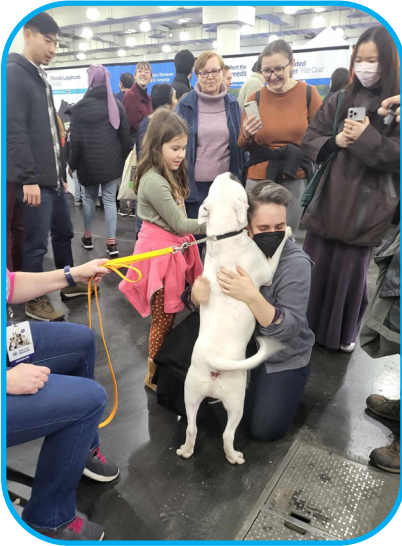


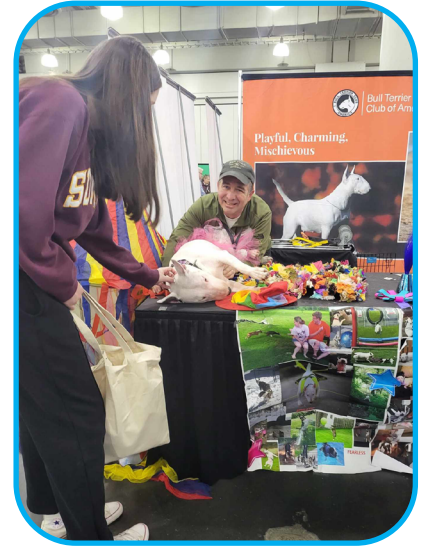
ESSENTIALS

If you've been owned by a Bull Terrier – then you are familiar with the essentials. For anyone who has not yet lived with one, here is some *essential information* that you must understand about this wonderful and singular breed.



We strongly encourage you to visit BTCA preservation breeders and **meet Bull Terriers in person.**

There is no substitute. All dogs are not the same – and that is especially true of Bull Terriers. Attend regional Bull Terrier events, Meet The Breed programs, visits to breeders' homes, or local dog shows whenever possible.



From Dede Wilson of *ShowSight Magazine*:

“Preservation Breeders are stewards of history, genetics, and purpose. They dedicate their lives to maintaining the integrity, health, and longevity of their breed – not for profit, but out of passion, responsibility, and profound respect for the breed they love.”

Expect the following from a responsible breeder:

An extensive interview and application process. Possibly a home visit.

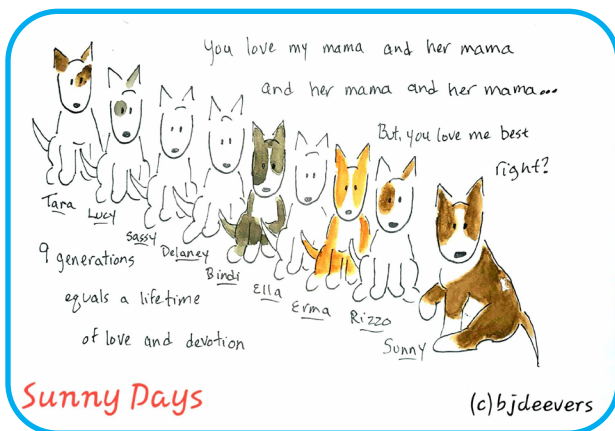
A commitment to ensuring that both you and their puppy are well matched and protected.



Good breeders shine like neon:

They insist on taking their puppy back at any time, for any reason, should the placement not work out. They belong to clubs and organizations governed by strict Codes of Ethics. They will spend as much time talking you out of a Bull Terrier as into one.

Be aware: A purebred dog does **not** guarantee a well-bred dog. Anyone can advertise in the AKC marketplace. There is no such thing as an AKC “certified” or “sanctioned” breeder.



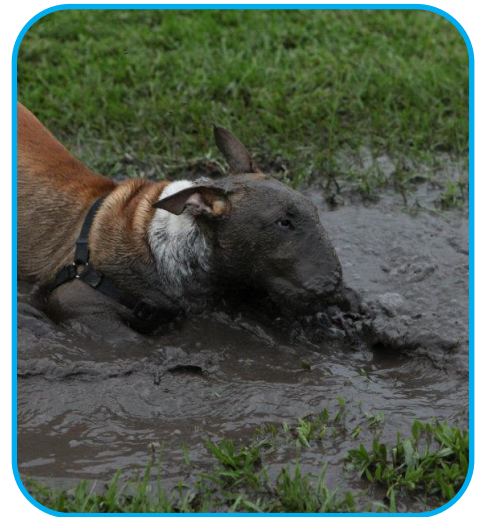
Sunny Days

(c)bjdevers

There are 32 breeds in the Terrier Group. While Bull Terriers share many classic terrier traits, *they are distinct* – from other terriers and most other dogs. They are *independent* and *often strong-willed*. Yet they are *deeply sensitive* and *intensely devoted* to their people. Though extremely loyal, they prefer to *do things on their terms*.



