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Pit Bulls As Pets:



A Positive Experience

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Introduction

Hi there fellow or future Pit Bull owner! I wanted to take a few moments to explain what this ebook will be teaching you, who I am, why I feel qualified to teach you, and why this is important to me personally.

The aim of this ebook guide is to give you more information about the breed known as the American Pit Bull Terrier, or the Pit Bull, so that you can make a more knowledgeable decision before deciding to make them an addition to your family. In addition, you will be learning where the breed originated from, why they were bred, and why they CAN be loveable additions to your family, whether it's a single person family unit, or an entire houseful! Also, I will be discussing the process of purchasing a Pit Bull pup from a reputable breeder, choosing the right pup for your family unit, and how you can enjoy your Pit Bull in ANY setting.

As to who I am and why I feel qualified to teach this information, let me begin by saying that I am NOT a professional dog trainer or handler. But, what I AM is a Pit Bull owner who has had actual experience raising and living with Pit Bulls. Yes PLURAL! I love my 3 Pits more than any other dogs I have EVER OWNED, which includes such breeds as the Cock-a-Poo (Cocker Spaniel/Poodle Mix for those that don't know), Irish Setters, Collies, Chow Mix Breed, and a German Shepard.

I have also read extensively on the Pit Bull and want to share all the helpful information I have learned, through reading and applying with every Pit

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owner, or potential Pit Bull owner, that might find it useful in raising their Pit Pup ☺.

Of course I haven't owned all these dogs at the same time! We're talking over the course of my 35 years on this earth. But, my Pits, they are an integral part of my family, just like my 6 children are. They are my "other" kids. I care for and love them just as I have and continue to do with all my children (Yes, that's no typo ☺).

Now, don't just assume that I only own Pits. I have a black lab mix too. All a part of my family. And all of them act towards each other as a family member should, with the normal ups and downs. Sure, there are little "disagreements", but never anything that would lead to bloodshed.

The main point of this ebook is to EDUCATE and ILLUMINATE. There is plenty of readily accessible information about the breed known as the "Pit Bull" shown in a negative light, and if you are searching for that type of information, sorry to say that you won't be finding it here. What I'm offering you is a POSITIVE information guide about the American Pit Bull Terrier, and why, like any other dog breed, they can be a joyful addition to ANY family if cared for properly.

A Brief History of the American Pit Bull Terrier

The history of how the "Pit Bull" came about is quite interesting. It also gives additional insight into their sometimes misunderstood behaviors. An interesting fact to note before going further is that many dog organizations, clubs, and enthusiasts don't see the Pit Bull as a single breed due to the fact that there were many different breeds of dogs "blended" together to get that which is viewed as the modern day Pit Bull. And, many different dog breeds fall into and are commonly (often times wrongly) categorized as a "Pit Bull".

WHERE THE NAME "PIT BULL" COMES FROM

To fully understand the Pit Bull takes understanding and knowledge of the name "Pit Bull" itself. It gives a constant reminder of what the breed was created for. The origins of the very first Pits are not exactly cut-and-dry, but evidence suggests that sometime during the 1800's, a cross-breed of Bull Dog and several different breeds of Terrier Dog was created.

The purpose of this new hybrid breed was to become what was deemed as "Pit Fighters". But to understand the Pit Bull completely, we have to understand one of the evolutionary parents of Pits. The English Bull Dog.

Sometime around the 1800s, a popular sporting event of the time was called "Bull Baiting". This sport originated in England as a way of entertaining the "masses" of those requiring a sort of "break" from their overwhelmingly depressive and poverty filled lives. The sport of Bull Baiting was extremely affordable and entertaining to the lower classes, which of course outweighed the upper class by leaps and bounds.

The basics of the sporting event was to have the dog(s) bring down a Bull (or cow), that was to have the meat from the Bull sold afterwards to local markets. The sport was believed to provide a way of "tenderizing" the Bull (cow/beef) meat. Originally, Bull Baiting was done with English Bulldogs of the period.

However, as time passed and the sport became more popular, it was recognized by other more "civilized" upper class citizens of the area as inhumane and became outlawed in 1835 due to the gruesomeness of the sport itself. But the love for the Bulldog continued on based on it's strength and determination as an aggressive "hunter". So a new sport and dog breed was born.

Dog fighting, or what was to become known as "Pit Fighting" was created to replace the sport of Bull(and Bear) Baiting for those who missed the "thrill of the sport". And so too developed the "Pit Bull" breed. By combining the aggressive tendencies of those English Bulldogs raised to compete in the Bull Baiting sport and the compact-ness of different dog breeds including the Terrier Dog, also excellent hunters of small animal prey such as rats, the breeders had succeeded in creating a small package of "doggie thunder" just waiting to be released known as the Pit Bull!

The two most important traits of this new breed were very specific to the sport of Pit Fighting to make it a successful participant.

1.) The Pit Bull was to be aggressive towards other animals, such as dogs, and

2.) The Pit Bull was to be non-aggressive towards humans so that they could be handled during combat when and if necessary to separate the two combatants for purposes of either ending the fight, giving medical attention, etc.

The Pit Fighting sport of the past was a bit different from the Pit Fighting exhibited today. In the early days of Pit Fighting, the dog's trainer, or handler, would be directly in the "pit" with his dog at the time of the fight until it was over. Those dogs injured would receive medical treatment on the spot. Any dogs that could not be controlled, or showed aggressive tendencies towards either their human trainer, or any other human, would be culled immediately (this is still up for debate by some). While I personally do not condone, engage in, or see this as an acceptable form of entertainment for either humans *or* Pit Bulls, it is far worse today, as can be seen illustrated throughout the media when new Dog Fighting Rings are discovered and brought down.

But, just how did the "Pit Bull" end up here in America? As those looking for a better life immigrated to America, so too did their beloved "Pit Bull" dogs and the breed. Thus, we have the name, *American* Pit Bull Terrier, incidentally a title given to the dog by the founder of the UKC(United Kennel Club), Chauncy Bennett who created the club in an effort to officially register the Pit Bull Terrier. He then added the word "American" into the official title and left out the "Pit". Giving us the name: *American Bull Terrier*. However, the general populous did not feel this particular title was appropriate and had expressed their deep dislike for the change, so the "Pit" was eventually added back into the name.

The move to America ushered in a new era for the Pit. Including new, and improved job titles. These included farm herding dogs, food hunting helpers, and of course the honorable status of family pet. Pit Bulls excelled at these titles and continue to do the same today with even more opportunities to show their skills in other positions such as therapy dogs and federal customs drug-sniffing agents.

However, the sport that they became well known for, unfortunately, followed them as well and developed into the barbaric death matches seen nowadays plastered all over the newspapers and television screens

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providing the media with “Killer” headlines.

An important thing to remember is that Pit Bulls were bred to dislike other *animals* to become “champions of the pit”. But, they were also bred to *love humans*. No matter their size. Even an animal can tell the difference between the two.



Evidence of this can be seen in early American photos, posters, and other media outlets. Pit Bulls were even often referred to as the "All American Dog" in such publications. In the example picture illustrated above, you can clearly see the image America was trying to get across in one of many World War I propaganda posters.

In fact, if you have ever seen any "Our Gang" or "The Little Rascals"

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episodes, no doubt you have seen the four legged member, Pete the Pup, or Petey. Guess who was a Pit Bull? That's right! Petey was! Further proof that when handled properly, Pit Bulls can still be the devoted, loving creatures they were intended to be and continue to be to this day within family units all across the United States, and perhaps the world.

More extensive information on the history of the Pit Bull can be found inside this fantastic and inexpensive ebook called [***ThePitbullGuide***](#) . Just click the name to get info on it :-)

What Exactly Does A Pit Bull Look Like?

Think you know a Pit Bull when you see one? Take a look at the following pictures and choose the one that you believe is the true Pit. Then, I'll tell you which one is the **real** Pit Bull.

Doggie #1



Doggie #2



Doggie #3



Doggie #4



Doggie #5



Doggie #6



Doggie #7



Doggie #8



Doggie #9



Doggie #10



Doggie #5 is the actual *true* Pit Bull. Were you right? If so, well done! You know your breed! If not, don't feel too bad. Most people that take this quiz get it wrong too. Even Pit Bull owners get it wrong sometimes! And the mainstream media? They more than likely add fuel to the fire of the ever-growing fear of the Pit Bull. They often tend to report many vicious dog

attacks as “Pit Bull” attacks without really doing their research first to be certain the dog that perpetrated the attack in fact was a Pit Bull! Giving the breed an even worse reputation than they had to begin with.

Another factor that makes deciphering the real Pits from the "look-alikes" is the fact that not all Pits actually look the same in the first place. Some Pit Bulls have their ears or tails docked and/or cropped, some Pit Bulls have huge bulky heads and some have longer, thinner appearances. They come in an array of colors and weights too. Not to mention the fact that the “Pit Bull” contains several different breeds of dogs sort of mish-mashed together such as the American Staffordshire Terrier(which actually is just another name that the APBT is commonly referred to as).

