



WELCOME TO THE BREED EDUCATION ON THE FRENCH BULLDOG

FBFC Judge's Education Committee;
Chair - Pat O'Keefe
Members – Anne McIntyre,
Brenda Anwyll,
Margaret Au

WELCOME TO OUR SEMINAR.

- The purpose of this seminar is to review and educate on the newly revised standard that became effective July of 2024.
- Let us introduce to our Breed.





History

Standard-sized bulldogs in England were used to develop a toy version. During the mid-19th century the diminutive bulldog was a popular family pet in the English midlands where lacemaking was a local industry.

When English lace makers emigrated to France during the industrial revolution; they took the miniature bulldogs with them.

These toy bulldogs were eventually crossed with local breeds...possibly terriers and pugs.

The result was a breed known as the Bouldogue Français or French Bulldog.

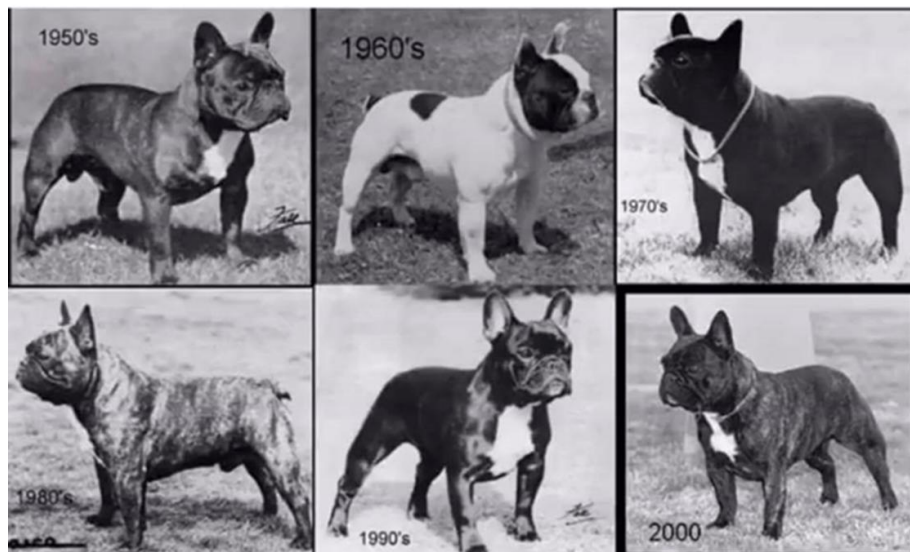


TWO EAR TYPES

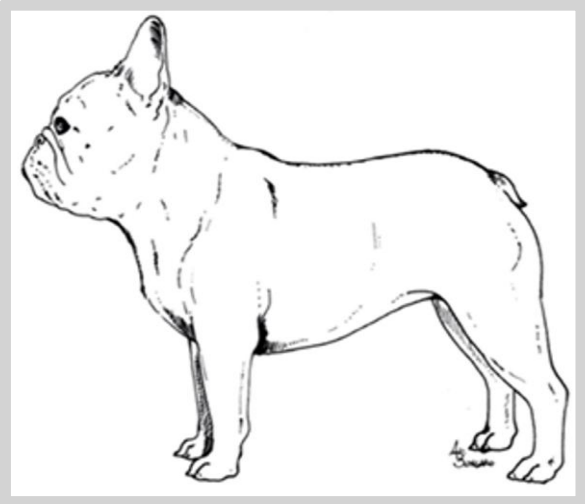
- At first, two ears types were acceptable the typical bulldog rose ear...
- and the upright 'bat' ear, which prevailed as the only acceptable ear for the French Bulldog in the North American continent.



HISTORICAL BREED TYPE



PROPORTION, SYMMETRY, SILHOUETTE



“The French Bulldog should have the appearance of:

- an active, intelligent, muscular dog
- of heavy bone,
- smooth coat,
- compactly built
- medium or small structure.



The points should be well distributed

- 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 poorly proportioned.”
- In comparison to specimens of different sex, due allowance should be made in favour of the bitches, which do not bear the characteristics of the breed to the same marked degree as do the dogs.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS



- The French Bulldog is a companion breed. He is described as “A clown in the cloak of a philosopher”...comical yet always thinking.
- The standard describes him as “active” and “intelligent”.
- As a companion; they excel with their confident and charming personality.
- It has been said “A French Bulldog owns the ground he stands on”. He is “confident, without aggression.”
- The Frenchie is a quiet and well-mannered dog. He is not given to unnecessary barking. However, as with other short-nosed breeds, he may snort or snore.

