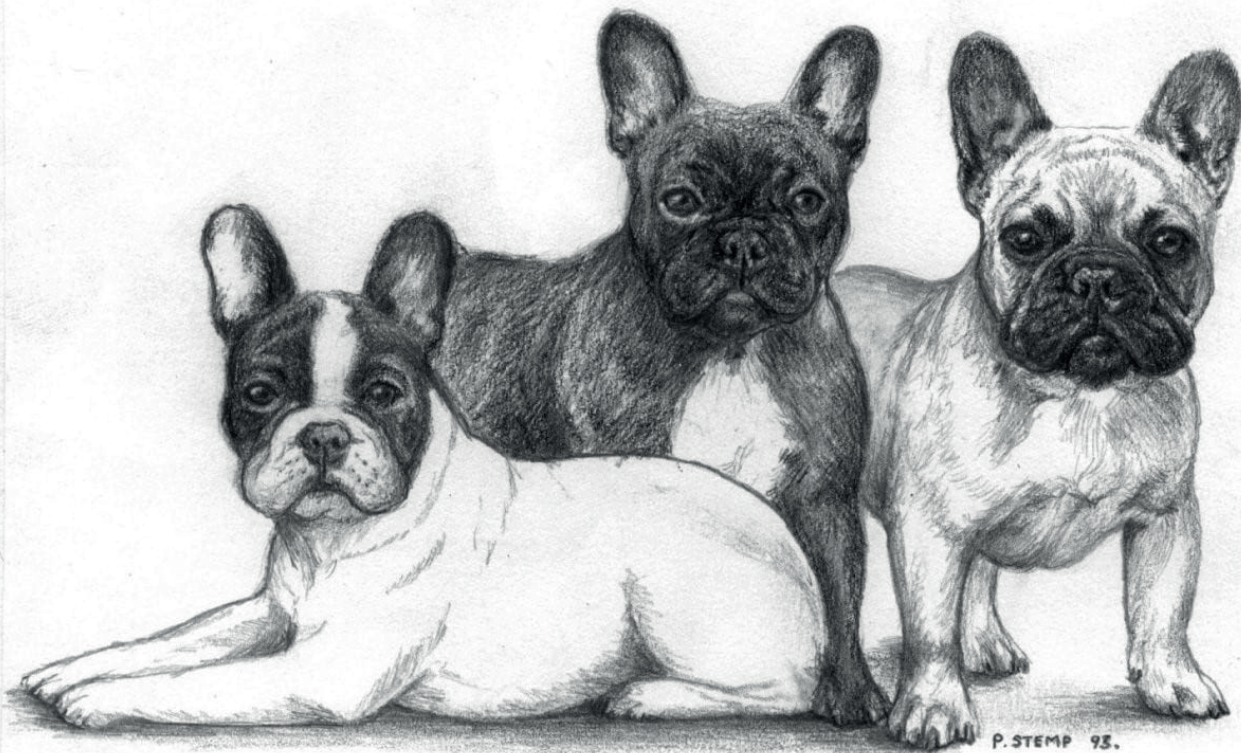


# BAT EARS



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

**SPRING 2025**



## **Editor's Introduction**

Welcome to Bat Ears, Spring 2025.

The constant barrage against brachycephalic dogs feels relentless. The all time low is the suggestion that French Bulldogs start using other breeds to outcross to improve the breed's health. This was unanimously voted against by your Officers and Committee.

As French Bulldog lovers all we can do is stand fast and do the right thing by health testing our Frenchies regularly, and encourage others in the breed to do the same. We will continue to include "Health Matters" in Bat Ears to keep members informed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maureen Bootle of the famous Tommyville Kennel for donating a huge number of articles, photographs and much more to the Club, especially to be used in Bat Ears. These are all from Maureen's huge collection she amassed over her years in the breed.

It is very much appreciated and has given me lots of ideas for the future.

Remember this magazine is for members. If you have any suggestions for topics to be included, please let me know.

Enjoy this edition of Bat Ears; more importantly enjoy your French Bulldogs.

Angela McInnes

**batearsmncfbc@gmail.com**

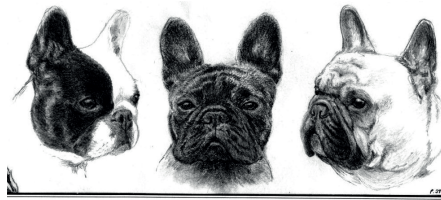
### **Disclaimer:**

**Please note that the opinions expressed in Bat Ears may be those of 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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**Midland & Northern Counties  
French Bulldog Club.**

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## Chairman's Report

2024 was another successful year for the club holding four shows; two championships shows and two open shows. All four shows drew very respectable entries. We started the year with our open show in March which drew a very nice entry of 61, We then held our first championship shows of the year in May in conjunction with Birmingham National which proved a great success drawing a lovely entry of 114 for our judge Mr J Peach. The club put on a free buffet which seemed to go down well on the day.

We then moved onto our double show in September where we held our open & championship shows jointly at the lovely Asfordby Football Club venue. It turned out to be a beautiful sunny day which allowed us to have both shows outside, side by side. Our judge for the championship show Ms C Harwood was unable to fulfill her appointment due to ill health so a last minute replacement was required. We were very grateful that breed specialist Mr A Cutter stepped in to take on the duties of the day with a lovely entry of 105. Our open show judged by breed specialist Mrs J Pratt drew a fabulous entry of 95.

Discover dogs proved yet again to be a great success not only for the club but also the breed. Many thanks again to Richard & Jackie Mavro Michaelis and the team who managed the stand all four days for their hard work and dedication which enabled the stand to win best stand in the Utility group for the fourth time which is an incredible achievement.

Sad news came from the breed notes in Our Dogs of the de - registration of one of our breed clubs. It was such a pity to lose one of our breed clubs who were due to hold their first championship show that year. I'm sure a lot of exhibitors would have rallied round to help and keep the club afloat, if we as a breed had been made aware that help was required.

On a very positive note registration figures for our breed continue to drop which is a most welcome trend. The fashion for none standard colours and fluffy, hairless and every other mix looks to be a thing of the past. Long may this be the case.

2025 sees our breed back on the health check register which is a bit of a kick in the teeth for our breed when you consider all the work the health team put in to our breed. It's such a pity the KC have succumb to pressure of the anti - dog lobbyist.

Financially the club remains on a very strong footing with our treasurer Ms A J Pike keeping a tight reign on the purse strings. Many thanks to our secretary & Vice President Mr David Spencer for the smooth running of the club and keeping our website updated; along with Miss A Cund show secretary for organising such well run, friendly shows which continue to draw excellent entries in the current climate. Bat Ears goes from strength to strength thanks to the hard work of Ms A McInnes.

On a very sad note we lost a very valuable member of the club Mr Brynmor Jones of Acirema fame. His services to the club over many, many years, and his devotion to our breed are irreplaceable, a true gentleman. It was a great honour and pleasure to serve alongside you my dear friend. I would also like to thank the rest of the hardworking committee along with our many helpers who without your contribution to the smooth running of the club just simply would not be possible it's all down to teamwork and I believe we have a very strong team here. To all our members thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support because simply without you all there isn't any club. Please don't forget to renew your memberships and we as a committee look forward to welcoming you all along to the club events for the foreseeable future.

Dean Cund

Chairman

## Club Secretary's Report

Once again I am pleased to have the opportunity to update you on some of the actions that the club has taken over the last year. The following are some extracts from my report which will be presented at this year's Annual General Meeting

During the year much of my time as Hon Secretary has been spent writing and replying to emails, in fact I have sent or received over 1,200 emails. This continues to be the main form of communication and saves the club a considerable amount of money as the cost of postage continues to rise. I must again thank all those members who allow us to communicate in this way, if you still receive communications from us via the post, and have an email address that we could use, please let me know, my email address is [honsecmncfbc@gmail.com](mailto:honsecmncfbc@gmail.com) **we will not send any unnecessary messages.**

Social Media continues to be a popular way of communicating with both members and non members on a regular basis with items concerning the club and French Bulldog matters of interest. Our Facebook page can be read by anyone, we now have over 700 followers and some of our posts have received nearly 1000 views. The club website continues to attract a number of views each day with the most popular page being the Show page where all the Championship shows are listed together with the judges, links to the show details and also the number of entries

### **Registrations**

The 2024 registrations of French Bulldogs have continued to show a reduction on the 2021 record figures of the Covid years

French Bulldog registrations for the last ten years are as follows. At the time of writing this report the 4th quarter registrations of 2024 have not been received, however the figures that have been published for the first 9 months of the year continue to show a reduction year on year with 11,088 registrations, the corresponding registrations for the same period in 2023 was 21,349

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Registrations</b>	6,990	9,670	14,607	21,470	30,887	36,785	33,661	39,266	54,074	42,538	26,704

A very high number of these registrations are Non-Recognised Colours in just one quarter 77% of registrations were NRC. These registrations continue to be of concern to the committee and our members

### **Discover Dogs**

As in previous years the M&NCFBC were responsible for the French Bulldog stand at Discover Dogs at Crufts. Our stand proved to be very popular. Committee members spent a great deal of time answering questions and giving advice particularly on health matters. Once again, the stand was organised by Richard & Jackie Mavro-Michaelis, supported by a team of volunteers. The stand again

received the award for Best Utility Group Booth well done and thank you to Richard and Jackie together with committee members and helpers who gave up their time to run the stand and answer all the questions and of course a big thank you to their Frenchies!

