

CH. HEFTY SON
O'MIKE

Robert Bauschli-
ker imported from
England several
years ago this
bulldog, noted for
his good head



Why a Bulldog Is Ugly Looking

Points of Standard Were All Necessary When He Amused Our Ancestors

By JOHN F. COLLINS

SEVERAL years before the start of the World's War, a clever booking agent of vaudeville acts returned from Europe with what he considered was his greatest find. The act was a song-and-dance artist heralded as "the ugliest woman in the world." The blasé American public, always seeking something new in the amusement way, took a humorous interest in the artist, and for a while she was a sensation.

When the "ugliest woman in the world" no longer interested the fickle public, the booking agent brought to

this country another performer, called "the most beautiful woman in the world." Being a very shrewd man, the booking agent saw that "the most beautiful woman in the world" always was pictured with a bulldog.

The contrast was startling and, incidentally, the picturing of the two together added additional charm to each. While some might question the statement that the woman was "the most beautiful in the world," there was no denying the fact that the bulldog was ugly—in fact, the breed is the ugliest looking in the world.

Have you ever wondered why the bulldog is ugly? Were you ever curious to know why he has such a wealth of peculiar looks? Surely, he just did not happen. There must be a reason. And there is; in fact, if you will study the history of this highly interesting and remarkable animal, you will soon discover why the dog has so striking an appearance.

In the main, the

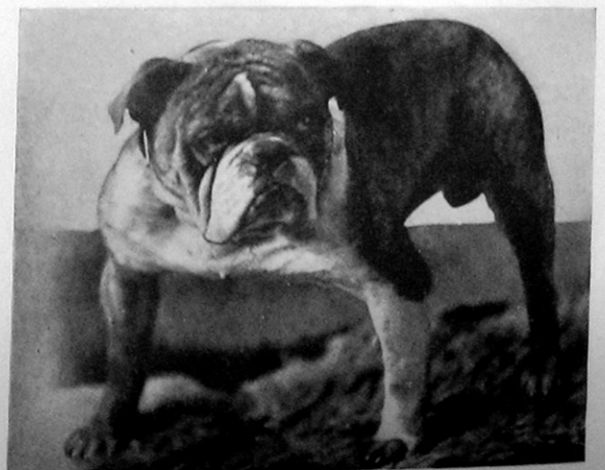
bulldog owes its looks to the fact that the purpose for which the breed originally was used required a dog of very unusual structure and make-up. All the points of a bulldog described in the standard of the breed to-day were useful and necessary to the dog of many years ago, when he helped to amuse our English forebears in the brutal sports of bull baiting, bear baiting and dog fighting.

BULL baiting was the most popular of these pastimes. Previous to 1773 it was one of England's recognized



CH. RODNEY STONE

This is the celebrated \$5,000 bulldog imported from England by the late Richard Croker for his son and was the greatest of the latter's many prize winners



CH. MOSTON GLADIATOR

A well-balanced bulldog imported by the author. He won his championship in four straight shows, including New York, Philadelphia and the Bulldog Club Specialty

public amusements. In that year it was legislated against; but it continued, more or less privately, until 1836.

The way this semi-savage contest was conducted is as follows:

A bull was brought to a public square or meeting place, and tethered to a post. Then the dogs were loosened and encouraged to engage the bull. They usually needed very little urging, as this most courageous of all animals, the bulldog, was generally quite willing and anxious for the fray.

The dog's attack consisted of securing a grip on the bull's nose. He retained that grip until the bull fell from exhaustion. Back in those days the bulldog weighed from 45 pounds to 70 pounds. If he was game, and had grip enough to keep his hold on the bull, the dog would win, for the exertion of throwing such a weight into the air, added to the fact that the dog's grip was on the nose, the bull's tenderest part, soon had an effect upon the larger animal.

MANY weird and wonderful tales are told about the remarkable bravery and tenacity of the dogs in those encounters. If the stories are only half true, it is no wonder that the bulldog of the present day is so courageous. He surely comes honestly by this attribute.

But to come back to the reason for the peculiar make-up of this breed, we might as well start with the nose. This is required to be laid back. That is, instead of the nostrils being perpendicular or facing forward, they should be rather horizontal and face upward, the tip being set back deeply, or nearly between the eyes. The reason for the peculiar position of the nostrils is to permit breathing by the dog



BULL BAITING IN MERRIE ENGLAND

Prior to 1773 this sport was one of England's recognized public amusements. In that year it was legislated against; but it continued more or less privately until 1836, to the great delight of our forebears

while he still retains his grip on the bull's nose. No other animal has this peculiarity.

Another point in which the bulldog differs from any other animal is in the placement of shoulders. These are on the outside of the body, the trunk swinging between them. The strange formation was desired so that the dog could crouch low on the ground, and so prevent the bull from goring him with its horns.

