The Ultimate Bulldog Guide

THE BULLDOG CODE
**Introduction**

So you have decided to bring a bulldog into your home and raise them up with your family. This is a great dog to have your family. They are loyal, pretty laid back, and a lot of fun. But this special kind of dog does need a little different TLC compared to some of the other dogs you may choose from. If you are considering bringing home a bulldog, or you just brought one home, this guidebook is meant to help you out.

Inside this guidebook, you are going to find everything that you need to know in order to take care of your bulldog. Whether you decide the English or the French bulldog is the right one for you, this guidebook is going to walk you through the decision and help you to learn how to take care of the puppy, some of the major health concerns, tricks for training the puppy, and even the best food to help them grow big and strong.
So when you are ready to add a bulldog into your home, pick up this guidebook and learn as much as possible. You will be able to find the answers to all your common questions so that you can give the bulldog all the love, care, and attention that they deserve to live a great life.
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Part 1: The Basics Owning a Bulldog

Bringing a bulldog puppy into your home can be a really momentous occasion for your family. A bulldog is loyal and a great companion for you to enjoy for many years. But before you bring this puppy into your home, it is important to know some basics about the puppy so you can give them the best care possible. This chapter is going to take some time to talk about the basics of owning a bulldog so you can be as prepared as possible.
The Difference Between an English and a French Bulldog

A common question that a lot of people have about the bulldog is what the difference is between the English and the French bulldog. Here is a brief overview to help show what the major changes are between the two breeds and how you can tell the two apart.
This bulldog is short, thick, and a really strong dog. Most of them will come in around 50 to 60 pounds, although some of the larger ones can be around 70. Their faces are going to be very flat, but some of the ones that underwent poor breading will have a bit of a muzzle. Most of the English bulldogs are not going to have a full tail and it is going to be short from birth. There are some that will
have a bit more of a tail, but this usually will be corkscrew looking. They do come in different colors, but they should never have red noses if they are purebred.

**French Bulldog**

![French Bulldog Puppies](https://www.pinterest.com)
This is the smaller cousin of the English Bulldog. These ones are usually going to be up to 28 pounds, but most of them will be smaller than this. Some of them are getting bigger because of poor breeding though. Some of these are going to be about the size of a pug and often they are mistaken for these dogs as well, especially if they had some deficiencies in their early life. These dogs do come in a variety of colors and some do have a small muzzle. Often the best way to distinguish these from the English bulldog is by their smaller size and pointy bat ears.
Are English Bulldogs Unhealthy?

It is a common concern that English bulldogs are pretty unhealthy. While they may be more susceptible to having health issues, it often has to do with the kind of care you provide to them. For example, they are able to overheat easier than many other dog breeds, but keeping them inside when it’s hot and limiting their time in the heat can help to keep them healthy. Going and visiting
the vet on a regular basis will ensure that the English bulldog does not get unhealthy.

Most of the health concerns that come with the English bulldog is because of improper ownership. Many owners are not ready for the grooming and other health concerns that can come with the English bulldog. This is how a simple problem can quickly get out of hand. If you provide the right kind of care to your English bulldog, they can stay just as healthy any other dog breed.
Why Are Bulldogs So Expensive

Compared to some of the other dogs that you can choose, the bulldog is usually expensive. This is because it costs the breeder more to get the puppies ready to get to your home. For example, bulldogs are not able to give birth naturally; they have to undergo C-sections. This is a costly procedure that requires a vet, rather than just having the puppies at home, and can add to your total cost of getting the puppy.
In addition, since the mommy dog had to go through this procedure, they are likely not capable of feeding the babies for a bit, meaning that the breeder will have to take over this job. This is a lot of time, effort, and formula to keep up with the puppies. Add to this all the costs for raising the puppies, advertising them, and all the vaccines and other necessary vet work in your area, and the costs can add up quickly. Usually the breeder will have to pay at least $2000 just to have the puppies be born. This is why it can get so expensive to purchase the bulldogs from a breeder.
What is the Average Lifespan for a Bulldog?

