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Understanding the term bloodline.

APBT bloodlines relate to certain sought after dogs or specific dogs of a specific breed and breeding or dog that relate to or from a certain breeder or kennel or kennel with constant performing dogs.

When interested people and Pit Bull fanciers talk about the APBT ... the subject of bloodlines will certainly crops up – where does "this line" come from.

If someone for the first time enquires about this typical APBT game working breed of dog – the APBT- you will be also confronted with the term bloodline and would inform that person of the choices they have.

Where did these "bloodline names" come from what do they stand for and or what do they mean?

In simple terms - the bloodline simply mean the specific gene pool and family of the dog or dogs in question – from what and from where it originate from - almost the same as our surname (From our human family name) with a layout of the family tree (then with dogs it will be from that specific family of the dogs we talking about), from where the breeders bloodline or “type” originated and “what it became known as”.

From these specific dogs the bloodline is named and referred to as the “bloodline” of that specific family of dogs.

This bloodline then of course reflecting this lineage for the dog and famous proven performance of those dogs in the dog’s pedigree and also reflecting to the breeder of this specific family of dogs.

Then also true that “bloodline” will not guarantee gameness, trait, ability, type or conformation but do zoom in on that particular awesome proven game or performance but points to a well-bred and or well-pedigreed.

Then pups from that family of dogs might have (that’s the goal of breeding) those same or better characteristics, gameness, temperament, traits and abilities bred for. *{See article “well-bred or pedigreed under breeder and breeding’s on this website”}*

Different bloodlines relate specifically to the defined performing type and expected performance type, behaviors, abilities, characteristics, and traits and points to sought after gameness.

Then to expect certain behaviors, body structure (look), traits - but also outstanding individual dogs of these bloodline or crosses with individuality.

With humans it’s almost equivalent to our origins - French, German or British etc. ancestry or family members even with your son or daughter or brothers wife’s or husbands that became part of your family.

Paul in the Bible said he was a Hebrew of Hebrews – bloodline. The British royalty (family) – family tree - can be seen as a blue bloodline.

With the indigenous tribes of peoples in South Africa it's like Xhosa, Sotho, Fingo or Zulu's etc. could be seen as bloodlines, and then within all these "tribes" if I might use the word "tribe", you find different tribe related identification bloodlines (family names) like Radebe, Pethle, Tahawe, Macete and Bele etc.

This concept then also relates to the APBT breed (one breed), within all these family types as "bloodlines" or a "bloodline" it become especially important when your intentions are to purchase such a bloodline dog (for some this will be very purposely important to incorporate in their breeding's) – a specific bloodline dog, a "real" American Pit Bull Terrier with direct blood line links to a specific famous and proven dog or "tribe" or family of dogs as a specific "line "or bloodline.

This may it be with proven and performing gameness or specific abilities, as proven catch dog, with outstanding proven functional conformation, with proven (strength) weight pull abilities, or with other abilities - identification trait lines mostly proven – a specific look and or specific behavior and or temperament that made these bloodline dogs famous and sought after in the first place– then traits within a bloodline – gameness, mouth, intelligence, speed, air, muscle, power, style and behaviour -resulting into proven performance or abilities.

We are often confronted with these different bloodlines that are available today and breeding goals are also based on some of these famous dogs bloodlines as to equal or better these abilities in future kennel family of dogs offspring – because of performance or abilities or behaviour within that group or family or bloodline.

Man is competitive and wants to have the best – no argument here.

With APBT it and the real fancier is not just a "Pit Bull", it is what you expect they can accomplish because of their bloodline, because of specific behaviour, and conformation, of the type "specific family of dogs".

Some breeding's and crosses can result in losing you're sought after "type of Pit-Bull" even if breeding true to standard.

Pit Bull blood lines came about as a result of a specific dog and also from "this dogs" related bloodline family in that family of dogs as an outstanding specimen of the breed that proved themselves in various disciplines – their specific similar excepted behaviour, temperament, gameness, fighting style, size or outstanding abilities within that family of dogs – that made them sought after or became sought after **because of that**.

These "bloodline" dogs became a "type" in similar structure (depending on the breeding) and also in "looks" within the framework of the "APBT breed" – often a dog will be looked at and recognized as "a specific bloodline type".

