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# THE FRENCH BULLDOG

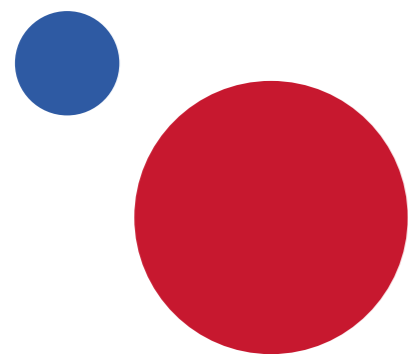
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. Standard and comments .



CENTRALE  
CANINE





# SUMMARY

<b>B</b> rief historical summary .....	<b>3</b>
<b>G</b> eneral Appearance.....	<b>4</b>
<b>P</b> roportions .....	<b>5</b>
<b>H</b> ead .....	<b>6-8</b>
<b>N</b> eck - body .....	<b>9</b>
<b>T</b> ail.....	<b>10</b>
<b>L</b> imbs .....	<b>11</b>
<b>C</b> oat .....	<b>12-13</b>
<b>S</b> ize .....	<b>14</b>
<b>F</b> aults .....	<b>15</b>



## Brief historical summary

The French Bulldog proceeds, like its predecessor the English Bulldog, from a specialization of the butcher dog function, for animal fighting shows: the dogs faced bulls, bears, other animals, or congeners. These shows took off particularly in France in the 18th century, probably favoring the import of British subjects.

The “Boule” is a figure of Parisian life in the 19th century, anchored in a working-class background while also attracting the social elite by its original appearance. Small subjects appeared in exhibitions on both sides of the Channel; French stock specialized in the straight-eared version, which aroused international interest from the beginning of the 20th century.

# GENERAL APPEARANCE

- A powerful dog for its small size, short, stocky, compact in all its proportions, of a compact build with a solid bone structure.
- No point is exaggerated compared to the others, which could spoil the dog's general harmony, in appearance and in movement.



***E. Waget : the French Bulldog, as a small molossian breed, is a powerful dog in a reduced size; stocky, that's therefore the most important word to characterize it.***

***But all excess is prohibited: it is not a sluggish dog; it is an active, sparkling, happy and energetic dog. Successive revisions of the standard have removed everything that would allow the expression of a hypertype.***

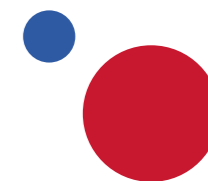
***So, let's say it : selecting the French Bulldog in compliance with the FCI standard makes it possible to produce healthy subjects.***



# I PROPORTIONS

- The length of the body slightly surpasses the height at the withers

*E. Waget : it is not a cob dog, that is to say that its silhouette does not fit into a square. But it is certainly not long nor slender.*



# HEAD



- Must be strong, broad and square, covered by the skin of the head which forms symmetrical folds and wrinkles, without excess.

*E. Waget : similarly, there should be nothing excessive in head; the muzzle is short. Seen from the front, the French Bulldog must have a square head, and not a big, touching, round face as we have seen at some point in many subjects, but which is fortunately no longer relevant. The reference is always the molossoid type; a seemingly somewhat sinister expression therefore conforms.*

