

FAMILY PET or DANGEROUS ANIMAL?



Halíí' Hooghan Haz'áagi
Waldlooshii Báhádzidigíí?

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Compiled and Researched
by **SUSAN FADLER** with
SPECIAL APPRECIATION to:

CHINLE CURRICULUM CENTER

Gloria Means
Rudy Begay
Patrick Begay

DEAN C. JACKSON CENTER for Navajo Culture and Studies

Marjorie Thomas
Darlene Redhair
Peter Thomas

RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

Will Tsosie
Mike Mitchell

CULTURE TEACHERS

Lorraine Begay
Pat Denny

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SANCTUARY
THE WILSON FOUNDATION

VETERINARIAN CONSULTANT

Dr. Janet Forrer

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A R.U.F.F. MISSION

1. Goal: An awareness that all dogs have the potential to make good pets, but, does this depend upon the type of treatment or the environment that it is raised in?

Problem Statement: In many places, a misconception about what type of dog can make a good "watchdog" or "family dog" exists. As a result the wrong dogs are often used for the wrong purposes. The misconception that a good watchdog is a mean watchdog is widely accepted. If any dog is mistreated it will develop abnormal behavior. It becomes something like a time bomb ready to explode. If the dog happens to be one of the different breeds of "aggressive" or "fighting" dogs, then a serious, dangerous, and sometimes fatal pattern of dog bites occur.

Studies have concluded that a correlation exists between child abuse and animal abuse. If the father or the mother kicks the dog in front of the children, do they stop there? Are they just warming up? Do the children develop aggressive and uncaring attitudes? This attitude and brutal total disregard for life, will surely be passed along to the children. What will they learn?

2. Measurable behavioral objectives: Students to demonstrate understanding of the concept visually, in oral text, and written text where applicable (age consideration).

3. Specific strategies which focus upon student needs: Leading questions that utilize the five senses that students possess. e.g.. Discuss with students what characteristic, in any dog, helps to make a good watchdog? Is being mean something that a watchdog needs to be? Check to see if the students realize what the bull terriers were bred to do. Explain that bull terriers can be sweet, affectionate pets if they are loved and treated with kindness. Discuss the movie "White Fang". If they saw it, what dog was the one that was able to beat the wolf, White Fang? (It was the pit bull.) Why? (Because its jaws "lock" and must be pried loose when they bite something, or when fighting because this has been bred into them.) Do the students think animals have the same rights as humans--to be treated with kindness and respect--even when they do something naughty? How many people have been dog bitten on the Reservation? Is the number of dog attacks going up? Why? Do the students understand where the Rottweiler came from and what its ancestors were bred to do? Can Rottweiler's make good pets? How about the other types of dogs?

4. Awareness or readiness level: Students will respond to an appropriate question and answer at any age.

5. Specific plan: (Materials Needed): If the teacher has a pet dog that they can bring to school, the students can benefit from seeing a friendly pet. Tell them that this dog is also a "guard dog" when it barks at strangers coming on to your property, but that you do not encourage your dog to be "mean" by biting someone, only by sounding the alarm. Talk about responsibility and what it means with pet ownership. Tell them how a responsible person acts. Do we need to be responsible with other actions? Should parents be responsible with the care of their children, homes, animals, property, etc. If they are not, what can happen?

6. Student Practice (student activities): Discuss the meaning of "guard" dog. Have students think of other guarding activities that people perform. i.e. Police officers, school crossing guards, national military guards, prison guards, etc. Do these people need to be "mean" to be guards. Can they do their job without attacking, beating or harassing people? What happens if an inmate breaks out of prison or jail? Do the guards and police officers change their attitude? Do they then become more aggressive? Do you think that dogs can sense when they need to be aggressive? Have the students write a story about how their dog guards their home.

7. Checking for Understanding (outcome base): Questions on Family Pet or Dangerous Animal" can be used as a tool for understanding and reading comprehension. Have the students work in groups to come up with their best answer. Discuss results.

8. Specific affective and cognitive areas addressed: Students are encouraged to complete a vocabulary list and a suggested use in finding definitions for these words and then using them in sentences.

9. Specific teaching strategies which include student involvement: Learning new words including Navajo. Students learning about aggression and that for every action taken by them there is always a reaction. Students begin to understand the need for kindness and gentleness used in handling these dogs, in order for them to achieve a true family pet. Learning to be kind towards animals affects all aspects of their lives. Utilize the geography teaching tool which is questions like: Where did this dog originate? While speaking to the class, access a map and as each dog is focused upon, ask the students to find the country, state, town, mountain range, or other applicable questions. 4th through 6th grade enjoy this activity, and it brings about a sense of awareness of other cultures and nations.

