight. Not to exceed 28 pounds; over 28 pounds is a disqualification. **Proportion.** Distance from withers to ground in good relation to distance from withers to onset of tail, so that animal appears compact, well-balanced and in good proportion. **Substance.** Muscular, heavy bone.

*Discussion – the FCI standard gives a good range of permissible weights. Generally the adult males will be up to 2kg heavier than the females on average. Equally, the French Bulldog should **not** be too fine and/or light ie. less than 8kg.*

Due to the heaviness of bone, the French Bulldog cannot afford to be too large or they quickly exceed the desired weight range. The FCI standard now includes a height range which came into effect on 17.4.2015. The UK standard allows some small leniency for weight by the statement of “Soundness not to be sacrificed to smallness”.

FAULTS

UK - Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Note - Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

FCI – Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Faults:

- Strongly flecked with black brindle with white coat.
- Fawn and white coat strongly red speckled.
- In fawn coats, deep black trace extending along the spine.
- White stockings in brindle and fawns.
- Light-coloured nails.

Serious Faults :

- Overtyped, exaggerated breed characteristics.
- Muzzle too long or excessively short.
- Tongue visible when mouth is closed.
- Light eyes (hawk eye).
- Horizontal topline from withers to loin.
- Excessive depigmentation of the lips, nose, eyelids, the rim of which should never be entirely depigmented.
- Pincer bite.

Disqualifying Faults

- Aggressive or overly shy dog.
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities shall be disqualified.
- Lacks type: insufficient ethnic characteristics which result in the dog not really resembling other subjects of the breed.
- Completely closed nostrils.
- Torsion or lateral deviation of the jaw, resulting in the tongue constantly being visible.
- Dog with lower incisors articulating behind upper incisors.
- Dog with permanently visible canines (fangs), mouth being closed.
- Heterochromic eyes (wall eye).
- Colour of nose other than black.
- Ears not carried erect.
- Taillessness or ingrown tail.
- Dewclaw on hindquarters.
- Reversed hock.
- Long, wired-haired or woolly coat.
- Colour not in accordance with what is prescribed in the standard, namely black, black with fawn markings (black and tan) and all dilutions of black with or without white spotting.
- Size and weight outside the standard limits.
- Respiratory distress.
- Deafness.

N.B. :

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation, should be used for breeding.

USA - Any alteration other than removal of dewclaws.

