



*Your puppy is a baby Bulldog. Like all babies, he needs lots and lots of love and cuddling, lots of sleep, lots of good, quality nourishing food and still more love and cuddling.*



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## Bringing Home A New Puppy

Moving to a new home, leaving his family and the only humans he has ever really known can be a little scary for the puppy, so try to make the move as easy as possible for him. For the first couple weeks, try to establish a good routine for him.

Make it simple and relaxed at first so that he feels secure in the new environment. He will need a lot of guidance and direction from you during this transition so take advantage of this experience to bond with him. This will allow him to feel comfortable with you and develop his trust for you.

Follow the breeders routine for feeding. The same times, same amount, same brand of food, same supplements. Feed him in the same place for each meal. Be sure he has his own special area for his bed. Give him lots and lots of cuddling, petting and attention. Be careful not to let him play so long and hard that he becomes exhausted.

Sometime during the first week, you should take him to your vet for a check up. If you are going to change your puppy's kibble, the change should be slow and gradual. Substitute a small amount of the old food with the new and slowly increase the ratio of new to old until the old food is completely replaced with the new.

### Housing/Bedding:

Frenchie's thrive indoors around their family and in a temperature controlled environment. A French bulldog can overheat faster than other dogs so if it's much over 80°F your bully should be in an air conditioned area. And be careful with slippery surfaces such as hard wood floors, tile or linoleum. Frenchie's are born with joints that are naturally looser than, say, a German Shepherd, and slipping on the floor or in the bath tub can be hard on the joints. If you have these kinds of floors you might consider area rugs to provide traction and a bath mat when bathing.

Their bedding need not be as elaborate and expensive. Costlier isn't always better. Usually a common cotton blanket in his crate will due nicely. They are fairly cheap and easy to wash and dry. Artificial sheepskin rugs are available at most pet stores and also wash and dry easily. The main thing is that your bully likes it and you like it.

Avoid wicker dog beds because most bulldogs love to tear these to pieces and could choke on or swallow the pieces. We recommend using a wire crate. Frenchie's actually love having their own private retreat to go to when they want to be left alone. It is much easier to house train a puppy if he sleeps in a crate. If you travel with your dog, he is safer and happier riding in a crate and if you are staying overnight he has his own place to sleep in. The ventilation in wire crates is much better than most plastic ones.

### Equipment/Supplies:

- A Thermometer, if there is a problem, a temperature is the first sign.
- A wire crate (with divider, that you can adjust as he grows)
- A food dish and a water dish with straight sides and flat bottom. Preferably ceramic or stainless steel.
- A collar and lead. His first lead should be a light weight one. A harness can be confusing for them when they are just learning to follow your tugs. A collar tugs on one area in one direction whereas a harness tugs their entire chest and shoulder area making it hard for him to tell what you want him to do. We recommend using a collar while training your puppy but after he is well trained a harness is fine.
- Dog nail clippers or grinder. It is recommended to start early clipping the puppies nails; 1. so the quick doesn't get to long; 2. so they get use to the action. Give a treat with each foot completed, and make it a fun time.
- A brush. You can use just about any brush on a frenchie but the best ones have flexible rubber bristles. Find one that fits comfortably in your hand
- Desitin cream, this is like the cure all for all ailments. They will get some teen age acne, just apply a little, when out in the grass they can have a reaction and get little rash on their bellies, use sparingly. A little goes a long way.
- If you travel with your Frenchie you'll need an insulated water jug so you'll have lots of cool water available for him. A small water bowl that hooks to the inside of his crate is nice also. A spray bottle filled with cool water. Lightly spray his face and body if you notice him panting or breathing heavily. A must for long walks and road trips.

## Toys:

Never give your Frenchie a rawhide toy! They can tear the rawhide off and choke on it. Most puppies will love a simple knotted sock to shake and play tug-of-war with you. Many pups love chasing a ball. Whatever toy you choose just be sure that it is too big to get lodged in the puppies throat. And if you get toys with eyes or buttons on them be sure to tear them off as your puppy can choke on these.

## Feeding/Diet:

Your aim in feeding your puppy should be to aid in muscle, bone and joint growth as much as possible without causing your puppy to become obese. It is best to feed a 2-4 month old puppy 3 times a day. Be careful not to overfeed. Until you are familiar with your puppies eating habits avoid making his food accessible all the time. If you notice your puppy is putting on too much weight you may want to restrict his food consumption. Obesity can be a serious health threat to your puppy.

You can begin feeding your bully adult food at about 6 months. As their hormones start to kick in they could develop sensitivities, I switch my puppies to a single source protein, grain-free food. If you have your frenchie spayed or neutered or if because of old age he becomes less active you will want to switch to a 'light' or 'low fat' version of his food to avoid obesity.

For the first few months, I would suggest soften it with warm water, as puppies tend to be "starving" and gobble food, you don't want to risk it getting caught in their throat and they aspirate.

Fresh water should be available at all times! However if your frenchie is very winded or panting heavily after a run you should let him have just a little at a time until he is cooled off.

## Training:

French Bulldogs are very smart but can also be a little stubborn. So as with any dog, training your puppy will require time, patience and consistency. Key to good training is an understanding of how a dog thinks. Below is a bit of 'dog psychology' which applies to any canine. All dogs, including frenchies, are thought to be descendants of the wolf. Yes, the resemblance to your frenchie is nil.

But remember this important fact: like all dogs your frenchie is a pack animal. At first this description may sound a little savage and unpalatable. But this pack instinct is precisely why dogs wedge themselves so perfectly into our families. They want to belong - to please. When a dog joins a family, even a family of one, a pack is formed. At this point his instincts compel him to seek out the structure of the pack - 'Who is the leader?' 'Who is the follower?' Have you ever known a person whose dog is very rude, disrespectful and even a little aggressive? Does he (the dog) 'sass' his owner? (bark back). Does he dart just out of reach when he is reached for? Does he steal food or run away from his owner? Does he bark uncontrollably at guests? These behaviors may indicate that the dog is confused as to his position in the pack. He may have difficulty recognizing his owner as the leader of the pack therefore the dog could attempt to assume the role himself.

It is very important in training that you assert yourself as the leader early on. Of course frenchies, just like people, have their own individual personalities. One may just be more willing to accept your correction than another.

I know, I know. 'But she is just so cute when she gets sassy.' 'How can I correct him when he gives me that sweet little smile?' 'Yes it was my new couch, but don't all puppies chew?' ... It's not always easy to correct an animal as charming as a frenchie. But it can be confusing for them and make training difficult for you if they don't know who's boss. So with that in mind...

## Potty Training:

When potty training your puppy you must first learn to watch for the signs (sniffing, circling, etc). Take him out (preferably to the same area every time) right when he wakes in the morning, 5 minutes or so after each meal, just before bedtime or about every hour.

Watch the puppy until he goes then remove him from the area as soon as he finishes that way he learns quickly the reason for these trips. Give the puppy lots of praise when he gets it right. Praising for correct action works much better than punishment for mistakes. Don't scold the puppy unless you catch it in the act. There will be accidents but remember, your puppy is a baby and doesn't have the mental capacity or muscle control of an adult so be patient.

Good luck, be patient, and love your baby!

