



JUDGING THE FRENCH BULLDOG

Presented by
THE FRENCH BULL DOG CLUB
OF AMERICA

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PLEASE NOTE:

This presentation is a work in progress.

It will be modified and updated with time.

The photographs used herein are not necessarily the “end all”, they were the best illustrations available at the time this presentation was compiled.

It is our hope that you will find this helpful in judging our breed.

April 2010

*“THIS IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT BREED AT
THE DOG SHOW!”*

DR. ROBERT J. BERNDT



Photo Credits:

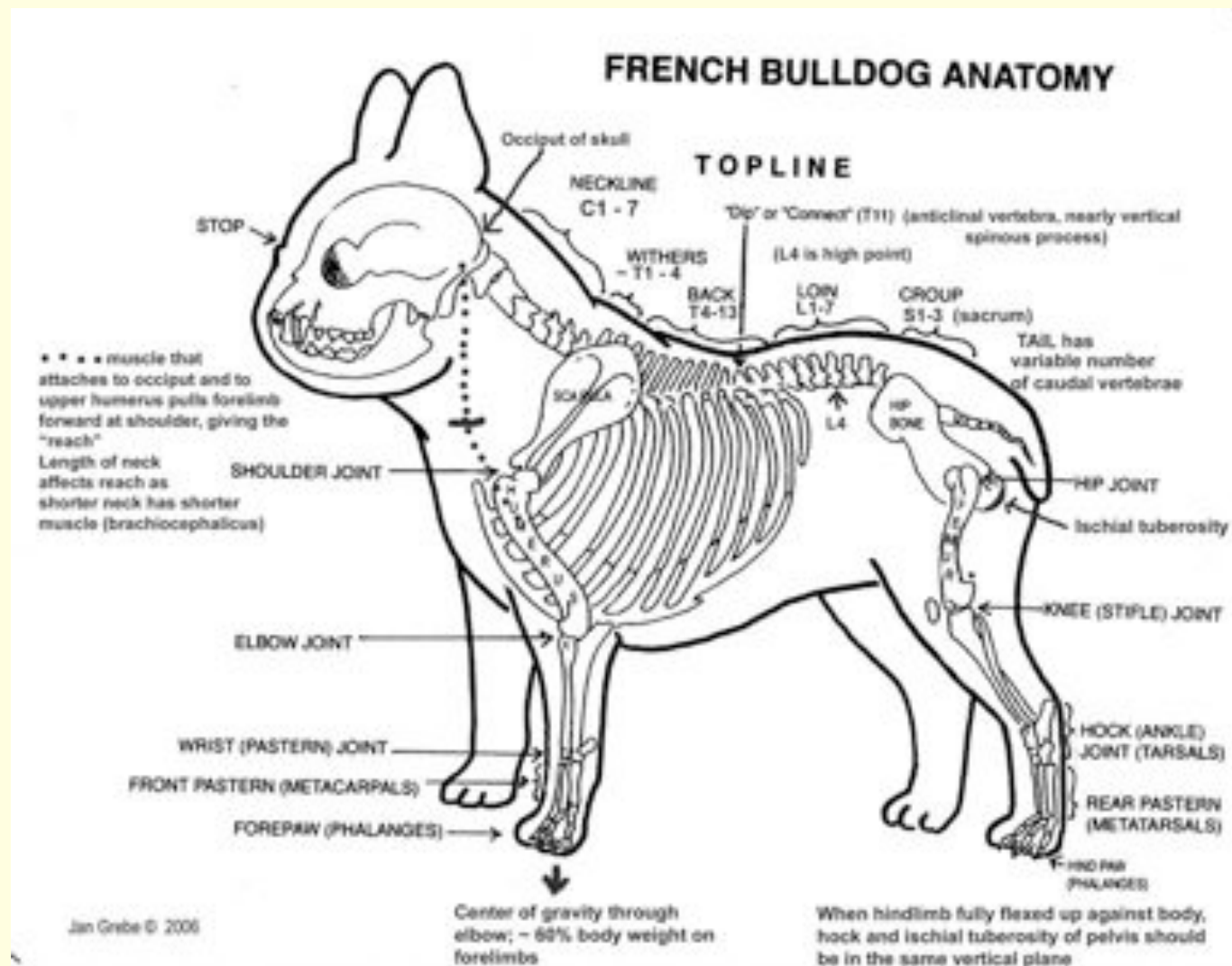
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Kim Booth, Don Petrulis Missy Yuhl,
Neil Birks.

