

French Bulldog



A compactly built dog who, in spite of his name, is believed to be at least partly of British origin. He is a descendant of the Toy Bulldog which was bred during the nineteenth century and exported to France where the breed became popular. In fact, English lacemakers from the Midlands who went to work in France took small Bulldogs with them. This stock is believed to have mixed with short-faced bull-baiting dogs from other European countries. This 'new' breed was brought to England and first shown around 1900, with a French Bulldog club being formed in 1903.

The bat ear is a distinctive feature of this breed and adds to the droll expression. He is very intelligent, always ready for fun, has an affectionate disposition, is not noisy and has a short, easy-to-keep-clean coat, making him an ideal house pet. Although he has a jolly, engaging personality and is very vivacious he is not a boisterous dog. Comfort means a lot to him and he will happily live in house or flat as an integral part of the family. This attractive medium-to-small-sized dog is bred in three colours - brindle, pied and fawn.

What about Health Issues?

You may be aware that some breeds of dog (and crossbreeds too) can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the puppy you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found on the Kennel Club's website at:

www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Puppy buyers should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

And what health screening is relevant for the French Bulldog?

There are not currently any veterinary screening schemes or DNA tests for disease relevant to this breed under the Accredited Breeder Scheme, however you should still ask breeders and refer to breed clubs about health issues in the breed.