

THE FRENCH BULLDOG



a presentation by Liz Davidson

July 2022

History & Origin

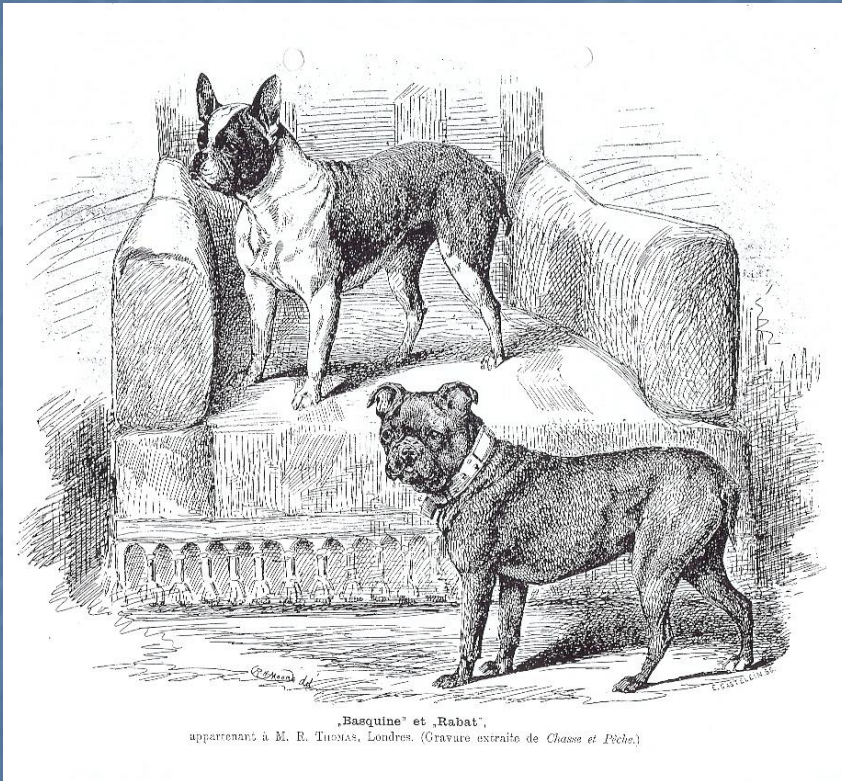
Nottingham Frank
Toy Bulldog c.1849



- Toy Bulldogs bred in Nottingham in England during the 1850s – 1860s
- English industrial revolution forces Nottingham lace makers to seek work in France
- Toy Bulldogs exported to France in the 1860s
- French Bulldogs thought to have been developed by crossing Toy Bulldogs with Terriers and Pugs

Development of the Breed

- Country of Origin France
- Countries of Development France America England & Germany
- American breeders largely responsible for the adoption of the unique Bat Ears



Bat and Rose Ear French Bulldogs

Influential frenchies from the Past

CH NELLCOTE GAMIN

Born in France c.1904

Regarded as the most influential sire in the breeds development in America



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



General Appearance

- Sturdy
- Compact
- Solid small dog with good bone
- Short smooth coat
- No point exaggerated
- Balance essential
- Dogs showing respiratory distress highly undesirable



