

# Classic Bull Terrier Journal

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**Something for us here in South Africa to chew on as well.**

BY PHILLIP E JONES

These are difficult times for those who favour the distinctive breeds of Terrier with Bulldog blood. The threat of action, under the now discredited Dangerous Dogs Act, is a constant worry. The implementation of this shabby Act by ill advised animal welfare officers, misguided police forces and a couple of strangely motivated vets, shames a nation once famous for its judicial system, sense of fair play and love of dogs. That apart, the untypical anatomies inflicted on Bull Terriers, with their relatively new 'downface' or 'ruggerball' heads, and, Staffordshire Bull Terriers with their short whippety legs, is most surprising in two breeds whose fanciers were once archetypal traditionalists, level-headed and single-minded. If you look at paintings of these two admirable breeds in the last century, the loss of true type soon becomes apparent. This may apply to other breeds too of course, but when it concerns these two particular breeds, it seems especially sad. I always think of those in these breeds as being resistant to the usual pressures: the pursuit of fad breed points in each decade, some temporary flight of fancy or one influential breeders partialities. You only have to look at the faces of some of the charac-

ters in old paintings of these breeds, to see why I say that.

No rational humane person wants to own a dog for use in dog-fighting, a cowardly distasteful activity mainly designed to release undesirable aggression in unpleasant humans. But I can see distinct merit and no harm in desiring to reproduce in a breed of dog the physique which permits it to carry out its original function. In such a way you can obtain sounder setters and scent-hounds, hounds and herding dogs. In Stonehenge's 'Dogs of the British Islands' of 1878, he states "the Bull Terrier is still judged by the fighting standard - that is to say, he must have all the points, mental as well as bodily, which are necessary to the fighting dog". In 'Staffordshire Bull Terriers' edited by Major Count V.C.Hollender, of 1952, H.N. Beilby writes "we can if we wish, produce dogs which in virtue of their build, toughness, courage and intelligence are most likely to inherit and perpetuate the sterling qualities of their ancestors. Are we doing this.? Only I fear to a limited extent." Sadly, his words apply as much today as they did nearly half a century ago. Fighting dogs were superbly fit, hard muscled, fiercely determined (to the point of self-destruction), but eminently sound anatomically. Nowadays

thankfully, we do not seek unacceptable, sustained ferocity in our dogs, but soft-muscled, unfit, overweight dogs of this type stand out perhaps more than others. A podgy Bull Terrier looks quite dreadful; an overweight Staffie can look almost porcine. I have seen both at recent shows, including Crufts, and it saddens me, for these are justly famous British breeds on their way to being ruined. Or do I exaggerate.? What are the judges saying.? Here are some critiques on these two breeds: Staffordshire Bull Terrier bitches at Crufts: - "Fatness was a surprise and there were many in this category" Bull Terriers at Crufts: - "I am really saddened to see how we are losing movement. I have never seen such bad movement.... Bull Terriers at the clubs championship show at Hemel Hempstead: - "I am fully aware that some of my higher placed animals are not good movers". Staffordshire Bull Terrier championship show: - "...movement caused me great concern...a number of dogs lacked bone resulting in thin feet" The Bull Terrier club of Wales open show:- "

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Just a reminder to buy the August Edition of Animal Talk Magazine. Bull Terriers are the Main feature for August. .

It makes for good reading.



