



ENGLISH BULLDOG Standard



A.B.K.C. Inc.
PO BOX 2677
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

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Created by: Susan Fedorsha and Damir Markov

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The perfect Bulldog must be of medium size and smooth coat; with heavy, thick-set, low-slung body, massive short-faced head, wide shoulders and sturdy limbs. The general appearance and attitude should suggest great stability, vigor and strength. The disposition should be equable and kind, resolute and courageous (not vicious or aggressive), and demeanor should be pacific and dignified. These attributes should be countenanced by the expression and behavior.

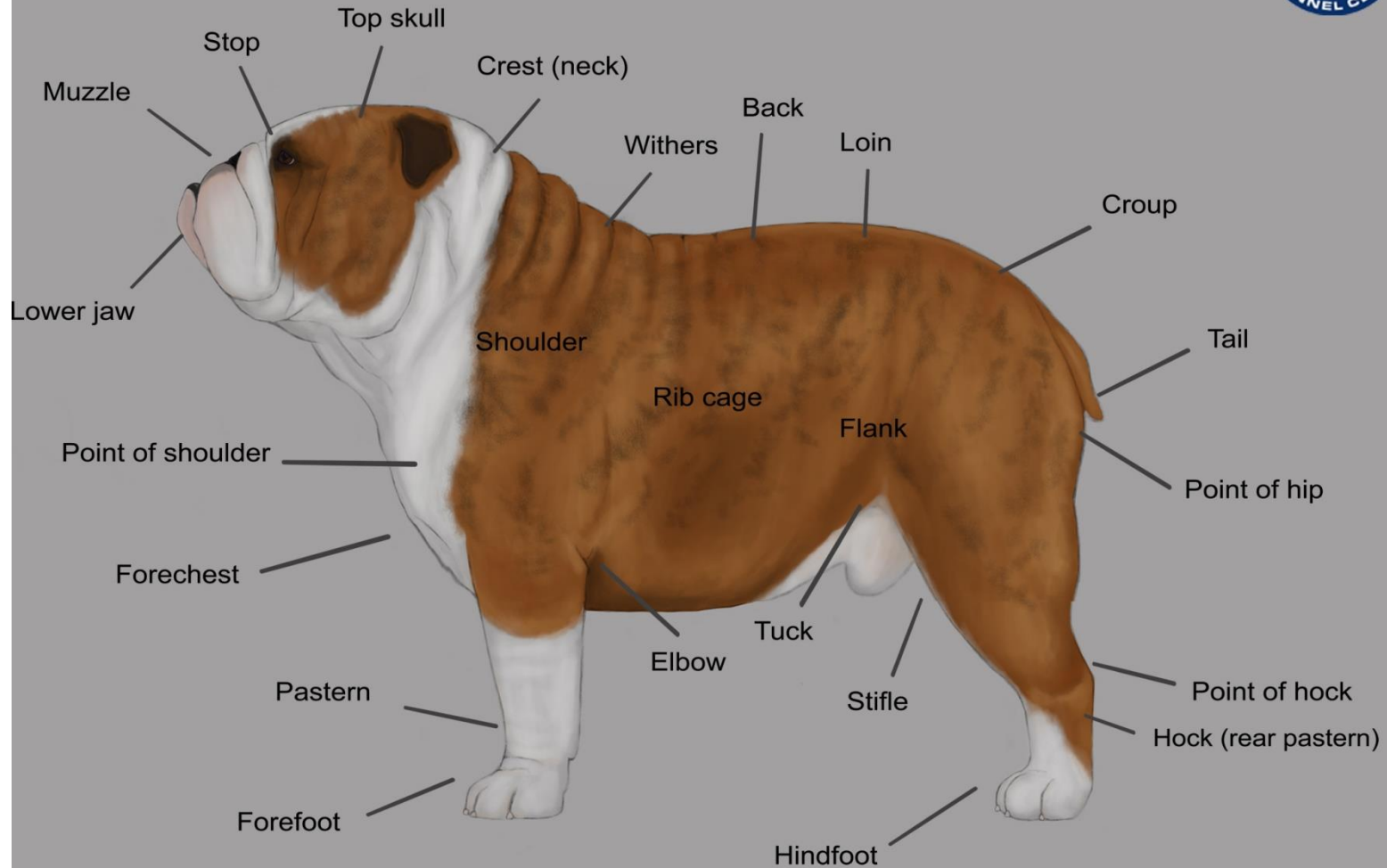
SIZE, PROPORTION, SYMMETRY

The size for mature dogs is about 50 pounds; for mature bitches about 40 pounds.

