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# BAT EARS

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MIDLAND & NORTHERN COUNTIES  
MIDLAND & NORTHERN COUNTIES  
FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB  
MAGAZINE



**AUTUMN 2025**



## **Editor's Introduction.**

Welcome to the Autumn 2025 edition of Bat Ears, the magazine produced biannually by the Midland & Northern Counties French Bulldog Club.

We have several articles on health issues in this magazine, all relevant to improve our knowledge of French Bulldogs.

Lucy Bonsall (Muggshotts) has kindly written an article for this edition on managing presenting pieds in the showring. Lucy has a lot of experience with pieds and always presents her dogs in an immaculate condition – culminating in two Crufts BOB with her Ch Muggshotts Cassanova. There has been a noted increase in Pieds in the ring and it is very kind of Lucy to share her knowledge with members.

The French Bulldog Welfare Trust have submitted an article written by Nathan Waddington, who is also a Trustee. The new changes the Trust have made to managing welfare dogs are progressive and seem a sensible approach for the best interest of the dog. The Trust still require Foster Homes. If you or you know of anyone who could help with fostering please contact the FBWT directly.

A reminder to members to update your contact details. The judging ballot and Bat Ears have been distributed to members via email, so it is important to keep us updated of any changes.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Bat Ears. The magazine is for members; please feel welcome to contribute or let me know if you have suggestions for topics to cover.

That's all from me, enjoy your magazine and your beloved French Bulldogs.

Angela McInnes

**[batearsmncfbc@gmail.com](mailto:batearsmncfbc@gmail.com)**

### **Disclaimer:**

**Please note the opinions expressed in Bat Ears may be those of the contributors to the magazine and are not necessarily those of the Editor, Officers or Committee.**

**With the Editor or other members of the Committee reserving the right to edit within limits to ensure the intent is still portrayed, or reject any articles not deemed appropriate for publication in Bat Ears.**

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## **Club Secretary's Notes**

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a few actions that the Committee have taken on behalf of our members since the last edition of Bat Ears

Following our Spring open show the club held its Annual General Meeting and the committee would like to thank those members that remained after the show and took part in the meeting. Hopefully more members will attend future meetings as it is an ideal opportunity to discuss any ideas or views that you have on the operation of our club

As I mentioned in the Spring edition of Bat Ears; we are one of the few clubs that ask its members to elect the judges for our shows and for the first time we held the latest ballot online. Although we had a couple of problems initially mainly with outdated email addresses, the ballot worked well, as we had a good response and of course saved on the now high postage costs. Thank you to all of you that cast votes in the election. All the nominated judges have been contacted, and we are now in the process of confirming the appointments

The Kennel Club published an updated version of the Breed Standard for French Bulldogs which was effective from August 1st 2025

The Committee have decided to take on the annual Champions awards, that the West Lancs Club used to do, for all the dogs made up the prior year. Given these were last done by West Lancs for those made up in 2022, we will be awarding all the dogs made up in 2023 and 2024 this year. The awards will be presented at our September Show. Hopefully the owners of the Champions being awarded will come along with their champions to accept the award or awards in person

If you have any questions or thoughts regarding the club, please email me at [honsecmncfbc@gmail.com](mailto:honsecmncfbc@gmail.com), I will be pleased to help where I can.

David Spencer

Hon.Secretary M&NCFBC

## **Officers and Committee 2025**

### **Patrons**

Mrs Maureen Bootle, Mrs Wendy Henderson, Mr Peter Kendrick.

### **President**

Mr Peter Kendrick

### **Vice President**

Mr David Spencer

### **Chairman**

Mr Dean Cund 0121 7881232

### **Vice Chairman**

Mr Richard Mavro – Michaelis 01535 652057

### **Honorary Secretary**

Mr David Spencer honsecmncfbc@gmail.com

### **Assistant Honorary Secretary/Show Secretary**

Ms Abbie Cund showsecmncfbc@gmail.com

### **Honorary Treasurer**

Ms Amanda – Jayne Pike hontreasurermncfbc@gmail.com

### **Committee**

Mr D Cund, Mr R Mavro-Michaelis, Mr D Spencer, Ms A Cund

Mrs Rebecca Cassidy, Mr Gareth Hickin (07843309090), Mrs Angela McInnes (07707239434)

Ms Dawn Smith (07814007597), Ms Olivia Timms (07770510561),

Ms S Wilkinson, (Cup Steward) (07530551577), Mr Josh Henderson

### **Judges Sub Committee**

Mr D Cund\*, Ms A Cund\*, Mrs A McInnes\*

Mr R Mavro Michaelis, Mrs R Cassidy.

\*Denotes awards Challenge Certificate's in French Bulldogs.

## Committee Member Bio.

I have grown up in the show world with both of my parents showing, my mother whippets and Afghans, my father various breeds; but predominately Dobermanns.

My grandparents who were also successful in Cavaliers and King Charles making up many champions and Crufts BOB winner.

My father who still shows, and has bred Dobermanns since the late 70s. Naturally that is the breed I became obsessed with and still am. I became more involved in my early teen days handling at my first proper show around 12.

Since those days I have made up various champions in many breeds. I co own and handled the previous bitch CC record holder in Dobermanns (40 CCs). I also Co-owned the previous record holder before 'Viva' with my father who handled her.

I have won BIS All breed Ch (U.K.) 5 times now with various groups etc.

On recent years Liv and I have shown and bred our own French Bulldogs. Liv had her first Frenchies from Amanda Ellis (Eastonite). We used Abbie, Dean & Sarah's Ch Chelmbull Moon Pilot to produce our first Frenchie litter. In this litter there is one UK Champion and 2 Irish Champions; with one of those currently sitting on 2 CCs and being the first French Bulldog to achieve Grade 7 agility.

Together we have made up further Champions in the U.K. and a few other countries, winning BOB at this year's Crufts. Two of our home bred Frenchie's are currently sitting on two CCs.

I have experience with various Ringcraft clubs and have also been show manager at an all breeds open show.

I look forward to what the future holds with the Midland & Northern Counties French Bulldog Club and thank the rest of the committee for allowing me to join the team.

Josh Henderson

Olijah French Bulldogs



## **The French Bulldog Welfare Trust – 2025**

If you'd told us at the start of 2025 that we'd be busier than ever and still smiling through the mud, the fur, and the snorts, we might have tilted our heads and given you that classic Frenchie "Really?" look. But here we are, tired, proud, and still slightly covered in paw prints. This year has been one of big changes for the French Bulldog Welfare Trust. The so-called "COVID dog wave" may feel like a thing of the past, but the truth is rescue charities like ours are still feeling its aftershocks. Many of the dogs that came home during lockdown are now adolescents or adults, and some are struggling to cope in households where life is busier, noisier, and less home based than it was in 2020. For some owners the pressures of cost of living increases, housing challenges, or simply not being able to meet a dog's needs have brought them to our door.

