



Pit Bull Information Packet for Shelters and Rescues

If your organization is new to the breed and find yourself with a rescued pit bull, this packet will provide you with some basic information. One important thing to understand is that the pit bull is not a breed of dog, it's a term typically used to group 3 breeds of dog, the American Pit Bull Terrier (ABPT), American Staffordshire Terrier (AST) and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier (STAFFIE). The AST and the APBT are essentially the same and it's very difficult to tell them apart.

PBRC is an online organization dedicated to educating people about the bully breeds and assisting rescues, shelters and owners in safely re-homing pit bull dogs. We strongly encourage you to visit our website: www.pbrc.net for further information and to email us at mail@pbrc.net with any questions.

We offer a free listing service for bully breeds on our website that we hope you will take advantage of with your foster dog. Our service is unique as we will process the applications received for your foster dog and send you the application as well as our comments about the application based on our breed experience. There are items on an application that need to be considered that might be missed by a person new to the breed. Please visit: <http://www.pbrc.net/submission.html> to learn more about listing your pit bull and pit mixes with PBRC.

Information contained in this packet

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Basic Breed Overview

Pit Bulls are wonderful animals that deserve a chance to have a good life like any other dog. However, it's important to remember that Pit Bulls are not just any other dog - They are a little more of everything a dog can be.

Pit Bulls have superior physical and mental characteristics that make them excellent partners for responsible, active, and caring owners. On the other hand, these same outstanding qualities can make them a little difficult to handle for people who don't have a lot of experience with dog ownership, or for those who don't understand the breed very well. Luckily, Pit Bulls are very responsive to training and eager to please. It is therefore strongly recommended to take them to obedience classes as soon as they are up to date with their shots. (Pit Bulls are prone to parvovirus, so it is important that they receive all their vaccinations before coming into contact with other dogs or going places that other dogs frequent.) A well behaved and obedient Pit Bull will be a great ambassador for the breed and help fight prejudice and misconception.

Pit Bulls are very adaptable and will even do well in urban living provided they have enough exercise or other positive outlets for their energy. Many Pit Bulls are easygoing couch-potatoes but can also be somewhat rambunctious until they mature. Maturity can come pretty late with this breed (2 to 3 years old in some cases). Pit Bulls remain playful all their life and have a great sense of humor. Real clowns at heart, these dogs will make you laugh like no other.

Pit Bulls are strong, energetic, agile, and powerful dogs. They are also very resourceful and driven. "Determination" is one of their most notable traits. Whatever they set out to do, they put their heart and soul into it...Whether it is escaping an inadequately fenced yard to go explore the neighborhood, destroying your new couch when left home alone, or climbing into your lap to shower you with kisses! They just don't give up easily.

Stahlkuppe (1995) writes *"The American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT), or the AmStaff, is certainly not the right pet for everyone. Being a powerful dog, it will require sufficient and adequate control. Some prospective elderly owners or children, will not be able to supply that control... A first-time dog owner, in the minds of many experienced dog breeders, should not buy an APBT or an AmStaff!. An insecure person who wants only an aggressive dog to bolster some personal human inadequacy should never become an owner of one of these dogs. An uncaring or negligent person should not buy an AmStaff or an APBT (or any other dog for that matter)."*

Another very important characteristic of Pit Bull dogs is their amazing love of people. Many people are surprised by the loving personality of these dogs the first time they meet one. Pit Bull dogs are indeed remarkably affectionate and truly enjoy human attention. They are wonderful cuddlers, and nothing beats a belly rub. In fact, most Pit Bulls think they are lap dogs!

Dunbar (1999) writes: "*Today, a properly bred Pit Bull is so exuberantly happy upon meeting her owner's friends (or even friendly strangers) that new owners sometimes worry that their dog is too sweet and fun-loving to protect their home and family... A multitalented companion, the well-trained Pit Bull is suited for a variety of exciting activities. He excels at obedience, agility and weight-pulling competitions, events which showcase intelligence, trainability and strength. In addition, the Pit Bull's pleasant nature makes him an ideal candidate for therapy work with people.*"

Human aggression, severe shyness, and instability are not traits typically found and accepted in the APBT breed. Dogs with these traits are not good representatives of the breed and should not be placed into adoptive homes.

