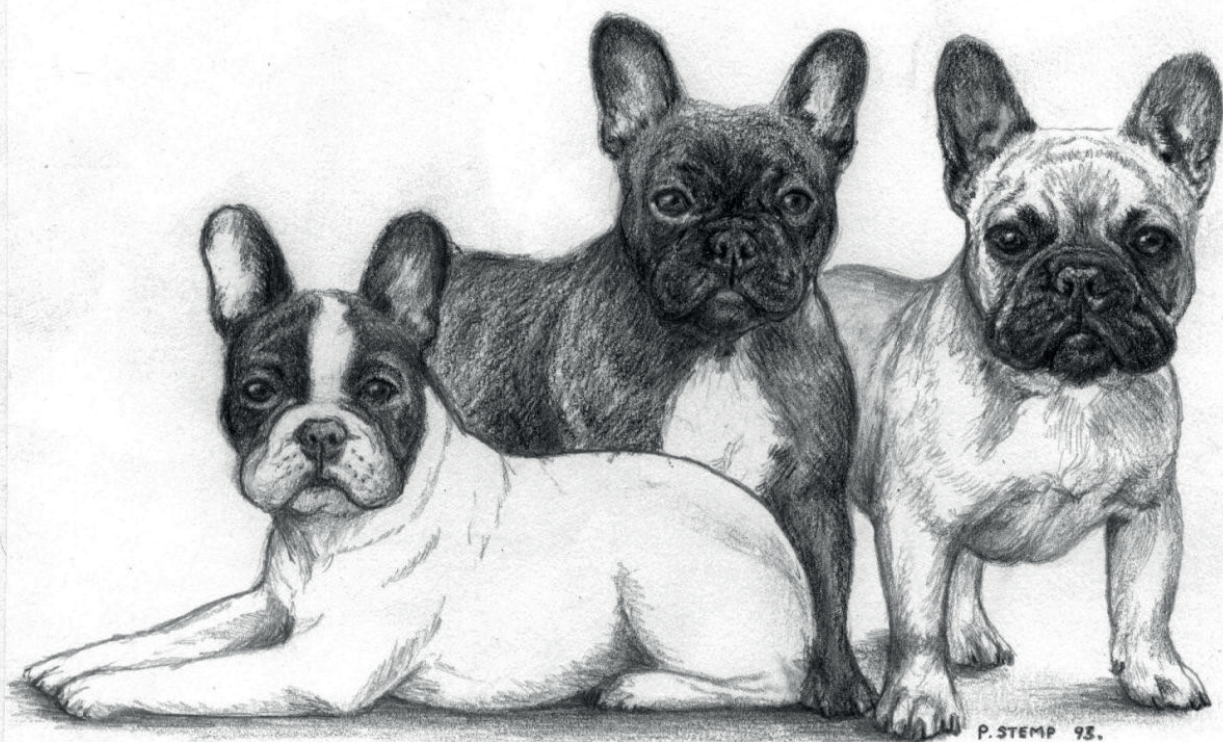


BAT EARS



MIDLAND & NORTHERN COUNTIES
FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB
MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2024



Note from the Editor;

Welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of Bat Ears.

Our Club magazine is the perfect platform to promote health testing in French Bulldogs. All members of the Club and breeders need to be invested in protecting our beloved dogs, there really is no excuse not to be health conscious.

The RKC have made the decision to return French Bulldogs from Level 2 to Level 3 of Breed Watch. They feel French Bulldogs have several areas of concern, this is a backward step when more breeders and owners are health testing their dogs. More information is in Vanessa's Health Update.

One bit of positive news is the downward trend in breed registrations so far this year.

The last few years has seen the passing of several stalwarts of the breed. With their passing the breed as a whole has lost so much knowledge and information.

We still have longstanding breeders and exhibitors active who have contributed greatly to our breed. I thought it would be interesting for members to gain some insight into these important kennels, starting with "Kingrock", owned by Messrs Chris Thomas and Graham Godfrey. I hope you enjoy their article.

This newsletter is produced for all members, whether pet owners, breeders and/ or exhibitors. Your input is valued. If you wish to submit an article, or have a suggestion for a topic to be covered please contact me at the email address below.

That's all for now, enjoy your French Bulldogs and Bat Ears.

Angela McInnes

batearsmncfbc@gmail.com

Disclaimer:

Please note that opinions expressed in Bat Ears may be those of contributors to the magazine and are not necessarily those of the Editor, Officers or Committee.

With the Editor or other members of the Committee reserving the right to edit within limits to ensure the intent is still portrayed, or reject any articles not deemed appropriate for publication in Bat Ears.

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Message From the Club Secretary – David Spencer

Once again I am grateful to have the opportunity to write this message and repeat my thanks to Angela McInnes for all the work she puts into producing Bat Ears twice a year

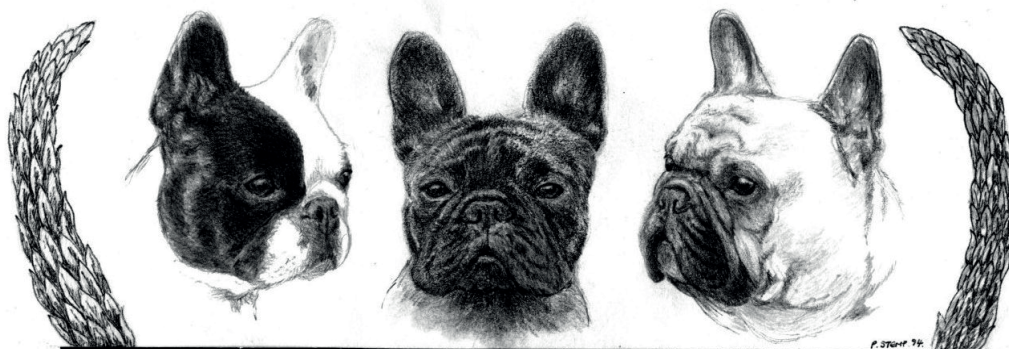
As in previous messages I would like to start by mentioning the number of registrations of French Bulldogs. The number of Frenchie registrations continues to drop from the record numbers seen during lockdown. At the time of writing this message the latest recorded registrations available are for the first quarter of this year. French Bulldog registrations for that period were 4195, for the same period last year the registrations were 8353 almost 50% reduction. For the complete Utility group, the reduction is 39%. However, the number of non-breed standard colours contained in the above French Bulldog figure for this quarter is 3226, a staggering 77% of registrations. We together with the two other French Bulldog clubs continue to lobby the Kennel Club regarding the registration of non-recognised colours in our breed.

This year, as you know, we were allowed to add another Championship Show to our annual calendar and we now have two Championship shows and two Open Shows each year. The committee obviously wanted to take full advantage of this opportunity, however we had to be mindful of the ever-increasing costs involved in arranging shows particularly for the venue hire. The committee decided therefore that a new strategy should be adopted. The first change was that the additional Championship show would be held in partnership with the Birmingham National Dog Show, this was held in May. It worked well and there was a great atmosphere around the benches with the club providing a buffet, however a few lessons were learnt, and some changes will be implemented next May. The second change was that the winter Open show would now be run alongside our September Championship Show. One further change for next year is that our annual Easter Sunday Open show has had to be re arranged as another French Bulldog event is now scheduled for the same date. The Open show will now be held on Sunday 2nd March, which is the weekend before Crufts, ideal for a final practice before the big day

I would like to end by repeating this from the last issue of Bat Ears *It is important that we as a club truly represent French Bulldog lovers and I would therefore kindly ask all members to promote the club and help recruit new members whether it be by word of mouth, paying for a years membership with each puppy sold or if you have your own ideas it would really be appreciated. Membership forms are available on our website or by emailing myself at honsecmncfbc@gmail.com or from our treasurer at hontreasurmncfbc@gmail.com*

Finally, a big thank you to all our members for continuing to support the club and the committee

David



**Midland & Northern Counties
French Bulldog Club.**

Officers and Committee 2024

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Mrs Maureen Bootle, Mrs Wendy Henderson, Mr Peter Kendrick.

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Mr Peter Kendrick

Vice President

Vacant

Chairman

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Vice Chairman

Mr Richard Mavro – Michaelis 01535 652057

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Mr David Spencer honsecmncfbc@gmail.com

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Honorary Treasurer

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Mrs Rebecca Cassidy, Mr Gareth Hickin (07843309090), Mrs Angela McInnes (07707239434)

Ms Dawn Smith (07814007597), Mrs L Poulson (01782 316945) Ms Olivia Timms (07770510561),

Ms S Wilkinson, (Cup Steward) (07530551577)

Judges Sub Committee

Mr D Cund*, Ms A Cund*, Mrs A McInnes*

Mr R Mavro Michaelis, Mrs R Cassidy.

*Denotes awards Challenge Certificate's in French Bulldogs.



Brynmor Jones

Brynmor Jones, known to all as Bryn, recently sadly passed away after a long illness. Bryn was a very active member of the club and could always be seen at our shows, often helping in the kitchen or showing in the ring

Bryn along with his partner Peter Kendrick, our Club President, had been a club member for almost 40 years having entered the breed with their first French Bulldog in 1986 which was bred by Ann Cottrell from the famous Quatt Kennel.

Under the affix Acirema, Bryn together with Peter showed and bred various breeds including Pugs, Pekinese, American Cocker Spaniels, and of course French Bulldogs. However French Bulldogs were always his favourite and over the years, together with Peter, achieved great success in the ring making up a number of Champions

Outside of the dog world, in his younger days, unknown to many, Bryn was a keen horseman and competed and had success in many competitions, his favourite discipline being Show Jumping

Bryn will be sadly missed by his many friends both within the breed and the dog world generally.

David Spencer.