UPSIDE DOWN IS THE NEW RIGHT-SIDE UP!



Terriers may present interesting training challenges – not because they lack intelligence, but because they may have a *different opinion*. If you cannot accept – and even embrace – that difference of opinion, the Bull Terrier is **not** the breed for you. They're *fully committed to whatever captures their interest in the moment*. If you have another agenda, you may have a hard time convincing them that your program is better than theirs.



EVEN AT PRESTIGIOUS DOG SHOWS,
BULLIES SAY "I'LL DO IT MY WAY!"

Bull Terriers learn best using reward-based, positive training methods.

They are natural problem solvers and highly motivated by play, food, and engagement.

They are playful and independent. Creativity is often required to capture and maintain their cooperation. Training sessions should be short, positive and fun – terriers can grow bored with repetition.



“MIX A LITTLE FOOLISHNESS WITH YOUR SERIOUS PLANS. IT IS LOVELY TO BE SILLY...”
– HORACE



UNMISTAKABLE CHARACTER. “ELEVATING”
SHOWMANSHIP FOR THE JUDGE.

As Marsha Boulton of Wally’s World reminds us:
“There are no bad Bullies – just ones filled with beans and wit!”



Energy and Lifestyle

As youngsters, Bull Terriers are *exuberant* and *ebullient*. They thrive in active households. They are not suited to homes where they are left alone for long periods. They are social dogs who enjoy companionship and full days. Despite their *independence*, they both like and *need* to be near their people. It is neither fair nor healthy to leave a Bull Terrier alone all day on a regular basis – especially a puppy. If family members are away for extended hours, arrangements should be made for someone to return at least every four hours to exercise and attend to them. Crate training or indoor kennel runs, when used appropriately, can provide structure, safety, and security – preventing destructive behavior and supporting training. It is very unsafe to leave a Bull Terrier unattended in a yard during family absences.



A BULL TERRIER WILL ALWAYS
BE HAPPIER WITH YOU THAN
ALONE.



Containment and Safety

Bull Terriers require secure, physical fencing. Terriers are escape artists – they run, roam, dig, and explore.

A proper fence must be:
Sturdy and secure.

High enough that it cannot be jumped and unlikely to be climbed over.
Reinforced so it cannot be dug under or bulldozed (yes, they can move under chain link).
Equipped with a locked gate.

Bull Terriers possess a strong hunting instinct and may pursue anything they perceive as prey. Outside of a secure fenced yard, they should be kept on leash.

This is not a dog hesitant to explore.

Bull Terriers *are not* always universally social, happy-go-lucky, get-along-with-everyone dogs.

Invisible or electric fencing is not appropriate for Bull Terriers. Many terriers will accept the shock in pursuit of prey. Once outside the boundary, the absence of prey drive may make the return shock deterrent enough to keep them roaming. Electric fences offer no protection from outside people or animals entering your yard.



Exercise and Mental Engagement

Terriers require varied physical and mental outlets to channel their abundant energy.

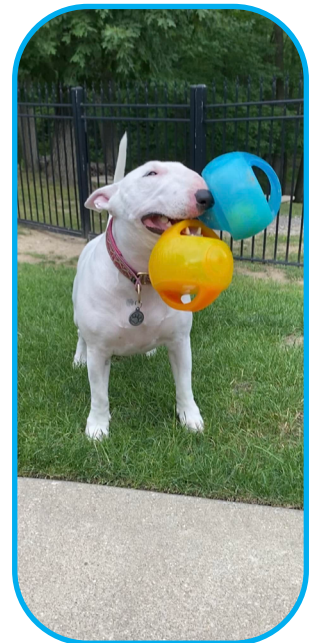
Bull Terriers are highly athletic and make excellent companions for hiking, jogging, and long walks. They excel in performance sports such as agility, barn hunt, earthdog, fast cat, flyball, and nose work.

They enjoy chasing toys (though not necessarily returning them – they are not retrievers).

They love toys they can chew (durable and not easily swallowed), shake, pounce on, roll, and discover in unexpected places.



THEY ALSO RELISH RIDING SHOT-GUN IN THE CAR.



