

Defining the Purebred Bulldog

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What are English Bulldogs, British Bulldogs, American Bulldogs, Miniature Bulldogs, Olde English Bulldogges, and Valley Bulldogs?

Non-existent! Not a single one of those names listed are a recognized, registerable breed in Canada under the Animal Pedigree Act. What people lovingly refer to as English or British bulldogs are registered simply as **bulldogs** in Canada and the U.S.A. Read below about the definition of purebred. Please be aware if you are looking for the bulldog represented by breed standards developed over one hundred years ago by dedicated breeders, then you will want to only consider true purebred bulldogs. Other breeds are not recognized as bulldogs in Canada. That does not make them any less love-a-bull, but it does mean they cannot be referred to as purebred bulldogs in this country.

When is a purebred bulldog not a purebred bulldog?

When it isn't Canadian Kennel Club registered! The Animal Pedigree Act is a law which determines the definition of purebred, and by legal definition, an animal is purebred only if eligible for registration by an association authorized to register animals of that breed in Canada. The word purebred cannot and should not be associated with any bulldog that is not eligible for Canadian Kennel Club registration, since the only recognized association for registration of bulldogs in Canada is the Canadian Kennel Club. So, when you see an ad for purebred bulldogs, but the ad makes no mention of Canadian Kennel Club registration, be aware that the seller is in contravention of the Animal Pedigree Act, under Article 64. "No person shall offer to sell, contract to sell or sell, as a purebred of a breed, any animal that is not registered or eligible to be registered as a purebred by the association authorized to register animals of that breed or by the Corporation". A purebred bulldog is only purebred if it can be registered with the Canadian Kennel Club. Even if both parents were registered with the Canadian Kennel Club, a puppy might not be eligible for registration if the parents are on limited registration, thus the puppy does not meet the legal definition of purebred. Please don't confuse purebred with being of the bulldog breed; a bulldog can look purebred, but can only be called purebred if registered or registerable. Again, it does not make them any less enjoyabull, but it is important to understand the difference when adopting your new best friend.

Can't I save money by buying an unregistered purebred dog, though?

Not legally. Any breeder who offers a discount for not registering a dog is violating the rules of the Canadian Kennel Club and thus also the animal pedigree act. To put registration fees in perspective based on the Canadian Kennel Club 2013 fee schedule, each litter can be registered at a cost of \$21.20 and each dog can be transferred to a new owner for \$37, so the most expensive registration done in a timely manner for a single puppy litter costs \$48.20. Registration is an inexpensive way to preserve the heritage of our bulldog breed, and offering registered bulldogs shows a breeder takes pride in knowing the bloodlines of the dogs they are breeding.

What about registries other than the Canadian Kennel Club, like the Continental Kennel Club, United Kennel Club, International Olde English Bulldogge Association, North American Purebred Dog Registry, Dog Registry of America or other registration services?

There are many registries offering registration certificates for various breeds, some of which include bulldog breeds. As mentioned above, the Canadian Kennel Club is the only body which can legally register purebred bulldogs in Canada under the Animal Pedigree Act. Be aware there is a registry called the C.K.C. (Continental Kennel Club), which is not the same thing as the Canadian Kennel Club. Other registries can offer certificates and pedigrees, but cannot provide

proof of purebred status because those organizations are not recognized by the Animal Pedigree Act. This includes organizations which host dog shows and other events; they can be great fun to participate in, but registration in non-recognized clubs and participation points from their shows are not transferrable to the only purebred bulldog registry in Canada. Registration does not make your dog any more or less comfortable, but the breeder who registers with the Canadian Kennel Club is committed to maintaining purebred status for their dogs, and demonstrates that by following the rules of the club.

What if I get my bulldog from another country?

The Canadian Kennel Club does recognize registration certificates issued by certain registry bodies from other countries. What it comes down to is whether those registry bodies follow strict record keeping and registration rules. The American Kennel Club is the only registry in the U.S.A. from which bulldog registration can be transferred into Canada; no other U.S. registries are eligible.

What about rare colours, strains, or miniature bulldogs?

A registered bulldog is a registered bulldog. There are no special classifications based on colour or size, unlike some other breeds of dogs. Claims offering a rare colour, miniature breed, or anything else “unique” are simply marketing methods creating a niche that does not actually exist. And again, if the dog is not eligible for Canadian Kennel Club registration, it is not purebred no matter how unique the colour strain might be.

List of Recognized breeds and registries: http://www.agr.gc.ca/redmeat-vianderouge/brd_eng.htm