Nymphenburg Porcelain - circa 1920

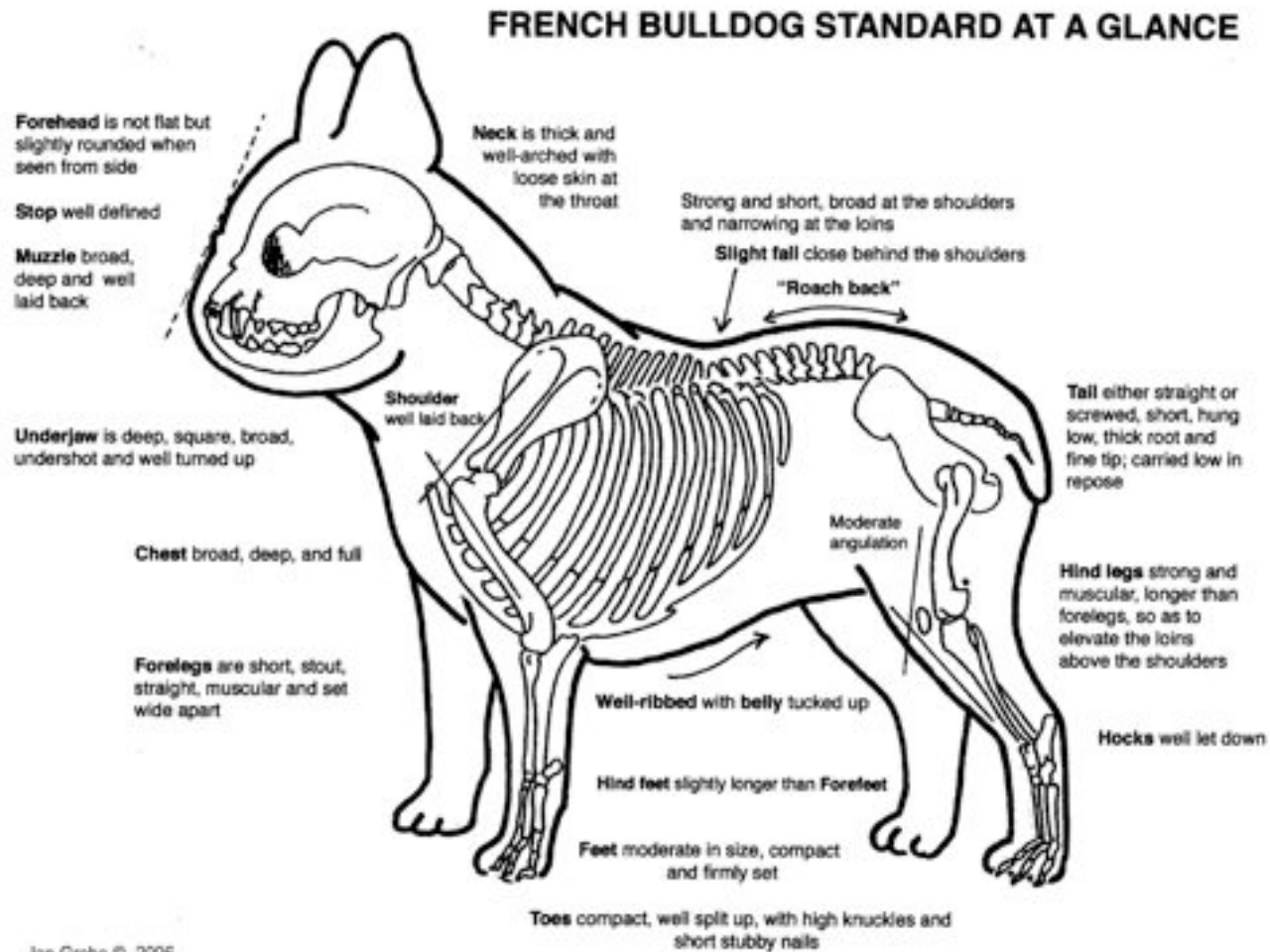
GENERAL INFORMATION

- The French Bulldog is an Achondroplastic breed - short limbed dwarfism, as seen in Dachshunds, Bassets, Bulldogs, Frenchies, Skye Terriers etc.; all are achondroplastic breeds.
- This condition manifests itself in:
- Overly large bone, head and joints and overly short bones (limbs).
- Do not reward French Bulldogs that are extreme examples of achondroplasia.

French Bulldog Anatomy



Standard at a Glance



BRIEF HISTORY

- Bull-baiting was outlawed in England in 1835 resulting in variations in English Bulldogs.
- The Breed was developed from the English Toy Bulldogs in the mid-late 1800's.
- Increase in mechanization in England forced the lacemakers from Nottingham England to move to the Calais area of France taking their Toy Bulldogs with them.
- Originally seen with rose and erect ears.
- A number of other breeds may have been used (possibly Pugs and the Terrier Boule) to set size and type.



Nottingham Frank

Toy Bulldog

Circa 1849



Bat and Rose Ear French Bulldogs owned by Mr. Thomas,
England

Early Bat & Rose Ear
French Bulldogs circa 1892

- The “petite Boule” quickly became the star of the Parisian working class.
- Eventually they became favorites of the Parisian “Belles de Nuit” or the “Ladies of the Night”. It was through this association that the “upper classes” became familiar with the breed.
- American tourists brought the breed back.
- The American fanciers preferred the Bat Ear variety and set type. The Breed was:
 - First exhibited in France in 1887.
 - First exhibited at Westminster in 1896.
 - French Bull Dog Club of America 1897.
 - The Clown in the cloak of a Philosopher.



Parisian Belles de Nuit



JUDGING THE FRENCH BULLDOG GROUND RULES:

- Black Text is from the AKC Standard.
 - Approved 6/10/91 - Effective 7/31/91
- Red Text is a commentary.
- The majority of the dogs pictured in this presentation are either retired, pets or deceased.

KEY POINTS

- General Appearance
- Size
- Head
- Neck - Topline - Body
- Gait
- Color
- Disqualifications

GENERAL APPEARANCE

- Active
- Intelligent
- Muscular Dog of Heavy Bone,
- Smooth Coat
- Compactly Built and of
- Medium or Small Structure **whose**
- Expression is Alert, Curious and Interested



Cream Dog: Muscular, Compactly Built

Substantial - Well Balanced



Brindle Dog: Muscular, Compactly Built

Substantial - Well Balanced



Black Masked Fawn Dog: Muscular,
Compactly Built (at 12 months)

Substantial - Well Balanced



Cream Bitch: Muscular, compact, **yet feminine.**

Bitches should be muscular and heavy boned but not to the same degree as the dogs.



Brindle Bitch: Muscular, compact, **yet feminine.**

At 8 Years Old



Black Masked Fawn Bitch: Muscular, compact, **yet feminine**.