10. Other: Grades 4th through 8th. Earlier grades possible with teacher discretion.

FAMILY PET OR DANGEROUS ANIMAL Halíí' hooghan haz'áagi Waaldlooshii Báhádzidigíí?

The Importance of the dog in Navajo culture



Marjorie Thomas, Navajo Elder and Associate Superintendent for Diné studies in Chinle, Arizona, explained the role of the family dog:

"the dog was an important element to early Navajo life. The Navajo believed that the dog put out "veins" in the earth, outside of the door of the hogan which always faced east. If something was approaching or came around the hogan that wasn't suppose to be there, the dog would sense and feel the presence through its "veins " from the earth and would begin to sound the alarm by barking. It was his duty to do this. Navajo families always took good care of their dogs because they provided this valuable service."

Will Tsosie, Navajo historian, explained another view:

"In the eyes of the Navajo, a hungry or starving dog symbolizes poverty. This is though to be so because the dog cannot live on it's own without the aid of humans. Strength and stamina are important. If an animal can live on it's own and survive, then it becomes more valuable. The only dogs that are elevated to a higher status are the sheep dogs, because they take good care of the

flocks of sheep and goats, and do so without having any training from Navajo owners. Navajo families believe that money should not be spent on a dog, such as buying a dog. However, there are families who do travel off the reservation and purchase dogs. It is an individual choice. What you are doing is good. The dog has been very misunderstood."

Darlene Redhair from Chinle Cultural Center offers yet another point of view:

"Sheep dogs are very important to the Navajo way of life. We have sheep dogs, and my mother always feeds them first because they are very important. These dogs are never kept as pets. Having a dog for a pet is relatively new to the navajo. Dogs were always considered to be working animals."

Why do some dogs become a menace to society?

Nationwide, dog bites requiring medical care have increased 37 percent in the United States from 1986 to 1994, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1994, 800,000 people sought medical care for dog bites. Health care

officials believe the increase is due to better reporting of dog bites, and the fact that there is an increase of irresponsible pet owners who are keeping the more aggressive dog breeds for protection, but are not training them properly.

Recently in a letter to Dear Abby, a woman wrote in to express her anger and fear of dogs that have the reputation of biting, not only their owners, but other people and other animals. Her letter states that while walking her standard poodle, on a leash, two unrestrained Rottweiler attacked her. The Rottweiler tore her poodle's throat and hindquarters up badly. One of the Rottweiler then turned on her and locked its jaws around her forearm. She spent six hours in the emergency room having her arm cleansed and stitched up. She now has permanent scars on her arm.

A 10:00 o'clock television news broadcast on a Phoenix station featured a story of a Rottweiler attacking a small child in front of the school. A passing mother ran to the child's assistance, managing to get the dog off long enough for the child to escape, only to have the dog rush into the school and bite several other children. Where was this dog's owner? Why was this dog running free?

In the Arizona Republic newspaper an article appeared titled:

6 Rottweiler maul boy to death in Florida.

“Lake Wales, Fla.--Six Rottweiler fatally mauled a 10-year-old boy as he walked into his grandmother's front yard Thursday. Corey Hines died in a hospital shortly after the attack.

‘He was chewed up and had severe injuries to his face, head and neck,’ police Detective Lori Rappold said. ‘It was terrible.’

The dogs which usually were kept in a fenced yard next door, attacked Hines from behind.

Animal control officers seized the dogs saying they would seek a court order to destroy them. The dogs owners, who usually kept them confined, have not been charged.”

A question to ponder. Should the owners be held responsible for the actions of their dogs?

In Chicago, Illinois, a Pitt Bull broke its chain and attacked a small boy on his way home from school. The boy was an innocent victim of other children's actions towards this dog. They had been teasing the dog by running up and down the fence and throwing dirt clots and rocks at the dog. This same thing happened in Chinle.

Another newspaper account of a dog attack in 1997.

“Pit bulls leave 2 tots mauled.”

“A 24 year old woman, her 3 year old daughter, and her daughter's 2 year old cousin were house sitting for the dogs owners, who were out of town

when the attack occurred. Animal control officers theorized that the girls might have been sleeping in a room that the dogs usually stayed in, and that the dogs were trying to protect their territory. The mother heard her daughter's screams and burst into the bedroom and found both animals on the bed, attacking the girls. She managed to fight off the two dogs and pulled the children into another bedroom, where she closed the door as the dogs hurled themselves against it repeatedly. A neighbor was awakened by the screams of the little girls, and was able to help the girls and their mother out of the bedroom window. He stated that the girls were mangled and missing 'chunks of meat.' The owners of these two dogs gave permission for the dogs to be euthanized the next day saying that they did not understand the attack, but did not want the dogs back."