### **A New Approach**

We have always believed that sometimes the best place for a dog is the home they are already in, provided that home can become the right home. That is why we are planning on expanding our work beyond rescue and rehoming into training, behaviour support, and partnerships with other specialist charities. Whether it is helping an anxious pup learn that the vet is not a monster, guiding owners through lead reactivity, or tackling the quirks of post lockdown separation anxiety, our aim is to keep more Frenchies safe and happy where they belong. We are in the process of testing an owner support program, connecting struggling owners with vetted trainers, funding emergency vet care in exceptional cases, and even offering "Frenchie Friend" volunteers to help with temporary dog sitting in times of crisis. It is not always easy, it takes time, money, and a lot of patience, but it can make the difference between a surrender and a success story.

### **When Things Go Wrong**

Not every story ends the way we would like. Sometimes an owner's circumstances change suddenly. Sometimes a dog's behaviour or health needs are just too complex. And heartbreakingly, we have seen cases where Frenchies have gone missing and ended up in the hands of people for whom profit comes before animal welfare. We have faced that ourselves this year with one of our own dogs, and thank goodness for the rescue centres and charities who worked alongside us to bring them to safety.

### **The Vet Problem**

Veterinary care is a lifeline for rescue dogs, but the landscape has shifted. Big business has moved in, and with it, an uncomfortable truth: for some corporate practices, profit comes before welfare. In contrast, many small, independent vets, often with fewer resources and tighter budgets, still step up for us, offering their time, skills, and facilities to help Frenchies in need. They do it not because it is profitable, but because it is right. And that is something the big players could learn from.

### **The People Power Behind FBWT**

The heartbeat of the FBWT has always been our fosterers, volunteers, and donors, but like so many charities, we are struggling to recruit them. Foster homes are the bridge between crisis and forever home, and without them, we cannot take in the next dog on our list. Volunteers are the hands, hearts, and wheels that make everything happen, from late night collections to weeks spent coaxing a nervous Frenchie into trusting again. The reality is that people's lives are busier, the cost of living is biting, and committing to foster or volunteer can feel daunting. But those who do step forward change lives, and not just the dogs. They are our lifeline, our safety net, and our reason we can keep saying "yes" to Frenchies in trouble. Right now, we need more of them than ever. If you have ever wondered if fostering or volunteering is for you, it is. And we will support you every step of the way.

### **Looking Ahead**

## **Looking Ahead**

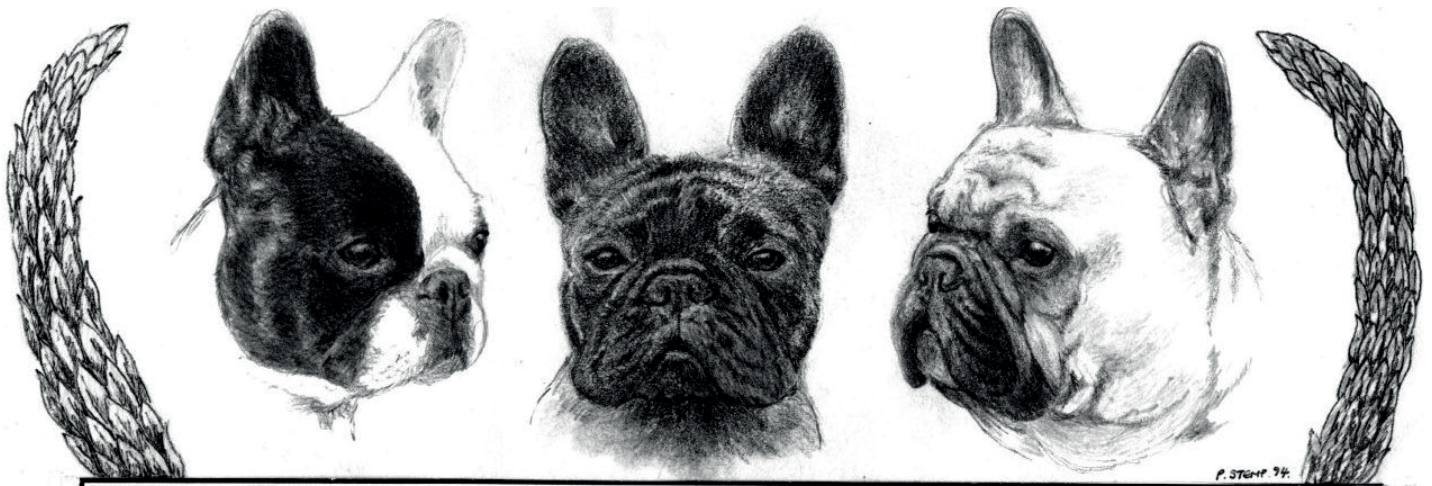
2026 will bring its own challenges, more need, more pressure, and no shortage of bills. But with the community we have built, the partnerships we have formed, and the passion we have for this stubborn, snorty, utterly loveable breed, we are ready. Because while Frenchies might be small, their impact on our hearts is huge. And no matter what the year throws at us, we will keep fighting for them. To every single person who fostered, donated, adopted, fundraised, or simply told a friend about our work this year, thank you. We could not do it without you, and we would not want to.

## **FBWT Highlights & Heroes– 2025**

- **Vet Heroes:** Small, independent vets who stepped in to help us with complex cases despite not having the big-business budgets behind them.
- **New Directions:** Launching our owner support program, connecting struggling Frenchie owners with training, vet care, and temporary volunteer help.

**Nathan Waddington**

**Trustee French Bulldog Welfare Trust.**



**Midland & Northern Counties  
French Bulldog Club.**

## HELPING US TO HELP THEM

I Support The  
French Bulldog  
Welfare trust



### **Support The French Bulldog Welfare Trust**

For further information contact the Welfare Trustees

**Chair Person/ Secretary** - Mr Mick Gordon 0191 2809177

**Treasurer** - Amanda -Jane Pike 01773 875185

**Trustee/Administrator** - Mrs Irene Stansfield - 0128 2870901

**[frenchbulldogwelfaretrust@gmail.com](mailto:frenchbulldogwelfaretrust@gmail.com)**



YOU'RE

fabulous

## Health News Update

I was contacted recently by Liz Davidson, the President of French Bulldog Club of NSW Inc. QLD RSPCA are trying to push for Netherlands type of breeding restrictions and as our RFG scheme has been established for a good number of years, we pulled together some statistics with the help of the RKC to assist with a presentation to the powers that be.

I thought these may be of interest to all as they show that as a breed most of the dogs are still grading 0 and 1. Therefore, clinically unaffected for BOAS.

