



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

End Dogfighting in Your City

humanesociety.org/dogfighting
Report Dogfighting—Up to \$5000 Reward
1-877-TIP-HSUS

Special Edition

KIND News

The Dangers of Dogfighting

In a dim cellar, two dogs are forced into a pit. Outside the pit's plywood walls, a crowd places bets. What comes next is what the dogs have been trained for all their short, miserable lives. The fight, which is just starting, will be brutal. It will last a long time. No one will call for help.

An hour passes before one dog loses. He sinks into a corner, head and body covered with wounds. He will not survive. The other, also painfully injured, won't recover either. His owner takes the prize, a pocketful of cash, and leaves the 2-year-old dog to die.

A Contest Without Winners

Dogfighting is a violent activity in which people face two dogs against each other. The contest isn't over until one dog is too hurt to go on. Besides the animal suffering it causes, dogfighting has negative consequences for people. Illegal gambling, guns, and drugs are often present at dog fights. In fact, a Chicago Police Department study found that 70% of all people arrested for dogfighting or animal cruelty had prior felony convictions. In addition, other animals are also in danger. People involved in dogfighting are known to steal cats and small dogs for use as bait in training dogs to fight.

Many fighting dogs are purposely bred to fight. To make them "mean," owners treat them cruelly, training them with sticks, chains, and treadmills. Some inject them with steroid drugs to build muscles.

Fighting dogs who are lucky are rescued and brought to animal shelters. For the first time, someone handles them with love and kindness. Unfortunately, most of these dogs are euthanized (humanely put to death). That's because many people are afraid to adopt former fighting dogs, even though many of them have been successfully rehabilitated.

Spotlight on Cruelty

In the summer of 2007, America was stunned by NFL quarterback Michael Vick's plea of guilty to dogfighting. In the aftermath of Michael Vick's conviction, new animal fighting laws have been



Dogfighting is illegal in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Yet, dogs like this one still face the cruel life of a fighting dog.

Know the signs of possible dogfighting:

- animals with many scars or wounds
- people who often replace dogs with new ones
- dogs kept in cages or chained in yards
- training equipment like treadmills and chains, or tires hanging from trees
- a large number of missing pets in the area
- an unusual number of people coming and going from a location at odd hours

passed and it is now a felony to fight dogs in all fifty states. "The case has opened America's eyes," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States. Now more people are aware of the horrors of this illegal activity.

After serving 23 months in federal prison for his crimes, Michael Vick began lending his voice to The Humane Society of the United States' End Dogfighting campaign. As Pacelle notes, "Maybe if there had been an End Dogfighting program available to Michael Vick when he was a boy, he would have grown to love and respect pit bulls. He would not have done these terrible things to dogs."

How Can You Help?

If you see or suspect dogfighting, tell police and animal care and control. Witness tips are their best way of cracking cases. **Never** try to break up a fight yourself. The HSUS has an anonymous hotline where you can report dogfighting **1-877-TIP-HSUS**. If your tip leads to the arrest and conviction of a dogfighter, you can receive up to a \$5,000 reward! You can also

- tell a friend about the cruelty of dogfighting and how they can help.
- write letters to the editor of your local newspaper.
- ask lawmakers to get involved in the fight to stop animal cruelty.

Look Who's Kind!



Basketball star Mo Williams loves dogs. That's why he's speaking out against animal cruelty. Turn to page 3 to read all about Mo, his pets, and how he's helping animals and people!

A publication of



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Ask the Veterinarian



© Edward Fox Studios

Do pit bulls make good pets?
Kevin E. James
Massachusetts

Dr. Donna Alexander and Leroy Brown

Dear Kevin,

The first thing I have to say is that it is very hard to determine what a pit bull is! People use the term pit bull to describe a number of dog breeds with square heads and muscular bodies. To see what I mean, visit pitbullsontheweb.com/petbull/findpit.html and see if you can pick out the pit bull. I couldn't!

Most pit-bull-type dogs make wonderful pets for dedicated and responsible pet owners. Sadly, many people raise these lovable, smart dogs for the wrong reasons. Too often, they're trained to fight, or are used as guard dogs by criminals. When mistreated, dogs can become fearful and mistrusting of people and other dogs. If that's the case, it may make it difficult for them to safely become a member of your family.

No matter what type of dog you're adopting, do your homework! Talk to your animal shelter's adoption counselor to find out as much as possible about the dog's background. Some dogs may not get along with other dogs or small animals. They would be better off in an adult household, or in a home with older children.

Always make sure your home is the right home for them—and that they are the right pet for you.