In Chinle, a Chow dog was running free on the grounds of the BIA hospital living quarters. Several young boys were playing outside of their home, when the dog, without warning, savagely attacked one of the boys, severely biting him on his legs and ankles as he was trying to flee over the chain link fence.

Another boy who was 8 years old was bitten in the face by a Doberman after it was chased under a trailer using a stick. This boy now has a scar from the right side of his face, starting at the eye level, and across to his chin. A question that should be asked is why was this child

allowed to tease or chase this dog? An important form of instinctive behavior is a dog's defense of its territory.

When the children in the school in Chinle were asked why they would a dog with this kind of reputation, they would always answer; "Because they are mean." Having a mean dog to them was synonymous with having a good watch dog or guard dog.

Worldwide, dog bites are rising. In the World Headline News in June of 2000, German leaders began pushing for strict laws banning "fighting dogs" following a series of gruesome attacks. A 6 year old ethnic Turkish boy was mauled to death by a champion Pitt Bull and a Staffordshire Terrier. Both dogs were shot by police, but it was too late for the boy.



All dogs, if mistreated can become ferocious, hashké ; ayóohashké, and vicious. Owners say they keep them for guard dogs. Is it necessary to have a hashké ; ayóohashké dog for a guard dog? A loud chorus would arise from the voices of the children with a resounding YES!



Dog attacks are on the rise, mostly because of the ignorance of the owners. Of course a dog will protect its territory, and we expect our family pets to warn us of danger. However, when they become so unpredictable, from

mistreatment, improper training, and irresponsible behavior, they are no longer family pets, but dangerous animals. They become everyone's problem.

Facts about dog bites show that most children are the targets.

*Each year, about 20 Americans die from dog bites. 70 percent of the fatalities are children. The most common bite victim is under the age of 5.

*Unneutered male dogs are the most likely to bite.

Let's discuss some of the dogs in reference here, the one's most often found on the reservation, and see what they were originally bred to do. When buying or obtaining a family pet, you must always educate yourself about the breed of dog your family is considering. It is important in training, and in the handling of the dog. Whether it is a purebred or a mutt, never tease your dog or treat your dog in a cruel, doo aahááhasin da, (*to inflict pain or suffering, and an indifference and a satisfaction in doing so*) manner.



**THE BULLDOG:
LAND OF ORIGIN: ENGLAND
ORIGINAL PURPOSES:
BULL BAITING**

The bulldog is a medium sized dog with a thick, heavy and low slung body. It has a large head, a short face, wide shoulders, and sturdy hips. It can weigh from 40 to 50 pounds, and the color may be red, brindle, white, fawn, or mottled.

The Bulldog is related to the ancient mastiff like breeds. Bulldogs were used for the sport of bull baiting in England which developed around 1209, and lasted until 1835 when it was outlawed. These dogs worked very hard to amuse the public, at that time, who were more noted for brutality até'á'í (*extremely cruel*), than kindness bá'áhwiinít'í (*to be humane*), to animals or humanity.

Today, the bulldog is an even-tempered breed and can make an

excellent pet. A lack of records and a variety of claims have hidden the exact nature of the Bulldog's origin. The ancestry of the Bulldog is a controversy that has continued for years among naturalists. There is some agreement between authorities that the Bull mastiff and the Bulldog have a common ancestor: The Alaunt, a large mastiff type fighting dog.

The old Bulldog was probably a direct descendant of the English Bandog, a huge creature which existed in Britain before the Roman Conquest. Butchers later used , *choo'í*, these dogs to drive cattle into their yards. The English Bandog were entirely fearless.



The sport of bull baiting was developed and became a popular type of entertainment during the Middle Ages, using these dogs. It was a very *doo aahááhasin da* sport. They would bait the bull by tethering *dahaast'ó* (*a rope or chain for holding an animal in place*), the animal by the horns to a stake. The owner of any dog could bait the bull repeatedly upon payment of a fee. Sometimes the bull tossed and killed the dogs. More often, the dogs would badly bite the bull around the nose.

Banned in the reign of James I, this ugly sport was revived when Charles II was restored to the throne. A special type of dog evolved, *hazlíí'* (*to develop or achieve gradually*), that made the

spectacle even more entertaining. The only part of the bull a dog could hold on to, with any hope of throwing the animal was the nose. Therefore, the bulldog was bred with a shorter face so that it could breathe, while its strong jaws gripped the bull.