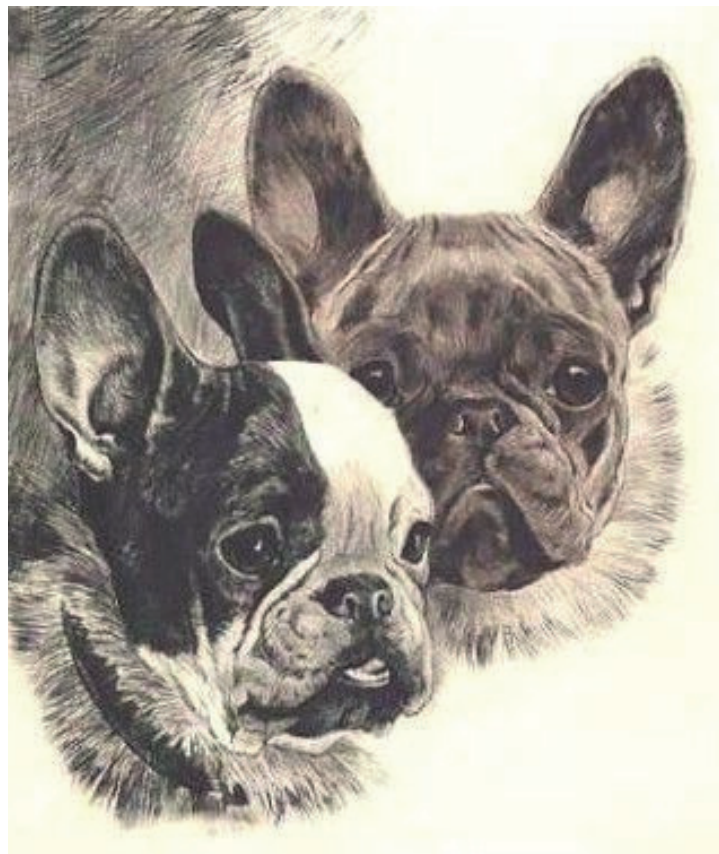
HEALTH MATTERS

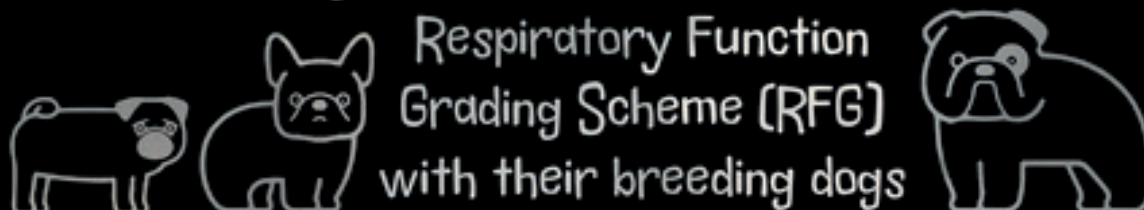
Why do we need to health test our French Bulldogs?

This article was written for Bat Ears before the RKC contacted French Bulldog Breed Clubs.

- We want to breed a healthy dog and improve the quality of our breed.
- We want to encourage breeding practices that put the health and welfare of dogs first.
- Being guilty of normalising health issues is a concern.
- Breeders are now able to use health screening schemes to find out if their dogs are affected by breed specific health issues.
- There is no need to breed blindly.
- Regular screening will help you understand more about your dog's risk of developing these issues.
- There are 215 dog breeds recognised by the RKC, there are 396 inherited disorders known in pedigree dogs.
- DNA testing exposes single gene disorders which makes them manageable when used with current testing schemes.
- Genomic selection builds on estimating a breeding value – a prediction of trait values of the offspring that an animal will have. This is based on the measurements of the animal itself and it's relatives.
- Genotypes are the positions of a dog's DNA sequences in order to predict the corresponding phenotypes, i.e. unique observed characteristics.
- With pedigree information in breeding programmes to try and maintain genetic diversity, while also reducing the number of inherited disorders in pedigree dogs.
- As a breeder you will experience disappointments , remember it is for the health benefit of the dog.
- Raising health awareness in breeders should be backed up by show judges. Their first priority should be to promote functionally healthy dog

More information can be read in the RKC article “**Understanding Canine Genetics**”, found on the website.





Imagine if all of our breeders did the
Respiratory Function
Grading Scheme (RFG)
with their breeding dogs

And then they stopped breeding
the ones that scored 3



They were very careful
with the ones that scored 2



And they happily bred the dogs
that scored 0 or 1



And then they did the testing again with
the next generation at 12 months or over



And over time the breathing of all these dogs improved greatly

Support
breeders
that are doing
the RFG

It makes sense
and it is possible
**BREED BETTER
BREATHE BETTER**



*There is no
excuse*

Health Matters

Following on from my update in the last edition of Bat Ears, I can confirm that the Royal Kennel Club held our annual meeting to discuss the updates for our Breed Health & Conservation Plan this month. The invitation was open to all clubs and our Breed Health Co-ordinator Dr Laura Hamilton.

Part of the discussions surrounded the Action Plan for our breed included in the Play Your Part report released last September.

As mentioned previously there will be Crufts entry requirements for the three breeds covered by the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme (RFGS).

Although the criteria is yet to be completely finalised (It's due to be announced in September), during our meeting it was implied that it will take the following form.

Crufts Entry Criteria

All dogs entering Crufts 2025 which are born prior to 1/1/2025 will have to have an RFG Grade of 0,1 & 2 to compete in March.

Dogs born before 1st January 2025 will have to upload their current RFG grade and certificate expiry date to Fosse Data prior to entering or with entry, these will then be approved by the Kennel Club and once approved your entry will be accepted. No certificates that have past the expiry dates will be accepted for entry and no Grade 3 dogs will be allowed to enter.

RFG tests are only valid for a maximum of 2 years, an expiry date is always shown on your result certificate issued by the assessor. I would actively encourage anyone with certificates that expire anytime prior to Crufts in March, to look to get retested at one of the many assessors shown on the RKC website. The list is ever expanding, but Dr Laura Hamilton has kindly offered to break her maternity leave to attend FBCE's STAG event for health testing to help those that need new tests and regrading.

For dogs born after 1st January and turning one before 7th March, we were initially advised that a test would not be required to be uploaded to Fosse Data with entry, as the dogs are too young to be tested prior to the entries closing. However there does appear at this date to be confusion as to whether they will need to have a valid certificate to compete. I hope to have more details I can release as soon as the official announcement is made.

There will be testing available at Kennel Club Building Stoneleigh for 2 days prior to Crufts (Wednesday and Thursday) and assessors available at NEC on the Friday (day of competition).

Breed representatives have expressed concern in relation to the limited testing window for young dogs to enable them to complete testing prior to the 7th.. But I do think that it is more likely than we were first lead to believe, that those dogs born between 1st January and 6th March will need to have grading prior to competing in their classes. How this logistically will work will depend on the final announcement to breed clubs.

Next month there are also changes being announced to Breed Watch and there may be changes to the list of Category 2 and 3 Breeds. All Category 3 breeds require a vet check prior to competing in the Groups or being confirmed a Champion. There may well be changes for our breed and again it's WATCH THIS SPACE.

Vanessa Bryant – Breed Health Scheme Administrator 27/8/24

RKC Points of Concern for French Bulldogs.

Dear Breed Club Secretary & Breed Health Co-ordinator,

This communication has been sent to all Breed Club secretaries and your Breed Health Co-Ordinator, Laura Hamilton.

As you may be aware, The Kennel Club has undertaken a comprehensive review of Breed Watch with the aim of enhancing and evolving the initiative to ensure it's effective in monitoring, protecting, and improving the health and welfare of dogs. As a crucial part of this project, all Breed Watch breed-specific points of concern (POC) have been reviewed, and their wording has been standardised across all breeds.

The points of concern for the French Bulldog have been standardised, and the following wording has been agreed upon by the Breed Standards and Conformation sub-group. This communication serves as an information update, following the completion and finalisation of the points of concern review for your breed. These updates are scheduled to be implemented in September 2024. We hope you find the revisions appropriate, however, should you have any concerns please bring these to our attention by Sep 1, 2024. It is important to highlight that the committee retains the right to add or remove points of concern as deemed necessary to protect the breed.

Moving forward, Breed Watch will be integrated into our broader Breed Health and Conservation plans, which will now incorporate the review of POC. This inclusion ensures a more comprehensive and collaborative effort towards breed health.

Points of Concern for the French Bulldog

- Incorrect hind conformation and/or poor rear movement
- Signs of respiratory difficulty or distress (laboured or rapid breathing, excessive respiratory effort, respiratory noise)
- Signs of dermatitis irritation in skin folds, and/or hair loss or scarring from previous dermatitis
- Excessively undershot jaw
- Tail too short to cover the anus, screw tail, inverted tail or a tight tail
- Pinched nostrils
- Protruding eyes

Please be aware, the Judges Health Monitoring form, is also undergoing a thorough review. The upcoming revisions will not only encompass breed-specific points of concern but will also place a significant emphasis on general health and conformation expectations applicable to all breeds. The new form will present all points of concern within the context of the respective breed standards, ensuring a more detailed and breed-specific evaluation. We are also undertaking a review of all breed categories and hope to update all breeds in September, the full criteria for reclassification can be found attached for your reference.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Letter received July 2024 from the KC Health Scheme Manager.

Breed Watch classification guidance

The Kennel Club acknowledges that some breeds may be found to exhibit health concerns that arise as a result of exaggerated conformational issues. Where this has been brought to the attention of the Kennel Club, this may lead to the breed being re classified within “Breed Watch”. Breed Watch serves as an 'early warning system' to identify points of concern for individual breeds. The primary purpose of Breed Watch is to enable anyone involved in the world of dogs, but in particular dog show Judges, breeders and exhibitors to find out about any current conformational concerns.

Criteria for classification of category three breeds

The below guidance outlines how breeds are classified as category three on Breed Watch. Breeds will be reviewed **every three years** by the Breed Standards and Conformation Sub-group, breed engagement will take place as part of the breed health and conservation plans meetings. A category three breed will have one or more of the following concerns associated with the breed;

1. Conformational features with health and welfare issues associated with exaggeration.
2. Low uptake of conformation related health screening.
3. Judges health monitoring forms – concerns raised.
4. High public profile with the need to demonstrate good health within show population.
5. Multiple points of concern on Breed Watch.
6. Temperament concerns associated with extreme anxiety, timidity and/or aggression.
7. High registration figures including high numbers of dogs involved in showing.

A category three breed may have some or all of the above concerns. Other factors will be considered in regard to category three breed classification, the Breed Health and Conservation Plan for the breed will be the evidence based used to consider any of data and information when reviewing breed classifications.

