

## Pit Bull Awareness Annotated Bibliography

N.p. "Position Statement on Pit Bulls." *ASPCA*,

[www.asPCA.org/about-us/asPCA-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-pit-bulls](http://www.asPCA.org/about-us/asPCA-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-pit-bulls).

Pit bulls were originally bred to bait bulls. They were later bred to fight each other. This does not mean they are aggressive dogs though. With proper care, pitbulls are loving, loyal, and caring. If people are not nice to these dogs, they will not be nice back. This is where their bad reputation comes from.

- "The reality is that dogs of many breeds can be selectively bred or trained to develop aggressive traits."

- "It is likely that that the vast majority of pit bull type dogs in our communities today are the result of random breeding... The result of random breeding is a population of dogs with a wide range of behavioral predispositions. For this reason it is important to evaluate and treat each dog, no matter its breed, as an individual."

Bershadker, Matt. "The Lifesaving Importance of Pit Bull Awareness Day." *ASPCA*, ASPCA President and CEO, [www.asPCA.org/blog/lifesaving-importance-pit-bull-awareness-day](http://www.asPCA.org/blog/lifesaving-importance-pit-bull-awareness-day).

Pit bulls can actually be sweet, loving, and caring dogs, but people need to give that a chance. If they only follow negative news sources, then they will see jumpy and biting pit bulls. If they actually spent some time with pit bulls, they could see how caring they are. The ASPCA is working on changing these bad images of pit bulls.

- "Sharing these stories is important because when people look at a pit bull-type dog or imagine one, different images and ideas come to mind, and those images are often inaccurate and unfair."

- "It's true that the ancestors of many of today's pit bulls were historically bred to fight other dogs and other animals, but most modern pit bull-type dogs serve as companions, and some are working dogs. You don't hear news stories about sweet, well-behaved pit bulls, but they're in shelters all over the country looking for safe and loving homes. They just need someone to give them a chance."

N.p. "National Pitbull Awareness Day." *National Pitbull Awareness Day*, National Pitbull Awareness Day, 2018, [www.nationalpitbullawarenessday.org/](http://www.nationalpitbullawarenessday.org/).

The National Pitbull Awareness Day Campaign (NPBADC) started in 2007. Their goal is to change negative stereotypes about pit bulls and other "bully breeds". The hope of NPBADC is to bring more pit bulls out of shelters and into foster homes and permanent homes. Similarly to the ASPCA, they want to change the negative image people have when they think of these dogs.

- "The ultimate goal of NPBAD is to promote the truth about pit bulls. Knowledge is power, and with education and advocacy, the truth will save lives in terms of negating the fear and bias generated by the media, circumvent knee-jerk reactions such as breed bans, and the truth will result in fewer pit bulls ending up in animal shelters."

- “National Pit Bull Awareness Day (NPBAD) is a day of appreciation and education designed to change perceptions and stereotypes about bully breed dogs, commonly referred to as "pit bulls," and their responsible owners.”

Enos, Sara K. “The Problem With People, Not Pit Bulls.” *Time*, 26 June 2014,

[time.com/2927759/the-problem-with-people-not-pit-bulls/](http://time.com/2927759/the-problem-with-people-not-pit-bulls/)

This article states how there are so many common misconceptions related to pitbulls, that there is a problem with people, not the dogs. For example, Enos writes how getting a dog is not like getting furniture to show off at a dinner party. It requires responsibility and care. It is a daily commitment. If *any* dog, not just pit bulls, are mistreated and not taken care of, then they will act accordingly. Since so many people do not recognize the huge responsibility of owning such an energetic breed, so there are so many pit bulls swept across shelters, or abused at home.

