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***Straight talk about the game
& performance bred APBT.***

**Domesticated dogs was never meant to be a pet –
never to forget dogs are animals.**

Then again the APBT is not just a dog is can be a companion and family dog.

Those who do not agree with the material enclosed on this page can do but - as it goes with talking about the game & performance bred APBT dogs it is best to peacefully agree to disagree because some facts are beyond reasoning.

What cannot be denied is the history of the "Pit Bull" the true APBT or the breeding goals of yesteryear - selecting the best on best practices to prove just that.

That as a pure game bred "real" American Pitbull terrier performance dogs, born game fighting dogs and game bred catch dogs of note.

Within a human family, as family dog, this same APBT is pretty stable and predictable, but then dog aggression has to be accepted.

Under supervision and well socialized as part of the human family, the APBT are perfect as family dogs and fine around human beings and kids.

It does not matter what you call the APBT – American Pit Bull terrier, Pit bull, Pit bulldog, Pit terrier, Pit dog or Yankee terrier - call this breed whatever you like but realize the "real" APBT as game dog was never intended to be just a domesticated pet.

Because of the historical breeding methods and goals and purpose (still practiced by "some" breeders today) the APBT happens to be a very, very adaptable animal.

Yep – "it is said" you can teach it to run loose and play nice and can try your best to socialize them with other your pets and animals -

It is a fact that they do make stunning family dogs – they are excellent athletes and ultra-sporting dogs – they are awesome predators dogs with high gameness, prey drive and other dives – they are awesome as hunting and catch dogs but if bred right they do fight – and they will.

Then you will witness, methodical, absolute chaos because its do what the APBT do – they stand tall facing any adversary – never to give up - bred to be a fighting bulldog - that's what they do.

Note! >> Also fact Again ... the APBT is not a dog pack animal at all.

We are talking about the APBT, the ultimate fighting dog - made so by the folly of man.

In the life of the owner – any owner, one day is one day and then you will see natural APBT behaviour – fighting behaviour.

Again please don't keep this dog together with your other pets or animals.

While within the pro "Pit Bull lobby", some breeders, "some" home breeder owners, "some" puppy sellers and "some" ... as they are called ... pedlars and more so the ignorant and uninformed - has done so much to very successfully persuade the public that APBT's are just like any other dog and that their temperament and aggressiveness is simply determined by how you raise and socialize them and that then these dogs can live together with the other dog or dogs and the cat, and or the pet hamster, parrot, chicken or rabbits.

Many experienced breeders, dog behaviourists, trainers and APBT owners do not agree and through direct personal experience is convinced (so be it) that APBT are at far higher risk for abnormally aggressive behaviour towards other dogs and animals.

Come on! Some facts are beyond reasoning.

As important as the APBT's living environment may be, with the APBT ... genetics will and do have influence on behaviour.

Most dog breeds we have today were originally selected **for a particular type of "work" and not for their looks but also fact that a certain section of dogmen bred a breed of dogs for a certain look or colour. Breed conformation and genetic abilities and traits will make this dog a functional dog - not colour.**

Man selected by preferential choice for a specific working class and by selective breeding and culling certain behaviour patterns (also looks) which were useful and needed for a particular function like herding flock, hunting, retrieving, as catch dogs, sniffer and alert dogs, also for fighting but and also for a human family dog and as companions.

The main behaviour pattern which has been altered through selective breeding is the predatory sequence - the behaviour pattern that enables a canine predator to fight, hunt and kill prey:

ORIENT → EYE → STALK → CHASE → GRAB / BITE → SHAKE BITE / KILL
BITE → DISSECT → EAT AND CONCUR.

Through the process of domestication (essentially selection for genetic tameness and certain useful abilities), dogs have become primarily scavengers and not predators, but some remnants of this predatory sequence mentioned above have been retained or even by choice exaggerated – sharpened - honed in – then specifically bred for from best at it to best at it - where such dogs then can be useful and needed for a particular task.

Border Collies is probably one of the best examples; in order to be good herders Border Collies have been purposely and genetically selected and bred to have exaggerated sharpened honed in > eye – stalk and chase behaviours.