## CRANIAL REGION

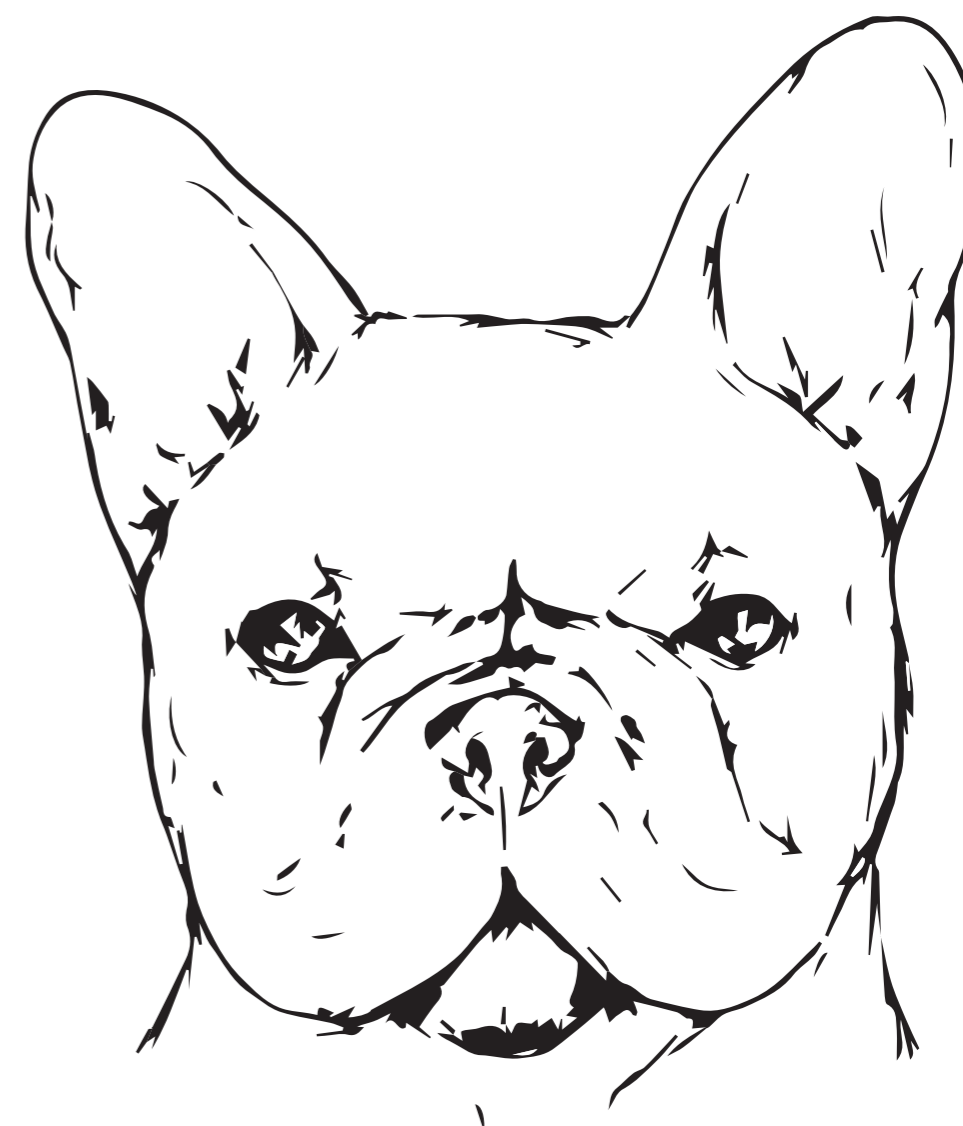
- Skull: Broad, almost flat, domed forehead. Proeminent superciliary arches, separated by a particularly developed furrow between the eyes. The furrow must not extend onto the skull.
- Stop: pronounced.

# HEAD

## FACIAL REGION

- The head is characterized by a shortening of the maxillary-nasal part. The nose is slightly upturned (“snub nose”).
- Nose: black, broad, snubbed, with symmetrical and well opened nostrils, slanting towards the rear.
- Muzzle: very short, broad, with concentric symmetrical folds.

***E. Waget : the short muzzle is an important racial characteristic, but again there should not be excess; which allows, with well open nostrils, normal nasal breathing. The folds should not be in excess, neither too thick, nor too deep. In this regard, it can be noted that the French stock is generally not hypertyped. For 10 years, we have been working along these lines, and the result is there.***



- Lips: thick, a little loose and black. The profile of the upper lip is descending and rounded. The tongue must never show when the dog is not excited.
- Jaws/Teeth: Broad and powerful, without lateral deviation or torsion. The lower jaw projects in front of the upper jaw and turns up. The lower incisors surpass the upper incisors. The gap should not be strictly delimited, the essential condition being that the upper and the lower lips meet to completely cover the teeth



# HEAD

*E. Waget : the gap of the incisor arches must remain moderate and the lower jaw must be curved and not flat, so that the tongue finds its place and the teeth are hidden, mouth closed. It is not only an aesthetic criterion; visible teeth could be disabling for feeding, or for taking care of puppies for a female*

- Cheeks: well developed.
- Eyes: set low, dark coloured, rather large, rounded, showing no trace of white (sclera) when the dog is looking straight forward. Rims of eyelids must be black.

*E. Waget : eyes should be round, but should not be bulging*

- Ears: medium size, wide at the base and rounded at the top. Set high on the head, but not too close together, carried erect.

