

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

Manjaro APBT kennel.

South Africa.

My Website www.pitbullsa.co.za

My E mail "manjaro@pitbullsa.co.za"

My Facebook "Gawie Manjaro"

My Facebook page "Manjaro Kennel"

My mobile +27827838280.

Zello.com "VoIP" – ask for info.

Attitude for learning.

"Some" breeders and "some" dog owners breeding dogs do promote responsible ownership through shared information, knowledge and experience – then the APBT universe come to know this (they always do) and respect is given where it is due.

This have and may perhaps help a few people.

This article have a lot of good essence to it that could be applied directly and indirectly to all fanciers of the "real" American Pit Bull Terrier.

The article itself laid out pretty good guidelines about "sharing" and "learning".

Why **don't** "some old Doggers" want to teach you anything – and why do "some Old Doggers" go out of their way to help you? Do they have a reason?

Now that is a question we all have heard repeatedly, with the same frustration in many different voices, many different times. Surely there are as many different answers to that question out there, as there are "Old time doggers" left out there to answer it.

I have heard a lot of those answers, because I have and still have questions, just for the sake of curiosity, I have ask a great many known "Older" doggers" that very same question. Their answers are mostly similar but do vary sometimes.

Then of course, today the internet have infiltrated the young fancier's minds and they know it all – might be lacking experience – and that will cost them.

The general answer >> Why waste your valuable time and energy trying to guide the arrogant and know it all's, they'll wind up doing it their own way any way.

The fast pace living of our modern age taught most of us to look for a 'short cut' for doing things.

Then again I must say some fanciers of the breed have a real yearning to know more –and "some" breeders just have a deep heart desire to share all and then ... it is only a pleasure to share –and in the process you become friends for life. (I thank those old-time doggers in my life).

For "most" kennel hoppers and Facebook commentators today ... *the dog breeder is a peddler and just trying to get rid of their pups* – then being labelled like that it is a waste of time to entertain them. {I know this - you now this and for sure - they know this – and this is my reason **as breeder** not to argue with the ignorant and fools. MK}

Younger APBT fanciers are needed, if this breed is to survive through and into the new generation.

There is no doubt that there has to be someone there (and there are) to care for the breed.

Then maybe "some" to continue to breed them, hopefully correctly. Hopefully, there will be someone to test workability and traits.

Some to have the balls, to bare the slings and arrows of an uneducated society about 'gameness' and endurance, about the breed as a whole *{then **not specifically** promoting dogfighting but rather the purebred APBT as the ultimate sporting dog for a various disciples. MK}*

The words of Howard Heinzl said many years ago still hold so true today.

"You will always find better dogs and more of them, than you will dogmen!"

I think it is much harder to find good "dogmen" today than it was back then ... this said ... I know a few.

The game is not the same anymore and playing fields are rough full of thorns and snakes.

Someone who really and truly loves the breed and respects the game working dog as sporting dog having a deep soul passion to pass it on for the breed sake.

If a real dogman is half as selective about the people who they sell / or place their dogs to, as they are about the quality of dogs they breed they have found that potential buyers or fanciers are very few!

{I treat my clients as I see farmers ... with ploughed lands and see myself sowing seed – that is my passion ... having faith in Gen 9.1}

I also feel that if breeders was more selective about who they had sold or placed a dog to in the past, we would not be experiencing as many problems with the image of the breed as we are today.

Earl Tudor - one of the most respected and recognized breeders of game dogs of his era was asked what the worst mistake was that he ever made as a breeder – he replied, *"That's easy. It was selling the right dog to the wrong men!"*

Sometime accepting "stupid" money (or outlandish prices) for a dog, creates "stupid" problems.

It came to that – that it is more prudent to let some people keep their money and me - keep my dogs. It is hard finding someone worth selling a dog to!

As far as "Old Timers" not teaching;

Well, I personally never experienced that particular problem.

I feel I have had the honor of knowing some of the greatest dogmen of their and my time – {*"my mentor and teacher "Oom Chris Bekker Mr. RX and his associates and a few dear dogmen & woman in the shadows.... MK"*}.}

To me the best teachers and mentors within the game and the fraternity.

As time passed, I called some dogmen & associates "my friends" – they earned it and I hope I lived up to their expectations.

Some relationships with many of them lasted, and withstood the same test of time our dogs do. Some did not.

I have lost some old friends, became reacquainted with other old friends, and made some new ones along the way and then also met and trusted some swindler "sonofabitches" – that never paid.

I think this is where it all begins;

First with respect.

Some of these "gentlemen", I have never bought a dog from, but I respected their dogs.

I never did any special favors for them, not that I can think of, but some of them have done many a great service for me.

I think as years went by, somehow, someway, they must have seen something in me. Like they would have in any young promising pup. I think maybe to them I was worth 'hanging onto' for a while – to be given a chance an opportunity, trust and see where it will go – if I could be trusted.

Maybe by schooling me “a little” and see where I take it.

