

FRENCH BULLDOG COAT COLORS and the BREED STANDARD

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Our original breed standard, written in 1897, said regarding color, "The Color should be uniform, pure of its kind and brilliant. In regard to the color, preference should be given as follows: — Dark Brindle, Dark Brindle and white; all other brindles, all other colors. In Brindle and solid colors, a small white patch on breast is not considered detrimental."

A revision of the standard in 1903 addressed only weight classes and did not mention color.

In 1906, some minor changes were made in the standard for the head, and the following was added: "No discrimination should be made as to color," which removed the original preference that was to be given to dark brindle.

In 1911, a special meeting of the FBDCA was held on May 1 *"to consider means to provide representation of the club at the Conference of French Bull Dog Clubs of Europe to be held in Paris France, May 18-27 for the purpose of securing an agreement upon an international standard, and also to consider matters relative to possible changes or additions to the standard of the club that were to have been taken up at its next annual meeting of the club, the latter action being deemed advisable so as to present the final recommendation of the club to the Paris Conference. "*

"The matter of the revision of the standard was therefore taken up. Reports of the Committee from FBDC of America, the FBDC of New England and Western French Bulldog Club were presented and considered in detail and after full and free discussion each section of the Standard was separately taken up and unanimously tentatively adopted, resulting in the final adoption of the following tentative standard:

(only the items pertaining to color and DQ are listed here)

Color Skin and Coat.

All brindles (dark preferred) and any color except the following which constitute disqualification: Solid black, black and white, black and tan, liver and mouse color. (Black as used in the Standard means black without any trace of brindle).

Disqualifications. Other than bat ears, any mutilation; solid black, black and white, black and tan, liver and mouse color, eyes of different color, nose other than black and hair [sic] lip.

After final reading of the foregoing tentative Standard a motion was made, seconded and carried as follows:

Whereas the recommendation of the three committees on Standard representing the FBDCof Am., The FBDC of N.E, and the Western French Bull Dog Club have been considered and embodied in the foregoing tentative Standard, therefore the Committee on Standard appointed by this club be empowered and authorized to take final action on the adoption of a Standard for the club either in agreement with the conclusions of the Paris conference or independent of said body and without waiting for the annual meeting of 1912.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried it was decided that the FBDCof Am. join the International Affiliation of European French Bull Dog Clubs."

Samuel Goldenberg (Nellcote kennel, owner of the famous Nellcote Gamin) represented the American clubs at the Paris conference in 1911. At that conference the standard adopted by the Conference of FBD clubs of Europe differed from the American one in several particulars, and so the FBDCA voted to adopt the standard drafted by its own standard committee on May 1, **1911**.

(Mr. Goldenberg, less than a year later, was on the Titanic, and was rescued and arrived in new York just a couple of days before judging Frenchies at our specialty show at the Waldorf Astoria on April 20, 1912.)

The next revision of the standard, in **1925**, changed the Color section to read:

"Acceptable colors are: All brindle, fawn, white, brindle and white, and any color except those which constitute disqualification."

Disqualifications were listed as: "Other than bat ears; black and white, black and tan, liver, mouse or solid

black (black means black without any trace of brindle); eyes of different color; nose other than black; hare lip; any mutilation; over 28 pounds in weight."

The **1947** revision did not change the description of acceptable colors, but changed the disqualifications to read "Other than bat ears; black and white, black and tan, liver, mouse or solid black (black means black without any trace of brindle); eyes of different color; nose other than black except in the case of the lighter-colored dogs, where a lighter color nose is acceptable; hare lip; any mutilation; over 28 pounds in weight."

The last standard revision, in **1991**, listed acceptable colors as "All brindle, fawn, white, brindle and white, and any color except those which constitute disqualification. All colors are acceptable with the exception of solid black, mouse, liver, black and tan, black and white, and white with black, which are disqualifications. Black means black without a trace of brindle." Disqualifications: "Nose other than black, except in the case of lighter colored dogs, where a lighter colored nose is acceptable. Solid black, mouse, liver, black and tan, black and white, and white with black. Black means black without a trace of brindle." A slight change was made with the addition of "white with black" in color disqualifications, which would refer to a pied dog whose black pigmented patches lack the required "trace of brindle."