



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL



Pit Bull Breed Identification Checklist

Pit Bull General Description: a pit bull is a medium to large-sized, solidly built, short-coated dog with smooth, well-defined musculature. Pit bulls come in all colors and color combinations.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control considers a dog to be predominantly a pit bull breed (American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, or Staffordshire Bull Terrier) if s/he possesses 5 out of the following 8 characteristics:

- Head** is medium length, with a broad skull and very pronounced cheek muscles, a wide, deep muzzle, a well-defined, moderately deep stop, and strong underjaw. Viewed from the front, the head is shaped like a broad, blunt wedge.
- Eyes** are round to almond shaped, are low in the skull and set far apart.
- Ears** are set high. Uncropped ears are short and usually held rose or half prick, though some hold them at full prick.
- Neck** is heavy and muscular, attached to strong, muscular shoulders.
- Body** is muscular, with a deep, broad chest, a wide front, deep brisket, well-sprung ribs, and slightly tucked loins.
- Tail** is medium length and set low, thick at the base, tapering to a point.
- Hindquarters** are well muscled, with hocks set low on the legs.
- Coat** is a single coat, smooth, short and close to the skin.

Pit Bull puppies have the same characteristics, though in juvenile or adolescent form. Muscles, along with breadth and depth of head and chest may be less developed.