Breed Characteristics

Full of courage, yet with clown-like qualities

Characteristic Features



Bat Ears



Short undocked tail

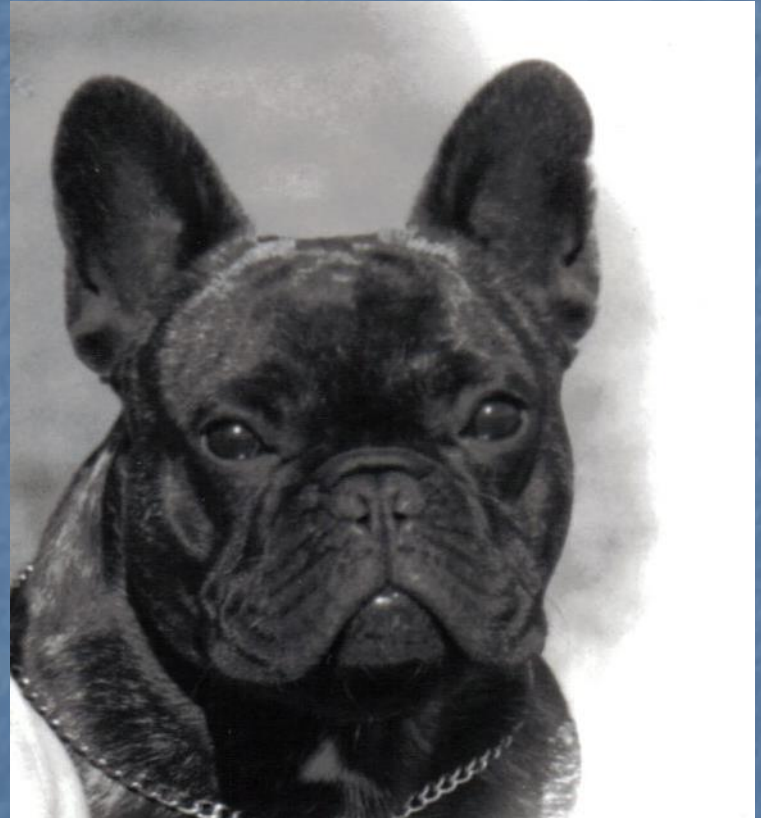
Temperament

- Vivacious
- Deeply affectionate
- Intelligent



Head & Skull

- Head square and in proportion to dog's size
- Skull nearly flat between ears
- Domed forehead
- Skin covering skull & forehead supple allowing dog to show facial expression

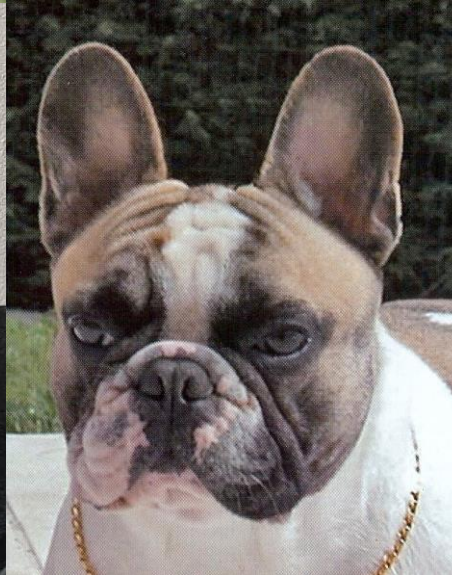
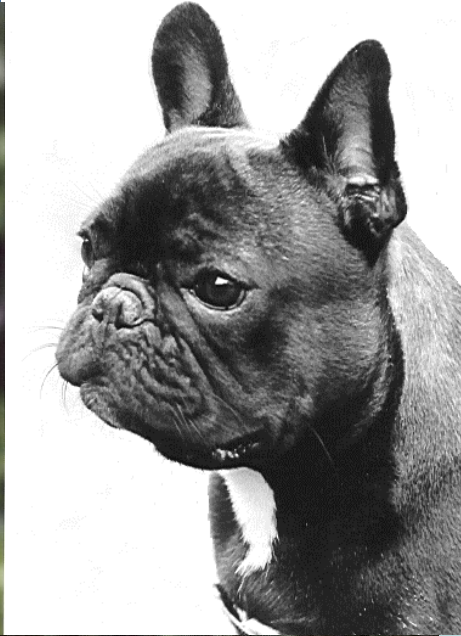


Head & Skull cont'd



- Well defined muzzle clearly viewed in profile, broad, deep and set back
- Muscles of cheeks well developed
- Nose and lips black
- Stop well defined

