

DOGFIGHTING

HOW TO SPOT IT
AND HOW TO
GET \$5,000
FOR REPORTING IT

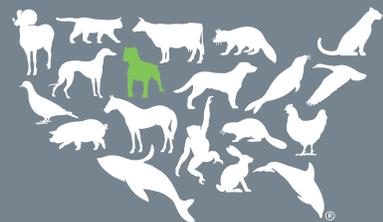


The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest and most powerful animal protection organization, backed by 11 million Americans, or one in every 28. Established in 1954, The HSUS seeks a humane and sustainable world for all animals, including people. We are America's mainstream force against cruelty, exploitation, and neglect and also the nation's most trusted voice extolling the human-animal bond.

For questions or more information about dogfighting, contact The HSUS's Animal Cruelty and Fighting Campaign at: animalfighting@humanesociety.org or 202-452-1100.

humanesociety.org/dogfighting

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



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The vicious blood “sport” of dogfighting is still thriving underground, despite the public outrage that followed the Michael Vick case. **The HSUS estimates more than 40,000 people participate in organized dogfighting in the U.S.,** and hundreds of thousands more take part in impromptu street dogfighting.

The HSUS is working hard to get law enforcement’s attention on this topic and educate the public on how to spot this gruesome crime.

REPORTING DOGFIGHTING TO THE AUTHORITIES

As utility workers, postal carriers, or public works employees, you may see signs of dogfighting as you go about your routine installations, deliveries, or maintenance work. We need your help!

- If you witness a dogfight in progress, call 911 immediately.
- If you suspect that dogfighting is taking place at a residence, call the HSUS tip line at 1-877-TIP-HSUS. You can receive a reward of up to \$5,000 from The HSUS if your tip leads to the conviction of a dogfighter. For information on how to claim a reward, *visit [humanesociety.org/rewards](https://www.humanesociety.org/rewards).*
- If you see an animal that appears to be neglected outside of involvement in dogfighting, please contact your local humane society, animal control or law enforcement agency.

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF DOGFIGHTING

The following photos show equipment, supplies, and other signs to look for if you suspect dogfighting is taking place at a residence.



PIT BULLS ON HEAVY CHAINS

Many dogfighters keep pit bulls on heavy logging chains, sometimes with padlocks. In urban areas, the dogs are often kept in basements or otherwise confined. If a home has multiple pit bulls who seem abused, injured, unneutered, or unsocialized, it is highly possible they are being used for dogfighting.



SCARRED DOGS, ESPECIALLY PIT BULLS

Fighting scars can be found on the face, front legs, hind ends, and thighs. Puncture wounds, swollen faces, and mangled ears are also telltale signs of fighting. If you see dogs with these characteristics, contact law enforcement or animal control immediately.



TREADMILLS

Dogfighters use treadmills as conditioning tools, either homemade, like the slatmill shown, or electric. Look for a chain or harness used to tether a dog to the treadmill.

FIGHTING PIT, OFTEN WITH "SCRATCH LINES."

Pits are often constructed from plywood and measure 14 to 20 square feet, with walls 2 to 3 feet high. Look for blood stains. Pits can also be constructed from chain-link fencing or makeshift materials such as hay barrels. Diagonal scratch lines are drawn in two opposite corners. The dogs stay behind these lines until the referee orders them to be released.





WASHTUBS

Prior to a fight, handlers wash and examine their opponent's dog under a referee's supervision in order to remove any poisonous or caustic substances that might have been applied to the dog's coat (a method of cheating).

VITAMINS, DRUGS, AND VET SUPPLIES

Although these items may have legitimate uses, they are often found in connection with illegal dogfighting operations. A few commonly used drugs include dexamethazone (steroid), amoxicillin and ampicillin (antibiotics), Canine Red Dog (iron supplement), and Winstrol-V (steroid).



BREAKING STICKS

These are used to pry open a dog's mouth in order to break up a fight. They are about a foot long, flat on one side, and often bloodstained.

JENNY MILL OR CAT MILL

This resembles a miniature horse walker. Harnessed to a spoke projecting from a rotating center shaft, the dog chases a small bait animal such as a rabbit or cat who has been caged or tied to a spoke just ahead of the dog. This activity encourages prey drive and physically conditions the dog.



DOGFIGHTING PUBLICATIONS

Dogfighters keep track of winning dogs and bloodlines through underground publications such as the *Sporting Dog Journal*. Other titles include *Scratch Back*, *International Dog Journal*, and *Certified Contender Report*. It is illegal to ship these magazines through the U.S. mail.



SPRINGPOLE

This device conditions a dog for fighting by building up his neck and jaw muscles. The dog bites and holds onto the springpole, made from a rawhide, knotted rope, tire, or other material suspended from a beam or sturdy tree branch.