



# Official Rulebook

## NCBR Information, Guidelines, and Rules

NCBR  
P.O. Box 536  
Wheatland, WY 82201

PH: 307-331-3415  
ncbregistry@yahoo.com  
www.ncbregistry.com

*Contact us to request  
a copy of the NCBR rule  
book or for applications.*

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The National Catahoula Bulldog Registry  
P.O. Box 536  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
PH: 307-331-1724  
Email: [ncbregistry@yahoo.com](mailto:ncbregistry@yahoo.com)  
[www.ncbregistry.com](http://www.ncbregistry.com)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The National Catahoula Bulldog Registry (NCBR) will strive to preserve the true Catahoula Bulldog by adhering to quality standards and providing an accurate and valid outlet for registration and documentation of the lineage and achievements of the dogs within the organization.

### **SECT 1: REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS OF REGISTRATION**

There will be 2 types of registration accepted through the NCBR. These are as follows:

- Regular Registration:  
Any dog with 25% minimum of either breed will be registered as “regular registration.” These dogs are eligible to compete in any competitions, and will be eligible to obtain points towards their champion and further (GRCH, CH of CH, etc) titles.
- Breeding Stock Registration:  
Any pure Catahoula Leopard Dog or American Bulldog used to produce a catahoula bulldog will be registered and archived as “breeding stock” within this organization. Any cross resulting in one breed representing less than 25% may also be registered as breeding stock. Breeding stock dogs may compete in any competitions, if separate breeding stock classes are held, but will not be able to obtain points towards a championship and further within this organization. The cross of a breeding stock registered catahoula/american bulldog cross with another dog resulting in a litter that does not meet the 25% of either breed required for regular registration, that litter will not be eligible for any form of registration: i.e.: litters or individual puppies will not be eligible for “breeding stock” registration until after one year of age as a single “breeding stock” registration.

Only purebred American Bulldogs and Catahoula Leopard Dogs may be used to produce a true catahoula bulldog.

- To provide a verified pedigree for registration within this organization, you may submit a copy of the dog’s current registration papers from another registry for board consideration.
- Registered purebred dogs are eligible for breeding stock registration.

A five (5) generation pedigree is required for registration. If a dog does not have a known five

generation pedigree, a verified four (4) generation pedigree may be used after consideration from the board of directors.

- Any question of the validity or authenticity of a pedigree, even if it comes from another registry, will be put before the board of directors, and the owner of the dog will have an adequate opportunity to verify it.
- If the organization denies registration of a dog, the owner will be promptly notified and may be able to appeal the case one time before the board of directors.

Terms of registration:

- To register any dog above the age of 1 year the dog will be considered “adult” and all fees and conditions will apply. Any dog under 1 year of age will be considered “puppy” and all fees and conditions will apply.
- To register a litter of catahoula bulldogs with this organization, a litter registration must be requested. A picture of the male and female dog “tied” to act as parentage verification, as well as a picture upon whelping of the dam and her pups. These two pictures must accompany a litter registration application to be filed by the owner of the dam of the litter after the whelping. If either picture is not available, the registration of the litter may be presented for consideration to the board and other forms of verification may be requested. Once processed, registration applications for each living puppy will be issued to the owner of the dam.

*Understanding the Registration Numbers:*

The following system has been implemented concerning NCBR registration numbers, the dogs’ individual numbers will be in the order they’re applications are received in the mail and processed. The first digit will be a 1,2, or 3 representing what division the dog is in, and X for breeding stock dogs. The next digit will be a 1 for male dogs, or a 2 for females. The next two digits will be the last two digits of the dog’s birth year. The following digits will be the dog’s individual number.

Example: 1207001 (Div 1; Female; Born in 2007; individual number).

#### ***CERTIFIED BREEDER PROGRAM***

The NCBR Certified Breeder program was designed to be an outlet for the public to find reputable breeders of the catahoula bulldog, as well as an outlet to bring breeders together. The one-time fee is paid back tenfold in all the free advertising and recognition for certified breeders for life.

