

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: 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.

Scientists consistently use the unit Newtons to quantify force, not pounds per square inch. Dogs in general can range from 13 to 1394 Newtons.

via Lindner, DL, et.al. Journal of Veterinary Dentistry

FEAR: "Pit bull" dogs attack without warning.

FACT: All dogs, including dogs commonly labeled "pit bull" dogs, signal their intent. After doing temperament tests on over 1,000 dogs, the Institute of Animal Welfare and Behavior of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany determined "no significant difference in behavior between breeds was detected. The results show no indication of dangerousness in specific breeds."

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

FACT: The American Temperament Test shows that the American pit bull terrier, American staffordshire terrier, and the staffordshire bull terrier (three purebred dog breeds, typically referred to as "pit bull" dogs), as well as the dogs labeled "mixed breed," consistently score above the average for all breeds tested, year in and year out.

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.

"...Controlled studies have not identified this breed group [pit bull-type dogs] as disproportionately dangerous." American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

