



Search KATV

 news
 internet

News

- Local News
- Tax Assistance
- Hometown Heroes
- Hero Homecomings
- KATV eVideo
- Newslinks
- Chopper 7 Info
- Slideshows
- National
- International
- Consumer
- Medical
- Politics
- Business
- WebWatch
- Technology
- Entertainment
- Today In History
- 7 News Alerts
- ABC News

Weather

Hometown Heroes

Hero Homecomings

Sports

KATV eVideo

Newslinks

7 On Your Side

Daybreak

MidDay Arkansas

Good Morning
Arkansas

Around The Home

Family First

Connecting with Kids

ARSN

Programming

HealthCheck

Recipes

Community Events

Movie Reviews

Talent Bios

Pit Bulls: Overcoming a Dangerous Rep

 Friday May 06, 2005 12:31pm Reporter: [Anne Pressly](#) Posted By: [Amanda Manatt](#)

Little Rock - Would you have a pit bull as a family pet?

The breed that has been banned in several Arkansas towns, may have gotten a bad reputation as a dangerous dog

You may be surprised at what the experts say is the most aggressive dog you can have as a pet.

Experts say pit bulls are likely to show aggression toward other dogs, but contrary to popular belief, they are not among the breeds that are most likely to bite people.

(Dr. Dean Hunter, LR Vet) "You know that the most common biters are the si dogs, particularly the terriers. The terrier dogs are usually a lot of dog in a s and typically the most aggressive dogs come in the terrier breeds."

Heather Sadler adopted her pit bull, "Uno," a few months ago.

She says he meets the breed standard of an affectionate, loyal pet.

(Sadler) "Oh, he's wonderful. He sleeps in the bed. He comes and he, you kn snuggle with you and he will kiss you if you'll let him. We try to discourage t with another dog that's about twelve years old. We have no problems. He is with everybody he's come in contact with, actually."

Pit bulls...we're used to seeing them isolated, in cages, sometimes injured from fig abuse.

But believe it or not, the pit bull has been considered to be the ideal family pet.

(Dr. Hunter) "The traditional Pit Bull Terrier, the American Staffordshire Terr affectionate to people. I mean very, very affectionate, not real tolerant of oth but very much with people."

(Pressley) "This is one of my own dogs. I didn't know this, but believe it or n like these--cocker spaniels--are just as likely to bite as some of the larger br

(Dr. Hunter) "Cocker spaniels are probably one of the most common biters i There are more bites every year from cocker spaniels than from many other

Kay Jordan of the Humane Society of Pulaski County says to never let a dog's siz

(Jordan) "Some dogs, when they're fear biters, when you reach down and th little dog is do cute, you're gonna get nailed."

— KATV Int

- [Signup for eNe](#)
- [Whats Your Op](#)
- [Printable Versi](#)
- [E-Mail This Sto](#)

[JobCenter](#)
[Member Profile](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Games](#)
[Advertise On KATV](#)
[Contact KATV](#)
[Home Page](#)



They may not bite as often as smaller dogs like cocker spaniels, but the bite of a pit bull is more dangerous.

(Dr. Hunter) "This is a dog that knows how to fight and it doesn't take much a dog like this to turn into a very assertive dog."

But the breed's fighting instinct doesn't mean that all pit bulls are aggressive.

(Dr. Hunter) "It's important to understand that the individual dog is not bound by breed nature."

Dr. Hunter says pit bulls are most threatening when they are with other dogs of the same breed.

(Dr. Hunter) "Whenever you get a group like that and you turn them loose and let them run, they develop a 'pack' mentality, but any type of breed does that. And that's why we see a lot of horror stories. You've got a group of them, they've been encouraged to be assertive and you turn them out in a pack and that's when the attacks occur and fatalities can occur from that."

Kay Jordan says it takes a special person to adopt a pit bull from the Humane Society of Clark County.

(Jordan) "It's very hard to find someone worthy of adopting a pit bull."

