

- SBT's love children, making them an ideal family pet. They can be a bit too much for very little children as they are so energetic and strong, so this should be considered when looking to get a SBT or Staffie-cross

### **What to do if you want to welcome a Staffordshire Bull Terrier into your life...**

Choosing to get a dog is a very big decision, especially if that dog is likely to be a Staffie. You must think very carefully about whether you have the time and energy to take one on as, despite the rewards, they do require a huge commitment from their owners in order to lead happy lives.

If you're set on a Staffie, you have two main options for getting one:

#### **Rehoming from a rescue organisation:**

- The increased popularity of the Staffie in recent years has sadly led to overbreeding, resulting in high numbers of the breed now being in rescue. Talk to your local rescue to see if they have any Staffies for rehoming that would be suitable for you.
- Some rescues can also offer behavioural advice and even training classes for dogs they have rehomed which may prove helpful if your dog has any trouble settling into his new home

- As with any rescue dog, the background of a rescued Staffie is often unknown, and as a result they may need lots of training and sensitive handling to begin with. With a lot of time and effort they will make a lovely family pet

#### **Buying a Staffordshire Bull Terrier:**

- If you decide to buy a pup from a breeder, make sure that you go to a reputable one and ask to see the pups with their mother before you make any decisions about buying
- A good dog breeder will always get their pups checked over by a vet and vaccinated, wormed & given flea-treatment before they go to their new home. Ask for vaccination cards or vet documents to make sure this has been done

**More detailed information is available from Dogs Trust on all areas of dog ownership, along with factsheets on neutering, training, caring for a new puppy and more.**

**[www.dogstrust.ie](http://www.dogstrust.ie)**

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**Dogs Trust Limited Charity Number: CHY 16218  
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# **Staffordshire Bull Terriers and Staffie-crosses**



Photo by Andy Catterall

Dating back to the 1800's, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier was mainly bred for ratting, bull baiting and dog fighting. They were mainly owned by working class families, living in close contact with them and often being left with the children, earning them the 'nanny dog' nickname. The breed has proved to be a popular family dog ever since.

SBT's and Staffie-crosses have become fashionable pets, but there are often many in rescue centres due to overbreeding, or that have been handed in by people who may not have realised how much care and attention they really need.

Staffies sadly have a bad reputation due to their fighting history, and have been tarnished with the 'dangerous dogs' label in recent years. However, given a loving home with good training and handling,



Photo by Andy Catterall

SBT's and Staffie-crosses can prove to be loving and loyal family pets, so shouldn't always be overlooked when you are thinking about getting a dog.

### What you should know about owning a Staffie

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is distinctive in its good looks, and they can be easily identified by their solid, barrel-chested shape. They have earned the nickname 'keg on legs' thanks to their compact yet muscular appearance!

- Staffies are totally devoted to their families - anyone who shows a Staffie love and care will get the same back, and more to spare. They are very eager to please and thrive on reward-based training
- They are intelligent and fun loving, so need owners who have plenty of time to play with them, and lots of toys to keep them busy!
- Staffies are full of energy, and owners of these power-house dogs soon notice how fit they get from all the exercise they have to do with them
- Being muscular and strong, Staffies need very tough toys to chew on, as well as owners that are strong enough to control them on the lead



Photo by Andy Catterall

- Due to the breed's history of dog fighting, Staffies can be dog aggressive and are better off being the only pet in the home, unless they've been really well socialised at an early age
- If left without anything to do for a long time Staffies can get very bored and even destructive. Plenty of toys should be available and they shouldn't be left alone for long periods of time