

# THE PIT BULL DILEMMA

## The Gathering Storm

*1000 Annotated Abstracts from Books, Journals,  
Magazines, Newspapers and Reports*

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**The Charles Press, Publishers**  
Philadelphia



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**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Clifford, Donald H.

The pit bull dilemma : 1,000 annotated abstracts from books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and reports / [compiled by] Donald H. Clifford, Kay Ann Green, and Ronald M. Watterson.  
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-914783-36-X

1. Pitt bull terriers—Abstracts. 2. Pit bull terriers—

—Bibliography. I. Green, Kay Ann. II. Watterson, Ronald M. III. Title.

SF429.P58C55 1989

016,3633—dc20

89-22176  
CIP

ISBN 9-914783-36-X

Printed in the United States of America

The Charles Press, Publishers, Inc.  
Post Office Box 15715  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

the Cook County Department of Rabies Control but were refused admittance by Bodzianowski's wife. The article described how a New York Times reporter accompanied Bodzianowski to the secret Countryside fight, which was attended by 52 persons. It described the heavy betting and the dog fight. Bodzianowski allegedly trained a fighting dog by hanging kittens in an onion bag and letting the dog maul them.

[Ed. Several articles were published about Patrick Bodzianowski and others involved in this "alleged" dogfight.]

NI Illinois-Cook County NR

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13

Anon.: Jury to investigate betting on dogfights in the Chicago area. The New York Times. (New York, New York). 123:42,579, (August 22, 1974): 1-14.

A county grand jury will open an investigation into allegations that gamblers in the Chicago area are betting on fights between dogs which are trained to kill. Such fights are illegal under Illinois gambling and animal welfare laws and usually held between two Staffordshire Bull Terriers. The fights which were reported in The New York Times on August 15, 1974 were held in "pits" and may last as long as two hours or end when the loser dies or cannot respond. Bettors may wager \$2,000 on a single fight and gamblers pay at least \$10 to watch a fight. Spectators are not allowed to leave until the fight is finished. Several people will be called before the grand jury which probably will continue to hear evidence behind closed doors.

[Ed. A county grand jury was formed to investigate dogfighting after reports were published in The New York Times. It is interesting that it required national publicity to initiate a local investigation.]

NI Illinois-Chicago R.I.B.

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14

Anon.: The dog-fighting disgrace. Editorial. Today. (Chicago, Illinois). 6:84, (August 23, 1974): 16.

We wish reporters hadn't turned up the fact that the Chicago area is the center of the dogfighting racket. You can feel sickness and shame for the human race. Our reporters pieced together the story of pit-fighting, a "sport" in which specially bred and trained dogs kill or maim each other for the pleasure of spectators. It has become a nationwide enterprise, handled through an underground network. Its origin and center appears to be the Chicago area, but there are several other centers in the Midwest, including Milwaukee, Evansville, Indiana and Marengo, Illinois. The big pit-fighting events, or "conventions" draw fans from all over the country for a weekend of heavy betting, drinking and prostitution, but the main attraction, however, is seeing dogs fight to the death. The people who take part in this contemptible racket, i.e., breeders, trainers, fans, see themselves as tough and hard-as-nails. It is hard to say why crimes against animals seem more intolerable than crimes against people. There seems to be a deep rooted feeling that belonging to the human race involves certain obligations toward other species and that, whatever crimes we commit against each other, we ought to keep from corrupting the thoughtless innocence of animals. This feeling is left out of the pit-fighting promoters and their clients. Whether they need jail or treatment, however, their degrading business must be broken up promptly and permanently.

[Ed. This editorial makes the point that animals should be spared from man's inhumanity to man.]

NI Illinois-Chicago NR

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23

**Anon.: Dogfighters must have warped minds Hughes contends. The Globe and Mail. (Toronto, Ontario). 131:38,943, (October 2, 1974): 8.**

Thomas Hughes, of the Ontario Humane Society feels that dogfighters have warped minds to participate in dogfighting. There are large fights in Quebec and Mexico where dogfighting is legal. Due to involvement of prominent people in Quebec it is difficult to catch dogfighters due to tips. Fines up to \$500 and 6 months in jail may be levied against convicted dogfighters. Mr. Hughes commented that prosecution is difficult because veterinarians are not cooperative. Dogfights are becoming increasingly popular in the U.S. Strangers are seldom invited and there can be 200 people at a fight each paying a \$2.00 fee. In a raid in Quebec 14 men were fined \$25 each and the owner of the farm was fined an additional \$100. Fighting dogs have studded straps and drugs have been used to prime dogs for combat.