But the rest of the predatory sequence has been selected to be bred out of this breed (obviously a herding dog that mauled sheep would be a problem) – various flock guarding dogs that live amongst livestock have virtually no predatory behaviours (which is why the sheep don't run from them and they don't prey on them).

Pointers have been purposely and genetically selected and bred to have exaggerated eye sensitive behaviours.

The American Pit Bull terriers, Terriers, Bull types, Staffies and other "baiting" breeds have been purposely selected and genetically bred as and to grab, hold, shake and bite other animals (also dogs).

These breeding's paved the way for our accepted breed of dogs today and excelled as awesome sought after performing catch, fighting, house, security, guard and attract dogs also as the ultimate in fighting dogs the world ever seen.

The parts of the predatory sequence that have by careful selection in breeding been retained in these types of dogs are the prey drive, the absolute unstoppable gameness to finish a task, bite and shake, bite and kill and sometimes bite, kill and dissect drives.

In fact these types of dogs usually go straight from eye-grab-bite-shake to kill with none of the other steps in between.

This is why they are often correctly said to be unpredictable when opportunity presents itself and they do what they do.

It has been said that even if you put lipstick on a pig ... it stay a pig and therefore it serve no purpose to whitewash the APBT.

The plain fact of the matter is that the APBT have the propensity to grab, shake and kill other animals, including and especially their own kind if the opportunity present itself.

What you the owner – the trainer – the handler can't teach or do is to force a dog to fight – back down fifth or flight will be the way out. While Staffies and Bull Terriers have subsequently had the benefit of 100 years of selective breeding as pets and not as fighters (this has changed their genetics for the better if this is the word).

The true bred APBT's have virtually no history of being bred as pets – but was utilize worldwide – even today an awesome house dogs.

This said, as the only dog and then as family dog these dogs can be and usually are awesome family dogs and companion animals.

To say that APBT's won't be inclined to fight and do damage when they are triggered is like saying that Border Collies raised right won't be inclined to herd and will kill sheep.

To assert that APBT's are only aggressive if you train them to attack is to deny the existence of every other behaviour from every specific breed on the planet.

Try telling a hunter that he paid R60 000 for a finished field pointer that had to be taught to point.

Conceder the following pertaining to the APBT breed's interactions with other dogs.

Then it's true to say that "some" of the APBT breed as individuals can "successfully" be socialised with other dogs – yep "some".

Many socialised from puppy and during puppy stages are very friendly and outgoing with other dogs.

The problem arises if and when this “socialised” APBT’s fighting behaviour is triggered - for whatever reason – and there will be reasons.

Even if the APBT dog does not start the fight, getting into conflict with another animal will naturally trigger their natural interest - “grab, shake and kill” response.

Other breeds engage in “ritualised” forms of dog aggression when they come into conflict and it might not boil down to actual serious fighting - this involves lots of noise, but no real damage.

However, when the “real” APBT come in conflict being challenged, they will fight and will engage the bite, shake, bite and kill behaviour dives form part of the predatory sequence with fatal or near fatal results.

There is “seldom” time to intervene, to rescue the other dog before serious damage is done – it might come as a complete shock and as APBT owner you need practical experience and at all times be ready for such a happening.

Most dog breeds are in a defensive, survival mode during fights inducing an aversive state of mind – this with the APBT is far from this analogy.

When APBT’s engage in a fight, opioids and dopamine are released in the brain making them feel really good - this a natural APBT feeling and is so pleasurable that they will often seek out this behaviour again and with every opportunity that present itself.

In the same way that a Border collie is genetically built to feel really good when herding sheep, APBT’s are built to feel really good when fighting.

Due to the opioid release during fights, APBT’s become somewhat indifferent to pain (not that they don’t feel pain – they do) but will fight on regardless of injury. Trying to stop or break up an APBT dog fighting is incredibly difficult if not knowing how to do it.

When “other” than game dogs fight, they usually respond to appeasement behaviour from their “opponent” i.e. as fighting is not designed to kill, but to resolve conflict – mostly without serious harm, one dog may and usually do “give in” and display behaviour which will cause the other dog to back off or the dog simply run away and the other will let this happen.