Like any other breed, Pit Bulls can develop behavior problems if poorly bred, mishandled, abused, unsocialized, etc., that could result in inappropriate aggression. Any large, strong, and powerful dog that attacks can do a lot of damage. This is why temperament evaluation is important when dealing with dogs of certain size and potential.

Unlike the myth propagated by the media however, human aggression is NOT a problem specific to the Pit Bull breed. In fact, Pit Bulls tend to do better than average in temperament tests.

The [American Temperament Test Society](#) provides temperament testing around the country for dog breeds, and gives a passing score for the entire breed based on the percentage of passed over failed within total number of the particular breed tested. As of December 2003, the American Pit Bull Terrier has a current passing rate of 83.9%, and the American Staffordshire Terrier passes at 83.2%. In comparison, The Golden Retriever passing rate is 83.2%

Pit Bull type dogs are wonderful, loving, and very loyal companions. It is important however, to understand the breed's nature, to provide a structured environment, and to establish a positive leadership role. In order to do so, Pit Bull owners must understand the original purpose of the breed, and respect its limit and potential.

Never trust a Pit Bull not to fight...

It is not necessarily a hate of other dogs that will cause Pit Bulls to fight, but rather an "urge" to do so that has been bred into the breed for many generations. Pit bulls may fight over hierarchic status, but external stimulus or excitement can also trigger a fight. Remember that any canine can fight, but Pit Bulls were bred specifically for their drive, intensity, and determination to win.

Pit Bull owners must be aware of the remarkable fighting abilities this breed possesses and always keep in mind that Pit Bulls have the potential to inflict serious injuries to other animals. A Pit Bull may not even be the one starting a conflict, but he has the genetics to finish it. Remember that Pit Bulls are almost always blamed no matter who initiated the hostilities, and often end up paying the price at the hands of the authorities - So does the owner!

With all that said, some Pit Bulls get along great with other pets and may live happily with other dogs without any incidents. We just can't assume that this is true for all of them, or take for granted that Pit Bulls getting along with other pets today will do as well with those same pets tomorrow. Pit Bull owners need to have common sense and to make sure they don't set their dogs up for failure by putting them in the wrong situations.

Every negative incident involving a Pit Bull adds to the breed's reputation and jeopardizes our right to own these great dogs - Keep your Pit Bull out of trouble!

In closing, please remember that animal-aggression and people-aggression are two distinct traits and should never be confused. Unless they have been very poorly bred and/or specifically "trained" to attack humans (often by undesirable individuals through abusive methods), **Pit Bulls are by nature very good with people.** They are in fact one of the most loving, loyal, friendly, and dedicated companions one can have.

PBRC hopes this article will help people understand why so many of us are deeply dedicated to these wonderful dogs. Not only do Pit Bull dogs need more help, compassion and understating than many other breeds, but they will pay you back with more love and loyalty than you could ever dream of.

Placing Pit Bulls in good homes is not easy, and evaluating the dog is only the first step. There will be several other important procedures to follow if you want to assure a good placement. Providing adequate care for the dog until a home is found, understanding the breed so you can educate and inform the new owners, as well as thoroughly screening potential homes are all part of successful Pit Bull rescue.

Following are some recommendations in order to help you care for needy Pit Bulls and find them nice and responsible homes.

*The recommendations below also apply to AmStaffs and Pit Bull mixes

1. Do not allow Pit Bulls to share kennel space with other dogs.

Even if the dog seems friendly, we strongly recommend that you NEVER leave a Pit Bull unsupervised with other dogs. Puppies may share kennel space, but should be kept singly at the first sign of aggression.

Same rule applies if you are a foster home. Never leave a Pit Bull unsupervised with other dogs. Make sure to crate the dogs when no one is home, or leave them in separate rooms.