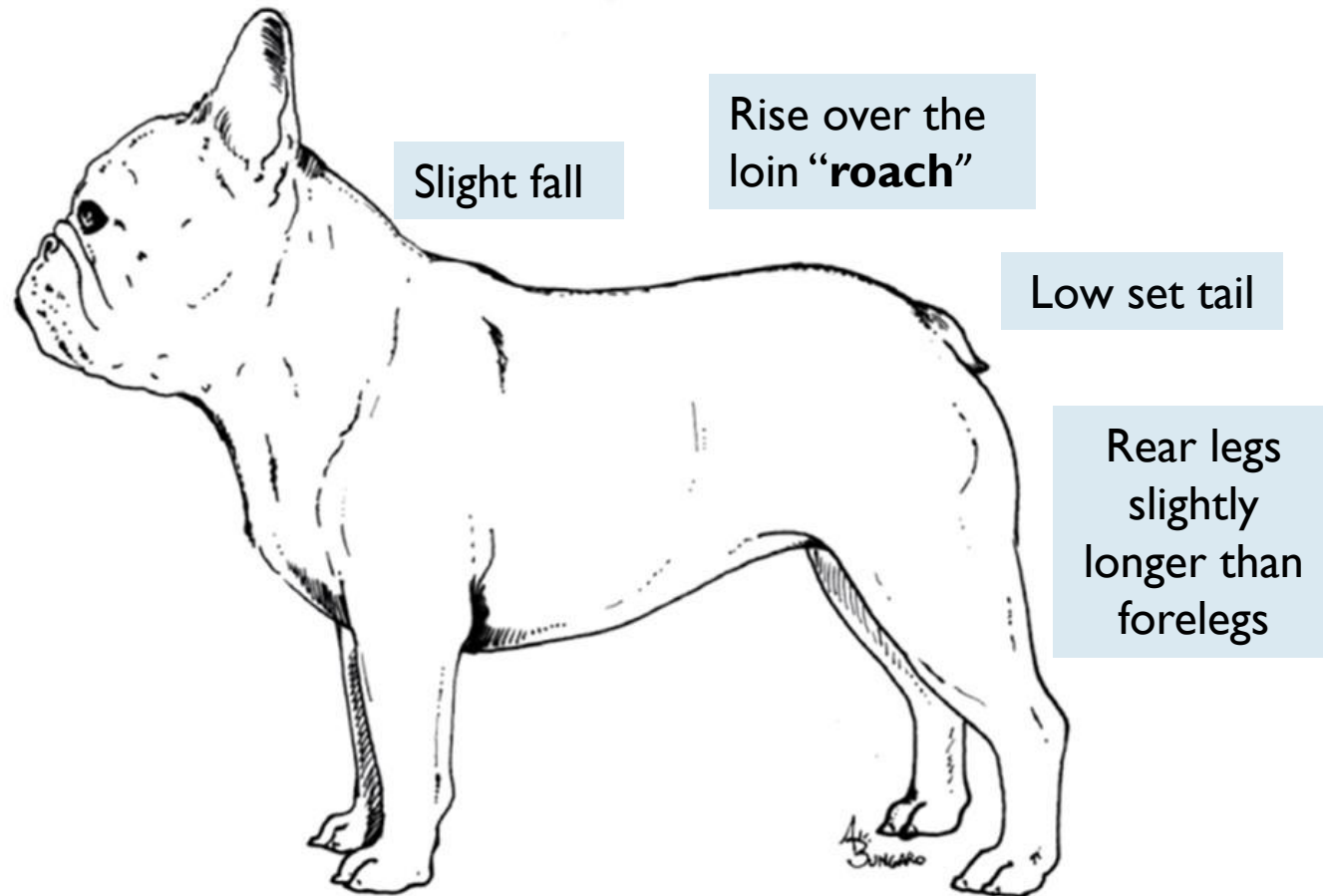
BODY

-

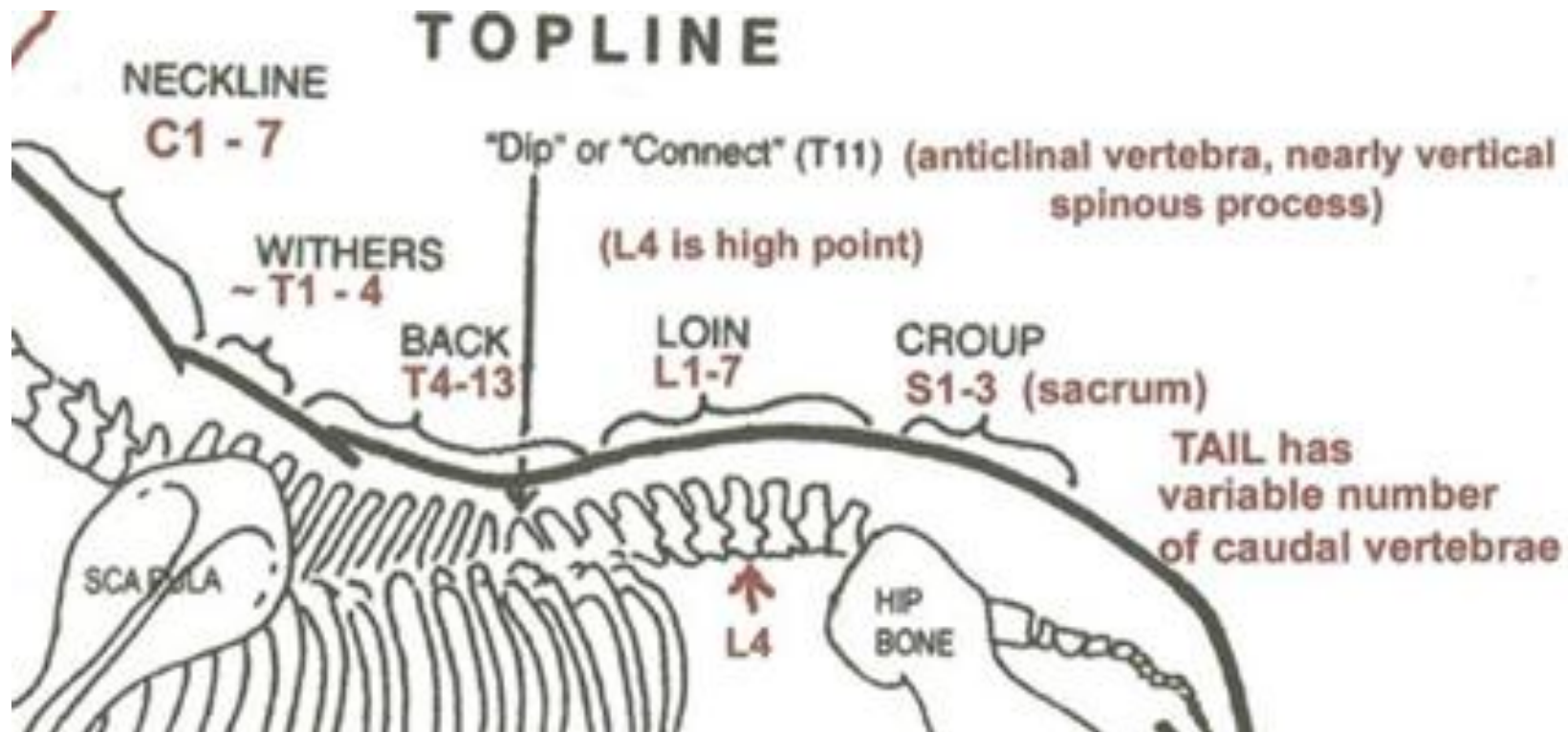
The body should be short and well-rounded, slightly broader at the shoulders and narrowing at the loins, the proportion slightly longer than the height. The back should be strong and short over the ribcage, with a slight fall close behind the shoulders, gradually rising to the loin, which is higher than the shoulder, creating a roach over the loin and rounding at the croup. The hind legs slightly visible from the front. The chest, broad, deep and full, well ribbed with the belly tucked up.

POINT:

The Roach is a combination of the fall behind the shoulders, rising over the loins, the elevation being created by the longer legs in the rear and the rounding of the croup with a low set tail.

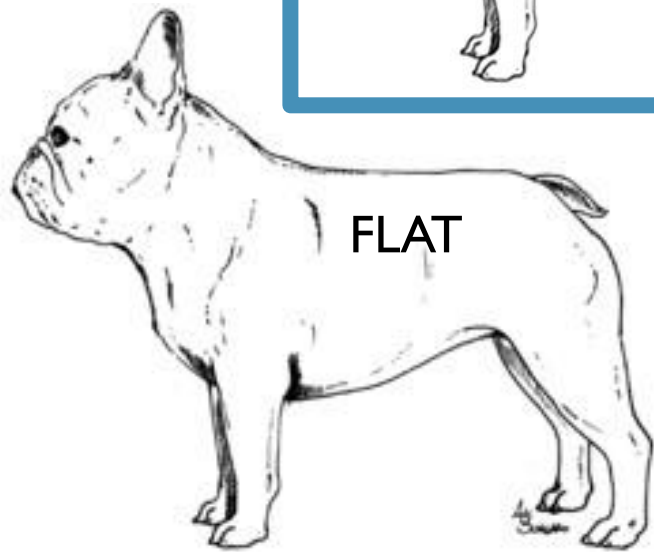
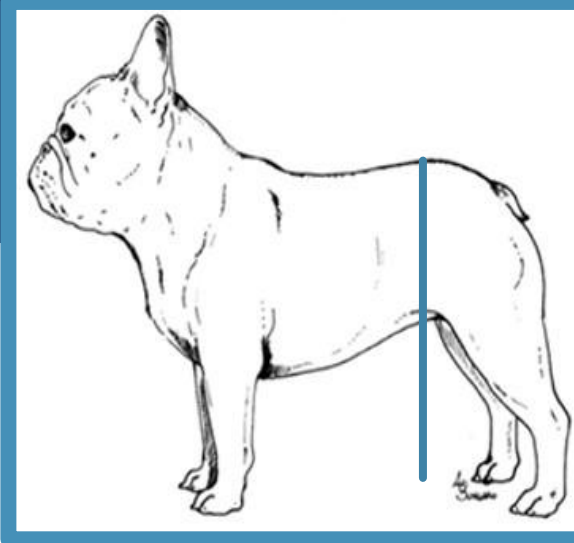


TOPLINE...LOCATION OF ROACH



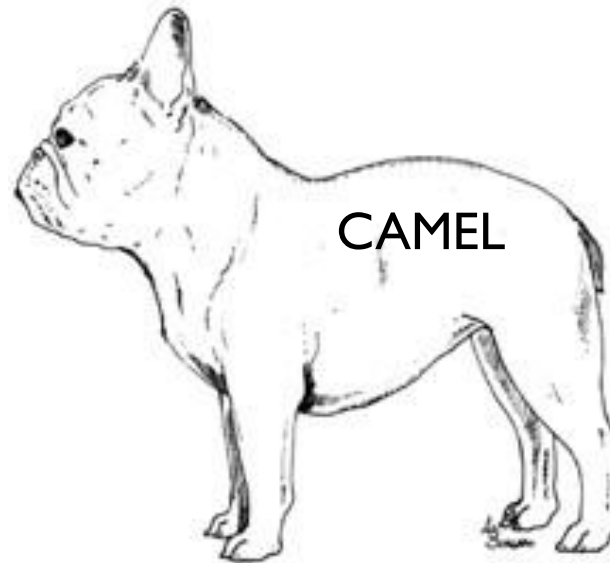
Important to note the rise should start at T11 with the top of the rise is at L4, gradually going down over the croup.

