



## Bulldog Breeding Is An Art

*There Can Be No Maudlin Luck Attendant at a Kennel Which Hopes to Make Good*  
 By WILLIAM A. RICHARDS



GENIUS is only an infinitive capacity for taking pains. And it is that same careful attention to detail which is of the greatest value in the breeding of bulldogs.

There can be no maudlin luck attendant at a kennel which hopes to become established on a firm, sound basis.

Our present good fortune in breeding dates from 1917, when, after many attempts, we procured a well-bred bitch pup of good substance. This is an excellent way for the novice breeder to start. Assured that the puppy is well bred, he can, with sensible training and careful raising, develop his bitch to be the founder of a long line of successes he hopes to attain.

The raising of a pup constitutes more than half of the future value of the dog. There are many things to be remembered and these cannot be left to chance.

First, in purchasing a likely puppy from a responsible breeder—one who can be depended upon to stand behind whatever he sells—it should be remembered that an unregistered dog has no value as a breeder. It need not be actually registered, but the dog should be eligi-

ble for registration. It is not a bad precaution, when purchasing a pup, to obtain an application for registration, signed by both the breeder and the owner of the sire.

One of the first things to remember is that all young stock grow better if kept warm. It is also quite essential for brood bitches to have plenty of warmth. In our kennels we usually rig up a little box for the pups, an inch or so off the floor, with a three-inch board running along the front at the bottom. This will tend to keep in the young ones, and also give them a place to learn to rest their chops. It is remarkable how young a pup will do this. A sack, nailed over the top and let down over the front opening, helps to maintain the heat on chilly nights. In fact, during the winter, all of the dogs should be thus protected.

I have found that practically all pups have worms. We usually worm our nursing pups at from two to three weeks of age, and again at about five. It is astonishing the number of worms that can be removed from some litters. We had two bitches sent, this spring, to whelp at our place, and neither bitch was wormed before mating. In the litters the worms were consequently worse.

WHEN the puppies are still quite young, we usually give liquid puppy vermifuge for round worms, with a little dissolved tape worm medicine, twelve to fifteen drops being sufficient. We follow this up, at about twelve weeks, with a dose of carbon tetra chloride, for hook worms. It is surprising how many dogs in this country have hook worms and the owners do not know it. Many imported dogs have them. We recently extracted a large number from a big Doberman, in the country not more than a week.

Every time I have used the carbon tetra chloride on a pup, he has shown great growth during the next fortnight. The worms hold back a pup's normal development. After the earlier stages, we usually clear the puppies of worms every thirty days up to the age of six months.



SILENT WHITE COMMODORE AND SILENT WHITE DOROTHY

This pair of bulldogs, owned and bred by Mr. Richards, became champions before they were thirteen months old. They are litter brother and sister. Both are excellent examples of the breed.



Later, it is necessary only every two or three months, and then twice a year.

Stud dogs should be kept clear of worms, and all brood bitches should be wormed thoroughly before they come in season. It is much better to get the worms out of her, than to transmit the parasites to her pups. But do not overdo this worming business. It can easily be carried too far and the pups ruined. For the novice it is better to go to your veterinarian and have him prescribe. Do not depend on the many patent, quick worm expellers on the market. Many are useless.

Puppies soon begin to think of eating. It is the food that usually presents the big problem. If you have started with a good pup of quality and substance, each meal given is not only a meal, but a case of building, possibly, a future champion. It is better to feed a young pup little and often, rather than more at greater intervals. When you find a pup does not eat all in the pan, cut the next ration down a little. Some people say puppies should not be given milk, claiming it may produce worms. This is a fallacy. There is nothing better than plenty of milk. But be sure it is given in a clean, well-scalded pan. If the feeding pans are always well cleaned and scalded, there will be no worms on account of milk.

**T**HE first meal of the day should be somewhat light, but well apportioned. Eggs are excellent, but if a pup cannot keep a raw egg on his stomach, egg custards should be used. Add a little sugar, for a growing pup needs energy. Sometimes put in cooked rice for a pudding. Raw beef is a great bone builder. We use it for puppies once a day, also for stud dogs and bitches in whelp. It is well to salt and stir in some yeast cakes for general conditioning and building frame work.

In the late afternoon, the entire kennel should receive the big feed of the day. It should be the only real meal for grown dogs, excepting bitches in whelp or nursing puppies. Purchase assorted stale bread, and cut it into little cubes. This should be dried either



**CHAMPION PRINCE ALBERT**

One of the stud pillars of the breed. This dog probably sired more prize winners than any other bulldog

times, raw meat. The entire lot should be salted and sprinkled with dry yeast, all stirred together.

