



Meet the French Bulldog!

The Clown in the Cloak of a Philosopher

Congratulations on your new French Bulldog puppy!

By registering your puppy with the American Kennel Club, you have taken the first step in what we hope will be a long and happy journey with your Frenchie. Founded over a century ago, the French Bull Dog Club of America promotes the welfare of this wonderful companion dog by:

- Educating judges, breeders, and owners
- Breeder referrals
- Promoting veterinary medical research
- Supporting breed rescue
- Holding specialty shows
- Official club publications
- Club website at <http://www.frenchbulldogclub.org>

We hope this flyer will provide you with some basic information that will help you as you get to know your French Bulldog. Please visit our website for more information about the breed.

HISTORY

In the latter part of the 19th century, the lacemakers of Nottingham, England, began selectively breeding a smaller Bulldog as a lap pet. Displaced by the Industrial Revolution, many of the lacemakers crossed the English Channel, taking their small bulldogs with them to France. Some of these toy or miniature bulldogs made their way to Paris, where well-to-do Americans on the Grand Tour of Europe saw them and began bringing them to the US. In 1897, the French Bull Dog Club of America was formed, the first club in the world dedicated exclusively to the welfare of this wonderful breed.

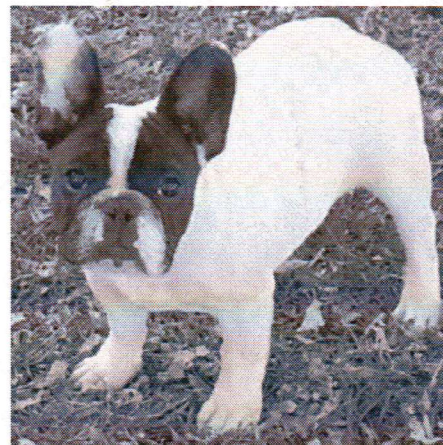
BREED STANDARD

The AKC Breed Standard describes “an active, intelligent, muscular dog of heavy bone, smooth coat, compactly built, and of medium or small structure. Expression alert, curious and interested.” For a full description of the various features of the breed, the club Website in *All About Frenchie/Understanding Frenchie/Our Breed Standard* has the AKC standard and a download of a slide show titled *Judging the French Bulldog*. Also, see *Contact Information* at the end of this flier.

HEALTH CARE AND CONCERNS

Find a good veterinarian, preferably one who has other short-faced patients, and provide your Frenchie with regular checkups, routine vaccinations, tests for intestinal parasites, heartworm prevention, and flea and tick control. Your vet should do regular dental checkups and care, and you should clean your dog’s teeth regularly at home as well.

As a short-faced (“brachycephalic”) and dwarf (“chondrodystrophic”) breed, French Bulldogs have some health concerns that you should be aware of. The short face makes their breathing less efficient than that of long-nosed breeds, so Frenchie



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 dog seems to overheat or become stressed too easily, with noisy breathing and sometimes spitting up foam, consult the vet and have its airway evaluated for pinched nostrils or an elongated soft palate. Anesthesia is also more risky in short-faced dogs, so be sure your veterinarian is experienced with such breeds should your Frenchie need to be anesthetized for any reason.

The spine also merits special attention. Like other dwarf breeds, the stocky Frenchie frequently has abnormal vertebrae and also premature degeneration of the intervertebral discs. While the spine is supported by good musculature, herniation of degenerated discs can cause major problems, and most symptomatic back problems are due to disc disease rather than to abnormal vertebrae. Lifelong exercise precautions are warranted, such as limited use of stairs and jumping. For information about general health considerations and specifically about airway and spine problems, see the French Bull Dog Club of America’s website. The section *Understanding Frenchie* includes *Understanding Our Health Issues* (Health Survey results; Frenchie spine database), *A Letter to My Vet*, and *Frenchie Health and Conformation*.

The French Bull Dog Club of America supports a French Bulldog Donor Advised Fund with the Canine Health Foundation (www.akcchf.org), a nonprofit charitable organization through which we help provide financial support for research on health issues of importance to our breed. We also work with our affiliated FBDCA Charitable Fund, which supports French bulldog-related education, health, and rescue programs and activities (on FBDCA website at *All About Us/FBDCA Charitable Fund*).