All these things, make it a bit confusing figuring out which dog is a true American Pit Bull Terrier. But knowing a few key characteristics, or specifics, will help you familiarize yourself with the breed and be able to spot a Pit more easily.

To do this, let's first take a look at what the “standards” of the breed are that have been set from the most reputable canine groups in the land, The AKC, UKC, and the ADBA.

I'm going to put these “standards” into plain english for you and list those traits that carry over into each association/clubs description that are alike to make it easier for you to distinguish a Pit Bull.

The APBT(American Pit Bull Terrier) is of a medium size, but stocky, muscular build. They will have short-haired coats that range in various colors, color patterns, and combinations associated with the breed that more commonly include Blue(a sort of bluish-gray color), Red(usually a reddish-brown color), Fawn(think Scooby Doo tan with black markings), White,

Black, and Brindle(sort of a tiger striped color combination that includes tan, black, white, and others).

The head is usually medium length with comparison to other similar breeds, that includes a wide, flat skull, with a wide, deep muzzle to match. However, the head does not look strange or too big for the body. It also looks like wedge-shaped when viewed from the front or straight on. The nose of the APBT is wide with open nostrils and can be any color.

Their ears are small to medium in size, high set on the head, and can be both natural (pricked or flat) or cropped. The tail of the APBT is relatively short and is thick at its base, tapering to a point at the end.

Now, that is the unofficial “official” description that I have shortened from the illustrious organizations listed above.

A trait I have noticed about The American Pit Bull Terrier is that it often looks as if it is “smiling” when panting, and it’s mouth, when open, appears triangular, widening towards the back of the jaws. This would obviously make it more appealing to children.

What could be more harmless than a dog that looks as if it’s smiling at you? Remember that most Pit Bulls **will** be harmless, but **not all of them** will be. It all weighs on the shoulders of the owner and how they have raised their Pit.

Never assume an unfamiliar animal is “safe”, even if it looks friendly. That is true for **any animal**, including the APBT.

Understanding A Pit Bull's Personality

Before you finalize your decision to rush out and purchase your very own Pit Bull, there are a few things about their personalities that you need to take under consideration first.

Taking time to read up about the personality of your new pet, whether it be a Pit Bull, or a different doggie breed, or even a different species of animal all together, will prove that you are definitely a responsible individual who cares enough to make an informed decision before taking any action. Those are the types of people that ***should*** be interested in owning a Pit Bull, or **any** other animal for that matter.

If you don't care enough to do something as simple as learning about the animal first, then you just plain don't care enough overall, and really ***should not*** be the proud owner of a Pit Bull.

Agreed? Agreed!

Now, on with the show :-)

Pit Bulls, despite popular belief to the contrary, are loveable, loyal and good with children. Let me repeat that last phrase.....**are good with children.**

They have big hearts and will be your most devoted fan. While they are not generally accepting of other animals in the family (this does not include humans), they can and have been known to co-exist harmlessly with other

pets. But like any breed, they have specific personality traits that need to be discussed and carefully viewed before deciding that a Pit Bull is the pet for you and your family.

DON'T INVADE MY SPACE!

Pit Bulls generally **do not** like other dogs or animals within their general vicinity. This means **in** the house, or **outside** the home. This “instinct” is more heightened when the Pit is with it's owner as it feels the need to protect their owner from harm that could possibly come from the other animal. Although you can “condition” your Pit to be more accepting of other animals by socializing them when young, this trait can develop as your Pit becomes older, even after successful socialization conditioning.

This becomes especially apparent when it's time to eat. Make sure that when your puppy is still young, you are constantly touching the pup while eating (petting and such) and at different times, you remove the food completely, then return it. This will help prevent “food hoarding” and growling when the food is removed. A ***very bad behavior to be exhibiting*** especially in a house with curious little ones that might decide to get right down there with puppy at meal time. Be sure that if you have more than one dog, whether they are all Pits or not, that you supervise feeding time in the beginning to prevent problems early on.

Do Not attempt this technique if you have adopted or purchased an older Pit that is most likely already set in it's ways. In this case, you should make meal time as private as possible for your Pit, or whatever it is that ensures everyone's safety, including your pet. Dogs that have suffered extensive physical abuse at their former owner's hand will need more specific and special treatments and exceptions.

Pit Bulls are very competitive and will vie for your affections. Make sure that you help your Pit feel comfortable when passing out attention to other family members or other animals within your home to avoid any future conflicts.

ATTENTION, PLEASE!

Like most domesticated creatures of the canine persuasion, Pit Bulls yearn for affection and attention from their owners. In fact, they *thrive* on it! And what you give to them will be returned to you 100 fold.

If you have a very hectic schedule that doesn't leave a lot of time for dear old doggie, then a Pit Bull may not be for you. Pit Bulls generally don't do too well when they are left alone for long periods of time, and like humans can develop serious abandonment issues that affect their outward behaviors.

This doesn't mean you can't have a Pit Bull and a regular "9 to 5-ver" job. You just need to set aside some time devoted just to your Pit so they get the attention, affection, and love they naturally crave. Realistically, you should be able to devote *at least* 2 hours a day to your Pit Bull.

CHEWING IS F-U-N!

Pit Bulls really like chewing up things, and really don't have any preference as to what they chew. If it's left out, it's game! This behavior is mostly exhibited in Pit Pups though it can carry on over into adult-hood if not addressed.

Setting down some ground rules when your Pit is young can prevent this type of behavior. The best way to do this positively is to invest some money in chew toys for your dog. You can even get them a few bones that can be filled with extra special treats in the center to really occupy their time while you're gone.

If chewing is a really bad issue, you could crate train them while they are very small, so that when you are gone from home, they will feel comfortable inside their crate. It is **not** inhumane to place your pet in a crate! This is a very acceptable form of obedience training and helps you set boundaries between you and your pet. However, it **is** inhumane if you are placing your

pet in a crate for extremely long periods of time (days or weeks) and not allowing them to leave the crate. **Never** put your Pit in an animal crate as a form of punishment.

PLAYTIME IS ANYTIME!!

Pit Bulls are **extremely** active dogs. They **love to play!** They **love to run.** They love to play "tug of war" with other dogs or their owners (while not everyone encourages this type of play, Pits still favor it as an exciting and fun pass-time).

They need a place to expel some of their energy, so there should be a place for them where they can run, jump, and plain old frolic outside of the home. But do this responsibly!! **Never Leave Your Pit Unattended Outdoors For Any Amount Of Time.** Too many bad things can go wrong that were not intended. And in most places across the U.S., due to the irresponsible actions of Pit Bull owners, it's against the law. Be sure you have a sturdy fence that is **taller than 6 feet** (Pits can jump extremely high!) so that they do not escape from the yard and cause harm to any person or animal.

Other ideas can include **invisible fencing systems** (although I personally don't recommend this due to the high tolerance for pain Pits naturally have so the "shock" collars may not do the trick with them), or **long lead lines** (using sturdy rope that is quite long in length connected to the dog's collar so that they can roam a little more free but still be under your control. This is not recommended for smaller urban areas where too long of a lead line can create bad situations!).

MAN! I'M STRONG!!

Yep, that is completely **TRUE**. Pit Bulls are very strong and can pull up to **ten times their own weight or more!** So, if you want to take your Pit for a walk instead of him taking *you* for a drag, then you need to set down some firm obedience guidelines. Understand **FIRM DOES NOT MEAN HITTING!**

A **MAJOR** rule of thumb when owning a Pit is: **NEVER HIT YOUR PIT.** Don't do it. Not for any reason. There is **absolutely no reason** that is acceptable to physically hurt your dog. Learn the above rule and live it. Using basic obedience training techniques will work with your Pit just as they will with other dog breeds.

But remember, if you are going to be training your Pit on your own, you need to have lots of patience, a good heart, and *lots* of yummy treats! I favor using treats as a reward system to begin any type of training because it gets the point across to your dog in a positive way.

Pit Bulls are very intelligent animals and can learn all basic commands if you begin teaching these when they are pups and rewarding them at first with goodies(dog treats they don't normally receive), and then ultimately with physical affection and praise for their deeds well done. My oldest Pit is a prime example of this as he knows sit, shake, and the ever popular, sit up pretty, among other commands that I taught him using small liver doggie treats as a reward.

I NEVER GIVE UP!

Pit Bulls have an **intense will power** and a **driving determination** to do something until it is finished. Most of the time this is done out of the need to please it's owner, but not always. It is also a very natural instinct that they are born with. They are simply not quitters. At **anything**.

This is one of the most important things to always remember when being a responsible Pit Bull owner because once they begin something **they will not stop** until they feel it is done. And done to their satisfaction. Or until someone stops them from completing the task. This personality trait is what makes the “fear factor” of the Pit Bull so strong. But it doesn’t have to be a negative trait though.

Ask yourself this.....If your house was on fire and you were sleeping, would you want your Pit Bull to give up half way through dragging you, or a loved one from the burning home? Or if your child fell into a deep pool of water and could not swim? Would you feel better about the Pit Bull if he just stood there and watched your child drown instead of leaping in and pulling her to safety? See, it can be a positive trait!