{Uncle Charley Bench” ... for entrusting me with his blood - even thou he did not want to sell me the dog ... yet with some encouragement from his wife he as a gentleman and dogman let me have the pick of the litter – must have seen something in me. I must have somehow 'proved' myself, (I don't know how) and they deemed me worthy of keeping “that” pup (and later 2 more bred by LK. Yep trusted me with their blood. MK)}

As more time passed, I was trusted with some of the greatest dogs a man could ever hope to own in South Africa ... no money changed hands.

Many of these dogs ... no amount of money could have bought them. {I thank you Chris Bekker and Ruggedxris and then various other gentlemen and woman – you know who you are ...MK}

I think this is where it continues;

Lasting friendships, respect and trustworthiness is the key.

Your word should be enough ... never lie.

Think about it?

If you did not respect a man or his dogs, why were you even talking to them in the first place?

Then again, a friendship through continued mutual respect may begin to develop. If it does, well, you both win – you do not live on an island!

Personally I have and still see young fanciers that only want to "pick your brain"... every day – and this still happen ...every day – I am a sucker for sharing ... those that know ... know!

Most of them could not care less about you, or your dogs, your principals, or even the APBT as a breed in general – just working the angle for info or a free pup ... sound familiar? *{“Fuxxentime wasters and liars I call them – a Rand a dozen – then again I love to talk about the breed ... can’t help myself ... what the mind is full off the mouth will spill – and accommodate most of them anyway ... even if fruitless. MK.”}*

This became fact ... young fanciers seem to be so much in a heated rush!

They are always in a hurry for everything (today these chaps can afford anything – easy go – the old time doggers made things for themselves – had to – there was no money ... sometimes nor even for food}.

Impatience is a great adversary to learning.

Learn to slow down. Learn to enjoy life itself. Enjoy and love your dogs. Remember to enjoy the journey - the road will take you where it will. I have seen it all too often - if a person is too impatient with you, they will be impatient with their dogs and this is where mistakes begin.

So why did these "older" breeders, fanciers, conditioners and handlers, bestow their treasures of knowledge and experience to some and not others?

Well, I too, often wondered why.

So, I ask them. "Thy said ... Well, you had a sincere desire to learn, but even more so, you showed to me that you had the ability to learn and could be **trusted**. Today – you find backstabbers visiting your kennel and more of them talking to you on social media – not everyone is your friend – that’s why the old doggers live like hermits – live out there ... and see no one.

Some say ... something you displayed was even greater than that. You displayed an honest compassion, respect, and love for the breed and for other breeders. It was a respect that I have not seen in many years from a younger fancier.

Plus, you had done “some homework”

However Note! ... Never confuse "doing the 'homework' "with actually being "knowledgeable".

Again, it is like a close friend of mine has said many times, with the Internet and other information easily accessible out there today, there is a lot of information available to young fanciers, BUT **some so untrue, misguided and misleading, it is unbelievable.**

Young fanciers believe this junk, just like it was gospel!

How unfortunate. Those who have been working with these dogs and living a life with them, it may seem natural or even easy, for someone viewing it for the first time, from the outside looking in.

However, this is far from the truth! For real doggers, with some years and experience, our greatest danger and risk does not come from our lack of confidence. No, it comes from our own complacency.

This dog ... The APBT ... will surprise you.

We become "confident" and over "comfortable" with our present position and our dogs and or with "this" dog.

This can work against us in learning new and better w

We, ourselves, can become endangered of becoming stagnated–thinking you know it all.

On the other hand, there are those "first time owners", who may have heard or read a lot about the breed, with absolutely no real personal APBT experience with the breed itself.

Perhaps they have spent countless hours researching the breed, studying every aspect of the breed, and now they feel themselves confident that all they need to do is acquire these dogs.

I assure you ... every day I do get the answer to my question "Yes we have 2 or 3 other dogs but I will – or have - socialize them to live in harmony ... no problem" {Mmmmm!!! *They might be in for an eye opener ... MK*}

It will be most difficult for those in this category to learn, mainly because they feel confident that they already know everything they need to know.

There is just far too much to "un-train", to "un-educate", to "erase", before they can ever begin to truly learn – but living with these dogs ... lean they will – Mother Earth will arise and give them a blow ... ha ha.

It is by far easier to teach someone who knows nothing, and absolutely impossible to teach someone who knows everything.

A key note from my mentor and friend Chris Bekker – Start right ... If you want to make chicken pie ... you actually need the chicken ... not chicken shit”

So, on one hand, you have those who have been taught and learned from "Older" professionals, teaching them the "Old Ways". And then.... even they have learned many lessons as well by "trial and error as many of us experienced."

One the other hand, you have those who have read every book and scrap of material available to them and they have acquired a vast amount of "information and education", but with no practical experience or true knowledge about the breed. Just how do these two groups of fanciers find a common ground and find a way to come together?

