

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

Manjaro APBT kennel.

South Africa.

My website www.pitbullsa.co.za

My E mail manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za

My Face book "Gawie Manjaro"

My Face book page "Manjaro Kennel"

My mobile +27827838280.

Gawie Manjaro on face book messenger.

New owner's puppy testing before purchase.

Some decades ago, a scientist named Clarence Pfaffenberger searched for ways **to better predict which pups would succeed at service work** (guide dogs, police dogs) and even up to today, some breeders and new owners searched for ways to better match up puppies with buyers and buyers today **want to know how to choose a puppy from a litter.**

Several "temperament tests" were put forth as tools for evaluating litters to ultimately predicting how individual pups would develop.

Some people think that Pfaffenberger's test was used by Guide Dogs for the Blind **to determine temperament**, but in reality, for Guide Dogs >>>> for any dog at 6 – 8 weeks old – no one has ever successfully used puppy tests for the simple reason they have not found them to give an accurate prediction. The fact is, testing at picking a pup or even a litter of pups with any regularity, will give mixed results (just what your heart will convince you at the time). A pup that tests "quiet" one day may be a "hellion" the next depending on many factors.

Puppy temperament tests are more accurate the older the pups are. Tests done at 7 or 8 weeks are not nearly as liable to represent the pups ultimate temperament as those done at 12 or 1 weeks.6 – or older. Even tests done at those older ages are not necessarily reflective of the animal's adult behavior, traits, performance or aggression.

Adult behavior is heavily influenced by drives and hormones not yet presented in a pup.

Can an experienced breeder tell anything useful about a litter of pups? Absolutely.

The breeder >>> after having watched a litter grow, daily feeding and handling the pups will recognize some pups **will** stand out as being consistently more dominant or shier.

But understand - even this can change or a gamble

It is my opinion that pups which display severe temperament signs at an

early age are suspect.

Rarely do they get "better".

It is important to understand that this means pups which show consistently irregular temperament - not an occasional "bad moment".

Some things are more often than not able to be determined by 6 - 12 weeks of age.

Severe dog aggression can sometimes be determined.

This is tricky, however, as there are two main types of dog aggression.

One is based on a dog being "gamey" and this animal generally will fight quietly (in fact you have to look close to see if they are fighting or playing).

The other is based on a dog being "defensive" and this animal is loud, almost hysterical - when fighting.

Besides that, the most dog aggressive dog I ever owned was a very passive pup until 9 - 14 months of age.

This is not unusual in APBT Bulldogs.

What to look for in a pup:

No matter the age, no matter with what breeder and what breeding- there are some things to look for - and some things to avoid - in choosing a pup.

Child test >>> then to know it might be the first time the pups see children - >>> anything can and will excite them or could the pup or pups become bewildered >>> flight, defense or fight resulting.

If possible, watch the pups with a young child.

Pups that activity seek out contact with a child are a much better choice than a pup who avoids contact with little ones.

Watch the pup's expression.

Is it "soft" and submissive or does the pup freeze and stare straight ahead when picked up and man handled?

A hallmark of our breed is a soft, submissive temperament with children

>>> again referring to if the pups were used to children from an early age

>>> and in most cases at a breeder this does not happen.

This is genetic and shows up in those well-bred dogs who haven't had prior exposure to children.

Sit still test.

Just sit and watch the pup(s).

Don't call them, ignore them.

Which pups keep coming to check in with you?

Which ignores you back and go about their own business?

I like a pup who seeks out the human and tries to engage them.

Follow test.

Get up and walk away.

Don't call the pups. Who follows you?

Who watches you leave with indifference?

I like a pup who shows interest in you - in following you.

Push test.

If you are looking for an outgoing pup, one with perhaps less of submissive temperament than others, try pushing a pup away (playfully) with your hand or foot.

Watch the response.

Does the pup act submissive and leave after just one or two pushes?

Does the pup rush back, excited by the opposition and willing to "wrestle" with you?

This will give you a decent indication of how "soft" this pup is - at least at this time frame.

Alarm barking test at 12 week or older.

I don't care for APBT Bulldogs that are constantly alarm barkers – for every noise, bird, person or animal in their line of sight.

When the pups are relaxed, have someone knock on a wall or door.

Watch their reactions - which jump up, tail wagging, to investigate.

Watch which one's alarm bark, indicating uneasiness – tail up or tail tucked in.

Gripping test.

If you are getting an APBT Bulldog, you should strive to get one (in my opinion) with breed traits and characteristics.

If not - why get one?

One defining characteristic of the APBT Bulldog is the ability and desire to grip – shake and pull.

Wave a soft cloth, sock, or piece of jute over the pups. which pup chases and grips?

Which pup holds with a quiet, confident grip when the pressure is steady, and growls and shakes when the cloth is shaken?

I never cease to be amazed at people emailing me with concerns because their APBT Bulldog pup grabs at their pants legs or gloves, steal shoes socks and destroy them.... I'd be worried if it didn't! If you don't want a gripping breed, don't get an APBT Bulldog

That's it - Gawie Manjaro- MK.