Another reason for the formation was when the bull was whirling the dog around and brought him down to the ground, instead of the dog landing on his feet, which undoubtedly would have broken the dog's legs, he struck the earth on his chest or brisket. The brisket, or underneath part of the front of the dog's body, was required

ward beyond the eyes, the standard says. In other words, there should be great muscular development of the jaws, a necessary requirement if a dog was to successfully hang onto a bull.

A SKULL very large, measuring in circumference equal to the height of the dog at the shoulders, is called for by the standard. A wise provision, as the dog had to be clever if he was to take care of himself under the terrible circumstances in which his kind (?) master placed him. Probably the most necessary part of the whole dog for throwing the bull was the most unusual formation of the jaws. The underjaw had to be longer than the upper jaw and curve up and in front of the upper lip. This made possible the vise-like grip for which the breed is famous—the grip that made him a winner in his encounters with an animal possibly forty times his weight. This is another peculiarity not shared by any other animal.

That is the reason why this wonderful, courageous, faithful little beast was bred on such grotesque and ugly lines. It was done so that he might amuse his more intelligent, but more brutal, companion and master.

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A DOG FIGHT IN YE OLDEN DAYS

Like bull baiting, there was a time when the bulldog was used in the pit. His great courage and tenacity made him a popular favorite with all who followed the brutal sport

WHY A BULLDOG IS UGLY LOOKING

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While admitting the ugliness of the general outline of the bulldog, I do not admit an ugly expression. Fat from it, as his eyes, beautiful, large and full, while having a fearless and determined look, do not appear either fierce or cruel, but quite the reverse.

Eyes of human beings are great indication of character. This is also true of the bulldog. That he is fearless and determined, no one who knows the breed will deny. But along with these commendable characteristics are bravery, honesty, faithfulness and a braved per cent dependability, exceeding that of any other breed.

It is claimed by old writers on the breed that the bulldog is without doubt the most courageous of all quadrupeds. It is also a well-known fact that when ever courage or stamina was required in any other breed of dog, the out-crossing resorted to invariably was with the bulldog.

As a pet, pal, or house dog, a bulldog cannot be excelled. His kindness and faithfulness to his master are proverbial, and for a companion or playmate for children, he is in a class by himself. A child can maul and abuse him, as children always will innocently do with their pet dogs. But this grand animal, inured to pain and cruelty by the life to which his ancestors were subjected, does not resent being hurt. Therefore he does not snap and bite, as dogs of most other breeds always will do under similar circumstances.

Should a bulldog be enjoying a meal, or even a bone, and a child decides to take either from him, there is absolutely no danger. Instead of grabbing the child's hand, as might be expected and which would happen in the case of other breeds, this terribly ugly-looking beast, descended from dogs that would tackle a bull, a bear or even a lion, will most likely lick the child's hand.

And yet with all these most commendable characteristics, the breed does not seem to be as popular in this country, at least in and around the larger cities of the East, such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, as it was twenty years ago. The reason for the falling off in popularity is often asked. The answer is simply that styles in dogs change the same as styles in everything else.

Another reason is that the breed does not get the press notoriety that it enjoyed twenty years ago. In those days Richard Croker, Jr., son of the then boss of Tammany Hall, had a large kennel of this breed which he exhibited at the principal shows. A

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contemporary and a competitor for show honors of Mr. Croker was Thomas W. Lawson, then well known in his frenzied finance war on Wall Street.

A wealthy Pittsburgher, Mr. Vandergrift; Richard Harding Davis, George J. Gould, Mr. Holbrook, President of the Gotham Company; The Earles, proprietors of a well-known hotel in the Tenderloin, and many other well-known men vied with each other for the trophies, cups and ribbons at the shows with their bulldogs; so this breed was the vogue.

The condition of the breed in those days was not a healthy one. All the dogs shown by these rich fanciers were imported ones. Nobody was breeding any good specimens, because the pace was too hot for home-bred stock. Every important show had a recently imported celebrity, and the prices paid for these flyers knew no limit. This could not last, as only moneyed people could be in the running; and even this class tired of paying a large price for a dog to win once and then to be beaten by a later importation.

One after another of these so-called fanciers quit. With their passing, the great advertisement that the breed had enjoyed stopped, and naturally the breed lost its ascendancy. It was superseded by the collie, which breed was to have its day because the late J. Pierpont Morgan, Samuel Untermyer and some other wealthy patrons of that breed began the same game of importing to win.

The bulldog breed of to-day is on a much firmer foundation. Instead of the wealthy exhibitors that we had in the past, we have real breeders who are producing a wonderful lot of American-bred dogs. These dogs are quite the equal of the imported wonders of twenty years ago. Instead of all the bulldogs in the country being centered in the very large cities of the East, many are now located in the Middle West and on the Pacific coast. In the last few years the breed has taken quite a spurt, and I believe it will soon be as popular and as numerous as it was in the past.

Whether or not this dog will ever regain its former lead as a show exhibit, it is hard to say. But just as long as man needs a brave, faithful and dependable pal or pet, this wonderful breed will have its friends—warm, true and loyal friends of a really splendid dog. And those friends will never think that a bulldog is ugly looking—rather, that he is a perfect dog.