

New Standard for the French
Bulldog effective June 5,
2018

The yellow text is new...

What sections were changed?

- General Appearance – Stress hallmarks & eliminate a DQ that is redundant with AKC Rules
- Eye Color – New DQ to help identify DQ colors
- Nose Color – Clarify
- Jaw - Stress hallmarks
- Back - Stress hallmarks & use easily understood terminology
- Coat – New DQ to protect from fad breeders
- Color - Protect breed from fad breeders
- Gait – Use terminology common in sport

Removed this DQ...

- Removed the DQ:
- ~~● Any alteration other than removal of declaws is considered mutilation and is a disqualification.~~

General Appearance – Added hallmarks

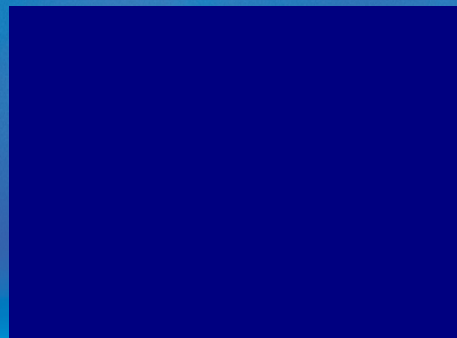
- The French Bulldog has the appearance of an active, intelligent, muscular dog of heavy bone, smooth coat, compactly built, and of medium or small structure. Expression alert, curious, and interested. **The hallmarks of the breed are the square head with bat ears and the roach back.**

Reason for the change to Eyes

- With the explosion of exotic colors and more dilutes, we will see an increased number of blue and green eyes.
- Some coat colors and nose pigment can be difficult to assess in certain light.
- If the judge is not certain whether the coat color or nose pigment should be DQed, the eye color change allows the judge to DQ the dog for eye color.
- This change gives the judge an additional component by which to DQ the improperly colored Frenchie.

What is a “dark” eye?

- The previous standard said that the eyes are “dark” in color. Dark is not defined. Without additional definition, dark could be dark **green** or dark **blue**.
- By defining the color which is dark, we have eliminated any other dark color other than brown.



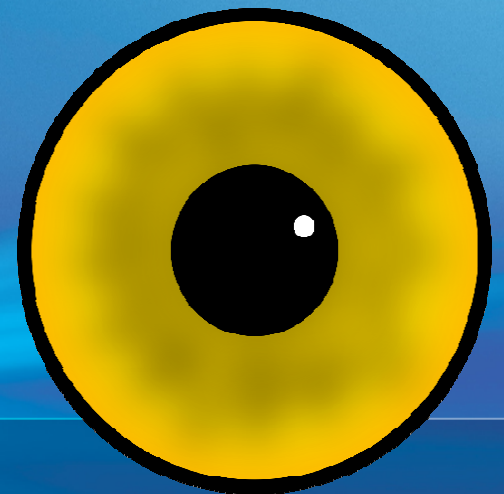
Reason for the change re light eye

- The previous standard said that lighter colored eyes are acceptable in lighter colored dogs. Because “lighter color” was not defined, this language could allow a green, blue or yellow eye. We have eliminated this loophole by specifying that the lighter eye **must be brown** in color.
- This also clarifies the standard that the lighter eye is not preferred.



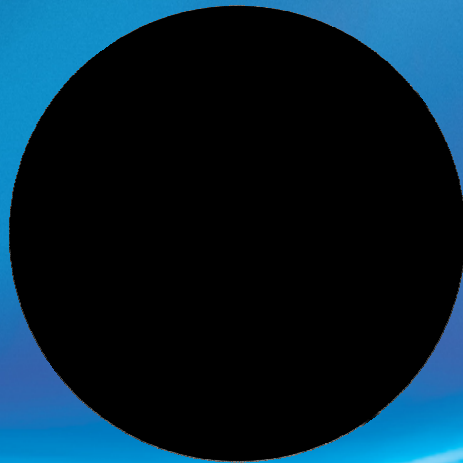
Yellow eyes

- This revision ONLY allows a **brown** eye! No other color is allowed.
- The standard requires a dark **brown** eye so the further the eye is from dark brown, the more the eye color should be penalized.
- Yellow eyes are NOT acceptable – but they are not a DQ.