*[Ed. This article illustrates the international scope of dogfighting and large number of people that attend.]*

NI Canada NR

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24

**Anon.: Illinois aide gives house panel some grim details on dogfights. The New York Times. (New York, New York). 124:42,621, (October 3, 1974): A-16.**

"A House panel considering a Federal ban on dogfighting for sport was told today of an Illinois fight in which pigeon blood was poured over one of the dogs to illustrate its desire for blood. The fight was described by Bernard Carey, Cook County State's Attorney, who said that a grand jury in Chicago was now investigating reports of wide spread illegal dogfighting in Illinois. Mr. Carey said that from January to August this year at least three professional dogfights were held in the Chicago area. "One of the dogs involved in the first fight was so seriously injured, we believe its owner was later forced to destroy it," he said. "Prior to one of the fights," he said, "a referee twisted the head off a live pigeon and poured its blood over the head of one of the dogs to show the animal's desire for blood and to entertain the spectators." Mr. Carey said the investigation had shown that dogfighting occurred in Wisconsin, Missouri, Tennessee and Florida as well as Illinois. "Since professional dogfighting is by no means confined to Cook County, Illinois," he said, "Federal legislation to curb this unbelievable brutality is highly desirable." The legislation before the subcommittee would make it a Federal crime to ship dogs across state lines for the purpose of fighting."

*[Ed. California passed a tough law against dogfighting in 1975. This was followed by similar laws in several other states. Animal fighting is a state issue unless animals are taken across state lines.]*

NI United States, Illinois, Tennessee, Florida, Missouri, Wisconsin NR

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25

**Anon.: U.S. studies ban. Probers told of dog fights here. Tribune. (Chicago, Illinois). 128:276, (October 3, 1974): 4.**

House panel considering a federal ban on dogfighting for sport was told of an Illinois fight in which pigeon blood was poured over one of the dogs to arouse his desire for blood. The fight was described by Cook County State's Attorney Bernard Carey. A grand jury in Chicago is investigating reports of wide spread illegal dogfighting in Illinois. Between January and August of this year, at least three professional dog fights were held in the Chicago area. One of the dogs involved in a fight was so seriously injured that its owner was later forced to destroy it. The dog was carried from the arena, bleeding profusely from the nose and mouth and two legs were apparently broken. The investigation has shown that dog fighting takes place in Wisconsin, Missouri, Tennessee and Florida as well as Illinois. Since professional dog fighting is not confined to Cook County, Illinois federal legislation to curb this brutality is desirable. The legislation would make it a federal crime to ship dogs across state lines for the purpose of fighting.

[Ed. Some dogfighters resort to harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against individuals who oppose them.]

NI Illinois-Chicago, Cook County, Countryside, Tinley Park NR

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32

Anon.: Fighting dogs seized in raids in California, 25 suspects held. The New York Times. (New York, New York). 124:42,817, (April 17, 1975): B-2.

"Sheriff's deputies seized at least 82 fighting-pit bull dogs today and arrested at least 25 persons in simultaneous raids in four southern California counties. Vice squad deputies said they had rounded up 66 dogs and made 23 arrests in Los Angeles County. Sixteen dogs and one person were taken into custody in Riverside County and one person was arrested in Kern County. Raids were also conducted in San Bernardino County but the tally of dogs and arrests there was uncertain, a Los Angeles deputy, George Knechtle, said. Other suspects are still sought, he said. "This began with an investigation in Los Angeles County that branched out into the other counties," he said. "Over an investigative period of four months we were able to uncover numerous stables of fighting dogs, their owners and places where fights were held." Deputy Knechtle said that deputies had also confiscated a considerable amount of paraphernalia used in training the dogs to fight, which is illegal under state law."

[Ed. The first bill against dogfighting in which it was upgraded to a felony passed in California in 1975. This has become a model for other states.]

NI California-Kern County, Los Angeles County, Riverside County and San Bernardino County NR

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33

Anon.: Dogs fights; boy arrested. Plain Dealer. (Cleveland, Ohio). 135:104, (April 13, 1976): B-3.