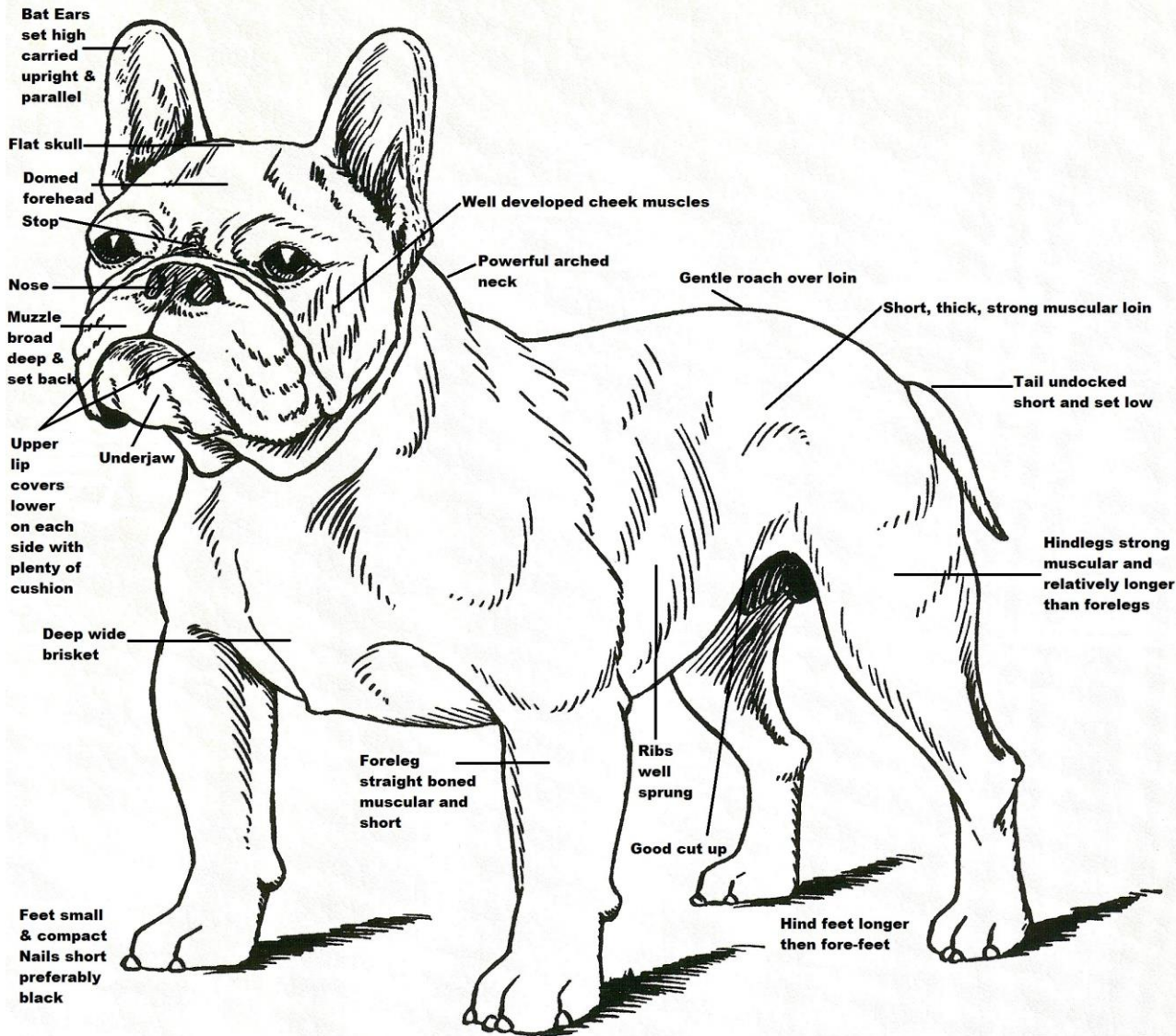
Over 28 pounds in weight.

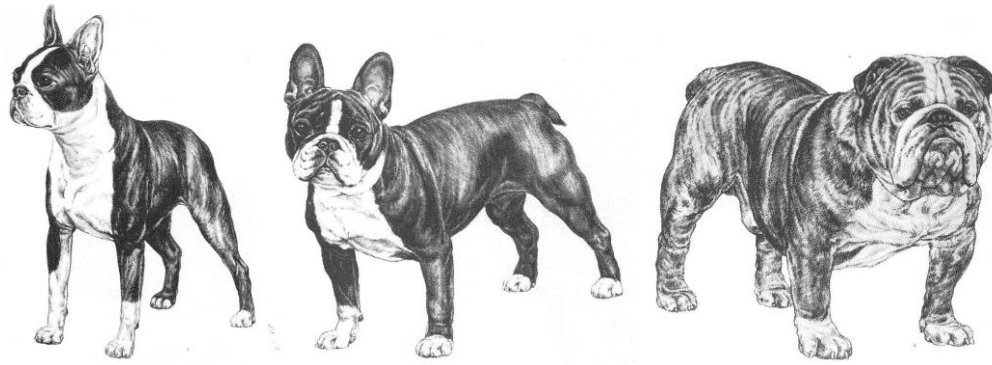
Other than bat ears.

Nose other than black, except in the case of lighter colored dogs, where a lighter colored nose is acceptable.

Solid black; mouse, liver, black and tan, black and white and white with black; black means black without a trace of brindle.

French Bulldog





Boston Terriers, British Bulldogs and French Bulldogs share common ancestry but each breed is very much an individual. Apart from the obvious difference in size, here are some important points which are not so obvious.

General Appearance

With the Boston we are looking for a stylish, short headed, compact, well balanced dog. An intelligent expression is paramount. Colour and white markings being a major hallmark.

