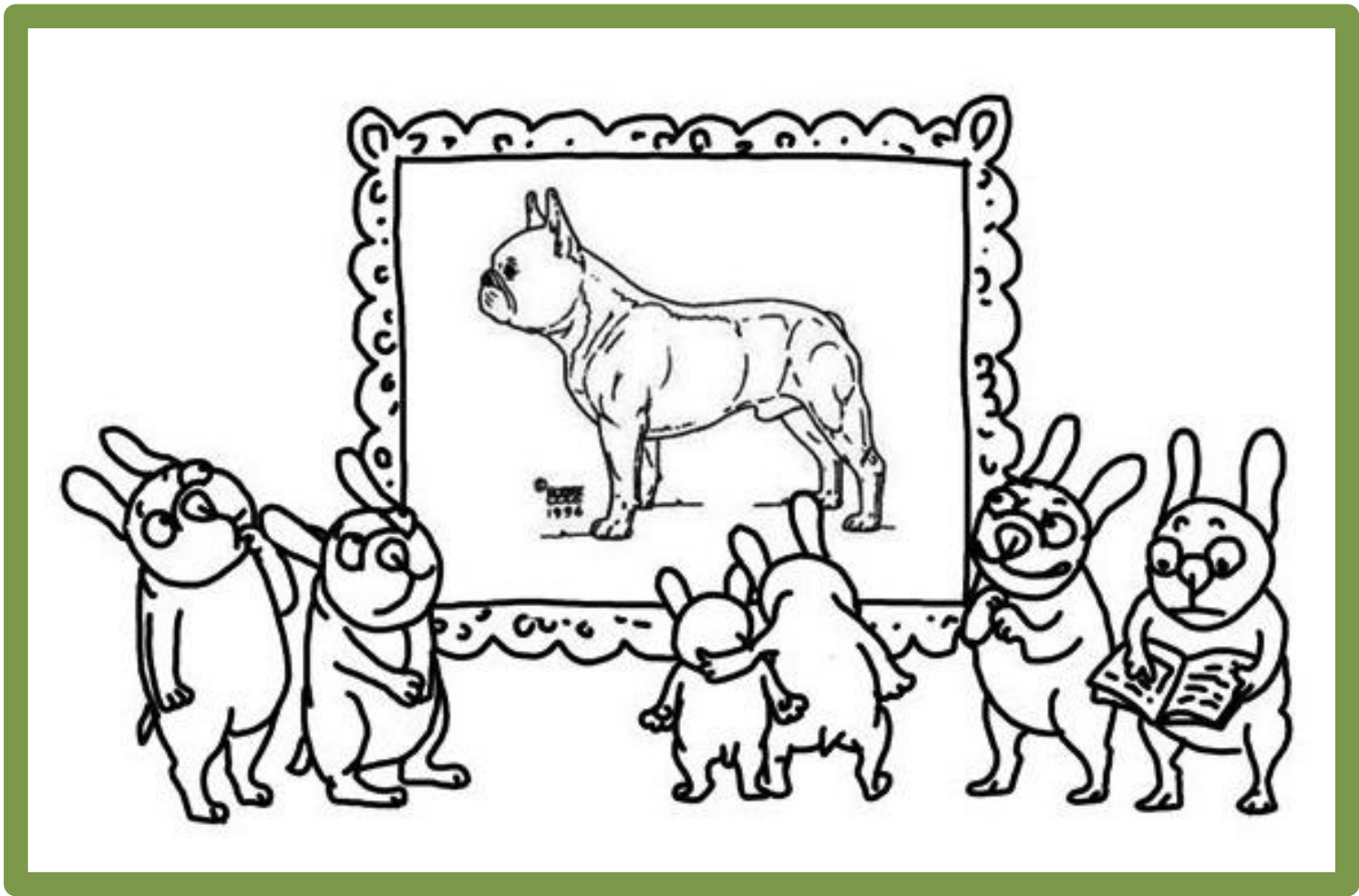


# JUDGING THE FRENCH BULLDOG



Presented by:

The French Bull Dog Club of America  
Judge's Education Committee ©2019



Art by Olga Goronovsky

Hallmarks of the breed...

Square head with bat ears and the roach back

***When judging our breed,  
please don't leave your  
common sense at home.***

**Mrs. James Edward Clark**

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FRENCH BULLDOG



Bull-baiting was outlawed in England in 1835.

Toy Bulldogs were bred but did not achieve popularity in England. The French Bulldog was developed from the English Toy Bulldogs in the mid to late 1800s.

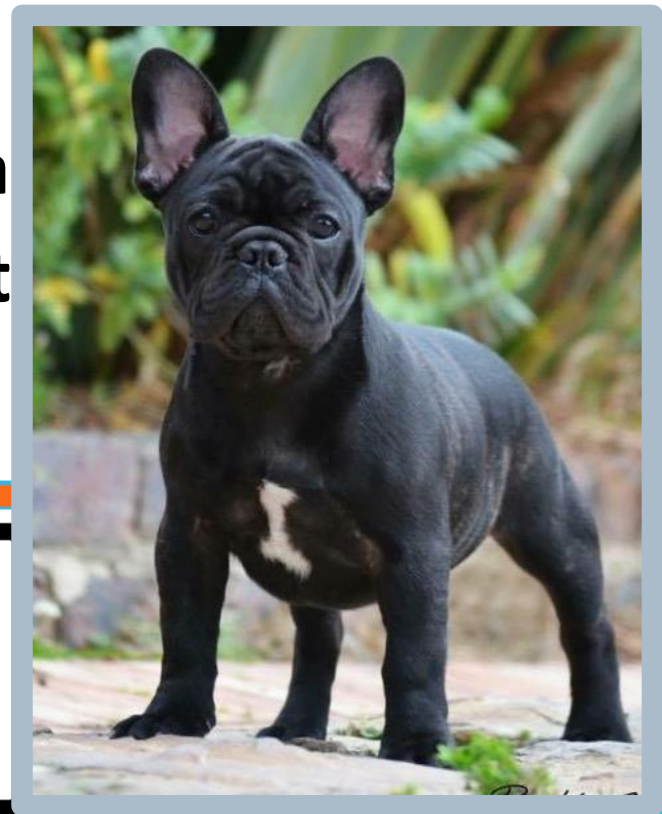
Increased mechanization in England forced the lace makers from the Nottingham area to move to the Calais area of France, taking their Toy Bulldogs with them.



# FROM THE BULLDOG...

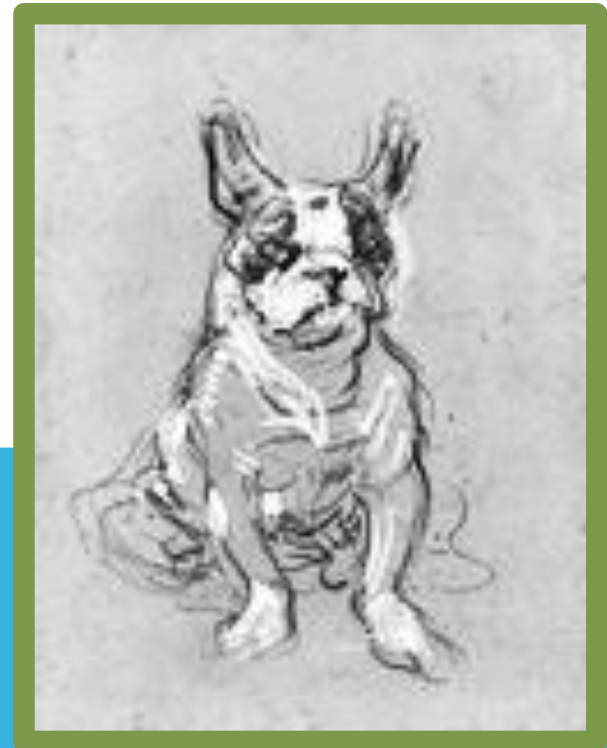
**Some other breeds (possibly Pugs and the Terrier Boule) may have been used to set size and type.**

**However, this is speculative as records exist that document the early history of the breed.**



# IN FRANCE

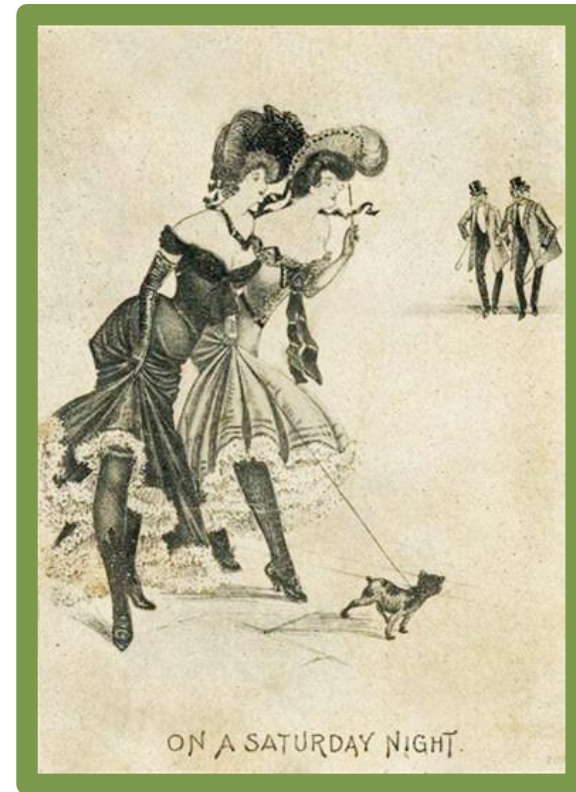
The “petite Boule” quickly became popular with the Parisian working classes.



# BELLES DE NUIT

Eventually these dogs became favorites of the Parisian *Belles de Nuit*, the “*Ladies of the Evening*.”





**It was through this association that the “upper classes” became familiar with the breed.**

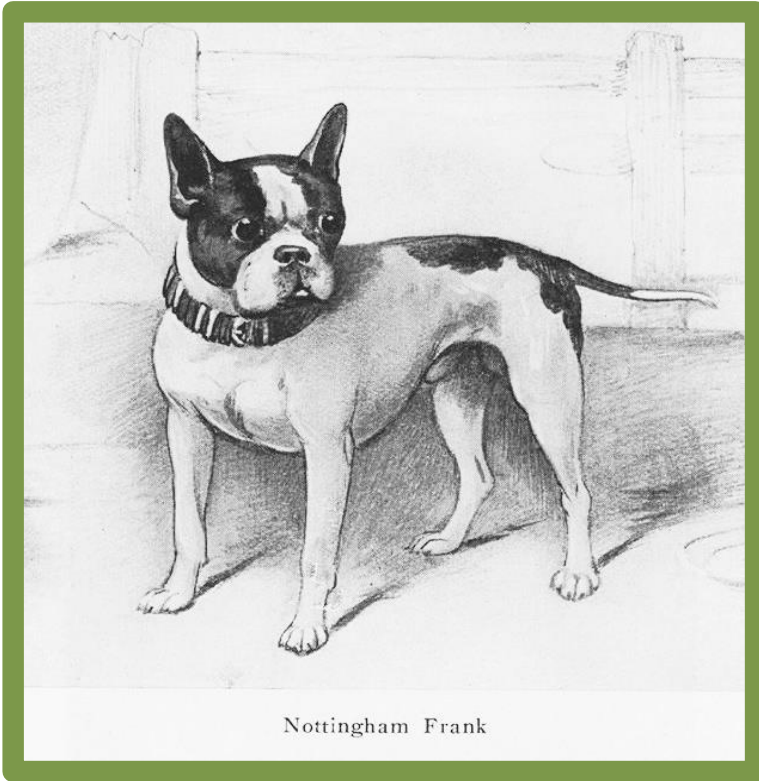


# BUT THEIR JOB WAS NOT ALL GLAMOUR..

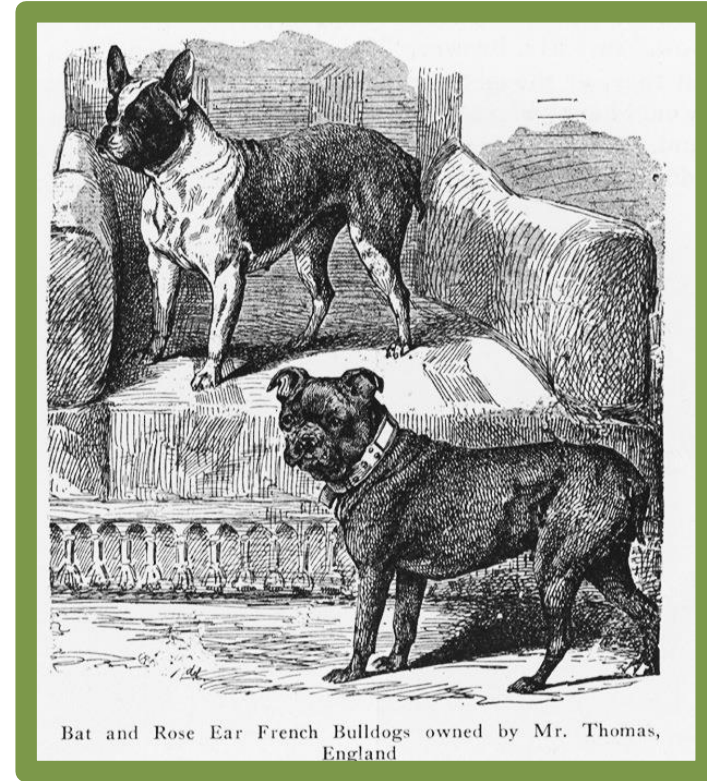
They also got rid of the rats.



# THE BREED ORIGINALLY HAD BOTH ROSE AND BAT EARS



**Toy Bulldog 1849**



**French Bulldog 1892**

Early "Bat" and Rose Ear

# Artist's Depiction of "Bat Ears"



In the late 1800s there were both rose-eared and bat-eared varieties. European fanciers preferred the rose ear; Americans preferred the bat ear.

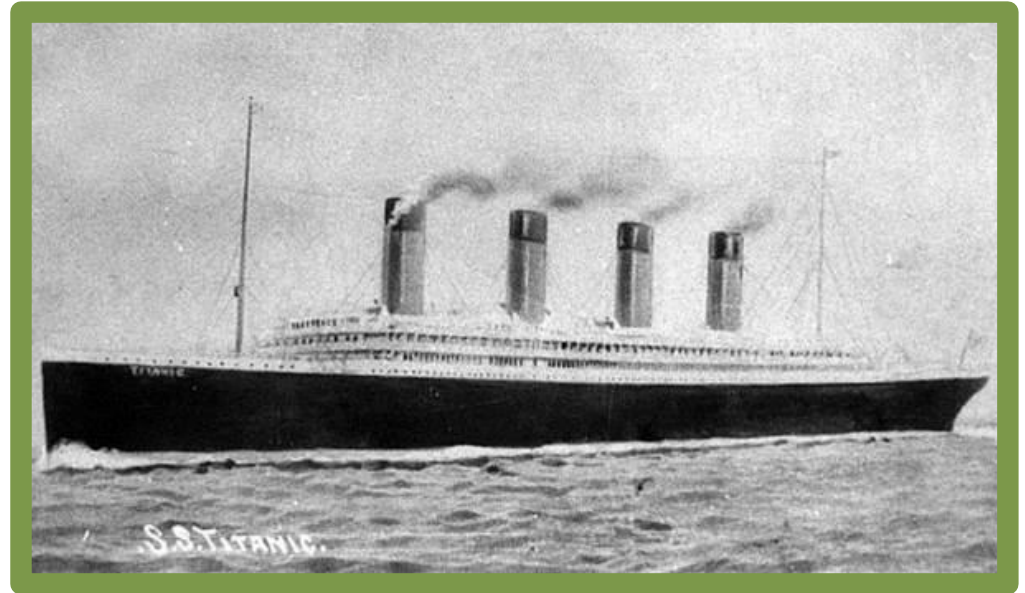
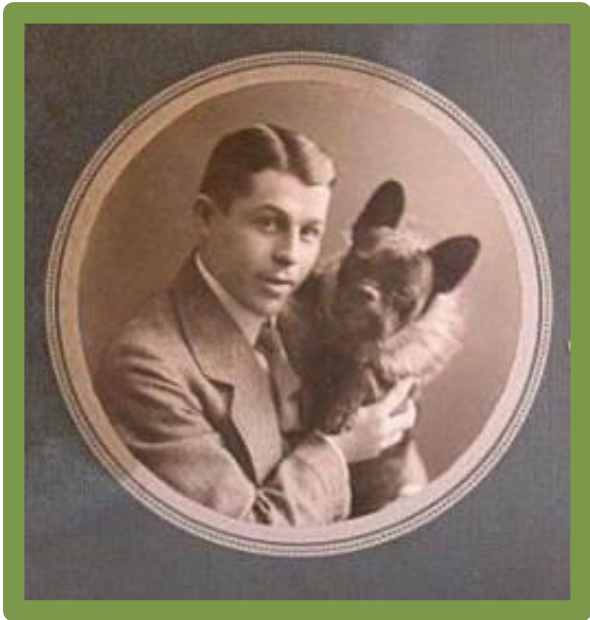
The FBDCA was formed in 1897, the first club dedicated to the breed. It wrote the first breed standard, which established bat ears as the only acceptable ear type.

As this cartoon shows, not everyone in Europe was happy about it.

Circa 1892

# IN AMERICA...

American tourists brought the breed back to the USA. The American fanciers preferred the Bat Ear variety and set the type.



A champion French Bulldog named CH Gamin de Pycombe, owned by Robert Williams Daniel was aboard the Titanic on its fateful journey.

# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS...

- 1887: First exhibited in France.
- 1896: First exhibited at Westminster.
- 1897: French Bull Dog Club of America formed (first club exclusively for the breed) and wrote the first Standard, with the Bat Ear the only acceptable ear.



**FRENCH BULL DOG  
CLUB OF AMERICA**

# HISTORY..IN AMERICA



1905 Mrs. E.L. Pulsifer  
Breeder/Owner, Seated with her French  
Bulldog: CH Maurice II (Ruinart x  
Marguerite de Valois)



Ch. Eugenie

1904; Buffalo, NY

# FRENCH BULLDOGS

## AROUND THE WORLD

1900

In Russia: Princess  
Tatiana Romanov



1905

Lady Kathleen Pilkington,  
founding member of the  
French Bulldog Club of England



1920

Mrs. R.A. Hopwood with her  
dogs at the Open French  
Bulldog Show in London



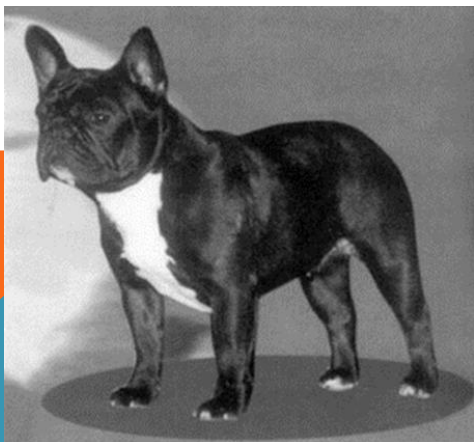
# TURN OF THE CENTURY ARTWORK



On the left,  
Sitzendork,  
Germany  
from 1887-  
1900.  
Right  
Maude Earl



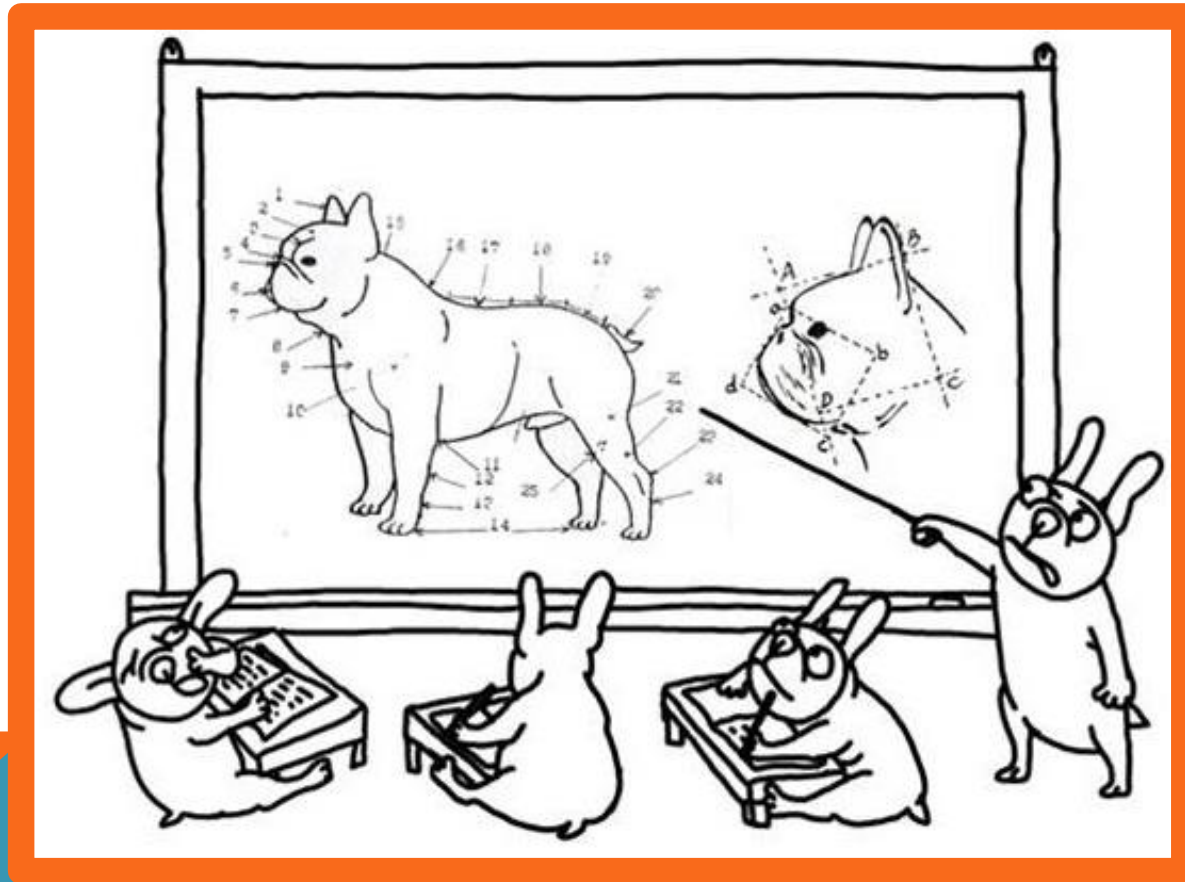




The breed 1907  
to 2000



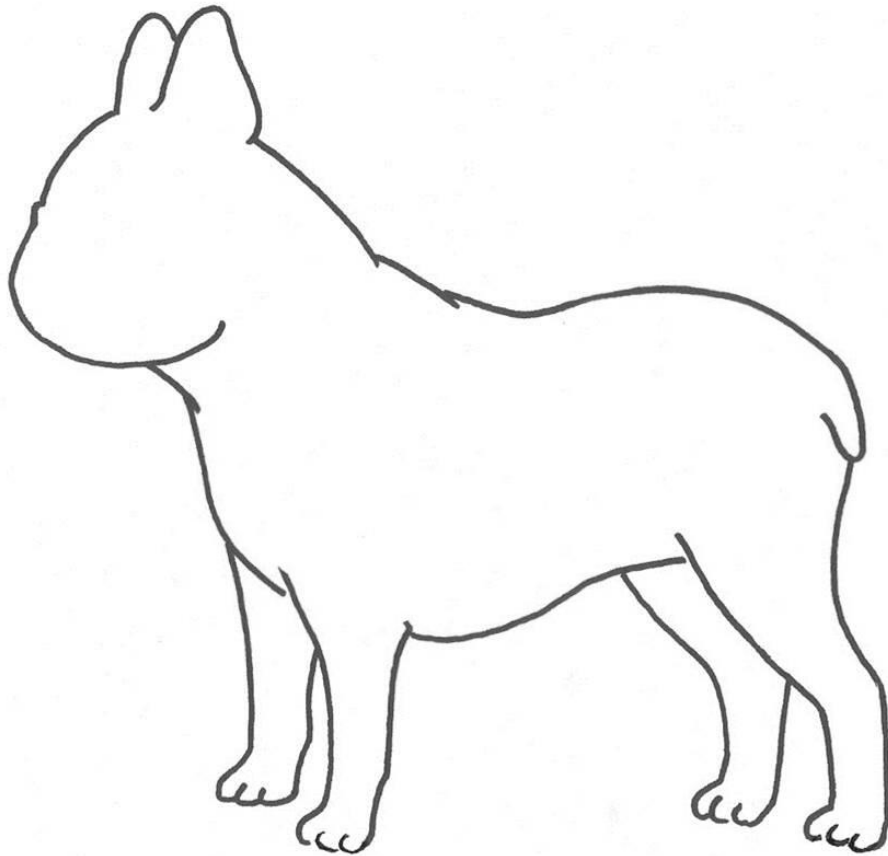
# FRENCH BULLDOG STRUCTURE AND THE STANDARD



Art by Olga Goronovsky)

“We should know what breed it is at  
midnight,  
in the dark of the moon,  
on top of the picket fence  
— by the silhouette!”