It is my opinion, that no matter where your experience level might be - if you are going to succeed and continue to succeed, every fancier should have a Mentor, "that someone" who knows more than they do and is willing to actively participate in your new learning experiences – {that person that will answer your call at midnight and advice you willingly ... that will gladly send you the information you need ... MK}. I was born in 47 and still have dogmen friends older and also much wiser and more experienced than me. I still have close friends that I still call on for advice and guidance. I do so without any hesitation at any time day or night.

Also, I have younger dogmen/dog women I can call friends – some much younger, which have a unique perspective on things and about our breed of dog.

They help me keep on the "bubble" too.

A Mentor can help the experienced dogman, that may have become somewhat stagnate at their individual level, to regain new interest and acquire new energy in refining their own skills ... on nutrition, handling, supplements, keep strategy and specific needed treatments.

A Mentor is absolutely essential for the young fancier with whatever book knowledge and no practical experience.

Fact! No one can really learn about "these" dogs from a book, a video, or what they see on TV or over on the internet! Such knowledge comes by **interpretation** – practical experience and sometimes **by revelation**.

(There is a big difference between interpretation and revelation).

A hand on experience is the only way, and having someone to guide and educate you makes the difference.

You will never learn them correctly, if no one is willing to teach you.

Remember that a person can have more than just one mentor.

In fact, you may find yourself, if you are lucky, with many of them as you gain experience and your own skill level improves.

When looking for a mentor, keep a few of these things in mind, which just might prove helpful.

1. Never ever accept a person's "claim" of experience as evidence of true knowledge. (There are "those" who will lie to you – I hate f8vxxng liars.

If they can lie about one thing ... they will lie about everything.

Mostly they do so to promote their own dogs or make themselves appear more important than they actually are.)

2. Never believe someone claiming "to know everything".

(I have not met that person in 70 + years of looking... MK)

3. Never believe anyone who claims they can make you an expert in a relatively short amount of time. (You will find out it takes years lots of years).

4. Don't get discouraged by someone who is inclined to keep their thoughts to themselves, rather than openly share what they know. If a person's dogs, their yard and equipment testify to their knowledge and experience, then there is a good chance they are just humble. One of the most important things about a mentor is the fact that they must possess good communication skills.

Oh, they don't have to be eloquent speakers (most dogmen are not). However, they must be able to communicate in a manner that helps you to learn.

Sometimes this may be accomplished with relatively very little verbal communication.

In ascertaining a potential mentor's communication skills, consider the following;

1. How does this person interact with their own dogs?

Do their dogs appear scared of them?

Do those dogs appear "Out of control"?

Bored?

Agitated?

Or, does everything appear to work in harmony and, although little communication may be seen visibly or heard vocally, are the dogs and their owner obviously in tune with one another with few words actually being spoken. Is each paying close attention to one another naturally?

2. How do they interact with their own family – their wife, children and employees?

If they don't treat their own family members with respect and consideration, odds are they are not going to treat you any better!

Now remember that you, as a young novice, fancier or person desiring a mentor, have your own responsibilities within this equation as well.

Remember that you are there to seek help and guidance, and to learn, not to "Show Off" or "Brag" about what you already know.

When you approach a potential mentor it might be wise to keep in mind a few of the following things:

1. Don't "pretend" to understand something you don't. (Ask).

2. Don't "pretend" to know more than you do. (You will be found out!)
3. Don't try to learn everything at once. (Take your time, one thing at a time, and enjoy the experience – write things down you might never hear it again or won't remember afterward – *{I have used a tape recorder to not miss a word... especially when discussing pedigrees and history – then with permission – and ask permission to use the given information. MK}*).
4. Don't become an "overnight expert" who criticizes other beginners, or even worse, begins to criticize your Mentor.

Learning about the breed, their history, pedigrees, famous dogs and the great breeders - breeding principals and dogmen of the past, gaining experience and the truth from the noted professionals of today, can be one of the most enjoyable, exciting and rewarding aspects of working with the APBT.

The very friendships you cultivate today, perhaps one day, will be carried forward into a generation that is yet to be born.

It does not take long at all for the opportunities you have today to become history for the next generation!

This you can believe!

I know all too well how fast time can pass.

Yet, this process can also painful to the soul, frustrating to the mind, and pain staking slow.

Always continue to look for ways to increase your knowledge, experience and different ways to hone your own skills.

Above all else, always be honest with yourself and with others - the worst dogman is a dishonest dogman – don't lie or promise ... your word will be contract.

These things will not only help to develop your own confidence, as time passes (and it always does).

They will also help you to become a recognized and "respected" member of a great fraternity of dogmen that have remained dedicated to this breed and the breeds survival and preservation as working animals with special traits for hundreds of years!

All the choices are yours.

Choose wisely!

The future of this great breed as a 'game' working, performing dog is fast falling into your hands.

History will soon be yours for the writing!

Many good people, some of the best I have ever had the honor of knowing, have come before me and you, paved the way, and done their part ... **Now, will you?**

Maybe the best answer yet from a real dogman > Shut up or put up – I don't reason with the arrogant, ignorant or fools any more – some facts are beyond reasoning.