



March 2022
Bulldog Breed Council
Gazette
Issue 019

BULLDOG 'Britain's
National Breed'

BULLDOG BREED COUNCIL

Promoting healthy Bulldogs, carefully bred
to the Kennel Club Breed Standard

<http://www.bulldogbreedcouncil.co.uk>

CRUFTS

BULLDOG DAY SATURDAY 12TH MARCH

**THERE IS A TREMENDOUS ENTRY OF
BULLDOGS ALL BRED TO THE BULLDOG
BREED STANDARD**

COME AND MEET US

WE ARE ALSO AT THE DISCOVER DOGS STAND

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
www.thekennelclub.org.uk**

Contents:

Breed Clubs & Shows

Norway Announcement
KC & FCI Response

Discover Dogs @ Crufts
Celebration of Gold Health
Tested Bulldogs

From a Professional of the
Sport of Brachycephalic Breed

Health Corner: Merle
Patterning- The Facts

Illustrated Breed Standard

Seminars & Testing Days

Free Eye Testing & Respiratory
Function Grading at Crufts

From the Kennel Club

Lets Talk Noses

Doggie Recipes

Puppy Joints

Bulldog Rescue Noticeboard

A Day in the Life of a Celebrity
Bulldog

**News release: Free eye testing and
Respiratory Function Grading offer at
Crufts 2022**

BULLDOG BREED CLUBS AND SHOWS

Club Secretaries details are on the Bulldog Breed Council website:
www.bulldogbreedcouncil.co.uk

Bath & Western Bulldog Club

Open Show

Date: Saturday 23rd April 2022

Judge: Mr Martin Jones (Daubhill)

Venue: Three Counties Showground Malvern WR13 6NW (Following WELKS)

Open Show:

Date: Sunday 25th September 2022

Judge: Mrs Alicia Salkheld (Salkysbully)

Venue: TBC



Birmingham & Midland Counties Bulldog Club

Open Show:

Date: Thursday 5th May 2022

Judge: Ms Rachel Collie (Thornford)

Venue: County Showground, Stafford ST18 0BD



Open Show:

Date: Sunday 4th December 2022

Judge: Ms Emily Tearle (Terlingfair)

Venue: Willenhall Chart WV13 2NS



Blackpool & Fylde Bulldog Club

Open Show:

Date: Friday 24th June 2022

Judge: Mrs Claire Parker (Albionpride)

Following Blackpool Championship Show

Open Show

Date: Saturday 8th October 2022

Judge: TBA

Venue:

Bulldog Day UK

Date: Sunday 5th June 2022

Venue: Newark Showground NG24 2NY

Annual event for all Bulldog lovers with profits going to Bulldog Rescue and Rehoming Trust. Fun classes, doggy shopping experience and advice. But most of all FUN with your Bulldog

More details to follow.

British Bulldog Club

Open Show & Gold Medal Puppy Competition:

Date: Sunday 17th July 2022

Open Show Judge: Mr Vicente Molés Vilar (Meljane)

Venue: Shirland Village Hall Main Road Shirland Derbyshire DE55 6BB



Championship Show

Date: Sunday 20th November 2022

Judge: Mrs Sonia Saxon (Bagibeli)

Venue: TBA

AGM to be held at 2 p.m. Saturday 2nd April 2022 The Wheatsheaf LE7 7JN

Bulldog Club Incorporated

Championship Show

Date: Saturday 5th March 2022

Judge: Mrs. Liz Cartledge (Ryslip)

Championship Show

Date: Sunday 15th May 2022

Judge: Mrs. Melanie Reed Peck (Byquy)



Open Show & Bulldog of the Year

Date: Saturday 26th November 2022

Judge: Mr Tom McCash (Taybull)

Venue for all three shows: Inspire Sports Hall, Butterfield Green Road, Luton LU2 8DD

Bulldog Club of Scotland

Open Show

Date: Sunday 8th May 2022

Judge: Mrs Amanda George (Avaword)

Open Show

Date: Saturday 22nd October 2022

Judge: Mrs Carol Freshney (Bullenca)

Venue: Middlebie Community Centre Middlebie Lockerbie DG11 3HT



Bulldog Club of Wales

Open Show

Date: Saturday 5th October 2022

Judge: Mrs Rita Simoncsik (Kupakos)

Venue: TBA



East Midlands Bulldog Club

Open Show

Date: Sunday 17rd April 2022

Judge: Mr David Martinez

Venue: Kegworth Village Hall Nottingham Road Kegworth DE74 2EH



Championship Show:

Date: Sunday 9th October 2022

Judge: Mr Dave Tanner

Venue: Tomlinsons Upper Grange Farm Ratby Lane, Markfield LE67 9RJ

Junior Bulldog Club

2 x Open Shows

Date: Sunday 3rd April 2022

Judges: Ms Terrie Philipps (Rokoluck)

Mrs Emma Lee (Milasha)

Venue: Fairlands Community Centre Guildford GU3 3NA

Championship Show

Date: Saturday 15th October 2022

Judge : Mrs Ann Waters (Cholto)

Venue:



London Bulldog Society

Open Show

Date: 12th June 2022

Judge: Steve Parker (Albionpride)

Venue Larkfield Village Hall New Hythe Lane, Larkfield ME20 6PU

Limit Show

Date: 23rd October 2022

Judge: Sue Sibbick (Treasurabull)

Venue Larkfield Village Hall New Hythe Lane, Larkfield ME20 6PU



Manchester & Counties Bulldog Club:

Limit Show :

Date: Saturday 7th May 2022

Judge: Mrs Alina Neiman (Kinlockbulls)

Venue: Whiston Town Hall Old Colliery Road Whiston L35 3QX



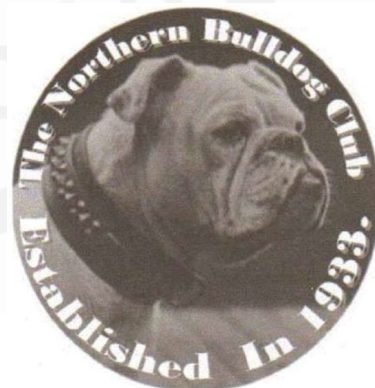
Northern Bulldog Club

Open Show

Date: Sunday 20th March 2022

Judge: Albert Easdon (Yakee)

Venue: Swinton Masonic Hall, Hospital Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 4EY



AGM 8th March 2022 to be held at 8 p.m. at the Scout Hut, Hyde.

Northern Ireland Bulldog Club

DETAILS OF 2022 SHOWS COMING SOON



Northumberland & Durham Bulldog Club

Limit Show:

Date: Sunday 31st July 2022

Judge: Mr Stephen Lee (Milasher)

Championship Show:

Date: Friday 16th September 2022

Judge Mr Paul Reynolds (Biddle)

Following Darlington Championship Show

Open Show

Date: Sunday 13th November 2022

Judge: Mrs Victoria Paul (Blondello)

Venue: TBC



Pennines Bulldog Club

Championship Show

Date: Sunday 27th March 2022

Judge: Ms Katherine Rose Kenyon (Atomstone)

Venue: Speedwell Rooms, Chesterfield S43 3JL

Open Show

Date: Sunday 6th October 2022

Judge: TBC

Venue: TBC



Plymouth Devon & Cornwall Bulldog Club

Open Show:

Date: Sunday 1st May 2022

Judge: Mr David Bell, (Pendlebriar)

Venue: Kentisbeare Village Hall Kentisbeare. EX15 2AB

Open Show:

Date: Sunday August 7 2022

Judge: Ms Ewa Larsson, (Britisher)

Venue: Following Utility Day Paignton & District Fanciers Association Westpoint Arena Clyst St Mary, Exeter EX5 1DJ



South of England Bulldog Society

Championship Show:

Date: Saturday 4th June 2022

Judge: Mr Ralph Taylor (Hillplace)

Venue: Newbury Showground Thatcham RG18 9NU

Open show:

Date: Sunday 28th August 2022

Judge: Mrs Hayley Dodwell (Asharlo)

Venue: Cabham Village Hall, KT11 2LU

AGM 20th February 2022 The Selsey Centre Chichester West Sussex
Subs due to Secretary please, plus committee nominations



Yorkshire Bulldog Club

Open Show

Date: Saturday 11th June 2022

Judge: Mr Chris Bracken (Bradiebe)

Venue: TBC

Championship Show

Date: Saturday 19th November 2022

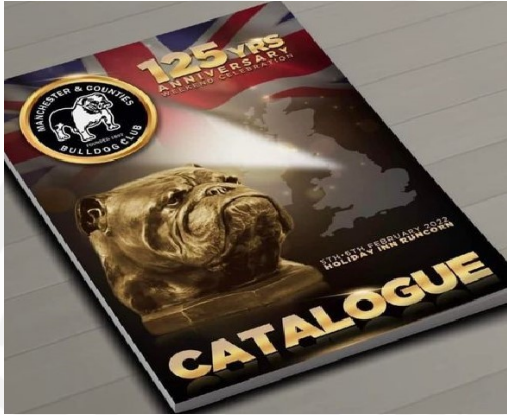
Judge: Miss Brenda Price (Esclusham)

Venue: TBC



Yorkshire Bulldog Club
• Established 1900 •

MANCHESTER BULLDOG CLUB CELEBRATES 125 YEARS



The Manchester & Counties Bulldog Club celebrated 125 years with a spectacular week-end event, a Championship Show on the Saturday, judged by Mr Bill Roberts (Isgrraig) judging the Dogs, and his wife, Sheila Roberts judging the bitches. Ms Brenda Price (Esclushum) was the referee. They found their top winners as follows:



DCC & BIS Ch Ricatori
Redesigned



RDCC & RBIS New Soul
Origin of Belushi



BCC & BOS Erimusbulls Vivien Leigh



RBCC Starbornbullies
Bubbles at Mellowmood

MANCHESTER BULLDOG CLUB CELEBRATES 125 YEARS



BV Ragmarte Lilly Pad
Blenheimstar



BPIS Mireman Nano TAF/NAF

The day ended with a lovely meal, superb Singing Waiters, a casino and excellent disco.

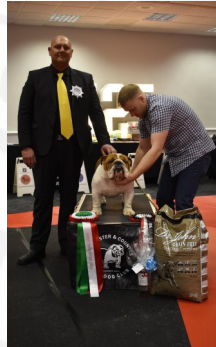


The following day, the Manchester held its Open Show with Luca Bisignano judging..



