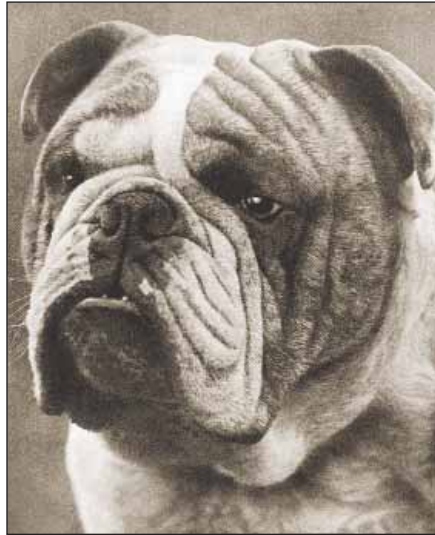


HISTORY OF THE BULLDOG

During any extended period of time, it is quite common to see a breed of dog evolve into a totally different specimen than what it may have been hundreds or even thousands of years ago. It would be considered very unusual for a breed to remain fairly consistent in type and temperament throughout its development. This is certainly true when studying the history and growth of the Bulldog.

The Bulldog, better known as the English Bulldog, has changed tremendously since its inception. Although there are some old



Circa 1920, Eng. Ch. Basford Revivue, Mr. Roddy's famous Bulldog, is remembered for an exquisite head which was not exaggerated like many of the modern-day Bulldogs.



A famous engraving by John Scott of Bulldogs Crib and Rosa, circa 1817.

attributes that can still be found in the breed today, specimens that existed in the 13th century looked and behaved nothing like the “type” of dog we see represented in today’s homes and show ring. Historians are fairly confident that the breed derived from ancient war dogs, or other types of old Mastiff-like breeds.

HISTORICAL WEIGHT

The Bulldog was slightly smaller in ancient times, and the average dog weighed approximately 40 pounds. Today, they are a bit more robust. Males usually weigh 55 to 60 pounds and bitches 50 to 55 pounds.

In 1914, the leading British dog painter, R. Ward Binks, illustrated six of the best known Bulldog champions in Britain. These dogs earned their championships at the end of the 19th century.





These war dogs were used by the British in times of battle and were excellent protectors of their master's property and flock. Still others believe that the true origin of the breed is not entirely clear, and are quick to point out the many loopholes that exist in some of the more favorably recognized theories.

Eng. Ch. Dame's Double was an outstanding pillar of the Bulldog breed at the turn of the century. He was owned by Mrs. A. G. Sturgeon and was a winner of 24 Challenge Certificates, a great accomplishment for any dog in Britain.



Advertising a dog fight in 1819 at the Westminster Pit. Bulldog fighting was, after the days of the bull-baiting, the pastime of the sporting fancy in England. Bulldogs were desired to be as low to the ground as possible so that the underside of the body was not vulnerable.

A Grand Match at the Westminster Pit,
FOR 100 GUINEAS,
 By 2 DOGS of 43-lb. weight each,
THE PROPERTY OF TWO SPORTING NOBLEMEN.
 One, that famous
WHITE BITCH OF PADDINGTON,
 Whose wonderful performances are so well known to the Fancy
 to require no further comment—the other
A BRINDLE DOG OF CAMBRIDGE,
 A remarkable and well known favorite, as his fame bears extensive proof—to fight from the scratch,
ON WEDNESDAY, 18th of JUNE, 1819,
 at 6 o'clock in the evening precisely.—Doors open at half past 5.

Blossom Westall, the pet Bulldog of Miss Dorothy Pearson. Miss Pearson was the world's leading lady golfer and had just won the English Ladies' Golf Championship. Photo circa 1913.



HOW THE “BULL” CAME TO BE IN THE BULLDOG

One safe theory is that the Bulldog was first developed in the British Isles, and was originally bred for the sole purpose of bull-baiting, an extremely barbaric pastime that became very popular in England. Its popularity was so great that it became the national sport of England from around the 13th to the 18th century.