Eyes

- Eyes dark **brown or approaching black** in color.....~~In lighter colored dogs,~~ **Lighter brown** colored eyes are acceptable, **but not desirable.** **Blue or green eye(s)** or any traces of blue or green are a disqualification.



Reason for the change to Nose

- Nose is **black** except for lighter colored dogs.
- The exception for "lighter colored dogs" needed to be defined. Under the previous language
 - Some may misinterpret dark red fawns as being a lighter color which could result in liver/chocolates (liver nose) receiving awards. Livers are a DQ.
 - Some may misinterpret brindle piebalds as "lighter colored dogs."
- The current standard does not require black masked dogs to have black noses. This revision corrects that omission.

Nose

- Nose other than black is a *disqualification*, except in the case of **creams or fawns without black masks**, where a lighter colored nose is acceptable but not desirable.



Acceptable



Preferred

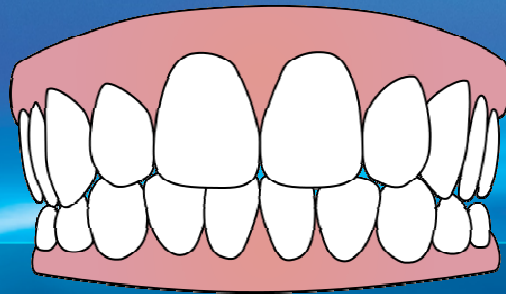
Reason for the additions to Jaw: misaligned



- Wry mouths – these are increasingly becoming common and should be penalized. Wry mouth is defined by the AKC glossary as “an asymmetrical alignment of upper and lower jaws; cross bite.”
- We have made it clear that wry mouths should be penalized.

Reasons for changes to jaw- One of the essential elements of a Frenchie is an undershot mouth

- Other than undershot. This undershot bite is essential to the character of the French Bulldog. We are seeing in the ring more bites which are even (level) or scissors. By making any other jaw a serious fault, we protect our breed.



Tongue

- The tongue can be an indication of an incorrect mouth. If the tongue shows **WHEN THE MOUTH IS CLOSED**, it could be a sign of:
 - Wry mouth
 - Improper teeth alignment
- Judges use common sense in determining whether something is caused by genetics or by environment such as excitability or heat stress.



Jaw

- Flews black, thick and broad, hanging over the lower jaw at the sides, meeting the underlip in front and covering the teeth **and tongue**, which are not seen when the mouth is closed.
- The underjaw is deep, square, broad, undershot and well turned up. **Wry mouths and any bites other than undershot are serious faults.**

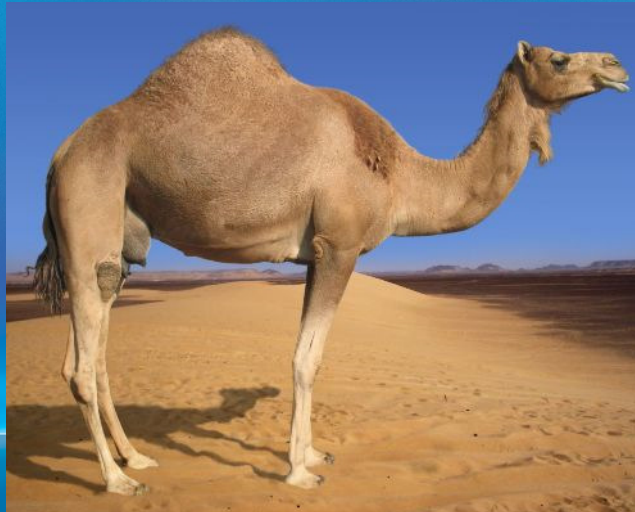
Reason for change to topline/back

- The French Bulldog's unique topline is often misunderstood.
- The topline is one of the breed hallmarks and needed more discussion of what the breed should have.



