



## STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER

### The Original Recipe - Bulldog + Terrier = Stafford

A lot of emphasis has been made on how to achieve the perfect blend and balance of the Bull and Terrier to produce the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. It occurred to us that a very important key bit of information was missing.

When we say we strive for an equal blend of Bull and Terrier, are we picturing in our mind the original breeds used or modern day versions? Many people today are picturing the modern day version of the English/British Bulldog. This way of thinking is dangerous to the health and future of the Stafford. If that is the blend one is attempting to produce, one will certainly find shorter legs/upper arm, straighter stifles, barreled rib spring, shorter muzzles - plus health issues that go along with that type of animal which was not intended as the athletic gladiator the Stafford was bred to be. We are seeing more caesareans, screw/short tails, buggy eyes, wrinkles, poor dentition (converging canines, under or over shot), lippy muzzle and overlong soft pallet in some Staffords. Some are so heavy and overdone they have trouble gaiting around the ring without panting, much less being able to get proper exercise.

The original Bulldogs used to create the Stafford looked more like the athletic bodies of dogs such as Crib and Rosa" pictured above left, circa 1811 by Abraham Cooper. Similar to the athletic body of an American Bulldog, Boxer and similar breeds as seen in the other images above. This is not something that can be easily disputed as it is shown many times in book after book on the history of the Stafford.

As you can clearly see from the photos, the original Bulldog used to create the Stafford didnt resemble what we picture as a Bulldog of today. He was leggier, more athletic, less wrinkle, and in general a beautiful example of a gladiator. Some speculate if he was actually more Mastiff, than Bulldog. We can see why this breed was chosen, for he was portrayed to be powerful, courageous, tenacious and tough, but still a reliable guardian with an off duty quietness and affection for humans.

**So try to imagine THIS Bulldog when you picture balance and an equal blend of Bull and Terrier in todays mix - The Staffordshire Bull Terrier!**

The other half of the 'mix' is said to have been either a now extinct breed known then as the "White English Terrier" or the 'Black and Tan Terrier" or perhaps the 'Manchester Terrier". It may have resembled any of these images shown here on the right.