PROPORTION AND SYMMETRY

- All points well distributed.
- Good relationship one to the other.
- No feature being in such prominence from either excess or lack of quality so that the animal appears poorly proportioned.
- This is a moderate breed in all aspects.

INFLUENCE OF SEX

- Due allowance is to be made in favor of bitches who do not bear the breed characteristics to the same marked degree as do the dogs.
- Recognize that despite being a muscular breed, bitches should show feminine characteristics.



DOG

BITCH

SIZE - PROPORTION

- Weight not to exceed 28 pounds.
- Over 28 pounds is a DISQUALIFICATION.
If you are unsure of the weight, please call for the scale.
- Distance from withers to ground in good relation to distance from withers to onset of tail, so that the animal appears compact.
- Compact does not mean square.



5 year old male



9 month old male

Same male
Both shots



1 1/2 year old male

Good Body Proportions



2 year old
bitches -
littermates



Good Body Proportions



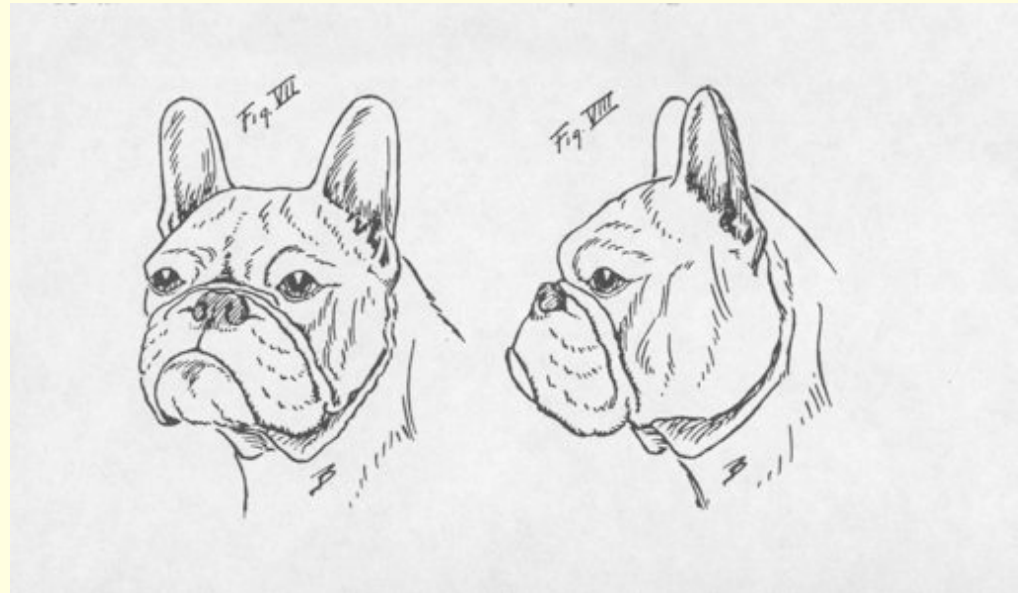
3 year old bitch



8 year old bitch

HEAD

- Large and Square.
(when viewed from the front)
- Eyes: 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 or bulging.
- No haw or white showing when looking forward.
- Forehead is not flat but slightly rounded.



Although lighter colored dogs (creams/fawns) may have lighter eyes, dark eyes are preferred.

MUZZLE

- Broad
- Deep
- Well Laid Back
- Cheek muscles well developed.
- Stop well defined with a heavy groove between the eyes and heavy wrinkles forming a soft roll of the extremely short nose.
- typically the dog has a wrinkle over the nose and a wrinkle on each side of the nose



Illus. 8: Correct lay-back



Illus. 9: Incorrect lay-back

Illustration from FBDCA Illustrated Standard

Same Bitch Both Shots - 8 years old



Positive Points:

Square Head
Broad Muzzle
Short Nose
Rounded Forehead

Negative Points:

Lack of Underjaw (Frogfaced)

Judge Head Type both Front and Profile



Positive Points:
Acceptable Front View
Square Head - Good Ears
Flat skull between the ears

Negative Points:
Side View is Incorrect
Downfaced: nose well below
the center of the eyes. Long
Nose, Forehead not rounded.

Same Bitch Both Shots - 2 years old

INCORRECT DOWNFACED



Incorrect Downfaced
Tilted eyes



Correct Nose Placement
Level eyes

Photo on right with the nose digitally raised. The top of the nose should be just below a line drawn through the center of the eyes.

CORRECT HEAD PROFILE



Note good layback, upturn of underjaw and rounded forehead in this young dog.

CORRECT HEAD PROFILE



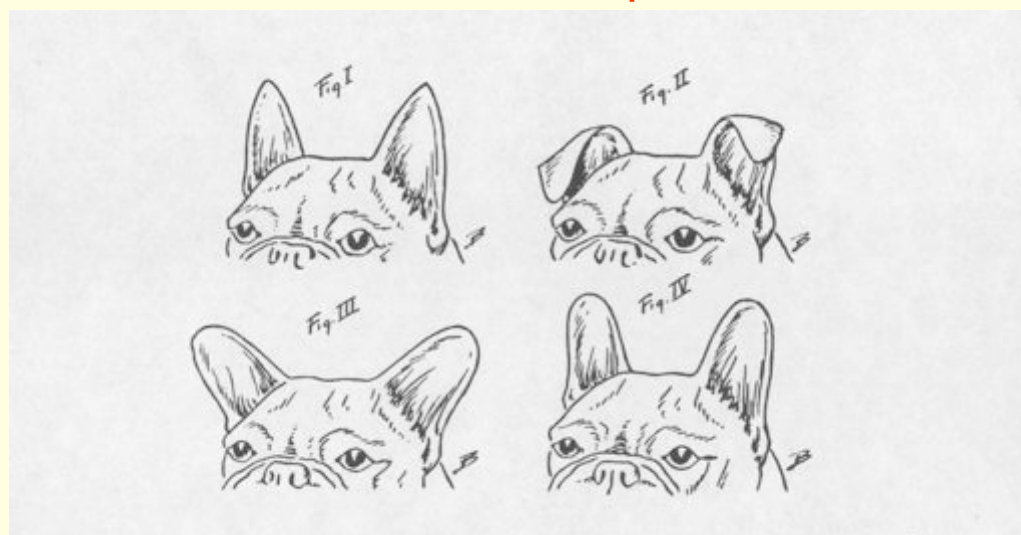
Layback extends from the underjaw through the nose to the top of the stop. The forehead is rounded when viewed from the side. This rounded forehead is a major departure from the Bulldog's flat laid-back forehead.