Criteria for classification of category two breeds

Category two breeds are those who have at least one point of concern for the breed. To become a category two breed the Kennel Club will have received a number of reports from judges relating to a specific point of concern.

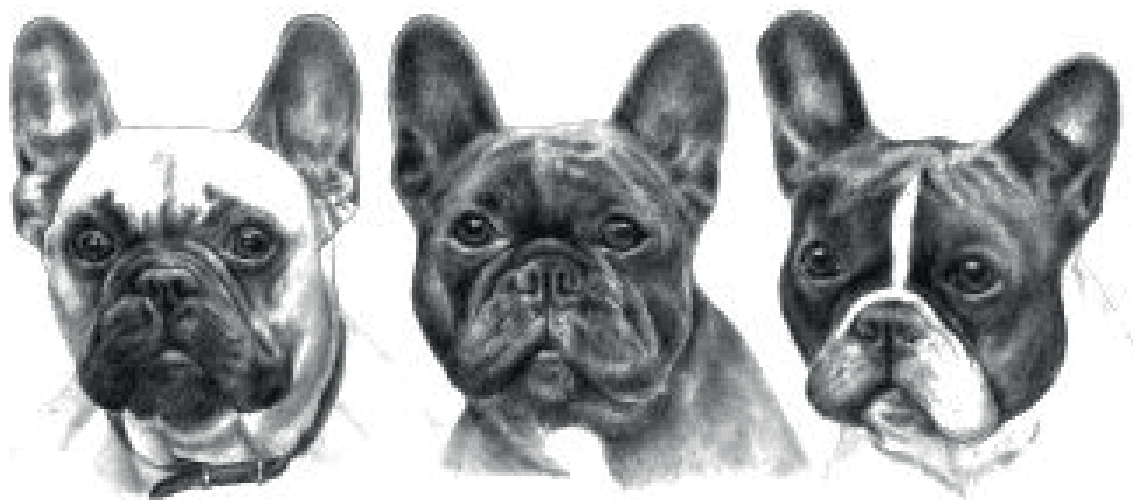
Judges' health monitoring forms will be reviewed each quarter and decisions made on points of concern will be considered annually. Breeds will be contacted should the Kennel Club wish to add a point of concern for the breed and add the breed to category two on Breed Watch.

Breeds can request for a point of concern to be added for their breed by writing to the Breed Standards and Conformation Sub-group at health@thekennelclub.org.uk

Definition of categories

- 'Category 3 Breed' – A breed designated by the Kennel Club Board as requiring particular monitoring by reason of some dogs having visible condition(s) or exaggerations which may cause health or welfare concerns, and which may lead to pain or discomfort. Best of Breed Veterinary Health Checks are required at general and Group Championship Shows and to confirm Champion Title.

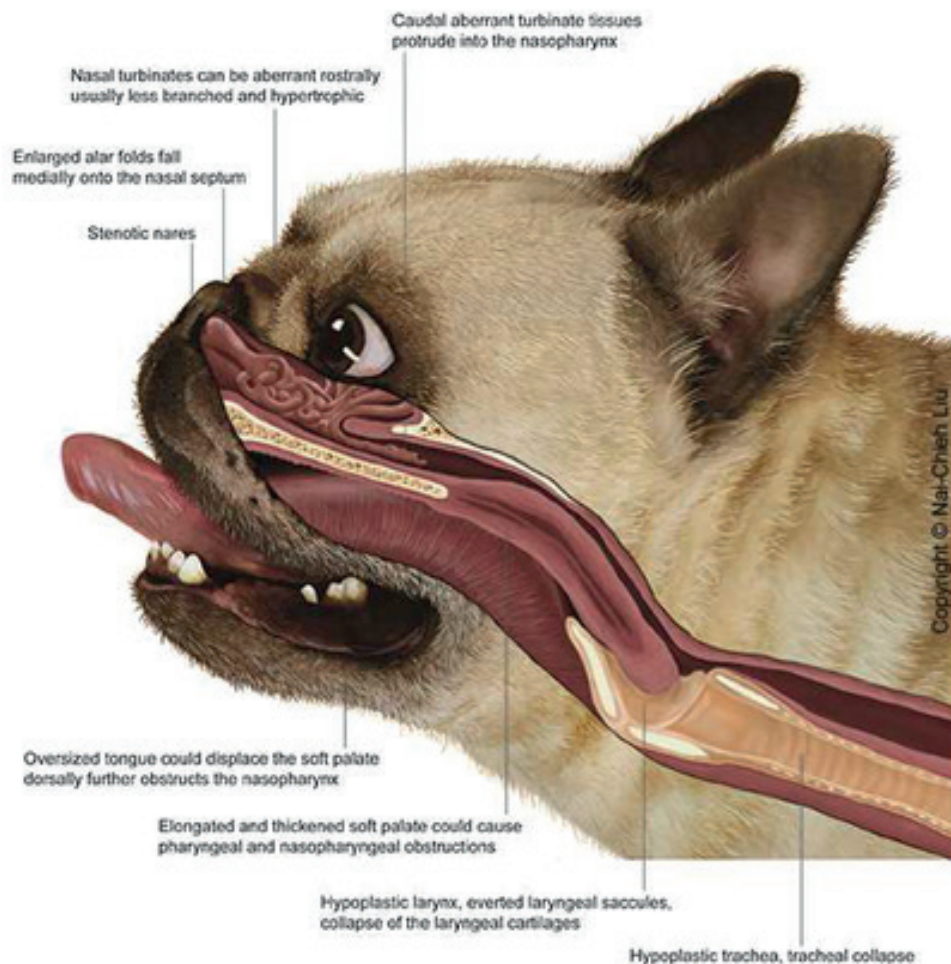
- ‘Category 2 Breed’ – A breed designated by the Kennel Club Board as having points of concern, by reason of visible condition(s) which may have potential to cause health or welfare concern, and that have been reported by judges. Points of concern highlighted are required to be monitored by mandatory reporting by judges.
- ‘Category 1 Breed’ – A breed with no apparent health or welfare concerns



Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS)

BOAS

A huge thank you to the Cambridge BOAS research unit for allowing this to be reproduced in Bat Ears.



Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome, also known as BOAS, refers to a number of different anatomical and functional problems that cause breathing problems in certain breeds of dog. These problems include narrow nostrils, overcrowded tissue in the nose cavity, an overly long soft palate, collapse of the larynx and narrowed lower airways (trachea and bronchi). Pugs, French bulldogs and English bulldogs are the most commonly affected breeds in the UK.

Clinical signs

Dogs with BOAS will frequently show increased breathing noise and effort, particularly when they are excited or exercising. Exercise intolerance, heat intolerance and disturbed sleep may also be noticed.

Some dogs will also regurgitate frequently. Clinical signs will often progress with time, and can potentially lead to life-threatening breathing difficulties and collapse in the most severely affected dogs.

Diagnostic investigations

At the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital (QVSH), brachycephalic dogs referred for investigations of BOAS will initially undergo the following non-invasive tests:

Clinical examination in the consultation room – a stethoscope is used to listen to the upper and lower airways to help detect abnormal breathing noises.

Functional grading – if we feel it is safe to do so, a 3-minute trotting test will be performed to see how a dog's breathing changes with exercise. A severity score from 0 to 3 will be assigned to the dog.

Whole-body barometric plethysmography – a specialized chamber (image below) is used to determine the severity of airway obstruction and a BOAS index is calculated (0-100%, where 100% is the most severe). This is particularly useful to detect BOAS in dogs with milder clinical signs, however it also allows us to determine how individual patients respond to surgery. Some patients may not settle in the chamber sufficiently to allow an index to be calculated.



If the above tests are suggestive of clinically significant BOAS, the following are usually recommended:

Airway examination under anaesthesia – this allows the soft palate and larynx to be visualised.

CT scan of the head, neck and chest – the nose cavity, soft palate, larynx, lower airways and lungs are all assessed in fine detail. This allows common problems such as overcrowding of the nose cavity, narrowing of the lower airways and aspiration pneumonia to be diagnosed. CT also allows us

to detect less common problems (e.g. masses and abnormal skull structure) which may be contributing to airway obstruction in certain patients.

Rhinoscopy – insertion of a small camera into the nose cavity (image below) allows more accurate assessment of certain nasal structures than CT alone



A tailor-made plan for surgery is developed according to the findings of these tests. In most cases surgery will proceed under the same anaesthetic.

Surgery

BOAS surgery may comprise:

Soft palate shortening +/- thinning

Tonsil removal

Nostril widening

Laryngeal procedures

Laser turbinectomy- this is often performed during a separate surgical procedure to the above

Radio frequency ablation - tissue volume reduction of the soft palate or tongue base

Many dogs referred to the QVSH for BOAS surgery will be undergoing investigations and surgery for the first time. However, we also accept referrals for dogs who have undergone surgery elsewhere already, but whose clinical signs have persisted. In many cases these dogs will need some further 'conventional' surgery, with or without laser turbinectomy, and it may be that this is done in one or two procedures depending on the amount of surgery required.

Hospitalisation

We recommend that all dogs undergoing BOAS surgery remain in our ICU for at least one night after surgery. Patients are closely monitored for the development of complications, and injectable medications and specialist nursing care are provided to optimise a patient's recovery.

Although surgery aims to improve airway obstruction, soft tissue swelling can occur with surgical manipulation and this may result in temporarily worsened breathing. Rarely a temporary

tracheostomy tube may need to be placed. Other complications of anaesthesia and surgery include regurgitation, which can lead to aspiration pneumonia, premature breakdown of the suture line in the soft palate, bleeding from the surgical sites, infection of the nose cavity and the development of eye ulcers.

Aftercare

Medications: a number of different medications may be dispensed after surgery to reduce pain, airway swelling and to help reduce regurgitation severity. Antibiotics may be required if a dog has aspiration pneumonia, or if they undergo the laser turbinectomy procedure.

Diet: all dogs undergoing BOAS surgery should be fed a soft diet (i.e. canned dog food or thoroughly soaked kibble) for at least 2 weeks afterwards. Small portions should be fed more frequently than normal and dogs must not be exercised within an hour of feeding. A specially formulated diet may be recommended if regurgitation is frequent.