TOPLINES



FLAT

- Flat topline
- No rise over the loin
- High tail set



CAMEL

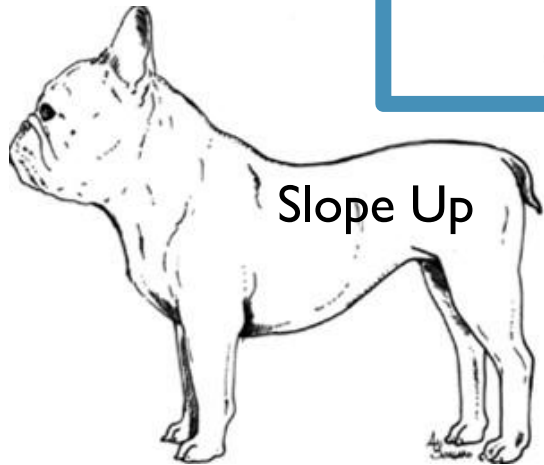
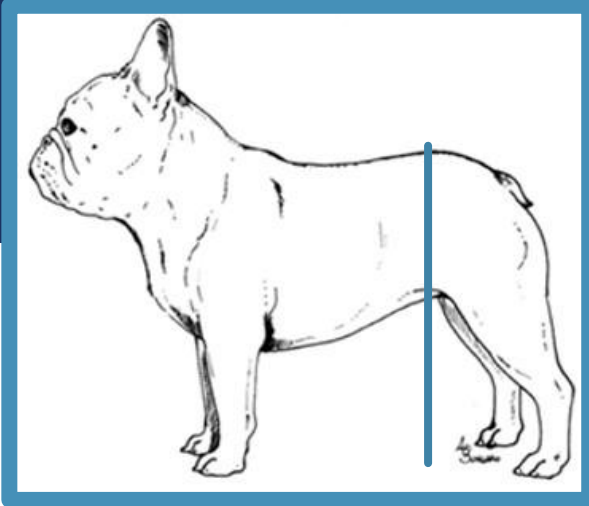
- Rise is extreme from the fall to middle back
- Camel back



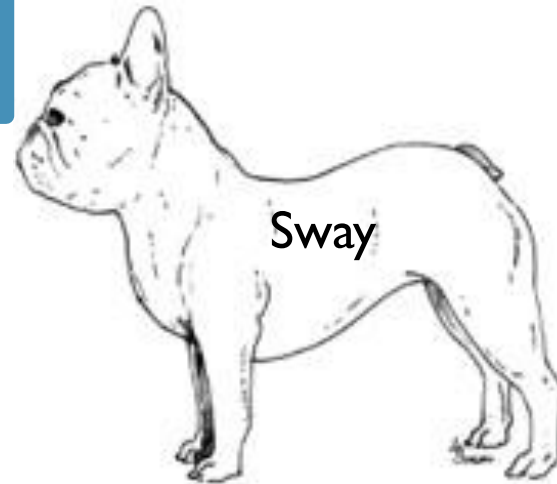
TOO SHORT

- Overly compact
- Insufficient loin to allow rise
- Straight rear angulation

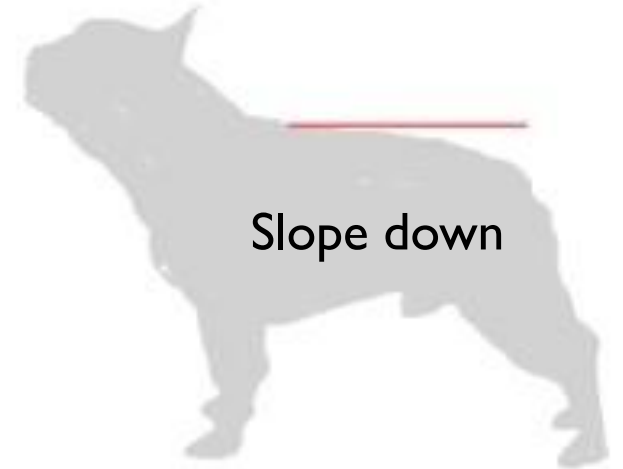
TOPLINES CONT'D



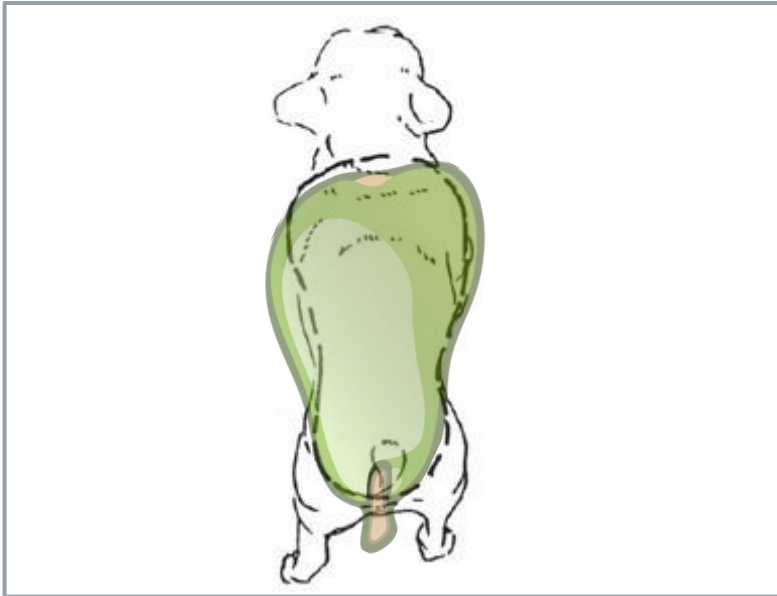
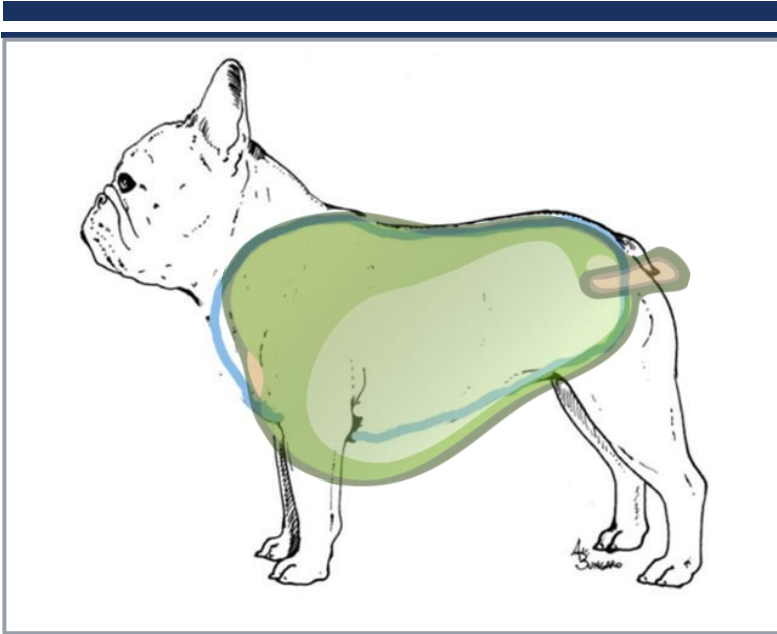
- Rise is over the rear legs
- Does not round out at the croup
- High tail set



- Hind legs too long causing an extreme rise to the croup
- Front not balanced to the rear.



- Loins not elevated above the shoulders
- **Does not exhibit the hallmark “roach”**



“PEAR SHAPE”

“PEAR” is a good description of the correct body shape. A broad chest with deep and full chest, well ribbed (sprung) and narrowing at the loins with belly tucked up.

The lines of the topline and underline are equally necessary to achieve the correct body type. The lines should be smooth and graceful.

PEAR SHAPED CONT'D

The lines are also smooth in contour and enhance the required “pear” shaped body when viewed from above.

A narrow front will not achieve the “**pear shape**” of broad at the front and narrowing at the loins.



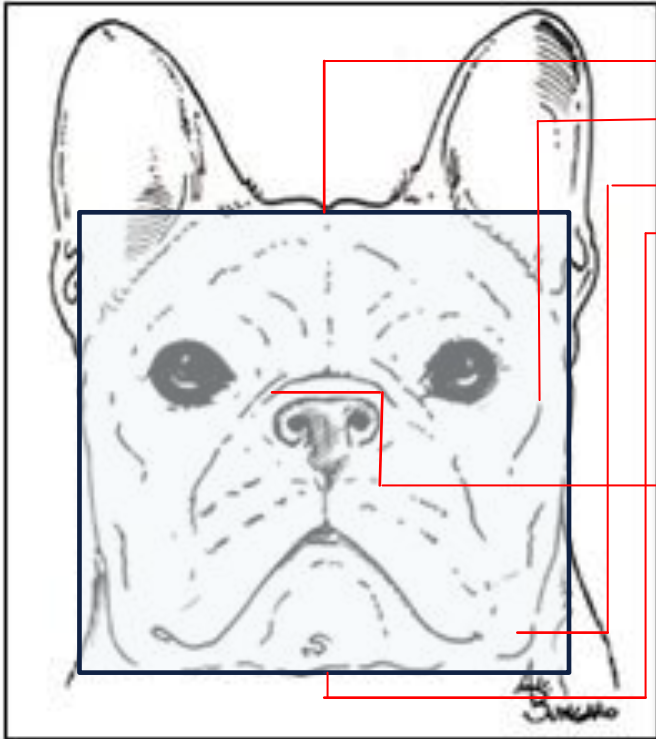
SKIN AND COAT

- The skin should be soft and loose, especially at the head and shoulders, forming wrinkles.
- It is important to note **unlike** the AKC Standard “*The Stop well defined, causing a hollow groove between the eyes with heavy wrinkles forming a soft roll over the extremely short nose*”, the CKC standard calls for soft loose skin on the head and shoulders. A nose roll to some degree is typically seen. Heavy nose roll and excess wrinkle is not desired, especially if it impinges on the nose or interferes with the eyes. (extreme). The wording in the new CKC Standard “extremely short nose” has been changed to “*The nose should be short and broad, the nostrils well-open with a well defined line between them.*”

HEAD STUDY DETAIL ... SQUARE HEAD



HEAD STUDY DETAIL... SHAPE



“Large and Square” (in front view)

Top of skull flat between the broad-based ears.