*E. Waget : the ears were previously larger and finer in texture throughout the stock. It is necessary to endeavor to maintain this feature which has been somewhat degraded following the infusion of genes linked to the fawn coat, accepted to the FCI standard in 1994. It is likewise appropriate to completely eliminate diamond-shaped folds on the stock. forehead, which had appeared on certain subjects.*





## NECK

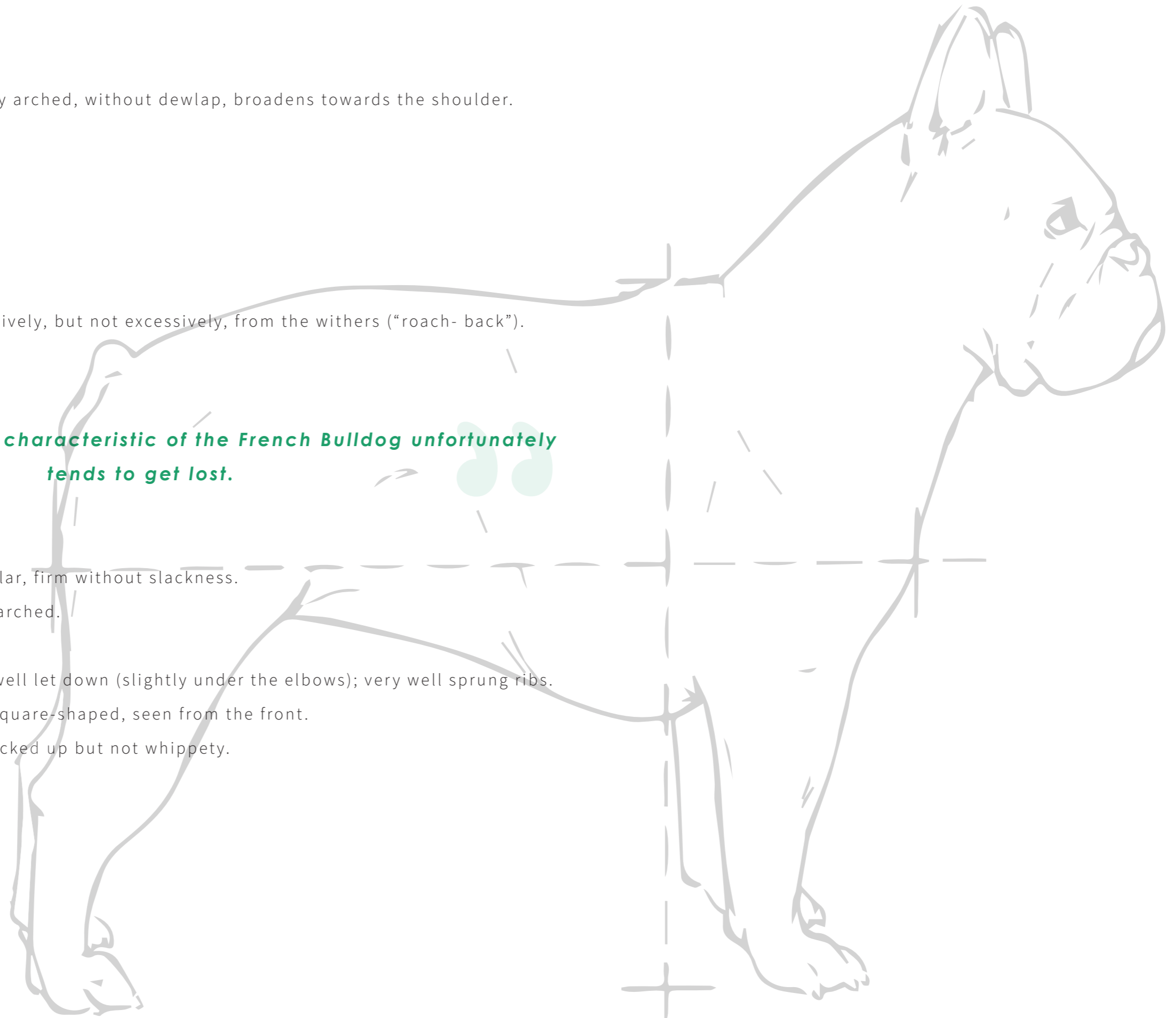
- Short, powerful, slightly arched, without dewlap, broadens towards the shoulder.

## BODY

- Topline: rising progressively, but not excessively, from the withers (“roach- back”).

