



Pros and Cons of Owning a Pitbull

The pros and cons of owning a Pit Bull

Pit Bulls Form Very Strong Bonds with their Owners

Ever had a Fan Club before? Get ready, because you'll have a loyal and devoted comrad for life

The Flipside: This friendship comes with a pricetag. You'll have to honor your dog's loyalty and devotion and be ready to commit LOTS of quality time (at least 2 hours a day) to your pet for life. To banish your dog to the backyard or leave him alone for long periods of time for weeks on end can cause him to become depressed, and/or destructive.

The Brightside on the Flipside: The more time you spend with your APBT - the more you'll enjoy him. And isn't that why you wanted a dog in the first place?

The photo on the right is 'Rupert' - a soulful teddy bear of a dog who happily occupanies his human on adventures all around the SF bay area.



Pit Bulls are Agile, Athletic and FUN

The Flipside: Pit bulls can be Escape Artists!

Many can climb tall fences, dig underneath, or Houdini their way out of the most secure yards. Many are forever lost or stolen once they're out. Owners should provide a very secure set-up and supervise all play when the dog is outdoors, and keep him indoors when no one's home. If indoor accomodations are not

possible, we recommend an outdoor kennel run with a good lock, or a well designed cable tie-out. Always have a collar and tags on your dog in case they do get lost. Microchip your pet too! Animal shelters are so crowded that they can't hold lost dogs for more than a few days and yours could be destroyed before you can find her if she isn't tagged and/or microchipped. On behalf of all the lost pit bullies who never make it safely back to their home, BAD RAP asks you to PLEASE be extra safe with your dog!
Sally, above, is enjoying her supervised yard time with a favorite toy.

The Brightside on the Flipside: Pit bulls are impressive dogs to show off in agility work, flyball, and other exciting dog sports! You can utilize a pit bull's athletic talents by having a great time with your pooch in ways that may surprise you. Check out these dogs who have helped raise the sport of skateboarding to a whole new level: [Chicago Asphalt Eaters!](#)



And then there's Nikki, the American Staffordshire Terrier who is making herding dogs faint with her impressive wins in agility trials. [GO NIKKI!](#)



And here's Modesto's Laurie Daily-Johnston's flyball champ 'Ma-Maz' showing the rest how its done. Whooop! Whooop!

*Bred to hunt, not
BORN TO fight*

Dog-on-Dog Aggression is Common!



All pit bulls (including American Staffordshire Terriers, Bull Terriers and Staffordshire Bull Terriers) descend from lines that were selectively bred to fight other dogs. Even with the necessary socialization and obedience training many will throw down into a fight if push comes to shove and things go bad. This tough guy attitude with other dogs can get them (and you!) into real trouble if not understood and not managed well. Some pits can never mix with other dogs, some (youngsters especially) do just fine with other dogs, and some only with dogs they know or dogs of the opposite sex. Pit bulls mature late, and many can be A-Okay with dogs as a puppy... But WATCH OUT! Their dog tolerance will begin to shift when they reach maturity... typically between the age of 1 and 3 years or anytime after. Much of this will depend on the individual bag of genetics your dog inherits, not "how he was raised". No wonder so many are confused about the breed!

The golden rule of responsible pit bull management says:
"Never Trust a Pit Bull Not to Fight!"

Whether your dog reacts aggressively at the mere sight of another dog, is dog aggressive only in certain highly charged situations, or is still young and quite happy with dogs - it becomes your utmost responsibility to know him like the back of your hand and to keep him well socialized and "properly managed" around other dogs. Good management is KEY and must be kept up for the life of your pet. This includes slow and careful introductions when new dogs come around and eagle-eye supervision when they play. A pit bull that pulls at the leash on the city streets straining to bark and snarl at other dogs does NOT make a good impression (puh-lease!) and should be avoided through training. To prevent trouble, all pit bull owners should stay very alert to the different types of things that could trigger your dog into a dogfight (lug-of-war? chew toys? escalated play? etc). All owners should know how to safely break up a fight, and how to use a break stick. See: [Break Stick](#)

The Glamor Gordies in the photo above were introduced slowly and carefully because they're both mature adults (and females!). Now they're buddies and happy to hang out and play fun pit bull games. However, their owners still supervise their play and separate them before leaving the house. **Leaving pit bulls alone together unattended, no matter how much they "love each other" is inviting disaster.** Trust us! Separate your dogs when you aren't there and you'll never have to worry about coming home to tragedy.

Wise Words: For info on how to manage more than one pit bull in your household, click here: [Multi Pit Bulls: How to Avoid Trouble](#)

Pit Bulls are Typically Strong Willed

While pit bulls are bred to be gushy, affectionate and all-loving with people, their chutzpa can make them pushy, willful and even dominant. They'll happily run your household for you if you aren't ready to dish out firm guidelines. This means you'll need to be a fair, decisive handler. **Obedience training is a must. Don't get a pit bull if you're a push-over!**

Note: With Pit bulls, Animal Aggression is a completely different behavior from Human Aggression. **They've been traditionally bred to be very people friendly.** Any pit bull that demonstrates aggression towards people is revealing a substandard temperament and should be humanely euthanized.

