

# THE FRENCH BULLDOG GUIDE



Frenchie For Life

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# 1



## **French Bulldogs An Introduction**

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# French Bulldogs – An Introduction

French Bulldog Puppies are the other cute and lovely Bulldog breeds besides the English bulldog and American bulldog. It's a medium sized puppy that pretty cute, lovely and enjoyable.

It's a cute bulldog breed that originated from France.

If possible buy a puppy from parents that have been health tested and hold the French Bulldog Health Scheme 'Bronze' and preferably 'Silver' Certificate. The puppy should also have been checked by a vet and have had its first vaccination before you buy it. Ask to see the documentation.

Probably the worst possible way to purchase your puppy is through a Pet Shop, a Puppy Farm, Internet Sales websites, a Puppy Broker or from one of the Free Newspapers.

Most reputable breeders do not advertise, they strive to produce good health, good temperament, and good conformation. They usually have a waiting list for their puppies. This is the kind of breeder who has very likely put a great deal of time and effort into breeding and raising quality French Bulldogs and will want to give them the very best of homes.

It's best to more interested in good temperament, healthy long-lived lines, and sound structure, rather than what colour you would like your puppy to be, however whichever colour you choose it must comply with the Breed Standard.

There is no such thing as "rare" colours in the French Bulldog. If a Frenchies coat colour is anything other than the colours given in the Breed Standard then it has an undesirable coat colour which is not recognised as typical of this breed. There may be underlying health issues in these undesirable colours which we know nothing about, especially in all types of blue, mouse, chocolate, liver and black & tan colours.

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# 2



## French Bulldog General Health

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# French Bulldog - General Health

The French Bulldog, is on the whole, a fairly sound dog with a few structural problems that need to be noted and that breeders need to be aware of. Being a brachycephalic breed that is fairly short and compact with a screw tail, the “Frenchie” is prone to the associated problems these conformational characteristics will bring.

## Body

While small in size, the Frenchie is incredibly solid for its height and weight, which to the uninitiated, can be very deceptive. The breed is a miniature mollosoid (mastiff), in that a large head and solid body is called for.

The height at the shoulder relative to the bone and muscle weight ratio is phenomenal when comparing this breed to almost any other. Males ideally should weight around 14kgs, bitches around 12kg.

Despite their small stature, the strength of the Frenchie holds it in very good stead. The strength of bone and generally good ligament strength makes them quite a hardy breed, unlikely to break bones or injure themselves, even though they play fairly hard. Launching off beds and chairs even while quite young, rarely causes any damage – only heart attacks to the owners!

The French Bulldog is also incredibly agile on the whole, able to spring up on the sofas, chairs, lounges, beds etc. in a single bound – usually without having to back off and take a run at it. In play, they often jump up in mid-air, turn 180 degrees and come down facing the other direction.

Chasing and playing with bigger dogs is no problem. As they are fairly easy going, they don't generally start fights, but are quite willing to give an opinion on things they are barking at and will line up in support.

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When lifting this breed, one should be careful to shift the majority of the lift to just behind the shoulders due to the front-heavy head and chest of the breed. As they trust you totally, they are very good at throwing themselves forwards in your arms – be prepared and have them securely held at all times.

### **Temperament**

The breed was developed to be a comical and affectionate companion whether you wish to put affection before the humour is your decision!

These are incredibly easy going dogs and are very easy to live with, once the stubborn little darlings are fully house trained! They are easily spoiled rotten and are good natured enough to deal with this very well, and take it as their due. This should not however, extend to you being unable to hold them for an ear clean or nail cut – some discipline is needed, and you will need to be firm at these times – teach them early or it won't sink in.

### **Lifespan**

The Frenchie is on the whole, a reasonably healthy breed and lives between 12-16 years of age, and usually has a good old age with minimal diseases.

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# 3



## **French Bulldog Breeders Standards**

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# French Bulldog Breeders Standards

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Kennel Club website for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.

## GENERAL APPEARANCE

Sturdy, compact, solid, small dog with good bone, short, smooth coat. No point exaggerated, balance essential. Dogs showing respiratory distress highly undesirable

## CHARACTERISTICS

Full of courage, yet with clown-like qualities. Bat ears and short tail characteristic features of the breed.

## TEMPERAMENT

Vivacious, deeply affectionate, intelligent.

## HEAD AND SKULL

Head square in appearance and in proportion to dog's size. Skull nearly flat between ears, domed forehead. The skin covering the skull and forehead should be supple enough to allow fine wrinkling when the dog is alert. Well defined muzzle broad, deep and set back, muscles of cheeks well developed.

Well defined. Lower jaw deep, square, broad, slightly undershot and turned up. Nose black and wide, relatively short, with open nostrils and line between well defined. Lips black, thick, meeting each other in centre, completely hiding teeth Upper lip covers lower on each side with plenty of cushion, never so exaggerated as to hang too much below level of lower jaw.