The HSUS/Petros

RAPPING RESPONSIBILITY

Chicago Public School students recently got "rapped up" in their work! They were involved in writing the script, acting, and creating the rap theme song for a video on responsible dog care.

Demetrius Ware, age 15, wrote and performed the video's rap theme song. Before getting involved in the project, Demetrius completed HSUS's eight-week **Canines and Communities** curriculum. Before the classes, he didn't think much about dogfighting. After learning about the cruelty of fighting dogs, Demetrius is proud to show off his rap skills in order to help them.

The video addresses problems that urban dogs face, such as dogfighting, chaining, and pet overpopulation. It's available as a free download (note: it's a large file) at humanesociety.org/dogcarevideo.



© Connor Dodey

Pet Care 101

Pets are a real joy—and a real responsibility! To take good care of them, you have to take care of the basics.



Check off each thing you do for your pets. Hang this list on your refrigerator as a reminder. If you don't have a pet, pass the list on to someone who does.

Your attention, please. Give pets your **love** and **attention**. Without it, they get lonely and bored. As a result, they might behave badly—by chewing, barking, and biting.

Food for Thought. Give your animals healthful **food** made just for them. People food is usually not the best for pets.

Water, water everywhere. Pets need fresh, clean **water** 24/7.

Train, don't complain. Pets aren't perfect, but most behavior problems can be solved. Using **treats** and **praise**, teach your dog to sit, heel, stay, and come. **Patience** makes perfect! For **training** tips and videos, visit humanesociety.org.



Lookin' good. Good **grooming** helps pets stay healthy. **Brush** dogs and cats regularly and keep their nails trimmed.

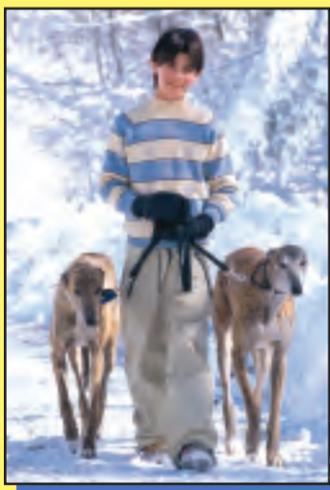
Home, sweet home. Don't let pets wander. Keep them safe and sound at **home**.

Made in the shade. If a dog spends time outside, he needs a shady spot to stay cool. He needs shelter too, such as a homemade or storebought

doghouse. It should be snug enough to keep him warm but big enough to let him stand and turn around.

Pets and vets. Take your dog or cat to a veterinarian for a health **checkup** each year.

Don't litter. **Spay** or **neuter** your cats and dogs to stop them from having babies. Many clinics do spay/neuter operations for a small price or for free! Remember, there aren't enough homes for all the kittens and puppies born each year.



© Getty Images

Tag! Have cats and dogs wear a **collar** and **tag**. Make sure the tag has your phone number and address. If it doesn't, get one that does. Meanwhile, write your address and phone number on the inside and outside of the collar. Use a permanent marker.

Get moving. **Exercise** helps pets stay in shape. Walk your dog on a **leash**.

Let's play! Pets are like kids: They're little, they're part of the **family**, and they're all about fun. Give 'em lots of gentle **playtime**.



© iStockphoto/Sandra O'Claire

The Search Is On!

Now that you know what pets need, start searching! Find the red words from above. They may be hidden up, down, across, backward, or diagonal.

Psst! Hidden in the puzzle are 4 other things a pet might need. Can you find them?



G	R	O	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	O	Y
A	T	T	E	N	T	I	O	N	G	A	T	E
B	S	R	S	G	Y	L	I	M	A	F	C	U
A	P	E	U	R	B	R	U	S	H	P	O	K
E	A	A	O	O	U	L	H	N	R	T	L	X
S	Y	T	H	O	M	E	A	A	E	O	L	O
I	N	S	G	M	B	A	I	M	T	Y	A	B
C	E	L	O	I	R	S	O	P	A	S	R	R
R	U	E	D	N	E	H	B	O	W	L	W	E
E	T	V	O	G	P	U	K	C	E	H	C	T
X	E	O	R	P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E	T
E	R	L	T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G	V	I
P	L	A	Y	T	I	M	E	D	O	O	F	L

SLAM DUNK FOR DOGS

Basketball star Mo Williams is one of the top players in the NBA. Mo especially loves dogs. That's why he contacted The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). He wants to spread the word to kids that dogs are friends, not fighters.

BEST BUDDIES

"I love dogs because they are so loyal and innocent," Mo tells us. "They don't say a word, but they still show us their emotions."