Proportion—The circumference of the skull in front of the ears should measure at least the height of the dog at the shoulders. Symmetry—The “points” should be 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 deformed or ill-proportioned. Influence of Sex In comparison of specimens of different sex, due allowance should be made in favor of the bitches, which do not bear the characteristics of the breed to the same degree of perfection and grandeur as do the dogs.



English Bulldog



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EYES


The eyes, seen from the front, should be situated low down in the skull, as far from the ears as possible, and their corners should be in a straight line at right angles with the stop. They should be quite in front of the head, as wide apart as possible, provided their outer corners are within the outline of the cheeks when viewed from the front. They should be quite round in form, of moderate size, neither sunken nor bulging. The lids should cover the white of the eyeball, when the dog is looking directly forward, and the lid should show no “haw.”




Correct
an imaginary horizontal line
passing through four corners of eyes
should be right angle with the stop and
rest just on the top of the nose



Faulty
almond eyes



Faulty
slanted eyes



Faulty
droopy eyes

EYES



EARS

Ears—The ears should be set high in the head, the front inner edge of each ear joining the outline of the skull at the top back corner of skull, so as to place them as wide apart, and as high, and as far from the eyes as possible. In size they should be small and thin. The shape termed “rose ear” is the most desirable. The rose ear folds inward at its back lower edge, the upper front edge curving over, outward and backward, showing part of the inside of the burr. (The ears should not be carried erect or prick-eared or buttoned and should never be cropped.)



Correct



Incorrect - high set



EARS



Incorrect - button



Incorrect-prick



Incorrect-tulip or flying



HEAD

The skull should be very large, and in circumference, in front of the ears, should measure at least the height of the dog at the shoulders. Viewed from the front, it should appear very high from the corner of the lower jaw to the apex of the skull, and also very broad and square. Viewed at the side, the head should appear very high, and very short from the point of the nose to occiput. The forehead should be flat (not rounded or domed), neither too prominent nor overhanging the face. The cheeks should be well rounded, protruding sideways and outward beyond the eyes. The temples or frontal bones should be very well defined, broad, square and high, causing a hollow or groove between the eyes. This indentation, or stop, should be both broad and deep and extend up the middle of the forehead, dividing the head vertically, being traceable to the top of the skull. The face, measured from the front of the cheekbone to the tip of the nose, should be extremely short, the muzzle being very short, broad, turned upward and very deep from the corner of the eye to the corner of the mouth.

NOSE

Nose—The nose should be large, broad and its tip set back deeply between the eyes. The distance from bottom of stop, between the eyes, to the tip of nose should be as short as possible and not exceed the length from the tip of nose to the edge of underlip. The nostrils should be wide and large with a well-defined line between them.

FLEWS

The chops or “flews” should be thick, broad, pendant and very deep, completely overhanging the lower jaw at each side. They join the underlip in front and almost or quite cover the teeth, which should be scarcely noticeable when the mouth is closed. The jaws should be massive, very broad, square and “undershot,” the lower jaw projecting considerably in front of the upper jaw and turning up. The teeth should be large and strong, with the canine teeth or tusks wide apart, and the six small teeth in front, between the canines, in an even, level row.

NECK

The neck should be short, very thick, deep and strong and well arched at the back.

