

Neck, Topline, Body

(from An Illustrated Guide To The Official Standard Of The Bulldog published by The Bulldog Club of America)

Neck -- The neck should be short, very thick, deep and strong and well arched at the back.



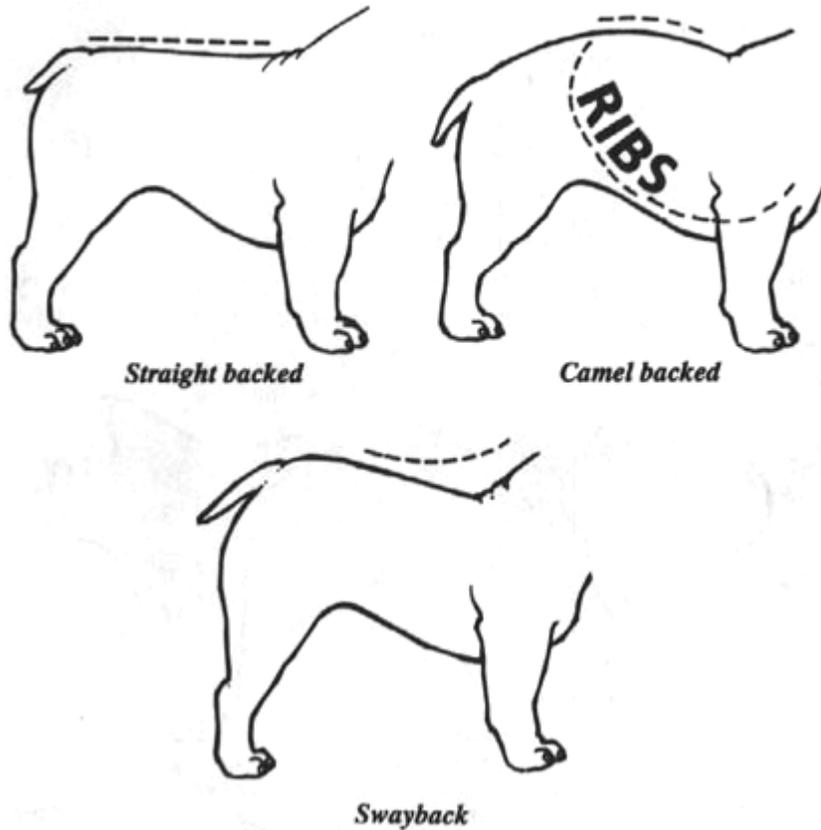
Neck short but EVIDENT and WELL-ARCHED. Too short a neck gives an overall unbalanced appearance.

Topline -- There should be a slight fall in the back, close behind the shoulders (its lowest part), whence the spine should rise to the loins (the top of which should be higher than the top of the shoulders), thence curving again more suddenly to the tail, forming an arch (a very distinctive feature of the breed), termed "roach back" or, more correctly, "wheel back".