Dispelling Some Common Myths About The Pit Bull

It's time to separate the facts from fiction in this chapter. Putting to rest some of these more commonly known "myths" about the Pit Bull will hopefully also put to rest some of the fears associated with the breed. See if any of these sound familiar to you and what the actual truth behind the story is.

Myth #1: Pit Bulls Have "Locking" Jaws

No Way! It is pure fiction! This is genetically impossible for any dog breed, including and especially the Pit Bull. Absolutely no dog has a "locking" jaw. The truth behind this myth is that Pit Bulls are very strong and determined creatures that can hang on if they wish to do so for extended periods of time and it can be extremely difficult to break their hold on something once they grab on.

This is why people refer to their jaws as "locking", but it's not like a mechanical device! Unless the dog in question has been completely manufactured artificially, they DO NOT HAVE A LOCKING JAW.

Myth #2: Pit Bulls Make Great Guard Dogs

Not Happenin'! Nope, sorry. This is another big misunderstanding and myth to be sure! While Pit Bulls can be fierce when feeling the need to protect their owner or other "members of their pack" (family members ☺), this is usually displayed with regards to other animals, and not humans. Pit Bulls have an overall acceptance and general like for most humans, be it

strangers or not. But, this also depends on how much you have socialized your dog.

Some dogs, this can be any breed, don't like humans they don't know and can often times feel that strangers always have ill will or bad intentions either towards you or them. But, in general, Pits do not make for good guard dogs, even though they will defend you or a "member of their pack" without question if in danger(as most any dog would do). If you're in the market for a guard dog, buy another breed that is best for this task.

Myth #3: Red Nosed Pit Bulls Are Naturally More Aggressive

Are You Kidding Me?? Again, not true! A red nosed Pit is no different in temperament than that of any other color. This is simply a genetic trait that some Pits carry and others do not and nothing more. Comparable to someone that has blue eyes instead of green. There is absolutely no facts or evidence that can back up this claim. The only logical connection can be made with the color itself and not the dog!

Red usually signifies danger or that something bad might happen, or to use extreme caution, etc., so there you have a good combination for myth breeding. A Pit Bull with a Red Nose. It sure ain't Rudolph!! Something Bad + Something Bad = DANGER!

Makes perfect sense, except for the fact that one of those things isn't bad at all. Mark it down as a myth and be done with it for good.

Myth #4: Eliminating All Pit Bulls Will Alleviate Most Dog Attacks And Make The World A Safer Place

Completely Ridiculous! While it is true that Pit Bulls have been associated with some highly publicized dog attacks, they are not responsible for *all*, or even most, of them. Even if you were to eliminate, or rather **exterminate**, the breed, there would **still be dog attacks**. You would have to eliminate **all dogs** to be safe from dog attacks as **every single dog** is more than capable of attacking anyone at anytime and for any reason. Breed Specific Legislation is a frighteningly radical concept and just gives local governments the one thing they want, more **power to decide what you want for you!**

Say, for instance, that laws are passed outlawing the Pit Bull breed everywhere across the world, after legislators have come to a final decision on exactly what the Pit Bull breed actually *is* (as it stands now, there are several, separate breeds jammed into this category). And people are made to surrender their pets they consider to be parts of their family. Do you really believe this will stop the ownership of Pit Bulls by irresponsible people? This will most likely have the opposite effect and you will have created a bigger problem in the end. Besides, those who want a “tough” dog will just find another breed that fills the need.

And, do you honestly believe that this type of “ban” will stop just with the Pit Bull breed? What about other dog breeds that have been placed into the “vicious” category? Do you think they will be “targeted” next for elimination? Most likely the answer is yes. This type of thinking doesn’t help anyone, or any animal. More concentration should be put on punishing the irresponsible actions of owners of these “vicious dogs”, or dogs that attack humans or animals. Of course the animal that attacked should be put down before it has a chance to harm anyone else, but depending on the circumstances surrounding each individual occurrence, appropriate action should be taken against the owner of the dog. That would be more effective than banning, or targeting, a specific breed. Don’t you think?

Myth #5: Pit Bulls Are Vicious Towards All People

Not Even Close To Being True! They are actually very friendly towards people genetically. However, some owners want their Pits to be suspicious of people and develop a dislike of any other humans than those that they are familiar with, i.e. – family members. Like other dog breeds, Pits can be trained to be “people aggressive”, but **are not born** this way generally. If properly socialized, Pit Bulls will be less likely to display aggressive, or “vicious” behaviors towards any person, including infants.

Myth #6: A Pit Bull Will Kill Anything That Moves

Are You Serious?? Nope. Yet another myth. Sure, Pits were bred to be aggressive towards other animals, but more commonly, they won't be unless they feel a sense of danger from that animal. Again, Pit Bulls are *naturally* tolerant and friendly to humans, even children. But, depending on the environment and circumstances that a particular Pit Bull is raised up in, will predict it's outward behavior towards other animals, and humans.

I personally have a year old Pit male (that has not been neutered) and at three different times have brought in three different pups, all different ages (and sizes), to which he adjusted well to. During all three times, I strictly supervised his behavior. I would **never** allow him to be unsupervised to begin this type of “family socialization”, and any other responsible Pit Bull owner should not either. Another important point to note was that he was a bit more aggressive towards the bigger pup out of the three, even though all were female (the smaller three of them Pits and the bigger a black lab mix). He did not bite or try to attack her, he just barked a little and then began sniffing her. Also, after bathing the new older pup, he was more acceptable to her and now they all get along happily together☺.

It's important to understand that all animals must have a “chain of

command” establishing who the “leader of the pack” is and on down so each animal knows their place within the pack. This is no different with dogs. If you have more than one dog, they will have little “spats” every once in a while to reinforce who the leader, or Alpha, dog is.

Myth #7: Pit Bulls And Children Are A Deadly Combination

Eeeeh! Wrong Answer! Not true. It’s another myth. But it also depends upon the Pit Bull’s owner and how they have trained him to behave. Remember that when first brought over to America, Pits were devoted family members and got along well with children. The same can be seen today if the owner is responsible enough to socialize their Pit properly and obedience train them. When children are senselessly attacked it is a tragedy most definitely. But, not only do the dog owner’s need to be responsible and be sure their pet is never put in a situation where an attack could take place, but also too it is the responsibility of the child’s parents not to leave their young children unattended to wonder about.

Myth #8: Pit Bulls Do Not Feel Pain

Total Myth! Pit Bulls, like any other living creature can experience, and **do** feel pain. However, they have a natural tolerance for pain that is quite high so they can handle it better than other breeds. That’s what makes them a good match with kids. They can tolerate the ear pulling, hair pulling, and rough play that many children display without hurting the children. Often times, they will just sit there and “deal with it”. A trait I have seen my Pit display over and over again. My five and six year olds like to hug him a lot and will usually grab him right around the neck and hug him rather “snugly” after a long day at school. He just sits there and lets them do it. No

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flinching, no growling, nothing! He's like a statue! And he has **never once** snapped at them for displaying their “brand” of love on him.

Here's further proof of that:

”The American Canine Temperament Testing Association, which sponsors tests for temperament titles for dogs, reported that 95% of all Pit Bulls that take the test pass it, compared to a 77% passing rate for all other breeds, on average. The Pit Bulls passing rate was 4th highest for all breeds tested. This confirms that with proper selection, training and socialization, the Pit Bull is a valuable family member and responsible canine citizen.”

- Excerpt taken from [OJ K9 Coach](#) website

The only way to remove these blatant stereotypes placed on this loving creature is through “mass” education. Take what you have learned and use it to educate others that may also feel the same way you do, or believe the same things you did before reading this section. The negative material is already out there in abundance. Nothing needs to be added to that, believe me. Put something positive into the mix!

The "Violence Factor" And The American Pit Bull Terrier

Shocking headlines certainly make for great reading materials, don't they? Most of the time, something horrifying can make for more readers. Secretly, people like the gruesome, gory details that make them wince and shake their heads in disbelief and horror. It's the train wreck or car accident you just can't seem to turn away from, no matter how bad you want to.

Bad press is so common now and ingrained into general society in terms of the "Big Bad Pit Bull" that all one needs to see is the two words "Pit Bull" in a dog attack article, and somehow any other dog breed mentioned mysteriously fades into the background.

The Pit Bull becomes the instigator of the entire act. Even if he wasn't present at the time. It's doggie profiling at it's worst degree. Plus, add to it the fact that there are different dog breeds lumped together into the category of Pit Bull, and you've got a real mess on your hands. And if he was a member of the "attack pack", well, it's an automatic death sentence for him, even if he didn't bite the victim. It's guilt by association basically. Or simply being what he is, A Pit Bull.

Often times, the dog has no idea what he has done wrong, if he has done **anything** wrong at all. To the Pit, doing what it is their owner commands is what he is suppose to be doing. Whether it's fighting with other dogs, learning to attack anyone or anything that comes too close to his area, or guarding the owner's property. But still, the Pit pays the ultimate price for the sake of the irresponsible owner with his life.