## EYES

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Preferably dark and matching. Moderate size, round, neither sunken nor prominent, showing no white when looking straight forward; set relatively wide apart and on the same level as the stop.

### **EARS**

'Bat ears', of medium size, wide at base, rounded at top; set high, carried upright and parallel, a sufficient width of skull preventing them being too close together; skin soft and fine, orifice as seen from the front, showing entirely. The opening to the ear canal should be wide and open.

### **MOUTH**

Slightly undershot. Teeth sound and regular, but not visible when the mouth is closed. Tongue must not protrude.

### **NECK**

Powerful, well arched and thick, of moderate length.

### **FOREQUARTERS**

Legs set wide apart, straight -boned, strong, muscular and short.

### **BODY**

Cobby, muscular and well-rounded with deep, wide brisket and ribs well sprung. Strong and gently roached back. Good 'cut up'. The body while broader at the shoulders should narrow slightly beyond the ribs to give definition to the relatively short thick strong muscular loin.

### **HINDQUARTERS**

Legs strong, muscular and relatively longer than forelegs, with moderate angulation. Absolute soundness essential. Hocks well let down.

### **FEET**

Small, compact and placed in continuation of line of leg, with absolutely sound pasterns. Hind feet rather longer than forefeet. Toes compact; well knuckled; nails short, thick and preferably black.

### **TAIL**

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Undocked, short, set low, thick at root, tapering quickly towards tip, preferably straight and long enough to cover anus. Never curling over back nor carried gaily.

### **GAIT/MOVEMENT**

Free and flowing. Soundness of movement of the utmost importance

### **COAT**

Texture fine, smooth, lustrous, short and close.

### **COLOUR**

Brindle, pied or fawn. Tan, mouse and grey/blue highly undesirable. BRINDLE: a mixture of black and coloured hairs. May contain white provided brindle predominates. PIED: white predominates over brindle. Whites are classified with peds for show purposes; but their eyelashes and eye rims should be black. In peds the white should be clear with definite brindle patches and no ticking or black spots.

### **FAWN**

may contain brindle hairs but must have black eyelashes and eye rims. SIZE: Ideal weight: dogs: 12.5 kg (28 lb); bitches: 11kg (24 lb). Soundness not to be sacrificed to smallness.

### **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..

**NOTE: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.**

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# 4



## French Bulldog Vital Needs

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# French Bulldog Vital Needs

To some, a dog may just seem the same as the other one, they eat, they play, they sleep, and they leave a mess, could it get more complicated than that. Well, basically they do have the same needs, but there are still some distinct differences in every breed which can require some special attention.

Sure they all need to exercise, but there are some differences as well. So if you own a French bulldog, or is planning to own one, then you need to know what this differences are to ensure that you will have a happy French bulldog and a healthy one at that.

In this chapter, there is a vital list of the basic things that any French bulldog owner should know. This list will not only help you become a responsible owner, but also help those that are thinking about buying a French bulldog to decide whether they are ready to own one today. Here is the list of those instructions in no particular order:

## **Cool area in their home or in their garden**

French bulldogs find heat as their waterloo. Because of their oddly shaped head, French bulldogs find it difficult to dispel heat. They also have trouble breathing when it's too warm and when they are tired.

Make sure that if you live in an area with a warm climate, an air-conditioned room should be available for them. Also, your garden should have areas where shades are available where they can lunge around in not too warm days. Providing your pet with a good shelter makes him feel important and valued.

## **Have water accessible**

Water will help them dispel heat. French bulldogs tend to overheat so they need to rehydrate often. Even with just a small time spent exercising, they will soon become thirsty and panting, so have a water bowl ready inside and outside your home.

## **Exercise your French bulldog**

Unlike other dogs though, French bulldogs cannot be kept active for a prolonged period of time. They tire easily and needs short breaks from time to

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time. Walking and exercising is necessary for strength development of the dog, so dog owners usually do it twice a day.

This also helps them to dispel waste outside your home. Plus, prevent your French bulldog from overheating when walking him by doing your exercises at dawn and at night time where the sun can't bet down hard on your pet.

### **Well balanced diet**

Quality dog food should be the norm. A healthy diet will help keep your dog strong to ward off any health conditions. It will also keep your dog looking good with its coat shiny and vibrant.

### **Respect your dog**

Treat it humanely and as part of the family. Provide it with the attention it needs and spend quality time with it. French bulldogs in particular need more human attention than other dogs.

Try to spend also on dog products like chew toys and treats. A good collar will not only keep it nearby with a leash, but also help it find its way home if it gets lost.

**And finally, keep some time and money for vet visits. Your vet is your best friend and ally in keeping your French bulldog healthy and happy.**

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# 5



## Owning a French Bulldog The pros and Cons

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# Pros and Cons of Owning a French Bulldog

It's easy to see why many people, even celebrities today, have embraced the French bulldog breed as their companion or pet. They have the same character as bulldogs provide but they are smaller and more lovable.