The Frenchie does NOT have a Camel back

- Camel – A form of roached back, first dipping behind the shoulders then arching markedly in front of and over the loins before once again dropping at the rump.
- The French Bulldog has the dip at the shoulder but wants the rise over the loin – not in front of the loin.



The Frenchie does NOT have a Carp back

- Carp – similar to camel back except that there is little or no initial drop behind the shoulders, and the arch tends to be not as high.
- Also not appropriate for the French Bulldog –
 - Does not have a dip behind the shoulders
 - Rise starts before the loin.

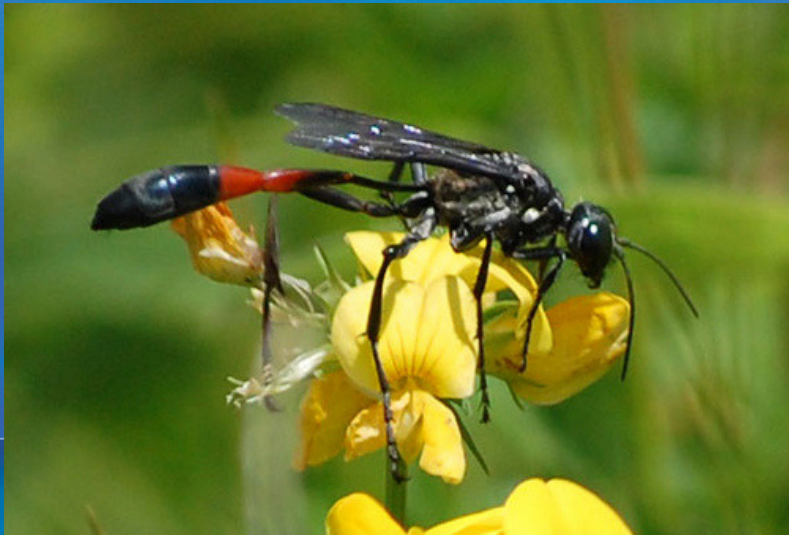


Change to the back

- Because there are several types of “roach” backs and the French Bulldog does not meet the definition of the more commonly used roach backs, the FBDCA elected to more clearly describe the topline.
- The tail set and carriage were previously described but not the croup. We corrected this omission.

Body continued

- We have replaced “narrowing at the loins” with a “tapering to the rear.” This change prevents a wasp-waisted Frenchie from being correct.
- The standard still makes it clear that the chest is broad, deep and full; well ribbed with the belly tucked up.



Previous standard was not clear on the body shape – “pear” or “hour glass”

- The previous standard stated that the breed is “broad at the shoulders and narrowing at the loins.”
- The buttocks were not described. The revised standard makes it clear that the buttocks are narrower than the shoulders. The revised describes a “pear shape” not an hourglass.



Back

- ~~● The back is a roach back with a slight fall close behind the shoulders; strong and short, broad at the shoulders and narrowing at the loins.~~
- Changed to
- The **back** is a roach back with a slight fall close behind the shoulders, **gradually rising to the loin which is higher than the shoulder, and rounding at the croup. The back is strong and short, broader at the shoulders, and tapering to the rear.**

Reason for change to Coat

- We are seeing dogs offered for sale that have a long coat. This is NOT a French Bulldog.



Coats – a variety of short and smooth

- One member brought to our attention that we have a range of coat texture currently in the breed.
 - Some are fine.
 - Some are a bit thicker in density.
 - We did not want to DQ the thicker smooth coats so we clarified the current standard.