Frequently a bear would be bated and led from town to town so bulldog owners could fight it. Recently, in response to a lawsuit filed in 1995 by six wildlife organizations led by The Fund for Animals, the U.S. Forest Service has agreed to reinstate its ban on bear baiting in all national forests in Wyoming, and to ensure full public input before a national policy on this controversial practice is issued later this year. Bear-baiting was still allowed to continue in Wyoming.

Dog fights became popular after bull baiting was banned. The animals were expected to fight even when they were badly mauled. At first bulldogs were matched against each other. They were slow and cumbersome. Breeders began to introduce terrier blood: Two types of dogs *hazlíí'*. One was the terrier that we now know as the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. The other was the White Bull Terrier, sometimes called White Cavalier. The latter became a show dog rather than a fighter. Neither one of these dogs should be a *hashké ; ayóo hashké* animal that attacks on sight. Unfortunately, neither dog will allow liberties to be taken by other dogs and will readily fight, often to the death.



The Bulldog got its name because it fought bulls and other pit animals. Major interest in the Bulldog disappeared after dog fighting was outlawed in England in 1835. The breed nearly died out, but was revived in 1860, when the Bulldog was first admitted to the show ring. Despite its nasty background, the English Bulldog of today is a gentle, companionable animal if, treated with *ajooaba'* .

The Bulldog is adoring and wants to be adored by his master. He can do well with other animals if they will recognize who is boss. Bulldogs do not like to be challenged or insulted. If we teased or tied a Bulldog on a short chain, he will likely become a vengeful, nasty, vicious dog. When a fight does start, all heck breaks loose, and the fight usually ends with the other dog dead.

Please, before choosing a Bulldog as a pet, be prepared to treat him with affection and respect. When treated with *ajooaba'* they are sweet pets, giving and getting love endlessly, never tiring of the opportunity to interact with human beings.



The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a powerful, heavysset dog, standing from 14 to 16 inches and weighting from 28 to 38 pounds. the dog has a broad head and a short, muscular neck. The coat of a Staffordshire Bull Terrier is short and smooth. It may be black, blue, brown, gray, red, tan, or white, or a combination of those colors. The breed developed during the early 1800's by miners of Staffordshire, England. They produced it by mating bulldogs with terriers.

**STAFFORDSHIRE BULL
TERRIER
LAND OF ORIGIN:
ENGLAND
ORIGINAL PURPOSES:
SPORT FIGHTING**

In the England of Elizabeth I, bear and bull baiting were major pastimes, as discussed earlier. One breed of dog that developed from this was the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. This dog descended from dogs known as Bulldog Terrier and Bull-and-Terrier. He became known in time as the Old Pit Bull Terrier and is probably directly related to the English Bull Terrier. To say that the Staffordshire Bull Terrier has had all of his history bred out of him

is unrealistic. This dog is still tough, tenacious, *doo lahgo ánéehda (to hold persistently to something)*, and intelligent. He will probably continue to be aggressive toward other animals for many generations to come.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier should not be confused with the nineteen inch American Staffordshire Terrier. Or the much heavier sixty pound Bull Terrier. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier has much of the same ancestry and was bred for the same purpose, as other fighting dogs.

This dog has not been *choo'í* for that purpose for some time. People do *choo'í* this dog in *até'ál'í* and *doo aahááhasin da* inhumane **illegal** dog fights.

When treated right, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier makes a wonderful companion dog who shows great affection toward his human family. It is very sad when these fine dogs are torn up from fighting in these illegal dog fights. Pitting two dogs against each other is against the law. It is also inhumane and *doo aahááhasin da*.

This dog's *hashké ; ayóo hashké* background has not made him untrustworthy with people. He is a potential fighter, a dog that should be leashed and controlled always. When this dog is a companion animal, he shows great affection. He likes children, but if teased, he can easily become a dangerous animal.



The Bull Terrier is a medium size dog that originally was bred in England from the bulldog and the old white English Terrier. The Bull Terrier has the thick body and good nature of the Bulldog, and the intelligence and quickness of the terrier. it weighs from 40 to 60 pounds. It has a long egg shaped head; and small pointed ears. The dog's straight tail is thick at the base and tapers to a point. It's coat is short and smooth. There are two varieties of Bull Terriers.