*E. Waget : currently, this characteristic of the French Bulldog unfortunately tends to get lost.*

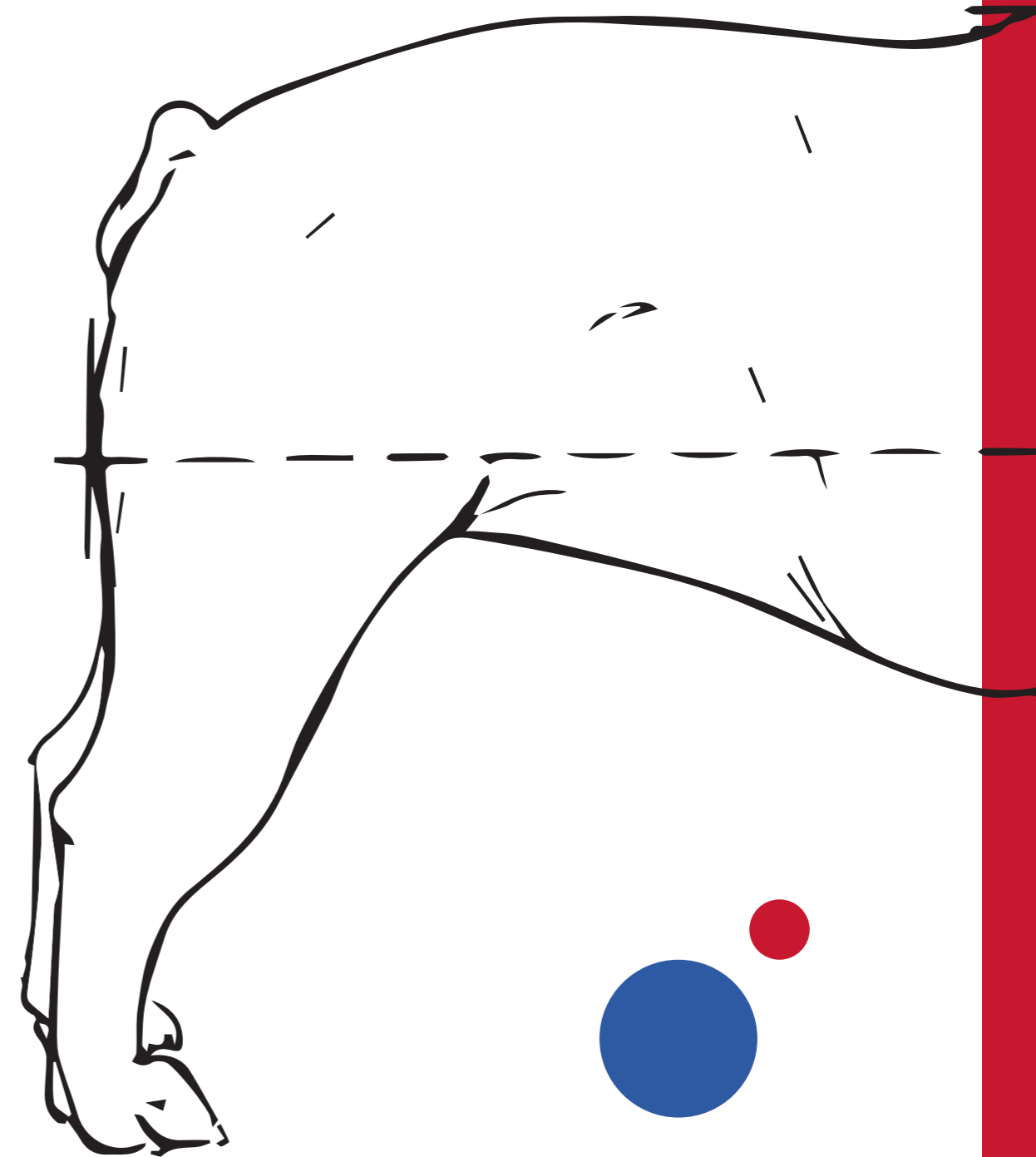
- Back: broad and muscular, firm without slackness.
- Loin: short, broad and arched.
- Croup: well sloping.
- Chest: Cylindrical and well let down (slightly under the elbows); very well sprung ribs. Fore chest, broad and square-shaped, seen from the front.
- Underline and belly: Tucked up but not whippety.



# TAIL

- Naturally short, set low, rather straight, thick at the base and tapering at the tip.
- A kinked, knotted, broken or relatively long tail that does not reach beyond the point of the hocks, is admitted. It is carried low. Even in action, the tail must not rise above the horizontal.