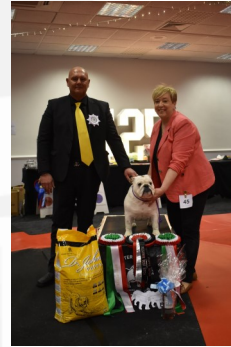
BB & BIS.

Treasurabull Wanna Shout



BD & BOS

Discobulls Renegade



BPB BPIS RBIS

Bagibeli Dancing Queen



BPD & RBD

Chayo Fire Starter

Congratulations to the exhibitors, the judges and the Manchester committee for a fabulous, unforgettable weekend

COURT RULING WHICH APPARENTLY BANS THE BREEDING OF BULLDOGS AND CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIELS IN NORWAY

Norway Announcement:

"The Norwegian Kennel Club and the two breed clubs of English Bulldogs and Cavalier King Charles spaniels lost against the largest animal welfare organization called "Dyrebeskyttelsen". It is no longer permitted to breed these two breeds in Norway..."

Kennel Club statement on breeding ban in Norway

2 February 2022

The Kennel Club is concerned about the court ruling which bans the breeding of Bulldogs and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels in Norway. The Kennel Club feels this is not a solution to prevent poor breeding practices or any of the complex health issues some of these dogs within the breeds can face. An absolute approach is not only difficult to enforce, but could also further fuel the ongoing crisis of irresponsible breeders, illegal puppy smuggling and uninformed puppy buyers, and actually worsen the issues that the legislation seeks to address.

Whilst we have not yet seen the full judgement, we know that outright breed bans do not work – we have seen this in the UK where attempts were made in 1991 with the Dangerous Dogs Act. This has simply served to drive the breeding of these dogs underground, leading to large numbers of unregistered animals, where it is impossible to reach the breeders or buyers of these dogs, or have any impact on the breed's health and welfare. It also can further fuel the crisis of illegally bred and imported dogs. In the UK, we are seeing disreputable puppy traders producing unregistered dogs – bred under no sphere of influence – with extreme features, under the radar, which is having a universally agreed and extremely negative impact on dog health and welfare.

The Kennel Club believes a more effective approach is to continue to work collaboratively with breeders, vets, scientists and welfare organisations to research, understand and take evidence-based actions – via tools like The Kennel Club/University of Cambridge [Respiratory Function Grading Scheme](#) for Bulldogs – to reduce and ultimately eliminate the health problems that these breeds can face, and to educate and influence uninformed puppy buyers and breeders.

The Kennel Club and The Kennel Club Charitable Trust remain committed to research and funding which ensures better understanding of Bulldog and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel health, and provides the foundations for evidence-based tools to help breeders to produce healthy puppies.



THE KENNEL CLUB



THE KENNEL CLUB

COURT RULING WHICH APPARENTLY BANS THE BREEDING OF BULLDOGS AND CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIELS IN NORWAY

STATEMENT FROM BULLDOG BREED COUNCIL

"Whilst we have not yet seen the full verdict document from the case in Norway, we do recognise that some Bulldogs being bred are not healthy.

As the Bulldog Breed Council, which represents the 16 breed clubs throughout the UK made up of passionate breeders and breed experts who care very much about these dogs, this deeply concerns us, and has for some time.

"We work hard to protect and improve Bulldog health by running the Bulldog Health Scheme and encouraging all breeders to use these tools to ensure they are producing healthy dogs, and placing health and welfare at the heart of all they do.

We also belong to the Brachycephalic Working Group in the UK to help make progress for brachycephalic breeds, and run a number of awareness days to help to educate both owners and breeders about Bulldog health.

We worked together to amend the Bulldog breed standard some years ago, underlining that exaggerated features must be avoided, and are actively trying to raise awareness with the puppy buying public, who may think extreme features or characteristics in Bulldogs are 'cute' or 'normal', to advise about Bulldog health and what they should be looking for if they are to source a puppy responsibly.

"Bulldogs are popular, with little to no awareness amongst puppy buyers of any health concerns and many rogue breeders producing puppies simply for profit, and we recognise that protecting the breed is no mean feat; we must continue to work alongside others who want to improve the health and welfare of these much-loved dogs.

We are concerned that any breeding ban would have a negative impact, and result in underground breeding where those who carelessly cash in on demand for these dogs continue to operate, whilst those caring, responsible breed enthusiasts are shunned, and there is no way to impact the breed's health or influence those who are breeding and buying them."



COURT RULING WHICH APPARENTLY BANS THE BREEDING OF BULLDOGS AND CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIELS IN NORWAY

STATEMENT FROM FCI

February 2, 2022

Bulldogs (English) (149) and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels (136) in danger in Norway : FCI official reaction

Many of you have already been informed via social media that the Norsk Kennel Klub (NKK) has lost a court case. According to the verdict, the breeding of **Bulldogs (English) (149)** and **Cavalier King Charles Spaniels (136)** is banned in Norway.

It is essential to note that **the ban applies to breeding and not the breeds themselves, i.e. owning and showing them remains allowed.**

The 60-page verdict is in Norwegian language and needs to be first translated and thoroughly investigated before we are able to express our professional opinion and release an appropriate statement.

The FCI community - which represents not less than 98 countries and thousands of breeders worldwide - truly hopes that the verdict would not provide a privileged position to the unregistered, backyard uncontrolled puppy farmers who perform their activity without making use of any of the available scientific methods aiming at improving the general health of dogs.

To the contrary, registered breeders, with the assistance of responsible veterinarians, have been adopting quite an opposite approach for decades, getting very good results in terms of health.

The FCI reiterates its full support to the Norsk Kennel Klub (NKK).

We, national canine organisations, breeders, breed clubs worldwide, all stand behind a common cause.

Let's act and react together, in order to preserve our beloved breeds, which are - needless to remind it - an essential part of the National Cultural Heritage of Great Britain.

After a detailed examination of the situation in Norway, next steps will be taken.

On behalf of the FCI General Committee
Dr T. Jakkell
FCI President



DISCOVER DOGS AT CRUFTS

Discover Dogs is held biannually at the ExCeL London and The NEC Birmingham during Crufts.

It aims to educate people in all aspects of dog ownership.

It helps people to learn about the right breed for their lifestyle and how to buy from a responsible breeder, in addition to helping them find out all they need to know about caring, training and enjoying life with their dog.

It is a fun family orientated event where people can meet and greet around 200 breeds of dog from Great Danes, the world's tallest breed of dog, to Chihuahuas, the world's smallest breed.

The Bulldog Breed Council have attended the Crufts events for many years.

Until this year, The London Bulldog Society covered The London Event however, from this year The Bulldog Breed Council has taken over the organisation of both events with help from Bulldog owners.

The Kennel Club recognises 221 breeds of pedigree dog, and nearly 200 of which were represented at Discover Dogs 2021.

The Bulldog Breed Council attend to educate the public about the breed.

We supply leaflets on:

- Buying a puppy', with information on where to find a good breeder.
- The Bulldog Breed Council Health Scheme' and how to participate.
- The Breed Watch Document
- Non Breed Standard Colours
- Information on Eyes
- Information on Tails.



DISCOVER DOGS AT CRUFTS

WE also decorate the booths with information and pictures, all aimed at educating the public to make the right decisions.

We regularly win awards for our stand, this year we won 3rd place overall and in 2018 we won the Utility group at Crufts Discover Dogs and went on to win runner up prize in all breeds.

We have designed and made new information panels this year, no more sticking laminated sheets onto plastic boards every morning !

We appreciate all the volunteers that help us every year, we have some regular helpers that give up their time every year, huge thanks to all of them. WE couldn't do it without you !!!

Never been to Discover Dogs ?? Come and visit us at Crufts in March 2022. Look forward to seeing you there !



COME AND VISIT US AT CRUFTS, WE WILL BE THERE AND LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU AND TALKING ALL THINGS 'BULLDOG'

BULLDOG RESCUE WILL BE RINGSIDE AT CRUFTS

LET'S CELEBRATE SOME BULLDOG BREED COUNCIL GOLD HEALTH TESTED BULLDOGS



Multi Ch. Happy & Glorious
Hennessy



Ch Bagibeli Billy Ray JW



Ch Bagibeli Queen of Hearts



Bagibeli Ace of Spades



Jiruka's Max Verstappen Saint-
Rosemil



Ch Cofas Magellanic Spiral Jackarhys



Ch. Ricatori Roman King



Ch. Ricatori Redesigned



Esclusham Pin Up Thornford

LET'S CELEBRATE SOME BULLDOG BREED COUNCIL GOLD HEALTH TESTED BULLDOGS



Erimusbulls Cooper at Linmist



Warson Mrs Doubtfire at Linfordpride



Andlare Bobby Dazzler



Andlare Okey Dokey



Ch Andlare this is Kaboodle



Ch Andlare Everhard JW



Andlare off yer Rocca



Andlare Goody Two Shoes



Andlare Nitty Gritty

LET'S CELEBRATE SOME BULLDOG BREED COUNCIL GOLD HEALTH TESTED BULLDOGS



Ricatori Prime Time



Ricatori Imagine That



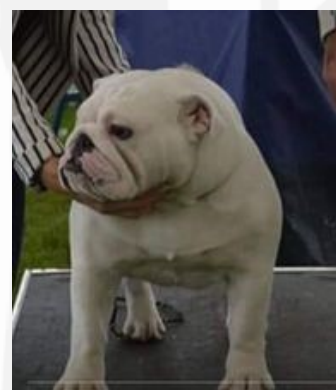
IR CH Newfound Lost Me Head At Thornford



Ricatori Pokett Rokett

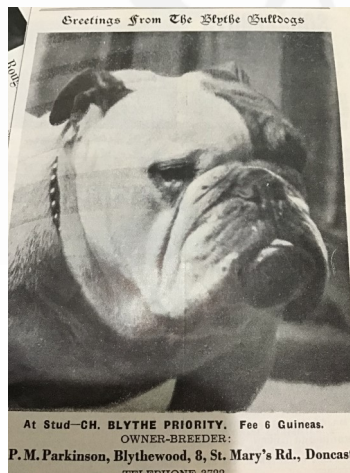


Midlandbulls Candy Crush Ricatori



Rhydydroesau All Eyes On Me

AND JUST A COUPLE OF PICTURES FROM YESTERYEAR



LET'S CELEBRATE SOME GOLD HEALTH TESTED BULLDOGS

CRITERIA FOR GOLD LEVEL HEALTH TESTING

(www.bulldogbreedcouncil.co.uk)

All Bulldogs to be over 24 months.

To have been awarded both the Bronze and Silver levels.

BVA or ECVO eye Scheme – copy of certificate. Clear results on eye examination recorded. Test to be done at 2 years of age or over.