Alva Rosenberg



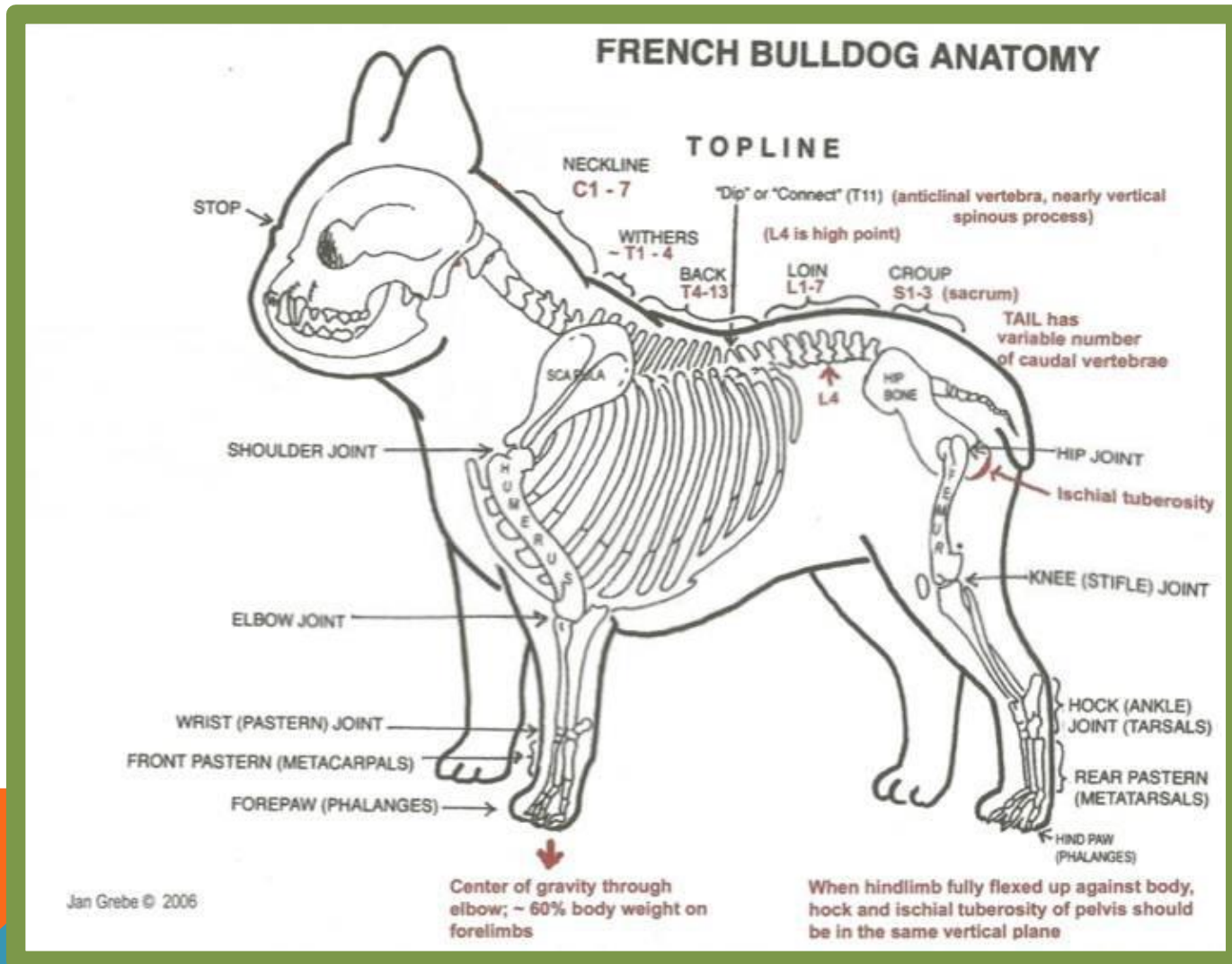
The silhouette should be unmistakable

Exhibiting the distinctive head, ears and topline.

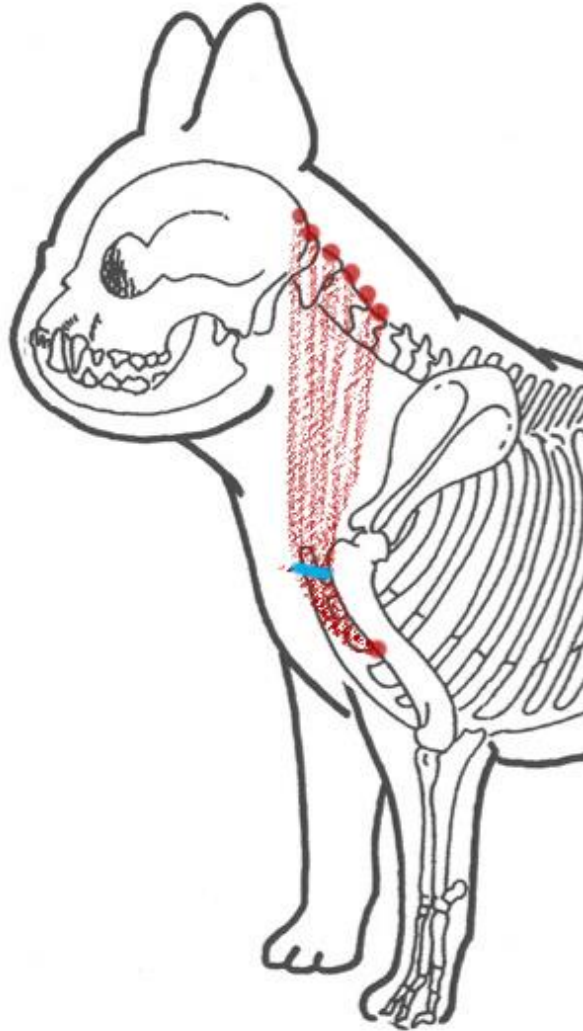
Hallmarks of the breed...

Square head with bat ears and the roach back

# ANATOMY



# Muscles



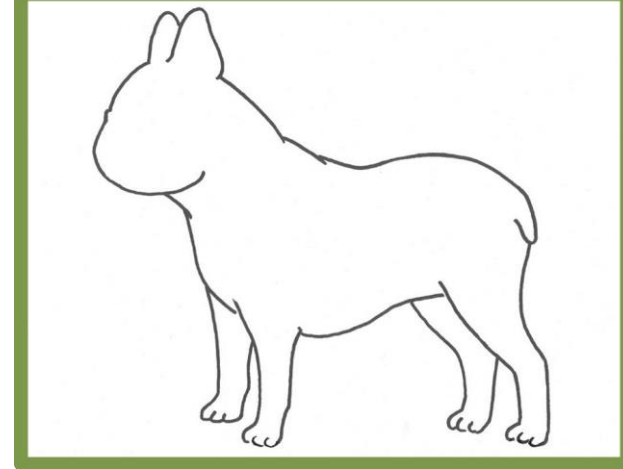
A muscle can only contract to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of its resting length. The longer the muscle, the farther the moveable end will move when it contracts.

One of the muscles involved in the movement of the canine forelimb attaches to the back of the skull and a few adjacent cervical vertebrae; its movable end attaches to the shaft of the humerus. When that muscle contracts, it pulls the forelimb forward. The longer the muscle, the farther it pulls the forelimb.

The length of the neck can therefore affect the reach of the forelimb. Note that sighthounds tend to have very long necks.

# GENERAL APPEARANCE

- Active
- Intelligent
- *Muscular dog of heavy bone*
- *Smooth coat*
- *Compactly built*
- *Of medium or small structure*
- Expression alert, curious, interested



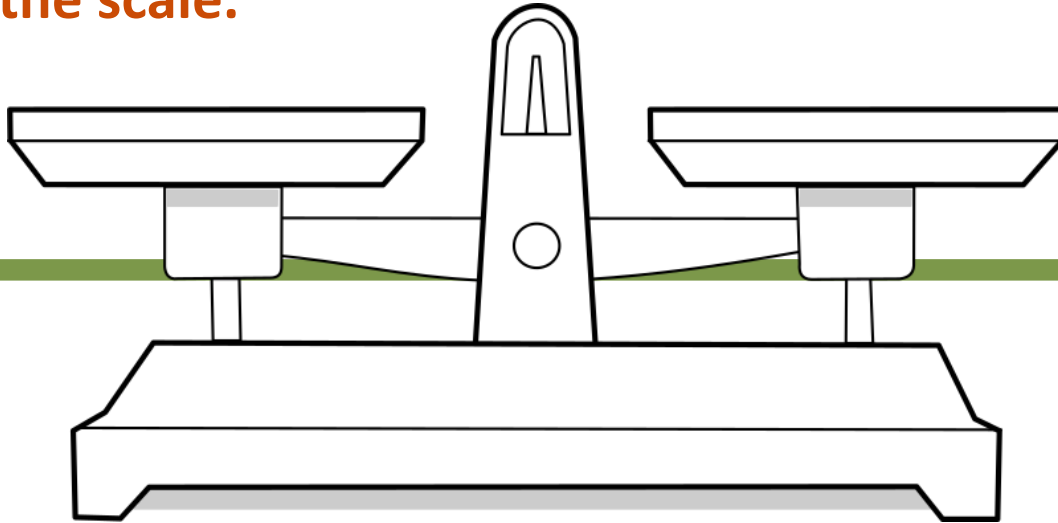
Hallmarks of the breed...

Square head with bat ears and the roach back

# Size

**WEIGHT** not to exceed 28 pounds;

over 28 pounds is a **DISQUALIFICATION**. If you are unsure of the weight, please call for the scale.



**Do not lift dogs on  
table...use your scales**



The French Bulldog should have the appearance of an active, intelligent, muscular dog, of heavy bone, smooth coat, compactly built, and of medium or small structure.



# PROPORTION AND SYMMETRY

Balance and proportion are mentioned twice in the standard.

- All points are well distributed and bear good relationship one to the other;
- No feature being in such prominence from EITHER excess or lack of quality that the animal appears poorly proportioned.

The logo for 'Twice' is displayed in a white, cursive script font on a red square background. The background of the slide features a blue and orange geometric design at the bottom left.

*Twice*

# Proportion and Substance

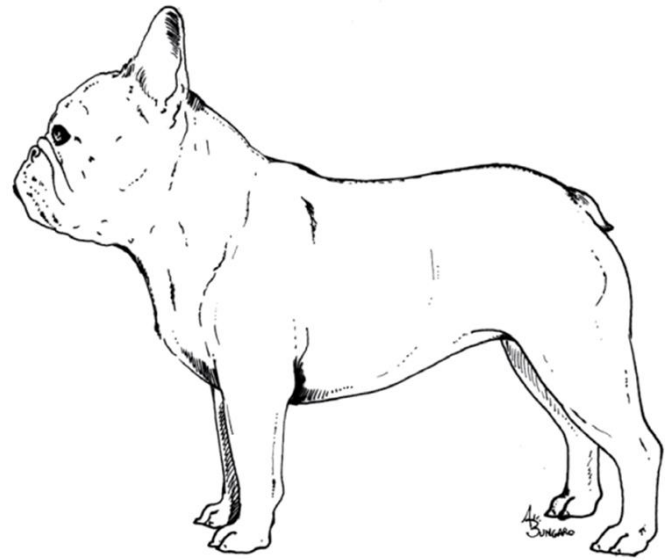
**PROPORTION:** Distance from withers to ground in good relation to distance from withers to onset of tail, so that the animal appears compact, well balanced and in good proportion.

**Compact is defined as solid and well put together. This is the second time that balance and good proportion is mentioned.**

**SUBSTANCE:** Muscular, heavy bone.

# “Balance”

“points should be well distributed and 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.”



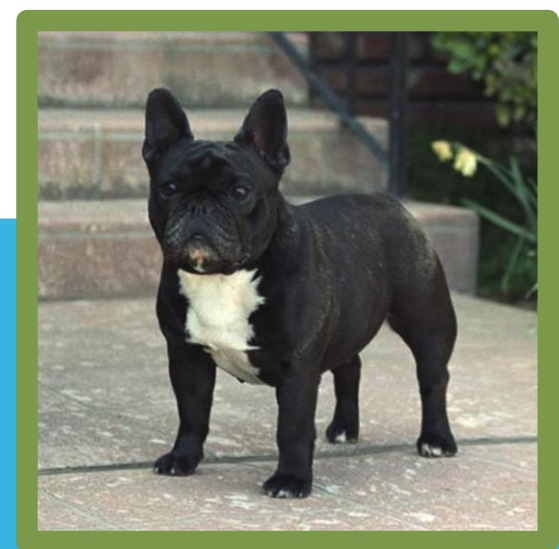
# Examples of General Appearance, Proportion & Symmetry



Dogs



Bitches



# INFLUENCE OF SEX

In comparing specimens of different sex, due allowance is to be made in favor of bitches, which do not bear the characteristics of the breed to the same marked degree as does the dog.

This does not mean that you always give preference to the bitch...It simply means that you need to recognize that a bitch is feminine.



Bitch

Dog

This does not mean that the bitches are frail.

# THE PROPORTIONS

Unlike some breeds which specify square, cobby, off-square, rectangular, etc, the French Bulldog does NOT specify the proportions.

What it does say, is that the distance from withers to ground in good relation to distance from withers to onset of tail, so that animal appears compact, well-balanced and in good proportion.

We recommend ringside mentoring so that you can see the correct range of balance and proportion.

# DOGS WITH IMPROPER BODY PROPORTIONS





# AGE PROGRESSION WITH GOOD PROPORTIONS



Same male at 9 months, 18 months and 5 years.

# DOGS WITH CORRECT PROPORTIONS



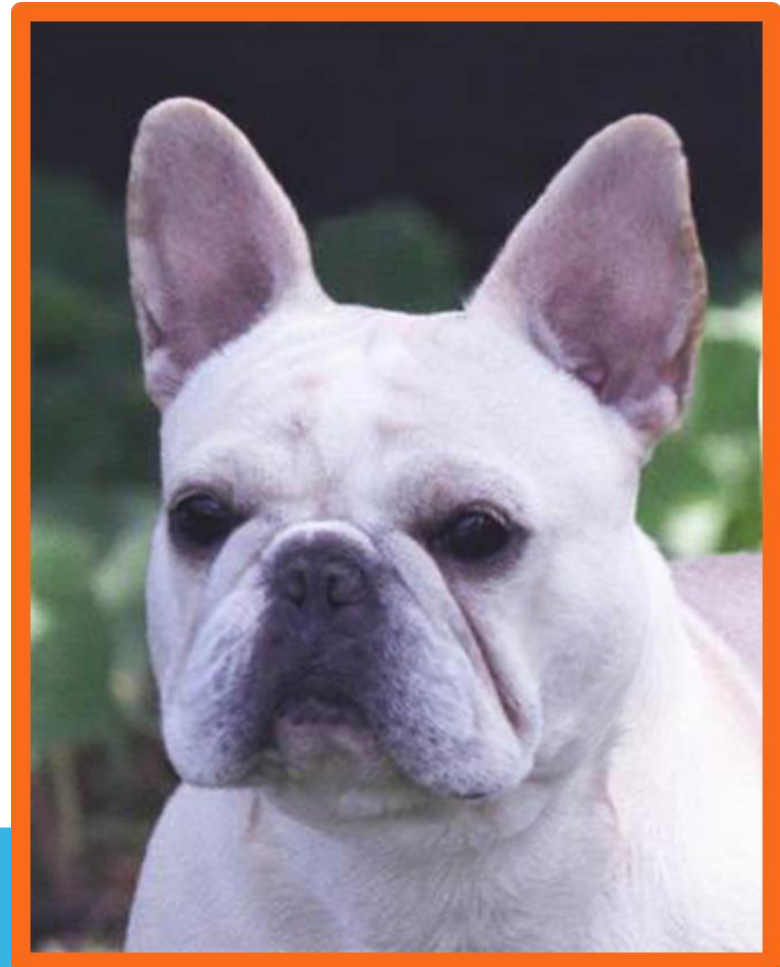
# HEAD – FRONTAL VIEW

Large and Square (**in front view**)

Top of skull flat between the ears.

Forehead is not flat but slightly rounded.

Muzzle broad, deep and well laid back; Muscles of cheeks well developed.

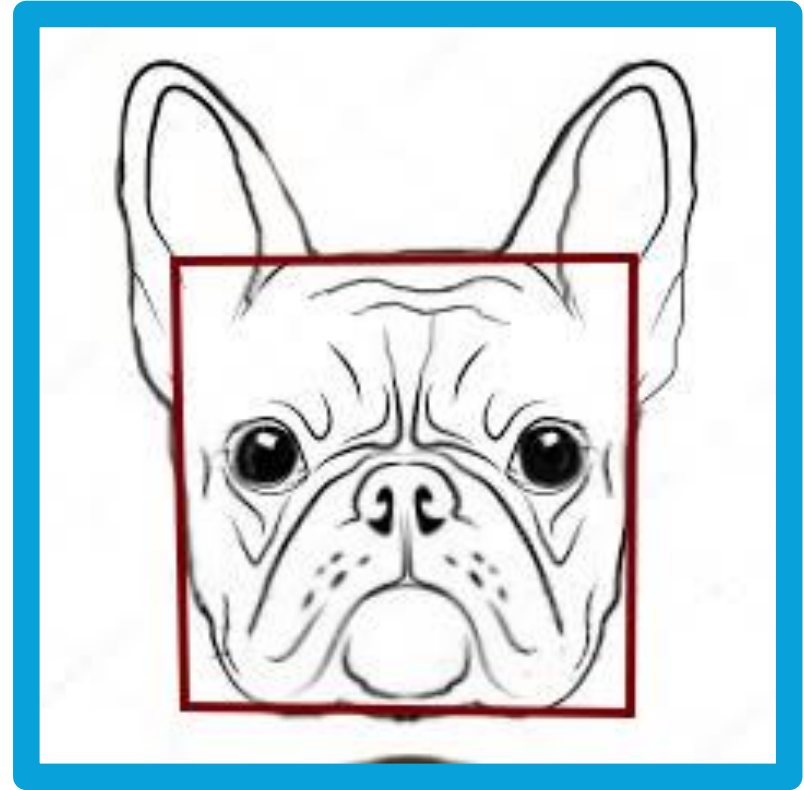


A bitch's head

# HEAD

The squareness comes from

- the flat skull between broad based ears
- the broad, deep, well laid back muzzle
- well-developed cheek muscles
- deep, square, broad, upswept jaw
- flews overhanging the sides.



The squareness comes from structure, not cushioning.

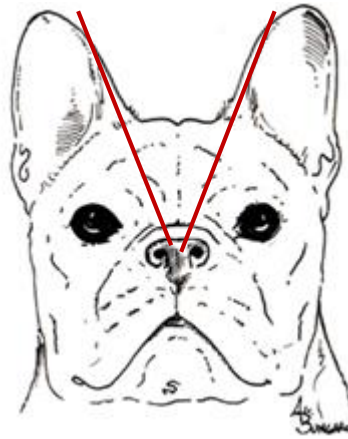
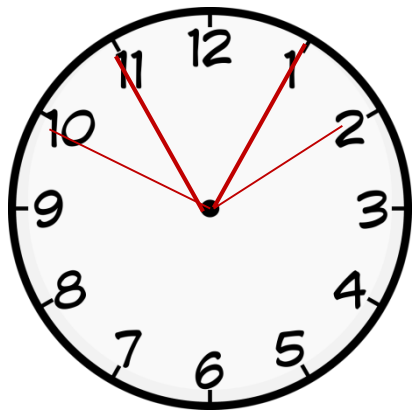
# ELEMENTS OF THE BAT EAR

Known as the bat ear,

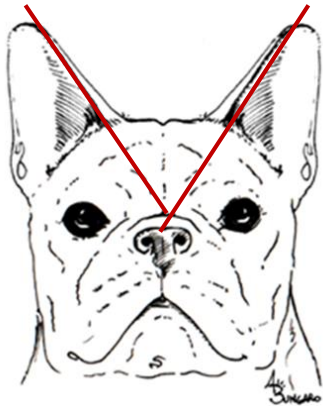
- broad at the base,
- elongated,
- with round top,
- set high on the head but not too close together,
- and carried erect with the orifice to the front.
- The leather of the ear fine and soft.



*Other than bat ears is a disqualification.*

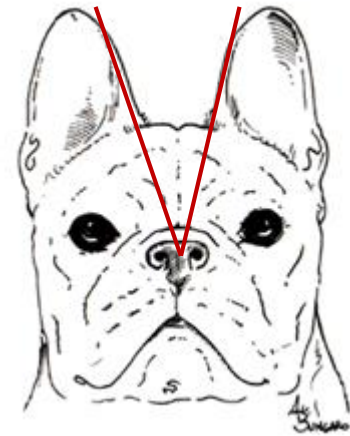


**NOTE:**  
Ears Set at  
11:00 and 1:00  
10:00 and 2:00  
Just won't Do



**Correct ear set and shape.**

“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.”