From January 2025 the French Bulldog Health Scheme now has an expiry date on the Silver Certificates. We will therefore continue to increase the data on retested dogs, as a new RFG result needs to be submitted to maintain Silver level and, we all must keep up to date for our Crufts entries.

Please all do continue to support the Health Scheme by submitted your results, the statistics not only help us to continue to fight the mounting pressure on our breed in the UK but also can be a valuable resource for overseas clubs.



**Annual health report 2024**  
**RFG Scheme grades by breed**  
Data Calculated to 31/12/24

The following summary covers all breeds which have had Kennel Club registered dogs tested under the official The Kennel Club and University of Cambridge Respiratory Function Grading Scheme began in 2019. This data is further broken down by test result.

Breed	Total tested	Total tested in 2024	Grade 0		Grade 1		Grade 2		Grade 3	
			Number graded	%	Number graded	%	Number graded	%	Number graded	%
Bulldog	1353	259	453	33%	640	47%	229	17%	31	2%
French Bulldog	1831	301	846	46%	701	38%	253	14%	31	2%
Pug	849	204	234	28%	446	53%	142	17%	27	3%

The data for French Bulldogs only over the years of the scheme is broken down in the following table.

The 1,931 assessments are from 1,666 unique dogs, with 89.3% of dogs (1,487/1,666) tested only once and 10.7% (179/1,666) having had repeat assessments (i.e., tested more than once).

Test Date	Grade				Total
	0	1	2	3	
<2019	4	2	1	0	7
2019	63	50	9	1	123
2020	118	120	30	5	273
2021	188	161	54	9	412
2022	192	143	71	5	411
2023	136	114	51	6	307
2024	147	114	37	5	303
2025	36	40	18	1	95
<b>Total</b>	884	744	271	32	1931

The Royal Kennel Club has an initiative aimed towards clubs and individuals interested in hosting Health Clinics and more information can be found on their website.

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media-centre/2025/july/kennel-club-encourages-dog-owners-and-breeders-to-become-clinic-hosts/>

Please do get in touch with me or them directly if you are interested in hosting one or would like some assistance from me with hosting.

**Vanessa Bryant**

**French Bulldog Health Scheme Admin.**

## Canine Corneal Ulcers

The cornea is the transparent 'window' at the front of the eye and a healthy cornea is vital for normal vision. The surface of the cornea is covered by a thin layer called the epithelium, which protects the cornea and keeps it waterproof. To allow good vision the cornea needs to remain transparent, and free of vessels.

There are many diseases that can affect the cornea of our Frenchie's, with corneal ulcers being one of the most common, They can be serious and very painful and prompt veterinary treatment is key. An ulcer refers to any injury to the cornea where one or more layers of the cornea are damaged and lost. In a normal healthy eye, the cornea is little over 0.5mm thick.

The Cornea is formed of 3 main layers. The epithelium being the surface layer. In the middle there is the stroma, which is the layer that makes up most of the corneal thickness. Lining the inside of the cornea is the endothelium, a thin layer of cells that "waterproofs" the inside of the cornea. Descemet's membrane is a part of the endothelium, it is a very thin but tough membrane that may remain intact in very deep ulcers when the overlying layers have been lost or destroyed.

### Causes of Ulcers

There are many reasons why an ulcer may develop. Trauma or contact with chemicals.

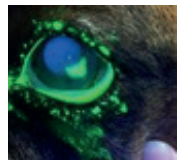
Particularly for Brachycephalic breeds poor eyelid conformation with Entropion (in-rolling eyelid) or Distichiasis (extra row of eyelashes) and prominent eyeballs can make them more susceptible.

### Types of Ulcers

Corneal Ulcers are usual divided into simple or complicated ulcers. Treatment and prognosis differ depending on the type of ulcer.

#### Simple Ulcer

A simple ulcer is one that only affects the superficial layer of the cornea (ie the epithelium) and will usually heal within 7 days. So if an ulcer is present for more than 7 days, or it extends to the deeper tissues of the cornea, then it is classed as complicated. Typical signs of a simple ulcer will be pain which usually results in excessive blinking or squinting and a watering eye.



Although ulcers can heal themselves without treatment, it is always best to consult your Vet as quickly as possible to eliminate the ulcer becoming

infected with bacteria, which will turn a simple ulcer into a much more serious complicated one. Your vet will diagnose an ulcer using a fluorescein dye, which

in a healthy eye will not stick to a normal intact cornea. But if there is an ulcer the dye sticks and glows green.

Treatment for simple ulcers will normally involve an oral painkiller and topical antibiotic drops/ointment to prevent infections, typically Chloramphenicol or Exocin (Ofloxacin) and Remend corneal repair gel.

You can buy Fluorescein dye online at Vet Supply companies like Hyperdrug, I tend to keep a supply in and if any signs of issues with eyes, use it to establish whether an appointment is needed at the vets for additional treatment. You can never be too complacent with ulcers as they can change rapidly.

#### Complicated Ulcer

**There are different types of complicated ulcers.**

**Spontaneous chronic corneal epithelial defect or SCCED**, also known as Indolent Ulcers, Non-Healing Ulcers or “Boxer” Ulcers. They only affect the epithelium and don’t extend into the deeper layers, but healing can be challenging, and they are very uncomfortable. Its not known what triggers them but dogs affected by SCCED develop an abnormal membrane at the junction between the epithelium and stroma and they fail to attach which is the normal healing process.

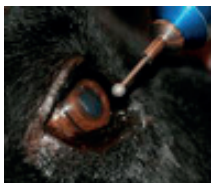


There are a few treatment options the first is a gentle Debride (rub off ) any loose epithelium to strip it back to healthy edges, giving it another chance to attach to the stroma as it grows inwards. After this treatment continues with oral painkillers and topical antibiotic drops.



If this doesn’t work, the next line of treatment would normally be a Grid keratotomy, this involves the cornea being gently scratched with a needle to disrupt the abnormal

membrane and hopefully allowing the ulcer to heal correctly. Depending on the temperament of the dog, this may be done when they are fully conscious with a local topical anaesthetic used on the eye , or under mild sedation. It isn’t unusual for this procedure to have to be repeated.

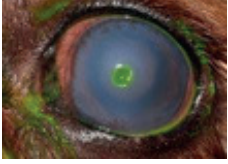


If correct healing still doesn’t occur, the Grid Keratotomy approach can be replaced by a diamond burr debridement, where a burr is used to strip the abnormal membrane. After this the eye may be covered by a bandage contact lens to protect it and additionally a Serum eye drop from the dogs own blood can be made.



Following debridement with a diamond burr, 92% of SCCEDs heal in 2 weeks, however a repeat second debridement may be necessary. Rarely (about 2% of cases) the diamond burr debridement is unsuccessful and a full superficial keratectomy under general anaesthetic is needed. Left untreated SCCED can develop red and inflamed granulation tissue reactions which affect vision.