Mo would know. He counts three dogs as members of his family. "I have two pit bulls, Capone and Merlot, and a poodle, Daisy," he says. Mo has three young sons too. Like a lot of little kids, they sometimes accidentally play too rough with the dogs. Mo knows they don't mean to hurt them—and the dogs seem to know it too.

CARING FOR CRITTERS AND KIDS

An accidental tail-pulling is one thing, but Mo doesn't like when people purposely hurt dogs or make them fight with other dogs. "It's not right to treat dogs that way," he says. "Dogfighting is a serious crime."

Mo reminds us that pets have the same basic needs and feelings as we do. "Make sure you treat your pets like you want to be treated," says Mo. "If you weren't given food, baths, and attention, how would you feel?"

Mo is interested in giving a helping hand to people too. In 2005, he started the Mo Williams Foundation to help children in need in his home state of Mississippi. There, he holds a kids' basketball camp and has donated time and money to a local YMCA.



Combat Cruelty

You can be like Mo! Do the Combat Cruelty project at humanesociety.org/students to let people know that cruelty to animals is wrong. In this step-by-step project, you'll teach others in your school and community how to recognize and safely report animal cruelty—and spread the word about the need for tough laws against it.

Cool Canines

Pit bulls often get a bad rap. Leave it to these canine heroes to shatter the stereotype!

Popsicle

This canine got his cool name after police found him during a drug bust, stuffed inside a freezer. Injured and starving, Popsicle had been used as "bait" in dogfights. He recovered at the local animal shelter, but people looking to adopt a pup passed him by. No one wanted a pit bull. So the shelter called U.S. Customs to see if Popsicle might make it into their Canine Enforcement Program. Only a few dogs get into the program—and Popsicle passed all the tests. He went on to become one of the country's top drug-sniffing dogs. Now retired, Popsicle lives with his handler, Randy Carr. "Only we know he's a pit bull," says Carr. "He thinks he's a cocker spaniel."



U.S. Customs and Border Protection/James Tourtelotte

Dakota

The elderly woman had been missing for several days. She wouldn't have survived another night if Dakota hadn't found her when she did. A trained search and rescue dog, the pit bull was just doing what she does best. "When people who have seen my dogs at work hear the word pit bull, they don't think of a vicious monster," says Kristine Crawford, Dakota's guardian. "Instead, they think of pit bulls making a difference in the community."



Kristine Crawford

Hector

By the deep scars on Hector's body, you can tell that he was a victim of animal cruelty. Hector was one of the dogs rescued from Michael Vick's dog-fighting operation. Luckily for Hector, after being held as "evidence" for months in a small cage, he was adopted into a loving home. Since Hector had never been a pet, he didn't know how to behave like one. His new family, Roo and Clara Yori, had to teach him dog manners. He soon learned that standing on the kitchen table or chewing the arm of the sofa aren't polite! Despite his past abuse, Hector doesn't hold any grudges. He plays with the other dogs in his home. He also works as a certified therapy dog. He visits schools to teach children the importance of being kind to animals.



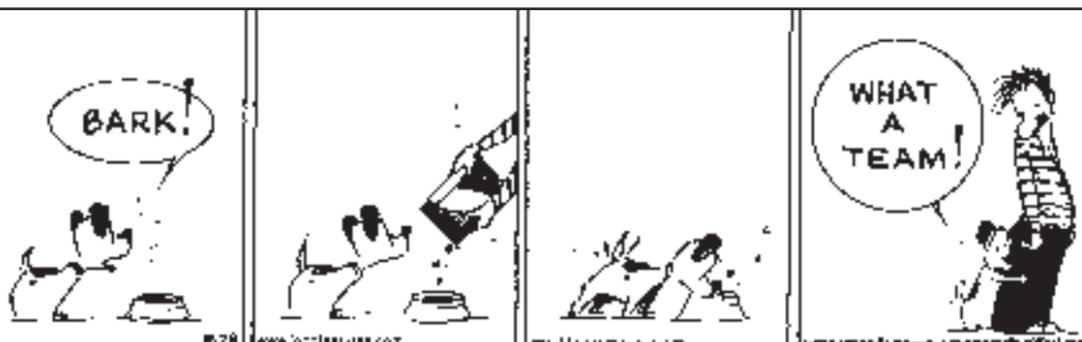
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MUTTS

by Patrick McDonnell

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muttscomics.com



Riddle Rat

How does a penguin surf the Internet?



With his web feet!

Sent in by Cassandra, Victorville, California.

Get more laughs at humanesociety.org/kids.