Incorrect ear shape.  
Broad at the base ,  
top of ear pointed not  
rounded.

Correct Ear shape but  
too close together .  
Note the distance  
between the ears.

# PROPER EARS (CONTINUED)

Ears are expressive.

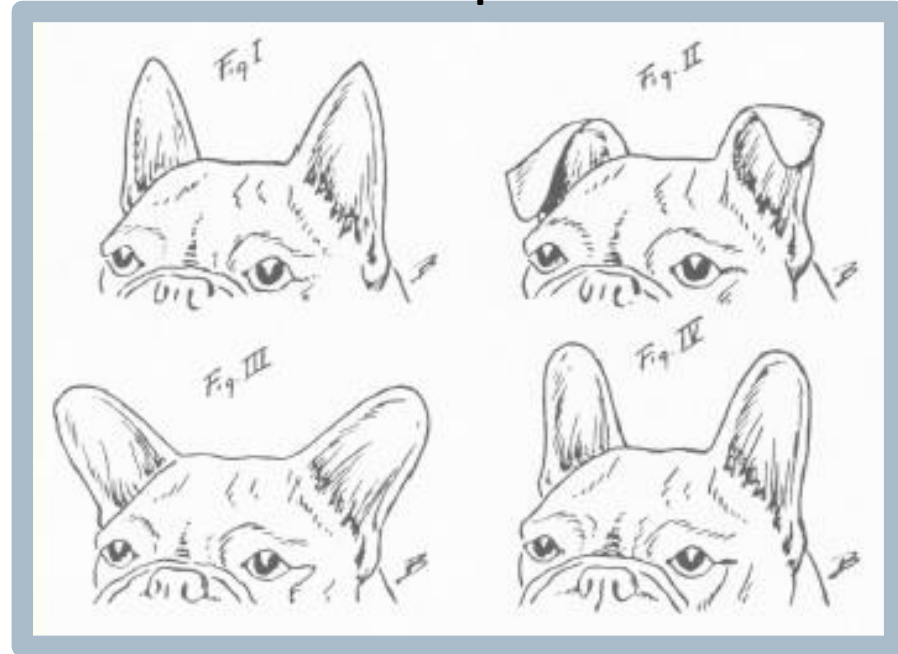
Evaluate ear expression on the floor, not on the table.

Do not penalize for failure to use ears at all times.

Which ears to the right would you DQ? Only DQ top right.

Pointed Ears

Drop Ears



Poor Ear Set

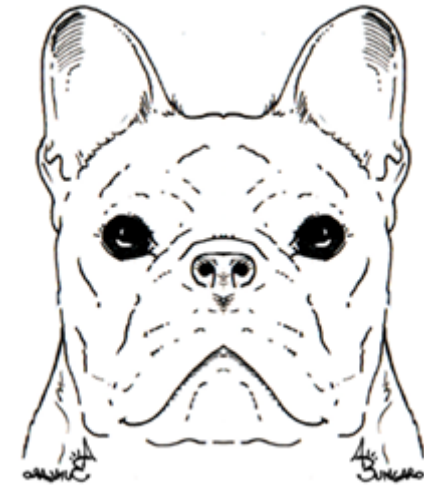
Bat Ears

Classic illustration above from  
*The French Bulldog, 1926*

# OFTEN SEEN BUT LESS THAN PERFECT



**Incorrect** ears are not carried upright ...NOTE not flat between the ears.



**Incorrect** ears are slightly too small for the head.



# COMMON EAR PROBLEM



Too wide set.

# POINTED EARS



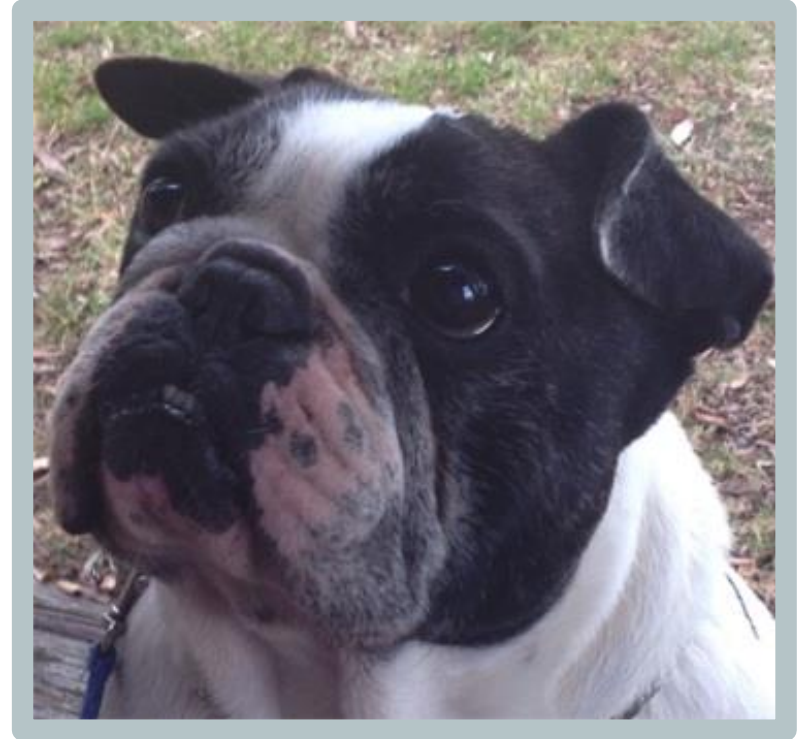
Pointed ears are not a DQ but they are less desirable because they are not rounded at the top.

Make sure you assess the ears from the front. This bitch has lovely bat ears, but from this angle they appear pointed.

# DISQUALIFYING EARS

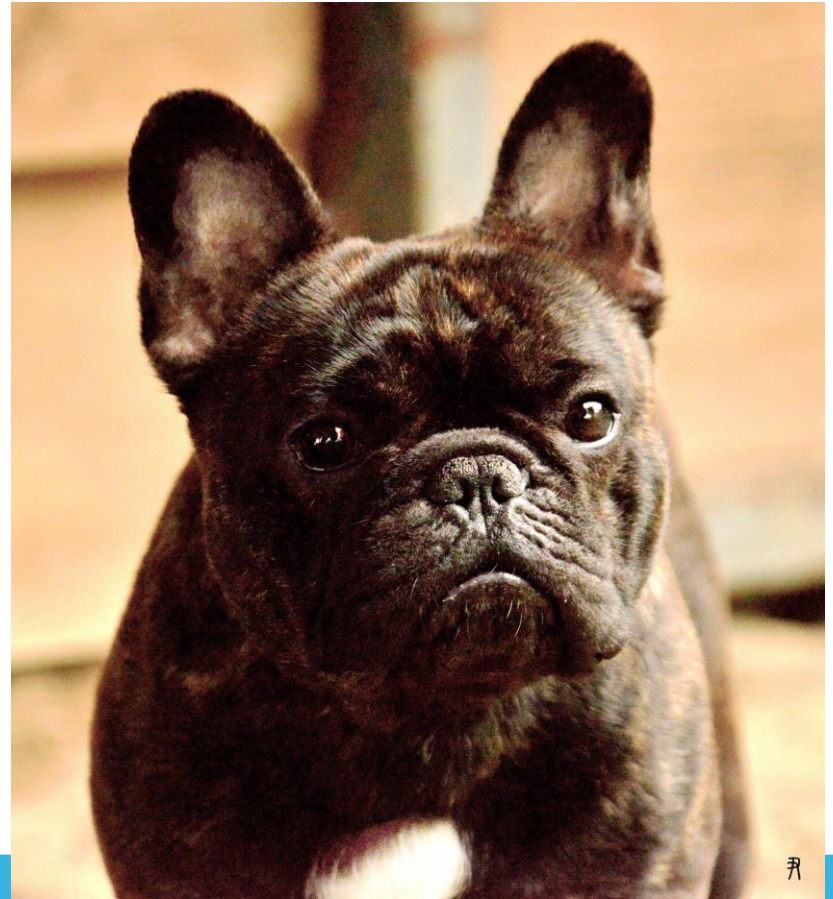


# EARS YOU MUST DO



Ears are not erect.

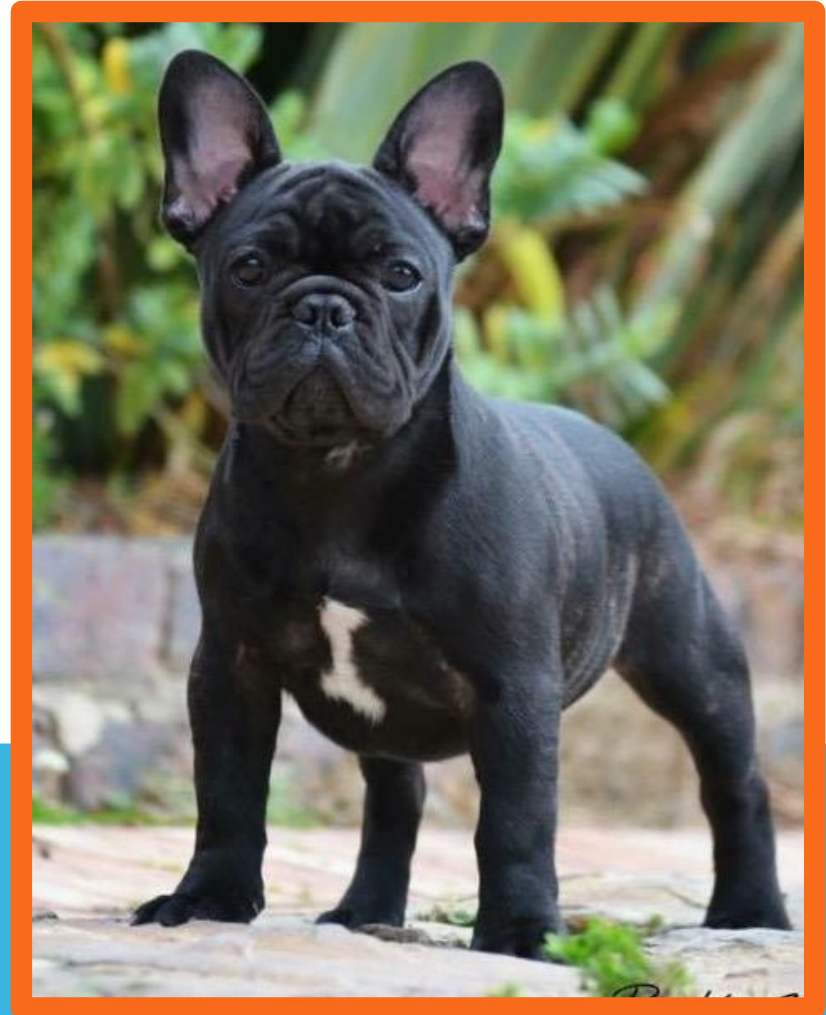
# THE BAT EAR



Hallmarks of the breed...

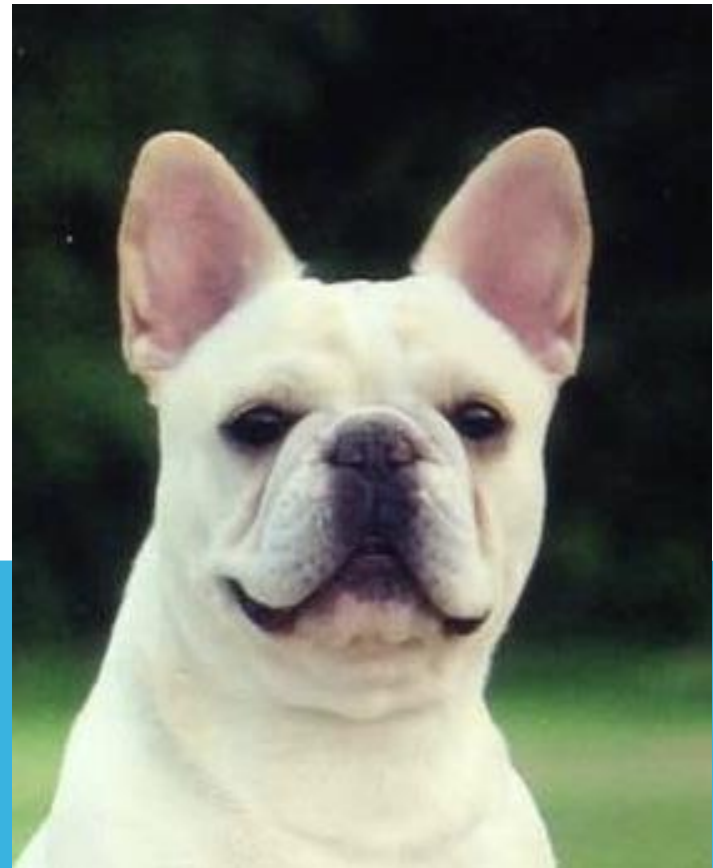
Square head with bat ears and the roach back

# PROPER EARS

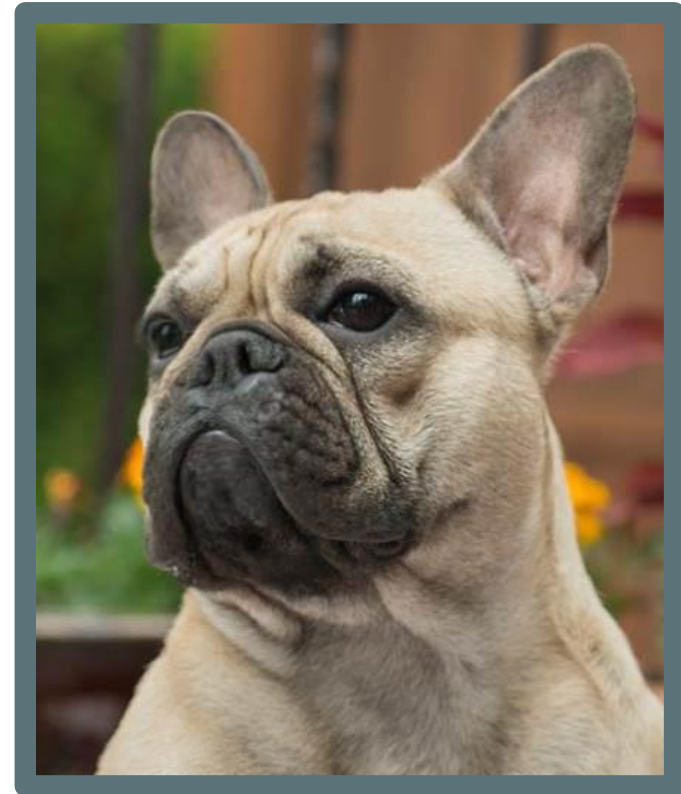


# EYES – PLACEMENT

Eyes dark, brown or approaching black in color, wide apart, set low down in the skull, as far from the ears as possible,



# EYES – SHAPE



round in form, of moderate size, neither sunken nor bulging



# EYES – SHAPE



Correct

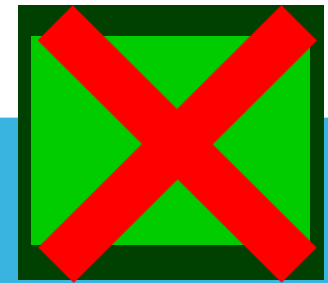
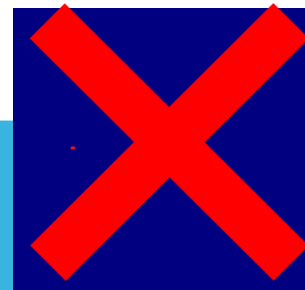


Not Correct - bulging

# EYE COLOR

Eyes Dark, brown or approaching black.

Lighter BROWN colored eyes are acceptable but not desirable. Blue or Green eye(s) or any traces of blue or green are a DISQUALIFICATION.



# IMPROPER EYE COLOR

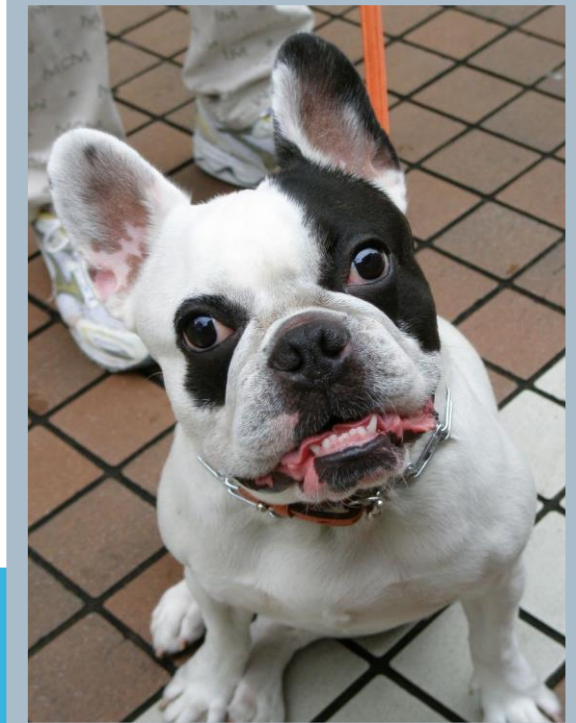
Must DQ these dogs.



# EYES CONTINUED

No haw and no white of the eye showing when looking forward.

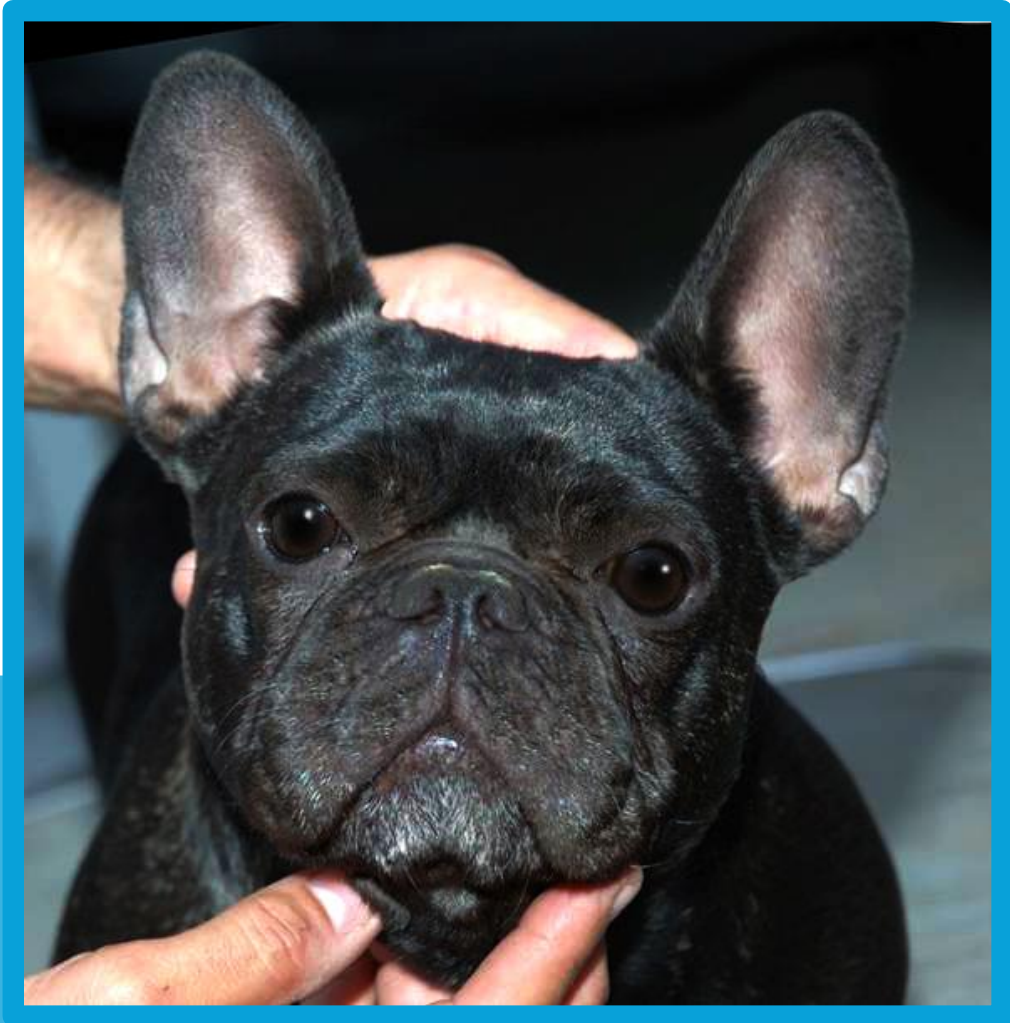
Unacceptable haw  
and white of the  
eye.



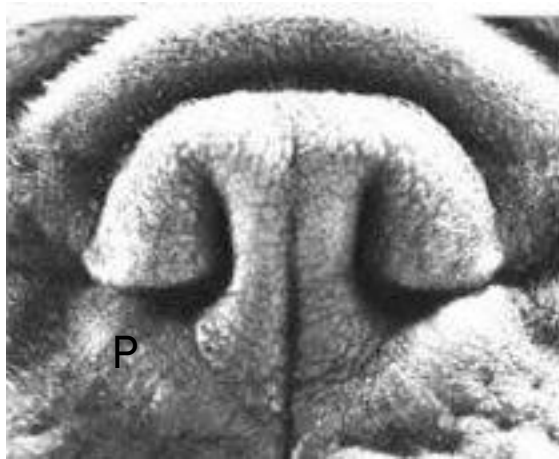
# NOSE

- Extremely short
- Nostrils broad with a well defined line between them

The nares should not be pinched but must be open to allow maximum breathing capacity.



# A STUDY OF NOSTRILS



Top is good, bottom left is fair, bottom right poor – severely pinched.

# OPEN NOSTRILS



# NOSE PLACEMENT

The top of the nose should be just below a line drawn through the center of the eyes.