While some may find the American Bulldog's frame and look to be scary, its miniaturized version, the French bulldog doesn't give off the same vibe. And another difference that this Frenchie has over its American counterpart is that it is more at home inside the house.

In fact, the average size of a Frenchie in its adulthood would be only about 2 feet up to its highest point. There are even types of French bulldog that are somewhat smaller. They are even lightweight as compared to other dogs, even with their stocky body, they can weigh only about 19 to 22 pounds, the bigger class weight can weigh about 22 to 28 pounds.

And like in any other purchases, you should weigh first the Pros and Cons of a product, or in this case, the dog's breed, and see if the advantages would be much better in your situation than the disadvantages.

Here are some of the pros and cons that have been noted by most French bulldog owners about their beloved pet. But remember, dogs, like humans, are individuals too and may tend to be different than the others.

So what may be a pro to one French bulldog, may not be present in another, and vice versa.

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### **The PROS**

French bulldogs are generally very intelligent and can be taught easily. They can be very good watchdogs when trained properly. They are also not excessive barker. They

they bark only when they have something to tell you and that includes having an intruder in your home. French bulldogs also have a good temper and are well behaved. They also like to hunt mice so that means you won't need a cat. Most of all, French bulldogs are great companion dogs. They are very lovable and cuddly and love to play. Because of their small stature, they don't require too much space or a big back or front yard to play or exercise.

### **The CONS**

The French bulldog can be hard headed and stubborn at times. When not trained well, a French bulldog cannot be relied on as a guard dog. Also, French bulldogs can become gassy, easily get tired and overheated, snores when asleep, and has the tendency to drool.

Plus, because of their body structure and bloodline, French bulldogs are known to be poor in swimming, get problems with breathing, and have trouble producing. They are also known for having a number of health concerns. That's why they can be quite costly and would tend to require more than normal visitations to a vet.

These are just a number of examples that one would find as advantages and disadvantages with a French bulldog. It's now up to you if you are able to cope with the cons and enjoy the pros of owning a French bulldog.

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# 6



## **French Bulldog**

### **Understanding its Character**

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# Understanding French Bulldog Characteristics

To some, it would be very understandable, that they would see bulldogs in the same light. But many dog aficionados today know that there are a variety of bulldog breeds, there's the English bulldog, the American bulldog, and of course, the French bulldog just to name a few.

Although they come from the same higher breed, there are many distinct characteristics that can be found from one sub breed that is not present from another. This is because of the different combinations of breeds that they have prior to the establishment of their own line.

SO, if you are going to purchase a French bulldog, it's not only by the way the dog looks that you can determine whether the creature is a purebred, you can also now this by their characteristics, like in the manner they keep themselves as a puppy. Although it is not inherent in all French bulldog puppies, these are the characteristics that are very notable with this particular bulldog breed.

Most first time French bulldog owners have the dog as puppies. It is rare that one would be in possession of an adult French bulldog at the start, but it does happen, especially those who have rescued them. So when you finally own a French bulldog puppy, you most probably would like to train them to make them easier to live with. For the first time French bulldog puppy owner, be warned, if you don't have a lot of patience, this is not the dog for you.

They are reluctant learners so you need to have huge patience and persistence with them. You have to develop effective and short signals to let them know what you want them to do; this should be repeatedly done every day.

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French bulldog puppies also crave attention, and lots of it. More than other dogs, they require human interaction and are psychologically let down if they don't get that much human interaction.

French bulldogs also play well with other dogs, they are not usually aggressive, but, if you have a small child that would tend to hurt the dog, this would not sit well with them. But generally, they are great companions for families as they are very lovable, playful, very affectionate, and has a pleasant behaviour.

Also, French bulldog puppies tend to sleep a lot. They try to conserve their energy. With the distinct form of their face, they find it very hard to breathe so they tend to get tired easily. So don't get frustrated if they tend to doze off after a while.

As one of the smallest in the bulldog breed, French bulldogs as puppies are generally very small, so they are very cute and cuddly, even s they go into adulthood, they don't really grow into a huge frame, their small and stocky, unlike their American cousins.

Their smooth coats also don't shed a lot so there's not much of a mess to clean up, provided you have trained them well to do their dirty deeds outside the house.

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# 7



## **French Bulldog Joint Ownership**

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# Joint Ownership of a French Bulldog

This means you and the breeder would both own him or her. Joint-ownership's are good and bad. Make sure you have a contract and ask a lot of questions; put it in **BLACK AND WHITE**.

Know your breeder and make sure you want to deal with this person for the life for your French Bulldog. You may be required to breed the dog, or let the breeder do it. You may have to breed her once or twice and give the breeder a puppy(ies), or you have to provide free stud service for the breeders bitches.

Do not enter into a joint-ownership if you think you may change your mind about what you agreed to in the beginning, the breeder may not be understanding. If you can't breed or show him or her you may have to send him or her to the breeder, do you want to lose the dog for weeks or months?