Exercise: dogs should have short walks, using a harness rather than a neck collar, for the first month after surgery. During the first 2 weeks, walks should be short for toileting only; thereafter, assuming no breathing difficulties, the length of walks can be increased back to normal. Long-term, exercise during warm weather must be avoided.

Play: hard chews / toys are not allowed for at least 2 weeks after surgery whilst the tissues heal. Boisterous play should be discouraged during this time also.

Weight management: it is important that dogs affected by BOAS remain lean as fat deposits around the airways can further restrict air flow.

Nebulisation: this helps to loosen secretions in the upper airway, particularly the nose, after surgery and is particularly useful for dogs undergoing the laser turbinectomy procedure. Hand-held, portable nebulisers can be used for the first few days after surgery to optimise recovery; these can be bought online or at local pharmacy stores.

Follow-up checks: we advise a follow-up assessment at the QVSH 8-12 weeks after surgery, at which time functional grading and plethysmography will be repeated to assess the response to treatment. Please phone to book this appointment if a date is not given at time of discharge. The cost for the recheck appointment and repeat assessment is approximately £240.

Prognosis

Most dogs undergoing BOAS surgery will have reduced breathing noise and effort, improved exercise and heat tolerance and better sleep quality after surgery. Regurgitation may also reduce in frequency. However, surgery is not curative for BOAS, and in some patients clinically significant airway obstruction may remain.

Further information about the BOAS clinic at the QVSH can be found here:

Cambridge BOAS Research Group

<https://www.facebook.com/cambridgeboasresearchgroup/>

<https://www.vet.cam.ac.uk/boas/>

If you wish to discuss any of the above further, please contact a member of the Soft Tissue

Surgery team

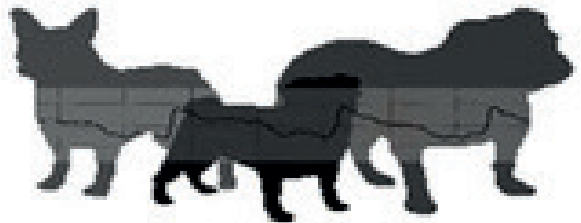


The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital

University of Cambridge

Small Animal Surgery Service

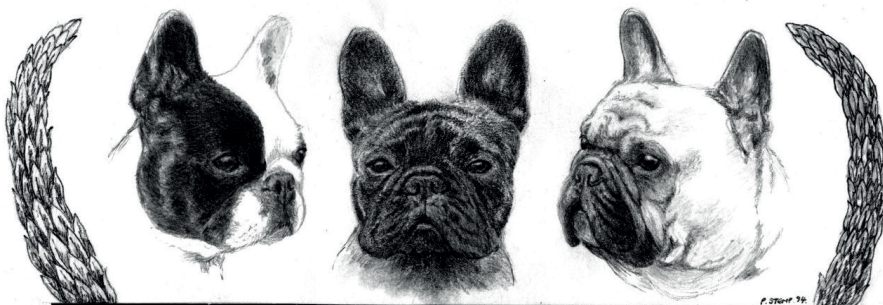
Soft Tissue Surgery



Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ES

Tel: 01223 337621 / 01223 337669

Email: sts@vet.cam.ac.uk



**Midland & Northern Counties
French Bulldog Club.**

Roly and Noni Go to Liverpool University !!

To Support Research into the Movement of Dogs

In June this year we happily accepted an invitation from the University of Liverpool to participate in a research study into the movement of dogs. The University's Institute of Life Course and Medical Science has set up this study in order to determine how the body shape of a dog affects its movement. With such knowledge their expectation is that veterinarians can begin to understand how body shape and the way dogs walk and run might be related to specific disease and injury risks in particular breeds.

The starting point for their study is that dogs vary enormously in size and shape, variation brought about by artificial selective breeding where the aims behind such breeding have been to fit the dogs for various purposes, such as working tasks, companionship or racing, or even just for the way the dogs look. However,

there are welfare implications in the body shapes of certain breeds, in particular those who suffer more from disease and injury in limb joints. Such problems are as yet insufficiently understood. The main goal of the study is to assess whether there are links between body shape in certain breeds and the loads the breeds place on their joints when walking, which may lead to disease and/or injury.

Two groups of dogs have been chosen for study. The first group comprises 12 different breeds, including Labradors and French Bulldogs. The individual dogs must not have had recent injuries to their body or legs; nor have any balance or stability issues; must have been free from diabetes; be under the age of eight and exercised 30 to 90 minutes a day. The second group comprises Labradors alone which have been diagnosed with elbow dysplasia and prescribed specific surgical implantation.

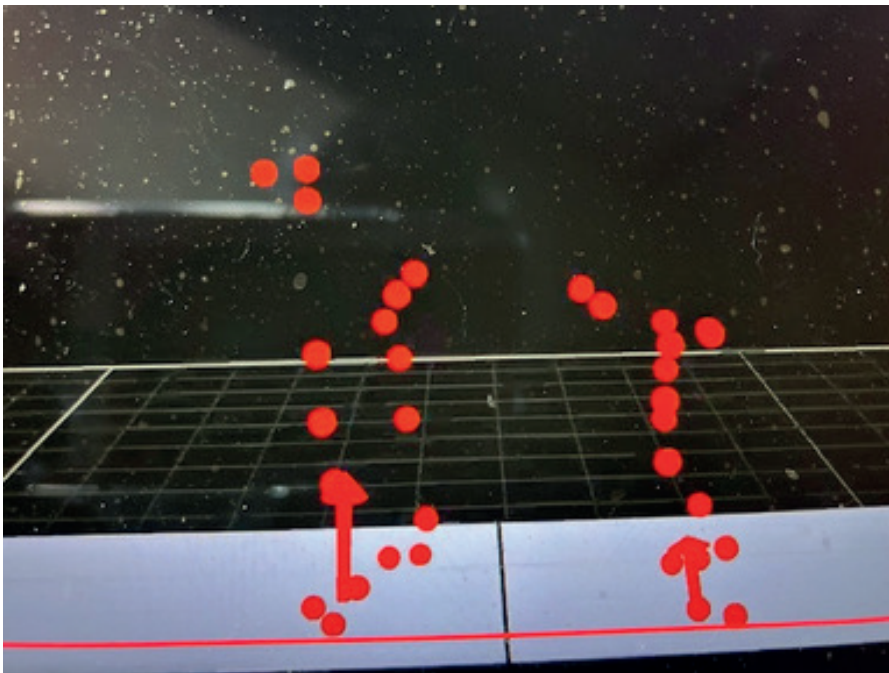
We took our two seven year old Frenchies, Roly (m) and Noni (f), for an exciting day out for them to the William Henry Duncan building in central Liverpool, arriving about eleven o'clock. Here were located the Laboratories in which various preplanned exercises were to be carried out. While the two welcoming scientists got prepared, Roly and Noni raced around the gym-sized first laboratory having a gay old time. Officially this was acclimatizing them to the new environment. Then, down to work. First, practice then the real thing.

The scientists explained each exercise and the equipment being used. Each dog was walked and trotted on a series of short runways on a two metre slack lead. Jackie did the walking/trotting. A special camera system tracked them. 45 small infrared markers and sensors were attached to their skins for this purpose although standard video was also recorded. Static recordings were also made with the dogs forelegs on one force plate and back legs on a different plate.

Standing and walking exercises were repeated in a second laboratory, this time an X-ray laboratory. This involved new imaging technologies to take direct measurements of the movements of knee and elbow joints, using two standard X-ray systems and high speed video cameras. Here, of course for obvious reasons, each dog had to perform without human support, on a raised short runway. This resulted in both fun and frustration as the two Frenchies demonstrated that they were not greedy Labradors and could not be tempted to walk the runway for free sausage at the other end. However they did do the job and X-ray recordings of their movements were successfully taken.

Finally we all went outside the building to do some ordinary camera filming of their movement on a normal road surface.

The two scientists were delighted by Roly's and Noni's contribution. They clearly had outperformed the very few earlier Frenchies they had used. No further Frenchies are now needed. After two hours we left with the scientists' grateful thanks and a promise of some of the film for use in our Breed Appreciation Days.



Photograph of Noni standing with infra-red sensors

Oh yes. Roly and Noni had a great time, enjoying lots of treats and sausage!!!



The journey to Grade 7 Agility with a French Bulldog...

When people picture dogs running an agility course, the breed they picture is definitely not a French Bulldog and certainly when we started our agility journey there were a few laughs as Chase & I joined the queue of handlers waiting to attack the course. Our agility journey has been quite special, so I thought I would share it with you.

Rewinding a few years, prior to showing dogs, I spent the majority of my time in the horse world, primarily in Eventing where I represented Team GB on a number of occasions, so it was only fitting that one day, now totally immersed in dogs, I would explore agility.

In October 2022, Josh & I qualified both Chase and Togo for the Junior Warrant Semi-Finals held in conjunction with Discover Dogs, which is also where a number of agility qualifiers and finals are held. The class before us happened to be an agility class – given the opportunity to watch up close, you could see the dogs having the time of their lives, flying around the course of obstacles, in total harmony with their handlers. Having seen the speed that our frenchies can run at home with their big sister Dobermann Ivy, I decided why not try giving agility a go with Banana and let people see what Frenchies can do! The following week I signed Banana & I up to the local agility club for their 6 week beginners course and our journey began.

Banana took to agility like a duck to water – she absolutely loved it and ran the courses with a giant smile on her face. Adorable! An important part of this journey for me was to take on the stigma often associated with Frenchies, that they are always unhealthy and can't run. With this in mind, to try and increase our exposure we quickly decided to tackle a few shows, probably way before either Banana or I were ready! But in true 'Olijah' fashion we pressed on with our dream and entered the first show. When you start out as a beginner in agility you start in Grade 1 (out of 7 grades in total). This class is for beginner handlers only, and once you have had 2 wins in this class, you move into Grade 2. From Grade 2 onwards the similar theme continues; that a dog requires a certain number of class wins in order to move up to the next grade (noting you can't move up a grade until you have achieved these wins and once you've achieved these wins you can't move back down either). Only once you reach Grade 7 can you even compete for CCs and RCCs, requiring 3 CCs to make an Agility Champion.