The bulldog does not have a very long lifespan compared to some other breeds you may choose. The average life span of this breed is between 8 and 10 years. Often the lower lifespan is due to their many health issues, their trouble with breathing because of their build, and genetics in most of the dogs.
Should I Get a Bulldog?

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There are so many great reasons to get a bulldog. This is a great dog that is going to be loyal and can stay around to grow with your family. Some of the best reasons to get a bulldog include:

- Great with children—they are gentle and can play nicely around your child, no matter what age.
- They enjoy playing—these are great dogs if you want someone who is full of energy and will play with them.
- They know how to take a break—while some dogs will play around all day long and never stop, bulldogs are fine sitting by you and taking a nap if you choose to lounge for the day.
- Stubborn—they never give up, which can go well when protecting you or your children.
- Love to be around people—they want to get your attention and they love to cuddle with you.
• Big softies—while these dogs may look scary to those not familiar with the breed, they are big softies who just want your love and to have fun with you.

Are Bulldogs Good Pets

Bulldogs are wonderful pets to bring into your family. While some of them can be a bit stubborn at times, they are really loyal pets
that love to be around families. The bulldog loves to play and is really loyal to their family. They are great with young children as they like to bounce around and play a lot of the time, but they have the patience to not get angry when children get a bit wild. Whether you are on your own and want a loyal companion to be by your side or you are interested in finding a great addition to your growing family, the bulldog, both the French and English variety, is a great choice.
Do Bulldogs Shed Much?

Both kinds of bulldogs come from the short hair breeds. This means that they don’t shed as much, mostly because they don’t have a lot of hair to lose. You will need to maintain their hair,
giving them regular grooming and keeping it short to avoid the hair coming off all over the place. There will be a bit of shedding, but it won’t be as noticeable as you will find with some of the longer hair breeds.

The Temperament of a Bulldog
When it comes to the English bulldog, you are going to get a loyal friend for life. These dogs are very friendly and docile and can even do well around young children if you have some around the home. They are often willful and a bit stubborn, but if you get started on the training right away, this usually isn’t much of a problem.

When it comes to the French bulldog, you are going to get a puppy who is really affectionate and playful. These dogs have a lot of energy and like to be social, but they do have the patients to deal with younger children when around. You need to be ready to play a lot and be active often to keep up with this puppy.

Now that you know some of the basics that come with the bulldog, it is time to learn some of the specifics of how to keep up with and care for your new furry addition.
Part 2: Bulldog Tips

Ready to bring your bulldog home and get a great start on your new relationship with your furry new friend? Here are some great tips to help you to get ready for the bulldog and to ensure they are going to fit in well with your family and home life.
Tips for Properly Training Your Bulldog

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Training your bulldog is similar to how you will train any other puppy. If you have brought other puppies into your home in the past, you will be able to employ the same kind of training techniques that you used in the past. For those who have never
brought home a puppy before, here are some basic tips that you can use in order to properly train your puppy and get them to be great in your new home:

- **Become the alpha dog**—if you aren’t the alpha dog, the puppy will assume they are, and then you have trouble. Ensure that the puppy listens to you and never gets the run of the house.

- **Use positive reinforcement**—positive reinforcement, such as treats, praise, play time, and walks will help your puppy to learn what they are supposed to do with you. It is much more effective than using options like hitting.

- **Never hit**—hitting a do at any age can lead to aggressive behavior and is not going to get the desired results that you are looking for.
• Have the puppy eat when you do—but make sure that you are the first one to eat. Never leave the food on the floor for the puppy to eat whenever they want.

• Walk with the puppy in front or behind you—the puppy should never be the one leading on a walk and you should never have a tight leash.

• Start training early—you should start out with the training right when you bring the puppy home. The sooner the better to ensure they know who is boss and how they should act.

• Consider crate training—crate training allows your puppy to have their own special corner in the home to call their own. Whenever they get scared, they can go to this location. It is also a great way to keep them in one spot if you have to be gone all day for work.

• Treats are great for trick training—offering up treats and a lot of praise when you are teaching your puppy easy commands can make it easier. You will be able to slowly go off the
treats and use just the praise after giving a one-word command and your puppy will still obey.

