

PITBULLSA

The absolute importance of breed type.

Don't stone me Yep it has been said there is only one type and that's a American Pit Bull dog – but be informed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKNEO0SNodM>

Then we should be looking at the importance of “type” in context with the APBT breed standard.

From research, experience, studies and especially taken from Diane Jessup summaries.

Fact! The American Pit Bull terrier today is a acknowledge and accepted specific (breed) ... just like any other accepted domesticated dog breeds and recognized as such worldwide ... except by the South African Kennel Union.

Been recognized as a **specific breed** since late 1930 and named as such worldwide in 1972.

This breed of dog - the APBT - is an awesome working and performing, awesome proven “game type – NO FEAR” type of **dog** with a pertinent variety of **sought after abilities and traits**, then also with a notorious history because of their gameness trait (this in relation to their fighting skills) and then because of their **historical breeding goals** and more specific game fighting traits, drives and typical workable temperament. **This gameness trait and the typical “Pitbull” temperament are what makes them different and “gameness” is the most singular sought**

after trait.

Looking at the A.D.B.A. illustrated standard.

{American Dog Breeders Association}.



Knowing this!... Alarming a fact that there is an defenite drifting away breeding by “some” breeders of the APBT – a serious and concerning breeding away from the acceptable breed standard, conformation colour and specific APBT breed traits.

Know this! ... the choice of showing for conformation, and various show abilities traits in the show ring **does not touch this breeds “gameness” trait.**

This contrary to the conformation standards as a model of **this** breed’s design standards, and contrary to this breeds character, conformation, gameness (no fear never give up attitude) and various other traits as performing working dogs.

This ... not only because of the law and legislation preventing the APBT’s gameness - no fear never give up attitude – to be tested in

schooling or in fighting to determine the best of the best or when tested for conformation and or ability endurance in competing in the show ring or otherwise or in any sporting dog discipline – **but this because of popular public demand.**

It became a matter of selling puppies and not breeding for the correct reasons.

APBT enthusiasts and concerned breeders, concerned with **this** issue, **should not get confused in puffed up details of outward and “way out “type” characteristics”**, even if they are ever so attractive or popular or **as in this age in demand by “some”**.

When, for the breeding value of the **“real APBT dog”** it must be based **entirely and decisively** upon the **totality of this breed – the real worldwide accepted APBT breed standards, constitution (conformation), temperament, breed type gameness, good health, endurance, authentic working structure, traits and true character.**

If breeding – then every breeder should answer **this question** – “do I know enough of the real APBT as working breed type game dog, their character, traits, conformation, temperament and breeding goals **for show active competition** – then the opposite - **as puffed up “Bully type”** and or **“aggressive types”** attack dog **type syndromes?** – **then the all so attractive screaming bully and aggressive type** to choose correctly?”

Today, with internet, propaganda, see the mentioned of **specific advertisements as such**, the vision and the understanding of “this standard” regarding **the defined APBT as breed** is sometimes - **or most of the time**– lost. Either as breeder you will know this or you won't care.

For any one answer in this regard you will find an opposite.

Many young fanciers, unfortunately have hardly ever seen (or understand) the correct working conformation in respect to these awesome pure working APBT performing dogs.

They become hyped up with appearance - big heads, bully type structure, barrel chest, blue or merely coat color, overly white dogs, blue eyes, lack of pigment - pink lips, nose and eyelids and oversized and overweight dogs with "bully" looks, which so often has so little in common with what the real pure bred working APBT game dog supposed to be.

Some of these practices now stand as the primary example of how "poor breeding" can split the real APBT as a breed.

In this case, the only thing that helps is trusted faith in the system (then with knowledge of the paged down stipulated breeding standard and tested abilities system about the **"real" APBT**).

By researching and study – by knowledge and knowing, until one's pondering, knowledge, experience, discipline and attention **to detail** leads to eventual understanding of the "real" APBT as breed, their successes, and failures and specifically for the welfare of the APBT breed's future.

Breeding best on best performing dogs, & encasing traits or conformation what deem be needed to add (always first taking into consideration genetic and conformation flaws – and then never to breed with such dogs). From each planned breeding then to expect greatness because by breeding best on best you can expect some

greatness.