Just take a look at these “hyped up” headlines for a better example of what I mean:

49 Pit Bulls Euthanized

”Charleston, SC - A local animal shelter has euthanized 49 pitt bulls connected to a Lowcounhry dog fighting ring. The John Ancrum SPCA has been the dogs home for the last seven months. Their owner, David Tant, was sentenced to 30 years in jail on Monday ... after pleading guilty to dog fighting charges. The SPCA says the pit bulls were too violent to adopt. The state dog fighting task force hopes this sends a clear message. "We hope that anyone in South Carolina who participates in these fights or even watches these fights realizes that it is against the law and they may find themselves in a law enforcement sting just like Mr. Tant and 20 others we arrested." More than 50 other animals had to be euthanized while Tant's dogs took up space at the SPCA.”

- Excerpt taken from [ABC News 4.com](http://ABCNews4.com) website

Dog Gone! – Dogs That Bite

”Large, muscular dogs such as rottweilers and pit bulls have been blamed for the majority of fatal dog bites that have occurred during the last two decades. But data from CDC studies show that small dogs such as dachshunds, cocker spaniels and even a Yorkshire terrier have killed humans. In Los Angeles last year, a Pomeranian caused fatal injuries to a 6-week-old baby in her crib. "Bites by Chihuahuas are probably as numerous as bites by German shepherds," says Bonnie Beaver, executive director of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists at Texas A&M University.

Most people are bitten by their own dogs, adds Beaver, a professor in Texas A&M's Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery. But there have been cases in which children were killed by packs of strays. In early March, 10-year-old Rodney McAllister of St. Louis was found mauled to death in a park across the street from his home, where he had gone to play basketball. In the two days after his body was found, animal-control officers rounded up 10 stray dogs in and around the park: two chows, a German shepherd, a rottweiler and several mixed breeds. It was not known how many of the dogs were involved in the attack.”

- Excerpt taken from Dog Expert.com website's [Popular Press](#) section

The Pit Bull – Friend or Killer?

" In the last 18 months, 12 of the 18 confirmed dog-related fatalities in the U.S. -- or 67% -- have been caused by the pit bull terrier, a breed that accounts for only 1% of the U.S. dog population. And the maimings are far more numerous. Often it is small children who are the victims of unprovoked attacks. There is no definitive source for animal attack statistics, but pit bull fanciers claim that statistics show other breeds of dog bite more frequently -- German shepherds lead the list -- and accuse the media of publicizing only pit bull maulings.

DOG BITES MAN isn't news, they say, but PIT BULL BITES MAN is. Unfortunately the pit bull, when it attacks, doesn't merely bite man -- or, most horribly, child -- it clamps its powerful jaws down and literally tears its victim apart. "The injuries these dogs inflict are more serious than other breeds because they go for the deep musculature and don't release; they hold and shake," says Sheryl Blair of the Tufts Veterinary School, in North Grafton, Mass., which last year held a symposium entitled Animal Agression: Dog Bites and the Pit Bull Terrier. "Most breeds do not multiple-bite," says Kurt Lapham, a field investigator for the West Coast Regional office of the Humane Society. "A pit bull attack is like a shark attack: He keeps coming back." "A pit bull," says Judge Victor E. Bianchini of San Diego, "is the closest thing to a wild animal there is in a domesticated dog." "

- Excerpt taken from Sports Illustrated 07/27/1987 issue found on the [Dog Expert.com](http://www.dogexpert.com) website

Judge Says Pit Bull Ad Stays Put

"**FORT LAUDERDALE** - The 1-800-PITBULL ad can stay. Broward County Court Judge William Herring ruled a Fort Lauderdale law firm can advertise its controversial phone number and display a logo of a spike-collared pit pull despite objections from The Florida Bar.

Herring said the Pape & Chandler law firm's TV commercials fall under constitutionally protected free speech. He rejected The Florida Bar's assertions that capitalizing on the image of "a ferocious animal" in the commercials is manipulative and violates state laws regulating legal ads.

Herring has said the qualities the lawyers link to pit bulls are "desirable traits in attorneys."

Law-firm attorney John Pape said the logo was symbolic of the firm's "loyalty to our clients and to each other and tenacity, determination and aggressiveness in representing our injured clients." "

- 10/1/2004 Excerpt taken from *The Associated Press*

This last one *really* bothers me. More so than the three others. Why? Because it can be so *easily* misconstrued, and it also feeds into the already growing negative image society has about the Pit Bull in general. While the attorneys in question have said that they are using the image in a positive way, it puts across a “negative” idea of the Pit Bull in the heads of those that already dislike or mistrust the animal.

Think about all the ferocious images you have seen of the Pit Bull when companies try and represent positive things like protection, security, aggressiveness (as in the last article above), stability, or dependability. Of course, the point wouldn't get across if there wasn't an “in-your-face-bite-your-head-off” type of image to go along with the product they were pushing. But this doesn't help the Pit Bull as these types of images are always associated with stories that present the Pit in a negative light such as the ones above.

Am I saying that all Pit Bulls are innocent? That they are getting a bad rap every time a story is published about a child being attacked and nearly killed? NO! They are *like* children. They only know what they are taught. They love unconditionally. They do what they must to get that love returned to them from their owners. No matter what it is.

So, if you have an owner that wants a ferocious beast, that's what they will become to gain the love of their master. If you have an animal that only knows violence and no compassion or caring at the hands of a human being, they will be less predictable in their behaviors and more likely to commit such atrocities as attacking people or other animals.

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The responsibility lies within the hands of the Pit Bull owner. This means you!

As you may or may not have seen this catchy little phrase passed about, it still rings true: **“Punish The Deed, Not The Breed”**. Meaning, examine the single crime that has occurred and if guilty, the guilty should be rightly punished. But just because one specific dog has done something horrific doesn't mean that each and every dog of the same breed will repeat the action.

Who Should Own A Pit Bull?

Absolutely anyone can own a Pit Bull that has a big heart and loves dogs. No matter if you have a big family, or a small one, or are just starting one. A Pit Bull can be a wonderful addition to any family. You should really have lots of patience too so that you can teach your Pit the correct way to behave through proper socialization and obedience training.

Something **very important** is to be sure that you are allowed to own a Pit Bull in the area you live in and what, if any restrictions there are on owning one such as insurance, special fencing or housing units, muzzles, etc. Some communities have actually banned the ownership of Pit Bulls, so make sure to research it thoroughly.

You need to have enough room for your Pit Bull inside and outside, or be able to take her with you when you exercise outdoors (walking, running, jogging, etc.). We're not talking a mansion here, but there should at least be enough room to house your new pet without too much of an upheaval. Pit Bulls love to play and will do it either indoors or out, but it's probably best done outside. You don't have to have a fenced in yard to take your Pit outside.

You **do** need to be a responsible owner though and follow any rules set forth in your area with regards to your pet, no matter how ridiculous you might think they are. And, remember, **every time** you take your Pit outside be sure she is **always** on a dependable leash.

Now that doesn't mean you need to attach chains to them and make them look like "shackled prisoners". There are several nylon type leashes that are

pretty thick and available at most pet stores. These can take on the strength of your Pit without making him look like he just escaped from doggie jail.

I'm not coming down on the use of chains, since many Pits are strong, as you can imagine, and this may be the only option for you, depending upon the size and strength of your Pit. But remember, even chains can be broken! Always make certain no matter what type of restraint you are employing with your APBT that it is strong and can handle any punishment your pooch can dish out! Plus, this is just *my personal opinion* here, and not law ☺.

I'm sure lots of people use chain type leashes and collars like choker chains, I don't. Unless I'm training one of my dogs, then I'll use the choker, geez I hate that word! But, your taste may be different than mine. Whether you use nylon, metal, or leather, be sure the leash is sturdy before you venture out the front door. Even a Pit puppy can be quite strong. Make sure you read the labeling on the collar or leash before you purchase so that you can determine if it is the right one for your doggie based on their weight. And don't forget that Pits love to pull!

Do you have to own your own home to own a Pit Bull? Not necessarily. Some people will emphatically say YES! But in all reality, even if you live in a cozy little apartment, you can own a very happy Pit Bull. Those living in an apartment building can own pets, just be sure that you check with your rental office beforehand. Also be sure to tell them what type of dog you are getting and if you will be leaving him unrestricted access to your apartment while you are not home so that no accidents occur that could have otherwise been avoided.

Pit Bulls like to do a lot of serious lounging when they're tuckered out, so apartment living wouldn't be a bad thing for them. There not as active as, say, a Dalmatian is. But still enjoy the daily romp outdoors! They also have very short hair, so you can guess that it wouldn't be in their best interest to

be an “outside” dog. They’ll do much better as an “inside” dog. An added plus to making your Pit an “inside” dog is that it can avoid unsupervised neighborhood romps because she escaped the backyard after you left for work. Even if you forget to lock your backyard gate, chances are pretty good you won’t forget to lock your front and back doors before you leave home.