In real APBT grouped circles, famous proven dogs and their immediate offspring are sometimes referred to by the "name of one famous dog – the original dog in question" and this name became well known because of this dogs achievements and mostly their offspring performance as well, with the same characteristics and generally referred to as the "bloodline" of the dog in question".

Today we are talking about well-known "established" bloodlines like Caver, Bolio, Chinaman, Frisco, Yellow, Mayday, Vili, Jeep, Croata, Red Boy, Jocko, Bullyson, Zebo, Yellow John, Jeep, Eli, Snooty, Honey Bunch, Rocky, Spike, Caver and Hank etc.

When advertised, one finds that the breeder often mentions that the pups are example – from Frisco lineage or offspring or out crosses lineage from Frisco the son of Gr.Ch. Chinaman, or from Bolio lineage or offspring or out crosses from the dog Indian Bolio or Caver from dogs bred by Mr. Caver and Mayday from the Gr Ch Mayday dog and their offspring or Davor/Vili or Balkan lineage from the Croatian Balkan dogs bred by Davor and L.S. Zinetti or outcrosses etc.

Knowing this you come to realize there are various blood-lines to consider and wise to first study the bloodline and typical related traits behaviors and temperament.

Breeders will today, when you enquire mentioned the bloodline / bloodlines or combination bloodlines they breed and provide traceable family tree pedigrees of these sought after (proven) and carefully selected breeding dogs or puppies reflecting to the names of these famous dogs (with or without performing offspring) and each breeder has and usually will established a specific line or family line (the way they breed these blood lines) for and from proven abilities as individual performing family of dogs of fame – hence established a respected “bloodline family of dogs” pointing at the breeding kennel or original dog or dogs in question.

No bloodline is pure – and all stems from various dog combinations that made the bloodline.



" In reference to a question asked to me many many times on what bloodline I used to use, I will answer. I didn't prefer the dogs of of any particular breeder. If one could fight and win, that was the kind I liked. If I had a dog which won in the pit and also had a winning female, then I would cross the two...and THEN I would look up the pedigrees. In my younger days the dogs were kept more pine within a family, such as the Noonan dogs, Feeley dogs, Shipley dogs, Lightner dogs, Colby dogs, Corcoran dogs, Corvino dogs, Henry dogs and some others. Those men tried to keep thier lines pure and they WEREN'T trying to peddle pups. Nowadays, most pedigrees have all these bloodlines in them. Ask some dogmen how good his dog is , and he will just say,"Just look at his pedigree" he is pure so and so. Now as for myself, there is NOT one pure bloodline of dogs living today. Now understand, this is just what I think. If anyone would like to challenge this statement just for an arguement, just tell him to mark another win on the wall, because a man who will argue his dog's worth on paper, is a disgrace to a good game dog"

Earl Tudor

Also in most dogs registered pedigrees you **will** find some "fingerprints" to "older" or "other" bloodlines like Carver, Spike, Tudor or Hank etc. Then to realize every time any breeder does a mating the parent's genes are halved in the pups – this because of what the female dog bred with can and do contribute

.{That's why the Dam is equal if not more as important than the Sire in the breeding – see article about the importance of the Dam under the file Breeder and his breeding's on this website}

Also to realize the different bloodlines we have will relate to specific phenotypes and genotypes.

This means that a specific blood line will then have (that's the ultimate goal, expectancy and purpose of breeding) the dominant characteristics of the bloodline you should want or want to be breeding for.

Then some breeders breed for a certain bred standard - to what those offspring should be best at - for show conformation, gameness and with gameness – for weight pull abilities and with proven weight pull dogs and some for hunting and catch dogs abilities from the best proven in this discipline – then some breeder breed just for good temperament (human friendly) family or companion dogs – and nothing else.

Each of these breeding goals will result in “something else” and may be called game bred, weight pullers, high jumpers, hog hunters, housedogs, guard or attack dogs, and in time the substance of gameness in the APBT will be and can be lost.

Then call them what you like – pet bulls or show dogs my boy or my child or call them catch dogs or game bred dogs – this is what make the APBT a breed of choice.

Also to realize the breeder’s goal may or may not result in dogs with the desired abilities, temperament, gameness or structure etc.

Not to forget that recessive genes will also surface and can sometimes with planning or by luck - just be that specific gene (spark) you are looking for.