**Correct**



**THE TOP OF THE NOSE SHOULD BE JUST BELOW  
A LINE DRAWN THROUGH THE CENTER OF THE  
EYES.**



Incorrect – Down Face

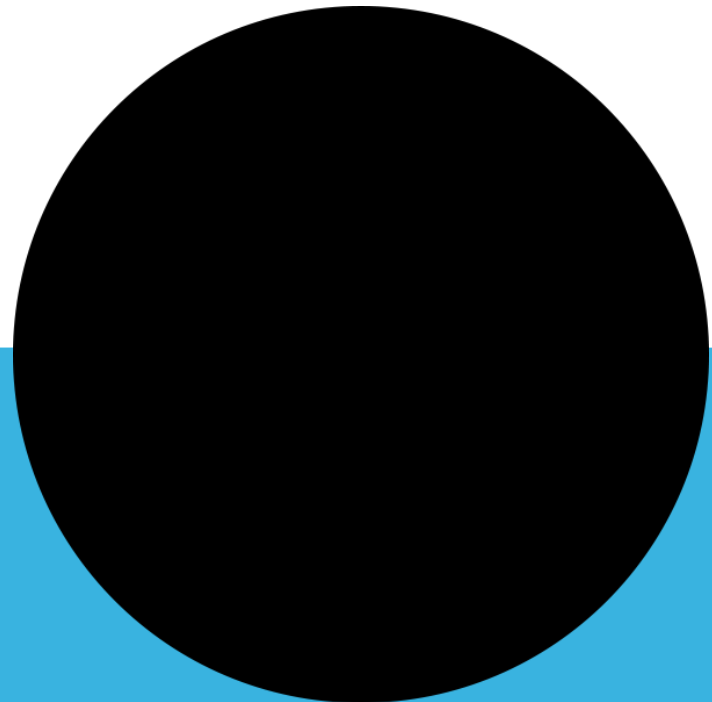
Correct

# NOSE COLOR

**Nose Black.**

**Nose other than black is a Disqualification,  
EXCEPT:**

**In the case of creams or fawns without black  
masks, where a lighter colored nose is  
acceptable but not desirable.**



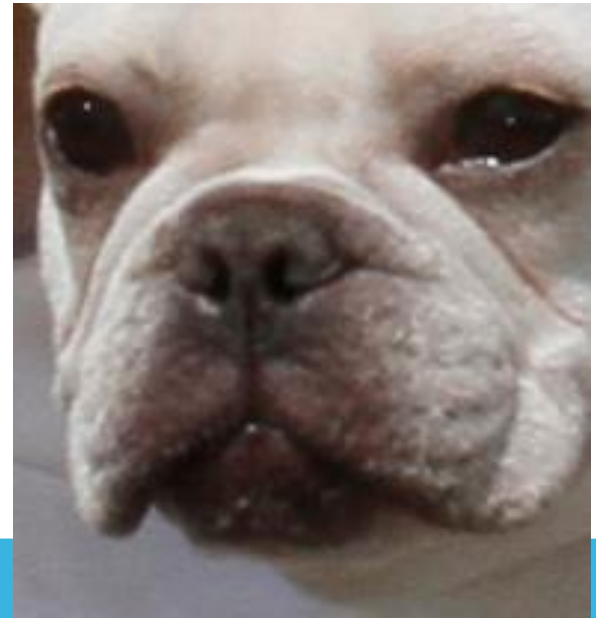
# ACCEPTABLE NOSE COLOR



In cream dogs a lighter colored nose is acceptable, but not desirable. **Note this is not an unpigmented nose.**

Nose other than black is a DQ in a brindle, brindle and white, or white and brindle dog.

The nose and flews should be black except a lighter nose is acceptable but not desirable in a cream or fawn. Here is an example of a lighter nose. Notice that it is neither flesh-colored or liver.



# UNPIGMENTED NOSE

Pink (unpigmented spot) on the nose is NOT a lighter colored nose (multicolored or “butterfly” nose) .



**You  
MUST  
DQ**

**Pink (unpigmented spot) on the nose is NOT a lighter colored nose. A “butterfly” nose is a DQ.**

# NOSE COLORS TO DQ



**Pink (unpigmented) spot on nose or “butterfly” nose is a disqualification.**



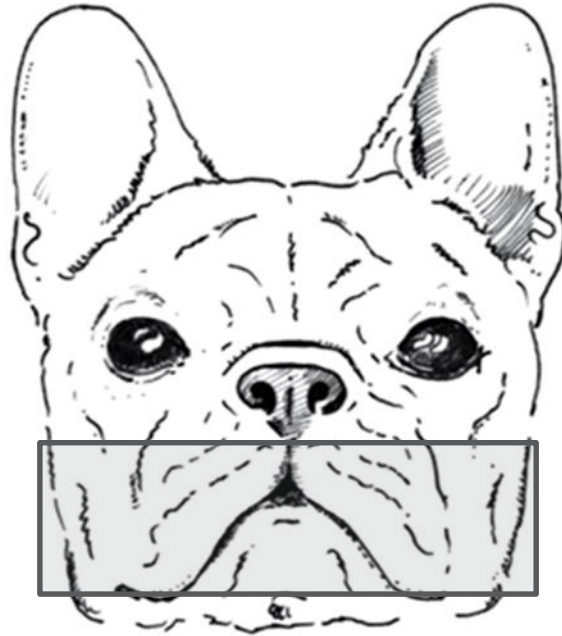
**A slate, mouse, or liver nose is a DQ**

# LIVER NOSE IS A DQ

NOT a  
lighter  
colored  
nose.



# MUZZLE



Muzzle broad, deep and well laid back:  
Muscles of cheeks well developed.



# FLEWS



- Flews black, thick and broad,
- hanging over the lower jaw at the sides,
- meeting the underlip in front and
- covering the teeth and tongue which are not seen when the mouth is closed.

# GREAT BITES — GOOD UPTURN



Note broad underjaw and teeth in a straight line.

# GOOD BITE - BROAD UNDERJAW



While we prefer that French Bulldogs have teeth in a straight line, we are more concerned about a broad and wide upswept jaw, proper undershot and lack of wry.

# MOUTH EXAMINATION



**CORRECT**



**INCORRECT**

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. Check that the jaw is undershot and not wry and evaluate the placement of the teeth.

# SEVERE MOUTH FAULTS



Lack of Undershot jaw  
– level or scissors bite



Wry – laterally displaced or  
tilted jaw.

# SHOWING TEETH AND TONGUE

The teeth and tongue are not seen when the mouth is closed.



# SHOWING TEETH AND TONGUE

Do not penalize an open mouth where teeth and/or tongue are showing due to:

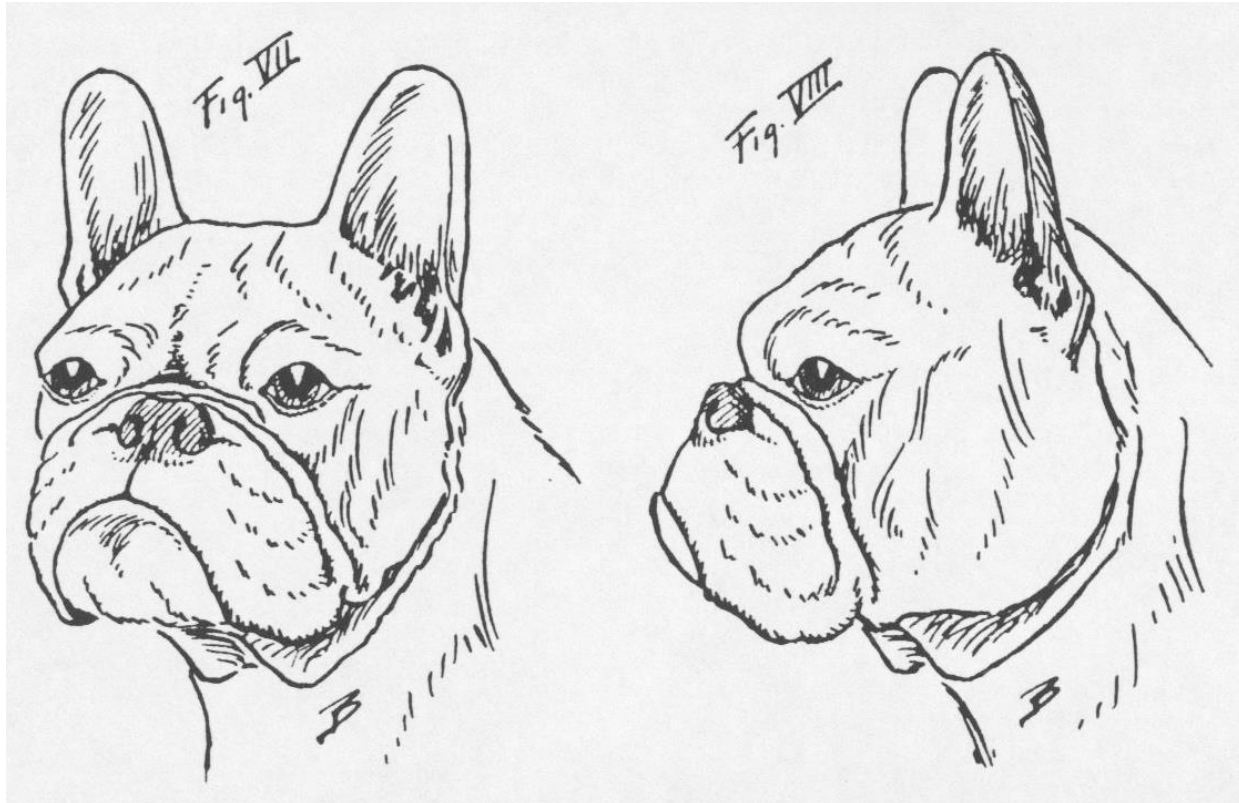
- Heat
- Excitement or nervousness

**Seriously penalize:**

- **Wry**
- **Lack of undershot mouth**



# EVALUATE THE HEAD FROM THE FRONT AND FROM THE PROFILE



Classic illustration above from *The French Bulldog*, 1926, jointly published By The French Bull Dog Club of America and The French Bulldog Club of New England



# FOREHEAD

Forehead is not flat but slightly rounded.



Stop well defined, causing a hollow groove between the eyes with heavy wrinkles forming a soft roll over the extremely short nose.



# THE STOP



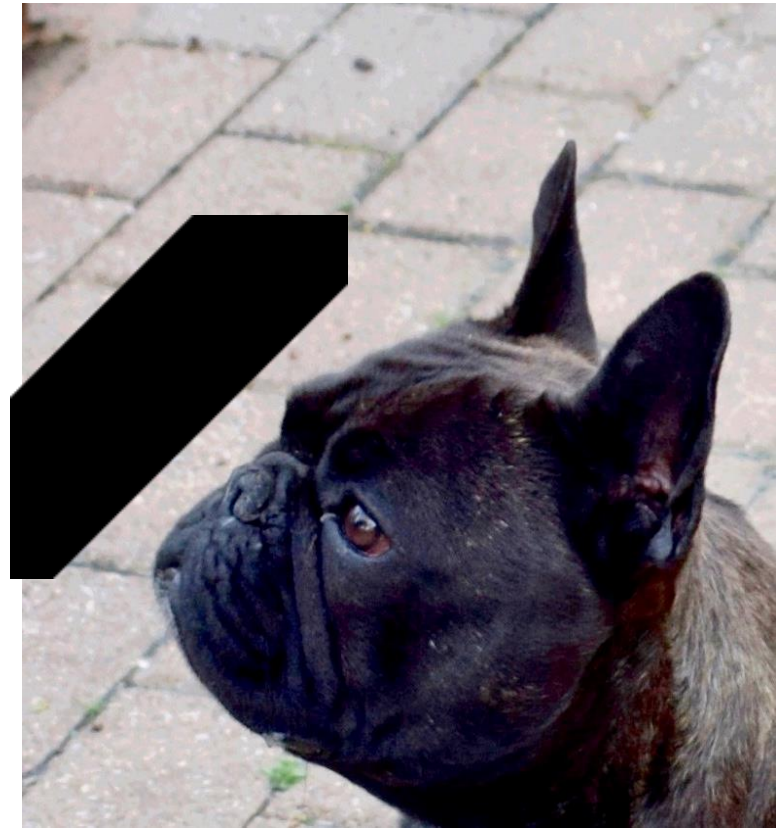
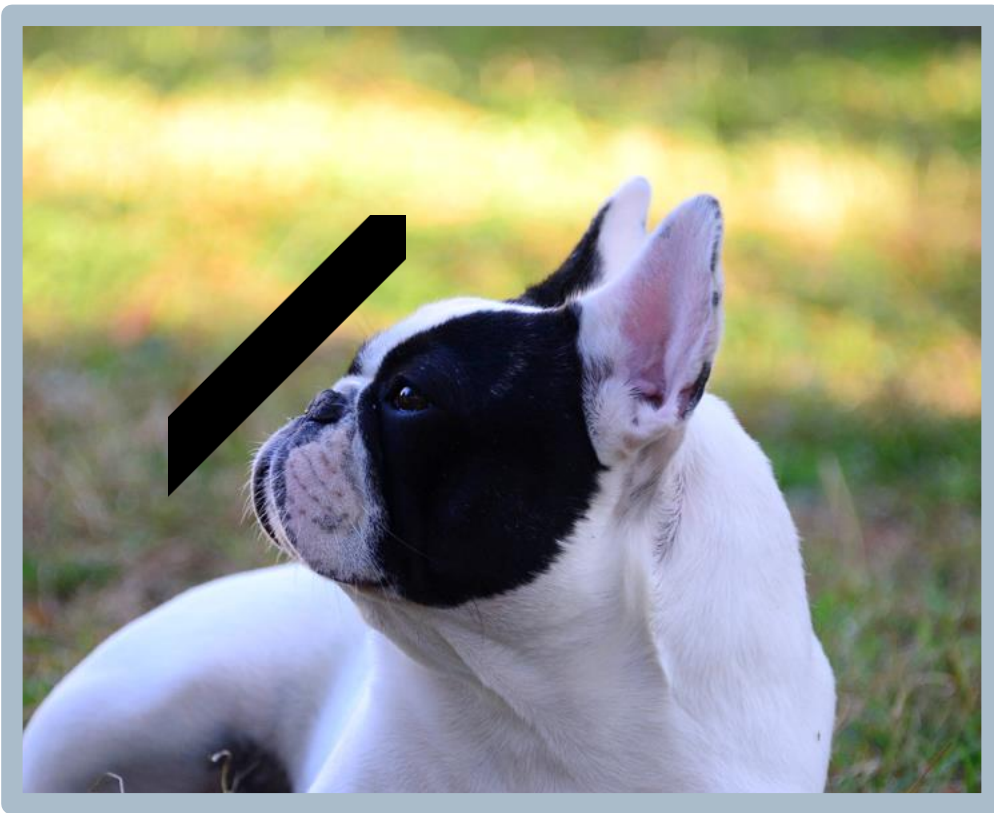
Typically a Frenchie has a wrinkle over the nose and a wrinkle on each side of the nose.

# CORRECT HEAD PROFILE

Note good  
layback,  
upturn of  
underjaw and  
rounded  
forehead.

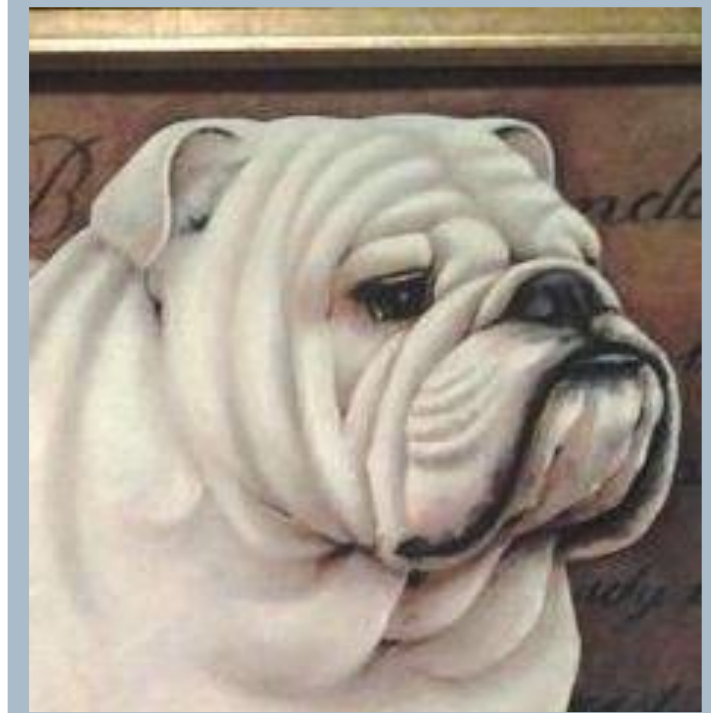


# CORRECT HEAD PROFILE



- A straight line should connect the under-jaw, tip of nose, and top of the stop.
- The forehead is rounded when viewed from the side.

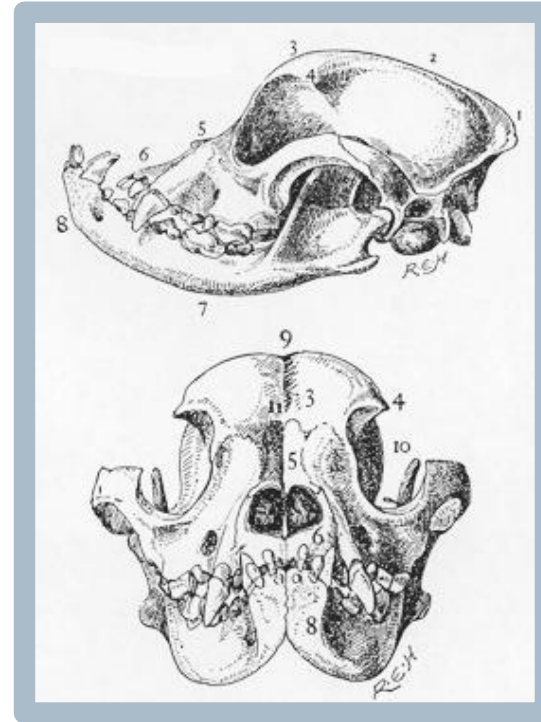
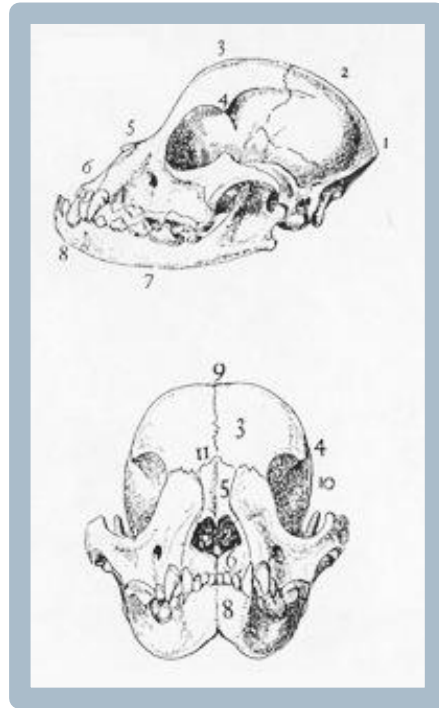
# LAYBACK COMPARISON



The French Bulldog's rounded forehead is a major departure from the Bulldog's flat, laid-back forehead.

# Comparison of Bulldog and French Bulldog Skulls (ca. 1920)

F  
R  
E  
N  
C  
H  
  
B  
U  
L  
L  
D  
O  
G



B  
U  
L  
L  
D  
O  
G

- Underjaw more undershot and with more turn-up in Bulldog than French Bulldog.
- Proportional fullness of skull in French bulldog greater than in Bulldog.
- Furrow in Bulldog forehead and its absence in French Bulldog.
- Ridges and grooves more marked on Bulldog skull than on French Bulldog skull.
- French Bulldog skull more moderate than Bulldog skull.

# UNDERJAW

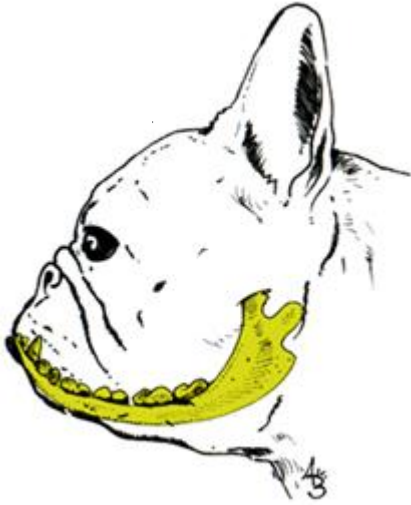
The underjaw is:

- deep,
- square,
- broad,
- undershot and
- well turned up.

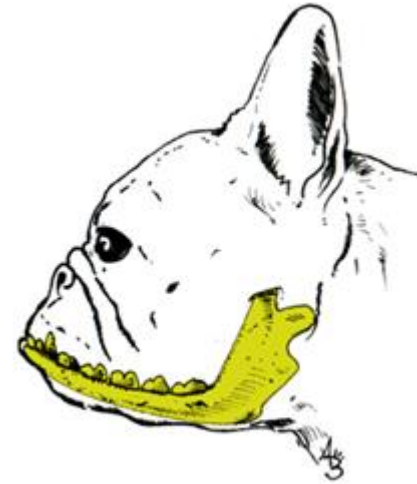




# UNDERJAW

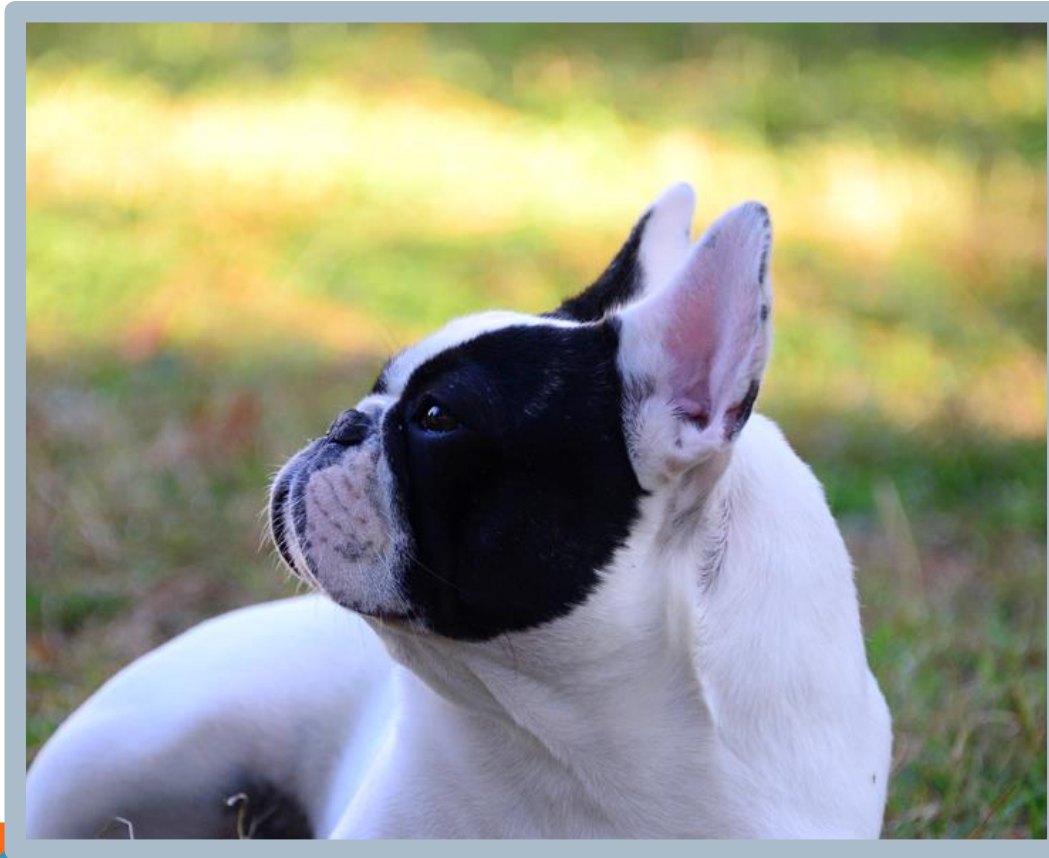


Correct upturn of jaw

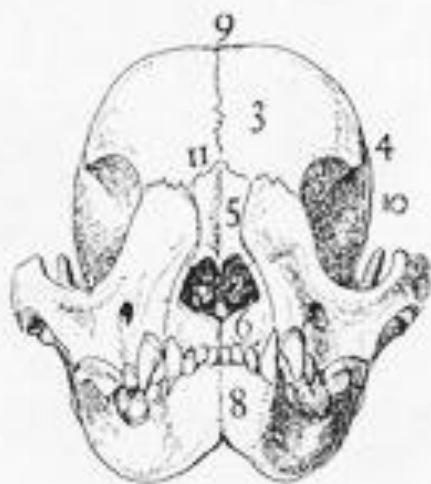


Shallow upturn of jaw

# UNDERJAW



# Essential Elements of the Jaw



**Deep** to allow room for curve.

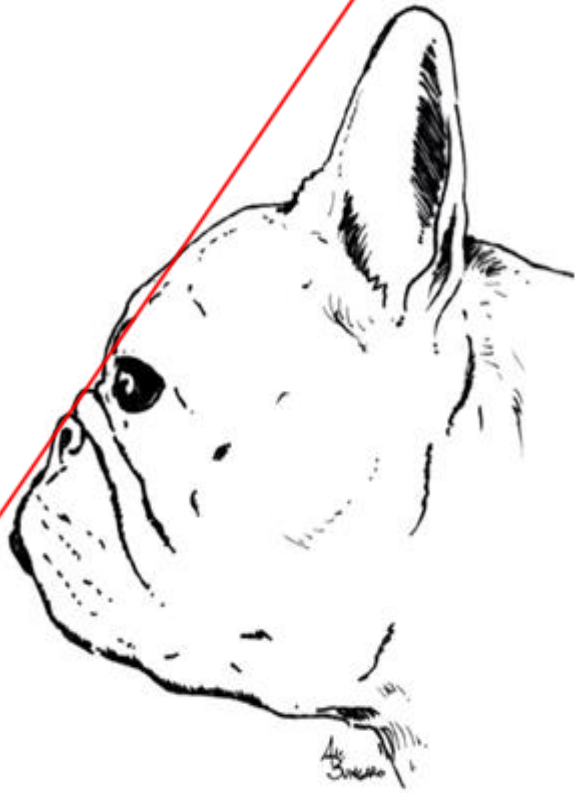
**Square**. The front incisors should be straight across – not rounded. This gives the jaw squareness.