## **Judges**

As you are probably aware the M&NCFBC are one of the few clubs that ask its members to elect the judges for both the club open and championship shows, which we are determined to continue. However the postage costs have increased significantly over recent years and the committee have agreed to switch to an online voting system for the next ballot. For those members who do not have emails the postal option will still be available

## **Committee**

Since the last AGM the M&NCFBC have held 7 committee meetings and during the year have dealt with a number of matters and requests including but not limited to:-

- Once again the club sponsored French Bulldog Classes at three open shows last year
- The Club organised two Open shows and 2 Championship shows in 2024
- Bat Ears is published twice a year and thanks must go Angela McInnes for producing and editing this popular publication
- The committee together with the other breed clubs continue to lobby the Kennel Club on Non Breed Standard colours
- New breed standard introduced on Sept 1st 2024
- Online version of Bat Ears to be offered

If anyone has any questions on the above or any other matter concerning the club please let me know, my email is [honsecmncfbc@gmail.com](mailto:honsecmncfbc@gmail.com) and I will be pleased to help

David Spencer

Hon. Secretary M&NCFBC



**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31st DECEMBER 2024**

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10. Income and Expenditure account notes
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**ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO  
THE MIDLAND & NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB**

In accordance with the instructions given to us we have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the annexed financial statements from the Accounting records of the Midland & Northern French Bulldog Club together with any information and explanations supplied to us.

..... *G Alvey* .....

GA Accountancy & Bookkeeping Services  
1 Shelford Hill  
Mansfield  
Notts  
NG19 6QF

**MIDLAND AND NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB**  
**MAY CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Entries	1,609.00	0.00	1,609.00
Catalogue	129.00	0.00	129.00
Raffle	140.00	0.00	140.00
Refreshments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Show Donations	31.00	0.00	31.00
Donations on Goods Sold and Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Advertising	15.00	0.00	15.00
Spectators	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sponsorship	220.00	0.00	220.00
Sundry Debtors	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>2,144.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,144.00</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Venue	120.00	0.00	120.00
Judges Gifts and Expenses	22.50	0.00	22.50
Printing	284.59	0.00	284.59
Postage and Stationery	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	54.17	0.00	54.17
Rosettes	86.61	0.00	86.61
KC Licence	60.00	0.00	60.00
Refreshments	4.50	0.00	4.50
Car Park	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transport Hire	0.00	0.00	0.00
KC Levy	21.40	0.00	21.40
Prize money raffle	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>653.77</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>653.77</b>
Surplus (Income - Expenditure)	<b>1,490.23</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,490.23</b>

**Notes**

- There is no comparison with another championship show as this was an additional championship show added in 2024.

**MIDLAND AND NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB****SEPTEMBER CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Entries	1,346.00	1,665.00	-319.00
Catalogue	110.00	133.20	-23.20
Raffle	129.00	237.10	-108.10
Refreshments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Show Donations	22.00	7.00	15.00
Donations on Goods Sold and Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Advertising	0.00	8.00	-8.00
Spectators	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sponsorship	394.52	540.00	-145.48
Sundry Debtors	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>2,001.52</b>	<b>2,590.30</b>	<b>-588.78</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Venue	125.00	480.00	-355.00
Judges Gifts and Expenses	18.00	35.00	-17.00
Printing	255.48	75.49	179.99
Postage and Stationery	0.00	198.00	-198.00
Insurance	54.17	72.22	-18.05
Rosettes	442.43	238.73	203.70
KC Licence	60.00	35.00	25.00
Refreshments	23.20	0.00	23.20
Car Park	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transport Hire	0.00	0.00	0.00
KC Levy	17.60	0.00	17.60
Prize money raffle	29.48	100.00	-70.52
	<b>1,025.36</b>	<b>1,234.44</b>	<b>-209.08</b>
Surplus (Income - Expenditure)	976.16	1,355.86	-379.70

**Notes**

- The income is significantly lower in 2024 than in 2023. This is due to the decrease in entries, the raffle and sponsorship income.
- The expenditure has also decreased in 2024 compared to 2023. This is because although the venue costs were significantly lower and there were no postage and stationery costs, this is offset by the increase in costs of Rosettes and Printing.

**MIDLAND AND NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB**  
**MARCH SHOW FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	31/12/2024	31/12/2023	Variance
	£	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Entries	286.50	390.00	-103.50
Catalogue	36.50	40.00	-3.50
Raffle	140.00	173.29	-33.29
Refreshments	72.00	133.04	-61.04
Show Donations	21.50	3.00	18.50
Donations on Goods Sold and Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sponsorship	50.00	260.00	-210.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spectators	2.00	0.00	2.00
	608.50	999.33	-390.83
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Venue	180.00	170.00	10.00
Judges Gifts and Expenses	16.89	65.17	-48.28
Printing	72.89	78.25	-5.36
Postage and Stationery	0.00	5.00	-5.00
Insurance	54.17	72.22	-18.05
Rosettes	150.84	162.68	-11.84
KC Licence	35.00	35.00	0.00
Refreshments	49.10	60.76	-11.66
Car Park	50.00	50.00	0.00
Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00
KC Levy	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prize money raffle	38.76	4.50	34.26
	647.65	703.58	-55.93
Surplus (Income - Expenditure)	-39.15	295.75	-334.90

**Notes**

- Income has decreased significantly in 2024 by £390.83. This can mainly be attributed to a decrease of sponsorship income of £210.00 and a decrease in entry income of £103.50.
- Expenditure has slightly decreased in 2023 by £55.93. This can mainly be attributed to a significant reduction of expenditure for Judges Gifts and Expenses.

**MIDLAND AND NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB**  
**SEPTEMBER SHOW FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Entries	396.50	366.50	30.00
Catalogue	44.00	46.50	-2.50
Raffle	129.00	107.00	22.00
Refreshments	0.00	84.00	-84.00
Show Donations	14.00	28.50	-14.50
Donations on Goods Sold and Gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spectators	0.00	4.00	-4.00
	<b>583.50</b>	<b>636.50</b>	<b>-53.00</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Venue	125.00	180.00	-55.00
Judges Gifts and Expenses	28.50	148.72	-120.22
Printing	223.35	62.00	161.35
Postage and Stationery	0.00	27.30	-27.30
Insurance	54.17	72.22	-18.05
Rosettes	230.82	241.51	-10.69
KC Licence	35.00	35.00	0.00
Refreshments	1.49	86.99	-85.50
Car Park	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00
KC Levy	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prize money raffle	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>698.33</b>	<b>903.74</b>	<b>-205.41</b>
Surplus (Income - Expenditure)	<b>-114.83</b>	<b>-267.24</b>	<b>152.41</b>

**Notes**

- Income has decreased by £51.00 in 2024. This is due to there being no refreshment income in 2024 offset by a slight increase in Show Entries and income from the Raffle.
- Expenditure has decreased by £146.61 in 2024. This is mainly due to decreases in the Cost of Judges Gifts and Rosettes and Venue Charges.

**MIDLAND AND NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB**  
**AGM FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	31/12/2024		31/12/2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Lunch		0.00		0.00
		0.00		0.00
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Venue	0.00		0.00	
Food for Lunches	0.00		0.00	
Posting	0.00		0.00	
Printing	0.00		0.00	
Dog World/Our World	30.00		30.00	
Late Fees	0.00		0.00	
Sundries	0.00		0.00	
		30.00		30.00
		-30.00		-30.00

**Notes**

The AGM was again done in person after the March Show. As in the previous two years, there would be no venue costs for this meeting.

**MIDLAND AND NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB**  
**BAT EARS MAGAZINE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	31/12/2024		31/12/2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Spring</u></b>				
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Members Adverts & Donations		60.00		100.00
		60.00		100.00
<b><u>Less Expenditure</u></b>				
Printing	387.00		380.00	
Postage	90.00		107.40	
		477.00		487.40
		-417.00		-387.40
<b><u>Winter</u></b>				
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Members Adverts & Donations		35.00		75.00
		35.00		75.00
<b><u>Less Expenditure</u></b>				
Printing	387.00		380.00	
Postage	87.50		92.05	
		474.50		472.05
		-439.50		-397.05

## Notes

The increase in total expenditure for the Bat Ears Magazine can be attributed to the decrease in Income from the Members Adverts & Donations from £175.00 in 2023 to £95.00 in 2024. The cost of production for the magazine roughly stayed similar from 2023 to 2024.

