What to Expect From a French Bull Tzu: A Cross of the Shih Tzu and Bulldog

Understanding the French Bull Tzu

The French Bull Tzu is a designer crossbreed that blends the shih tzu and bulldog. Breeders created this mix to combine the friendly, companion-oriented nature of the shih tzu with the sturdy, low-key temperament of the bulldog. The result is a small-to-medium dog that tends to be affectionate, alert, and surprisingly adaptable for different living situations.

Before bringing one home, it helps to know what traits from each parent are likely to show up. The shih tzu and bulldog each have distinct physical and behavioral characteristics, and their offspring can inherit a mix that varies from one puppy to another. This article explains the typical size, coat, personality, exercise needs, and health considerations so you can decide whether this cross suits your lifestyle.

Size and Build

Most French Bull Tzu puppies grow into adults that weigh between 15 and 30 pounds. Their height at the shoulder usually falls between 10 and 14 inches. The bulldog side contributes a stocky, muscular frame and a broad chest, while the shih tzu side often moderates that bulk, producing a dog that is sturdy but more compact than a pure bulldog.

Because the bulldog is a brachycephalic breed - meaning it has a shortened snout - the cross can also inherit a somewhat pushed-in face. In many French Bull Tzu dogs, the muzzle is shorter than a shih tzu's but longer than a bulldog's, which can help with breathing and heat regulation. Still, you should check each puppy's individual structure if you are concerned about respiratory issues.

Coat Type and Grooming

The coat is one area where the shih tzu and bulldog differ significantly. A shih tzu has a long, double-layered coat that is often described as hypoallergenic, meaning it produces less dander than many other breeds. A bulldog has a short, smooth coat that sheds moderately. The French Bull Tzu can inherit either coat type or something in between.

If your puppy has a longer coat, expect to brush it several times a week to prevent mats and tangles. A shorter, bulldog-like coat is easier to maintain but may still shed more than you expect. In either case, regular ear cleaning and wrinkle care around the face are important, especially if the dog has skin folds that can trap moisture.

Grooming Checklist for This Cross

- Brush the coat two to three times per week if it is medium or long.
- Check facial wrinkles and skin folds daily for dirt or dampness.
- Clean the ears weekly, since floppy ears can trap debris.
- Trim nails every three to four weeks.
- Bathe only when needed, using a mild dog shampoo.

Personality and Temperament

The French Bull Tzu tends to be people-oriented and moderately energetic. From the shih tzu side comes a companionable, sometimes stubborn nature. Shih tzus were bred as lap dogs for Chinese royalty, so they enjoy being close to their humans and can be content with indoor play. From the bulldog side comes a calm, courageous, and sometimes lazy streak. Bulldogs are known for their patience and low-key attitude.

In practice, this mix often produces a dog that likes short walks and play sessions but is happy to settle down on the couch afterward. They are alert enough to bark at the doorbell but not typically excessive barkers. Early socialization helps them get along with children and other pets, but their natural temperament is usually gentle.

Exercise Needs

Because neither parent breed is highly athletic, the French Bull Tzu does not need hours of intense exercise. A daily walk of 20 to 30 minutes plus some indoor play is usually enough to keep them fit and mentally stimulated. They can also enjoy a fenced yard for off-leash sniffing, but they are not escape artists or high-speed runners.

Be mindful of their exercise needs during hot weather. Both shih tzus and bulldogs can overheat quickly due to their facial structure and coat. Keep walks short when temperatures rise, and always carry water. Brachycephalic snout types have a harder time panting efficiently, so watch for heavy panting or drooling as signs to stop.

Health Screenings and Common Concerns

As with any crossbreed, the French Bull Tzu can benefit from hybrid vigor - the idea that mixing gene pools may reduce the risk of some inherited diseases. Still, they can inherit health issues from either parent line. Responsible breeders perform common health screenings on their breeding dogs to reduce the odds of passing on serious conditions.



For a shih tzu and bulldog cross, the main areas to screen include hip and elbow joints (both breeds can have dysplasia), eye problems such as dry eye or cherry eye, and skin allergies. Bulldogs are prone to skin fold dermatitis, while shih tzus can have allergies to environmental triggers. A puppy from health-tested parents is more likely to stay healthy, but no crossbreed is guaranteed problem-free.

Health Areas to Discuss With Your Veterinarian

- Joint and bone development, especially hips and knees.
- Eye health, including tear production and eyelid structure.
- Respiratory function, given the brachycephalic snout.

- Skin condition, particularly in facial folds and between toes.

Feeding and Weight Management

Because the bulldog side has a tendency to gain weight easily, it is important to measure food portions and limit treats. The shih tzu and bulldog both do well on a high-quality diet that is appropriate for small-to-medium breeds. Avoid leaving food out all day; instead, feed measured meals twice a day and adjust portions based on your dog's activity level and body condition.

You can tell if your French Bull Tzu is at a healthy weight by feeling their ribs easily under a thin layer of fat and seeing a visible waist when looking from above. If the waist disappears or the ribs are hard to feel, cut back on portions and increase exercise slightly.

Finding a Puppy

When looking for a French Bull Tzu puppy, start by researching breeders who prioritize health testing and socialization. The adult weight range of the parents can give you a rough idea of how big the puppy will grow, but individual variation is normal. Ask to see the parents if possible, and observe their temperament and living conditions.

Puppy price range can vary widely depending on location, breeder reputation, and demand, but you should focus on the breeder's practices rather than the cost alone. A transparent breeder will discuss health screenings, explain the mix of traits they aim for, and offer a health guarantee for the first few weeks after adoption.

Is This Cross Right for You?

The French Bull Tzu suits owners who want a companionable, moderate-energy dog that fits into apartment living or a house with a small yard. They are not ideal for people who want a jogging partner or a dog that can spend long hours alone. They thrive on human contact and moderate activity.

If you already own a shih tzu and bulldog or have experience with either breed, you will find the French Bull Tzu familiar in many ways. Their care needs are manageable for a first-time owner as long as you are ready for regular grooming and routine vet visits. Their affectionate nature and moderate size make them a good match for families, singles, and seniors alike.

No dog is perfect for everyone, but understanding the likely size, coat, health, and personality of this cross helps you make an informed choice. With proper care, a French Bull Tzu can be a loyal and low-maintenance member of your household for many years.