

# *Info shared by Pitbull SA.*

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***Functionality & conformation***

***go hand in hand.***

*Tom Garner – (adapted by MK)*

The APBT is a working dog, catch dog, athlete, and for all other disciplines, predator and the ultimate as game dog, historically and genetically derived as such **with proven functional conformation for the task at hand.**

Again functional breed conformation in most important.

The structural standards and objectives for the APBT breed **must be founded in proven functionality**, within the breed standard and conformation **and not only on physical profiles for their grace or symmetry or balance** – because **if so it do this breed a grave disservice.**

The flawed schism that occurred "when the AmStaff was brought into existence" is a prime history lesson in this errant process.

American Pit Bulls and AmStaffs have the same ancestors, but when the AKC chose to recognize the AmStaff as a breed, their own branch of the Pit Bull family tree, structural direction was arbitrarily – wilfully - chosen, based upon subjective preferences, without the benefit of performance feedback.

Today, as we all know, the American Pit Bull terrier is vastly superior to the AmStaff.

This lesson must not be overlooked by knowledgeable breeders and show judges in selecting the relative physical correctness of our APBT dogs.

**This is the key ... our choices must be based in observed functional conformation for performance.**

Correct proven functionality in confirmation **is of utmost important in selection of the breeding dog.** (The slightest non-functional or genetic flaw will change that for which the real APBT should be).

Pretty is as pretty does and performance with the APBT as canine athlete **depends on physical perfect correctness in conformation for the job of the working dog** - not prettiness.

This **does not mean** genetic faults should or traits should be ignored in selecting pure performance able bred APBT for breeding.

The conformation of the APBT as show dog and the conformation of the APBT as working dog **in all and every other discipline should be the same** – it's the same breed (not different breeds) and there will and **should be no difference** – the working dog competing in show conformation **stand on an equal platform concerning breed conformation because APBT as breeds of functionality and the same APBT conformation that go hand in hand.**

Show competition should be encourage and also serve as a precursor in selecting for breeding – **this said with special attention to genetic hereditary faults.**

Richard Garcia – “yes they can and have and always will be judged the same. Many examples of dogs holding Gr Ch in the {} and gr ch titles in the show ring the same time.

Realizing showing the APBT is different from showing any other breed of dog and the distinction between showing APBT’S and other breeds **is specific.**

APBT’s must be shown with the handler in physical control of the dog at all times because of the APBT’s spirit and natural aggression towards other dogs.

That spirit or aggression is part of the standard which falls under the term "Type" and should not be discouraged hence the need for the control of your and any dog on the show grounds and in the show ring.

**Aggression towards humans is not allowed** and any APBT showing that type of aggression should be excused from the show ring.

That is standard.