Muscles of cheeks are well developed.

Thick flews overhang the sides of the mouth.

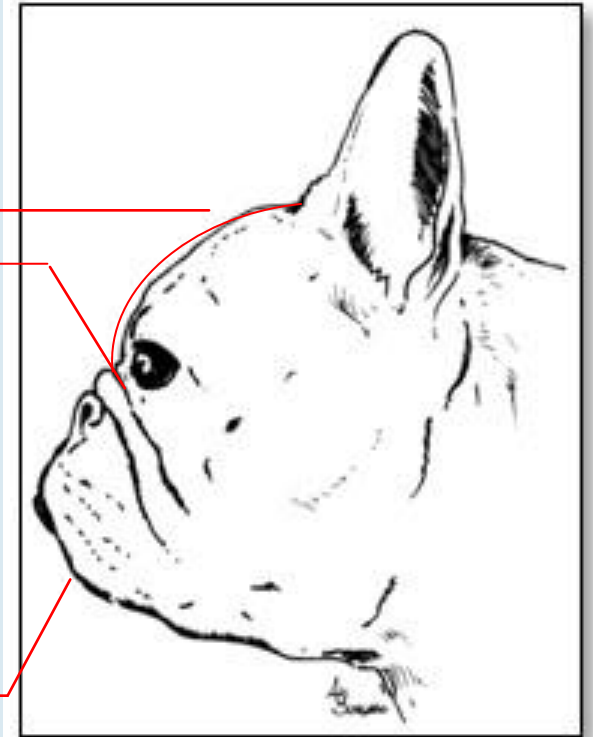
Underjaw deep, square, broad, undershot well turned up”.

Stop is well defined, causing a hollow groove between the eyes with wrinkles forming on each side of the nose.

Nose should be short and broad, the nostrils well-open with a well defined line between them.

Forehead is not flat but slightly rounded viewed from side.

Muzzle broad, deep and well laid back.



HEAD STUDY DETAIL... NOSE



Open nostrils

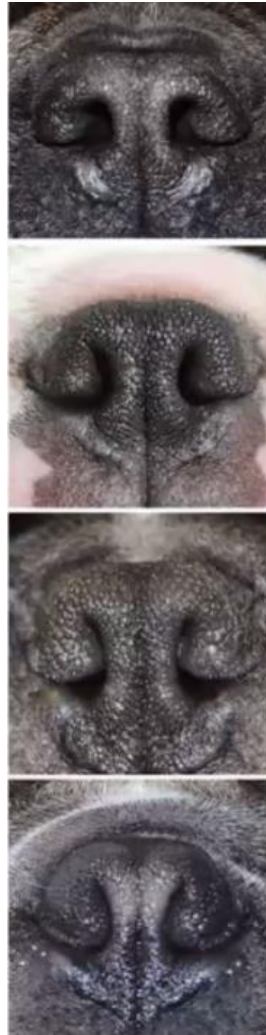


Pinched nostrils

The nose should be short and broad, the nostrils well-open with a well defined line between them. The nose should be black, except in the case of fawn without a black mask and cream, where a lighter colour of nose is acceptable. *Note Also referred to as “Snow Nose”, a seasonal lightening of a fully pigmented nose to a lighter colour.* However it should be noted, that pinched nostrils are not the only cause of airway difficulties nor does a more pinched nostril, always result in breathing issues. As a judge we trust you to use your common sense when judging exhibits in extreme warm conditions.

Head study detail... nose continued

Brachycephalic Nostrils



Illustrations from Cambridge University. Note that a French Bulldogs nares are not to be compared to other non brachycephalic breeds.

SURGICALLY ALTERED NARES....DISQUALIFIED



Before



After

Any cosmetic surgery constitutes a disqualification.



Before



After

Important notes for judging...

- Nares are the first outward and visual sign of potential BOAS. Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome.
- Current and ongoing research at the University of Cambridge has rapidly revolved over recent years.
- French Bulldog nares are not the same as other non Brachycephalic breeds.
- The nares of puppies are usually more visibly open than adult dogs
- As judges, nares should not be used to influence decisions on labored or poor breathing.



HEAD STUDY DETAIL... NOSE COLOR Allowed colors



Lighter pigment on lighter dog.

“The nose should be black, except in the case of the lighter-colored dogs, where a lighter color of nose is acceptable.”



Black nose on brindle dog

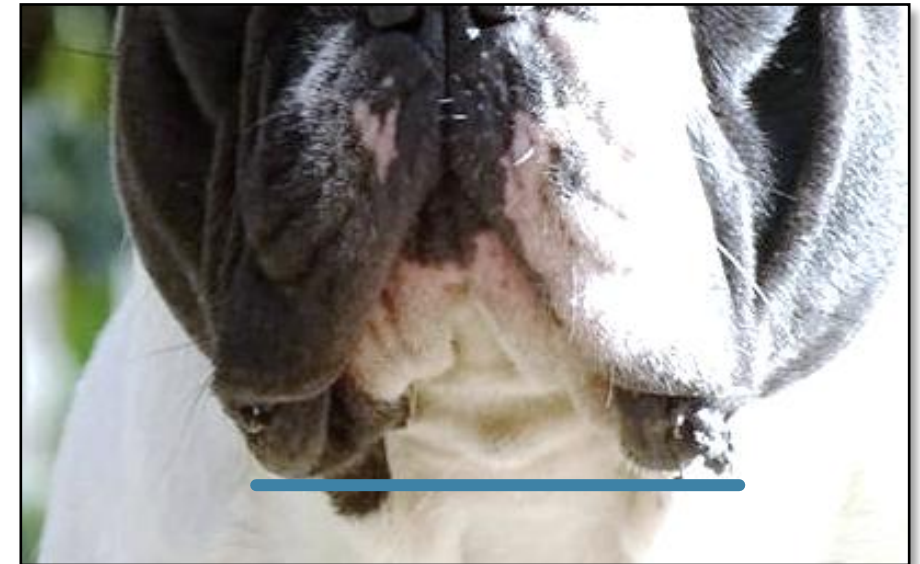
FLEWS

Why are they important??

Along with the upswept jaw, they form the bottom of the “Square” head.



Thick and broad flews. Bottom of flew level with the bottom jaw.

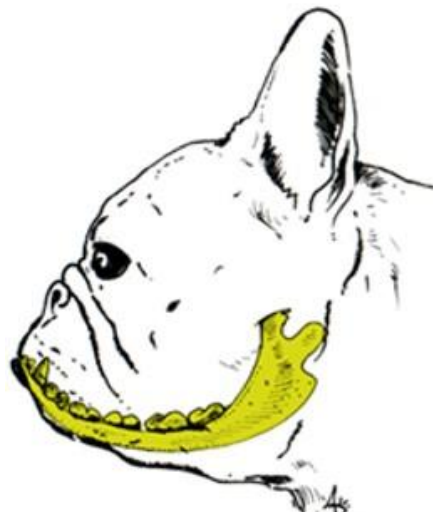


Thin flews. Bottom of the flews below the bottom jaw.

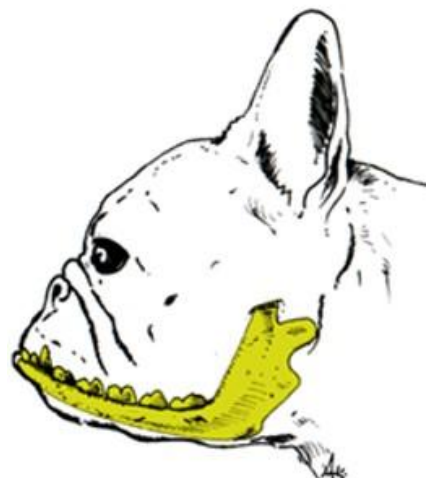
The flews should be thick and broad, hanging over the lower jaw at the sides, meeting the underlip in front and covering the teeth which should not be seen when the mouth is closed. The flew edges should be black.



