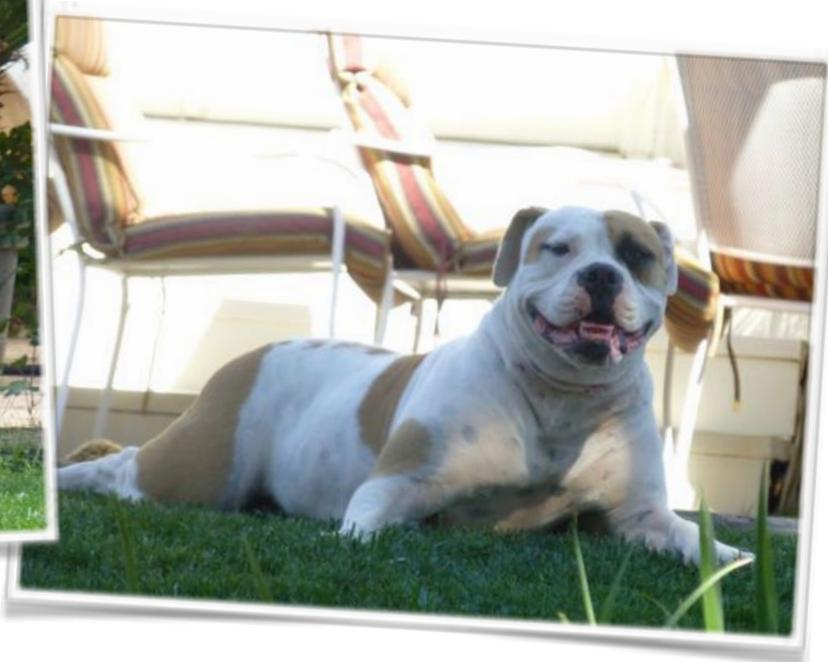


# American Bulldogs

The Standard Breed Characteristics.



# American Bulldogs

## General Information

The American Bulldog is bred from working dogs and was originally created to catch livestock and protecting property on the farm in the Southern parts of the United States. American Bulldogs are larger than their close relatives, the Olde English Bulldogge. American Bulldogs are a powerful, athletic short-coated dog, strongly muscled and well boned.

The head of an American Bulldog is large and broad with a wide muzzle, and with very powerful jaws.

American Bulldogs generate the impression of great strength, endurance and exhibit a well-knit, sturdy compact frame.

The American Bulldog is a gentle and loving dog, affectionate with their owners. They are fearless when it comes to defending their owners and family and they excel at do so.

**Country of Origin:** The American Bulldog originated in the United States and was developed by John D. Johnson.

**Original Purpose:** The American Bulldog was originally bred as a working dog that was a farm dog that as often used for catching livestock and wild boars as well as protecting property.

**Today's Uses:** Today's American Bulldog excels as a family companion. The American Bulldog is more than capable as a catch / hunting dog, weight pulling and personal protection.

**Weight:** American Bulldogs typically weigh between 80 to 120 pounds when fully grown.

**Height:** American Bulldogs are between 22 to 28 inches tall, females American Bulldogs are slightly smaller than males.

**Coat:** The American Bulldog has a coat that is short, close and stiff to the touch.

**Color:** American Bulldogs can be white, brindle, brown, red, or tan or combinations and variations of these. Solid black, solid blue, and tricolor (white with patches of black and tan) are not acceptable colors for American Bulldogs.

**Temperament:** The American Bulldog was bred as a working dog and is still used as a hog and cattle catching dog, and a protector of personal property. The American Bulldog is fearless enough to face an angry bull or a human intruder.

**With Children:** The American Bulldog is a gentle, loving family companion who, if raised properly can be a child's best friend.

**With Pets:** The American Bulldog if properly socialized can be excellent with other pets, especially when raised together.

**Other Pet Compatibility:** American Bulldogs should generally only be housed with a dog of the opposite sex. American Bulldogs can be dog aggressive with members of the same sex.

**Trainability:** The American Bulldog is very intelligent breed and does well with training and excels in many different types of dog activities and canine sports. American Bulldogs should be socialized and trained at a young age.

**Activity Level:** The American Bulldog is energetic and needs lots of exercise. The American Bulldog loves long walks, jogging, playing catch, and agility or skills trials.

