

The Power In The Blood !!!

There are a variety of fighting breeds known to be in the bloodlines *most* Patterdale Terriers. For casually gauging their possible effects in our breeding plans let's just use the generic designation "Pit-Dog" to identify any we happen to know of. Let's also be sure we understand that these percentages only show how much of a pedigree is known to contain *some type* of Pit-Dog.

Gould's Spartacus HOF was 1/16 th (6.25%) Pit-Dog: The grand-dam of Spartacus, a brindle bitch named Eyeball, is said to have been sired by "a very game Bull-Terrier." This was mentioned [to me] in an email discussion about where the brindle coloring of the Nemesis Patterdales may have come from. Mr. Booth says that in 50 yrs of breeding he has not had a brindle Patterdale from his breedings. There are whole bloodlines based on the Spartacus dog.

Witnick's River (an Irish import,) was 1/8 th (12.5%) Pit-Dog: His dam Booth's Tye, was out of Booth's Stone. Stone was out of Mr. Booth's famous Gin bitch when she was bred to a champion "fightin' dog" named CH Nailus, a "very-game" Staffordshire Terrier. Witnick's River was the grand-sire of Shillelagh's Cameo aka Dyke, (the foundation bitch of the Nemesis Patterdales,) as well as several others. The dam of Ron's Dyke, (Newcomb's Kiera,) was sired by River. This bitch Kiera was a 30+lb dog as judged by Ron's skilled and very practiced eye. He saw the bitch when he picked up his then new pup, Dyke. Ron has decades of practice at gauging the size & weight of dogs on a glance and there is very- little chance that he was mistaken on this size/weight call.

J&J's (Renteria's) famous "Ike" dog was a 1/4 (25%) Pit-Dog : Ike was sired by Renteria's Chuckie who was sired by Renteria's Grizz, a pit-dog of Mr. Renteria's private breeding. Ike was of normal size for Patterdales (actually slightly smaller than Ron's Dyke,) though "red" in color as opposed to "Chocolate." He was a very smart and aggressive coon-killer.

McCoy's Grip is 1/2 (50%) Pit-Dog : His sire was Coal Pool Black Ice Bill (aka "Grabber") an Irish Staff pit-dog. This dog, Grip, is seen in many pedigrees of Patterdale Terriers.

Be sure you understand that we see nothing wrong with any of this. These are simply the facts. Most Patterdale Terriers have a variety of breeds in their pedigree. The Pit-Dogs are just one of the ingredients that makeup of these fascinating little dogs. Earth-working terriers have been around for a long time. The practice of using them to help rid localities of particular types of vermin has gone on for centuries. The actual genetic makeup of these dogs has shifted and changed as contemporary needs were addressed.

The word "terrier" is the term for a whole class of dog. What they all have in common is the willingness to enter a tight place and do battle with whatever creature happens to be found therein. After that, the individual specialties are recognized by name. Often the primary target-animal is part of the name. Just as often the locality where a specific type was developed becomes part of the name.

Without exception the colors of any of the terriers were not fixed until breeding for color became someone's desire. For the most part, breeding of Patterdales remained focused on the purpose of the dog. Whatever attributes were seen as useful were bred into the gene pool to see if it helped the dog get his job done. The resulting ability (or lack of it) would determine if the new blood was desirable.

It is entirely possible that the Patterdale terriers developed the dominate colors of black or "chocolate" without the guiding hand of man. This would explain why we still see a variety of colors occasionally in most of the bloodlines today. Breeding for color is easy to do and if the breeders thought the color was important there would be no different colors seen. The same can be said for specific bone structure. It is easy to breed for a specific look. That there is a variety of appearances in the Patterdales is more proof that appearance also takes a back-seat to the matter of performance. The dogs that do well get lots of attention. Breeders are quick to figure out how to recreate that type of performance. Several breeders working together can get a desired result quickly. We can see by examining the pedigrees that this is exactly what took place with most of the well-known bloodlines.

Pit-dogs are seen regularly in most Patterdale bloodlines. It must be something the pit-dogs have that the terrier men want to get (or keep) in their dogs. For additional proof on this idea we observe that there are no Patterdales in the bloodlines of the pit-dogs. It's a one-way street on this issue. By only casual reckoning this means the following dogs (below) might have as much Pit-Dog as the listed percentages indicate. For breeding purposes these facts cannot be ignored.

What seems to remain in question is just how much pit-dog blood is helpful and how long do the effects of its inclusion remain useful in the gene pool to which it was added. There seems to be no pattern to what percentage of pit-dog blood is the magic number. All we can do is keep records of it and hope that a pattern eventually emerges. To this end we try to make and keep a record of what is "known" separated from what is "believed." Sadly, the breeders of old were sometimes rather secretive about their record keeping and that seems to be the situation to this day. For anyone thinking about breeding any type of dog we encourage you to record everything you know just in case you need to identify where the "something" might have come from.

To that end we also attempt to keep track of any out-breeding we know of. So, here is what we think the current crop looks like. This list is just the dogs we currently have and some we may have access to. You can be sure there are many more out there.

Griffith's **Bosco** (Pinga x Pebbles) is 1/64 or 1.5625% Pit-Dog.

Griffith's / Ron's **BamBam & Pebbles**, both are 1/64 or 1.5625% Pit-Dog.

Griffith's / Ron's / J&Js **Pinky** is 3/16 or 18.75% Pit-Dog.

Griffith's **Pixie** is 1/64 or 1.5625% Pit-Dog.

(Same as Ron's Pinga and others.)

Griffith's / Shillelagh's **Maxine** (Pinky x Pinga) is 6.5/32 or 10.15625% Pit-Dog.

(Maxine's pups sired by BamBam: approximately 5.859% Pit-Dog.)

J&J's **Thorn** (aka Short's Zoey) is 12.890625% (or more) Pit-Dog.

Pups from the litter of **J&Js Union-Jack x Iko-Iko** = 1/16th or 6.25% Pit-dog.

This is just the tip of the iceberg on this subject!

We hope this discussion is helpful for those who like to ponder these subjects.