

THE HSUS ON ANIMAL FIGHTING

THE FINAL ROUND

Illegal Animal Fighting

A Law Enforcement Primer for the Investigation of Cockfighting and Dogfighting



CONFIDENTIAL
For Law
Enforcement
Only

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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A Law Enforcement Primer for the Investigation of Cockfighting and Dogfighting



*Special thanks to the following HSUS staff members
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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Introduction

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is unalterably opposed to blood sports such as dogfighting and cockfighting. The HSUS maintains these are brutal animal contests resulting in suffering, torture, harassment, and death for animals forced to participate. Such sports amount to torture for fun and are degrading and unfit for civilized society.

This publication is intended to serve as an authoritative source of information on illegal animal fighting activities for use by law enforcement personnel. Although the material may appear general in nature to those familiar with these activities, it is necessary to present it in this manner because the terminology, methods of training, and rules of actual combat may vary according to geographic location and preferences of those involved.

***Caveat:* This information in this publication is presented for educational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal advice. The information and procedures herein are subject to agency policy and review by your prosecutor or other legal advisor before implementation.**



The investigation of illegal animal fighting activities by local law enforcement, animal control, and humane agencies is frequently difficult, frustrating, and unsuccessful. The lack of success is most often due to circumstances beyond the control of the investigating agency. Because of the specialized nature of the criminal activity, participants are often scattered over a wide area involving multiple jurisdictions. The broad distribution of participants may present certain difficulties unless the investigation effort is tightly coordinated among a number of law enforcement agencies.

In addition, the time period between staged fights is often uneventful, which creates problems for investigators. It can become difficult to justify the investigation because little or no activity is observed to confirm active involvement in criminal activity. The additional time allows participants to scrutinize newcomers and to identify investigators, since many are in positions that make them somewhat visible to the public. The more organized fighters (the big-money participants) may attempt to bribe officers for information, conduct countersurveillance on law enforcement facilities, maintain dossiers on identified law enforcement agents, and use private investigative techniques or information from sympathetic individuals to expose informants or warn of planned enforcement actions. Therefore, it is especially important to understand how fight participants view law enforcement personnel and their investigative procedures.



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Animal Fighting Events: Hotbeds for Gambling, Other Illegal Activities

Dogfighting and cockfighting generate many millions of dollars in presumably unreported income every year.

Dogfighting and cockfighting generate many millions of dollars in presumably unreported income every year. Illegal gambling accounts for a large percentage of this money. Underground animal fighting publications have tended to play down the gambling aspect and label it a humane society ploy. However, evidence of heavy gambling frequently turns up during enforcement actions. Examples include \$500,000 discovered by law enforcement agents at the scene of a dogfighting convention in Arkansas and more than \$90,000 seized by state police during a raid on a large cockfighting derby in Oregon.

In dogfighting, a formal agreement is frequently signed by the owners of the dogs to be matched, often several months in advance of the fight date. The agreement usually specifies such things as the names of the dogs to be matched, their sex and weight, the date of the match, the rules to be used, and the amount of money wagered or posted as a forfeit. The amount of money bet on a contract match can range from several hundred to several thousand dollars. The size of a bet may climb dramatically when the dogs are champions, or when the owners of the dogs are prominent figures. The second and most visible form of gambling at a dogfight involves informal side bets among individual spectators. Side betting may involve odds and often continues throughout the match.

Investigators should be aware that there are variations in the structure of gambling at cockfights depending on the type of fight (derbies, tournaments, mains, hacks, etc.) and local preferences. Generally, there are three ways in which money changes hands at a cockfighting derby, which is the most popular type of organized cockfighting event in the U.S. today. In a derby, a number of cockers (cockfighters) pay a predetermined entry fee to enter a pre-set number of cocks, usually from four to 12. Depending upon the rules, the cocks are usually matched within two to three ounces of each other and are fought round-robin. The cocker whose fowl win the most fights in a derby wins the purse, which consists of all the entry fees of all the derby participants. This can easily amount to a considerable sum of money, since there may be more than 30 cockers entered in a derby, each paying from several hundred to more than \$1,000 in entry fees and options for each day's events (options are additional set fees offered to entrants at some pits). In the event of a tie, the purse is split among the winners. Sometimes the purse is divided among the first-place and second-place winners.

The second and most visible form of gambling at cockfights is the side bets, which are made in the same manner as those at a dogfight. Side bets frequently involve odds and betting will continue throughout much of the actual fight with the odds shifting as it becomes apparent that one of the cocks is injured or dying. The two opposing owners of the cocks in a match will sometimes agree to a side bet on their own birds as well.

A third form of gambling at some cockfights involves a type of lottery based on a number arbitrarily given to each cockfighter when the entry fee is paid. The numbers are then auctioned off to the highest bidders and the money goes into a separate pot before the start of the first fight. The buyer of the number assigned to the cockfighter who wins the derby wins the lottery. Other types of raffles may also be held in which winners receive cash, cockfighting paraphernalia, guns, or gamefowl as prizes.

Aside from the gambling, the sponsor or promoter derives income from admission fees. Spectators may be charged from \$10 to more than \$100 each depending on the number of fights scheduled and the quality of the combatants. Admittance to many cockfighting arenas requires a paid membership with a particular game club or a current membership with a state or national gamefowl breeders association. Investigations have revealed that some gamefowl associations receive a portion of all monies collected at the gate to illegal cockfights. Still to be answered is whether such illegal activities are the primary source of income for any of these associations. A promoter of cockfights and dogfights frequently also profits from concession sales, including alcoholic beverages, and the establishment of housebetting odds.

Some enthusiasts publish underground magazines that are sold by yearly subscription (see Appendix II). The publications report fight results from around the country, news about relevant legislation and enforcement actions. They also carry advertising for fighting animals and related paraphernalia. Various publications require that prospective subscribers be recommended by a current subscriber. The amount of money generated through such publications is difficult to estimate since circulation and publishing costs are unknown. All are sent to subscribers through the U.S. Postal Service. Other individuals profit from the sale of related paraphernalia such as:

- Special collars and harnesses for dogs and tie cords for gamefowl
- Vitamins, drugs, and veterinary supplies (syringes, needles, suture kits, etc.)
- Training equipment (treadmills, sparring muffs, weight scales, etc.)
- Transport cages and crates
- Cockfighting implements (gaffs, slashers, mounting blocks, etc.)
- Pit supplies (breaking sticks for dogs, match sheets, combat rule books, etc.)
- Training and conditioning programs (keeps)
- Clothing articles (T-shirts, caps, etc.)

Another way those involved in animal fighting ventures make money is by selling animals and breeding services. For example, stud fees can go as high as \$1,500; puppies bring from \$150 to more than \$1,500; gamefowl can range in price from \$75 to more than \$300 for a single battle cock, and from \$150 to more than \$1,000 for brood trios; and fertilized eggs can cost between \$25 and \$65. Prices may vary greatly depending upon breeding, performance, and geographical area. Most advertising of paraphernalia and animals by individuals is accomplished through the underground publications.

In addition to illegal gambling, other crimes are frequently associated with dogfighting and cockfighting. The presence of illicit drugs and weapons at animal fighting contests is also common. According to a U.S. Attorney and several drug enforcement agents, major drug networks involving marijuana and methamphetamine trafficking have been tied directly to animal fighting in several states. Raids on dogfighting and cockfighting operations have resulted in the seizure of large-scale marijuana operations and clandestine labs. During a raid on a cockfight in the California county of San Luis Obispo in 1992, law enforcement agents seized thousands of rounds of ammunition along with 27 guns and assault weapons. A recent raid on a dogfighting operation in South Carolina resulted in the seizure of pipe bombs and bomb-making materials. Violence associated with these activities also appears to be on the increase. Examples include the gang rape of a young woman at a cockfight in Texas and more than 12 homicides in different parts of the country since 1987.

Enforcement of Animal Fighting Laws

Due to the often large group of suspects that may be present at illegal animal fighting exhibitions and the specialized nature of these criminal activities, there are a number of common problems associated with enforcement of animal fighting laws. These include having sufficient law enforcement personnel on the scene to detain and arrest all suspects while ensuring officer safety, and preserving (and later presenting) evidence establishing a given suspect's specific intent to engage in the criminal activity as a principal, or to be "present as a spectator at such fighting ... for the purpose of watching such fighting." *People v. Superior Court (Elder)*, 201 Cal.App.3d 1061, 1064; see also id. at 1073, 1074.

With these concerns in mind, law enforcement agents should consider the following recommendations:

Suggested "On the Scene" Questions

Why are you here?

How did you get here?

How were you going to leave?

Who did you come with?

What did you see?

How long before you were detained did you see it?

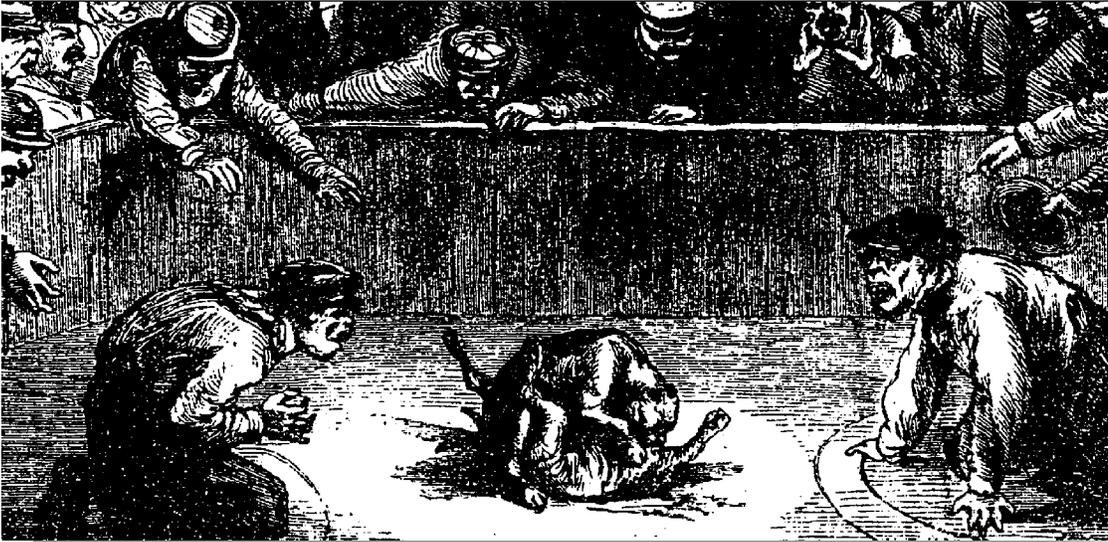
1. Arrest only those persons whose proximity to and conduct at the location leave no reasonable doubt as to the reason for their presence there.
2. Photograph each arrestee (wearing a number) with the arresting officer.
3. Have the officer's report reflect, with respect to each arrestee, what he or she was doing when first observed, and where in relation to the fight scene it was being done.
4. Videotape the scene and those present immediately before arrests commence if possible. This evidence can be invaluable.
5. Question persons on the scene. Of course, caution must be taken when questioning such persons without first providing *Miranda* warnings. If the interrogations progress beyond "general on-the-scene questioning," or circumstances indicate that there was an "actual arrest or restraint on freedom" of the degree associated with formal arrest," statements made by questioned persons may not be admissible in court. See *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436, 477 (1966) and *California v. Beheler*, 463 U.S. 1121, 1125 (1983).

Factors Tending to Negate "Accidental" Presence

- Remoteness of location
- Care (if any) used to screen attendees
- Proximity of person to exhibition
- Duration of presence
- Relationship of given suspect to others who are present

For details on state animal fighting laws, visit www.animalfighting.org.

Dogfighting



Who Participates in Dogfighting?

The Promoter. This individual makes all the arrangements necessary to conduct a match, show, or convention. He typically owns or controls the fight location. He is responsible for arranging contracts, selecting the referees, supplying or constructing the pit or arena, and supplying weighing scales, washtubs, and other needed equipment. He sets and collects the admission fees for the spectators as part of his income. The promoter also controls any vendors, food and liquor sales, and any house gambling either completely or through a percentage fee arrangement. Promoters will monitor police scanners and are responsible for arranging pit-site security. This can be as extensive as hiring armed guards to monitor the perimeter of the property, or as casual as paying a neighbor to blow a car horn or call by phone if anyone suspicious approaches the fight area.

Handlers. These are the individuals responsible for handling the animals during the fight. If not the actual owner, he or she is usually paid a percentage of the bet if the animal wins. Only the fight referee and the handlers of the two dogs are permitted in the pit itself during a match.

Referee. This is the individual who officiates in the pit during a match, and who is well-versed in the various rules under which the fight is to take place. If the match is between animals of high fighting quality or a convention is being held to attract national participants, the referee is someone whose name is established within dogfighting circles. The referee's travel expenses, meals, lodging, and fight fee are the responsibility of the promoter. This fee can vary greatly, but \$200 to more than \$500 per day would not be unusual for a major fight or for a convention, depending on the number of matches scheduled.

Spectators. The individuals who attend animal fights are motivated in different ways. It may be to gamble, encourage a friend's or relative's entry, accompany a spouse, enter an animal, or just be entertained. Spectators, as well as promoters, handlers, referees, and fighters, can be of any age, sex, race, financial status, or occupation. Many states have significantly lower criminal penalties for spectators than for the other participants.

Profile of a Dogfighter

Dogfighters generally fall into one of three categories:

Serious (Professional). These individuals take great pride in breeding, training, and fighting their own dogs. They operate on a national—sometimes international—level and are often featured in underground publications on a regular basis. They are generally well-informed about humane organizations, police investigation techniques, and local enforcement personnel. The fights they participate in are usually high-stakes matches featuring experienced fighting dogs with established bloodlines.

Hobbyists. This group is composed of individuals who live within a reasonable distance of each other and are familiar with everyone involved. Individuals who fall within this group tend to put a greater emphasis on the gambling involved in dogfighting than the continuance of “game” bloodlines through selective breeding. They will often purchase dogs of average ability through classified ads and, with little or no conditioning, enter them in a match. While some of these individuals see themselves as serious, or on the verge of becoming serious, their objective is to regain the purchase price as quickly as possible through bets and winning matches. They often use the same fight location repeatedly.

Street Fighters. In problem-plagued urban areas, the pit bull has replaced the junkyard dog, the Doberman pinscher and German shepherd as the “macho” dog of choice. Ownership of pit bulls and pit bull crosses has increased especially among juveniles and gang members in inner city settings. The dogs are frequently stolen or obtained from local impoundment facilities that lack strong adoption policies. Impromptu matches are frequently initiated in public parks, playgrounds, and back alleys as a means of increasing image within a neighborhood. This is a particularly difficult group to apprehend since the amateur participants can readily disperse if law enforcement officers appear on the scene.

Note: Increasingly, individuals classed under the *serious* and *hobbyist* categories are using sites on the Internet to communicate with other dogfighters for the purpose of buying and selling fighting dogs and to set up matches. Experienced investigators have been able to infiltrate sites and build strong cases leading to successful prosecutions.

The American Pit Bull Terrier

The term “pit bull” is commonly used to describe several similar breeds of dogs, including those registered as American pit bull terriers with the United Kennel Club (UKC) and the American Dog Breeders Association (ADBA). The term is sometimes applied to the American Staffordshire terrier, recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC), as well as unregistered dogs and mixtures of these and other breeds, including the Staffordshire bull terrier (AKC), bull terrier (AKC), and bulldog (AKC). Another registry calling itself the Animal Research Foundation (ARF) also registers the American pit bull terrier, but has renamed its version the American bulldog. Dogfighters often refer to the breed simply as bulldog.

In the United States, fighting dogs are almost exclusively American pit bull terriers registered under the UKC or ADBA. A number of other breeds have traditionally been used for fighting in Europe, South America, and Asia, including the Neapolitan mastiff, the Akita and the tosa from Japan, the Argentinean dogo, France’s dogue de Bordeaux, the Chinese shar-pei, and others. Indications are that an increasing number of dogfighters in the U.S. are exporting American pit bull terriers to Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, Europe, Australia, and the Far East.

Historically, the American Staffordshire terrier and the American pit bull terrier trace their ancestry to the bulldogs of the 19th century. These large (80–100 pounds) and somewhat slow animals were



commonly used for bullbaiting in England and, to a lesser extent, in the U.S. In this activity, a bull was tethered on a long lead, his horns covered with wax or pitch. The bull was then prodded with sticks by the spectators until enraged. Then, two or three dogs were released to attack the bull, usually seizing him by the nose, tail, ear, or any other unprotected spot. Prizes were awarded to dogs who showed the greatest gameness or enthusiasm, endurance, and tenacity in their attacks.