## Deep/ Stromal Ulcers



Ulcers that extend further into the cornea are called deep or stromal ulcers. The Enzymes and other chemicals released by certain bacteria, the immune system and the dying corneal cells can “melt” the stroma very rapidly . Deep ulcers are very serious, and prompt action is required. If the ulcer is

progressing rapidly referral to a specialist ophthalmologist is usual. Rapid and intense treatment is needed for successful treatment. As a rule if an ulcer is greater than 50% of the corneal depth, they are a strong candidate for corneal repair surgery.

### Descemetocelles

This type of ulcer has lost all the overlying epithelium and stroma, leaving behind just the thin endothelium and Descemet’s membrane. A eye in this condition is very fragile and is at great

risk of rupturing, specialist veterinary advice and treatment should be sought as surgery will be required to save the eye.

### Ruptured Corneal Ulcer

If the eye does rupture, then an emergency referral to a specialist is required to save the eye, it is likely even with a successful repair damage and scarring can be significant. If caught early enough, surgery to repair a burst eye is occasionally possible. The specialist may recommend

removal of the eye.

### General Advice

Prompt Veterinary treatment should always be sort if you suspect any eye issues . Time is of the essence to ensure that the condition doesn’t worsen rapidly.

Symptoms of an eye ulcer include:

- Red, inflamed, blood shot eye
- Closed eye or squinting, blinking more than usual
- Weepy eye
- Cloudy eye
- Scratching and rubbing at the face and eye
- Avoiding bright lights.
- An obvious hole or crater on the surface of their eye

**Vanessa Bryant – Health Scheme Administrator.**

## **ELBOW DYSPLASIA**

In January 2025 the Kennel Club published Health Testing Standards for individual breeds. For French Bulldogs BOAS testing, eye testing, xraying for hip and elbow dysplasia are best practice.

French Bulldogs are significantly at a higher risk of developing elbow dysplasia which causes pain and lameness in the front legs. This is thought to be due to their unique bone structure and rapid growth rate.

They are susceptible to injuries of their elbows as their bones develop. Their elevated risk may be linked to a spontaneously occurring hairline crack in the joint which is common in the breed. This can lead to cartilage being worn away and the underlying bone being exposed. The joint can become inflamed and arthritic. Elbow dysplasia is thought to be genetically inherited, and evaluation by xray is required to establish the grade of both elbows.

**Responsible breeders will only breed with dogs with normal elbow scores to minimise the risk of producing puppies with elbow problems.**

### **Elbow Testing Grades**

**0 = Radiographically normal**

**1 = Mild** osteoarthritis

**2 = Moderate** Osteo Arthritis or lesion with no osteo arthritis

**3 = Severe** Arthritis or primary lesion with osteo arthritis

The xray can be done at the same time as hips are xrayed for dysplasia.

The dog requires a short general anaesthetic for the procedure.

Both xrays are conducted under the BVA/KC Hip and Elbow dysplasia scheme.

The test is undertaken once in the dog's lifetime.

**Angela McInnes.**



## **Pied French Bulldogs**

I often hear around the show ring that Pieds are the hardest colour to show, they're hard to keep clean, they lick their feet, they get tear stains etc. They are exactly the same as the other colours with the exception that these things are noticeable on a white coat. Taking pride in your French Bulldogs coat should be of the utmost importance to any exhibitor, no matter it's colour. It should be short, smooth, clean, soft, they are our companions and they should feel a pleasure to touch, showing that your dog is in good condition and cared for.

Looking good on the outside has to start from the inside, feeding a high quality balanced diet and keeping your dog's immune system as high as possible is crucial. I also add a teaspoon of natural live Greek yogurt (This must be natural yogurt as some sweeteners can be harmful to dogs) to their evening meal which acts as a probiotic supporting their immune system.

Preparation for showing a pied French Bulldog isn't as simple as a quick bath the night before a show. Stains that can spoil their white coat such as tear staining and pink feet should be controlled all year round. My dogs regularly have their faces washed with just a damp flannel. I gently clean then dry their creases, checking their ears and eyes at the same time. Although this doesn't always completely get rid of all staining it does keep it under control. A smear of Vaseline can act as a barrier against tears but unless the crease it is bone dry underneath it can also seal the moisture in making everything worse. I have found that the trick is to keep their creases clean and dry to minimise staining. Foot staining is another problem to deal with when showing a white dog. There are many reasons why dogs lick their feet, as soon as I spot any of my dogs licking their feet I wash their feet in an anti fungal shampoo, this normally puts a stop to it.

I take pride in showing my dogs in clean condition and I always give them a bath the night before a show. I use a good quality shampoo that is suited to my dog's coat. There are many silver/blue shampoos on the market that are designed to neutralise any yellow that may appear in the coat which will brighten the white hair. Just be aware that some of these shampoos can dry the hair and make the coat dull. When I shampoo my dog's coat I always dilute the shampoo down. This makes it easier to distribute through the coat and will lather up much better. I then rinse the shampoo out in warm water, then when the water runs clear and you think you have all of the shampoo out, rinse once again!

Trying to cover a mark on the coat, a stain or a blemish with one of the many chalks and white products on the market will not hide it, it will result in the coat looking dull and hair lifted no longer looking smooth, losing the softness and lustre. Try to solve the problem that is causing the stain not hide it.

We all have our own personal preferences of what lead to show our dogs on. I like to show mine on a white collar and lead although if you prefer a chain I think silver compliments a white coat perfectly. Choose your show outfit carefully with the colour of your dog in mind. If you're showing a pied, wear a colour that will contrast against its beautiful white coat and make it stand out against you.

Lastly, really take a good long look at your dog, notice its markings. Is it marked in a way that could throw the judges eye? Does it have a half hood? Do you think it has one side more appealing than the other? Does it have a brindle marking on one side? Take all of these things into account and practice showing your dog at home. Try to show your best side to the judge.

Every dog is individual and everyone has their own way they like to show their dogs, these are just a few things that I find work for me and my dogs.

