



A Bulldog!

You are the owner of a very special dog. The Bulldog today is bred to be a loyal and loving companion. He is unique in many ways and although he does require special attention he repays you in many wonderful ways. The Bulldog Club of America would like you to know some of the things which make a Bulldog so special.

Breed History

The Bulldog's origin is somewhat undocumented and unverifiable. Authorities differ so completely about the origin of the Bulldog that the name itself is in dispute. However, the Bulldog is one of the few breeds that are emblematic of a nation, and there is little doubt that a species resembling the Bulldog has existed for centuries in England. The Bulldog is believed to have its origin in a long-extinct species known variously as the ialaunt, alaune, or allanf. Originally, the breed was referred to as a bonddogees or bolddogges.



Don Leon, whelped 1892, by Don Carlos ex Lady Dudley

Because of their courage and apparent capacity to endure pain, Bulldogs were shamelessly exploited for many years in the sports of bull-baiting, bear-baiting and dog fighting. Early Bulldogs were powerful, ferocious animals, ideally suited for these cruel sports. When bull fighting and bull-baiting were banned in 1835, Bulldogs were in danger of extinction until a small group of Englishmen dedicated themselves to preserving this exceptional breed. They set about to perpetuate the breed and restore its tarnished reputation by retaining all its fine characteristics, while breeding out any tendency toward viciousness or aggressiveness. After decades of selective breeding, the Bulldog's temperament has been thoroughly transformed from that of a fighter to the lovable and gentle companion we know today.

Breed Facts

The Bulldog is a medium-sized dog that weighs about 55 pounds and stands about 15 inches at the shoulder. Not your typical lap dog, though they would like to be. They are affectionate and loyal, and they thrive best when treated as members of the family.

The coat is short, smooth and glossy. Shedding occurs with changes in the seasons and is quite common during the spring and fall. Frequent bathing is unnecessary if the coat is brushed frequently to remove dead hair. The color may be brindle, fawn, red, a piebald of one of these colors, or white. Predominately black is considered very undesirable for breeding and showing.

The proper ears are called rose ears; i.e., folded back exposing the inside of the burr. They are never trimmed or surgically altered. The tail may be either straight or screwed. Screw tails that fit tightly to the body of adults often become irritated and can become infected when not cleaned regularly. The tail is never docked. Toenails should be trimmed at regular intervals to prevent foot problems. Bulldogs often resist nail clipping unless exposed to it gently, carefully, and frequently at a very early age. Dewclaws are not removed. A mild shampoo is recommended for both puppies and adults. Facial wrinkles require frequent cleaning. Heavy wrinkles should always be kept clean and dry to prevent irritation and infection. A Bulldog should never be picked up by its front legs and shoulders. Serious injuries can result. Pick the Bulldog up by placing one hand behind its front legs and one hand in front of its hind legs.

A regular adult diet consisting of a good, commercial dry kibble mixed occasionally with canned dog food is recommended for dogs older than six months of age. A high protein diet normally fed to hunting and herding breeds is not recommended for Bulldogs. Puppies under the age of six months should be fed three times daily, generally all they want. Ask your veterinarian about vitamins, etc. After six months of age, feeding twice daily is usually sufficient. Moderate daily exercise on a leash is recommended, except in very warm climates and hot summer months. Bulldogs are easily overheated and subject to heat exhaustion. An air-conditioned environment is highly recommended.

Extreme caution and close supervision around swimming pools, lakes, ponds and rivers is very important. Bulldogs have great difficulty keeping their heads above water since most of their weight is concentrated forward. Enclosed pools that can be locked



are recommended. A fenced yard is essential since a Bulldog should never be allowed to roam unsupervised by an adult. They are very inquisitive and can be easily lured away and abducted. They are also convinced they are indestructible and do not watch out for cars.



Because of his great strength and tenacity the Bulldog must have the correct Bulldog disposition: "equable, kind, resolute, and courageous (not vicious or aggressive)." This Bulldog disposition is the main reason he has had a part in producing so many other breeds—from the Boston Terrier to the Bullmastiff.