The Brightside on this Trait: Pit bulls are highly intelligent and typically excel in obedience work! Because your dog loves you completely and wants to please you, he'll very likely end up being one of the most impressive, best trained dogs in the neighborhood. Enjoy your opportunity to be a Pit Bull Show Off! Have you heard that pit bulls are 'bulheaded' and can't be trained? You need to meet Sacramento's own 'Chayenne' and 'Dakota' then. They are certified search and rescue dogs that prove how much APBTs love to work. Thank you to their owner Kristine, who is breaking down stereotypes with her wonderful dogs. [K9 SAR](#)

Pit Bull Heroes

The tough, strong and courageous character of the breed brings new meaning to the term **American Hero**. Pit bulls have been saving lives and serving humans bravely ever since the U.S. first considered them our **All American Dog**.

Some contemporary examples:

Meet: Weela - an APBT who's saved more than one life in her day.

RCA - Alaska's first certified hearing dog. **Pete** - who changed the life of a jaded veterinarian. **Norton** - who saved his owner's life.

Bullycorgi Courage is something to be respected and admired!

Thank you to [PitBullPress.com](#) for organizing such a great collection of Pit Bull Hero Tales!

Pit bulls Love to Swim, Run, Play Frisbee and Romp in the Great Outdoors

The Flipside: Finding places where your dog can run offlead can be very difficult, if not impossible! Many areas don't allow pit bulls to be offlead and areas that do can be difficult places to visit. If your dog gets in a fight with another dog, things could go very badly very fast. You may be the one to get into trouble and your dog could end up in jail, even if he wasn't the one to start the fight. Because of the current prejudice against pit bulls, because your pit bull can cause a lot of damage to another dog, and because it's impossible to completely avoid poorly managed loose aggressive dogs in the parks (this includes YOUR dog if you're not on top of his dog aggression potential!), smart owners of mature bull breeds choose to play it safe and steer clear of these places in favor of safer options. Photos: Lola is taking a dip in a 'secret' place far from the maddening crowd and Roca Bean is enjoying her own private baby pool



For Important Info, Read: [Pit Bulls & Dog Parks](#)

The Brightside on the Flipside: Because many pit bulls tend to be happier around dogs that they know, you may be able to find or create 'play groups' where your dog can regularly visit with other dog 'friends' for fun and exercise. Both and you and your dog will benefit from the extra socialization.

The Other Flipside: Pit bulls can be very active dogs that need a LOT of run around time and exercise. Don't get a young pit bull if you live your life in the slow lane.

The Brightside on the Flipside: Your dog will nudge you into getting in shape, like it or not! We like to say "A tired pit bull is a happy pit bull!" So your runaround time spent exercising your dog will reflect in your improved health and happy outdoor glow. Enjoy!

Why Would Anyone Want to Own a Pit Bull? See for yourself with photos of BAD RAP volunteers and their dogs: [Pit Bull Photo Galleria!](#) »

Pit Bulls are Social Butterflies



Your dog will LOVE to go places with you to see the sights and visit with your friends, family, and strangers on the street. The pic shows 'Sally' very excited about the idea of going out for a ride in the car.

The Flipside: Over the last 20 years or so, the pit bull has fallen victim to the careless deeds of unethical breeders, irresponsible and even shady owners. This bad combination, along with the handiwork of a sensationalistic media, has done a terrible thing to our beloved breed. As a result, myths, misdeeds, misunderstanding and hysteria abound! When you walk around with your bulldog, you'll no doubt encounter people who'll be afraid of her or who give you trouble for having a pit bull.

The Brightside on the Flipside: By taking your well behaved bully out into the world, you'll have the pleasant opportunity to talk to lots of folks that you meet. By doing so, you can help dispel the myths about pit bulls as you proudly show off your dog. Hanging out at the local coffee shop with your lovable pit bull by your side will probably bring you more interesting conversations than you ever thought possible. And undoubtedly, you'll be making friends while you're busy changing minds. Enjoy!

Not sure how to explain your love of bullies to someone who's been corrupted by nasty news reports? Meet Ann Lettis and see how she uses her AmStaff Mickey to help change minds. Thank you Ann! Our bullies are indebted to you. [Meeting Mickey](#)

The Other Flipside: on the Social Butterfly of the Dog World - APBTs make lousy guard dogs! They may bark at a burglar looking in the window, but will lick his hand and show him to the stereo once he's in the house. The thief may even try to steal your pit bull! Do NOT get an APBT if you want a guard dog. Consider a burglar alarm instead.

Pit Bulls Love Kids

Its a well known fact - Well managed, responsibly owned pit bulls are some of the best family dogs. The American Canine Temperament Test Society lists this breed as having one of the most stable temperaments of any of the purebreds, right up there with golden retrievers. For the stats:

Pit Bull Temperament Test Results



Many APBTs go out of their way to lick little faces and will wag, wag, wag their tails when they see a child. Many will let kids pull their ears, climb on their backs and, rough and tumble fans that they are, will love every minute of rugged kid-style attention. Still not convinced about pit bulls and kids? Then check this out:

Pit Bulls & Kids

The Flipside: These are strong, active dogs and can knock smaller sized kids down in their exhuberance. * As with ANY breed, no dog should ever be left alone with a young child -- But you already knew that!



Pit Bulls are Clean Animals with Short Coats

These handsome hunks have few grooming needs and are generally easy to care for.

The Flipside: APBTs don't like to be left out in the cold. Your pit bull will want to be where its warm: inside with you! She may even insist on sneaking under your covers with you.

The Brightside on the Flipside: They'll keep you warm while trying to keep themselves warm. And, they look great in groovie little winter dog jackets and sweaters. (The pic shows BAD RAP alum 'Vinnie' snuggled in and lookin' fine.)

[Breed Info](#) | [Monster Myths](#) | [Paws and Coats](#) | [Found a Stray](#)
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