Heart screening by qualified Auscultation approved Veterinary Surgeon. (Grade 0) RFGS (BOAS) (Grade 0,1) **changed on 29/9/2016, 01/07/19 see below**

Copies of the certificates which include Microchip/tattoo number of all the tests to be sent in.

Once the dog has achieved all the above, the Gold Level Health and Conformation Certificate is issued and sent to the owner it will also be listed on the Breed Council website.

****Note:** Cambridge University Veterinary College have established a grading system for Bulldogs as from 21.09.2016.

From 01.07.19 the Bulldog Breed Council Health and Confirmation Scheme will include the RFGS (BOAS) on the silver level as well as the Gold level. To qualify for the Gold the RFGS grades should be done at 2 years or over.

We understand that most people would not willingly put their dogs under general anaesthetic, but if the situation does arise, the results of the following tests and the data they would provide would be invaluable to the future of the breed.

Gold stars will be awarded for:

- Spinal X-Ray (Thorax area).
- Heart Doppler examination.
- HUU Clear
- Kennel Club Stud Book Number
- Uk Champion
- RFGS tested in the chamber at Cambridge University (Grade 0,1)

BULLDOG CLUB OF WALES

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

13TH FEBRUARY 2022

From a tremendous entry of 183, Judge Tim Tuesley found his winners as follows:



DCC & BIS Bullmont Lord Stannis



BCC & BOS IR Ch Newfound Lost Me
Head at Thornford Jun Ch



RDCC & RBIS Ch The Crown of
The bulldog Carte D'or



RBCC Starbornbullies Bubbles at
Mellowmood IKC



BPIS Mireman Nano



BVIS Ragmarte Lilly Pad as Blenheimstar

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS AND TO THE BULLDOG CLUB OF WALES
FOR A FANTASTIC SHOW

From A Professional of the Sport of Brachycephalic Breeds

As a veterinarian and breeder of two brachycephalic breeds (Boston Terriers and Pugs), I feel obligated to make a statement regarding the recent Dutch kennel club decision to ban the registration of brachycephalic breeds when bred to the original breed standards.

I understand the intent of this notion is to aim to breed healthier dogs, however, the target is misaligned and the execution abhorrent. The implication that all brachycephalic breeds are inherently unhealthy is completely incorrect.

These breeds have recently become the target of animal rights activists and many veterinarians.

As a veterinarian, I see healthy and unhealthy dogs every day; these are of varying breeds, and currently, mostly designer or mixed breeds.

To target brachycephalic dogs as unhealthy falls short of understanding the big picture.

Dolichocephaly is not a recipe for health, just as brachycephaly is not a recipe for illness.

Dolichocephalic dogs suffer severe health conditions as well, yet AR activists and veterinarians turn away and target brachycephalic dogs.

Many dolichocephalic breeds are plagued with cancer at rates far exceeding what should ever be considered acceptable.

I have diagnosed 6 month old dogs with neoplasia, euthanized far too many 4-6 year old dogs from metastatic neoplasia to count, and comforted owners who just can't understand why every dog of X breed that they have just doesn't live long enough.

Yet somehow this is deemed acceptable and targeting of brachycephalic dogs for a structure that, in the majority of cases, does not limit the ability to live a long, happy, full life.

The brachycephalic dogs that I see, in most cases, do not suffer as a result of their anatomy.

I see a range of quality in these dogs from backyard bred, puppy mill bred, rescue, to preservation breeder produced dogs.

By far, the dogs bred by preservation breeders are healthier overall, yet in a very large practice, I have maybe 1-2 patients who have airway disease that limits their function.

These patients are older, from poor breeding programs, and have outlived their life expectancy and are starting to struggle.

This is no different from an older sporting dog who has life limiting osteoarthritis as a result of years of running, hiking, and doing the job it was created to do. These dogs are also suffering at times, yet AR groups don't see them as a target.



From A Professional of the Sport of Brachycephalic Breeds

As a veterinarian, it is my role to help to educate clients on breed specific issues and purposes.

This is why we have purpose bred dogs.

Most brachycephalic breeds have been bred for companionship, and this is a job they do incredibly well.

To alter the breed standards and registration requirements such that you mandate they be bred to resemble sporting dogs is to destroy hundreds, sometimes thousands, of years of preservation breeding.

This is simply meant as an opinion piece based on my years of involvement in breeding and exhibiting of two brachycephalic breeds as well as my role as a veterinarian.

I commonly experience backlash from other veterinarians for my choice to breed Pugs and Boston Terriers, yet in most cases, upon meeting my dogs, they come to understand how these breeds are meant to be and see how healthy they truly are.

I plan, over the next few weeks, to compile a review of scholarly articles that support the fact that brachycephalic dogs are not inherently unhealthy.

I would also like to conduct a research study of cases seen by veterinarians in general practice to evaluate overall health of these breeds.

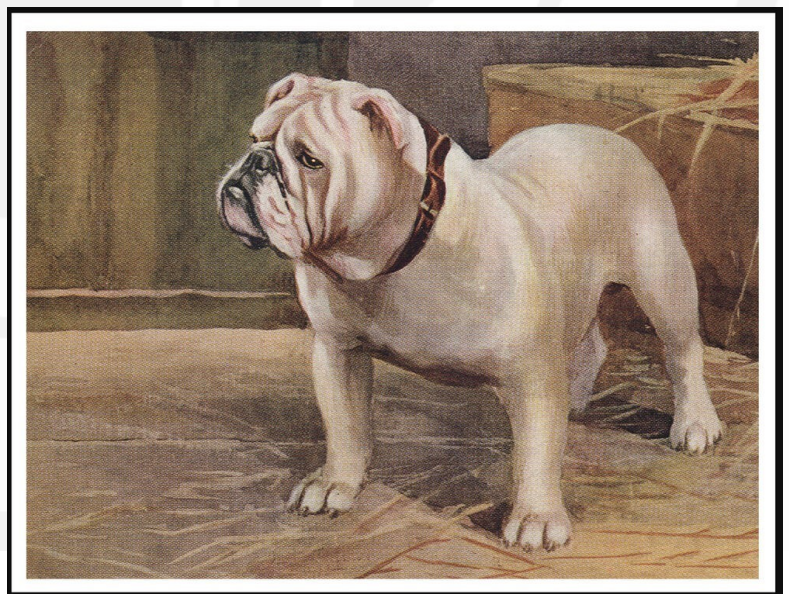
I welcome any colleague who is interested in joining me in developing this.

I refuse to continue to see false information and biased studies cited as reasons to target an entire group of dogs that fill such an enormously important role in the world.

Brachycephaly is not synonymous with illness, just as dolichocephaly is not synonymous with health.

I refuse to stand idly while breeders are losing their right to preserve the breeds they love.

Maryanne R Mack DVM
Sidestreet Kennel



HEALTH CORNER

MERLE PATTERNING—THE FACTS



The Kennel Club has announced that it will no longer accept registration applications for merle-coloured dogs in breeds where there is no documented evidence of the colour having been well established over a sustained period. **THAT INCLUDES THE BULLDOG.**

The reason for this is:

Dr Tom Lewis, Genetics & Research Manager at the Kennel Club, added: “The causal merle variant is dominant, so shows itself whenever it is present – even as a single copy. Therefore, in most breeds, we know it cannot have been present ‘under the radar’, as can be the case for some recessive variants. As a result, merle cannot suddenly ‘emerge’ in a breed after many years. This is why the Kennel Club is able to take this position in relation to merle as the situation is relatively straightforward, unlike in the vast majority of other colours.”

There are several potential health problems in dogs with merle coats. As much as this coat is appealing to many dog owners, this coat does come with some risks.

Of course, not all dogs with merle coats will display these problems, but it's important to be aware of them.

DISCOVERING THE MERLE COAT IN DOGS BY DR. IVANA CRNEC (VETERINARIAN)

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder – that is something we all know. However, we can all agree that dogs with merle coats are unique.

Sadly, dangers are lurking beneath the unusual, yet beautiful colour pattern.

Keep reading, as this article will tell you everything you need to know about the intriguing merle coats in dogs – from inheritance through looks to associated health problems.



Firstly, what is a merle coat?

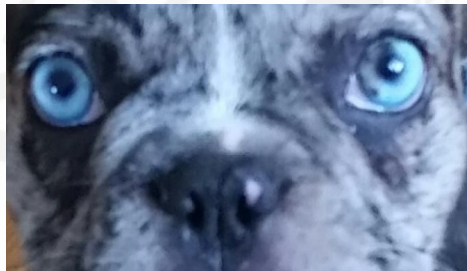
Merle is a specific coat pattern rather than particular coat colour.

HEALTH CORNER

MERLE PATTERNING—THE FACTS

When someone says merle, the first thing that comes to mind is blue merle – because this expression is the most common. However, merle can also be red or chocolate.

Namely, a merle coat is a coat that is characterized by randomly distributed patches of lighter or diluted colour against a background colour. The patches vary in terms of shape, size, and colour.



In dogs with the merle-patterned coats the gene responsible for the coat pattern also affects the eyes, nose, and paw pads.

In terms of eyes, merle dogs can have differently coloured eyes (odd-eyed), unusually dark eyes or blue-coloured eyes. As for the nose and paw pads, they can be mottled black and pink.

TYPES OF MERLE COATS IN DOGS

There are two basic merle forms – blue (a dilution or lighter version from black) and red (diluted or lighter version from brown or liver).

Blue merles have distinguishable black, grey, and silver marbling with more or less pronounced copper points over the face.

On the other hand, red merles have light cinnamon to dark liver marbling with copper points distributed over the face and on the legs.



Sometimes, tricoloured dogs are mistaken for merle dogs. However, tricoloured dogs lack merle's marbling hallmark.

IS MERLE DOMINANT OR RECESSIVE?

Merle coat occurs as a result of genetic mutation.

The mutated gene responsible for the unique merle pattern is called PMEL17 or SILV.

Scientists refer to the merle coat pattern as **incompletely dominant**.

Since genetics are complicated, it is necessary to explain what incompletely dominant means.

Incompletely dominant in this case indicates that the merle coat occurs when a dog inherits a single copy of the merle allele. That single copy causes colour dilution.

HEALTH CORNER

MERLE PATTERNING—THE FACTS

However, when it comes to merle, there are three different alleles:

- Merle allele (M)
- Cryptic merle (Mc)
- Non-merle (m).

Merle dogs have one merle (M) and one non-merle (m) allele which is in genetic terms expressed as Mm.