Police broke up a dogfight yesterday and confiscated two Staffordshire Terriers and arrested their 17 year-old owner. Police said about a dozen persons were in the yard behind an apartment building and others were watching the fight from the building's windows but said there was no evidence of gambling. The dogs were taken to the Animal Protective League where the director, Dr. Robert Alexander, said that breed of terrier is often raised as a fighting dog but rarely in Greater Cleveland. It's really tragic that these dogs are raised and trained to fight, Dr. Alexander said, since this breed can make wonderful pets. He said the dogs were well-trained fighters but you could put this dog in a nursery full of babies and it would do nothing but lick them. The Staffordshire Terrier was developed for fighting in the 19th century in England by crossing a bulldog with a terrier. The 17-year-old boy was sent to the juvenile detention home.

[Ed. This is an early report of a juvenile who was involved with dogfighting with pit bulls.]

NI Ohio-Cleveland NR

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34

Anon.: Youth is charged in dogfight. Plain Dealer. (Cleveland, Ohio). 135:115, (April 24, 1976): A-2.

A 17-year-old youth was charged under a law that prohibits pitting animals. The youth had been arrested after police broke up a dogfight and confiscated his two dogs. The dogfight had attracted a small crowd. The dogs suffered multiple cuts and were bleeding and both had scars that might have been caused by previous fights. The youth is scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court.

38

**Anon.: Dogfighting. Suspect acquitted in dogfight case. Sun-Times. (Chicago, Illinois). NV:NI, (June 2, 1976): 42.**

A Tinley Park man was acquitted of charges that he tried to get another man to lie to a county grand jury about dogfights. Judge Mark E. Jones, Jr. said there was no evidence substantiating the six-count felony indictment against Patrick Bodzianowski, who was charged with solicitation to commit perjury. The bench trial heard testimony about alleged bloody dogfights in July 1974. Witnesses spoke of 36-minute fights in which dogs battled other dogs until they were exhausted, of teeth being knocked loose and scattered around the arena and of two dogs that had attempted to flee but were brought back and compelled to fight. Some of the fights took place in a warehouse and were attended by 50 spectators who placed bets. Bodzianowski was indicted in December. Before the trial, he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of cruelty to animals and patronizing a dogfight and was fined \$300 and placed on probation for one year. Bodzianowski was accused of communicating with and soliciting Thomas Stephenson to commit perjury. Stephenson was described by State's Attorney Bernard Carey as a concerned dog owner who infiltrated the illegal dogfighting operations to gain vital evidence.

*[Ed. There were several articles about Patrick Bodzianowski and his alleged involvement in dogfighting in Chicago newspapers.]*

NI Illinois-TinleyPark NR

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39

**Anon.: Pet dog killed after fatally injuring boy. Chronicle. Final Edition. (San Francisco, California). NV:158, (July 17, 1976): 30.**

Five-year-old Michael McNair was fatally bitten by his family's pet bullterrier yesterday in Castro Valley. The boy's sister, Kim, 14, was home with him while their parents were at work when the dog sunk his teeth into young Michael's throat. Unable to pull the dog away, Kim summoned a neighbor, who drove a kitchen knife into the dog's throat before it would loosen its hold. Michael was pronounced dead on arrival at Eden Hospital. The dog was ordered to be destroyed.

*[Ed. The danger of children around pit bulls is illustrated. The throat hold is commonly used when pit bulls fight other dogs.]*

NI California-Castro Valley NR

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40

**Anon.: Bulldog throttles child, 5. Times. (Trenton, New Jersey). 94:29, (July 18, 1976): A-8.**

A 5-year-old boy was killed by the family's pet bulldog when the animal locked its jaws on the child's neck. The dog sank its teeth into the boy's neck and would not let go until a neighbor stabbed it with a butcher knife. Michael McNair was dead on arrival at Eden Hospital. The pet bulldog later was ordered destroyed by the boy's father. The boy was attacked in the McNair home Friday afternoon while his parents were at work. His 14-year-old sister, Kim, ran from the house screaming for help following the attack. A neighbor tried in vain to drive the dog off by first beating it with his fists and then hitting it with a cement water heater cover. He had to stab the dog between the shoulders with a big butcher knife to get it to release its hold.

*[Ed. The pit bull was reported to be a bullterrier in another article, i.e., Anon.: Pet dog killed after fatally injuring boy. San Francisco Chronicle, July 17, 1976. The neck hold and maintaining the hold on the child are typical of pit bulls.]*

NI California-Castro Valley NR

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41

Anon.: Five-year-old killed by pet bulldog. Times-Picayune. (New Orleans, Louisiana). NV:176, (July 18, 1976): 1-3.