**BULL TERRIER
LAND OF ORIGIN:
ENGLAND
ORIGINAL PURPOSES:
FIGHTING**

The Bull Terrier is a much maligned, *doo yá'át'éeh da (to make evil, harmful, and often untrue statements about)*, dog. It is true that they were originally bred for blood sports, but those were rougher times. This breed has a kind of nobility, and he is not a nasty creature at all. Nevertheless, he is not a wise choice for an inexperienced, *doo hoł bééhózingóó (lack of experience)*, owner. He should not be one's first dog.

The Bull Terrier, a cross between the Bulldog and an extinct, *ásdijid (no*

longer living), variety of white terrier is a powerful and assertive, *doo nidilna'góó (to defend)*, animal. He will answer the ancient call of his kind only if challenged. When that happens, he can kill almost any dog alive. Bull Terriers, because there is always the danger that they will be provoked into a fight, must always be kept under control and never be allowed to wander, *nazhnidá (to move about without a definite destination)*. They do not necessarily look for trouble, but trouble has a way of presenting itself.

Unfortunately, Bull Terriers do not just get into fights. They finish them. The Bull Terrier is an old breed of special merit and problems. It is one that should be owned only by people prepared to appreciate the quality, history, and character of the animal and to meet the **RESPONSIBILITY**, *áhojilyá, áháyá bíjíghah (care, trust)*, of ownership.

The Bull Terrier is potentially a first-class companion within the home but a menace, *it hółhxéé' (a danger; a threat)*, and a nuisance, *t'óó báhodoonih (to be a bother)*, if not trained, controlled, loved and admired. One of the veterinarians that I worked with felt that all these dogs should be destroyed because they are so violent around other animals.



Do you think that it is the owners responsibility to control their dog? If the owner lets his dog run loose, what should happen to the dog? What should happen to the owner?



**AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE
PITT BULL TERRIER
LAND OF ORIGIN:
UNITED STATES
ORIGINAL PURPOSES: DOG
FIGHTING**



The American Staffordshire Bull Terrier descended from the English Staffordshire Bull Terrier that was brought from England in the late 1800's. The American Staffordshire Terrier was

known as Yankee Terrier and Pitt Bull. It is still popularly known as Pitt Bull.

By the early 1900's, American breeders had developed a dog taller and heavier than its British ancestors.

American Staffordshire terriers stand from 17 to 19 inches tall and weigh from 35 to 50 pounds. They have a short stiff coat that may be of any color or a mixture of colors.

Early history of this dog breed is nothing more than a nightmare. They have been *choo'í* and still are, for cruel blood sports, and their image has become one of status, to own one of these dogs.

The American Staffordshire Terriers can be good pets, loyal, affectionate and responsive. They accept training, but around other animals they are not always trustworthy.

The American Staffordshire does not just get into fights and scraps with other animals, they go for the finish, the kill. These dogs have a sensitive and sweet personality, they love their masters, and will do anything to please them. If the master says kill, that's what they will do.

They require a *áhojilyá, áháyá bíjígah* owner and a firm but gentle hand. However, they still possess the ancient call of the kill and will fight to the death if provoked, *hojítchí' (to incite to anger)* or feel threatened.



When this dog's jaws lock onto something, they usually have to be pried, *aa' bízhdeeshíishgo (to force open with a lever)*, loose. Never let this dog run loose unattended. Never, never tease this animal, especially if it is chained or fenced in. This point is especially important, and this makes this dog a questionable pet for inexperienced or immature people.



Many people do not know how to treat dogs or interact with them. This is a learned behavior. In Chinle, grown men were observed dragging metal objects along the fence rows where dogs were kept in yards.

Many of these dogs have the terrier breed mixed in with them. It appeared to be delightful for the person, when the dog would hurl itself onto the fence, attempting to protect his property and chase off the offender.

Often laughter would follow. The problem with this behavior is not only mistreatment of the dog in the form of teasing, but the dog has learned that **anyone** who approaches his yard in the future will be met with aggression.

Many young children have become targets for these angry dogs. Once a dog bites, it is tragically

destroyed, because it is considered to be “bad”. So the circle continues.

My children were horrified when the pet kitten they had rescued, was killed and torn to shreds, right in front of their eyes. The man who owned the dog encouraged the behavior. A beautiful Persian cat that I rescued was mauled and killed by two Rottweiler’s, the owner thought it was funny. After all, it was just a cat.

Sadly, some people are currently breeding the American Pitt Bull in this country for use in illegal dogfights. Dog fighting has been outlawed in both the United States and England. Dog fights are not only held on the reservation, but in many different places.

Dog fighting is illegal, but the practice continues. The American Staffordshire Bull Terrier is the favored choice. Many times, these dogs were observed bruised and bloodied, sometimes with chunks of flesh removed.

