

The Frenchie.....



Breed Standard

General Appearance

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*.

.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. The **body** is short and well rounded. The **chest** is broad, deep, and full; well ribbed with the belly tucked up. The **tail** is either straight or screwed (but not curly), short, hung low, thick root and fine tip; carried low in repose. **Color**

Acceptable colors - All brindle, fawn, white, brindle and white, and any color except those which constitute *disqualification*. All colors are acceptable with the exception of solid black, mouse, liver, black and tan, black and white, and white with black, which are *disqualifications*. Black means black without a trace of brindle. **Temperament** Well behaved, adaptable, and comfortable companions with an affectionate nature and even disposition; generally active, alert, and playful, but not unduly boisterous.

Disqualifications

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.

History

There is a difference of opinion as to the origin of the French Bulldog, but one ancestor must have been the English Bulldog - probably one of the toy variety, of which there were a great number in England around 1860. These toy Bulldogs were sent in large numbers into France, where they were crossed with various other breeds and were given the name Boule-Dog Francais. One found dogs with rose ears, while others had bat ears which is now an outstanding feature of the French Bulldog. Another distinctive feature of the French Bulldog is the skull. The correctly formed skull should be level, or flat, between the ears, while directly above the eyes, extending almost across the forehead, it should be slightly curve, giving a domed appearance. In the early days of breeding in Europe, the tendency was toward the rose ear. This movement was opposed by Americans and the breed would eventually lost the feature that strongly accentuates its individuality, and the result would have been practically a miniature English Bulldog.

General Care

Frenchie's don't require a lot of grooming and generally do well in small living quarters. They are not noisy and most of them are very fond of people. They should never be allowed to run free, and should only be allowed outdoors in a fenced yard or on a leash. Frenchie's must never be left unattended around water as they are poor swimmers and can easily drown due to their heavy front end structure. Always supervise your frenchie in extreme weather temperatures. They are unable to tolerate extreme heat and/or cold weather. This is why it is important that your Frenchie be an INDOOR DOG. Indestructible dog toys are best as those powerful bulldog jaws can destroy less durable ones. Occasional brushing keeps the coat shiny, and regular nail trimming is a must since many dogs don't usually wear their nails down by running. Regular cleaning of the ears and the deep facial folds are necessary and will prevent these sensitive areas from becoming irritated and stained. It is important that dogs be kept at an appropriate weight, an obese frenchie is at a far higher risk for many of the breed's health issues!



Training

A crate trained puppy is easier to housebreak, it regards its crate as its den, a safe haven and home. You should consider taking your baby to training classes as soon as our vet feels he has had proper vaccinations. This will get him accustomed to being around other dogs and people and will help you as well to teach your puppy how to be the best dog he/she can be. Contrary to the stereotype as “stubborn”, most Frenchies strive to please their owners and are therefore very trainable with proper motivation. I strongly recommend that you identify your Frenchie with a microchip that is registered with one of the microchip companies. You should also have a collar with a tag listing his home number so that he can safely be returned to his home.



Health Care and Concerns

A good veterinarian, is the most important thing you can do for your Frenchie, you need to find one that you feel completely comfortable with. You may have to try out several before finding one that understands the “Bulldog Breed”.

As a short-faced, and dwarf breed, Frenchies may have some health concerns that you should be aware of. The short face can make their breathing less efficient than those of long nosed breeds. Frenchies have less tolerance of heat, exercise and stress, all of which increase their need to breathe. Keep your Frenchie cool in warm weather and avoid strenuous exercise. If your Frenchie seems to overheat or become stressed to easily, then you may want to have your frenchie checked for pinched nostrils or an elongated soft palate. Anesthesia is also more risky in short-faced dogs, so be sure your vet is experienced with such breeds.

The spine also merits special attention. Like other dwarf-breeds, the stocky Frenchie may also have abnormal vertebrae and/or premature degeneration of the discs. All dogs should have a thorough musculoskeletal exam by a vet, most frenchies can safely engage in regular moderate exercise, which is essential to help maintain healthy weight and good physical condition.

Feeding your Frenchie

Ideally, your French Bulldog will be on a meat-based diet, as dogs require meat to stay healthy. High-quality dry food is recommended for your Frenchie. Select what is most appropriate to feed your French bulldog based on you and your pet's needs and preferences. I personally prefer a meat based food with no corn. I feed my adults a product called Victor Professional, this food may not be available in your area, and I would be happy to help you figure out a food for your Frenchie.

Temperment of a Frenchie

A wonderful friend and a good family member, the French Bulldog is playful and has a sweet and funny personality. Although it gets along with everyone, the French Bulldog usually forms a special bond with just one person. When introducing the French Bulldog to other dogs, you should be careful, as it can occasionally be aggressive or play roughly. When you are consistent and gentle, your French Bulldog will learn well. This breed doesn't like being treated harshly or yelled at. Because of its calm and happy-go-lucky personality, the French Bulldog is well suited for many different living environments, including apartment living. The Frenchie makes a good watchdog and will inform you of any visitors.