Again it boils down to selective breeding with specific goals and individual dog’s given the opportunity to prove itself. *(See articles on selection, styles of breeding and establishing a bloodline on this website}*

After all said and done ... the APBT **should act like an APBT** with typical **no bullshit APBT behaviour** and **should be called what they are** and the reason for **real concerned breeders to breed “real” APBT game dogs in the first place.**

If they look like – walk like – talk like and behave like ducks they are ducks.

It was said (by old dogger Brainy Smurf – if you know him) “if you make chicken pie you will need chicken and not chicken shit”.

Blood lines “sometimes” also **relates to a kennel name** - the breeder (kennel where the specific family of dogs and pups originated from or were born) – “some” breeders become **well known, respected and trusted** in APBT circles and then their dogs or bloodline will be referred to by **that kennel name**.

Kennel names that became well known in APBT circles such as Caver, Garner, Southern Knl's, Pat Patrick, Atila, Crenshaw, Morfin, Arnaldo Gardenia, Floyed Bourdreaux, Bobby Hall, Maverick, Fat Bill, Colby, Peter Spark or in the case of local breeders as Liquorice Kid, Bekker's and many more.

To know or then believe some “hyped up things” could have nothing to do with an accepted bloodline (or the myth of red nose “bloodline” - this a well versed subjected and a local joke).

The colour of the nose can't be a blood line but a result of a dominant gene in the breeding dogs or the dog's ancestry and has nothing to do with the specific bloodline.

It have wrongly been interpreted and referred to by “some” but is not a “Red-nose bloodline”.

For real Red nose History <http://www.apbtconformation.com/>

About blue line or redline or black line or blue blood bloodlines.

True then that every bloodline does have their unique blueprint due to the specific dominant gene in the breeding dogs.

There is no such thing as a redline, blue blood or royal blood APBT, but it is in fact a **status** used on certain pedigree certificates done by some registering bodies, thus indicating how many earned titles, import status, champion or grand champions there are in the pedigree, in other words, how well the specific APBT dog was bred by proven performance.

The specific blood line of the dogs normally makes out the purpose ...

set goals within a set of rules, within breed standards and the desired results can be seen or experienced in the breeding and offspring performance.

True that certain bloodline has certain known behaviors (some so distinctive you can or some can look at a dog and recognize the bloodline type) – certain looks, but APBT behaviour and looks all fall under typical APBT type, size, temperament, gameness, smartness, man biters, structure, big bones, build a certain way, defensive, strength and power, speed, movement or natural movement.

You can analyses the individual of your breeding's but the behaviour should not differ as far as you bloodline/ bloodline breeding's go and will look and behave like **your type – you family of dogs** – Yep **your breeding type** – in time your (the breeder) breeding's do develop into your type of dog.

Some breed characteristics can be enhanced with selective breeding principals - be bred in or out or retained within the breed standard and the "type" and resulting goals should result in something better – but still APBT - **that is the goal**) – breeders have reasons and stick to their breeding goals and sense in selecting breeding **dogs worth breeding from.**

Whether breeding for weight pull or gameness or temperament - breed from the best proven performing dogs with the best proven performance dogs – the recopy of yesteryear.

If breeding dogs do not have what it takes (this you must know before breeding) you don't breed – you don't make excuses like cold dogs, shy dog's, human aggressive or over aggressive dogs.

Whatever the dog is or have become at the time you breed is the type **they will produce.**

The purpose of knowing the bloodline is to guide you as to the value and possibility to have or breed similar or better dog bloodlines in future.

Adolf Hitler was involved (so it was said) with establishing a super human race and is said that his way of thinking was to have the best human male and best human female in different categories (disciplines) as compatible parents that then "should" produce similar or better children (offspring) with both the proven genes of the father and mother in them.

APBT breeding is similarly based on breeding from the best proven male and best proven female performance dog from a specific discipline or bloodline, with the possibility / hope to produce pups that will be awesome in performing ... the same or better than the breeding parents.

Selective breeding is the term APBT breeders use in doing just that and therefore it will be very important and the norm to breed from best and specific performance bloodlines.

When planning to purchase an APBT pup - select the bloodline of choice and expect to see the traits abilities and gameness of that bloodline or family of APBT dogs.

It does make sense.

For some it's a matter of choice and preference to have –to keep and to perpetuate a certain blood line type - for some this does not matter.