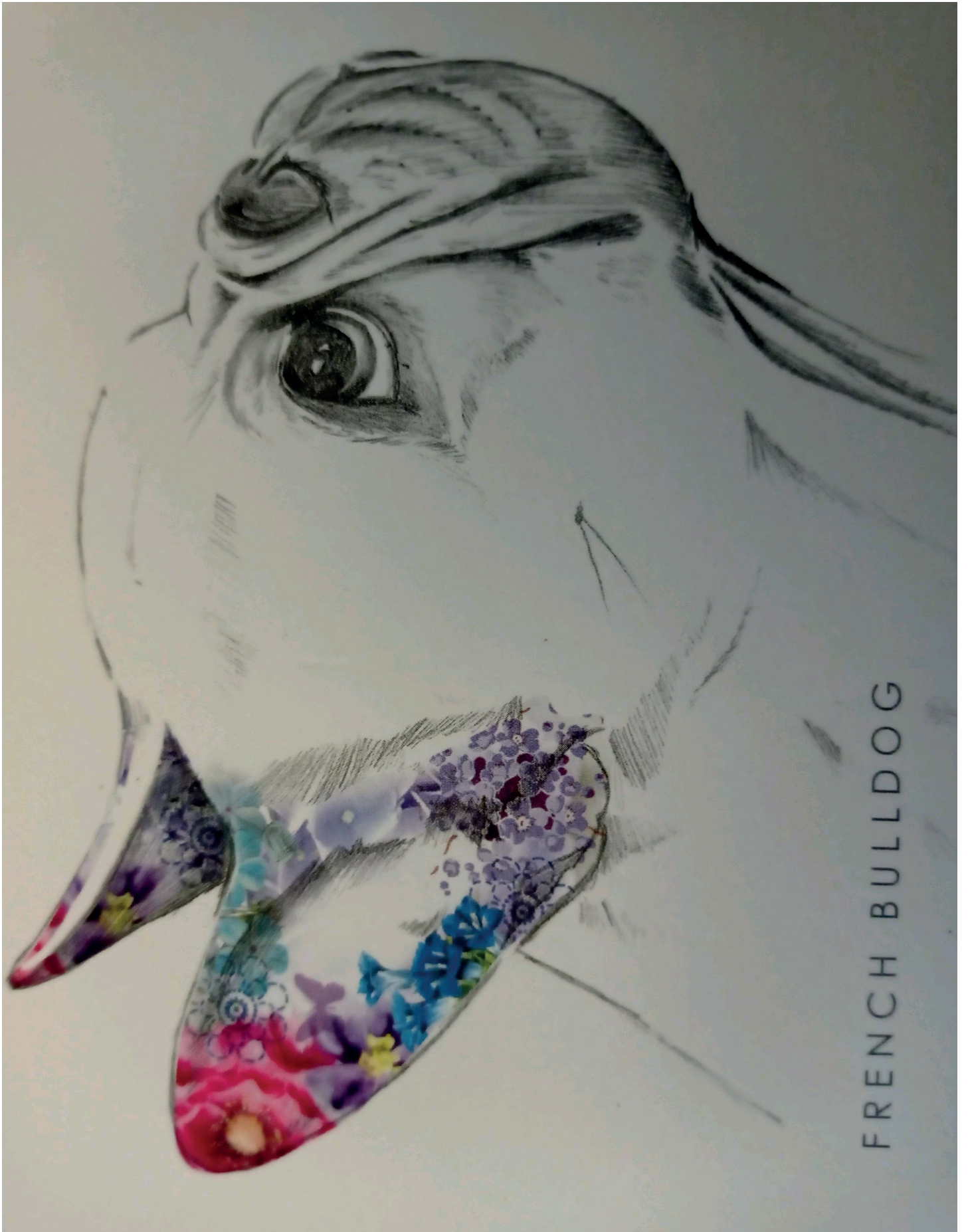
Pieds may require a little more work but they're worth it!

**Lucy Bonsall**

**Muggshots French Bulldogs**







FRENCH BULLDOG

## Champions Awards.

This year the Midland and Northern Counties French Bulldog club committee have decided to take on the annual Champions awards for all the dogs who have achieved their Champion Title in the prior year, an award which used to be presented by the West Lancs French Bulldog Club. Given these were last awarded to Champions made up in 2022, we will be awarding all the dogs made up in 2023 and 2024 this year at our September Championship & Open Show! The awards will be presented during the lunch break and owners of the Champions were encouraged to come into the ring, do a lap of honour and be photographed collecting their award.

Full list of the Champions being awarded:

### 2024

CH BEVANRAY TERRYPENDRY JW

CH ARCHNESS THE DRAMALLAMA JW

CH CHELMBULL SPACE MAN

CH LADY REBELLION AT BOULEVAYA

CH BUDBULLS MAXIMUM IMPACT FOR OLIJAH JW

CH CHELMBULL MOON RIVER

CH ARCHNESS THE AUDACITY JW

CH KHANIN GUNNER MAKE IT

CH EASTONITE MAUI JW SHCM OSW VW

CH RISCHALE HENRIETTA AT ELLOUAB JW

CH BULLHAWK CEASE'N DESIST

### 2023

CH OLIJAH TOTAL KNOCKOUT JW OSW

CH MUGGSHOTTS WHIZ BANG WILBER

CH ROALICE MINI MOUSE SHCM

CH ROSANYOS SEVILLANA JW

CH VALUMAR CVETANA NARLA AT JIANKANG

CH ASHSTAFF SECRET WHISPER AT BACLAUDI JW

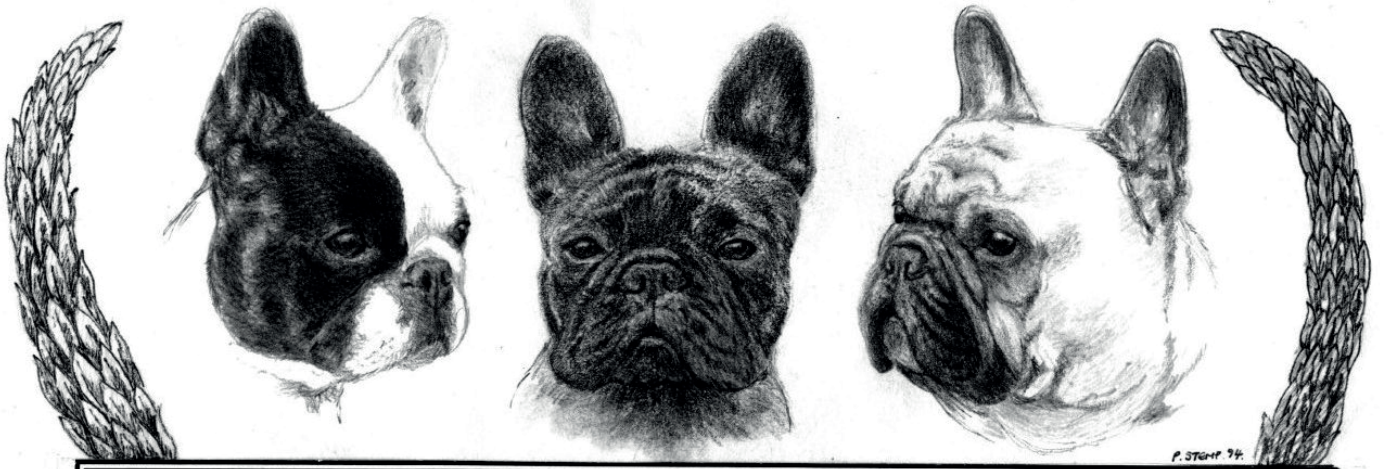
CH BULLHAWK EGG'S CITING AT MEMBULLY

CH DREAMLEGACY ORPHEUS AT JAFRAK

We were very lucky to have the talented Nikki Humphries **DeeforDog Custom Collars and Leads** design and create the beautiful Champions awards. They are absolutely stunning and I'm sure will be cherished by everyone who is lucky enough to be awarded one.

