

THE BULL DOG

Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog * American Bulldog * American Staffordshire Terrier * Boxer * Bullmastiff * Bull Terrier * Catahoula (also Herding/Gun Dog) * Dogo Argentino (also Guardian) * English Bulldog * French Bulldog * Olde English Bulldogge * Pit Bull Terrier



What we bred them for ...

British broad-mouthed mastiff-type dogs trace their ancestry back to the Roman guardians, once used for gladiator entertainment, and specialized for the sport of bull-baiting (bringing down a bull in a contest). Terriers were crossbred with these bull dogs to increase their tenacity.

You'll fall in love with your bull dog because he is:

AFFECTIONATE

He is naturally engaging, tolerant, and endearing with people.

ENTERTAINING

Whether high octane or low, he is a naturally amusing character.

OUTGOING

His brave and gregarious approach to life can be a total blast.

You might find a bull dog hard to live with because he is:

ALL OR NOTHING

A zero-to-sixty design can catch you off guard at times..

POWERFUL

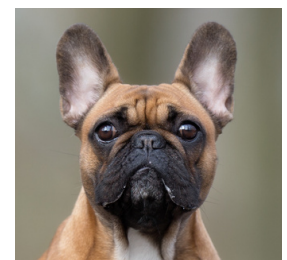
His strength and force can overwhelm people and other animals .

TOUCHY-FEELY

If you value your personal space, he may get on your nerves (as well as your lap).

Interests, Hobbies and Education

He loves a good challenge and is up for just about anything as long as it promises a good time. He has a great attitude about acquiring new interests and trying new things, and will put his heart into just about any activity that seems like it will be a good time. His general MO is to comfortably go along with your directions - up to a point. For a bull dog, there is a clear moment at which our instructions become secondary, at best. Bull dogs were bred to be adrenaline junkies. Once his adrenaline has fully kicked in, he can be impenetrably focused on the object of his engagement and you may wonder if he remembers that you exist at all .





You might find yourself seeking professional help for:

- Destructive behavior, especially when left alone or unsuspected
- Incredible power, unmanageability and excitability on leash, especially around other animals
- Overenthusiastic behavior toward people - jumping, mouthing, roughhousing
- Protectiveness of one or more family members toward other people and animals
- Inflicting severe injuries on other animals in altercations due to strength (though not necessarily starting such altercations)
- General over-arousal in any number of high stimulation circumstances



Bull Dog Relationship Survival Key:

Keep that brain in **LEARNING** and thinking mode by regulating his excitement levels and impulses.

Ensure that he has adequate opportunities to express himself, make sure he is very well-managed, and not overly confined in his daily **ENVIRONMENT**.

Take steps to keep his system in its natural low gear so that his **GENETIC** high-arousal response to excitement doesn't get the better of him.

Relish his bigger-than-life personality for all that it is as you steer clear of trouble traps (**SELF**).



To learn more, pick up a copy of *Meet Your Dog* by Kim Brophey. This really is THE game-changing guide to understanding your dog's behavior.



Ways to enrich your bull dog's life:

Abundant physical exercise

- social and independent time outdoors, hiking, agility, flyball, triebball, tug, parkour, chase games

"Predatory" opportunities

- toys/items that can be shredded/destroyed such as cardboard boxes, indestructible chew toys, scavenger hunts for meals

Challenge his nose and mind

- sniff walks, nosework, scatter feeding, freework, snuffle mat, tracking, barn hunt, rally, puzzle games, tricks, problem-solving activities

Keep his arousal from getting over threshold by using calming activities such as scatter feeding



LEARNING - your dog's experiences and education

ENVIRONMENT - the many aspects of your dog's external world



Learning Environment Genetics Self

GENETICS - the DNA that designed your dog inside and out

SELF - the unique interior world of your dog - health, age, sex, personality ...