What are hidden or cryptic merles?

Hidden or cryptic merles are dogs that do not have the unique coat pattern, but are genetically merle (either MM or Mm).

This is possible because the merle pattern can sometimes be masked by other genes or even by heavy patching.

A hidden or cryptic merle can be either solid-coloured or have merle patches that are so faint they are almost impossible to notice. Popularly these dogs are called ghost or phantom merles.

The inheritance patterns of cryptic merles are unstable and highly unpredictable. Sometimes a cryptic merle (Mc) can produce a double merle (MM) and vice versa.

HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DOGS WITH MERLE COATS

The merle gene is responsible for more than just coat pattern. It is also associated with impairments in the auditory and ophthalmologic systems as well as with decreased efficiency of the immune system.

The reason behind this connection is the fact that during embryonic development the pigment and nervous system stem from the same cells.

When the merle gene suppresses the coat pigment cells, it also inhibits the pigment cells in the iris of the eye and in the inner ear from fully expressing.



Therefore, merle dogs are particularly prone to eye and ear issues.

Additionally, the blue eye colouration makes many diagnostic procedures more challenging.

According to a study, deafness occurs in 9.2% of dogs with the merle allele.

More precisely deafness appears in 25 percent of double merles and in 3.5 percent of single merles. Many other studies come up with similar results.

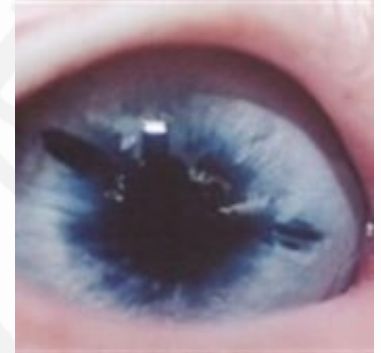
In addition to deafness, eye problems are prevalent among merle dogs.

HEALTH CORNER

MERLE PATTERNING—THE FACTS

The most common eye-related abnormalities are:

- Microphthalmia (small eyes)
- Microcoria (dog born without the muscles that allows the pupils to dilate)
- Colobomas (missing pieces of tissue in structures that form the eye)
- Night blindness
- Clefts in the iris
- Corectopia eyeballs not positioned in the center
- Deformed third eyelids



Colobomas

Last but not least, it is not unusual for merle dogs to be born without eyes.

HEALTH PROBLEMS IN DOUBLE MERLES

Health issues occur when a dog inherits two merle alleles and is genetically referred to as double merle or MM. Double merle occurs when two merles breed with each other.

A double merle dog will be white with differently-sized colour patches. Because of the association with health issues, double merle dogs are often called “lethal white.”

A double merle dog carries two M alleles and will always pass the merle gene to the offspring. A single merle has one merle (M) allele and one non-merle (m) allele which means the merle gene can, but may not be passed on to the offspring.

When two double merles are bred to each other all offspring will be merle. When a double merle is bred to a single merle, at least 25 percent of the offspring will be double merle (MM).

Did you know? If two merles are bred together it may result in a white coat, but unfortunately the defects associated with the merle gene can be doubled.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Considering the array of health issues and their effect on the dog's overall life quality, it is important to prevent merle-related issues in dogs. That is best achieved through responsible breeding.

The possibility of hidden merle dogs breeding with merle or non-merle dogs makes the inheritance calculation exceptionally hard and rather unpredictable. Therefore, DNA screening is highly recommended for all dogs intended for breeding.

Northern Bulldog Club

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Saturday 22nd January 2022

Judge: Mr Steve Bragger

The Northern Bulldog Club held its Championship Show, and Steve Bragger found his top winners as follows:



BIS & BCC Rosebulls Edith



DCC CH Ricatori Redesigned



RBCC & RBIS Starbornbullies
Bubbles at Mellowmood



RDCC CH Willbebulls Optimus Prime



BPB & BPIS Andlares Ifs and
Buts



BPD Bagibeli Marvellous Marvin
at Seehurst

ILLUSTRATED BULLDOG BREED STANDARD

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A BULLDOG

You have decided you want a bulldog to be a part of your family. SO what do you need to look for ?

Firstly the right breeder, look on the Kennel Club website, join your local breed club and go to some dog shows and talk to exhibitors. Look at the dogs that you like, make a note of the breeder and of the parents.

LEARN THE BREED STANDARD, IT IS WHAT MAKES A BULLDOG LOOK LIKE A BULL-DOG

Don't rush into buying a puppy, it's worth the wait to get a well bred , breed standard puppy, from health tested parents and a breeder that will give you a lifetime of support.

You will find lots of useful information on www.bulldogbreedcouncil.co.uk, or on facebook The Education Station.

ILLUSTRATED BULLDOG BREED STANDARD

General Appearance

Smooth-coated, fairly thick set, rather low in stature, broad, powerful and compact. Head, fairly large in proportion to size but no point so much in excess of others as to destroy the general symmetry, or make the dog appear deformed, or interfere with its powers of motion. Face relatively short, muzzle broad, blunt and inclined upwards although not excessively so. Dogs showing respiratory distress highly undesirable. Body fairly short, well knit, limbs stout, well muscled and in hard condition with no tendency towards obesity. Hindquarters high and strong. Bitches not so grand or well developed as dogs.



ILLUSTRATED BULLDOG BREED STANDARD

Characteristics

Conveys impression of determination, strength and activity.

Temperament

Alert, bold, loyal, dependable, courageous, fierce in appearance, but possessed of affectionate nature.

Head and Skull

Skull relatively large in circumference. Viewed from front appears high from corner of lower jaw to apex of skull; also broad and square. Cheeks well rounded and extended sideways beyond eyes. Viewed from side, head appears very high and moderately short from back to point of nose. Forehead flat with skin on and about head slightly loose and finely wrinkled without excess, neither prominent nor overhanging face. From defined stop, a furrow extending to middle of skull being traceable to apex. Face from front of cheek bone to nose, relatively short, skin may be slightly wrinkled. Muzzle short, broad, turned upwards and deep from corner of eye to corner of mouth. Nose and nostrils large, broad and black, under no circumstances liver colour, red or brown. Distance from inner corner of eye (or from centre of stop between eyes) to extreme tip of nose should not be less than distance from tip of the nose to edge of the underlip. Nostrils large wide and open, with well defined vertical straight line between. Flews (chops) thick, broad and deep, covering lower jaws at sides, but joining underlip in front. Teeth not visible. Jaws broad, strong and square, lower jaw slightly projecting in front of upper with moderate turn up. Over nose wrinkle, if present, whole or broken, must never adversely affect or obscure eyes or nose. Pinched nostrils and heavy over nose roll are unacceptable and should be heavily penalised. Viewed from front, the various properties of the face must be equally balanced on either side of an imaginary line down centre.



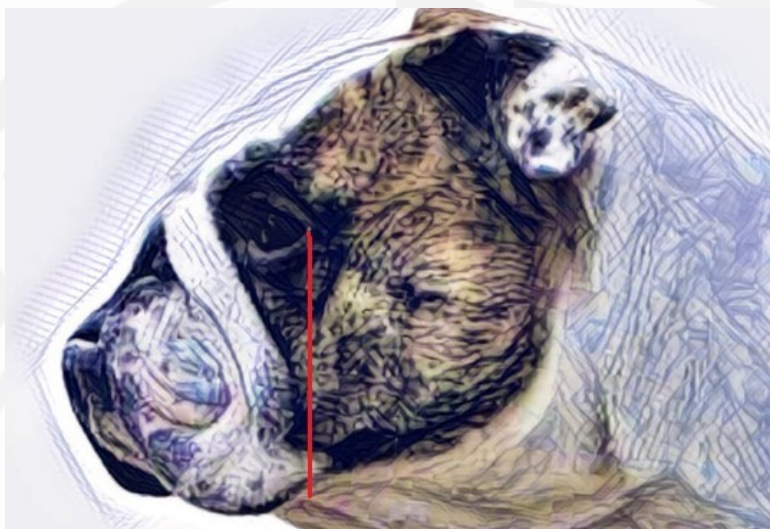
✓ U jaw



✗ V jaw

Nostrils large wide and open, with well defined vertical straight line between

ILLUSTRATED BULLDOG BREED STANDARD

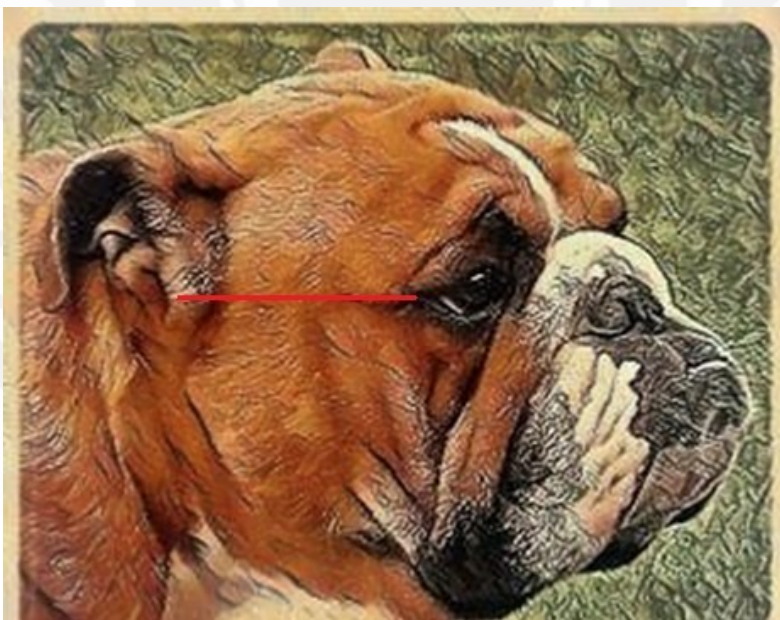


Eyes

Seen from front, situated low down in skull, well away from ears. Eyes and stop in same straight line, at right angles to furrow. Wide apart, but outer corners within the outline of cheeks. Round, of moderate size, neither sunken nor prominent,. in colour very dark – almost black – showing no white when looking directly forward. Free from obvious eye problems

Ears

Set high – i.e. front edge of each ear (as viewed from front) joins outline of skull at top corner of such outline, so as to place them as wide apart, as high and as far from eyes as possible. Small and thin. 'Rose ear' correct, i.e. folding inwards back, upper or front inner edge curving outwards and backwards, showing part of inside of burr.



ILLUSTRATED BULLDOG BREED STANDARD

Mouth

Jaws broad and square with six small front teeth between canines in an even row. Canines wide apart. Teeth large and strong, not seen when mouth closed. When viewed from front under jaw directly under upper jaw and parallel.