**NCBR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVOKE AND CANCEL CERTIFIED BREEDER STATUS AT THEIR DISCRETION.**

**BENEFITS:** lifetime Certified Breeder status; lifetime recognition on the NCBR website, facebook, and any other publications; free lifetime advertising for dogs/puppies for sale on the NCBR website, facebook, and any other publications; free recognition and advertising at all events; priority on processing of applications and certificates; reduced registration fees.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Breeder only uses pure bred catahoula leopard dogs and American bulldogs and succeeding crosses to breed catahoula bulldogs; minimum of 3 years experience owning a catahoula bulldog; at least one regular registry catahoula bulldog *and* one breeding stock dog currently registered with NCBR; two letters of recommendation, one being from a licensed veterinarian stating the breeder’s dogs are of good health and well cared for; one-time fee of \$50.

## **SECT. 2: FEES**

Litter Registration - \$10.00 (Certified Breeder: \$5.00)

Puppy (any dog under 1 year of age) REGULAR Registration - \$15.00 (Certified Breeder: \$10.00)

Adult Breeding Stock Registration - \$20.00 (Certified Breeder: \$10.00)

Adult (any dog 1 year and older) REGULAR Registry - \$20.00 (Certified Breeder: 10.00)

- The fees that are paid go directly back into the organization in means of expense of competitions, awards, printing and issuing of registration certificates, advertising, etc.

NCBR Certified Breeder - \$50.00

NCBR Team Member (Membership without registering a dog) - \$10.00

Duplicate Certificate Fee - \$25.00

There will be entry fees for each event, to be determined by each event. These reasonable fees will go back into the event and the organization for expenses as mentioned above. Monetary payments will not be issued as awards at events from the organization; this does not include gift certificates or other donated awards.

## **SECT. 3: NCBR COMPETITIONS**

There will be a minimum of 2 competitions per year sponsored by the NCBR, more if available. At least one of these competitions will be held in a north/central location and at least one will be held in a southern location.

All dogs, intact or altered, may compete together in all working events. There will be separate altered classes in conformation for each division.

Dogs may compete in the following working event areas within the NCBR if they hold regular registry:

- Conformation
- Working
  - Hog Baying
  - Treeing
  - Cattle Work
  - Blood Trailing
  - Obedience
  - Agility

In order to hold a class at an event, a minimum of 2 dogs must be entered in that class. Separate classes may be offered for breeding stock dogs if applicable. No titles may be earned through the NCBR for breeding stock dogs, however those dogs may earn titles through other registries (such as UKC, NALC, etc).

For both working and conformation classes: a breeding stock dog that has less than 25% catahoula will be allowed to compete in special classes with pure American bulldogs. A breeding stock dog that has less than 25% bulldog will be allowed to compete in special classes with pure catahoulas.

Working Competition:

No working event will be divided according to percentage of the hybrid. All regular registry catahoula bulldogs will run together in each respective event. A “Top Dog” award will be awarded at each working event for the dog receiving the most points at that event, including conformation. To be eligible for the “Top Dog” award at an event, a dog must be entered in conformation and at least one working event.

Bitches in season will be allowed to compete in working events but the following rules will apply: they must always be displayed at the end of each working event after all classes, kept away from all other dogs and must wear a properly fitted and secured diaper. They must be housed away from the area of competition and any other dogs, including other dogs in possession of the handler/owner to limit the spread of her scent during the competition.

Conformation Competition:

Conformation will be divided into 3 divisions in which the dogs will be judged against the NCBR official breed standard (*Supplement 1*). The 3 divisions will be as follows: Division 1: All 50/50, F1 catahoula bulldogs with exactly 50% catahoula and 50% bulldog. Division 2: All dogs with more than 50% catahoula, not exceeding 75%. Division 3: all dogs with more than 50% bulldog, not exceeding 75%.

Bitches in season will be allowed to compete in conformation competition but the following rules will apply: they must always be displayed at the end of their class and in a separate area (i.e. outside of the ring in a place other than the waiting area but nearby), kept away from all other dogs and must wear a tight fitting and properly secured diaper. They must be housed away from the area of competition and any other dogs, including other dogs in possession of the handler/owner to limit the spread of her scent during the competition.

Within each division there will be the following classes, separate for male and female except hip certified, and altered classes in which males and females will compete together:

- 3-6 months (puppy)
- 6-12 months (puppy)
- 1-3 years and older
- 4 years and older (Senior)
- Hip Certified All Ages/Genders
- Altered Dogs All Ages/Genders

First places from the puppy classes, male and female, within each division will compete for “Best In Show (BIS) Puppy” and “Reserve Best In Show Puppy” for that event. Puppy BIS will not be included in BOTB.

