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APBT Bulldog overview & references.Info for today.

Vicki Hearne >>>throughout various info and discussions of the APBT Bulldog today, you will notice two words repeated over and over again- **responsible & accountable ownership**.

With media hysteria and BSL looming closer every day, good breeders, and responsible and accountable owners of APBT Bulldogs find us endlessly having to defend our breed.

Every bad story and ever untruthful headline, damage our breed of dogs even further.

Irresponsible and ignorant breeders and owners have done almost as much damage to these awesome dogs as dog stories of illegal dog fighting have.

The APBT Bulldog is an exceptional awesome breed that requires **exceptional dedication and ownership**.

It seems that being a APBT Bulldog owner may seem painting a grim picture, but this breed's *very survival depends on all and especially new APBT Bulldog owners by knowing what they are getting into, and all owners of APBT Bulldogs to be responsible and protecting the breed's reputation.*

Knowledge about the APBT Bulldog will be of utmost importance before any new dog owner buys a APBT Bulldog.

The article is but one of many sources available today -mostly this information is intended for the first time or potential APBT Bulldog owners who need to know what to expect from a choice of puppy or dog, to understand the responsibility of owning this breed.

Unlike almost any other breed, APBT Bulldog ownership comes with some unique responsibilities.

Your actions today and those of your dog or dogs - will affect not only yourself, but every breeder, owner and every other APBT Bulldog out there.

If you are thinking about getting a APBT Bulldog, please think about this before committing yourself to a "real" APBT Bulldog.

Looking at APBT Bulldog aggression a term all are bombarded with today.

(See comprehensive articles about aggression and temperament of the APBT Bulldog on this website).

It is very important to note that, in dogs, and then especially with the APBT Bulldog as breed, aggression toward humans (called human aggression) is a complete separate behaviour from natural aggression toward dogs (dog aggression) and/or aggression to other animals (animal aggression).

Much of a dog's temperament and aggression relates to its breed history and genetic inheritance.

(See comprehensive articles and the APBT Bulldog' history on This website.)

This said, it is common knowledge however, that the APBT Bulldog breed was mostly developed for catch/hunting dogs and blood sports:

Bull baiting, bear baiting, hunting as catch and grab dogs, and later for dog fighting ... but know this >> as well as for various working dog sport disciplines and as house - guard and family dogs.

What is not common knowledge is that in the days of organized dog fighting, the handlers of the combatants were habitually in side of the pit with the dogs for the duration of the combat.

They were required to pick up and separate the dogs several times.

This bit of history will help explain (to novices) much of the apparently contradictory traits and behaviours common in this breed.

(See comprehensive articles on behaviours and traits of

the APBT Bulldog on this website).

Looking at the APBT Bulldogs proper breed temperament.

As with all breeds, the APBT Bulldog has positive and negative traits as far as their temperament.

Their breed history has led to the APBT Bulldog traits and temperament unlike any other in the history of pure-bred dogs.

Looking at what then you can expect from an APBT Bulldog.

First and foremost, memorize the following >>>**the golden rule of APBT Bulldog ownership** is to never trust or expect your APBT Bulldog **not to fight**.

This breed descended from historical pit fighting dogs selectively and genetically bred one way or another, and, given the right circumstances or opportunity, most APBT Bulldogs **will fight** against any other breed of dog, and if you ignorant about this fact you will see chaos.

Remember, as the owner of a APBT Bulldog, everything you or your dog do will affect all members of the breed and their families.

APBT Bulldog owners must be extra vigilant 24/7 ... period.

You need to be receptive, have strong leadership, and be able to read canine body language to recognize signs of tension between your dog and any other animals – more so, between housemates. *(See comprehensive articles about the myth that APBT Bulldogs will be pack animals on this website.)*

You need to be prepared to separate the dogs - when fighting - in any and every situation, if tensions develop or this happening by accident or your lack of responsibility and real knowledge about these dogs.

