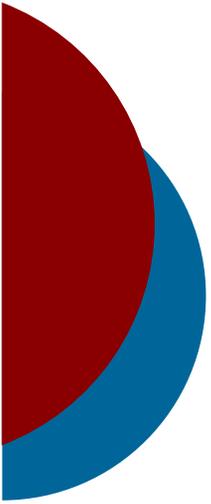


Pit Bulls



TRAITS

Patient
Loyal
Enthusiastic
Strong
Athletic
High Energy
Loving
Affectionate
Courageous

Pit Bulls are considered one of the strongest and smartest breeds. Because of this, they make wonderful companions for responsible, active, and knowledgeable owners. A Pit Bull can be hard to handle for an inexperienced dog owner, or for those unfamiliar with the breed. As a result of their intelligence, and their eagerness to please their humans, they are very responsive and excel in training. If you are thinking of adding a Pit Bull to your family, here are some things you need to take into account.



Pit Bulls

American Staffordshire Terrier
American Pit Bull Terrier
Staffordshire Bull Terrier

Owning a Pit Bull

- Usually best in single dog families
- If you have another dog, get a Pit Bull of the opposite sex
- Introduce new dogs on leash, away from home
- Never leave food, bones or toys lying around
- Don't throw a ball for both dogs
- Supervise dogs when they are together; don't leave them alone
- Socialize your dog from a young age
- Do not take your Pit Bull to an off-leash park

MYTH

Pit Bulls jaws do not lock. Their jaw structure is no different than other dogs. They are just powerful, tenacious and do not give up easily.



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Fighting:

Pit Bulls were originally bred to fight, and every Pit Bull has that trait. They may fight over status, or because they get too excited. A responsible owner must remember that their dog can cause serious injury, just like any other large dog. Even if the Pit Bull did not start the fight, they will most likely finish it and be blamed.

Human Aggression:

While Pit Bulls were bred to fight, they were not bred for human aggression. If they show aggression towards humans, they were most likely abused, never socialized, and not treated right by their owners. A Pit Bull kept on a tie out, for instance, would be a good candidate to develop aggression from its frustration.



NEEDS

Lots of Exercise

Affection

Strong Owner

Compassion

Companionship

Training

Structure

Socialization

Pit Bulls In Maricopa County

30% of the dogs that come into MCACC's Animal Care Centers are Pit Bulls. 70% of those are euthanized. That's 15,000 dogs a year, or about 40 a day. It is everybody's responsibility to be informed so these dogs aren't overbred or brought to the wrong homes and then returned to the shelters.

If you do decide that a Pit Bull is the dog for you, be responsible. Get your new pet spayed or neutered. There are too many unwanted Pit Bulls. You also need to license, vaccinate and microchip them (as you should with all dogs). As the breed is so strong and powerful, it is very important to take your dog to training and obedience class so you both know how to act.



Maricopa County Animal Care and Control

2500 S. 27th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Phone: 602-506-PETS