



# Collecting Frenchie Owners

**Lynne Hudson**

**With the help of some of her friends!**

Frenchies, although a relatively modern breed, have entrenched themselves into history in a fascinating way, being the boon companions of many famous people. Collecting information about famous owners, has led me and many of my friends to acquire a lovely collection of photos and press reports.

Wherever fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent [below right] goes he takes his beloved French Bulldog Moujik with him. If a country won't allow Moujik in, then St Laurent simply stays at home.

"We are both set in our ways, with our foibles, but most important of all we have the same tastes," he says.

"He likes certain materials - don't laugh, but the sound of taffeta being unrolled sends him into a frenzy."

Australia's SBS (foreign content TV station) had a documentary on Yves Saint Laurent and his Frenchie was with him during the interview. Australia's Women's Weekly (March 2001) feature YSL and it stated he has had a number of French Bulldogs, but he gives them all the same name. I've been told St Laurant's dog is a terror - goes after everything!

Frenchies have had a venerable cast of owners over the last few decades. Beverley Hills 90201's Jason Priestly calls his dog Swifty Lugnuts and this



Frenchie regularly appears on the set of 90201 and shared the limelight with Jason in an advertising campaign for Canadian clothing company Roots [see p 14].

Konrad Lorenz's Man Meets Dog is peppered throughout with mention and observation of his Frenchie, Bully.

Amongst Australian achievers, Johnny Lockwood (#96) owned Candy in the 1940s who he still fondly remembers. The famous artist Sidney Nolan and Sam Hordern of a wealthy Australian retail family have both been devoted Frenchie owners. While ex-pat Kerry Heysen-Hicks arranged a Frenchie gathering in Canada during the filming of Snow Falling on Cedars to satisfy her need to be among Frenchies.

Famous Amercian families that have owned French Bulldodgs include the Morgans and the Rockefellers.

While in the theatre/film industry, Douglas Fairbanks [see to right], Hermione Baddeley (several films including Disney productions and the housekeeper from the series Maude), Dorothy Parker author, Jack Nicholson's daughter, Colette, Geraldine Chaplin, and Elizabeth McGovern number among owners of French Bulldogs.

The original dog in Baum's Wizard of Oz was a French Bulldog, but was replaced by a Cairn Terrier because they had more appeal to the public - little did they know!

Robert W Daniels paid US\$750- for his Frenchie Gamin De Pycombe who was lost at sea on The Titanic.



Amongst aristocracy and royalty, the Frenchie has loyal supporters too. Prince Felix, who later assassinated Rasputin, owned many Frenchies. An Austrian Prince of Coburg and Princess Caroline of Monaco have owned Pieds. King Edward VII's was called Peter, and the Marchioness of Rippon, Lady Margaret Campbell, Lady Waterlow, and the Countess of Sponneck-Mayer have also enjoyed the whimsical charms of the French version of the Bulldog.



Tsar Nicholas II and Empress Alexandra, of the Russian Imperial family, loved animals. Their second daughter Tatiana [see to left] had a French Bulldog called Ortino who was very privileged and had complete run of the palace. He even slept at the foot of Tatiana's bed. Ortino would snore loudly, which disturbed Olga who slept in the same bedroom. Olga's cat, Vaska, and Ortino were special favourites of the family, and would chase one another across furniture and tabletops, knocking precious items and paperwork. Rather than being scolded for these antics, they were a source of entertainment for the Romanovs who treated their pets as part of the family. Ortino went with

Tatiana into exile. The last time Ortino was seen was in Tatiana's arms as she struggled carrying a heavy suitcase through ankle deep mud. =