Many thanks to Nikki for her creations!

Olivia Timms



**Midland & Northern Counties  
French Bulldog Club.**



## **Club Show News**

Thank you to all members who participated in this years Judges Ballot. The results will be available soon once confirmed by the Kennel Club for shows in 2027 & 2028.

A reminder to members the Midland & Northern Counties French Bulldog Club is the only breed club where members are invited to participate and choose judges for forthcoming shows.

### **Shows in 2026**

#### **Spring Open Show 1/03/2026 at Penkridge**

Judge: Mrs Barb Morison - see Barb's biography overleaf.

**Championship Show 7/05/2026 at Stafford County Showground**, held in conjunction with Birmingham National Dog Show.

Judge: Mr Simon Parsons

#### **Championship Show 16/8/2026 at Asfordby**

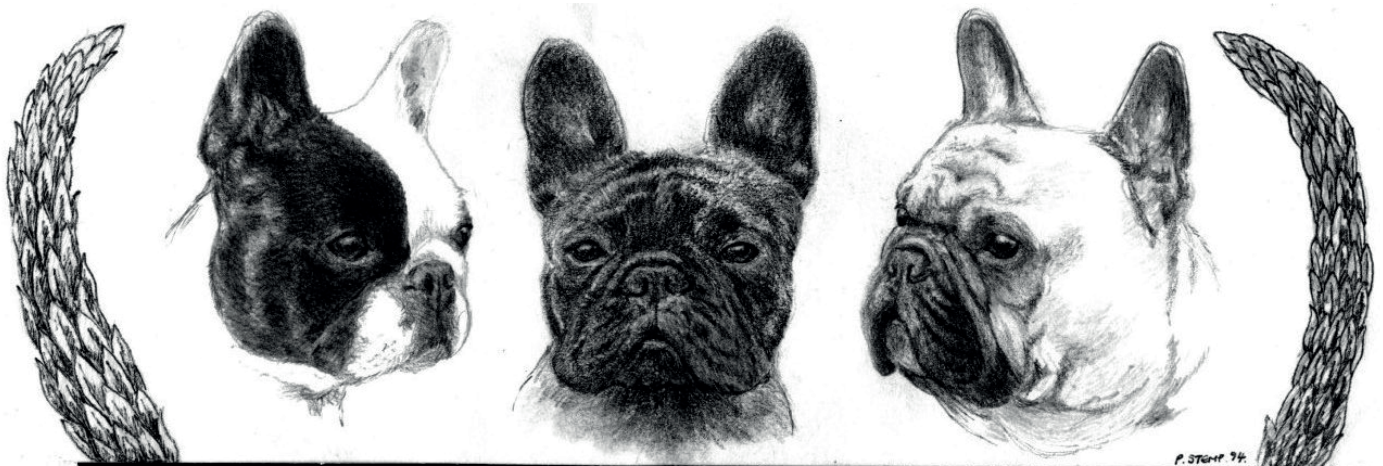
Judge: Mr Ian Chapman

#### **Open Show 16/8/2026 at Asfordby**

Judge: Ms Teresa Scott

(The last 3 judges biographies will appear in the Spring 2026 Edition of Bat Ears).

The Officers and Committee look forward to welcoming you to these shows and always appreciate your support of our judges and Club.



**Midland & Northern Counties  
French Bulldog Club.**

## Judges Biography Open Show March 3rd 2026

### Barbara Morison

I feel very grateful to the Midland & Northern French Bulldog for their kind invitation to judge at their March 2026 open show, made even more special as my appointment has been voted for by members.

My affiliation with pedigree dogs began in 1987 when, as a family, we bought our first Boxer. At that time there was no intention of becoming embroiled in the world of showing however, that soon changed when we attended a South Western Boxer Club fun day where a first was won in Best Six Legs!!! The bug had bitten.

I was fortunate enough to do some credible winning and am now approved to give tickets in my first breed. I have given tickets on at least 6 occasions in the UK and also in Australia & Norway.

I fell in love with the French Bulldog when I saw one walking out of Paignton with Jil Keates on the end of the lead. We chatted and I discovered that she had also had Boxers! I was totally smitten with the breed from that chance encounter and a few years later, I was contacted by Jill to see if I was interested in rehoming a bitch whose owner had sadly been diagnosed with Cancer, so Nokomis Indian Princess at Raflyn arrived at Xandene.

I started to show Cookie for a while and, when the time was right, she was duly mated to Baron Bertie of Bremars. She self-whelped a lovely litter of four puppies on 1st June 2009 but we sadly lost her 2 days later. We were very lucky that our Boxer friends put the word out and we found a Bulldog surrogate mother who raised them until they were 6 weeks. We kept a dog who was shown lightly however, we also lost him at an early age.

At this time, I thought my affiliation with Frenchies was at an end, but my love for the breed stayed strong and we welcomed Jafrak Ticket to Ryde into the home in 2014. This was followed by Jafrak Soft Centre with Xandene who became a champion. Natalie's daughter, Xandene Touch of Magic (Nerys) became our second champion and I am so proud that Natalie, at 11years is still at home with her daughter Nerys and her Great Grand-daughter Xandene Caramel Fudge (Sybil) who is actively being shown to great success.

I look forward to this judging opportunity with my now, only breed.

Barbara Morison



## **Discover Dogs at Crufts**

“Discover Dogs” is an exhibition of dogs organized by the Kennel Club held as part of the annual Crufts dog show at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham.

All 223 dog breeds recognized by the Kennel Club are exhibited in Discover Dogs on all four days of the Crufts show. Each breed is allocated an exhibition booth in which the public can meet examples of the breed (dogs) and learn about them from their handlers and from information displays presented in the booth. Meeting and greeting the dogs is the key element of Discover Dogs!!!

The initial and main purpose of Discover Dogs has been to provide the public with a means of familiarizing themselves with the many different breeds from which one might choose a dog with which to live: a dog which suits one’s lifestyle; for example, a dog suitable for a family with young children or a dog suitable for long country walks. Perhaps a family may be trying to choose between a Labrador and a Lhasa Apso.