### MIDLAND AND NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB BAD DAY EVENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

	31/12/2024		31/12/2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Income Received		0.00		30.00
		0.00		30.00
<b><u>Less Expenditure</u></b>				
Venue	0.00		0.00	
Car Park	0.00		0.00	
		0.00		0.00
Surplus		0.00		30.00

From the records I have seen, there is no BAD day income for the year ending 2024.

### MIDLAND AND NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	31/12/2024		31/12/2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Membership Subscriptions	1,253.55		1,414.21	
Other Income	347.65		635.19	
Other Donations	79.89		71.00	
		1,681.09		2,120.40
<b><u>Shows</u></b>				
March Open Show	-39.15		295.75	
May Championship Show	1,490.23		0.00	
September Championship Show	976.16		1,355.86	
September Open Show	-114.83		-267.24	
		2,312.41		1,384.37
		3,993.50		3,504.77
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
<b><u>Honaria</u></b>				
Treasurer	400.00		400.00	
Secretary	400.00		400.00	
Show Secretary	400.00		400.00	
<b><u>Other Expenditure</u></b>				
Health Controller Donation	100.00		0.00	
Postage	154.67		191.06	
Printing and Stationery	424.35		298.18	
Bat Ears Magazine	856.50		784.45	
Accountancy	100.00		100.00	
AGM	30.00		30.00	
BUBA	20.00		15.00	

Donations & Flowers	46.99		134.00	
KC Maintenance	90.00		45.00	
KC Licence	240.00		380.00	
Sponsored Rosettes	29.98		77.00	
Discover Dogs	272.00		126.25	
Bank charges	0.00		0.00	
Depreciation - Fixed Assets	54.67		65.69	
Website (incl Zoom)	369.94		293.14	
Sundries	109.54		0.00	
		4,098.64		3,739.77
		-105.14		-235.00

### **Notes**

The total income was higher for 2024 than 2023. This was mainly due to an additional show in September 2024, running alongside the open show.

The total expenditure in 2024 is also higher than in 2023. The variances can be explained due to increase in costs for Printing and Stationery, Websites, the Bat Ears Magazine and the additional honorarium.

Due to this, there is a deficit for 2024, although this has reduced due to the increase in income being greater than the increase in expenditure.

Sundry expenses are the Late invoices that were not paid from 2023 until early 2024, the food of £74.54 and the judge's gift of £35.00.



**MIDLAND AND NORTHERN FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB**  
**BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	31/12/2024		31/12/2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>				
Printer	31.06		36.54	
Mats and Railings	240.03		282.39	
Cabinet	38.69		45.52	
		309.78		364.45
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>				
Stock	0.00		0.00	
Prepayments and Debtors	857.99		1,623.88	
		857.99		1,623.88
<b><u>Cash and Bank Balances</u></b>				
Bank Balance	31,444.02		30,720.37	
Cash in hand	90.00		90.00	
		31,534.02		30,810.37
<b><u>Less Current Liabilities</u></b>				
Creditors	0.00		-39.75	
Advanced Membership	-111.98		-64.00	
		-111.98		-103.75
		32,589.81		32,694.95
<b><u>Capital accounts</u></b>				
Capital b/f		32,694.95		32,929.95
Surplus/Deficit		-105.14		-235.00
		32,589.81		32,694.95

Amanda Jane Pike  
Honorary Treasurer.



## **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)

### **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.

The Club has welcomed two new committee members in 2024. Here is some background information on their association with French Bulldogs.

### Olivia Timms

I first fell in love with frenchies when I got my first frenchie puppy Kovu, who was by no means a show frenchie but together we embarked on exploring this crazy new world of showing dogs. On this journey I have met so many amazing, dedicated and knowledgeable breeders and friends, with whom I wouldn't have had such an amazing start in the breed, making up 4 champions in our short tenure in the breed.

Prior to showing dogs, I was very competitive in the horse world, so it only fits that I'm now also exploring agility with my very talented frenchies 'Chase' IR Ch Olijah Cut to the Chase and 'Monkey' Olijah Banana Split. It has been fantastic to see how the agility world has embraced French Bulldogs and how we have been able to demonstrate what fit, healthy and well-bred French bulldogs are capable of.

I am extremely passionate about French Bulldogs, in particular keeping our breed healthy and breeding for the future generations, and I am honoured to be a member of the M&NCFBC committee



I've been brought up with dogs all my life, I was born into a dog loving family and grew up alongside a Staffordshire bull terrier called Nina. All my life I've owned animals but dogs are a passion. My dad has shown dogs for a lifetime and after having watched him for many years build rapport with dogs and have great success and achievements, including res best in show at crufts I wanted my own dog to show. I decided after years of growing up around terriers that a whippet was the breed for me. After having a whippet in the household since when I can remember I always had a soft spot and I decided after time and consideration looking at the breed, following results and dogs that 'Nevedith' was the kennel I needed to go to and the rest is history as they say. After having owned and bred champions in the breed I knew I wanted a terrier to show too and so I decided a wire fox terrier was to join the household, along with welsh in time, again from here I've bred and handled champions in each breed. I then came into the 'utility' world after meeting the most beautiful trio at dog training, Abbie Cund with her two baby Boston terriers, and again as the saying goes the rest is history and I'm now under the thumb of French bulldogs and not forgetting the Boston terriers! Being part of team Chelmbull and taking great enjoyment in all things to do with the dogs I also enjoy committee and 'show running' duties, so I look forward to being part of this committee and making your experiences at our shows a most enjoyable one.

Sarah Wilkinson



## Health News

It's a been a busy time for Breed Health over the last couple of months with the launch of the new KC Health Standard and our return to a Category 3 breed.

The aim of the new standard is to consolidate all relevant health tests for all breeds into one place and provide clear guidance to breeders and puppy buyers on what tests to undertake before breeding.

There are 2 levels of tests - Good Practice "must do's" and Best Practice "encouraged to do" . Prior to its launch , the breed health and club reps were spoken to by the KC and the final Standard differs slightly to those initial discussions.

For French Bulldogs the RKC deem the only **critical must do** test is participation in the "**Respiratory Function Grading Scheme**". There is then guidance on their RFG Health pages about the results and choices in breeding partners.

To achieve best practice level they have marked the following as good to have

DNA test for Hereditary Cataracts (HC-HSF4-2)

BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme Test

BVA/KC Elbow and Hip Dysplasia

Most Frenchies now will have DNA or hereditary clear results for the HC part of best practice, as it's been part of the Breed Health Scheme since its inception and the BVA eye test has been a recommendation to pick up any possible other eye issues that aren't covered within the basic health check which forms the entry level of the Health Scheme. But the Hips and Elbows are a new surprise addition. It was a while back that the Breed Health Scheme dropped Hip scoring from our Gold Level in favour of Spine Screening, because it was felt that this was more of a key health issue for the breed.

A spinal scoring scheme, along the lines of the Dachshund scheme has been mooted by the KC for as long as I can recall and sadly there is no sign of anything on the horizon and I believe the Hips and Elbows stats from UK and OFA schemes have been interrogated and used to form the opinion that it's something we should be testing for.

Statistics from our last Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP) confirmed the uptake of these tests is historically low , but our Median Hip Score for the most recent dogs tested was 10 and Elbows the vast majority tested were scored 0 or 1.

I suspect by adding this as a "Good to Do" test, it will be more of a statistics gaining exercise, but with this involving the risk of GA and needing a very experienced vet for correct positioning, I am not sure what the uptake will be, perhaps people will be more encouraged to do them and Spines at the same time. We can only hope.

The Breed Health Scheme doesn't form part of the Good or Best practice but does gets a mention on the health pages for our breed and as this covers an overall assessment of eyes, heart, patella and skin, I would still consider this to be more important as a starting point with the RFG.