The first placing dogs, both male and females, in the remaining adult classes will combine to compete for “Best In Show” and “Reserve Best In Show” for that event separately in all 3 divisions (resulting in a Div 1 BIS, Reserve BIS; Div 2 BIS, Reserve BIS; and a Div 3 BIS, Reserve BIS).

The BIS and Reserve BIS adults (not including puppy BIS) will then compete for one title “Best Of The Best” for that event, regardless of gender, in which they will all be judged against basic structure, soundness, and correctness and the best representation of the catahoula bulldog will be awarded BOTB for that event.

For altered dogs – each of the 3 divisions will hold an “altered dogs” class where male and female will compete together. The first placing dogs from each division will come together and compete for a single

“Best Altered Dog” for that event. Altered dogs will not compete in conformation against intact dogs for “Best In Show” or “Best of the Best” awards – the “Best Altered Dog” is their form of that.

The judge(s) of each event will make their choices based upon their knowledge of all three divisions and their interpretation of the standard for each division. The judge will not show preference for a specific “type” of dog (bully vs less bully etc), but will keep basic structure, soundness, and correctness as number one priority in all divisions.

Pre entry will be required for all events until further notice. Further details on individual event rules, terms, conditions, entries, etc will be provided accordingly.

More than one judge may be present at a show. If there is more than one judge, they will work separately. Their placings need not be the same, as it will be each judges’ opinions of the best representation of the breed standard. Points off placing of a class at an event will be awarded for each judge’s placings as if it were separate shows.

#### **SECT. 4: TITLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Dogs within this organization who are registered regular registry may compete to gain points toward a championship title and further. There will be points awarded for every win for every class and BIS, BOTB awards won and records kept by the organization for every dog, once a designated number of points are gathered, the dog will be awarded with the specific title.

Titles will be available in all working and conformation events listed above. Additional titles will be available for dogs and are as follows: “Super Dog” – holds CH titles in conformation AND any 4 of the 6 working events. “Mega Dog” – holds CH titles in conformation and all 6 working events.

“Ultra Dog” title will represent an altered dog who holds CH titles in 4 of the 6 working events. Any dog, intact or altered, that holds a regular registry status with NCBR may compete and earn points toward the same titles and achievements for working events. When a dog gains a CH and further, they will receive a certificate of achievement and a special stamp on their original registration papers.

Please see *Supplement 2* for more info on achieving titles

#### **SECT. 5: CHAMPION OF THE FIELD (CHF) TITLE**

NCBR will be offering a unique title called Champion of the Field. Due to the widespread Catahoula bulldog owners and breeders, and to the small number of competitions required each year, dogs may work towards their own kind of championship title at home doing their daily "job." The CHF title will only be available for the following working areas: Hog Baying, Treeing, Cattle Work, Blood Trailing and will also include Hog Catching.

To earn a CHF title, the dog must be nominated (owners and handlers may nominate their own dogs) and a detailed application must be completed accompanied by 3 letters of recommendation by first hand witnesses to the dogs working abilities. The nomination will then go before the board of directors for approval. Both intact and altered dogs regardless of gender are eligible for this title. There is a nomination fee, it is as follows: \$15.00 for a dog's first nomination, \$10 for each additional one for that same dog. The dog will be awarded with a certificate denoting this achievement for each event, and will receive a special stamp on their original registration papers.

#### **SECT. 6: CODE OF CONDUCT**

When you have a dog registered with this organization, that then makes you a member of this organization. Members of this organization are expected to treat one another with respect and understanding. The purpose of this organization is to preserve the true Catahoula bulldog, to correctly archive their lineage, and to host competition and standards at which the quality of the dogs may be judged, awarded, and improved upon. We want to educate people of the importance of preservation of these dogs, and believe the dogs should be given the respect and recognition they deserve. We want to bring together Catahoula bulldog owners, enthusiasts and reputable breeders across the nation.

This means: we are here for the dogs. The board of directors will not tolerate any negative behavior from its members in any form. All members will be treated equally by the organization because they all have equal importance to the success of this organization. In any case of poor sportsmanship, known mistreatment of dogs or livestock, slanderous or malicious behavior, etc - disciplinary action will be taken.



