May First, 1971

Friend Stone:

While it is fresh on my mind, I will attempt to set down on paper some of the thoughts which are uppermost in my head, regarding the subject matter brought up in your letter, namely the gameness in the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

First off, let me state, that in my estimation, there is no difference, basically, either in the physical characteristics or in the unseen characteristics, no difference between the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, the Staffordshire Terrier, or the American Pit Bull Terrier. I have a Staffordshire Bull Terrier and a Staffordshire Terrier in my kennel and I defy anyone to come in my yard and pick out, from the dozen or more stud dogs, which is which.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier, as a breed, surely must have been a game breed to transmit to our American Pit Bull Terrier the attributes which make it the All American Dog it is today. We did not breed gameness into our dogs, it had to be an inherent characteristic, which by careful breeding, we maintained, where in the Staffordshire Terrier, the show dogs, they have tried to discourage it.

In the parlance of the dog fighting men, a "cur" is a coward, a quitter, a dog which will not fight. We encounter them in all our bloodlines. These dogs are emotionally unsound and cannot be relied upon, as pets or as watch dogs, or as companion dogs, and they should be destroyed. It is such dogs as these "curs" that give our breed a bad name, when one of them bites some child, or turns on its Master. These dogs are emotionally unstable and under stress are liable to go beserk, no one can reason with one of them.

BUT, we are talking about the emotionally sound, healthy dog, whether it be dog or bitch, whether it be Staff/Bull Terrier, Staff Terrier, or the American Pit Bull Terrier. You mention Al Brown as having these dogs since 1907. I was swinging on the yard gate at that time! My experiences with these dogs start about 1926-27. Only a little over forty years. And, not with just one or two dogs at a time either - in the late twenties I had as high as eighteen grown dogs. Bloodlines magazine for May, 1925 shows a photo on the back page of the first registered American Pit Bull Terrier I ever owned. Bloodlines magazine for July, 1928 lists a litter of pups registered by me, which may or not have been the first litter I ever registered, I just do not recall. So, when I state that I have had these dogs for over forty years, I do not mean, just one dog or bitch,,which I did not breed, but I mean I was in the business of raising pups and had several, over a period of many years - and during these years, I have not kept account, but there must have undoubtedly been literally hundreds of these dogs passed through my kennels. I have given away more dogs than most people ever owned. I have shot, knocked in the haid, or put to sleep more dogs than most dog owners have ever owned. I have had more dogs killed in kennel fights than most dog owners ever owned.