Training

House training and bonding with puppies should begin immediately. The use of a crate can facilitate this process. Taking the puppy outside immediately after meals and upon awaking from a nap or a night's sleep is a must. Daily leash and collar training of puppies should also begin right away. Practice for short periods, and always with patience and gentleness.

The Bulldog is very intelligent and tends to do his own thinking. Despite their well-earned reputation for stubbornness, Bulldogs can be successfully trained in obedience classes, and many can be trained to compete successfully in performance contests. Training is most successful when begun at an early age with elaborate praise and rewards given for good behavior. It also helps if the owner/trainer has a sense of humor and appreciation of the Bulldog's ability to "do it my way" in very innovative ways!

Spay or Neuter

The Bulldog Club of America is very concerned about the number of Bulldogs that require rescue. Undertaking the responsibility of Bulldog ownership requires a commitment of 10 to 12 years. The BCA encourages high breeder ethics and responsible dog ownership. If you purchased your female for a pet, an ethical breeder will advise you not to breed her. A reputable breeder does not provide stud services for females that have Limited Registration with AKC.

The BCA strongly recommends that breeders use the American Kennel Club's Limited Registration which restricts the use of a pet for breeding and registration purposes. The BCA also recommends that you spay or neuter your pet Bulldog. There are several reasons for these recommendations. Neutered pets usually live longer, healthier lives. They also make happier pets. Spaying a female before her first heat cycle greatly reduces her chances of mammary tumors, and uterine infections. Neutering a male makes him less susceptible to prostate problems and eliminates the possibility of testicular cancer.

Discuss the advantages of spay/neuter with your veterinarian. Spaying or neutering your pet will not turn it into a fat, lazy animal. Obesity is caused by overeating and too little exercise.

Breeding

Having puppies is a major physical and potentially life-threatening event for a Bulldog female, as her litters are usually delivered by cesarean and require an anesthetic. The results of breeding can be devastating if your beloved pet dies during surgery or from complications that follow. The first two or three weeks of a Bulldog puppy's life often require around-the-clock care and sleepless nights. Most Bulldog females require considerable assistance in raising puppies. The financial reward is not likely to compensate for time spent or to offset expenses. Before you decide to breed your female you should have a thorough knowledge of the Bulldog Standard. You should also have studied her background and the background of the dog you choose to breed her to. It is usually a good idea to discuss this with her breeder.

The Bulldog Club of America

The Bulldog Club of America, Inc., organized in 1890, is one of the oldest dog clubs in the United States. The purposes of BCA are:

- To maintain a Standard of Excellence for the guidance of breeders, owners, and judges.
- To improve the breed by encouraging the degree of excellence set forth in the Standard.
- To stimulate interest in competitive public showings of Bulldogs.
- To further the interests of the breed.
- To work for the general good of breeders, owners, and exhibitors of Bulldogs.

National

An annual membership fee provides nearly 2,800 members with *The Bulldogger*, a quarterly magazine that is the official publication of the BCA. The BCA also sponsors a National Conference each year, which usually includes three specialty shows, an obedience trial, educational seminars, and meetings.

Regional

A truly national organization, the BCA has eight geographical "Divisions" which ensures representation for all areas. Each of the eight Divisions provides information about Bulldog activities in its area.

Local

There are approximately 60 local Bulldog clubs that sponsor activities—club meetings, conformation shows, obedience trials, education seminars, etc.—for Bulldogs and their owners. Many of these clubs also publish informative newsletters.

Additional Information

Additional information about the BCA, its organization, programs, publications and activities is available on our Web site and from:

BCA Secretary
Lynn Smith
PO Box 236
Jamesville, VA 23398
larlyn3@verizon.net

BCA Education Chairman
Elizabeth Hugo-Milam
3940 N County Line Road
Newcastle, OK 73065
celticdogges@me.com