



**EVEN
CHANCE**

So you wanna adopt a pit bull?



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Why to pick a pit!

If you are looking for a good guard dog, keep looking! Pit bulls may look intimidating to strangers, but they make poor guarding dogs due to their loving nature towards humans. We hope that you are searching for a pit bull because you are looking for a wonderful family companion.

The pit bull will be your best friend, house clown and snuggle buddy! They are known for their love of humans, happy go lucky nature and willingness to please. Many people who have pit bulls swear that no other breed of dog is comparable and they will never have anything other than a pit! However, pit bull owners must also endure never ending scrutiny from friends, family, neighbors and the general public who base their bias on misinformation. It is essential when owning a pit bull to be ever diligent and uphold the breed's reputation by maintaining an ambassador dog. A pit bull owner has to make sure their dog is exceptional in order to break down stereotypes on a day to day basis.

Consider this:

Having a dog requires a commitment to training, exercise and vet care. It takes time to maintain a happy, healthy dog. Every dog's needs vary, so please be realistic when choosing a dog. Are you looking for a couch potato or a running partner? Make sure to ask the representing organization many questions about the dog's personality, energy level and medical needs and make sure you are committed to providing what the dog needs for its life.

Make an educated decision.

Yep, that pit bull puppy is really cute, but it will eventually grow into a medium to large size dog. Have you thought about the commitment to the dog for its entire life? Are you prepared for the size and personality the puppy will mature into?

Don't adopt on a whim; it's unfair to the dog to have someone who will not be completely committed to its success from the beginning. Are you interested in a dog because it has a medical or behavioral issue? A dog such as this requires a significant amount of time and management. Please be sure you are able to take on such responsibility as pity will not fix the issue. It's important to keep in mind that adopting a dog with a medical condition may require an additional financial commitment from you for their veterinary care.

Get the household on board!

Make sure everyone in your household is in agreement and wants to add a canine member to the group. Having a dog is a commitment for everyone involved and it's essential to the dog's success to have everyone on board. Make sure everyone meets and agrees to the dog you have selected to adopt. Consistent leadership and training from everyone will help the dog develop the tools to live a well-balanced life. If anyone in your household is not fully committed to the dog, please reconsider and make sure everyone is happy in your decision. You will be doing a great disservice to the members of your household as well as the dog if you make a decision that doesn't work for everyone involved.



So you wanna adopt a pit bull? (cont.)

Picking the best match for your current pets.

If you are adding a pit bull to your home with other pets, make sure the choice is a good match for all animals involved. While most dogs can live quite successfully with other pets, not all are good with other animals. Each dog will have a different tolerance level towards animals and it's essential to make sure everyone (people and animals alike) will be happy with this new addition.

Ask the organization about the dog's tolerance levels with animals. A responsible rescue will ensure their available dog goes to the best home, so making sure all the animals get along is essential. And please be realistic about the dog's interactions with your current animals; don't assume you can change the dog's behavior or the behavior of your current pets.

Get to know the dog you like!

Speak with the organization about the dog multiple times, meet the dog in its foster home/shelter situation, spend one-on-one time with the dog, and take the dog for a walk and even to a training session to see how you respond to each other. Make sure the adoption will be a good match for both you and the dog. It's important to get to know the dog prior to taking him/her home as it's very stressful on the dog to be returned if things don't work out.

Housing considerations:

Many areas of the country and the world for that matter have BSL (Breed Specific Legislation) banning certain breeds. These breeds can include, but aren't limited to: German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Dobermans, Pit Bulls, Huskies, Chow Chows and wolf hybrids and any such mixes. The BSL regarding "pit bulls" includes American Staffordshire Terriers, American Pit Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Bull Terriers and such mixes or any dog resembling any of these breeds.

Research your current living area and make sure you will not be affected by this biased and ignorant legislation. Remember this when you are taking a road trip as well; your breed of dog might not even be allowed across state lines.

If you plan on moving in the future, research your new area to make sure your new family member will be accepted. And if you need to drive somewhere to complete your move or for vacation, check with the states/cities you will be visiting to ensure your dog's safety.

If you rent, check with your landlord to make sure there aren't any animal restrictions in your rental. This could include the number of pets you are allowed to have, the size of the dog and the breed of dog. Some landlords have no control over breed restrictions because their insurance carrier will not insure a particular breed.

If you own, check with your HOA and/or homeowners insurance. Many HOA's have breed and size restrictions and most insurance companies will not cover homes with certain breeds. If you run into this issue, please seek out an insurance carrier that does not have any restrictions.

If you are in the military, you must be aware that pit bulls, Rottweillers and wolf hybrids are not accepted on base or military-provided housing.

What is BSL?

Breed specific legislation (BSL) are laws that target specific dog breeds (namely pit bulls and "pit bull types") because they are supposedly inherently dangerous and therefore deserving of prejudicial rules and regulations.

When these laws are set they can do two things: if the law is a "ban," then it is illegal to own, house, harbor, import, train, or breed any of the dogs listed under that law. If the law is set to "regulate" the breed is not banned, but next to impossible to own. Requirements such as liability insurance, mandatory spay/neuter, higher licensing costs, muzzling in public, etc. are typical of regulatory legislation.