EARS

- Bat Ears:
Broad at the base,
elongated with a
round top, carried erect.
- Top of skull flat between
the ears.
- Other than Bat Ears
Disqualifies.
- Ear placement at “11
and 1”.
- Ears are expressive.
- Do not penalize for failure
to use ears at all times.
- Evaluate expression on
the floor-not the table.

Pointed Ears

Drop Ears



Poor Earset

Bat Ears

DOG'S HEAD

- Good layback.
- Good upturn of underjaw.
- Good pigment.
- Good ears and ear placement.
- Good dark eye.
- Note soft roll over the nose (wrinkle) and on each side of the muzzle below the eye.



DOG'S HEAD IN PROFILE

Note good upturn
of underjaw, dark
eye, slightly tilted
nose, wrinkles
over the nose
slightly rounded
foreface.



NOSE

- Black
- Extremely short.
- Nose other than Black is a disqualification, except in the case of lighter colored dogs, where a lighter colored nose is acceptable but not desirable. (1947 Rev.)
- Creams and fawns may have lighter (self) colored noses.
- Pink on the nose is NOT a lighter colored nose (multicolored or butterfly nose).
- Pink on the muzzle is not mentioned in the standard and is often seen in cream, fawn and pied dogs.

NOSE



Lighter Colored Nose.

Note self colored mask and pigment is allowed in lighter colored dogs.



Multi-Colored Nose -(pink spots or butterfly nose) is a Disqualification.

Bitch's Head is

Square with

Dark Eyes, a

Broad Muzzle w/a

Well Defined Stop,

Correct ear carriage
and heavy wrinkles,
a with a

Roll over the black
nose, with

Bat Ears and a

Flat Skull between
the ears.



Brindle Bitch's Head

Positive Points:

Good Layback.

Good earset.

Good dark eye.

Good width of
muzzle and
underjaw.



Bitch's Head circa 1970's

Positive Points:

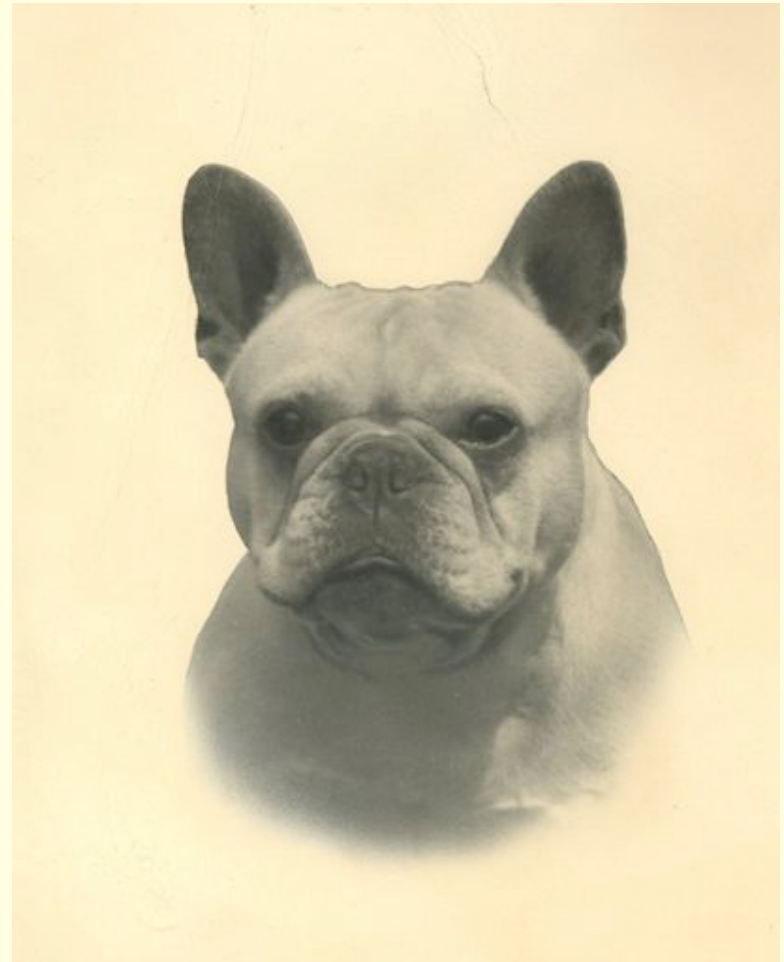
Note square head

Good earset

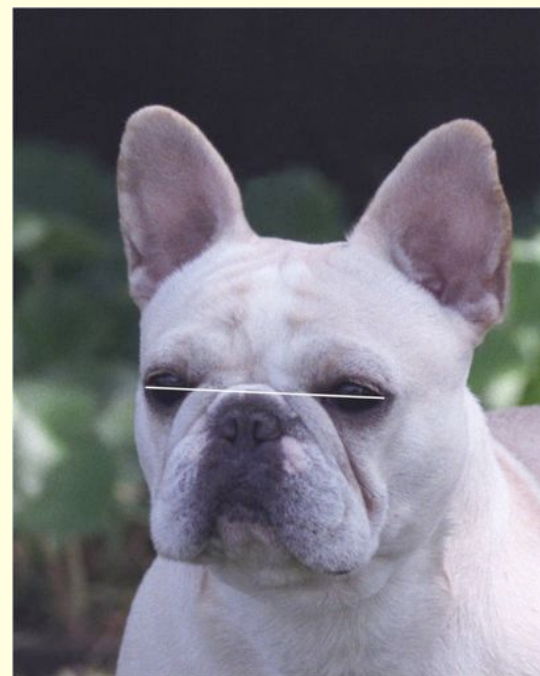
Good eye and pigment

Good width of muzzle

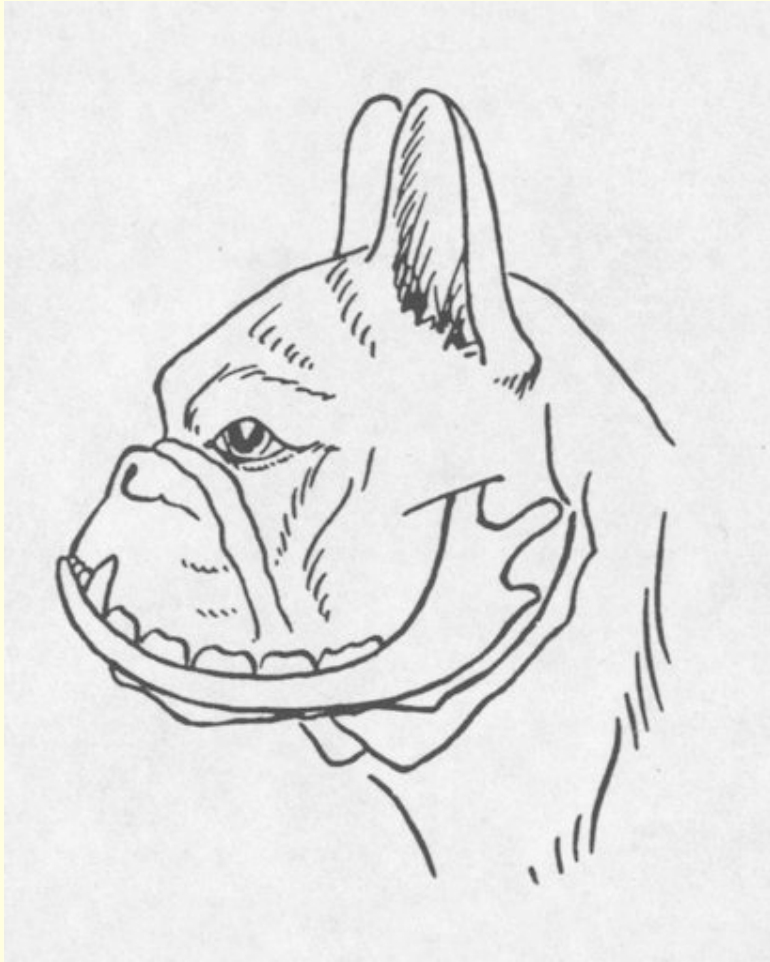
Correct nose placement



Note correct
nose placement.



BITE



- Undershot.
- Underjaw is:
Deep, Square, and Broad.
- Well Turned Up.
- Teeth are not seen when the mouth is closed.
- Do not reward wry mouths or tongue or teeth showing when the mouth is closed.

Good Bites - Good Upturn



Note broad underjaws and teeth in a straight line.

Good Bite - Broad Underjaw



Note: teeth will often not be in a straight line.
Do not examine bite behind the canines.

Mouth Examination



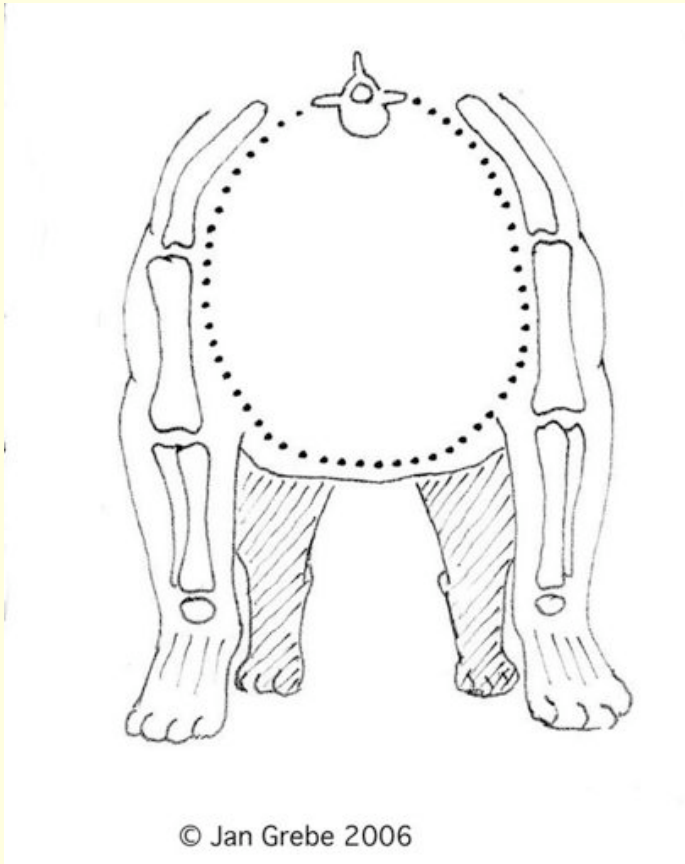
Correct



Incorrect

You are not required to nor should you check for full dentition.
Check only that the mouth is undershot and not wry.