- Establish rules early—as the owner of the puppy, you get to decide on the rules. But make sure that you establish the rules early on and stick with them. This avoids confusion with your puppy and ensures they behave the way that you want.

**Do Bulldogs Need Special Collars**

It is a good idea to purchase a special collar for your bulldog. For both English and French bulldogs, using a [harness](https://example.com) instead of just the collar that goes around the neck is usually the best option. The collars that go around the neck are not going to be that effective for the bulldog and their large size. They are not going to notice it as much until it becomes so tough that it is causing them physical harm.
With the harness, you will be able to have better control over your bulldog when walking. This will go over their large chests so you can have better control without having to cause any damage on their necks if they happen to pull on it at all. Make sure that you pick out a collar that is thick enough for your breed. The French bulldog will be good with a smaller harness of 12 to 16 inches but the English bulldog may do better with a little bigger collar as they grow more and more.
Sometimes a bulldog can be really hyper and it is hard to get them to calm down. And since the bulldog is a pretty stubborn type of dog and this can make it even more difficult for you to get them to
listen and do what you would like them to. Often, your puppy will outgrow this kind of behavior, but you should start working on the proper training early on so they learn how to behave before they drive you crazy.

To avoid this hyper puppy behavior, you should make sure that the training of the puppy as soon as you bring them home. If they are hyper just when other guests come over, put the puppy in their cage and then once the people are sitting down and comfortable, slowly bring them out and help them to get comfortable. You should also teach them how to lay down or stay as soon as possible so that they remain calm. Plenty of exercise and play time will help to keep the puppy calm as well.
Can My Bulldog Swim?

A common question that people will ask is whether their bulldog is able to swim. They may want to take the puppy out to the lake with them and are worried about whether the puppy will be able to swim along with them or they may worry that the puppy will get overheated when the summer gets warm.
Bulldogs are not designed to swim. While you can put them in a little bit of wading water and allow them to move around in order to stay cool in hot temperatures, they are not going to be able to swim in bigger pools, lakes, or other bodies of water. Bulldogs will find that it is really awkward to swim and most of them will sink just like rocks. If you do take them to the lake or other larger bodies of water, make sure that you keep a close eye on them because they are not going to be able to save themselves if they get into deep water. The alternative would be to use a dog life vest, which can help the puppy to easily swim.
Part 3: Bulldog Health

There are a lot of different factors that you should keep in mind when it comes to the health of your bulldog. Make sure to check off each of these things as you go through your grooming process to ensure you are not missing anything and that your bulldog stays in great health.

Common Health Concerns With Bulldogs

The bulldog is susceptible to many health issues if you don’t give them the proper help that they need. Some of the most common health concerns that you should watch out for include:

Vomiting
If your puppy is dealing with this just because of a light upset stomach, give them some Pepto Bismol and dose based on their weight. If the vomiting continues for over 24 hours, take them into the vet. If the issue is diarrhea, most of the time you can use diarrhea Kaopectate to help.

**Hot Spots**

These will be itchy spots that are irritated and red. There are several reasons that they can show up including flea allergies, insect bites, and allergies. You should clean the area well using some shampoo and rinse it well before drying. You can also use some options like aloe and lanolin to clear out the area.

**Interdigital Cysts**
This will look like a red swelling that will appear between the toes of the dog. You will need to examine the paws of the dog to find this. Check to see if there are any foreign objects in the way, such as a thorn and then clean out the area. There are a variety of cures available. You may use a warm bath with some Epsom salts, as long as you keep it dry afterwards or even Preparation H does well.

**Fungus Spots**

These will be like hot spots, but without the weepy. You should clean all the scabby material away and then wash the area. Treat with some kind of anti-fungal ointment as well.

**Facial Acne**
Bulldogs are known for putting their faces into lots of strange places, making it easier to get pimples all over. You can use benzoil peroxide to help out or you may need to choose an antibiotic medication that is taken orally. You can get this from your vet.