In January the Breed Health Scheme was subject to a change. To assist with education surrounding prioritising health testing, a decision was made to make all the "result dependant" certificates time limited. So from January all Silver and Gold certificates will be issued with an expiry date. When completing your health tests and sending them in for Certificates, they will now show an expiry date

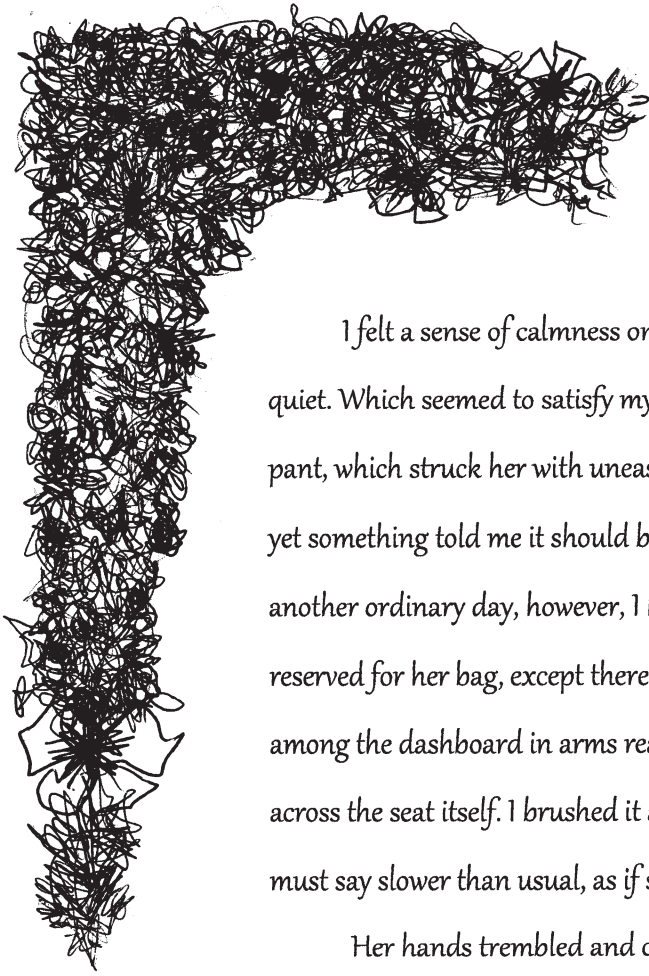
on the Silver / Gold certs that matches the expiry date of the RFG test submitted with the health form which is usually 2 years.

As BOAS can be progressive by limiting the time on the certs to match the RFG, this will mean that people will be encouraged to keep testing in line with the recommendations of the assessors. Obviously, with the Crufts entry criteria most show people will be retesting anyway, so it is more to encourage and educate the non-show community into correct and continued health testing. I see far too many examples of stud adverts for dogs or litters claiming FBCE awards from old where a dog has no current breathing test, so it's important to reiterate the idea that the test is like an MOT and not just a once off.

I must thank everyone from all clubs who generously took part in the Auctions throughout 2024, we raised a great total of £2500 for breed health. If anyone has any suggestions on areas of health that we could focus this on, please do not hesitate to drop me a line at [FBCEhealth@outlook.com](mailto:FBCEhealth@outlook.com). I must also thank those that continue to submit their health forms and RFGs to the scheme, as the stats produced will be becoming increasingly more and more important as many outside organisations look to push legislation and outcrossing the way of the Brachy Breeds.

Vanessa Bryant





## Emi's Story

I felt a sense of calmness on our one-way journey, the car ride was quiet. So quiet. Which seemed to satisfy my weary body as I occasionally expelled a breathless pant, which struck her with uneasiness. She stroked my stomach to reassure me, but yet something told me it should be me reassuring her. I convinced myself it was another ordinary day, however, I had the privilege of the front seat, which was often reserved for her bag, except there was no bag today. Only a box of tissues perched among the dashboard in arms reach from her seat, and my haggard body slumped across the seat itself. I brushed it aside and proceeded to observe her as she drove, I must say slower than usual, as if she was stalling. But I could not locate exactly what.

Her hands trembled and clung desperately onto the steering wheel as she drove into a deeper place of despair. Something was off. But with the attention I was receiving, I'm not complaining. I even received a double food portion today. I felt superior. My day was going great and I was filled with optimism.

Cruising down the main road into the city the car echoed with silence. Leaving only the sound of the tarmac beneath us roaring ferociously through the tyres. With enormous effort I levelled my head up to the warm window which I gently rested against, I pitifully observed. I observed the congested highway that faced us in the opposite direction like a tyrannical enemy that pulsed like a final heartbeat full of busy people, each with their own story to tell. It amused me.

The city ahead of us stood still, but welcomed us with its warmth. It was the peak of a lively summers day, the suns warm arms penetrated through the window and embraced my frailty. But the air con in the car blew cold, a cold that sent shivers down my spine.

As we continued into the sun, I fixed my view on trees, where the green leaves grew. I observed the blades of grass which were tinted with a vibrant hue. The radio

was muted leaving only a faint buzz which penetrated my ears, which I eventually succeeded to block out, and the growling of the tyres against the tarmac died down as we approached our destination.

She scooped me into her arms and struggled her way into a small door that opened for us. She grunted signs of difficulty as she persisted, until she eventually gave up with an outburst of exhaustion. She placed me onto a rather large fleece lined bed. Where I rested against the warm palm of her hand.

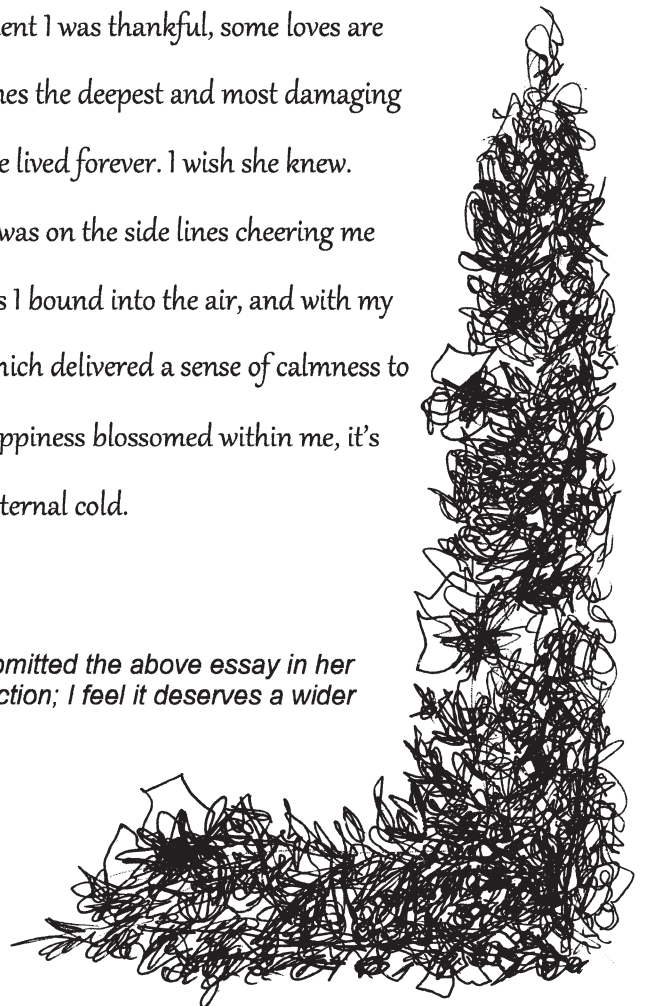
She cupped my frame in a tight manner as I lay comfortably on the bed, the white lights in the small box-like room glared onto me with daring eyes, I was the spotlight in this moment. I felt at peace in this moment, a calmness in the air lingered. I don't know why I was here, but I was with her and she was my safety.

But why was she crying, it was only an injection, right? But that moment I realised she lost herself, a part of her that acted as a magnet holding her together. When we first met I acted as her comfort, as a remedy to ease her mind from pain, now she was returning the favour. We exchanged each others pain through the tight grip of her hand against my paw and in this moment I was thankful, some loves are too much to endure, and with significant loss, comes the deepest and most damaging wound of all. If love could've saved me, I would've lived forever. I wish she knew.

I felt myself cross the finish line of life, she was on the side lines cheering me on. I felt young, and ready for what was to come as I bound into the air, and with my four paws I contently made my way to the end, which delivered a sense of calmness to my mind, like a bud ripening in the spring air, happiness blossomed within me, it's sweet aroma eradicating the decaying breath of internal cold.

**Emi Greers.**

*Emi a 16 year old daughter of a family friend submitted the above essay in her GCE final exams for which she received a distinction; I feel it deserves a wider read.....Barry Wright.*



## Health Testing Standards for Dogs Used for Breeding.

In January 2025 the Kennel Club released the following document.

All breeders should complete the tests for sire and dam of any litter.

Good practice highlights the most critical tests as a starting point.

### Good Practice for French Bulldogs

BOAS testing under the KC Respiratory Function Grading Scheme.

All breeders encouraged to aim for Best Practice by completing all recommended tests.

### Best Practice

Will have completed all tests in good practice, and the following to achieve best practice status.