*E. Waget : the typical French Bulldog tail, which goes with a nice croup, is the short rat tail. But currently the vast majority of subjects have an even shorter tail, which sometimes leads to an ingrown tail. Returning to a slightly longer tail is desirable; but it's not easy, because the genetic pool to do so now seems to be lacking.*



## FOREQUARTERS

- Forelegs upright (and straight) seen in profile and from the front.
- Shoulder: must be well laid back.
- Upper arm: Short, thick, muscular, slightly curved.
- Elbows: Close and tight to the body.
- Forearm: Short, straight and muscular.
- Forefeet: Round, compact, i.e. «cat feet», turning slightly outward.

*E. Waget : actuellement, cette caractéristique du Bouledogue Français a malheureusement tendance à se perdre.*

## HINDQUARTERS

- Strong and muscular, a little longer than the forelegs, thus raising the hindquarters.
- The legs are upright as seen both in profile and from behind.
- Thigh: well muscled, firm.
- Hock joint: quite well let down, neither too angulated nor too straight.
- Hind feet: Round, compact, turning neither inward nor outward.

## GAIT/MOVEMENT

- Free, powerful and smooth movement.

## SKIN

- Firm.



# I COAT

## HAIR

- Smooth coat, close, glossy and soft, without undercoat.

## COLOUR

- Fawn, brindled or not, with or without white spotting

## BRINDLE

- strongly brindled coats must not cover out the fawn ground colour. Limited white spotting is admissible.

## BRINDLED WITH MODERATE OR IMPORTANT WHITE SPOTTING (“PIED”)

- The spotting being ideally distributed over the entire subject.

*E. Waget : this coat is difficult to produce in all its excellence; the color patches must be brindled, and the white free from flecks. The white variegation must occupy at least 50% of the coat. But a white body with only a brindled head or a brindled saddle, if admitted, is not to be sought after.*

*E. Waget : the brindled should not be so dark as to appear black. We should always be able to distinguish the fawn background of the coat.*





# COAT

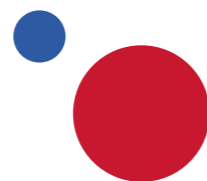
## FAWN

- Solid coat, with or without a black mask (although masked subjects are preferred). Sometimes accompanied by limited white spotting.

*E. Waget : currently the fawn coat still too often presents blackened overlay; it should be corrected.*

- Fawn with moderate or important white spotting (“fawn and white”): the spotting being ideally distributed over the entire dog.
- The all-white subjects provided the edge of eyelids and nose are black – are admitted but not bred for.

*E. Waget : currently the CBF has not issued any ban on the mating of coat colours. It is however recommended to come back regularly to mate the pied and the fawn with the brindle, which, although unfortunately out of fashion, is the historic coat of the breed; both to maintain the type, and not lose good pigmentation of the edges of the eyelids, the nose and the nails.*