A 5-year-old boy was killed by the family's pet bulldog when the animal locked its jaws on the child's neck. The dog sank its teeth into the boy's neck and would not let go until a neighbor stabbed it with a butcher knife. Michael McNair was dead on arrival Friday at Eden Hospital in Castro Valley. The pit bulldog later was ordered destroyed by the boy's father. Because a bulldog's lower jaw is longer than the upper jaw, it is physically impossible for the dog to let go while there is any tension on whatever it is holding in its mouth. The boy was attacked in the McNair home while his parents were at work. His 14-year-old sister ran from the house screaming for help. A neighbor tried in vain to drive the dog off by first beating it with his fists and then hitting it with a cement water heater cover. He had to stab the dog between the shoulders with a big butcher knife to get him to release his grip. Neighbors and the chief of the Animal Control Shelter said they did not know why the dog attacked the child. The youngster came into the house shortly before 1:30 p.m. and was rather exuberant. All of a sudden the dog grabbed him by the neck.

[Ed. The bulldog of this article was reported to be a bullterrier in another article. Anon.: Pet dog killed after fatally injuring boy. San Francisco Chronicle, July 17, 1976. Frequently there is confusion between bulldogs and pit bulls. The type of attack and difficulty in getting the dog to release its hold are characteristic of pit bulls. The comment on the anatomy of the jaws may be incorrect.]

NI California-Castro Valley NR

42

Anon.: Cockfighting trial ends in acquittal for six men. Washington Post. (Washington, D.C.). 99:259, (August 20, 1976): C-1, C-5.

Six men, including two prominent real estate brokers and a physician, were acquitted of charges of participating in an illegal cockfight. Under Virginia law cockfighting is not illegal unless it involves gambling, an admission price or prize of value. The judge ruled the men not guilty since he was not satisfied that the sterling silver loving cup was a prize of value. Attorneys had made the argument that since the cup was passed each year to the winner of an annual cockfight tournament that it had no marketplace value. The men had been arrested at a horse farm by state troopers during an annual invitation only cockfight tournament. A jeweler had testified that the cup was worth \$50. Photographs of other evidence (prizes of value) were not presented as evidence. Among the objects presented as evidence were a pair of gaffs, the spikes that are traditionally strapped to the legs of fighting cocks. Natural leg spurs are sometimes removed with a hacksaw to facilitate the attachment of gaffs.

[Ed. The difficulty in obtaining a conviction on charges of cockfighting is considerable even when hard evidence is presented.]

NI Virginia NR

43

Anon.: Open letter from Northeastern American Pit Bull Terrier Club. Ask Ralph. Pit Bull Gazette. 1:2, (1976): 22.

Permission to publish an abstract of this article was denied by the President of the American Dog Breeders Association and Editor of the American Pit Bull Terrier Gazette (Formerly the Pit Bull Gazette).

50

Anon.: Dogfighting arena raid. Detroit Free Press. (Detroit, Michigan). 148:151, (October 2, 1978): A-7.

Michigan Humane Society officials and law enforcement officers raided a dog-fighting arena. This is one of 17 raids in Wayne and Washtenaw counties in which many sick, wounded and undernourished pit bulls were found. Nine people were arrested for conspiracy to commit dogfighting. Training gear, in the form of a wheel weighted with concrete blocks to build strength in the hind legs, was found. A caged cat would be used to make a dog turn the maypole wheel. Bones of dogs were identified in a pit behind the barn.

*[Ed. Detroit has considerable dogfighting. Many dogs are killed as illustrated by the burial pit behind the dogfighters' barn. The use of cats to train pit bulls is a common practice among some dogfighters.]*

PI Michigan-Wayne and Washtenaw Counties NR

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51

Anon.: 17 Michigan areas raided in dogfighting. Blade. (Toledo, Ohio). 128:275, (October 2, 1978): 5.

Police and the Michigan Humane Society found a stack of animal skulls, 60 pitbull terriers and a bloodstained arena used for dogfighting in weekend raids at 17 locations in Wayne and Washtenaw counties. Nine people were charged and 19 others are sought on the charge of conspiracy to commit dogfighting. State and Detroit police and undercover agents of the Michigan Humane Society found many of the dogs emaciated, dehydrated, wounded and diseased. The dogs were treated by veterinarians and taken to the Humane Society shelter in Pontiac for confinement. Some purveyors and participants had come from Texas and Arizona to bet thousands on the dogfights.

