

# 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:** On average, all dogs bite with approximately 320 lbs of pressure per square inch. This includes dogs commonly labeled “pit bull.”

The bite pressure of a German Shepherd, an American Pit Bull Terrier and a Rottweiler were tested. The American Pit Bull Terrier had the least amount of bite pressure of the three dogs tested. *Dr. Brady Barr, National Geographic*

**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)*