**Life Expectancy:** American Bulldogs can live to be 9 to 14 years

## General Description

The ideal American Bulldog is a medium to large size dog that is a loyal and courageous athlete. The American Bulldog should possess a sound temperament and has great strength, agility and confidence. The American Bulldog's expression should reflect intelligence and alertness. Its sturdy, powerful, yet compact frame is characteristically stockier and heavier boned in the males and more refined in the females. Some aloofness with strangers and assertiveness with other dogs is accepted.

**Head:** The head is large and broad giving the impression of great power.

When viewed from the side, the skull and muzzle are parallel to one another and joined by a well-defined stop.

The stop is very deep and abrupt, almost at a right angle with the muzzle. Despite the depth of the stop, the forehead is wider than it is high.

**Ears:** The ears should be medium in size, high set, and may be drop, semi-prick, or rose, with no preference. Cropped ears are a cosmetic fault, due to the fact that they have been cosmetically altered and can not be judged in their natural state. Ears may be cropped but natural ears are preferred.

Drop ears - The ears are set high, level with the upper line of the skull, accentuating the skull's width. At the base, the ear is just slightly raised in front and then hangs along the cheek. The tip is slightly rounded. When pulled toward the eye, the ear should not extend past the outside corner of the eye.

Semi-prick ears - Same as drop ears except that only the tips of the ears drop forward.

Rose ears - Rose ears are small and set high on the skull.

**Muzzle:** The muzzle is broad and thick with a very slight taper from the stop to the nose. The length of the muzzle is equal to approximately one third of the length of the head. Lips are moderately thick.

**Bite:** The American Bulldog has a complete set of large, evenly spaced, white teeth. The preferred bite is undershot with the inside of the lower incisors extending in front of the upper incisors up to ¼ inch. A scissors bite is acceptable.

The teeth should not be visible when the mouth is closed. Faults: Level bite or extreme undershot. An overshot bite is a disqualifying fault.

**Eyes:** The eyes should be round or almond in shape, medium size, and wide set. Dark brown is preferred, other colors are accepted. Black eye rim pigment is preferred, other colors are accepted.

**Nose:** Broad with open nostrils (nares) with no sign of air restriction. The nose should be a solid color.

**Neck:** The neck must be long enough to exert leverage, but short enough to exert power. The neck is muscular and, at its widest point, is nearly as broad as the head, with a slight arch at the crest, and tapering slightly from shoulders to the head. A slight dewlap is acceptable.

**Chest:** The American Bulldog's chest is deep and moderately wide. The ribs are well sprung from the spine and then flatten to form a deep body extending at least to the elbows, or lower in adult dogs.

**Back:** The topline of the American Bulldog inclines very slightly downward from well-developed withers to a broad, muscular back. arched, blending into a moderately sloping croup. The flank is moderately tucked up and firm.

**Legs:** The front legs of the American Bulldog should be straight with moderate to heavy bone. Pasterns should be strong and upright. Elbows that are bowed or twisted are a fault from minor to a disqualification, based on severity. The rear legs should be well muscled, moderately angulated and parallel.

Pasterns should be strong and upright.

**Movement:** American Bulldogs should have a balanced gait that drives off the rear and is complimented by reach allowing the dog to cover ground with a sense of power. American Bulldogs should single track.

**Feet:** The feet of the American Bulldog are round, tight both front and rear, and the pasterns should be strong.

**Height:** Desirable height in a mature male ranges from 22 to 27 inches; in a mature female, from 20 to 25 inches.

**Weight:** Male American Bulldogs are typically larger with heavier bone and more muscle than female American Bulldogs. Both sexes, however, should have a well-balanced overall appearance. Preferred weight in a mature male ranges from 75 to 125 pounds; in a mature female, from 60 to 100 pounds.

**Color:** Any color, color pattern, or combination of colors is acceptable for the American Bulldog, except for merle, solid black, solid blue, and tricolor (white with patches of black and tan). Some dark brindle coats may appear black unless examined in very bright light.  
Disqualifying Fault: Solid black or blue with no white markings; tricolor (white with patches of black and tan).

**Coat:** The coat is short. A wavy coat or a long coat is a disqualifying fault.

**Tail:** The American Bulldog may have a natural or a docked tail, but the natural tail is preferred. The natural tail is very thick at the base, and tapers to a point. A "pump handle" tail is preferred but any tail carriage from upright, when the dog is excited, to relaxed between the hocks is acceptable. The pump handle tail should be carried low and not over the back of the dog.

**Temperament:** The disposition of the American Bulldog should be outgoing and happy. While a watchful nature may be expected at home, human aggression without provocation is a disqualifying fault.

**Villa Fournier's American Bulldogs since 1997**