

English Bulldogs

Introduction

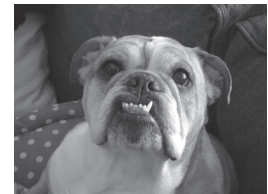
I curl up on my sofa, getting ready to read my favorite book. My best friend, Lanie, jumps on the sofa next to me. She snuggles in, curls herself up, and starts to snore. It's very loud. This might sound very rude, but Lanie isn't a person. She's a six-year-old English Bulldog. She has a tired, wrinkled face, that looks as if she is 100 years old. She shuffles around and makes lots of grunting sounds. Sometimes she refuses to budge when we are out walking. But she is loyal, kind, and never lets me down. Her breed is one that is very special and is a very popular pet with an interesting history. In this report, you will learn all about the appearance of bulldogs, how to care for them, what they are like as pets, and a bit about their history.

The writer conveyed ideas and information about the topic. There are essays (being a bulldog owner section), explanations, stories (health and bulldog owner sections), and procedural passages (caring for a bulldog).

The introduction hooked readers with a significant anecdote. The writer let the reader know how the passage would unfold.

Appearance

The English Bulldog is considered a compact dog, which means it has a short, smooth coat. A characteristic that all bulldogs share is a wide head and shoulders. They also have a big **prognathism**, which is where its jaw comes out from its head. Its eyebrows are like thick folds of skin, and it has small black eyes. These small eyes and eyebrows with folds make it seem like it's angry, but it's usually not. Some of them, like Lanie, have what is called an **underbite**, which means its bottom teeth stick out.



Bulldog underbite

There are several colors that bulldogs come in. Some of them are common names, like red and white. And some are special names, like **brindle** (mixed colors and stripes), **fawn** (a kind of light brown), and **piebald** (black and white spots).

The writer used parentheses to define domain-specific vocabulary for readers.

The writer used subheadings to separate sections of information.

Bulldogs are short but very heavy. The smallest are about 35 pounds, and the biggest males can be up to 55.

Caring for a Bulldog

All species require exercise to be healthy, and bulldogs are no different. If they aren't walked at least two times every day, they tend to become dangerously overweight. They don't usually move much on their own, consequently their owners have to make them move. According to Inforpedia.org, if they become too fat, they might start to get heart problems. In addition to walking bulldogs, owners can keep them sharp by practicing ball-handling skills with them. In my opinion, bulldogs are smarter than some often think and they can learn a few commands, even if they don't always want to chase a ball.

The writer used transition words to show relationships between information and ideas (*in addition, despite*) and to help readers understand how different bits of information fit together.

Despite their short coats, bulldogs do shed. They should be brushed often so that they don't shed as much. Esther Gray's book, called *This Is a Bulldog*, explains how to properly **groom** a bulldog. To brush a bulldog, begin at the top of its head, called its **crown**,

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and move in long strokes across its back. Then, brush its legs and underbelly. But be careful when brushing the underbelly because that part can hurt the dog. Additionally, you need to clean the folds of their skin every day. These can get infected if they are too dirty.

The writer used transitions and topic sentences to highlight main points. There are multiple paragraphs in each section.

Balanced nutrition is essential for a bulldog. It has to have the right proportion of vitamins and water, just like people. Most experts, like James Thomas, who wrote *Bulldog Life*, agree that feeding bulldogs too often is not necessary. In fact, feeding them too often can lead to problems, and will train them to be hungry all the time. The book says, "A well-trained bulldog does not beg for food. If bulldogs are fed constantly, especially from the table, they will learn bad habits and will begin to beg. Also, they will be in danger of becoming overweight from eating too much." (p. 56)

Health Concerns

No dog owner wants to think about their dog getting sick, but unfortunately it can happen. Bulldogs don't live forever, only about 8–12 years. So owners should keep their dogs as healthy as possible to help them live as long as they can.

According to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, 73.9% of bulldogs have **hip dysplasia**. This is a problem where the hip gets out of joint. To add on, more bulldogs have this problem than any other dog breed.

Another common illness is cherry eye. This is caused by a swollen gland in a bulldog's eye. If this happens, most vets say to take the dog to be looked at right away. Once Lanie had Cherry eye, and her eye swelled up like a small balloon. We all felt awful for her. But when she got the medicine, she was much better.

Bulldogs can also get heart problems. One way this gets worse if they are out in the heat. Heat stroke is a serious health concern for bulldogs. If a bulldog starts **panting** heavily, it's best to get them to a cool place and give them water immediately.

The writer used comparisons, analogies, and images to make the writing interesting.

The writer's subject was focused, and there was a variety of rich information.

The writer made choices about how best to organize information, sequencing information within sections in a way that teaches and engages readers. She sometimes used text features to do this, as well.

The writer used outside sources and gives credit to these sources both in the text and in a bibliography.

Being a Bulldog Owner

Bulldogs are wonderful, loyal pets. Some say there are cons to owning a bulldog, such as that they don't live very long and that they must be cleaned often, and that they can be stubborn. As Mr. Thomas says in his book on page 75, they have the worst **flatulence** (gas) of any dog breed. But there are many more pros than cons. First of all, they are adorable. No one can resist their funny looking wrinkles and the way they waddle. Also, they are safe around kids, even babies. To illustrate this, my little sister was only a baby when we got my bulldog. Once, my sister Emmie was crawling across the living room. She went over to Lanie's food dish and started splashing around in her water. Lanie went over and gave her a look. She didn't like that Emmie was in her water. But she didn't even bark. She just stood there and watched Emmie. Some other dogs might have bitten the baby.

The writer chose words carefully, including domain-specific vocabulary and explaining what these words mean.

She maintained a teaching tone throughout the piece.

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History of English Bulldogs

Out of all the bulldog types, American, English, and French, in my opinion the English has the best history. In the early 1600s, they were bred to be strong, tough, and fierce. They were used in something called **bull-baiting**, which is to fight bulls (www.bulldoginfor.com). People would watch bulldogs chase bulls around for fun. They would bet on which dog would grab a bull by the nose and push the bull to the ground. Many dogs would die or become seriously hurt at these events because they were stomped on or trampled, or poked by the bulls. Consequently, this became illegal.



An older kind of bulldog used to fight bulls

A Chart: Characteristics of Bulldogs Created by Breeding

- Short legs so the bull couldn't get the dog's legs with its horns
- Large jaws, so the dog could grab the bull and hold on to its nose
- A larger and heavier body to fight big bulls
- A muzzle that curved up so the dog could breathe while it grabbed the bull's nose
- Wrinkles so blood from the bull wouldn't get into the dog's eyes

In the conclusion, the writer offered final insights and implications for the reader to consider.

Conclusion

English Bulldogs are historical, beautiful, interesting animals. They need proper care and maintenance, but on the other hand they can be very loyal and gentle. It's always a good idea to see if you can adopt one from a rescue center. These are places where animals go if they are abandoned or treated badly by their owners. But if there isn't a bulldog there, you can visit your local pet shop. One day, maybe you will have a best friend like Lanie, curled up at your feet and snoring while you read a great book.

Bibliography

WWW.bulldoginfor.com

Gray, Esther. (1976) *This is a Bulldog*. (Schoolpub)

Thomas, James. (2009) *Bulldog Life*. (Schoolpub)