Neck

Moderate in length, thick, deep and strong. Well arched at back, with some loose, skin about throat, forming slight dewlap on each side.



Forequarters

Shoulders broad, sloping and deep, very powerful and muscular giving appearance of being 'tacked on' body. Brisket round and deep. Well let down between forelegs. Ribs not flat-sided, but well rounded. Forelegs very stout and strong, well developed, set wide apart, thick, muscular and straight, bones of legs large and straight, not bandy nor curved and short in proportion to hindlegs, but not so short as to make back appear long, or detract from dog's activity. Elbows low and standing well away from ribs. Pasterns short, straight and strong.

ILLUSTRATED BULLDOG BREED STANDARD



Fronts



✓ correct front



✗ riddle front



✗ weak front



✗ terrier front



✗ too wide

Body

Chest wide, prominent and deep. Back short, strong, broad at shoulders. Slight fall to back close behind shoulders (lowest part) whence spine should rise to loins (top higher than top of shoulder), curving again more suddenly to tail, forming slight arch – a distinctive characteristic of breed. Body well ribbed up behind with belly tucked up and not pendulous.



Top lines



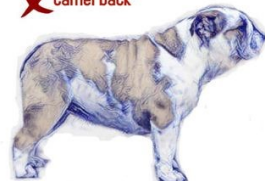
✓ correct top line



✗ camel back



✗ sway back



✗ straight back



ILLUSTRATED BULLDOG BREED STANDARD

Hindquarters

Legs large and muscular, slightly longer in proportion than forelegs. Hocks slightly bent, well let down; legs long and muscular from loins to hock. Stifles turned very slightly outwards away from body.



Feet

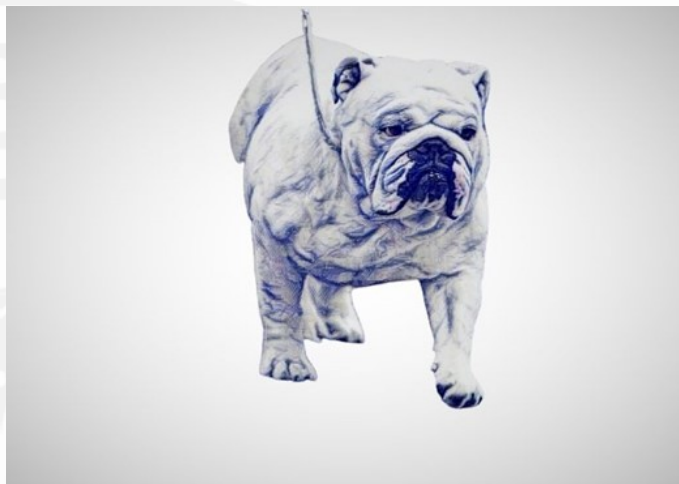
Fore, straight and turning very slightly outward; of medium size and moderately round. Hind, round and compact. Toes compact and thick, well split up, making knuckles prominent and high.



Tail

Set on low, jutting out rather straight and then turning downwards. Round, smooth and devoid of fringe or coarse hair. Moderate in length – rather short than long – thick at root, tapering quickly to a fine point. Downward carriage (not having a decided upward curve at end) and never carried above back.

ILLUSTRATED BULLDOG BREED STANDARD



Gait/Movement

Appearing to walk with short, quick steps on tips of toes, hind feet not lifted high, appearing to skim ground, running with one or other shoulder rather advanced. Soundness of movement of the utmost importance.

Coat

Fine texture, short, close and smooth (hard only from shortness and closeness, not wiry).

Colour

Whole or smut, (i.e. whole colour with black mask or muzzle). Only whole colours (which should be brilliant and pure of their sort) viz., brindles, reds with their various shades, fawns, fallows etc., white and pied (i.e. combination of white with any of the foregoing colours). Dudley, black and black with tan highly undesirable.

Bulldogs should be , red, brindle, fawn , white, or any one of those colours with white. ANY OTHER COLOUR IS NON BREED STANDARD AND IS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE

Size

Dogs: 25 kgs (55 lbs); bitches: 23 kgs (50 lbs).

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

Note Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

SEMINARS AND TESTING DAYS

Currently Available Seminars : Mrs Christina Chapman

5th March 2022

Conformation & Movement

Surfleet, Spalding

Contact Alayna Allen 07718630113

Email: zoradenwhippets@outlook.com



9th April 2022

Conformation & Movement and

Critique Writing

Birmingham

Contact Mrs P Meacham 07982 061091

Email: zellamere@hotmail.com

5th May 2022

Conformation & Movement

At Birmingham National

Contact Christina Chapman on 01507 363736

Email: christinachaman.bukris@googlemail.com

6th May 2022

Requirements of a Dog Show Judge

At Birmingham National

Contact Christina Chapman on 01507 363736

Email: christinachapman.bukris@googlemail.com

7th May 2022

Critique Writing

At Birmingham National

Contact Christina Chapman on 01507 363736

Email: christinachapman.bukris@googlemail.com

ECVO EYE TEST

To be held on 18th March 2022

**At Bulldog Holidays, Hillplace Kennels, The Mount,
Ifield Wood, Crawley, RH11 0LF**

**Please email: bulldogholidays@aol.com to book or
pm: Maria Taylor on f/b limited spaces are available**

FROM THE KENNEL CLUB

News release: Free eye testing and Respiratory Function Grading offer at Crufts 2022



The Kennel Club is pleased to offer free eye testing to all exhibitors, and free Respiratory Function Grading assessments for Bulldog, French Bulldog and Pug exhibitors, at Crufts this year.

Funded jointly by The Kennel Club and the British Veterinary Association, there will be 60 eye testing appointments per day, available free of charge, giving a total of 240 free appointments across the four days of the show.

The free eye testing sessions will be booked on a first come, first served basis and allocated in the order they are received. Restricted to one per exhibitor, and only open to those who have not had their dog's eyes tested before, the free bookings will be taken from today (February 15) on email health@thekennelclub.org.uk

Exhibitors must provide all of the following details in their email:

Name of owner

Registered name of dog

Registration number

Microchip number

Preferred time slot (am or pm)

Mobile telephone number

FROM THE KENNEL CLUB

News release: Free eye testing and Respiratory Function Grading offer at Crufts 2022

If any of the required details are missing, the email will be rejected and a free appointment will not be allocated. Under no circumstances can appointments be booked over the phone.

The Kennel Club is also pleased to confirm that for the first time it will be offering free Respiratory Function Grading Scheme assessments for Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs at Crufts.

Assessments are available on Saturday 12 March only and bookings will not be taken in advance. Interested exhibitors can speak to the assessors, who will be available in Hall 4, or visit The Kennel Club stand in Hall 3, to arrange an assessment.

Exhibitors who are successful at securing an appointment are asked to bring their dog's Kennel Club registration certificate with them.

Once the free appointments are filled, The Kennel Club will announce further details of upcoming eye testing and Respiratory Function Grading assessment sessions after Crufts for exhibitors who missed out.

Vanessa McAlpine, Crufts Show Manager, said: "This is a fabulous offer for exhibitors showing at Crufts who wish to have their dog eye tested, or assessed via the important Respiratory Function Grading Scheme. By screening breeding stock, breeders can use the information to eliminate or reduce the frequency of eye disease or breathing issues being passed on to puppies. We are expecting a huge uptake for this offer, so don't delay in applying by email or speaking to an assessor at the show."

More information on eye testing can be found on The Kennel Club website at thekennelclub.org.uk/eyescheme and the BVA website at bva.co.uk/canine-health-schemes. More about The Kennel Club/University of Cambridge Respiratory Function Grading Scheme for Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs is available at: thekennelclub.org.uk/rfgs

FROM THE KENNEL CLUB



BUYING A DOG

Ed: Before you choose to buy a Bulldog, read the Bulldog Breed Standard. Avoid exaggerations, loose skin, 'exotic' or 'rare' colours. Extremely high prices do not equate to 'quality' but may be just clever marketing. If it does not look right..... IT IS NOT RIGHT.

Questions for the breeder:

Before you visit a breeder, it's a good idea to speak to them over the phone to ask some basic questions. It's very difficult to resist a cute puppy, so we recommend asking the most important questions before you visit the breeder in person.



If the breeder is responsible then they will be happy to answer any questions about themselves, their dogs or their breeding choices.

Did they breed the puppy themselves? *You should only ever buy a puppy direct from the breeder.*

How many puppies are there and how old are they? *You may want to ask this question when you see the puppies to double check you get the same answer.*

Will you be able to see where they were bred? *It's advisable to see where the puppies were bred to ensure the conditions were good.*

Will you be able to see the mum? *You should always be able to see the puppy with its mother.*

How old is the mother and how many litters has she had? *The mother must not have been mated before 12 months of age, must be no older than 8 years old and should not have bred more than four litters in her lifetime – including this litter.*

Was the birth natural or was a caesarean section required? *If a c-section was required, have they had one before and how many times? A dog should not have more than two c-sections.*

Will you be able to see the father? *The father of the puppies may not be there, but it is worth meeting him if possible.*

Have the puppies had any health problems? *You want to ensure that the puppy you buy is healthy from the outset.*

Have the parents been checked for inherited conditions? *It's important to find out whether your puppy's parents have been health checked through the Bulldog Breed Council Health Scheme.*

What is the puppy's inbreeding coefficient? *Highly inbred puppies can be more susceptible to inheriting genetic diseases from the parents.*

Can you have the registration details of the sire (father) and dam (mother)? *This will allow you to check the health tests and inbreeding coefficient.*

Will the puppies be vaccinated and wormed before coming home with you? *Puppies are usually wormed at 2, 5 and 8 weeks of age. Ideally, your puppy should be vaccinated*

FROM THE KENNEL CLUB

BUYING A DOG

If you are happy with all of the answers you have been given, then you can arrange to see the puppies. When you visit the breeder, try not to be too distracted by the cute puppies, and remember to ask the questions below.