After bullbaiting was outlawed in England in 1835, organized dogfights became popular, particularly in the Staffordshire coal mining areas. These fights were often conducted in hastily prepared pits dug near the mines. As dogfighting became more popular, there was greater selection for smaller and faster dogs. The English bulldog was mixed with a variety of other breeds, including the fox terrier. The result was given such names as the bull-and-terrier dog, pit dog, and pit bull terrier. A smaller version was produced by crossing the bulldog with a small native terrier similar to today's Manchester terrier to produce the Staffordshire bull terrier.

Similar but somewhat larger dogs began to show up in the U.S. about the time of the Civil War. Here they were known as the pit dog, pit bull terrier, American bull terrier, and Yankee terrier. Another breed occasionally represented in the lineage of American fighting dogs is the bullmastiff. Unlike the other breeds mentioned, which were selected for aggressiveness to other dogs, the bullmastiff of 19th century England was bred primarily to attack human poachers on large estates. Later, these animals were used in competition against men in which the dog was muzzled and the man was armed with a club.

The UKC was organized in 1898 specifically to register pit bull terriers, which were not recognized by the AKC (founded in 1884). This registry also sought to standardize the rules by which dogs were fought. The AKC did not recognize the breed until 1935 and chose to call the dog by a different name—the Staffordshire terrier. A UKC-registered dog, Pete from the *Our Gang* comedies, also received AKC registration as a Staffordshire terrier. The acceptance of the breed by the AKC required the existence of stud books going back several generations. Since the only organization with good stud registries for this breed at the time was the UKC, and since the purpose of the UKC was the registration and regulation of fighting dogs, virtually all dogs eligible for registration as AKC Staffordshire terriers were either fighting dogs or direct descendants of fighting stock.

In 1972, recognizing the differences between American and English Staffordshire terrier bloodlines, the AKC renamed the registered version of the breed the American Staffordshire terrier. Today, there are many animals who could acquire multiple AKC, UKC, or ADBA registration as American Staffordshire terriers or American pit bull terriers.

Another AKC breed commonly classed with pit bulls is the bull terrier. This is a medium-

*Left: One example of a pit bull terrier
Right: Profile of a pit bull terrier*

sized dog (50–60 pounds) with a very elongated oval head. The breed originated around 1830 from crosses between bulldogs, Old English terriers, and Spanish pointers. White bull terriers are more common, but a colored or brindled variety is also shown. These dogs have undergone considerable selection for good temperament to overcome their early history as pit fighters.

The American bulldogs registered by the ARF since about 1986, especially in Georgia and Alabama, are larger animals (75–125 pounds) who may represent a hybrid of the American pit bull terrier and the bullmastiff.

Since 1935, AKC animals have generally been bred to conform to standards of physical appearance, whereas the UKC and ADBA have been less concerned with conformation standards. Many UKC and ADBA animals continue to be bred and selected primarily for fighting purposes, although the UKC has had a strong official policy against dogfighting for a number of years.

Behavior of Fighting Dogs

More than a century of breeding for bullbaiting and fighting has had a profound effect on the genetics of these breeds. This effect has, to some extent, been counteracted by a shorter history of selection for qualities that might make these animals suitable as household companions. The extent to which the temperament previously bred into these breeds has been altered is often difficult to predict.

The following characteristics of the fighting breeds are relevant to our consideration of the problems these animals may present.



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Aggression Against Dogs and Other Animals. The primary quality for which fighting dogs have been selected is gameness. A game animal is one who is ready and willing for combat and unyielding in combat. This is reflected in certain genetically-based characteristics. One such characteristic is a greatly reduced inhibition to fighting.

Most wild and domestic dogs fight one another only to drive a rival away from some disputed object such as food, a mate, or territory. The attack ends when one dog withdraws or displays signs of submission. The most common tactic used to win a confrontation is a bluff, which is accomplished by growling and staring. Actual attacks are reserved for last-resort confrontations. In fighting breeds, this inhibition has been removed through generations of selective breeding, and they will fight to the point of complete exhaustion or death with minimal provocation. In this sense, the animals are not “doing

what comes naturally.” This behavior is totally abnormal from an evolutionary standpoint as it requires suppression of an animal’s instinct for self-preservation. It is strictly the result of human intervention.

Predatory attacks in wild and domestic dogs are usually triggered by the flight of a potential prey animal. Thus, individuals of many breeds may pursue and attack moving animals and objects such as joggers, bicycles, and cars. Because dogs selected for bullbaiting and dogfighting had to show their gameness against animals who were either restrained or confined, these animals and their descendants are more likely to attack targets that do not flee or exhibit other behaviors we might think of as provocation for attack.

Communication. Dogs, like wolves, are highly social, with a rich repertoire of signals that convey the mood and intentions of their companions and communicate their own intentions to others. This is one of the reasons why humans and dogs interact so readily, since both species are attuned

A dog’s natural instinct to fight only until an opponent submits has been suppressed through years of breeding to create dogs who will fight to the death.

to reading the facial expressions and body language of others. Animals selected for fighting gain an advantage by not revealing their intentions and by not being inhibited by displays of submission in their opponents. These animals offer little or no indication that an attack is imminent. In fights, they often appear to be insensitive to normal “cut-off” behaviors that signal an end to aggression. For example, rolling over to expose a soft underbelly is usually an effective display of submission in spats between normal dogs. Fighting pit bulls will continue attacking other dogs offering this signal of submission.

Attack Behaviors. Dogs use many different styles of attack against members of their own and other species. Many breeds have styles of biting that reflect the purposes for which they were bred. For example, guard dogs such as German shepherds tend to restrain their subject by grabbing and holding. The fighting breeds have been selected to inflict maximum damage to their opponents. This is usually accomplished by grabbing, holding, shaking, and tearing.

Aggression Toward People. The fighting dogs of the 19th century generally posed little threat to people. The animals were disqualified in the pit if they exhibited aggression toward a handler or the referee. Early in the 20th century, several former fighting breeds such as the bull terrier and English bulldog were specifically selected for good dispositions. As mentioned earlier, some AKC, UKC, and ADBA animals descend from fighting stocks. Breed standards for the American Staffordshire terrier and American pit bull terrier make little or no reference to sound temperament, although an animal who attacks a person or a dog in the show ring may be disqualified. Many breeders of show or pet-quality dogs try to produce animals with stable dispositions, and there are many examples of well-behaved dogs of these breeds. However, there are no uniform standards and there has been a proliferation of less expensive non-registered dogs who have been subject to even less selection for stable temperament.

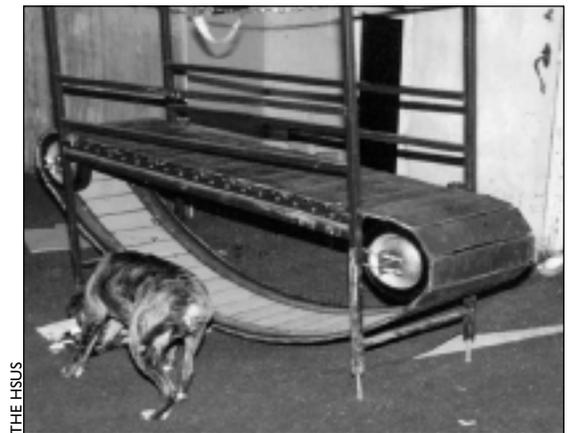
In view of the lack of uniform standards of temperament, the lack of inhibition to aggression, the strength and tenacity of attacks, and the failure to show warning signs of attack, most animal control officers have come to regard these animals as potentially dangerous unless proven otherwise.

Below is an example of a slat mill, a type of treadmill used to condition fighting dogs during the keep.

Schooling, Training, and Conditioning of Dogs

Often referred to as “serious fighters” are those individuals who may own a dozen or more dogs, breed their own pups from stock proven to be game in the pit, fight their dogs on a national level to obtain champion dogs, maintain contact with established fighters around the country, and enjoy substantial income from gambling and the sale of fighting animals. The puppies who result from their breeding programs are most often subjected to an intensive culling process that involves keeping only those puppies who exhibit aggressive behavior. Dogs who survive their first 16 to 18 months become prospects and are schooled. During this stage, the trainer will pit the prospect in a series of short rolls or combats against other dogs as a means of building confidence and exposing the prospect to a variety of fighting styles. For this reason, the dog is not usually pitted against an overly rough opponent.

Sometime after schooling is completed, however, the trainer will want to ascertain each prospect’s endurance level, ability to take punishment, and depth of gameness. This is accomplished in what is referred to as a game test, in which the younger dog is typically pitted against a larger, rougher dog until totally exhausted. The prospect is then required to scratch or rush to a fresh dog. A game test may last as long as an hour, and some variations require the prospect to fight more than one dog in succession. The few prospects who pass the game test go on to become match dogs.



*“Breed
the best
and bury
the rest.”*

—a dogfighter’s
motto

Although the trait of gameness is genetically programmed into the dog, serious organized dogfighters prepare their dogs intensively for approximately four to six weeks prior to a match during a conditioning period called the keep. While there are many different formulas for a keep, all are designed to build strength, endurance, and cardiovascular fitness while, at the same time, bringing the dog’s weight down to the most efficient fighting weight. The keep is often preceded by a pre-keep lasting two or more weeks. During the pre-keep, the dog is usually kept on a longer chain or cable run and given daily walks of up to an hour. This period allows the dog to become familiar with voice commands and handling procedures. It is essential that the dog be healthy and free of internal and external parasites.

The actual keep generally involves an escalating program of strenuous physical activity, offset with total rest, while the dog is removed to a separate area from all other dogs. The theory is similar to that used by professional boxers who sequester themselves in an isolated training camp before a fight.

A daily log is maintained during the keep, recording such data as body weight, food and water intake, administration of drugs and vitamins, and the exercise regimen followed. Since pre-fight contracts specify the exact fighting weights of the dogs to be matched, the dogs are carefully monitored to ensure that they finish the keep weighing no more than what was agreed upon in the contract.

The training program often includes extensive exercise on a treadmill, in which a harnessed dog will run in place for up to an hour. The two main types of treadmills are slat mills, in which



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the running surface is constructed of wooden slats, and carpet mills, which have running surfaces made of narrow sections of carpet. Investigators have also discovered modified electric treadmills (such as the type sold in department and health stores) being used as conditioning devices for fighting dogs. Conditioning may also involve the use of a device

known as a catmill or jenny, which resembles a miniature horse walker. Harnessed to a spoke projecting from a rotating central shaft, the dog chases a small bait animal such as a cat, rabbit, or chicken who has been caged or tied to a leading spoke just ahead of the dog. The exercise will continue as long as the dog remains interested, and the dog is sometimes

Above: Trainers place a live lure on a catmill or jenny just out of a dog’s reach to entice a chase.

allowed to finish off the bait animal at the close. Sand or cottonseed is sometimes added to the running area and weights or drags may also be attached to increase resistance and build endurance. Some trainers have been known to run their dogs alongside vehicles for miles on rural roads and others have forced dogs to swim for increasing duration in water tanks, swimming pools, and rivers.

Note: While the use of an animal as bait is not legal, investigators should be aware that the running part of the training activity may also be employed to train dogs who compete in weight-pulling contests, which are legal in most states. However, it should be remembered that entering dogs in legal weight-pull competitions and dogfighting are not mutually exclusive activities.

The springpole is another device commonly used to condition the dog for the pit. A springpole involves a hide, inner tube, or other material that is suspended from a heavy spring or sapling pole that the dog can bite and hold onto. This exercise builds not only the leg muscles from jumping, but also the jaw muscles from gripping the hide as the trainer shakes the dog and tries to loosen the hold. Still another piece of equipment used in many keeps is the flirtpole. This device consists of a pole with a lure attached to it. The trainer runs the lure along the ground so the dog can chase it. Occasionally, the dog is allowed to catch and worry the lure, whatever the lure might be.

Although many dogfighters employ one or more of these methods as part of their keep, it is important to realize that keeps are highly individualized. Some fighters keep detailed records of their training and conditioning program while others have a haphazard approach.



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Vitamins, Drugs, and Veterinary Supplies Used in Dogfighting

Although many of the following vitamins, drugs, and veterinary supplies have legitimate uses, they are commonly found in connection with illegal dogfighting operations:

Vitamins

- Magnum supplement (source of seven different vitamins and minerals)
- Provim (stress supplement)
- Vitamin B-12 (injectable)
- Liver and iron extract (used with injectable B-12 to increase red blood cell level, which increases ability of blood to carry more oxygen)
- Canine red cell (vitamin and iron supplement)
- Clovite conditioner (vitamin A, D, and B-12 supplement)
- Stress-Dex (oral electrolyte with vitamins)
- Vitamin B-15 (acts as catalyst to allow red blood to carry approximately 25 percent more oxygen and decreases lactic acid in muscle)
- Energy Plus (used as a booster for dogs not reaching a peak performance level)

Drugs

- Speed (amphetamine pills, capsules, or injectable solution for stimulating a tired dog)
- Dexamethasone (Azium—an anti-inflammatory agent that reduces swelling, delays shock, and relieves muscle pain and soreness)
- Hormones and androgenic steroids (testosterone derivatives used to build muscle mass and increase aggression. Common brands: Hormones—testosterone, Propionate, Repotest, Probolic Oil; Steroids—Winstrol V, Dinabol, and EquiPoise)
- Epinephrine
- Furosemide (injectable diuretic)
- Painkillers (Talivin, Dilaudid, codeine)
- Antibiotics and combiotics (injectable, tablets, and capsules)
- Nitrofurazone antibiotic gel
- Prednisone (anti-inflammatory agent)
- Lactated Ringers (intravenous solution for treatment of hypovolemic shock)
- Pad-Kote (topical ointment for foot pads)

Veterinary Supplies

- IV kit, syringes, and needles in various sizes
- Sutures, suture needles, needle holders, and surgical staplers
- Forceps, scalpel, and surgical scissors
- Alcohol prep pads and cotton-tipped applicators
- Sponges
- Dressing for wounds
- Blood hemoglobin test kits

Investigators should consider utilizing the services of a licensed veterinarian who can assist in the identification and application of any drugs and veterinary supplies found in connection with suspected animal fighting operations.



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The Fight

Refer to the definitions on page 26 for the meanings of dogfighting terms used in this section and to Appendix I for pit rules.

Staged dogfights can be held whenever and wherever fighters are willing to assemble. As one might expect, many matches are staged in rural areas on Friday and Saturday nights. Larger meets or conventions involving several matches are often conducted on or near holidays that include a three-day weekend so participants from outside the area will have sufficient time to travel and out-of-state license plates will be less noticeable in out-of-the-way settings. Pit sites are repeatedly moved to avoid detection. Outdoor pits hidden in wooded areas are popular in southern climates and during warmer months in other parts of the country. In regions where the weather is typically cold or wet, fights are usually held inside barns and sheds.

Dogfights are also staged in suburban and inner-city settings. Since pit bulls are relatively quiet during combat, it is possible for matches to be held in basements or garages where any noise heard by neighbors might be interpreted as a loud party. Abandoned buildings, fenced construction sites, and warehouses have also served as fight locations.

Several weeks before a scheduled match is to occur, the participants (dogfighters and spectators) are given directions to meet at one or more locations until contacted by the promoter. Very few people are entrusted ahead of time with the exact location of the pit site. The promoter collects the guests and may lead caravans of several cars to one or more checkpoints where passengers are identified and an observer waits to ensure no one is following. The use of police scanners and cellular phones as part of the security precautions is common.

Upon arrival at the pit site, the promoter collects admission fees from the spectators and may choose several well-known fanciers to act as judges for the Best in Show and Gamest Dog awards. Awards such as these are usually only given at conventions featuring several matches between notable fighting dogs. Frequently, there is a one- to two-hour delay until the start of the first match. This allows participants time to socialize and scrutinize any newcomers. Promoters and participants take extreme caution to avoid detection by law enforcement officials. Escape routes are usually identified before the fight and the presence of one or more armed guards is not unusual.

Before the dogs are brought into the pit, they are weighed, and the handlers toss a coin to decide washing order and corners. The winner may choose to have his dog washed first, or he may choose a preferred corner of the pit. Handlers wash and examine their opponent's dog under the supervision of the referee. The washing is done to remove any poisonous or caustic substance that might have been applied to a dog's coat as a rub (a method of cheating). After washing, the dogs are returned to their appropriate handlers wrapped in towels or blankets, and are carried to their respective corners to await the referee.

