

# Bulldog Health

As with other short nosed breeds, it is necessary to keep a watchful eye on your Bulldog in hot weather or in any stressful situation, making sure he has shade and clean water. Exercise is important for a Bulldog to build stamina and prevent obesity, but don't overdo it, particularly when it is hot or humid.

Like any breed, Bulldogs may be prone to a variety of health problems. Before you buy a puppy, ask the breeder about health conditions in his bloodlines. Many bulldog breeders test for known genetic issues. However, even though both parents are healthy, a puppy can develop any one of the more common health problems from several generations back. Buying a Bulldog puppy should be done with care, and not on the spur of the moment. Take time to research.

Some common conditions within the breed that may be encountered are: elongated soft palate, small trachea, entropion and entropion (eyelid anomalies), cherry eye, stenotic nares, patella luxation and hip dysplasia.

Because the bulldog is Brachycephalic, veterinary care needs to be carefully selected. It is best that you use a veterinarian recommended by your breeder as one that has adequate "Bulldog experience".

In addition to his normal bath, a bulldog's toenails will require frequent trimming and his ears and wrinkles frequent cleaning. Although the bulldog is short haired the breed does shed.

For a list of **Bulldog Club of America Member Clubs** in your area  
**Contact: [www.thebca.org](http://www.thebca.org)**

If you would like a list of breeders who have been members of BCA for a minimum of three years and have agreed to comply with a strict code of ethics contact:

BCA Breeder Referral  
Susan Rodenski

**[bcabulldogreferral@Yahoo.com](mailto:bcabulldogreferral@Yahoo.com)**  
540-775-3015 (10AM.to 7PM. EST) Tues-Sat

Another option for those who love the breed and have a generous heart is to contact the Bulldog Club of America Rescue Network at:

**[www.rescuebulldogs.org](http://www.rescuebulldogs.org)**



## **The Bulldog Club of America**

The Bulldog Club of America was established in 1890 to promote the Bulldog breed and assist owners, breeders and exhibitors of Bulldogs as well as the public by providing educational information and exhibition opportunities. BCA is a member of the American Kennel Club.

**BCA EDUCATION**

**2008**

# Getting Started in Bulldogs

For those who have a new Bulldog...

*or those considering one.*



**BULLDOG CLUB OF  
AMERICA**

**EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE 2008**

# Buying a Bulldog



Only buy from an ethical breeder with a good reputation. The breeder should be willing to mentor you as the puppy matures.

When you buy your puppy, you should get a sales contract, a receipt for your payment, a copy of the puppy's 3 generation pedigree, a copy of his medical records and his American Kennel Club (AKC) registration application or the actual signed AKC registration certificate. The puppy should be at least 8 weeks old, weaned, wormed and have at least its first set of immunizations.

It is very costly to breed and raise a litter of Bulldog pups. Stud fees, A.I. fees, progesterone testing, care of the mother and pups, Cesarean section, and puppy shots are only some of the expenses a breeder can incur, and contribute to the overall cost of the pup..

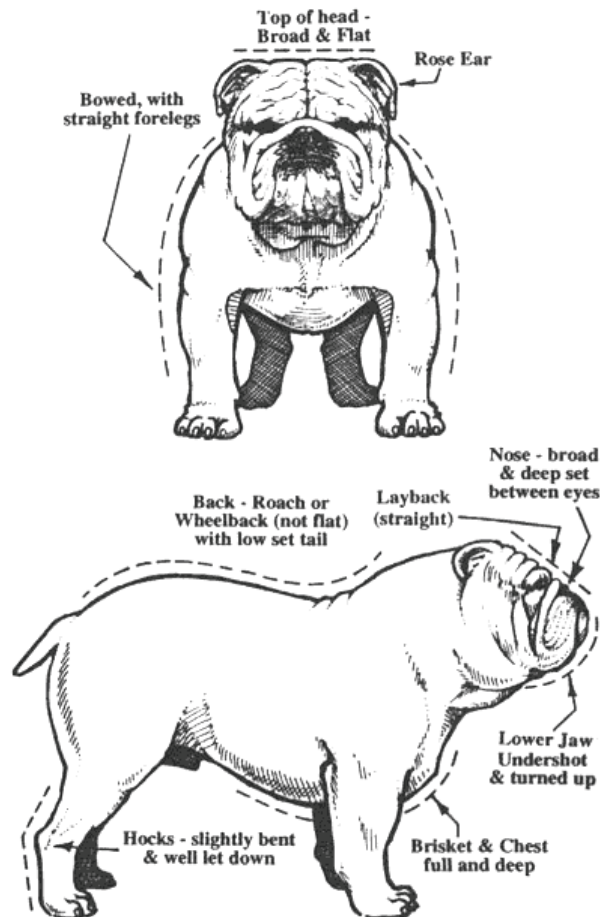
Most reputable breeders will sell a "pet puppy" with "limited registration" and a spay/neuter contract. It is in the best interests of the breed.

Plan a visit to your vet immediately for a "well baby check-up" to insure the health of your new pup.

If you wish to show your pup, visit dog shows in your area talk to breeders, do your homework and never buy a "show quality pup" from someone who doesn't show!

# Characteristics

## KEY ATTRIBUTES OF BULLDOG CONFORMATION



- \*The body is slightly longer than the height of the bulldog at the withers.*
- \*From the ground to elbow is approximately half the height of the bulldog at the withers.*
- \*From the ground to the chest and between the straight forelegs should be a near square.*
- \*Proportion and Symmetry - Balance between all parts such that each feature bears good relationship with all other features.*

## Appearance

The Bulldog's general appearance should "...suggest stability, vigor and strength. The disposition should be equable and kind, resolute and courageous (not vicious or aggressive)..." (From the Bulldog Standard.)

# Temperament

The Bulldog loves people and the attention people give him. As a rule, he is a good, quiet companion. They are not good watch dogs although their looks alone tend to deter any potential intruder.

The Bulldog is a docile even-tempered dog, but he must be taught proper behavior. Attending puppy training classes will help your pup to become socialized and have good manners.

A Bulldog does best in a loving environment, free from fear and neglect. A crate is a good option when a pup must be left alone. It is a source of protection and security to be used for short periods. A crate can also prove useful when potty-training a pup through the night. No dog can be left in a crate all day. They need exercise.



Not all bulldogs show in conformation. Today, even a dog originally bought to be a family pet can successfully compete in Rally, Obedience, Agility and Tracking. The Bulldog is a competent and intelligent dog, he/she is also very social. Attending classes and shows will be rewarding for both of you.