Bull Terrier

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

The breed with the honor of winning 2006 Westminster Kennel Club's Best in Show, the well-trained Bull Terrier is a friendly, affectionate, and loyal dog. With their distinct "egg-shaped" head, these active dogs can bring an exciting energy to almost any family. They were first established by mating a Bulldog with the now-extinct white English Terrier. Interestingly, these dogs usually bark only when necessary; therefore, when you hear a Bull Terrier barking, it would be wise to pay attention.

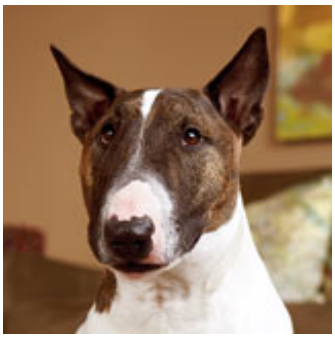
Interesting Breed Facts:

Popularity: 57th in 2008; with 1,900 registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC).

First recognized as a breed: Though pedigrees for Bull Terriers date to the mid-1800's, the first breed standard was written in 1935. The current AKC standard was approved on July 9, 1974.

AKC Grouping: Terrier.

Appearance: With a short coat that highlights their strong, muscular build, Bull Terriers have an oval head and a short, tapering tail. Their small, triangular eyes are sunken and dark. Their ears are small, thin, and capable of being held stiffly erect. The AKC recognizes two color varieties: solid white with or without colored head markings; or, colored, which ranges from solid red or brindle to a combination with



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	black, tan, or white.
#1 preventable health problem:	Bull Terriers exposed to airborne allergens, or flea, mosquito, or mite bites can develop severe skin allergies. Reaction can range from incessant itching to a wide outbreak of hives or a rash. As such, veterinarian-recommended parasite preventive measures, through either topical solutions and/or oral medication, may be necessary.
Preferences:	Notorious chewers with strong jaws, Bull Terriers need appropriately durable toys, offered under continuous supervision. Without a selection of suitable toys, many will turn to any available household item and eagerly ingest any pieces, which could result in an intestinal impaction that may require surgery to remove.
Best features:	Despite their stubborn nature, Bull Terriers are very playful, intelligent, and clownish. These traits allow most Bull Terriers to form a strong bond with their human families, with whom they love to play. However, because of their playful personality most require consistent obedience training from a young age to keep their independent nature in check.
Biggest challenge to owners:	Bull Terriers are exciting and energetic. When combined with their high level of intelligence, these active dogs can nose their way into an abundance of trouble. Therefore, they are best suited to families who can satisfy their curiosity and playfulness through continual interaction, activity, and supervision.

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