The under jaw should be deep, square, broad, undershot, and well turned up. The top skull and width of jaw should be proportionate, a narrow jaw is a serious **fault**. Bottom teeth should be straight and not overcrowded.



Correct upturn of jaw



Shallow upturn of jaw

UPSWEPT JAW

BITE



Do not cover the dog's eyes or nose when examining the mouth. You are not required to check, nor should you check, for full dentition. Please confirm that the jaw is undershot and not wry.

It is recommended that you allow the exhibitor to show the bite, to negate the spread of viruses and disease.

Eyes



Correct eye shape
and set.



Bulging eyes. Too much haw
or white showing.



Eyes not round.

Eyes should be 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, and dark, brown or approaching black in colour. No haw and no white of the eye showing when looking forward.

From a health perspective Bulging eyes may indicate a shallow eye socket associated with the Brachycephalic syndrome.

EYES CONTINUED



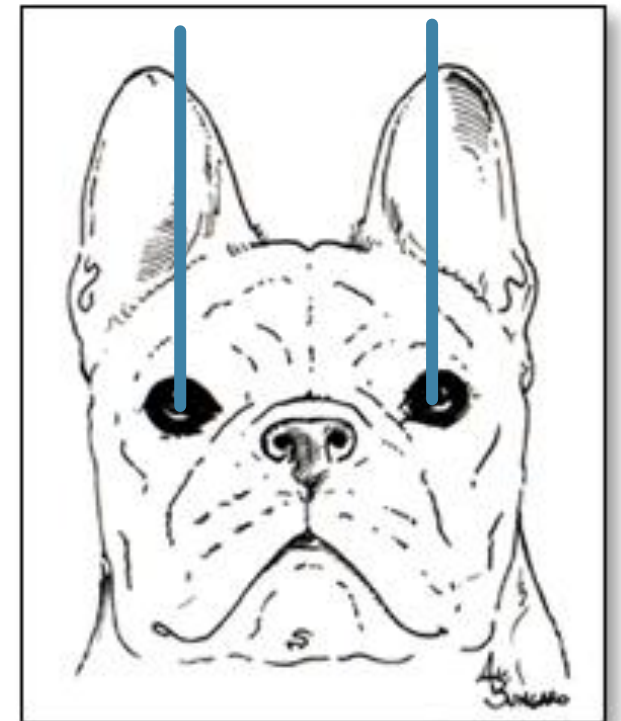
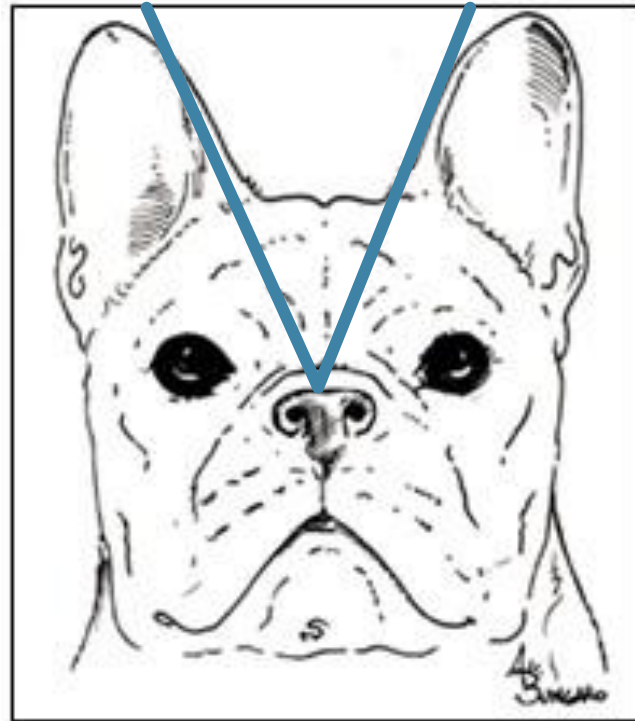
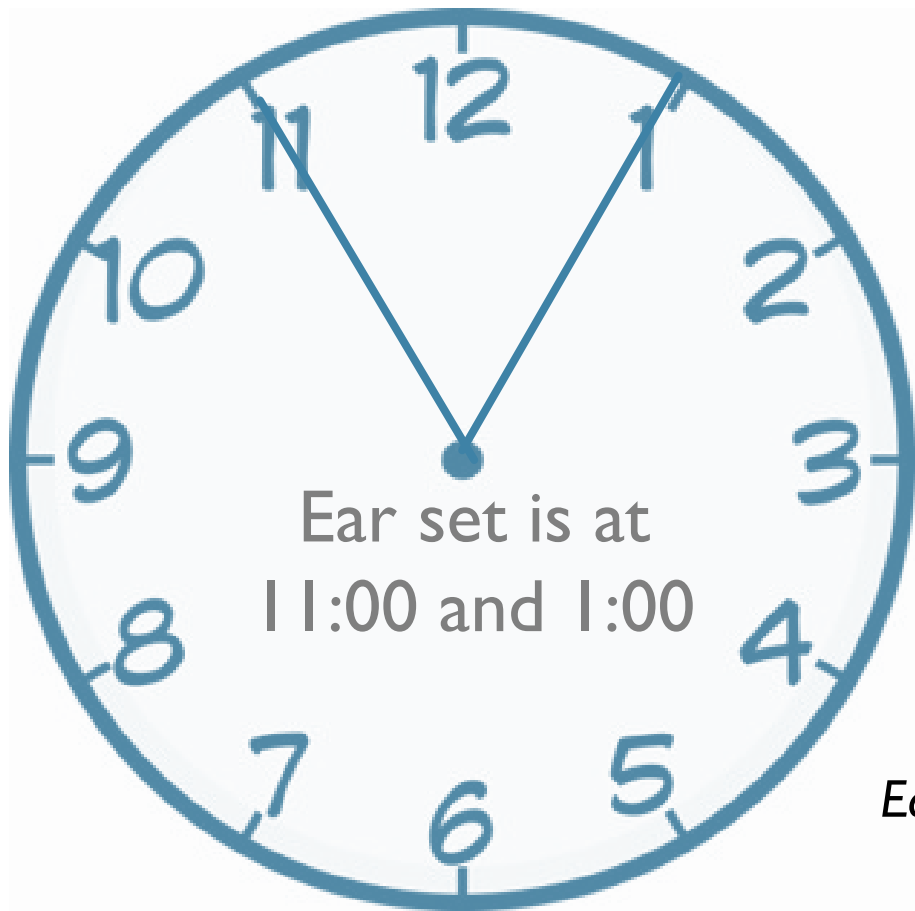
Good example
An example of healthy eye
conformation.



Excessively prominent eyes
An example of a dog with
extremely prominent eyes and
excessive white of eye. This dog will
be at increased risk of eye damage,
irritation and conditions such as
corneal ulcers.

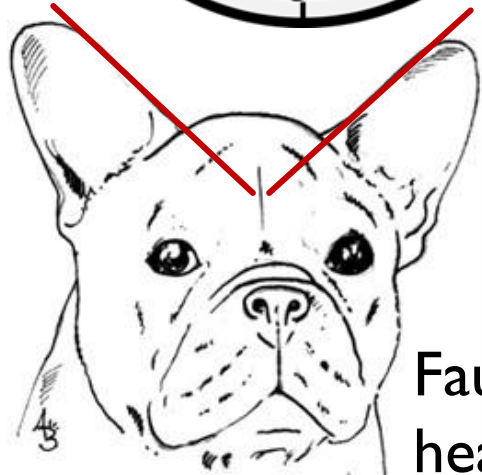
EARS

Ears shall be a bat ear, broad at the base, elongated, with round top, set high in the head, but not too close together, and carried erect with the orifice to the front. The leather of the ear fine and soft.

