

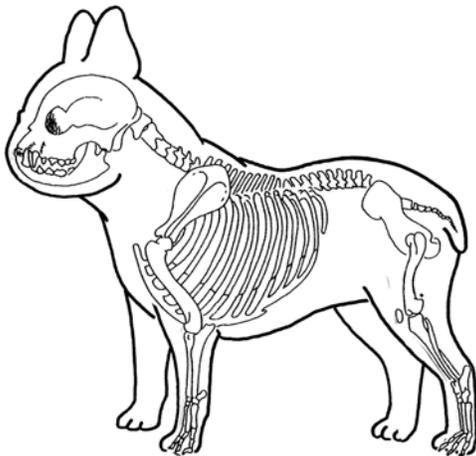
## Judging the Breed

### *Silhouette, Topline, Bat Ears, Balance, Movement.*

First, assess the entire class noting the silhouette each dog. Look at the topline, underline, erect ears, muzzle layback, proportions and balance. The Frenchie is a small to medium sized dog of heavy bone, compactly built with an alert and curious expression. Remember that compactly built in the French Bulldog is not square. Also look for disqualifications: color and over 28 pounds in weight. As long as a dog is 28 pounds or under, smaller or larger dogs should not be penalized.



In outline, you should see a well arched neck, the characteristic topline and the tail which is hung low and carried low in repose. The correct topline has a slight fall close behind the shoulders, is broad at the shoulders and narrows towards the loins (pear shaped), with a rise over the loin (roach-one of the hallmarks of the breed), which curves down to the croup and onset of the tail. The highest point of the rise in the topline should be over the loin and not the rib cage (camel backed); nor should the topline be straight and rise to the tail (high in the rear). If a dog is too short in rib cage and loin, there will be no room for the correct roach in the topline. Tail placement and carriage are more important than actual tail length and a correctly set tail will usually follow a correct topline.



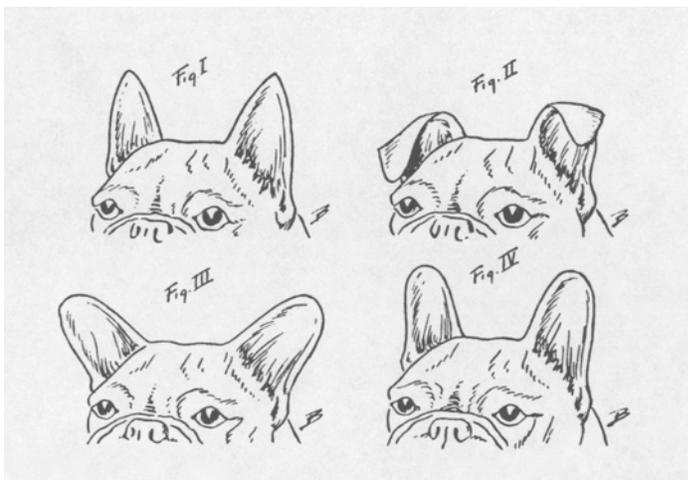
Bitches do not exhibit the breed characteristics to the same degree as do the dogs. In other words, a bitch will have finer boning, muscling and head size in comparison with a similar sized male.

The head is large and square with dark eyes that are round in form, a broad muzzle and underjaw, and the characteristic bat ears positioned at around “11 and 1” on a clock dial.



The nose is extremely short in profile. Without a short nose and upturn of the underjaw, you cannot have correct muzzle layback, which should be a straight line from the bottom of the underjaw, through the tip of the nose to the forehead, which then rounds slightly to the top of the skull.

*Remember that Frenchies do not like their eyes or nostrils covered. A nose other than black is a disqualification except in lighter colored dogs. Lighter colored dogs (creams and fawns) may have lighter colored (up to self colored) noses. A brindle and white pied is not a lighter colored dog: it is a brindle dog with the pied pattern gene and must possess a black nose. Nose color in creams and fawns will often lighten/darken with the time of the year but should never be pink.*



Ears pointing straight up are not correct nor are ears sticking out to the sides. Frenchies do have very expressive ears and some animals will use them more than others. Remember that the bat ear is an erect ear rounded at the top and broad at the base; any ear other than a bat ear is a disqualification

The bite is undershot with good upturn and flews that cover the teeth and tongue when the mouth is closed. When checking the bite, use your thumbs to raise the flews and check that the bite is undershot, has good upturn and is not wry.



Color - Check for brindling in a brindle or brindle pied dog. If you don't see any fawn hairs among the black ones, ask the handler to show you where they are. In a brindle pied, some fawn hairs must be present somewhere in one of the pigmented areas. Solid black, black and white, black and tan, liver and mouse are disqualifying colors. Black means all of the pigmented areas contain only black hairs without a trace of brindle — i.e., with no fawn hairs. Mouse can occur as a solid color, or brindle, mouse pied or mouse faced fawn; but in all cases will have a dilute and not a black nose.





Make your final evaluation of the topline while the dog is on the ground and moving. Remember that a correct topline is vital to this breed. When moving, because of the characteristic body shape being broad at the shoulders and narrower at the loins (pear shaped), the Frenchie's front legs will move wider than the hind legs. The hind legs will move inside the tracks of the front legs. The front when coming at you should move reasonably straight without significant convergence or paddling. The rear should also move reasonably straight, with a slight roll but without any signs of "cow hocking". In the side movement, the front and rear extension should match with reach and drive while maintaining the roach in the topline.



### **In Review**

1. **Silhouette:** correct topline, balance and muzzle layback in profile.
2. **Head Type:** square, undershot with upturn of underjaw, short nose, bat ears.
3. **Movement:** coming and going and profile.