**Broad**. The straight line of incisors also gives the jaw breath.

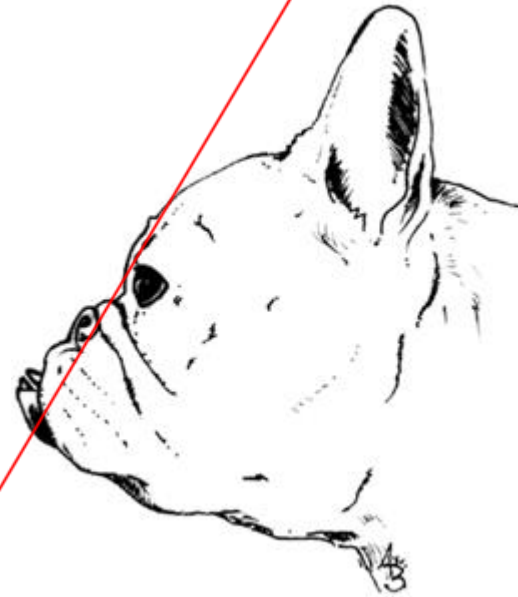
**Undershot**. This is an essential element of the breed.

**Well turned up**. Upswept.

# Essential Elements of the Profile



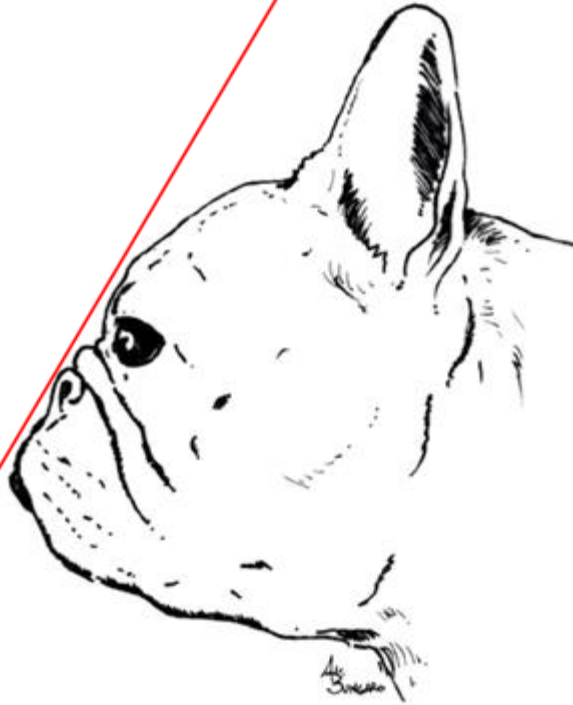
Good layback



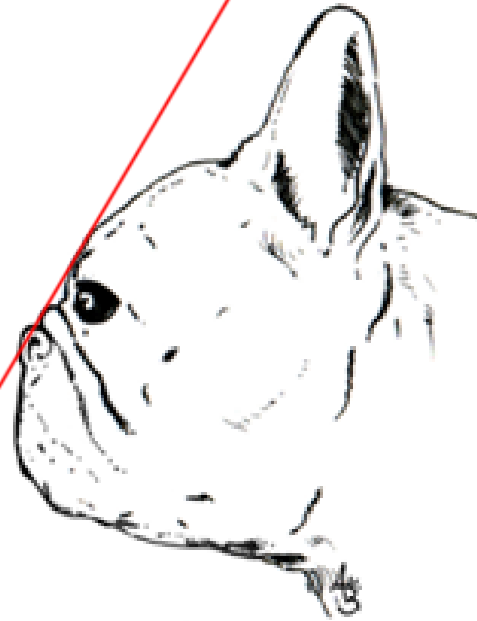
Poor layback

The layback does not include the forehead.

# ELEMENTS OF THE PROFILE

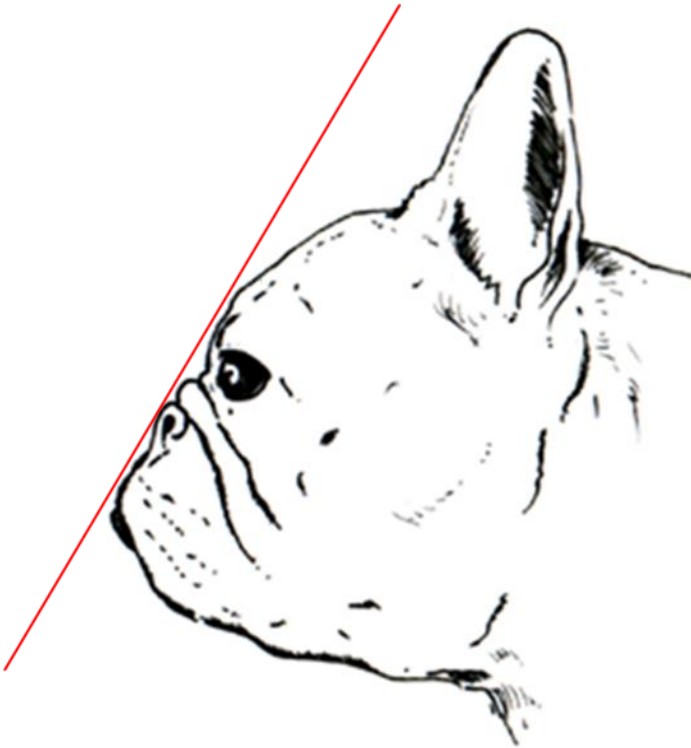


Good layback

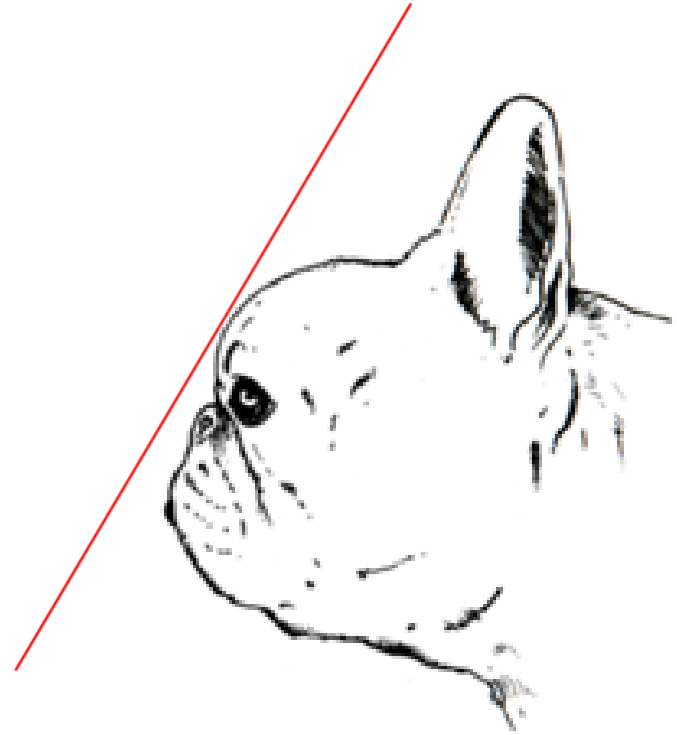


Poor underjaw

# ELEMENTS OF THE PROFILE



Good layback.



The forehead is too prominent and the underjaw is lacking.

# HEAD REVIEW



# HEAD EVALUATION

- Good layback of muzzle
- Good upturn of underjaw
- Good pigment
- Good ear placement
- Good dark eye
- Note soft roll over the nose (wrinkle) and on each side of the muzzle below the eye



POSITIVE POINTS



# HEAD EVALUATION IN PROFILE

- Good upturn of underjaw
- Dark eye
- Slightly tilted nose
- Wrinkles over nose



# BITCH'S HEAD



## POSITIVE POINTS

- Square
- Dark eyes
- Broad muzzle with well defined stop
- Correct ear carriage and heavy wrinkles
- Roll over black nose
- Bat ears
- Skull flat between the ears

# PUPPY'S HEAD



## POSITIVE POINTS

- Good expression
- Good ear set, size and shape
- Good dark eye
- Good width of muzzle and under jaw

# JUDGE HEAD - FRONT AND PROFILE



## Positive Points

- Dark eyes of good shape
- Square head — good ears
- Flat skull between the ears

Same 2-year-old bitch in both shots



## Negative Points

- Side view is incorrect
- Down-faced; nose below the Center of the eyes
- Long nose; forehead not rounded

# NECK — BODY

**Neck: thick and well arched with loose skin at throat.**

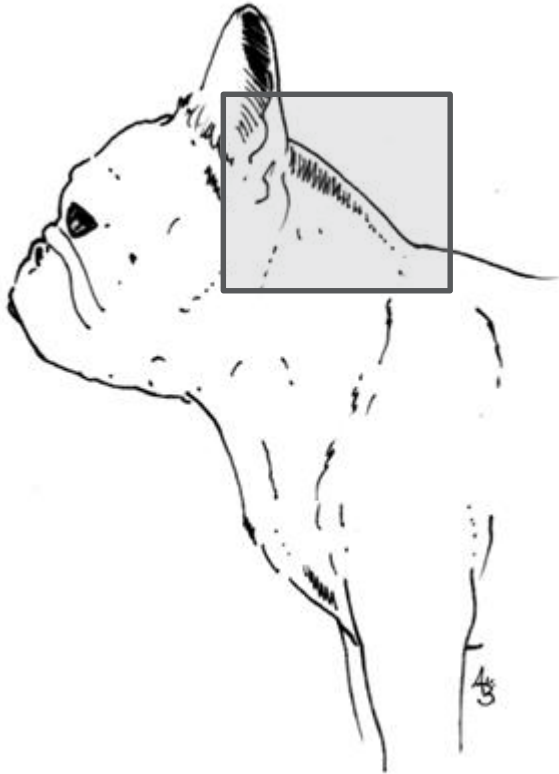
**Back is strong and short.**

**Body is short and well rounded.**

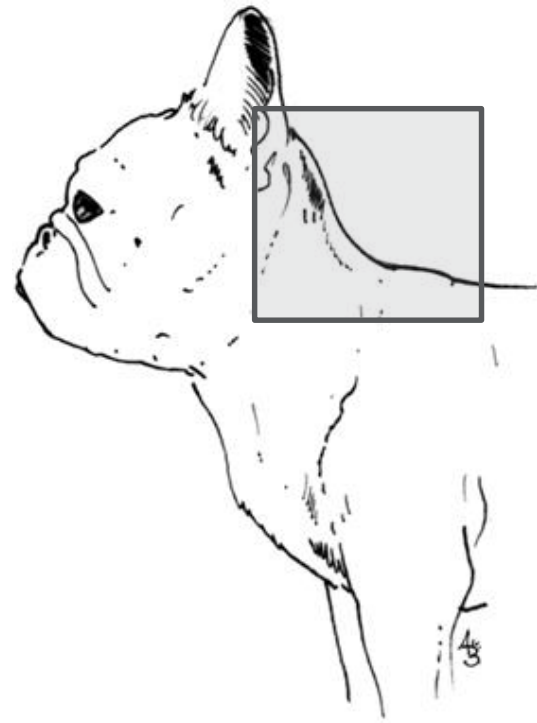
**Chest is broad, deep, full; well ribbed with the belly tucked up.**



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



Correct arch of neck.  
Good length.



No arch of neck.

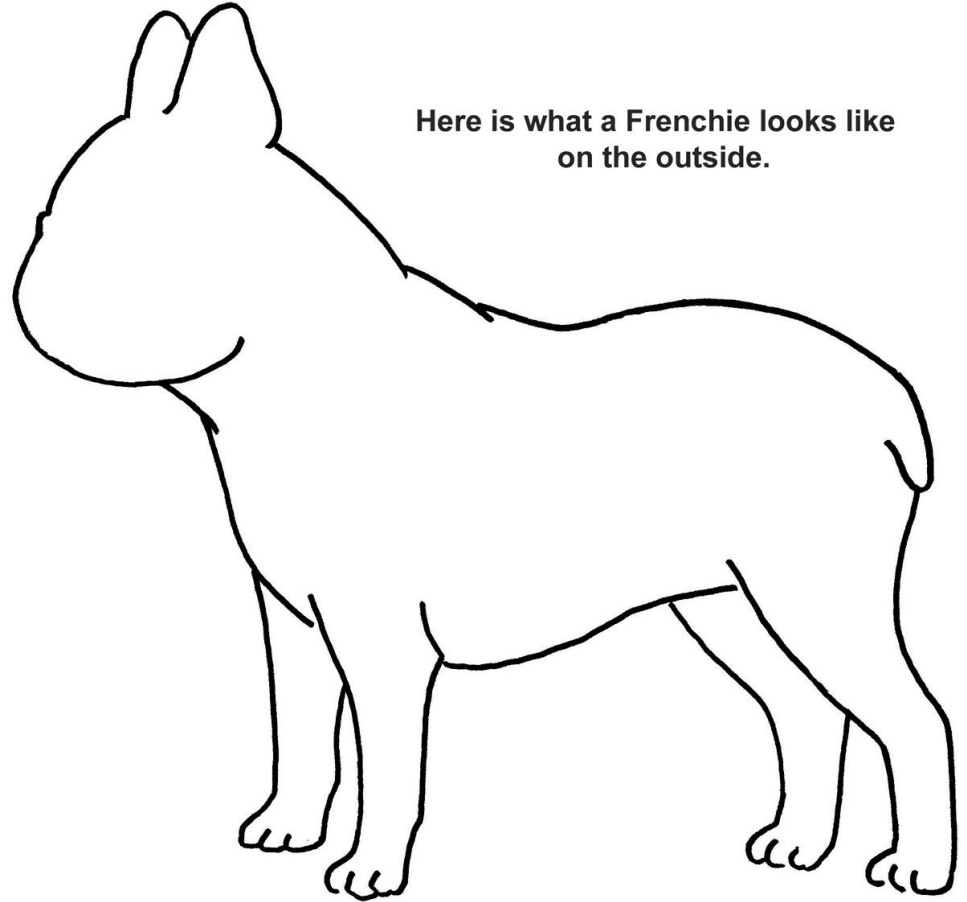
# TOPLINE - A HALLMARK

Roach back with a slight fall close behind shoulders.

Gradually rising to the loin

Which is higher than the shoulder.

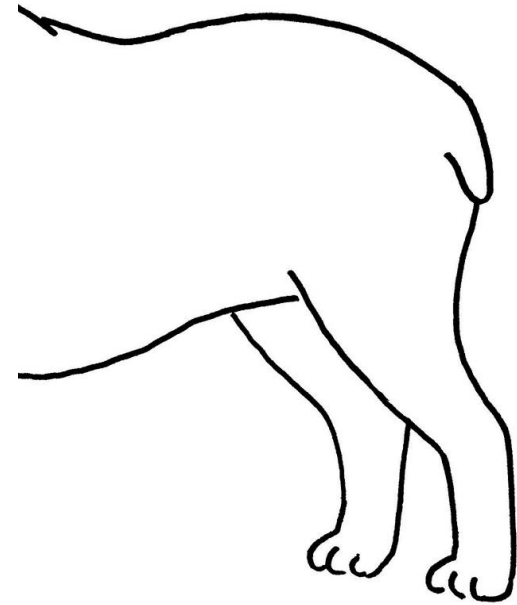
Here is what a Frenchie looks like on the outside.



Jan Grebe © 2006

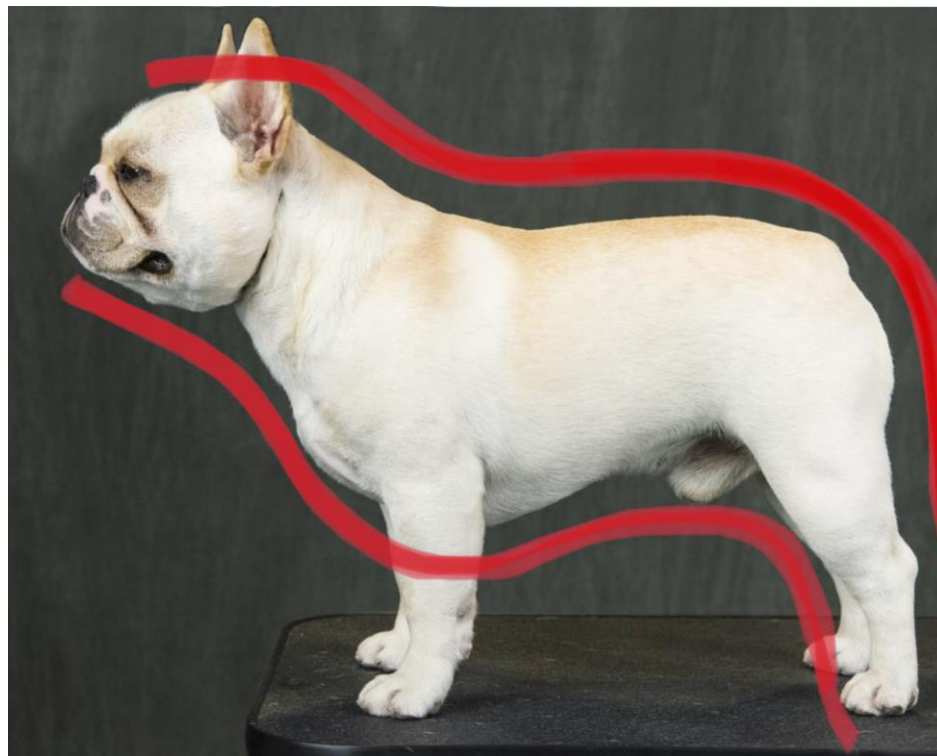
# THE CROUP

The topline is not complete without the ..... rounding at the croup.





# GENTLE CURVES



The body is not angular but rounded and is composed of gentle curves.

# FRENCH BULLDOG STANDARD AT A GLANCE

Eyes forward, shallow sockets

Forehead is not flat but slightly rounded when seen from side

Stop well defined

Muzzle broad, deep and well laid back

Underjaw is deep, square, broad, undershot and well turned up

Chest broad, deep, and full

Forelegs are short, stout, straight, muscular and set wide apart

Neck is thick and well-arched with loose skin at the throat

Shoulder well laid back

Strong and short, broad at the shoulders and narrowing at the loins

Slight fall close behind the shoulders

"Roach back" = slight rise over the loin with high point ("keystone") L4 (red)

Couple \*\*

Moderate angulation

Well-ribbed with belly tucked up

Hind feet slightly longer than Forefeet

Feet moderate in size, compact and firmly set

Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short stubby nails

\*\*Short coupled does not mean NO couple!

Tail either straight or screwed, short, hung low, thick root and fine tip; carried low in repose

Hind legs strong and muscular, longer than forelegs, so as to elevate the loins above the shoulders

Hocks well let down

# UNIQUE TOPLINE

The topline is one of the distinct features of the French Bulldog.

Must be a “roach back.”

Since there are several types of roach backs, we will discuss each and relate it to the French Bulldog.

Hallmarks of the breed...

Square head with bat ears and the roach back

# CAMEL BACK



A form of roached back, first dipping behind the shoulders, then arching markedly in front of and over the loins before once again dropping at the rump.

This back has the rise in front of the loin.

The rise on a French Bulldog should be **OVER** the loin.

# CARP BACK



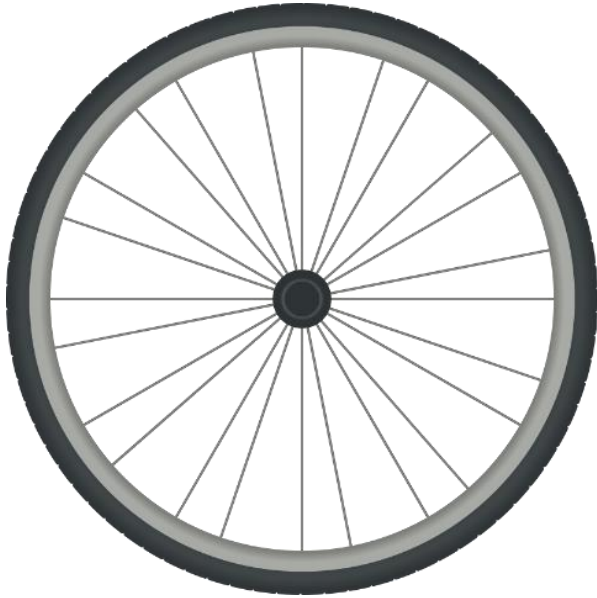
**Carp back is similar to the camel back except that there is little or no initial drop behind the shoulders and the arch tends to be not as high.**

## **This differs from the Frenchie topline:**

The Frenchie has a dip behind the shoulders.

The rise should be over the loin – not start well before the loin.