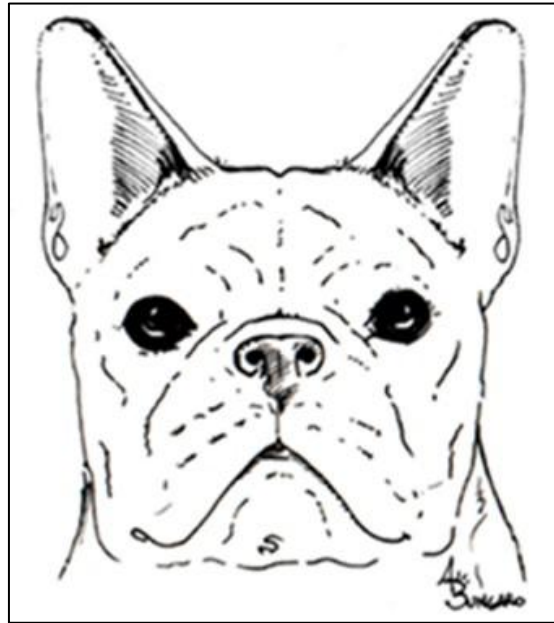


*Ears should never be judged on table and may be more erect when excited.
It is important that the skull is flat between the ears.*

FAULTY AND DQ EARS



Faulty ear...not high on head...note domed skull



Faulty Ear... not rounded...Pointed



DQ...Other than bat ear (tipped)



DQ...other than bat ear (button)

NECK



Correct arch of neck.
Good length



Incorrect, exhibits no arch

A correctly arched neck is part of a properly constructed French Bulldog...

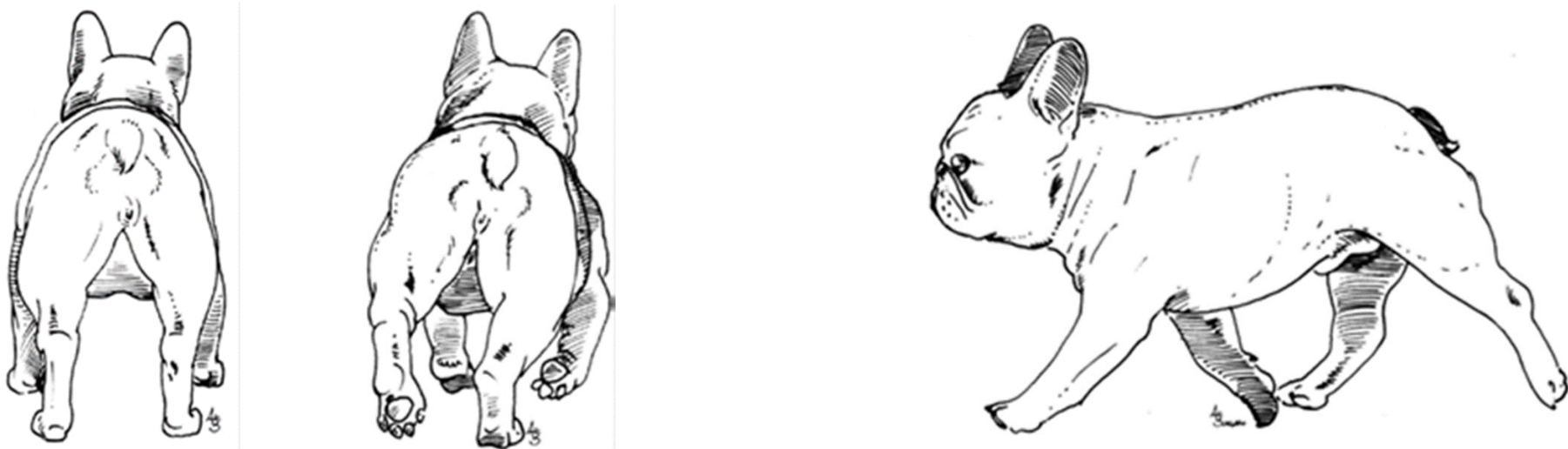
“The neck should be thick and well arched, with loose skin at the throat.”



GAIT

Correct gait is a “double tracking” foot pattern with the front track wider than the rear track. The movement should be free and flowing. The roach or rise over the loin is visible while both standing and moving. Soundness of movement of the utmost importance.

It is assumed that a show dog will be sound. Limping, crabbing, paddling, and other forms of unsound movement should be considered less than ideal or “sound”.

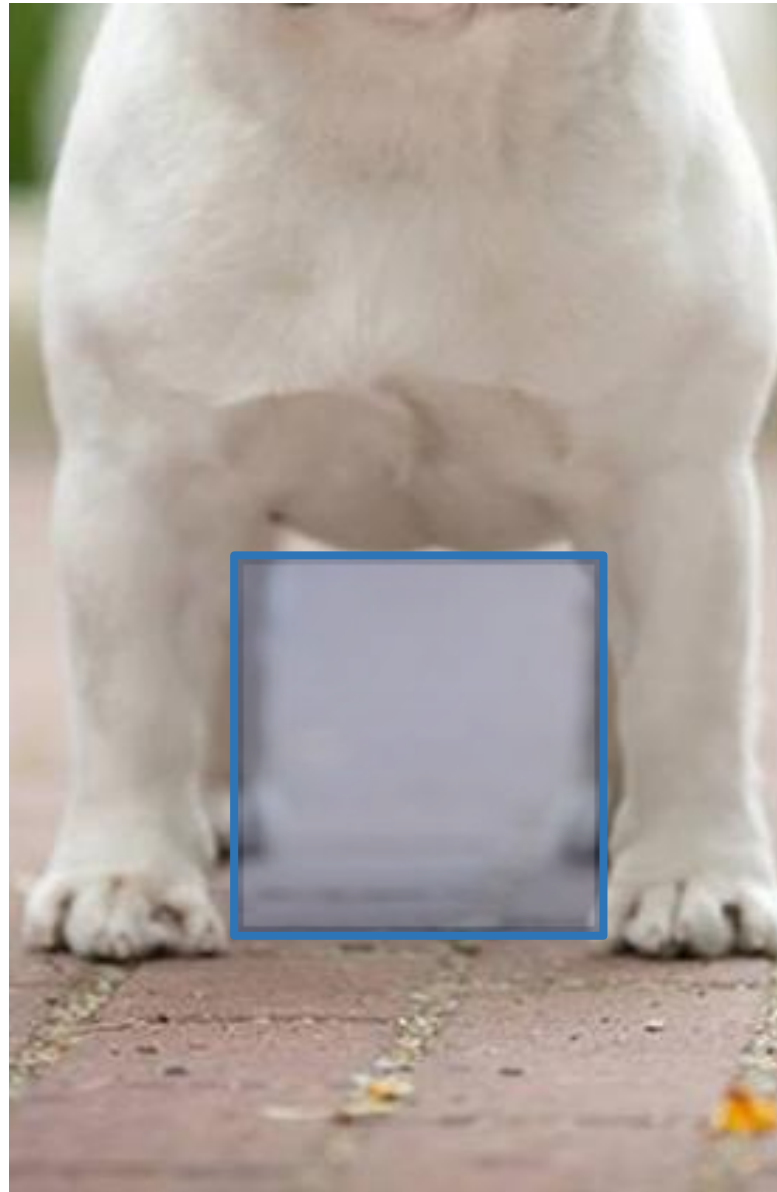


GAIT

French Bulldog movement is affected by its peculiar construction. The French bulldog is Pear shaped...wide in front narrowing in the rear. Overall balance and construction will dictate that when viewed from the front, the French Bulldog should move with moderate reach and drive, legs moving forward without deviation. The rear legs drive within the width of the front legs.

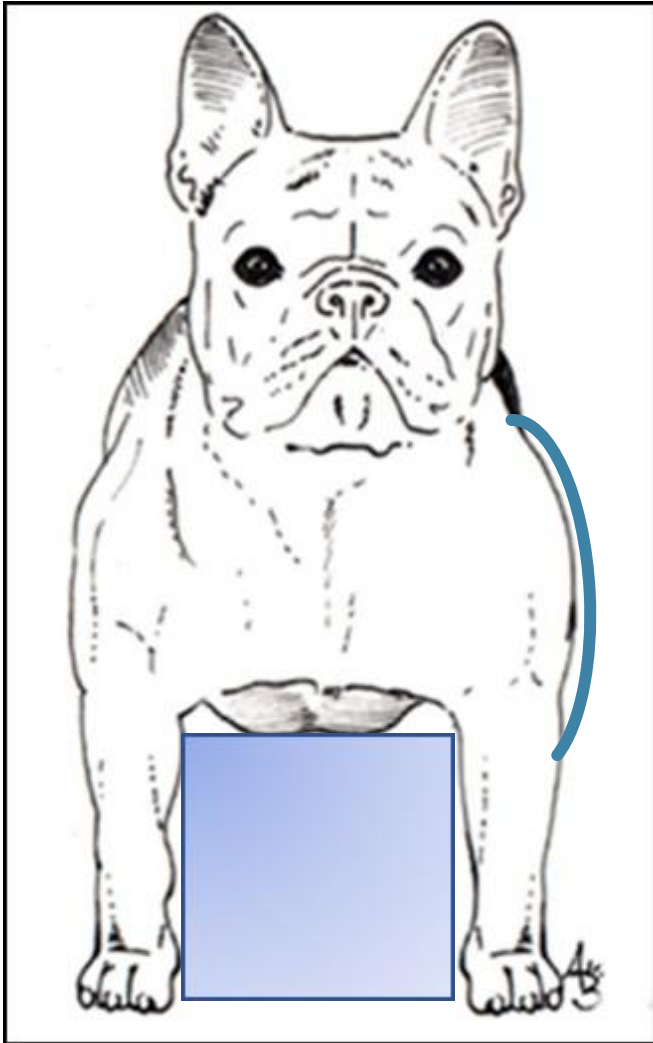
The roach, is structural, therefore it should be visible when moving.



