

# ***American Staffordshire Terrier – I’m Tough and Tender!!!***

I’m the loyal and confident American Staffordshire Terrier, sometimes called a Pit Bull. You’ve probably heard about some of my famous “cousins”, but let me tell you a little more about myself. President Theodore Roosevelt owned one; so did Helen Keller. The “Buster Brown Shoe” dog was a Pit Bull and so was the RCA dog. “Petey” was the real star of the *Our Gang* and *Little Rascals* series, and “Stubby” was the most decorated dog in American history, earning the honorary rank of Sergeant for his services during World War I!!!

So, you see, I’m a special dog for special people. My origins aren’t precisely documented, but in 19<sup>th</sup> century England, Bulldogs and terriers were crossed to create a dog with the courage and strength of a Bulldog and the spirit and quickness of a terrier. Pit Bulls, or AmStaffs, in the 1930’s and 1940’s, also worked on family farms and were popular family companions.

In fact, we’ve been specifically bred to be passive toward humans. Our correct temperament is actually the exact opposite from what much of the mainstream media would have you believe. We’re not a Bad Breed, Honest!

Here are some tips to help you decide if I’m the right dog for you.

- I live to be 11 to 12 years old.
- I need to be bathed at least once a month and brushed regularly.
- I’m very smart and pretty easy to train, and, like all dogs, I need lots of training.
- I need to be walked every day and I’d like a good run or work-out once a week, if possible.
- I have to live INDOORS with you. Because I LOVE humans so much, I start to go stir-crazy if left alone in the yard, and that can lead to problems.
- Usually, I’m really good with kids.
- Sometimes I’m good with other pets (sometimes not). You need to test me with your other pets while I’m on a leash. Sadly, my ancestors and some of my pals have been used for dog fighting, so sometimes my “genes” make me dog-aggressive.

Just remember, I love people and I need to live inside your house with you, not in a back yard. Because I’m sometimes dog aggressive, I may need to be an “only” dog, and watched carefully around other dogs. If you have small children, please talk to one of the kennel attendants about whether or not I’m calm enough for your little ones, because sometimes I’m as boisterous as they are, and would never want to hurt them in our play.

But, if you provide me with the right kind of loving home and nurturing training, I’ll be your best friend for life!!!