*[Ed. The condition of the fighting stock illustrates that many dogfighters do not take good care of their dogs. There is communication between dogfighters in different states and some travel great distances to participate and watch the matches. This raid took place approximately three years before dogfighting was felonized in Michigan.]*

NI Michigan-Washtenaw and Wayne Counties NR

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52

Anon.: "Sport" pitting dog against dog is reported spreading secretly. The New York Times. (New York, New York). 128:44,062, (December 10, 1978): 87.

"Scunge is a friendly, slightly mangy dog who will stick his head through the bars of his cage to be petted. He is also a killer, trained in the illegal sport of dog fighting. The English Bull Terrier is one of nine pit bulls seized last year in Massachusetts. Bred and trained to kill, the dogs are contestants in a bloody game that dates back to the Middle Ages. The authorities say that the sport is growing again. Dr. Dale Schwindaman, chief veterinarian with the Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Service in Hyattsville, Md., said in an interview: "A lot of dogfighting is going on. Although it's more widespread in the South, it isn't confined to one area. Our reports show that the areas where the fights are held form a funnel that ends in Boston." Scunge and four other pit bulls were taken in a Medford raid and are being held in Boston as evidence. Once the case goes to trial, they will be destroyed. "It's a shame, because they are really sweet dogs," said Nancy Powell, a worker at the Boston Animal Shelter. "But they're pit bulls. They're trained to kill other dogs; it's in their blood."



66

Anon.: Canine controls. Republic. All Editions. (Phoenix, Arizona). 89:142, (October 7, 1979): A-6.

It may not accomplish all he hopes, but Supervisor Hawkey Atkinson's proposal for a county leash law is necessary. It is a reaction to the death of a 6-year-old girl who was attacked by stray dogs. Atkinson wants the law to prevent it from happening again. Unincorporated Maricopa County is too large to be patrolled by dog catchers and response to some calls could take hours. The leash law would give subdivision residents extra clout if they can't reason with someone whose dog is a nuisance or threat. On the other hand, such a law also would make criminals of ranchers whose dogs run loose. The answer lies in the way the law is enforced. For guidance, Maricopa might turn to Pima County, where a leash law is in effect. It's aimed at protecting Tucson suburbanites, but the law applies to the whole county. It's enforced in response to calls, however, and the calls come from neighborhoods. Ranchers remain unaffected. Today's elbow-to-elbow society demands laws and about the best that can be done is to be careful how they're enforced.

"Source of Abstract: The Arizona Republic."

[Ed. This report deals with an unincorporated county. Such areas frequently have inadequate animal control as well as police protection and other services.]

NI Arizona-Maricopa County NR

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67

Anon.: Dogfighting problem more serious than most people think, Drea says. The Globe and Mail. (Toronto, Ontario). 126:41,387, (October 25, 1979): 20.

Illegal dogfighting is much more common in Ontario than suspected and is associated with illegal drinking and trafficking in drugs. Ten pit bulls were seized in a raid at a farm near Hamilton. Some groups in Ontario charter planes to Texas and Mexico for fights. Dogfighters are secretive and lie about their animals injuries.

[Ed. Other illegal activities are associated with dogfighting which is international in its scope.]

NI Canada, Ontario-Hamilton NR

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68

Anon.: Dogfight prevented. Close-up Report. The Humane Society of the United States. NV:NI, (January 1, 1980): 2-4.

A large crowd gathered in a barn provided with bleachers and a carpeted fighting pit. A radio scanner was used to monitor police calls which could be broadcast by a loudspeaker. The spectators had been waiting over four hours and the police had been using strange codes. An undercover agent was suspected but avoided detection. It cost \$35 for admission and over \$7,000 had been collected. The raid by HSUS, ISPA Arkansas State Police and local authorities had been made possible by a tip from a dogfighter. The USDA and the FBI were not involved in the raid. The reason for the withdrawal of the FBI was that it did not have a cooperative agreement with the USDA. Dog cages in a pickup truck identified a gathering place of conspirators. Dogs were exercised to remove excess weight. In 60 vehicles, law enforcement and humane agents surrounded the site. Approximately 50 handguns, knives, cocaine, marijuana and hashish were confiscated along with 7 dogs. Spectators cannot be arrested in Arkansas. \$500,000 was found on the spectators. Twenty people were arrested on charges of gambling, owning gambling devices (dogs), possession of controlled substances and concealed weapons. Rules, contracts and other items were

[Ed. This is one of the early reports of human injury in Cincinnati by pit bulls which were banned in this city six years later.]