# WHEEL BACK

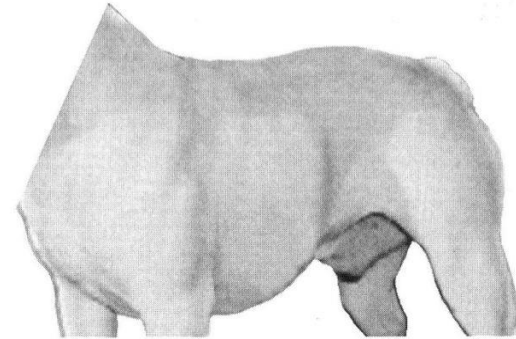


**This term is used in the Bulldog standard.**

**This is a more extreme curve than is normally seen in a French Bulldog.**

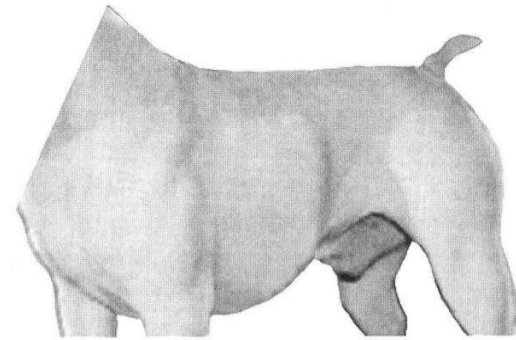
# TOPLINE

Correct



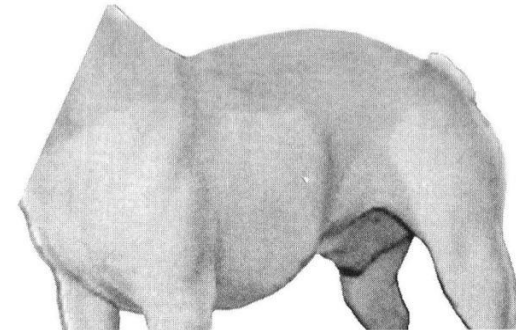
Illus. 19: Correct topline, tuck up, and tail set

Incorrect – too level  
with gay tail



Illus. 20: Incorrect, topline too level, gay tail

Incorrect – camel  
back



Illus. 21: Incorrect, camel back

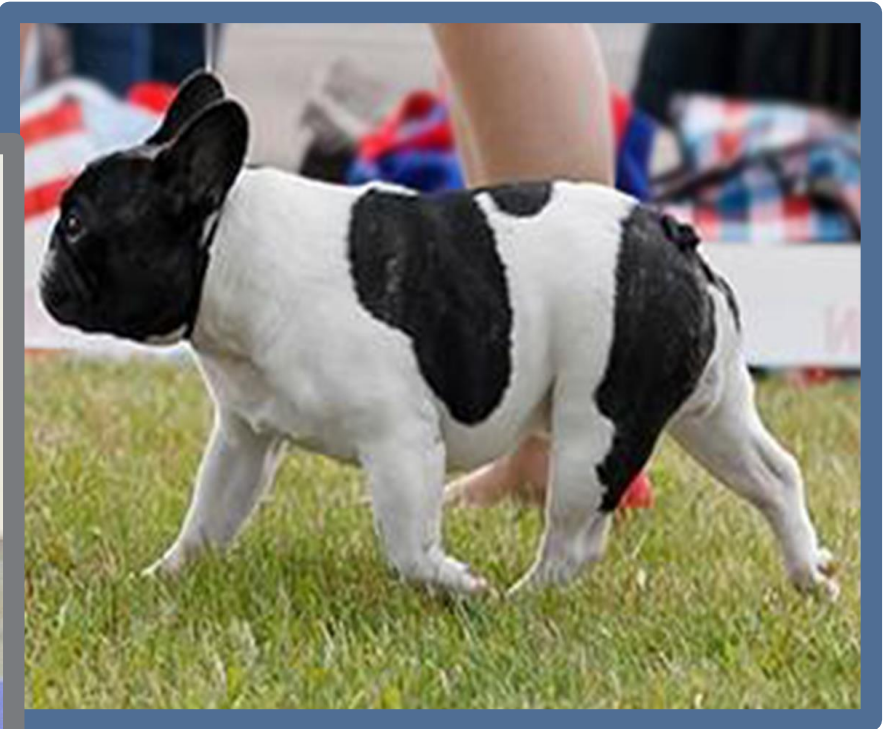
# CORRECT TOPLINE



**Correct topline should be obvious when dog is standing still and moving.**



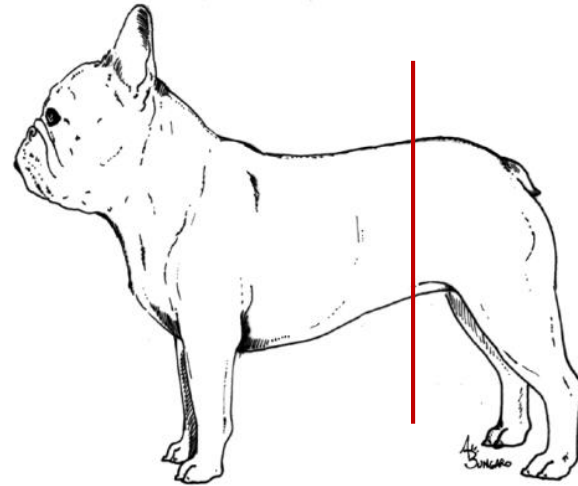
# TOPLINE – STANDING AND MOVING



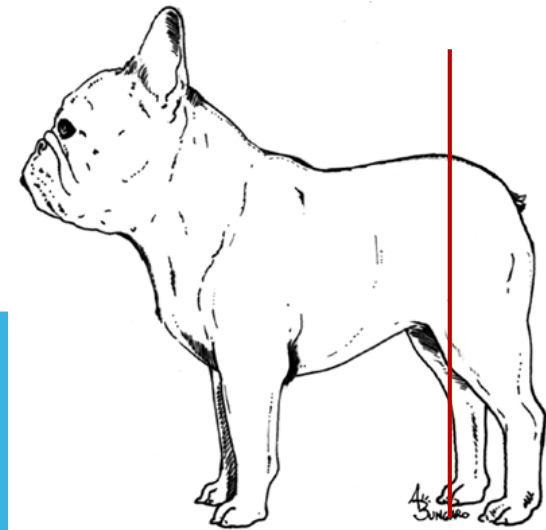
The patterning on a piebald can often times be deceiving.

# INCORRECT TOPLINES

**Incorrect** body too long, rise is not over the loin.

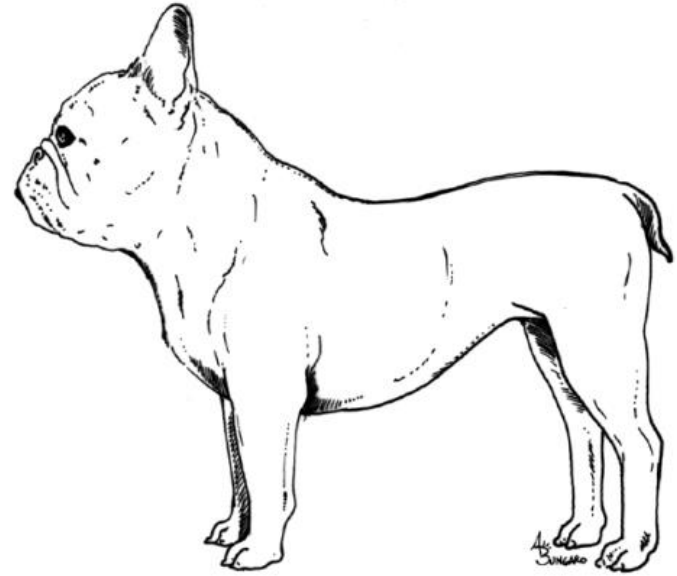


**Incorrect** body too short, rise is not over the loin.

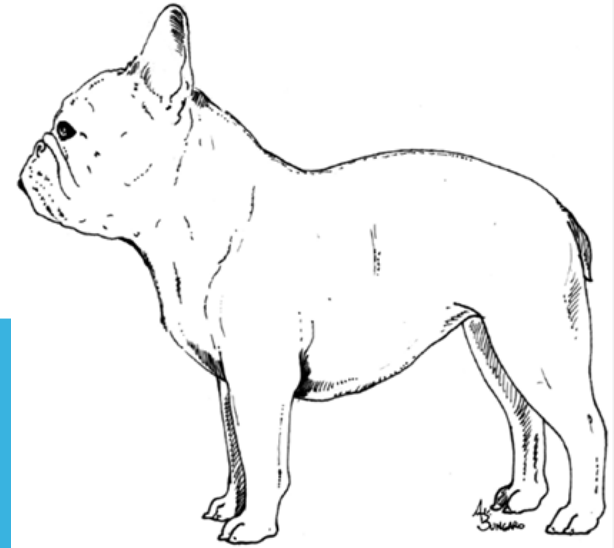


# INCORRECT TOPLINES

**Incorrect** topline slopes up, rise is over the rear legs and does not round out at the croup, tail set too high, **NOTE** straight rear angulation.

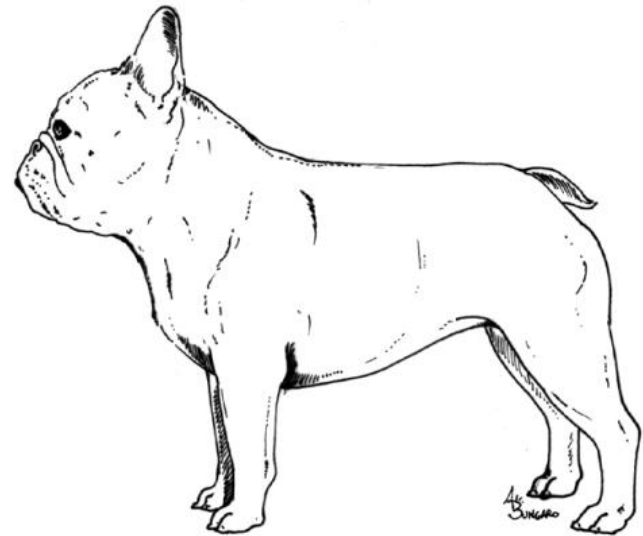


**Incorrect** rise is extreme from point of shoulder...camel back.

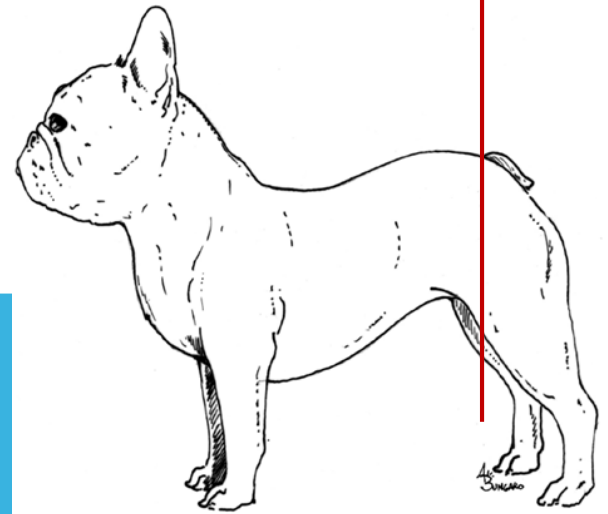


# INCORRECT TOPLINES

**Incorrect “sloping” top line, no rise above shoulder.**



**Incorrect “sway back” top line, rise starts too far forward. Tail set too high.**



# INCORRECT: STRAIGHT TOPLINE, HIGH IN THE REAR



This is not a “roach” — dog appears to be running downhill.

# INCORRECT: LEVEL TOPLINE



No rise over the loin; tail set high.

# INCORRECT: SLOPING TOPLINE



should gradually rise to the loin which is higher than the shoulder...

# COMPARISON OF FRENCH BULLDOG & BULLDOG PROFILE



**STRUCTURE:** Note differences in size, bone, degree of layback of foreface, ears and head; and similarities in topline.

**GAIT:** In both breeds, the gait is unrestrained, free and vigorous. However, the Bulldog gait is additionally described as a loose-jointed, shuffling, sidewise motion, giving the characteristic “roll.”

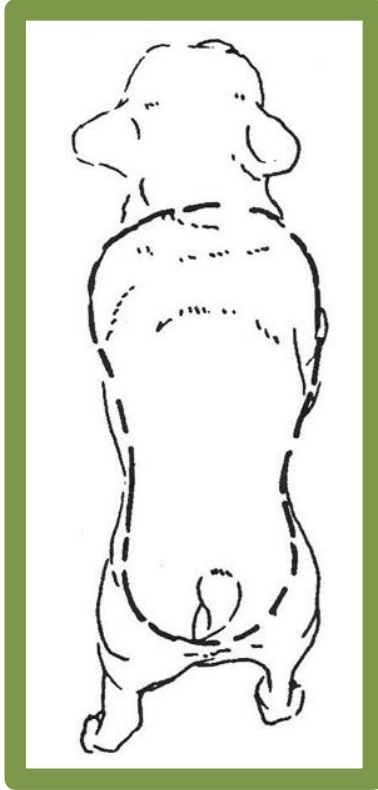


# CORRECT TOPLINE

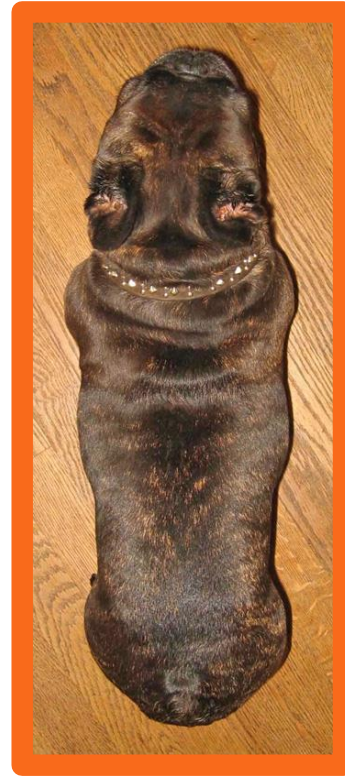


# BROADER AT THE SHOULDERS, AND TAPERING TO THE REAR

Dog

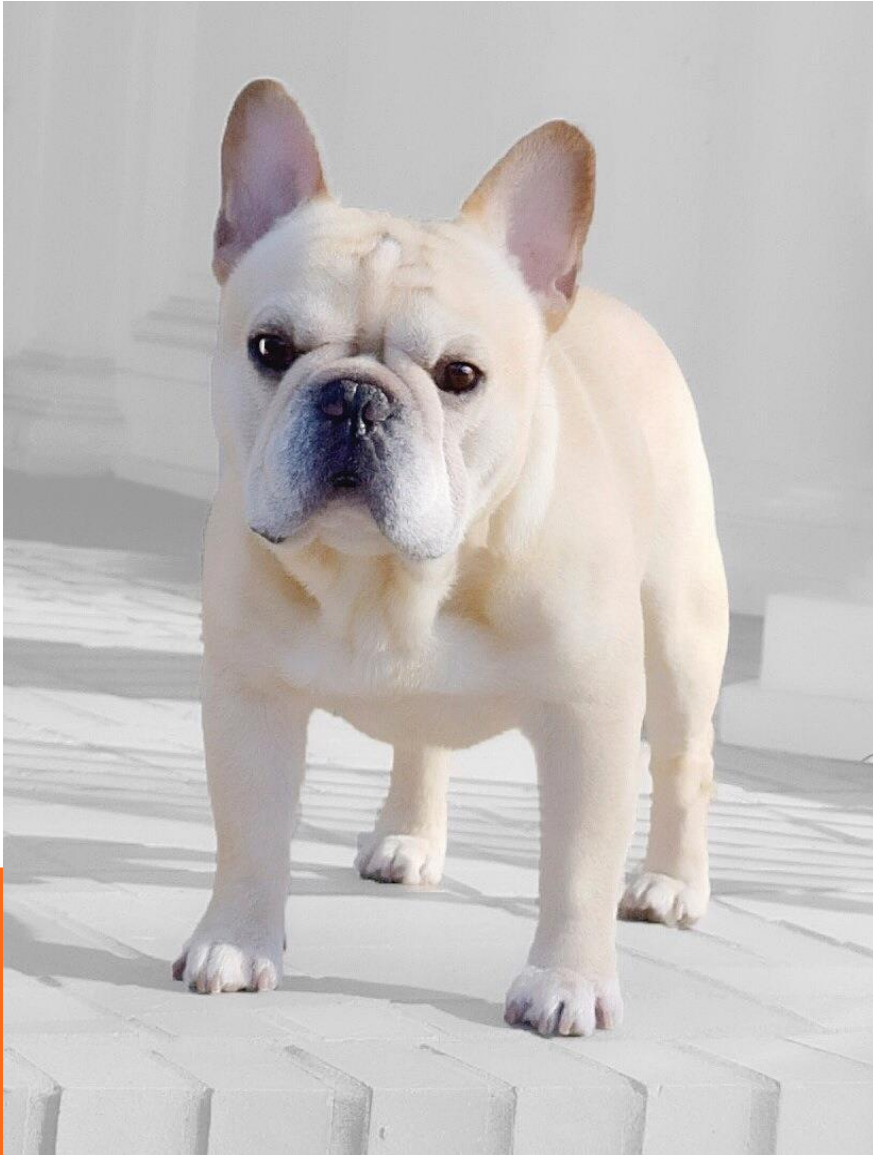


Bitch



Although the breed is sometimes described as “pear shaped,” this term is not in our Standard which contains the description stated above.

# FOREQUARTERS — DOG



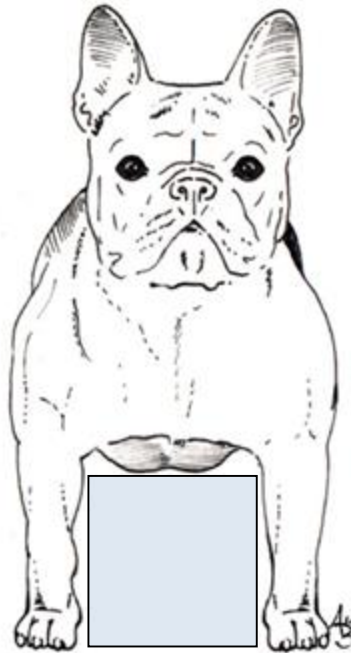
**Forelegs are short, stout, straight, muscular, set wide apart.**

**The space created between the front legs, chest, and the ground should be nearly square.**

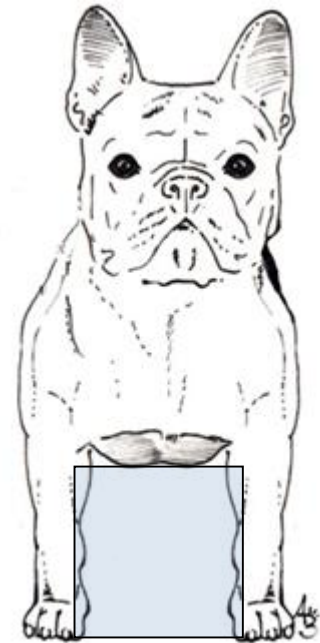
The forelegs should be short, stout, straight, muscular, and set wide apart.



Front too wide...legs not straight.



Correct width between legs



Front too narrow between legs.

# FOREQUARTERS

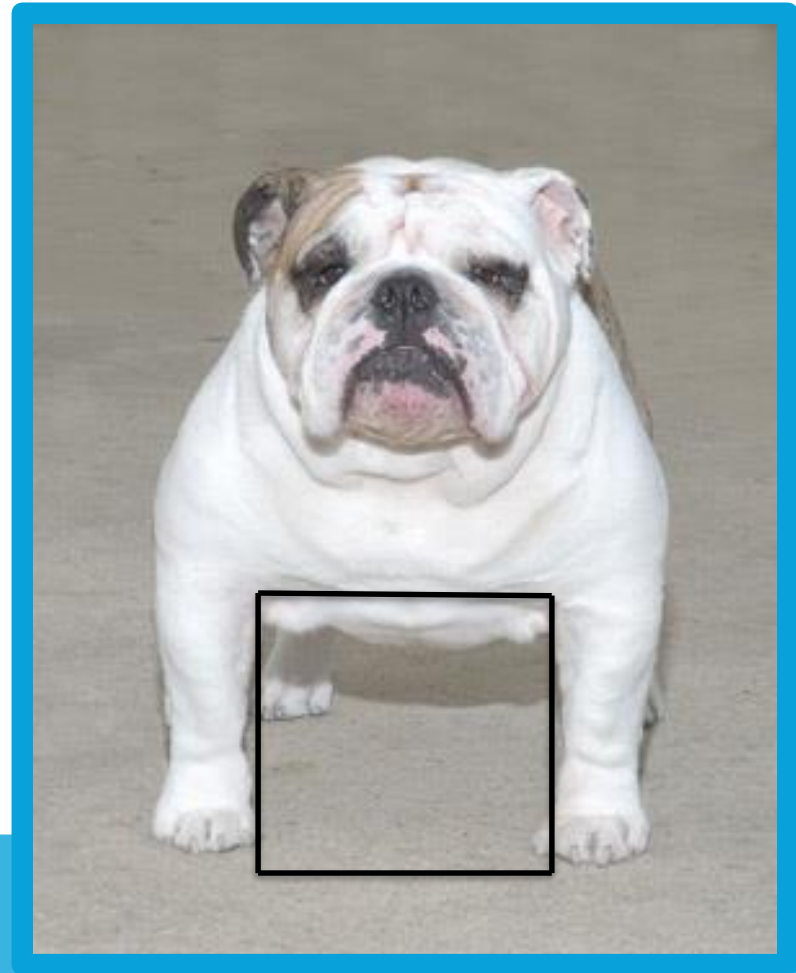


You should see the rear legs slightly inside the front legs.

# Comparison of fronts on Adult and Puppy



# Comparison of French Bulldog & Bulldog



Note that the “square” formed by the Frenchie front is measured below the brisket, whereas in the Bulldog front it includes the brisket.

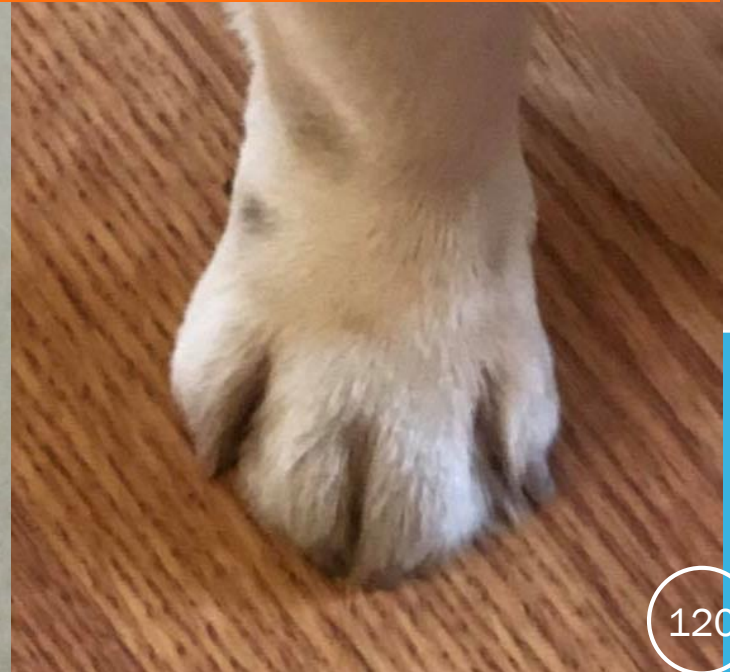
# Feet

**Dewclaws may be removed.**

**Feet are moderate in size, compact and firmly set.**

**Toes compact, well split up, with high knuckles and short stubby nails**

**Hind feet slightly longer than forefeet.**





# Feet



Correct feet.



