

DOGFIGHTING

Quick Reference Card

Recognizing and Preventing Dogfighting in Your Community

Dogfighting is a serious crime. It has been reported in urban, suburban, and rural settings in all regions of the country. In addition to causing pain, suffering, and death to thousands of animals, dogfighting is almost always associated with illegal gambling, drug sales, illegal weapons, assaults, and other crimes. Animals that are being kept or bred for fighting can also contribute to dog attacks and other dangerous dog problems.

Warning Signs of Dogfighting Activity in Your Area

- Several-to-many dogs, mainly pit bulls, kept chained on a property out of reach of each other
- Dogs that show signs of having been fought—scars on their faces, legs, and chest
- Dogs restrained by heavy chains or attached to heavy weights or concrete blocks
- Training equipment such as treadmills being used to exercise dogs
- Dogs being trained to strengthen their grip by hanging from ropes, tires, hides, or springs
- Unusual traffic of many people entering or leaving a building or alleyway with pit bulls
- Loud noises associated with such gatherings (although the dogs themselves are often quiet)
- Reports of dogs or cats being missing or stolen in the area
- Individuals displaying clothing or tattoos glorifying dogfighting
- Dead or injured pit bulls or other dogs found in the area
- Reports of dog bites or attempted bites from poorly controlled pit bulls



What **YOU** Can Do to Prevent Dogfighting in Your Area

- Report ongoing dogfights to 911
- Report suspicions of a dogfight location to Police non-emergency number or Animal Control
- Report loose or dangerous dogs to Animal Control
- Contact local authorities (Mayor, Police Chief, City Council) regarding your concerns about dogfighting
- Discuss the problems with family, friends, and neighbors—encourage them to report
- Support tougher laws against dogfighting and the enforcement of existing laws
- Be a responsible pet owner—spay or neuter pets, do not allow them to roam free
- Support the work of your local humane society or SPCA—volunteer if possible

For More Information on Combating Dogfighting and to learn More, please visit www.asPCA.org

To obtain details on COPS Office programs, call the COPS Office Response Center at [800.421.6770](tel:800.421.6770).



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