If you live in a highly populated city setting (i.e. – an “urban” area), you need to be ***extremely careful*** with your Pit. You ***must*** obey all laws regarding Pit Bulls which more than likely include any “vicious dogs” laws put in place. These usually specify acceptable leash lengths, fence height, enclosed kennels, wearing muzzles, and taking your Pit to dog parks or other public places in addition to the fact that some areas have actually **banned** owning a Pit Bull. So be sure you check your local area dog laws before you get your new Pit.

This should go without saying, but I’ll say it anyway, if you are someone who’s looking to “toughen up” your image by owning a “tough” dog, or a person that leads a “life of crime”, someone with little patience, someone who is owning a dog for the first time, someone looking for a guard dog, an abusive person, or someone that wants to fight your dog, then please, I beg you, **Do Not Buy a Pit Bull**. This will only re-enforce and strengthen the negative imagery already set into place. And if you are considering that last option, you really shouldn’t own **any dog or animal at all**! No joke.

Purchasing Your Pit Bull

Okay, so you've weighed out your decision carefully, read up on all the local laws about Pits in your area, figured you have plenty of room in your home and heart for a new Pit, and have consulted with other family members about getting a Pit Bull as a pet. All you need to do now is find one to buy. But, who's best to buy your new puppy from? And just how much will it cost you? Let's take a look at some options.

BUYING FROM A LOCAL BREEDER

This is always a great option because you can really get to know what kind of an individual you are buying from and how they handle their dogs. And vice versa for the breeders. Seeing is believing, right? You have to be very selective when deciding on a breeder to be sure you are purchasing from a reputable one. And a reputable breeder will be very selective on whom they allow to purchase one of the pups from their litters as well.

Prices with reputable breeders will be much more expensive than from those considered to be "backyard breeders". The difference between a reputable breeder and a "backyard breeder" goes beyond the scope of just price. A reputable breeder will be able to produce official documentation on the puppy's lineage, or bloodline, for you. A backyard breeder typically won't have, know, or care, about this type of information.

A reputable breeder will be more concerned with the lineage of the bloodline of the dogs, and the dog's general health and temperament. A breeder who knows his stuff will also not be timid about any questions you may have to ask. In addition to this, a reputable breeder will allow you to

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see the conditions in which the pups are raised in, including a visit with the parents.

Local Dog Breeders can be found in various sources, like local newspapers or magazines, and sources like the yellow pages. Be sure to check them out and be sure their credentials are not just some extra “hype” to get you to buy from them. Make them back up their claims and show you the proof.

Typical Price Range: \$500 - \$1,800 per pup

BUYING FROM AN ONLINE KENNEL

Just like the local breeder, an online kennel or breeder can have very good reputations. And in most cases, the cost will be around the same as if buying your Pit locally. But, **do your research**. Shop around both locally and online to find out who you are most comfortable with and which options are most affordable to you. Here are a few that I have found you might want to take a look at. They are listed in no particular order and each should be considered separately.

Mugleston's Pit Bull Farm

<http://muglestonspitbullfarm.com/>

Rebel Rose Kennel

<http://www.dogresources.com/rebelrose.html>

Ultimate Blue Pit Bulls

<http://www.ultimatebluepitbulls.com/>

Iron Cross Kennels

<http://ironcrosskennels.com>

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

Powerline Kennels

<http://www.powerlinekennels.com>

Woods Pits

<http://www.woodspits.com>

Big Bang Bullies Kennels

<http://bigbangbullies.com>

The most negative aspect about purchasing your pup from an online kennel is that short of going out to visit the place, which could be hundreds of miles away from where you live, you have to take the owner's "word for it" on how things are run. Anyone can be dishonest, and this is especially true when "wheeling and dealing" online. Plus, many Pit Bull advocates don't approve of this type of "puppy purchasing", but I feel this choice is really up to you!

But on the other hand, many online kennels will "specialize" in specific colors and sizes of Pits they raise focusing not only on this, but the health, fitness, and caring of the pups they breed. Making it much easier to get the exact pup you want and a very acceptable method of purchase if you contact the right kennel.

ADOPTING A PIT

This is an option for those of you that have the home, and heart, for rescued dogs. These dogs will need **a lot** of extra attention and love from you due to the mistreatment and abuse they have suffered. They may not be suited for homes with small children, or any children for that matter. This is an option

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that should be chosen very carefully.

There are quite a few wonderful organizations out there that rescue abused Pit Bulls. Here is a small list of some excellent foundations I have come across that you can contact or read more about online.

Adopting the American Pit Bull Terrier

<http://www.lucydog.com/adopt.html>

Animal Farm Foundation

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

Bad Rap

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

Bay Area Bullydog Alliance

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

Central Missouri PitBull Rescue

<http://www.pitbullsontheweb.com/cmpr/mpr.html>

Chako Rescue Association for the American Pit Bull Terrier

<http://www.pitbull.us/>

Chicagoland Bully Breed Rescue

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

Have A Heart

<http://www.pit-bull-rescue.netfirms.com/>

Hearts of Gold Pit Rescue

<http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/heartsofgoldpitrescue.html>

Meadows Pit Bull Rescue

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

http://www.geocities.com/meadows_rescue/index.html

Out Of The Pits

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

Pawsitively Pit Bull

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

Pit Bull Rescue Central

<http://www.pbrc.net/>

Pit Bull Rescue of South Florida

<http://www.pitbullrescue.com/>

Pit Bull Rescue of San Diego

<http://www.pitbullrescuesandiego.com/>

PitCrew Rescue

<http://www.pitbulldogs.org/index.html>

Reunion Rescue

<http://www.petfinder.org/shelters/CA303.html>

Staffordshire Farm Rescue

<http://sarlen.home.sprynet.com/Index.html>

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

Adopting a Pit is a *huge task*, and you had better be more than ready to take it on! Most of these courageous animals have had such traumatic lives that it will take a considerable amount of time, love, compassion, and patience to give them a life deserving of their loyalty. Research Pit adoption thoroughly ahead of time to be sure this is the right option for you. If you do decide to adopt a Pit, you will be giving a much deserved chance at a happy and healthy life for a wonderful animal. Kudos to you!

Picking Your Puppy

Selecting just the right pup for you is important for everyone's future happiness. While you might already have a clear idea of what type of Pit Bull pup you want, here is a list of important things to consider that you may not have thought of before that could affect your final decision before you dish out the bucks for your pup!

MALE OR FEMALE

Does it really matter? Well yes and no. That all depends on you really. It has been said that females seem to be a bit more territorial over their "pack" than males are which can lead to more outwardly aggressive behaviors (in my opinion, but remember, I'm not a doggie expert ^_^), so you may want to take that into consideration. Even though males can be just as protective of their territory or "pack" as well. But, this is probably true throughout many species in the animal kingdom. Either sex is a good choice in my opinion so long as you are prepared to give them a nice, relaxed, loving home.

Also, if you are not interested in breeding your new pup, then it's a really, **really**, *really* good idea to have it spayed or neutered. This also tends to lessen aggressive behaviors from either sex and mellow them out a bit more.

Besides, if you don't, they may just try and get loose in search of a mate when "that time" rolls around. And you don't want your pooch on the 6 O'Clock News cavorting around the neighborhood with other doggie escapees! It's animal instinct. Like the "biological clock" that starts tickin' away.

THE COLOR

How important is the color of the Pit pup? Well, that depends on what you are buying the puppy for. If you are in the market for a good quality show dog that can compete, then color is a big issue for you. If you are interested in breeding, this may be of some concern, but not the top issue. And if you are simply looking for a great family pet, then this will more than likely depend on what color you prefer.

Pits come in all sorts of colors like: blues, reds, chocolates, blacks, fawn, brindle, and white. And all these colors can be mixed and patterned in any sort of way as well. Those are just the coats we're talking about! Pits can have different eye colors, from blue to green to yellow to brown. It's all a matter of genetics really. Plus, they can have different colored noses too ranging from plain old black to red to white(pink actually) to a mix. Again, if you are looking for a family pet, the decision on what your pup looks like is completely a matter of taste.

HERITAGE

This is **extremely important** to professionals like breeders and those in the show dog business, but may not be so for someone in search of a great family pet. However, knowing the bloodline of your new pup can help you and your vet determine if the pup may be more susceptible to certain diseases or illnesses.

Having this information available from the Breeder will let you know that they care about their animals and have extensive knowledge that is kept on record for each Sire or Dam and every generation thereafter. Including your puppy!

THE AGE

It is important that you not get **too young** of a puppy so that it has been properly weaned from the mother. Not to mention the various shots that a new litter of pups should receive before you take it home. That should be all done for you. So the ideal age of a pup that is ready to go is from about **10 to 14 weeks** of age. Now, does that mean that you shouldn't purchase one that is a bit younger or older? No. But keep in mind that a pup younger than 10 weeks will most likely need more specialized care, and a pup that is older than 14 weeks may be already set in it's ways behaviorally and could have developed some rather unsavory personality traits.