2. If you have rescued a fighting dog, do not try to socialize him/her with other dogs unless you are fully prepared to handle the risks involved.

Some rescuers try to rehome Pit Bulls seized from dog fighting yards. These dogs can make great pets, preferably in a home as the only pet, but should only be placed with people who understand the breed very well and are aware of the dog's past.

Be aware that trying to train dog-to-dog aggression out of a Pit Bull will probably not be effective. Training may help the owner control his/her dog, but it will not eliminate the risk for fights. In the case of a fighting breed, the urge to fight is often the result of genetic heritage. Remember that there is no magic cure to remove an inherited behavior selectively bred into a dog. This is something Pit Bull rescuers need to understand very well in order to educate potential owners who apply for their dogs.

3. Do not mislead potential adopters by calling Pit Bulls something they're not.

Too many shelters avoid the truth about the breed because of its bad reputation. It can be quite dangerous to place these dogs without letting new owners know what kind of dog they have really adopted. If people don't know they've adopted a Pit Bull, they will not be prepared to take the necessary measures to assure responsible ownership.

If you know the dog is a Pit Bull or is part Pit Bull, please make sure to state it in his bio, and inform potential adopters about the breed and its particular characteristics.

4. Run a professional temperament evaluation on all Pit Bull, Amstaff and Pit mixes before you approve them for adoption.

Traits such as human aggression, extreme shyness, and instability are not acceptable for the breed. Like any other large breed, Pit Bulls are powerful and have the potential to be dangerous if something goes wrong. You must make sure that the dogs approved for adoption are stable and safe around humans.

Note that the true nature of the breed is to have a great temperament, be very people-oriented and friendly, and have an excellent disposition with people of all ages. A Pit Bull that doesn't have these characteristics is not a good representative of the breed and should not be made available for adoption.

5. Make sure to seriously screen potential adopters and conduct a home check.

Unfortunately, this breed attracts more than its share of undesirable individuals. Please make sure that potential adopters you plan to place a dog with are loving and caring, that they understand the breed or are willing to learn, and that they are responsible dog owners. **Always do a homecheck and contact the applicant's references.** Veterinarian references are preferable.

Make sure the new owner is not involved in any illegal activities, and does not intend to use the dog for any form of dog fighting.

The dogs should be spayed or neutered. Un-papered rescue dogs of unknown background should NEVER be bred. Be aware that placing an intact dog will only make things harder for the dog and for you, not to mention for the millions of dogs already in need of a home. Please don't take a chance that the dog you save will contribute to the homeless dog problem. And remember, responsible and caring individuals would rather adopt altered dogs, while dog fighters and other unsavory individuals prefer intact dogs. You will increase the dog's chance of finding a better home if he/she is altered before being listed.

Pit Bulls should not be adopted out to anyone under 21 years of age. Most people under the age of 21 still have too much uncertainty in their lives and are more likely to relinquish a dog when they finish school, move, or find a new job or partner. Pit Bulls need a mature owner who can provide them with a stable, loving home for the rest of their lives.

PBRC recommends placing Pit Bulls as only pets, or with one dog of opposite sex. New owners should be made aware of the risks of leaving the dogs unsupervised together and be advised to separate the dogs when home alone. Pit Bulls should not be placed in multiple dog homes.

New owners should agree to NEVER bring an adult Pit Bull to a dog park or any other place where it might encounter loose dogs, nor should they ever have the dog off leash anywhere in public.

Make sure to verify that the dog will be a house pet. Rescue dogs should not be chained outside. Note that Pit Bulls are the number one dog stolen out of people's yards by those with bad intentions. Make sure that new owners will always have the dog under supervision when outdoors.

The new owners should agree to a follow-up visits or calls, and you should reserve the right to remove the dog from its new home if you have good reason to believe he/she is not being well taken care of.

You should require that the new owner sign an adoption contract which includes the stipulations above.

6. Out-of-State Adoptions

PBRC may be able to send a volunteer to the applicant's place for a homecheck before the adoption is approved. Make sure to ask us if we can help.