PI Ohio-Cincinnati NR

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103

Anon.: An Exposition on Dogfighting. Department of Field Services and Investigations. The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., (December, 1980): 1-8.

A typical dogfight as occurs on Saturday night across the U.S. is described. After months of preparation the promoter and two trusted co-conspirators begin collecting spectators from one or more meeting places and moving them through checkpoints to the site. The promoter greets cars and selects three well known fanciers to act as judges for the "Best of Show" and "Gamest" awards. Before the match the handlers toss a coin in the presence of the referee for corners and washing order. The referee calls "face your dogs" and then "release" prior to the match. The dogs secure their favorite holds and bite into their opponents. "Turns" are called on weak or overpowered dogs who must make a scratch to stay in the match. Combat will last as long as the dogs are capable of scratching and fighting. A glossary is included at the end.

[Ed. This is a good general description of a turn and scratch dogfight.]

NI United States NR

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104

Anon.: HSUS and "Lou Grant" take on dogfighting. The Humane Society News. Humane Society of the United States. 25:2, (Spring, 1980): 2.

The March 3rd TV episode of the CBS Lou Grant Show depicted the cruel "sport" of dogfighting. Background including photographs from raids, experience of investigators and written material was supplied by HSUS who also checked the program for authenticity. In the episode Lou Grant's Yorkshire Terrier was stolen and was used to bait pit bull terriers. A reporter, Rossi, decides to do an in depth story on dogfighting and is aided by an investigator from an unidentified humane society. Rossi is accepted by dogfighters and taken to a championship meet which is held in a remote location. Two toughs in the crowd discover Rossi and start to beat him up during the dogfight. The police arrive in time to save Rossi and arrest the dogfighters. The program depicted the savagery and cold bloodedness of the dogfighters.

[Ed. Exposure of dogfighting on this popular prime time television show served to expose this cruel sport widely.]

NI California NR

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105

Anon.: Dogfighting law. Journal Herald. (Columbus, Ohio). NV:NI, (January 10, 1981): 29.

James Stilts is charged with one count of engaging in dogfighting. William Stepp also faces additional charges in Hamilton County where his argument that the new dogfighting law is unconstitutional was denied. The Assistant Montgomery County Prosecutor argued that the cases had been reviewed and found to be lawfully enacted. Stepp's attorneys also argued that the search warrants signed by the Common Pleas Judge were defective because they were too broad and permitted sheriffs deputies to take whatever they chose including vitamins, calendars and telephone bills. The warrant indicated that a police informant had purchased a pit bull from Stepp for \$800 and that Stepp had arranged a "face off" between two of the informants dogs. These transactions formed the basis of the indictment against Stepp. The judge took the case under advisement and said that he expected to rule on the motions before the end of the month.

Approximately 100 men, women and children gathered in an unused barn near Augusta, Georgia to eat, drink, bet and watch dogfights. The crowd cheered as two dogs tore each other prior to the raid by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and assisted by the Humane Society of the United States. Eighteen people were arrested for dogfighting, selling unlicensed beer and possession of cocaine. Several were charged with cruelty to animals. A bill to upgrade dogfighting from a misdemeanor to a felony in Ohio was passed in Ohio. Forty indictments against 20 people in 5 counties in Ohio and confiscation of 39 dogs were carried out in Ohio.

[Ed. This is a general review of dogfighting and use of legislation against dogfighting.]

PI Georgia, Ohio NR

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135

Anon.: Portrait of a dogfight. Close-up Report. The Humane Society of the United States. NV:NI, (November, 1981): 2-3.

A typical dogfight convention or schedule of matches takes weeks or months of planning and often involves dogs from several states or even countries. Dogfighters communicate with each other by means of magazines and newsletters which contain articles of interest to dogfighters, advertisements for paraphernalia, dogs for sale or "at stud" in addition to dogs that are "open to match." Dogs are fought according to weight and sex and according to a signed contract. Matches may be arranged by telephone. Conventions are held on weekends which often are in remote locations where the security is tight and spectators must pass security checks en route to the site. The average admission fee for a bleacher seat is \$35. More than \$40,000 was confiscated from 18 people at a dogfight in Georgia. Owners and trainers have a large investment with pups selling for \$300 to \$500 and stud fees at \$1,000. Contract fees for a fight can be \$250 to \$1,500. The dogs are placed in a pit facing each other. The dogs make little noise but the spectators shout bets and encouragement. A turn is called if an American Pit Bull Terrier fails to concentrate on the fighting. The dogs are separated and the dog that turned must attack or scratch to the other dog. The Federal Animal Welfare Act of 1976 has not been well enforced and HSUS sued the government to force it to enforce the law. A pretrial ruling in favor of the government is being appealed.