APBT’s do not respond to appeasement behaviour during fights as this would have been counterproductive in the fighting arena and this “trait” has been bred out of them.

Those that experienced APBT’s in action during a dog fight will know they have a very low reactivity threshold - this means that stimuli at low intensities which would be ignored by other dogs are often triggers for dog aggressive behaviour in this breed.

They also have very high arousal levels - they become physiologically aroused very quickly (almost immediately) and to extreme levels.

Consider the following pertaining to the APBT breed’s interactions with humans.

With regards to human’s interaction - it is well known and proven that typically the APBT’s can be and is sweet and devoted as house hold pets.

Knowledge of the history and what to expect and do if your APBT happens to engage in a dog fight is critical and the lack of this knowledge could have serious implications - extreme injuries (hospitalisation due to being caught in the middle of a dog fight).

One of the huge problems is actually the fact that the APBT is extremely human friendly and when well-socialised they are usually very tolerant and love rough play and do play rough if given the opportunity.

For this reason potential owners with small children must be wary and always present in socializing an APBT pup with young children.

What people don’t realise is that the danger does not lie in the fearful, defensive under-socialised APBT (as is so often the case with other breeds).

It lies in the dog that will be triggered not into defensive behaviour, but into a predatory/fighting behaviour which is enjoyable and carried out in a happy state of mind.

Therefore a happy outgoing dog is in this case do not guarantee that that you will not ever have a problem.

In fact, due to the sociable nature of the dogs and apparent easy-going temperament, APBT's are often put into situations which they are not equipped to handle - this is how so many tragedies occur.

In a recent joint article published in the "Journal for the South African Board of Companion Animal Professionals, PBFSA and Underdogs SA" it has been said ...

That "the APBT as game dog breed's genetics cannot be denied or disregarded and it is safer to assume that APBT's could be dog (animal) aggressive and that in this regard owners, trainers and other professionals working with these dogs always need to keep the breed's propensity for animal aggression and dog fighting in mind.

Disregarding the breed's genetics and history has in many cases lead to attacks on other animals.

In the rescue and shelter situation... it is safer to assume that a dog could be animal aggressive and shelters should take caution not to rehome a dog or other animal aggressive dogs with any other animals.

APBT owners (should be) aware that they cannot leave their new APBT dog unsupervised with other animals and that at any given time their new APBT dog may not be able to live with their existing pets.

With the increase in popularity for APBT's has come a new unrealistic view of the APBT breed and with it come the term "Pet bulls".

According to those who hold this view – that the APBT is a loveable couch potato and disregards this breed's genetics.

Proponents of the “Pet Bull myth” believe that through training, socialisation TLC and environment, the APBT’s high prey and other drives, gameness and animal aggression (especially dog aggression) can be eliminated and these dogs can live in harmony with all other animals and other dogs without any caution being taken.

WE ARE OF THE BELIEF THAT THIS IS A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY. GENETICS CANNOT BE UNTAUGHT AND WHEN THINGS GO WRONG THERE IS CARNAGE AND OFTEN THE OTHER ANIMALS ARE KILLED.

We are of the opinion that the “Pet Bull myth” sets these dogs up for failure.”

Again >> In fact, due to the sociable nature of the APBT dogs and apparent easy-going temperament, APBT’s are often put into situations which they are not equipped to handle - this is how so many tragedies occur.

See the media reporting from distraught people whose “pit bulls” were “absolutely fine with other dogs” until they killed the neighbour’s dog or mauled another dog, cat or other pet or animal in the family, often after many years of being apparently well socialised.

Please note!

It is time that APBT dog lovers took off their blinkers, put aside political correctness (it is almost as though the APBT breed has become a symbol of the oppressed, misunderstood the underdog and the fight against prejudice) – come on!

Face up to reality.

American Pit Bull terriers are not “bad” dogs, but they are what man has designed them to be and so have certain limitations.

To deny this or pretend otherwise is foolish and only leads to tragedy.

Again!

In fact, due to the sociable nature of the APBT dogs and apparent easy-going temperament, APBT's are often put into situations which they are not equipped to handle - this is how so many tragedies occur.

{I stand by my statement >> "*American Pit Bull terriers – is not everyone's cup of tea - Gawie MK."*}

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