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"My main concern at this show and others I have been to is the acceleration of the number of dogs with poor movement". And Bull Terriers at a championship show:- "...many were in anything but a fit condition". For former canine gladiators to be fat or otherwise unfit, have poor movement and lack bone is appalling. Good movement comes mainly from a combination of sound construction and physical fitness. Movement is an excellent commentary on the whole dog and unfailingly reveals anatomical faults. For a judge to place dogs which were not good movers is depressing, poor movement is a serious fault and indicates other serious faults. In Tom Horner's book on the Bull Terrier he writes "It took a very long time to persuade people in the breed..that no dog can move correctly unless it is properly built, and that the movement of the dog inevitably betrays the faults in its conformation" A man like the late Tom Horner is worth heeding. In his book, he also writes "concentration on downfaces brought the conformation and movement of the breed to an appallingly low level...There are some clever breeders..the majority quite single-minded about breeding bigger and better downfaces". Such comments on the breed and its breeders are not new. In his "Points of the Dog" of 1927, T.W. Hancock Mountjoy wrote on the Bull Terrier, "The majority of the judges seemed to make a fetish of the head, and nothing but the head. On going round the benches, it breaks one's heart to see the slab-sided, specimens, placed in the money. Some other faults are snipey faces, small round pig eyes, dudley noses, long backs, no spring of rib, throatiness". Bigger and better downfaces and pig eyes are with us today and how they spoil the appearance of this splendid breed. The breed standard sets the design of the dog's head with these words: "Viewed from front egg-shaped and completely filled...Profile curves gently downwards from top of skull to tip of nose.." But in Vero Shaws "The Illustrated Book of the Dog" of 1879, the 'points of variety' demanded a wedge-shaped head, with an oblong eye. Then sixty years ago this standard demanded a head which was 'oval, almost egg-shaped', with 'the more downface the better'. The significance of Hinks, the father of the breed, never desiring a dog with an eggshaped head and

bigger and better downface, is carefully overlooked in the pursuit of modern whim. It is a wholly undesirable feature, never found naturally in dogs, and one that will go on exaggerating itself until a proud breed looks like a caricature of itself. Sixteen years ago when I wrote in "Our Dogs" on this concern for a breed I am fond of, I received a response from a leading Bull Terrier figure of that time. It answered none of the points that I had striven to make and patronisingly referred to my 'boyhood dreams' of Bull Terriers and sneeringly advised me not to form a 'sweeping judgement' by a visit to a single show. In other words, leave the fate of this fine native breed to us breeders, we know best. If only that were true! Look at the Bull Terriers depicted before this rigger-ball head was pursued as a fad breed point, not a traditional feature of the breed, and say which is more natural, more appealing, typical of the breed which Hinks passed down for our safekeeping. Are we really honouring his blueprint? Turning to the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, in his own book on the breed of 1943, H.N. Beilby wrote "are we paying enough attention to the activity and agility of our Staffordshire Bull Terriers?...The front legs must show no weakness at the pastern - the latter is a common fault and needs attention. There are too many Staffords with thin flat feet..". Against that background, it is disturbing to find the same faults in the breed nearly half a century later. Writing in the breed notes some years ago, Mary Pringle makes my next point for me "Mercifully not all Stafford breeders are complacent. We realise the shortcomings, the good points and the bad. With such a short show history, from 1935, such mixed up backgrounds, variance of coat and colour too, we have much to contend with. There is work to be done in every breed and those with the shortest life as a registered breed need understanding." Bull Terrier breeders have less of an excuse. When type, soundness and movement need urgent priority in any breed, it is disappointing to see an obsession with size, colour and petty interpretive fine points taking precedence. Reading long and largely mistaken discussions about

whether a dog bred to fight in a small ring has any need to move well in a larger show ring is both depressing and distressing. Depressing because there are so many much more important topics to be aired, and distressing because of the irrational comparison being made and the tendentious argument being attempted, probably mischievously. Famous British breeds, renowned the world over, deserve a higher level of debate than this.

You only have to look at the annual registration figures produced by the Kennel Club to see the decline in numbers of many famous British breeds, part of our canine heritage, and the enormous increase in the breeds from abroad, especially Germany. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier is numerically strong, but the Bull Terrier popularity is not so assured. It is simply foolish for a group of misguided individuals to redesign a breed, away from its classic mould and into a disfigured replica. I would love to own a Bull Terrier, but I have no wish to own a dog with a rigger-ball for a head, piggy eyes and poor movement. I admire Staffies, but I don't want a badly timbered dog, with poor feet and questionable movement.