Although the configuration and materials may vary, a typical dogfighting arena measures from 14 to 20 feet square and has wooden walls measuring from 24 to 36 inches high. The floor is usually covered with carpet or canvas to improve traction. Many pits are portable, and some are made with makeshift items such as hay bales. The dogs are brought into the pit and faced toward the walls behind diagonal lines on the floor located at opposite ends of the pit. These lines, called scratch lines, are usually indicated by duct tape or spray paint. The distance between the scratch lines will vary according to the rules (from approximately 12 feet 6 inches to 14 feet apart). Occasionally, a center line is also indicated.



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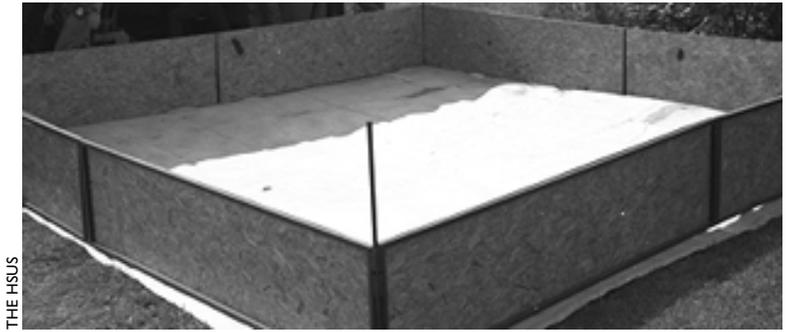
Above: Scales for weighing dogs

Below: Washtubs and sponges for bathing dogs



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Upon entering the pit, the referee commands, "Face your dogs." Both handlers should simultaneously turn around and face their dogs toward the center of the arena. Once the dogs see each other, they usually strain to break free of their handlers. The referee quickly follows with the command, "Release your dogs," or "Let go." Both handlers release their grips, and, in an instant, the dogs collide somewhere in the middle of the pit in a frenzied blur of biting. Each dog attempts to gain an advantage over the other. They not only seek a hold on their opponent, but also try to prevent the other dog from gaining a similar hold. Frequently, a dog has a preferred hold, such as the nose or a leg, and is described accordingly (nosebiter, leg dog, etc.). The handlers stay within their dogs' field of vision and encourage them by voice, claps, and whistles. They are not permitted to touch the dogs during the match except on the order of the referee to make a handle after a turn has been called or to unfang a dog.



A pit usually measures between 14 and 20 feet square and has walls 24 to 36 inches high. It can be made of wood, hay, or other makeshift materials.

A turn occurs when a dog turns his or her head and shoulders away from an opponent without attempting to gain a new hold. The handlers and the referee are all permitted to call a turn, but the referee has the final say. If the referee agrees that a turn was committed, he will order the dogs to be handled as soon as both dogs are free of holds (the dogs are not separated with the use of breaking sticks at this time). Once picked up, both dogs are carried to their respective corners where they are faced into the wall and each handler is given a set time limit (usually 25 seconds) in which to sponge the blood and saliva from his dog, examine wounds, and check for a fanged lip. The sponges are supplied from the same water bucket and are provided to each handler by the referee. At 25 seconds, the referee calls, "Get ready," and the dogs are again faced. At 30 seconds, the referee calls out, "Let go." This time, however, only the dog who committed the turn is released. The handler must immediately release his grip and all leg pressure to the dog's body. Depending on which set of rules is being used, the dog will generally have from 10 to 20 seconds to scratch to its opponent, i.e., leave the corner, cross the pit, and mouth the opposing dog, whereupon the handler of the opposing dog must also let go. If the dog fails to complete the scratch, the match is over, and the win is awarded to the other dog. The fighting will continue until the dogs are out of holds and are handled again. It will then be the other dog's turn to scratch. This procedure of alternating scratches will continue until one of the dogs is unable or unwilling to complete its scratch and the contest is decided by the referee.



Diagonal scratch lines are drawn in two opposite corners of the pit. Dogs stay behind these lines until the referee orders them to be released.

The only other way the dogs are picked up out of holds is when both dogs are without a hold for a period of 30 seconds by the referee's watch (time may vary according to different rules). This usually occurs during a long match in which there are no acknowledged turns, but a handler wants to get the scratching contest underway. Under these circumstances, the bottom dog (determined by the referee) is required to scratch first followed by alternating scratches until one dog loses. If both dogs fail to scratch, the referee shall call it a "no-contest." If both dogs make their initial scratches, the handlers (by mutual agreement) may ask for a draw decision, although fighting to a draw is unpopular due to the large sums of money wagered.

Occasionally, during combat, a dog will become fanged, inadvertently piercing his or her own lip with a canine tooth while attempting to secure a bite hold on an opponent. In these cases, the referee will instruct the handlers to take hold of their dogs and hold them still so the handler can unfang his dog. If the handler isn't able to unfang the dog, the referee will separate the dogs with the use of a breaking stick and unfang the dog with a pencil. The dogs are then set down approx-



Breaking sticks are used to pry loose a dog's bite hold.

imately 2 feet apart at the center of the pit and released upon the command of the referee.

A handler who senses his dog is about to quit might also pick up the dog, thereby conceding the match. Many handlers prefer to concede a match, as a dog who quits is labeled a cur and is an embarrassment to the owner. Of course, any dog who jumps out of the pit automatically loses.

An event that consists of a series of matches is called a convention or show. The promoter(s) often ask several trusted attendees at a convention to act as judges. At the conclusion of all the matches, the judges confer and select the one or two dogs who were the most impressive. Awards or trophies are sometimes given for *Best in Show* and *Gamest of Show*. Local trophy companies are sometimes a good source of information, since trophies are often purchased commercially.

Investigation Techniques

Organized dogfighting in North America has always been shrouded in secrecy. With felony-level penalties in most states as of June 2004 (see www.animalfighting.org), the underground world of dogfighting has become even more cautious.

It can be difficult and time consuming to begin an investigation into dogfighting activity without the help of an informant. This is especially true if the investigator hopes to be invited to a dogfight. The participants are well aware that what they are doing is illegal and that media exposure will jeopardize their ability to conduct such activities within the community. For these reasons, dogfight participants have:

1. Created a fraternity-type atmosphere;
2. Instilled a fear of retaliation to discourage police informants (see advertisement in Appendix III); and
3. Created a double-life image through involvement in legitimate activities or legal dog shows.

Additionally, those involved frequently have a rudimentary understanding of how undercover law enforcement investigations are conducted, and some have been known to conduct counter-surveillance of local law enforcement and animal control facilities during matches. Investigators who attempt to infiltrate dogfighting rings without gaining an introduction via a well-placed informant should expect to be met with extreme suspicion, and be prepared to spend weeks or even months establishing a credible cover before ever being allowed to attend a match. Savvy participants will likely utilize stall tactics to check out the investigator's claimed employment or business, and may also try to visit his or her purported residence.

However, there has been an increasing number of successful prosecutions in states where statutes proscribe owning, possessing, keeping, or training animals with the intent to enter them in any exhibition of fighting, or keeping a place for the fighting or baiting of animals. Investigators have found that dogfighters tend to keep a considerable amount of incriminating evidence on the property where their dogs are confined as well as in their homes and vehicles. Probable cause for a search warrant is often obtained through surveillance to verify possession of staked-out pit bull dogs (some bearing scars consistent with those found on dogs used for fighting), training or conditioning devices such as treadmills and catmills, and dogfighting pits. In several recent cases, evidence was visible from the perimeter of the suspects' property or from the air.

Regularly checking the classified pet ads in local newspapers is an excellent way of initiating contact with pit bull breeders and fighters. Even if breeders are opposed to dogfighting, they often will have some contact with individuals interested in purchasing fighting dogs and may be able to provide information.

Underground dogfighting publications such as *Sporting Dog Journal*, *The Pit Dog Journal*, *The American Gamedog Times*, *The Scratch Line*, *Face Your Dogs*, *The Pit Bull*

Underground dogfighting magazines can be a wealth of information to investigators.



Chronicle, Bits on Pits, Your Friend and Mine, and others have proven to be excellent sources of information and leads for investigators. While some of these publications are difficult to acquire as they may require a sponsor in order to obtain a subscription, they are often worth the effort, since most contain fight reports from around the country and advertisements for puppies from proven stock, dogs open to match, and dogfighting paraphernalia. Although advertisements contain information along with addresses or phone numbers that can be checked, many fighters use aliases in their fight reports due to the fear of being caught. A knowledge of these pseudonyms makes it possible to track certain individuals in the publications. Familiarity with dogs' names can be helpful, too. While individuals may use an alias, a dog's name often remains the same throughout his or her life. The dog's name is usually two-part, with the first part identifying the breeder or current owner and the second part being the dog's name (example: Ironrun's Spike). An affidavit by an expert witness can help demonstrate the significance of such evidence and assist investigators in obtaining a search warrant.

Possible sources of information used to build successful cases might include the following examples:

- Underground dogfighting publications
- Sites on the Internet or other online services devoted to dogfighting
- Suppliers of dogfighting equipment or paraphernalia
- Breeders running classified ads in local newspapers
- Local humane society or animal control personnel
- Dog license records
- Local veterinarians
- Gamblers or persons arrested or convicted of related offenses
- Dogfighters or persons arrested or convicted of related offenses
- Drug dealers or users or persons arrested or convicted of related offenses
- Participants in weight-pulling contests
- Neighbors of dogfighters (vicious dog or neglect complaints)
- Utility service people and mail carriers (vicious dog complaints)
- Wild hog hunters (pit bulls are sometimes used as catch dogs)

There are many possible violations of the law associated with the crime of dogfighting. Investigators should be encouraged to pursue cases creatively and from several different angles. In addition to state laws specifically addressing dogfighting or animal fighting, investigators should explore the applicability of statutes related to the following:

- Animal cruelty (general statutes)
- The federal Animal Welfare Act (if interstate activity is indicated)
- Gambling
- Possession of concealed or stolen weapons or property
- Manufacture, possession, or distribution of controlled substances
- Alcohol sales
- Contributing to the delinquency of a minor
- Tax laws (unreported income, ill-gotten gains)
- Racketeering laws

Many dogfighters act as though they are proud of the fact that they are outlaws, and background checks on convicted individuals indicate that a large percentage have extensive prior records for a variety of other crimes. It is not unusual for dogfighters to boast among themselves about their past arrests or convictions for assault, drug dealing, theft, and other crimes. In fact, police agencies often become aware of illegal animal fighting by accident during the course of

seemingly unrelated investigations. Whenever feasible, vice or narcotics investigators should inquire about a suspect's (or informant's) knowledge of illegal animal fighting. One such investigation began after a narcotics agent observed that a suspect had several tattoos of pit bull dogs, including one depicting dogs in combat.

In recent years, dogfighters have attempted to conceal their participation in dogfighting by claiming they raise the dogs for legal weight-pulling competitions. Past investigations have revealed that some dogfighters do indeed attend UKC- or ADBA-sanctioned conformation and weight-pulling events, sometimes referred to as point-and-pull shows. Participation in these events allows fighters to claim they only raise the dogs for legitimate purposes, and it is a means of making contact with other fighters. Because these events are open to the public, they also provide an excellent opportunity for investigators to initiate contact with suspects, identify associates, record vehicle licenses, and photograph participants with battle-scarred dogs. Since many of these events are hosted by a local or state pit bull club, some investigators have found it advantageous to become a member in order to meet individuals who are knowledgeable about, and possibly involved in, dogfighting. Whatever the approach, it is important to remember that participation in legal activities such as weight-pulling contests does not rule out involvement in criminal activities.

Finally, because multiple jurisdictions are frequently involved, limited contacts should be established with other cooperating agencies (humane societies, animal control, law enforcement, etc.). The multi-jurisdictional task force approach has been enormously successful in various parts of the country. Investigators are invited to contact The HSUS regional office serving their area or HSUS headquarters for further assistance (see Appendix V).



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Dealing with Street Fighting

Law enforcement and animal control agencies around the country have reported an escalation in street fighting. As noted earlier, street fighters present particular difficulties since they readily disperse if law enforcement officers arrive on the scene. Street fighting can have a dramatic impact on neighborhoods. People who may not feel threatened by the presence of clandestine drug deals or prostitution in the area may feel seriously threatened by young men with dangerous and often poorly controlled dogs on the same street.

Street fighting is often unplanned—rivals may simply encounter one another in a public or private location and allow their dogs to fight for the sake of bragging rights or an impromptu bet. Street fights also occur at common gathering spots, such as school yards, parks, and abandoned

buildings. In some cases, a street fight is one form of encounter between rival gangs. Gang rivalry has sometimes taken the form of acts of violence against rivals' dogs, such as the maiming and killing of dogs in a training yard.

Unlike other forms of dogfighting, street fights may involve breeds other than pit-bull type dogs, including rottweilers, German shepherds, and Doberman pinschers. In some cases, the attraction is not a formal fight between dogs owned by two participants, but rather an attack on a stray or stolen dog or cat.

Street fighting is one highly visible component of neighborhood violence. So effective response requires a community commitment. Law enforcement agents will rarely encounter a street fight in progress unless members of the community report it as soon as it seems to be starting. People won't report it if they feel there will be no response. Effective measures against street fighting require the coordination of local police, animal care and control agencies, and community groups. Even if street fighters are not caught in the act, residents may be willing and able to identify participants who may be in violation of one or more local ordinances.

Street dogfighting has been on the rise in urban areas.

Several kinds of state or local laws can be effective in controlling street fighting.

Licensing and Rabies Vaccination Laws. Participants in street fights are unlikely to have licensed their animals, although some may have at least obtained rabies vaccinations for them.

Dangerous Dog Laws. Many of these laws provide for a hearing process by which an animal may be defined as dangerous or potentially dangerous. Often such laws do not allow possession of such dogs by minors. For more information, see The HSUS publication *Guidelines for Controlling Vicious or Dangerous Dogs*.

Chaining Ordinances. Several communities ban long-term tethering of dogs, a practice commonly used for fighting dogs, including those used in street fighting.

Laws That Define Dangerous Dogs as “Deadly Weapons” or “Dangerous Instruments.” Several states have added such animals to the legal definition of “weapon,” and charges ranging from assault to murder have successfully been brought against individuals who have used their dogs to threaten, injure, or kill others.

Street fighters are, by definition, irresponsible dog owners. Any effort to increase enforcement of laws that hold owners responsible for the actions of their animals can be effective in controlling this growing problem.

Confiscation, Identification, and Ultimate Disposition of Fighting Dogs

Unfortunately, some law enforcement agencies have, in the past, concentrated solely on the arrest of dogfighters, while completely ignoring the necessity for seizing the dogs. It is important to remember that the dogs in such cases must be treated as abused animals who must be removed for their protection and as evidence in a criminal proceeding. The appropriate official with the local humane society or animal control agency should be given adequate notice so transportation and housing of seized animals can be coordinated.

Proper identification and documentation of animals seized in connection with illegal animal fighting ventures is critical for the chain of custody, and the liability of the sheltering agency responsible for the care of the animals when the case goes to trial. Due to the complexities of animal fighting laws, many states require that seized animals be held until the disposition of the court case. A detailed record of each animal’s condition and distinguishing features as originally found is strongly recommended.

If a fight is in progress when the initial entry is made by a law enforcement team, the team leader should instruct any persons found to be in the arena to separate the dogs and go to opposite corners as soon as it is practical and safe to do so. Because there is a likelihood that fleeing suspects will abandon their dogs in the arena, it is recommended that two or more animal control officers be assigned to the task of separating and controlling the dogs and that they closely follow the entry team.

Once a raid site has been secured by law enforcement personnel, all animals should be examined by a veterinarian to determine the extent of their injuries. Each animal should be completely photographed or videotaped to show his or her condition at the scene. Additional photographs should be taken as necessary to more clearly show injuries and individual markings. Positive identification of each animal will be made easier if an officer holds an index card plainly



All dogs seized as evidence in a dogfighting case should be photographed and identified.

showing the case number, date, and the evidence number in a corner of the picture area. Color film is recommended for identification purposes. In addition to photographs, it is useful to document specific markings and injuries or scars on a body diagram (see sample in Appendix IV). The diagram of each animal should contain information indicating breed, sex, color, weight, and other distinguishing features. The file for each animal seized should include photographs, diagrams, medical records, and other pertinent information as it is received. For security purposes, it is advisable to prepare a duplicate file for each animal, and to keep the originals in a safe location outside the animal shelter. Photographic negatives should also be stored in a secure location in case the original prints are lost or destroyed.

If suspects are being held at the scene of a raid while the dogs are being seized, it is important to instruct all officers not to ask individuals to identify or claim ownership of the animals without first checking with the officer in charge. Under some circumstances, identifying who owns particular animals through questioning without first having admonished the individuals of their rights per *Miranda* would be construed as an incriminating act in violation of their constitutional rights.

