

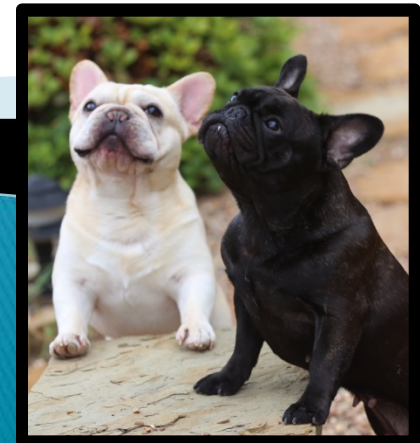
# How do I find a breeder?

There are a lot of people out there producing puppies...not all of them are concerned with the quality of what they produce, or the health of what they produce.

The French Bull Dog Club of America (FBDCA) maintains a Breeder referral list on their website [www.frenchbulldogclub.org](http://www.frenchbulldogclub.org) It is organized by State, and represents breeders who have been members of FBDCA for a minimum of 3 years, and who have signed a written code of ethics.

Other options include attending a local dog show and talking with breeders. These breeders are breeding to the standard of the breed in order to be competitive in the show ring, so the odds of you getting a beautiful puppy are higher.

There are also local French bulldog clubs around the country that might be of help.



# How long must I wait?

You should plan to be on a waiting list.

Ethical breeders are not churning out numerous litters a month to supply buyers. They are careful in their selection of breeding dogs to put together the best scenario for improvement to the breed.

Many have show careers to complete before they are entered into the breeding program.

Most will want to complete health testing on their breeding dogs prior to breeding them. But like with fine wine, it is a good thing to wait and get quality than to settle for less.



# **What questions should I ask a breeder to determine if they are reputable?**

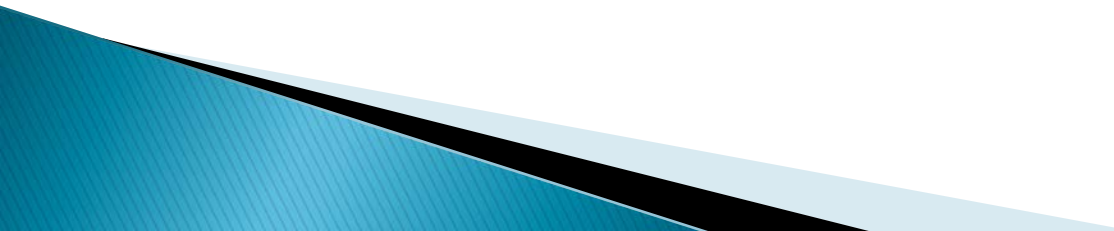
Do they breed to the standard of the breed? Another way to help you determine if they actually do, is to ask if they show at AKC dog shows.

Do they have any AKC Champions? A dog show is about submitting dogs to a judge for review. The judge assesses the dogs based on how well the dog conforms to the standard of the breed.

Did they breed the available pups? Sadly there are brokers who import hundreds of unhealthy dogs from foreign countries to meet demand.

Is the Mom on site? Can you see her? Sometimes the Dad is available too but not always...sometimes breeders ship semen in to improve on the next generation (this will usually be a champion dog). May you come to their home to meet the “family” (and see the conditions the pups are raised in)?

Do they health test? Have they gone the extra mile to insure the health of the parents of the pup you are interested in?



# What's the problem with colors “not in the standard”?

This is not an arbitrary decision the club has made. It requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of the members to adjust the standard in any way. It has only been done 5 times since 1897 when the club was formed. The standard calls for specific colors and disallows others.

Some colors carry with them known health issues. Some colors are here because breeders have bred to another breed to attain them; so the line is no longer pure.

The standard is a collective agreement of  $\frac{2}{3}$ 's of the membership, as to what constitutes breed type. If a breeder rashly decides to breed against the standard in one area...how are you to know they have any respect for any of it.

You fell in love with the French Bulldog...surely you want your puppy to grow up and look like one! But most importantly and something you may wish to consider...The FBDCA was formed to protect and preserve the breed!

The FBDCA has been protecting our breed since 1897...maybe we know a little about them! Color breeders state that we are just jealous...any of us could breed color, we choose not to for the reasons we have laid out...to preserve and protect our breed.

# How do I become a member of the club?

On the club website [www.frenchbulldogclub.org](http://www.frenchbulldogclub.org) is an application.

The application must be completely filled out and accompanied by 2 sponsor forms (also on the website), a signed code of ethics, and first year dues.

The application is posted on the club website for 30 days for members to review and then voted on by the FBDCA board.



# **I want to be a member but I don't know anyone to sponsor me... What do I do?**

You will have to take a little more time to get to know people. The club is made up of like minded members...and remember we have work to do protecting and preserving the breed.

Membership is not about a title or a banner on a webpage. We want to insure new members have the same goals.

So how do you become involved? If your puppy is of a quality to be shown in conformation...start showing. If your puppy is a pet, consider becoming involved in AKC performance/companion sports. These are held at AKC shows and involve all sorts of activities...obedience...rally...agility...barn hunt...coursing to name just a few!