DNA test for Hereditary Cataract

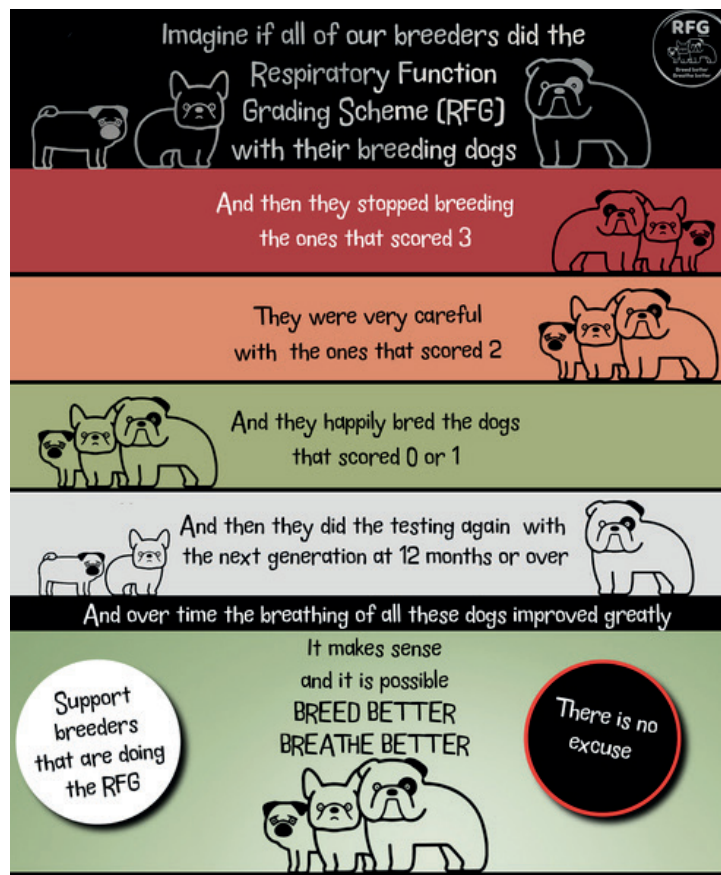
Elbow testing for elbow dysplasia under BVA/KC scheme (estimated breeding values)

Eye testing using BVA/KC/ISDS eye scheme

Hip Dysplasia

The French Bulldog Health Scheme required tests

The document is also a resource for puppy buyers to verify puppy's parents have undergone appropriate health tests.



## Legal Updates.

Legal analysis published in December 2024 has concluded breeding from dogs with severely impaired respiratory function “breaches English animal welfare laws putting breeders at risk of criminal charges”. This analysis was conducted by the UK Legal Advisory Group on Extreme Conformation in dogs. (LAGECDogs).

This legal analysis specifically targets dogs assessed as Grade 2/3 under the KC RFG scheme (Respiratory Function Grading System). According to this legal analysis keeping dogs that are Grade 2 or 3 for breeding would constitute a legal offence.

December 2024

The Government has backed The Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats, Ferrets) and will ban the import of puppies under 6 months.

January 2025

Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), an independent expert committee of DEFRA (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs) has called on the Kennel Club and breed clubs to outcross breeds. “Breeders of purebred puppies in breeds that currently suffer from extreme conformation or other health and welfare damaging traits should be strongly encouraged to outcross with breeds in which such characteristics are absent. Such effort to reduce inherited welfare problems and widen gene pools within breeds could be facilitated by the Kennel Club and breed clubs allowing registration of such dogs.

NB This was discussed at a committee meeting of the Midland & Northern Counties French Bulldog Club and unanimously voted against.



## **French bulldogs and intervertebral disc disease (IVDD)**

French bulldogs are one of the breeds of dog with a higher predisposition to develop disc disease (IVDD). As chondrodystrophic dogs (meaning they have short legs compared to the body), they are prone to changes in their intervertebral discs, with about 50% of Frenchie's who present with a neurological problem suffering from disc disease. When looking at problems with their spine, this percentage increases to 85% for mid-back problems and 67% for neck problems. Chondrodystrophic dogs suffer from degeneration (hardening) of the disc at a young age, and Frenchie's can present with signs related to IVDD at as little as two-to-three years or age.

The disc itself, which is supposed to work as a spongy cushion between the back bones, becomes hard and unable to act as a shock absorber. One of the best ways to visualize this is the 'doughnut analogy'. Imagine the disc is like a jam doughnut, filled with a liquid jam centre. That doughnut is squishy and malleable. However, if that soft centre becomes hard, it loses these properties. Moreso, it becomes less adaptable and more prone for that hard centre to break through the dough and become external to the doughnut. This is very much what happens in the most common type of slipped disc (intervertebral disc extrusion) in medium size/small dogs. The nucleus of the disc (jam centre) becomes hard and breaks through the anulus fibrosus (dough). Immediately above the disc, running inside the canal made by the back bones, is the spinal cord and nerves, which can be severely damage by the slipped hard disc.

Two main types of injury happen with slipped discs: bruising of the spinal cord (contusion) and compression of the spinal cord by the nucleus material. Without advanced imaging (mainly magnetic resonance imaging – MRI) the veterinary surgeon will not be able to understand the nature of the damage. Computed tomography – CT can also be used, and it is helpful for understanding the compressive problem, but not so much the presence of contusion. Compared to the Dachshund, the breed of dog most likely to develop disc disease, French bulldogs are more prone to have a haemorrhage (bleed) associated with the sudden slipped disc, which can cause further compression on the cord and impairing the signals that come from the brain to reach the body of the dog.

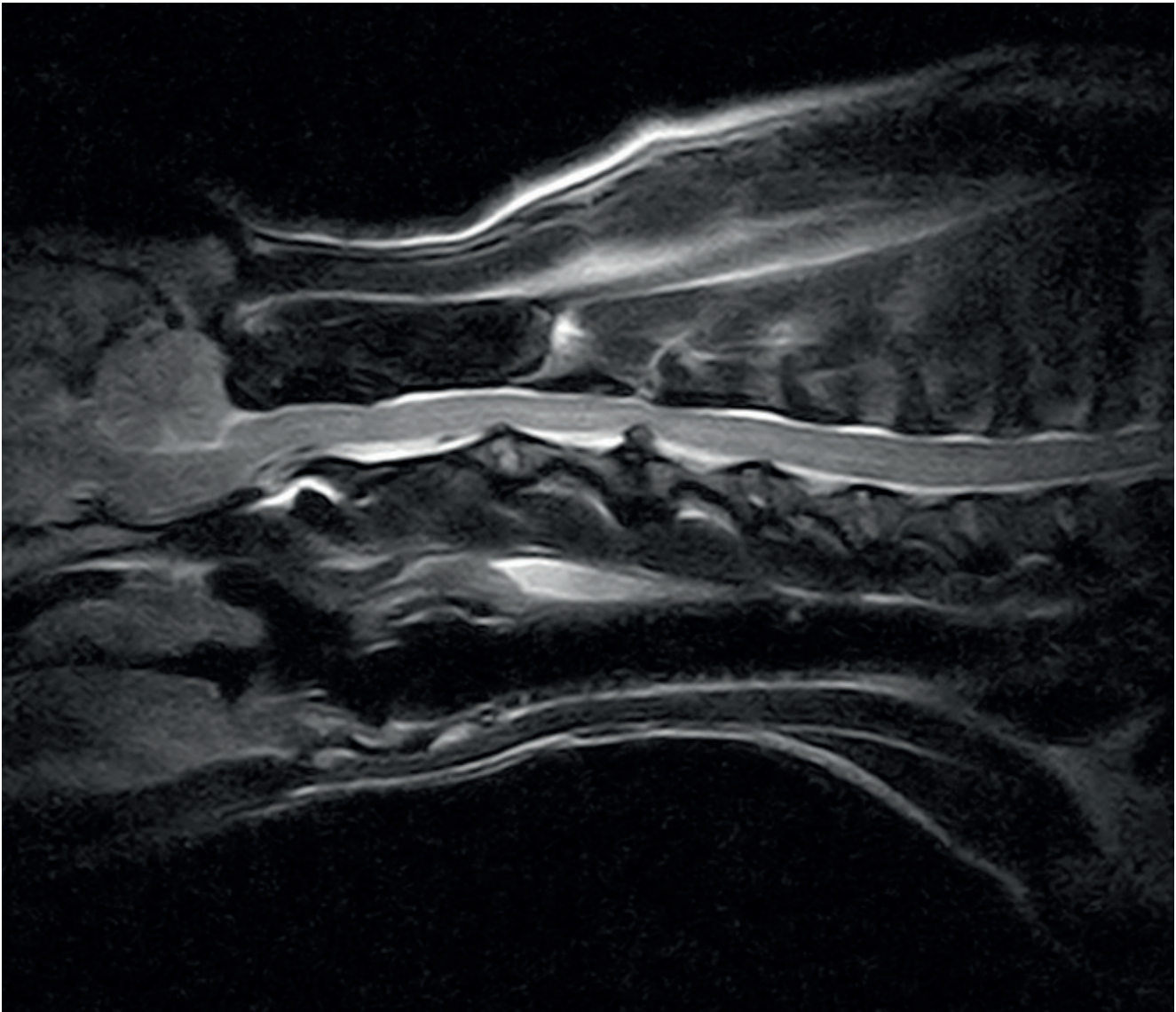
French bulldogs mainly have disc disease either in the neck or mid-back. When a slipped disc occurs in the neck, it is not uncommon for the Frenchie to present mainly with pain. A low head and neck carriage can be seen, sudden episodes of yelping because of pain (a slipped disc can, with movement, rub on the membrane surrounding the cord, which can be very painful) and shock-like movements in the neck skin can be seen. If problems with movement are present, it can range from being wobbly and weak in all 4 legs, to being unable to move any of the limbs. Complete loss of feeling is not often seen, as damage that severe would also impair the respiratory muscles and will not be compatible with life most of the time. When the slipped disc occurs in the midback, the Frenchie can show only pain, but often wobbliness and weakness are also present in the back legs. If the movement on the limbs is severely impaired, the dog will also not be able to urinate by himself. Managing the bladder is extremely important, as if the bladder is allowed to overfill, its muscle will be damaged, and even if the pet recovers function of the limbs they might remain incontinent long term. The bladder should be expressed at least a couple of times per day if the Frenchie is unable to urinate. Seeing a big patch of urine on the floor does not necessarily mean the dog is able to urinate – if the bladder is overflowing, some urine can come out, but the bladder will remain stretched.