This food we use for all of our dogs, including pups from six weeks up. Just



**MISS HIN**

The property of Frank W. Hall, of Norwich, N. Y., this bitch is the dam of a number of prize winners

enough is made for one day and none is carried over. In mixing the right amount, each ingredient should be figured on the basis of one dog. For instance, a half-teaspoonful of powdered yeast a day is enough for a dog. Slight ills such as bad bowels, eczema, etc., are cured by the yeast. Our dogs have never been previously in the good condition of the past year, and we credit it largely to the yeast. We have not had a spot of

in the sun or in a rack over a stove, in winter. We feed it slightly moistened with beef broth. Wheat, rye, Graham and whole-wheat bread are better than any one kind. A variation to this may be made by using some kibbled biscuit. Dogs need a variety. To the bread should be added assorted, ground up, cooked vegetables, and at

eczema the last two or three years. As a litter matures, we believe in getting rid of all males excepting those that show exceptional promise for show or future stud dogs. To every good dog pup kept, we reserve a couple of bitch pups, if they show rare promise. Such a system maintains the standard of the kennel. The best can come consistently only from the best.

**I**N breeding, we insist on a good-natured bulldog, one without a mean streak in him. Also, if the bitch is high strung, we use a dog of easy-going disposition to try and cut down the high tension. Nervousness is never of value; and nervous dogs rarely will carry the desired flesh. You do not want a bulldog with a terrier disposition, as that type never has the desired expression.

If your bulldog is too lively or nervous in the ring, he is severely handicapped, and frequently loses to the less-worthy dog, who stands, like a statue, with a real sour look. Therefore, in showing, do not try to get too much life into your bull pup.

A discovery we have made in our breeding operations with bulldogs is that the bitch is the main factor. Of course occasionally, really excellent puppies will come from an indifferent bitch. But the next generation is just as apt to throw back to the indifferent ancestor as to the good one.

Because a dog has a six-generation pedigree back of him, is no sign that he will be a producer of real ones. You have to know the various individuals in the background. Another thing of importance is whether or not they have been of the same general type. If so, it is reasonably sure they will carry on that type, providing the dam is of the same general blood lines and type.

My idea is to get a certain type into your head and try to breed for it. If you are successful, keep on, and in each succeeding generation try to hold that type. Get it so set that you won't lose the distinction, if you breed out of that same blood for a change. If you breed out once, come back the next



Photo by Tauskey

**CH. DREWSTONE SMILING THROUGH**

The latest home-bred sensation of Drewstone Kennels. This bitch has made a splendid record in the American ring



two breedings to keep your own line. The idea is to try and overcome in your litter the defects of the bitch by using a dog which is not only strong in those weaknesses, but whose ancestors were noted for the same strength. Starting with a heavily-boned, big headed and ribbed bitch pup. I do not see why one cannot keep these desirable points.

**I**F a dog puppy is retained for stud, he will last longer if not used too young, or too often when young. At a year, once used does no harm. Perhaps again three months later, and say at eighteen months, twice a month until two years old. From then on, three bitches a month is enough, although I have heard of some using their dogs three times a week.

We decided long ago not to breed a bitch puppy the first season if it comes early. After a year we use her. If the pup happens to be an especially large and strong one, perhaps at eleven months it is all right. Used earlier, the pups are not as strong, and the dam is never what she would have been for strength and usefulness.

Still discussing breeding, it might be well to remember that convenience in mating should be disregarded if you desire good results. Many feel they must use a dog because he is near by. If we wanted to use a dog in California, Chicago or anywhere else, we would ship to that place. We have never experienced any trouble with the animals not going or returning in good condition. The best way is to put a water crock and a sack of food on one end of the crate, as the express company messengers will feed and water, but they are not obliged to furnish the food. Always leave nothing to chance in shipping dogs.

There are a great many important details in the bulldog breeding, but one of the greatest is expert care at whelping. For instance, early one morning, a novice fancier telephoned that her little bitch had died the night before, while being operated upon. I later found out that, as soon as the ether touched her, she died before the pups were taken

from her. The owner had been advised to place the bitch with experienced people at whelping, but she did not follow the warning.

Two days after the bitch was due to whelp, a neighbor found the bitch laboring, while nothing was being done to help. He told the owner that she would lose her bitch and pups if not properly attended to at once. If they had operated 36 hours previously, the owner would have saved the bitch and a nice litter. As it happened,



**GLORIOUS SOUBRIQUET**  
A. F. Kramer's crack champion,  
winner at the big Bulldog Specialty  
Show in Baltimore, March 1, 1924

can operate, help the pups out of the bitch by massaging and giving her a salt douche. I did this when a big pup had adhered to the walls of the uterus too long. That pup came dead, but shortly we got two live ones which immediately began nursing lustily.

Although no two bitches whelp exactly alike, there are certain rules which should be followed strictly.

One is not to allow the bitch to eat the afterbirths. The other is that all afterbirths should be removed from the mother. This is quite important and means certain death if not followed. If one will count afterbirths, as well as pups whelped, a lot of trouble would be saved.

