The goals and purposes of this breed standard include:
to furnish guidelines for breeders who wish to maintain
the quality of their breed and to improve it; to advance
this breed to a state of similarity throughout the world;
and to act as a guide for judges.

Breeders and judges have the responsibility to avoid
any conditions or exaggerations that are detrimental to
the health, welfare, essence and soundness of this
breed, and must take the responsibility to see that
these are not perpetuated.

Any departure from the following should be
considered a fault, and the seriousness with which the
fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion
to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare
of the dog and on the dog’s ability to perform its
traditional work.

HISTORY
The Bulldog is an ancestor of the Boxer; various terriers
were also part of its make-up, which gives the breed its
speed, agility and more graceful body. The term “boxer”
is British, but the most recent home country for the
breed is Germany. “Boxer” seems appropriate since it
has a mannerism of using its front legs in combat, much
as a man would in fighting.

The breed was virtually ignored until World War II,
when it was brought into use as a military or police dog.
This helped to insure instant popularity with returning
servicemen, and the breed became in demand in the
United States.

The Boxer was recognized by the United Kennel
Club in 1948.
TEETH - The Boxer's normal bite is undershot. The lower jaw protrudes beyond the upper and curves slightly upward. The canine teeth are widely separated in broad jaws. The teeth are strong and healthy and the incisors are even and set in as straight a line as possible. 

Fault: Poor bite.

EYES - The eyes are not too small or deep set, but never protruding. They are dark brown in color, with dark eye rims. Expression is energetic and intelligent.

Faults: Deep-set eyes; protruding eyes; light eyes; visible conjunctiva (haw).

NOSE - The nose is broad and black and only slightly upturned. The tip of the nose lies somewhat higher than the root of the muzzle, but the nose must not be forced back into the forehead, as in the Bulldog.

EARS - The ears are set high and far apart on the skull. If cropped, they come to a point, are fairly long, and the base is not too broad. If natural, the ears fold forward and lie close to the cheeks.

NECK
The neck is clean, firm, and gracefully arched, blending cleanly into the shoulders. It is fairly long, round, strong and muscular.

FOREQUARTERS
The shoulder blades and upper arms are long and sloping, forming an apparent right angle. They are connected firmly to the body and should be smoothly muscled.

FORELEGS - The forelegs, when seen from the front, have strong bone and are straight and stand parallel to one other. The elbows do not press too closely to the chest wall, nor do they stand off too far. The pasterns are short and almost perpendicular to the ground. The length of leg from elbow to ground is one-half the height at the withers.

BODY
The body is square and compact. The withers are pronounced and the back, including the loin, is short, straight, hard, broad and muscular. The chest is deep to the elbow and the forechest is well-developed. The ribs are well-sprung but not barrel shaped and extend well to the rear of the body. The croup is broad and slightly sloping. The underline is elegant due to an upward curve towards short, taut flanks which are slightly tucked up.

HINDQUARTERS
Well-angulated with strong, hard muscles that are visible under the skin.

HIND LEGS - Thighs are long and broad, lower thigh is very muscular. The hock is well defined but not exaggerated. The rear pastern is short. Viewed from the rear, the legs are straight and parallel from hip to foot.

FEET
The feet are small, round, tight and well-cushioned.

TAIL
The tail is generally docked, set high and carried upward. If left natural, it is of normal length and in overall balance with the dog.

COAT
The coat is short, hard and shiny, and lies smooth and tight to the body.

COLOR
Acceptable colors are fawn and brindle. The fawn is found in various shades, from light yellow to a deep dark red. The brindle variety has black stripes on a golden yellow or red brown background. The stripes are clearly defined.

   White markings are permissible if attractively distributed, but not required. A black mask is absolutely required. When white stretches over the muzzle, that portion of the black mask disappears. However, there must not be so much white on the muzzle that all the black is displaced.

Disqualifications: Albinism. Any color other than fawn or brindle. White markings that exceed one-third of the entire coat.

HEIGHT
Males: 22½ to 25 inches. Females: 21 to 23½ inches. Proper balance and individual quality are of primary importance.

GAIT
The gait is alive with energy; firm, but elastic. The stride is free, roomy and ground-covering. The carriage is proud and noble.

DISQUALIFICATIONS
(A dog with a Disqualification must not be considered for placement in a bench show/conformation event, and must be reported to UKC.)

Unilateral or bilateral cryptorchid.

Viciousness or extreme shyness.

Albinism.

Any color other than fawn or brindle.

White markings that exceed one-third of the entire coat.

The docking of tails and cropping of ears in America is legal and remains a personal choice. However, as an international registry, the United Kennel Club, Inc. is aware that the practices of cropping and docking have been forbidden in some countries. In light of these developments, the United Kennel Club feels that no dog
in any UKC event, including conformation, shall be penalized for a full tail or natural ears.