

Locking Jaw

Q: A friend of mine told me that Pit Bulls have a special enzyme that allow them to lock their jaws. Is this true?

A: This is a very common myth. Pit Bulls are members of the canine species and have the same jaw structure as any other dog. If they had a special enzyme or other mechanism allowing them to lock their jaws, we would have to reclassify them as a different species.

However, Pit Bulls do seem to have an above average amount of determination for obtaining and retaining objects they are interested in. In fact, they were selectively bred to never give up. Their focus may be chasing squirrels or fetching rocks or sticks, but whatever they do, it's done with a great deal of enthusiasm. If they happen to grab on to something they don't want to release, it can be quite difficult to extract it from them.



"A breed of satin and steel, Pit bulls are a mixture of softness and strength, an uncanny canine combination of fun, foolishness, and serious business, all wrapped up in love."

D. Caroline Coile
"Pit Bulls for Dummies"

Why Spay or Neuter?

It is estimated that 200 pit bulls are killed EVERYDAY in Los Angeles, CA shelters alone because there are not enough homes for them.

Many people have no idea how desperate the situation is for millions of homeless companion animals, especially Pit Bulls. These dogs have a lot more going against them than any other breed. They are: regularly maligned by the media; feared and misunderstood by the public; too often owned by abusive or irresponsible individuals; innocent victims of kill policies in shelters; the target of municipal bans and breed specific restrictions, etc.

It is estimated that 20 million unwanted and homeless dogs and cats will be destroyed in the U.S. this year. This is 1.6 million dogs and cats KILLED per month every month of the year.

Anyone who cares about these dogs should try to save a homeless Pit Bull before they consider adding more dogs to a completely saturated market. This is a plea for those of you who are thinking about breeding Pit Bulls--*please think again!*

Remember that many animal shelters have a kill policy for Pit Bulls. These dogs and puppies are destroyed because they are Pit Bulls. The shelters that give Pit bulls a chance are completely overloaded with these dogs and must often euthanize them because they are not able to find them good homes. The *lucky* ones spend months and sometimes **years** rotting behind bars lying on a cold cement floor. Before you breed, we urge you to spend some time volunteering at your local shelter so you can witness pet homelessness first hand.



**Don't Breed or Buy
While Shelter Animals Die!**

PIT BULL RESCUE
CENTRAL

FACT vs. FICTION



*Pit
Bulls*

*A Series of Questions
and Answers*

WWW.PBRC.NET

**A Virtual Shelter and
Educational Resource**

WHERE EDUCATION MEETS RESCUE

Pit Bulls as Guard Dogs



Q: Is a Pit Bull a good choice as a guard dog?

A: In our opinion, the only "guard dog" qualities of a Pit Bull are its formidable appearance and its name. Other than that, they are usually not very good at this job. Unlike German Shepherds, Dobermans, etc., Pit Bulls were not created to perform the task of protecting someone's home or property. In many cases Pit Bulls are just too friendly with people to be good at this. They may bark and "look" scary, as soon as the intruder smiles at them, most Pit Bulls think they have made a new friend! In fact, Pit Bulls are very much at risk of being stolen. Due to their generally friendly and trusting nature, they are often led right out of their owners' yard.

Unfortunately, in the last 10 years or so, we've seen a lot of backyard breeders producing these dogs with people aggression in mind. Since the breed was not originally created for this purpose, the result can be dogs with serious temperament problems. Pit Bulls should not show aggression towards humans, and should NEVER be encouraged to attack strangers under any circumstances. With their looks alone, Pit Bulls will discourage most thieves from entering your property, provided they are not after the dog itself.

Your Pit Bull should alert you if there is someone around your house, and will probably naturally defend you if you are personally in danger, but please, do not count on him/her to guard your house or property while you are away. In fact, you may want to get a good alarm system to protect your Pit Bull.

Pit Bulls and Kids

Q: I heard that Pit Bulls were not good with children, is it true?

A: Most Pit Bulls are excellent with children. Since they were bred to perform in the pit, they have a high tolerance for pain, and in general will patiently endure the "abuse" young kids unintentionally dish out. However like any large, powerful dog, they must be supervised with kids at all times.



Pit Bulls are enthusiastic and strong, and can easily knock over an unsteady toddler with their wagging tails. They can be quite rambunctious until they mature, which is around 2-4 years of age. Pit Bulls should be taught to play gently, not jump on people, to sit and wait for a signal before going through doors, etc. Positive training methods work best.

Adding a juvenile Pit Bull to a home with toddlers or very young children may not be ideal since the dogs are very energetic at that age. You may want to consider adopting a mature Pit Bull instead, one that has proven itself with children. It is possible to have a young dog with toddlers or infants, but you must be diligent with your supervision. Pit Bulls are great playmates for older, respectful kids.

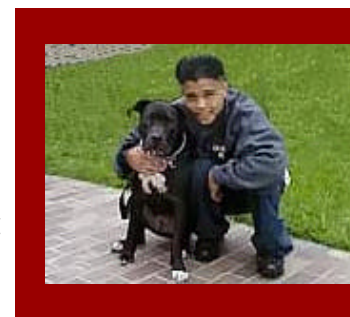


People Aggression

Q: Our neighbors bought a Pit Bull and now we are scared to let the kids play outside. Are these dogs really mean and vicious like the media portrays them?

A: Most Pit Bulls are NOT human aggressive. In a large number of cases when a Pit Bull attacks a human, it has been trained to be aggressive towards people, and was most likely abused, or seriously deprived of socialization with humans. Those dogs are usually in the hands of uncaring and irresponsible owners who own them for the wrong reasons.

Any dog should be supervised around children, and Pit Bull dogs are no exception. They can be rambunctious and play with a lot of intensity. Pit bulls can be animal-aggressive, and should be controlled around other pets, but human-aggression is NOT a normal trait of the breed.



You should evaluate the dog on its own merits, not just on its breed. Most veterinarians will tell you that Pit Bulls are very nice dogs, and not a danger in most cases. Owner responsibility, however, is a must with ANY large and powerful dog and all canines should be well-socialized with adults and kids.

Pit Bulls face prejudice and misunderstanding from people who do not understand them very well, so their owners should ideally consider others' fears and help educate them about the breed. The issue of most concern is that owners keep the dog as a pet; give it lots of love, and every opportunity to be around humans. The dog should not be chained outside alone, without the chance to interact with humans.