In carrying out this purpose the breeds and the Kennel Club have progressively developed the role of Discover Dogs. In particular we, in French Bulldogs, have become a source of information and advice on all aspects of having French Bulldogs. By this I mean: good practice on how to find and get one; advice on how to care for them and their health issues; information on the French Bulldog health scheme and on the KC’s Respiratory Function Grading Scheme and on how to test their health; advice on how to identify responsible dog breeders; and what to expect from them; and advice on how to train puppies. It is true to say that in recent years the French Bulldog booth at Crufts is much visited by existing “Frenchie” owners just seeking to talk about their experiences with their own dog as well as looking for advice on specific issues. And, oh yes, with a chance to cuddle a Frenchie!!

In doing this, the Midland and Northern Counties French Bulldog Club has spent much time and thought preparing visual display material and advice notes with which to inform visitors to the French Bulldog booth. As a club we have taken responsibility from the start of Discover Dogs some years ago, on behalf of the Kennel Club, to organize and manage the French Bulldog exhibit at Crufts. The Club’s efforts have often been recognized by winning the annual booth competition held by the Kennel Club for “Utility” breeds and on occasion for all breeds!!

When Discover Dogs first started it is probably true to say that the majority of public visitors had never seen or indeed heard of a French Bulldog. Discover Dogs and the M&NCFBC have played a major part in the massive popularization of the breed, by demonstrating what wonderful companion dogs they are.

If you would like to volunteer as a Frenchie dog handler at Discover Dogs at the next Crufts, March 2026, with your healthy and well-behaved dogs, and you feel that you have the appropriate knowledge and experience to speak to the public about them, we would love to hear from you. Remember that we attend in Hall 3 over the four days, Thursday to Sunday, between 0900 and 1700 hours. There is plenty of scope to attend for a half or a full day. Only very modest expenses are given by the KC, though there are some daily freebies from that year’s commercial sponsor.

**Richard Mavro -Michaelis**



## **Veterinary Health checks at shows.**

Please note for dog show people:

For the new veterinary health check form for the championship title and/or pre-group check, the form now requires

- Kennel Club Name
- Kennel Club Number
- Microchip Number

Please have this information to hand when coming for your vet check (KC papers or online on MyKc)

Without these details we cannot complete and submit the forms to the KC for the awards

Laura Hamilton

May 16 2025

## **UPDATE**

### **Transition to Digital Category 3 Veterinary Health Check Form**

The Kennel Club is moving from the current paper-based Category 3 Group & Champion title veterinary health check form to a new digital version.

- The process for exhibitors/owners will remain the same, but the form will be completed online using a mobile, laptop or tablet device.
- Once submitted, the completed form will be automatically emailed to the owner, vet, and The Kennel Club. Removing the need for the show team to process it.
- The content of the form is the same as the existing paper form.
- Trials of the digital form are starting at Richmond Championship Show, with wider rollout to be scheduled.
- Subject to successful trials, full implementation is expected in 2026.
- The only change is a new section that allows for the sharing of results with the judge. This change follows feedback from the community, which expressed a desire for judges to be informed of the reason a dog fails a veterinary check. Importantly, this information will only be shared if the owner provides consent. The form will therefore ask for the owner's agreement before any results are disclosed.

This change is intended to improve accuracy, ensure secure submission, speed up processing times, and reduce the administrative burden on show organisers.

Laura Hamilton

3/9/25

## Judges Education Programme (JEP)

A new system has been developed for the education, approval and listing of every level of judge, from open shows to awarding CCs. The system introduces a structured and logical approach to the training of judges, incorporating a step-by-step approach.

To be eligible to judge at all from 1st January 2026 you **MUST** be registered and showing on the RKC 'Find a Judge' site at a minimum of JEP Level 1.

Level 1: Minimum of five years proven interest in pedigree dogs, Conformation and Movement seminar, two days stewarding, Requirements of a Dog Show Judge seminar and pass associated exam, pass the Points of a Dog assessment

***Before accepting any appointment please make ensure you meet the appropriate criteria AND are correctly registered on the RKC JEP platform.***

Even if you are already on a Breed Club judging List, this will not count after 31st December 2025 and you **MUST** be registered on the JEP platform.

The JEP online platform is very easy to use and makes it easy to keep track of where you are up to with all your different breeds.

Level 2: Attended a BAD and passed the MCE, completed the online ring stewarding seminar & quiz, completed the online critique writing seminar & quiz.

Once you reach level 2 you can begin your mentoring, please get in touch to arrange your first session.

Any questions at all don't hesitate to reach out!

**Olivia Timms, your French Bulldog BEC**



Become a Friend of the CGC!

The Canine Genetics centre (CGC) undertakes research to understand the genetics of inherited diseases in dogs. Our funding comes from a variety of sources, including grants from charities such as the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Dogs Trust, the Kennel Club Charitable Trust and the Petplan Charitable Trust. But research is expensive, and not all our grant applications are successful, so donations from our grass roots stakeholders play a crucial role in enabling us to keep our extensive programme of research running.



If you are a dog breeder, a dog owner or simply a dog lover please consider becoming a **Friend of the CGC**.

Becoming a Friend of the CGC is easy. Simply set up a direct debit for £5 or more a month. That's it. But by making a regular donation you will be contributing to the future financial stability of the CGC.

As a thank you we will send you a lapel pin that we hope you will wear with pride.

And as another token of our gratitude you will be able to nominate somebody for the **Friends of the CGC Health and Welfare Award**.

Once you have set up your direct debit we will send you your lapel pin and a link to the nomination form. If you are already a regular donor these tokens of our appreciation will be on their way to you as soon as possible. Become a friend at

[https://www.philanthropy.cam.ac.uk/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=5252&utm\\_cont ent=topCTA](https://www.philanthropy.cam.ac.uk/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=5252&utm_cont ent=topCTA)



## Pioneering treatment for Severe IVDD in Dogs

CamVet (Cambridge University Veterinary Service) is pioneering a new enzyme injection treatment for severe Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD) in dogs, called percutaneous intra-discal chondroitinase injection. This treatment injects an enzyme into damaged discs to dissolve their core, relieving spinal cord pressure. It offers an alternative to surgery, is being studied in a clinical trial, and provides a potentially less invasive, more affordable option for some dogs with IVDD. (August 2025).

### **About the Chondroitinase Treatment**

- **How it Works:** The enzyme, chondroitinase, is injected directly into the affected intervertebral discs.
- **Effect:** It dissolves the central, gel-like portion of the disc, which can reduce pressure on the spinal cord.
- **Benefits:** This procedure is less invasive than traditional surgery and aims to relieve pain and neurological symptoms.

