

EXOTIC FRENCH BULLDOG

BREED STANDARD

The Exotic French Bulldog is a compact, heavily muscled, and low stationed companion dog distinguished by its signature pronounced rope (nose wrinkle) over the muzzle. It exhibits a balanced combination of strength, structure, and breed type, while maintaining the classic French Bulldog expression with enhanced facial features. The overall appearance should reflect compact power, substance, and symmetry, without exaggeration that impairs health or movement.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Size: Compact with powerful build. Weight should not exceed 40 pounds. Height is proportionated to length. Proportion and balance are more important than exact weight.

Head: The head is large, square and proportional to the body. The skull is nearly flat on top. Domed skulls are undesirable. Defined stop. Prominent cheeks and well-developed muscles.

Eyes: Eyes wide apart, set low down in the skull, as far from the ears as possible. Round in form, moderate size, no bulging eyes. Eyelids are tight. Haw visible is undesirable.

Bite: Undershot is typical. Jaw broad and square. Teeth not visible when mouth is closed is preferred.

Ears: Must have "Bat Ears". Broad at base, elongated, rounded at tip.

Muzzle: Short, broad, and well laid back. Deep and wide with good full under eyes. The defining Rope feature should be large, thick and clearly visible wrinkle/roll over the nose. Should be symmetrical and sit prominently above the muzzle. Must not obstruct vision or breathing. Excessive skin folds that cause irritation or dysfunction are undesirable.

Nose: Wide with open nostrils

Neck: Thick, muscular, arched of moderate length.

Body: Broad chest with barrel appearance with belly tucked up. Loin is short, strong, croup slightly sloped. Feet should be proportionate to the body and straight facing.

Topline: Typically shows a slight roach back (gentle rise over loin) with a short, strong back. Not a steep "wheel" arch and not a long, flat-backed appearance.

Chest/Rib: Chest broad and deep, well-sprung ribs. Forechest evident with good prosternum. Narrow chest is undesirable.

Forequarters: Shoulders well laid back. Forelegs short, straight, and heavily boned. Pasterns are short and strong with compact feet and with well-arched toes.

Hindquarters: Hind legs are strong and muscular. Longer than forelegs. Hind legs should be well separated. Stifles well bent, hocks short, straight when viewed from behind.

Tail: Naturally short, set low, carried low. May be straight or “screw” type. Should not rise above topline. Kinked tail is common. Absent tail or docked tail is undesirable.

Coat: Both varieties of short, smooth and close or fluffy, wavy coats are acceptable

Color: All colors are acceptable including merle.

MOVEMENT

Movement is free, steady, and efficient with good reach in front and drive behind. The Exotic French Bulldog should not appear labored, excessively rolling or restricted.

Front Movement: Front legs should move straight and true. Elbows stay close to the body. Feet track forward, not crossing over or winging out excessively.

Side Movement: Short, balanced stride. Smooth forward motion. Slight roll or sway is acceptable due to body structure but should not be exaggerated. Topline remains firm with a slight roach over the loin.

Rear Movement: Hind legs move straight back and forward. Hocks remain parallel.

FAULTS

Small or underdeveloped rope	Excessively large rope causing obstruction or irritation
Narrow chest	East-West Feet
Cow hocked or weak rear	Difficulty breathing due to structure
Extreme undershot bite with teeth constantly exposed	

MOVEMENT FAULTS

Paddling	Crossing Over
Crabbing/Sidewinding	Cow-Hocked
Restricted Front Due to Upright Shoulder	Pacing
Pounding	

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Aggressive Behavior Towards Humans	Cryptorchidism
Wry Jaw	Ears Other Than Bat Shaped
Deafness	Albinism

Paddling: Also called winging is a front movement fault where the dog's front legs swing outward in a circular or flaring motion instead of moving straight forward.

Paddling is considered a fault because it wastes energy and reduces efficiency. It indicates structural or conformation issues.

Crossing Over: Crossing Over is a movement fault where a dog's legs move too close to the center line of the body, sometimes even crossing in front of each other instead of tracking straight.

Crabbing/Sidewinding: in the Exotic French Bulldog is when the dog's body does not track straight while moving—instead, it travels at an angle, with the front and rear not aligning properly. The dog may appear to move diagonally, almost “crabbing,” where the hind legs swing to one side instead of following directly behind the front.

This type of movement is considered a fault, as correct Exotic French Bulldog movement should be straight, balanced, and in line from front to rear. Sidewinding often indicates structural issues such as imbalance between front and rear, weak topline or core stability.

True crabbing is consistent and appears at a normal trot. Does not correct with proper handling.

Cow-Hocked: These are rear movement faults that affect how the dog pushes off and tracks from behind. Cow-hocked refers to the hind legs turning inward at the hocks while the feet may point outward. When viewed from behind the hocks lean toward each other and the lower legs angle inward. The rear movement may look loose, wobbly and unstable.

Restricted Front Movement: This is a movement fault where the dog's front legs cannot extend properly forward because the shoulder structure is too upright (too straight) rather than well laid back. Because of the poor angle in the front legs the dog cannot reach forward smoothly and moves in short, choppy steps. Strides are short and stiff creating an unnatural gait.

Pacing: Gait fault where the dog moves the front and rear legs on the same side of the body together instead of diagonally. The body may appear to rock side to side. The dog appears to be doing a camel-like walk.

Pacing is considered a fault because it usually indicates a structural imbalance, poor coordination between front and rear, or faulty angulation.

Pounding Movement: in the Exotic French Bulldog refers to a harsh, heavy gait where each step hits the ground with excessive force rather than flowing smoothly. The dog appears to drive its legs straight down into the ground, often lacking flex, hock absorption, and fluid motion.

This is undesirable because indicates poor front structure and lack of proper shoulder layback.

Big Rope French Bulldog: Rope Placement (Judge Reference)

