



Endangered Breeds Association
Rt. 1 Box 71
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Purpose

Endangered Breeds Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1980 for the purpose of preserving the American Pit Bull Terrier. Our goals are public education, media monitoring, legislative lobbying, and legal intervention to protect responsible dog owners from breed-specific legislation and unfair harassment by public officials or agencies. We oppose animal abuse or any illegal activities with animals.

What are “Bull and Terrier” breeds?

No other group of dogs has been so misunderstood by the general public, or as misrepresented by the media, as the bull and terrier breeds. Because modern dog registries only trace these dogs to their first dog's ancestors, there is considerable dispute over their exact origins. It is generally believed that their common ancestors came from a mixing of the ancient bull dog breed and various working terrier breeds in 18th and 19th century England and Ireland.

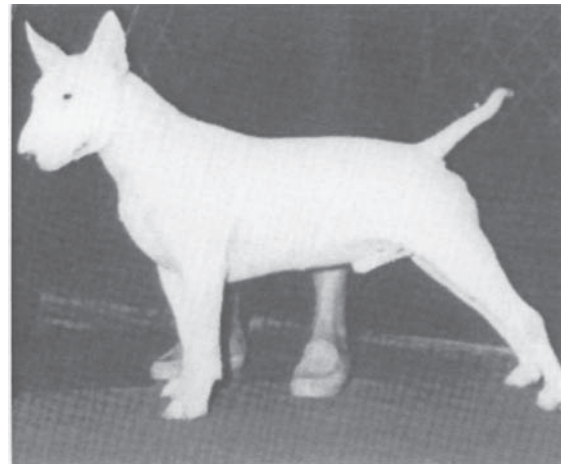


Staffordshire Bull Terrier

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Many people believe this breed to be the direct descendent of the original bull dog and terrier cross-breedings. Prior to the early 1930s, the Staffordshire Bull Terriers were a loosely knit group known as bull and terriers, pit dogs, or pit bull and terriers. These dogs had spread far and wide with British settlers, becoming popular in New Zealand, Rhodesia, South Africa, Canada, and the United States.

The English breed standard was established in 1935, and the first championship points were awarded by the Kennel club of England in 1938. The breed standard was revised in 2948, greatly changing the appearance of the dog, and reducing their maximum height from 18 inches to 16 inches for the purpose of creating a smaller dog and increasing their appeal. One of England's most popular terriers, it is affectionately known as “the children's nursemaid.” The Staffordshire Bull Terrier was officially recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1972.



Bull Terrier

The Bull Terrier

Once you've seen a bull terrier, you'll remember its unusual look forever. You might even remember some of their names because this dog has been immortalized as “Wildfire” in “It's A Dog's Life;” Gen. Patton's “Willie,” Black Sheep Squadron's “Meatball,” and the now famous, “Spuds MacKenzie.”

An Englishman, James Hinks, crossed the original Bull and Terrier breed with Dalmatians and the now extinct White English Terrier in an attempt to develop an all white dog. The breed, introduced in 1862, was an instant success and was known as the “White Cavalier” by the sporting gentry. In 1888, the first Bull Terrier Club was formed in England, and, in 1895, the Bull Terrier was accepted by the American Kennel Club.

The sweeping downface look of the breed is a modification coming from a popular 1918 champion. Today the American Kennel Club recognizes three variations of Bull Terriers - the original White Bull Terrier; the Colored Bull Terrier (outcrossed back to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier around 1910 and recognized by the AKC since 1936); and the Miniature Bull Terrier, recognized by the AKC since 1963.

“Willie,” a Colored Bull Terrier, won the 2006 prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Best in Show Award.



American Pit Bull Terrier

The American Pit Bull Terrier

Like the other descendants of the Bull and Terrier dogs, most of the ancestors of the American Pit Bull Terrier came to America from the British Isles during the 18th and 19th centuries. Early photographs show them with pioneers and wagon trains. During the Americanization of the Bull and Terriers, a great many of these working and family dogs had developed along different bloodlines, and were different colors, shapes and sizes, depending on their ancestry. At one time, these dogs were valued because of their versatility. While some were used as fighting dogs, their tough nature made them worthwhile companions for an expanding America.

Because of their lack of uniform size, two separate registries, The United Kennel Club (established in 1898) and The American Dog Breeders Association (established in 1909), were developed to record their ancestry. They were known as American Bull Terriers for a time, then renamed the American Pit Bull Terrier.

This breed always has been respected for its tenacious “bull dog” loyalty, and good family manners. The original Our Gang comedy's “Pete” dog was actually a series of several registered American Pit Bull Terriers. Our World War I mascot was an American Pit Bull Terrier, as was the Buster Brown dog.

Throughout the years, these dogs have been known as a stable, reliable family dog when owned responsibly. A true American possession.