[Ed. The classical staged or organized dogfight of the 1960's and 1970's is described.]

PI United States NR

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136

Anon.: Six pit bull terriers, other items confiscated in Toledo. Blade. (Toledo, Ohio). 131:335, (December 1, 1981): 26.

Six pit bull terriers and related paraphernalia were confiscated by police and humane society officials continued raids to break-up a dogfight ring. According to court records, pit bull club records, medical records, assorted drugs and medicine, exercise equipment and suspected marijuana were also confiscated. The six dogs were placed with 25 others seized earlier and taken to the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine at the Medical College of Ohio. They will be held pending court action against persons charged with conducting dogfighting. The animals were taken to the Medical College because of its security and since the shelter at the Toledo Humane Society has not been completed. The adult dogs were kept in separate cages. Some of the dogs appeared to have been in fights but were friendly toward people and authorities had no problems handling them. Nine people from the Toledo area were charged with offenses arising from the raid in Michigan. Charges ranged from keeping dogs for fighting to being present at a dogfight. Three men charged with felonies are in jail in lieu of posting a \$5,000 - \$6,500 bond. Six persons were charged with felonies while 15 were charged with misdemeanors. Two of the 23 arrested individuals were juveniles.

Individuals are awaiting trials. Investigations were begun in the summer of 1980 by humane organizations, state law enforcement agencies and the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

[Ed. The Ohio antidogfighting law includes several counts relative to different types of involvement in dogfighting. Involvement by several agencies or organizations is helpful in reducing dogfighting and other forms of illegal activity.]

NI Ohio NR

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140

Anon.: Dogfight brief filed. The Humane Society News. The Humane Society of the United States. 26:4, (Fall, 1981): 32.

A brief was presented by HSUS to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit asking that the court reverse the decision of a lower court seeking to compel the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Justice to enforce the antidogfighting provisions of the Animal Welfare Act. The brief cited procedural errors which the trial court had made. It was the opinion that enforcement of the Act was nonexistent or inadequate and thus nullified the Act.

[Ed. The investigation of dogfighting and subsequent prosecution is time consuming and expensive. The Federal agencies maintain that they do not have the funds or the manpower to become involved.]

NP United States RI

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141

Anon.: Dogfighting update. Great Lakes Regional Office Report. Humane Society of the United States. NV:NI, (Fall, 1981): 4.

The 1980 Ohio investigation of dogfighting has been very successful. There have been 20 convictions or guilty pleas out of 20 cases which have come to trial. Recently, William Stepp of Dayton pled guilty to three separate felony counts i.e., 1) selling a fighting dog; 2) promoting a dogfight and 3) engaging in dogfighting. He received a \$7,500 fine, 2-5 year suspended sentence and a 5 year probation. In addition he paid \$6,000 to the Capital Area Humane Society in Columbus for boarding and care of his dogs while he awaited trial. The Ohio Fifth District Court of Appeals upheld the constitutionality of the state's dogfighting law against the challenge that it was vague and overbroad in its authority on three occasions. Four cases await trial in Morrow County.

[Ed. The need of a broad and enforceable state law against dogfighting in obtaining convictions is noted. Weak laws without a sizeable penalty are ignored.]

NI Ohio-Dayton, Morrow County NR

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142

Anon.: Pit bull popularity rising but attacks on people on Coast stir growing concern. Bulletin. (Providence, Rhode Island). 119:29, (February 12, 1982): A-6.

A San Francisco man told the police, he was set upon by a pit bull when the dog's owner slipped the leash and shouted, "Kill him, kill him!" The dog attack on the stomach, arm, hand and leg required hospitalization. A 2-year-old boy in suburban Pleasanton was attacked in his yard by a 60-pound pit bull, who dragged the youngster along the ground until his grandmother managed to free him. Fifty stitches were required to close wounds on the boy's head and body. These and other attacks by pit bulls, dogs trained for combat in clandestine matches that draw hundreds of paying spectators and high stakes gamblers have caused mounting concern as the animals proliferate both as pets and fighters. Pit bulls love to serve their masters but some masters are vicious, evil, sick people who train the dog to fight and kill. In normal circumstances, attacks by pit bulls on humans are rare according to breeders and handlers. Louis

337

Anon.: Pit bull owners rapped. Item. (Lynn, Massachusetts). 217:4, (June 12, 1986): 13.