Usually a good dose of castor oil, a salt water douche, with plenty of walking and massaging of the belly, will pull everything in twelve hours. I know of two fanciers who nearly lost their bitches this spring from septic poisoning because they counted the pups only.

When a mother is about to whelp, she should be taken into a warm room where the temperature is not less than 80 degrees. This temperature should be maintained during and after the whelping period for at least 48 hours. It then may be allowed to drop to 70 degrees.

Immediately after the pup is whelped and has been cleaned by the mother, we tie the navel cord to the pup's stomach with cat gut or dental floss. This is done, as the mother is liable to bite off the cord too closely. The pup is then held on the nipple for a good nurse, and then placed in a warm box to sleep and dry.

**I**F the bitch does not have another pup within an hour and a half, I start walking her. I had two born in a field this spring. I had a blanket under my coat to wrap up the pups. Do not allow the pups to be too slow in coming, for usually a four-hour interval means a dead pup. If there is a six-hour hold-up, and you get a dead one, the next one is apt to follow quickly and may be alive.

Sometimes the bitch's milk does not



**MOSTON MICHAEL**  
An old-time English champion, this  
dog had one of the best heads of any  
bulldog that ever lived

they saved only two, which they rushed to us, where they were put with a big bitch, which had a small litter.

To make the dam take the new pups, we put our own pups and the new ones in a tightly closed box for a half hour. When they were taken out they all smelled the same, and the dam did not hesitate a second to accept them.

If your bitch runs over, get busy. If you have no veterinarian that



**CH. BOLTONIA BULWARK**  
Robt. Bauschliker, of Philadelphia,  
imported this very handsome specimen of the breed

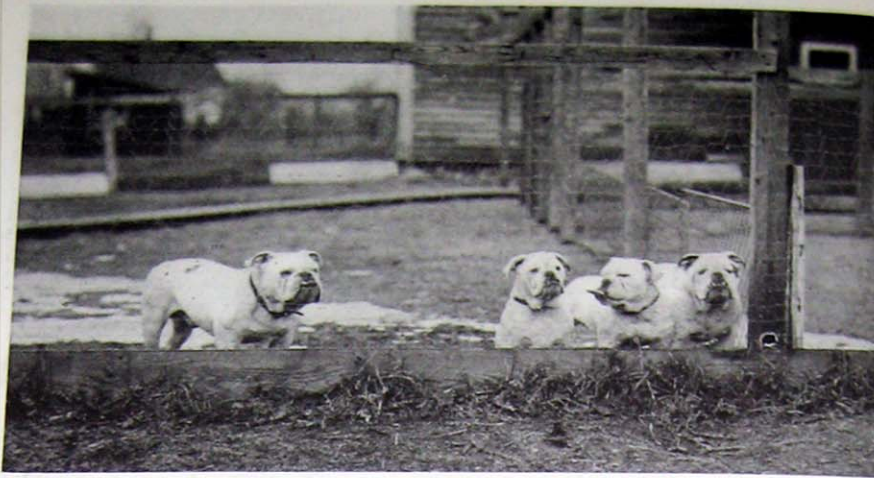


come at once or is not good for two or three days. In such cases we give the pups a lactate with an eye dropper. Just fill the pup up until it refuses more. During the first few days, feeding every four is as good as every two hours. As pups grow and develop, the number of meals may be cut down, but we believe in keeping pups full, so that they will sleep. Plenty of food also keeps them from becoming leggy.

**I**F mother dogs are given lime water, with a pinch of baking soda, every day, for about two weeks prior to their whelpings, the milk will not be too acid and bad. Poor milk kills many good pups. A lot of time and hard work are saved if you will wash the breasts and nipples of the bitch before whelping. There are usually little blackheads in the milk ducts of the nipples. When wet and soft from good soap, we squeeze out these heads, leaving clean, free ducts from which the pups can get their milk easily.

Whelping boxes should be constructed with practical precautions. We rig our big boxes forty-two inches square, with a four-inch board on the inside, extending out from the sides, five inches above the bottom. This prevents the big, heavy bitches from jamming with their backs a pup against the side wall. The pups will be secure, as the dam's back cannot get to the wall. This device has saved us dozen of pups. The front has a one and one-quarter-inch opening at the bottom to allow a screen slide to be shoved in. We make this of three-quarter by one and one-half-inch material, large enough to just fit in, and cover it with burlap. This gives the pups a good footing, necessary to get a heavy one up on its feet.