Since fighting dogs are extremely aggressive toward other animals, they must be transported and housed separately. It is strongly recommended that they be kept in a secure area away from public access. Paperwork accompanying such animals should specify the aggressive nature of the animal, and that the animal is not available for adoption or redemption (pending a court order). Numbered, commercial plastic collars, tags, or similar identification devices should be attached to each animal.

Severely injured animals should be transported directly to a veterinary clinic for treatment, and a detailed record of all injuries should be obtained from the examining veterinarian. All animals received at the sheltering facility should be given a thorough exam by a veterinarian for health problems and to determine the extent of any new or old injuries. Carcasses of any deceased dogs located at the site or of dogs who do not survive should also be examined, photographed, and held as evidence pending trial. For detailed information on the long-term housing of fighting dogs, contact The HSUS or visit www.hsus2.org/sheltering/magazine/currentissue/jul_aug97/contents.html.

Once dogs seized in a dogfighting investigation are no longer required to be held as evidence, their disposition comes into question. Unfortunately, once a dog has been bred or trained to fight, he or she will always have the potential of being a vicious animal who can easily maim or kill another dog, cat, or even a human. In addition, most fighting dogs are well-known to dogfighters

These dogs exhibit face injuries typical in fighting dogs.



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Left and below: These photos show typical injuries to dogs' legs from fighting.



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in a community, and there will always be the risk that the dog will be stolen so that he or she can be fought again. Finally, there is a serious liability involved if a shelter should adopt out an animal who has such a known vicious propensity. Therefore, it is the recommendation of The HSUS that any dog who has been specifically bred or conditioned for fighting, or for which there is evidence that the dog has been used for fighting, should not be placed for adoption by an animal shelter, but humanely euthanized as soon as legally possible.

Search Warrant

Investigations into organized dogfighting may lead in several directions and continue for months before sufficient information is gathered for an arrest or search warrant. When that time comes, the paragraph that follows can serve as a guide when preparing a search warrant for evidence of dogfighting.

All American pit bull terriers, fighting dogs, guard dogs, and dogfighting paraphernalia, to wit: treadmills, catmills, exercise wheels, hides or other material used as hanging devices to strengthen or condition dogs; collars, leashes, chains, and other devices used to exercise or restrain fighting dogs; wooden sticks or handles used to pry open dogs' jaws; magazines, photographs, film, videotapes, or writings that depict or promote dogfighting or training or conditioning of dogs for dogfighting; any still cameras or movie or video cameras used to record dogfighting activity; all portable carrying cases and pens; antibiotics, drugs, or vitamins used to treat injured dogs or to enhance their performance; needles and syringes used for the administration of such drugs; suture kits and other veterinary supplies; weapons, handguns, shotguns, or rifles used to protect the premises upon which illegal dogfighting occurs; computers and computer diskettes or other removable media containing information related to dogfighting; registration papers or other written materials showing ownership of pit bull dogs or other fighting dogs, including bills of sale, pedigrees, breeding records, and veterinary records; any dogfighting records, including name and telephone number lists of persons suspected of being dogfighters; any awards, trophies, plaques, or ribbons promoting or relating to dogfighting; any constructed enclosures or components of any pits or arenas used for the purpose of dogfighting or training dogs for fighting; any carpeting or other materials used on the floor of such pits; weight scales; any washtubs, buckets, pails, and sponges used to wash dogs; any rules, contracts, or other written agreements concerning the fighting of dogs.

How to Interpret Fight Reports

Excerpts of several fight reports from an underground publication appear on the next page for purposes of interpreting the results.

Upon reviewing the fight results, you will notice some are separated by a solid line or asterisks running across the page. Generally, this indicates that all matches contained between the two lines occurred at the same location and on the same date. Depending on the quality and number of fights, a group of matches could be called a convention. If only one fight is reported between the lines, we preliminarily assume it was the only fight held at that time and location.

The first line of copy indicates the following:

- 1. Names of the dogs being matched.** The name or nickname preceding the dog's name will be the name of the breeder or the name of the current owner. The unwritten rule is that the breeder's name will remain part of the dog's name even if the dog is sold. However, some new owners will substitute their own name so they will be identified with the dog. So while a fight report might list one of the dogs as Jones' Crazy Mary, there is no guarantee that Mr. Jones was present when the dog was fought, since Mr. Jones might be nothing more than the breeder. Unless the report states otherwise, we must assume the dog was handled by his or her owner. In some cases, dogs will also be owned or sponsored by two or more dogfighters who have formed a partnership.
- 2. The dogs' sex and weight.** Following the names of the dogs are their sex and weight. For example, "F 37" would mean that the dogs were both females weighing in at 37 pounds. A "CW" following "F" for females (FCW) or "M" for males (MCW) would mean that both dogs are being fought at an unstipulated catch weight, not equal weight. Usually, larger dogs weighing over 52 pounds are fought at catch weight.
- 3. The referee.** While it frequently only consists of a pseudonym or initials, the last listing on the first line identifies the referee of the match.

After the first line, the information contained in the report generally consists of such information as the combatants' bloodlines, past wins, any unusual problems such as a dog over the contracted weight, and a brief description of the fight.

Each of the descriptive phrases below was gleaned from a different report and is followed by an explanation in parentheses:

Misty's mouth has her ahead at 15. (The dog called Misty is biting harder or more often for the first 15 minutes of the combat.)

Booger is picked up at 1:41. (After 1 hour, 41 minutes, the dog called Booger was physically picked up and removed from the pit by the handler or owner, who thereby conceded the match.)

Panhead turns at 20. (The dog called Panhead committed a foul by turning his head and shoulders away from his opponent without attempting to gain a new hold at the 20-minute mark. After both dogs are picked up free of holds and allowed a brief rest, Panhead is released from his corner and must then scratch to his opponent. The other dog is released when Panhead makes contact and the fight continues.)

Two each when Panhead decides to leave at 48. (Both dogs have been required to complete two scratches each by the 48-minute mark, when Panhead jumps out of the pit and loses the fight.)

After two each, the black stops at 38. (After both dogs have successfully completed two scratches each, the black dog stops fighting at the 38-minute mark.)

The last line of the report is the name of the winning dog.

Excerpts of Fight Reports

575—Busenbark's HAZE + Myers' GISMO M46 Hicks
GISMO a 2x winner, TONKA BEAR/Loposay's BULLET breeding, 2 lbs. over the limit. HAZE by CH RATTLER out of Busenbark's ASIA. GISMO can't keep up with the fast pace and is picked up in 18.
Winner: Busenbark's HAZE

576—A & T Kennels' VIXEN + Old Badger's BIG D F47 Ronnie
VIXEN an ELI/TURTLE BUSTER cross, BIG D from a CRACKER JACK/COWBOY bloodline, VIXEN conditioned by Blue Collar Bill. VIXEN pulls out in front by 30 and at 47 BIG D turns and don't complete his scratch at 50.
Winner: A & T Kennels' VIXEN

577—G & M Kennels' FANCY + Jim R's PATCHES F35 Mountain Man
FANCY a 1x winner from a BOOMERANG/BLOODY SUNDAY cross. Several scratches at 40 PATCHES stops.
Winner: G & M Kennels' FANCY

578—Gusto's SPOOK + P.O.W. Kennels' POLO M? Sir John
SPOOK conditioned by Sonny, handled by Bobby. POLO handled and conditioned by Darryl. SPOOK turns first and runs his scratch at 50. At 1:27, POLO was picked up on the scratch line before the ten count.
Winner: Gusto's SPOOK [1]

579—High Tech Kennels' EVIL + Lionel's L.L. M41 Sente
EVIL from an ELI/Maloney bloodline, sired by Plumber Ron's OREO, Handled and conditioned by Jim. L.L. from a Sorrells bloodline. EVIL's mouth has L.L. picked up in 30 and he gives a good courtesy scratch.
Winner: High Tech Kennels' EVIL

580—Samart's PETTICOAT + Underdog Kennels' DAISY F44 PMK Rita
PETTICOAT a black by Smart's CH MALCOLM X, handled and conditioned by Samart. DAISY, a 1x winner, in France. She is sired by KRELIS out of a Mayfield bitch. PETTICOAT turns early but it's an even match with PETTICOAT getting a slight lead by 35. At 46 DAISY is picked up and runs a falling down courtesy scratch.
Winner: Samart's PETTICOAT [1]

581—L.G. & Mack's DUSTY + Dan's ROC M36 S. LA Combine
ROC a 1x winner stays even for 40 and is picked up in 1:50.
Winner: L.G. & Mack's DUSTY

Glossary of Dogfighting Terms

Agreement	A contract for a fight that specifies such things as the names, sexes, and weights of the dogs to be matched; the rules to be used; the amount of wagers or forfeits; and the names of the principals with a witness' signature.
American Dog Breeders Association (ADBA)	A registry founded in 1909 exclusively for American pit bull terriers.
Bad Signs	Indicators that a dog is about to quit a pit contest such as growling, barking, crying out, turning away, and making slower scratches.
Bleeder	In combat, a term for a ruptured vein or artery that produces substantial bleeding.
Box	See "pit".
Breaking Stick	A wedge-shaped stick used to break the bite hold of a pit bull in a fight. Usually made of wood.
Buckskin	A very light fawn coloration. The term "fawn" is rarely used by pit bull enthusiasts.
Bulldog	An American pit bull terrier.
Bump	See "Roll."
Catch Dog	A dog who is used for catching wild boar.
Catch Weight	Unstipulated matching weights or any pit bull weighing more than 52 pounds.
Catmill (Jenny)	A conditioning device consisting of one or more spokes projecting from a rotating central shaft in the ground. A dog is harnessed to one spoke and a lure (small animal) is attached to a leading spoke or other fixture in front of the dog so that the dog will run in circles attempting to catch the lure. Weights are frequently attached to ancillary spokes or a drag may be added to increase resistance.
Chain Weight	A dog's normal weight in a kennel or on a chain as opposed to his or her match weight. A dog's match weight is the ideal fighting weight after having gone through a rigorous conditioning program called a keep.
Champion	Rank conferred by various pit dog publications on dogs who have won three contract matches if the owner submits the necessary documentation.
Contract	See "Agreement."
Convention	A major show consisting of several matches. Frequently, conventions involve participants from several states and last for an entire weekend. Extended weekends are favored so that fanciers can travel farther distances.
Courtesy Scratch	At the conclusion of a match, it is highly desirable for both dogs to continue to show aggression. The losing dog is released to make a short, no contact scratch. The winner is then allowed to scratch back.
Crop-eared (Battle Crop)	Ears that have been cropped short to produce a sharp, tough look. The decision to crop ears or leave them natural is strictly a matter of the owner's personal preference for the dog's appearance, and will not affect the outcome of a match.
Cur	1. Any breed other than the American pit bull terrier. 2. A pit bull who is not deeply game.
Cur Out	To show a lack of gameness; to quit.
Cutters	A dog's incisors or canine teeth.
Dead Game	The description given to a dog who never quit trying to kill his or her opponent despite serious, life-threatening injuries.
Dogger	A slang term for a dogfighter.
Down-dog	The dog receiving the most punishment during a match, usually down on the carpet.
Fancier	An aficionado of pit bull terriers and dogfighting.
Fanged	When a dog inadvertently pierces his or her own lip with a canine tooth while attempting a bite hold on an opponent.
Fast-mouthed	In combat, a dog who makes numerous bite holds in rapid succession.
Flirtpole	An exercise device consisting of a pole with a lure attached. The dog chases the lure, which is guided by a trainer holding the pole.
Gambler's Delight Game (Gameness)	A dog who shows bad signs but is actually game. 1. The "sport" of dogfighting. 2. The combined qualities of courage, aggression, and tenacity in the face of utter exhaustion and possible death.
Game Test	To ascertain the depth of a dog's gameness by rolling until completely exhausted, then having the dog prove gameness by scratching to a fresh dog.
Grand Champion	Rank that can be conferred on a dog who has won five contract matches without any losses.
Handle	The act of handling a dog and lifting him or her away from the opponent.

Handler	The person responsible for handling a particular dog during a fight.
Jenny	See “Catmill.”
Keep	A rigorous diet and exercise program designed to prepare and condition a dog for a contract match, usually four to six weeks prior to the fight. Except for exercise periods, a dog in keep is usually isolated from other dogs and kept quiet. The entire keep is usually preceded by a “pre-keep” lasting about two weeks during which the dog is checked for any medical conditions.
Match	A contracted dogfight.
Match Dog	A dog who is used or intended for use in a contracted match.
Match Weight	The fighting weight of a pit dog. One of the main reasons for the keep is to bring a dog down to his or her most efficient match weight.
Meeting Place	One or more designated locations, such as motels and restaurants, where dogfighters and their guests are told to gather prior to a fight.
Old Family	A family of pit dogs who were imported from Ireland in the latter half of the 19th century. Examples of strains that were founded upon the Old Family are the Colby, Feely, Lightner, and Corvino bloodlines.
Old Family Reds	A part of the Old Family who, when kept pure of all other lines, were either red or white, or red and white in color.
Old Family Red Nose	A part of the Old Family who, when kept pure, showed a red- or copper-colored nose.
Pick-up	Occurs when a handler concedes a match by picking up his dog.
Pit	1. Sometimes referred to as the “box,” the pit is the arena where fights are conducted. A typical pit is constructed of plywood walls measuring 24 to 36 inches high and approximately 14 to 20 feet square, although concrete, sheets of metal, and bales of hay have been used to construct a pit. The floor of the pit is usually covered with carpet or canvas to allow increased traction. Many pits are designed to be disassembled so as to be portable. 2. To set (dogs, etc.) in a pit to fight. 3. A shortened term for the American pit bull terrier.
Producer of Record (POR)	This is a list of dogs established and maintained by <i>Your Friend and Mine</i> . A sire and dam are given one point for each win of their immediate offspring. A male must have 15 points and a female must have 10 points to make the list. Champion offspring will net the sire and dam one extra point. Grand champion offspring will net two extra points for the sire and dam.
Prospect	A younger dog who is being schooled but who has not yet been game tested.
Register of Merit (ROM)	This is a list of dogs established and maintained by the <i>Sporting Dog Journal</i> . Each dog is credited with one point for each champion produced and one additional point for each one of these champions who goes on to win a grand championship. A male dog must be the sire of at least four champions to get on the list and a female must be the dam of at least three champions.
Roll (Bump)	The controlled pitting of dogs as a training exercise. A primary method of weeding out dogs unsuitable for the pit.
Rough-mouthed Dog	A dog who shakes his or her opponent violently when a bite hold is secured.
Schooling	A process consisting of a series of rolls in which a prospect is introduced to fighting and is allowed to develop his or her own fighting style. Schooling generally begins when the dog is between 12 and 24 months of age. The first roll is often very short, lasting 5 to 10 minutes, and is not intended to result in much damage. The second roll is usually longer, lasting 10 to 20 minutes, to give the prospect a more strenuous test, to expose the dog to different fighting styles, and to let the prospect start developing his or her own fighting style. The third roll is often the game test. A dog may be culled at any time throughout the schooling process if he or she displays bad signs.
Scratch	A method by which a dog must demonstrate gameness in a pit contest. The act of rushing across the pit and taking hold of an opponent within a specified count, which can vary according to the rules of the fight. Scratches are made from behind diagonal lines in opposite corners of the pit. The first scratch is a simultaneous release; subsequent scratches are alternating.
Scratch Lines	Lines drawn diagonally across opposite corners of the pit from behind which the dogs are set down and released.
Scratch to Win	An agreement made between handlers to end a match. Under such an agreement, the designated dog must leave his or her corner upon release, cross the pit, and attack the opponent within a set time limit in order to be declared the winner.
Show	A set of matches or a convention.
Started	When talking about a particular dog, a fighter might say that the dog has “started,” meaning that the schooling process has begun.
Untouched	A dog who has not been fought.

Cockfighting



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Cockfighting has existed for thousands of years and in many parts of the world. It is believed to have been a popular diversion in ancient times in parts of India, China, Persia, and other Eastern countries. Cockfighting was introduced to Greece about the time of Themistocles (c.524 to 460 B.C.), and it spread throughout Asia Minor and Sicily. According to some historical accounts, the ancient Romans feigned to despise this Greek diversion for a lengthy period, but ended up adopting it so enthusiastically that the agricultural writer Columella (first century A.D.) complained that its devotees often spent their whole inheritance betting at the side of a pit. It is generally agreed that the early Romans were responsible for the first artificial spurs and the introduction of cockfighting to Britain.