Incorrect  
feet toes  
too long.



Incorrect  
feet splayed  
toes.

# HINDQUARTERS

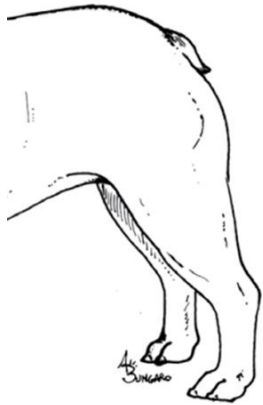


**Hind legs are strong and muscular, longer than forelegs, so as to elevate the loins above the shoulders.**

**Hocks well let down.**

Remember that the hindquarters are narrower than the front.

Hind legs are strong and muscular, longer than the forelegs, so as to elevate the loins above the shoulders.



Correct Rear  
angulation and  
elevation.



Rear angulation too  
straight, lacking elevation

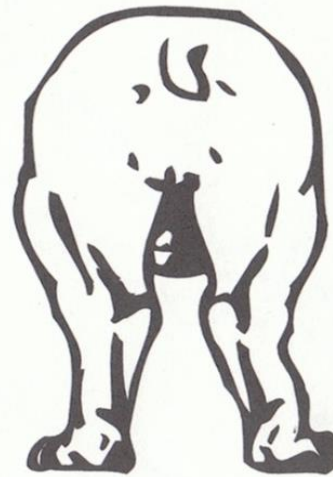


Rear angulation  
too straight,  
correct elevation.

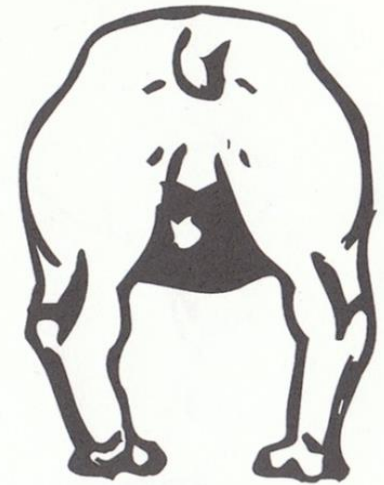
# FRENCH BULLDOG



**CORRECT  
FRENCH BULLDOG**



**COW-HOCKED  
FRENCH BULLDOG**



**IN-TOED  
FRENCH BULLDOG**

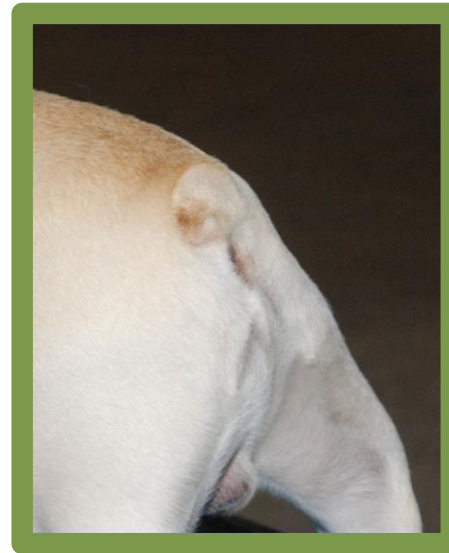
# Early silvered metal sculpture showing good tail placement and carriage



WMF sculpture circa 1913 (artist: Fritz Diller)

# TAIL

- Tail is either straight or screwed (but not curly), short, hung low, thick root and fine tip.
- Carried low in repose.



Shorter Tail



Longer Tail

Placement and carriage is more important than actual tail length, but note that the Standard does describe a tail.

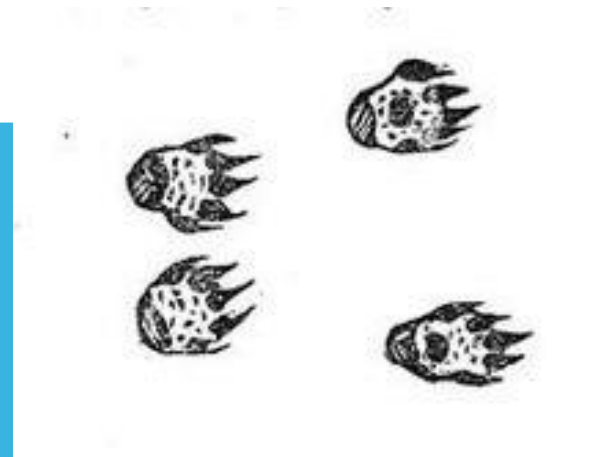
Both are acceptable



# TAIL

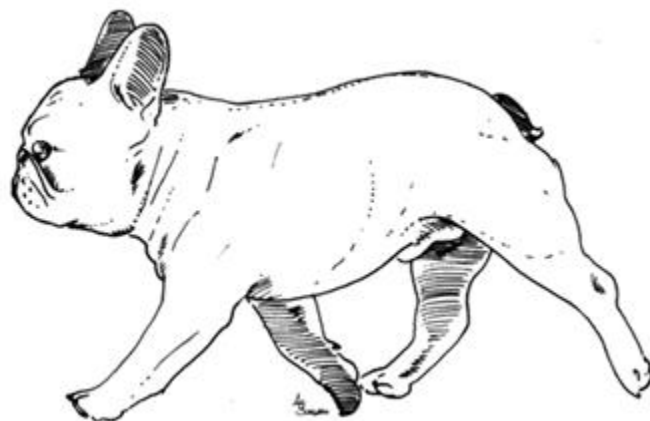
# UNUSUAL GAIT

Correct gait is a “four tracking” foot pattern with the front track wider than the rear track. The movement should have reach and drive and is unrestrained, free and vigorous.





# GAIT



# GAIT



**Good topline,  
underline, & tail set  
when moving.**

**Correct Gait is “four tracking” foot pattern with the front track wider than the rear track. The movement should have good reach and drive, and is unrestrained, free and vigorous.**

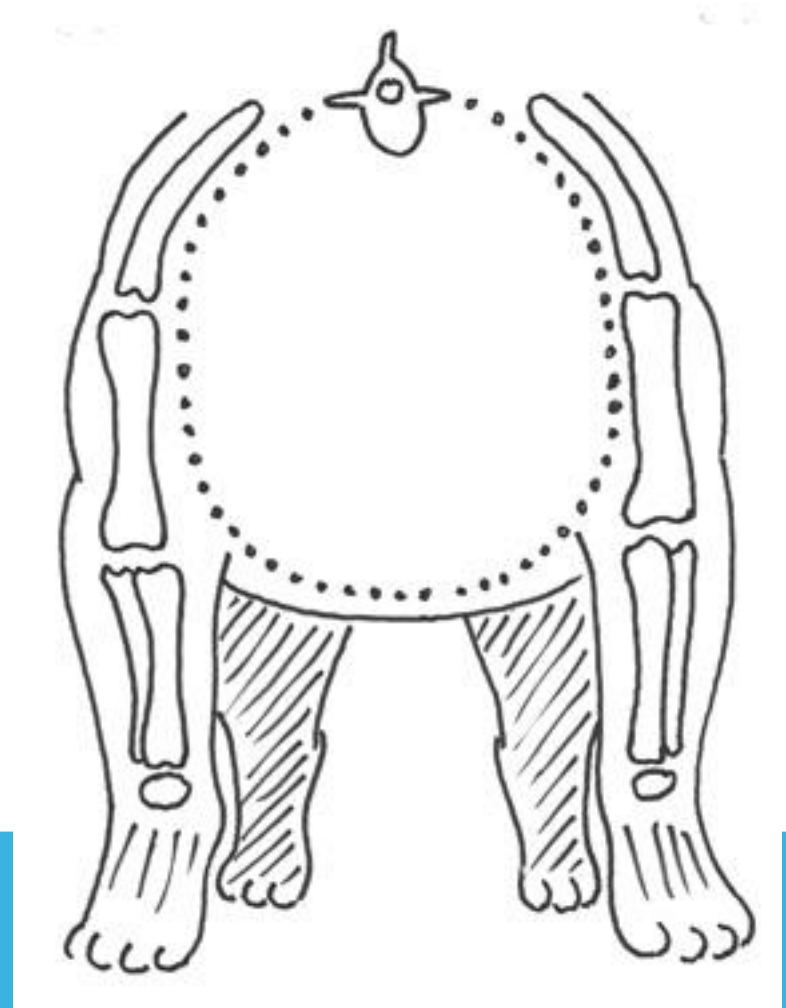
# REASON FOR UNIQUE GAIT

Broad at the shoulders and tapering to the loins. .... Hind legs longer than the forelegs

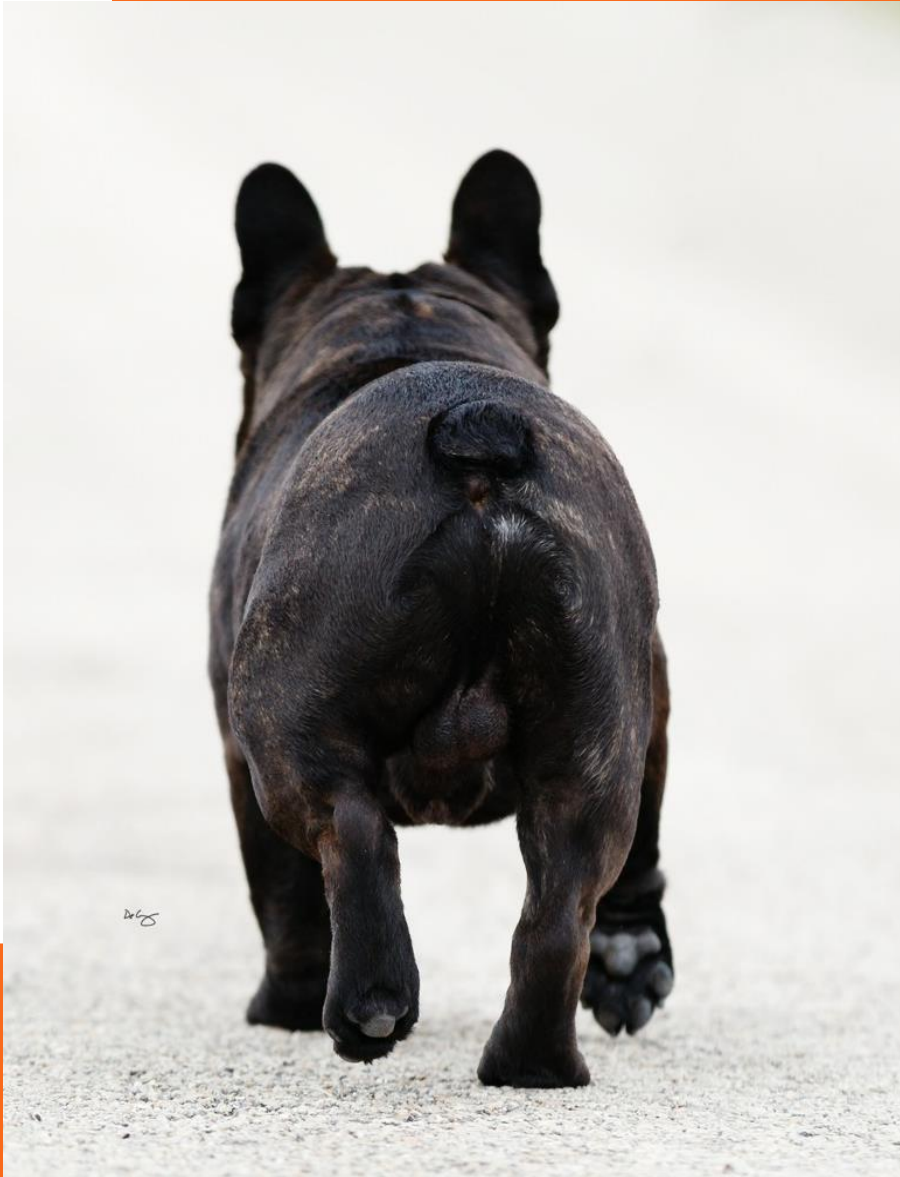
Front assembly in an adult dog is broader than the rear assembly.

When viewed from the front, the hind legs are seen set up inside the front legs.

Because of the wider front and narrower rear, the hind legs move closer together than the front legs when gaited.



# FOUR TRACKING



**foot pattern  
with the front  
tract wider than  
the rear track.**

# COAT



**Coat is brilliant, short and smooth.**

# COAT



Skin is soft and loose, especially at the head and shoulders, forming wrinkles.

# COAT DQ



Coats other than short and smooth are a disqualification.

# ACCEPTABLE COLOR, MARKINGS AND PATTERNS

## Colors:

- White
- Cream
- Fawn  
(ranging from light fawn to red fawn) or
- Any combinations of the forgoing.

## Markings and Patterns

- Brindle
- Piebald
- Black Masks
- Black Shadings
- White Markings
- Ticking is acceptable but not desirable.

There is no preference within acceptable colors, patterns and markings except for ticking (which is acceptable but not desirable).



# COLOR, MARKINGS AND PATTERNS YOU MUST DQ

All other colors, markings or patterns are a disqualification.

*Partial* List of Disqualifying colors

Black

Blue

Black and Tan

Blue Fawn

Black and white

Liver

White and black

Merle

Black means black without a trace of brindle.

**NOTE: DQ colors, patterns and markings are not limited to those listed. These are examples of the most common deviations. Any color, pattern or marking not listed as acceptable are to be DQed.**

# ILLUSTRATIONS OF ACCEPTABLE COAT COLORS

The following slides depict the various coat colors seen in French Bulldogs.

Some conform well structurally to the breed standard; others less so. They are shown solely to illustrate colors.

As long as the dog is not a DQ color, judge the dog as if it is colorless!

There is no preference within acceptable colors, patterns and markings except for ticking (which is acceptable but not desirable).



# WHITE



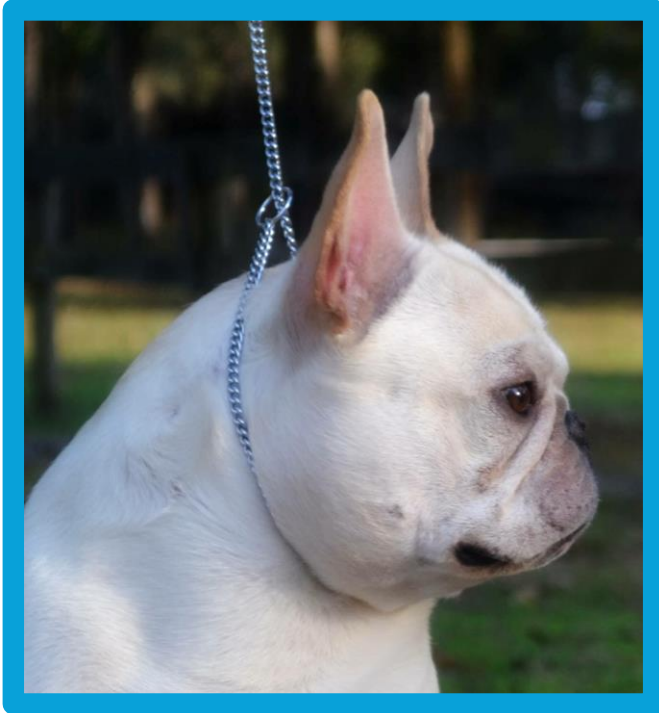
Nose pigment is black. Lighter noses are only acceptable in cream or fawn dogs without masks...otherwise nose is black. "Other than black is a DQ."

# CREAM



The coat color on this cream dog is very light. He has the acceptable lighter colored nose.

# CREAM TO FAWN



Fawn ranges from light fawn to red fawn.



**Must have a black or lighter colored nose. The nose may NOT be liver.**

# BLACK MASKED FAWN



Note: black nose pigment  
and  
2 shades of fawn

The black mask is a marking. Black masked fawns are never to be confused with Black-and-Tans.

# WHITE & FAWN (“Black masked fawn pied”)



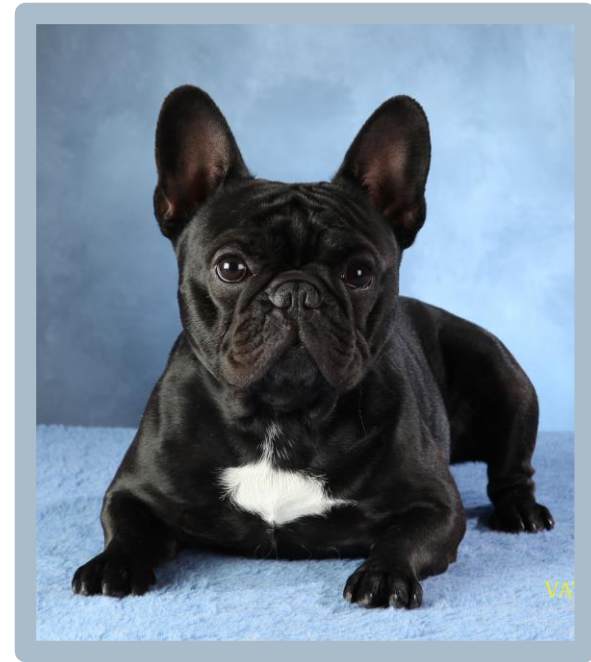
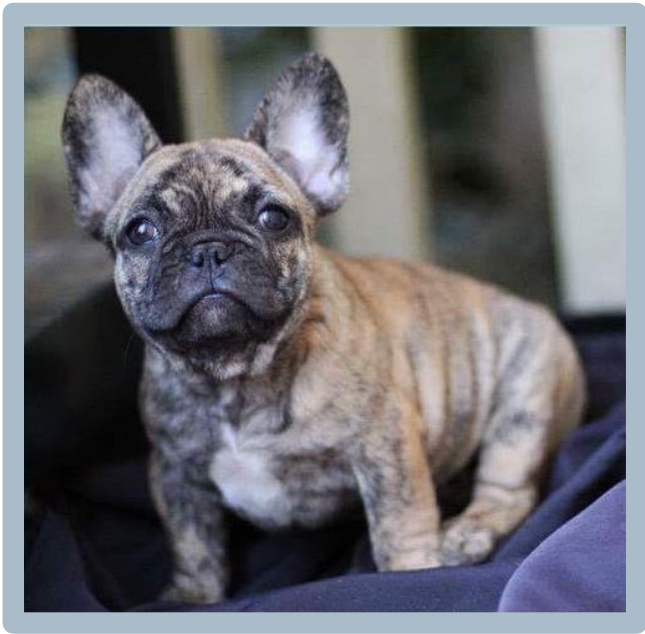
A black mask need not be complete. Partial black mask is acceptable.



A White & Fawn dog may or may not have a black mask in whatever pigmented areas are present on the head.



# BRINDLE



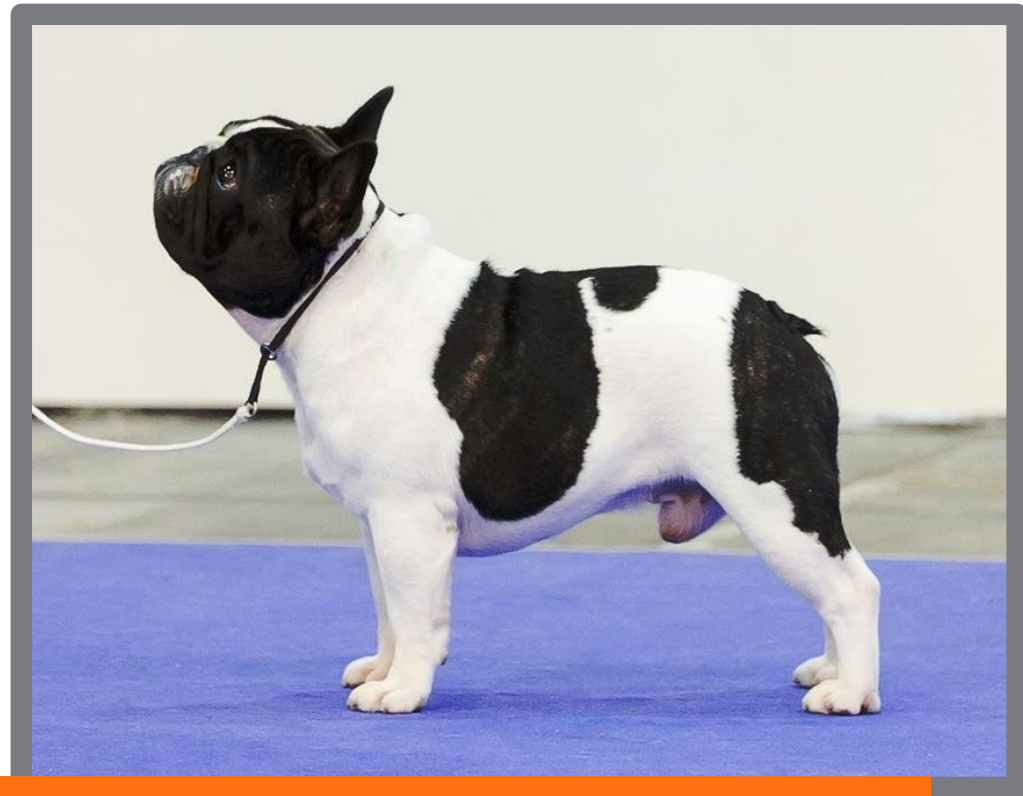
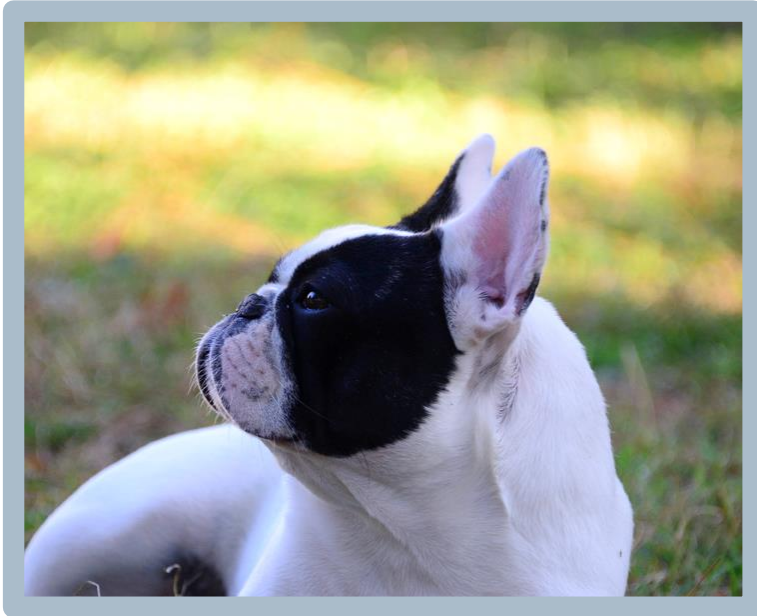
**Ranging from sparse but clearly defined black stripes on a fawn background to such heavy concentration of black striping that the essential fawn background color barely shows through (“black brindle”). Only a trace of the background color is necessary.**

# BRINDLE



**Must have eyes, dark brown approaching black and a nose that is black.**

# WHITE AND BRINDLE (BRINDLE PIED)



**In a brindle piebald, a trace of the brindle patterning in any patch is sufficient. It is not required that the brindle patterning be in every patch. A trace in one patch is sufficient. If you can not readily see the brindle pattern, ask the exhibitor to locate the brindle.**

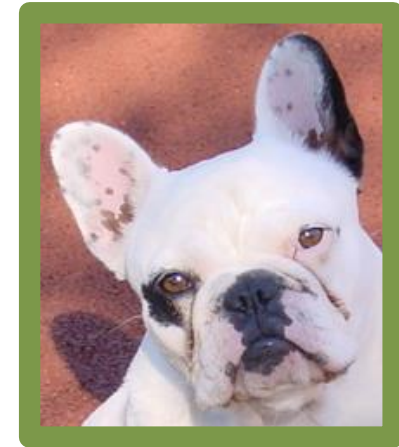
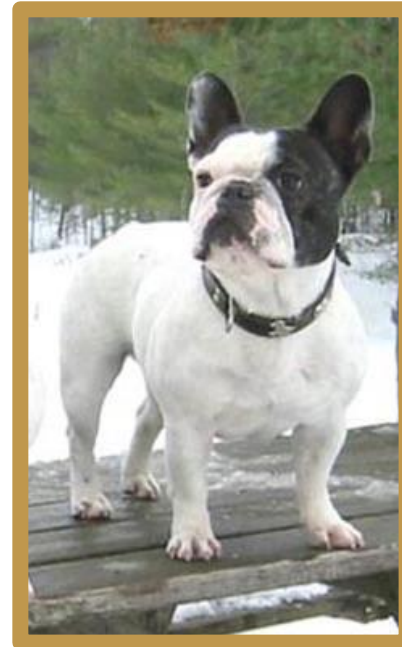
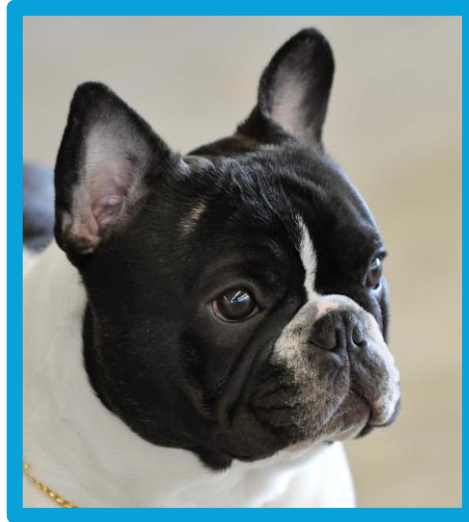
# WHITE AND BRINDLE (Brindle Pied)



You can clearly see the *TRACE* of brindling circled on the top. On the bottom, you can see white hairs interspersed in this brindle patch. This is acceptable.