JUST ON LOOKS ALONE?

Don't base your decision just by the way the puppy looks. Pick up the pup, if you can(buying online may not enable you this courtesy), moving it away from the rest of the litter. Now, gently and securely, turn the pup over onto it's back while holding it. Be careful not to drop him. See what reaction he has to this. If he simply lays on his back, he is very docile and passive. A good choice! If he fights aggressively to turn right side up, he may be a little too much to handle. This test should be given if you are purchasing any type of pup and you have children of a younger age.

Also, inspect the pup for any patches of missing hair, fleas, etc. that may become more of a problem later on. Pits are more prone to developing mange and "hot spots", or areas where they scratch themselves raw creating bald patches. With treatment this can be controlled and the hair will eventually grow back.

Be sure to inspect each part of the pup and ask any questions you might have before you decide on which pup you want from the litter. Be choosy!

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This will be your pet for it's lifetime. Or at least that's the way you ***should*** be looking at it. Your Pit won't quit on you, so you shouldn't quit on him!

Caring For Your New Puppy

Well, you finally picked the best of the litter and have your new family member safely home. Your new Pit pup will need a lot more than just the love you are going to give her (even though this is an extremely important part of being a good Pit Bull owner ☺). I've put together a quick list of some things you will want to have or need to do for your newest addition to the family.

✓ **Buy A Leash, Collar, And Muzzle For Your Puppy**

Pretty much goes with the territory, even the muzzle sadly. But in many states, you **must** have a muzzle on your Pit Bull when taking them out in general public. Make sure to have several leashes of differing lengths and be prepared to buy more than one collar as your puppy grows!

✓ **Register Your New Puppy**

You really need to register and license your puppy with the local animal control center(or the location reserved for this in your area) so that your dog is on file with them in case he is ever brought into the shelter. This way, they can contact you letting you know where your puppy is. This is especially important when owning a Pit Bull as many that are caught without proper tags and license are euthanized.

You can also register your new Pit pup for “official papers” at:

American Pit Bull Registry Online

<http://www.pitbullregistry.com/>

***note*:** this is for registry of your dog at the American Pit Bull Registry only, so be sure to register and license your dog in your state too!

✓ **Get Insurance On Your New Puppy**

If you own a Pit, you gotta have this too. Actually, it’s a good idea to have “doggie insurance” no matter what type of dog you have just in case of any accidents. In some areas, it is difficult to get this type of pet accident insurance, but it can be obtained. Contact local home or renters insurance agencies to get more information and price quotes as they will all most likely vary. For reference, in the State of Ohio(where I live ☺), you must have no less than a \$100,000 insurance policy for each Pit Bull you own. Obviously this will differ from state to state.

✓ **Find A Veterinarian For Your New Puppy**

Ask family, friends, search the yellow pages, local newspapers or magazines, or online for a vet in your area that is close as possible where you live and affordable for your price range. After you find one, set up an appointment for your new pup to have a check up.

✓ **Get Your Puppy Properly Immunized**

Be sure you take your new pup to your vet and have your puppy properly immunized with all the shots he needs including rabies immunization! This is extremely important and you should keep your puppy up to date on his shots. Always keep a record for yourself in case anything should ever happen between your dog and another dog, or worst case, another human.

✓ **Purchase A Crate For Your Puppy**

This may not seem like it should be a high priority, but it is an absolute must if you want to house train your Pit pup! Many experts will tell you to purchase a crate that the pup can grow into, but for the purposes of housetraining, it should be small enough that there isn't excess room for the pup to relieve itself in one of the corners and still be able to lay down and sleep. It should be of a size that the pup can stand up in comfortably and lay down in. A smaller crate will be best for housetraining purposes, then gradually increase the size as the pup grows. Why do this? So that the pup knows where his special place is where he can rest comfortably and he's not hogging up the couch or bed!

✓ **Purchase The Right Eating Utensils For Your Puppy**

No, not flatware like we humans use! I'm talking about food and water dishes. They come in many different styles, shapes, and colors, so get those you like best. But keep in mind the height of your new pup. You wouldn't want to get dishes for a Great Dane that puppy might have trouble reaching or getting into. Start small, then you can get bigger dishes as your pup grows into a mature dog.

✓ **Purchase The Right Food For Your Puppy**

This is extremely important! You must get the right food for the right stage of your dogs life. So buy the puppy chow and not the big dog chow. Depending on the age of your pup, he may need something that can be softened up a bit with water and that comes in small, bite size pieces for his little mouth. Oh, and the more solid the dog food, the more solid the stool will be. So, if you don't mind cleaning up runny, messy, poopy-goop, then by all means, get the soft, chewy puppy food in a can. But my money is on the hard stuff ☺. Because dollars to donuts says that you will be cleaning up a mess or two during the first stages of puppy potty training! If you are unsure of what type of food to buy your pup, ask your vet. They'll know just what your particular puppy needs.

✓ **Purchase Some Chewy Toys And Treats**

Unless you like your things all chewed up and slobbered on, go ahead and bypass this purchase. But, if like most people out there with puppies, take some time to buy some chew toys for your new puppy. The treats for your pup you should have on hand for when training and they have done something good. Like going inside their crate on command, going potty outdoors, sitting, staying, lying down, etc. But give the treats out sparingly as you want to decrease the treats as reward system overtime.

✓ **Purchase Doggie Health And Hygiene Items**

You take care of your personal hygiene, why should your puppy be any different?! They can get into all sorts of ooie-gooie things and will need to be bathed, probably a lot when they're younger! So be sure you have the right shampoo for your pups needs at hand when the time comes. Other things you can get for your pooch are flea collars and teeth cleaning bones(Dent-A-Bone, etc.).

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While there's more you can add to this short list, these are the basic essentials you will need for your new puppy. Remember though, love costs nothing!

Taking Your Pit Bull Out

Okay, you've got everything in order and want to spend a day of play outdoors with your brand new, beautiful pup. The first thing you need to be sure is that you have all the necessary equipment with you. Collar, leash, and *sigh* a muzzle that fits your pup. Hopefully where you live you don't have to muzzle your "baby". I know I absolutely loathe that! But some dogs must be muzzled to keep others safe. It's a sad fact.

All right, we have everything we need and are all set to go out. But where can we go? Well that depends on where you live. If you live near the ocean, an early morning jaunt on the beach can be fun. If you live in the city, taking a stroll around the neighborhood could be fun, or a trip down to the pet store might be exciting!

Just remember, anywhere you go that you need to have your pet restrained properly and securely for your sake and your Pits. Make sure that for the duration you are outdoors, your Pit is kept on it's leash and you have a secure hold of it at all times! Pay attention to what's going on around you so that you are always prepared for whatever may come your direction.

While you're out, try and socialize your puppy as much as you can with other dogs, and people. Especially children, but be sure the parents are around before doing so to make sure that it is all right with them that there child pets your puppy. And also so they can supervise their child in this process. Always be responsible and watch what your dog is doing. Keep him close as possible to you at all times and if he shows any signs of agitation, take him back home immediately.

I want to take a moment to mention Dog Parks. If you are unfamiliar with

them, a Dog Park is a place where you can take your dog and let them go “off leash” allowing them to play with other dogs, humans, and their owners freely. At the time of this writing, I’m confident that Pit Bulls are not welcome members of this socializing setting. While you may be able to take your Pit into the Dog Park, it may not be a good idea for two reasons.

ONE: Your Pit might see any of the other dogs as a threat to either himself or to you and go on defense mode, bringing on what seems to be an unprovoked attack on another dog, or human.

TWO: The other dog owners will not be pleased that there is a “vicious killer” in their midst. They don’t care if your dog is a nice dog that would never attack another living creature. All they care about is that it’s one of those “Pit Bull” dogs, the ones that will kill anything anytime they feel like it(See Myth Section ☺).

So, the Dog Park may not be the best place for you and your Pit based on just those 2 reasons. I’m sure there’s plenty more that are debatable, but I won’t go into them here.

And of course, if you have one, there’s always the backyard! But make sure if you don’t have a fence, your puppy is on his leash and being supervised the entire time he’s outside. Don’t just tether him up to a backyard chain and assume that he’ll be fine for the next hour or two.

Anything Could Happen At Anytime!

But what if this isn’t enough activity for you or your puppy? Is there anything else that they can have fun doing that is competitive and exciting? YES! It’s revealed in the next chapter! Keep reading!

Healthy And Active Sports For Your Pit Bull

You may not be aware of it, but there are several healthy and active sports competitions that you and your Pit can have fun together doing. While most dog sporting competitions are reserved for specific breeds like retrievers and hounds, there are some sports that Pits excel in and more importantly are encouraged to compete in! Here's a short list of those I've found ordered by the clubs, leagues, or associations that sponsor the events and then following will be an assortment of activities you can do with your pooch at home.

ALL AMERICAN PIT BULL ASSOCIATION

<http://www.aapba.com/events/>

AAPBA'S WEIGHT PULLING COMPETITION

In a weight pulling competition, a dog is harnessed up to a cart that contains a specified amount of weight. The cart is on wheels and those wheels are placed on metal tracks. In between the tracks is the dog and the goal of this competition is to pull the most weight the fastest over the distance specified. It is a competition that highlights strength and drive of the dog, and awards are given in this competition. It is also a nationally recognized sport that Pits regularly compete in. Many different organizations sponsor weight pulling events and various breeds are accepted for competition registration.

AAPBA'S SLED SPRINTING COMPETITION

In the sled sprinting competition, a dog is required to pull his or her own weight that is sat on a metal type sled and is required to pull it as fast as possible for the distance set. The dog that pulls this the quickest is the winner.

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

AAPBA'S AGILITY COMPETITION

Sort of like a “doggy” obstacle course in which the dog performs a series of tasks on command from the owner, or trainer. The dog performing the best and scores the highest total of points is the overall winner in this competition.

AAPBA'S TREADMILL SPRINT

In this event, a pooch is placed onto a treadmill and he is to run for a time period of about three minutes without stopping and going as fast as he can. This competition tests strength and endurance. The dog with the most points scored at the end of the sprint is the winner.

AAPBA'S CONFORMATION COMPETITION

This competition is more like what you see in dog show competitions. There is a set of standards that each dog will be judged according to, and the dog earning the most points out of each class is the winner.

You can read more on any of these sports or find out how you can sign your dog up by visiting the main AAPBA site link listed above.

International Weight Pulling Association

<http://www.iwpa.net/>

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

WEIGHT PULLING

Again, this is a sport that Pits excel at! And this site and Association is devoted to this sport by itself! There is so much information on the competition on their main website, it seems silly to put it all here. Follow the link above and read up on this fascinating sport! They have a list of all upcoming pulling events scheduled, an in depth definition of what the sport exactly is, and more information on how to register your dog for the weight pulling events listed there.

UKC UPCOMING EVENTS LIST

<http://www.ukcdogs.com/dogevents/upcoming/i-per.shtml>

DOG OBEDIENCE COMPETITION

This is pretty interesting, huh?! If you have taken your dog through any obedience training, either self-taught(through you), or through an obedience school, your doggie can compete! Usually there is at least one competition accepting **all dog breeds**, which the American Pit Bull Terrier is one of that is recognized by the UKC. Exciting stuff eh?

There's lots more to look at on the official UKC website as far as competitions go, so you should most definitely make it one of your "internet stops" if you're interested in getting your dog involved in sports or competitions.

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

DOCKDOGS BIG AIR SPORTING EVENTS

<http://www.ukcdogs.com/dogevents/upcoming/i-per.shtml>

BIG AIR COMPETITIONS

These are *really* fun! I absolutely *love* watching these dogs leap. It's fascinating! This sporting event can be seen highlighted on any number of sports related cable channels from time to time, including ESPN's Sporting Dog Sunday©, and is gaining in popularity. From the site listed above, you can find out loads of information on these competitions including event scheduling and registration.

This is a super fun sport and Pits really love to jump!!

However, Pits are mostly muscle which would make it a little more difficult for them to get the "high air" and jump the farthest distance. But I won't say it's impossible, because nothing is impossible when we're talking about the determination of a Pit. ☺

FUN ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME

If you really aren't ready for local competitions, there are still fun activities you can do at home with your Pit that will give you both countless hours of enjoyment! Let me explain something right up front. With any of these activities, if the dog enjoys it and is happy, there is absolutely nothing wrong with doing any one of them. Or *all* of them!

It only *becomes* a problem when you force your dog to participate in *any* activity. But, there's a big difference between a dog that actively and freely participates in certain types of playtime, and those that are forced to perform

and are mistreated for refusal to participate.

Don't let others with a negative attitude tell you any different.

Especially those that don't know about, or are misinformed about the Pit Bull dog in general. Each one of the activities found here are quite healthy and safe for your Pit to participate in without causing damage to the dog, or others, in any way.

SPRINGPOLE-ING

Having a Springpole in your yard is a great way to exercise your Pitbull pup. But I must throw in a strong word of caution, this activity will most certainly increase the strength of your Pits jaw muscles and you need to be very careful to monitor this activity with your Pit and stop it altogether if afterwards they begin to show **any** aggressive tendencies such as excess biting. But in most cases, the Springpole is a fantastic form of exercise for your Pitbull. And a phenomenal feat to watch!

So what exactly is a Springpole?

Basically, it is a thick rope that is connected to a springing mechanism that is then hung from a sturdy place(usually a tree branch) high enough off the ground that the dog must leap to grab the rope. The more they pull on the rope, the more 'springing' action will occur. Pits have been known to play this game for hours on end and do so willingly and on their own. However, like any outdoor activity, your pup should be properly supervised so that no accidents occur either to the pup or to anyone else.

If you are interested in purchasing a Springpole, or getting additional information about them try browsing this website:

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

Springpole.com

<http://www.springpole.com/>

TREADMILL RUNNING

And you thought this was just for keeping *yourself* fit! Not so. Pits love to run, and if you are in a small, or confining space such as an apartment, this can be a great way to get some much needed exercise to keep your Pit happy and healthy. But it is also a fantastic way to build up your Pits muscles.

Treadmill running for a Pit is just as it is for you, however, there are specially designed Pit treadmills you can purchase, but those are quite pricy. Nothing really beats a good ‘jaunt’ outdoors, but if you simply can’t get outside for some reason, then using a treadmill for the health of your Pit is a good alternative.

BOOMER BALL PLAY

You might be wondering, what the heck is a “boomer ball”? Well, I was wondering the exact same thing when I first stumbled across the toy when doing research for this ebook! But it turns out that it is the perfect toy for the rough and tough jaws of the Pit Bull. It is a durable plastic ball that comes in different sizes that is virtually indestructable, which means that your Pit can have hours of fun with this bad boy! It has been designed **not** for throwing or even grasping within the mouth, like playing fetch with a tennis ball, no. The Boomer Ball is designed for chasing, nudging, and trying to grab hold of it with the dog's mouth to burn off all that excess built up energy! And it does this quite efficiently too.

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

It's sort of like “doggie soccer” if you will. It does the job it was intended to do and does it well for an affordable price tag too. Ask your local pet store if they carry any Boomer Balls so you can pick one up for your pup. Oh, and you should always get one that is too big for your pup or dog to fit inside it's mouth, otherwise, it really defeats the purpose of the toy!

FRISBEE TOSSING

Do I really need to explain this one? :-) You can pick up a frisbee at any local corner store or super shopping center, and they come in a variety of styles, textures, shapes, and sizes that will bring you and your new pup hours of enjoyment. Plus their pretty inexpensive.

Believe it or not, this fantastic pass time combines three things Pits really enjoy doing. And that is 1.) Running, 2.) Jumping, and 3.) Fetching. Did you read that right? Fetching?? You better believe it! Remember, the APBT is no different from any other dog breed, except in appearance. And, they live to please their master ☺.

Being A Responsible Pit Bull Owner

Being a responsible Pit Bull owner is like being a responsible parent. And if you look at it this way, you can avoid some potentially dangerous or even **deadly** situations that could occur. When you become a dog owner you take on a specific set of responsibilities, just as when you become a parent. While you probably won't have to change any diapers, cleaning the poo will still be necessary ☺.

So, how can you be a responsible Pit Bull owner? That's really simple. **The #1 thing you must do to be a responsible Pit owner is to obey every local and state law that applies to your dog.**

If you have to have certain insurance, then **get it**. If there are restrictions as far as taking your dog out in public places, **know every one of them and obey them every time you go outdoors.**

But just knowing and obeying the law isn't all that is involved in being a responsible Pit Bull owner, even though it is an extremely important part. There are other things that you need to do properly to be the 'perfect' Pit owner.

KEEP YOUR PIT AND OTHERS SAFE

This is so simple to do that it's often overlooked and not fully understood. Here are some tips that will help you be successful in securing your new pet from being hurt itself or from potentially hurting others that live in your neighborhood.

1. When you are not home to supervise your Pit, keep them locked inside the house. Although this might sound cruel, it's really not. Pit Bulls have very short haired coats and exposure to extreme weather conditions can be very harmful for them. So they really should be “inside” dogs. Plus, this keeps them and everyone else safe at the same time :-) Doing something as simple as being sure your Pit is inside the house and all outside doors are locked up tight could save the life of someone, or your Pit.

2. Get Your Pit A Crate For Indoors And USE IT. Again, using a crate to contain your Pit while you are not at home is not cruel if you are not going to be gone for days on end. If it's just temporary during the day while you or your significant other is at work, or somewhere else, then there's absolutely nothing wrong with securing your Pit inside a crate that is the right size for her. Also, keep in mind that when inside a crate, your Pit will not have food and water accessible to them, so being at home for 8 hours contained somewhere without food and water will most likely create a problem.

3. Fence Your Yard And Get And Outdoor Kennel. This is an important step to being a responsible Pit Bull owner. You must ensure the safety of your Pit, and your neighbors. Putting up both a fence around your yard and building a protective, enclosed kennel is essential to be sure you are doing everything you possibly can to make everyone safe at all times.