If we don't have a volunteer in the region of the applicant, you should contact a local rescue organization and ask them if they can send someone that is experienced in dog placement to meet the applicant for you and do a home visit. You should correspond several times with the applicant. Don't be afraid to ask as many questions as you want. If the applicant is serious, he/she will be more than happy to answer you. Make it a priority to contact the applicant's references and ask them a lot of questions. Veterinarians are good references, and are usually very cooperative.

Before sending a dog out-of-state, we suggest consulting with local authorities for potential Breed Specific Legislation. Pit bulls are restricted and banned in many cities and counties.

HOME VISIT GUIDE

This guide is designed to facilitate discussions with potential adopters. If possible, bring a Pit Bull with you during the home visit and request that all family members be present. Try to ask open-ended questions. Not all questions will apply to each family and some of these questions may have already been answered on the adoption application and during phone interviews. Make it clear to the applicant that you will not be leaving the dog with them at the end of the home visit. It is in everyone's best interest for both parties to think about whether the adoption is a good match after the home visit

PET EXPERIENCE AND HISTORY

1. What breeds have they had in the past?
2. What happened to their previous dogs?
3. Were there any negative feelings towards previous dogs?
4. What training methods were used with past or existing dogs?
5. How did they handle behavior problems?
6. Are they willing to attend professional obedience training classes with their new dog?
7. Have they ever crate-trained? If not, do they understand the purpose?
8. Do they need education on crate training or positive training methods?

PET RESPONSIBILITY

1. Will they ever leave the dog outside when they are gone? If yes, educate of the very real threat of dogs being stolen from yards.
2. Are fence gates locked and secured or could a dog easily be stolen from this yard, if unattended?
3. Do they know it could take months of regular obedience training before a dog obeys its new owners, even if it already seemed to know basic commands in its foster or previous home?

THE HOME/SAFETY

1. Are they on or very close to a busy street?
2. If there is no yard, how will they give the dog enough exercise?
3. If there is a yard but no fence, how will they provide a safe alternative?
4. Are there any electrical, phone or computer wires which might need to be secured or hidden?
5. Do all exterior doors close and latch securely so a dog can't easily push through?
6. If the home has a pool or is near water, educate about safety.

CHILDREN

1. Are the children afraid of dogs?
2. Are they interested in getting a new dog?
3. How do they treat existing dogs or other pets?
4. If children act inappropriately toward the existing dog(s) during the visit, how do the parents handle the situation?
5. Do the children and parents understand they must keep doors and gates securely latched, and always use caution whenever doors or gates are opened so the dog cannot push past?
6. Is there anything about the children's behavior that could be a concern in placing a dog there?
7. Do parents know that no matter how wonderful a dog is, it is never advisable to leave it unsupervised with children ?

EXISTING PETS

1. Do they look healthy and well-treated?
2. Are existing dogs on heartworm preventative? If not, why?
3. How have existing pets reacted to new dogs in the past?
4. Explain it may take many weeks or months for an existing cat and new dog to adapt to life together and the two should not be left alone unattended until the owner is absolutely sure their relationship is safe.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Is there anyone in the home who does not seem to want a Pit Bull?
2. Specifically ask each spouse individually to tell you exactly how they feel about getting a Pit Bull. If either is hesitant, why?
3. Are there any family members with allergies to cats or dogs?
4. Do any family members or existing pets have physical limitations or conditions which should be considered in finding the right Pit Bull?
5. What are the family's expectations of a "rescue" dog?
6. How did they react to the dog you brought?
7. If they have requested a dog of a certain age, ask why.
8. If they want a specific gender, ask why.
9. Explain your adoption agreement and discuss the adoption fee, if applicable.
10. Explain that it will take time for the rescue dog to adjust to the new home environment, perhaps 2-3 weeks.
11. Would this applicant be a good volunteer or foster home in the future?

