

# 10 Interesting Facts About French Bulldogs

What is small, adorable and quickly becoming one of the world's most popular dog breeds?

The French bulldog, of course.

If you take one look at these charming bundles of fur it's no surprise why these adorable pups have become so popular. With fun and friendly temperaments and their small size, the French Bull makes the perfect companion.

But when it comes to the fun loving Frenchie there is often more than meets the eye.

Here's some interesting facts about French bulldogs that you may not already know.

## 1. French bulldogs have some pretty interesting origins.

French bulldogs were originally born and bred in England, some time around the mid to late 1800's. These companion dogs were created by breeding the large English bulldog, once popular in the bloody sport of bull baiting, with their much smaller terrier cousins. Mixing the two breeds created a bite sized companion that was beloved by English lace-makers living in the countryside. With the advent of the industrial revolution, these skill artisans relocated to France, taking their little pups with them. These dogs quickly became extremely popular and fashionable in France, especially among French prostitutes. People of all walks of life could not wait to get their hands on these little bulldogs. As a result of their popularity in France, these pups became known as "bouledogues Francais" or French bulldogs.

## 2. French Bulldogs cannot swim.

Part of the French bulldog's charm results from their adorable, squat frame. However, these short, stout bodies and big, round heads mean that French bulldogs are not built for swimming. So if your Frenchie loves to spend days splashing in the waves or lounging by the pool, it's important that you always keep an eye on them by the water's edge and make sure that they are fitted for an appropriate life vest.

## 3. Some airlines have actually banned French Bulldogs from flying.

French bulldog's short snouts are part of the reason they are so adorable, but they can also be dangerous. French bulldogs are brachycephalic, which means that they have much shorter snouts and airways compared to other dogs like Golden Retrievers or Greyhounds. This can result in breathing problems. French bulldogs commonly have difficulty breathing in hot, humid weather and are prone to overheating.

If you have ever flown before, you know just how cramped and stuffy airplane cabins can be and the cargo hold is no exception. In fact, it probably gets much warmer down there. Flying can be an extremely stressful experience for your dog too. When you combine the warmer temperatures with a high stress situation like flying, it can turn deadly for Frenchies. Unfortunately, there have been several instances where French Bulldogs have perished while

flying. As a result, there are several airlines, including United Airlines, that have banned them from flying all together.

Fortunately, the ban only applies to flying with your dog while they are in the cargo hold. French bulldog owners are still able to fly with their dogs in cabin, with an extra charge of course. Airlines will typically charge a little over \$100 for dogs to fly in cabin. In addition, for the dog to fly in cabin they must be under the weight limit and they will have to fly in a airplane approved carrier. While this may not be ideal for some pet owners, it's important to keep in mind that the airlines instilled the band to protect the dogs.

#### 4. The history of the French Bulldog has been largely shaped by their ears.

The original French bulldogs bred in England, France, and later in the United States had rose shaped ears like their larger cousins, the English Bulldog. Rose shaped ears are the floppy, folded ears that are very common in many dogs. However, when you think of today's French Bulldogs you probably cannot help but to call to mind their perky, little bat ears.

When French bulldogs were first shown in the Westminster Kennel Club show in 1896, both rose eared and bat eared dogs were shown. However, only rose eared pups were chosen by the judges. This infuriated the American Breeders, who loved dogs with bat ears. As a result, the American breeders formed the French Bulldog Club of America in order to set the standards of the breed we know today.

#### 5. Dog lovers and breeders once thought that French Bulldogs would go extinct.

French bulldogs were once extremely popular. By 1906, the Frenchie was the 5th most popular dog breed. After World War II, the popularity of the breed began to dwindle. This may have been a result of the difficulty of natural births for these dogs as well as a decline in interest in pure breeds during the Great Depression and World War II. After becoming one of the most popular breeds of dogs, it was surprising when only 100 dogs were registered with the AKC in the 1940's.

Obviously, much has changed since the 40's and the French Bulldog is back on track for becoming one of the world's most popular dogs. French bulldogs are beloved by many celebrities including Carrie Fisher and Hilary Duff and many of your neighbors and friends are likely to own one of these loveable pups. In 2017, the French Bulldog became the 4th most registered dog.

#### 6. French bulldogs are actually great watch dogs.

French bulldogs make the perfect companion animal. Frenchies are fun-loving, charming, and have great temperaments. They are easily trained, love children, and are friendly with strangers. As a result, most people have a hard time imagining the French Bulldog curled up anywhere other than on their loving pet parent's lap. But French bulldogs are fiercely loyal and so they can be extremely protective of their human companions. French bulldogs rarely bark without reason as well, a wonderful trait for a watchdog.

## 7. A French Bulldog was on the Titanic.

Approximately, twelve dogs made the journey from England on the Titanic. Sadly, only three of these dogs survived and the little French bulldog was not one of them. The French bulldog, named Gamin de Pycombe was a registered passenger on the doomed ship. Gamin was a registered show dog and was reportedly insured for around \$750 dollars. While he did not survive the journey, his owner did.

## 8. French bulldogs have a very hard time giving birth naturally.

Due to their squat size and their small airways, it is extremely difficult for French bulldogs to give birth naturally. French bulldog puppies also have rather large heads, making the process even more difficult. As a result, French bulldog's are often delivered via C-Section.

It is also quite difficult for French bulldogs to breed naturally. The short, skin hips make it difficult for the male to mount the female. French bulldog males also easily become over excited and overheated, making insemination even more difficult. As a result, most French bulldogs are artificially inseminated. Thank goodness for modern veterinary medicine!

## 9. Frenchies prefer not to have a lot of exercise.

If you're the energetic type, the French bulldog may not be the right fit for your lifestyle! As a result of their flat faces and their calm, cuddly nature the French bulldog is more at home on the couch than he would be out hitting the trails.

But don't let your dog completely fool you! While they may not be made for vigorous exercise, your French bulldog will still love to play and run around.

It's also important that your dog receives daily exercise through short walks to keep them healthy and trim. It is recommended that French bulldogs have at least 15-20 minutes of exercise a day.

## 10. French bulldogs are popular among celebrities and in Hollywood!

Nowadays, it seems that everywhere you look you can see a French bulldog. These adorable pups are plastered all over the internet and often make appearances on TV and in the movies. French Bulldogs are also extremely popular on the social media app, Instagram.

Many celebrities own French bulldogs including the late Carrie Fisher, Dwayne Johnson, Hilary Duff, Leonardo DiCaprio, Reese Witherspoon, Lady Gaga and more! Clearly these dogs can find a home in anyone's heart!

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