Banana's first show in January 2023 was quite an experience, we learnt about queuing for your run and having lots of dogs off lead running their courses all at the same time... quite different to the breed showing world! Imagine the dogs in their breed classes without any leads on and you can start to get a feel for the handler-dog partnership required in agility. But Banana took it all in her stride, she was absolutely amazing, not only getting a clear round but coming 2nd her first time out!

We continued on for a few weeks and decided it would be even better exposure having two agility Frenchies, proving Banana is not the 'one-off healthy Frenchie'. So with Chase free whilst we were showing Togo, out came Chase to agility training... Chase was very different to my reliable & consistent Banana, he was naughty, mischievous and most of the time completely ignored me, but he was fast, much faster than Banana, and fast enough to be a little bit exciting.

Chase did his first show in April 2023 and honestly he was awful, he was totally over-aroused by the other dogs barking and running off lead. He was so so naughty, but again he was fast and showed a flare for the sport when he actually concentrated! He took a lot of work and training, but suddenly it all started to click, he was winning far more runs and becoming much more consistent! By the end of 2023 he won into Grade 5, and incredibly won into Grade 7 at the start of July 2024 – the first French Bulldog to ever get to Grade 7, and at only 3 years old! Wow!

The journey has been quite eye-opening, especially with regards to how bad the general perception of French Bulldogs really is – we regularly get comments like 'he's such an unusual colour', 'he's not what we'd expect for a French bulldog', 'I cant believe he can actually run and breathe'! Scary and sad for our breed. Particularly this year after Elton's big win at Crufts, we have had A LOT of people ask about show French bulldogs and their health vs the general French bulldog outside the show ring. He now has quite a following and everyone knows him, particularly because of how cheeky he can be mid-running his courses when he gets distracted! The other thing you'll immediately notice at agility is the welcoming atmosphere, everyone cheers and claps when a dog completes a clear round or overcomes an obstacle - it's quite fabulous to see! In addition, there is certainly more of a mentor-mentee approach taken in agility, with handlers investing in their training (both time and money) & trainers holding workshops/regular classes to help budding partnerships to get experience, confidence and ultimately success – something we have tried to embrace with Josh's At Its Best Ringcraft.



As I write this we are now prepping to do our first Championship Agility Show at Welsh Kennel, held in conjunction with the Championship Breed Show. This is generally a class of around 100 dogs, with a CC and RCC on offer to the winners. The competition is held over 2 qualifying classes, with the top 20 then going into a final jump off, held in reverse order, and these finals always draw a big crowd! So whilst I doubt we will be fast enough to win a coveted CC or RCC, our goal is to get into as many finals as we can to keep showing how cool Frenchies really can be! As we all know, when bred and conditioned right, by putting health at the forefront of our breeding plans, Frenchies can be just as much fun and talented as other breeds (even if they are the clown of the dog world)!

As most people know, I have a few strong views on health and Frenchies, but please feel free to have a chat – I would love for more Frenchies to get into agility! Whether it's for you or maybe your new puppy owners, happy to help connect people – let's show the world, when in the right hands, how amazing our breed truly is!

Olivia Timms



Olijah

'The Flying Frenchies'

THE FRENCH BULLDOG

This information leaflet was produced by the M & NCFBC for members. I'm uncertain of the date it was published and there is no author.

I thought the content interesting, and still relevant to today's club members and owners of French Bulldogs.

Characteristics and outline development

The French Bulldog has great character, he is amusing, intelligent and adaptable, whether it be in a castle or a cottage, a maisonette or mansion, and he deserves great popularity. His temperament is delightful, with a charm and quaintness on one hand yet to be extremely positive on the other. There are very few half measures about a French Bulldog, in play he is wholeheartedly in "the game", giving it all it takes to become a "prankish" participant but, if he's "put out" for some reason, it takes a great deal to console him. He is intelligent enough to make the most of his comfortable surroundings with which most owners or fanciers indulge him, and he soon becomes part of the family and a participant of most of the household's activities.

The French Bulldog's strength of character and his affection, his "clown- like" quality, sturdiness of body and agility will be seriously affected by any physical and mental ill treatment.

The Frenchie is a small dog (usually weighing between 20 and 30lbs) with a large chest, a wide front and, apart from the head, is similar to a small Bulldog, having a roach and giving an impression of great strength within a small "package". He is tremendously active, keeping remarkably fit by virtue of the great deal of exercise he can take in play and adventure. He makes a wonderful show dog because he reacts so well to human companionship. With training for the show ring, or similar activity, he appears to have a natural alertness with an ability to stand perfectly still and yes "be on the ball" without the loss of an attentive expression that projects an interest and inquisitive gaze at all that goes on around him. He should not have a "cowed" look and should appear to enjoy life with a spirit that is infectious. He moves with freedom and assurance if he is in good health, fit and well.

The head of the French Bulldog is the breed's notable focal point, the most prominent feature of this being the "bat ears" which must be perfectly erect, should be rounded at the tip and forward facing.

Historical Background

Around 1900 French Bulldogs first began to appear at Dog Shows in England. This caused quite a controversy and some friction which was not to the advantage of the French Bulldog owners and breeders of that period. The Bulldog, who the Bulldog fanciers claimed, typified British courage, tenacity and strong, silent strength, had been altered by breeders in France and other European countries without prior consultation, advice or permission from their English counterparts.

British Bulldogs were expected to have "rose ears" but, to the horror of the Bulldog fraternity, here was a small Bulldog, more sound and more solid than anything that was being bred and shown at the time, and with upright ears. To add insult to injury it was imported from France! Patriotism and insularity instantly combined to throw "know how" and all existing traditional standards into what possibly amounted to a minor International "canine" crisis. It became obvious that in time the whole thing would have to be resolved for the future good of the breeds.

British Bulldogs had become respectable after the banning of Bull Baiting and the aim of some breeders was to produce a perfect miniature Bulldog. The smaller version were possibly some 18 to 22lbs in weight and as early as 1862 classes were divided between those under or over 18lbs. Early

sketches and photographs show that these unfortunate little dogs had prominent eyes, rickets, weedy little bodies and were possibly either the litter runts or the result of systematic malnutrition.

In France the reduction in size had been approached in a far more intelligent manner. Two schools of thought on this appear to exist with some truth in both accounts.

Nottingham lace makers, who had emigrated to the Continent, had taken with them some lighter Bulldogs. They had always shown favour for that particular animal and, being in a close community, had been able to develop a strong type.

The Continental Bull breed, the Dogue de Bordeaux, was skilfully bred down in size and improved in quality by French breeders.

A well known exhibitor of many breeds, Mr G.R. Krehl brought over from the Continent several small bulldog types (bouledogues). In 1894 these were exhibited in England and, as quality specimens, were superior to anything which we had to show at that time. It was obvious that the French had produced a better miniature Bulldog than could be produced in this country. The only thing that any reasonable person could argue about was the "bat" ear. When finally the worst of the conflict had been tempered down, the little Frenchies were treated like poor relations and were given a few classes here and there and were generally frowned upon by all except those who preferred a smart and intelligent pet who was far more lively than the little home produced breed products. It is interesting to note that this newcomer to the dog scene was given a warm welcome in the United States. The Americans took up the development of the French Bulldog when these small dogs had no degree of prominence outside France.

In England they did attract some attention and had a limited market but quite unobtrusively the neater, more sound, bat eared, active Frenchie gathered admirers until, in 1902, a very uneasy situation ended with French Bulldog supporters founding their own club and holding their first show in 1903. It was not long after this event that the English miniature Bulldog, as such, simply faded out.

From the early 1900's until a short time prior to the period of World War 1 the breed had some opposition in its efforts to establish a firm place in the "Dog Fraternity". The powerful English Bulldog Clubs and the Toy Bulldog Club were opposed to the French Bulldog mainly because the little Frenchman used "Bulldog", a British term of some historical standing. The argument advanced was that "they were Bulldogs and were too English to be French" and "if French then they had no right to be called Bulldogs". In 1912 the breed was at last officially recognised as French Bulldogs.

The claim that the Dogue de Bordeaux was the ancestor of the French Bulldog was seriously contended on the grounds of its size, but the characteristics of this breed, with its erect ears and slightly rounded skull and other similar head properties possessed by the French Bulldog, still give writers reason enough to mention Dogue de Bordeaux and English Bulldogs as a part of the French Bulldog ancestry.

Author Unknown.

The Kingrock French Bulldogs of Messrs Thomas & Godfrey.



Kingrock Angelica

Were you involved with dogs before French Bulldogs? If so, which breeds?

Chris started with a Rough Collie in 1962, with which he competed as a junior handler and then began with Bulldogs in 1975. Graham started with Cardigan Corgis in 1973, (he lost his last one in 2022), and then joined with Chris in 1986.

Can you remember first meeting a French Bulldog?

Of course, we had both seen the breed at shows but Chris' first memory of close contact with the breed came in the late 70s. He was very involved with the Merriveen kennel, owned by the famous breeder, Pat Dellar, as she had started in Bulldogs a couple of years before Chris. During a visit, Pat asked whether he would like to see her latest arrivals and was shown a litter of brindle Frenchie puppies. He remembers thinking how different they were to bulldog puppies temperamentally, as they never seem to stop darting around and play fighting. Graham attended shows for many years with Ann Winters of the famous Rosskear Pomeranians, he called in for coffee one day and was met by some Frenchies belonging to Mary le Gallais', (Gais), which Ann was looking after whilst Mary was on holiday. He was smitten and said to Ann that he was going to purchase a puppy. Ann dissuaded him as Graham had not long purchased an Eastonite Pug so that they could attend shows together. However, on days when Utility and Toys combined Graham could always be found Frenchie ringside.

Where did your kennel name originate, what made you choose Kingrock?

Chris did not have an affix when he started in Bulldogs and in 1975 applied to the KC. At that time three choices were required and he remembers Kingrock being his first choice, Branmere his second and Damascus, the name of his first show dog, the third. Fortunately, Kingrock was chosen by the KC, but it was just a word created for no other reason than it sounded Bulldoggy!

Who was your first French Bulldog and how did you acquire him/her?