FIRST-TIME PIT BULL OWNERS

1. Assess the areas that might require education (feeding, obedience training, etc).
2. Suggest contacting local vet for obedience classes and enrolling as soon as possible.
3. Describe basic behavior to expect from Pit Bulls, particularly the trait for dog-aggression.

Adapted, with permission, from Central Indiana Lab Rescue & Adoption, Inc's home visit guide

SCREENING POTENTIAL HOMES

Step 1. Interviewing Callers.

"First come, first served" does not apply here. You are under no obligation to give your dog to the first person who says he wants him or her. You have every right to ask questions and choose the person you think will make the best new owner. Don't let anyone rush you or intimidate you.

To help you along, we've included a list of questions that rescuers ask potential applicants. Make copies of this list and fill in answers as you speak to people who contact you about your dog. Get out the list you made with your requirements for a new home and compare it to the answers the applicants give.

First of all, get your applicant's name, address and phone number. Deceitful people may call you from a phone booth or give you a fake address. Ask for information that you can verify. Does the applicant's family know about and approve of their plans to get a Pit Bull? If not, suggest they talk it over with their spouse and call you back. The same applies to people living with a companion or roommate. When one person adopts a dog without the full approval of the rest of the family, the adoption often fails.

Do they own or rent their home? If renting, does their landlord approve? You'd be surprised how many people haven't checked with their landlord before contacting you. If you have doubts, ask for the landlord's name and number, then call him yourself. Be cautious about renters - they're quicker to move than people who own their homes and movers often leave their pets behind. Remember, you're looking for a permanent home for your dog.

Does the caller have children? How many and how old are they? If your dog isn't good with kids, say so up front. How many children can make a difference depending on your dog's personality. A shy dog may not be able to cope with several children and their friends. Very young children may not be old enough to treat the dog properly. If the applicants don't have children, ask them if they're thinking of having any in the near future. Many people get rid of their dogs when they start a family.

Have they had dogs, especially Pit Bulls, before? If yes, how long did they keep them?

These are very important questions! How they treated the pets they've had in the past will tell you how they might treat your dog. The following answers should raise a red flag and make you suspicious:

"We gave him away when we moved." Unless they had to because of unavoidable problems, moving is a poor excuse for giving up a pet. Almost everyone can find a place that will allow dogs if they try hard enough. If they gave up their last dog that easily, there's a good chance they'll give yours up someday, too." "We gave him away because he had behavior problems." Most behavior problems such as poor housebreaking, chewing, barking, digging, running away result from a lack of training and attention. If the applicant wasn't willing to solve the problems he had with his last dog, he probably won't try very hard with your dog either.

Do they have pets now? What kinds? Obviously, if your dog isn't good with cats or other animals and your applicant has them, the adoption is not going to work. Be up front. It's better to turn people away now than have to take the dog back later. The gender of their other dogs is an important consideration too. For Pit Bulls, dog-to-dog aggression issues can arise in both male and female dogs. Pit Bulls often do not get along with other dogs of the same sex. Dog fights can be serious problems and one dog can hurt or even kill the other. We recommend that you don't place your Pit Bull in a home with a dog of the same sex or multiple dogs. If you place your dog in a home with a dog of the opposite sex, be absolutely sure that the potential adopter could break up a dog fight if one were to occur and advise that they never leave the dogs alone unsupervised.

Do they have a yard? Is it fenced? Your dog will need daily exercise. Without a yard, how will he get it? Can the applicant provide it with regular walks? If the yard isn't fenced, ask how he plans to keep the dog from leaving his property. Did the applicant's last dog wander off or get hit by a car? If so, how will he keep this from happening to his next dog? Does he understand that our adventurous Pit Bulls will wander off if left unsupervised? Does he know that keeping a Pit Bull tied up for extended periods can have a bad effect on the dog's temperament?

Where will the dog spend most of its time? Although most Pit Bulls don't mind spending time outside unless it's too hot or too cold, an entire life outdoors probably isn't what you have in mind for your dog. Dogs always kept outside are sometimes neglected, lonely and may develop behavior problems.

