

# the AUSTRALIAN BULLDOG



## INTRODUCTION TO THE AUSTRALIAN BULLDOG

Over the last few decades there have been world-wide efforts to reconstruct or reform the British or English Bulldog.

The AUSTRALIAN BULLDOG is a purely Australian vision which has produced a dog instantly recognisable as a 'bulldog' without the anatomical exaggerations to restrict vigour, activity and overall health, while retaining a sound and endearing temperament and personality.

Although possibly fierce in appearance, the Australian Bulldog should never be unstable or aggressive. This dog does not make a good 'guard' dog, an Australian Bulldog is a people friendly, family dog. It is loyal, extremely outgoing and affectionate in nature, stable and predictable. The ABS Inc. is aware however that bad owners can make bad dogs whatever the breed and actively encourage new owners to attend puppy classes and obedience classes.

The Australian Bulldog should never be a 'British Bulldog look-alike' having a longer nose, fewer wrinkles, straight back, longer and straight legs, brick shaped body, long or short tail, balanced and uninhibited movement without a rolling gait. It is a medium sized, short-haired, thickset bulldog. Full details including heights and weights are given in the full ABS Inc. Breed Standard (printed later in this pamphlet).

Remember the Australian Bulldog should be immediately recognisable as a bulldog but is a breed in its own right. Even the most superficial research will show that nearly all modern day purebred dogs have been 'created' over the last few centuries by the crossing and intermingling of dog breeds and individual dogs. The Australian Bulldog is no different. However the crossing and intermingling of breeds to create the Australian Bulldog was finished some long time ago. A true Australian Bulldog is never a British Bulldog straight crossed with another breed.

Prospective owners/interested parties should beware, do their research and look only at dogs registered through a reputable body. The Australian

Bulldog Society Incorporated is the only incorporated, constituted, financially accountable parent body for this wonderful breed, registering only Australian Bulldog to Australian Bulldog litters and overseen by an annually elected Management Committee and State Representatives. All members of the Australian Bulldog Society Inc. are bound by the ABS Inc. Code of Ethics (printed later in this pamphlet). You are encouraged to become a financial member of the Australian Bulldog Society Inc. and be involved in the future of your country's own bulldog. The full ABS Inc. Constitution and membership application form are available on the club website: [www.australianbulldogsociety.com](http://www.australianbulldogsociety.com).

The ABS Inc. now offers an Australian Bulldog Rescue and Rehoming Service. Any Australian Bulldog that is surrendered to a rescue shelter is eligible through this program for rehoming. If you know of any AB in need, or you are interested in fostering or interested in providing a permanent, loving home for one of these dogs please contact us on the email listed. All ABs coming through this service will be desexed before going to a new home.

*DISCLAIMER: Please be aware that the ABS Inc. takes no responsibility for the lineage, health, temperament, type or actions of any dog coming through the ABS Rescue/Rehoming Service.*

The ABS Inc. is the only outlet from which to purchase The Handbook of the Australian Bulldog which contains chapters on the worldwide alternative bulldog programs, a full history of the Australian Bulldog, thoughts from a Judge's perspective and a Vet's perspective, owners' testimonials, notes on breeding, caring for pups, pup behaviour, house training, dogs&children, and lots of photographs. For purchasing details see [www.australianbulldogsociety.com](http://www.australianbulldogsociety.com).

## CONTACTS

Enquiries.....[secretary@australianbulldogsociety.com](mailto:secretary@australianbulldogsociety.com)

Rescue/Rehoming Service..... [rescue@australianbulldogsociety.com](mailto:rescue@australianbulldogsociety.com)

Litter Registrations ..... [registrar@australianbulldogsociety.com](mailto:registrar@australianbulldogsociety.com)

Websites ..... [www.australianbulldogsociety.com](http://www.australianbulldogsociety.com)

[www.australianbulldogs.com](http://www.australianbulldogs.com)





## BREED STANDARD

The Australian Bulldog is a healthy animal.

Distinctly 'bulldog' in type yet free of anatomical exaggeration. An Australian Bulldog should breathe freely, whelp and breed naturally and be uninhibited in its movement.

Smooth coated, thickset, medium sized with powerful build showing strength and agility, an Australian bulldog is sound and active.

The Australian Bulldog conveys the impression of strength, activity and stamina and exhibits a trustworthy and enduring disposition.

Loyal, fierce in appearance, but extremely outgoing and affectionate in nature. Very stable and predictable. Enjoys activity, however a lot of exercise is not necessary for health and mental stability. The breed craves human attention. Some may not tolerate aggressive overtures by other dogs.

The head should be large, but not exaggerated or out of proportion to the body. Broad muzzled and short faced, but the nose should be long enough for unhindered breathing. Muzzle is broad and turning up. Muzzle length from tip of nose to stop to be no less than 25mm and no more than 50mm. Loose folds of skin across the nose, but in no way excessively wrinkled. Eyes are set low and wide, never bulging or sunken - preferably without visible haw. Eyes of any colour acceptable. Head circumference should be equal to body height or up to 15% larger for males and equal or up to 10% larger for females.

