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BEYOND THE SHELTER / TAKE-HOME RECAP

Pit Bull Myth Buster and Adopter Checklist



THE SHORT ANSWER

Pit bulls are discriminated against mostly because of a label based on looks, not on how an individual dog behaves. The pit bull reputation grew out of dogfighting headlines and myths that later shaped breed bans and lease rules. DNA research shows visual guesses about pit bull type dogs are often wrong, including guesses made by shelter veterinarians.

FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. The label is a guess: staff labeled 52% of 120 Florida shelter dogs pit bull type, while DNA confirmed 21%.
2. No breed has a locking jaw, the nanny dog story traces to a 1971 column, and most dogs warn before they bite.
3. Denver, Miami-Dade and Prince George's County repealed bans. About 22 states, including Illinois, limit local breed bans.
4. Before you fall for a pit mix, check the lease, HOA rules, local ordinance and insurance, then meet the dog more than once.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Meet the dog, not the label. General information, not legal advice; check the rules where you live.

Read the full article and sources:

https://letthembedog.com/blog/pit-bull-discrimination

Independent volunteer resource. Not veterinary advice. Contact your vet for health concerns.