

About the Program

Animal fighting is a sadistic contest in which two animals—specifically bred, trained and conditioned to fight—are placed in a pit to battle each other. The fights provide entertainment and gambling opportunities for spectators and are typically considered unfinished until one of the animals is either dead or too injured or exhausted to continue.

According to law enforcement officials and animal protection organizations, dogfighting and cockfighting continue to proliferate. Numerous raids and investigations throughout the country have demonstrated a strong correlation between animal fighting, illegal narcotics, and human violence. It is also clear that these illegal blood sports compromise the quality of life in surrounding communities by creating an atmosphere of intimidation, disregard for the law, and insensitivity to animal pain and suffering.

This one-day conference will provide participants with the tools to recognize animal fighting and to work effectively with other agencies and individuals to effectively combat this cruel activity. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss the development of a Rhode Island animal fighting coalition and to network with their peers.

PRESENTATION TOPICS

- Historical Perspective on Animal Fighting
- The American Pit Bull Terrier and the Gamecock
- Participant Profiles
- Breeding, Conditioning and Fighting
- Related Illegal Activity
- Overview of Rhode Island's Animal Cruelty & Animal Fighting Laws
- Identification, Assessment and Handling of Dogs Used for Fighting

When and Where

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)

Radisson Airport Hotel
2081 Post Road
Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 739-3000

Cost:

The registration fee is **\$10** per participant and includes all of the conference materials, as well as a continental breakfast and lunch. Financial assistance is available for those who cannot afford the registration fee. To inquire further, please contact the HSUS New England Regional Office at (802) 368-2790.

Directions:

Take Route 95 North or South to exit 13 (T.F. Green Airport exit). When you get off the exit, you will be on a connector road. Follow to the Post Road exit. At the end of that exit, there is a traffic light; take a left onto Post Road. The Radisson Airport Hotel is 1/10 of a mile on the left-hand side.

Who Should Attend

Veterinarians
Animal Control Officers
Cruelty Investigators
Law Enforcement Officers
Animal Sheltering Professionals
Breed Rescue Groups
Prosecutors
Judges
Legislators

Registration Form

NAME _____
TITLE _____
ORG _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

Please send a check made payable to "HSUS" with your registration form, or pay by credit card:

- Visa MasterCard
 Discover American Express

ACCOUNT # _____
EXPIRATION DATE _____
SIGNATURE _____

MAIL TO:

HSUS New England Regional Office
PO Box 619
Jacksonville, VT 05342

FAX TO: (802) 368-2756

Please note: Faxed registrations will not be confirmed until payment is received.

**PLEASE REGISTER NO LATER
THAN MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2003**

About the Instructors

Scott Giacoppo

Scott Giacoppo has been with the Massachusetts SPCA for over ten years, eight of which were spent working in the organization's Law Enforcement Department. As the MSPCA's street gang specialist, he was assigned to the Boston Police Youth Violence Strike Force and has worked extensively with the Massachusetts State Police Anti-Gang Unit. Scott was a co-founder of Operation Dog Tag, a task force to combat dangerous dogs and street gangs in Boston, and he teaches workshops on animal fighting throughout New England. He is also a member of The HSUS National Illegal Animal Fighting Task Force.

Dr. Christopher Hannafin, DVM

Dr. Christopher Hannafin graduated from Ross University in 1989 and has worked at a variety of Rhode Island veterinary clinics providing medical, surgical and emergency care to companion animals, as well as mobile services for large animals. He has served as the Rhode Island State Public Health Veterinarian since May 2001 and sits on the Legislative Task Force of the state's veterinary medical association.

Dr. Amy Marder, VMD

Dr. Amy Marder is a 1979 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, where she completed a residency in behavior between 1983 and 1985. Previously Vice President of Behavioral Medicine and Director of the Center for Behavioral Therapy at the ASPCA, she is currently Director of Behavioral Service for the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Dr. Marder's private practice, New England Veterinary Behavior Associates in Lexington, MA, focuses on companion animal behavior. She is also a clinical assistant professor at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine and interim past president of the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior.

Return Service Requested

HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 619
JACKSONVILLE, VT 05342

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES™**

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL OFFICE

LEAVING THE PIT BEHIND: A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO ANIMAL FIGHTING

*A day-long conference on
dogfighting and cockfighting*

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2003
RADISSON AIRPORT HOTEL
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND**

Co-Sponsors

Robert Potter League for Animals

*Rhode Island Animal Control Officers
Association*

**Made possible through a generous grant from
the Rhode Island Foundation**



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