



## **Bully Breeds**

**What is a Pit Bull?** “Pit Bull” is a generic term encompassing several different “bully” breeds. Most common among these breeds is the American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT). Other members of this class include the American Staffordshire Terrier (Am Staff), the Staffordshire Terrier (Staffie), the American Bulldog, and the Bull Terrier.

While these are all different breeds, they are often generically called “pit bulls” – often because of their similarities to each other. Let’s take a closer look at the bully breeds.

### **American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT)**

Size: Males: 35-60 lbs., 20-23”, Females: 30-50 lbs., 19-21”

Compact and muscular, the Pit Bull has a broad head with wide, strong jaws. The tail is medium length with a slight curl. The coat of an APBT is short and dense and can come in any color including brindle. Its ears are naturally rose or semi-prick – though some people choose to have their APBT’s ears cropped.

Temperament: Sweet, devoted, intelligent, eager to please and even “clownish”, the APBT can be a wonderful pet. Genetically predisposed to being people-friendly, the APBT can be dog aggressive. With proper training, socialization and a firm hand, dog aggression – if present – may be controllable. Human aggression is not historically a desirable or permitted trait and is not naturally found in APBTs. Those dogs who are human-aggressive have often been trained to be aggressive, have been under-socialized, mistreated, or all of the above.

### **American Staffordshire Terrier (Am Staff)**

Size: Males: 40-50 lbs, 18-19”, Females: 40-50 lbs., 17-18”

The Am Staff’s build is stocky and muscular with a broad head and distinctive cheek muscles. The tail is medium length and tapered. The ears can be cropped or uncropped.

Temperament: The Am Staff’s temperament is steady with a strong desire to please, and can have an independent streak. Closely related to the APBT, the Am Staff can be dog aggressive, but aggression to humans is uncommon.

### **Staffordshire Bull Terrier**

Size: Male: 28-38 lbs, 14-16”, Female: 24-34 lbs., 14-16”

While typically smaller than the APBT and Am Staff, the Staffordshire Terrier is also a compact, muscular dog with a broad head and wide chest. The Staffie generally has a dark nose and eyes and can sport a coat of any color. The uncropped ears are rose.

Temperament: The Staffordshire Terrier is affectionate, gregarious, intelligent and fun-loving. As with most bully breeds, dog aggression can occur, but incidents can be avoided by

experienced owners. Unprovoked human aggression is very rare in the Staffie, and not tolerated by reputable breeders.

### **American Bulldog**

Size: Male: 75-125 lbs., 22-27” Female: 60-100 lbs., 20-25”

The largest of the bully breeds, the American Bulldog most closely resembles the bulldog with the tightly undershot jaw. All colors are acceptable with this breed except for solid black, blue or tri-color. The ears can be cropped or uncropped, but when natural can be drop, rose or semi-prick. The tail is medium-length and tapered, eyes and nose are preferred dark.

Temperament: Affectionate, loving, protective. Aggression toward humans is not normally in the American Bulldog’s nature. A dominant AB can try to boss a lenient owner, so a firm but loving hand is best.

### **Bull Terrier**

Size: Males and Females: 50-60 lbs., 21-22”

The head of a bull terrier has the distinct egg shape and in profile slopes down from the forehead to the nose. Coloring can be white, brindle, red or fawn. The tail is short and tapered. The ears are erect.

Temperament: Sweet, energetic, playful, and intelligent. Not as prone to dog aggression as the other bully breeds, it can be a dominant breed.

The bull Terrier comes in a miniature version: 25-35 lbs., 10-14”

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