## NCBR OFFICIAL CATHAOULA BULLDOG BREED STANDARD

Last Revised: Dec 8, 2012

**General Description:** The Catahoula Bulldog is a medium to large sized dog that is an athletic, non-bulky, free breathing, and versatile working dog. They are protective, loyal companions and working partners with a high eagerness to please. They are an animated and personable dog, sometimes vocal. Generally the Catahoula Bulldog possesses the intelligence, endurance, and prey drive of the Catahoula, while being slightly heavier bodied with a more robust skull, strong jaw, and mild temperament. The Catahoula Bulldog may be 50% Catahoula Leopard Dog and 50% American Bulldog in a first generation cross, with succeeding generation crosses of up to 75%-25% mix in either direction.

**General Appearance:** The Catahoula Bulldog should generate the impression of strength, agility, endurance while exhibiting a well-knit, sturdy, compact frame with the absence of excessive bulk. Males are typically larger, more masculine appearing than females. The Catahoula Bulldog has a short smooth coat which comes in a wide variety of colors ranging from any solid, leopard, merle, patched, brindle, or any combination of these. Eyes may be any color or combination of colors (cracked or marbled) in one or both eyes. Tails can be long, docked, or naturally bobbed in any length with no preference. Weight should be proportionate to the body type and size thus giving the dog a smooth and balanced appearance.

The Catahoula Bulldogs holding regular registry will be categorized in three divisions for conformation judging purposes:

**Division 1:** Any dog containing exactly 50% Catahoula Leopard Dog and 50% American Bulldog; F1.

**Division 2:** Any dog containing more than 50% Catahoula Leopard Dog but not exceeding 75% Catahoula Leopard Dog; F2 and further.

**Division 3:** Any dog containing more than 50% American Bulldog but not exceeding 75% American Bulldog; F2 and further.

To be eligible for "regular registry" status any variation is acceptable so long as it does not exceed crosses of up to 75%-25% mix in either direction to insure preservation of both breed traits to be apparent. The main characteristics of each individual dog will differ, but may generally be determined by what percentage is higher, most often the differences being in body type or size, but there are also other subtle differences.

Notes: Use of either "type" of American bulldog (Standard/Bully) is acceptable with no preference so long as the resulting catahoula bulldog meets the breed standard for length of muzzle and absence of excessive bulk. This is a traditionally working breed, therefore their athletic ability, free breathing, and functional conformation is imperative and thus enables them to withstand fatigue and thrive during physical activity. Acceptable dogs that are a cross between a Catahoula Leopard Dog and American Bulldog that contain less than the 25% minimum of either breed may be registered as "breeding stock." Offspring of these dogs are eligible for regular registry only, a cross between two breeding stock dogs resulting again in a litter that doesn't meet the regular registry status will not be eligible for any form of registration. Pure bred registered Catahoula Leopard Dogs and American Bulldogs may also be registered as "breeding stock" within the organization.

***The following are standards of quality to which dogs competing in NCBR conformation events will be held. The general specifications for all divisions of catahoula bulldogs are listed first, with any variation of acceptability in a division listed second if applicable. Dogs in NCBR conformation competitions will be judged by how closely they meet these standards as interpreted by the individual judge(s) on that day to decide what dogs best represent the catahoula bulldog.***

**SIZE:** Males 21-26 inches at the withers and may weigh from 50-100 pounds. Females: 20-26 inches at the withers and may weigh from 45-90 pounds. There should be noticeable size difference in males and females. The weight should always be proportionate to the body size. Any deviation from the ideal height and weight should be judged by the extent of the deviation, and the effect it may have on the dog's athleticism and/or working ability.

**HEAD and MUZZLE:** Powerfully built head with well defined cheeks and a moderate muzzle. The length of muzzle should be at minimum 40% the length of the head when viewed from the side, and should show a well defined "stop" from muzzle to skull. A slight median furrow

between the eyes is acceptable. Gender differences should be apparent in the characteristics of the head. The muzzle should be broad at the base and taper towards the nose when viewed from the front with wide-open nostrils. Lips may be tight or very slightly pendulous with pigment of any color or combination of colors. Moderate loose skin around the jowls is acceptable. Large wolf-like teeth are preferred and must be large and strong; even, reverse scissor, or scissor bites are accepted, though even and reverse scissor are preferred. Lip pigment may be any color, though black is preferred. Nose leather may be any color or combination of colors, though solid black is preferred.