Pitt bulls are raised in "puppy mills" for this purpose, and are bought by irresponsible owners who care nothing about the dog, only about the fight. When these dogs fall into the wrong hands, they become deadly and dangerous, *bááhádzid (being able or likely to do harm)*, animals.

Do you know what a puppy mill is?

Do they take good care of puppies and dogs in puppy mills?



A puppy mill is a place where puppies are raised for profit without regard for the puppies' welfare. It is usually a dirty place, with little ventilation, or a proper place for the animals to live. The people care nothing about the puppies, only the money that they will bring them.



Most of the female dogs have one litter of puppies after another. They often must lay in their own feces and do not always get fed or watered regularly. When a female dog is no longer useful, often she is either starved to death or shot.

Puppies mills are against the law. It is inhumane treatment, and when the people are caught who run these mills, they are put in jail. The dogs often raised in puppy mills are the high money dogs: Dogs used in sports, such as Greyhounds for racing, Pitt Bulls for fighting, and some toy dogs for marketing as popular pets.

Can you think of other dogs that might be raised in puppy mills?



The Chow Chow is most commonly called Chow, and is one of the oldest breeds of dogs. It originally was bred in China about 150 B.C. The Chow may have long or short hair. It's coat color is solid and can be black, blue, red, cinnamon, or cream, with lighter shadings underneath, on its tail, and on its legs. Chow's are medium sized dogs with a strong build. Their blue black tongue is very unique among dog breeds. Chows are strong, active, and very intelligent.

CHOW CHOW
LAND OF ORIGIN:
CHINA
ORIGINAL PURPOSE:
HUNTING AND GUARD WORK

The Chow came from China and is probably two thousand years old. The Chow Chow is placed with this group of fighting dogs simply because if given the wrong treatment, this dog will become very aggressive.

Many children, especially on the reservation, have been attacked by

Chows. This is due mostly to the irresponsible ownership of such a magnificent breed. The Chow is a very loyal dog who is extremely attached to his family. He will not tolerate other animals or other people in his territory.

People looking for cuddly pets should never consider a Chow. Some people say that they look like bear cubs when they are small and this makes them desirable because the bear is a sacred animal in many different cultures. The Chow has a magnificent coat and shedding does occur. This dog can be very formidable to the uninvited, and they will not hesitate to bite.



The Rottweiler is a muscular dog with short, coarse black hair. This dog has tan or mahogany markings on the head, chest, and legs. Most males are larger than females. The Doberman Pincher developed from the Rottweiler.

ROTTWEILER
LAND OF ORIGIN: ANCIENT
ROME, THEN GERMANY
ORIGINAL PURPOSE: WAR,
DRIVING LIVESTOCK,
PULLING CARTS, GUARD
WORK



The Rottweiler is a highly intelligent dog and is very willing to accept any kind of training. It is a rugged dog strong dog with great stamina and very intent and serious in its approach to life. The Rottweiler is an intelligent, deliberate animal. The descendant of the Rottweiler was a Mastiff type dog that was carried through Alpine passes by Roman legions invading the center of Europe.

These massive ancestors of the Rottweiler were used, **choo'í**, to drive cattle that was needed to feed the troops in countries where raiding was not profitable. Some of these massive dogs were left behind in the town of Rottweil in Wurttemberg in southern Germany. The breed remained there well into modern times, until it became nearly extinct, **bił yóó'ahóóyá, ásdííd**, around the turn of the century.

The rebuilding and restructuring of the this breed began about 1910. The Rottweil dogs of today have been **choo'í** with great success as driving dogs for livestock, guard, **ha'asídí, ak'idéez'íí**, dogs, beast of burden, and police dogs.



Some people seem to be buying and **choo'í** these dogs as a status symbol of sorts: compelled to show everyone how tough they are, by the dogs that they own. This is a dangerous attitude. It is just like the children would say in Chinle, "I want a Rottweiler because they are mean!"

Having a Rottweiler will not change who you are. If you pick and tease on people or animals, then any dog you have will be mean and un-trustworthy. A Rottweiler, raised under these conditions will be an extremely dangerous animal. If a Rottweiler is confined in any way, such as being chained, or caged up in a small area, they can become tense and agitated.

If you are a gentle person, who treats people and animals fairly and does not allow anyone to pick on them, then you could successfully have a Rottweiler. Rottweil have been **choo'í** as therapy dogs in hospitals and nursing homes with great success.

A few years ago, England campaigned to ban the Rottweiler, and certain veterinarians will no longer treat these dogs without a muzzle. Some veterinarians believe they should all be sterilized, because their ability to turn against people is well known. This is primarily due to the fact that these dogs

are increasingly being kept by irresponsible dog owners. When these dogs are trained as guard or attack dogs they become extremely dangerous animals.