Much later, despite opposition from the Christian clergy, cockfighting became popular in the Low Countries, Italy, Germany, Spain and its colonies, and throughout England, Wales, and Scotland. The most popular methods of staging cockfights included:

1. The **Main**, in which the matched cocks of two principals fought an odd number of battles with the majority of victories deciding the winner;
2. The **Battle Royal**, in which any number of birds would be pitted at the same time and allowed to kill until only one bird remained; and
3. The **Welsh Main**, in which eight pairs of cocks were fought with the eight victors being paired and fought again, then four, and finally the last surviving pair.

While cockfighting was patronized by all classes, only the wealthiest cockfighters could afford to breed their own strains of cocks in large numbers. Cockfighting remained a favorite pastime of English nobility from the early 16th century until the mid-19th century, when it came under

increasing criticism because of the cruelty involved. In 1835, animal baiting contests were made illegal in England with the passage of the Metropolitan Police Act. The law was strengthened and cockfighting was specifically prohibited with the passage of the Cruelty to Animals Act of 1849.

Cockfighting was introduced to American colonies at an early date, but was soon prohibited in the older states. The first state to outlaw cockfighting was Massachusetts in 1836. Although it is hardly germane and would not constitute a defense, cockfighters frequently make the claim that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Andrew Jackson were avid cockfighters, and that Abraham Lincoln actually earned the moniker “Honest Abe” by refereeing cockfights. With the exception of Andrew Jackson, who was known (and criticized by his contemporaries) for his involvement in the activity, historians have provided documentation to The HSUS that shows such stories to be untrue or grossly exaggerated.

At the time of the printing of this manual, cockfighting is illegal in 48 states and the District of Columbia, and a felony crime in 31 states (see www.animalfighting.org).

Unfortunately, many people believe that cockfighting exists in the U.S. today only as a cultural phenomenon among people of Hispanic or Filipino descent. It is true that cockfighting is practiced with varying degrees of popularity in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, the Philippines, and other parts of Southeast Asia; however, the assumption that someone would be automatically predisposed to this activity just because he or she is a member of a particular ethnic group is prejudicial and erroneous. Although it does exist, cockfighting is generally not recognized as a form of sport by the Latin American countries and it has been prohibited for years in some countries including Cuba, Paraguay, Costa Rica, and Brazil.

Who Participates in Cockfighting?

Promoter. This individual usually owns or controls the fight location and is responsible for all arrangements necessary to conduct the meet. Responsibilities would also include scheduling events and setting the entry fees; providing the pits and all other pit supplies; selecting the matchmakers, timekeepers, and referees; and arranging for security precautions. The promoter sets and collects admission fees as part of his or her income and may even rent out cockhouses (small sheds containing a work bench and stalls to house fighting cocks) to cockers (cockfighters) traveling from a distance. The promoter also controls any vendors, food and liquor sales, and any house gambling. Frequently, a promoter or group of cockfighters will form a game club that sets a season fight schedule and requires a paid membership in order to enter derbies and attend cockfights.

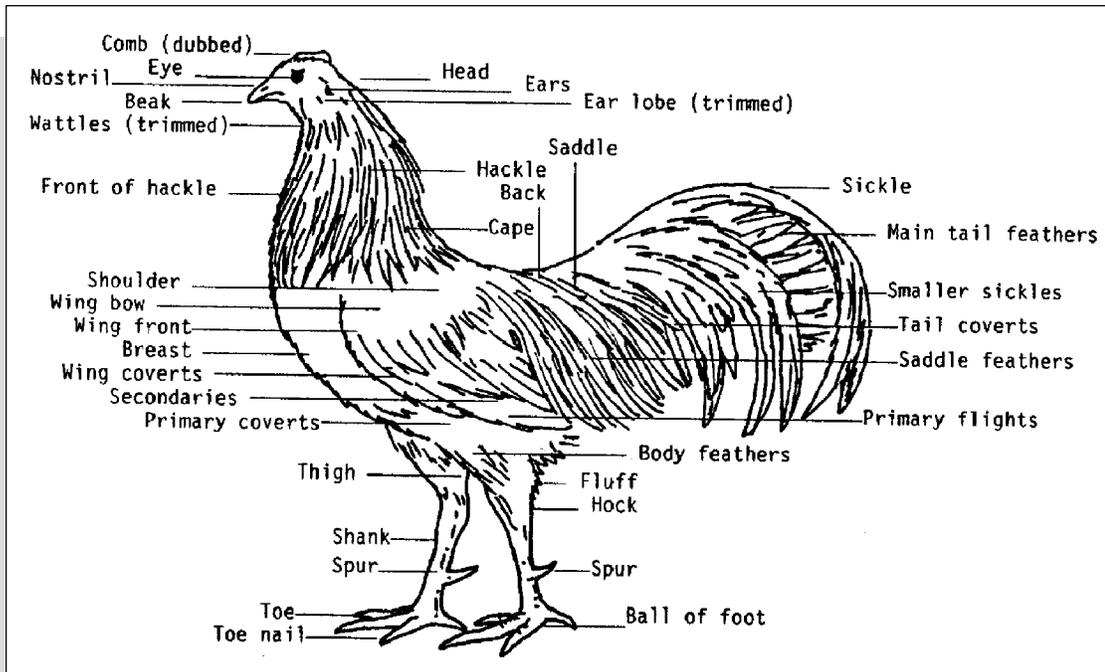
Handlers. Also referred to as pitters, these are the individuals who heel (tie the implements on the legs of the gamecocks) and handle the birds during a fight. If the handler is not the actual owner of the bird, he or she is usually paid a percentage of the purse if the bird wins. Only the two handlers and the referee are permitted in the pit with the birds during a cockfight.

Referees. These are the individuals who officiate in the pit during a cockfight. They are usually well-versed in the rules governing the contest, and they are responsible for checking such things as the weights of matched cocks and band numbers, and inspecting the implements worn by the birds. Depending on the size of the event and the number of pits available, there may be more than one referee. Other principals would include matchmakers, timekeepers, scorekeepers, and security personnel.

Spectators. Individuals who attend cockfights do so for a variety of reasons, although the opportunity to gamble and a penchant for bloodsports as entertainment are key factors. While most

cockfight enthusiasts are males, spectators can be of any sex, age, or race. An especially disturbing aspect of cockfighting in the United States today has to do with the frequent presence of young children and adolescents at these brutal and illegal exhibitions. During a recent raid on a large cockfighting derby in northern California, fleeing spectators left several frightened children behind for law enforcement officers to deal with. Brought by parents or other relatives and admitted by pit operators, impressionable children receive the message that cruelty and violence for fun is acceptable, and that laws and those who enforce them are to be feared. Law enforcement agents should always be prepared to deal with the possibility of children being present during enforcement actions.

The Gamecock



This diagram shows all of the anatomical parts of the gamecock commonly used in descriptions and found in the book Standards of Perfection. The rooster's comb, wattles, and earlobes are usually dubbed (surgically removed) before the onset of sexual maturity. This is done whether the gamecock is intended for breeding or show purposes or for the pit.

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Most likely, the oldest breeds of chickens are the game or fighting breeds, such as the red jungle fowl of India. It is generally agreed that all varieties and strains of domestic chickens are descended from jungle fowl. After humans domesticated these colorful wild fowl, they selected the most durable and tenacious birds for breeding purposes. As a result of this intense selection, gameness and fighting prowess became all important, and the Old English Games came to be. The Old English Games were the most widely distributed of the European games and became popular throughout the world. Consequently, independent varieties were developed in several countries including the United States and Australia. The Modern English Games were developed through crosses of Old English Games with the Malay by exhibition fanciers during the mid-19th century.

While these fowl and other breeds are also bred for show purposes, it should be remembered that raising birds for exhibition and raising birds for fighting are not mutually exclusive activities.

A complete description of all the recognized breeds and varieties of gamefowl is not necessary for the purposes of this manual. While color and markings are important for exhibition fowl, their physical qualities are also desirable in a fighting cock. Generally, a mature gamecock resembles a rooster whose comb, wattles, and earlobes have been surgically removed (dubbed). This operation is usually performed using scissors without benefit of anesthesia shortly before the male bird reaches sexual maturity. There are several reasons given for dubbing roosters. Some poultry experts

advise that the appendages are prone to injury and infections and that removing the comb will prevent the problems associated with frostbite in colder climates. While exhibitors of gamefowl and cockfighters both believe that a dubbed gamecock looks significantly truer to breed, cockfighters know that the absence of these parts will reduce the bird's overall weight and lessen the opportunity for injury (a comb will bleed profusely when cut and can seriously impair the bird's sight and fighting ability).

Another alteration cockfighters make to fighting roosters is to saw off the natural spur, leaving only a one-half-inch stump to serve as an anchor point for attaching the artificial spurs or gaffs. Although most cockfighters do this, others will leave the natural spur intact for matches against other naked-heel roosters, or those without gaffs.

Training, Conditioning, and Fight Preparation

Although cockfighters frequently make the claim that gamecocks do not need to be trained to fight and the birds can be characterized as aggressive and tenacious, the idea that staging a cockfight is nothing more than providing an opportunity for the birds to do what they do naturally is erroneous. In truth, gamefowl are the product of centuries of breeding for the quality of gameness, and serious cockfighters subject their birds to an intensive program of training and conditioning called a keep before a scheduled fight.

Most keeps last about two weeks and are preceded by a two-week pre-keep in which the birds to be fought are removed from the yard and placed in separate coops or stalls near the area where most of the training will take place. During the keep, the fighting cock follows a strict training schedule and is fed special foods and vitamins designed to achieve optimal physical condition and enhanced fighting ability.

Gamecocks are trained and conditioned for fighting through such activities as running, flirting, flying, leg pulls, and sparring.

Running involves a trainer placing the rooster on a level surface such as a padded bench. The trainer pushes the rooster from behind with one hand, forcing him to run about the distance of his arm span. The purpose of this exercise is to build endurance.

In **flirting**, the bird is held with one hand under the breast and is tossed approximately 2 feet into the air over a bench. He is caught with the other hand and tossed back and forth between both hands in a rhythm that keeps the bird continuously flapping his wings. Forward flirts are accomplished by holding the bird with both hands and tossing him in the air with a forward flipping motion. When cocks are released in a fight, they will charge each other and frequently meet in mid-air. This exercise strengthens the wings for the downward motion and is believed to create a sense of controlled balance in the gamecock.

To **fly** a cock is to hold one bird approximately 5 feet off the ground facing away from another cock held on the ground. The bird on the ground is then released to fly toward the bird being held in the air. Just as the birds are about to come into contact, the first bird is raised higher so that the flying bird misses. The process is repeated several times.

Leg pulls is another term for resistance pulling. The rooster is held by the tail feathers and belly and moved within reach of a padded counter-type surface. The rooster will reach to grab the counter while the trainer holds onto the tail feathers to create resistance. The purpose of this exercise is to build endurance in the leg muscles.



Fighting cocks are often tied out in a yard as shown here.

Sparring matches are conducted to determine a gamecock's fighting style and to indicate how a rooster is progressing in his training. To prevent serious injury, sparring muffs (like miniature boxing gloves) are placed over the rooster's natural spurs. Sparring matches are considered to be an essential part of a complete training program for the fighting cock. Hand sparring is a variation in how fighting cocks are sparred and can involve the trainer holding a cull cock or an effigy as a moving target.

Vitamins, Drugs, and Veterinary Supplies Used in Cockfighting

In addition to regimens that build up a bird's strength and endurance, cockers employ other measures to give their birds a winning edge. Many cockers give their roosters injections of digitalis (heart stimulant), vitamin K (to increase blood clotting), the male hormone testosterone, or their own mixture, often called a secret formula, as part of their keep. While the exact program and duration of individual keeps can vary, virtually all keeps call for sparring matches at prescribed intervals. The list that follows gives commonly used items, but is in no way complete.

Vitamins and Supplements

- Cock Booster, Rooster Charge, Red Rooster Booster (vitamin and mineral supplements)
- Amino Plex (amino acid supplement)
- Testrone Forte, Liquid Lightning (herbal supplements)
- Vitamin B-12 (injectable or in tablets and drops)
- Vitamin B-15 (decreases lactic acid in muscles to relieve fatigue and increase stamina)
- Vitamin K (injectable or in drops to aid blood clotting and reduce hemorrhaging)
- Blitz Energy Fuel (Contains predigested animal protein, glucose, and anise. Used during training and in advance of fights.)

Drugs

- Antibiotics—amoxicillin, ampicillin, erythromycin, metronidazole, penicillin, tetracycline
- Blue Magic (for blood clotting)
- Caffeine (to combat fatigue)
- Dextrose capsules (for energy)
- Formulas of Nux Vomica (a homeopathic preparation of strychnine used as a stimulant)
- Testosterone capsules (to increase aggression and muscle mass)
- Methamphetamines (stimulants)

Veterinary Supplies

- IV kit, syringes, and needles in various sizes
- Sutures, suture needles, and needle holders
- Iodine (to treat wounds)
- Witch hazel (reduces soreness)
- Stop-Bleed (styptic)

This photo shows many of the supplies, drugs, and other paraphernalia associated with cockfighting.



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The Fight

Historically, cockfights have been conducted in the United States since the colonization of North America. Various sites including courthouses, taverns, country stores, and farms have been used. Today, most cockfights are staged in converted barns or basements, or outdoors in remote locations to avoid detection by law enforcement. The cockfighting season usually runs from about Thanksgiving through the Fourth of July, although cocks are fought year-round in some regions with temperate climates.

The most common type of organized cockfight in the United States today is the derby, in which a number of cockers, usually between 10 and 30, enter a pre-set number of roosters, usually from four to 12. The cocks are fought round-robin, and the cocker whose roosters win the most fights is the winner. The derby is of relatively recent origin, probably dating from about 1929. It has been suggested that it emerged as the dominant form of cockfighting because it allows an individual with fewer roosters to compete at least several times a year. In contrast, many older types of fights required each participant to enter many more cocks, which in the past made cocking largely a rich man's sport. Derbies are set up to match gamecocks equipped with gaffs, long knives, or short knives, but do not permit birds equipped with different types of weapons to be matched; e.g., cocks equipped with gaffs would not be matched against cocks wearing knives except as a novelty event.

Before the fight, the handler will trim out a rooster, which usually includes shortening of the long tail feathers (sickle feathers) and wing primaries, and removal of some back, saddle, and vent area plumage with the intent to reduce some of the bird's weight and the possibility of overheating during a fight.

After arriving at the pit site, each cockfighter keeps his roosters separate to avoid pre-fight excitement. Some pit operators will assign rooms or rent out cockhouses (if available) for this purpose. After fighters select their entries, the roosters are weighed (usually recorded on a weight sheet) and banded with a numbered band. On average, fighting cocks weigh between 4 and 6 pounds and are matched against a bird of equal weight, with just two to three ounces leeway. Once all roosters are weighed and matched, the fighters pay an entry fee that can range from \$100 to more than \$1,000. All the entry fees go into a common pot making up the purse in a derby.

The pit owner also charges an admission fee for spectators, usually \$5 to \$25, which is used to pay for such expenses as utilities, the referee's fee (perhaps \$100 a day plus expenses at major pits), security precautions, and the costs of pit maintenance and disposal of the dead fowl.

Indoor pit sites usually include at least one main pit and are sometimes equipped with bleachers or chairs. The main pit usually has a diameter of 15 to 20 feet. Pits may be rectangular or circular in design with walls to a height of about 3 feet constructed of such materials as cement blocks, Plexiglas®, plywood, canvas, or bales of hay. Pit floors are usually dirt or clay and may be raised so that the first row of bleachers does not obstruct the view from other rows. Some pits are portable, making a permanent building unnecessary. Larger established pit sites often have one main pit and one or more smaller arenas referred to as drag pits. They frequently include such amenities as theater-style seating, air conditioning, restrooms, overhead lighting for night fights, public address systems, concession stands and booths for vendors, parking facilities, and cockhouses equipped with work surfaces and holding stalls.