Cherry Eye

This one looks much worse than it is. The lower part of the lid is going to look like it is popping eye. Once you see this, take the dog into the vet right away. If you get them in right away, they can often get the issue fixed without having to make permanent changes, such as surgery to take out the glands.

Insect Bites
Bulldogs are susceptible to getting insect bites. If they are stung by any insect, Benadryl will often work out well. You should also watch them closely for at least 30 minutes. You can also use an ice pack to the area to keep it from swelling and make sure the stinger is removed if the sting came from a bee.

**Heat Sensitivity**

One issue that you will need to watch out for with your bulldog is heat sensitivity. These dogs can quickly deal with heatstroke and you need to be careful to watch them to ensure that they are not getting overheated. Any time the weather is hot, make sure they are taken care of. Choose to go on an early morning or later at night walk. Give them lots of water and make sure they don’t stay outside for too long.
If you start to notice that their tongue is turning blue, they are panting heavily, and they aren’t moving much, you should get them inside right away and help them to get some water. Watch out for any signs of vomiting in your bulldog; sometimes the vomit can get stuck in their throats and can become a choking hazard.

It is always best to keep your bulldog inside if it’s going to get too hot or limit their exposure to the outside heat as much as possible to keep them safe.
Bulldog Paw Problems

Just like with any dog, your bulldog can have some issues with their paws. They put a lot of pressure on these paws, supporting their weight most of the day while they are running around and being active. It is important that you take the time to keep these paws in good working order and work on healing any issues that come up. Some common issues that can come up with your bulldog’s paws include:
• Yeast on the paw—this is a common thing if your puppy likes to lick, bite, or chew on their paws. They are more likely to develop this yeast during the humid and hot months and it can become really itchy for the dog. Make sure to bathe the dog each week in an anti-fungal shampoo and use this same shampoo to wash the paws each day. Add in some probiotics to your puppy’s diet as well.

• Cuts on pads—this can happen just by walking around your home. Once this occurs, the weight and pressure from the puppy walking is likely to reopen all the wounds that are on the pad. If this happens to your puppy, clean the area and use some antiseptic cream. Wrap them in a pad that will provide some support so the puppy is still able to walk around without reopening the wounds.

• Grass seeds in the pad—barley seed is usually the biggest issue in dogs. Make sure that you are keeping the fur on your
dog pretty short so that you are able to see the grass seeds easily and get them removed.

- Other issues—any time you see a cut, bruise, any oozing, or other things that just don’t look normal in your dog, take care of it right away. This could turn into something much worse and could cause a lot of harm to the puppy.

The best way to make sure that the condition does not get worse for your puppy is to check the paws often. You can do this during your regular grooming sessions each week. Any time the puppy does harm their paws, take the time to provide the proper care to avoid the situation getting worse.
The Bulldog Tail

The bulldog tail is known to be tight or in a corkscrew kind of pattern. This can make them really stiff and hard to move. But you do still need to take the time to clean this area to avoid infections and other problems. When you are giving your bulldog their bath, take some time to work on this area as well. You may have to be
gentle and give it a bit of extra time, but you can get it done pretty quickly.
Cleaning the Bulldog Ear

The ear needs some special attention when it comes to your bulldog. This is an area that is often missed when you are grooming, but this can lead to an ear infection that your puppy is not going to be happy with. So when you are giving a bath or doing your regular grooming procedures, make sure that you get to the ears.
To start, make sure to get a good cleanser for the ears; your vet will be able to help out with this so you can get the ear really clean without causing any damage. Then rub their ears just a bit to let them get comfortable with the motions. Put some of the cleaner onto a paper towel and then start massaging at the base of the ear and moving into the other parts to get it all cleaned out. Some dogs may be fidgety when you are doing this, but give them some time and keep working at it.
How to Clean Bulldog Folds and Wrinkles

Bulldogs are wrinkly creatures and the older they get, the more the wrinkles are going to appear all over them. When you are providing cleaning for your puppy, you need to make sure that you are also cleaning out the wrinkles. It is easy for these areas to get a lot of food, dirt, and grime over just a few days, and ignoring this important area can make your dog get a bad infection. So make sure that you work on just the wrinkles at least a few times each
week, although if the issue gets really bad, you may need to do it each day.