- **Can you meet all of the puppies?** *You should be able to meet all of the puppies to help you choose which puppy would best suit you.*
- **Can you see the mother?** *You should always be able to see the mother interacting with the puppies.*
- **What are the mother and father's temperament like?** *This will help you determine the temperament of your puppy.*
- **How have the puppies been socialised?** *Puppies should be given regular access to other people and adult dogs.*
- **What experiences does the breeder aim to provide to the puppies before they go to their new home?** *Before a puppy goes home with their new owner, they should have been exposed to a range of experiences and noises*
- **If you have children – have the puppies been seen by other children?** *To help the puppies become accustomed to children, it's advisable that they interact with children from a young age.*
- **Will there be a contract of sale?** *This is a must and will list both the breeder's responsibility and your responsibility to the puppy*
- **Can you see the pedigree (family tree)?** *If you're buying a pedigree dog this should be available and will tell you about your dog's ancestry.*
- **Can you see any health certificates for both the mother and father of the puppy?** *It's important that you are aware of any conditions which might affect the breed and whether the puppy's parents have been tested.*
- **Will you be given any written advice when you take the puppy home?** *Responsible breeders will provide you with written advice on training, feeding, exercise, worming and immunisation.*
- **Can the puppy be returned if there are any problems?** *A responsible breeder will take back and rehome a puppy should there be any problems.*
- **What dog food would the breeder recommend?** *Once the puppy comes home, switching to a different brand of food can sometimes give them an upset tummy. It's also useful to know which type of food a breeder would recommend.*
- **If you'd like to breed from the puppy once they are old enough – will there be any breeding restrictions in the contract?** *Some breeders will place restrictions on whether the puppy will be able to be bred from. It's always best to check before signing a contract.*
- **At what age will the puppy be microchipped?** *Your puppy should be microchipped before they come to you – this is now a legal requirement.*
- **At what age will the puppy be allowed to come home with you?** *It is advised that puppies should not be rehomed at any younger than 8 weeks old, although in some cases they may be rehomed at a minimum of 6 weeks. If your puppy is younger than 8 weeks, double check that the breeder has written confirmation from a vet that this is acceptable.*



BULLDOG SCHOOL

LET'S TALK 'NOSES'

Nose and nostrils should be **large, broad and jet black**. Pink, liver colour, red or brown is a fault.

Distance from inner corner of eye (or from centre of stop between eyes) to extreme tip of nose should not be less than distance from tip of the nose to edge of the under-lip.

Nostrils large wide and open, with well-defined vertical straight line between.

Nose should be kept healthy by applying Vaseline or balm as part of the regular grooming routine.

Over nose roll/rope can be whole or broken, but must never adversely affect or obscure eyes or nose.

Pinched nostrils and heavy over-nose roll are unacceptable and should be heavily penalised (if the dog is shown) The wrinkle must be kept clean and dry especially if the roll / rope is full or heavy.

The degrees of nostril stenosis in brachycephalic breeds are defined as follows:

Open nostrils - wide opening.

Mild stenosis - Slight narrowing of the nostrils. When the dog is exercising, the nostril wings move dorso-laterally to open on inspiration.

Moderate stenosis - The dorsal part of the nostril wings touches the nasal septum, and the nares are only open at the bottom of the nostrils. When the dog is exercising, the nostril wings are not able to move dorso-laterally and there may be nasal flaring (i.e., muscle contraction around the nose trying to enlarge the nostrils).

Severe stenosis - Nostrils are almost closed. The dog may switch to oral breathing from nasal breathing with very gentle exercise or stress.

Bulldog Nose History Fact, baiting the bull

When the Bulldog held the bull by the nose, the breathing was accomplished through its wide-opened nostrils. Its nose was inclined back towards the eyes thus allowing a gap between it and the flesh of its victim.

The fine wrinkles on the top of the skull also helped to drain the bulls' blood toward the deep furrow (between the eyes). This, combined with the prominent frontal bones, ensured that the blood did not hinder the dog's vision. The depth of the stop, being lower than the top of the nose and contained either a full or broken roll, diverted any blood from the nostrils down the side of the skull via the chops

A open nostrils



B mildly stenotic nostrils



C moderately stenotic nostrils



D severely stenotic nostrils



NEW PUPPY JOINTS



When you get your 8/10 week old puppies, please keep these images in mind.

Their bones do not even touch yet.

They plod around so cutely with big floppy paws and wobbly movement because their joints are entirely made up of muscle, tendons and ligaments with skin covering.

Nothing fits tightly together or has a true socket yet.

When you run them excessively or don't restrict their exercise during this period you don't give them a chance to grow properly.

Every big jump or excited bouncing run causes impacts between the bones. In reasonable amounts this is not problematic and is the normal wear and tear that every animal will engage in.

But when you let puppy jump up and down off the sofa or bed, or take them for long walks you are damaging that forming joint.

When you let the puppy scramble on floors with no traction you are damaging the joint.

They only get the chance to grow once.

A well built body is something that comes from excellent breeding and a great upbringing - BOTH, not just one.

Once grown you will have the rest of their life to spend playing and engaging in higher impact exercise.

So keep it calm while they are still little baby puppies and give the gift that can only be given once.

BULLDOG RESCUE NOTICE BOARD

A Bulldog is a Bulldog is a Bulldog? Except when

Most members of the general public assume that a bulldog is a bulldog, regardless of its colour, it's type or it's breeding?

I remember having a similar conversation with a friend of mine who breeds, shows and judges Staffordshire Bull Terriers. I asked him why there were so many going into rescues and why they had such a bad reputation.

He said that it was because the general public were misguided. The breed was being bred by people for money, for status, by people in unsuitable surroundings to sell the pups for easy money.

The pups were bought by people who wanted a status dog, and the result was a huge number of badly bred Staffords who were finding their way into police custody and rescues. At one point Battersea Dogs home was pretty much a Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue home! The breed became the "Devil Dog" – front page news when it attacked another dog, killed a neighbour's cat or was found hanging from a branch surrounded by a group of youths cheering it on.



It became the fighting dog breed of choice and there were some that crossed it to produce a dog that was the total opposite of what a Staffordshire Bull Terrier was really like. This was, in part, to blame for the review of the Dangerous Dog Laws in this country and people would cross the street if they saw one coming the other way.

In reality it changed the way the public saw Staffords, but meanwhile there was a group of genuine breeders, desperately trying to educate and rescue the reputation of the dog that they knew and loved. A breed that should be the trustworthy, baby sitting, loving, loyal dog that it has always been.

He told me the breed he knew and loved was as far removed from the dog on the street as it could be – and that the public had no idea.

This, sadly is exactly where our breed is heading.

The general public assume a bulldog is a bulldog is a bulldog.

That the black tri, the lilac merle and the tangerine lesser spotted bullfrog is in fact a bulldog.

Genetically it is.



BULLDOG RESCUE NOTICE BOARD



Put simply the desire to breed black coats led to a huge number of Dudley's which in turn produced the Lilac coats.

But in the real world the people behind the breeding of these dogs have the same mentality as the Stafford Breeders of the late 20th century.

Money and Status are the only things these breeders care about in my personal opinion, and the result is a dog that is a similar shape, the wrong colour and in some cases the totally wrong temperament.

It's widely noted that the original breeders of the Bulldog knew what they were doing.

They knew how to create a fierce Bull Fighter but equally they knew how to calm that temperament when the sport was abolished, and much of that was down to the colour of the dog's coat.

As the colours they deliberately bred out to create a better temperament find their way back in – so does the fiery temperament.

Something we saw when cross breeding became the thing was the pretty much instant loss of temperament.

Breeders that cared about the breed understood that the first thing you **lost** when you attempted to cross the breed back to the Cribb and Rosa type bulldogs was its sweet temperament.

Bulldogs which began to appear on the front pages of the red tops claiming to have savaged a child or killed someone's little pet dog – were always a Victorian, Olde Tyme or American type bulldog.

But the public assumed this was the Bulldog.

This is still true today, ask someone what kind of dog the Olde English Bulldogge is and they will tell you it's a "Bulldog".

A running battle we had at that time with people who wanted to rehome their American Bulldog through the Rescue was trying to tell them they did NOT have a bulldog.

I felt that comparing an American to a British was like comparing a King Charles Spaniel to a Cocker Spaniel – both spaniels but breeds apart with different drives, care requirements and training needs. Subsequently, we had to start referring to our breed as "British" and even had a message on our phone system pointing out that if you were aiming to rehome an American Bulldog you were calling the wrong Rescue.

Fast forward to today. A Lilac Tri walks into Battersea Dogs home..... Paul O'Grady asked – "are you a bulldog". The bulldog replied "not really but no one cares".

The vet points out his heavy folds, his noisy breathing, his heavy size and tells everyone watching TV that this is a bulldog and they all suffer like this.

Just as the Staffords had become worlds apart from the loving, loyal terrier the show world were desperately trying to save, our bulldog is now widely known for everything it shouldn't be.

The local Stafford rescue had to implement "KC registered dogs only" rule. We don't have that luxury because these dogs are registered with the Kennel Club.

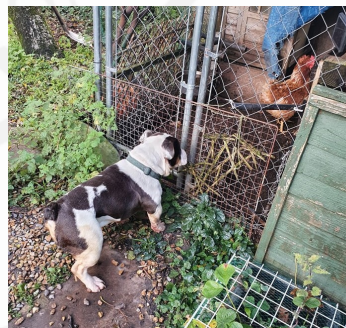
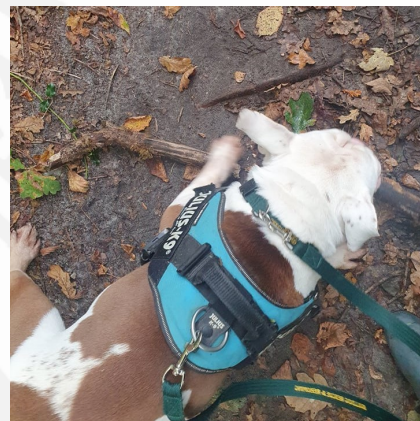
The Kennel Club could have stepped in then and they need to step in now.

Pedigree dog breeders get so much flack and are always blamed for health problems and the perceived suffering of our breed when in reality they are the ones desperately trying to keep true to the breed, caring about the health of their dogs, caring about the reputation of the breed.

I'm not so naive to not know there are breeders out there of standard dogs who are only in it for the money but these breeders don't last long, the ones that are left continue to fight for the right to produce a healthy, loving loyal bulldog.

We are seeing an increase in dogs now, (especially dogs bred during the pandemic when the only breeders active were, in the main, non-standard breeders,) who have behaviour and temperament problems. Whose personalities are so far removed from the personality I described in my book in 2008 that the training they need goes beyond what most people want from their bulldog.

These dogs are prey driven, they pull on their leads, they like to hang on to things such as branches, they need huge amounts of exercise and yet the brachycephalic basics are still there making it very difficult for some of these poor dogs to live a normal life.