Today they are used in shows, obedience, agility, tracking, search and rescue, law enforcement detection dogs, therapy dogs and in weight pulling events.

Helen Keller owned an American Pit Bull Terrier. The

dog is a WWI National Hero, having fought on the front lines for the United States of America. A APBT named SRGT Stubby is the most decorated dog of any war our country has ever fought.

In 1903 the first car to ever cross the United States had a companion along for the ride. His name was “BUD” and he was an American Pit Bull Terrier.

Brett Favre, of NFL football fame, owns an American Pit Bull Terrier. Cesar Milan, known throughout the world as the “dog whisperer”, owns several American Pit Bull Terriers.



American Staffordshire Bull Terrier

The American Staffordshire Terrier

Due to the immense popularity of the American Pit Bull Terrier during the 1930s, the American Kennel Club accepted the American Pit Bull Terrier and named it the American Staffordshire Terrier. “Pete” from the Our Gang comedies, became one of the first dual registered UKC-AKC Staffordshire Terriers. All dogs accepted by AKC had to show a three generation pedigree as an American Pit Bull Terrier; meet an AKC established criteria; and be registered during the opening time schedule.

The breed was renamed the American Staffordshire Terrier in 1972. A great many Am-Staffs, as they frequently are called, also are registered as American Pit Bull Terriers with other registries.

In the half-century since the dog was accepted by AKC, many subtle differences have developed between the American Staffordshire Terrier and the American Pit Bull Terrier. Some breeders even maintain they have become a separate breed, even though they share the same bloodlines.



This woman is meeting an American Pit Bull Terrier for the first time. Much to her surprise, "Rudy" just wanted to be her friend.



This American Staffordshire Terrier is a registered therapy dog. Therapy dogs must be thoroughly tested and obedience-trained. They must have an outstanding temperament, as they will encounter a variety of unusual circumstances while visiting hospitals and nursing homes.



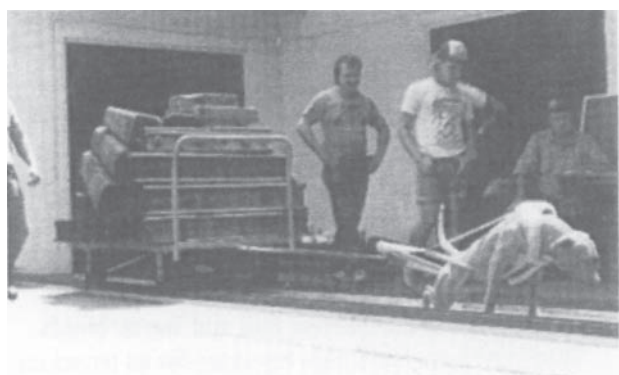
A judge examines an American Pit Bull Terrier at a local show. Dogs can earn points toward a Conformation Championship title.



Future dog show exhibitors practicing with their American Pit Bull Terriers. The bull and terrier breeds are especially fond of young children.



The American Pit Bull Terrier is a dog with strong human ties. The loyalty and companionship of the breed appeals to young and old alike.



The popularity of the American Pit Bull Terrier used in weight-pull events has increased dramatically over the past few years. Winning depends on the dog's ability and determination, not on a judge's opinion. The dog pictured is an "ace of aces", which is one of the highest titles a dog can earn in weight-pull competition.



An American Pit Bull Terrier jumps through a hoop in agility competition. These dogs are easily trained and have earned some of the highest titles in obedience. This dog, "Sneakers," has won many titles in obedience and agility.



This champion American Staffordshire Terrier is displaying the clownish behavior that most bull and terrier breeds possess.

Conclusion

Hopefully, this brief synopsis of the bull and terrier dogs will help explain not only why these dogs look so different, but why it is so unfair to lump all these pure, old dog strains together under the label of "vicious dog." It is without reason to accuse these breeds - none of which ever was developed to be aggressive toward man - of being the root of a dog problem.

Unfortunately, there are vicious dogs of all breeds. Some are victims of brutal treatment, others the result of unconscionable owners or breeders. Owners do not take the time to socialize, train or love their dogs. Vicious dogs come in all breeds, just as human criminals are members of all races and cultures. Banning a breed is as ineffective as banning Fords because some drunk drivers are behind the wheel of a Ford.

The main goal of Endangered Breeds Association is to fight all breed specific laws and replace them with fair, enforceable vicious dog ordinances and laws that make no reference to any particular breed; and that place responsibility on owners of dangerous dogs.



ENDANGERED BREEDS ASSOCIATION

Please visit our website for more information and for a membership form to join our organization. (Editor's note: Information in this brochure first was published by Florida Canine Defense Fund)

<http://www.endangeredbreedsassociation.org/>

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