

## Background

Since 2005, Pinups for Pitbulls has worked to educate the public about the history and temperament of the American Pit Bull Terrier, and to raise awareness about breed specific legislation and breed discriminatory policies. Game Dog Guardian is a steward not only of dogs, but also of people, ideas, liberty, community, critical thinking, and equality. Sharing a similar vision, Pinups for Pitbulls teamed up with Game Dog Guardian to create a nexus of community outreach and education to further their mission.

Together, we believe that if we want to improve the lives of people and dogs, we must address the causes of problems instead of focusing on the symptoms. It is no coincidence that the worst places for people to live are also the worst places for dogs to live. The various social forces that bear down on the “pit bull” are similar to those that threaten the people of our society: Fear, bigotry, scapegoating, sensational media, “easy answer” and “quick fix” policies, special interest agendas, and in some cases a lack of instilled empathy and hope.

The American Pit Bull Terrier’s fall from grace has been precipitous; from cherished family pet and respected national icon, to hated social pariah - at the drop of a headline. Our communities are faced with problems that have grown in scope and complexity over time. With politicians and community leaders lacking real ideas to address social problems, and a media never hesitant to yell fire in a crowded theater, the “pit bull” makes an ideal smoke screen.

In order to accomplish this, people must be made to believe that “pit bulls” are not dogs. Pit bull-type dogs are demonized and attributed with supernatural abilities so they can become a distraction from the larger issues surrounding public safety. But the truth is, “pit bulls” are *just dogs*. Accepting this truth forces us to rescind their villain status and admit that they are creatures that feel pain and *people* are ultimately responsible for their well being and their actions.

In accepting that a “pit bull” is just an ordinary dog, we can see why it is so extraordinary. American Pit Bull Terriers, and all their mixes, are dogs with such heart and determination, that they, in fact, embody the core values of our culture. Through hard work, perseverance and sheer determination, we believe we can overcome any obstacle in our path and can fight through any challenge to grow as a people.

We believe that education advances communities. Together, Pinups for Pitbulls and Game Dog Guardian provide resources to people, organizations, and community leaders to assist in advocating for breed neutral laws and policies as well as an evolution in quality of life for both people and dogs.

Pinups for Pitbulls creates an annual calendar of gorgeous pinups posed with pit bull-type dogs and uses proceeds from the calendar sales to support hundreds of pit bull-type dogs in rescues and neighborhoods nationwide with education based events and seminars.

Game Dog Guardian is a licensed dog rescue that focuses on pit bull-type dogs seized in cruelty cases, and has several community outreach programs including one that focuses on therapy dogs who assist veterans working through post-traumatic stress.