

Pit Bull Fact Check!

The American Pit Bull Terrier “at-a-glance”

www.realpitbull.com

- “Pit Bull” is short for “AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER”.
- The name “Pit Bull” is very often misapplied to dogs that are not actually American Pit Bull Terriers. Many dogs are mistaken for or mislabeled as “Pit Bulls”.
- Technically, only dogs known or believed to be American PIT BULL Terriers should be called by the nickname, “Pit Bull”.
- The Pit Bull is recognized as a purebred breed of dog by the United Kennel Club (UKC), the second largest all-breed registry in the United States. The breed was officially recognized in 1898, the year the UKC was founded.
- Pit Bulls were created by crossing bulldogs and working terriers. The breed was originally created to be used in then-popular dog fighting matches in Great Britain and the U.S. but was also simultaneously used as a catch and working dog and family companion.
- Today, the Pit Bull is widely recognized as a loving family companion, and regularly competes in weight pull, obedience, agility, and conformation shows.
- The Pit Bull is a medium sized breed, generally between 40 – 60 pounds. They come in all colors except merle.
- There are some awful myths surrounding the Pit Bull breed. All of these myths are unfounded or grossly exaggerated.
- The Pit Bull does not have bite pressure that is higher than any other breed. In fact, the Pit Bull has very average or below average bite pressure for a dog of its general size. The average bite pressure of a dog is 320 pounds, and Pit Bulls fall at or below that average.
- The jaws of Pit Bulls do not lock, and in fact are the same as any other dog of comparable size. They work the same way any other breed’s jaws work, as well.
- Pit Bulls do not ‘snap’, their brains do not swell, and their skulls are not too small for their brains. All of these myths were originally told about Dobermans, but were transferred onto Pit Bulls when Dobermans lost favor as the ‘demon dog de jour’.

- Pit Bulls are very friendly with humans and they do not discriminate between family members, friends, or strangers. For this reason, they do not make good guard dogs, nor are they good for personal protection.
- Pit Bulls as a whole tend to be ‘dog sensitive’ – they require a lot of early socialization with other dogs, as well as proactive training that will help them learn to properly interact with and behave around other members of their species. Some Pit Bulls prefer the company of humans over other dogs, and those do best in single-dog homes.
- Pit Bulls learn toward the high end of the prey-drive scale and so may have a tendency to chase wildlife or harass family cats.
- Obedience training and lots of early socialization is essential for the Pit Bull. They require a fully committed guardian who will spend time on daily exercise and training.
- Because of the negative stigma the breed carries, guardians must often endure landlord bias, refusal of coverage from insurance companies, local or state regulations or breed bans, and judgment from family, friends and the public.