(Jordan) "The whole problem with the pit bull is the people that get them when they're young and the way they raise them, the environment they're raised in, in my opinion, is the problem."

She says pit bulls require a capable owner... someone like Heather, who has not only owned other dogs, but also works as a veterinary nurse.

(Sadler) "I think it takes someone who realizes that they need a lot of training and patience. Someone who's willing to be dominant and understand that they're not the boss in the household."

Sadler's taking on of the role of both owner and handler has worked.

She says Uno is a well-adjusted pet.

(Sadler) "He is the best dog. He totally understands, you know, that he's the fact that he's not the boss of the house and he's been a real member to my family. Not in any way negative."

Experts say that any dog...regardless of size or breed...can be dangerous.

Here are a couple of tips that will keep you safe when you are faced with a dog you are not familiar with:

First, never approach a dog you don't know.

If you see a dog being walked by its owner, ask if he or she likes people before getting close to the animal.

Even if the owner says the dog is friendly, don't look the dog in the eye. This can be intimidating to the animal.

Put your hand down at nose level so the dog can pick up your scent.

Most importantly, let the dog come to you.

The dog will let you know if he or she wants your attention.

For more information on dog breeds and how you can adopt a pet from the Human Resources Center, [click here](#).

» [Find More Articles Related To This One](#)

Google [more on this topic](#)

Copyright 2005 KATV, LLC

HAVE AN OPINION ON THIS STORY? TELL US ABOUT IT BELOW!

Viewer Comments on Pit Bulls: Overcoming a Dangerous Rep

Janet

IP: Logged

Posted: 05/06 6:12p ET

AMEN for this story. We have a pitbull and he is the most loving loyal have. Now he is not fond of strangers but we dont let him near strangers we have a 6 ft. fence. We are responsible owners. We have other dogs and he is very loving toward them and very tolerant of them. I have never seen him be aggressive towards any of my other pets and never toward our child. He is the best dog we have ever had. I will continue to have pitbulls as pets. They are awesome dogs.

louisianawoman

IP: Logged

Posted: 05/06 5:37p ET

If your pitbull ever bit me and I lived through it, you better believe you have one hell of a lawsuit on your hands. These dogs can do so much and they have been proven to be unreliable as a pet. To many have bred to be a fighting dog. Watch Animal Planet and see how these sug gentle dogs have attacked children or the elderly. Of course all the owners say the same as you Shelia, my dog wouldn't hurt a flea, and that is v child or the elderly are walking around with scars from dog bites from PITBULLS.

shelia magness

IP: Logged

Posted: 05/06 5:14p ET

First I want to say that I think it is great that channel 7 ran a story that tells the truth about pitt bulls!! I am so sick of hearing how these wonderf are all so mean and should be done away with. That has got to be the stupidest thing I have ever heard!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I currently own one, I have owned many, as well as other breeds ranging from sheppards to poodles, and the pitt bull is by far my favorite. They are most loving, loyle pet you can have. It is how they are raised a pitt bull by a loving responsible owner, they need to be well trained. The one I currently own has been through beginning and advanced obedience training, he has the AKC canine good citizenship award and I plan to take him to take the American temperament test by the end of the summer, all of this is not to brag on my dog while I am extremely proud of him and his achievement really all for his protection, the training ensures obedience, the good citizenship award shows that he is not mean, that if he bites someone it must be a reason, and even more so when he passes the temperament test. Because of all his training several members of the southeast arkansa club can attest to the fact that my dog doesnt have a mean bone in his but he does love and protect me. Lets face it you can make any animal if you really want to this breed is just one that can back it up, but they are much rather cuddle, While I am sure that just as you have people that mean this can also be the case in some animals it does not mean that they are mean any more than it means all people are mean, who raised the dog the way!! maybe instead of just killing the dog they need to see if the dog deserves a little punishment of their own. I have lived where I live for 20 years but if they ban pitt bulls tomorrow I would move in a heartbeat to keep my dog also I don't care to live around such idiots!