VIEW FROM THE FRONT



Front assembly is broader than the rear such that when viewed from the front, the hind legs may be seen inside the front legs.

PEAR SHAPED BREED

Illus. 22: Correct,
pear shape when
viewed from above



Illustration from FBDCA Illustrated Standard

PEAR SHAPED BREED



NECK-TOPLINE-BODY

- Neck: well arched.
- Loose skin at throat.
- Body is short and well rounded.
- This Bitch exhibits:
- Good head layback.
- Good topline.
- Good body proportions.
- Moderate forechest.



TOPLINE

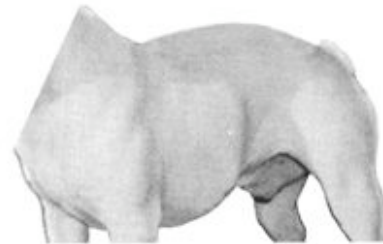
- The back is a roach back.
- Slight fall close behind the shoulders.
- Back is strong and short.
- Rise over the loins.
- Underline follows topline.
- A roll (loose skin) at the withers is normal.
- Judge the topline when moving; as well as when stacked.



Illus. 19: Correct topline, tuck up, and tail set



Illus. 20: Incorrect, topline too level, gay tail



Illus. 21: Incorrect, camel back

Incorrect Straight Topline High in the Rear



This is not a Roach - Dog appears to be running down hill.

Incorrect Level Topline



Note no rise over the loin.

FOREQUARTERS - DOG



- Forelegs are short, stout, straight, muscular, set wide apart.
- Feet are moderate in size, compact and firmly set.
- Inside of front legs (bone) should be straight and form a square.
- Slight muscling on the outside of the legs.

FOREQUARTERS - BITCH



- Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short stubby nails.
- Dewclaws may be removed.
- Disqualification: any alteration other than the removal of dewclaws is considered a mutilation and is a Disqualification.
- Front feet may be straight or slightly turned out.

Note the “Square” in the front.



Dog



Bitch

HINDQUARTERS

- Hind legs are strong and muscular, longer than forelegs so as to elevate the loins above the shoulders.
- Hocks well let down.
- Toes compact-hind feet slightly longer than forefeet.
- **Moderate angulation.**



TAIL

- Tail is either straight or screwed, short, hung low (but not curly).
- Carried low in repose.
- Low tail placement and carriage is more important than actual tail length.



Shorter Tail



Longer Tail
Both are equally acceptable.

Dogs



Bitches



Gait

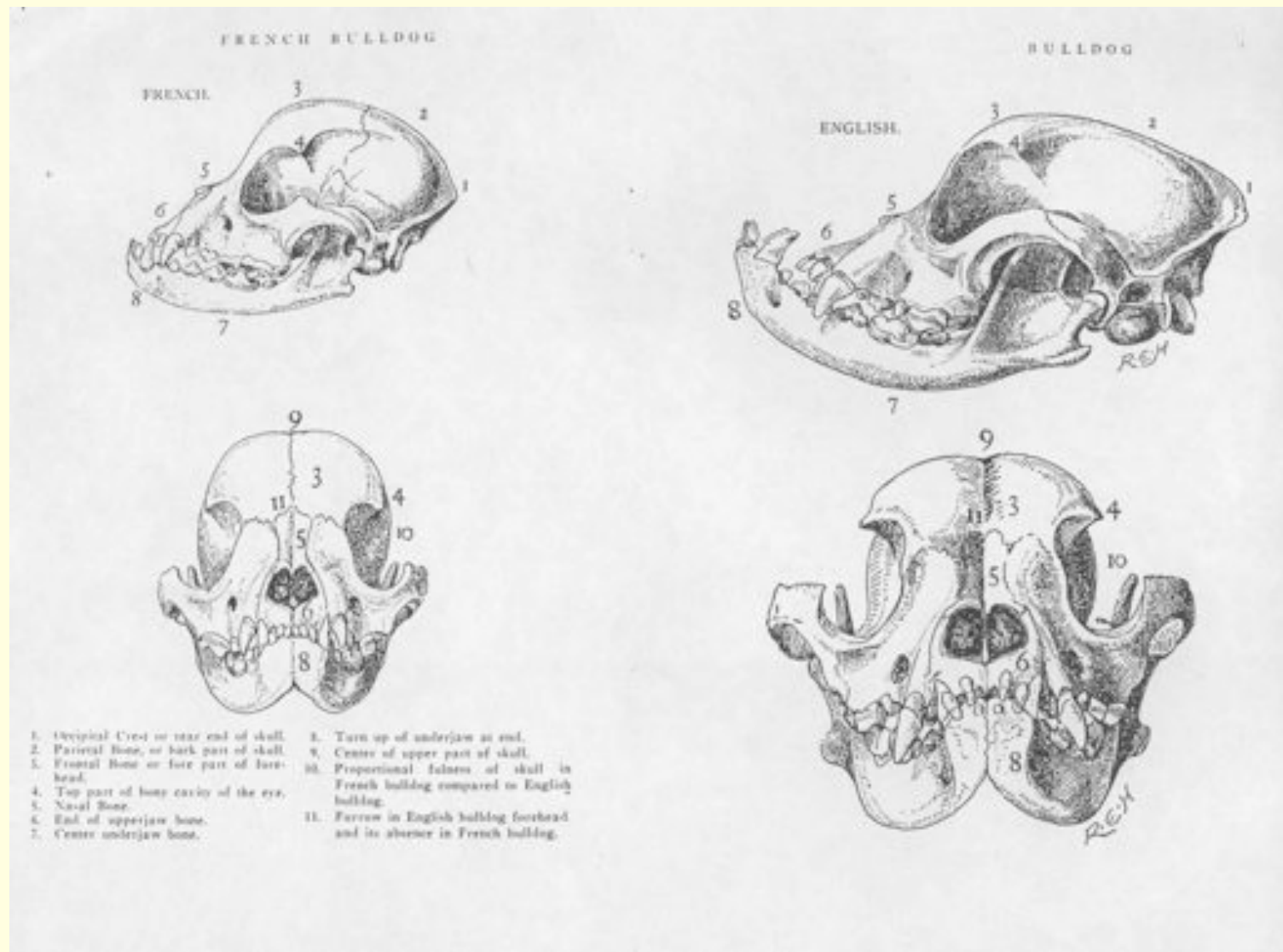
- Correct gait is double tracking with reach and drive.
- Pear shape so rear legs move slightly inside of the tracks made by the front legs.
- Front movement doesn't converge or paddle.
- Rear movement has a slight roll due the hind legs being longer than the front.