Discussion – typical examples of head & expression

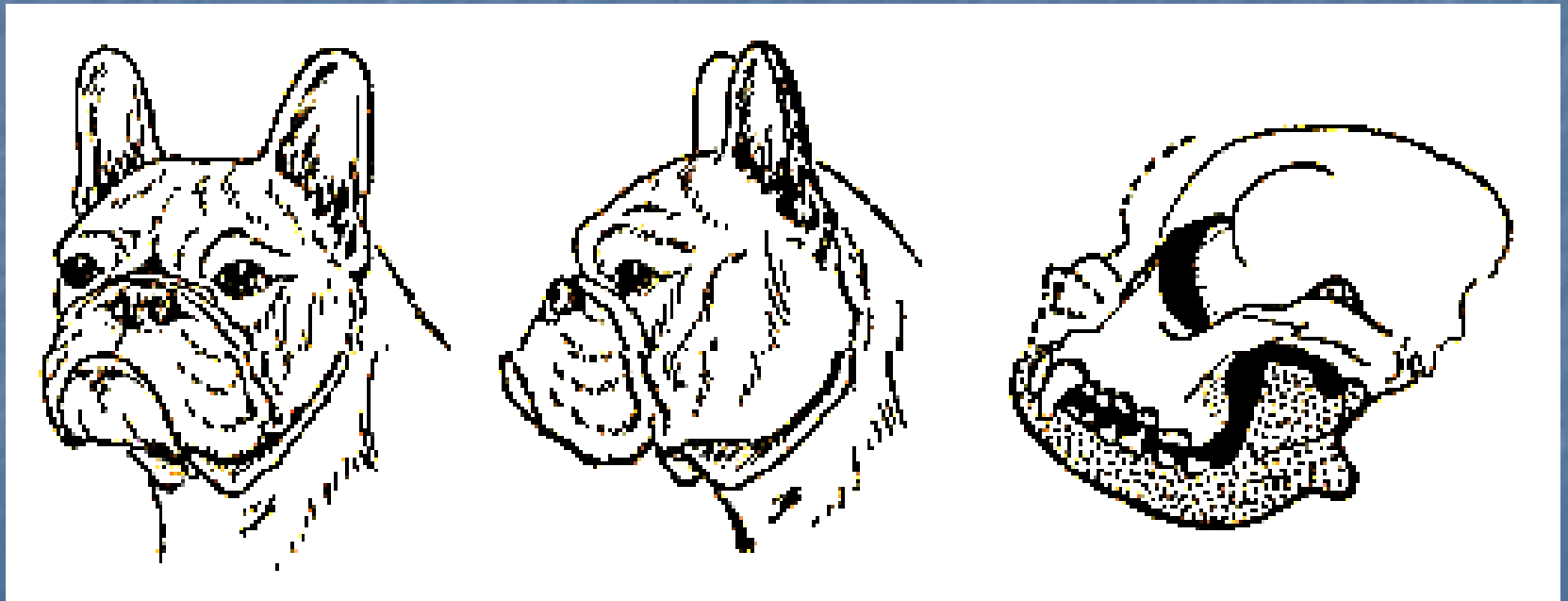


Discussion – head & expression



Head & Skull cont'd

- Lower jaw deep, square, broad, slightly undershot and well turned up.



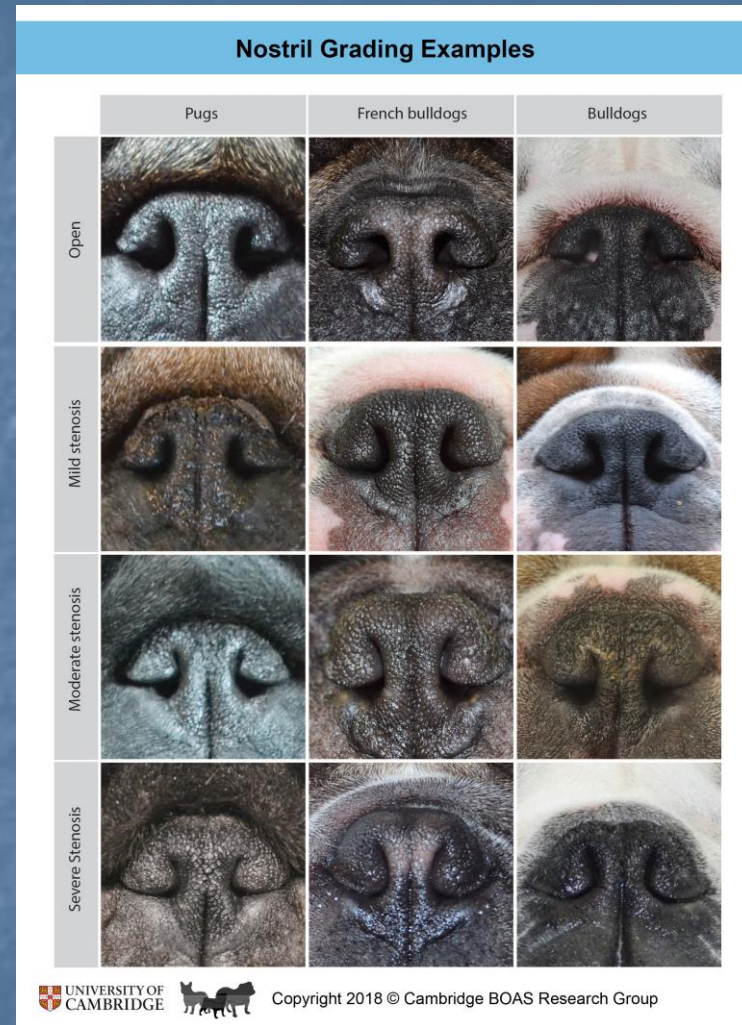
Head & Skull cont'd

- Nose black and wide, relatively short, with visibly open nostrils and line between well defined