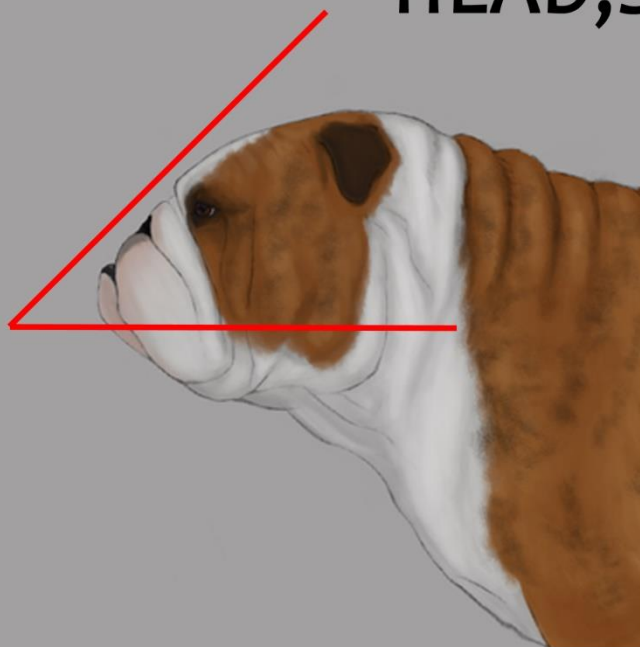




Correct

broad with good width
between ears,
square

HEAD, SKULL, PROFILE



Correct

layback in English Bulldog
should be about 42° to 45° angle





Incorect layback-shelf



Nosey



Dishfaced

HEAD FAULTS



Short Head



Frog faced



Downfaced-nose below eyes





The jaw should be massive, very broad, square and “undershot”, the lower projecting considerably in front of the upper jaw and turning up.

BITE, TEETH, JAW

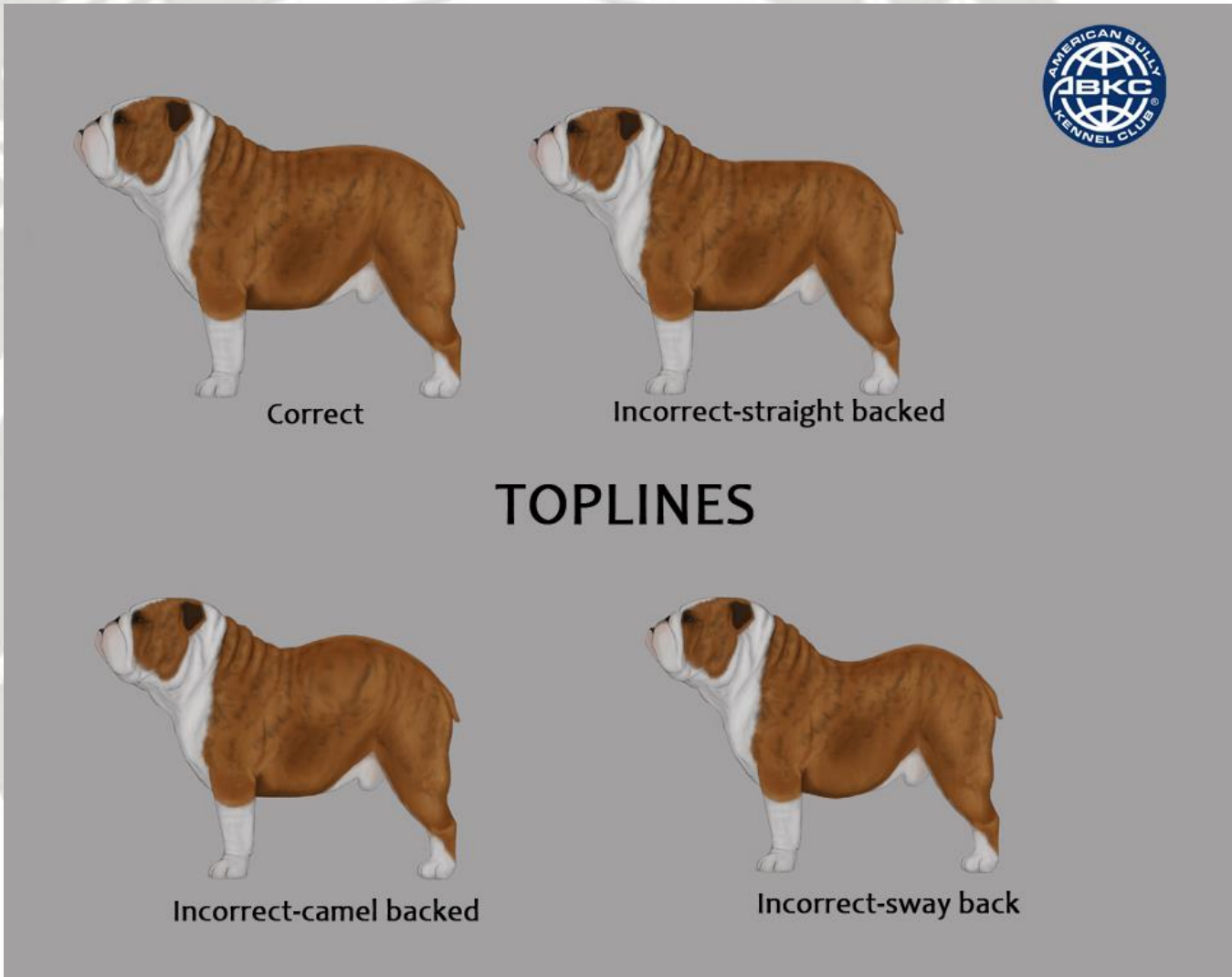


The teeth should be large and strong with the canine teeth are wide apart, and the six small teeth in front between the canines, in an even level row.