There are plenty of opportunities to spend fun time with your dog and get to know others who love the breed. Become involved...shows are put on by local clubs; so join them first, volunteer!

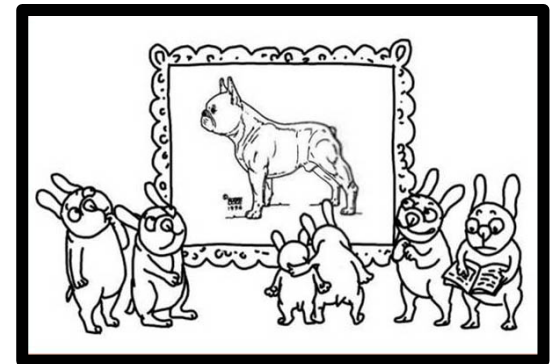
# **I have a dog/bitch I want to breed, how do I go about it?**

When working to improve a breed, one must understand; not all dogs should be bred. There is a lot to learn. You see your dog as perfect...love can be blind.

Most reputable breeders do not sell intact (breedable) dogs without spay/neuter contracts or a show contract.

So if you bought a show prospect, show your dog. Submit the dog to a competition with your peers and the opinion of licensed AKC Judges as to how closely it aligns with the standard of the breed. Attain a championship title.

Health test your dog/bitch to insure it is free of inheritable traits that should not be passed on. Work with a mentor to help you learn about pedigrees and help you to make wise breeding decisions.



# **If it turns out the dog/bitch should not be bred...then what?**

Spay/neuter and love your dog! Most of us started with a pet. It's how we came to know it was a breed we wanted to do more in.

Participate in companion sports, join local clubs, meet ups, etc. Get to know people and more about the breed. If you think you want to be a breeder in the future, you will need to get another dog...next time you will know a lot more about the breed, about breed type, and about the health of the breed.

The good news is Frenchies are like potato chips you can't have just one! Many of us have more than one dog, each have a place and a purpose in our home, and many started with their pet Frenchie and added their next dog with more knowledge. If you truly love the breed; you want only what's best for it.



# What are the health problems associated with the French Bulldog?

- All dogs have health issues just like most humans. How a person or dog is structured, diet, exercise, lifestyle etc. can also have an affect on health. The structure of the French bulldog's flat face can allow for breathing issues. It is important to purchase your pup from a breeder who understands this, and breeds for improvement, and good unobstructed airways. A French bulldog has all the same nasal apparatus that a Doberman has. However the Doberman has a muzzle that is a few inches off the face. So in a French bulldog, the pallet is pushed back further in the throat. It's important that the head and neck are structured properly through good breeding, to allow for better breathing.
- The French Bulldog is also a dwarf breed which can result in joint or spinal abnormalities. It's important to deal with breeders who health test. X-rays are a vital tool in ensuring healthy spines and joints going forward in their breeding programs. Several years ago Juvenile hereditary cataracts were very prevalent in the breed...now thanks to a DNA test and responsible breeders it is almost eradicated! The French Bulldog Club of America has worked with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals to establish a CHIC program listing the required and optional health tests. The FBDCA encourages it's breeders to participate in this very valuable program, awarding ROM titles to dogs who have met CHIC requirements, and are titled in two competitive disciplines.

# **How do they interact with other dogs? Are they good with children?**

- French Bulldogs are a friendly, inquisitive and outgoing breed. That said, all dogs must be properly socialized.
- Someone once said “Every kid should have a dog and every dog should have a kid!” And indeed it can be a very fulfilling relationship for both... but the Child and the Dog must be taught respect, and care. Rules for behavior need to be established for the dog and the child.

# How are their temperaments?

Our standard for the breed also describes the temperament expected in a well bred Frenchie as “Well behaved, adaptable, and comfortable companions with an affectionate nature and even disposition: generally active, alert and playful, but not unduly boisterous.”

In addition to good genetics, proper socialization and training on your part are important to achieve these goals.



# What types of activities are best for them?

Their quirky, fun and inquisitive nature make them open to trying lots of activities. Well bred French bulldogs participate in conformation dog shows, agility, obedience, barn hunt, coursing and many other activities.

The French bulldog is heavy fronted which does not make for effective swimmers...dogs around water should wear a life vest for their protection.

Hiking with their owners can be fun provided consideration has been given that temperatures are not too hot...early morning or early evening is better for all flat faced breeds.

# What is their average size?

Every breed has what is called a “Standard of the Breed” this document establishes norms (or what is standard) for the breed.

Our breed standard describes a small to medium, compact and muscular dog that is no bigger than 28lbs.



# **What is the best age to spay or neuter?**

You will need to discuss this with your breeder and your Veterinarian.

However there are several university studies that recommend 8–10 months (after puberty) for some specific health benefits.

# **Are French bulldogs good eaters?**

Many things enter into this.

A healthy dog is important. But so is a good diet, good training, scheduling, routine, happiness etc.

They are a dog...if they are not eating on a consistent basis...see your veterinarian to rule out any possible health issue.

*Presented by the FBDCA Public  
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