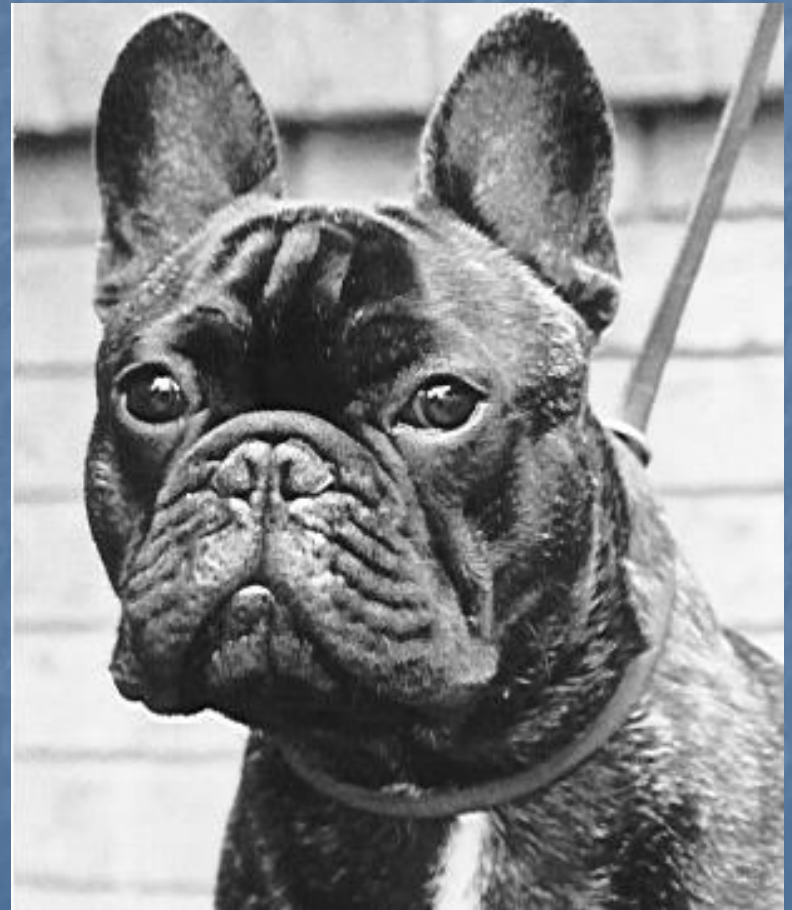
Nostrils

Cambridge University BOAS research into brachycephalic breeds [Bulldogs French Bulldogs & Pugs] have a grading system 0 to 3 under the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme. BOAS issues are made up of 4 components, the nostrils, turbinates, palates & sacculles. Learn to listen for obvious signs of respiratory distress. FBCNSW encourages judges to move the exhibits around the ring to assess signs of respiratory distress. Remember nostrils are one component. Please judge the whole dog and avoid fault judging.

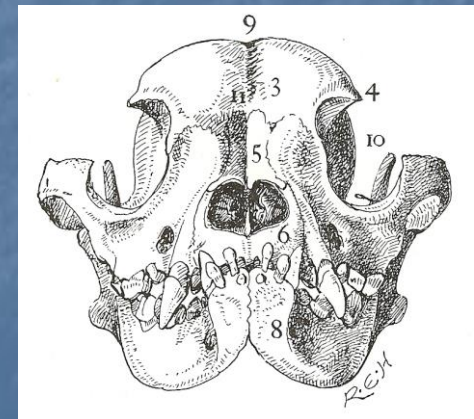
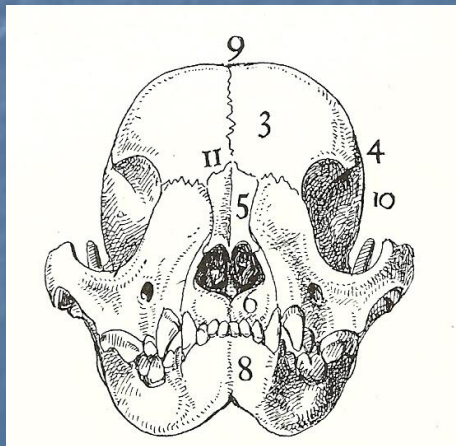
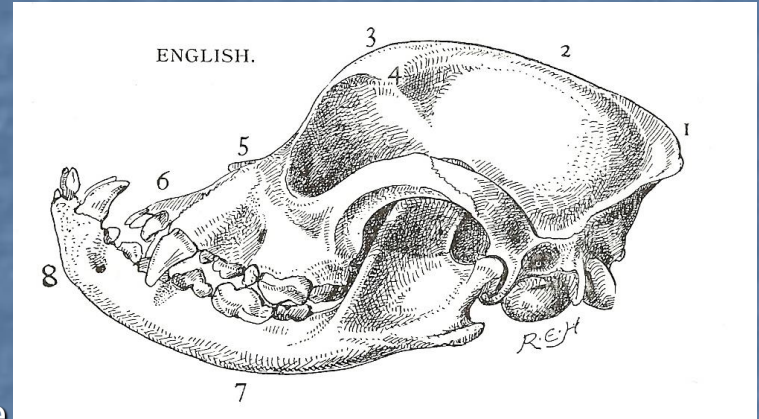
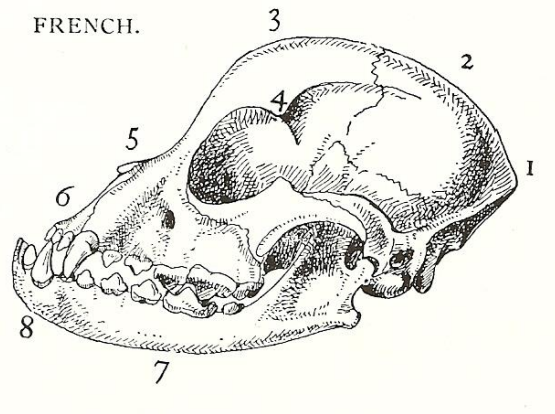