APBT breeders breed certain bloodlines for unique sought after individual qualities that the original famous dog in question had – gameness, temperament, conformation and or abilities - for certain characteristics or specific features that they then find appealing, whether it's for specific abilities, gameness, temperament, perfect head, bone structures, sometimes for size and "some" even for colour or for their loving nature or prey drive but some for gameness above anything else.

Every APBT **will also have its own unique outstanding trait or personality within the blood-line** – also within the same litter.

Then also to know is that it's never possible to have all pups born out of any breeding to be exactly the same in any presumed standard or trait – mostly one or two out of the complete litter (sometimes none and then sometimes more) may have what it takes.

With any human family having children each child will also only have 50 % of each parents genes and not one of them exactly with the same personality or abilities as any one of the parents.

Then it's also true that some of these "human offspring" might be better and with more abilities or an enhanced alibies than any one of their parents, due to dominant genes.

Many times you have heard the expression he or she is the chip of the block and relates awesomely to a grandfather, grandmother, father or mother or have without a doubt the family traits.

Then also - I wonder where he or she come from because they are nothing like "our known family".

Back to APBT blood lines > Then by looking at the fairly recognizable, related "family tree" of these dogs, usually produced by a specific kennel, or from a "foundation dog" from which it has its origins - a specific bloodline should produce offspring that have fairly predictable and somewhat unique performance traits, gameness, conformation and or temperament traits.

This boils down to "personal choice or preference "and realizing not every breeder have the same vision or passion - or should have.

"All" within the scope of what is normal for the breed but also "special "about the blood line that attracts.

When choosing a certain bloodline one should do a little (or serious) homework first by finding out as much as you can on what qualities, gameness, temperament, abilities and conformation that certain bloodline holds.

Contact any of the various “real” breeders who breed a certain bloodline/s, see their dogs and know their capabilities – track record – satisfied new owners of puppies - what they can do (have done) and how they do it .

Then go to a APBT show or contest to see them in action and most of all learn about their history, temperament, gameness, natural behaviour and awesome game dog traits, read about these awesome original canine athletes on the internet.

You might contact owners of such dogs - purchased by and from a specific breeder, and talk to such owners about the dogs raised and bloodline traits or expected traits.

APBT's are commonly confident, people-oriented dogs that can develop a strong sense of dependence on their humans.

Caring for a pit bull requires an extremely responsible person. Because of their affectionate but dependent natures, it is particularly important to provide balance, making sure that they have plenty of exercise, correct balanced feeding, when on correct age and fully developed pre planned conditioning and discipline before they receive affection. Because of their dependence upon humans, APBT's respond well to positive reinforcement training and praise—they want to impress you by learning new tricks and showing submissive behaviour – will work for you in any needed discipline.

Despite popular misconceptions, APBT's do not make ideal guard dogs because they are so people-oriented.

Training APBT's to be guard dogs or attack dog can just make them aggressive toward all people, including their own pack.

It also stand to reason that out of ignorance and a lack of knowledge, some breeders and APBT owners claim they have a certain bloodline or combination bloodline or percentages of the bloodline "or so they were told" - yet on analyzing the ancestry of their dog's pedigrees it proved otherwise.

As example - if a dog had a Caver or Hank foundation bloodline in the 4th - 6th generation it does not make the dog in question a Caver or Hank bloodline dog – yes it have fingerprints of Caver or Hank dogs origins and could also have 3 or more other bloodline fingerprints in the same pedigree.

Zinetti in Croatia - a respected world renowned breeder and APBT dogman put it in a nutshell "bloodline in the 5th or older generation is not applicable to the dog in question – he correctly calls his dogs "home bred, Zinetti bred and Croatian bred dogs".

His dogs are classed and based on his breeding and because of his dogs and their offspring's performance, it could be said it's a "Vili" dog (or Vili bloodline) because of the tested proven performance of his starting (foundation) dog called (not considering Vili's 5th or 6th generations at all) – but we now consider the performance of a line of the Vili offspring as the Vili bloodline – because of what the sire or dam or grandsire or granddame in the line breeding have accomplished - then linked to performance and behaviour from their offspring.

It is a specialized insight into bloodlines that will determine bloodline percentages in your dog.

Most of the time certain bloodlines are just a reflection from a distant older bloodline - or famous dog - or famous owner or famous breeder, or a combination of bloodlines that was bred by breeders to produce your or my dog.