Whereas it is highly important to attend to the sleep-



#### WHERE SILENT WHITE BULLDOGS ARE BRED

Here is a quartet of bulldogs bred by the Silent White Bulldog Kennels. They show uniformity of quality, type and even color

ing boxes for puppies and dogs, it is equally important to maintain clean stalls. We use as a disinfectant, white-wash water-paint. Every month we go over the layout with a fresh coat. It is wonderful how much cleaner the dogs will keep and how the fleas will keep away. We have had hardly a flea since we started using this system. In winter we bed with rye straw, in the spring and fall with cedar shavings, while in the intense heat of the summer, no bedding.

On hot days we shade down our windows and sprinkle the floors with water twice a day. It means comfort for all the bulldogs. On the sunny side of the kennels we rig up a big

if they travel up and down hill. Also the dogs' general condition will improve. They will become well developed dog athletes rather than mere bulks. Hills and exercise bring out the desired lines of back and loins.

Keep your pups happy and contented. If they are closely confined all day, they become downhearted like a man in a jail. We let all our dogs out six or seven times a day in the yards, while three times a day we take them down into the big fields. But do not give your dogs violent exercise soon after feeding. After feeding, we give them about five minutes in the air, and then bring them back to be shut up for two hours' sleep.



#### CH. SILENT WHITE DUKE

This wonderful specimen is considered by a number of good judges of the breed, as one of the best, if not the best American-bred bulldog that was ever exhibited

awning. This cuts down many degrees of heat and gives the dogs a good shady place to lie in their yards. Boxes, scattered here and there in the yards, give them a chance to perch themselves up off the ground. They enjoy these couches. Also it gives their legs some exercise they would not otherwise get.

Exercise is another one of the important features in raising bulldogs. In your walks, take a side hill if possible. Their feet will keep better knuckled up,

**I**N summer, we feed about four o'clock, and then, from six-thirty to seven, they go down to the big fields for half an hour or more of playing, wrestling and running, to become hardened. Some only exercise bulldogs on a lead, making them pull to develop their shoulders. That also is right. But we prefer to let the dogs go down to the big fields and exercise each other. In this way they harden all over. Their shoulders will come right if bred right.

Too much shoulder in a youngster is worse than not enough, for in later life they are apt to get out at the elbow  
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and loose in the shoulders. To me there is nothing worse, for it tends to unsoundness. I sometimes wonder if dogs of that type have been manipulated by their breeders, or if they were bred that way, or if the conditions they were raised under were conducive to bringing on that weakness.

Another point the average novice desires in a bull pup is a screw tail. Now and then we get them in a litter. But such dogs do not stay with us, as that kind of tail makes more labor for the owner in washing. We have tried to breed a straight tail of four to six inches long. In the last year's lot of pups we found what we have always wanted—a very low set on tail. This tends to accentuate the roach, and with the right roach, the dog is much more apt to have the true bulldog roll to his gait.

A recent incident might be of interest and possibly help some poor chap from making the mistake made by a purchaser of one of our pups. One morning a woman with a pup, wrapped in a big sheet, came into the yard. I asked what had happened, and discovered that another dog had bitten the pup in the neck. I unwrapped the canine mummy, and there was the neck, with a little bite in the center, while around it, down to the dewlaps

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and on the shoulders, the surface was badly infected. It was white like moist eczema.

I took a pair of curved scissors and clipped the hair away from all infected portions, and painted it with iodine. The owner did not want the hair cut off, but when I told her to go to a veterinarian and he would do the same thing, she did not object. The dog was in such a miserable condition that the owner decided to board it with us. In four days the infection was under control and the pup progressing nicely.

On iodine treatment, which we use for nearly everything, air should be allowed to work at all times. On eczema cases, we dry first with two or three iodine treatments, and then use the crude oil, sulphur skin foods that will finish the job.

Another little by-play of the breeding game occurred when a woman telephoned that her dog had the rabies. Actual cases of rabies are such a rarity that we immediately set out to investigate. We quieted the affected dog with a little ether, and transferred him to our place.

As soon as possible we gave the dog a high enema of salt water, which very rapidly relieved the distress. On further investigation, we discovered that the woman had fed the dog some

asparagus butts. It was not a case of rabies, but was merely a condition resulting from lack of thought on the part of the owner.

Another thought has come to mind which may help the novice in his first and even later shows. A number of fanciers spend a great deal of good money and time in raising a good pup to an age when he can be shown, and then forget to put their pup down clean in the ring.

At one show recently, we benched six or seven. The night before, we spent three hours washing and drying the lot. Of course, a dog will become soiled in traveling to a show, but if a white dog starts clean, he can be easily whitened upon arrival. We use corn-starch instead of chalk, since it is better on the coat and skin.

These are only some of the things that I have learned regarding the breeding of bulldogs. If followed, they should be of service to a novice. And there is one other thing that I have learned which I would impress on the novice male fancier.

Remember that women, with their natural mother instinct, have unusual ability for breeding, training and raising dogs. It is well, therefore, to have them interested in a kennel, particularly a kennel in which there are young puppies.