Head & Skull cont'd

- 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.



French & British Bulldog Skulls



- 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 upperjaw 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 in French Bulldog compared to British
- 11 Furrow in British forehead and its absence in French Bulldog.

Comparison

In comparing the four illustrations of these skulls, we can see that the two of the French Bulldog show much less proportional development in both length and depth than is revealed in the British Bulldog.

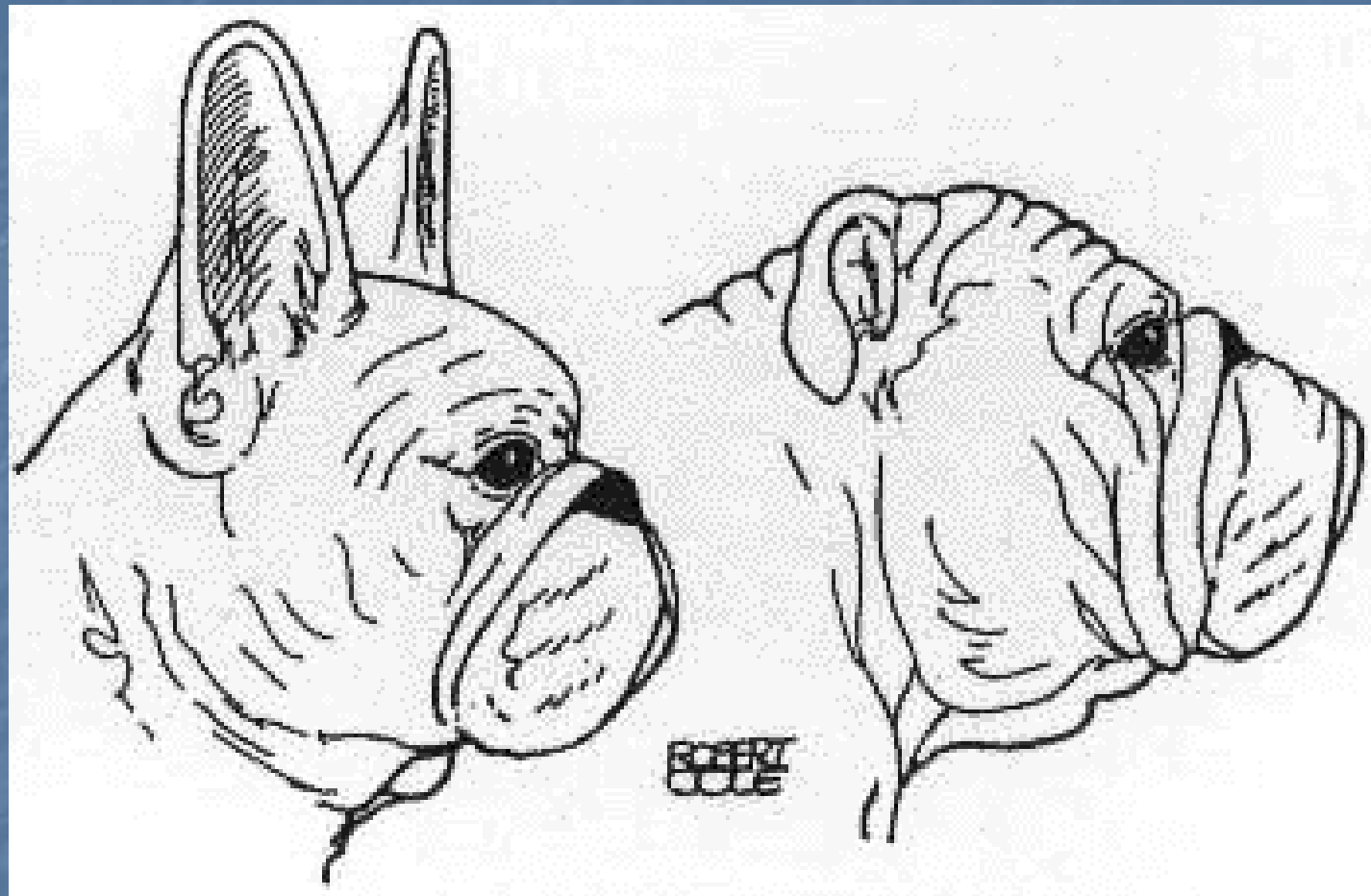
At locations indicated by Nos 2 3 and 4, ie mainly in the forehead and back portion of the skull, there is considerable difference in formation between these two types of dogs.