Chris was asked to judge French Bulldogs on a trip to judge Bulldogs in Norway and Sweden in 1984. It was during this trip that he decided to make a concerted effort to try to find a well-bred foundation bitch on his return home. He had been following the breed for a year or two and knew that it was not going to be easy. Fortunately, the lovely Sandy Hawkins (Sankins), had a very nice fawn bitch for sale, sired by the handsome Byrock Moon River, who we had watch gain the CC from Mike Stockman a year or two before and her mother was from Ann Cottrell's famous Quatt kennel. Mindy came to live with us and cemented our love for the breed which has stayed with us to this day. She was an amazing character with the most beautiful temperament and every Kingrock French Bulldog goes back to her.

Did you experience an overnight success in the ring or was it a long wait?

We were extremely lucky in being allowed to use the famous sire, Ch. Rajah von der Grimmelsburg of Tollydane, who was not at public stud, but his owner, Tom Kentish, had agreed to us using him, not long before Tom's untimely death. His partner, Keith Lichtenstein, agreed to allow us to use the dog, if we would do the matings ourselves, which we were very happy to do. Mindy self-whelped a litter of nine and seven were reared. In this litter was the lovely brindle, Kingrock Saffron, who produced several champions at home and abroad and was the top brood for two consecutive years. Several others from this litter went on to form the foundations of top kennels in the breed.

Since you started out do you think the breed has improved or lost some of its qualities?

The breed has lost 'type' to a great extent and although we have so many more available from which to choose, we no longer have the large kennels that produced quality Frenchies of outstanding type consistently over several decades.

Does the current KC standard satisfy you on all points?

Considering the way the Bulldog Standard has been decimated by the Kennel Club, we are extremely pleased that the French Bulldog Standard seems to have slipped under the radar. We do not consider any of the changes made to be hugely detrimental to the breed and for that reason we believe French Bulldog breeders should be eternally grateful.

Which breeders and dogs have influenced the breed in your opinion?

We will not mention kennels active today but breeders from the past who spring to mind would have to be Vivian Watkins (Bomlitz), who was so kind to us over the years and helped our progress in the breed in several ways, Jill Keates (Nokomis), for allowing us access to her stud dogs and Maureen Bootle (Tommyville) for producing top quality Frenchies for so many decades. Ann Cottrell (Quatt), had a huge impact on the breed and there can be very few UK lines that do not trace back to Quatt breeding. On the Continent one cannot ignore the huge influence of the famous De La Parure kennel and how sadly we miss Victor Alexander van Raamsdonk. The breed cannot afford to lose breeders of his calibre, a truly great breeder of French Bulldogs. Two of the dogs who have made a huge impact on our kennel would have to be the aforementioned Ch. Rajah von der Grimmelsburg of Tollydane and his grandson, Ch. Tollydane Pierrot at Nokomis, who sired so many champions for us and for others and helped form the foundation of our kennel.

In more recent times there can be few dogs, in any breed, that can compare with the impact Darren Friend's legendary Fawn, Ch. Friend de la Parure, has had on the breed. There are of course other influential dogs, too numerous to mention.

Who was/is your favourite French Bulldog and why?

Very hard to pick a favourite but Chris' choice would be his first, Mindy, as she went everywhere with him for her eleven years and they just loved being together. Graham had a massive bond with Kingrock Angelica, she was one of the first we seriously campaigned and many believe, as we do, the best we ever bred.

What has been your biggest disappointment?

In such a difficult breed it is never a good thing to dwell on your disappointments but we both feel that Kingrock Angelica not gaining her title was a major disappointment. We faced quite a lot of opposition when we first started in the breed, as Bulldog breeders were not necessarily welcomed with open arms. She gained 2 CCs and 7 RCCs, which of course today would be enough for her to gain her title. Jill Keates even offered to take her in the ring to try to gain her third CC, as she loved her and felt she was the nearest she had seen to her Ch. Nokomis Omeme (the one-time breed record holder) but once again, another RCC.

What was your greatest moment?

I suppose our greatest moment came at Crufts in 1993 when three of the five bitches in the challenge were Kingrocks. We won the BCC with Ch. Kingrock Poppyseed from Junior, the RCC with her mother, Kingrock Angelica, from Limit and Paul and Maria Harding's Ch. Kingrock Bergamot at Pringham won Open. We also won BOB in Bulldogs, so a good day all-round.

Little did we know that we would both go on to judge French Bulldogs at Crufts in later years, both attracting an entry well in excess of 200 dogs.



Ch Chamelia Clara Kingrock



American Champion Kingrock Liquorice

Breed Education Coordinator

The purpose of the Breed Education Co-ordinator is:

A breed education co-ordinator (known as the BEC) is an administrative role to co-ordinate all points of breed-specific education and support for judges up to CC awarding level. This co-ordinating role is held on behalf of the breed clubs, in order to support the breed clubs' obligations under the Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows) for the education and training of judges.

The BEC is, therefore, someone who will work with the breed clubs to assist and monitor level 1–3 judges who wish to progress through the breed-specific judging levels, with the purpose of helping each judge to identify opportunities for them to enhance their knowledge of the breed right through to achieving level 4.

The BEC's role is not intended to remove the responsibility for a judge's education process from a breed club. The BEC is a key co-ordinating role on behalf of the Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows) for the education and training of judges.

The main role of the Breed Education Co-ordinator is:

- To assist breed clubs in co-ordinating breed appreciation days
- To develop the multiple-choice breed standard exams for use at breed appreciation days in line with Kennel Club guidance
- To arrange the delivery of the multiple-choice breed standard exam to breed clubs hosting breed appreciation days
- To identify through breed clubs and assist in the recruitment of mentors within the breed
- To facilitate the mentoring process
- Arrange initial introduction of the mentor to the mentee as and when required, and to monitor the mentoring process
- To identify through breed clubs and assist in the recruitment of observers to observe judges when required
- To arrange for judges to be observed at the appropriate time/show
- To assist The Kennel Club with the delivery of breed-specific assessments as required
- To encourage breed clubs to actively promote breed supported entry shows
- To update The Kennel Club with details of all educational activity within the breed, upon request via an annual return form
- To provide reports to breed clubs upon request
- To collate and maintain records received from breed clubs and judges to give an accurate record of the breed's education of judges
- To keep up-to-date, accurate and confidential records of all contacts made and subsequent actions taken

Who can take on the role?

- Someone with good administration skills, including spreadsheets, reports and a familiarity with computers would be advantageous
- They do not necessarily need to already award CCs in that breed or actively judge the breed
- They do not necessarily need to be a current or previous breed club committee member
- The BEC does not necessarily have to be someone from within the breed, as this is a co-ordination role
- Someone who is personable and approachable, who will be able to create a good rapport with both judges and members of the relevant breed clubs

For breeds in Tiers 3-6 the BEC may only act in one other capacity in addition to the BEC role, either Mentor or Observer.

I took on this role in 2018 and it has been an enjoyable experience, however for personal reasons I do need relinquish the role (hopefully at the end of this year) and hand it over to another person who will be able to liaise with all 3 clubs and continue to help up and coming judges to pursue their judging careers.

If anyone has any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me in person or via email: sueworrell@hotmail.com and if interested contact one of the breed clubs who can put forward your nomination to the other two clubs.

Sue Worrell



EXERCISING PUPPIES

A lot of dog breeders have different opinions about exercising puppies, typically it is one end of the spectrum or the other with people **under** or **over** exercising.

Puppies need to exercise to build bone and muscle mass to protect them.

It is all about appropriate exercise for your puppies age and breed.

If your puppy has excess energy then do a 15 minute “**Free Shaping**” session rather than over exercising the puppy.

An example of Free Shaping teaching the exercise “Sit” In the case of free shaping you wait until the dog sits down of their own accord, then you mark this with the clicker or your voice and then reward the dog with positive reinforcement.

You’ve probably heard of one of the following ...

“don’t exercise/ walk your puppy until it is at least 12 months old”

“Take your puppy for a long walk or have a long play session with it to tire it out”

It is no wonder puppy owners are confused with conflicting information usually coming from outdated sources or sources that lack factual backing.

The worst thing you can do for your puppy of any breed, including giant breeds, is to not allow them exercise or to over exercise.

Some puppies just do not know when to stop and can run themselves into the ground so it’s important to monitor their play and exercise sessions to make sure they are not over doing it.

There are a number of reasons to avoid dog parks with your puppy, however over exercising and inappropriate exercise is one very good one. There are safer ways to socialise your puppy.

Take your puppy a walk around the block, let him walk at his own pace, smell their environment and work on some loose lead and distraction training. Your puppy needs to have exposure to the outside world to become a well - balanced adult, therefore shutting them in the back yard and not taking them anywhere isn’t going to help them achieve this goal.

Puppies coming from registered breeders will often come with information packs outlining diet and exercise requirements and you can always ask your breeder or vet what they feel is appropriate for each age bracket.

Growth plates generally close between 12 – 18 months of age. Until the growth plates have closed you should avoid hard exercise.

Diet is also relevant – a dog on a budget brand will have rises and crashes, just like when you eat fast food. Choose a high - quality diet, affordable in the long run as you don’t have to feed as much.

If you want to tire out a crazy puppy then a 15 minute session of problem solving will usually do the trick. Look on Google or You Tube “clicker training” or “Free Shaping”. Don’t be intimidated by it, once you get the hang of it you’ll love it and this type of training is so easily picked up by your dog.

The French Bulldog Breed Standard

The French Bulldog standard does not cover every point of the dog in great detail compared to some breed standards.

I wrote an article to broaden our understanding of the breed standard, and why certain physical attributes are so important to the construction of the dog.

Understanding the breed standard is vital for breeders and judges. Breeders should constantly be referring to the standard when planning a mating. It is essential to reproduce the physical and mental qualities which make our breed unique, remembering the importance of breeding a dog fit for life and purpose.

One area of the current breed standard which is not very detailed is the front construction.

Elbows are not even mentioned.

It is important to breed French Bulldogs that have parallel forelegs and are not “out at the elbows”.

The elbows are braced to the side of the chest by pectoral muscles, attached at one end to sternum, the other end to the humerus (foreleg). If the pectoral muscles are soft and flabby, the elbow becomes slack and the dog appears out at the elbow. Youngsters, not in firm condition may have this temporarily.

When muscles are firm and well developed the elbows are drawn in tightly to the sides and do not wobble when moving.