What if he/she develops a problem or an unsuitable temperament for breeding? These questions should be addressed and put in the contract before the dog leaves for his or her new home.



**Think very carefully before joint-owning a dog, put it in black and white.**

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# 8



## **French Bulldog Loan Agreements**

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# French Bulldogs and Loan Agreements

Some breeders will only sell you a bitch puppy if you agree to loan your Frenchie (when she is old enough) back to them in order that he/she (the breeder) can have a litter from her. However, this type of agreement is not common practice in the breed.

It might seem a nice idea at the time to allow your Frenchie to have puppies but remember that pregnancy and whelping in the French Bulldog may be difficult and in some cases can result in complications, as many Frenchies do not give birth naturally and require a Caesarean operation.

**The aesthetic can pose a serious risk and may in the most extreme cases result in the death of your Frenchie and the pups.**

Be very cautious about entering into this type of agreement, make sure you understand all the implications, consider the mental and physical stress your pet will suffer whilst she is away from you and do not forget that all of your Frenchies puppies will belong to the breeder, not you!

There are also people who simply bred together any male and any female and produced puppies. They do no research, so they don't know the incidence of deformities, health problems or poor temperament in their lines.

When you buy from these people, you are essentially buying generic little dogs with unknown genes.

**Remember that your decision to acquire a French Bulldog from a particular breeder will affect you (and your French Bulldog) for the next 1 to 14 years**

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# 9



## **French Bulldog Beware of Puppy Breeders**

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# Beware of French Bulldog Puppy Breeders

These are people who import litters of puppies in bulk from abroad (usually Eastern European countries), sometimes they are imported legitimately and sometimes not (smuggled in).

Brokers and dealers always advertise on the internet and in the free papers. If you see advertisements saying that the puppy has a 'Pet Passport' beware, because the puppy will have been bred abroad. The puppy should be at least 15 weeks old to comply with the legal requirements for importation.

Many have forged passports... beware. They may not have had the correct vaccinations, including the vaccination for Rabies which should only be given once the puppy is 12 weeks of age, they may have health issues, they would have travelled many hours in the back of a van in cramped conditions along with lots of other puppies, so there is a greater risk of them catching something. You will not be able to see the parents or what conditions the puppy was reared in.

A puppy from a puppy broker will have a pedigree full of foreign named dogs that have been bred and registered in another country. Puppy brokers will re-register the imported puppies with the UK Kennel Club in order that the pups have a UK Registration Document.

Many puppy brokers come across as really nice caring people but will make all sorts of plausible excuses why you cannot see the mother, beware, this type of seller has only one interest in mind, to make as big a profit as they can for themselves sadly at the expense of a helpless puppy.

**IF SOMEONE SAYS THEY CAN GET YOU WHAT EVER COLOUR OR SEX OF PUPPY THAT YOU WANT, THEN THEY ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY A PUPPY BROKER OR DEALER.**

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# 10



## **French Bulldogs And Warm Climates**

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# French Bulldogs and Warm Climates

Many dog lovers have found that French bulldogs look very lovable and find it hard to resist them. This is the reason why a lot of them would like to own one, but they don't understand that owning one requires a different approach and care from other dogs.

Aside from the unusual attention that they demand, French bulldogs should also be kept in a cooler temperature. This canine breed has unusual physical characteristics which don't allow them to adapt well to warmer climates. They are also not outdoor types of dogs.

While the unique shape of the French bulldogs head and its shortened nose makes it uniquely appealing, it also is one of the cause why they can suffer difficulty in breathing, especially in warmer temperatures. Other breeds also experience this condition and it's also known in the medical community as Brachycephalic Syndrome.

The same short snub nose that makes the French bulldog look irresistible is the same aspect that causes them to suffer from this condition. Because of their diminutive nose, the French bulldog is unable to have maximized air intake, which they need to dispel heat.

Dogs don't have sweat glands all over their body like humans do. So they pant to dispel heat from their body, with their nose, they aren't able to do so effectively, especially in warmer climates. So, if this particular breed is kept at a very warm climate and heat is no expelled from their body, this condition can result to the death of the dog.

If you live in a warm climate area and really want to own a French bulldog, then there are certain conditions that you have to consider first. Remember that the outdoors will be very hot, especially in the summertime, plus, French bulldogs are not really outdoor dogs, they are bred to be kept inside the home.

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So, monitor their outdoor activities, don't allow them to stay outside in a prolonged period of time.

If you plan to play with your dog in your backyard, make sure that there is adequate shade for you to play in, Also, make sure that fresh cool water is accessible at all times.

Overheating can result to the death of your beloved pooch. Make sure to check the humidity periodically, if the levels are high, bring your dog indoors. Keep in mind that the higher the humidity and heat, the less time the dog should spend outside, lessen their exercise and walking.