### **Clinical Trial at CamVet**

- **Collaboration:** CamVet collaborated with Texas A&M University in the United States to conduct a clinical trial for this treatment.
- **Trial Findings:** A published trial showed that dogs receiving chondroitinase injections recovered their ability to walk at a similar rate to dogs undergoing other IVDD treatments.
- **Availability:** The treatment is now offered at the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital (QVSH), a part of CamVet, as part of a package that includes a neurological consultation, MRI, and the injections.

**Other IVDD Treatments** For comparison, here are other standard IVDD treatments:

- **Conservative Management:** For mild cases, this includes strict rest (crate rest is often recommended) for several weeks, pain medications, and anti-inflammatory drugs.
- **Physiotherapy:** Rehabilitation, including laser therapy and underwater treadmill work, can help with recovery.
- **Surgery:** For severe cases, spinal surgery may be recommended to decompress the spinal cord, especially when conservative management is ineffective or the damage is severe.

**When to Seek Veterinary Care** Contact a vet immediately if your dog shows sudden symptoms of IVDD, such as severe pain, difficulty walking, or paralysis. A proper diagnosis is essential to determine the appropriate treatment plan.

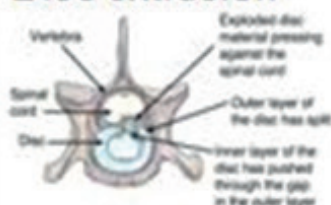
# IVDD in French bulldogs

IVDD (intervertebral disc disease) is an inherited condition that is common in French bulldogs. Like us, dogs have disc between the bones of their spine. These discs degenerate early in dogs with IVDD, and one or more of them may eventually rupture and put pressure on the spinal cord. Some French bulldogs also have congenital vertebral malformations (abnormally shaped vertebrae) which can make it more likely for them to get IVDD.

Signs of IVDD can include:



## Disc extrusion



If your dog is showing signs of IVDD, confine them and see your vet straight away

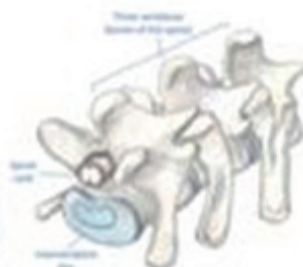


pain

knuckling their paws



dragging their hindquarters



## The IVDD Handbook

- ✓ clear practical guidelines
- ✓ setting up a crate or pen
- ✓ how-to guides for everything from sling-walking to home exercises
- ✓ notes on when to contact your vet
- ✓ includes nearly 500 colour photos
- ✓ index and colour-coded chapters to help you find information fast.

See [TheRehabVet.com](http://TheRehabVet.com) for more details

## For further information about French Bulldogs

Look on our **Club Website** for more information about French Bulldogs.

**[www.mncfrenchbulldogclub.com](http://www.mncfrenchbulldogclub.com)**

The Club also has a facebook page and regularly updates the page with information.

### Royal Kennel Club

Look on the RKC website for the **Brachycephalic Hub**: Finding out about Flat Faced Breeds.

For more information read The Kennel Club's report

**“Play Your Part: Breeding, Buying & Bringing Up Brachycephalic Dogs Better”**.

**Health Testing** : contact Vanessa Bryant **[FBCEHealth@outlook.com](mailto:FBCEHealth@outlook.com)**

**French Bulldog Welfare Trust Registered Charity 287420**

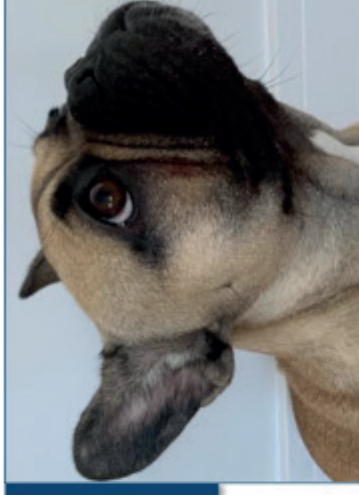
**[info@frenchbulldogwelfaretrust.com](mailto:info@frenchbulldogwelfaretrust.com)**





# Uncovering the effect of BOAS in the brain

The 'BBB' clinic  
'Brachycephalic Breathing Brain'



Brachycephalic Airway Syndrome (BOAS) affects a high percentage of Pugs, French bulldogs and English bulldogs.

BOAS dogs have more signs of brain dysfunction.

Is this because of the decreased oxygenation?

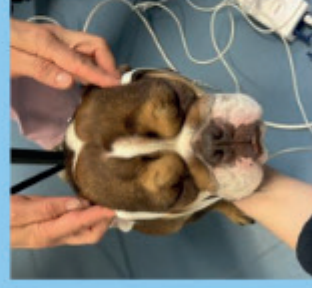
**If this is true, can we prevent / treat the brain disease by addressing the BOAS?**



- ✓ Needs to be a pug, French bulldog or English bulldog
- ✓ Has brain signs such as seizures or other 'funny turns'
- ✓ Known BOAS grade (this can also be done during general evaluation of the dog)

**Your dog will have the following investigations (all minimally invasive and free of charge):**

- ❖ Neurological assessment, collection of mouth swab for genetics, brain oxygenation assessment with sensors (NIRS) and collection of samples to check natural bacteria.
- ❖ If your dog needs BOAS surgery, optional investigations could include:
  - Results from optional pre-anesthetic blood test
  - Brain wave measurement (EEG) when asleep



NIRS



EEG



# RESPIRATORY FUNCTION GRADING Scheme

# R

Breathing is assessed via a stethoscope while the dog is calm and relaxed  
 The dogs nostrils are assessed.  
 The overall body condition of the dog is rated  
 The vet will complete a questionnaire on the general wellbeing of your dog

# F

The dog is trotted at 6-8 km/hour for 3 minutes



# G

At the end of the 3 minutes, the vet then reassesses the dog's breathing looking for:-  
 \* increased respiratory effort  
 \* Increased respiratory noise  
 \* recovery time

## A GRADING FROM 0-3 WILL BE GIVEN

### Grade 0

Clinically Unaffected and free of Respiratory signs of BOAS

### Grade 1

Clinically Unaffected with mild respiratory signs linked to BOAS

### Grade 2

Clinically Affected with moderate respiratory signs of BOAS

### Grade 3


Clinically Affected with severe respiratory signs of BOAS

## BREEDER MATRIX - Recommendations for breeding

Dog 1 (Sire or Dam)

 Lowest risk of breeding puppies with BOAS

 The combination of Grade 2 to Grade 2 represents a higher risk

 These combinations represent the highest risk, and breedings are not recommended

Dog 2 (Sire or Dam)

RFG GRADE	GRADE 0	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3
GRADE 0				
GRADE 1				
GRADE 2				
GRADE 3				

Developed by UK Kennel Club

I'D LIKE TO THANK  
MY OWNER, MY  
STYLIST, MY  
NUTRITIONIST...