It can be difficult, when IVDD occurs, to know what the best next step is. If the veterinary surgeon is very suspicious of IVDD (young/adult dog, painful, sudden onset of pain or movement impairment), conservative management with pain relief and strict rest (to avoid further disc coming out) might be a good option initially. If the pain is intractable, deterioration occurs or the presentation is severe (not able to walk, all the way to being unable to feel the limbs), evaluation by a veterinary neurologist, imaging of the back and, if appropriate, surgery to remove the slipped disc would be advisable. Prognosis for recovery of walking is associated with the presence (positive prognostic indicator) or absence (negative prognostic indicator) of pain sensation in the limbs. During the post-operative management, physiotherapy is very important for maintenance of muscle and joint health and therefore aiding the recovery of the patient.

Unfortunately, even if recovery occurs, about 50% of French bulldogs that suffer from an episode of IVDD and have surgical treatment will have recurrence of signs, half of them within 12 months from the previous episode. Younger dogs (<3 years) are more likely to suffer from recurrence. Fenestration (opening a small window in the affected disc/other surrounding discs) could help decrease this risk.

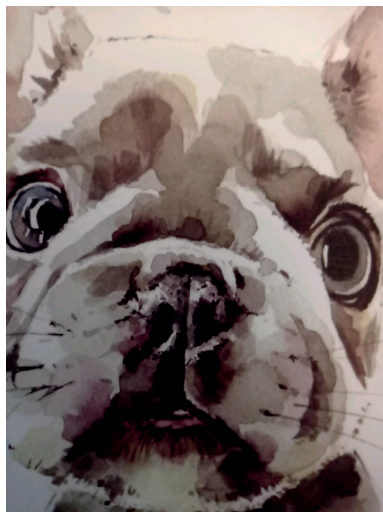
In French bulldogs with the most severe presentation (paraplegic, deep pain negative – no voluntary movement and lack of sensation), in a recent paper about 38% regained feeling in their legs after surgery, with 6% being able to walk at the time of discharge from the hospital (46% and 19% respectively at 1 month follow-up). The site of the slipped disc seems to influence the outcome - lower back discs are less likely (19%) to recover compared to midback (52%). Lower back discs can also be associated with the development of a very serious complication of IVDD, called progressive myelomalacia, but this can occur also with severe presentations of midback discs. In this terrible condition, the spinal cord starts dying, which is extremely painful, and this problem can unfortunately progress forwards, affecting the front limbs and respiratory muscles. There is no treatment for this condition and, as it progresses, will most of the times lead unfortunately to euthanasia as the kindest option.

There is no definitive way to prevent IVDD in French bulldogs, as genetics play a role in the disease. However, certain steps can be taken to attempt to decrease the likelihood of occurrence. Use of a harness instead of neck lead more widely distributes the force during walks when the dog pulls, rather than concentrating it on the neck. Not playing tug-of-war and having raised food and water bowls might also help. Ideally, jumping and stairs should also be avoided along with high impact exercise. Ramps are a good solution to stairs, as can be going up the stairs with a harness and lead. These modifications do not mean the Frenchie cannot have a perfectly pleasant dog life – exercise is otherwise recommended in order to build good musculature to support the spine, as well as maintaining the dog at a good weight and body condition.



Intervertebral disc extrusion in a French bulldog at the level of the third and fourth cervical vertebrae (neck bones).

**Susana Monforte Monteiro DVM, MSc, ... European & EBVS recognised specialist in veterinary neurology. Associate teaching professor in Veterinary Neurology, University of Cambridge.**



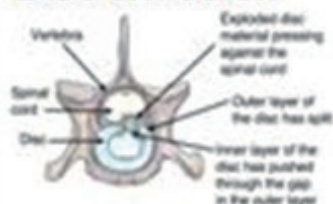
# IVDD in French bulldogs

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.

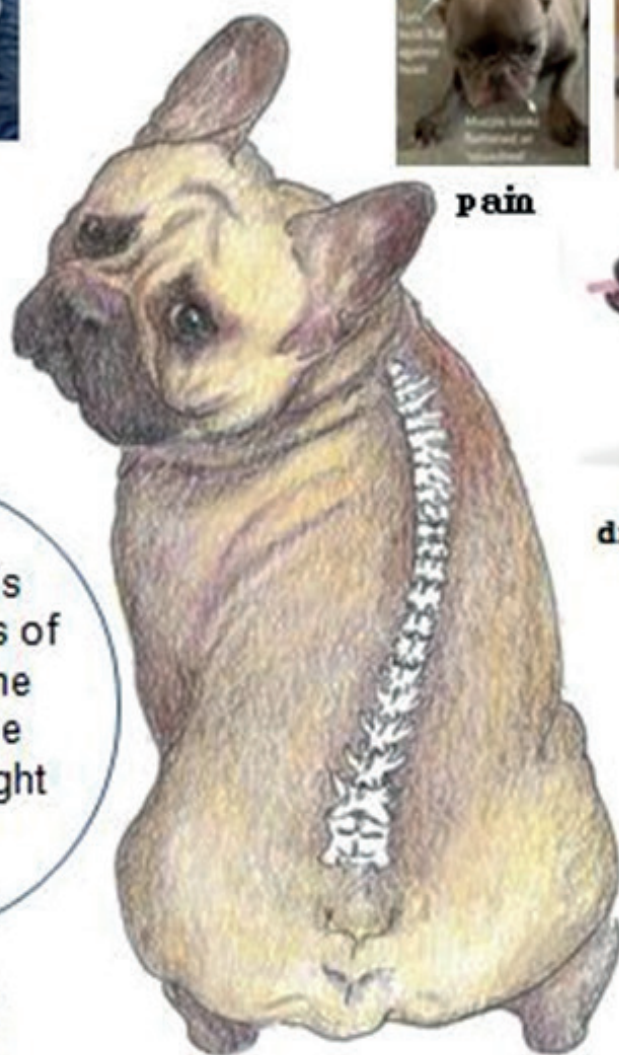
Signs of IVDD can include:



## 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

## Our Ageing Frenchies

The ageing process in dogs is similar to humans and it affects the entire body. Dogs can become weaker and more vulnerable to infections, some may slow down, and be prone to putting on weight.

Like people, some dogs age gracefully.

As I was putting this article together I discovered the University of Liverpool has recently conducted a study into ageing dogs in general, funded by **BSVA Petsavers**, published in December 2024.

The study has pinpointed the average age when dogs are considered by vets to be in “old age”. This can help owners prepare for their pet’s senior years.

The study identified that dogs are described as old age at 12.5 years. This varies by breed, smaller breeds tend to age more slowly, old age beginning closer to 14 years.

The Liverpool University study highlighted the most common health issues faced by older dogs.

The top 5 health concerns are;

1. Weight related issues – over weight, underweight, weight loss.
2. Musculoskeletal problems – stiffness and mobility issues.
3. Dental condition’s - tartar build up to periodontal disease.
4. Skin related problems – lumps, infections, hair loss.
5. Digestive issues – such as vomiting and diarrhoea.

The study emphasises that the rate dogs age is “not one size fits all”.

An Ageing Canine Toolkit contains a check list of signs to look out for as your dog ages that might require veterinary advice. This is available to download from the BSAVA website.

The study showed the importance of understanding your dog’s breed specific ageing to help stay ahead of their health care needs.

To always be proactive about conditions such as weight management, managing this early can make a big difference in the dog’s health. Visit the vet regularly – early detection is key to ensuring a longer, happier life for your dog. The research used data from the Small Animal Surveillance Network and accessed vet records to explore the Ageing Process in dogs.