Go with the winning horse from the start - why bet on an outsider when the "jockey" gave you the winning tip?

Would you put money on a donkey at the horse races when there is horses running that are race, against it?

Best to best.

"Those" breeders (there are some) dedicated to breed standards, specific sought after traits, the working APBT's dog's conformation, the sought after character, abilities and desired working temperament - still breeding for the correct reasons and have to rely on breeding sound breeding principals.

To enhance actual performance, **true APBT conformation** and above all a no fear never give up attitude – and to further these goals.

Some breeders also import "real performance, real conformation, game tested APBT (genes)" to continue preserving and improving the APBT breed in South Africa and elsewhere.

By breeding with careful planned selected dogs from our **South African best** and incorporating specific **sought after imported gene pools** – then proudly proclaim true APBT's.

A real breeders goals, purpose and principles, should excite our purpose and life time primary concerns, to want to preserve this breed with purposeful and selected breeding programs, selection in breeding dogs - for the correct conformation, gameness, abilities and traits, true for the APBT and not for just selling puppies.

For "**some breeders**", this is a lifetime quest.

More so the breeders concern should be to put in place steps, intended

to **continue to improve the breed for the future generations.**

Our concern and consideration should be, that with every planned selected breeding, our pups will have an enormous effect on the future of the APBT in South Africa and worldwide.

Worldwide today, there are "proclaimed" to be different "types" of APBT", much **to the disgust of some fanciers.**

Yep there are indeed "APBT show dog types", (but with them there is absolutely no difference to the "real APBT" – THE ONLY DIFFERENCE SHOULD THEN BE THE SHOW WORK THEY DO) - though at least they must earn a working or breeding title to be considered for top honors. Then - **the most important factor** – they have to **conform to the set and accepted conformation on which all should agree.**

Never to forget these competing show dogs are from the same gene pool, the only difference is show competition work and not game testing, but proven gameness will and should crop up in the pedigree and in the dogs.

In these show dogs ... gameness should, have and will also reveal itself in situations when these dogs do get the opportunity, be it accidental, to show APBT gameness and typical APBT dog behavior – then be not surprised.

Then there are some working dogs that would not earn a top place in a conformation or ability endurance show.

However, the gap should be **small enough**, **that the average fancier would be hard pressed to tell them apart.**

Because character, traits and gameness are seen as much a part of APBT's "conformation" as to standard as physical appearance, the show ring system should **insist** on conformation and working titles for all

breeding dogs – **thus the principal of breeding best on best STILL apply.**

The primary reason for selection should **firstly be strictly enforced** - **breed standard, conformation, APBT traits and temperament (this is where structural problems will be pointed out) and secondly performance disciplines.**

On this most fanciers do agree.

Some may call the idea breeding the pedigree but **at least the first 3 generations should proved quality performance** - be it gameness or show ring disciplines **of which conformation should be the priority.**

So, first off, **consider the improvement** if **no** APBT dog could obtain a breed championship **at the ridiculous age of 6, 7, or 8 months of age** - it's anyway **ludicrous** to bestow such a title to **young undeveloped dogs.**

Better yet, **no immature dog could be judged worthy of a “show grand championship on any show”.**

How can one know what the final temperament and conformation of the mature dog will be? You cannot!!!!

And to not address this issue is **ludicrous.**

Please note!

The OFA wisely **do not certify hips** on a dog **before it is 24 months old** - so how do we reconcile that with a 12 month old show “grand champion” being used as a stud – or demand hip certification with pups at 8 – 16 weeks old? **ludicrous.**

Note!