TOPLINE

There should be a slight fall in the back, close behind the shoulders (its lowest part), whence the spine should rise to the loins (the top of which should be higher than the top of the shoulders), thence curving again more suddenly to the tail, forming an arch (a very distinctive feature of the breed), termed “ roach back ” or, more correctly , “ wheel-back ”.



TOPLINES



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BODY

The brisket and body should be very capacious, with full sides, well-rounded ribs and very deep from the shoulders down to its lowest part, where it joins the chest. It should be well let down between the shoulders and forelegs, giving the dog a broad, low, short-legged appearance. Chest—The chest should be very broad, deep and full. Underline—The body should be well ribbed up behind with the belly tucked up and not rotund. Back and Loin—The back should be short and strong, very broad at the shoulders and comparatively narrow at the loins. Tail—The tail may be either straight or “screwed” (but never curved or curly), and in any case must be short, hung low, with decided downward carriage, thick root and fine tip. If straight, the tail should be cylindrical and of uniform taper. If “screwed,” the bends or kinks should be well defined, and they may be abrupt and even knotty, but no portion of the member should be elevated above the base or root.

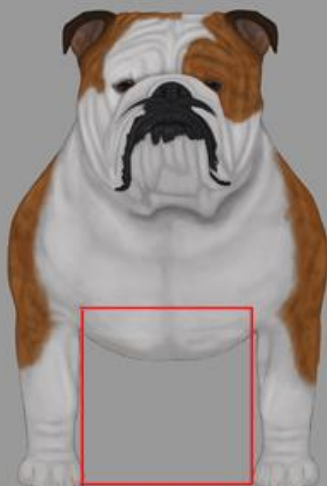
FOREQUARTERS

The shoulders should be muscular, very heavy, widespread and slanting outward, giving stability and great power. The forelegs should be short, very stout, straight and muscular, set wide apart, with well developed calves, presenting a bowed outline, but the bones of the legs should not be curved or bandy, nor the feet brought too close together. The elbows should be low and stand well out and loose from the body. The feet should be moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and very short stubby nails. The front feet may be straight or slightly out-turned.

HINDQUARTERS

The hind legs should be strong and muscular and longer than the forelegs, so as to elevate the loins above the shoulders. Hocks should be slightly bent and well let down, so as to give length and strength from the loins to hock. The lower leg should be short, straight and strong, with the stifles turned slightly outward and away from the body. The hocks are thereby made to approach each other, and the hind feet to turn outward. The feet should be moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short stubby nails. The hind feet should be pointed well outward.





Correct



Incorrect-narrow front

FRONTS



Incorrect-east west feet
bowed front legs



Incorrect-feet tend to turn inwards
overly loose elbow





Correct



Incorrect-to wide

HINDQUARTERS



Incorrect-pigeon toed



Incorrect-cow hocked





Correct

HINDQUARTERS



Incorrect-straight hock



Incorrect-crooked hock





Correct



Incorrect-gay

TAILS



Incorrect-high set



Incorrect-inverted



If screwed, no part of the tail
be above the base of root



COAT

The coat should be straight, short, flat, close of fine texture, smooth and glossy. (No fringe, feather or curl.)

SKIN

The skin should be soft and loose, especially at the head, neck and shoulders.

WRINKLES AND DEWLAP

The head and face should be covered with heavy wrinkles, and at the throat, from jaw to chest, there should be two loose pendulous folds, forming the dewlap.

COLOR

All coat and nose colors of the English Bulldog are acceptable including standard and rare colors.