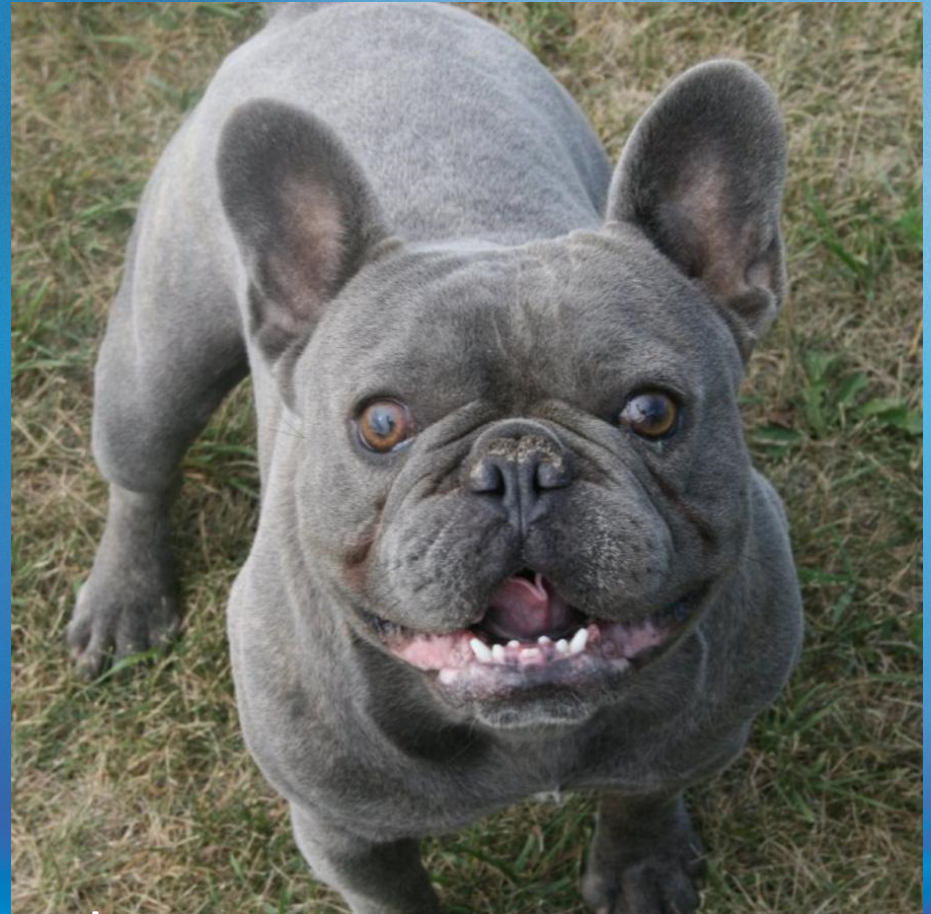
Coat

- Coat is ~~moderately fine~~, brilliant, short and smooth. Coats other than short and smooth are a disqualification.

Here are reasons to change the Color Section to DQ!



Black and Tan



Blue

Here are more reasons - merle



To DQ!



And more ... Blues to DQ



To DQ!

And more...



Liver



Blue

To DQ!!

Reason for change to Color

- With the explosion of exotic colors and markings, it will be difficult to maintain a list of what colors should be DQed. It is easier to list the acceptable colors and markings and to DQ anything else.
- If we only list DQ colors/markings, new colors and markings can be developed which would be acceptable until a new standard is passed to DQ these new colors.