At the last two World Dog Shows, the breed with the best movement for me was the American Staffordshire Terrier. As the old saying goes - "they moved right, because they were made right". With the head of a 19th Century Bull Terrier, good bone, sound eyes and a powerful but athletic anatomy, they represent the classic Bull Terrier mould. Although of "Pit Bull Terrier Type" and therefore likely to fall foul of the infamous Dangerous Dog Act, the genes of this fine modern breed, now establishing a huge following on the continent, would have some contribution to make in a much needed revision of our Bull Terrier. What a shocking thing to suggest in these days of closed gene pools! But it could be of greater value than those clandestine matings between Bull Terriers, Borzois and Smooth Collies to get the extraordinary 20th Century head on the Bull Terrier. We have inflicted enough physical handicaps on our Bulldog, do we have to spoil our splendid Bull Terriers too.?

## Part 2: Some bit pieces about James Hinks, Old Madman and Puss

**Show-Ring Domination** - Exhibiting a dog was almost always an indication that the dog was for sale. In 1864, Hinks valued Puss at #25 and Madman at #100. Old catalogues list the dogs Hinks entered, but unfortunately they aren't a reliable source of information. There could be several dogs of the same breed with the same name and Hinks' entries were almost certainly made verbally. (The birth certificates of his children showed that he had not mastered writing in those years.) For example, the dogs were listed as: Un-named Hinks Bull Terrier or Godfrey's Dick (Hinks strain) and quite often the results were not accurate. However, it is correct that in a class of Bull Terriers over 10 pounds at the Cremorne Show in 1864, Hinks won a first prize with Madman (Old Madman x Old Puss), a second with Puss (Old Madman x Old Puss) and a third with Old Puss (Rebel x Wasp). In the years to come, James Hinks dominated the show ring and a year after his death, Vero Shaw wrote: 'To the late Mr. James Hinks of Worcester Street, Birmingham is due the credit for bringing the breed before the notice of the public in its later and more desirable form, and with his wellknown Old Madman and Puss he formed our leading shows for a long period.' Between 1862 and 1870, Hinks attended 82 shows. Considering the way people had to travel over a century ago, his trips must have been true undertakings. Around 1870, Hinks stepped back from breeding and exhibiting Bull Terriers, on the one hand because other breeders were successfully using his line, and on the other because he was paying more attention to his 'Sportsman Beer and Refreshment House'. James Hinks was also pretty good with his fists and another task he had was to keep

unruly customers at bay. It's possible that he earned more money drawing beer than breeding and showing dogs. After all, in 1870 his three youngest children were only 11, 9 and 6 years old. The old miners' fighting breed of dog has evolved into a top show dog: The Modern day example for instance being Am. Ch. Rocky Tops Sundance Kid, winner of 31 Best in Shows including Westminster. Not bad going at all for a Bull Terrier!

**Basically A Mongrel** - James Hinks disappeared from the dog scene around 1870, but the mark he left on the breed is huge. His creation is familiar all over the world and his first dogs - Old Madman, Madman and Puss - are regarded as the start of the Bull Terrier. As for the breeds Hinks used for his creation, the mystery is only partly resolved. Even his sons didn't know exactly the combinations he used, or the names on the pedigrees of his first dogs. Possibly Hinks himself didn't know or remember. In the 1930s, when he was over 80 years old, James Hinks II wrote an article for the American magazine 'Dogdom'. In it he stated that his father had used a Dalmatian, a Bulldog and White English Terriers to create the breed. How he created a breed can be read in Kevin Kane's book: "in the fact that he created what was basically a mongrel and presented it to an unsuspecting world as The Bull Terrier. The judges of the day showed a preference for his strain of Bull Terrier.'