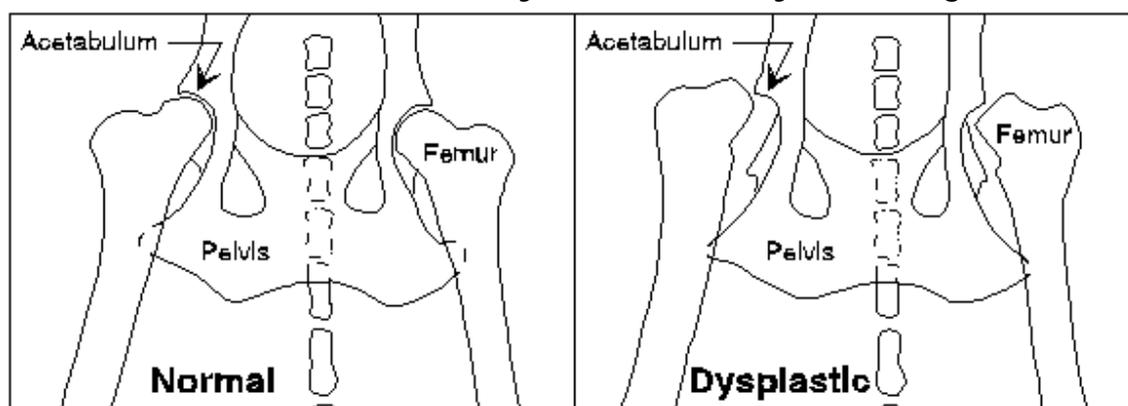
This said - the Germans do certify hips **at one year of age** – this then

one of the **main reason** they are still struggling to eliminate dysplasia from their dogs, **but they do** require good hips for a dog to become a champion.

This said - it is "never possible" to give certification for any puppy for hips at any age.

Again**It is "never possible" to give certification for any puppy for hips at any age.**

These certification should only be done at 2 years of age.



Vet health certification for puppy sales consists of at the time of certification – a physical “good health” and conformation - again ... at the time of certification, mentioning given vaccination and worming records, and **physical appearance** at the time +/- between 6 -16 weeks) of the puppy sale.

Understand this! >> The single best feature of the European fashion (conformation) dog show is the **written critique**.

Each dog is given a report on what the qualified and experienced judge saw **that day**.

It notes (according to the accepted set the APBT's breed standard and conformation) the dog's size, colour, ears, eyes, head and then with given remarks about strong and weak points and any visual genetic conformation flaws **at this time**.

These reports are listed by breeders when advertising studs or puppies.

Why?

It helps the serious breeder to choose a stud or future brood bitch which will compliment or hopefully improve their animals.

Imagine for a moment an APBT show where each competitor is handed a paper upon which is written **the critique of experienced, dedicated breed expert/s - judges.**

Not "someone" who has written a book, not someone who is an "old time dog fighter or dogger", not someone who "owns a registry", but a respected person who has proven themselves to be dedicated to this breed.

A person who has put in their time, studied under other, experienced judges, and proven their worth. Imagine if those critiques are openly advertised.

Hard to imagine, isn't it?

Why?

Is it that we value our "freedom of choice or doing our own thing" more than our stewardship of our APBT breed of dog?

Imagine putting regulations in place to stop back yard breeders from registering unsound, substandard bred animals?

It has been tried, in a very limited way, **with resulting hysteria from "some" breeders and backyard owner breeders**; including those who should know better.

Is the APBT then becoming an industry?

Then only breeding because it is *a puppy sale industry?* – for money for the demand of aggressive dogs?

The problem will resolve itself **only** if organized show events disallow **unregistered dogs** from competing;

in the same context ... registered breeders will not breed with unregistered dogs or at least with show earned breeding titles.

The registration bodies for APBT's should not register any dogs without proof of breeding record of registered dogs - no open pedigrees.

Let's face it ... "some" registration bodies are in the business of making money and not in the business of purebred APBT's.

People today do not want to be told what they may, or may not do.

They do not want a breed warden to tell them who to breed to, or which puppies to cull. It is unimaginable.

And, because of this, the APBT dog's "breed type" **is in a crises state.**
Unfortunately this is where the word "type" comes in.

As with so many breeds, sport and "fad breeding" led to more severe evidence of a lack of natural APBT traits, and therefore to bad breeding situations that had **nothing more in common with "working ability".**

This may seem nice to the faddist, however, for the true lover of nature of the "real APBT" who doesn't engage in matters based on "eye appeal", it appears as a strange and "ungodly" caricature.