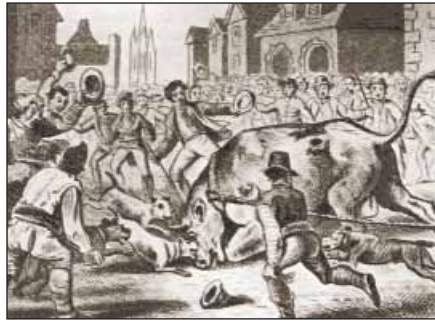
Bull-baiting was an event that was usually held in conjunction with a series of boxing matches, and took place behind rope enclosures in an indoor arena. To keep the fight on more equal terms, the bull was helplessly tied to a rope that was attached to

a large hook in the ground. The sport involved the use of one dog, or a group of dogs, which were set loose to pin and hold a bull by the ears and nose in front of thousands of screaming spectators. The nose was considered to be the bull's most delicate body part and where it was most vulnerable to injury. The dogs were specifically trained to attack this area. Despite its popularity, the event was a horrifying spectacle to watch. It was not uncommon for a group of dogs to be viciously killed or severely injured during a fight. Spectators often wagered on this tasteless event.

The early Bulldog was bred to be a fierce and aggressive animal with enormous strength and courage. Beauty and conformation were of little importance to the Bulldog breeders of this early era. The breed's temperament of

BULL-BAITING

Despite its savage characteristics, bull-baiting was a widely accepted social activity in England during the 18th and 19th centuries. The sport required the breed to be much more mobile and agile than a majority of the dogs seen today. The sport dictated form and function of the dogs, and that has ultimately helped it to develop into what it is at the present time.



An etching by E. C. Ash illustrating bull-baiting, a "sport" wherein dogs were used to hold a charging bull by its nose. Bulldogs, with short faces and undershot jaws, were the best suited to perform in this sport.

yesteryear was a far cry from the loving, loyal companion that's now cherished by fanciers worldwide.

A LEGENDARY, DIVERSIFIED FIGHTING DOG

It wasn't until 1778 that an outcry against the barbaric nature of bull-baiting was finally acknowledged and acted upon by the Duke of Devonshire in Staffordshire, who officially abolished the harrowing sport. Unfortunately, this was not the end of the Bulldog's use as a fighting machine. Although bulls were no



Eng. Ch. Hefty Master Grumpy, owned by Mr. George Creswell, and considered to be the ideal dog of the day (circa 1915), was unfortunately suffocated in his kennel owing to mail bags being inadvertently thrown over him. His death was considered a great loss to the fancy.

Born in 1893, these two great Bulldogs, Boomerang and Katerfelto, belonged to Mrs. L. Crabtree. Their sire was King Orry, and they represented a famous strain noted for their size, long skulls, good turn up of underjaw and excellent layback.

This lovely painting was made especially for the wonderful *Hutchinson's Popular and Illustrated Dog Encyclopaedia* by F. T. Daws.

longer used, the fighting continued with rats, lions, monkeys, bears, other Bulldogs and any other animal the English people could get their hands on. It wasn't long before dog-fighting and bear-baiting had taken the place of bull-baiting. In fact, these "sports" became just as popular—if not more so. Bear-baiting quickly developed into one of the most widespread baiting sports. Eventually, because of the high cost associated with importing bears, the sport gradually came to a halt in the 18th century.

After bull-baiting and bear-baiting came to an end, many believed that the breed as a whole would disappear. Fortunately, there were many individuals who were still interested in keeping the breed

BULL -RUNNING

It wasn't long before bull-running became almost as popular as bull-baiting. The scenario included a bull being set loose, and a pack of ravaging Bulldogs that would follow and chase. The sport developed in the town of Stamford, and it attracted large enthusiastic crowds that gathered to watch and wager on the event. Its popularity increased throughout England and spread to several other towns including Tutbury and Tetbury.

alive and were concerned with transforming it into a worthy pure-bred dog. These dedicated breeders set their sights on developing a breed that would be suitable for the family environment, as opposed to one that was a combative fighting dog. It wasn't too long before breeders switched from breeding for fighting and combat to breeding for showing and exhibiting.