I know this column is preaching to the converted, but just take a moment to remember the Staffordshire Bull Terrier problem at the turn of the century and remind yourself – **this is us!**

WE WILL BE RINGSIDE AT CRUFTS—COME AND MEET US

BULLDOG SCHOOL DOGGIE RECIPES

Sardine/tuna /cheese bites

1 tin of sardines or tuna or handfull grated cheese

100g plain flour wheat and gluten free

1 eggs

Garlic powder (optional)

Mix well and make into halfteaspoonish rough bite sized pieces. Place in baking tray

Bake 10mins gas mark 4 Serve

Turkey tubes

Cook the turkey, strip off the bone, and run it through the food processor.

Mix in peanut butter and honey,

Roll into tubes about 6 inches long and freeze

Quick liver cake recipe - It WILL stink your house out !!

8oz liver pigs

4oz self raising flour (wheat and gluten free pref)

2 eggs

2 garlic cloves

Bung it all in a blender (dont bother sieving flour) and blend to a desired consistency (chunky or smooth liver pieces).

Put in a baking tray / swiss roll tray,

Bake at 160c for about half hour.

Cut into small squares dawgies love it and the pieces freeze well and taste just as good straight from the freezer.

Mutt Loaf

5oz carrots chopped small

4oz frozen peas

1lb minced beef

3oz breadcrumbs made from gluten and wheat free flour

2tbsp tomato purée

2 eggs beaten 3 eggs hard boiled

Good sprinkle of parsley fresh or dried



BULLDOG SCHOOL DOGGIE RECIPES

Steam carrots and peas until just cooked then set aside to cool.

Mix the mince with the breadcrumbs tomato purée parsley and beaten eggs until well mixed together.

Mix in peas and carrots. Place half mix in a greased loaf tin pressing it down firmly leaving a groove in middle for eggs place eggs along centre add rest of mix and squish down so everything covered up. Cover with foil cook in pre heated oven 180c for 1 to 1 and 1/2 hours.

Tip out any juice from tin let cool in tin for 30 minutes turn out onto plate and slice

Dehydrated sprats

Big Bag sprats from supermarket cost under 1.00

Rinse well Place on baking tray spread out well and bake on low heat gas mark 2-3 or equivalent for 5-6 hours Leave to cool lasts 2-3 months in airtight container for a healthy low fat treat.

All the yummy recipes above are from Margaret Cassidy

Now from Caroline (Caz) Reed:

Frozen Yogurt dog treat

2 cups plain yogurt

1 mashed banana

2 T honey

Mix all these ingredients in your blender, then dump into ice cube trays, paper cups, ice lolly molds, or even a kong toy to freeze and serve.

I have seen other variations where they add peanut butter and I am sure you could use other fruits if you didn't have bananas .

Peanut Butter Biscuits

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour (I would use rice flour or similar if your dog has a problem with wheat)

1 teaspoon baking powder

3/4 cup oats

1/4 cup honey 1/4 cup wheat germ (or 1/4 more of oat germ or crushed sunflower seeds or similar if wheat's a problem)

1/4 cup creamy peanut butter

1/4 cup vegetable oil

1/2 cup water



BULLDOG SCHOOL DOGGIE RECIPES

First preheat oven to 325°F.

Secondly, we are going to combine all ingredients together, being sure to mix well. Form your mixture into 1.5" sized balls and lay on ungreased cookie sheet.

Flatten balls with a fork.

Bake for 15 - 20 minutes or until golden brown.

Pull them out and let them cool down



From Laura Ingram:

For any dog that is diabetic replace the below flour with coconut flour. This will lower the GL load and thus the sugar it would turn to. Still take care if trying these, I am going by the advice of a food physician for a human but the principals still stand.

Liver brownies

1/2 cup / 70g Wholewheat flour

2 Eggs (medium)

1.5 lb / 675g Liver (beef)

Purée all ingredients together in a food processor (make sure you cleaned round the blades properly after use!!!)

Pour into greased square pan (9"x9" or 23cm x 23cm)

Bake at 180c / gas 4 for 30 mins, or until the mix bounces back when pressed



Courtesy of Bulldog Rescue and Rehoming UK

A Day in The Life of A Celebrity Bulldog

Hello Bulldoggers,

Welcome to No 7 in the Series...We hope you are enjoying our column.

It's MAD MARCH! Crufts Month!



I love Crufts, I have had the pleasure of showing two of my Bulldogs there. I graced the green with Baby Gracie judged by the wonderful and a great mentor, Pat Perkins (only just missing out on a VHC as Gracie moved at the last minute!) Pat Perkins liked her though and actually, that was honour enough!



I was so proud and impressed to show Baby Gracie in a wonderful class of over 30 Bulldogs! I also showed my home bred Puppy Prince George, who also did not get placed, just to get there was amazing. I had always seen showing as a fun social day out for the Bulldogs, I never really took it too seriously until that moment, when I was actually on the on the Green!

We had just started the TV shows then so after showing of we went to the press room with Gracie and George dressed up in their Union Jack outfits for some interviews with the Press Teams.

A Day in The Life of A Celebrity Bulldog

We may not have won a Rosette but my baby Gracie was on front page of the Guardian the next day in her Dress! Not the winner of Crufts, but my Gracie! I cried with pride and Prince George got a photo and mention in the Metro Newspaper for trying Doggy Ice Cream!

After that we were invited back as Celebrity Guests year after year. Crufts will always remain one of my favourite Dog Events.

Not only are there all the Dogs Shows, stalls, activities in all the different arena's, we got to meet some our heroes, those who we have watched on TV and at Crufts since I was a child.

Here we are with Frank Kane, the one and only and a Bulldog lover. He has judged me and Gracie about 4 times now and we have always been placed, an honour to be awarded a Rosette by Frank. He fell in love with Angel and trotted her around the press office and was really happy with her.

Little did he know Angel Star was a brilliant show girl, but as soon as you touched her tail, she would spin round and tell you off, yup a Diva and thankfully she was great in photos and on TV as her Dog Show career was very short lived.



I was all star struck when we met the legend that is Peter Purves, I really did grow up with him on my TV and such a lovely friendly polite gentleman. We also Met Ben Fogle who was also charming and happy to chat for a few minutes. Talking to us about his new TV Shows coming up and we were telling him about ours and he wished us good luck and gave King as huge fuss.

Talking about Vets, we also met Marc Abraham who gave us a signed copy of his new book. He also enjoyed meeting Gracie and making a fuss of her.

A Day in The Life of A Celebrity Bulldog

We were also in the Kennel Club Crufts Magazine they wanted a story on fit Bulldogs and how I had lost 3.5 stones now I had 6 Bulldogs who had to be walked twice a day. They called it the Puppy Workout. I can seriously recommend Bulldog walking as one of the best exercises to do and enjoy. I had just lost my Mum when the puppies were born, this is why we kept 3 of them and I am so very glad we did. They helped me get through the grief and get fitter.



Angel Star was also photographed by the Dog Snapper, I think she was also in the Metro Newspaper. Definitely more of a TV Star and a Show off rather than a Show Dog.

I love watching the Show Rings, Agility and Police Dogs in the main Arenas, but one of my favourite parts is Discover Dogs, to stand there and invite people to the Bulldog Stand as well as tell people how wonderful the breed is as well as how healthy they are now and how to find a health tested puppy.

Plus let everyone cuddle my puppies and see how friendly, cute and full of character they are. The Bulldog stand is one of the busiest at Crufts and we can go completely overboard with the Union Jacks, Photos and Bunting! Pete has a fantastic Bulldog costume to draw the crowds in.



Here are some photos when I decorated the Bulldog Stand at Discover Dogs.

We did not win first prize, but maybe one day!

This is Anna Webb from BBC Radio London's (Barking At The Moon Show dedicated to Dogs) Laughing at a photo of herself and Co Presenter Joanne Good with her Bulldog Matilda from the Alan Titchmarsh TV Show, with lovely Breeder and Friend Josie Smith. I know the gals well as have been on their show, plus been part of a few phone-ins.

We had a few Celebrities visit us that year, including my dear friend who was performing there, Pippa and Buddy from Britain's Got Talent

A Day in The Life of A Celebrity Bulldog



Roy Hudd loves Bulldogs and also here is Pippa with some helpers on the day, Jackie Gee and dear friend Nadine Dauphine-Simmons. It is a crazy busy day and the bulldogs need rest and relaxation away from the fuss and noise, so we often take different shifts, am and pm. It's also fantastic to see other and rare Breeds there and find out more about them.

Many potential Bulldog owners come here for information and it is fantastic to tell them how and where to buy health tested puppies and avoid the pitfalls of buying on line.

Lady Lola's 100th Official Birthday Pawty!

My precious Lady Lola, was the only Daughter of My first Bulldog Ricky, she was so special and she lived a fantastic life until she reached, 14 years and 2 days old!

You can watch the Pawty Video Here...

[Lady Lola the Bulldogs 100th Official Birthday Party filmed by fremantle Media for Television TV - Bing video](#)

Lola's Birthday is the 12th March I miss her every day, she was my first girl and Daughter to my first Bulldog Ricky. There is a very sad story as to why we did this TV Show.

We were approached by a European TV Show Luxe Beesten to film and event for our Bulldogs. Lola's 100th Official Birthday Pawty was just the thing they wanted. They paid for all of the Pawty, so of course I went completely over the top!

A Day in The Life of A Celebrity Bulldog



We had Celebrity Guests and performers, Voices with Soul sang her Happy Birthday. We had an International Tap Dancer to entertain our guests (Dogs love tap dancing)! We had a Keith Lemon look-a-like who sang to her also an African Beats singer!

Keith Lemon transformed into the Terminator and brought out her birthday cake with a Gok Wan look-a-like! I mean, this was completely Barking Mad even by my standards!



We also had a fun Doggy pageant for her guests to make them feel special with some amazing prizes with entry fee's going to Wetnose Animal Aid.



A Day in The Life of A Celebrity Bulldog

It really was the best Doggy Pawty I have ever been to and Lola loved it, she had her own personal Reiki Master the lovely Rob Fellows, Celebrity Guests and the film crew could not stop laughing and they joined in with everything.



We had Pink and Purple Dogs, although even I draw the line at coloured Dogs! The fancy Dress outfits were brilliant from Dresses and Tutu's to Prince Charming coming along for his Lady!



The Party was full and everyone really enjoyed it but most of all the Dogs experienced new and wonderful things and could participate in the whole party. I am so glad I did this for Lola as I often watch this.

Off course the Press wanted a story on this so here are the Clips from the Daily Mail and Daily Express.

