



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Personal trainer Liz Keady gets a lick from pit bull Abraham at the Institute of Performance and Fitness in Andover.

It's not the breed, it's the owner

I'VE WORKED with pit bulls in city shelters for seven years, and my own dog died after a vicious dog attack in 2004. I take issue with the assumption in your editorial that the breed history of pit bulls makes them more dangerous than other similarly sized dogs ("Pit bull owners: know your breed," July 7).

Bulldogs, sharpeis and even our beloved Boston terriers were all bred for fighting at one time or another. The major problem with pit bulls is that the breed remains the dog of choice for bad guys: drug dealers, gang members, and other street thugs who commonly mistreat their dogs to make them "tougher."

If it's true, as the editorial states, that pit bulls are the breed most frequently blamed for dog bites, it's a mistake to presume that more bites mean an inherently dangerous dog. Nurture, not nature, is the more important factor. And the dog that killed my beloved pet? A golden retriever.

LISEY GOOD
Cohasset