The process of cleaning does not have to be difficult. Take a damp cloth that is soft and wipe it through each of the wrinkles to get rid of the grime. You can also do this when you are giving the puppy a bath, using some quality shampoo, just make sure that you completely rinse out the chemical so this doesn’t get stuck in the wrinkles as well. For a quick wash when you are on the go, using Baby wipes that have aloe and lanolin can work well.

**How to Clear Up Dog Tear Stains**

Tear stains can leave some bad looking marks right below the eyes of your puppy. As a dog owner, you are probably interested in getting these taken care of as soon as possible. One method that
you can use to get rid of this is a probiotic that you can get from the vet. These will usually clear the issue right up as long as you give your puppy the right dosage.

There are also a few home remedies that you can choose that will help to combat the issue and prevent it from occurring again. Take some cotton balls and soak them in some contact lens solution, picking some that is meant for sensitive eyes. You can also use a mixture of corn starch, lemon juice, and milk of magnesia and make it into a paste that you can apply directly to the eyes until you see an improvement.
Ways to Help the Bulldog Breathe Easier

One common issue that often comes up with bulldogs is that they have trouble with breathing. Their big necks can make it really hard for them to get the oxygen they need and you may find that there are times that they will gasp for air after lying down. But
what are you able to do in order to help your dog to breathe a big easier?

First, look to see if allergies are a problem. Your puppy could be allergic to the perfume that you are wearing, some of the scented products that you use to keep the house smelling nice or to clean it, or some of the other scents in your home. The first thing you should do is to start eliminating one at a time to see if this is the issue. If all of these scents are gone and the puppy is still having an issue, move on to the next item.

Illness can sometimes be a factor to why your puppy is having trouble breathing. Some of these include:

• Heart disease—your vet will need to do a test in order to tell if there is a heart murmur that could be causing the breathing
issue. Look for changes in behavior or loss of appetite in your puppy if this is an issue.

• Parainfluenza—this is like the flu in humans and can make breathing just as difficult for your puppy. Check for sneezing and a dry cough.

• Kennel cough—before boarding your dog, make sure that you get them vaccinated. This will help to avoid breathing issues from kennel cough.

Medical disorders in some bulldogs can make them have trouble with breathing. Issues with the pharynx not working properly or some other reason can often have this effect on your puppy.

The best treatment is to visit your vet. They will be able to do an exam on your puppy and figure out why they are having trouble with breathing. Often the cause is nothing too big and you can just provide a few simple steps to get them breathing again. If there is a
serious issue, such as a medical disorder, you will be able to get that taken care of with the help of your vet as well.

Just like with any puppy, it is important to give your bulldog the proper care to keep their health in good shape. This chapter spent some time focusing on the best ways that you can take care of your puppy so they feel their very best and live a very healthy life.
Part 4: Feeding

Proper feeding of your puppy is necessary if you want them to grow big and strong. Feeding the bulldog the wrong kinds of food can make them feel sick and not grow and develop the way that they would like. Here are some important things to keep in mind when you are figuring out what to feed your bulldog to give them the best health possible.
What Should Bulldogs Eat

Going to the store and just picking out the cheapest dog food is not a good way to ensure that you are giving them the very best. Most
of the cheapest dog food brands use a lot of filler, adding in grains that are harmful to your bulldog rather than lots of health meats and fruits and vegetables.

When choosing a dog food, make sure that the first ingredient is a whole meat. Do not go with a meat filler or anything else as the first ingredient. The ingredients are often listed in order of what weight they carry in the food; if meat is listed first, you can be sure that most of the food is composed of that kind of meat. There may be several different types of meat listed on the label, just make sure that they are the whole meat and not a meat byproduct or filler.

Next, you should look for fruits and vegetables. These can provide a lot of the vitamins and nutrients that your puppy needs to grow strong and stay healthy. These should be pretty high up on the ingredient list to help your puppy get all the nutrition they need.
Avoid any grains or wheat if possible. There are several brands that are gluten free, which can be perfect for your bulldog. Many bulldogs have allergies to wheat and gluten, and choosing a dog food that has these can make them really sick. It is best to just pick out a dog food that doesn’t have any of these ingredients in it.