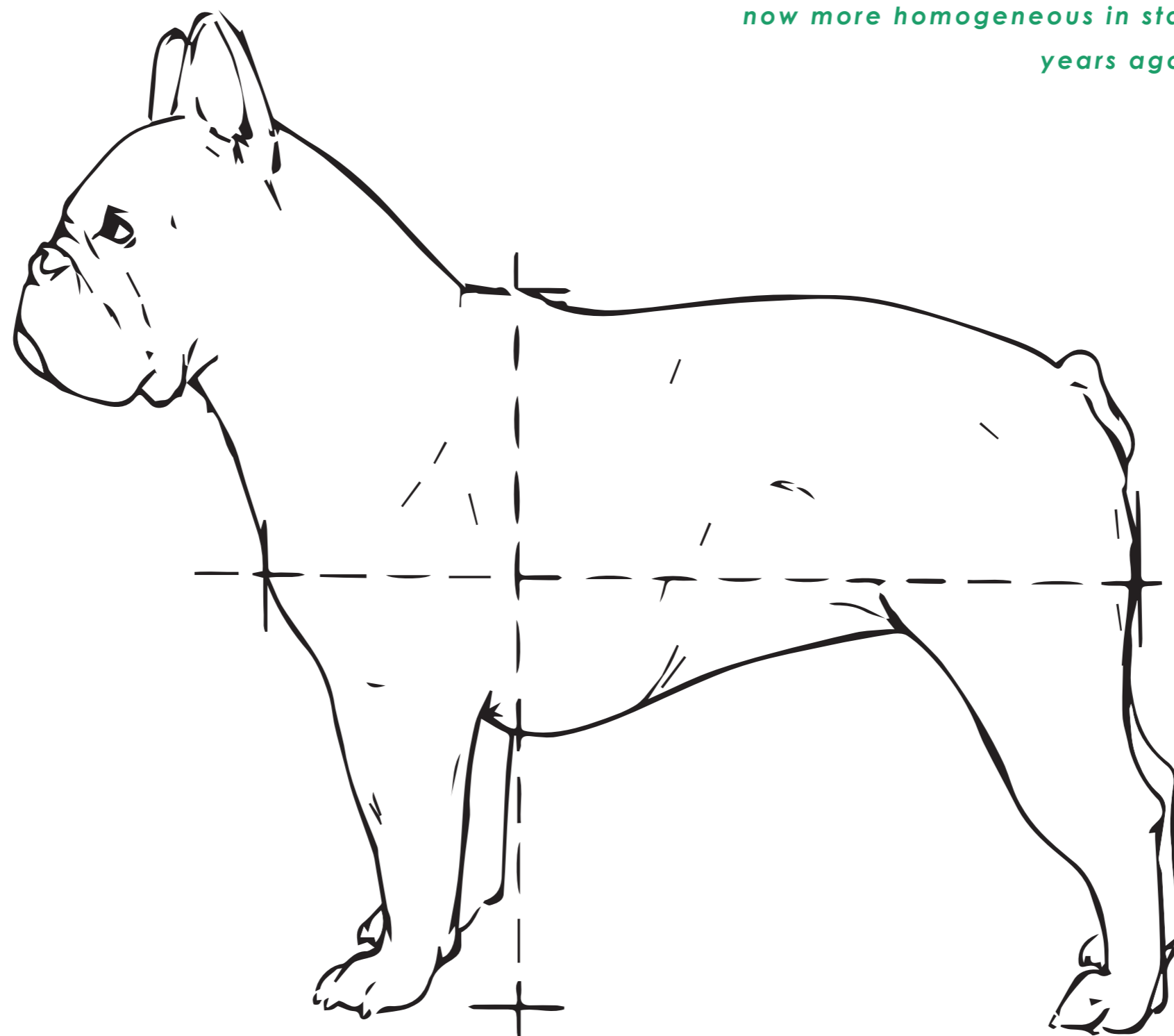




# SIZE

- Height at the withers: males: 27–35 cm. Females: 24–32 cm. A deviation of 1 cm above and below the standard is tolerated.
- Weight: males: 9–14 kg. Females: 8–13 kg. 500 g more than the standard weight is allowed when the subject is typical.

*E. Waget : to enforce the measurements, size and weight, the range of which is already broad enough in the standard, the CBF has long implemented a policy of monitoring these measurements during important shows for the selection. The French stock is now more homogeneous in stature than it was thirty years ago.*



# FAULTS :

## A FEW IMPORTANT POINTS

- Strongly flecked with black brindle with white coat
- Fawn and white coat strongly red speckled.
- In fawn coats, deep black trace extending along the spine.
- White stockings in brindles and fawns.

### SEVERE FAULTS

- Overtyped, exaggerated breed characteristics.
- Muzzle too long or excessively short.
- Tongue visible when mouth is closed.
- Excessive depigmentation of the lips, nose, eyelids.
- Pincer bite.

### DISQUALIFYING FAULTS

- Aggressive or overly shy dog.

***E. Waget : the French Bulldog is an essentially family dog; in dog show, you have to be ruthless towards a subject who would bite or even only pretend to pinch. But the case would be rare, because the current stock does not show any problem of character.***

- Lacks type.
- Completely closed nostrils.
- Torsion or lateral deviation of the jaw, resulting in the tongue constantly being visible.
- Dog with lower incisors articulating behind upper incisors.
- Dog with permanently visible canines (fangs), mouth being closed.
- Colour of nose other than black.
- Ears not carried erect.
- Reversed hock.
- Colour not in accordance with what is prescribed in the standard.

***E. Waget : we see in certain productions outside of the official cynophilia, black and tan, gray, brown, merle coats, obtained by crossing with other breeds. They obviously do not conform to the standard and their acceptance is unthinkable***

- Respiratory distress.

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