By the late 18th and early 19th centuries, early breed specimens were of poor quality compared to today's standards. Many fighting-dog qualities were still evident in their physical appearance. They had small skulls, long noses and no wrinkle covering their head. They were extremely crippled, and for the most part considered very unhealthy.



Don Brae and Smasher (1876). Don Brae was considered to be the best Bulldog under 40 pounds and was the property of Capt. Holdworth. Smasher was 20 inches round the neck and weighed 43 pounds.



FROM FIGHTING DOG TO SHOW DOG AND FAMILY COMPANION

It wasn't until the official Bulldog Club was formed in England that these poor physical qualities began to be worked out by concerned breeders and fanciers. Long before the English Kennel Club was founded, the Bulldog Club was the first group to attempt to standardize the breed, and the first to hold a conformation show for them in 1859. Jacob



From the 1930s, Lady Vansittart, wife of Sir Robert Vansittart, KCB, CMG, MVO, a great lover of animals, seen here at Denham Place, Bucks, with her Bulldog.

Eng. Ch. Novo Nivo, one of the best Bulldogs of 1933, was owned by Mrs. Shaw. He won many high honors. Note the strong legs, massive back and head, jaws and muzzle.



Sir Tristram from 1933, exemplifying the roach back and good body as desired during that period.

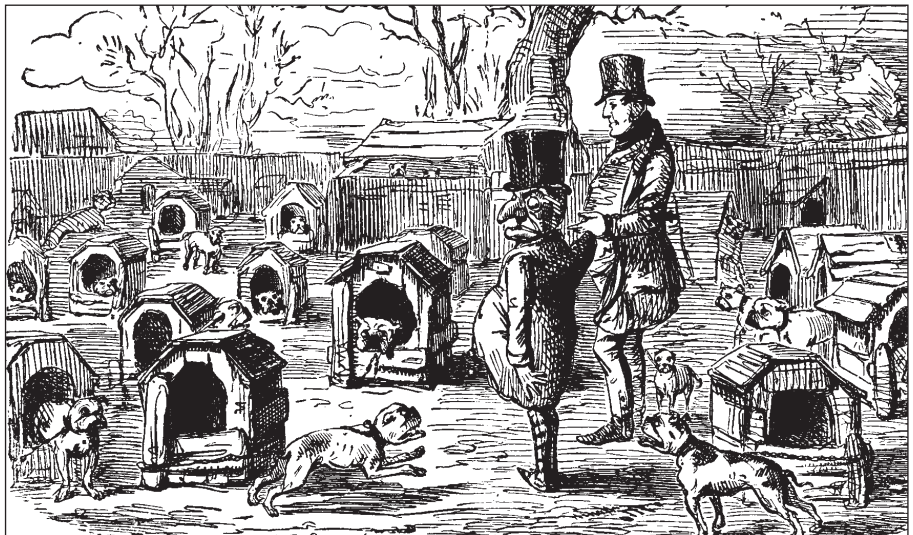


FEROCIOUS ANCESTOR

Fortunately, the Bulldog is nothing like the ferocious dog that it was several hundred years ago. In ancient times it was a persistent fighter. Some written reports include tales of Bulldogs hanging on the lips of the bull long after their insides had been ripped completely apart by the ravenous animal. Many dogs were killed during this era, and the harsh sports in which they were forced to participate would be considered unethical by today's standards.

Lamphier is credited with drawing up the first "official" standard of Bulldogs in 1864, but it wasn't until 1879 that it made it to print. The first real standard was the *Philo Kuon*, which was adopted in 1865 in London. Many of the first dogs that appeared in

The famed magazine *Punch* published this caricature in 1846. The caption read "Mr. Punch visits a very remarkable place. Mr. Punch's visit to Bill George at Canine Castle."