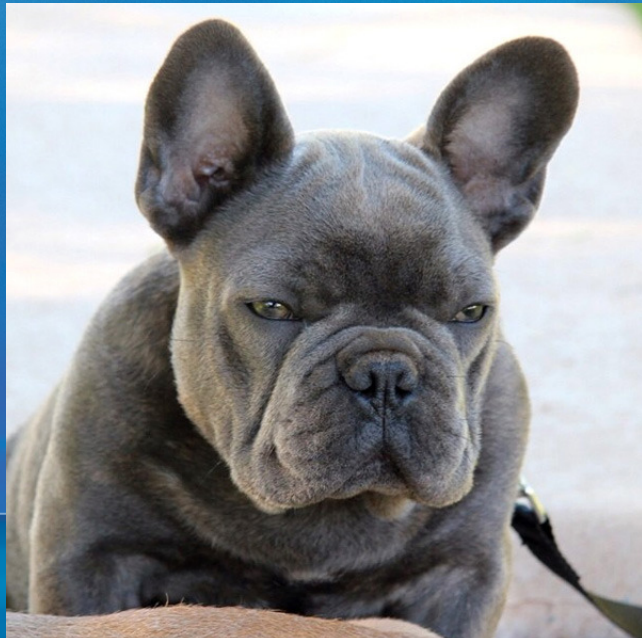
Given examples of DQ colors

- We have included examples of colors that must be DQed.
 - Kept the current format which lists the DQ colors.
 - By listing examples of what MUST be DQed, we are giving the judges a ready reference.
 - This list is NOT an exhaustive list. For example, AKC would not approve us listing “lilac” or “lavender” since these colors are not among the list of recognized colors with AKC.



More on examples of DQ colors

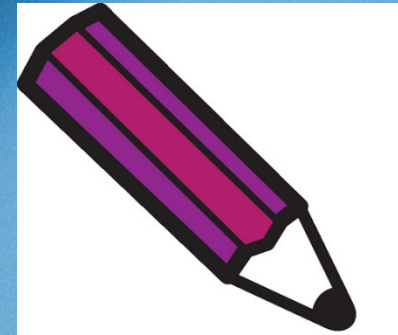
- We used “blue” instead of “mouse” as blue is better understood outside the breed.
- Since “fawn” is allowed, we needed to clarify that “blue fawn” is NOT allowed. So that was added to the list of DQ colors.



Color

- ~~● Acceptable colors – All brindle, fawn, white, brindle and white, and any color except those which constitute disqualification.~~
- Changed to
- Acceptable Colors: white, cream, fawn (ranging from light fawn to a red fawn), or any combinations of the foregoing.

Patterns described



Describe It

- Our challenge was to adequately describe any possible acceptable pattern.
- If the standard is worded that all colors and patterns are DQ except what is allowed, then the standard needed to be expanded to describe patterns that might appear.

Challenge with Ticking...



- Because of this, ticking was included in the standard.
- It was mentioned to prevent it from being DQed, but listed as less desirable than a clear white pattern.

Dealing with acceptable black

- Although we do not want black Frenchies, some black is acceptable. What is acceptable?
 - Brindling pattern
 - Black masks
 - Black shadings
 - between white patches
 - tipping



Acceptable black – mask, shadings



Brindle

- We added a definition of brindle in the standard.
- We made it clear that only a trace was needed.
- We made it clear that piebalds only needed brindling patterning in ONE patch.

Where is the
brindle?



Changed pattern and markings to

- Markings and patterns are: brindle, piebald, black mask, black shadings, and white markings. Ticking is acceptable but not desired. Brindle ranges from sparse but clearly defined black stripes on a fawn background to such heavy concentration of black striping that the essential fawn background color barely shows through (“black brindle”). Only a trace of the background color is necessary; in a brindle piebald, a trace of the brindle patterning in any patch is sufficient.

Color continued – what to DQ

- ~~● All colors are acceptable with the exception of solid black, mouse, liver, black and tan, black and white, and white with black, which are disqualifications. Black means black without a trace of brindle.~~
- Changed to..
- Any other colors, markings or patterns are a disqualification. Disqualifying colors and patterns include, but are not limited to, solid black, black and tan, black and white, white and black, blue, blue fawn, liver, and merle. Black means black without a trace of brindle.

