

Staffordshire Terrier



The following information and opinions are based solely on Vladae, Bonny, A.C.T. and The Dog Wizard Inc.'s knowledge and experience and may not apply to every dog belonging to this breed. The overall temperament of a Staffordshire Terrier is based on many variables, which include:

genetics, environment and the behavior of its owner(s). These variables can have a dramatic effect on the outcome of a dogs' performance and behavior. Please do your research carefully before selecting any breed of dog for you or your family!

The Dog Wizard Inc. and A.C.T. accept no responsibility for misinformation and are not liable for any injuries or actions that are a result of this information.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: After Bull and Bear baiting was outlawed in England in 1835, gamblers decided to create a dog that would excel in the blood sport of dog fighting. The Staffordshire Terrier was developed by crossing the prowess of the Bulldog with the agility of the Terrier. These traits proved vital in the 'pits' of dog fighting. The Staffordshire Terrier was bred to be a fierce fighter but easy to handle during training and when injured. Later, in the 1870's, this dog made its way to America where it evolved into two breeds: American Pit Bull Terrier (UKC registered) and the Staffordshire Terrier (AKC registered). Today, the blood sport of dog fighting is illegal and any member of the UKC or AKC suspected of fighting dogs is banned from membership. Although complicated to explain its origin and recognition, the American Pit Bull Terrier and the Staffordshire Terrier, in laymen's terms, is one of the same.

BREED APPEARANCE: This breed stands 18" – 19" and weight should be proportionate. They have a powerful body with a broad head and a strong jaw. They have a short muzzle, short neck, ears are rose or half-pricked, and a thick, muscular chest. They have extremely short hair in colors and mixes ranging from red to brindle to black.

WHY YOU WOULD LOVE THIS BREED: Staffordshire Terriers are very social and affectionate. They thrive on being around their family members and are especially good with children. These dogs, if purchased from a reputable breeder, are trustworthy and stable in temperament and are very devoted to their family and friends. They are fearless, strong and agile. This combination makes them a prime candidate for an owner who can match their athleticism and temperament. Many people also like to take advantage of this breed's ability to protect the home, hunt vermin or just simply be a hunting companion. This breed is also known to herd moving objects, which could be seen as both a positive and negative trait.

WHY YOU WOULD NOT LOVE THIS BREED: The Staffordshire Terrier loves to chew and can do some real damage to some pretty indestructible items...at least you thought they were indestructible! Their powerful build make them difficult to physically control and they can overpower children and some adults. They also have a strong prey drive due to their heritage, so this dog is likely to make snack out of your backyard chipmunks! Unfortunately, this breed is often the subject of headline news and suffers from stereotypes and media hype because of the few irresponsible owners who choose to engage in illegal dog fighting or are unable to care for these dogs properly.

Perfect Pet Rating



! Only buy from a reputable breeder!

Overall Breed Rating



5 Paw Rating: 1 = Poor, 2 = Adequate, 3 = Average, 4 = Good, 5 = Excellent

Rating system for perfect pet includes the following categories: Will this breed bite my child? Would they kill other animals? Are they easy to train?

Rating system for overall breed rating includes all categories.

PLUSES: Bold, inquisitive, fearless and sense of humor - this breed loves people and they are considered one of the best "all-purpose" dogs to own as a pet. The Staffordshire Terrier puts 100% effort into everything it does!

MINUSES: Added responsibility of owning a powerful breed and dealing with public opinions and controversy that surrounds this dog. Some dogs, due to their heritage, have been known to display aggression toward other animals. Training and socialization as a puppy is not an option... its MANDATORY!

WHO SHOULD NOT OWN THIS BREED? Unfortunately, owning this breed brings unwanted, negative attention, right to your front doorstep. If you are not someone who can stand tall among those who choose to bring you down for accepting this breed as your loyal companion, please choose another breed. Also, those who are not capable of physically controlling an animal that can pull over 30 times its own body weight, should NOT own this dog! This breed is also not recommended for families with multiple dogs and / or cats. First time dog owners will want to make sure they contact an experienced dog trainer who can help them understand the needs of this breed.

DO THEY SHED?



This dog sheds very little; all that is required is occasional brushing and bathing.

WILL THIS BREED BITE MY CHILD?



This breed is usually excellent with children they know. However, EXTREME CAUTION AND SUPERVISION IS ALWAYS RECOMMENDED WHEN CHILDREN AND DOGS ARE TOGETHER!

WOULD THEY KILL OTHER ANIMALS?



Again, this breed has a high prey drive and due to its heritage, can become very aggressive toward other animals.

WHAT IS THEIR ENERGY LEVEL?



This is a very energetic breed that requires daily walks and backyard play time!

ARE THEY EASY TO TRAIN?



Professional assistance is MANDATORY. Start their training young and continue throughout their entire life. You must be the TOP DOG or this dog will be telling YOU when to "sit" and "stay" ... and they have the strength to enforce it too!

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH CONCERNS?



This breed can experience cataracts, epilepsy, and elongated palate. They are also prone to heat exhaustion and hypothermia. Buying from a reputable breeder is always advisable and will help to lessen the chances for health problems and congenital defects.