In 5 and 6, the bone construction between the two breeds is quite similar.

In Nos. 7 and 8 the length of the underjaw in the Frenchie is relatively shorter than in the British. Its curvature and turn-up follows about the same general trend but is more refined, less exaggerated and extended than appears in the British.

Nos 9 and 11 points out the location of the indentation or furrow in the skull of the British and illustrates its practical absence in the Frenchie. This is a distinct difference between the two breeds.

No 10 shows a fullness in the Frenchie skull compared to its lack in the British. This tends to make the head of the Frenchie appear more square than that of the English Bulldog.



EYES

- Preferably dark and matching
- Moderate size
- Round
- Neither sunken nor prominent
- Showing no white when looking straight forward
- Set moderately wide apart and on the same level as the stop



Ears

- BAT EARS of medium size
- Wide at base and rounded at the 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
- Opening to ear canal should be wide and open

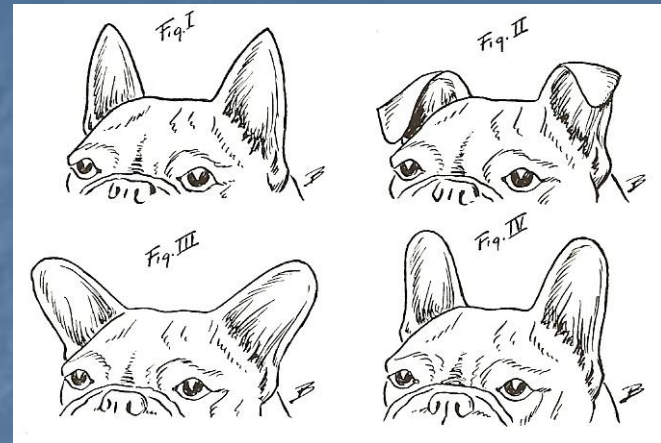


Fig 1 Pointed end to the ears although their placement and carriage are good.

Fig 2 Tulip ears – a bad fault

Fig 3 Badly placed and carried too wide apart

Fig 4 Correct placement, correct carriage and shape, standing stiffly erect



Mouth

- Slightly undershot
- Teeth sound and regular and not visible when mouth is closed
- Tongue must not protrude



Underjaw



Fig 1
Over prominent underjaw being too flat throughout its entire length and too long projecting beyond the upper jaw and exposing the teeth.

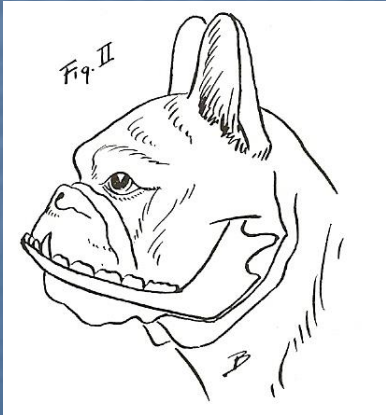


Fig 2
Straight underjaw dropping well at the rear but lacking semi-circular sweep of underjaw.

Fig 3
Underjaw well turned up at end but too flat from the back line curve to point of the desired turn-up at end. Hard to find without careful examination of the mouth.



Fig 4
Correct formation of underjaw showing semi-circular sweep downward from rear skull, then upward to muzzle.