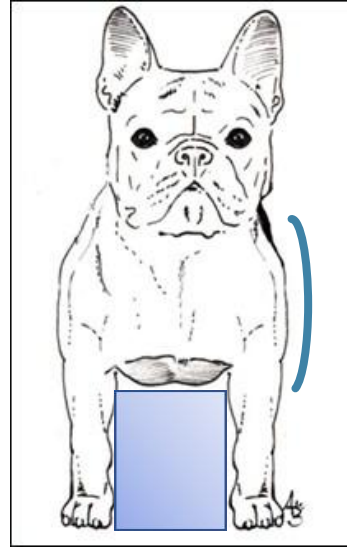


FOREQUARTERS

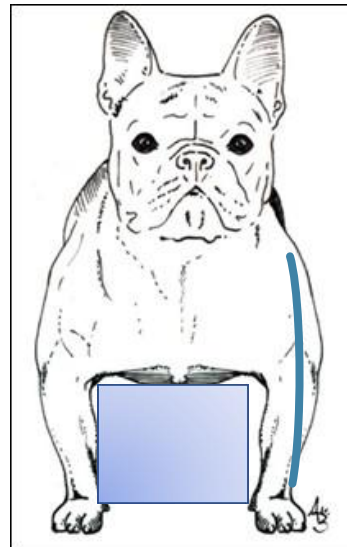
- The correct front should be proportionally square **between the legs**
- When viewed from the front, the rear legs should be visible between the front legs
- Bone of the legs should be straight and solid
- The correct front should be proportionally square between the legs
- Not an overly wide front like a Bulldog
- Not an overly fine front like a Boston
- Dewclaws may be absent and should be considered a fault not a DQ.



Correct width between the legs...shoulder smooth but muscular



Front too narrow between legs, lacking in width of chest and straight shoulder



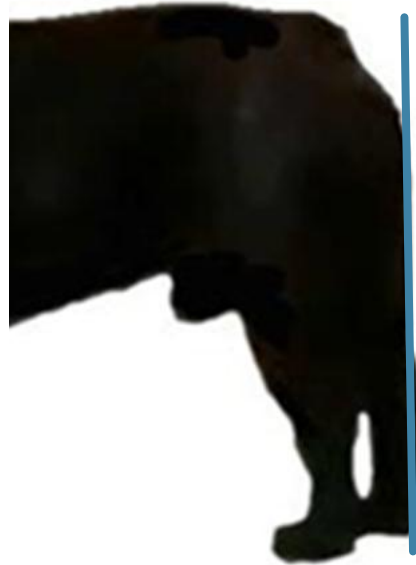
Front too wide... legs not straight Elbows out. Shoulder exaggerated

FOREQUARTERS

The forelegs should be short, stout, straight and muscular, set wide apart. The feet should be moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Toes compact, well split up, with short nails.



Normal angulation

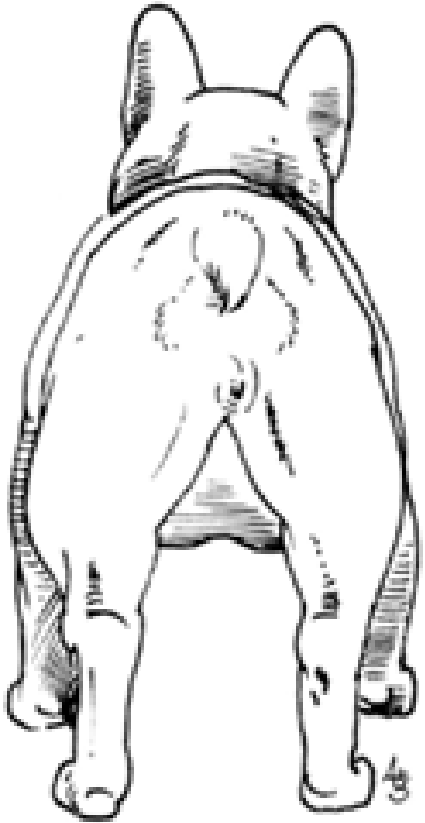


Straight angulation



Stilted angulation

HINDQUARTERS...The hind legs should be strong and muscular, longer than the forelegs, so as to elevate the loins above the shoulders. Hocks well let down. The feet should be moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short nails, hind feet slightly longer than forefeet.



Hind legs should be strong and muscular



Toed in, incorrect



Cow hocked, incorrect

HINDQUARTERS CONTINUED

FEET

“The feet should be moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short nails, hind feet slightly longer than forefeet.”



Splayed toes...incorrect



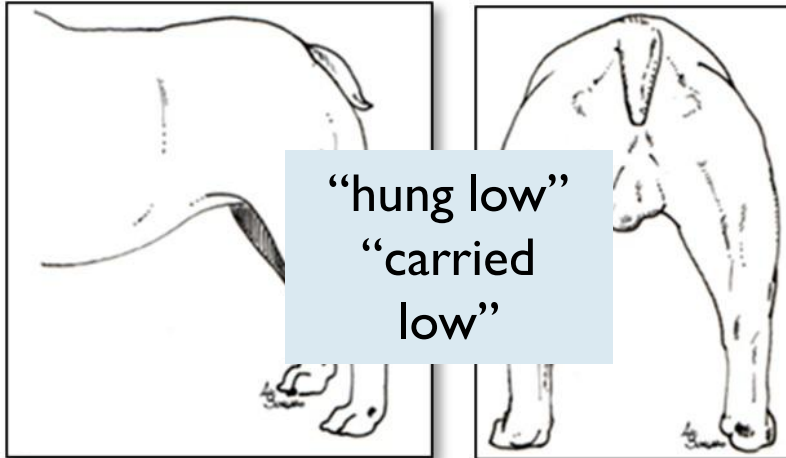
Long toes...incorrect



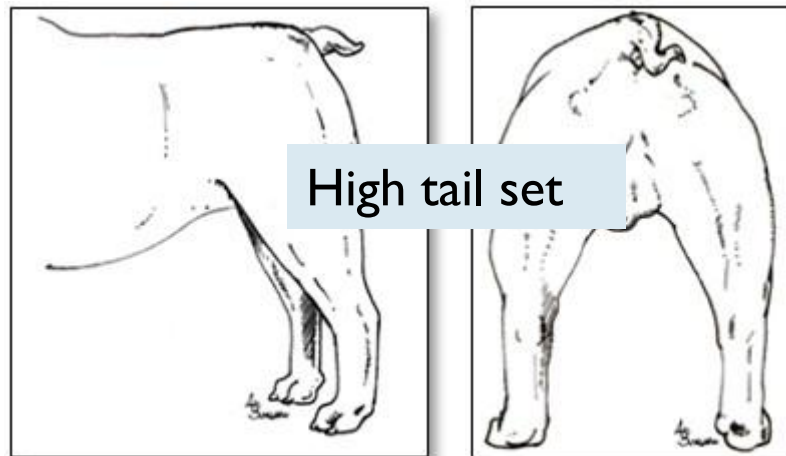
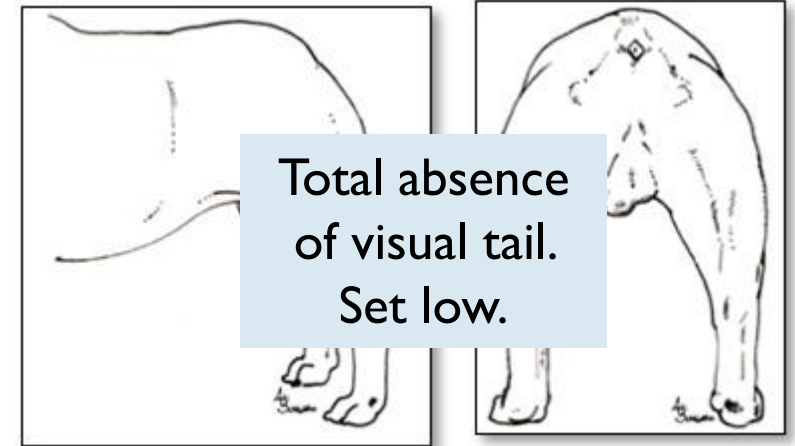
The rear feet are slightly longer than the front feet.