The banning of pit bull terriers from the streets of Lynn is a case of a few dog owners spoiling the whole bunch, a city veterinarian says. In 183 pit bulls and pit bull crosses that I see that are brought into my office, they are pretty stoic animals. I've never had a problem with a pit bull. The City Council responding to a number of dog attacks on humans, passed a temporary law banning ownership of any new pit bulls within the city. In response, pit bull owners are rallying to halt unfair treatment toward conscientious owners. Mrs. Evelyn Brown-Parrish urges pit bull owners and others concerned about the ordinance to come and bring any signed petitions with them. In addition, the emergency ordinance requires pit bull owners to keep their dogs on private property and license unregistered animals with City Hall. It's not fair, Dr. Dunn says. A small, irresponsible group of owners have spoiled it for everyone else. Three people have been attacked in Lynn by pit bulls within the last two weeks. Richard Meyer of the American Humane Association in Denver, Colorado, said a number of cities and counties have enacted laws to prohibit pit bull ownership or require liability insurance. It is a hot topic, Meyer said. I can understand the concern of people as far as pit bulls which are not suitable pets.

[Ed. Pit bull and other dog owners responded violently to the restrictive ordinance. They are not able to accept the fact that pit bulls are more dangerous and different from other dogs.]

NI Massachusetts-Lynn NR

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338

Anon.: Pit bull attack. West Seattle Herald. (Seattle, Washington). 64:26, (June 25, 1986): B-5.

A nine-year-old Junction area girl and a woman who had come to her aid were attacked by two pit bulls. The attacks happened as the girl and her sister were walking to school in the Southwest. The girls had just passed a house when the two pit bulls ran out of the unfenced yard and started to chase them. The girls ran into the street where one of the dogs bit the 9-year-old. Meanwhile, a woman driving by in her car saw what was happening and stopped her car, got out and diverted the dogs attention and in doing so, they turned and headed for her. The dogs chased the woman and one of them bit her on the arm. The owner of the dogs heard the commotion and put the dogs in his house. Animal Control officers were called and the dogs were impounded.

[Ed. This could have been very serious if the woman in her car had not intervened to divert the pack.]

NI Washington-Seattle NR

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339

Anon.: Boy bitten by pit bull. Tribune. (Oakland, California). 113:179, (June 28, 1986): A-12.

Five-year-old Craig Bailey, attacked by a pit bull dog and bitten in the face, is carried to an ambulance in San Leandro. He was treated for minor injuries and released while the dog was taken by animal control officers. The boy's grandfather, Robert Lynch, also was bitten on the hand.

[Ed. Details of this attack are not included.]

PI California-San Leandro NR

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340

Anon.: Dogfighters on the run. Close-up Report. The Humane Society of the United States. NV:NI, (June, 1986): 1-4.

A farmhouse, barn, vacant garage, warehouse, apartment building, basement or city park can be the location for a dogfight. Since 1975, when dogfighting became a felony in California, 29 state legislatures have increased the penalty but dogfighting continues. The American Pit Bull Terrier, which weighs 40-50 pounds, is the most commonly fought breed. It is capable of breaking an opponent's leg in seconds. Due to breeding and training, fighting dogs are intent on attacking other dogs. The contests are held in 20-foot-square, plywood enclosures with 2-1/2-foot-high walls. The referee commands the contestants to face their dogs and then let go. The dogs lock their jaws onto another dog and tear and shake their teeth into the other animal. Some believe that more than 50 percent of the dogs involved in the match die during or in a few days following the match. Some animals are treated by the dog-fighters. Pepper and coffee grounds may be used to stop the bleeding. During training kittens are dangled before the dogs to whet their appetites for blood. Some animals walk 20 miles per day while others exercise on treadmills. Dogfighters keep their activities secret and do not allow attendees to leave early for fear they may tip off the authorities.

*[Ed. This report was accompanied by a request for funds to support HSUS. Although HSUS has helped in publicizing dogfights, major raids on dogfighters have been conducted with the use of funds and manpower of local humane organizations, and state and local law enforcement agencies.]*

PI United States NR

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**341**

Anon.: Dog warden shoots pit bull. News. (Lima, Ohio). 103:182,(July 1, 1986): A-4.

A pit bull died when it was shot at 11 a.m. by Allen County Dog Warden Jerry M. Morris. When police arrived, the large black and brown dog owned by Julie L. