



# Bulldog Club Of Central Canada

[www.bulldogclubofcentralcanada.net](http://www.bulldogclubofcentralcanada.net)



## Are You Ready for a Bulldog?

*The Bulldog has many unique requirements  
...are you prepared to fulfill them?*

### Bulldog Diet and Exercise

It is a common misconception that all Bulldogs are just fat lazy couch potatoes. However, a well bred bulldog enjoys a good walk and play time at a park with other dogs. If you want to get a bulldog so that you don't have to do any exercise, save your money... buy a turtle!

Though bulldogs do not tolerate strenuous workouts, a daily moderate exercise program will help to keep your dog healthy. Bulldogs are thick boned and grow quickly, they need moderate work-outs to facilitate healthy joints, and keep their heart and lungs in optimum condition.

Diet is another area where you can enhance the work of the breeder. Even a well bred dog, fed poorly, will not develop into the full potential of his genetic base. The bulldog's growth pattern is very fast, and that level of growth must be supported with good nutrition. Recently, there has been a lot of research into optimum nutrition for dogs and as a result, there are many wonderful products available today.

A good breeder will start the pup correctly, and teach you how to maintain the nutritional needs of your Bulldog. You can check out the websites of dog food companies; they

frequently provide nutritional information about their products.

There are many books devoted to the subject. Just do not assume that because a bulldog is eating the food and gaining weight, that he is "Well Fed".

### Bulldog Skin Care

Although bulldogs are a short haired breed; do not assume they are low maintenance. Many bulldogs are prone to skin conditions which can be alleviated with proper management. Your Bulldog should be thoroughly brushed at least three times a week. Most Bulldogs love to be brushed. Use a soft bristle or rubber brush. Start at the rear and brush against the grain. Follow up by a good brush down with the grain. Follow this with a good rub down. This will keep his hair shiny and his skin healthy. During shedding, (heaviest in spring and fall), you may need to brush more often. The idea is to remove the dead hair and distribute the natural oils.



Frequent and excellent brushing will cut down how many times you have to bathe your dog, eliminating the possibility of drying out his/her coat. Bathe your bulldog when he/she is dirty or smelly. Use a shampoo formulated for dogs. They have a different PH than humans. Even "Baby" Shampoos can be too harsh and cause irritation.

## Bulldog Manicures

A Bulldog's nails must be kept short. The bulldog carries a lot of weight in a short package.

Long nails cause the dog to twist his/her toes to the side. This imbalance and weight shifting can cause undue stress to his/her joints, hips, etc. Many people believe that long nails can also be a contributing factor leading to interdigital cysts.



Whether you choose to clip your dog's nails with sturdy dog nail clippers or choose to grind them with a 'Dremil' type tool, it must be done very carefully. Caution must be exercised to not cut into the quick. On white nails it is easy to see the quick and not hit it, but those with dark nails should stop at the curve.

There are factors that influence the frequency of your bulldog's manicure including diet, exercise, and genetic predisposition. For instance dogs who take frequent walks on pavement will wear the nails down and require less trimming.

A good breeder will take the time to instruct you in the care and maintenance of one of their pups. Ask for a lesson.

## Keeping the Tail Clean

Bulldogs having a very tight screw tail may have problems in the hot weather, when the tail area becomes moist and causes irritation. Bathe the affected parts with water in which you have added a mild disinfectant, then dry thoroughly. Apply a little talc powder. See the advice of a veterinarian if it doesn't clear up.

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## Bulldog Facials

EVERY day you need to cleanse the bulldog's nose roll, and any other deep wrinkles. You can use a wash cloth with the same (dog) shampoo you use to bathe; then rinse and dry.



Another option is using unscented/non-alcohol baby wipes. Make this procedure a "love" ritual, (wash the wrinkle, scratch the ears, followed with lots of kisses) and the bulldog will line up for "treatments".

Many bulldogs are prone to tear stains. They can be caused by structural, environmental or dietary issues.

Whatever the cause; tear stains should be eliminated to avoid the possibility of secondary infections. Following preventative measures will not guarantee your dog will never get tear stains. Hormonal changes, dietary changes, illness, even stress can create an environment conducive to tearstains.

There are many products on the market to help remove tear stains. They are not an instant fix. Once you have tear stains, it will take a while to remove them, even with the best products. A good breeder will help you determine the best product to use on the dog.

## Ears

Ears are rarely a problem with Bulldogs, because the rose ear allows air to circulate. If they do appear dirty, use a cottonball to clean the visible parts of the ear, without poking deep into the ear. Frequent ear scratching may be an indication that your Bulldog has ear mites. Excessive ear scratching and head shaking may also be caused by allergies, yeast or trauma.

  
**ROYAL CANIN**

*This flyer only acts as a guide to inform you about some of the unique requirements of the bulldog breed, it is to increase your awareness of what is required. It is not intended to, nor can it have all the answers.*