Today I fully agree with Zinetti, most our dogs are South African bred Pit Bulls or in my case a Manjaro bred dog.

Also wise to remember the bloodline or pedigree – family tree - does not or will not automatically make your dog – the dog by their performance will make the pedigree.

It all comes down to your dedication to conditioning, feeding, training, teaching your dog and the opportunity you give to perform, and it will and is the inherit genes and traits in your dog that will make the dog and can only be measured by performance – mostly your dog's performance also depend on conditioning and above all your dedication and the chance you give to prove it.

Then it depends on the dog's owner if they want to show or contest the dog at all or just want an APBT as companion or family dog.

This said – regular exercise, conditioning and socializing will also be of utmost impotence.

Champions are not born (even from whatever bloodline) they are made champions by their owner's dedication and efforts.

Race horses purposely bred, selected and are worked and conditioned and raced - many time in different races – different distances and carrying different weight before the “big race” – and out of all these selected best performing “race horses” in the race that day, only one emerges the winner.

This does not make the losers less horse or a donkey – it declares the winner of that “specific race” (group of horses competing) on that day, the best – and the best is coveted to breed from because it has the possibility that their blood can produce a next and the next and the next winner.

And if it does, you have started a bloodline with that horse or that dog that will become sought after to have because it is the best and became a producing bloodline.

Many APBT bloodlines in South Africa today have originated from dogs imported into South Africa that come from top proven Champions or Grand Champions or that come from a famous kennel with generations of proven game or ability dogs, or from a specific dog or breeder that produced and still produce top quality American Pit Bull bloodline dogs - that have continuously proved themselves time and time again.

Blood lines are named, and became well known and used in APBT circles, are a result of the breeder / owner or handler of the kennel or a specific dog.

Mr. Morris Caver bred many APBT's that became known for their achievements and their offspring was sought after - and referred to as the “Caver” bloodline, the same from Mr. Colby and hence the “Colby” bloodline and many more such bloodlines but they also bred cold dogs or dogs that cured from the same bloodline.

Then - also because of a “distinctive look” of the dog and - or their achievement in behaviour, conformation or type or abilities.

These named bloodlines are a result of outstanding qualities, and specifically sought after or considered when purchasing a APBT, or considered by breeders when breeding APBT's and the reason for this is to breed with, or to breed out or to breed in certain traits and to enhance specific genes traits in the offspring in the breeding.

Bloodlines cannot “really” be seen in a dog (by the trained eye sometimes a certain type can - because of a “specific characteristics”) and this have nothing to do with the size or colour of the dog (or could have).

Realize every time the famous dog is bred only 50% of his genes will be in the pups and every followed breeding with these offspring thereafter the percentage of the original genes will half.

“Generally” APBT’s look the same, but “genetically” every APBT have a specific gene pool as a result of the bloodline or bloodlines bred to and the unique qualities of the gene pool to be expected to reveal itself in the offspring.

Some breeders specifically breed for specific unique qualities, characteristics, behaviour or features they themselves find appealing (this vary from a personal preference and experience).

Firstly for gameness and temperament and then whether it is for traits, conformation, abilities, structure, size and some even for colour.

Breeding goals are firstly for a purpose and then for gameness – and for certain traits or certain skills – and all this within the perimeters of the APBT breed standard and a set breed conformation and then more so as for show qualities - for conformation, size, bone structure and for abilities and endurance.

Specially bred for gameness, correct temperament - for traits like non-human aggression - each APBT then has its own unique trait and personality.

This achievement by the direct parents or grand, great and great -great-grandparents reflected on the pedigree gives “some” inclination of the qualities

and bloodline in the pedigree and or sought after traits.

Again to remember is - the pedigree does not make the Pit Bull or the offspring, the dog itself will be an individual, a dog with its own identity – these qualities measured by performance and dependable on the socializing , care and with the conditioning the owner do with the dog prior to competition or reason for having.

Bottom line - the pedigree reflects how well-bred the dog is and indicates the gene pool - bloodlines.

Blood lines are only a guide pointing to the gene pool and thus enabling the breeder and owner to be aware of the sought after qualities the bloodline holds.

Read more about bloodlines www.ndbc.co.za/bloodlines
www.tecnored.net/tgpitbulls/tgpitbulls/famous_dogs/famous_dogs.htm