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Be prepared in taking the pup home.

Rudyard Kipling "Buy a pup and your money will buy - love unflinching that cannot lie."

A happy healthy dog is a fully balanced well fed and cared for loved and cared for healthy dog.

Nothing is more pathetic than the unwanted dog - nobody wants it, but nobody can quite get rid of it.

When deciding to obtain a dog, especially a "real" game bred American Pit-Bull terrier, do not do it on the spur of the moment, or because of a passing whim.

However exciting the idea might be, it is not wise but can be unthinkable unkind to do it without some serious thought and deliberation.

What you need to know about APBT and children.

Owing APBT's and being a dog breeder of various bull and terrier breeds since 1963, I am well aware that having any dogs around children and then visitor's children is a responsibility, though not for obvious reasons.

As APBT breeder and owner of APBT dogs today the least of my anxieties is that my well socialized and awesome human loving APBT's will attack any child, but always be aware that the situation is potentially dangerous.

Any young child playing with any dogs could be knocked down and scraped then more so with an APBT, since the APBT dogs are inclining for action they might get a little boisterous when excited – (I am sure you that raised and keep a real APBT will understand).

The bad rap will be - any such accident will go on record that the APBT hurt the child.

The public and the uninformed may have read articles or as it goes heard about recent "APBT" or "pit-bull type" attacks which could compound their attitude. Be responsible and accountable – come on!

Know this - for the new owner to protect both children and anyone else and APBT's playing together.

Interaction between children and APBT's should always be supervised.

Even if you think your dog presence was a match made in heaven – always supervised under any circumstances - for the safety of both, you should never leave children alone with any dog, even a puppy.

Around 99% of online reports about dog attacks on children, detailing how the kids got maimed, hurt and even killed, all have in common that is the children had been left unsupervised with the animals.

Watch the child - watch the dog.

Adults need to realize that children can sometimes be cruel with animals.

Even a well socialised and trained APBT or then any dog, could react adversely, bite or 'attack' in defence of harsh treatment, pain or as a result of teasing.

Teach children that dogs should be treated well.

Children should understand to respect even the dog's space and not interfere with its belongings such as their special bed, water, food or toys.

Put away your dog's favourite belongings.

Nothing could rouse a dog more than have a child running around it with its favourite bully stick or ball held up over their heads.

The dog will certainly come after get it to get it back.

This could result in a nip or two, then not out of viciousness but in an attempt to protect its possession.

Put away treats and toys your dog is particularly fond of, so the children can't access them to avoid any incidents.

You will know your individual dog – if not put the dog away for their and also your visitors and children.

Arrange obedience lessons.

Advisable to enrol your dog to have obedience classes as early as possible – a good dog is a dog that listens to you.

If your APBT dog is trained to lie down or sit and stay it will ease the fears of an anxious parent, lie down on command.

This calm the dog when he gets a little too boisterous, and lie down to be petted relives tension.

Do not make your dog uncomfortable.

If your dog displays strange reaction to particular people, (they also have preferences and direct dislikes - like you) don't force the dog to greet or play with them – put the dog away safely is the best advice.

APBT's are usually very people oriented, but being aware of the possibility helps to intervene in time and move them away.

APBT's are not your average pet.

I stand by my quote – “real” APBT game sporting dogs are not everyone's cup of tea.

Due to the perceived dangerousness of this breed, it is the duty of every APBT owner to ensure that they are always responsible, and that their dogs are never out of control.

By being a responsible Pit Bull owner, you can prove that this breed is as good of a dog as any other.

If you have any doubts rather get another breed of dog that you more comfortable with.

Always leash.

Gone are the days when dogs were allowed to roam free.

Although some dogs can get away with off-leash activities, for the APBT dog owner there is the responsibility of ensuring that their dog is always in control.

All it takes is one incident with a fussy poodle owner to paint your dog as the “vicious” type.

Whenever your dog is outside your yard and especially in a non-fenced or dedicated area ... it must be leashed.

No unsupervised play.

Along the same line, whenever your dog is interacting with other dogs – never recommended of APBT over 6 months, no matter how socialized they are, they need to be supervised at all times especially if that is your intention.

With an APBT game sporting dog – one day is one day.

One factual characteristic of the APBT is that they have dog and other animal aggression and can be stubborn and focussed - meaning that a chance encounter with the wrong type of dog or animal could be disastrous.