Following on from the Liverpool University study let us look into issues in more detail.

Weight related issues; some older Frenchies may be reluctant to exercise much and this may lead to weight gain. Extra pressure will then be put on joints and make problems like arthritis/ inflammation worse. Weight loss needs looking at by your vet as it could be related to a medical condition. It is knowing what is normal for an ageing dog and what could be a health problem. Older dogs are more susceptible to heart, liver and kidney disease. This can usually be managed by your vet using special diets and medication.

Musculoskeletal problems; Arthritis is caused by wear and tear on joints. This can be managed with weight control and gentle exercise. Exercise is important for not only mental stimulation but to prevent obesity. It also keeps joints flexible and helps bone density. For the older dog exercise needs to be gentle- don’t expect them to be chasing around after a ball. Arthritis can cause discomfort, only use pain relief prescribed by your vet, made specifically for dogs. To maintain strong bones your beloved oldie needs a diet rich in calcium, phosphate, Vitamins D & K. To prevent your older dog feeling discomfort or causing an injury, use a ramp to enable them to climb on and off furniture and to get into the car. Cover slippery floor surfaces with a mat or carpet.

Dental conditions; as your dog ages teeth are affected by wear and tear, gums can become inflamed, tartar on teeth, bad breath, missing damaged teeth. These problems may affect your dog's appetite and ability to eat properly which could contribute to weight loss. To prevent this happening your dog needs to be examined by your vet. They may require pain relief, even antibiotics or possibly surgical intervention. Always provide fresh water to drink and change regularly to prevent biofilm build up. I add colloidal silver to drinking water, one teaspoon weekly. This will help to keep your dog's mouth clean and healthy. "Plaque Off" also is effective at preventing tartar build up.

Digestive issues; As your French Bulldog ages consider transitioning to a "senior" dog food. This has fewer calories and includes more fibre. Always monitor your dog for changes in bowel habit, that is diarrhoea or constipation. A special diet may be required to manage health conditions such as kidney disease. Any loss of appetite always needs investigation by your vet. Always ensure your dog can access his water and food easily. A raised dish may help your dog eat easier if they have mobility problems and also aid digestion. I use a tablespoon of "Kefir" twice weekly. This fermented milk contains probiotics which restore balance in the gut and improve digestion. Kefir aids bone health, it contains vitamin K2 which prevents the loss of bone mineral density. It also contains B vitamins and essential amino acids which help reduce tiredness and fatigue. Kefir protects against bacterial infection and helps reduce inflammation associated with allergies.

Skin problems; older dogs can develop fatty lumps so check your dog regularly for skin issues. Always get your vet to check lumps out to ensure it is nothing serious. Skin in the dog becomes thinner with age. Consider using a soft bristle brush for your dog's comfort.

Several other issues may affect your older dog.

Incontinence; seems to be more common in older female dogs. Look out for wet patches where your dog has been lying and also patches on the hair on the hindlegs. A constant smell of urine could indicate a urine infection which needs checking out by your vet.

Confusion; you may notice your older Frenchie become anxious and or confused as he ages. This could be related to loss of hearing caused by damage to the hair cells in the inner ear. This is often permanent and cannot be treated. You can manage this in several ways. Do not disturb the dog when asleep, this is likely to panic him. When you approach him make yourself known by letting him see you. Always keep on a lead to prevent wandering too far and potentially getting lost.

Loss of vision; Check your older dog's eyes regularly for cloudiness – potential cataracts. Sight can be lost gradually or suddenly. You may have noticed behavioural changes – suddenly bumping into furniture or being cautious when walking. To help, remove any hazards and leave space for your dog to navigate. You can use sound and vibration to make yourself known to the dog. Avoid startling them by talking to them before touching him. Always keep on a lead on walks. To make his life more interesting use scent work or treat toys to keep them mentally stimulated. For dogs who like to play with a ball find one with a bell so they are able to keep track of the toy. It helps to keep their routine consistent to prevent stress and anxiety.

### Tips to keep your French Bulldog comfortable as they approach their twilight years

We all want the same to ensure our Frenchies live a comfortable and happy life into their dotage. The basics do not need discussing; comfortable bed, good quality food, keeping them warm or cool. Other areas may need more attention and French Bulldog owners and breeders have shared some tips on how they look after their oldies.

As part of your weekly cleaning of your Frenchie's ears I use moisturising cream on the skin (Pinna), to keep the skin supple.

Check eyes regularly, dry eyes can be uncomfortable, see your vet who will prescribe lubricating eye drops/ointment.

Crusty noses – I use Paw Paw cream to soften the skin on the nose and prevent it cracking. Lots use Vaseline, do you have any suggestions?

Check the flaps of skin at the mouth edges and where the lips hang. These can become red and sore. Wipe clean and apply a small amount of sudocrem to soothe and relieve this.

Skin folds wipe clean daily to keep clean and prevent the skin becoming red and sore.

Nails may need trimming more frequently if the dog isn't exercising as much.

Ann Wildman (Wildax) contacted me. Her beloved Penny was always given a tablespoon of Manuka honey every night and she lived until she was 13.

Manuka honey has been used as a traditional medicine for centuries in New Zealand. It has an antimicrobial action and is used regularly to heal wounds in humans. It is an antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, with long lasting antibacterial properties. Manuka helps support natural digestive biomes and prevents low stomach acid and bacterial overgrowth. It contains a prebiotic fibre which promotes the growth of beneficial gut flora.

Jackie & Richard Mavro currently have two 14 year old French Bulldogs at home, a fantastic age.

Joan Howarth (Gizyjo) sent this;

My Gizy was 15 when he passed away, always a healthy boy but the last 2 years he developed problems. He had to have an eye removed at 13, and his remaining eye was not good but he managed very well. He always slept on my bed, always at the bottom, so when he was very old I would put pillows near the edge of the bed and on the floor to prevent him from falling off, as he had done previously. He was never a big eater, but he loved to be hand fed in his latter years. The last 2 years were more difficult as he would reuse any food, and yes, I tried everything, he lost so much weight and I was desperate to help him, as the Vets proved to be unsuccessful in helping him. I bought some puppy mousse, and as I could not force feed him, I did the next best thing. I syringed the mousse into the side of his mouth, and he would accept it like this no problem at all. Then he would start to eat again after a day or two. It was like it just gave him a little boost and encouragement. He was fed like this for about the last 18 months, Gizy gained weight and looked good for his age. He was 15 on 2 April, and he passed away on 2 May just one month later in my arms peacefully, after sunbathing in the garden. He started breathing very shallow and I knew he was peacefully passing away. Last photo taken at 15 years at midland and northern open show, taken by Irene Stansfield. My beautiful boy.

It's amazing to hear how long lived our beautiful breed can be. We all want the best for them, we owe them nothing less.



## Corneal Ulceration

Brachycephalic breeds are popular because of their great personalities. Some features that make their faces appealing to us, especially their large eyes, may place them at high risk to develop painful and potentially blinding eye problems.

Flat faced breeds are prone to corneal ulceration, and are 11 times more likely to suffer with corneal ulceration.

Brachycephalic Ocular Syndrome is a combination of eye conditions that affect short nosed breeds, causes bulging eyes and results in poor eye health. The syndrome is caused by a combination of factors:

Shallow eye sockets and tight eyelids. Protruding eyes bulge because of the shallow eye socket. Blunt trauma to the eye is more likely.

Inverted eyelids are tight and turn inward, causing eyelashes to touch the cornea.

Dry eye which can lead to corneal ulcers and vision loss. The quantity and quality of tears keep the cornea healthy and clear.

Corneal pigmentation – a common symptom caused by chronic dry eye, irritation or wound healing.

Brachycephalic dogs are prone to rapid worsening or “melting ulcers”. If left untreated corneal perforation can occur. They do not seem to respond to standard drop treatment as well as long nosed breeds, and often require surgical intervention to save ulcerated eyes.

Prominent nasal folds underneath their eyes dramatically increase the risk of corneal ulcers by 5 times. Important to ensure skin folds are cleaned daily to prevent dermatitis and potential infection.

Cherry Eye occurs when the tear gland in the dog's third eyelid (nictitating membrane) becomes swollen and protrudes from the eye. A red or pink mass can be seen in the corner of the eye, and looks like a cherry pit. This is uncomfortable and needs treating to prevent conjunctivitis or corneal ulcers. Cherry eye is most often seen in young dogs under the age of 2 years. It is treated with surgery – the gland is sewn back into a pocket inside the third eyelid.

Angela McInnes

## The Tug of Love



Her lead still hangs behind the door  
Now not needed any more  
I take it with me on my walk  
A solitary plod devoid of talk  
My route as always through the park  
Some days I'm sure I hear you bark  
The lead hangs loose with one end free  
The pull & warmth now lost to me  
That simple link between us gone  
No tug of love for only one  
Returning home to an empty space  
I hang the lead back in its place.