Unlike other dogs, French bulldogs should be accompanied when they venture outside the home, whether to play, exercise, or to do their business. If you notice that your Frenchie is having a hard time breathing, take him indoors immediately to cool off.

If your home is also warm, make sure that an air-conditioned area is ready for him. To help your pet overcome overheating, make sure to rinse them off in cool water and place your pooch in wet towels. Make sure not to use ice cold water as it may cause the dog to go under shock.

**This may sound too much work, but French bulldogs are definitely worth it.**

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# 11



## Stopping Your Frenchie Barking Too Much

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# Stop Your French Bulldog from Excessively Barking

Dogs bark for many different reasons. Some of these reasons are good while some can just be downright annoying. So if you have had many countless sleepless nights, constant visit from the police because of complaints from your neighbours or if you have simply had enough of all the barking making your home stressful instead of a relaxing solitude, then it's high time that you do something that will make the excessive barking stop.

Although the French Bulldog is generally known to be a quiet breed that barks only when needed, there will be times that they too will bark excessively.

French bulldogs are known to be great companions; they are very loyal but can be impatient. They will bark only when they demand attention from you, or when they play or if there are intruders in the house. But even then, they won't really bark excessively, by that I mean that when you have given in to what they want, they will stop barking already.

Some French bulldogs will go on to bark though, when this happens, you will surely become, disappointed, frustrated, annoyed, embarrassed, and this will cause an emotional strain and put a dent on your relationship.

The first step in stopping your French bulldog from excessively barking is to fully understand the cause as to why it is doing so. By determining the root cause, you can develop a training that will laser target the root cause of the problem. Remember though, if the dog is barking because it's hungry, or there is an intruder in the house, don't reprimand your dog, this will take away their natural instincts of being a good watchdog and companion.

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A dog should only bark because of the situation they are in, if the situation has changed they should stop. If not, then you have a dilemma, either the situation hasn't been fully resolved, or they have a psychological or emotional problem, or a physical discomfort.

For the latter, a visit to a veterinarian will solve the problem. For the first problems, you need to have a good training program not only to instill in your French bulldog the proper traits, but also to create a solid emotional bond between you and your pet.

There are numerous techniques one can use to stop excessive barking in French bulldogs. Some will choose to use the reward system where they provide a treat after the dog follows their command; this reinforces the notion that they have done well. Just make sure to use a firm voice and never shout at them. Be sure to also have lots of patience. It takes time to train a dog.

Some though would use electronic gadgets to help stop excessive barking, like a laser pointer or a collar specifically designed to stop excessive barking. This though would not help in creating a bond between you and your French bulldog.

**Also, remember not to hit your dog.**

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# 12



## **French Bulldog Skin problems**

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# Skin Problems on French Bulldogs

Unfortunately for our beloved French bulldogs, skin disease is a very real concern in this breed. Several types of underlying diseases can cause skin issues. Some of these are atopic (allergic) dermatitis, bacterial or fungal infections, hypothyroidism and other endocrine problems, such as Cushing's syndrome. When talking about dermatologic disorders, we must be careful to specify with which one we are dealing.

Most of these conditions are heritable, meaning they can be passed from generation to generation by the inheritance of genes that predispose the dog to developing these issues.

## **Atopic Dermatitis**

Atopic dermatitis is also referred to as allergic dermatitis or atopy. Atopy is an inherited predisposition to develop allergic symptoms to an otherwise harmless substance, or "allergen". The kinds of things that cause us to have runny noses and eyes (pollen, dust, dander, etc.) most often cause dogs to develop skin problems. Also, foods can become allergens to some dogs.

Certain protein sources, grains, vegetables, and many others can also cause a dog to exhibit allergic symptoms. These symptoms develop after repeated exposure to this allergen, rendering the dog "allergic" to it. Symptoms most often arise in animals 1-5 years of age. This helps explain why, all of a sudden, a dog that showed no signs early on, is now allergic after repeated exposure. The incidence of atopy is increasing in both animals and humans, and is most common in purebred dogs due to its inherited nature. Intradermal skin testing and/or blood testing is used to diagnose atopy.

Often times, when it is thought that a food may be the cause of the atopy, a food trial or elimination diet is tried for 6-8 weeks to see if symptoms resolve. If so, this can be considered diagnostic for a food allergy

## **Bacterial or Fungal Infections**

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Pyoderma, also known as bacterial folliculitis, is the most common type of bacterial skin infection in the dog. It is characterized by a multitude of symptoms such as skin fold infections in the face, between the toes, around the vulva in the bitch, external ear canal infections, etc.

The most common bacterium isolated from cultures of these dogs is *Staphylococcus intermedius*. This is actually a normal resident bacterium of canine skin, but under certain circumstances it can take over and cause infection of the skin in some dogs. If a dog is itchy due to atopy, and scratches, it can break the skin which then can allow microorganisms to enter and cause an infection. Usually pyodermas are secondary to underlying abnormalities of the metabolic or immune systems, i.e. allergies, skin parasites (mites, fleas) and endocrine diseases, like hypothyroidism.