TEMPERAMENT

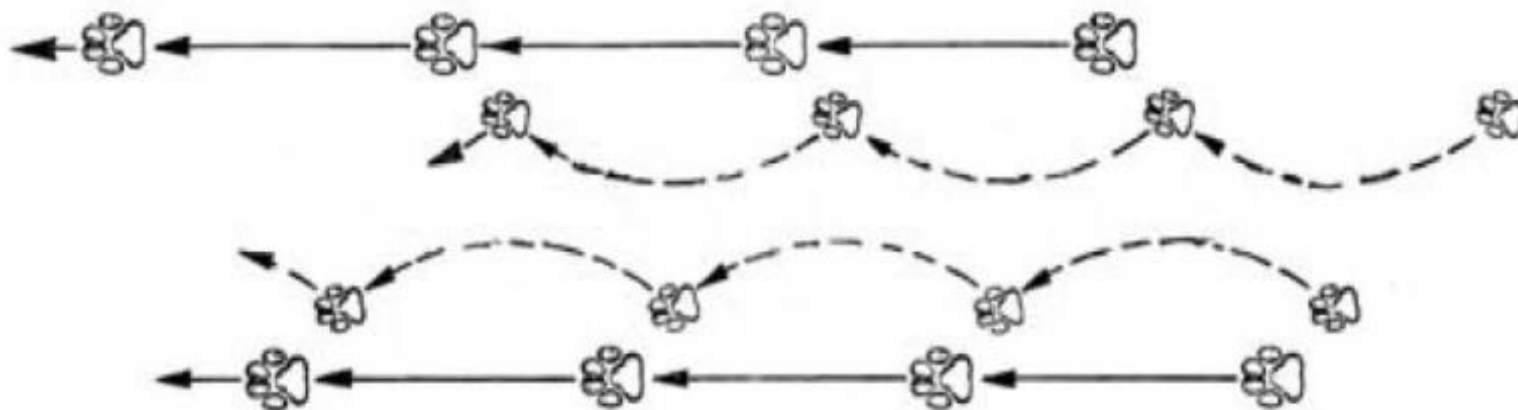
The disposition should be equable and kind, resolute and courageous (not viscous or aggressive), and demeanor should be pacific and dignified. These attributes should be countenanced by the expression and behavior.

GAIT

The style and carriage are peculiar, his gait being a loose-jointed, shuffling, sidewise motion, giving the characteristic “roll.” The action must, however, be unrestrained, free and vigorous.



The proper Bulldog, with short wide set front legs and longer narrow set rear legs has a peculiar gait that results in a side to side motion or "roll". The roll can be observed by following the "sidewise" motion of the skin over the loin and the "sidewise" motion at the base of the tail.





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Terminology



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ANGULATION – The angles formed by meeting of the bones, mainly, the shoulder, upper arm, stifle, and hock.

BALANCED – A consistent whole, symmetrical; correctly proportioned head to body, height to length, etc.

BARREL – Rounded rib section. **BONE** – The relative size (girth) of a dog's leg bones—substance.

BRINDLE – A dog with an acceptable body colors usually with a superimposed pattern of black stripes.

BRISKET – The forepart of the body below the chest, between the forelegs.

BURR – The inside of the ear.

BUTTERFLY NOSE – A parti-colored nose, i.e. dark, spotted with flesh color.



CHEST – Forepart of the body between the shoulder blades and above the brisket.

CHOPS – Jowls or pendulous flesh of the lips and jaw.

COBBY – Short bodied; compact.

COW HOCKED – When the hocks turn toward each other. **CUSHION** – Fullness or thickness of the upper lips.

DOWN-FACED – Lacks turn-up.

DOWN IN PASTER – When weak or faulty pastern joints, tendons or muscles cause pronounced angulation at the pastern and let the foot down.

ENTROPIAN – Inversion of the edge of the eyelid.

FLEWS – Upper lips pendulous, particularly at their inner corners.

FOREFACE – The front part of the head, before the eyes...muzzle



FRONT – The forepart of the body as viewed head on; i.e. forelegs, chest, brisket and shoulder line.

FURROW – A slight indentation or median line down the center of the skull to the stop.

LAYBACK – Receding nose accompanied by an undershot jaw. **LIGHT EYES** – Lighter than medium brown in bulldogs.

MUZZLE – The head in front of the eyes-nasal bone, nostrils and jaw...foreface.

OCCIPUT – Upper, back point of skull.

ROACH BACK – A convex curvature of the back beginning back of the shoulders and rising to the loins, then down to the tail.

ROSE EAR – A small drop ear which folds over and back so as to reveal the burr.