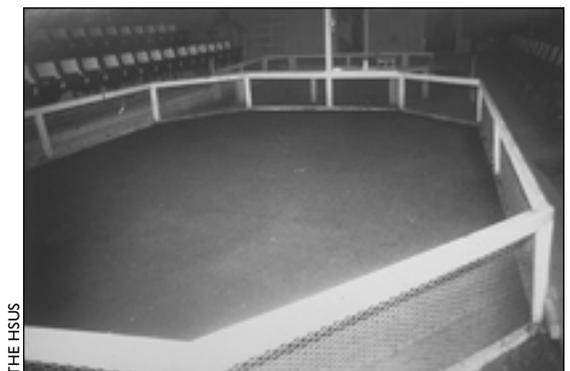
As their numbers are called, the cockers will be requested to heel the matched roosters for the first fight and report to the pit. Heeling is the



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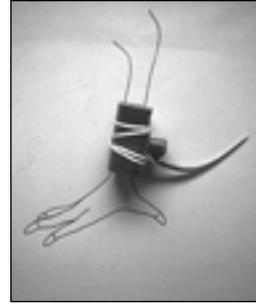
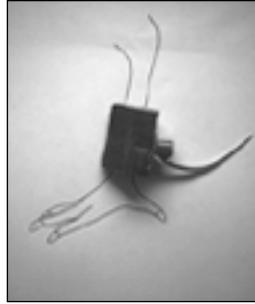
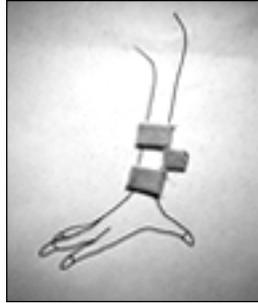
Two birds square off in a cockfight.

Cockfighting pits can be between 15 and 20 feet in diameter with sides 3 feet high.



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act of attaching the steel gaffs to the roosters' legs. Since the natural spur is cut off except for a half-inch stump, strips of moleskin or tape are placed around the legs above and below the stump of the natural spur, and then around the stump itself. Steel gaffs, which are constructed with a hole or socket that fits over the stump and serves as an anchor, are put in place. Leather straps attached to the socket are then wrapped around the leg over the moleskin or tape, and are secured with waxed string. This heeling procedure may take 15 to 20 minutes, and is done very carefully with the help of an assistant or holder to ensure the gaffs are firmly attached and protrude at the correct angle. In fights where the birds are equipped with long knives (Filipino slashers) or short knives (Mexican slashers), the implements differ greatly in design from gaffs and are attached only to the birds' left legs with a combination of materials such as tape, leather strips, and waxed string.



This series of photos shows how a fighting bird is heeled.

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1. This drawing shows a rooster's leg without any implements attached.

2. First, a cocker wraps moleskin or tape above and below the stump of the spur, then around the stump itself.

3. The gaff is fitted over the stump and leather straps attached to the gaff wrap around the leg.

4. Waxed string holds the gaffs and straps in place. This process is repeated on the other leg, and the cock is now heeled and ready for the fight.

During the time it takes to weigh each bird, record the information, and collect entry fees, there are sometimes hack fights in which birds of lesser quality are fought for side bets and wagers between the owners.

All fights begin in the main pit. If a fight drags on too long and others are waiting their turn, the cocks may be moved to a secondary or drag pit so that a new match can get underway. Knife fights often have a set time limit of 15 minutes. During a fight, only the referee and the two handlers are permitted in the pit with the roosters. The referee's job is to tell the handlers when to fight the roosters, when to handle or pull them apart, and when to rest them. He also keeps the count and ensures that both handlers abide by the rules. The rules of cockfighting are complex and vary from pit to pit, but most fights follow a basic pattern. After the referee examines the roosters to be fought and inspects the implements attached to their legs, he will declare them eligible, and the match begins with a procedure called *billing*. In order to provoke the roosters to attack, the handlers cradle the birds in their arms and then swing them within pecking range of one another. The referee draws two parallel score lines 6 to 8 feet apart in the dirt or clay floor of the pit. The handlers place the roosters at their respective score lines and release them at the referee's command, "Pit 'em." The roosters fight until the referee orders that they be handled in order to begin a count, or until they hang, meaning that one of the rooster's steel implements has become stuck in his opponent.

The referee stops the pitting with the command, "Handle," and the handlers are allowed to disentangle the cocks. After a 20-second rest period the cocks are again pitted. If one of the roosters ceases to attack, whether because of injury, exhaustion, or lack of gameness, the opposing

handler says, “Count me.” The referee then begins a count of 10 seconds. If the cock does not attack within the 10-second period, the opposing rooster is given the count. Subsequent pittings are initiated at the “short score” lines, which are usually about 2 feet apart and increase the probability of attack. If the cock with the count against him attacks by pecking or spurring, even if it is not directed at the opponent, as in the case of a rooster who has been blinded, the referee calls, “Broke,” indicating the count has been broken. Unless a rooster tries to escape the pit, which is an automatic loss, a cockfight typically ends in one of three ways:

1. One of the cocks dies,
2. One of the handlers concedes the fight, or
3. One cock fails to attack (quits) for three successive counts of 10 seconds and one count of 20 seconds.

This count is a good example of variation in the rules: At some pits, a cock loses after only three 10-second counts.

Investigative Techniques

Cockfighting has become a nationally organized activity supported by state or local gamefowl associations. Some of these groups will request references for applicants, and may request a home address and place of employment. Since cockfighters come from all walks of life (insurance salesmen, laborers, lawyers, politicians, etc.), they can easily verify someone’s background. Local cockfighters are sometimes acquainted with local law enforcement personnel, since cockfighting is often considered a minor crime. In fact, several courts have ruled in cockfighting cases that the state’s anti-cruelty laws did not apply because chickens do not fit the definition of “animals” under the law.

Possible Sources of Information

- Gamefowl and cockfighting publications
- Sites on the Internet or other online services devoted to cockfighting
- Manufacturers and suppliers of cockfighting equipment or paraphernalia
- National, state, or local gamefowl associations
- Poultry shows and exhibits
- Local humane society and animal control personnel
- Informants
- Drug dealers or users or persons arrested or convicted of related offenses
- Gamblers or persons arrested or convicted of related offenses
- Surveillance of observed gamefowl operations

Possible Violations of Law

- Cockfighting-specific offenses
- State anti-cruelty statutes
- Gambling
- Racketeering or operating establishments for gaming purposes
- Unreported income or tax evasion
- Conspiracy
- Narcotics and controlled substances
- Illegal sales of alcoholic beverages
- Contributing to the delinquency of a minor



Possible Violations of Law, continued

- Concealed weapons
- Disorderly conduct
- Animal Welfare Act or Animal Fighting Venture Prohibition (federal)

Possible Means of Infiltration

- Cockfighter
- Gambler
- Gamefowl breeder
- Supplier of training equipment or cockfighting paraphernalia
- Poultry exhibitor
- Drug dealer or user

Search Warrant

When preparing a search warrant for evidence of cockfighting, the paragraph that follows can serve as a guide.

All fighting cocks, gamefowl, and cockfighting paraphernalia, to wit: any implements commonly referred to as gaffs, long heels, short heels, jagers, bayonets, Texas twisters, socket knives, long knives, short knives, slashers, postizas, or any other sharp implement designed to be attached in place of the natural spur of a gamecock or other fighting bird; cockfighting paraphernalia including but not limited to gaff or slasher cases, gaff or knife gauges, sharpening stones, mounting blocks, leather wraps, scabbards, moleskin, tape, waxed string, and sparring muffs; tie cords, cages, enclosures, and portable carrying cases used to restrain, contain, or transport gamefowl; magazines, periodicals, photographs, film, videotapes, or writings that discuss or depict cockfighting or training or conditioning of gamecocks for fighting; dubbing shears, spur saws; call sheets, match sheets, score cards, betting slips, training or conditioning records, breeding records, leg or wing bands; veterinary drugs and supplies; antibiotics or other drugs used to treat injured fighting cocks or to enhance their performance; needles and syringes used for the administration of such drugs; suture kits and other veterinary supplies; computers, computer diskettes, or other removable media containing information related to cockfighting; written materials showing ownership of gamefowl or other fighting birds, including bills of sale, breeding records, and veterinary records; any cockfighting records including name and telephone number lists of persons suspected of being cockfighters; trophies, plaques, ribbons, or other awards promoting or relating to cockfighting; any constructed enclosures or components of any pits or arenas used for the purpose of cockfighting or training gamecocks for fighting; weight scales or cocker's scales; any buckets, pails, cans, and sponges used to wash fowl; cockfighting rule books, fight contracts, or other written agreements concerning the fighting of birds.

Glossary of Cockfighting Terms

Ace	A gamecock who has won at least eight fights.
Anchor Knot	The last knot that secures the string around a gaff. Anchor knots are usually tied below the socket in order to give more stability to the leg.
Band	See “Leg Band.”
Battle Royal	The placement of several roosters into the pit at the same time with the last survivor being declared the winner. This is sometimes done at the end of a match using injured cocks or birds that the owners intend to cull.
Bill (Billing)	When provoking the birds to fight, the handlers will cradle them in their arms so that only their heads and necks are free. The birds are then brought close together and allowed to peck at each other. Billing lasts from 10 to 30 seconds and is considered part of the fight.
Bishop	A cock that has had his spurs sharpened or filed to give the appearance of being a stag. In matching a stag against a cock, 4 ounces in weight is usually given to the stag; i.e., a stag can weigh 4 ounces more than the cock. Substituting a bishop for a stag is an attempt to cheat by using a cock and gaining an advantage of four ounces. See “Stag.”
Blinder	A handler who tries to place himself between the cocks and the referee in order to avoid a handle.
Blinker	A cock or stag who is blind in one eye.
Blinker Derby	A cockfighting event limited to birds who are blind in one eye.
Bloody Heel	A term for a cock who cuts very accurately.
Blow	1. A strike or kick by a cock, usually resulting in a gaff piercing the opposing bird. 2. To blow on a bird: A method used to revive an injured cock where the handler blows warm air over the bird’s head and neck in an attempt to stimulate blood flow to the brain.
Botana (Mounting Block)	A wooden block, sometimes wrapped in leather, with a socket designed to fit over the natural spur of a gamecock. Necessary for fixing a Mexican slasher or short knife to the left leg of a rooster.
Brain Blow	An injury, usually immediately fatal, caused by a gaff piercing the brain.
Break	1. To fly high at an opponent, usually several feet off the ground. 2. To break the count: See “Count.”
Breast	1. The forward end of a rooster’s body. 2. To come to the breast or go to the breast: To move both cocks to the short score lines. See “Short Score Lines.”
Brush Fights	Smaller, less organized cockfights involving “lesser quality” fowl and usually held in remote locations.
Bull	A stag or cock that shows obvious superiority or strength over his opponent.
Bull Stag	A gamecock between 15 months and 2 years of age that has not been through a complete molt.
Button Heel	The youngest of stags, usually less than one year old, who are just beginning to develop their natural spurs.
Call Sheet	A tally form used by pit officials to record the band numbers, entry numbers, and weights of cocks entered in a derby.
Catch Weight	When two birds are fought without regard to matching their weights, they are said to be fought at catch weight. Most shakes are fought at catch weight. See “Shakes.”
Center Score Lines	See “Short Score Lines.”
Check Weight	The exact weight at which a bird is to be fought. Most cocks must weigh between 2 and 3 ounces of each other in order to be matched. Cocks are weighed immediately before a fight to determine their check weight.
Cock	A mature gamecock (usually about 2 years of age) who has finished his first molt.
Cocker	A shortened term for cockfighter or anyone who breeds gamefowl for cockfighting.

- Cockhouse** A building or shed equipped with coops or stalls for keeping cocks. The stalls, which are usually in tiers at one side of the room, each measure approximately 2 1/2 feet square and are equipped with a door. When cocks are to be fought, a cocker keeps them in the cockhouse while preparing them for battle.
- Condition** To prepare a bird for fighting by putting him through a rigorous training and feeding schedule called a keep for up to 2 weeks before a fight. There are many different methods of conditioning a bird, and some fighters closely guard their conditioning program since they believe it determines the outcome of the fight. See “Keep.”
- Coop walk** See “Walk.”
- Count** The referee’s count, called out when no fighting occurs between two birds. The bird who made the last aggressive move has the advantage of the count while the other bird is being counted out. Usually, when one bird fails to attack, the handler of the opposing bird can call for a count. The complete count before a bird is declared a winner is three separate counts of 10 and one count of 20, with 15 to 20 seconds given between each count. After each count, the birds are handled and faced, and any aggressive move by the bird being counted out will end the count. After three counts of 10, the birds will be moved to the short score lines and remain there until the end of the fight. When a cock being counted out fights back, he is said to “break” the count. A cock breaking the count is entitled to the count himself if the opposing bird does not fight back. Rules may vary. For example, some fight rules will declare a winner after two counts of 10 and one count of 20.
- Country walk** See “Walk.”
- Coupled** A coupled cock is one who has received an injury to the spine or certain parts of the breast and lost control of his legs. Some cocks recover partially in a few minutes, while others give up quickly. Very few coupled cocks regain complete control of their legs.
- Cut** To inflict severe wounds with a knife or gaffs; to use a knife or gaffs accurately and effectively.
- Cutter** A gamecock who cuts in a superior manner.
- Cutting Test** A method of testing the cutting ability of a cock in which the cock to be tested is heeled and pitted against a bird fitted with muffs that a cocker intends to cull.
- Derby** A large cockfighting event in which a number of cockers pay an entry fee to enter a pre-set number of birds (usually from four to 12) of various weights in different fights, and, where possible, will not meet the same opponent more than once. The cocker winning the most fights is the winner and collects the purse, which is made up of all the entry fees. Some derbies have two money purses as well as options and other wagering means. Winnings may also be divided between the first- and second-place winners, minus a percentage for the pit operator.
- Diamond** A method of cheating in which a gaff is filed to a diamond point in order to give it a cutting edge.
- Dora Dirza (Taped Spur Boxing)** An ancient style of cockfighting from India that is currently being introduced to the United States. In this style of fight, cocks of Asil breeding are pitted against each other in timed bouts after their spurs have been wrapped with cloth and tape.
- Drag and Drag Pit** A drag pit is a smaller pit, separate from the main pit, where birds are placed to finish a fight when both cocks do not leave the score lines and the referee informs the handlers that time is going on. After the proper count to 20, both cocks will be moved to the short score lines in the center of the pit. The fight is now called a drag. Also, when one cock is awarded three counts of 10, both cocks will be moved to the short score lines for the last count of 20.
- Drop Gaff** See “Gaffs.”
- Draw** When neither cock has the count and there is no further fighting for a specified period, the referee will declare the fight a draw or tie. In a derby, a draw counts as one-half win for each entry.
- Dry Day (Drying Out)** A day in which all water is withheld from a cock in order to dehydrate him in preparation for a fight. Many cockers believe the dehydration helps to lessen blood loss. The dry day is usually the day before or the day of the fight.

- Dubbing (Clipping)** The surgical removal of a rooster's comb, wattles, and earlobes. While exhibitors of gamefowl and cockfighters both believe this operation makes the gamecock look truer to breed, cockfighters know that it reduces the fighting cock's overall weight and lessens the opportunity for injury and sight impairment from bleeding during a fight.
- Dubbing Shears** Scissors used by cockers for dubbing.
- Dunghill** A term used to describe a bird who runs. Also a common reference by cockers to describe barnyard fowl.
- Farm walk** See "Walk."
- Feeder (Conditioner)** A person responsible for maintaining a bird's weight.
- Flat** A method of cheating in which a gaff is filed to a flat cutting edge at the point.
- Flight Pens** Larger exercise pens measuring approximately 4 feet wide, 8 to 10 feet long, and 6 to 10 feet high.
- Flirt** A method of conditioning that is intended to strengthen a cock's wings and help him to develop balance while in the air. The bird is held with one hand under the breast and is tossed approximately 2 feet into the air over a bench. He is caught with the other hand and tossed back and forth between both hands in a rhythm that keeps the bird continuously flapping his wings. Forward flirts are accomplished by holding the bird with both hands and tossing him in the air with a forward flipping motion.
- Fly** Any of several methods of conditioning in which one cock is held approximately 5 feet off the ground facing away from another cock held on the ground. The bird on the ground is then released to fly toward the bird being held in the air. Just as the birds are about to come into contact, the first bird is raised higher so that the flying bird misses. The process is repeated several times.
- Gaff Case** A carrying case, such as a tackle box, or shaving kit, used for storing gaffs and other items a cockfighter will need for a cockfight. A typical gaff case may contain several types of gaffs, moleskin strips, waxed string, scissors, a file and sharpening stone, a suture kit, and a rule book.
- Gaffs (Heels)** The artificial steel spurs that are placed on gamecocks in place of their natural spurs. Sold in pairs, each gaff consists of the spike or needle-like spur; the socket, or base that slips over the stump of the gamecock's natural spur; the upper and lower flanges at the end of the socket; and a leather strap that is sewn to the flanges and designed to wrap around the bird's leg in order to provide physical support for the gaff. There are many types of gaffs, each named for the way in which the spike protrudes from the socket (regulation, bayonets, drop and full drop, jagers, skeletons, etc.). Gaffs also come in various lengths, measured from the tip of the point to the top back edge of the socket. Gaffs measuring 2¹/₈ inches and shorter are usually referred to as short heels, and gaffs measuring 2¹/₄ inches and longer are referred to as long heels. A cocker will choose a particular type and length of gaff according to how a specific bird fights; e.g., a bird who stays close to the ground may do better with a drop heel and a long spike, while a bird who flies off the ground may perform better with regulation short heels. Before the gaffs are placed on a bird, strips of moleskin are wrapped around the bird's legs above and below the natural spur (to act as a cushion), and then around the stump of the spur itself. The gaffs are then fitted and the leather straps are wrapped around the bird's legs and secured with waxed string.
- Game (Gameness)** Term used to describe the quality of courage that permits an animal to continue fighting even when totally exhausted, seriously injured, or dying.
- Gamefowl (Old English Games and Modern Games)** Descendants of jungle fowl, gamefowl is a term given to the game (fighting) breeds and any of a breed of fowl used for cockfighting.
- Gizzard Blow** A wound to the bird's gizzard area sometimes resulting in paralysis.
- Graveyard Dead** When a bird has collapsed and appears to be unable to continue to fight, but is still alive.

