FBDCA Sponsor Form GUIDE for New Member Applications

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

One of the greatest and most important reasons to belong to one's breed club is to protect its breed standard. We are faced with obstacles and challenges especially in a world of social media. There are groups that would like to overrun and slander our breed for purposes only known to them. Their tactics can sound logical and sometimes even educated, yet they are in fact, only wishful threats. When our board was approached by AKC to allow certain disqualifying colors to be *accurately* registered by color, it was a hard decision to make. These non-standard colored dogs have been AKC registered for years but never with their true color. We believe our membership needs to have factual information when analyzing a pedigree that is represented in truth, no matter what that truth may be. Truth in registration is a tool for us, not a gain in any manner for them.

It is obvious that AKC is a registry business, and that is first and foremost their intent. As a parent club our standard is protected by a large group of dedicated breeders, exhibitors, and admirers of the breed who in joining with the club have pledged to uphold our code of ethics, especially breeding to the standard as it has been put forward.

The FBDCA application documents were last updated in 2008. As times change, we must adapt. The 2021 Board of Directors updated the Sponsorship form where our applicant sponsors are held more accountable for the individuals they sponsor into membership, an enhanced Code of Ethics that clearly addresses breeding non-standard colored dogs, and a more comprehensive membership application. The FBDCA must evolve with current times and educate applicants about what is happening in our breed. You, the FBDCA members, DO protect and hold the key to keep our beloved breed standard protected.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEMBERS:

Prior to sponsoring an applicant, please familiarize yourself with the requirements for the election of new members which can be found in Article I, Section 3 of the FBDCA by-laws as follows:

SECTION 3. Election to Membership.

(a) Each individual applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors, which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and By-laws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, and it shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year and a signed and dated copy of the FBDCA Code of Ethics. Applicants may be elected at any meeting of the Board of Directors or by written vote of the Directors by mail. Affirmative votes of 2/3 of the Directors present at a meeting of the Board or of 2/3 of the entire Board voting by mail, shall be required to elect an applicant.

Our application is a process that takes time and is expected to detail the part Frenchies play in the daily life of the applicant. The intent of the process is not exclusionary, rather, it is to include all those who seriously dedicate their lives to bettering our wonderful French Bulldog breed.

The FBDCA Board of Directors urges you to give careful consideration before sponsoring a new member. When you sponsor a new applicant, you are committing to provide guidance, motivation, emotional support, and role modeling for the new member. The FBDCA wants a knowledgeable, active membership that is interested in supporting the work of the FBDCA and the betterment of the French Bulldog.

Applicants must be people you have known for A MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR. They should not be short-term acquaintances. If the applicant is new to French Bulldogs or the sport of dogs (s)he should be someone whom you are personally mentoring in the breed. We encourage applicants new to the sport of dogs to wait 12 months before applying for FBDCA membership.

At least one sponsor is required to complete a home visit and have personal knowledge of how the applicant's dogs are housed. This may require coordination between sponsors to comply with the home visit requirement. For applicants that live in remote locations, a video home visit may be considered to complete this requirement. The two required sponsors may not reside in the same household nor be a married couple living in separate households.

NOTE: IF EACH QUESTION ON THE SPONSOR FORM IS NOT ANSWERED FULLY, IT INDICATES A LACK OF SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE AND A LACK OF CREDIBLE INFORMATION FOR FBDCA MEMBERSHIP. In such cases, application packets will be immediately returned to the applicant.