TAIL

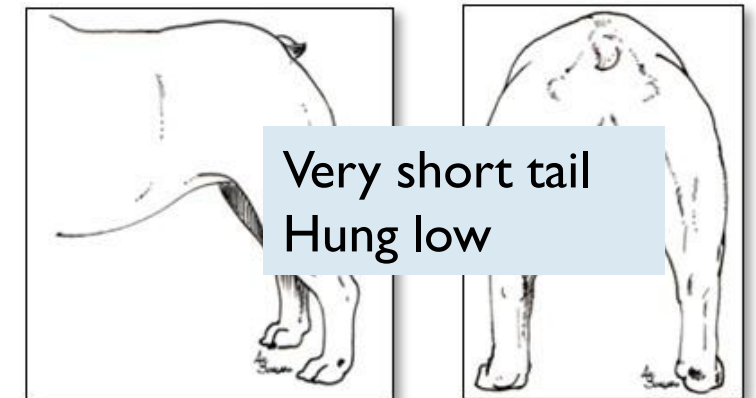
“The tail should be either straight or screwed (but not curly), short, hung low, thick root and fine tip; carried low in repose.”



The Standard does NOT specify an absolute length of tail...just that its “short”.



However the phrase “Hung Low” is very important. A high tail set throws off the finish to a balanced silhouette.



MALE AND FEMALE



“In comparison to 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 marked degree as do the dogs.”

THIS DOES NOT MEAN : *that the win should always go to the bitch...that would be pre judging. It would be as wrong as determining that a black and tan Doberman should be put up before a red...before you even assess the dogs in front of you.*

MALE AND FEMALE CONTINUED



- The standard states: The French Bulldog should have the appearance of an active, intelligent, muscular dog of heavy bone
- That phrase IS NOT SEXED. Bitches should have muscle and bone too...but its feminine muscle...rounder more voluptuous muscle.
- It is not intended that our boys should be big over muscled behemoths while our bitches are tiny and frail. They are both balanced.
- Our bitches are not expected to look like dogs, so you are cautioned to still give them “due consideration”.

COAT COLOUR

Acceptable colours and coat patterns are fawn, cream, white, fawn brindle, pied.

- Fawn: Solid colour, ranging from light fawn to a dark red fawn, with or without a black mask. White markings permitted, provided that fawn predominates.
- Cream: Cream is a lightly saturated low-to-medium yellow, slightly more colour than white. White markings permitted.
- White: Solid colour.
- Fawn Brindle: Colour pattern caused by a mixture of black hairs and fawn hairs. White markings permitted, provided that brindle predominates. Only a trace of the brindle colour pattern in the coat is required.
- Pied: • White and Fawn Brindle: A white base with brindle patches, a trace of fawn brindle in any patch is sufficient. (The brindle pattern as defined above.) •
- White and Fawn: A white base with fawn patches.
- White and Fawn with a black mask. Ticking is acceptable but not desired.

FAWN BRINDLE

Colour pattern caused by a mixture of black hairs and fawn hairs. White markings permitted, provided that brindle predominates. Only a trace of the brindle colour pattern in the coat is required.



IMPORTANT NOTES ON BRINDLE

- Older brindles may have greying on the muzzle...this is not a fault.
- There is no preference on degree of brindling light to very dark are allowed.
- In all brindles, nose and flew edges must be black.
- White markings (blaze, chest, toes) are allowed and are not a fault.
- The overlay of black hairs may be so intense as to almost completely cover the fawn base coat of the dog.
- If you do not see evidence of the base coat, ask the exhibitor.
- Even if the evidence of base coat is only a very few lighter hairs...it is ok, it not a DQ. Any evidence of base coat proves the dog is not black.





FAWN

- Solid colour, ranging from light fawn to a dark red fawn, with or without a black mask. White markings permitted, provided that fawn predominates. Fawn coat from light fawn to deep red (not liver)
- May exhibit deep fawn coloring around the ears and/or the dorsal area
- White markings are allowed
- Exhibits without black mask are allowed a lighter nose. “Lighter” refers to a shade of, not lack of pigmentation.



CREAM

- Cream is a lightly-saturated low-to-medium yellow, slightly more colour than white. White markings permitted.



WHITE

- Solid colour. Ticking is acceptable but not desired.
- Dark blotches on the skin should not be confused with ticking.
- It should be noted Black nose and eye rim pigment are expected.



WHITE & FAWN¹⁶ BRINDLE PIED

- A white base with fawn brindle patches, a trace of fawn brindle in any patch is sufficient. (The brindle pattern as defined) Ticking is acceptable but not desired.
- The standard does not define amount of patches or preferred location.

When judging peds the location can throw off your eye. The location of facial markings may lead to a white hawk, this should not be faulted.



WHITE & FAWN PIED

- White coat color with fawn patches
- Fully pigmented nose
- A lighter colored nose is acceptable in fawn
- Eyes dark (brown)
- Fawn patches can be from very light fawn to red fawn shades
- Patches can be light to heavy on the dog
- Ticking is acceptable but not desired.





FAWN WITH BLACK MASK

Solid colour, ranging from light fawn to a dark red fawn, with or without a black mask. White markings permitted, provided that fawn predominates.

WHITE & FAWN PIED WITH A BLACK MASK

- Mask black
- Eyes dark (brown)
- Nose black, this is not considered a lighter color dog
- Ticking is acceptable but not desired.



DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Other than bat ears
- All coat colours and patterns other than those specifically described under the colour section
- All eye colours other than dark, brown or approaching black • The nose and edges of the flews other than black (except in the case of fawn without a black mask and cream)
- A coat other than short and smooth
- Harelip
- Any cosmetic alteration • Over 12.75 kg (28 lb) in weight

SIZE ...DQ



Weight not to exceed 12.7 kg (28 lbs),
over 12.7 kg (28 lbs) is a disqualification.

If in doubt please call for weight. With
importation of lines globally, where the standard
does not have a DQ, this has become a problem
affecting AKC and CKC Standard bred dogs.
The weight is very deceptive with the structure
of this breed.

SCALE OF POINTS

GENERAL PROPERTIES

Proportion and symmetry	5
Expression.....	5
Gait	4
Color.....	4
Coat.....	2
.....	20

HEAD

Skull	6
Cheeks and chops.....	2
Stop	5
Ears	8
Eyes	4
Wrinkles	4
Nose	3
Jaws	6
Teeth	2
.....	40

BODY, LEGS, ETC.

Shoulders.....	5
Back.....	5
Neck.....	4
Chest.....	3
Ribs.....	4
Brisket.....	3
Belly.....	2
Forelegs.....	4
Hind legs.....	3
Feet.....	3
Tail.....	4
.....	40

TOTAL 100



We invite all conformation judges to review and familiarize themselves with the official CKC procedure for weight disqualifications. Understanding when and how to apply a weight check ensures consistency, fairness, and adherence to breed standards—particularly for breeds such as the French Bulldog, where weight is a defined disqualification.

VERSATILITY !!!!



BREED SPECIFIC RULES OF ELIGIBILITY EFFECTIVE OCTOBER, 2024

BY-LAWS ADDENDUM – BREED SPECIFIC RULES OF ELIGIBILITY

The breed specific Rules of Eligibility (ROE) shall be as follows:

French Bulldog

Size: Small.

Coat Colour: Fawn, white, cream.

Colour Markings: Piebald (white with fawn, cream or brindle); Brindle (pattern of fawn and black hairs); With or without black mask.

Coat Texture/Length: Short, fine, smooth.

Body: Compact, well-rounded, roach back, broad shoulder, pear-shaped.

Ear Shape/Placement: Bat ear, set high, erect.

Tail Shape/Carriage: Short, thick root, fine tip; carried low.

Feet: Compact and firmly set.

Unique Characteristics: Bat ears.

Genetic/Observable Variability: Fawn/cream without black mask can have lighter nose.



This seminar is presented by the French Bulldog Fanciers of Canada to aid judges in their understanding of the CKC Standard.

This project would not have been possible without the participation and assistance of many experienced breeders. Their experience is sincerely accepted and gratefully acknowledged.

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS TO: Club Bouledogue Francese Italia, and the French Bull Dog Club of America for sharing some of their materials.

Thank you to artists Arcangelo Bungaro and Dr. Jan Grebe for their fabulous artwork.