Exercise daily.

A tired dog is a happy dog, and the APBT is no different. Since this is considered a high energy game bred sporting dog breed,

owners can expect to spend approximately one hour per day exercising their dog.

Failure to properly exercise an APBT can result in anxiousness, increased aggression, and destructive habits – such as destroying your favourite pair of shoes.

If you find that playing fetch or walks alone are not burning off significant amounts of energy, then consider enrolling in dog in an agility or ability class, or introducing them gently to a tread/carpet mill.

You will find that with regular exercise your dog will be more relaxed and fun to be with.

Confine your dog with confidence.

This may not sit well with the soft hearted – but a necessarily precaution all the same.

Whether your dog is in your backyard, your basement, or another you need to ensure that they are safely and securely confined.

APBT's are very intelligent, and if left to their own devices will attempt to open the door or dig under fences.

Before you leave your dog at home alone - they should ideally be crated, chained or in a fenced kennel, unless you are sure that they will not get into trouble.

In most cases a dog will be happy and safe and become use to this confinement when you are gone.

Be prepared to be their advocate.

The best APBT owners do their best to be advocates for their dogs.

The first step is to understand the breed and its challenges before you get an APBT, and then only do so if you are completely comfortable with handling this breed.

The second step is to raise a happy, well adjusted, trained, and properly socialized dog.

You can then show others how great APBT can be, and hopefully teach a few people that these dogs are not all they have been portrayed to be.

Be prepared to do the right thing when the time comes.

Sometimes, no matter what you do or what type of breed you have, you end up with an unstable dog.

Part of being a responsible APBT owner is knowing when your dog is no longer fit to be around others dogs or safe around other people. Many adolescent dogs become aggressive for no good reason, and you need to watch for signs that perhaps your dog is one of them. If you have any concerns about your dog you need to take steps to ensure that it cannot hurt anyone.

This may mean putting them on a chain run or muzzle when needed, professional behavioural training, or in severe cases euthanasia. This may be a difficult decision, but it is one all owners of potentially aggressive dogs need to be prepared to make.

Looking at accommodating your APBT puppy and adult dog.

Food and water buckets.

Strong and durable.

Strong collar, leash and possible nozzle cover.

Use a durable collar to fit snugly with 1 or 2 finger spaces between collar and neck use a collar with a metal buckle (nor plastic).

Get the pup use to it.

Id tag.

Fasten to collar with owners name and telephone number and address.

Microchip or tattoo identification.

Tattoos and or microchip as alternative as owners choice.

Grooming aids.

Dog brush – towel – dog shampoo.

Wash only when needed.

Toys.

Dogs need to chew to clean their teeth and exercise their jaws – don't stop their chewing but direct it into positive chewing.

Proper chewing – hide, bones and purpose dog toys – knotted rope, balls on a soft rubber tyre will prevent your dog to be destructive to your furniture,

toilet paper shoes, their bedding and things on the floor.

They need to bite, shake and play with something durable and not dangerous –

avoid house hold or kitchen rubbish, cleaning materials and anything poisonous – keep those out of reach.

Bedding.

Durable easy to wash – keeping their sharp teeth in mind.

Use a loose blanket for comfort and favourite toy to keep him happy.

Own sleeping place.

Sleeping box and or a place to call their own, to sleep or rest or just to take a break in.

This place will become a highly essential place during training and the dog will come to associate this safe comfortable and warm place as his own.

Sleeping.

The first few nights might be lonely without littermates – frightening - and the pup might proclaim it with uncertain terms.

A radio or clock might help and or your reassuring hand and a scratch until it sleep.

Don't spoil the pup if you intend it to sleep outside.

Indoor sleeping.

For no 1 and 2 – when restless take pup outside to a specific area to relief itself.

Don't let the dog relief himself indoors, or in the sleeping area– never.

In the beginning take it out frequently – walk the dog to follow until it happen – praise the pup when doing the right thing outside they will get the message.

When having an accident – if found in the act – a mild scolding and keep taking it outside with regular intervals.

Training is habit forming.

This can also work with a simple (repeated) command every time you think it's time – do you want to go outside?

Let walk around and free - sniff and then there you go - It will become prompting until the dog signal eventually by indicating a need to go outside by the door.

Feeding nutrition & supplements. – {*see articles about feeding on this website*}