From the mid-1930s, these four Bulldogs were all prize winners. Top left is Mr. George Roscoe's My Lord Bill, top right is Mrs. Edward's bitch Eng. Ch. Mountain Queen, lower left is Mr. Barnard's Eng. Ch. Keysoe Golden Sovereign and lower right is Sir Tristram.

the show ring had splayed feet and bowed legs. To make matters worse, show judging was equally poor and did not in any way help with the breed's physical development. Even today, the Bulldog is considered a very difficult dog to judge correctly in the show ring, and years of dedicated experience are required to do it properly.

It is nearly impossible to mention the long list of influential breeders and dogs from England and America that are responsible for the Bulldog's development in the last 200

years. There are several hundreds. Some of the famous dogs during the late 1800s and early 1900s still have a stronghold on today's offspring, and many of the present top sires and pedigrees can still be traced to them. Some of these influential dogs include: Monarch, Donald, King Dick, Old King Cole, Crib, Rosa, Thunder, Sir Anthony, Brutus and Sancho Panza.

In the 1800s, "Crib" and "Rosa" were two dogs that were considered the foundation for the Bulldog standard. Both dogs had deep chests, incredible muscle

Drawn for the *Hutchinson's Encyclopaedia*, this sketch depicting the Bulldog's character is the work of noted animal artist, J. Nicholson.



tone, roach backs and low tail sets. Crib was a brindle-and-white dog that was considered to be “the best ever” for his day. He was a multi-purpose dog that was used as both a guard dog and as a family companion. Prominent breeders of this time frame were Mr. S. E. Shirley, Mr. G. Roper, Mr. R. J. Lloyd Price, Jesse Oswell, Mr. Clement and Mr. Henshaw. By the late 1800s, Robert Hartley, Charles Hopton, Walter Jeffries and Sam Woodiwiss had become widely recognized and respected breeders in America and England.

James Hinks is credited with being one of the first Bulldog exhibitors. Hinks actively showed Bulldogs for four years from 1860 to 1864. One of the first shows that Hinks participated in was held at the Birmingham Agricultural Hall. The show attracted an entry of 40 Bulldogs including the famous red dog “King Dick” who was owned by Jacob Lamphier. King Dick had a very successful show career. He would become the first show champion and the first Bulldog to be registered in the English Kennel Club stud book. The first British Bulldog club was organized in 1864 by Mr. R. S. Rockstro.

Most of the Bulldog stock was exported to America, and the UK had the most influence on the breed’s development in the States. The first dog to be



