

## **Do I Want a Bull Terrier?**

Originally from "Meet the Bull Terrier" by Becky Taylor, 1976.

Revised 1992 by Betty Cole and Bonnie Taubert.

The Bull Terrier is a marvelously well-endowed dog. One could match his eyes, nose, and ears with anything in dogdom. However, he will not hold a point like a setter, nor trail like a Basset and he cannot run like a Greyhound. If you require instant obedience, a dog over whom you have absolute control, then look to the working or herding group.

But if you are drawn to a frolicking sense of humor, and unpredictable creative imagination, sympathetic companionship, unflinching loyalty, all expressed by a body language rivaling Chaplin's- then the Bull Terrier is your dog. Of all terriers, the most ostentatious possessor of these qualities is the Bull Terrier. And in the best of these you attain something magnificent - a truly noble spirit in the most physical of bodies.

Bull Terriers come in amazing variety and sizes, shapes, colors and temperaments! A pup may mature into a 35lb. adult and have a 70lb. brother! Temperament can range from nervous terrier (busy, busy, busy) to sedate bull. There are the endless talkers and the silent Sams. Many are respectful of life in all its forms, friend to man, beast and universe, but there are also the silent grabbers, the loudmouth whose bite is much worse than their bark. So you can see, when you choose a Bull Terrier, there is much to choose from!

Physically, the Bull Terrier is a condensed, pared-down Mastiff. No matter how small, he must be considered a very large dog indeed, in terms of the damage he can wreak. Even in play, the Bull Terrier has the charming habit of coyly lowering his head and as you lean over to see what is going on down there, he suddenly catapults that rock hard head with full force into your face. This is one of his favorite jokes, and if you've been considering plastic surgery, his humor may appeal to you. If you have no intention of having your features reassembled, you won't like the joke.

A Bull Terrier may live in sweet harmony with another animal for years. If the other animal is a Bull Terrier or is as hardheaded some inconsequential matter of property or protocol may lead to a fight to the death or major mutilation. Afterwards, they can be jolly good friends again, until the next time. NEVER leave a Bull Terrier alone with any animal unsupervised.

A Bull Terrier requires maximum security. In time they will eat through anything they can't jump, climb, knock over or unlock. They have been known to eat through walls, bend quarter-inch steel, open locks, shift furniture to provide steps, etc. Be forewarned.

Although a Bull Terrier is definitely not for everyone, for the person with patience, judgment, strength, and humor, the Bull Terrier will return a measure of love and protection unequalled in any other dog. Ask the family that lives with one.