4. Always Keep Your Pit On It's Leash When Going Out. This means when you leave your home, as in taking walks through the park, down the street, or just walking down the driveway to collect the mail, never take your Pit pup outside unleashed. It's just too dangerous, even if you have a 10 week old puppy. They could hurt a small child or be run over themselves, and we don't want those things to happen!

DON'T LOAN YOUR DOG OUT

Yeah, it's not a car. Don't give permission for someone else that is most

likely unfamiliar with your dog's specific needs and behaviors to keep your dog. This is risky and should not be a common practice. There is a difference between properly socializing your dog, or taking your dog in for obedience classes and just saying to your buddy, "Sure, you can borrow my dog for an hour, a day, whatever". And, make sure your kids aren't doing this either!

It only takes a split second for something to go horribly wrong. Accidents happen every single day, so avoid them by knowing where your dog is, what she's doing, and always supervising them when put into a setting with unfamiliar people, places, or other animals.

DO NOT USE YOUR DOG AS A FIGHTER

Should go without saying, again, but it is *so important* that it has to be put into print. *Please*, for the love of your dog, don't use him to fight. First of all, dog fighting here in the United States is **illegal**, but beyond that, it's ***completely stupid*** and reflects the same impression on those participating in it. Plus, it's harmful to your pet! Would you yourself jump into a "death-ring" like the Ultimate Fighting Championship Challenge? I didn't think so. So, if you're not prepared to do yourself what you ask of your dog, then don't ask it of your dog. Make sense?

FIX YOUR DOG

If you are not interested in breeding your dog, or you are not a professional dog breeder by trade, then please, consider having your puppy spayed or neutered. This will not only help control the amount of "bad boy" strays roaming the streets freely, but it will also show that you truly care about

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your puppy by not contributing to more unwanted puppies that will most likely be fought, unloved, un-cared for, and ultimately, put to a tragic death in time that could have been avoided all together.

Like I stated before, anyone can be a Pitbull owner, but not many can be a ***responsible*** Pitbull owner. Following the simple pointers outlined here will help guide you on your way to responsible Pitbull puppy ownership.

Great Tales Of The Pit Bull

Now, this is my favorite part of the ebook! I wanted to share with you some positive experiences that other Pitbull owners have had over the course of their lives, and the lives of one of their most beloved family member(s), their Pitbull(s)!

Each of these stories were sent in by proud Pitbull owners, or specifically linked to from reputable sources such as local newspapers, magazines, website organizations, and similar. All of the sources will be included beneath the story, or link to the story title that can be retrieved online, since due to copyright laws, I cannot directly include the text for your reading pleasure here. If you are one of the individual's who sent in your story, or published your story online to enlighten others, I sincerely thank you and want you to know that you are giving many, many people a chance to see the Pitbull in a different light.

And for those of you who have not, I hope that someday, later on in your life, you will experience something fantastic with your Pitbull giving you a terrific story to tell that showcases the great courage, loyalty, tenacity, and bravery of your Pitbull just as these do.

THE GREAT JAVELINA BATTLE

I've had as many as 4 at a time and think they are the most LOVING and good natured dog anyone could ask for. Aside from that, though, it is the size of their heart that truly impresses me.

We had about 200 acres in the high-desert areas of the southwestern

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US. The closest neighbor (yes, only 1) was miles away. The land was still wild and a real treat to go hiking in. My pitters always liked to go with me, surrounding me on each side.

One day I was out without my dogs and I came across a javelina or wild pig. These can be mean suckers and this one decided to attack. I remember running from it as it chased after me, my only thought was to get to a tree and climb. I reached a tree and was about to go up when from the brush two of my dogs came charging out and tackled the pig.

The battle was fierce. Javelinas are extremely powerful and have long razor sharp tusks. It was a raging scene and I could do nothing but watch as my dogs fought to protect me. The javelina finally ran off but my dogs were near butchered and their blood all over the ground.

Both of them lived, but it was extremely delicate for weeks. I attribute their survival not to our quick first aid and care, I lied next to them for days and nursed them, but it was the size of their hearts and loyalty to me that enabled them to continue living.

Pitbulls are very emotional dogs, their love and loyalty run deep. They are not quitters, and will do anything for their owners.

I have some other stories to recount but the above was difficult for me to tell. I'm surprised after all these years.

Regards,

Mark Eckenrode

Arizona, U.S.A

<http://www.DogMatters.com>

FERRIT FUN

We've had several pitbulls and I'm sure you know how they love to

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

rough house and play (I think that's their #1 priority). Well, we also have a ferret. Initially we were worried how all of them would get along, but we made the proper introductions and the rest is friendly history.

Both the Pitbulls and ferret quickly became great playmates. Our dogs would dart back and forth and nudge the ferret with their noses. Of course, the ferret would bounce around doing it's wardance and then lead the dogs on a chase through room; conducting sneak attacks much like a cat would.

Ocassionally, it would get to be too much for me to handle. I'd holler and tell them all to go play in another room. So, what did my pitters do? They'd pick up the ferret in their mouth and carry her over to the next room, set her down, and begin the games all over again.

Who would have thought these "fierce" dogs would treat such a small critter like a ferret as a friend and playmate?

Mark Eckenrode

Phoenix, AZ

www.DogMatters.com

OTHER PHENOMENAL FEATS OF COURAGE AND COOL STORIES TO READ

Pitbull Press – Articles From A to Z

<http://www.pitbullpress.com/ARTICLES/ARTICLES.HOME.html>

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

ITSAPITTY.COM

<http://www.itsapitty.com/history.html>

Positive Pitbull Publicity

<http://www.bullterriertimes.co.uk/positive.htm>

Pit Bull Stories From Sporting Dog Online

<http://www.sporting-dog.com/stories.html>

21st Century Animal Resource & Education Services

<http://www.21stcenturycares.org/realpit.htm>

Katz Dawgs – Dog Attack Stories

<http://katzdawgs.tripod.com/attacks.htm>

Pawsitively Pit Bulls – Those Famous Pits

<http://pawsitivelypitbull.com/famous.htm>

A Letter To The Media

<http://www.oldfamilyrednoses.com/medialetter.html>

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

Sites For Learning More About Your Pit Bull

Want to learn even more about the Pit Bull? Take some time to visit a few of these sites and you will definitely do just that! There's so much good information on Pits that it literally could take days to get through it all! Chance it, you just might learn something.

Pit Bull Lovers

<http://www.pitbulllovers.com> – Obvious to tell by the title you will find loads of great information about Pit Bulls here from those that are devoted to the breed ☺.

The Truth About Pit Bulls

<http://pitbulls.jentown.com/index.html> – More information about the facts on the Pit Bull breed, history of where they came from, etc. Interesting site and good collection of info here.

Bad Rap.org

<http://www.badrap.org/rescue/> – A lovely site that helps rescued Pit Bulls get adopted and has tons of great information about Pit Bulls.

Pit Bull Reporter Magazine

<http://www.pbreporter.com> – This site has lots of fantastic information about the breed and you can also have this magazine delivered right to your regular mailbox! Good stuff here that deserves to be viewed!

The Real Pit Bull

<http://www.realpitbull.com/> - Lots and lots of Pittie info here to read through!

<http://www.pitsaspets.com>

Pit Bull Fact vs. Legend

<http://www.austinlostpets.com/kidskorner/2October/pitbull.htm> – Information packed website discussing the facts about Pit Bulls and the myths associated.

Lone Star State Pit Bull Club

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/8174/outreach.html> – Pretty self explanatory with this one, but not only is it a club for APBT owners, but has information on the breed.

For Pits Sake

<http://www.forpitsake.org/frame.html> – Outstanding website giving you so much information on Pit Bulls, you will definitely want to bookmark it!

Sporting Dog Online

<http://www.sporting-dog.com/> – Lots of absolutely fantastic information about Pit Bulls in this section devoted just to, what else :-), the Amercian Pit Bull Terrier!

Hart-a-Gold Library

<http://www.hartagold.com/library.htm> – A wonderful place to find out about the health concerns of Pit Bull owners, or those wanting to own a Pit. Other topics discussed are ear cropping, what's best to feed your bully, and others.

The APBT History Museum

<http://www.pitbullmuseum.org/> - Displaying artworks and literature throughout the century highlighting the Pit Bull. A terrific site that hopefully will grow!

In Conclusion

As I said at the beginning of this ebook, the aim here was to **educate** and **illuminate** by providing you with honest, and correct, information about the breed known as the Pitbull. My only hope is that it has done this at least in some small way for you.

Too many times in life we tend to “prejudge” others without knowing the real facts first. It happens every day, and most times without even a second thought. Defining specific dog breeds with “bad boy” brands is no different.

Maybe the next time you see a Pitbull, you won't be as afraid of them prior to reading this ebook, and will see them for the intelligent, loving, courageous animals that they really are.

I thank you for buying this ebook and I honestly hope that it has been of some use to you in one way or another.