*DIV 2:* length of muzzle and skull may be closer to equal and a less robust skull is acceptable.

*DIV 3:* a more round and robust skull with larger more pronounced cheeks is acceptable.

Faults: Completely white head; narrow skull; under or overbite; a muzzle less than 40% the length of the head when viewed from the side; narrow muzzle; pinched nares.

Disqualifications: severe under, over, or wry bite; teeth showing when mouth is closed; a muzzle less than 25% the length of the head when viewed from the side.

**EARS and EYES:** The eyes may be any color or combination of colors with no eye colors having preference over another. Eyes may be round or almond shaped, and of medium size. Black or pink eye rims are accepted, though black is preferred. The haw should not be visible. Ears may be rose or button over, medium in length, moderate in size, and proportionately wide at the base. The top of the ear fold should be level or slightly below the top line of the skull.

Faults: Pupils not centered; excessive haw visible; upright ears; ears disproportionately small or large.

Disqualifications: Non-symmetrical pupils; crossed eyes; blind dogs; dogs deaf in one or both ears; retina deformations; microphthalmia; protruding or popped-out eyes; cropped ears.

**NECK, CHEST, and SHOULDER:** Neck is muscular and of good length and may possess a slight arch, widens as it blends into the shoulders. The shoulders are strong and wide, muscular without being bulky, with the forelegs set moderately apart. The chest should be deep and moderately wide without being excessively wide as to throw the shoulders out.

Faults: Neck too short and thick or too thin and weak; narrow or shallow chest; elbows turned out or tied in; excessively wide or heavy shoulder disproportionate to hindquarter.

**BODY and HINDQUARTER:** The topline should suggest well developed withers, a level back, and strong slightly arched **loin** being overall level or slightly higher toward the rear. The back should be of medium length, strong and broad. The hindquarters should be well muscled and should not appear thin and weak. Dogs may be slightly lighter in the hindquarters than in forequarters, but not so much as to give a disproportionate appearance.

Faults: Sway back; lack of tuck up; exaggerated tuck up; loin too long; weak or disproportionately small hindquarter.

**LEGS and FEET:** Legs are strong and straight with moderate to heavy bone. Front legs should not be set too close together nor too far apart. Rear legs should have visible angulation of the stifle joint. Feet are webbed and of medium size with toes that are well arched being preference. Nails should appear strong and healthy, and may be of any pigmentation, though dark is preferred. When standing the rear pasterns must appear short and strong, and be perpendicular to the ground while paralleling one another. Dewclaws on the hind feet may be present or removed, though removed is preferred.

Faults: Weak pasterns; wrists knuckled over; feet toed-in or toed-out; cow or open hocked; in at the elbows or bowlegged; splay feet; light bone structure.

**TAIL:** Tail is thicker at the base, tapering toward the tip. It may be long, docked after birth, or naturally bobbed in any length with no preference of one style over another. Exhibitors should not hold tails upright, but let the dog hold it in their natural position.

Faults: A tail naturally bobbed possessing a hook or being crooked.

Disqualification: Complete absence of tail with no external coccygeal vertebrae present; a tail docked in an unprofessional manner, resulting in scarring or deformity of the tail.

**COAT:** Straight, short single coats are desired. Slight feathering on the underside of the tail, backs of legs and chest may be present. Coats may be any color or combination of colors and patterns with no preference of one over another.

*DIV 3:* a more predominantly white coat is acceptable, though not preferred.

Fault: 85% or more white coat for Div 1-2; 95% or more white coat for Div 3

Disqualification: Excessively long or shaggy coat.

**MOVEMENT:** The gait is balanced and smooth, powerful and unhindered suggesting agility and showing strong driving action from the hind quarters with corresponding reach in front. As speed increases the feet move toward the center line of the body to maintain balance. The top line remains firm and mostly level, parallel to the line of motion. Head and tail carriage should reflect that of a proud, confident, and alert animal.

Faults: Any suggestion of clumsiness; crossing or interference of front or rear legs; short or stilted steps; twisting joints; pacing or unilateral movements, paddling, or weaving. A dog so bulky that it would hinder working ability. Similar movement faults are to be penalized according to the degree to which they interfere with the ability of the dog to perform.

