

Breed Profile - American Pit Bull Terrier

History:



The American Pit Bull Terrier was introduced to the US in the early 1800s by Boston-Irish immigrants. In America the Pit Bull flourished and was used in various WWI era war artwork, the Buster Brown Shoe Company and RCA used the breed as their mascot. A Pit Bull named Petie starred in Our Gang and a Pit mixed named Stubby became a decorated WWI hero. During this time the Pit Bull was loved and adored by the masses becoming America's sweetheart. Since this time the Pit Bull has evolved into a marvelous working and companion dog; Pits are employed as therapy dogs, search and rescuers, police/armed services dogs, and livestock workers. They also compete in a variety of agility and organized dog sports including herding, conformation and obedience. This is one of the most versatile breeds on the planet, due in part to the harshness and physical demands of their early history.

Characteristics:

Pit Bulls are known for their extreme intelligence and adoration for people. Despite what the unfair press reports say, these dogs are very loving, loyal and protective companions, with a devotion for humans that is unmatched by most other breeds. American Pit Bull Terriers and American Staffordshire Terriers are considered to be two separate breeds due to the fact they they originate from separate bloodlines, but they share many of the same characteristics. Both breeds of dog do have a tendency for dog aggression, but when placed in a loving home with responsible owners it is usually a non-issue when addressed in the proper manner. Solid training and socialization at an early age will produce a tranquil, obedient, wonderful companion for you and your family.

Temperament:

These dogs are very courageous, loyal and show an absolute love for life. They are very energetic and should be given activities to allow them to work off their exuberance. Most Pit Bulls will display signs of dog aggression in one form or another, early socialization can help to prevent this to some point, but owners need to be aware of a Pit's tendency to be DA and strong prey drive for small animals. Am Pit Bull Terriers are great will people, although due to their excitability some Pits may not be suitable for young children, just for the simple fact that they may accidentally knock them down.



Care/Exercise:

Pit Bulls require a generous amount of vigorous exercise while on-leash. Many owners fulfill this need for work by allowing their dog to run on a treadmill or along side their bike while they are out for a ride. Regular brushing with a bristle brush or rubbing with a chamois will help to keep a Pit's coat clean and shiny. They should be bathed only when necessary to prevent drying out the skin, which can cause flaking and/or itching.

Health Issues:

Pit Bulls are susceptible to mange and heart murmurs.

Average Height: 18 to 22 inches

Average Weight: 30 to 60 pounds

Colors: Any color.

Category: Terrier