

# Pit Bulls

## Truths and Myths

### TRUTH: "PIT BULL" IS NOT A BREED; IT'S A LABEL

- The term "pit bull" is used to describe multiple breeds including the American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, and American Bulldog (ASPCA).

### MYTH: IF IT LOOKS LIKE A PIT BULL, IT'S A PIT BULL

- A DNA test is the only way to accurately determine a dog's breed. Even shelter workers misidentify breeds nearly 75% of the time (Denver Post).

### MYTH: PIT BULLS ARE AGGRESSIVE

- Like any other breed, pit bull type dogs are a product of their environment. Proper training, healthcare, and other factors affect temperament and behavior.
- Pit bulls have an 86% American Temperament Testing Society passing rate. That's higher than miniature poodles (77.9%), beagles (80.3%), or collies (79.7%) (Chicago Tribune).
- Pit bulls were known as "nanny dogs" in the early 1900s. Helen Keller's dog "Sir Thomas" was a pit bull, as was "Petey" of the Little Rascals (Yahoo! News).

### MYTH: IT'S ALL IN HOW THEY'RE RAISED

- While it is true that proper socialization is important with any dog, temperament is much more important when it comes to assessing a dog.
- Take a look at the Michael Vick dogs, for instance. They certainly were not treated well or raised appropriately, but one ended up as a Registered Therapy Dog and many of them ended up living normal lives with their families that they loved.

### TRUTH: PIT BULLS NEED YOUR HELP

- Every day in the United States, hundreds of pit bulls are abused, tortured, and euthanized. Join the fight against misinformation, irresponsible owners, breed-specific legislation, and other issues. Get the facts about pit bulls, and tell everyone you know

## Web Resources:



[www.PitSisters.org](http://www.PitSisters.org)

(Also contains list of Jax, FL housing options and Pit Friendly information)



[www.BestFriends.org](http://www.BestFriends.org)



[www.animalfarmfoundation.org](http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org)