

## Let's Talk Basics

### Know the Breed:

We cannot stress enough how important it is to educate yourself on the characteristics of the breed you are adopting. A great environment is ESSENTIAL. Raising a dog with appropriate interaction, **socialization** and training is very important. However, people frequently forget the role genetics play in forming a dogs' personality and characteristics. Knowing the traits of a Bully, or other breed will prepare you to control behavior and to appropriately meet the needs of the dog. Not everything can be "trained out of" your dog. Like all dogs, always supervise your Bully when he/she is playing with other dogs or other people. DO NOT CHAIN. Recognize that a dog may react to different



situations in different ways and be sensitive to those needs.

Being a good owner is not a matter of changing the dogs' inbred characteristics, but

EDUCATING yourself, ACCEPTING them, and MANAGING them responsibly.

### Spay/Neuter and Vaccinate:

Spay/neuter controls population and helps with behavior. Even with good owners, accidental litters happen. Microchips reunite and vaccinations keep your pet healthy. **HEALTHY DOGS CONTRIBUTE TO A SAFER COMMUNITY**

### Lifetime Commitment:

A good owner will not easily give up or attempt to rehome a dog with life changes, moves etc. DO NOT take on the responsibility of ownership if you are not serious. **Almost all homeless/stray dogs had an owner at some time.**



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"The problem is this, like any breed, if you have irresponsible ownership, people who are not educated on dog caring in general could be a recipe for disaster.."

- Jeff Coltenback, Founder of Pitty Rescue

Thank you to "Saving Grace Pit Bull Rescue" for some of the information used in this pamphlet

*There has been much damage done to the image of Bully's due to media, misinformation, and Bully owners, who do not know how (or choose not to) manage their dogs well.*



**American Pit Bull Terriers, Bull Terriers, Bullmastiffs, Staffordshire Terriers, Boston Terriers, Boxers and Bulldogs**



**Now, it's time to help:**

**PROMOTE A POSITIVE IMAGE!**

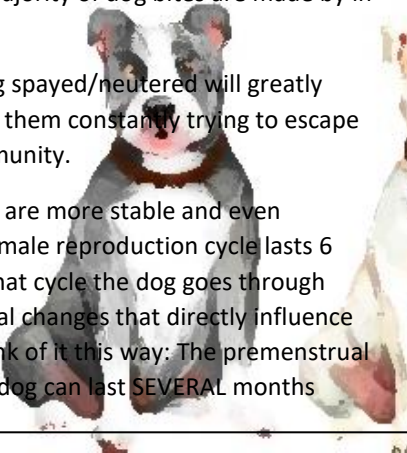
*Do not give people another reason to maintain negative opinions of these dogs. In fact, make it difficult for people to not change their minds about Bully Breeds! Use factual and accurate information in advocating for Bully's!*

# SPAY & NEUTER

Did you know that Bully Breeds make up the largest percentage of dogs in shelters across the United States, with half a MILLION being euthanized every year? They are most likely to be euthanized, and least likely to be adopted. Why? Overpopulation of Pit Bull types has been created by excessive and unregulated breeding. Add to that, Bully Breeds (specifically Pit Bull's) tend to have large litters averaging 10-12 per litter. Do not BUY a Bully, but rather ADOPT a dog from a local shelter or rescue. You can't buy love but you can rescue it!

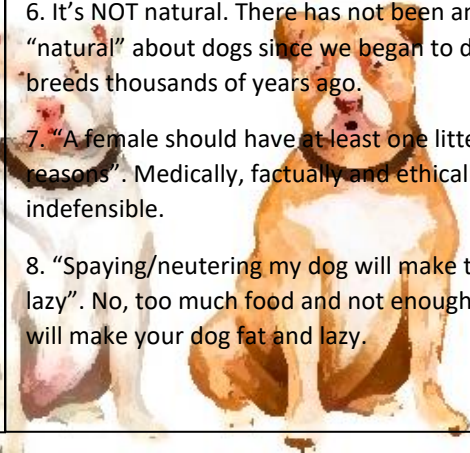
## Best Reasons to Spay/Neuter your Bully

1. You love your dog and want them to live a long healthy life. Spaying/neutering reduces risk of types of cancers and infections.
2. You are concerned about pet overpopulation and don't want to contribute to the tragedy of so many dogs dying homeless
3. You don't want to put a female through the unnecessary risks associated with pregnancy
4. You want your dog to live a happy life free from stress and frustration. Intact males can smell a female in heat, from MILES away. They are in CONSTANT state of frustration when triggered by their sexual hormones but not able to do anything about it.
5. Neutered males are easier to control and less aggressive. The majority of dog bites are made by intact males.
6. Having your dog spayed/neutered will greatly reduce the risk of them constantly trying to escape and run the community.
7. Spayed females are more stable and even tempered. The female reproduction cycle lasts 6 months. During that cycle the dog goes through frequent hormonal changes that directly influence her behavior. Think of it this way: The premenstrual cycle of a female dog can last SEVERAL months



## Worst Excuses Not to Spay/Neuter your Bully

1. "Just one litter and then we will have her spayed." Studies show that virtually the entire pet overpopulation issues stem from the "just one litter" mentality.
2. "My dog never runs loose so he doesn't need to be fixed". Murphy's law says otherwise. Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong. 'Never' is non-existent.
3. "We always find homes for the puppies". And that means an equal number of puppies in "kill" shelters will be euthanized.
4. "I want my kids to witness the miracle of birth". Rent a video.
5. "My dog is so cute and unique, there should be more of her". The shelters and pounds are FULL of cute and unique dogs, most with only days to live.
6. It's NOT natural. There has not been anything "natural" about dogs since we began to develop breeds thousands of years ago.
7. "A female should have at least one litter for health reasons". Medically, factually and ethically, that is indefensible.
8. "Spaying/neutering my dog will make them fat and lazy". No, too much food and not enough exercise will make your dog fat and lazy.



## TRAIN YOUR DOG

A well behaved and obedient dog is important, not only for you and your family, but for breed image. Bully's aim to please and are eager to learn. Training helps you maintain control of your dog and offers your dog mental stimulation. One of the primary causes of relinquishment, abandonment, and eventual euthanasia is behavior problems and an owner who does not know how or is not willing to manage behavior.



Socialization is also a key component of training your dog. It's crucial in maintaining a dog with sound temperament. Expose your dog to a variety of experiences when they're young.

i'm NOT A  
**MONSTER**  
i'm JUST A  
♥Pit Bull♥

## Role in the Community

Your Bully should be a breed ambassador and a reflection of a knowledgeable owner. Bully's (like all dogs) should never be allowed to roam freely and should always be kept on a leash when out of your yard/home. Be a good neighbor. Monitor barking. Be respectful with waste or smell. Follow all city/state rules on vaccination and licensing. **PROMOTE A POSITIVE IMAGE!** Once again, make it difficult for people to not change their minds about Bully Breeds.