Good Reach, Drive, Topline, Underline & Tail Set.

Bulldog and French Bulldog Skull Comparison



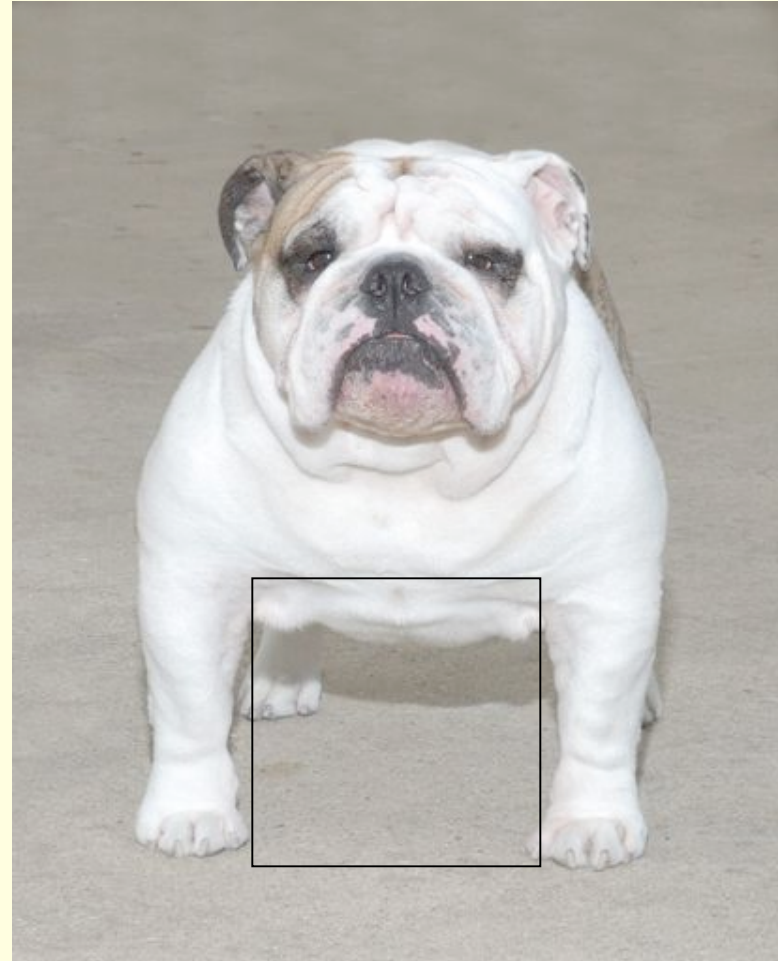
Note Moderation in the French Bulldog skull. Circa 1920

French Bulldog & Bulldog Comparison



Note many similarities and significant differences in ears, width of heads, degree of upturn of underjaw and width of fronts.

French Bulldog & Bulldog Comparison



Note the “square” in the Frenchie front is measured below the brisket; whereas in the Bulldog front it includes the brisket.

French Bulldog & Bulldog Profile



Note differences in size, bone, degree of layback of foreface, ears and head, and similarities in topline. Gait: Frenchies should gait with reach and drive; the action is unrestrained, free and vigorous; by contrast the Bulldog gait is a loose-jointed, shuffling, sidewise motion, giving the characteristic "roll."

COLOR

- Acceptable Colors:
 - All Brindle
 - Fawn
 - White
 - Brindle & White
 - Fawn & White
 - Any color except those which constitute a disqualification.
- Disqualifying Colors:
 - Solid Black
 - Mouse
 - Liver
 - Black & Tan
 - Black & White
 - White & Black
 - Black means without a trace of Brindle

There is no “acceptable color” preference.

TRACE OF BRINDLE



BLACK MEANS
WITHOUT A TRACE
OF BRINDLE.

If you can't find a
trace of brindle, ask
the handler to:
"Please show me the
brindle."

COAT COLOR

- Brindle
- Brindle Pied
- Red or Red Pied
- Fawn Pied
- Cream/Fawn
- Black Masked Fawn
- Solid White
 - Black nails, lips, muzzle or black eye rims
 - Dilute nails, lips, muzzle

NOSE COLOR

- Black
- Black
- Black
- Black/Lighter/Self
- Black/Lighter/Self
- Black
- Black
- Black/Lighter

ILLUSTRATION OF COLOR

The following slides depict a number of French Bulldogs. Some are excellent examples of the Breed; others less so. They are shown solely to depict color.

As long as the dog is not a DQ color, judge the dog as though it's colorless!