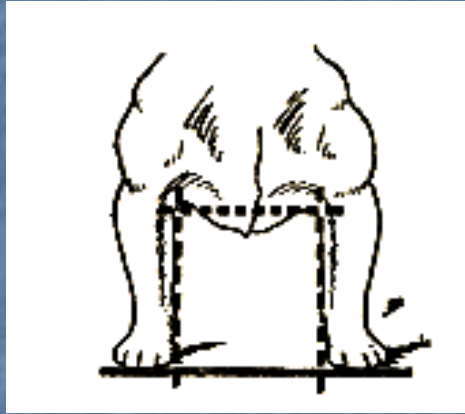


Neck

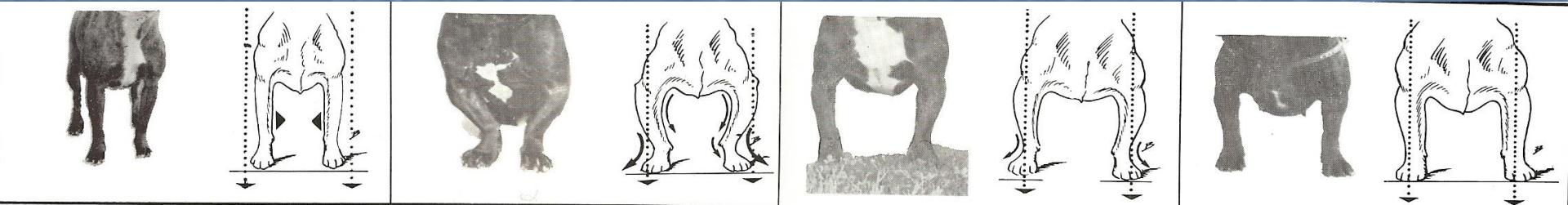
- Powerful
- Loose skin at throat but not exaggerated
- Well arched and thick but not too short



Forequarters



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



Narrow in front

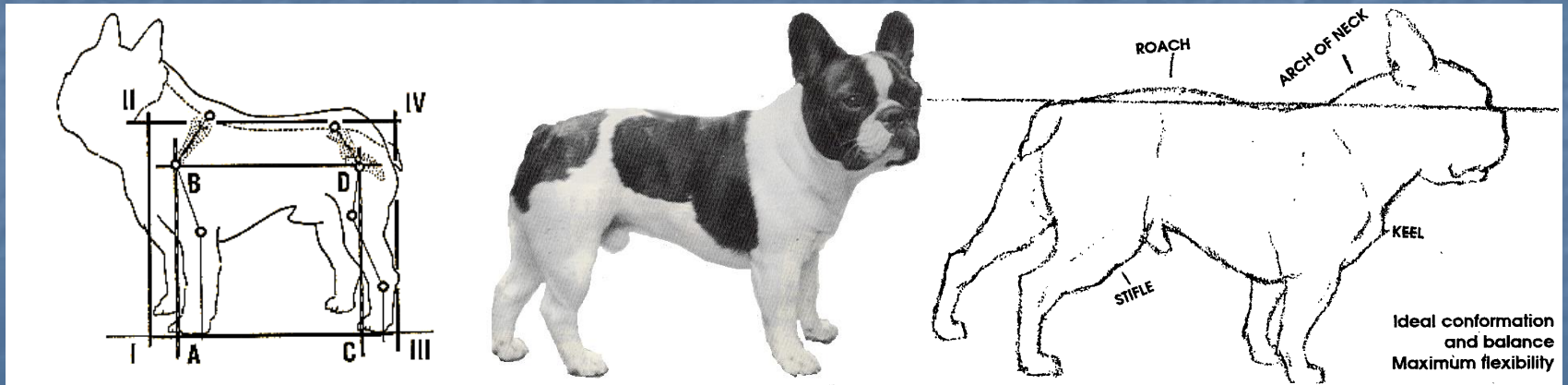
Cabriole front

Out in elbow

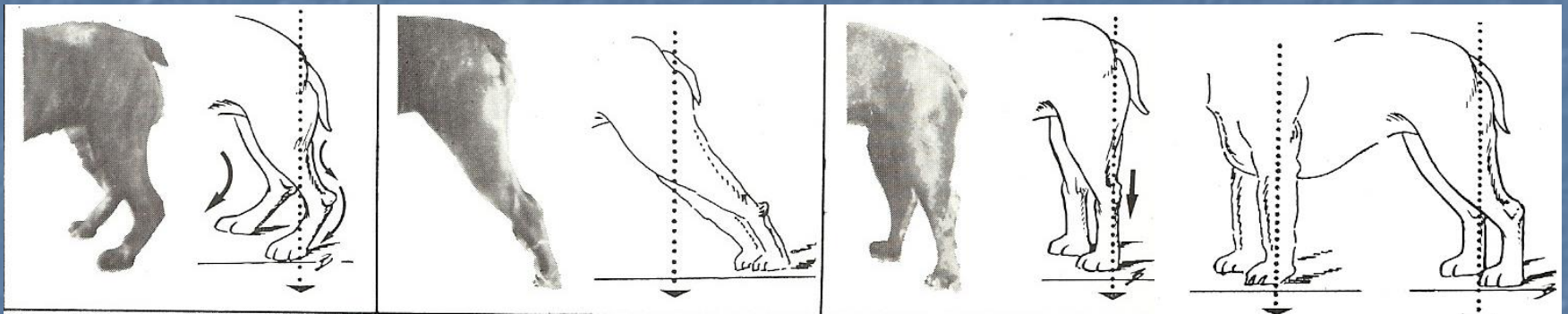
Correct

Body

Cobby, muscular and well rounded with deep, wide brisket and ribs well sprung. Strong, gently roached back. Good tuck 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. Hocks well let down.