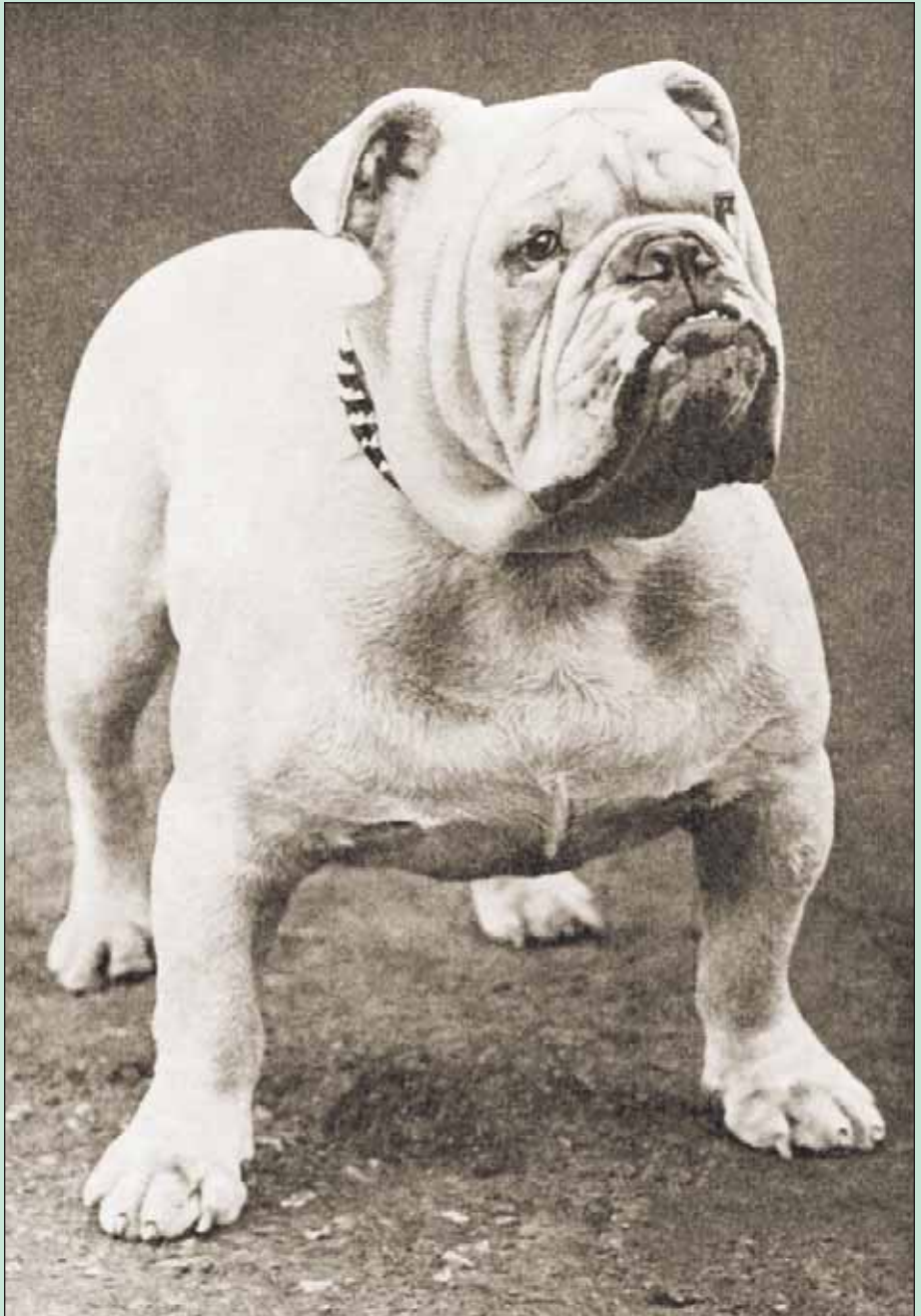
exhibited in America was “Donald,” who was shown in New York in 1880. He was a brindle and white dog owned by Sir William Verner.

Like several other breeds, the ill effects of World War I and World War II took their toll on the Bulldog. At the outbreak of World War I, there were approximately 12,000 Bulldogs in the United Kingdom. By World War II, dog shows had been completely ceased and the Bulldog population decreased to 8,000. Some influential kennels of this time included Merstham, Pearson and Cloverleys. Mrs. Pearson of Pearson Westall’s kennel became the first lady president of the English Bulldog Club in 1936.

After World War II many new important faces emerged that would have a great influence on the breed. Jack and Kathleen Cook were credited with breeding

Ch. Pugilist, posing with his porcelain model, was the winner of 30 Challenge Certificates. He was bred by Mrs. B. J. Walz and was valued for his superior construction. Circa 1930.

Sirloin of Pugilist was exported to America by breeder Mrs. Walz and was important in the development of the breed in the US.



the most United Kingdom Bulldog champions. Les and Ellen Cotton of the Aldridge Kennels were responsible for breeding Eng. Ch. Aldridge Advent Gold. This dog went on to sire nine UK champions. Other influential dogs that made their presence known were Eng. Ch. Maelor Solorium, Eng. Ch. Prince of Woodgate and Eng. Ch. Noways Chuckley. "Chuckles" was the first Bulldog to go on to win Supreme Champion at Crufts in 1952. Arthur Westlake, Dora and George Wakefield and Harold and Audie Hayball produced many fine dogs that will forever hold a place in the history of the breed.

