



About Pit Bulls and Rescues

Pit bull is a term that mistakenly refers to any breed of dog with a muscular build, a square shaped head, and either floppy or cropped ears. There is only one breed, the American pit bull terrier, who can technically be called a “pit bull”. The pit bull label incorrectly identifies dogs who can actually be other breeds including the American bully, Staffordshire bull terrier, bull terrier, and American Staffordshire terrier. The correct term for these dogs is bull breed. Many dogs are labeled pit bulls because of their features, but they may not even be pit bulls.

Unless a dog has a pedigree or papers registering its exact lineage, it's impossible to determine breed unless a DNA test is performed. In some cases, even DNA tests have been inaccurate. If a dog has a pedigree, its papers show the exact breed of each parent. It's like a birth certificate is for a human.

Jessie is referred to as a pit bull because of the way she looks. Experts think she is a mix of apbt (American pit bull terrier) and a Labrador. She could be considered a “pitador” or a “labrabull”. These are made up words combining the two supposed breeds. The term “pitmix” refers to a mixed breed dog who has physical features of any of the bull breeds.

Animal shelters, at any given time, have a large number of adoptable dogs considered bull breeds, because they are overbred in many communities. This means some dog owners, whether their dog has a pedigree or not, breed their dogs to sell them and make money. Then, after a dog is purchased, the owner changes his or her mind about keeping the dog and they end up in a shelter.

Hopefully, Jessie's stories will bring about an awareness of the over breeding that takes place in many communities, as well as a movement toward promoting adoptions of bull breed dogs.

There are many bull breed rescue non-profit agencies around the world that provide education and volunteering opportunities. Many of them have foster programs. These programs get the adoptable dogs out of a shelter and into a temporary home where they can have a more “normal” life. Living in an animal shelter is very stressful for dogs, and their temperament may be different in a shelter than it would be in a home. Temperament is just another word for personality. Many times, people who foster dogs end up adopting them. We call this a “foster fail”, even though it is a positive outcome. The shelter's bottom line is to organize successful adoptions and give all dogs their “Gotcha Day”.

I encourage you to volunteer or foster if you are able to, and never pass up an opportunity to educate someone who does not know how truly amazing all breeds are!

If you are fortunate enough to adopt or rescue a dog, please make sure you spay or neuter, microchip and train him or her. That is what responsible dog rescuers do!

Many of us also celebrate the day our shelter dogs were adopted into our families. We really do have “Gotcha Day” parties and offer our dogs their favorite meals and homemade pet friendly treats to celebrate.

If you have purchased any book in the “Jessie” series, or a clothing item, a portion of the proceeds will go to a non profit rescue directly benefiting bull breeds!

Please follow us on Facebook at Jessie’s Legacy, and on Instagram and Twitter @jessiethepitmix. You can watch recordings of me reading all of my books on my YouTube channel Jessie, the pit mix. You can follow me on TikTok @AnnetteDePasquale and visit my website www.depasqualepublications.com to find out more.

Thank-you,
Annette