I am basing my contentions on my observations of the conduct of the American Pit Bull Terriers, over these many years. And I repeat, that basically, emotionally, the temperament, and the characteristics which go to make up the dog as it is today, are the same, whether it be the British version, or the American version.

True, those who have bred these dogs for show purposes over the past several years, have discouraged the fighting, and in some cases, they have succeeded in controlling this underlying characteristic, but it is dormant, and can be brought out again by careful breeding. It goes without saying, that, if the English and the Irish bred these dogs for a couple of hundred years and fought them, that we here in America are not going to be able to breed it out in the few generations that we have had these dogs.

My one and only Staffordshire Bull Terrier is kept for stud purposes only, as is my Staffordshire Terrier. And, I would not think of pitting either of them. But they have shown their eagerness on many occasions to engage in combat, when aroused. My Staffordshire Bull Terrier is out of a bitch that I raised, and she was out of a bitch that I imported as a pup from Ireland, so I have had a few of these dogs, enough to study their deportment and behavior. And, I end up by repeating, that basically, they are one and the same dog.

Totalling it all up, I would not hesitate for a moment in recommending one of these dogs, whether it be a Staffordshire Bull Terrier or a Staffordshire Terrier from show bloodlines, or an American Pit Bull Terrier from some of the leading lines which are winning in the pits today, I would not hesitate in recommending one of these as a companion dog for anyone who wanted something with the courage and the temperament that it takes to make an all round companion dog, whether it be lying at your feet, in the house, riding in the car, or roaming the fields and the woods. Give a boy a dog and a stick and turn him loose, and see what happens!

Steve, I could go on and on, but what's the use. You and I know there is no other dog for an all round dog, and if the others cannot see it, we are just wasting our time trying to convince them. Look at the front page of Bloodlines magazine for September, 1927, and see Jack Dempsey with some of these American Pit Bull Terriers he owned. Prize Fighter Wills had them, and some of the dogs particularly on the West Coast today trace back to dogs of his breeding. Teddy Roosevelt had one in the White House. I talked with the son of the guard at the White House who inherited the dog. There is a mounted dog in the Smithsonian, which served as a mascot in World War One. But, why go on?

Pete Sparks

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