

FRENCH BULLDOG BREED STANDARD

The French Bulldog is a small, muscular, compact companion dog with distinctive “bat ears”. The breed should present an impression of strength, balance, and alert intelligence without appearing coarse or fragile. They should have a keen, curious, and even comical expression.

VARIETIES

The Certified Bully Registry recognizes the Standard French Bulldog and The Fluffy French Bulldog. The Fluffy French Bulldog should look like a Standard French Bulldog with a long coat.

GENERAL STRUCTURE

Size: Small breed with a sturdy, athletic build. Should not exceed 28 pounds. Height is proportionate to length.

Heavy bone, well-muscled, broad through chest and shoulders. Substance should never come at the cost of mobility or breathing efficiency.

Head: Skull is nearly flat on top. Domed skulls are undesirable. Skull stop is well defined bordered with wrinkles forming a soft roll over the extremely short nose.

Muzzle is short, broad, deep, and well laid back, but not so short as to cause functional impairment. Nose should be wide and open.

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

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.

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: Forelegs are short, stout, straight set wide and muscular. Shoulders well laid back. Upper arm of good length to place elbows under body. Pasterns are short and strong with compact feet.

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.

Feet: Compact and cat like. Slightly turned out is sometimes seen but should not be extreme. Splayed feet are undesirable.

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: For the Standard French Bulldog the coat is smooth and short in length. Fluffy French Bulldogs have a wavy coat of medium length throughout body, ears, forequarters, hindquarters and tail regions.

Colors & Patterns: All colors and patterns accepted, including merle.

MOVEMENT

Movement is free, steady, and efficient with good reach in front and drive behind. The 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

East-West Feet	Overly upright shoulders
Cow Hocks, Weak Rear or Over Angulation That Disrupts Balance.	

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 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 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 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.

MULTI BIS, MULTI RBIS, ABKC
 GRCH, USBR GRCH, BRC CH,
 TCBR CH, UKC EGRCH SPOT
 AKC RN BCAT CGC TKN
 Swallowtail's Picholine Aka
 Baby Olive