Over-sized, massiveness, height, trait, ability, type and breed standards are and would be for the real APBT an adverse perception leading to the death of the real purebred APBT breed.

And actually, some of our dogs and especially those who receive applause among the novices **resemble the exaggeration dog "type" in their over-sized, over weight body structure blue and merely colors**

that never can match the pure APBT game working dog's determination and drive.

Today you find often enough, that because the breeds destinies which are threatened, that is, they are about to step **out of their "breed type"** because they are not bred upon a breed goal, but rather upon **an imaginary "beauty or beastly concept"**.

More importantly ... the show ring should not **only be about looks** even if the cry is "athleticism" – **"bulky conformation"** hence the **alarming drifting away direction of goals "some" breeders of APBT's are breeding to.**

Contrary to the conformation standards for **"type"** as it was once laid down and the character and traits of **the purebred game working dog, the APBT.**

Today we do see the opposite as intended to the "real APBT", in part due to the interest in weight pulling, in part due to the typical "bigger is better" mindset - the breed is now threatened by those who breed **massive, faulty structured, blue, merely and overly white colored, and over-built animals** which more closely resemble a bully or mastiff or bulldog than a pure **working game bred APBT.**

Can I remind you that the standards call for a **"medium" dog** - not overdone in any area.

But as the song goes "medium" is not exciting.

It is not sexy.

And it does not attract the novice buyer.

So, fad breeders advertise dogs with **incorrect extremes** as if they were somehow better than dogs which meet the standard – widest – shortest biggest - biggest head and barrel chest with bow legs.

These breeder's ads are **shouting from the rooftops:**

"There is nothing 'medium' about my dogs.

They are bred strictly for fad.

Their shoulders, rears, and size render them incapable of any meaningful work, but I don't care; I am making money.

How often to you hear or asked ... I want a short legged dog not the long legged dog "type" or I want a red nose or a blue "type"?

Looking again at what is "type"

Type has two meanings.

First, type is what makes an APBT an APBT and an American Staffordshire an American Staffordshire, and not a golden retriever.

That is breed type.

Second, there is a more **subtle type**, that which marks dogs of a well-established line (blood line identification).

For instance, the dedicated fancier may well be able to look at a dog and say, this APBT is from the "Redboy" line, or it looks like a "Mayday or Frisco" dog.

Many time you might hear someone stating - without knowing – **that dog is "such and such" family line of dog.**

That would be identifying line or family line or bloodline "type".

In a world full of back yard and home breeders, "**breed type**" suffers, and "**line type**" is almost impossible to find.

Then so true today - with unemployment rocketing ... breeding dogs and selling commercial dog feeds to make a living became a way out - just look at advertisements on the internet – Whatsapp groups - town buy and sell groups – dog Face Book pages ... do you think they would care? It will be the only income that put bread on the table.

Also - because today any person who buys two dogs can effortlessly obtained a breeders certification (true - you can get a breeders registration within the time it takes to do an internet banking transfer) **with no questions asked** and you can put up a website and or Face book page, breeds a first litter with whatever dogs you have and be called a “breeder”.

Most registration association’s issue a “breeders registration” just for a under R200.00 registration fee and there you go.

How many times to you hear or are asked if you know that and that “kennel” or that and that “breeder” or that and that registry?

Then with the real interested APBT show enthusiast – all of a sudden only “their registry” is allowed and all dogs for their dog shows have to be registered by them ... another money making racket and job creation in South Africa – forcing once again the APBT dog owner to dance to their tune.

Suffice to say ... not to the serious knowledgeable fancier.

These folks are, almost without exception, out of the breed and onto greener pastures within three to five years.

Dog World magazine used to be an interesting place to keep tabs on “real long term breeders”.

Through the fifties, sixties and seventies, you would see consistent ads from breeders who were staying the course – also with our own startup breeders and fertilities in South Africa - we **all** knew them.

Not today - **then because of the band on game dog testing and fighting titles.**

They were always there, month after month, year after year. These were the breeders who, for the most part, developed dogs with line type – with a bloodline type.

Pick up Dog World today and you see a very different picture.

It has become a tragic showcase of fad breeders and puppy mills.

Each APBT advert screams louder than the next “My dogs are not medium working dogs.”

My dogs are cripples, but they look cool. I’m proud my dogs don’t meet the standard.

I am here today to breed for fad size, for fad colour, fad stockiness, and I don’t care. I will do what I want despite the damage to the breed.”

At anorganized APBT show today you will see a huge variation of “breed type”.

Many APBT dog people think this is fine, and that it represents a mythical “variety of type” from which the breed was founded.

They will cite examples such as Colby’s Pincher, who was a large dog at a pit weight of 26kg, and Colby’s Spring who fought at 12kg.

This said >>> variation in “type” is certainly to be expected when a breed first comes to have a standard formulated.

And, the legitimate written standard of the day – and to this day – give

room to the fancier for variation in size, and line type, **but not in breed type.**

For instance, a Sorrell line APBT placed beside a White Rock Am Staff, would both show differences "in breed type"; they are, after all, two separate breeds.

However, they would both be recognizable as fitting within the original written standard.

They would both be "medium" in structure, showing an athletic and supple body.

They would both fit within the minimum, maximum weight standard. Their forelegs and hind legs would fit the proportions outlined in both AKC and UKC standards.

Their necks would be strong and supple, not overly short and thick and pulled into the shoulders.

Both dogs would also display "line type", which is made up of both the good points and poor points that any line will display.

There would be no doubt in any educated observer's mind which dog was which, and it is this variation in "type" which is acceptable and even admirable to have within purebred dogs.

It keeps things interesting. And, the breeds are not harmed.

There is need for the correctly conformation built APBT.

There is no need for dogs which are intentionally bred **with disregard for the standard.**

There is even less need **for a registry or show officials which changes its standards for the whim of fads,** or worse, **for the sake of sucking in**

money from the very people whose callous disregard for the stewardship of the breed damage our dogs.

We still speaking of “type” – then in regards to the judging of German shepherd dogs, Ricardo Carbajal, Chairman of the USA Breed Advisory Committee stated:

“When referring to “breed type” the main characteristics in question are harmony and proportion.

These must always follow the standard and be in total balance.

Anything that tends to be exaggeration violates “type” and must be penalized – for the purpose of never to be bred.

It is the emphasis on these **exaggerations** such as excessive rear angulation or size that lead many top German breeders to conclude that ***‘American’s don’t know what type is.’***

How sadly true for all breeds.

When breed and all breed magazines carry ads displaying dogs which **do not** resemble breed type, how can the novice learn what is correct?

When **registries** change their standards **to include animals far larger than ever intended by breed founders**, how can the novice know what is correct?

When **judges refuse** to withhold ribbons – breeding rights – championship titles, and worse, **put up unsound, “shy, and un-type” animals**, how can the breed be saved?

There have been sporadic attempts **to come up with breed suitability tests, working registries, and other ideas which would help.**

Sadly, all have failed.

There is not enough interest from breeders; not enough interest in stewarding our breeds through to the next generation as we found

them.

The current generation **must never assume they are wise enough, or experienced enough, to change a breed standard.**

But each generation sure tries, **always to the detriment of the dogs.**

The biggest problem at this time is unique to our breed – the APBT - and to our time.

'Fad breed' overpopulation is not unique, **but coupled with breed specific legislation (BSL) aimed at our APBT dogs.**

Not only in America but also in South Africa and all over the world, over population of the APBT **because of popularity and demand, is the cause of breeding away from "type and breed standards".**

Once considered **rare**, they are now the single most popular breed worldwide. Doubt that?

Consider that there are more than seven South African APBT registries and they are growing – then not to mention online registrations (online registration don't require the breeders name contact number or address.

Then "some" breeders have their own registries and issuing pedigrees. And that is not even counting Staffie bulls, considered by the public as "pit bulls".

Consider further that most "pit bulls" are not registered (this because of BSL).

Even importing a "real APBT" from certain countries can only happen if you stipulate the dog as Patterson Terries or Labrador on the export documents.

