

Breed Profile - American Bulldog

History:



Bulldogs originated in England where they were working dogs in charge of catching cattle and guarding their masters' property. This breed was also, at one time, used in the grueling and violent sport of bull baiting. The original bulldog was preserved by immigrants from Great Britain that brought their dogs along with them to the American South. This breed almost became extinct by the end of WWII due to their decreasing numbers after bull baiting was outlawed, but thanks to breeding programs sponsored by John D. Johnson and Allen Scott the breed was brought back from the brink of extinction.

Characteristics:

These dogs are the epitome of true hard work, devotion and true love. The American Bulldog is a hearty working dog as well as a loving family companion that is good with children and other pets. They are a fiercely determined breed that has been known to display heroic acts to protect their master. They are known for their intelligence and are very responsive to training, if done in a manner of positive reinforcement by a strong pack leader. They were historically used as working dogs and thrive in an environment where they are given responsibilities - this can be as simple as carrying a pack on their backs during a daily walk or involvement as a service dog; they will willingly accept any challenge.

Temperament:

American Bulldogs are gentle, loving family companions that will do whatever it takes to defend their master or property from harm. They are extremely intelligent and are excellent judges of character. Am Bullies benefit from having a strong pack leader that will establish boundaries; they tend to be "jumpy" when they are young so this should be addressed early on. They are naturally affectionate and adoring to their family and strangers with whom they have been properly introduced. They are known for their silly, goofy antics and are guaranteed to make their owners laugh. American Bulldogs are wonderful with children and most do well with other pets (opposite sex arrangements usually work best).



Care/Exercise:

Although they are considered to be a working dog, American Bulldog do quite well in apartments or homes with limited space. A few short walks per day are usually enough to satisfy their exercise requirements. They have a very short coat which should be brushed regularly with a rubber mitt or firm bristle brush. Baths should only be given when necessary; American Bulldogs tend to have sensitive skin. Puppies should receive early socialization.

Health Issues:

This is generally a very healthy breed of dog, although some Am Bull Dogs are susceptible to hip dysplasia.

Average Height: Male - 22 to 27 inches / Female - 21 to 25 inches

Average Weight: Male - 75 to 125 pounds / Female - 60 to 100 pounds

Colors: White, pied or up to 90% color; brindle, red or brown patches.

Category: Working, Guardian.