Fawn



@ 9 months

Note that fawn can range from a reddish color through yellow to a pale cream color.

Light Cream



Dark Cream



Cream and Fawn



Bitch

Dog

@ 5 weeks

Black Masked Fawn



Note Black Nose Pigment

Black Masked Fawn



Note Black Nose Pigment

Brindle



Dark Brindle



No preference is given to the amount of brindle; only a trace is required by the standard. Note traces of brindle.

Light Brindle



Reverse Brindle



Note light background color and dark brindle pattern.

White and Brindle **Pied** - Single Hooded



Note Black Nose Pigment & Trace of Brindle.
Note that “Pied” is a pattern and not a color and as such is not mentioned in the standard.

White and Brindle **Pied - Double Hooded**



Note: ticking is acceptable-not mentioned in the standard. A trace of brindle need only be present in one area of the dog.

Fawn & White **Pied**



Note lighter/self colored nose is acceptable.

Black Masked Fawn and White Pied



Note Black Nose Pigment



Red Double Hooded Pied

Note Black Nose
Pigment



White



Black & White - Disqualifies

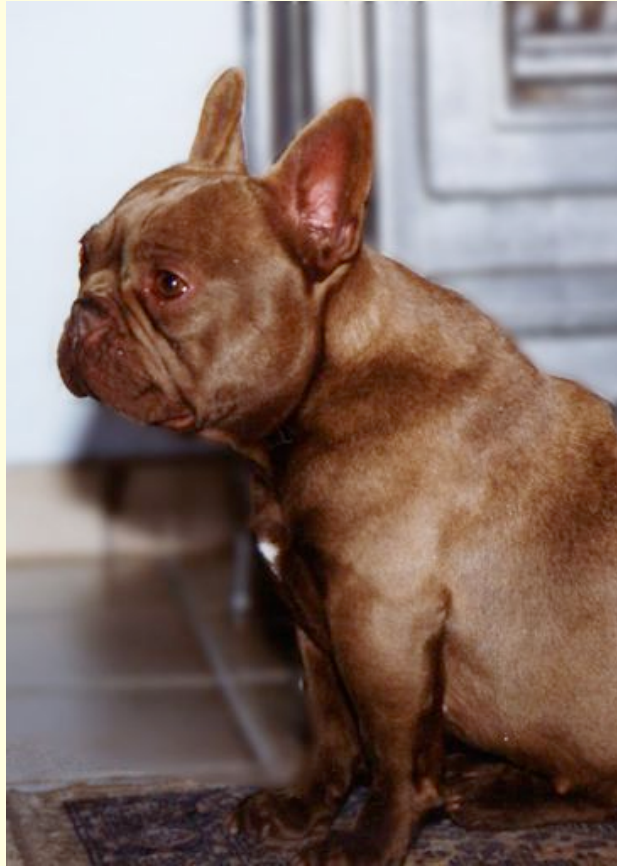


Note no trace of brindle. In white and black which also disqualifies, the white is the dominant color.

Black and Tan-Disqualifies



Liver - Disqualifies



Nose other than black disqualifies.

Mouse-Disqualifies



Note: Mouse is not only seen as a solid color, but often as a brindle, brindle pied or mouse masked fawn.

Mouse

- Mouse is a disqualifying color.
- Nose other than black disqualifies.
- **Mouse = Blue = Gray**



Prioritize When Judging

- Silhouette, which encompasses muzzle layback, correct topline, neck, front and rear angulation; and back length.
- Head Type, square, short nose, upturn of underjaw, broad muzzle w/correct layback.
- Movement, coming and going and profile.
- Straight underjaw versus wry mouth, wide vs narrow underjaw.
- Most Importantly reward the overall correct, whole package, not just the pieces.

TEMPERAMENT

- Well behaved, adaptable, and comfortable companions with an affectionate nature and even disposition;
- Generally active, alert and playful, but
- Not unduly boisterous.
- Aggressive behavior towards people should not be tolerated.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Any alteration other than removal of dewclaws is considered a mutilation and is a disqualification.
- Over 28 pounds in weight.
- Other than bat ears.
- Nose other than black except in lighter colored dogs where a lighter colored nose is acceptable.
- Solid black, mouse, liver, black & tan, black & white, white & black. Black means without a trace of brindle.

COMMONLY SEEN DQ'S

The most common DQ'S you will see in the ring are:

- Over 28 pounds in weight
- Lack of a trace of brindle
- Pink on the nose

You will rarely see a dog with a drop ear which disqualifies.

COMMON DEVIATIONS FROM THE IDEAL

- Lack of Balance
- Overly short - Overly long
- Incorrect Topline - flat backed - camel backed - high in the rear.
- Incorrect / low earset.
- Long nose - Lack of underjaw.
- Poor movement - Unsound.

Scale Use Demonstration

- Over 28 lbs Disqualifies.
- With the Superintendent:
 - Check scale 0 lbs reading.
 - Place calibrated weight on scale.
 - Check scale reading against calibrated weight.
 - In this instance, the 5 pound weight reads 5.00.
 - Remove weight and re-check 0 lbs reading.



Note: With certain electric scales, it may be necessary for the judge, exhibitor and dog to go to the Superintendent to request a weight.

With The Exhibitor

- Show the exhibitor the weight calibration reading.
- Show the zero reading of scale without weight.
- Ask the exhibitor to place dog on the scale and check that weight is not over 28 #.
- If not over 28 lbs. write in the judge's book armband "#00 weighed in" and initial.
- If over 28 lbs. write in the judge's book "#00 weighed out-disqualified" and initial.



French Bull Dog Club of America Judge's Mentors:

Note - Bold Print denotes AKC Judge.

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FRENCH BULL DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

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THE END