Can the Modern Bull Terrier do with some Amstaff Athleticism????

by Wikipedia

**Blueprint** - Idstone used the type from 'Hinks strain' as a blueprint for The Points of The Bull Terrier, the forerunner of the breed standard, first published in 1888, 10 years after Hinks' death. Can it be explained why James Hinks' strain was so successful and how it happened that this man, in particular, single-handedly created the breed? The first crossings between Bulldogs and Terriers were made long before Hinks started doing it and they were not handsome at all! A simple explanation is that James Hinks was simply the right man, in the right place, at the right time. He formed the link between the old miners' fighting dog in Staffordshire and the modern show and companion Bull Terrier. The dog from the pit became the 'white cavalier'. James Hinks' sons, James II and Frederick, continued their father's work. In 1933, 82 year-old James II visited the Birmingham Dog Show for the 70th time, and it was mentioned in the papers. Carleton Hinks, a son of James II, bred Bull Terriers until his death in 1977.

#### MY HEART BELONGS TO A BULL TERRIER

Strong and full of spirit,  
The Bull Terrier stands apart-  
Its loving ways and piercing eyes  
Can capture any heart.

Happy and contented,  
So full of love and pride-  
No better dog you'll ever find,  
To stay close by your side.

A wonderful companion,  
Devoted to the end-  
I can't imagine life without  
My Bull Terrier-my best friend.

*Author Unknown*

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## Using 'Dominance' To Explain Dog Behavior Is Old Hat

*ScienceDaily (May 25, 2009) — A new study shows how the behaviour of dogs has been misunderstood for generations: in fact using misplaced ideas about dog behaviour and training is likely to cause rather than cure unwanted behaviour. The findings challenge many of the dominance related interpretations of behaviour and training techniques suggested by current TV dog trainers.*

Contrary to popular belief, aggressive dogs are NOT trying to assert their dominance over their canine or human "pack", according to research published by academics at the University of Bristol's Department of Clinical Veterinary Sciences in the Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research. The researchers spent six months studying dogs freely interacting at a Dogs Trust rehoming centre, and re-analysing data from studies of feral dogs, before concluding that individual relationships between dogs are learnt through experience rather than motivated by a desire to assert "dominance". The study shows that dogs

are not motivated by maintaining their place in the pecking order of their pack, as many well-known dog trainers preach.

Far from being helpful, the academics say, training approaches aimed at "dominance reduction" vary from being worthless in treatment to being actually dangerous and likely to make behaviours worse. Instructing owners to eat before their dog or go through doors first will not influence the dog's overall perception of the relationship – merely teach them what to expect in these specific situations. Much worse, techniques such as pinning the dog to the floor, grabbing jowls, or blasting hooters at dogs will make dogs anxious, often about their owner, and potentially lead to an escalation of aggression. Dr Rachel Casey, Senior Lecturer in Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare at Bristol University, said: "The blanket assumption that every dog is motivated by some innate desire to control people and other dogs is frankly ridiculous. It hugely underestimates the complex communicative and learning abilities of dogs. It also leads to the use of coercive training techniques, which compromise welfare, and actually cause problem

behaviours. "In our referral clinic we very often see dogs which have learnt to show aggression to avoid anticipated punishment. Owners are often horrified when we explain that their dog is terrified of them, and is showing aggression because of the techniques they have used – but its not their fault when they have been advised to do so, or watched unqualified 'behaviourists' recommending such techniques on TV." At Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, rehoming centre staff see the results of misguided dog training all the time. Veterinary Director Chris Laurence MBE, added: "We can tell when a dog comes in to us which has been subjected to the 'dominance reduction technique' so beloved of TV dog trainers. They can be very fearful, which can lead to aggression towards people. "Sadly, many techniques used to teach a dog that his owner is leader of the pack is counter-productive; you won't get a better behaved dog, but you will either end up with a dog so fearful it has suppressed all its natural behaviours and will just do nothing, or one so aggressive it's dangerous to be around."