SCREW TAIL – A naturally short tail twisted in more or less spiral formation.

STIFLE – The joint of the hind leg between the thigh and the second thigh; the dog's knee.

STOP – The step up from nose to skull.

STRAIGHT HOCKED – Lacking appreciable angulation at the hock joints, straight behind.

SWAYBACK – Concave curvature of the back line between the withers and the hipbones.

TURNUP – An uptilted foreface.

TYPE – The characteristic qualities distinguishing a breed; the embodiment of a standards essentials.



UNDERSHOT – The front teeth (incisors) of the lower jaw overlapping or projecting beyond the front teeth of the upper jaw when the mouth is closed.

WHEEL BACK – The back line arched markedly over the loin; roached.

WRINKLE – Loose, folding skin on forehead and foreface.

WRY FACE OR JAW – Out of alignment; twisted. Upper and lower jaws not parallel.





Health



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What Kind of Health Problems Do English Bulldogs Have?

English Bulldogs suffer from dozens of health related issues. Some of the most common health issues for English Bulldogs are:

Major respiratory problems

Overheating

Severe Skin Allergies

Eczema, Dry Skin , Acne

Arthritis

Degenerative Spine Disease

Cherry Eye

Hip Dysplasia

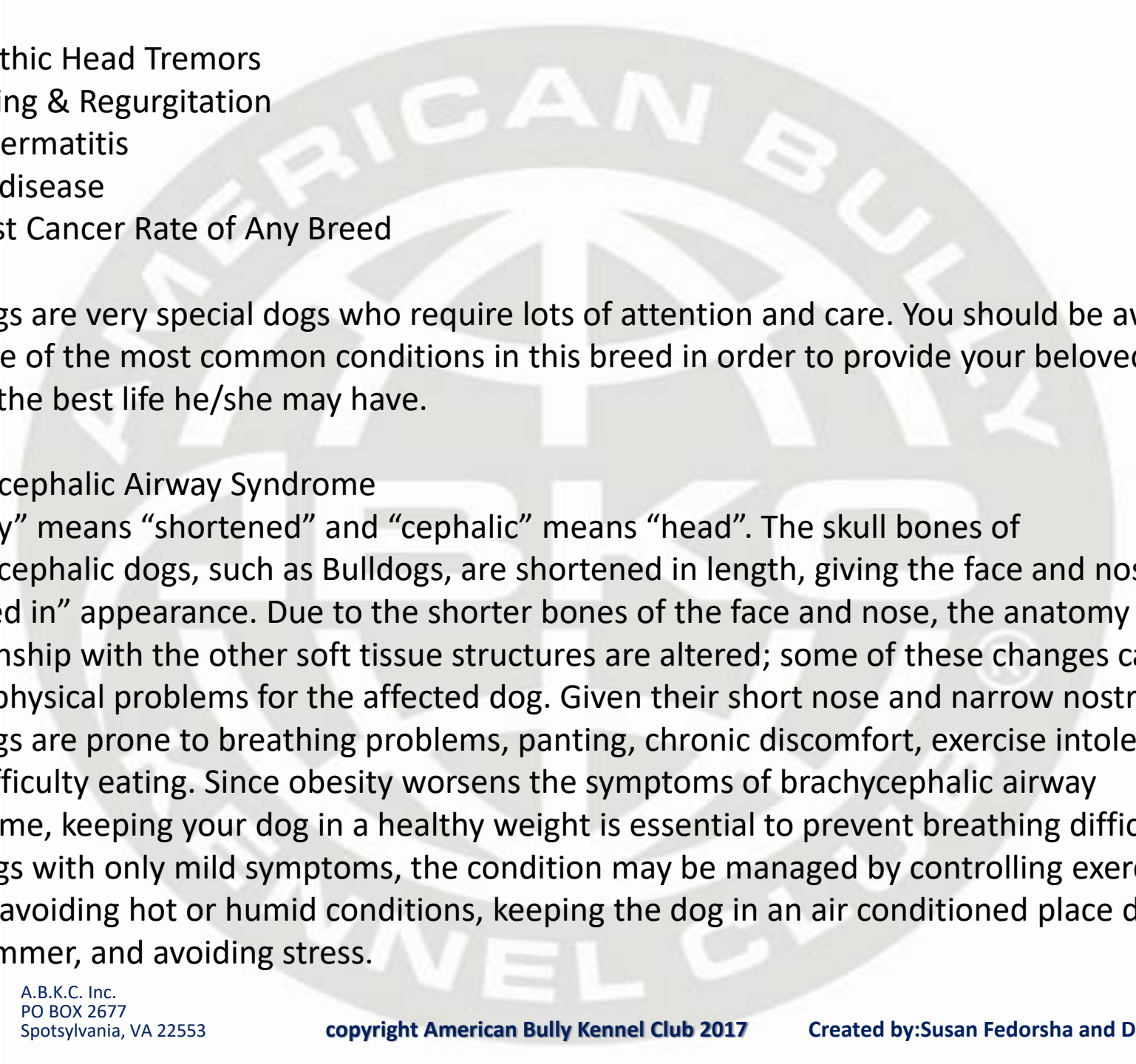
Joint & Ligament Injuries



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Idiopathic Head Tremors
Vomiting & Regurgitation
Fold Dermatitis
Heart disease
Highest Cancer Rate of Any Breed

Bulldogs are very special dogs who require lots of attention and care. You should be aware of some of the most common conditions in this breed in order to provide your beloved friend the best life he/she may have.

Brachycephalic Airway Syndrome

“Brachy” means “shortened” and “cephalic” means “head”. The skull bones of brachycephalic dogs, such as Bulldogs, are shortened in length, giving the face and nose a “pushed in” appearance. Due to the shorter bones of the face and nose, the anatomy and relationship with the other soft tissue structures are altered; some of these changes can cause physical problems for the affected dog. Given their short nose and narrow nostrils, Bulldogs are prone to breathing problems, panting, chronic discomfort, exercise intolerance and difficulty eating. Since obesity worsens the symptoms of brachycephalic airway syndrome, keeping your dog in a healthy weight is essential to prevent breathing difficulties. For dogs with only mild symptoms, the condition may be managed by controlling exercise levels, avoiding hot or humid conditions, keeping the dog in an air conditioned place during the summer, and avoiding stress.



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Cherry Eye