Feet



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.

Tail

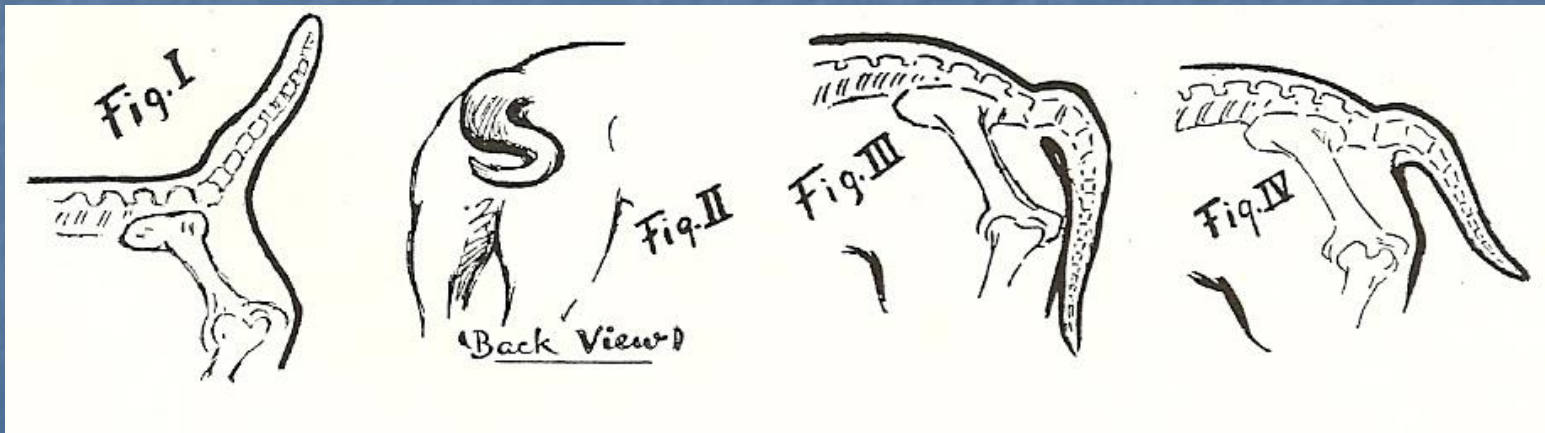
Undocked, short, set low, thick at root, tapering quickly towards tip, preferably straight and long enough to cover anus, never curling over back nor carried gaily

Fig I Tail carried gaily - undesirable

Fig II Screw tail – acceptable

Fig III Straight tail – preferable

Fig IV Carriage of a perfect straight tail when dog is alert, in motion or excited

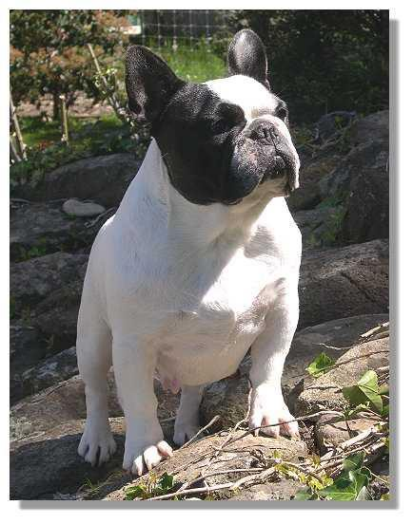


Gait / Movement



- Free and flowing
- Soundness of the utmost importance

Coat



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

Colour

- 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 fawn predominates. Cream and red shades less desirable. Eye rims, eyelashes and lips black.
- Pied: Brindle pied - White predominates with brindle. Fawn Pied - White predominates with fawn patches.
- White: Classified as a pied. In peds, eye rims, eyelashes and lips should preferably be black.



Brindle



Fawn



Pied



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

Acknowledgements

Adaptation of material from

The French Bulldog History of the Origin of the Breed,
Its Cultivation and Development (published by The
French Bulldog Club of America and The French Bulldog
Club of New England 1926)

The French Bulldog Club of England
Handbook 2002

Die Franzosische Bulldogge
by Anita & Emmanuel Gay 1971

You be the Judge: The French Bulldog by Robert Cole
Chien Magazine No. 7

The French Bullytin Vol 24 #4
The Frenchie Fancy Magazine