THE BULLDOG IN THE US

Just as the Bulldog has enjoyed a long and colorful history of companionship in its homeland, Britain, so also have Americans



Eng. Ch. Cloverley Bright Star, produced by Mr. Palmer's noted Bulldog champion bitch, was atypical of the Bulldogs in England in the 1930s.

embraced this remarkable breed. Sources reveal that Bulldogs were in the US since the moment of its inception (around 1776 or earlier). The breed was counted among the first breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC), and participated in the first Westminster Kennel Club show in 1877. Ten participants were Bulldogs, and they were owned by fanciers like F. M. David of Montreal; A. Van Cortland, Jr., F. T. L. Lane, J. Matthews and J. B. Miller of Manhattan; A. Van Cortland of Kingsbridge, NY; J. Mortimer of Manhattan; George Raper of the UK; and J. D. Townsend of Manhattan. The first AKC champion of the breed was Robinson Crusoe, who earned the title in 1888. His brother,

Eng. Ch. Novonero, one of Mrs. Shaw's best dogs, displayed a good broad head, a well-balanced body and proper stance.

In the mid-19th century, attempts were made to cross the Bulldog with long-legged terriers to get a more active Bulldog. Shown here are three Bulldog-Terrier crosses with cropped ears, which were fashionable at the time.



Britomartis, also a champion, was considered to be another fabulous specimen in the day.

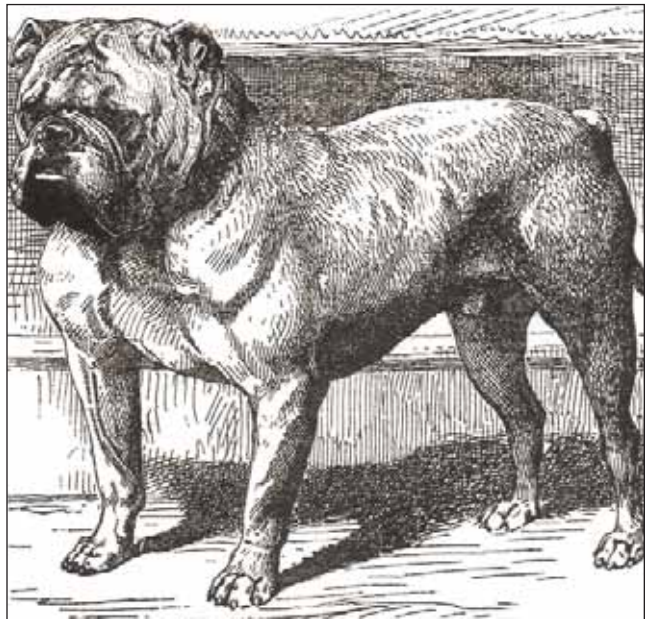
Established in 1890, the Bulldog Club of America (BCA) was incorporated in New York on February 29, 1904. The first president was J. E. Thayer and T. L. Parks was the first vice-president. The first specialty was held in 1907, under the auspices of the AKC. The official newsletter is called *The Bulldogger* and is available to all club members. More information about the club can be found online by visiting the website, www.thebca.org.

In the early days of the BCA, the breed was only represented at the major shows by small numbers, perhaps as few as ten dogs. The formation of the new parent club served to organize its members, and breeders more consistently participated in the shows. At the 1891 Westminster Kennel Club show, some 51 Bulldogs participated, in part due to the 16 silver trophies and medals the BCA offered to the winners. For the next few years, the breed became a major force at shows all across the US. The Grand Trophy, originally called the Parke Cup, was the most prestigious of the awards, and the first such victor was "Harper," a recent English import who caused a great stir on the American dog scene. The brindle Ch. Saleni was

another Bulldog who won grandly on both sides of the Atlantic. Another great brindle English import was Ch. His Lordship, who along with Ch. Lord Yarmouth, Facey Romford and Glenwood Queen won consistently at the shows at the turn of the century. His Lordship won the first two national specialties in 1894 and 1895, with Ch. Saleni taking BOS both years. Yarmouth won BOB at the national in 1897.

Richard Croker, owner of the famed Deal Kennels, imported Ch. Rodney Stone in 1901. This highly valuable dog (said to be \$5000, a dear sum for a dog today, no less in 1901!) won the Grand Trophy twice (1905 and 1906) as well as the national

Eng. Ch. Guido, at the turn of the 19th century, was considered to possess the soundest body ever seen on a Bulldog.
Illustration by E. C. Ash.