The Frenchie is a small cobby dog, leaning more towards the Bulldog in shape and substance. Balance is an essential requirement with no point exaggerated.

In the Bulldog we are looking for a thickset dog, low in stature but broad, powerful and compact. He has an impressively large head with an extremely short face.

All three breeds have short tails – they are never docked.

Heads

Boston Terriers have a square skull which is flat on top and unlike the Frenchie and the Bulldog free of wrinkles. Cheeks flat whereas the Frenchie and the Bulldog both have well-developed cheeks.

Muzzle is short and square, wide and deep and in proportion to the skull. Again free of wrinkles. Muzzle from stop to end of nose parallel to the top of the skull.

Level or undershot bite.

Chops or flews deep but should not be too pendulous. Must cover the teeth.

Dark, round eye not showing too much white or haw.

The French Bulldog also has a square head which is large and broad. Skull is almost flat between the ears, a domed forehead with loose skin forming symmetrical wrinkles. Muzzle is broad, deep and set well back. Well defined stop. Lower jaw is broad and square, slightly undershot and well turned up. Tongue and teeth should not protrude. Flews are well cushioned and should not hang too much below level of lower jaw.

Bulldog's head should be very large – in proportion to dog's size – broad and square.

He has a deep stop and good layback. Short broad muzzle.

Flews are thick and broad and hang over the lower jaw on either side covering the teeth.

Jaws are broad, massive and square with good turn up of underjaw.

Dark eye set well down in the skull in a straight line with the stop.

Ears

Boston Terriers have small erect ears set as near to the corners of the skull as possible.

The Frenchie's ears are an important hallmark of the breed. "Bat" ears, medium in size, almost spoon shaped, being wide at the base and rounded at the top. Set high and carried upright and parallel.

Bulldog's ears are also set on high of the skull are wide apart and as far from the eyes as possible, however Bulldogs have small thin "rose" ears.

Necks

Bostons should have a good length of neck – slightly arched and carrying the head gracefully.

Frenchie's have a powerful well arched, thick neck.

The Bulldog has a moderate length of neck – thick, deep, strong and well-arched. Dewlap.

Forequarters

Boston and Frenchie are similar in their forequarters however the frenchie is proportionately shorter in leg.

Hallmark of the Bulldog is the tacked on shoulders. Ribs are capacious, round and deep. Stout strong forelegs set wide apart. Bowed outline but legs are straight.

Viewed from the front the Frenchie and the Bulldog should be square between the forelegs.

Body

Boston – level topline with low set tail. Body should be short and square.

Frenchie – slight roach over the short loin with low set tail. Body cobby and well rounded.

Wide at shoulders and narrowing at loins with good cut up.

Bulldog – roach back with low set tail. Wide, round prominent deep chest. Well ribbed back with good tuck up.

Movement

Boston – good reach & drive. More natural gait.

Frenchie – free & flowing – slight roll – double track. Hindlegs visible between forelegs when viewed from front

Bulldog – Bulldog roll leading with his right shoulder. Skims the ground with hind feet. Hindlegs visible between forelegs when viewed from front.

Weight

Boston Not to exceed 11.4 kg (25 lbs)

Frenchie Dogs 12.5 kg (28 lbs) Bitches 11 kg (24 lbs)

Bulldog Dogs 25 kg (55 lbs) Bitches 23 kg (50 lbs)

References – and books of interest

The French Bulldog History of the Origin of the Breed, Its Cultivation and Development editor O.F. Vedder (The French Bulldog Club of America and The French Bulldog Club of New England 1926) [A landmark in French Bulldog literature, a lavish production of 336 pages and over 300 illustrations and historically really important]

The French Bulldog by Steve Eltinge (MIP Publishing California 1988) [one of the outstanding French Bulldog publications and won the Dog Writers Association of America award in 1988 for best breed book. Exceptional and rightly sought after, with high second-hand price]

Healthy Frenchies an Owner's Manual by Dr Jan Durr Grebe Illustrations by Becca Williams (ArDesign Minnesota 1998) [an important French Bulldog health manual with earlier articles by the author published in *The French Bullytin* (many if not all back editions no longer available) updated by her and published as a set, with outstanding artist Becca Williams illustrations and with excellent graphic design]