**Barry Wright**

*(When all seemed lost this beautiful little girl got me through a most difficult time.  
My Heartfelt thanks goes out to Mick & Kim Conway for bringing Oro into my life)*

## Championship show judge May 2025.



I first fell in love with these adorable dogs when meeting Bubbles ( Riccibet Miss Mink) and Rick Richardson back in about 2008. This little girl managed to persuade me that perhaps my childhood dream dog (a Bull Terrier) was going to have to take second place in my heart.

It was with Rick's help that I found my first Frenchie Archie ( Risethor Tiger Tiger with Archness) and went along to a few shows and caught the bug. I am sure some of you remember him for his embarrassing antics in the ring and my need to carry a squirty bottle to dampen his enthusiasm, but we had so much fun and made some lifelong friends, with the highlight being picking up the Dog CC and BOB at SKC 2011 under Lilian Poulson.

It took a while before I could be convinced to have a litter and it was Archie's daughter Ethel who was mated to Ch Friend De La Parure of Kingfriend and gave me my next generation for the ring. Both Nate (A. Sign O'The Times) & Rio (A. Exotic Dancer) gained their JW and Nate went on to win 5 RCC's behind the previous breed record holder Ch Chelmbull The Aviator.

In 2018 Kingfriend Mr Godwin joined my crazy house and was campaigned to his JW and became a Champion in 2021 winning 3 CC's and 1 RCC. Next came Boo (A. Suicide Blonde) who sadly was just hitting her adulthood when Covid hit and decided once life returned to normal that she no longer enjoyed travelling , so she retired but did gain her SBN.

Godwin has sired the remainder of the dogs I have campaigned since either solely or in partnership with Jane Duce and the 4 sons and daughters of Godwin and Boo that have been campaigned since 2021 have all gained their SBN's, 2 obtaining their JW and Champion titles, winning a total of 6 CC's and 10 RCC's between them.

Since April 2020 I have been the Health Scheme Administrator for the French Bulldog Club of England, regularly putting on health testing sessions with our Breed Health Co-ordinator Dr Laura Hamilton and attending health meetings, including being part of the Brachycephalic Working Group. I love my work on health and appreciate everyone that takes the time to participate in the Health Scheme, so as we can continue to gain vital statistics to prove that this wonderful breed can and do live long and healthy lives.

Many thanks to the Committee of the Midland & Northern Counties French Bulldog Club for the invitation for this show and also to the members who kindly voted for me. I am very much looking forward to judging my first Breed Club Championship Show and hope to see you and your lovely dogs on the day.

Vanessa Bryant – Archness

## September Championship Show Judge.

I am really looking forward to judging French Bulldogs at the M & NCFBC championship show in September 2025. This is made even more special as club members have voted for this appointment.

Here is some background information to my experience in the dog world.

I have been involved with pedigree dogs since the early 80's, breeding my first Bullmastiff litter in 1982. I then became involved with showing. My first showgirl eventually won a reserve CC which qualified me to apply for a KC kennel name. "Morvern" was granted and I went on to breed several champions here and overseas. I first judged Bullmastiffs at an open show in 1986 and drew an entry of 46. At that time there was no JEP, an "apprenticeship" was served. I also worked on breed club committees. I awarded CC's to Bullmastiffs for the first time at LKA in 1992. I recently judged them at the same show 32 years later. I have judged the breed 8 times in the UK, 6 times in Australia and also in Sweden, South Africa and New Zealand.

I became involved with French Bulldogs in 1987 after admiring them for years. I didn't show them seriously until the late 90's. I completed the Judges examination at the FBC of England and judged the required number of dogs at open shows. I have titled 2 champions both fawn males, father and son. I bred the 2012 Crufts BOB winner. Frank was the Grandson of my first champion, and son of my second, he won his title the same year, and was owned by my best Frenchie friend Carol Burton.

I first awarded CC's in French Bulldogs at BUBA in 2011. The championship show in September will be my 4th appointment in the UK. Whilst living in Australia I was fortunate to be invited to judge a French Bulldog club show in Victoria and also a speciality in New Zealand.

I look forward to meeting your lovely dogs in September.

**Angela McInnes**



## Judge for Open Show September 2025

I was thrilled to be invited to judge the Midland and Northern Counties French Bulldog Club Open Show in 2025.

French Bulldogs are my primary breed and first love; I founded our affix with my partner in crime Josh Henderson in 2021, and we have thoroughly enjoyed showing the frenchies together.

I have been lucky enough to have some very special foundation dogs and made up my first 'Olijah' champion 'Flicka' Ch Chelmbull Stary Seas for Olijah in 2022, and 3 champions subsequently, including our first homebred champion 'Togo' Ch Olijah Total Knockout.

I am also very active with my French Bulldogs in the Agility world, getting the first French Bulldog to compete in Championship Agility, even making the finals at our second ever Championship Show.

I am really looking forward to this appointment, and thank everyone for their entries in advance!

Olivia Timms.



## 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.

### 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)**



# BREED STANDARD OF AN EXHIBITOR

## CHARACTERISTICS

A pleasant intelligent person, helpful, considerate, attentive and of a sporting demeanour. Always willing to give advice and assistance to newcomers, or to others needing it. Attentive to the needs of the dogs being handled, and present each dog to its best advantage.

## GENERAL APPEARANCE

A neat, smart, fit looking individual, well-groomed, well shod and well-equipped, who moves freely both in and out of the ring.

## TEMPERAMENT

Calm, confident, unhurried and friendly.

## HEAD

Neither big nor pin headed. Skull broad to allow for plenty of brain power. Expression pleasant and smiling, regardless of judges' decisions, other exhibitors' actions and the dog's behaviour. Nose small so as to not be stuck into where it is not wanted.

## EYES

Sharp and bright Observant of other exhibitors location, judge's hand signals and the movement and position of all dogs in the ring.

## MOUTH

Usually best kept closed except to briefly answer judge's questions or to congratulate successful exhibitors. Teeth clean, white and presented in a smiling fashion at all times.

## NECK

Long enough to hold the head up proudly and flexible enough to turn the head as to observe everything that is happening in the ring. Should never be stuck out.

## FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders broad and able to shrug off unsporting comments from other exhibitors. Arms of sufficient length and strength to extend a

handshake to the winners, keep a firm hold on the dog, collect any prize cards, and give a friendly pat to the dog all at the same time.

## BODY

Sufficiently slim as to not impede other exhibitors leaving the ring and to not completely block the judge's view of all the dogs behind.

## HINDQUARTERS

Well developed and strong so as to be able to move the dog in the ring at its optimum speed.

## FEET

Firmly on the ground as this is only a sport after all. To be kept out of the mouth at all times.

## GAIT

Free moving and graceful, moving in harmony with the dog's speed.

## COAT

Dress should be neat, clean and tidy, neither flamboyant nor immodest, but designed to allow free movement without distraction to any dog in the ring. Feet should be well shod in practical shoes to allow for easy movement.

## COLOUR

Should be chosen to complement the colour of the dog, or if several different coloured dogs are being handled, to at least not completely hide the outline of any dog, e.g. Wearing a long black skirt when showing a black dog.

## SIZE

Exhibitors may come in all sizes and shapes, the only limitation being ability to do justice to the dog when in the ring.

## MAJOR FAULTS

Dirty or scruffy appearance, grumpy, vicious or flustered temperament; swollen head; loud mouth, especially when used for insulting comments or bad language; unsporting behaviour; unkempt dress.

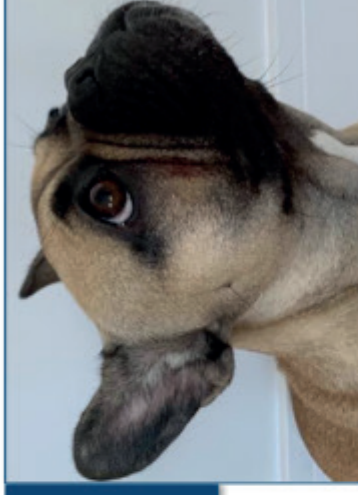
## NOTE:

The usual Kennel Club requirement that all males have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum has been dispensed with, in the interests of decorum and to avoid any sudden inspections with attendant violent reactions, while male exhibitors are attending dog shows.



# 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 in the brain

Is this because of the decreased oxygenation?

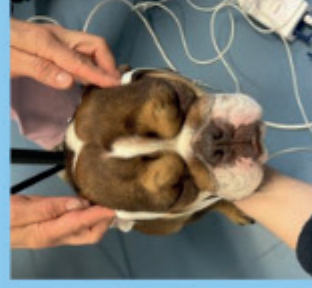
**If this is true, can we prevent / treat the brain disease by addressing the BOAS?**



- ✓ 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

I Support The  
French Bulldog  
Welfare trust