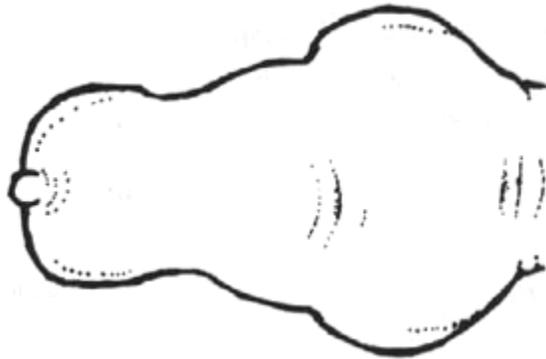
PROPER TOPLINE



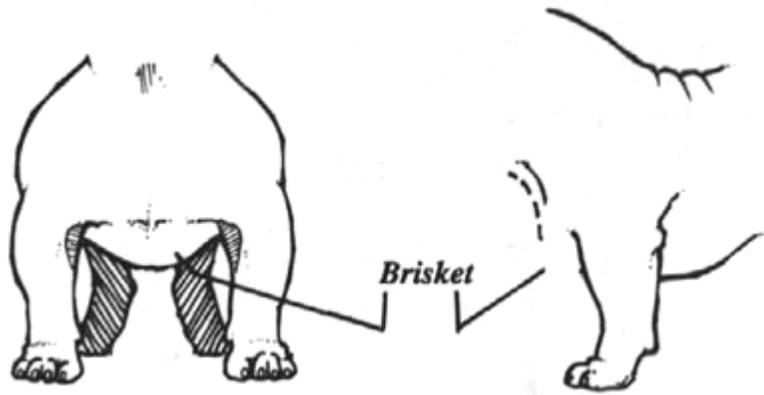
FAULTY TOPLINES



Body -- The brisket and body should be very capacious, with full sides, well rounded ribs and very deep from the shoulders down to its lowest part, where it joins the chest. It should be well let down between the shoulders and forelegs, giving the dog a broad, low, short legged appearance.



Wide shoulders, barrel ribs and a narrow pelvic area give the Bulldog a "pear-shaped" body.



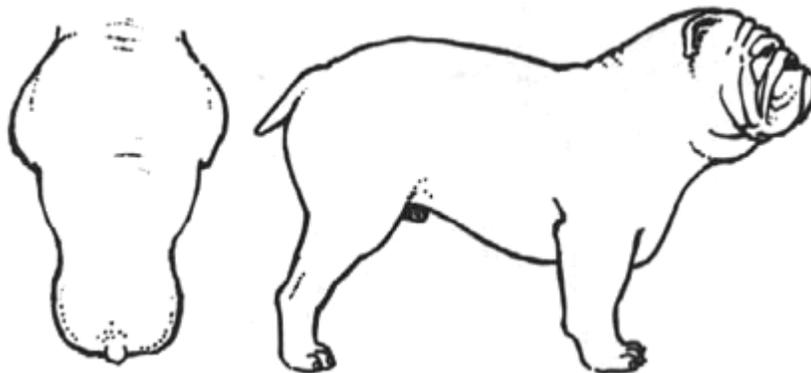
Brisket well let down between the forelegs. Fullness of the brisket can be observed in front of the forelegs from sideview.

Chest-- The chest should be very broad, deep and full.

Underline -- The body should be well-ribbed-up behind with the belly tucked up and not rotund.

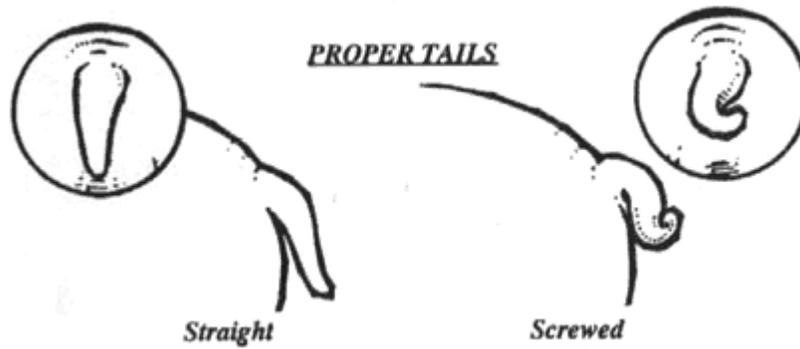


Back and Loin -- The back should be short and strong, very broad at the shoulders and comparatively narrow at the loins.



*A back of correct length creates a balanced appearance and facilitates correct Bulldog movement.
Bulldogs appear to be slightly longer in body than their height at the shoulder.*

Tail -- The tail may be either straight or "screwed" (but never curved or curly), and in any case must be short, hung low, with decided downward carriage, thick root and fine tip. If straight, the tail should be cylindrical and of uniform taper. If "screwed", the bends or kinks should be well-defined, and they may be abrupt and even knotty, but no portion of the member should be elevated above the base or root.



Two types of tail are desired in the Standard. Each are short, hung low, heading down with thick root and fine tips.