- “They were bred as working dogs and family companions prior to being bred to bull bait and then dog fight. Animal aggression and human aggression are not synonymous in the canine world, as they are in the human world and it is often difficult for people that are unfamiliar with the breed/s to understand that dog-aggressive does not mean human aggressive.”
- “Many are not just family companions, but also search and rescue dogs that find missing children and lost dementia patients. They help kids become stronger readers because many kids with reading disabilities won’t read to an adult but they will read to a dog. They are seizure watch dogs, diabetic alert dogs, comfort nursing home residents and offer a plethora of services to human counterparts. Eradicating Pit Bull dogs will affect more than just our family dogs; it will affect the much larger number of citizens that these dogs help, as opposed to attack.”

Baldwin, Steffen. “The Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics Behind Dog Bites.” *The Huffington Post*,

TheHuffingtonPost.com, 10 Sept. 2015,

[www.huffingtonpost.com/steffen-baldwin/the-lies-damn-lies-and-st\\_b\\_8112394.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steffen-baldwin/the-lies-damn-lies-and-st_b_8112394.html).

Many people believe that pitbulls are these dangerous dogs. In this article, many statistics are gathered to show the reader that they are not as dangerous as we think. One comparison is between dog bites and choking on a hot dog; you are more likely do die from eating a hot dog. While we live in a world with some potentially dangerous dogs, we also live in a world with many more dangerous humans.

- “In 2014, the U.S. National Safety Council showed that your chances of dying by a dog bite are **1 in 116,448**. That’s just a number though; to put that number into perspective, your chances of dying by legal execution are pretty similar, **1 in 127,717**. You are, in fact, twice as likely to die by a hornet, bee or wasp sting than a dog, **1 in 55,764**.”
- “According to the CDC, only 1.8% of all dog bites treated in Emergency Departments result in hospitalization.”

Wilson, Sara Logan. “Pit Bull Facts and Why We Love This Breed.” *Canine Journal*, 1 Nov. 2017, [www.caninejournal.com/pit-bull-facts/](http://www.caninejournal.com/pit-bull-facts/).

This article is packed with information about pit bulls. Like the Huffington Post article, this post has several facts that puts pit bull facts into perspective. One example about “bully breeds”. American Pit Bull Terriers are technically a “bully breed”, there are many other dogs on the list of over 30 breeds. Some other dogs include pugs and boston terriers.

- “What we do know from statistical analysis is that **86.8 percent of American pit bull terriers have passed their temperament testing according to the American Temperament Test Society, Inc.** This is a higher number of American pit bulls to pass their testing than collies, beagles and even golden retrievers.”
- “An individual is 60 times more likely to be killed by a falling coconut than they are to be killed by a pit bull attack.”

N.p, Saved Me.” *Saved Me*, Saved Me Inc., 2014, [savedme.org/](http://savedme.org/).

This is the website for where I volunteered for my agent of change. The website has information about the shelter, adoptable animals, and more. For my blog post, I gathered information about the shelters policies. For example, Saved Me is a non-profit shelter, therefore loves volunteers.

- “We are determined to find great homes and always screen potential adopters to make sure that they will be able to provide a safe, responsible, and loving home for our rescues.”
- “Saved Me Inc. is a non profit organization that is focused on saving dogs & cats from shelters that are forced to euthanize due to limited amount of space.”

Save-a-bull. "Pit Bulls and Euthanasia Rates." *Save-a-Bull Rescue*, 5 Nov. 2015, [saveabullmn.org/pit-bulls-and-euthanasia-rates/](http://saveabullmn.org/pit-bulls-and-euthanasia-rates/).

This is also a shelter website, but it is a post on the shelter's blog. The blog post has information about pit bull euthanasia, and possible solutions. One solution the post offers is to make sure all young pit bulls are spayed/neutered. This would ensure less pit bulls would be born, therefore there would be less to kill.

- **"About 75% of municipal shelters euthanize pit bulls immediately upon intake, without them ever having any chance at adoption."**
- **"A study by the organization Animal People reports a 93% euthanasia rate for pit bulls and only one in 600 pits finding a forever home."**