Boredom

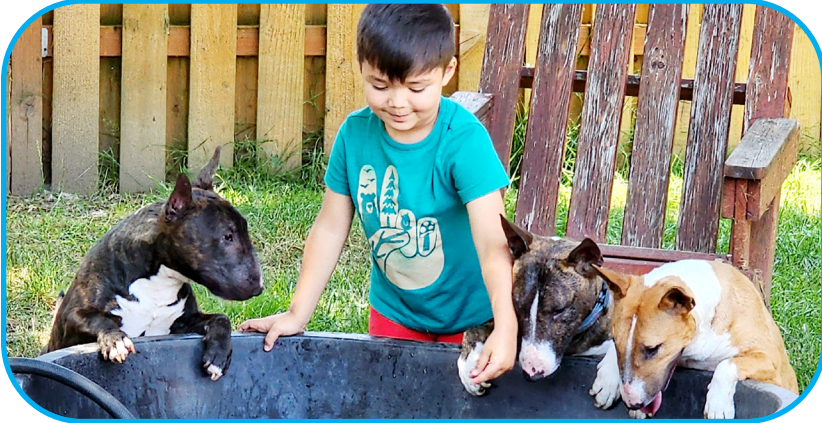
Bull Terriers are at their best when *interaction with their humans is part of daily life*. If left alone for extended periods, they may entertain themselves in ways you might not appreciate.

Terriers were bred to dig out burrowed animals – which may translate into garden excavation. A constructive solution is to provide a designated digging area. Interactive toys and puzzle games are excellent tools for mental stimulation.



Children

Raised with children who respect their independence and recognize them as living personalities, Bull Terriers often adjust beautifully - sometimes appointing themselves as guardians.



Other Pets

With proper management and early socialization, *some* Bull Terriers coexist successfully with other animals.

Early exposure to other dogs and small animals may encourage compatibility. However, even with appropriate socialization, some Bull Terriers are better suited to single-dog homes and may not thrive in environments such as dog parks.

As K9 Manhunt and Scent Work Scotland notes:

“Our dogs were not bred to be dog-park butterflies.”

It is important to remember that all terriers were originally bred to pursue and dispatch vermin. The Bull Terrier was developed with strong drive - intensity of focus, determination, and the ability to hunt independently rather than as part of a pack. Because of this heritage, some Bull Terriers may be selectively feisty with other animals. They are not typically the instigators of conflict, but as terriers, they may willingly accept a challenge if one is presented.

Always rely on your experienced BTCA breeder for counsel and guidance.



“They are sweet of character with greatness of soul, a gentleman’s heart has the White Cavalier... It is no small wonder that he has become known as a “lifetime” breed, for those who once own one, seldom if ever forsake him.”

Gad Root, and Wex Jones 1931.

A Sacred Comission

BTCA members and preservation breeders believe we carry a sacred commission.

Working Bull Terrier Kennels expressed it beautifully:

“Our mission is to ensure that every Bull Terrier thrives in a home where their needs are understood, their spirit is nurtured, and their unique qualities are celebrated.”

Many are first drawn to the Bull Terrier’s unmistakable “Joe Cool” appearance and moderate size. But they are dogs filled to the brim with passion, character, and great-heartedness.

They are not the right breed for every family.

They require a secure place in a home where companionship, understanding, and respect are *essential* to their well-being and happiness.

So, we ask you - please consider carefully **before** adding a Bull Terrier to your household.

Ensure that you are willing and able to understand, nurture, and celebrate this remarkable breed - and never forsake them.



TESS - AT 9 WEEKS



TESS - AT 9 YEARS

Young or old, Bullies leave pawprints on your heart.

This document has been compiled from the following resources:

All of whom “speak” Bull Terrier eloquently, and “see” their souls clearly, and have taught the rest of us to listen and hear. Bull Terriers have no finer advocates or friends.

Mary Remer, What a Good Dog, LLC, Specialty Judge, AKC Terrier Breeder of the Year,
Bedrock Bull Terriers.

Dr. Robert Myall, Specialty Judge, Acclaimed Breeder, Icen/Isly Bull Terriers.

Superintendent Edgar A. Moss (MB-F), The Breeds in Brief, No. 51, The Bull Terrier,
1945.

The AKC Breed Video 1986 – Mrs. Wingate (Winkie) Mackay-Smith, Mrs. Norma Smith.

AKC Complete Dog Book 2005 -Mary Remer and Dr. Dale Schuur.

Breed All About It: Bull Terriers, 1999-Hon. David Merriam, Dr. Carl Pew, Mary Remer.

Where Fanciers Gather: Complete AKC Gazette Bull Terrier Columns.

The Bull Terrier Club Bulletin: contributions from Raymond Oppenheimer, Quita Youatt
and Dr. David Harris.

J.J. Walsh, editor of The Field, circa 1880’s.

Scottish Terrier Club of America: Scotty Character.

Multiple Terrier Breed Standards.

*A very special note of gratitude to the individuals who so generously shared their
photographs!*

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