

Utility

French Bulldog

The French Bulldog can claim part of its ancestry in Great Britain, going back to the 1850s when a dwarf Bulldog breed known as the Toy Bulldog was popular in some parts of the country.

Nottingham lace makers, threatened by redundancy in the Industrial Revolution, emigrated to Northern France, taking their dogs with them. They became popular in some localised areas. It is thought that some crosses were made to other short-faced breeds and after three decades a new breed known as the French Bulldog had evolved.

Unlike other Bulldog breeds, the French Bulldog has large 'Bat Ears' (a term used as a nickname for the breed) giving him a clownish appearance. Soon this was the fashionable breed, popular in artistic society in Paris and portrayed by Degas and Toulouse Lautrec in portraits of Parisian life.

The return of the breed to Britain in the last years of the 19th Century brought some antagonism from the traditionalists, but in 1902 the French Bulldog Club of England was formed. In 1906 the Kennel Club gave official recognition to the breed.

In recent years the breed has seen a meteoric rise in popularity. From 2009 to 2015 the registrations for the breed increased 10 fold and in 2015 the French Bulldog was ranked third most popular breed in the UK.

Breed Group	Utility
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Small
How much exercise?	Up to 1 hour per day
Length of coat	Short
How much grooming?	Once a week
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Flat, Small or Large House
Minimum garden size	Small/Medium
Lifespan	Over 10 Years

Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the French Bulldog?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders must use the following screening schemes for sires and dams BVA/KC

- Respiratory Function Grading Scheme

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- Eye testing
- DNA test - HC-HSF4
- Participation in French Bulldog Health Scheme
- DNA test - DM

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or
- 3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or

- 4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or
- 5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or
- 6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not register merle puppies. This is because the merle gene in this breed carries an increased risk of impaired hearing and sight problems

French Bulldog Clubs

Name	Telephone
French Bulldog Club Of England	
Midland & Northern Counties French Bulldog Club	01773 875 185
Pennine & Scottish French Bulldog Association	01535 652057
Sheffield Bull Breeds Club	01777 249193
West Lancs French Bulldog Club	01744 631190

French Bulldog Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
French Bulldog Rescue GB	
French Bulldog Saviours	01924 520143
French Bulldog Welfare Trust	01282 870901
French Bulldog Welfare Trust	0191 280 9177
French Bulldog Welfare Trust	0115 938 3317
Phoenix French Bulldog Rescue	03007727716