Why is the caller interested in a Pit Bull? What do they like about them? Find out what kind of dog "personality" they're looking for. Many people are attracted by the Pit Bull's beauty but don't know anything else about them. They might not have the slightest idea what a Pit Bull is all about and might not like its temperament and characteristics. If their expectations don't match your dog's disposition, the adoption is not going to work. Be honest about our breed's good and bad points. Is a Pit Bull really what they're looking for or would they do better with another breed?

References: Get the phone number of their vet (if they've had pets before) and three other personal references. Call those references! For a vet reference, explain that John Doe is interested in adopting your dog and you want to confirm care, annual vaccinations and heartworm preventative. Were they in good condition and happy? General reference questions include asking how long have they known the applicant. If they were placing a pet, would they feel comfortable giving it to this person? If the applicant has owned a pet before, call animal control in their town and inquire whether there have been any complaints about their dogs. If they have had to pay fines for "dog at large," do not adopt your dog to them.

Step 2: The In-Person Interview

Once you've chosen a family (or families) that you feel are good candidates, make an appointment for them to see the dog, and for you to see their home. Going to their house lets you see whether their home and yard are truly what they said they are and whether your dog will do well there. It also gives you an opportunity to call off the adoption and take the dog back home with you if things aren't as represented, if you think there'll be problems or if you just get a bad feeling about the whole thing.

If they already have a dog, make plans to introduce the dogs on "neutral" territory, like a park. Most dogs resent meeting a strange dog at home. They may be hostile toward the new dog or even start a fight. It is best to first introduce two dogs through a chainlink fence where they will be off leash and can't harm each other. In this situation, they can act naturally.

If the family has children, ask them to bring them to the interview. You need to see how the dog will react to them and how the children treat the dog. Some allowance should be made for kids' natural enthusiasm but if children are undisciplined, disrespectful to your dog and not kept in hand by their parents, your dog could be mistreated in its new home and someone could get bitten.

Do you like these people? Are you comfortable having them as guests in your home? Would they make good friends? If not, don't give them your dog. Trust your instincts. If something about them doesn't seem quite right, even if you can't explain what it is, don't take a chance on your dog's future. Wait for another family!

On a final note: Ask the potential adopters if you can visit with your dog on occasion. If they say "no", be very leery and reevaluate this person's potential for being a good owner.

Step 3. Saying Good-bye

After the interviews are over, give the new family a day or two to decide if they really want to adopt your dog. Make sure they have a chance to think over the commitment they're making. While they're deciding, get a package ready to send along with your dog. This package should include:

- Your dog's medical records and the name, address & phone number of your vet.
- Your name, address & phone (new address if you're moving)
- Your dog's toys and belongings (dog bed, blanket, etc.), a supply of dog food & special treats he loves
- An instruction sheet on feeding, special needs, etc.; some reading material about the Pit Bull breed.
- Collar and leash; ID and rabies tags

Set aside a special time for you and your dog to take a last walk together and say good-bye. We know you'll cry. Do it now, in private, so you're clear headed when he has to leave. He may be confused about being left with strangers and you won't want your emotions to upset him even more.

There are some things you need to explain to the new family before they take your dog home: The dog will go through an adjustment period as he gets to know his new people, learns new rules and mourns the loss of his old family. Most dogs adjust within a few days, but others may take longer. During this time, they should avoid forcing the dog to do anything stressful - taking a bath, obedience training classes, meeting too many strangers at once, etc. - until he's had a chance to settle in. Suggest that they take things easy at first and give the dog time to bond to them. The dog might not eat for the first day or two. Not to worry - he'll eat when he's ready. It is also common for dogs to have loose stool for a few days as they adjust to the changes in their lives. Some dogs temporarily forget their training. A well-housebroken dog may have an accident during the first day in his new home. This isn't unusual and rarely happens more than once.