Hack (Hacked Cock)	A gamecock who will not show fight when presented to another cock. When a bird loses his courage or is dominated by another, he is said to be under hack.
Hack Fights	A single cockfight, held independently of other fights. The impromptu fighting of extra birds brought to the fight location while awaiting the start of the organized matches.
Handle	A term used by the referee requiring the handlers to pick up or separate their birds, often after one or both birds have a gaff hung in the other, or in the pit wall or floor. After each handle the birds are again faced, and the fight resumes.
Hand Sparring	A method of evaluating hitting ability. A cocker holds a cock or stag he intends to cull and uses the bird as a moving target for the bird being trained, who is fitted with sparring muffs.
Hang	When one or both birds has a steel gaff stuck in his body and cannot dislodge it to continue the fight.
Heel	The act of attaching gaffs or knives to the legs of the birds to be fought.
Heel By Band Number	The act of heeling the birds according to the number on the leg band. See “Leg Band.”
Heels	See “Gaffs.”
Hen	Female chicken used for breeding.
Keep	Refers to a program of intense training and conditioning of gamecocks prior to a match, especially the last two weeks before a fight. This period is often preceded by a pre-keep, which lasts about two weeks. A cock who is being conditioned is said to be in keep.
Knife (Slasher)	A steel weapon resembling a curved blade. Varieties of slashers include the Filipino slasher or long knife, the Mexican slasher or short knife, and the socket knife. Usually, only one knife is attached to the left leg of each rooster in a knife fight.
Leg Band	A small plastic or metal band placed around a cock’s leg in order to identify him. At a derby or other major fight, a bird will have a band placed on his leg by the pit operator after he has been weighed. A number on the band will be checked before the fight begins to ensure that another bird has not been substituted by a dishonest cocker.
Main	A type of cockfight in which two parties agree to show a certain number of cocks and match all those who weigh within 2 ounces of each other. The winner of the majority of the battles wins the main.
Main Score Lines	Parallel lines drawn approximately 6 to 8 feet apart on the floor of the main pit upon which the birds are released at the start of a cockfight.
Matchmaker	The person responsible for matching birds according to such information as weight and band number.
Molt	The word molt (or moult) means to cast or shed. When used in reference to fowl, it means the period when one suit of feathers is shed for another. The process is slow, lasting an average of about 4 months from the time the feathers begin to drop until the new feathers have hard quills. It is common for fowl to act lethargic during this period, which lasts from the latter part of July to about mid-November. Cockfighting activity also generally subsides during this period.
Mounting Blocks	See “Botana.”
Muffs (Sparring or Breeders Muffs)	Padded muffs designed to be placed over a cock’s or stag’s natural spurs to prevent serious injuries from occurring during sparring matches.
Naked Heel	A gamecock who is not equipped with artificial spurs. A term used to describe a cockfight without the use of gaffs or other artificial spurs.
Pinfeathers (Pins)	During the molt the quill at the butt of the new feather is called a pin or pinfeather. The term also applies to a new feather, which is always encased in a soft, bloody jacket.
Pit (Arena)	1. The pit is generally an enclosed area in which cockfights are staged. The pit can range from 15 to 20 feet in diameter. In some cases, an enclosure is not necessary. A space on the ground need only be cleared of rocks and debris so that the boundaries and score lines can be drawn in the dirt. 2. To set (cocks, etc.) in a pit to fight.
Pittings	The term used to describe the successive starts of a fight due to the referee’s calling a handle. Time between pittings is 20 seconds.

Postiza	An artificial spur made of aluminum, plastic, or turtle shell that is attached to the stumps of a gamecock's natural spur with glue and tape. Cockfights using such implements are popular in Puerto Rico, Central and South America, and parts of the United States.
Pullet	Term for a young female fowl until she finishes her first molt.
Quitter	A bird who fails to continue the attack, even if the other bird is dead. A quitter always loses.
Rattled	A term used to describe a bird who is having trouble breathing due to a punctured lung. A rattled cock usually emits a gurgling sound due to the blood in the air passageways.
Referee	Person responsible for enforcing the rules being used, starting the fight, calling handles, keeping the counts, and declaring a winner.
Round Head	Specially bred rooster who has no comb or wattles to dub.
Run	A conditioning method in which a bird is placed on a bench and pushed along with one hand, then turned around and run in the other direction with the other hand. This exercise is intended to build stamina.
Runner	A bird who attempts to flee the pit to avoid a fight.
Score Lines	See "Main Score Lines" and "Short Score Lines."
Shakes (Shakebags)	Roosters weighing 6 pounds, 6 ounces and over.
Shoot	To shoot another cock: To pierce an opposing cock with a gaff. Often shouted as words of encouragement, such as "Shoot 'em!"
Short Heels	See "Gaffs."
Short Score Lines	Parallel lines drawn 16 to 24 inches apart in the pit upon which the birds are released after being handled.
Show	1. A cockfight, derby, or tournament. 2. A cock who is eager to fight. 3. A cocker's collection of cocks, as in, "He brought a good show to the last derby."
Shuffle	A combination of blows struck by a cock.
Shuffler	A term used to describe a cock with the ability to strike many times very quickly.
Slasher	See "Knife."
Slip Leg (Slip Spur, Slip Heel)	A term used to describe a cock who does not have a full natural spur on which to fasten a gaff. Special materials must be used to attach a gaff to a slip leg cock.
Spar	A brief cockfight between birds heeled with sparring muffs in order to determine fighting style and evaluate fighting ability or progress during a keep.
Sparring Muffs	See "Muffs."
Sparring Stags	A method of evaluating a stag's fighting ability from the age of 6 months to 1 year to determine which stags will be culled and which stags will be tested for gameness.
Spur Saw	A small saw used to trim a cock's natural spurs.
Stag	Term for a young male fowl until he finishes his first molt (usually about 18 months of age).
Station	The height of a bird as determined by the length of his legs. Gamecocks are said to be high, medium, or low stationed. The station of a cock is a factor in the type of gaff that will be chosen for him.
String Walk	See "Walk."
Sun Coop	A portable pen that is set on the ground outside the cockhouse for a cock being conditioned so he is not confined in a stall all of the time.
Testing	Any of a variety of methods used to determine the gameness of stags between about 10 months to 1 year of age in which the bird to be tested is pitted against other birds a number of times over a period of days. Because the tests are intended to be severe and because they are usually conducted with the combatants wearing heels, it is not unusual for a number of the birds to be killed.

Texas Twister	A type of gaff that features a twisting spike.
Tie-out Cord	A cord fastened to a leg of a cock and secured to a stake or pen in a yard. Tie-out cords prevent cocks from coming into contact with other cocks in a yard while allowing them to scratch freely and exercise.
Tournament	A large cockfighting event in which every entry must meet each other entry one time. In a tournament, a cocker may fight as many as 16 different birds, and the elimination process is long and complex. The derby is now much more popular than the tournament in most regions.
Trimming Out	The removal of certain feathers prior to a fight; usually includes the shortening of the long tail (sickle) feathers, wing primaries, and removal of some back (saddle) feathers and plumage around the vent.
Vent	Cloaca, the anal area of a rooster.
Walk	Any of several different methods for keeping and housing a cock. A country walk or farm walk allows the cock to run free and establish his own territory. This method is often used for young stags and older birds. A string walk places the birds on individual tie-out cords, each with his own shelter. Often, more than 100 cocks can be kept in a yard on separate string walks. Birds who are kept in coops or pens are said to have a coop walk or pen walk.
Wheeler	A rooster who attempts to tire and disorient his opponent by running in circles.
Wry Neck	The puncturing of a bird's neck nerves by a gaff, causing partial to complete paralysis of the neck muscles.
Yard	The area in which cocks are kept or housed when not being conditioned for a fight.

Appendix I: Pit Rules

Cajun Rules, also known as Louisiana Rules, are probably the most popularly used dogfighting rules in the country at this time. There have been many alterations to this set of rules and options are available to the handlers. The Cajun Rules shown here are reprinted exactly as they appear in the booklet titled "Combat Rules."

Note: Spelling and grammatical mistakes are reproduced as in the original.

Cajun Rules

1. Size of pit optional; to be square with sides 2 feet high, scratch line 14 feet apart.
2. Referee to be chosen before the dogs are weighed in or washed and referee to conduct the contest according to these rules and his decision to be final.
3. Referee to see the dogs weighed at time agreed on and if either dog is over top weight agreed he loses forfeit money.
4. Parties to toss coin to see who shall wash first, each party to furnish two clean towels and a blanket.
5. If requested to do so the referee shall search the person named to wash the dog and then have him bare his arm to the elbow and wash both dogs in the same warm water and rinse them each in his half of the warm clean water provided for that purpose.
6. As the dogs are washed clean and dried they shall be turned over to their handlers and at once taken to their corners of the pit as designated by the referee, and the referee must search handlers for means of foul play and see that he bares his arms to the elbow before he receives his dog and must keep his arm bare in such a manner during the contest.
7. The dogs' owner or his representative shall be allowed at all times to be near his dog and watch to see that no harm is done him, and each owner shall be allowed to name a man or himself to watch over his opponent's dog and handler at all times to see he is given no unfair advantage.
8. Either dogs owner, handler or watcher if he sees anything wrong must at once appeal to the referee and get his decision. And if any handler, watcher or owner violates any of these rules and thereby favors either dog the dog so favored must at once be declared the loser.
9. The interested parties shall choose a timekeeper at the pit side.
10. The dogs are placed in their corners of the pit, opposite corners, faces turned from each other, and only the dogs and their handlers inside the pit. Then the referee shall say "Face your dogs" each handler must always show his dog's full head and shoulders between his legs. The referee says "Let Go", but the handler must never push or shove their dogs, and handlers shall not leave their corners until the dogs are together.
11. Now when one of the dogs turns his head and shoulders away from his opponent after the fight is on it is a turn whether they are in holds are free, and the handler must claim the turn and the referee must allow the claim if he believes it is a turn or the referee must call the first fair turn he sees whether the handler claims it or not and when the referee calls a turn he shall say "Handle your dogs when they are free of holds" and each handler must pick up his dog

as soon as he can without breaking a hold. Handlers carry their dogs to their respective corners immediately on picking them up, keeping the dogs face turned away from the center of the pit. The dog that turned first must scratch first. In five seconds more the referee shall say "Let Go", then the dog that made the first turn must be turned loose by his handler and this dog must go across and mouthe the other dog. If when he is turned loose he refuses to start at once or if he stops on the way over, or if he fails to reach his opponent he has lost the fight and the referee must declare his opponent the winner. A handler is allowed to release his dog at any time he sees fit after the dog whose turn it is to cross has started over. He must turn loose when the dogs touch each other.

12. (a.) If neither dog has made a turn and they cease to fight after 60 seconds of no action, the down dog is to scratch first, if he makes his scratch the fight is one and they shall scratch in turns until the contest is decided.
(b.) If the down dog fails to scratch the other dog is to scratch to win. If he fails to scratch to win. If he fails to scratch the contest shall be declared a draw by the referee.
(c.) No handler is to handle his dog until ordered by the referee if he does, it shall be declared a foul by the referee, and he is to forfeit the contest to his opponent.
(d.) No flash pictures or hitting on pit side shall be allowed unless agreed upon by the two contestants.
13. After the dogs are together this time either handler is to pick up his dog when they are not in holds, if ordered by the referee. If he catches his dog up free both handlers must handle their dogs at once, take their dogs to their corners and proceed same as the first turn, except this time the dog which went across before is allowed to remain in his corner while his opponent makes his scratch, or goes across, and they alternate or take it in turn about this matter until one of them is declared the winner under these rules. The referee pays no attention to the turn after the first scratch.
14. If one of the dogs fangs himself, that is if he gets his teeth hung in his own lip, his handler is allowed to unfang him. If the dogs have to be separated for this they are turned loose again both at the same time within two feet of each other in the center of the pit.
15. No sponging shall be allowed, and no towels or anything else taken into the pit by the handlers except a bottle of drink for his dog and a fan to cool him with. The handlers must taste their dogs drink before the referee to show that it contains no poison.
16. If the handler of either dog is seen to take anything from anyone on the outside of the pit he is to lose the battle. Each party shall have the opportunity to put a man near his opponents corner to watch he handler. Should he see the handler put anything on his dog he may appear to the referee, and if the referee finds anything on the dog he is to lose the battle.
17. Should either handler leave the pit with his dog before the referee renders his decision he is to lose the battle.
18. The handlers shall be allowed to encourage their dogs by voice or hand-clapping or snapping of their fingers, but must not touch their dog or use foul, dirty methods by saving their dogs from hard falls or keeping the other handler away from his dog, or in any other way act unfairly. The referee must decide the battle against the one who does so.
19. Should the police interfere the referee to name the next meeting place.

Appendix II: Dogfighting and Cockfighting Publications

Dogfighting

American Gamedog Times
P.O. Box 164
Ruffin, NC 27326

The American Warrior
P.O. Box 480
Olivia, NC 28368

Bits on Pits
P.O. Box 945
Mt. Washington, KY 40047

Bulldog Review Magazine
HC 67, Box 117
Bruno, AR 72618

Face Your Dogs
P.O. Box 815867
Dallas, TX 75381-5867

Gamedog Digest
P.O. Box 75262
Cincinnati, OH 45275

The Pit Bull Chronicle
218 Cumerland Street
Mastic, NY 11950

The Scratch Line
13 Green Hill Road
Johnston, RI 02919

The Sporting Dog Journal
P.O. Box 476
Jefferson, GA 30549

The Pit Dog Journal
57 Johnson Street
Snow Hill, NC 28580

Your Friend and Mine
PMB-P
5975 W. Western Way
Tucson, AZ 85713

Cockfighting

Ace of the Pits
P.O. Box 1644
Anthony, NM 88021-1644

Cock 'N Bull
Drawer 638
Granite, OK 73547-0638

El Palenque de Oro
Apartado Postal 16-323
Del. Azcapotzal C.P. 02000
Mexico, D.F.

The Feathered Warrior
Route 3, Box 204
DeQueen, AR 71832-9728

Fighting Cock
P.O. Box 86
Oakwood, GA 30566-0002

The Gamecock
P.O. Box 158
Hartford, AR 72938-0158

Grit and Steel
Drawer 280
Gaffney, SC 29342

Kulang!
935 Poplar Springs Road
Orrtanna, PA 17353-9437

Tradicion Gallos Del Mundo
Avda. Ejercito del Norte 619
(4000) San Miguel de Tucuman
Argentina

Appendix III: Advertisement from Sporting Dog Journal

A_{ERICAN} P_{IT} E_{NFORCERS}

THIS AD WILL RUN ONLY ONE TIME AND I URGE EVERYONE AND HIS BROTHER
JOIN TODAY

For many, many years THE AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER has represented us. He has guarded us, warmed us, amused us and even died for us. There are people out in the world right now killing and stealing the great Pit Bull. Most of the people I have talked to have either had a pet stolen or killed at one time or another. Many dogs are stolen and shipped to either Canada or Mexico.

I can't say too much about this new club that I want you to join without letting out a lot of secrets, but our goal is to get back stolen pets across the country and deal severely with the thieves.

OFFICERS NEEDED

To work with our enforcers to catch thieves and killers, to recruit new and trusted members and to help eliminate snitches, etc. Officers should have matched dogs or plan to in the near future. We need at least ten (10) officers in each state. If you want to be an officer just write to us.

MEMBERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

membership cost only \$1.00 per month, \$12.00 per year. Now everyone can afford that and if we think anything at all of our great breed, we will join today

.....
AMERICAN PIT ENFORCERS are now taking application for Two (2) enforcers.

QUALIFICATIONS: Should have martial arts degree of Black Belt or higher.

Should be familiar with all types of firearms.

Should be able to examine evidence and draw conclusions without prejudice.

Should be familiar with the different bloodlines, looks, coloration of the American Pit Bull.

Should be able to travel throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and possibly South America.

SALARY NEGOTIABLE PLUS AUTO AND EXPENSES.

1. Take pictures of all your pets in case they are stolen it will make it easier to identify them. Tattoo your pets if possible.
2. Put locks on your pets to make it harder for thieves.
3. Send us pictures of your pets.
4. Cooperate with our Officers. Someday it might be your pet they're looking for
5. Help us recruit new members and Officers.
6. If you know of a stolen pet let us know. All information is confidential and rewards paid for most pets.
7. Check with your dog shelter to see if any Pit Bulls have been captured.
8. Be sure of who you buy a dog from, get papers.
9. If you have mistakenly bought a stolen dog let us know, we'll help work something out with the owner so everyone is happy.
10. If you know of anyone with a personal war against the Pit Bull, tell us.

JOIN TODAY. WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND MEMBERSHIP FEES TO
HELP FINANCE THIS UNDERTAKING.

Appendix IV: Dog Impoundment Chart

Dog # _____

Male Female

Breed _____

Color _____

Distinguishing Marks _____

Owner (if known) _____

Address _____

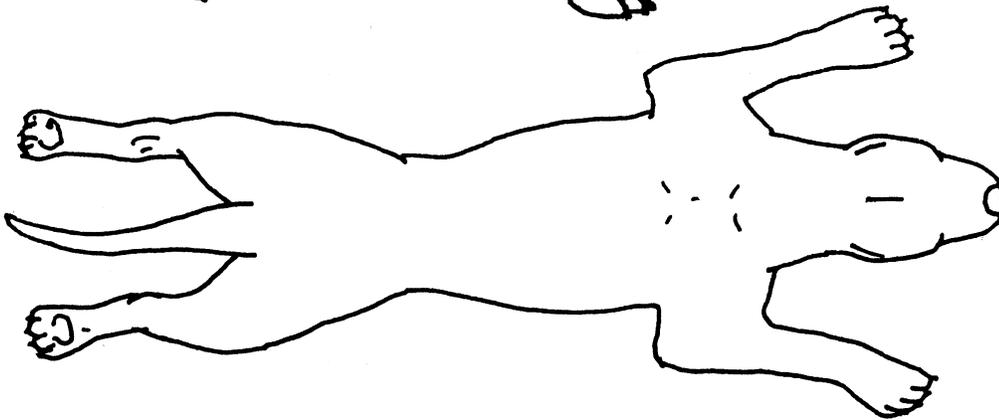
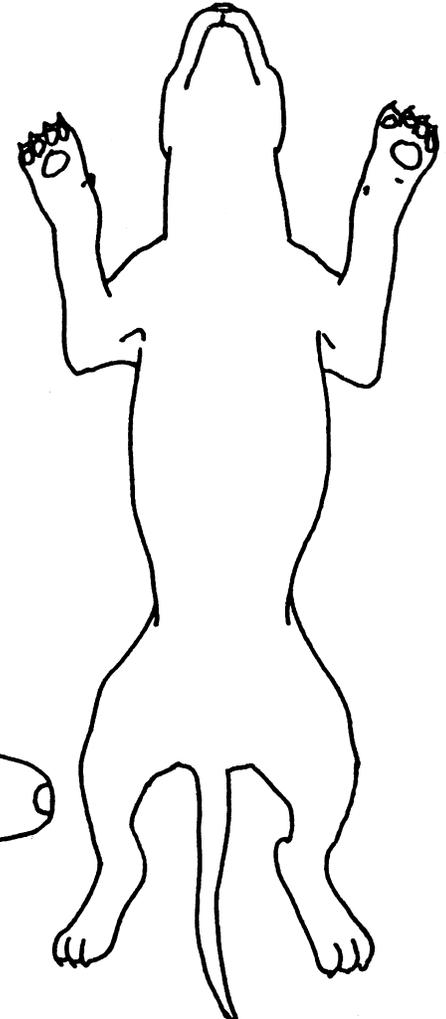
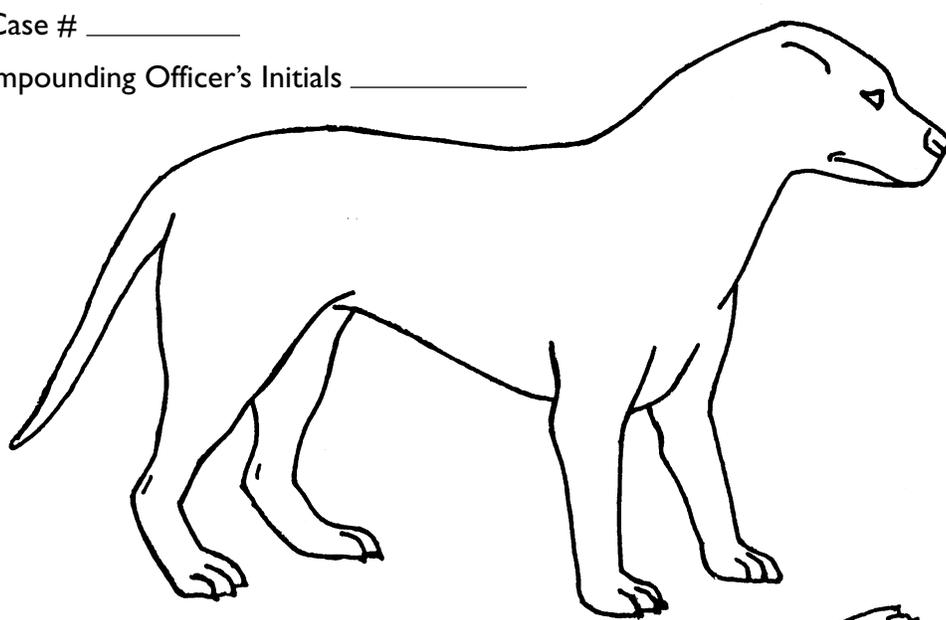
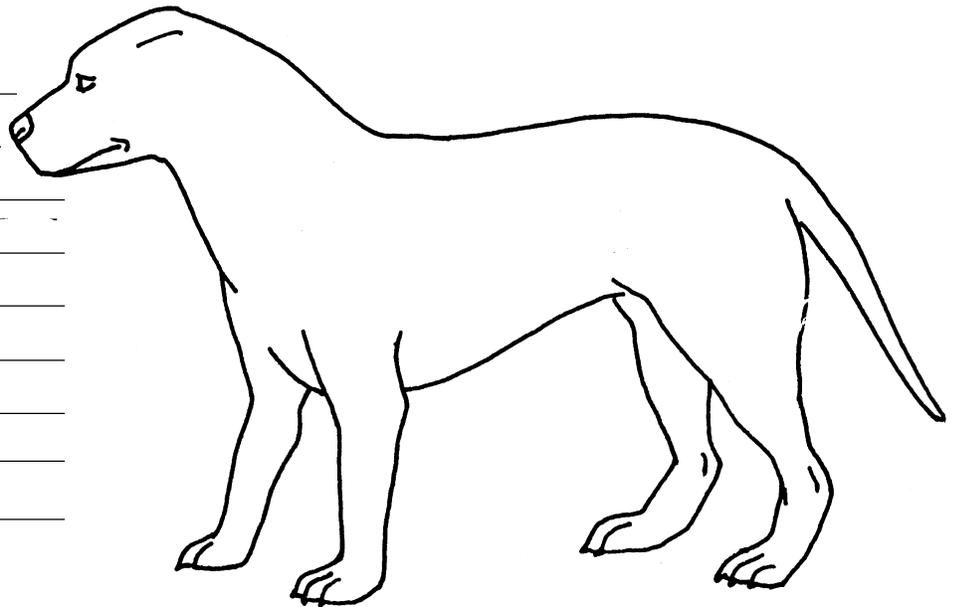
Date _____

Photo Yes No

Video Yes No

Case # _____

Impounding Officer's Initials _____



Appendix V: HSUS Regional Offices

Central States Regional Office

800 West 5th Avenue, Suite 110
Naperville, IL 60563
630-357-7015 Fax 630-357-5725
csro@hsus.org
Serves: IL, KY, NC, TN, WI



Southeast Regional Office

1624 Metropolitan Circle, Suite B
Tallahassee, FL 32308
sero@hsus.org
850-386-3435 Fax 850-386-4534
Serves: AL, FL, GA, MS, SC



Great Lakes Regional Office

745 Haskins Road, Suite G
Bowling Green, OH 43402-1696
419-352-5141 Fax 419-354-5351
glro@hsus.org
Serves: IN, MI, OH, WV



Southwest Regional Office

3001 LBJ Freeway, Suite 224
Dallas, TX 75234
972-488-2964 Fax 972-488-2965
swro@hsus.org
Serves: AR, AZ, LA, NM, OK, TX



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Midwest Regional Office

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New England Regional Office

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Mailing address: P.O. Box 619
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nero@hsus.org
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nrro@hsus.org
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National Headquarters

2100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100 Fax 202-778-6132
www.hsus.org
Serves: DC, MD, VA



Pacific Northwest Regional Office

6613 South 192nd Street, Suite K102
P.O. Box 88199
Seattle, WA 98138-2199
425-656-9797 Fax 425-656-5999
pnro@hsus.org
Serves: AK, ID, OR, WA



When you need assistance from The HSUS, your regional office should be your first contact. For more information, visit The HSUS website at www.hsus.org.

Notes

ANIMAL FIGHTING MATERIAL

Use a variety of these materials, produced and sponsored by The HSUS, to bring awareness to your community about animal fighting and what can be done to end it.

Final Round Brochure

(Available in English and Spanish)

Spread the word about the lethal dangers of animal fighting—for the animals involved and the entire community—with our four-color *The Final Round* brochure. The brochure offers a general introduction to the violence and brutality of dogfighting and cockfighting.

Price: 1–24/50¢ each
25–99/25¢ each
100 or more/20¢ each



Final Round Video

The ugly truth of animal fighting comes alive in *The Final Round* video. These seven minutes of explicit investigative footage are a quick and effective way to show law enforcement personnel the real-life horrors of dogfighting and cockfighting.

Price: \$7.00 each



Born to Lose Cockfighting Flyers and Posters

(Available in English and Spanish)

Thousands of birds are killed each year in cockfights. Let members of your community know about this cruel “sport” and encourage them to help stop it with 8" x 10" flyers and a 2' x 3' full-color poster advertising a \$2,500 HSUS reward for reporting information leading to convictions for this brutal crime.

Price:
Posters: \$1.00 each
Bulk & Customized* with your logo:**
Orders of 5,000/\$1,095.00***

Flyers:
1–24/\$1.00 each
25–49/60¢ each
50–99/50¢ each
100 or more/45¢ each
Bulk & Customized* with your logo: Orders of 5,000/\$950.00*****



Born to Lose Dogfighting Flyer and Posters

(Available in English and Spanish)

Inform members of your community about the violent crime of dogfighting and enlist their help in ending it with 8" x 10" flyers and a 2' x 3' full-color poster promising a \$2,500 HSUS reward for information leading to convictions of those engaging in this cruel activity.

Price:
Posters: \$1.00 each
Bulk & Customized* with your logo: Orders of 5,000/\$1,095.00*****
Flyers: 1–24/\$1.00 each
25–49/60¢ each
50–99/50¢ each
100 or more/45¢ each
Bulk & Customized* with your logo: Orders of 5,000/\$950.00*****



Illegal Animal Fighting Manual

More copies of this authoritative primer on illegal animal fighting activities make important resources for all of your law enforcement personnel.

Price: 1–9/\$10.00 each
10–19/\$8.00 each
20 or more/\$6.00 each



***Artwork Requirements:** Camera ready artwork must not contain any screens of color or black. Acceptable software applications are QuarkXPress™, Pagemaker® 6.0, Freehand™ 7, Illustrator®, and Photoshop® original native files. Illustrator® and Freehand™ files MUST have text converted to outlines. Files MUST include all supporting artwork and fonts. We do not accept “Post Script” files, JPEG or DCS images, TrueType fonts, or Microsoft® Word files. Minimum image resolution is 300 DPI at 100%. Files can be supplied on CD-ROM, Zip 100, and Floppy 3.5” or e-mailed to kmindlin@hsus.org.

****Additional bulk quantities** please contact
The HSUS Field Services staff at 202-452-1100
*****Prices good through December 31, 2005.**

THE FINAL ROUND

Help bring awareness of animal fighting to your community.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) offers materials to help you educate your community about this important issue.

	QUANTITY	COST
The Final Round Brochure (Available in English and Spanish) Provides general facts and information about animal fighting, including what you can do to help stop it. 1-24/50¢ each; 25-99/25¢ each; 100 or more/20¢ each PM2270	_____ English _____ Spanish	
The Final Round Video Presents investigative footage showing the ugly truth about dogfighting and cockfighting. Length: 7 min. \$7.00 each AV74		
Illegal Animal Fighting Manual (For Law Enforcement Only) More copies of this authoritative primer on illegal animal fighting activities. 1-9/\$10.00 each; 10-19/\$8.00 each; 20 or more/\$6.00 each PM2279		
Born to Lose Cockfighting Flyer (Available in English and Spanish) Full color, 8" x 10" PM2271 1-24/\$1.00 each; 25/60¢ each; 50/50¢ each; 100/45¢ each Bulk & Customized* with your logo: Orders of 5,000/\$950.00 (Additional bulk quantities please contact The HSUS Field Services staff at 202-452-1100)	_____ English _____ Spanish	
Born to Lose Cockfighting Poster (Available in English and Spanish) Full color, 2' x 3' \$1.00 each PM2272 Bulk & Customized* with your logo: Orders of 5,000/\$1,095.00 (Additional bulk quantities please contact The HSUS Field Services staff at 202-452-1100)	_____ English _____ Spanish	
Born to Lose Dogfighting Flyer (Available in English and Spanish) Full color, 8" x 10" PM2273 1-24/\$1.00 each; 25/60¢ each; 50/50¢ each; 100/45¢ each Bulk & Customized* with your logo: Orders of 5,000/\$950.00 (Additional bulk quantities please contact The HSUS Field Services staff at 202-452-1100)	_____ English _____ Spanish	
Born to Lose Dogfighting Poster (Available in English and Spanish) Full color, 2' x 3' \$1.00 each PM2257 Bulk & Customized* with your logo: Orders of 5,000/\$1,095.00 (Additional bulk quantities please contact The HSUS Field Services staff at 202-452-1100)	_____ English _____ Spanish	

***ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS:** Camera ready artwork **MUST NOT** contain any screens of color or black. Acceptable software applications are QuarkXPress™, Pagemaker® 6.0, Freehand™ 7, Illustrator®, and Photoshop® *original native files*. Illustrator® and Freehand™ files **MUST** have text converted to outlines. Files **MUST** include all supporting artwork and fonts. We do not accept "Post Script" files, JPEG or DCS images, TrueType fonts, or Microsoft® Word files. Minimum image resolution is 300 DPI at 100%. Files can be supplied on CD-ROM, Zip 100, and Floppy 3.5" or e-mailed to kmindlin@hsus.org.

SUBTOTAL	
STATE SALES TAX ¹	
SHIPPING AND HANDLING ²	\$3.00
BULK S&H PER 5,000³ FLYERS \$40/POSTERS \$115	
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	

METHOD OF PAYMENT:		<input type="checkbox"/> Check (payable to The HSUS)
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover
ACCOUNT # _____	EXP. DATE _____	
SIGNATURE _____		
NAME _____		
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
DAYTIME TELEPHONE _____	E-MAIL _____	

All orders must be prepaid. Please provide your street address and allow five to ten weeks for delivery.

¹ Residents of these states should add applicable sales tax: CA (7.25%), CT (6%), DC (5.75%), FL (6%), IL (6.25%), MD (5%), OH (5%).
² For orders of \$50.00 or more, please contact The HSUS Field Services staff at 202-452-1100 or info@AnimalFighting.org for shipping and handling fees and bulk price discounts.
³ Prices good through December 31, 2005.

Please mail this order form with payment to:
The HSUS on Animal Fighting: The Final Round
2100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1595

AFSP01

Or fax with credit card information to 202-955-3686





Promoting the protection of all animals

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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