The elbow joint is a hinge joint, the lower end attaches to the humerus at the back. Above the joint surface is a deep channel in the bone into which the head of the ulna fits snugly.

Whenever the foot comes in to the ground the whole elbow joint becomes solid which enables the foreleg to move foreword in a straight line.

On the move, approaching you, shoulders, elbows, forearms, pasterns and feet must remain parallel.

Shoulder construction is mentioned in the standard but not in much detail.

The shoulder blade is not connected to the body by bone, but attached at several points by strong muscles, so that it literally slides up and down on the ribs. Stress or concussion is transmitted to the muscles which anchor the scapula to the spine and ribs.

A flat scapula, not overloaded with muscle, lies obliquely from the shoulder joint as far back as possible to the withers.

The upper extremity of the scapula is attached to the thoracic spine and ribs by muscles. The lower end forms part of the shoulder joint which is fixed. If long and carried well back, the top of the scapula is bound to move back also. The inclination of the scapula is increased producing a well laid shoulder.

When the thoracic bones are short and extend backwards a short distance to the upper end of the scapula, i.e. near the neck, the shoulder will be upright.

A sloping shoulder is preferred to produce a much freer and faster action. A well laid shoulder also lessens the concussion transmitted through an upright type of shoulder.

Shoulders can be coarse if they are over loaded with excessive development of muscles. The dog loses a streamlined outline.

If the cartilage at the base of the neck between the two scapula is wide, the dog will be wide across the top and consequently heavy in shoulder. This will produce crooked fronts, wide fronts and outwardly turned elbows. Viewed from the front shoulders should be carried in a straight line with the body, if not there is a tendency to throw the elbows out when moving.

The bad habit of constantly jumping up will throw the shoulder out of joint.

As French Bulldogs age elbows can be affected by arthritis. The breed is front heavy meaning the weight is carried in front. Any dog “out at the elbow” can be severely affected by associated pain and discomfort of arthritis, affecting the dog’s quality of life. It is so important for breeders to consider this when planning a mating to ensure the correct conformation is produced and to prevent this problem occurring.

Angela McInnes

NB The French Bulldog Breed Standard has been amended from September 1st 2024

FRENCH BULLDOG Body Cobby, muscular and well rounded with deep, wide brisket and ribs well sprung. **Strong back with gentle rise over the loin, rounding off over the croup.** 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. (Amendment in bold)





I purchased this postcard from Maureen Bootle's extensive French Bulldog collection. I was attracted to this eyecatching painting of a French Bulldog and his Terrier friend "ratting". I love the Frenchie's determined expression, and look at that tail! plus he is a gorgeous brindle colour too. The picture is painted and signed by EM Samson who also produced bronze statues of French Bulldogs too. Maureen had one in her collection at the time. I've researched Samson and have not been able to find much background information other than he was born in the 19th Century and died in the 20th Century. He lived and worked in the UK.

There is some interesting information on the back of the postcard. It was produced in Paris, no painting title just 910 Samson. At the side of this are the following; Bonne Besogne - translated to English meaning "Useful, remarkable or skilfull work". Next Good Work, then Gute Arbeit - German meaning "Good Job".

The post card was produced at the Salon de Paris (1667), who hosted the greatest art event in the western world between 1748 - 1890. The Salon's original focus was the display of recent graduates of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Exhibition at the Salon de Paris was essential for any artist to achieve success in France. I'm assuming the painting was exhibited at the prestigious Salon de Paris, unless anyone knows different. There is a name written in pencil on the back of the postcard, "Clifford Talbot" Nov 1918. I have been unable to find any information regarding this connection.

Angela McInnes

Club Show News 2025

Our first Club show in 2025 will be held at Penkridge on March 2nd – a great opportunity for a practice run before Crufts the following week!

Judge elect for the Open show is Miss Lynsey Roach., and her bio can be read below.

The **AGM** will also follow this show.

May 11 sees our first Championship show at Stafford, held in conjunction with Birmingham National.

Judge elect is Miss Vanessa Bryant

September 21 is the date for the second Championship show and Open show, held at Asfordby.

Judges for these shows are Mrs Angela McInnes and Ms Michele Smith.

Biographies for judges for the May & September shows will appear in the next edition of Bat Ears.

Remember the Midland & Northern Counties French Bulldog Club is the only breed Club who gives members the opportunity to vote for their favoured judge.



Show News 2025.

The Midland and Northern Counties French Bulldog Club holds very special memories for me. I attended The Peace Memorial Hall on my Dad's birthday on 25th November 2012 with my first French Bulldog, Mouse. It was our second show, she was only 7 Months old and went on to win Best Puppy Bitch under Chris Gordon. I will never forget that feeling and we ended up having a few too many drinks to celebrate with all the family when we got home! Definitely the start of my obsession with this unique breed.

Mouse gifted me with Mini & Maverick who are now 10 ½ and remain best mates. Mini is without doubt my heart dog and my proudest achievement is her gaining her Champion title as a Veteran at the age of 9. the oldest French Bulldog in history to gain their title... Ch Roalice Mini Mouse ShCM !

Mini produced Mighty... a singleton. I was told 'you only need one good one'. Covid hit when she was 6 months old and she wasn't shown until she was 21 months old. Mighty went onto gain her Champion title and was awarded 5 CC and 6 RCC all under Breed Specialist Judges. She was Top Winning Bitch/ Best Bitch STAG 2022... Ch Roalice Mighty Mouse.

And now 3rd generation, Mighty & Maverick's 'pups', 3 of them winning Best Puppy in Show, Roalice Master Mouse was awarded a RCC at just 6 months old, and Roalice Mega Mouse awarded a CC at 13 month old... definitely hard work showing so many, but I still love it!

I have judged the breed since 2014 and was delighted to be asked to judge my first club show; The French Bulldog Club of England Open Show in 2023. To be asked to judge for Midland & Northern Counties French Bulldog Club is a great honour and to judge at the Peace Hall makes its extra special, as it's become somewhat of a lucky venue for me over the years having lots of fond memories, wins and 'Bests' with all of Mouse's legacy's. I would like to thank the club members for nominating me to judge, it's an honour and a privilege. I look forward to judging our wonderful breed.

Lynsey Roach (Roalice)



Seasonal Dangers to be aware of.

Acorns – are actually a fruit- acorns contain a toxin called tannic acid. They will make your dog sick if eaten regularly or in large amounts. Can cause kidney/liver failure in dogs.

Conkers - This hard, shiny seed has a toxin called Aesculin which can cause an upset stomach or your dog may vomit. They do have a bitter taste which will hopefully put your dog off eating them. As they are large and hard your dog could choke or the conker could block the dog's stomach or gut.

Wild Mushrooms – fungi

Some are edible but it is often difficult to identify the poisonous ones. Some may cause a mild stomach upset, others can be deadly. Some Fungi cause toxic effects in minutes, others take days/ weeks for symptoms to come on.

Fireworks

Bonfire Night, New Years Eve, Diwali can be stressful for many dogs. Their incredible sense of hearing makes loud bangs deafening to dogs.

Try playing “Firework” sounds, Spotify do a playlist.

Play quietly at first for a few minutes at a time and gauge their reaction.

Then do something different in another room each time you play it turn the volume up slightly. Keep your dog feeling safe and relaxed and distract with a positive, e.g. treat.

Play your TV or radio, act normally.

Ticks

Ticks are common in Spring & Autumn.

Ticks can pick up disease from one host and pass it on to another – including humans. This can cause long term illness “Lyme Disease”.

After walks in parks or countryside always check your dog for strange lumps and bumps that may be a tick.

Particularly check around the head, ears, groin, armpits and feet.

Planting Spring Bulbs in Autumn.

Daffodil, Tulip, Spring Crocus bulbs are all toxic and make dogs unwell, initially causing sickness and an upset stomach.

If you have any concerns always contact your vet immediately.

If you require further information about French Bulldogs here are a few ways to help;

Our club website contains lots of information about the breed and the Club.

www.mncfrenchbulldogclub.com

We also have a Facebook page

Midland and Northern Counties French Bulldog Club.

Brachycephalic Hub - finding out about Brachycephalic breeds

Information can be found on the RKC site

www.thekennelclub.org.uk > brachycephalic breeds

The RKC is now offering **French Bulldog breed specific DNA testing.**

The French Bulldog Club of England Health Scheme:

Contact the administrator Vanessa Bryant at

FBCEhealth@outlook.com

HELPING US TO HELP THEM



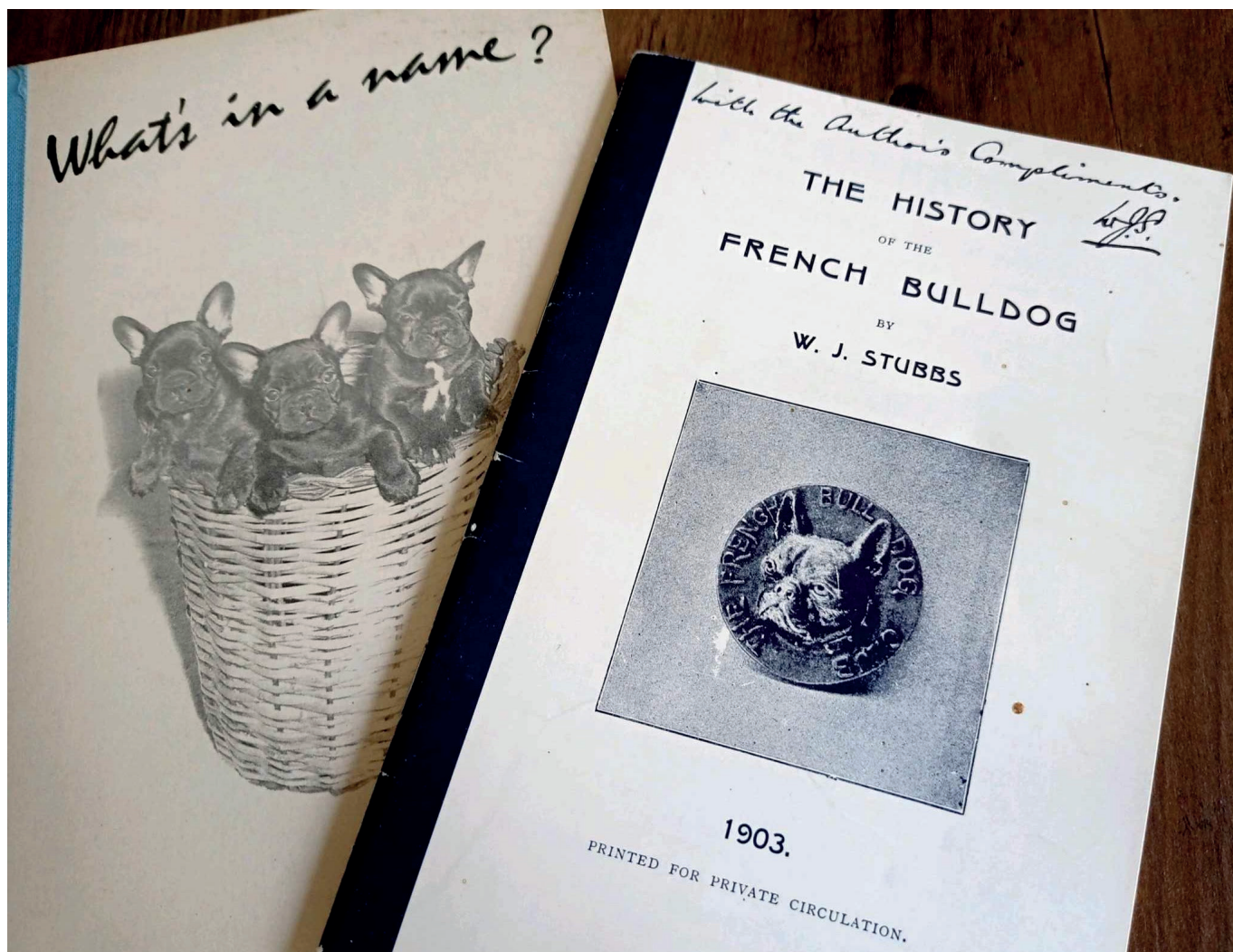
The French Bulldog Welfare Trust can be contacted at **fbwt.uk**

THE French Bulldog



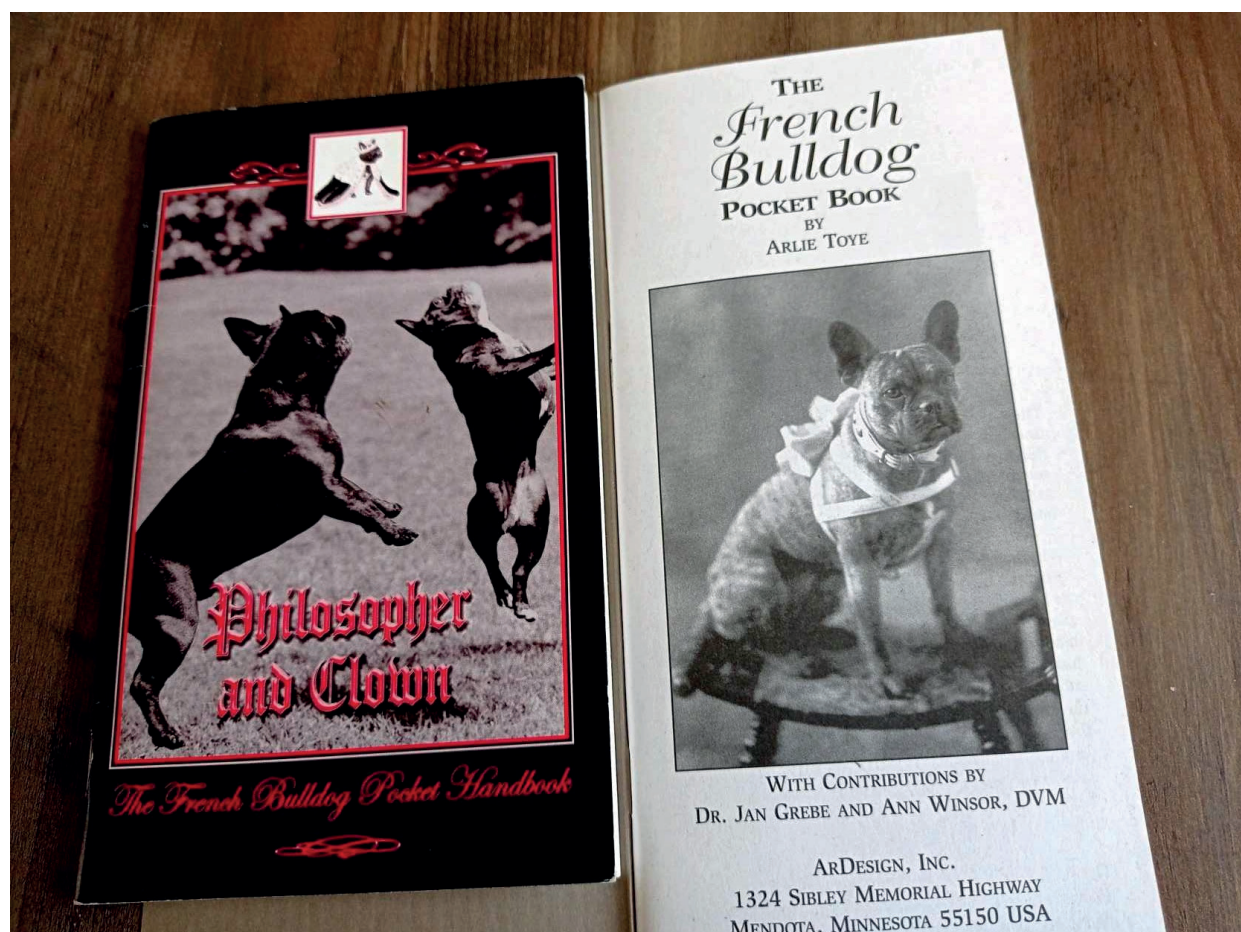
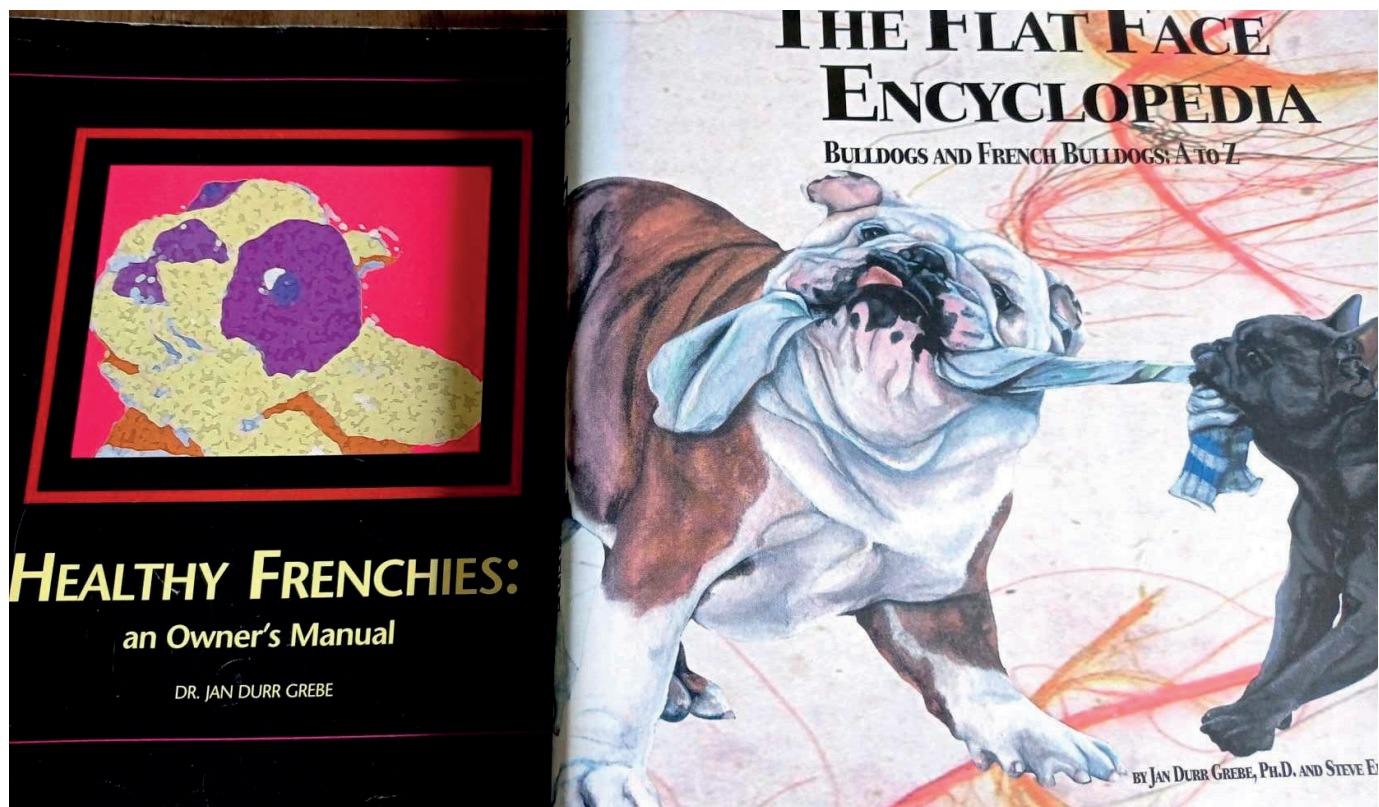
KENNEL CLUB CLASSICS

by Muriel P. Lee



The “**French Bulldog**” was produced in the USA , written by Muriel P Lee in 2007 part of The Kennel Club Classics. “**The History of the French Bulldog**” by Stubbs written in 1903, was reproduced in 1979. “**What’s in a name?**” is a compilation of photographs and notes used to illustrate a talk given by Vivienne Watkins on behalf of the Parent Club, The French Bulldog Club of England in London April 20 1968.





A selection of French Bulldogs books, “**Healthy Frenchies**” by Dr Jan Durr Grebe (USA) 1998, “**The Flat Face Encyclopaedia**” by Jan Durr Grebe & Steve Eltinge Dip Ed (USA) 1997. Both of the excellent booklets were produced by Arlie Toye/ Alford in the USA in 1999.