Cherry eye is a disorder of the nictitating membrane, also called the third eyelid, present in the eyes of dogs. Cherry eye is most often seen in young dogs under the age of two. If left untreated, this condition can lead to keratoconjunctivitis sicca and other complications so if you see that your dog “cherry eyes”, you should seek veterinary care as soon as possible.

Dermatitis

Bulldogs are prone to skin fold dermatitis (skin inflammation) due to the rubbing of skin and trapping of moisture in the tail, lip and facial folds. You should clean and dry your Bulldog’s wrinkles frequently to prevent bacterial growth, which may lead to pyoderma (bacterial skin infection). Skin fold dermatitis is easily identified as hairless (alopecic), reddened, and bad smell areas of folded skin or wrinkles.

Hip and Elbow Dysplasia

Hip and elbow dysplasia mean malformation of the hip and elbow joints respectively. These conditions may cause pain, lameness, decreased activity, difficulty rising, and reluctance to run, jump, or climb stairs. It is important to keep your Bulldog in a healthy weight to prevent joint disease. Although Bulldogs are not active dogs, you should take him/her on regular walks when the weather is not too hot. In addition, you should feed your dog the appropriate amount of calories in order to prevent obesity.



Heat Sensitivity

Bulldogs are indoor dogs and cannot be left alone outside for long. Their heat intolerance is related to their breathing issues. Although they do not tolerate rigorous exercise, they can tolerate short daily walks.

What is The English Bulldog's Lifespan?

The average lifespan of an English Bulldog is just 8 years. The average lifespan for dogs is 13 years. Why do English Bulldogs die 40% earlier than their peers? Unfortunately, humans breeding practices are the main reason English Bulldogs live such a short life compared to other dog breeds.

What Kind of Disposition Do Bulldogs Have?

English Bulldogs are extremely friendly, funny and expressive. They are also known for their courage, loyalty and love for their owners. English Bulldogs are notorious for being stubborn and will work tirelessly to get what they want. They are very strong-willed and independent but like human babies, English Bulldogs require constant attention and human warmth from their owners.

Are English Bulldogs Good Around Children?

Yes, English Bulldogs are wonderful dogs for children. They are protective yet mellow and extremely gentle. Bulldogs are not aggressive and most children find them very entertaining. Bulldogs are also natural guard dogs and are known to alert their owners when danger is present or if a child is in trouble.