When choosing a brand, make sure to pick out the puppy variety for your puppy and then switch to the adult version when they get older. These have different concentrations of nutrients and other ingredients that are best suited for the certain stages that your dog is in.

**How Much Should a Bulldog Eat Each Day**

The amount that you feed your bulldog is going to vary depending on what stage they are in. Younger puppies and those who are
going through growing stages will need more food to keep up with their changing bodies. Other dogs who are older will just need enough to maintain themselves and will level off their eating. If you are breeding your puppy, you will also need to start feeding them more during the pregnancy once they get to this point.

You should feed the puppy about twice a day, usually once in the morning when they wake up and then around the time that you eat at night; always keep in mind that you should be the first one to eat to assert your dominance. You can also feed the puppy treats throughout the day as a reward for good behavior or to help with your training sessions.

If you are giving the puppy a lot of treats, make sure that you pick those that are lower in fat and higher in vitamins. This makes them a bit lighter so they don’t spoil their supper or gain too much weight. Most bulldogs are going to be around 28 pounds or lower.
If your bulldog is tipping the scales above this weight, you may need to cut back on the treats and try some more physical exercise to keep their health in good shape.

The Best Dog Food for My Bulldog Puppy

Choosing the right kind of dog food for your bulldog puppy is critical right from the beginning. This is going to ensure that the puppy is getting the proper nutrition right away and that you aren’t feeding them a bunch of junk that can add unwanted pounds and health problems to your puppy.

The top five dog foods that you should choose for your English bulldog include:
• **Fromm Family Foods**—these include formulas that are grain free with lots of other quality ingredients. There have never been any recalls on the food and they add in probiotics to give your puppy some added help with their digestive tracts. Try the Pork and Peas or the Beef Frittata with your puppy.

• **Nature’s Logic Pet Foods**—this is another option that is gluten free so you won’t have to worry about any stomach allergies from this. None of the vitamins are synthesized in this food so it all comes naturally from the ingredients.

• **Nature’s Variety Instinct**—this is a great brand to keep your puppy healthy, especially if they have yeast issues. There are also options that are great if your bulldog has a lot of allergies and needs to be on a limited ingredient diet.

• **Go!**—this company provides food that is human grade so you are getting nothing that is bad for the puppy. They include pre and probiotics to help with your puppy’s digestive health
and some great omega oils to keep their coat and skin healthy.

- **Acana Regionals**—this food is high in protein but low in carbs, consisting of at least 60 percent meat and the rest comes from fruits and vegetables to keep your puppy healthy.

The top dog foods to feed your French bulldog include:

- **Merrick**—this food comes in a can and is often recommended by vets who like to take a more holistic approach to your dog’s health. There are plenty of vitamins and other great nutrients that come naturally in this kind of dog food.

- **California Natural**—this food is great for your French bulldog if they have a skin or food sensitivity and needs to be really careful about the foods they are eating.
- **Acana**—this food is really high in protein and fruits and vegetables, making it good for both the English and French bulldog.

- **The Honest Kitchen**—this is a good brand if your dog is sensitive to some foods or you feel that they are getting a bit gassy or have upset stomach often.

Feeding your puppy the right kinds of food, from the moment you bring them home, can make a big difference in their overall health. Consider these tips to ensure that your puppy is getting all the great food and nutrition that they need.
Bringing a new puppy, especially a bulldog, into your home is a big commitment and you are sure to have a ton of questions on whether you are doing it right or not. Bulldogs are special dogs and won’t be able to abide by all the same rules as other dogs; i.e. they will not do the best with a traditional collar and they are a bit more stubborn compared to some other dogs. But with the right information to all your questions and some dedication that begins right when you bring them home, you will find that you and the
bulldog can quickly build a bond that can never be broken. Use this guidebook to help you to get started with training and raising your bulldog to have the best relationship with them possible.