Remember that the brindling pattern **ONLY** needs to be seen in **ONE** patch.

# WHITE AND BRINDLE (Brindle Pied)



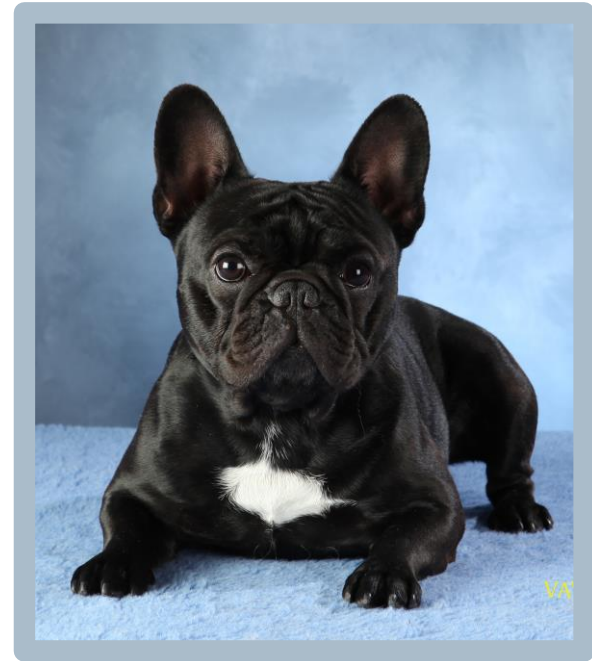
Pied dogs may have variable sized pigmented patches. Head may be “double hooded,” “full hooded,” or “half hooded,” or no hood.

# BLACK SHADINGS



Black shading is black hairs interspersed in an area, usually around edges of other (white) markings. The black shadings may be light or heavy.

# WHITE MARKINGS



White markings can vary in size from small to large.

# TICKING

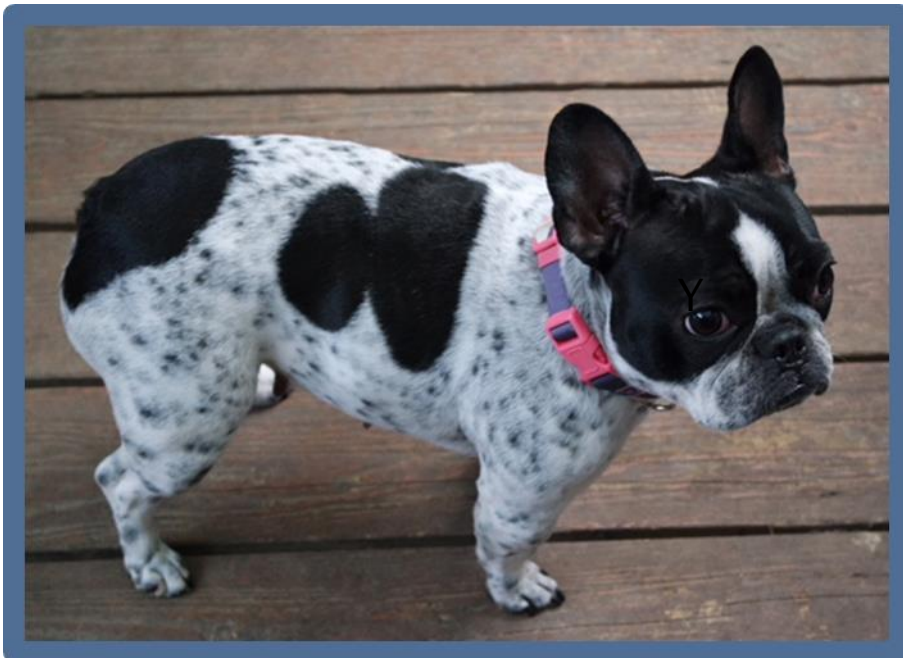


Acceptable ticking

Ticking can be very light to very profuse. Ticking is acceptable but not desired.



# PENALIZE THIS MUCH TICKING



# ILLUSTRATIONS OF COAT PATTERNS AND MARKINGS YOU MUST DQ

The standard does not give you a comprehensive list of colors and markings that you must DQ because inventive breeders are continually coming up with new non-standard colors, patterns and markings. The standard only gives you some examples of colors, patterns and markings you must DQ.

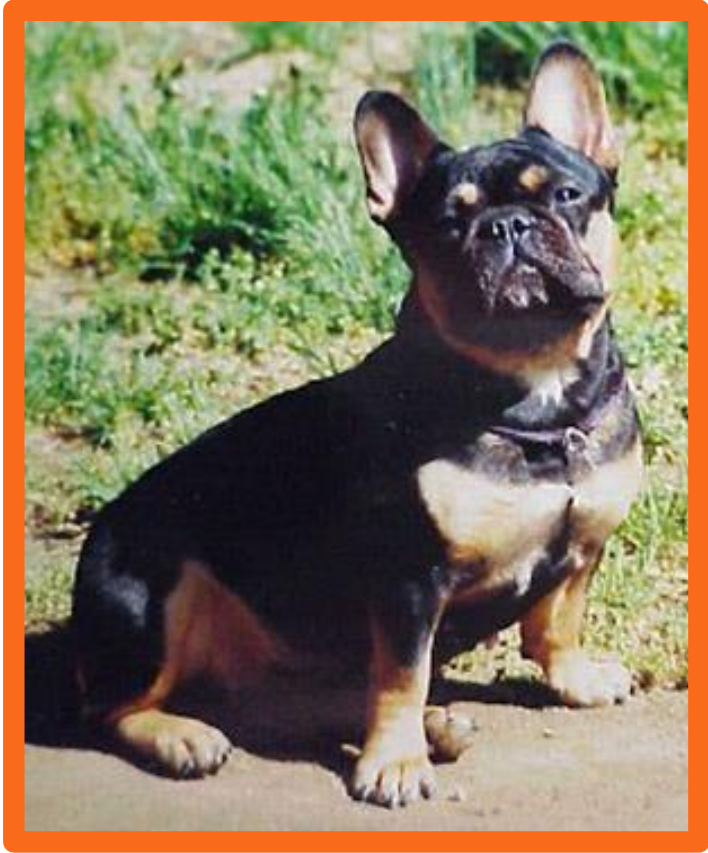
# NO

# BLACK & WHITE — DQ



If there is no “trace” of brindle, it is a DQ. In white and black, (which is also a DQ), the white is the predominant color. If you do not readily see a trace of the base color, ask the exhibitor.

# BLACK AND TAN — DQ



**A Black and Tan is not to be confused with a black masked fawn.**

**A black and tan will carry tan markings over the eyes, on the checks, inside the ears, on the chest, legs and underside of the tail. It is still a DQ if the tan markings are brindled.**

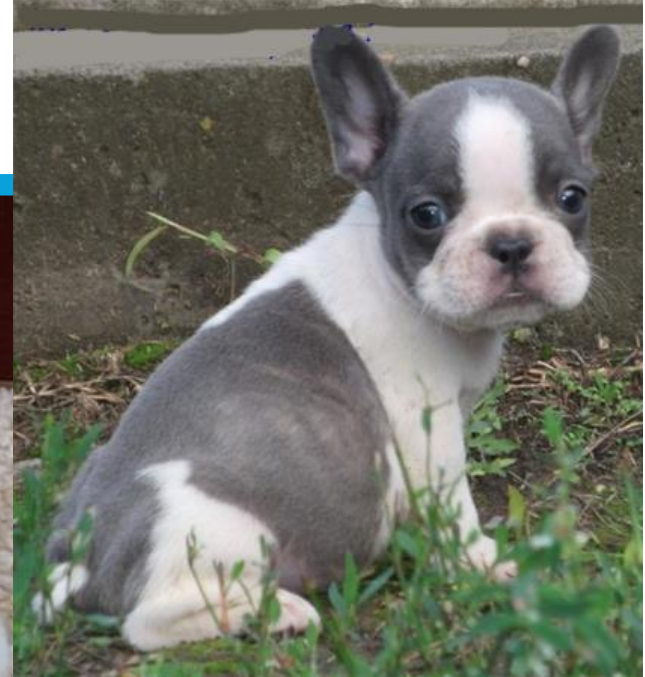
# LIVER — DQ



Liver is not to be confused with a red fawn. In a liver dog, everything is liver... pads, nose, eye rims, flews. A liver nose is not an allowable nose color.

**“NOSE OTHER THAN BLACK IS A DQ.”**  
(Except in the case of creams and fawns without black masks...)

# Blue — DQ



Blue is seen as a solid color, and also as a brindle, brindle pied, blue and white or blue masked fawn...some examples shown here.

# BLUE FAWNS — DQ



Although fawn is an acceptable color, blue fawn is not and must be DQed.

# DO THE MERLES





# OTHER COLOR OR PATTERNS TO DQ



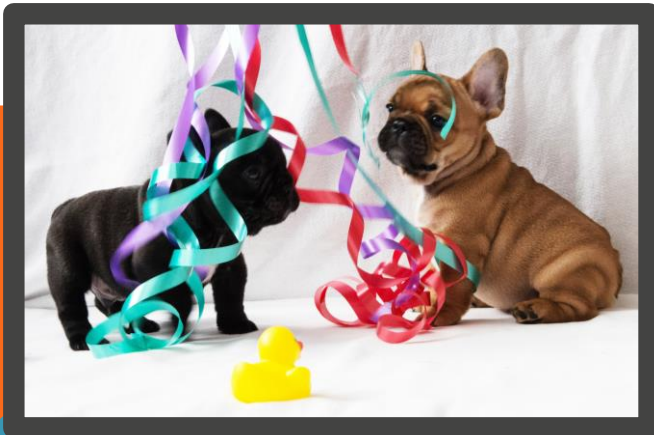
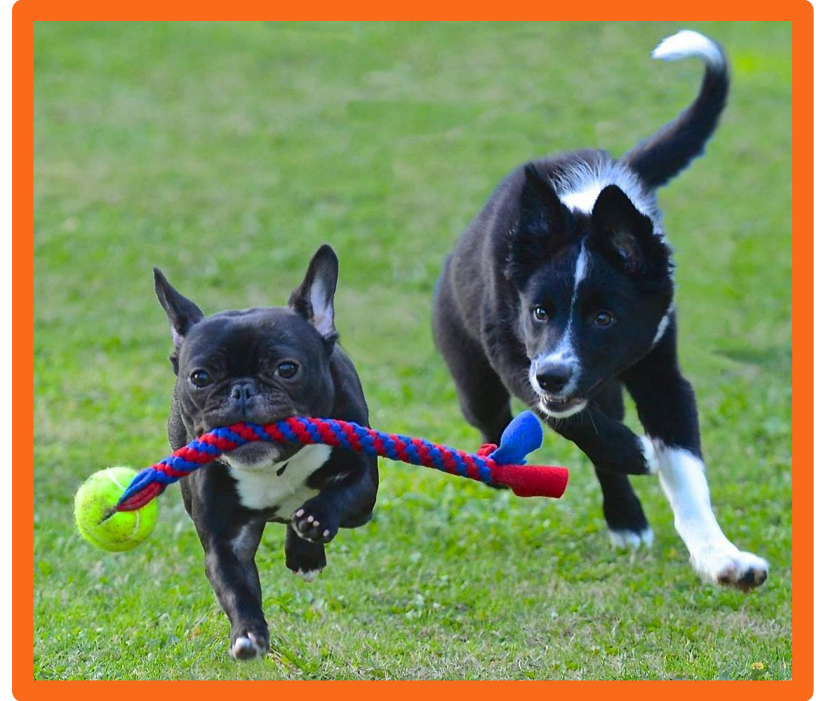
If you are unsure whether you must DQ on coat color, pattern or markings, carefully assess the eye or nose color. In this case, it is clear that the dog must be DQed for improper eye color.

# TEMPERAMENT

**Well behaved, adaptable, and comfortable companions with an affectionate nature and even disposition;**

**Generally active, alert and playful,**

**But not unduly boisterous.**



**This is a companion breed. Aggressive behavior should not be tolerated.**

# DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 1. Over 28 pounds in weight.**
- 2. Blue or green eye(s) or any traces of blue or green.**
- 3. Other than bat ears.**
- 4. Nose other than black except in the case of cream or fawn colored dogs without black masks, where a lighter colored nose is acceptable.**
- 5. Coats other than short and smooth.**
- 6. All coat colors other than those specifically described (e.g. solid black, black & tan, black & white, white & black, blue, blue fawn, liver, and merle. (Black means without a trace of brindle.)**
- 7. All other patterns and markings other than specifically described.**

# PRIORITIZE WHEN JUDGING

- **Silhouette:** encompasses muzzle layback, rounded forehead, ears, correct roach topline, neck, front and rear angulation, tail set, proportions and bone.
- **Head:** square; short nose; upturn and width of underjaw; broad muzzle with correct layback; correct set, size and shape of ear.
- **Movement:** coming and going and profile.
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY,** reward the overall correctly constructed package, not just the pieces.

# THE FRENCH BULL DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

[www.frenchbulldogclub.org](http://www.frenchbulldogclub.org)

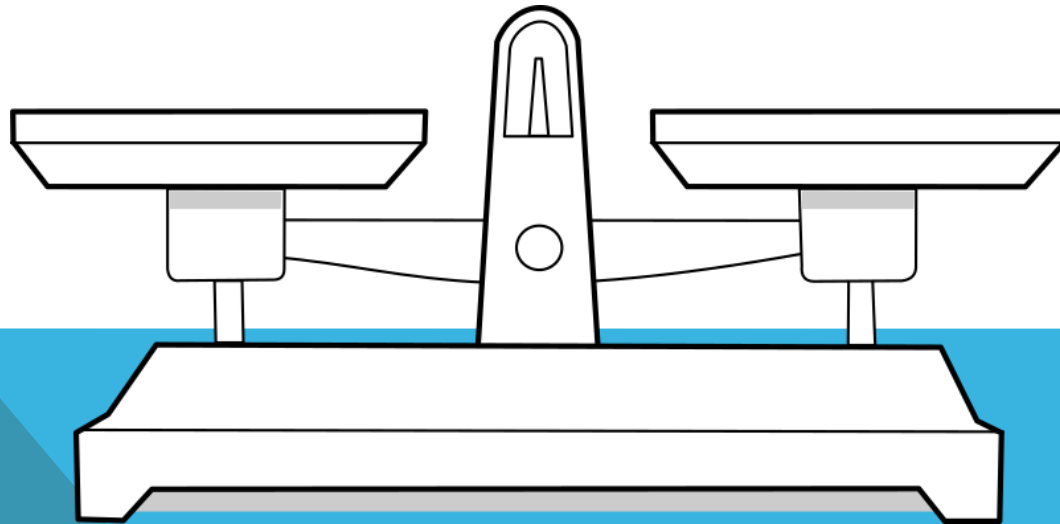
**Judges' Education  
Committee: Chair,  
Robin Stansell. Members  
James Dalton, Virginia  
Rowland, Patti Sosa and  
Theresa Wilson**



Thank you for coming!

# REVIEW AKC VIDEO ON WEIGHING

To see the AKC Video “Measuring and Weighing Technique,” go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcxSI5Nh0eE>



# WHAT IF SIZE IS IN QUESTION?

**The only acceptable recourse a judge has when they question the weight of a French Bulldog falls within the permissible range is to weigh the entry.**

**The only tool one may use to determine the weight is an AKC approved scale. You may not lift the dog from the table to estimate its weight. If you are unsure, call for the scale.**

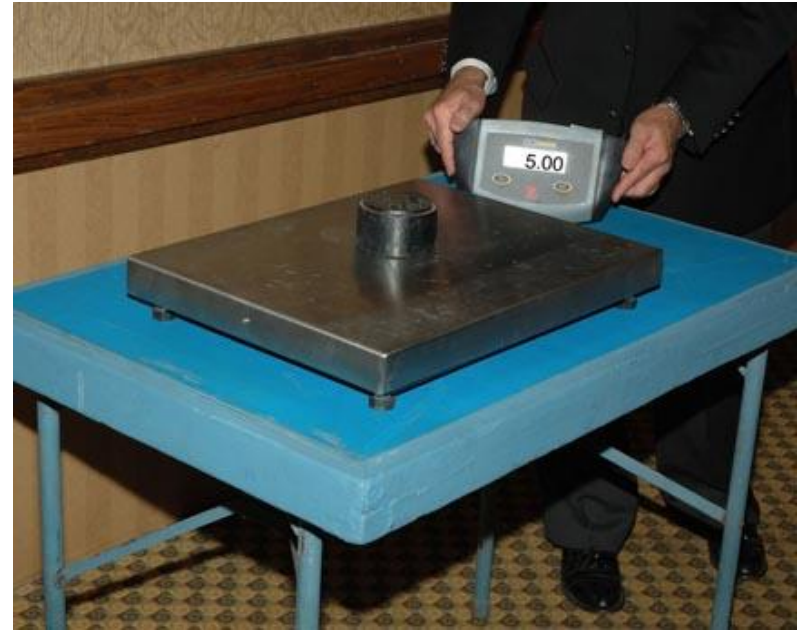
**Remember, when you elect to weigh an entry, you are not the ogre, meanie, monster or tyrant. You are judging according to the AKC approved standard for that breed. An obligation that you certified you would adhere to when you applied to the AKC to judge.**

# SCALE USE DEMONSTRATION

Over 28 lbs. is a DQ

With the Superintendent:

- Set scale for pounds – not kilograms.
- Check scale for 0 lbs. reading.
- Place calibration weight on the scale.
- Check scale reading against the calibration weight.
- In this instance, the 5 pound weight reads 5.00.
- Remove weight and recheck 0 lbs. reading.



Note: with certain electric scales, it may be necessary for the judge, exhibitor and dog to go to the Superintendent to request a weight.

To see the AKC Video “Measuring and Weighing Technique,” go to  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcxSI5Nh0eE>



# MARKING THE JUDGE'S BOOK

- If the dog weighs 28.0 lbs. or under, write in the judge's book "armband #00 weighed in" and initial.
- If the dog weighs over 28 lbs., write in the judge's book "#00 weighed out — disqualified" and initial.



**Note:** Lead on or Lead off are at the discretion of the exhibitor. If the lead is on, it must be loose. The exhibitor may hover over the dog but must not touch him.

# EXPECTATIONS TO PASS A SCALES EXAM

## 1. ADVISE exhibitor why you are weighing

- \* Confirm the weight limits per the breed standard.

## 2. CALIBRATE the scale

- \* Scale placement – on a table or firm surface;  
NOT the floor.
- \* 5# calibration weight
- \* Confirm that the scale calibrates to the exhibitor

## 3. ASK lead on or off? \* Exhibitor option.



# **EXPECTATIONS TO PASS A SCALES EXAM (CONT'D)**

**4. INSTRUCT exhibitor to place the dog on the scale**

**\* With lead off – place the dog on the scale and “hover over” without touching.**

**\* With lead on – place the dog on the scale and hold the lead loosely. The lead may NOT be held tightly.**

**5. INFORM the exhibitor of the result**

**\* Do not mark the weight in the judge’s book. Only whether the dog weighed in or weighed out.**

**\* Result of the weighing is solely at the discretion of the judge – it is not a matter of debate.**

**6. STATE how you would mark the judge’s book.**

# PROCEDURES THAT WILL RESULT IN A FAILURE OF A SCALES EXAM

- 1. Not setting the scale on a table.**
- 2. Not advising why the dog is being weighed.**
- 3. Not calibrating scale & confirming calibration.**
- 4. Inadequate instruction**
  - \* Lead option: On or Off.**
  - \* Failing to address exhibitor pulling up on head.**
- 5. Incorrect Results**
  - \* Improper determination of measurement.**
  - \* Improper description of how the book would be marked.**