Step 4. Paperwork

Have the new owner sign an adoption contract with a waiver of liability. We've included a sample contract you can use. Keep a copy for your records. A contract will help to protect the dog and the waiver of liability helps to protect you. You don't have a crystal ball to predict what your dog might do in the future. Remember - a waiver of liability will not protect you if you have lied or misrepresented the dog to his new owners.

Tell the family they should call you if the adoption doesn't work out. Let them know you want to keep in touch and will call them in a few days to see how things are going. Tell them to call you if they have questions or problems. Be willing to take the dog back home if things don't work out the way you both expected.

Adoption Contract

Adopter's Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____ ID: _____

It is accepted that on this _____ day of _____ the above named person(s) adopt from _____ a canine described as follows:

Breed: _____ Name: _____ Sex: _____
Color: _____ Age or DOB: _____ Tattoo: _____
If reg., AKC [] or UKC [] # _____ for the fee of \$ _____ under the following terms and conditions:

The dog is spayed or neutered and has current vaccinations.

I/We hereby agree to care for this dog humanely (including providing adequate food, water, shelter, love and attention). Said dog shall be maintained in an adequate enclosed area or on leash at all times. Dog **shall not** be allowed to roam at will. I/We agree to have dog vaccinated annually with necessary inoculations (DHLP-P) and vaccinated against Rabies, as local ordinances require. I/We agree to provide essential veterinary care, as needed. If said dog becomes lost or stolen, I/We agree to notify _____ immediately.

I/We also agree not to sell, trade or dispose of this dog. **If, at any time, I/We are unable or unwilling to care for this dog, I/We agree to contact and return said dog to _____.** The adoption fee will not be refunded after 10 days from adoption date. I/We also agree that _____ will keep _____ of the adoption fee, if dog is returned within the 10 day period. I/We further agree that said dog shall not be used for medical or any other experimental purposes or sold or given to a pet store, supplier or wholesaler.

I/We agree that said dog will not be used for any illegal purposes and will NEVER be fought in any way.
If this clause is broken, I/We understand that the dog will be immediately confiscated by _____ and all law enforcement agencies will be notified, as applicable.

I/We certify that we do not live in an area where "Pit Bulls" are banned.

I/We agree to notify _____ within 10 days of any change of address or phone # (and vice versa). It is also understood that _____ may examine and make inquiries about said dog at any time. If not satisfied with the condition of the dog or the conditions in which it is kept, said dog can or may be removed immediately and placed in a different home. Any veterinary services needed due to negligence or lack of care, will be the adopters responsibility and payable to _____

I/We understand that _____ makes no guarantees or warranties regarding the health or temperament of this dog. I/We promise and agree to be solely responsible for this animal, and to indemnify and hold harmless _____ from any and all claims of liability for the conduct of this animal on or after the date of this adoption. This Release of Liability and Indemnification shall apply to all known, unknown and unanticipated damages resulting from my/our adoption, ownership or control of such animal.

I/WE HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I/WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND WILL KEEP THE DOG DESCRIBED HEREIN AS A FAMILY MEMBER. I/WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A BINDING CONTRACT ENFORCEABLE BY CIVIL LAW.

Date: _____

Websites for responsible information on Pit Bulls

www.pbrc.net – Breed Information, Chat list, screening service for adoption application.

www.understand-a-bull.com – BSL and Breed information

www.forpitsake.org – Breed information and Search and Rescue Information

www.badrap.org – Breed Information

www.workingpitbull.com – Breed Information

www.vrcpitbull.com/ - Villalobos Rescue Center, breed information

www.pitbullpress.com/ - Articles. Information

www.realpitbull.com/ - Breed Information

www.animalfarmfoundation.org/ - Information

www.pitbullsontheweb.com - Information

Recommended Reading

Pit Bull Specific

The Working Pit Bull
By Diane Jessup

The American Pit Bull Terrier
By Jacqueline O'Neil

The Ultimate American Pit Bull Terrier
By Jacqueline O'Neil

American Pit Bull and Staffordshire Terriers
By Joe Stahlkuppe

How to Teach a New dog Old Tricks
By Dr. Ian Dunbar