



Tails Newsletter

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The truth behind common Pit Bull myths

They are NOT born aggressive
They do NOT have “locking” jaws
Their jaws are NOT stronger than other dogs
They are NOT bred just for fighting

Would you be surprised to learn that Pit Bulls are not a breed, but a group of mixed breed dogs that share common physical traits? Or that most common myths about Pit Bulls have zero basis in science, are refuted by decades of comprehensive data....and likely date to a very poorly researched Sports Illustrated article from the 1980s?

Humans have a long history of demonizing particular dog breeds or types. Bloodhounds were despised and feared for decades because of their role in tracking down escaped enslaved people. Dobermans were hated due to their use by Nazis in concentration camps. German Shepherds were banned from Australia from 1928 to 1976 because of fears of aggression towards sheep. Pit Bulls are simply the latest to join this unhappy list—and it is causing them needless suffering.

Pit Bulls rank 4th best out of 122 dog breeds for temperament in tests for affection, aggression and behavior with children.

So why does it *appear* that Pit Bulls are more to be feared than other dogs? Anyone who works intensively with dogs will tell you that while breeds do share some traits, dogs are individuals, and behavior is shaped dramatically by how those dogs have been raised, socialized and treated.

Pit Bulls used to be known as ‘nanny’ dogs because of their loving and gentle behavior with kids, but when the cruel and illegal sport of dog fighting made a major comeback in the 20th century in poorer communities in the US, Pit Bulls were increasingly bred for fighting

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Former SAS resident
Juliet adopted 2016.