Humane Heroes

Morgan McCafferty

Philadelphia student Morgan McCafferty (third from left in the photo) doesn't do anything halfway. A high school senior at the top of her class, Morgan received a school assignment to do a service learning project. The project had to bring about some form of social change. Morgan decided to organize a 5K race as a fundraiser for The HSUS's End Dogfighting in Philadelphia campaign. We asked Morgan to tell us about her project. Here's what she said:



What inspired you to do a project to benefit animals?

I have always loved animals so I knew I wanted to do something with dogs.

How did you learn about the End Dogfighting in Philadelphia campaign?

While browsing through The HSUS's website, I came across the End Dogfighting campaign. I didn't know that the program had just started in Philadelphia. It was a perfect fit.

How did you go about organizing the event? Organizing the 5K took a lot of work because I wanted to raise as much money as possible. I got companies to donate food and raffle items, then sold the food and raffle tickets at the 5K. Also, I designed t-shirts and sold them at the event.

How did you promote the event? I knew I wanted to have a high number of participants, so I sent out flyers in my community and school. I also contacted the local NBC News station and was featured on their "Your News" show.

Would you say the event was a success? The 5K was a tremendous success. There were over 100 participants at the race and I raised almost \$3,000!

Ben Sykes

Fourteen-year-old Benjamin Sykes is a hero to his pit bull, Lucky. When Ben found Lucky, the dog was near death in an alley. Ben took in Lucky, even though he wasn't sure how to care for him properly. Ben was eager to learn and began attending the End Dogfighting in Chicago's Pit Bull Training Team classes. There, he learned how much and what kind of food to feed Lucky and that he needed to be walked twice a day. He also learned the proper way to teach Lucky obedience and how to train him to do tricks. Ben had Lucky neutered and now takes him to the vet for regular checkups.



The two are now inseparable. A familiar sight in their neighborhood, Ben and Lucky show neighbors and friends how great dogs are if you care for them properly.

Bring Dogs Indoors

Toby lives at 4 Maple Street. It's his address, but not his home. Like other dogs kept chained outdoors, Toby doesn't have a home. Sure, the people in the house at 4 Maple Street feed him and give him water. Sometimes they might even play with him for a few minutes. Most of the time, however, Toby is alone. Toby doesn't have a home, but he sure would like one. He also deserves one.

"A lot of people think dogs are happier outdoors," says Adam Goldfarb of The Humane Society of the United States. "It's simply not the case. Dogs are pack animals. They need to feel they're part of the group—part of a family. Keeping them chained and alone can only lead to problems."

No Life for a Dog

Chained (tethered) dogs aren't just lonely, they're also exposed to harsh weather conditions, which can make them sick. They're at risk of being attacked by other animals or people. They can even injure or strangle themselves on their chains.

So what can you do if you know a dog who is kept chained all the time?

- **Don't approach the dog.** "It's a big mistake to walk over to pet or give the dog attention," says Goldfarb. "It's not uncommon for tethered dogs to attack. They're often more aggressive than unchained dogs. That's because they can't run away if they feel they're in danger. Tethered dogs also want to defend their territory," Gold-

farb continues. "That small patch of dirt is all they know. They have nothing else, but they do have that. They'll defend it as strongly as they can."

- **Contact your local humane society or animal control agency.** These organizations will be familiar with the laws that apply to your area and situation. Even if the dog's owner is not violating any laws, an animal control officer may visit the home.

They may be able to persuade the person to take steps to improve the situation. Some people may not know why tethering their dog is wrong.

- **Download a free copy of The HSUS kit, "A Dog's Life: Chaining and Your Community" at humanesociety.org.** It will guide you step-by-step on how to pass an anti-chaining ordinance in your area. You can make a difference in your neighborhood by educating people about the dangers of tethering.



Start an Animal Club

Think about starting an animal protection club at your school, church, community center, or with friends in your neighborhood. Visit humanesociety.org/students for tips on getting your club started and project ideas like the ones below. You could even earn fun rewards for completing your projects!

A Cause for Paws Learn proper dog care, promote improved conditions for dogs in puppy mills, and raise community awareness about how to get a dog without supporting cruelty.

Combat Cruelty Teach your community what to do about cruelty to animals and spread the word about the need for tough laws against it.

Friends for Hens Put the chicken before the egg! Get the word out about cruel cages for hens and see if you can help your community go cage-free.

Shoot to Save Wildlife Take photos of your favorite wild neighbors and teach your human neighbors how to live peacefully with them.

Coats for Cubs Collect old fur items for young wild animals in need and spread the word about the cruelty of fur.

Humane Academy

Get informed, explore the issues, and use what you know to help animals!

Humane Academy offers free courses for students on topics such as how to stop animal cruelty, planning a presentation, and teaching others about animal protection. For information, or to get started, visit humanesociety.org/students.