Celebrating Frenchies by Arlie Amarie Alford and Jane Flowers, Michael Rosser, Ann Winsor D.V.M. [ARDesign Minnesota 2003]

French Bulldogs Everything About Purchase, Care, Nutrition, Behavior, and Training by D. Caroline Coile, Ph.D. (Barron's NY 2005) ["... *one of the best ... to date ... Strongly recommended - this should be required reading for every potential Frenchie purchaser, as well as pet and show French Bulldog owners.*" An award-winning author who has written extensively about dogs in both lay and scientific publications and has been actively involved with the dog world since 1963. One quote from the book "*Remember, the only perfectly behaved dog is a stuffed toy dog. However, they are not nearly as much fun as your sometimes less-than-perfect Frenchie.*"]

The French Bulldog Coordinator and contributor Muriel P Lee other contributors: Gary Bachman, Janice and James Grebe, Anne Hier, Bette and Manda Kaplan, Heidi Lillie, Penny Rankine-Parsons, Michael Rosser, Virginia Rowland and William Secord (Kennel Club Books NJ 2007) [The first title in the Kennel Club Classics series "200-page hardcover volume ... Extravagantly illustrated ... this extravagant celebration of a breed ... over 250 beautiful photographs ..." pp 142 to 149 is Michael Rosser's "The Road to Oz & New Zealand" about early dog history in Australia and NZ and how and when the French Bulldog established itself in those countries as a well-recognised breed, plus details of various dogs and individuals that helped to do so.]

The World of Frenchies in 2007 and 2008 Editor Bas Bosch (BB Press Netherlands 2009) [Correspondents and articles from around the world 308 pages full of frenchie writing and news, quality photos and almost all in colour. The focus is mainly on events during 2007 & 2008 but with historical and international articles and news, as well as champions' pedigrees, photos and details]

The French Bulldog Edited by Penny Rankine-Parsons contributors: Penny Rankine-Parsons, Julia Barnes, Alison Logan, Marcy Logan, Luis & Patty Sosa (Pet Book UK 2012) [An outstanding French Bulldog owners handbook, practical with emphasis on health and care. The three breed standards of the KC, AKC and FCI are set out together in section by section and easily compared, with analysis and key points. A constructive and useful production]

The French Bulldog Heritage and Art by Nick Waters (BBPress Netherlands 2012) [A most readable and entertaining interweaving of the frenchie, people, history and art, all interspersed with excellent illustrations, all in colour. There is a six page frenchie bibliography to March 2010. Simply the definitive work and likely to be so for many years to come.]

Puppy Booklet The French Bulldog Club of NSW (2015) [This (now 39 pp) booklet continues to be in demand after several reprints and was further updated in 2015. (There is also a new section on French Bulldog colour genetics.) It seems to fill a gap between verbal instructions and advice in responsible breeders' notes and the well-produced and detailed American and European French Bulldog handbooks. It also continues to be in demand, well-received and helpful and obviously fills a need. Mostly it is the work of Dr Karen Hedberg BVSc but with others making substantial contributions and suggestions. A most useful and user-friendly production]

The World of Frenchies in 2011 and 2012 Editor Bas Bosch (BBPress Netherlands 2014) [Well up to the standard of the two previous World of Frenchies books (2007-2008 and 2009-2010) but again an over fifty page increase (this time to p 392). Again also a substantial increase in countries (19 countries were represented in the first book, 24 in the second and 30 in this one.) There are also more of the various articles before the individual country by country sections. Once again well over 400 colour photos and print and quality are up to the previous standard. Given the escalation world-wide in frenchie numbers, this is an historically important and particularly interesting French Bulldog world panorama]

French Bulldog Chronology by Michael Rosser 2014 <http://www.french-bulldog.com/page27.php> [Chronological list of about 200 books and other publications. It's a check-list which isn't comprehensive but may help you to find writing of frenchie interest or to know that a particular book or magazine exists]

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[Photographs may be updated if and when more suitable subjects become available]