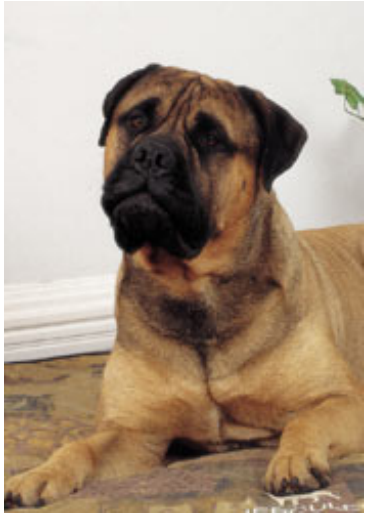
Bullmastiff

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



Originally bred to protect game and discourage poachers on English estates, the Bullmastiff's heritage belies the fact that he is now a family dog. The foundation for this noble breed was 60% Mastiff and 40% Bulldog, according to the American Kennel Club (AKC). Power and agility are inherent along with alertness and a mild suspicion of strangers. A Bullmastiff is not for a timid owner.

The Bullmastiff is unsuitable as an outside dog. The affection of a lap dog is combined with his weight and strength. Any owner must be prepared to provide obedience training mixed with a lot of kindness.

Although the exact dates of this breed's origins are not known, literature mentions a combination of a Bulldog and a Mastiff that was known as the "Strong-Bulldog." Breeders have been exceedingly careful to select particular mental and physical characteristics. Today's Bullmastiff has little in common with his original Bulldog or Mastiff ancestors.

Interesting Breed Facts:

Popularity: 39th in 2008; with 3,447 registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC).

First recognized as a breed: The Bullmastiff was fully recognized by Great Britain's Kennel Club in 1927 and by the AKC in 1935.

AKC Grouping: Working.

Size: Height at the shoulder: males: 25"-27", females: 24"-26".
Weight ranges from 110-130 lbs for males and 100-120 lbs for females.

Appearance: An

intelligent and alert expression emanates from dark, medium-sized eyes set in a square-appearing skull. Face is darker in color than the rest of the body. Broad, deep muzzle has level

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	or undershot teeth. Ears are v-shaped. Coat is short and dense. Acceptable colors are red, fawn, or brindle. An immediate impression of a Bullmastiff is that of a smooth and powerful dog.
#1 preventable health problem:	Bullmastiffs may become obese if not fed and exercised properly. This may lead to arthritis later in life. Make sure you feed your Bullmastiff a healthy diet and follow a regular exercise program.
Preferences:	An excellent companion, the Bullmastiff prefers being with his family.
Best features:	The Bullmastiff is fearless and confident, yet devoted and willing to please.
Biggest challenge to owners:	A strong alpha owner and a good obedience program are essential for living together happily. The Bullmastiff is a large breed and this needs to be taken into consideration.

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