**TEMPERAMENT:** The dogs should be confident and self assured, eager to please. They should be friendly on average and mild tempered. They should be protective but not outwardly aggressive without provocation. Aloofness with strangers and other dogs is acceptable and not considered a fault.

Fault: Overly aggressive or overly shy.

Disqualification: Viciousness; lack of control by the handler; actions of a dog or handler that may or do result in endangerment of another person or dog.

#### **NOTES:**

1. Males or females can be altered and this should not be considered a fault or reason for disqualification, but will be shown separately from intact dogs.
2. When showing teeth in the ring a handler can ask if he/she can show them to the judge to prevent any unsafe occurrence.
3. Owner/handler should know how to properly restrain the dog with expert showmanship while being inspected by the judge.
4. Scars on the dog and broken teeth should not be considered a fault, as this is a working breed.
5. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in conformation and events. See Sect. 3 of the NCBR Rulebook for further information.



**NCBR OFFICIAL POINTS SYSTEM FOR TITLING**

**TITLES:**

**Champion - 25 points and**

Conformation: minimum 2 first places, 1 Best In Show or Reserve BIS, 1 Best of the Best award.

Working events: minimum 3 first places in that event.

**Grand Champion - 35 points and**

Conformation: Minimum 2 first places, 2 Best In Show or Reserve BIS, 2 Best of the Best awards.

Working events: minimum 4 first places in that event.

**Combined Champion**

13 points in any 2 events, working and/or conformation = 26 points total

**Altered Champion (conformation) – 20 points and**

2 first places in an altered dog class and 1 Best Altered Dog award.

**Champion of the Field Title**

Described in the rules section.

All dogs, altered or intact, may hold titles in any working event. Breeding stock dogs may gain no titles within this organization but may hold titles from other pure bred organizations to be recognized within this organization.

**POINTS SYSTEM:**

For Conformation:

1<sup>st</sup> placing – 5 pts

2<sup>nd</sup> placing – 4 pts

3<sup>rd</sup> placing – 3 pts

4<sup>th</sup> placing – 2 pts

5<sup>th</sup> placing – 1 pt

Divisional Best In Show

(puppy or adult) – 7 points

Divisional Reserve Best In Show

(puppy or adult) – 5 points

Best of the Best – 10 points

Best Altered Dog – 10 points

For all working events:

1<sup>st</sup> placing – 5 pts

2<sup>nd</sup> placing – 4 pts

3<sup>rd</sup> placing – 3 pts

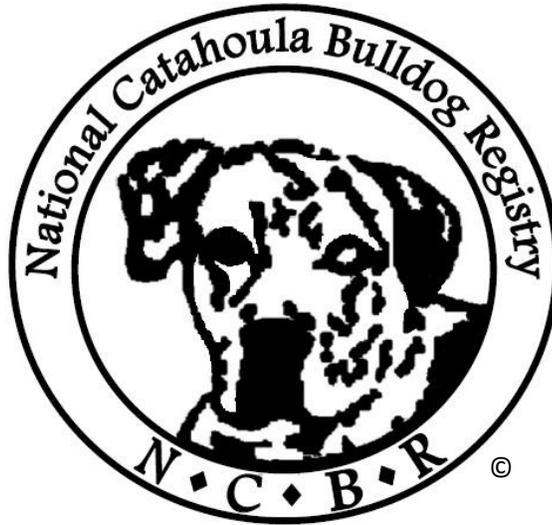
4<sup>th</sup> placing – 2 pts

5<sup>th</sup> placing – 1 pt

Top Dog Award – 10 points towards a working title, any Top Dog points will be available to use towards any event in which there was a placing at that show – (for example a dog receiving points in both treeing and cattle could use the 10 points toward a CH title in both events separately).

There will be no placing ties allowed in conformation.

In the event of a tie in a working event – will either be broken by a work-off, or the placing points will be added and then divided equally – for example a 2 way tie first and second = 5pts + 4pts divided by two = 4.5 pts each. Both dogs may count that towards a “first placing.”



Thank you for your interest, support, and participation within the National Catahoula Bulldog Registry.

National Catahoula Bulldog Registry

P.O. Box 536

Wheatland, WY 82201

PH: 307-331-3415

[ncbregistry@yahoo.com](mailto:ncbregistry@yahoo.com)

[www.ncbregistry.com](http://www.ncbregistry.com)