[Dog owner spends £5,000 on her beloved bulldog's '100th' birthday party | Daily Mail Online](#)

[Woman spends £5,000 on glamorous '100th birthday party' for pet bulldog | Nature | News | Express.co.uk](#)

A Day in The Life of A Celebrity Bulldog

Another date for your March Diary is St Patricks Day on March 17th. This is a fantastic opportunity to dress up your Bulldogs and get some press or enter some fancy-dress competitions.

Here are some of my favourite photo's, you just have to love a Bulldog in a fun outfit!



Your Local Press, or Dog Magazines will love these, so have fun with your Bulldog, take some great photos and send them off to the press.

Don't forget it's St Georges Day April 23rd, this really is your time to shine on Social Media and the Press, let's get more Bulldogs out there in the Media, everyone loves a Bulldog Photo or story.

I really enjoy showing off my Bulldogs and off course talking about them as well as defending the Breed.

Last month we had the news that Norway is Banning Bulldog and Cavalier Breeding. The Jeremy Vine Radio Show contacted me to put across my defence of the Bulldog.

I was hoping for a funny way with a few funny anecdotes to get my side across, but the vet from Norway was a nightmare and I had to put her in her place!

How very dare she! I have been on the Jeremy Vine Radio Show before, so he knows me and my Dogs and thankfully let me have the last rant, telling her come see the Bulldogs at Crufts and then tell me we are not breeding healthier!

A Day in The Life of A Celebrity Bulldog



The more we have happy and healthy Bulldogs in the Media the better it is, so let's share them all!

Talking about sharing! I have some amazing news that I am so excited and happy to share with you all! I would like to introduce you to ...

Lord Ronnington AKA Ronnie My new Baby Bulldog. Well, a bit of a lump rather than a Puppy! He is 11 months old and from Silver and Gold Health tested Bulldogs. I have been owned by Bulldogs for 22 years and after losing King I could not stand being without one, but covid and everything else the time was not right.

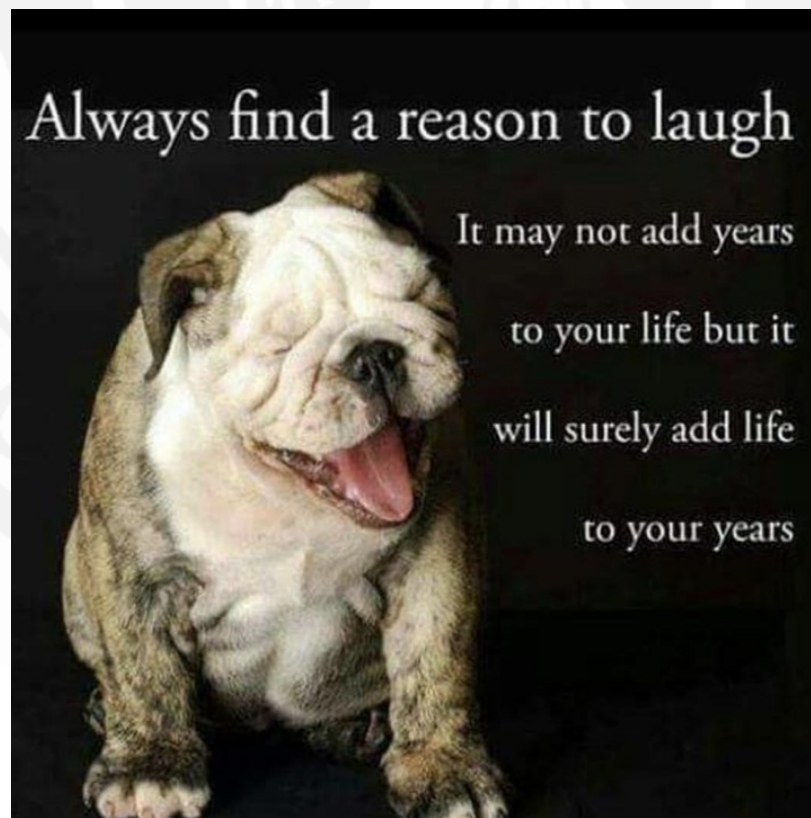
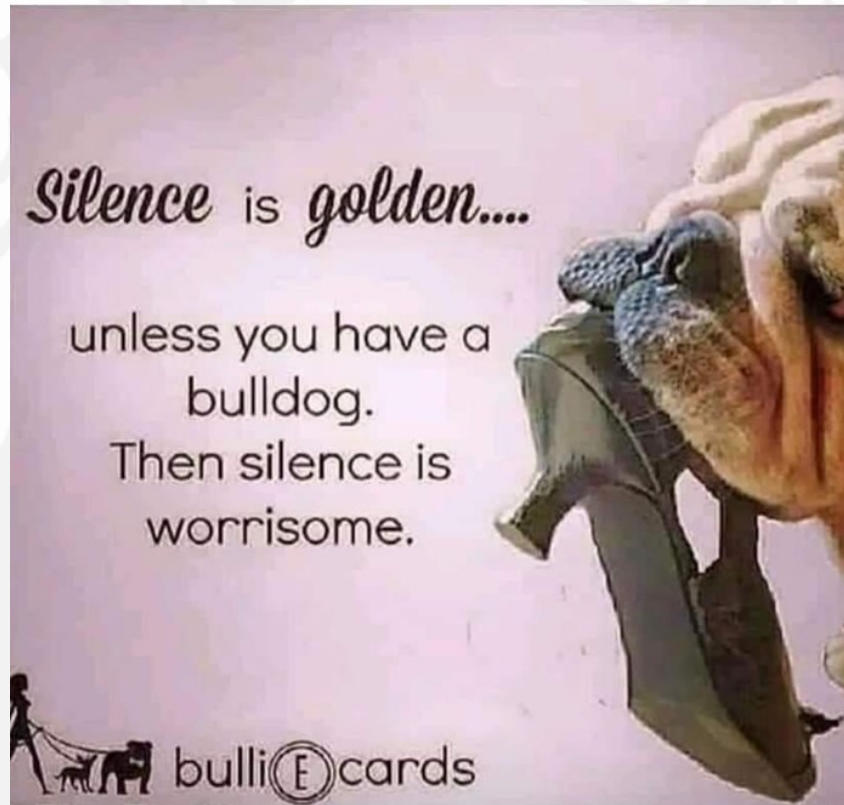
Then along came Ronnie, please say hello!

We have started Doggy Parkour at the beach, I will tell you more about that next month. I am really looking forward to sharing our fun and escapades with you in the coming months.



A Day in The Life of A Celebrity Bulldog

Until next month, I will leave you with these...



With thanks to Karen
Chamberlain for sharing
her memories

Before deciding to buy a puppy with unusual colouring, there are some things you need to know first.



THE KENNEL CLUB

Are they really rare?

No, a breeder may say these colours are rare, but this just means that the people who developed the breed preferred other colours. The term 'rare' is simply a tactic to make these breeds seem more special than others.



How much should they cost?

Your puppy shouldn't cost any more than other dogs in the breed. Unusual coloured dogs can be seen as fashionable, so just make sure the breeder cares about the puppy's **health** and future, and not just your money.



The breeder

Puppies should always be bought from a responsible breeder who registers with the Kennel Club and does everything they can to make sure that the dogs they breed are happy and **healthy**, such as a Kennel Club Assured Breeder. You need to visit the puppy at home and meet their mum, just as you would with any other puppy.



Your puppy's health & happiness

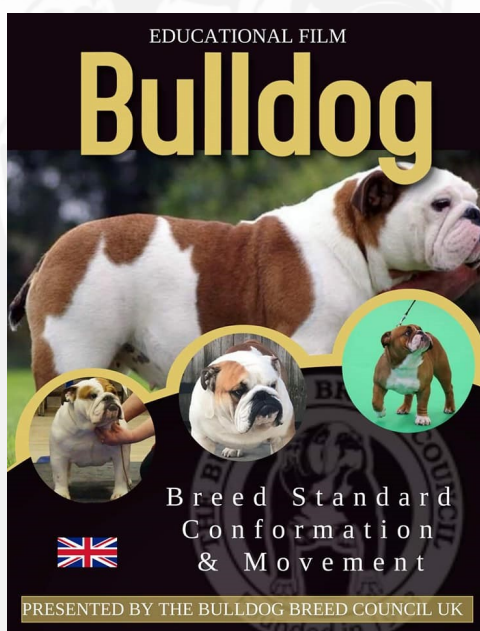
Your puppy's mum and dad should be **health** screened for the same conditions as the other mums and dads in the breed. Their **health** and temperament should always be more important than their colour.



Be sure to do your research before you buy a puppy. To find out more about a breed or about unusual colours, speak to your local breed club or visit **breedinformationcentre.org.uk**

Join the Bulldog Breed Council Education Facebook Group:

EDUCATION STATION



The Bulldog Breed Council DVD is available through the website.

An educational film explaining all the points in the Bulldog Breed Standard.

www.bulldogbreedcouncil.co.uk

Whether you wish to show your Bulldog or have him at home as the beloved pet, socialisation and training are essential.

You will probably find puppy socialisation classes advertised at your vet's surgery, so do go and have fun with other puppies.

You can find local dog training classes on the Kennel Club website www.thekennelclub.co.uk

Also, why not join your local Bulldog Club. Go to the Bulldog Breed Council website www.bulldogbreedcouncil.co.uk—under Contacts you will find the contact details of all the Club Secretaries.

BREED STANDARD BULLDOG



Undesirable/Fad Coat Colours/Patterns



Don't be fooled by unethical breeders into thinking these patterns/coats/colours are rare and more expensive. These are faults (& crossbreeds) in the BULLDOG STANDARD and should never be bred for
Bred for greed * Bred for profit

Have you ever considered Rescue and maybe rehoming a Bulldog.

We have 2 Bulldog Rescue Charities:

Bulldog Rescue and The Edward Foundation

Both of these charities do amazing work on behalf of the Bulldog Breed. Unfortunately this year, their fund raising activities have been severely disrupted due to the Covid pandemic.

For details on how to contact them, or to make a donation, please go directly to their websites.



Do you need specific advice about a condition or problem your bulldog displays?

Bulldog Rescue are putting together a Bulldog Guide, aimed primarily at those that adopt dogs from us with specific issues, it's hoped that this section of our web site will go a long way to help all bulldog owners around the world. This Free Guide will be updated with articles on a regular basis and we want to know what you want to know.

In the pipeline

- Living with an epileptic Bulldog
- Living with an incontinent Bulldog
- Our Guide to avoid your dog being stolen

What would you like to add? Just go to the Bulldog Rescue site, and let them know.