Susie Q

IP: Logged

Posted: 05/06 4:12p ET

I for one have learned from experience not to trust pit bulls. My neighbor chased them several times. Not in a playing manner I should add. They growled at my children and have attacked my dogs very badly. It got

recently that when I did let my children go out into the yard thinking t dogs were put up they again chased my children up onto our porch. W dogs saw they immediatly got into the pit bulls way and so they attack dog. I literally had blood all over my porch and my car from what tho bulls did to my dog. My dog had a pit bull in his throat, one on each si the while my children are in the house screaming their heads off and c from fear. I had to hit the pit bulls with a yard rake to try to get them could not do anything in the long run. I live really far out in the countr the laws regarding these dogs are mainly for the ones withen city limi to top it off, my neighbor had the nerve to come yell at me about hitti dogs. He did not ask one time if my kids were fine. So I would say th story is a load of crap. I don't usually talk like this, but when your chil in danger of being in danger things have to be done. In conclusion I j these dogs should be outlawed completely.

tallee2

IP: Logged

Posted: 05/06 3:56p ET

I had a pitbull before. that is the only kind of breed i trust around my i had him for 4 years before he died. he loved kids.

it is all how they are raised.

my mom's dog attacked our son once. that dog was a weiner dog. the had a chihuahua dog and that dog would try to bite our kid. then my c had small dogs and they tried to bite my kid too. have i ever had a big to attack my kid like a small dog did.

our pitbull NEVER tried to attack our kid or showed any signs. at night would go in and make sure he was ok and then come lay in front of m thought anything was wrong with him he would nudge me till i got up checked on him.

after all these smalls dogs trying to bite my kid i said no thanks and i got a lab/pitbull mixed he has done nothing but love on my kid. he go checks on him at night and when he wakes up in the morning he loves him.

i am glad to see this piece on the news. pits are not bad dogs and to t who think they are well shame on you and shame on the ones who rai and give them bad names. shame, shame.

***** READ ALL 9 POSTS ON THIS STORY *****

Opinions and Feedback

**You need to be a registered member of KATV
to leave comments on news stories.**

Not A Member Yet? [Click Here To Signup...Takes Just Two Minutes](#)

Lost Your Password? [Click Here](#)

KATV Member Name or Email:

Password:

Your Feedback/Opinion:

Submit (CLICK ONLY ONCE)

Messages that harass, abuse or threaten other members; have obscene or otherwise objectionable content; have or advertising content or inappropriate links may be removed and may result in the loss of your posting privileges; post any private information unless you want it to be available publicly.

Never assume that you are completely anonymous and cannot be identified by your posts.



This site is best viewed with **Internet Explorer 5.0 / Netscape 6.0 or higher**

[News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Hometown Heroes](#) | [Hero Homecomings](#) | [Sports](#) | [KATV eVideo](#) | [7 On Your Side](#) | [Daybreak](#) | [MidDay Arkansas](#) | [Good Morning Arkansas](#) | [Around The Hor](#)
[Connecting with Kids](#) | [ARSN](#) | [Programming](#) | [HealthCheck](#) | [Recipes](#) | [Community Events](#)
| [Talent Bios](#) | [JobCenter](#) | [Member Profile](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Games](#) | [Advertise On KATV](#) |

[Advertising on KATV](#) | [Contact KATV](#) | [Jobcenter](#)

[TOP OF PAGE](#)

TM & © KATV, LLC

All rights reserved. Any reproduction, duplication, or distribution in any form is expressly prohibite

Pages throughout the KATV website feature links to other sites, some of which are operated by companies un
KATV has no control over the content or availability of any linked site.

Legal Notices. "KATV, LLC", recognizes the privacy interests of visitors to this site on the Intern
Please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#)
[KATV EEO Report](#) [CLICK HERE](#)

KATV adheres to the ICRA RATING SYSTEM for parental control