I have seen the damage that these dogs can do when they are in the hands of immature, foolish and mean spirited people. I had a certain child tell me that his father would purposely encourage their Rottweiler to kill cats and other small animals. How would this dog be able to tell the difference between a small animal and a small child?

What did this say to the child about responsible ownership? Do you think anyone should train a dog to kill other animals at all, especially in front of a child?

These dogs come from a long line of fighting and war usage. Their ancestors were bred to help fight against humans. Rottweiler's often make great police dogs.

Do you think this is a true statement? Why?

Do the police officers control this dog?

Is this dog obedient to them?

Would you consider this dog to be well trained?

How **do** people train dogs, like the Rottweiler?



The Mastiff is also called the Old English Mastiff. This dog was developed in the Middle Ages in ancient times. Mastiffs have been bred in England for centuries, perhaps since 55 B.C. The Mastiff has a short coat that is usually apricot or brownish. Most Mastiff's have a dark brown or black mouth, nose, and ears. The dogs stand about 30 inches high at the shoulder and can weigh 185 pounds or more.

MASTIFF
LAND OF ORIGIN: ENGLAND
FOR 2,000 YEARS
BEFORE THAT A MYSTERY
ORIGINAL PURPOSE:
Guarding, hunting, fighting, war.

No one knows, and probably never will, where the Mastiff came from or how he was spread across the face of the world. There are a lot of theories and some pretty fascinating history. When Caesar invaded the British Isles in 55 B.C., the Mastiff was there with his British masters fighting against the Roman legions. The Romans, being impressed with the size and ferocity of these dogs, took them back to Rome.

The Mastiff was bred for violence.

Thousands of years ago, they were *choo'í* animals. as guard, *ha'asídí*, *ak'idéez'í'í* (*one who protects, keeps watch, or acts as a sentinel*), dogs, as war dogs, as hunting dogs for the largest game, and *choo'í* in the pit against animals and humans.

Because he is so massive and so powerful, the Mastiff must be under control at all times. These giants are rugged, hardy, and needless to say, very intimidating as watchdogs.

The Mastiff was attempted to be *choo'í* as a gamekeeper's "night dog" but was found to be neither fast enough or aggressive enough. From the Mastiff, the "Bull mastiff" was developed. The Bull mastiff is not to be confused with the Mastiff. He is 60 percent Mastiff and 40 percent Bulldog. This breed is one of the few animals actually bred to attack man. Once known as the "gamekeeper's night dog" he was *choo'í* to track and knock down poachers on private English estates.

No one should ever think that a Mastiff or a Bull mastiff or Rottweiler, or German Shepherd, or any other breed will make your property crime proof. There are far too many people that wish to have trained attack dogs.

With giant breeds and super dogs like these dogs, this is asking for trouble. It is almost always minor children or the innocent who are likely to be seriously hurt or killed by abused or attack trained

Whatever pet you choose for your family, remember; dogs like the ones discussed here often have a reputation for violence. The truth of the matter is that they are regal, powerful animals who are by their nature devoted and extremely loyal to their masters and will do anything to please them. These dogs are **not** born with meanness or pettiness in their make-up. But with improper training, abuse, or just plain meanness they can become dangerous animals.

The simple truth is:

THEY HAVE NO FEAR.

This is what makes them extremely dangerous when improperly treated. They are generally open and willing with strangers if their owners have taught them well. **Above all**, they just wish to please. When irresponsible ownership is employed with these dogs, everyone, including the owner's family is in danger.

That's when the family pet becomes the dangerous animal.

Responsible Pet Ownership

1. Keep your pet's food and water dishes clean.
2. Feed your pet a well balanced diet of prepared food. It contains the right amount of vitamins, minerals, and proteins for each type of pet.
3. All pets must have good housing to sleep in, keeping them dry and warm in the winter, and cool in the summer.
4. Keep your pet clean. If your pet is kept out of doors, keep its area clean of droppings. If your pet is kept in a cage, clean the cage at least once a week.
5. Take your pet to the veterinarian for check-ups and vaccinations. Don't try to treat your pet yourself. Most pet illnesses can be prevented. As soon as your pet is showing signs of illness, take them to the vet. They can make other animals sick.
6. Every year animals shelters destroy millions of homeless cats and dogs. Do not allow your pet to have babies. Get them spayed or neutered.
7. **Treat your pet with kindness. Never kick or hit your pet.** If you are a responsible pet owner, your pet will reward you with lots of love



= possible thematical tie-ins such as: responsibility towards others and in the care of animals, violence, abuse and attitudes, geography, history, and social studies.