Int. Ch. Jasperdin of Din was the first major winner for breeder Mrs. M. B. Montgomery. She became a well-respected producer of fine Bulldogs.

specialty in 1901. Other top winners from this early period were Ch. La Roche, Glenwood Queen and Alex Stewart's Strathway Prince Albert, the first Bulldog to win the Westminster show, having done so in 1913.

Eng. Ch. Pressgang, pictured around 1903, has been called a leader in the breed and one of the most noted Bulldogs in history.



In the 1920s, Bulldogs were proving most successful, led by such kennels as Silvent White, Warleigh, Sparrow Bush, Ther-E-Aults and Ricelands. The 1930s marked the beginning of the legacy of Mrs. Edna Glass and her remarkable Bulldogs that would win for decades in the ring, including such champions as Sandow's Smasher, Sugarlite's Baby Doll, Ashford Superb, Dwael's Smasherjoe, Cherokee Morgan and others. Dorothy Whipple-Sutcliff began her Charl-Doro Kennels in 1935 and became a force for many decades. Many other breeders entered the arena, including Dr. Edward Vardona, Mrs. Robert Horne, George Hargreaves, John Prescott, Harry Isaacs, as some examples of dedication and greatness.

Charles G. Hopton, a noted Bulldog man from this period, produced many champions under his Rodney prefix, including the aptly named Ch. L'Ambassadeur, the first Bulldog bred in the US to win a Kennel Club championship in the UK. R. W. Lyons, Dr. J. H. Elwin, Bill and Helen Armstrong and C. D. Richardson began their careers in the 1940s. Other influential kennels arose in the 1950s, including Romed, Vardona, Maxmal, Rockledge, Thorn Meadow and Ne Mac.



The only other Bulldog to win the prestigious Westminster show was Ch. Kippax Fearnought, owned by Dr. John A. and Billie Saylor and bred by Bill Lawlor and Harold Dooler, this win in 1955. Vardona Kennels produced the great Ch. Vardona Frosty Snowman, who became the American-bred Best in Show winner in 1959. From 1958 to 1960 Snowman won the national specialty.

From 1960 on, there have been hundreds of breeders who have made a mark on the breed

In the early 1900s, the Bulldog Oak Leaf illustrates the changing style in the breed and was hailed as one of the best to date.



Lord Charles Bereford, one of Britain's most famous admirals, is seen here with his noted team of Stone dogs.

Ch. Silent Duchess as she appeared in this beautiful oil painting from 1907.



in the US, far too many to list here, but one is deserving of mention. Bob and Jean Hetherington, who have been breeding Bulldogs since 1964 under the Hetherbull prefix, have produced over 100 champions and obedience titlists, including no fewer than 14 top producers, including the top-winning Bulldog of all time, Ch. Hetherbull Bounty's Frigate. Jean Hetherington earned the distinction of placing the first Utility Dog title on a Bulldog in the 1970s.

Published in the *Sportman's Cabinet* in 1803, this famous illustration is the work of Reinagle.





Most of the top-winning dogs and accomplished Bulldog kennels have originated from English descent. In recent years, several new faces have emerged in the Bulldog show ring in both America and England. Many reputable breeders are producing quality stock and establishing reputable bloodlines. Several have done exceptionally well both in and out of the show ring. Bill and Margaret Goodwin of Britishpride Kennel have

produced several champions. The most famous being Eng. Ch. Ocobo Royal Heritage of Britishpride who won Best in Show at the British Bulldog Club Centenary Show. Pat and Norman Davis of Ocobo Kennel did exceptionally well with Eng. Ch. Ocobo Skipper and Eng. Ch. Ocobo Tully. A few other noteworthy breeders include Brenda Price of Esclusham Kennel, and Peter and Jackie New of New Rock Kennels.

Published in 1892, this illustration shows Bulldogs Bathos, the Holy Terror and the Graven Image.