

PIT BULL-TYPE DOGS: MORPHOLOGICAL TRAITS

- Muscular, short-haired, powerful and athletic-looking dog. Dog has square shape when viewed laterally.
- The male weighs 12 to 35 kg and is 36 to 53 cm high at the withers. The female weighs 10 to 30 kg and is 30 to 50 cm high at the withers. Height to weight ratio is usually proportional.
- Its coat is close-hair, short and smooth.
- Its head is wedge-shaped when viewed laterally or above, but round when viewed from the front.
- The head is about 2/3 the width of the shoulders and 25% wider at the cheeks than at the base of the skull.
- The distance from the back of the skull to the eyes is equivalent to the distance from the eyes to the tip of the muzzle.
- Well-defined stop.
- The muzzle is straight and square.
- The lips are tight and dental occlusion is normal.
- The eyes are small and triangular when viewed laterally. They are round or slightly elliptical when viewed from the front.
- The ears are high set and small.
- The neck is muscular.
- The shoulders are a little wider than rib cage at the eighth rib level.
- The elbows are not prominent and front legs are parallel.
- The front legs are heavy and solid looking.
- The front is massive, with a comparatively delicate back.
- The back slopes slightly from the withers to the rump.
- The hips are broad for firmly attached muscles and the hind legs are muscular.
- The hocks are low and the hind legs appear slim under the knees.
- The tail is of medium length, becoming slimmer from the base to the tip, and generally kept down.

The following breeds have several of the morphological traits listed above. They are considered as pit bull-type dogs under the Montréal By-law on animal control.



Staffordshire bull terrier



American Staffordshire terrier



American pit bull terrier



American bully

Other breeds, although they share some of the morphological traits listed above, are not considered as pit bull-type dogs under the By-law on animal control. They include Bull terrier, Boxer, Bulldog and Dogo Argentino.

Trying to determine the breed or type of dog on your own based on morphological traits may lead to errors. Seeking advice from individuals who are knowledgeable about canine species and dog anatomy (veterinarian, animal health technician, dog trainer, breeder, etc.) is strongly recommended.