Ears should be small to moderate size. Set wide apart. Rose or button preferred - never erect or cropped.

Broad jaw. Canines set wide apart. Well occluded incisors. Undershot (but not to excess) to level jaw. Flews are relatively broad and hanging over lower jaw at each side. Teeth should not be obviously protruding. Flews should not be excessive in size and mouth should not be excessively loose.

The neck should be moderate in length; thick, deep and strong with loose skin forming dewlap on either side.

Chest wide and deep. Shoulders broad, but not excessively so, rounded

ribs. Forelegs powerful and straight, not bandy or curved, well boned, set wide apart presenting a straight front.

Back short and straight giving compact carriage, but not so short as to interfere with activity and agility. Bitches may have greater body length than males in order to assist natural whelping. Body shape in general is brick shaped with shoulders only slightly wider than hips.

Body length for males should be equal to height or up to 15% longer. Body length for females should be between 10% and 25% longer than height. (Body length measuring distance from shoulders to base of tail)

Strong and muscular hindquarters. Hocks slightly bent. Hip width should be no more than 15% narrower than the shoulders.

Round and compact feet. Excessively played feet undesirable.

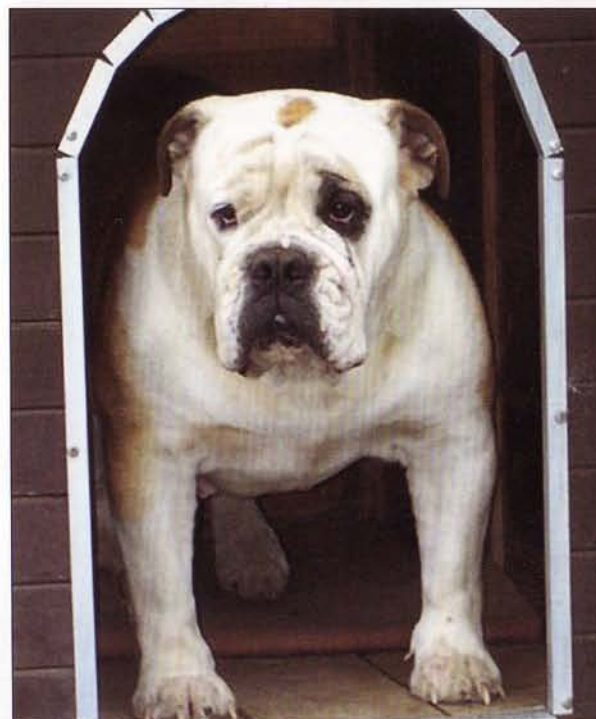
Thickset tail at root. Straight (long or short), crank, pump-handle tails all acceptable. Screw tails acceptable, but tight screws undesirable.

Balanced, vigorous and uninhibited gait/movement. Should not have rolling gait.

Smooth coat, short, tight to body. Any colour acceptable.

SIZE:	Height:	Dogs: ..... 17 - 21 inch (43 - 52.5cm)
		Bitches: ..... 17 - 20 inch (43 - 50cm)
Weight:	Dogs: .....	28 - 38kg
	Bitches: .....	24 - 30kg

NOTE : All males to be defined as entire must have two prominent descended testicles in order to be considered for breeding purposes.



## AUSTRALIAN BULLDOG SOCIETY CODE OF ETHICS

Each member upon signing an application for membership of the ABS Inc. is bound by the Code of Ethics of the ABS Inc.

1. I shall ensure that all dogs in my care are properly housed, fed, watered and exercised and receive proper veterinary care if required.
2. I shall breed for the improvement of the breed and not knowingly breed from any dog with a flaw that is life limiting or expected to cause chronic disability or disease throughout the dog's lifespan.
3. I shall not breed from any bitch under the age of 12 months.
4. I shall not breed from any bitch more than twice in 18 months.
5. I shall not breed more than four litters from any bitch without veterinary certification of fitness for further breeding.
6. I shall not dock the tails of any pup/dog unless recommended and carried out by a veterinarian for a diagnosed physical ailment.
7. I shall not permit any Australian/'Aussie' Bulldog in my care to be mated with a dog of any other breed.
8. I shall not release any pups from my care under the age of eight weeks.
9. I shall not export any pups under the age of 12 weeks.
10. I shall register pups bred by me with the ABS Inc. and provide Registration certificates to buyers.
11. I shall vaccinate all pups bred by me between 6 and 8 weeks of age and provide current vaccination certificates with all pups/dogs when placed into new homes.
12. I shall worm all pups/dogs in my care at appropriate times and provide information of medication used and next due date when placed into new homes by me.
13. I shall provide dietary information for all pups/dogs in my care when being placed into new homes by me.
14. I shall not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed or provide false information to members of the public for the ABS Inc.
15. I shall not sell any pups bred by me via pet shops.
16. I shall have all pups bred by me microchipped by a veterinary surgeon.