There is, however, also an idiopathic primary bacterial folliculitis most common in short-haired dogs. Idiopathic means a folliculitis of spontaneous origin without an underlying abnormality. Pyodermas are not limited to bacterial origin, but can also erupt with a fungal component, such as yeast or ringworm.

### **Endocrine disorders**

Endocrine diseases such as hypothyroidism and hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's syndrome) can also result in dermatologic issues in the canine. Hypothyroidism is perhaps the most common and notable endocrine issue in the dog, and for the matter of brevity, it will be my focus here.

Hypothyroidism has an inherited form as well as a form from an unknown/undetermined origin. According to some researchers, there are dogs that inherit a genetic susceptibility to disease that attacks their own immune systems. The presence of autoantibodies in the thyroid test is considered by some researchers and breeders to be a forecaster of autoimmune lymphocytic thyroiditis, the inherited form of the disease. Breeding dogs should have their thyroid function assessed.

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# FAQs



## Frequently Asked Questions

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## **I Want A Frenchie & I Have a REALLY Good Home!**

Nothing is cuter than a Frenchie puppy, those ears, those shiny brown eyes and that gremlin-like personality. All it takes is one meeting and most of us are smitten. Well, you are thinking about adding a totally dependent, living breathing creature to your life. This is a big decision and not one to be taken lightly! You might first want to ask yourself a few questions and ponder a few realities...

### **Why a Frenchie?**

They are great companions and entertainers. They are NOT good barn dogs, exercise/running partners, and sometimes do NOT do well with other dogs or cats.

### **I want one NOW!**

Frenchies are a slightly more unusual breed and you may wait, a long time if you have your heart set on a certain age/colour/sex. Be prepared to be patient. Personally, I would be suspicious if a breeder had puppies available all the time and in any colour. I BEG of you, be patient and buy from a good breeder, someone who cares about the BREED.

### **I want to pick mine!**

With a breed like Frenchies, litter sizes are small and the breeder you are working with will probably call/email and tell you a puppy is available. With Frenchies the personality should always be loving, warm and fun.

The differences between the puppies personalities, in my experience, is relatively little. Now within that, there are bolder puppies or ones that need to be with other dogs or even some that are a bit shy. As a breeder, I spend a lot of time determining the personality of each puppy and the person she should live with.

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## **I saw a Frenchie from Russia/the Ukraine/Poland in the paper, what about them?**

Of course, we cannot lump all dogs from one country together under one umbrella of shame, but the USA has been flooded with poor quality puppies from other countries and it is a very disturbing situation. As a rule, these puppies are shipped over here at a VERY young age, sorted out to the various "brokers" throughout the country and sold. They are marketed as "more healthy, natural, free breeders, papers available," all kinds of sales oriented phrases.

These poor little dogs are NOT the same Frenchies that we have here in the USA. Our American Frenchies are usually MUCH softer and sweeter in temperament, smaller in size and as a rule easier to live with. Rescue has been flooded with Russian Frenchies - almost always due to aggression and temperament issues. These unfortunate dogs are also often sold through pet stores (another deplorable situation) by commission greedy sales people. This situation is very, very upsetting to most of us breeders that have the best interest of the French Bulldog at heart.

**The ONLY way to stop puppy brokers and importers, puppy mills and pet stores from selling dogs is to NOT BUY FROM THEM**

### **What can I expect to pay?**

Pet Frenchie puppies will probably range in price from \$2000 or so on up and that can be WAY UP - depending on sex, colour, availability, part of the country, etc. If you find a puppy markedly less expensive than this, I would wonder why! Yes, you get what you pay for and this is a ten year plus commitment, don't take chances over "saving" a couple of hundred dollars! I cannot tell you how many times I have had people tell me they have a "million dollar" Frenchie due to a bargain they found in the paper.

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### **What about newspaper and Internet classifieds ads?**

I would advise you look for a few "red flags." Does the breeder have several breeds of dogs available? Does the breeder have all colors/ages/sexes available? Does the breeder just flat seem too commercial? Does the breeder belong to any French Bulldog organizations (not belonging is not always bad - some people are just not club types)? Does the breeder seem interested in the BREED as a whole? Do they show or are dogs shown at AKC shows?

If for any reason the situation seems funny **RUN AWAY!** You will not be helping the puppy by buying it to "get it out of there" you will just be perpetuating the problem.

These are just a few tips, but in today's information saturated world, there is no excuse for saying, "I didn't know!" Take the time to find out and most importantly, **BE PATIENT!**

### **I want a Frenchie from a GOOD breeder, tell me what to do!**

Contact breeders that have either been referred to you or that you like the looks of their dogs and/or their philosophy. Please, do NOT send a one line email. "How much are your puppies?" is NOT going to get a positive response from most breeders! Tell the breeder about yourself, your home, your situation (kids, other pets, etc.) and ask a few well thought out questions. If you do not hear from them within a couple of days, please try again.

