

Congratulations on your new Bull Terrier Puppy!



The Bull Terrier Club of America wants you to enjoy your Bull Terrier to the fullest. To do that, we can provide important information to help your Bull Terrier become a good citizen and family companion.

TRAINING

A typical Bull Terrier is active, interested, playful, clownish and stubborn. He is also very attached to his family. The character and personality of the Bull Terrier is much like a three year-old child in a dog suit. You must supervise and train them. Obedience and socialization classes are musts for the Bull Terrier puppy and adult. Proper training will provide good manners, socialization skills and bond the dog to you. Check with your local kennel club or humane society for classes.

Because Bull Terriers were bred for strong prey drives and not pack instincts, they generally respond best to training when motivated by food and toys. The Bull Terrier must be handled firmly but with patience and positive reinforcement. Young Bull Terriers can be very rambunctious and must be taught not to jump, nip or grab when playing.

THE USE OF CRATES

Every Bull Terrier should have a crate. Crate training is essential in house training and can be a haven for your Bull Terrier. It is always the safest place for your Bull Terrier when you are out of the house or busy with

projects, especially if you have other animals. The crate should not be used for punishment, but as a tool for keeping your pet safe and comfortable. Bull Terriers like to be part of the family activities and may prefer to have their crate in an area of the house such as the family or TV room.

The crate is comfortable for your Bull Terrier because, like his wild ancestors, he instinctively seeks the safety and security of a "den." They do not mind being placed in a crate at night (when they haven't worked their way into your bed!) and you will have peace of mind knowing your pet is safe and out of harm's way.

TOYS

Because Bull Terriers have a very strong urge to chew, it is important to provide them appropriate toys such as Nylabones, Plaque Attackers and Kong toys, with supervision. Other brands or rawhides and soft toys can be broken, swallowed or lodged in the throat. Bull Terriers will also ingest other "toys" such as socks, underwear, pieces of blanket, various forms of rubber, plastic, metal screening and children's toys. Any of these items can cause an obstruction in the lower intestine. If you notice symptoms such as depression, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea or lack of appetite, contact your veterinarian immediately. Your Bull Terrier may have a blockage.



WHILE OUTSIDE

Confining your Bull Terrier in a fenced yard is a must. Many Bull Terriers consider small animals as prey and hunt them. These can be cats, rodents, birds, squirrels and small dogs. If your Bull Terrier is left unsupervised and roams free, he may become involved chasing something and not return home. Your Bull Terrier may be involved in an altercation with another animal and be injured or blamed. Always protect your Bull Terrier by keeping him in a secure fenced yard and walking on a leash.

IDENTIFICATION

Accidents happen and your Bull Terrier may escape from you or his yard. It is important that your pet have a permanent identification. A tattoo is the most visible and microchips are available. Tattoos are placed on the inside of the thigh and microchips are injected under the skin between the shoulders. By registering these with the appropriate agency, your Bull Terrier will be more able to find his way home. We recommend using BOTH these methods with a collar tag.

SPAYING, NEUTERING AND HEALTH CARE

Please consider spaying or neutering your pet Bull Terrier. Spayed females are often healthier and live longer as this surgery eliminates uterine infections and cancer and reduces the risk of mammary cancer. The neutered male cannot develop testicular cancer and has a lower risk of prostate cancer. He is less apt to "leave his mark" and will often tolerate other male dogs. Spaying or neutering will not make your pet obese or lazy; overfeeding and lack of exercise will.

If you feel your Bull Terrier meets the breed standard developed by Bull Terrier breeders and approved by the AKC and your dog has completed an AKC championship, he *may* be worthy of breeding.

Responsible breeders will perform genetic tests to make sure their Bull Terrier is healthy and not carrying one or more genetic problems. A female should be no less than two years of age before her first litter.

Genetic problems the male and female should be tested for are:

Deafness: BAER tests

Kidney Failure: Urine/Protein Creatine Ratio

Heart defects: Auscultation by a Cardiac Specialist

Skin allergies: Exam by your vet

Patella luxation: Exam by your vet

Breeding healthy dogs requires a study of genetics along with canine structure and movement. It requires a commitment of time, work and money that most people are not willing to or cannot provide. Breeding healthy, sound Bull Terriers COSTS money, it doesn't make money. Spayed and neutered animals are eligible to compete in obedience and agility AKC trials, but not conformation judging.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact the BTCA for guidance in becoming a responsible Bull Terrier owner. There are local clubs across the country with members who can help with questions or problems you may have. They have fun activities for you and your Bull Terrier, and can make recommendations on training classes and veterinary clinics.

For more information, contact:

BTCA Corresponding Secretary
2630 Gold Point Circle
Hixson, TN 37343

For a copy of the *Illustrated Standard*, send \$6.00 to the Corresponding Secretary.

Or visit our web site at:

<http://www.btca.com>

Visit our rescue web site at:

<http://www.thebullterrier.com/btcarescuesupport/>

For lost or found Bull Terriers contact:

1(800) BTBT 911 (282-8911)