

French Bulldog Still Tops Rankings

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. registered (adjective) /'rɛdʒ.ɪ.stə-d/ - Officially recorded and recognized.
Example: Only registered voters can participate in the election.
2. sturdy (adjective) /'stɜː.di/ - Strongly and solidly built; robust.
Example: The table was made of sturdy oak wood.
3. controversy (noun) /'kɒ.n.trəˌvɜː.si/ - A prolonged public disagreement or heated discussion.
Example: The new policy caused a lot of controversy among the employees.
4. snout (noun) /snaʊt/ - The projecting nose and mouth of an animal, especially a mammal.
Example: The pig used its snout to dig in the dirt.
5. stubbornness (noun) /'stʌb.ən.nəs/ - The quality of being determined not to change one's attitude or position on something.
Example: Her stubbornness made it difficult to reach a compromise.
6. endorsement (noun) /ɪn'dɔːr.smənt/ - An act of giving one's public approval or support to someone or something.
Example: The candidate received an endorsement from a major political figure.
7. adoption (noun) /ə'dɒ:p.jən/ - The act of taking something on, such as a child, idea, or practice, as one's own.
Example: The couple was excited about the adoption of their new baby.



French bulldogs continue to be the most commonly **registered** purebred dogs in the United States, according to the American Kennel Club (AKC). These small, **sturdy** dogs, affectionately known as "Frenchies," are beloved for their comical expressions and adapt well to city living. However, their popularity is not without **controversy** due to health concerns related to their shortened **snouts**.

Dachshunds have achieved their highest ranking since 2004, securing sixth place. These cute, determined dogs are known for their small size, full-sized bark, and occasional **stubbornness**. In the past, they even reached as high as third place in popularity during the 1950s-70s.

The cane corso, pronounced "CAH'-neh COOR'-soh," has risen to 16th place in the AKC rankings. This breed, which the AKC began counting in 2010, is gaining popularity, possibly due to celebrity **endorsements** (such as NBA star LeBron James). Cane corsos are known for being protective, trainable, and deeply attached to their human companions.

Last year, U.S. animal shelters and rescue groups took in approximately 3.2 million dogs, while 2.2 million dogs found new homes through **adoption**. The Shelter Animals Count organization emphasizes the need for renewed efforts to prioritize adoption within the community.

DISCUSSION

1. If French bulldogs had a secret talent, what would it be?
2. Imagine a dachshund detective solving mysteries—what would their first case be?
3. Create a fictional celebrity cane corso owner and describe their adventures together.
4. What if dogs could vote? Which breed would run for office, and what would their campaign promises be?
5. If you could adopt any dog breed, real or imaginary, which one would you choose and why?
6. If you are to organize a "Bark Olympics" with different dog breeds competing in quirky events—what would those events be?