

# FEAR VS FACT



**FEAR:** “Pit bull” dogs have “locking jaws.”

**FACT:** No dog, of any breed or mix, has an anatomical structure that could be a locking mechanism in their jaw.

“We found that the American Pit Bull Terriers did not have any unique mechanism that would allow these dogs to lock their jaws. There were no mechanical or morphological differences. . .” *Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin, University of Georgia*

**FEAR:** “Pit bull” dogs have massive biting power measuring in 1,000s of pounds of pressure per square inch (PSI).

**FACT:** “Newtons,” a way to quantify force, is the unit of measure consistently used in scientific studies, not pounds per square inch, a measure of pressure which no studies use. Dogs in general can range from 13 to 1394 Newtons. *Lindner, DL, et.al. Journal of Veterinary Dentistry*

No dog is biologically equipped with a unique biting mechanism or “style” that would differentiate them from other breeds of dogs. No scientific research exists to substantiate the myth that “pit bull” dogs bite differently or more severely.

**FEAR:** “Pit bull” dogs attack without warning.

**FACT:** All dogs, including dogs commonly labeled “pit bull”, signal their intent.

“Pit bulls signal like other dogs.” *The institute of Animal Welfare and Behavior of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany temperament tested over 1,000 dogs.*

**FEAR:** While there are some “pit bull” dogs with good temperaments, they are the exception not the rule.

**FACT:** The American Temperament Test shows the American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier (three pure breed dogs, typically referred to as “pit bulls”), as well as the dogs labeled “Mixed Breed”, consistently score above the average for all breeds tested, year in and year out.

*The American Temperament Test Society, [www.atts.org](http://www.atts.org)*

Every dog is an individual and should be evaluated as such.

**FEAR:** “Pit bull” dogs are more dangerous than other dogs.

**FACT:** There is no scientific evidence that one kind of dog is more likely than another to injure a human being than any other kind of dog.

“...Controlled studies have not identified this breed group [pit bull-type dogs] as disproportionately dangerous.”

*American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)*



[www.animalfarmfoundation.org](http://www.animalfarmfoundation.org)