You need to know if your dog may be or is aggressive to other animals – dogs and cats alike, and you need to have control of your dog under any and all circumstances.

(See comprehensive articles about these subjects on this website.)

Sound like a lot of work and hassle >>>it is?

So, what's the payoff >>>the payoff is a well-raised and managed APBT Bulldog of proper working temperament, that is the most loyal and loving dog in the world, bar none.

This is a dog that truly loves people if socialize and managed

properly from puppy stage, especially with children (see comprehensive articles on this website about socializing, training and managing pups and young dogs in and for various circumstances, also as family dogs, with children and visitors – this by choice).

APBT Bulldogs are notorious clowns, and will always make you laugh, even despite yourself.

They are highly intelligent and will often "invent" games to keep themselves amused.

They seem to subsist on love and attention and will do almost anything for a little special praising, loving and hugs.

They tolerate the rough play even from children, loving every minute of it, and, although poor as a guard dogs – unless need to be purposely and properly trained to be that they will willingly give their lives to save and protect the people they love.

Thousands of responsible APBT Bulldog owners have dedicated themselves to this breed, for its positive traits and willingly deal with the negatives.

Then know this >>>>

1. APBT Bulldogs **are mostly** dog-aggressive to one extent or another (this then also often shows up at or near sexual maturity – **just like other dogs**).

A dog that was previously non-dog aggressive may "turn-on" ... usually at 7 – 15 months of age and suddenly doesn't like other dogs even same sex dogs or other animals, or, for that matter, any dogs at all, even house mates they have been raised with. Adult APBT Bulldogs should never be left alone with other dogs or other animals and require proper management and on hand supervision.

2. APBT Bulldogs may exhibit intense "prey drive", leading them to "stalk" small animals such as cats, rats, chickens, livestock, or other pets - predator like.

3. APBT Bulldogs are precocious and incomparable escape artists, who will often seem to squirt right out of a supposedly secure yard or enclosure.

When coupled with # 1 and # 2, you can see why a responsible APBT Bulldog owner is and should be a vigilant dog owner -

24/7.

4. APBT Bulldogs are very intelligent, and most enjoy training and exercise, if it is done properly.

This makes them excellent prospects for any working dog work and competitions.

5. APBT Bulldogs tend to love people - all people.

This makes them a poor choice for a "guardian breed" - unless trained to be - by choice.

Most of them are simply too friendly to protect a house against strangers.

6. APBT Bulldogs that shows unprovoked human aggression (puppy play nips do not count), showing unexpressed human aggressive temperament, in most cases should be put to sleep and or never be bred with.

The breeding of dogs with bad temperaments is one of the largest problems the breed faces today and fuels the fire of hell for breed specific legislation.

7. APBT Bulldogs tend to be very "soft" with their family, meaning that they are eager to please their humans.

8. They expect authority "the boss" but will also thrive under "positive leadership".

9. The APBT Bulldog of proper temperament is a devoted and loving family member, inspiring immense loyalty to the breed.

(See comprehensive articles about these subjects on this website.)

You will often hear an APBT Bulldog's owner tell you that after owning one, they will never own any other breed.

These dogs are natural gladiators and have a natural genetic gladiator's conformation and functional breed structure and built for performance.

The APBT Bulldog is a medium sized, smooth muscular, short, coated breed.

The head is brick like, the jaws strong and wide, the ears may be cropped if allowed - or not.

(See article on this website about the myth that APBT have having a lock jaw mechanism when they bite - and that they have the hardest bite of all dogs.)

The body is typically very strong, with a deep chest, powerful and

proportionate hind end, and solid legs.

The overall impression should be of power and athleticism, prey animal like.

This is not a dog for being a couch potato or a useless forgotten piece of garden furniture, or just a pet - they require a lot of daily, if possible training and exercise.

With this breed it is important to remember to exercise both the dog's body and mind.

