

# Dogs and the law — what you need to know

## Pit bull terrier



These are pit bull terriers — one of four breeds of dog banned in the UK under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

**Anyone convicted of owning one of these types of dog can face a £5,000 fine or six months in prison under the 1991 Act.**

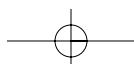
This terrier was bred specifically for dog fighting and is still used for this illegal purpose today. The breed descends from Staffordshire bull terriers crossed with bulldogs.

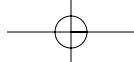
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## The Staffordshire bull terrier



The Staffordshire bull terrier should not be confused with the pit bull. The Staffordshire is legal in the UK, smaller and a more sociable breed.





# Description of the main characteristics of the pit bull terrier

## General Description

- Muscular smooth-haired dog
- has a square profile (ie as tall from the ground to the top of the shoulder and as long from point of shoulder to point of hip)
- height (average for both male and female) (shoulder): 45–55 cm.

## Head

- Should be wedge-shaped when viewed from the top or side and round when viewed from the front
- broad jawbones
- broad skull
- strongly developed nostrils
- strongly developed cheek and jaw muscles.

## Muzzle

- Not pointed.

## Ears

- Located high on skull
- tips of ears fold forward or sideways or have been cropped
- no wrinkles.

## Eyes

- Elliptical when viewed from front
- triangular when viewed from side
- small and deep set.

## Neck

- Muscular all the way up to base of skull.

## Chest

- Broad
- deep ribcage
- ribs strongly curved tapering towards bottom.

## Back

- Muscular
- broad sloping hips
- broad loin.

## Legs

- Front legs are straight and give a massive, solid impression
- hips are long and broad and continue on to become relatively long hind legs with a well-muscled thigh.

## Coat

- Single coat
- short smooth haired but bristled to touch
- can be any colour.

## Tail

- Located low down in hindquarters
- thick at base tapering to point at end
- narrows to a slender tip or has been docked
- should hang like a pump handle when relaxed.

For further information contact  
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