Most people in today's world are BUSY and the person that follows up just might get the perfect puppy! Personally, I just get behind and do not always get back to people as quickly as I plan to. Establish a rapport with that breeder and then ask to be put on their waiting list.

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# BONUS CHAPTERS



**1 – Garden Plants to Avoid**

**2 - Reverse Sneezing**

**3 – Introducing a Frenchie into your home**

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# 1 – Garden Plants to Avoid

## Poisonous Plants

Many house and garden-variety plants contain chemicals that if ingested in sufficient quantities, can produce toxic effects in French Bulldogs. Severe or lethal poisonings are rare; however, many plant toxins can cause discomfort. Listed below are some plant toxins that curious pets should be kept away from.

### **Plants that affect the stomach and Intestines**

- ❖ Azaleas (leaves)
- ❖ Bulbs (Tulip, daffodil, amaryllis, iris)
- ❖ Castor beans (seeds)
- ❖ Precatory beans (seeds)
- ❖ English Ivy (berries)
- ❖ Mistletoe (berries)
- ❖ Nightshade (berries)
- ❖ Walnuts (hulls from around the nut)
- ❖ Poinsettias (sap)
- ❖ Snow on the Mountain (sap)

### **Plants that cause irritation of the mouth and throat**

- ❖ Dieffenbachia or Dumb Cane
- ❖ Cut-Leaf Philodendron
- ❖ Philodendron
- ❖ Alocasia or elephant Ears
- ❖ Calis Lily

### **Plants that affect the skin and nerves**

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- ❖ Stinging nettles
- ❖ Tobacco
- ❖ Japanese Yew
- ❖ Morning Glory

### **Plants that affect the blood and circulation**

- ❖ Oleander (Extremely toxic)
- ❖ Yellow Glove or Yellow-Be-Still Tree
- ❖ Foxglove
- ❖ Chokecherry (pits and barks)



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## 2 - Reverse Sneezing

Reverse sneezing is a common phenomenon in Frenchies, however this is a misnomer, for it has nothing to do with actual sneezing. It is a popular term for something that appears far worse than it actually is.

In a regular sneeze, your dog pushes air through the nose; in a reverse sneeze air is pulled rapidly into the nose. The actual physiology is that the trachea has narrowed and the normal amount of air is not able to enter the lungs. The triggering mechanisms are usually excitement or stress.

The predisposition to this is thought to be hereditary, particularly in smaller breeds because of the decreased diameter of their tracheas. The exact reasons for these episodes are unknown but may be related to allergies, nasal irritants or nasal inflammation.

### When Reverse Sneezing Occurs

- ❖ Your dog will appear to be snorting or choking.
- ❖ Your dog will make rapid and long inspirations and will struggle to take in air.
- ❖ He will stand still with his elbows spread apart, extend his head and his eyes will bulge.
- ❖ He will make a loud snorting sound, which makes you think he has something caught in his throat.
- ❖ Each Sneezing episode usually last for one or two minutes.

**Do Not Panic!**

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If this happens to your dog, A reverse sneezing attack may look disturbing - many people fear that their dog is not breathing during these episodes - but it is not a harmful condition and there are no ill effects. Reverse sneezing attacks are generally quite brief and not life threatening.

Episodes can be stopped, if the dog is stimulated to swallow by either massaging the throat or briefly pinching off the nasal openings.

You can also help your dog by soothingly stroking the upper throat area to encourage relaxation and dilation of the trachea.

If your dog occasionally has this; do not worry that you need to be there to help each time it happens. A dog is able to come out of an attack of reverse sneezing without help and will not suffer permanent damage.



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## 3 – introducing a frenchie into your home

Frenchie's are social animals by nature. However, introducing a new French Bulldog into a home with another dog present is not always easy. Factors that have an effect on the success of an introduction include a dog's early life experiences and appropriate socialisation in puppyhood.

Introducing puppies gradually and calmly using rewards to all species which he will later encounter certainly helps introductions to dogs and other animals later in life.

Attending suitable puppy socialisation classes is commonly thought to be very valuable for improving later dog behaviour and can help to reduce the incidence of dog-dog behaviour problems should you decide to introduce a new dog later on.

Whether you have had your current dog from a puppy or acquired him as an adult, it is important that you introduce a new French Bulldog to your family carefully. Introductions can be tense for both you and your dog/s, so appropriate procedures should be followed to minimise stress.

The following show two different procedures that can be used to get your dog's acquainted with each other.

### Preparing for the Introduction

- ❖ Scent is an important method of communication for dogs. You can help to integrate the new French Bulldog into your home by ensuring that he smells of "home" before being introduced to your current dog.
- ❖ To do this, gather scents from the new dog's head by gently stroking with a soft cloth and dabbing this around your home and furniture to mix and spread the scents. You may also wish to swap the bedding of your animals to enable them to smell each other prior to meeting.