It has been said, and a fact, to remember, a tired dog is a happy dog and a bored APBT Bulldog is not a good thing!

They will find some very inventive ways to entertain themselves that the owner may not like (often involving the garbage can, kitchen counter and cabinets, feather pillows, dirty laundry, and various items of furniture).

Remember also, that this is a very enthusiastic breed that may very well overwhelm young children or older people with its affection, the reason then >>> to only allow play under supervision of a adult.

This breed needs to be taught walking on a leash without pulling, to sit and greet people calmly, as it's natural inclination will probably be to climb into their lap, put a paw on each of their shoulders, and attempt to wipe their face off with its tongue.

Attempts to convince a full grown APBT Bulldog that it is too big to be a "lap dog" will, often, fall on deaf ears ... if this dog was not taught "manners" as a puppy.

Do not allow your puppy to do anything you don't want your adult dog to do (e.g., climb on the couch, sleep in the bed, invade your lap, etc.).

Looking at managing, socializing, training, and physically conditioning your APBT Bulldog.

(See various comprehensive articles about these subjects on this website.)

First, for anyone asking the question -do I need to train my APBT Bulldog, **the answer is a resounding yes.**

As with very young children, dogs need guidance and structure, and should never be left to make decisions on their own – always under hands on adult supervision or play.

Socializing and training teaches the dog and owner to understand and communicate with each other and prevent misunderstandings. In the case of the APBT Bulldog - training also prevents the kind of headlines that make all good APBT Bulldogs owner's cringe. The most important thing is to find a method that works for your dog and stick with it.

There are almost as many methods for dog training as there are dog trainers.

Most of those methods fit into one of two categories:

Positive training methods or aversive training methods.

Positive methods include using food rewards, toy rewards, pure praise, gentle leaders, and clickers.

Aversive methods include using praise/correction, choke chains, prong collars, and/or shock collars - this is not for everyone of course.

Both types of training, done correctly, will result in a trained dog.

It is a matter of how you want to get there – your choice.

APBT Bulldogs tend to be very "soft" with their families, and it is very possible to ruin a good dog by "over correcting" with a choke chain, prong collar, and particularly a shock collar.

Aversive training is something you do **to** your dog; positive training is something you do **with** your dog".

Finding a good trainer if that's the way you want to go can be a bit of a challenge, depending on where you live.

Some things then to look for are trainers with experience **with this breed** (or at least no breed prejudice against APBT Bulldogs but with a good understanding of this breed's nature), and what methods to be used (and if you are you comfortable with them), recommendations from former students, and, finally, take a look at the trainer's own dogs (you will find APBT Bulldogs are well behaved).

The best way to assess a trainer's methods is to ask and to "sit in" on a training session.

If the trainer refuses to let you watch, look elsewhere.

As a special note about APBT Bulldogs training classes.

Avoid any class that has "forced socialization" between the dogs they train, particularly adult dogs.

Any trainer that wants to muzzle an aggressive APBT Bulldog and force it to "socialize" with other dogs is not knowledgeable in this breed and can make any APBT Bulldog's aggression worse.

Where and when in the public, during socialization ... APBT Bulldogs are to be off leash, together, playing with dogs' animals or humans, or figuring out the hierarchy themselves, is where people get into trouble.

It doesn't have to be this way at all.

Being in an obedience class situation in which a dog does not get to 'say hi' to every dog >>> is APBT Bulldog socialization!

We must remember **that it's not normal for adult APBT Bulldogs and some other working breeds** to come together and play, to be friends and to interact.

This goes against APBT Bulldog dog behavior.

Important that the definition of 'socialize' needs to be re addressed and understand.

Fact >>> the APBT Bulldog does not play nice with other dogs or animals.

(See comprehensive articles on working dog aids for working and sporting dogs under the chapter Come to know your APBT Bulldog on this website.)

That's it - Gawie Manjaro MK.

