

ARE YOU READY FOR A BULLDOG?

Bulldogs are wonderful companion dogs that thrive as part of the family. Like most breeds, they do best with a consistent routine, regular activity, and proper care.



BULLDOG BASICS

- Male bulldogs grow to about 50 pounds.
- Female bulldogs grow to about 40 pounds.
- Note: Individual dogs may vary from those weights, but what is important is that the dog is well-proportioned, healthy and fit.
- Like most dog breeds, the lifespan is usually 10-13 years, though some may have shorter or longer lives.
- Bulldogs can be involved in a variety of activities and sports.
- Bulldogs are affectionate family dogs that are bred in four standard colors: red, white, fawn, fallow, or any combination of these.
- Bulldogs may come in a number of common patterns and markings, such as brindle, piebald with black masks. Any other color or markings are considered a disqualification from the breed (for example: the merle color/pattern is a disqualification).

FINDING A BULLDOG

There are three primary ways to bring a bulldog into your family. The first is through the **Bulldog Club of America (BCA) Marketplace** on our website—your trusted source for AKC-registered bulldogs from reputable breeders. The second is through the **BCA Bulldog Breeder Referral Program**. Finally, the **BCA Rescue Network**, a nationwide group dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming bulldogs in need.

DIET AND EXERCISE

Diet and exercise are critical for every dog breed, and the bulldog is no exception. Because bulldogs grow quickly and develop substantial bone and muscle early on, that rapid growth must be supported with high-quality nutrition and a thoughtful feeding plan. A responsible breeder will start your puppy off correctly and guide you in maintaining proper nutrition as your bulldog matures. Reviewing reputable dog food company websites can also help you better understand ingredient quality and nutritional balance. Just as important, a well-bred bulldog enjoys regular walks and playtime, and benefits from a daily program of moderate exercise to support healthy joints and maintain strong heart and lung function. Bulldogs often enjoy participating in activities like:

- Obedience
- Agility
- Rally
- Therapy work
- AKC Fast CAT
- Conformation

It's important to remember that obesity can create health problems in any breed (such as breathing difficulty) and excess weight should not be mistaken for a breed-wide issue. Maintaining



a healthy weight through proper diet and exercise allows the bulldog to thrive as the active, athletic companion it was bred to be.



MANICURES



A bulldog's nails must be kept short. Long nails may cause the dog to twist their toes to the side. This imbalance and weight shifting can cause undue stress to their joints, hips etc. Whether you choose to clip your dog's nails with sturdy dog nail clippers or choose to grind them with a 'Dremmel' type tool, it must be done very carefully. Caution must be exercised to not cut into the quick. On white nails it is easy to see the quick and not hit it, but those with dark nails should stop at the curve. There are factors that influence the frequency of your bulldog's manicure including diet and exercise. For example, dogs who take frequent walks on pavement will wear the nails down and require less trimming. A good breeder will take the time to instruct you in the care and maintenance of one of their pups.

SKIN CARE AND FACIALS

Proper facial and skin care are essential to keeping your bulldog healthy and comfortable. Cleanse the face and nose regularly using a warm washcloth with dog shampoo, then rinse and dry thoroughly. Unscented baby wipes can be used between baths. Turn this into a positive "love ritual"; wash the wrinkle, scratch the ears, and follow with praise (and treats)! Bulldogs, like all dog breeds, can be prone to tear stains caused by structural, environmental, dietary, hormonal, or stress-related factors. Stains should be addressed promptly to prevent secondary infections. While prevention helps, it does not guarantee they won't occur. There are many products available, but improvement takes consistency and patience. A knowledgeable breeder can help guide you.



Healthy skin also depends on regular brushing. Brush your bulldog three times per week with a soft bristle or rubber brush in gentle circular motions. This removes dead hair, distributes natural oils, keeps the coat shiny, and supports skin health. During heavier shedding in spring and fall, brush more often. Consistent brushing reduces the need for frequent bathing, which can dry the coat. When bathing is necessary, use a shampoo formulated specifically for dogs.

The Bulldog Club of America was founded in 1890 and continues to provide support, education and advocacy for the bulldog breed. If you are interested in bulldogs, we hope you'll consider joining our club!



www.bulldogclubofamerica.org

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