Then consider that more APBT's get registers worldwide than Labradors and Golden Retrievers combined.

Take a look at your local or city or town shelters, rescue centers and SPCA's -the highest number of abandoned animals is pit-bull look alike's and APBT and they don't get re homed - they die.

Because of this, the problem becomes:

Breeder breeding for the correct reasons **are not going to be producing dogs for public resale at this time** – with a specifically planned breeding, pups to be born are all spoken for before the actual breeding.

They understand and empathize with the sad fact of the daily killing of hundreds of dogs including APBT's in shelters.

And yet they know that ... to use the shout word **“responsible” breeding** must go on to keep this pure bred “real” APBT breed from extinction;

more so now than ever, since “pretenders” have almost taken over the breed.

If all responsible breeders shut down, then in ten years the real APBT would be extinct, and in its place a hybrid animal no more like the athletic, “medium” predator like game dog who earned the name, than a dogue de Bourdeaux.

The answer to saving our breed is three fold.

Firstly, everything possible must be done to discourage and halt novice, back yard breeders just any 2 dogs for the sake of breeding {how many times you see on Face book – looking for a male to breed my female} and “big name” unregistered puppy mills breeding for quantity and not quality.

Registration bodies **must screen breeding dogs** (only registered with 6 generation intact ancestry – no paper hanging) and not register any dogs with no proven pedigree open pedigrees.

Only register puppies with certified at point of sale - proof of at that

date of inspection visual health, conformation, health checks, correct inoculations and worming and Rabies status of Dam - this then the go ahead for prospective APBT buyers to purchase a sound and registered animal.

This should be a non-negotiable part of the true ethical breeders program – registration and for pups sold – this documentation and pedigree registration with health certification up front on the day of sale.

For the registered ethical breeder it is already a difficult and expensive project.

Secondly, every **serious APBT breeder** must study and know the breed's standard and understand it (this info need to be given by the registration body – normally also given by the breeder).

If the typical breed or breed standard is not to their liking, then they must find a breed which fits their ideal, and breed that or get a cat.

Added to this, they must understand that a win at a dog show or other disciple liken to the APBT **is hardly important enough to be criteria when deciding if a dog is good enough to be bred – conformation and temperament plays a critical role.**

Breeding dogs should be Vet tested yearly - especially for mange and before breeding at 16 - 20 months of **certified as such** **and these results certifications should be known to the public.**

No excuses for shy dogs – something like that it in in the genes.

Each litter to be registered should be accompanied with pedigree registration of Sire and Dam and when needed hip certification of the Sire and Dam **that fall in the year of breeding**, as well as **a health certification mentioning relevant vaccinations, worming's and clean**

bill of mange – and a certification for the Dams Rabies status or certification at 12 weeks of age for the pups Rabies vaccination.

Ethical breeders understand that sound and “typey” temperament is **just as important as meeting the physical standard of the breed.**

For this reason, they understand what APBT’s “bulldog” temperament is about, and they never breed a dog who fails to represent it.

They do not make excuses: “she is just a little shy”, or “he doesn’t like men”, or “she was abused”.

Thirdly - serious, ethical breeders **should work together** – also with the **registry** ... or change for a registry that have the APBT at heart - to produce a system similar to the German style.

A system which will gives merit to only those animals that are selected outstanding and that will encourages the breeding of our “medium” built conformation correct dogs with its characteristic good temperament and heart.

To cull poor specimens as hard as it is – never to breed from.

Serious APBT breeders do sacrifice and work hard to come through this most devastating of times in the history of the breed.

This is done **by stopping all sales to the general public**; serious buyers **will find ethical breeders still breeding for the correct reasons.**

To breed without a full waiting list or for breeding stock dogs is irresponsible and damaging to the APBT breed in general.

Always to remember every puppy send out into the public will have an effect on the future of the breed.

The next ten years 2019 – 2029 are probably the most important in history, for the APBT dogs.

Will they become extinct through breed bans and fad breeders?
Or will they persevere, as they have for so many hundreds of years?
Each of us holds the answer on the end of our leash, and in our
heart. MK.