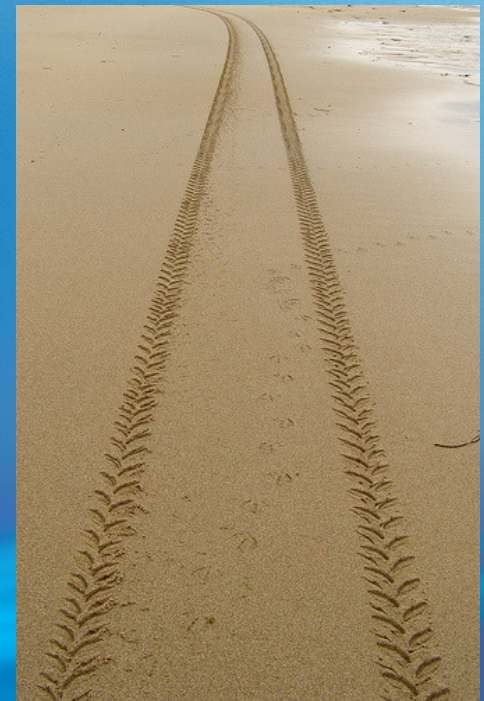
There are three basic foot patterns as described by AKC and authorities on canine movement

- Single Tracking – convergence to a center line.
- Double tracking – the left side on a single line and the right side on a parallel single line.
- Four tracking – the type of movement in the Bulldog family where the front track is wider than the back track.

Double-tracking

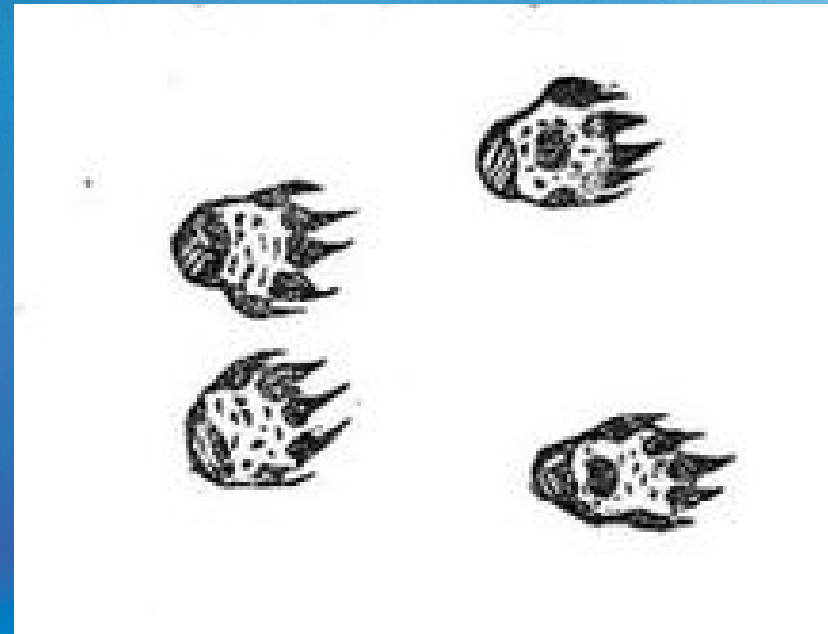
- A wider pattern of movement, having two distinct lines of travel; one for limbs on the left side, one for limbs on the right side. The AKC Complete Dog Book, 20th Edition

The French Bulldog should not double-track. We have incorrectly used the term in the past.



Four tracking

- The front footfall is wider than the rear footfall. This is how the French Bulldog moves.



Gait

- ~~● Correct gait is double tracking with reach and drive; the action is unrestrained, free and vigorous.~~
- Changed to...
- Correct gait is a “four tracking” foot pattern with the front track wider than the rear track. The movement should have reach and drive and is unrestrained, free and vigorous.

Disqualifications

- ~~All alteration other than removal of dewclaws.~~
- Over 28 pounds in weight.
- Blue or green eye(s) or any traces of blue or green.
- Other than bat ears.
- Nose other than black, except in the case of ~~lighter colored dogs~~ cream or fawn colored dogs without black masks, where a lighter colored nose is acceptable.

Disqualifications continued....

- Coats other than short and smooth.
- All coat colors other than those specifically described (e.g., solid black, ~~mouse~~, ~~liver~~, black and tan, black and white, ~~and~~ white with black, blue, blue fawn, liver, and merle). Black means black without a trace of brindle. All other patterns and markings other than specifically described.

For questions or concerns,
please contact the FBDCA
JEC, Robin Stansell at
Rocyn1@embarqmail.com or
919-931-5947.