



## WHY A STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

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### Background

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier was brought into existence on the early 1800s and is a cross between the bulldog of the day and the old english terrier - a breed which is now extinct. These two breeds were chosen to produce a dog with a longer more punishing head than the bulldog with a combination of both strength and agility. The early dogs did not have very specific pedigrees because the importance was a game fighting dog. The miners and ironworkers of Staffordshire began to foster the breed and the qualities of gameness, intelligence and loyalty were developed. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier was recognised by the English Kennel Club in 1935.

### Average Lifespan

When considering a Stafford for your pet remember it will be part of your family for on average 12-14 years.

### Breed Personality/ Characteristics/Temperament

You must never forget the Staffordshire Bull Terriers past as a fighting dog as that game spirit is still present in most Staffords today. Their boisterous nature and spirit give credit to the statement that "Staffords are the loveable rogues of the dog world." Always be a responsible Stafford owner and never have your dog off lead in a public place. You have nothing to fear personally from a Staffordshire Bull Terrier as his fighting past was purely as a combatant and not as an ag-

gressor to man. Staffords will do anything to please their human friends and can be relied upon to uphold their breed standard at all times. **Highly intelligent and affectionate especially with children, bold, fearless and totally reliable.** However, as with all breeds, young children should never be left alone with a dog or puppy. They should be supervised at all times.

### Compatibility With Other Pets

Staffordshire Bull Terriers live happily with other pets provided that they are trained and socialised from an early age. Puppies can be easily trained to obey house rules and obedience training can be an excellent avenue to provide socialisation with other animals. Obedience is a fun way to develop a close bond of friendship and respect with your Stafford.

They love to be with you and take great delight in pleasing you.





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Obedience training is where they excel using their high intelligence to negotiate the demanding and often difficult exercises involved. The level of obedience you wish to attain is entirely up to you. It may simply be to walk at heel on a lead, sit on command and stay when told. As a part of responsible dog ownership you owe it to your Stafford to train them to behave in public and to relate well and respect other dogs. Always be aware that whilst a Stafford should not be the aggressor he will respond if challenged by another dog.

### Care Requirements

The Stafford is a low maintenance breed, the short coat requiring little more than a regular brushing and the occasional bath. Depending on the amount of exercise your dog has on a hard surface will determine if nails need clipping to keep them short and tidy. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a healthy dog however it does have its share of hereditary diseases, i.e. skin problems, eye diseases. Check with the breeder to ascertain if they are aware of any hereditary problems that exist in your puppies bloodlines as this may save you heartache, frustration and money in the long term.

### Ideal Owner/s

Staffordshire Bull Terriers are a dog that very much needs to be a member of the family. They are not a dog that can be left alone in the backyard to amuse themselves. They

love to have a regular walk, a ride in the car and in general be included in your families day to day activities. Exercise, affection and discipline are all needed to keep your dog functioning as a happy and healthy pet who gives back a lot more than he receives. Staffords need attention on a constant basis and if neglected can become bored and problematic. Also keep in mind that whilst they are a loyal and devoted family pet they are also a very strong active dog that require regular exercise.

### In Conclusion

It is strongly recommended that you purchase only a pedigree Staffordshire Bull Terrier registered with your State Canine Association. Contact the breed club or your State controlling body for purebred dogs to obtain information about available puppies and also details of dog shows where you can see the breed and speak to breeders. In this way you will gain a better perspective of the breed and its needs.