Questions for discussion.

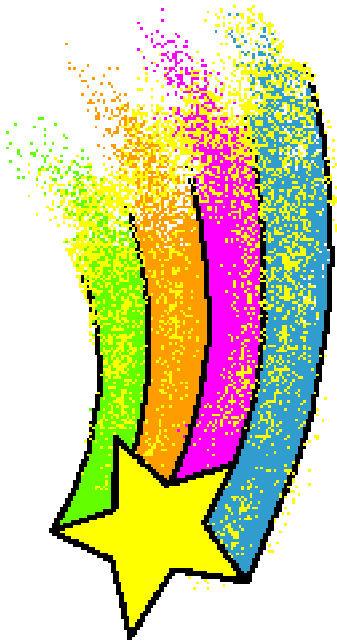
1. How did the Bulldog get his name?
2. What is bull baiting?
3. Is bear-baiting the same thing?
3. What do we mean when we say not to tease animals?
4. Why are dog fights illegal?
5. Do you know what a puppy mill is?
6. What do you think happens to a female dog that no longer can have puppies in a puppy mill?
7. Have you ever been bitten or chased by a dog?
8. Do you think all dogs have the potential of becoming mean, or just certain dogs?
9. In your opinion, what makes a good guard dog?
10. Why do you think Rottweiler are so popular?
11. What does responsible dog ownership mean?
12. Should people allow their dogs to run free?
13. What should happen to the owners of dogs that bite people? What should happen to the dog?
14. Why does the Pitt bull have to be pried loose from something it is holding on to?
15. Why did breeders developed this means of holding on in the Pitt bull?
16. In your opinion should aggressive types of dogs be banned?
17. Do you think this dog makes a good pet?
18. Under proper conditions can this dog be trusted?
19. Should people be afraid of this dog?
20. Is it the dogs' fault if it attacks something that its master teaches it to attack?
21. Do you think that these dogs should be outlawed?
22. Do you think that this dog would hesitate to attack you if it was trained to attack people?

Writing Prompt: If you were approaching a strange dog's yard or "territory", what caution should you take? If you knew that this dog belonged to someone who teased it, what could you expect from this dog?

Vocabulary list for Family Pet or Dangerous Animal. Please define each word, then use it in a sentence.

1. Family Pet or Dangerous Animal	Halíí' hooghan haz' !agi Waaldlooshii Báhádzidigíí	Title
2. ferocious	hashké ; ayóo hashké	page 7
3. cruel	doo aahááhasin da	page 8
4. brutality	até'áí'í	page 8
5. kindness	bá'áhwiinít'í	page 8
6. used	choo'í	page 8
7. tethering	dahaast'ó	page 9
8. evolved	hazlíí	page 9
9. tenacious	doo łahgo ánéehda	page 10
10. maligned	doo yá'át'éehda	page 11
11. inexperienced	doo hoł bééhózingóo	page 11
12. extinct	ásdijid	page 11
13. assertive	doo nidilna'góo	page 11
14. wander	nazhnidá	page 11
15. menace	ił hółhxéé'	page 11
16. nuisance	t'óo báhodoonih	page 11
17. responsible	áhojilyá, áháyá bíjíghah	page 12
18. provoked	hojilchí'	page 12

19. pried	aa' bízhdeshíishgo	page 13
20. dangerous	bááhádzid	page 13
21. guard	ha'asídí, ak'idéez'íí	page 15



Dear Parent,

We are currently working on a thematic unit dealing with The RUFF program in attempting to help integrate learning by providing you with discussion topics for home to school transfer.

1. Do you think every type of dog can make a good pet?
2. Have you ever been frightened by a dog?
3. Should people allow their dogs to run free?
4. How many problem can you think of that this action might cause?
5. If you tease a dog and it bites you, is it the dog's fault or yours?

Please talk with your child concerning these issues this week. If there are any questions do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Your child's teacher

Bibliography

1. **Caras, Roger.** New & Revised: The Roger Caras Dog Book. Second Edition. A Complete Guide To Every AKC Breed. Published by Dorset Press. New York, New York. 1980. 1992.

Some information was taken from these pages with appreciation to the author Roger Caras.

Mastiff pages 138-139.

Bull Terrier pages 196-197.

American Staffordshire Terrier pages 188-189.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier pages 224-225.

Chow-Chow pages 274-275.

Bull Dog pages 272-273.

Rottweiler pages 144-145.

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