### Introducing your Dogs for the First Time

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- ❖ It is best to introduce dogs on neutral territory - a good suggestion is to take the dogs out for a long walk together. The interest of the walk will make the introduction less intense and they can all get to know each other as they walk. At least two people should walk the dogs to ensure safety at all times.
- ❖ Keep the dogs on longer leads (e.g. 1.5m length) when they are walking so that you are not too close if squabbling between the dogs occurs. If squabbling does occur, walk the dogs away from one another and re-introduce when they are both calm and relaxed.

Usually introductions go smoothly and the new dog is treated, and acts, like a visitor. The relationship between dogs is sorted out during the first few weeks and disagreements are possible during this time.

If introductions are unsuccessful or you are having difficulty, ask your vet to refer you to a suitably qualified animal behaviourist. They will check both dogs over first to make sure there are no underlying injuries or illnesses.

Puppy class trainers and animal behaviourists should have a combination of appropriate qualifications, up to date knowledge, skills and experience and should work in a way which doesn't put the welfare of your animal at risk.

### **Introducing two dogs to each other**

- ❖ FIRST STEP is to have two cages in separate areas of the home (or one cage and a laundry room); this is vital in allowing for a stress free meeting. The reason we allow both of the dogs to have their own cage is for the feeling of comfort and security. We use the cage as a training tool; the dog however uses it for security.
- ❖ It is very important that the dogs do not make visual contact during this sensitive FIRST STEP. We cannot let them see one another, but we will let them smell each other. This will be done by simply placing a toy, tug, or even a blanket in their cages. These toys are called "scent articles". The

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switching of these scent articles alone will allow a deeper relationship between the dogs. We are completely communicating to the dogs by the way they understand... through their nose!

- ❖ SECOND STEP we will be to let our new dog roam around the house. He will be getting accustomed to his new home and his new owners. Your older dog should be out of harm's way (under your control and out of sight) when the new dog is out of his cage.
- ❖ The newcomer will be exploring your home while leaving his scent on a territory that is not initially his.
- ❖ The new dog should only be out of his cage for fifteen to twenty minutes, several times a day. This is plenty of time for him to check out his new environment and leave his own scent about the house. ( As you will see, later on after the introduction period is over and the dogs are comfortable with each other's scent, they no longer have to be separated. The new dog might need his own cage for other behavioural training not associated with the introduction period, for example, housebreaking a younger dog.) When the new dog goes back in his cage place the old dog's scent articles with him.

### **When playtime is over for the new dog**

- ❖ The THIRD STEP is to switch the dogs. This means that the new dog goes to a confined area and the old dog is allowed to play. The old dog comes out of the hidden crate and the new dog goes into his own cage (or room).
- ❖ The first time the old dog goes exploring he will vigorously explore the scent left around the home by the new dog until he is satisfied the intruder has "escaped". Your older dog might be overwhelmed and confused and now needs your comfort. Allowing him to sit on your lap or by your side through a good book or a rerun of Lassie will serve as the quality time he needs during this scent discovery period.

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- ❖❖ For the old dog to understand the new smell, he should be let out of the cage as many times a day as possible
- ❖❖ The old dog should only be let out after the new dog has played, and has been put away. With these short routines, both dogs are familiarizing each other at a faster rate.
- ❖❖ Actually, the concept is quite simple. The more times you let your new then old dog out, the quicker they will be acquainted. Your older dog will display his permission as to when the two should meet. When he comes out of the cage and does not follow the scent of the new dog, your older dog has given his permission.
- ❖❖ NOW THE NEW DOGS CAN MEET FACE TO FACE, since they are familiar and comfortable with one another's scent.
- ❖❖ The FOURTH STEP is to introduce the dogs face to face.
- ❖❖ For territorial reasons, when introducing the dogs it should not be on your property. A neighbour's fenced in yard, a fenced in ball field (when no other dogs or people might interfere), or any other fenced in area will be an appropriate meeting ground. Leashes may not take the place of a fenced in area; holding the leashes may potentially bring out aggression.
- ❖❖ If possible, let the old dog run around the field, while the new dog is out of sight. The old dog is laying the now familiar scent.
- ❖❖ Now it is time for the new dog to play in the field.
- ❖❖ The old dog is out of sight and the new dog also smells the familiar old dog's scent. They will both detect the familiar scent just like in the home. Since the dogs have already been formally introduced via each other's scent, they are ready to meet face to face. The area is safe because they

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are confined and cannot run away. The dogs will run over to greet each other, smell, posture... and they will not have any inclination to fight.

This outlined routine has demonstrated a stress free and safe way to introduce new dogs. A dog's sense of smell is considered by many as its primary sense. Therefore, this training is based entirely upon the scent.

This method will easily work with trained or misbehaved dogs. We are working hand in hand with the dog's natural instincts. Allowing the dog's instincts to teach the lesson will make learning simple yet efficient.

**Thank You For Reading This Ebook!**

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