How Big do English Bulldogs Get?

Full-grown English Bulldog | Average Height: 1.5 Feet (18 Inches)

Full-grown English Bulldog | Average Weight: 50 Lbs. (22.7 Kilos)

English Bulldog Exercise Requirements

English Bulldogs don't require much exercise. Twice daily walks are usually sufficient but most English Bulldogs appreciate going outside and exploring. Just like humans, Bulldogs are social creatures and their mood and wellbeing improve with regular and frequent walks. English Bulldogs cannot withstand prolonged exercise because of their compromised anatomy. They can overheat and die or develop pneumonia just from playing too much. English Bulldog owners must constantly monitor their dogs' activities for signs of exhaustion or fatigue.

Are English Bulldogs Indoor or Outdoor Dogs?

English Bulldogs must be kept indoors only. Because Heat Exhaustion can happen in minutes, English Bulldogs cannot be left outside in warm weather unattended. English Bulldogs also require a cool climate and most owners have their thermostat on an automatic setting to keep their Bulldog cool throughout the day when they're not at home



What is An English Bulldog's Diet Like?

English Bulldogs have lots of food allergies and the wrong diet can cause:

Obesity
Skin rashes
Tear Stains
Stomach Aches
Ulcers
Gastroesophageal Reflux Disorder (GERD)

While there isn't one clear cut winner for an English Bulldog's diet, only buy food that meets these minimum standards:

American-made
Organic
All-natural
Additive-free

Also, many English Bulldog owners have switched to raw food diets recently and report:

Weight loss
Less tear staining
Less gas
Healthier stools
Healthier skin
Shinier fur
Increased energy



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Why aren't English Bulldogs Allowed On Airlines?

After a string of English Bulldog deaths caused from flying, Bulldogs are banned from flying on every commercial airline. The reason they struggle flying is because of breathing troubles and they overheat easily in the cargo area of an airplane.

Why Are English Bulldogs Delivered by Caesarean section?

English Bulldog mothers are artificially inseminated and give birth by Caesarean section. Male English Bulldogs can't impregnate Females because their cartoonish body development prevents the proper mechanics from taking place. Also, English Bulldog puppies have heads so large that their mother can't push them out of her birth canal without breaking her pelvic bones.

Why Do English Bulldogs Not Get Along With Other Dogs?

Their loud, grumbling breathing sounds like growling and often puts off other dog breeds. Because of this, English Bulldogs can quickly recognize other bulldogs and typically stick together.

Are English Bulldogs Needy?

Yes! Because bulldogs are emotional and affectionate, they require constant closeness and attention. For some, this is an ideal pet relationship but it can be burdensome for those who are looking for less needy companions.



Are English Bulldogs Good Swimmers?

No, English Bulldogs are prone to drowning and should be closely supervised with a life vest on when swimming. They also tire easily so swimming or any exercise must be done in short, 15-30 second bursts followed by a few minutes to recover.

How Do English Bulldogs Play?

When bulldogs play, they engage in a lighthearted jowl biting and ear tugging session that usually ends (rather quickly) in heavy panting and collapsing to the ground so they can keep playing while laying down.

How Much Do English Bulldogs Cost?

Bulldogs range in price from \$1500-\$30,000, depending on the breeder and the dogs features and bloodline. Unfortunately, many Bulldogs are abandoned at shelters each year because the ongoing costs to care for them are so high.

Are English Bulldogs Good Around Other Dogs?

Yes, English Bulldogs have very mellow temperaments and are very gentle, despite their rough outer appearance. However, English Bulldogs can be territorial, dominant and tend to be more independent than other breeds. Generally, the earlier an English Bulldog is introduced to its sibling the better.



Are English Bulldogs Emotionally Expressive?

It's not uncommon to hear a bulldog owner talk about how "human-like" their bulldog is. In fact, many say that bulldogs are more human-like than dog-like! They are highly emotional, have very specific preferences (that they don't hesitate to voice), and use facial expressions that seem to communicate what they're thinking. While all of this seems hysterical to the person watching it, bulldogs take themselves very seriously and will hold a grudge if they are not respected (at least until dinnertime).

How Bad Do English Bulldogs Snore?

Bad. It's not uncommon for ear plugs to be on the new puppy shopping list of English Bulldog owners. Their snoring is caused by their shortened breathing passages and jugged jaws.

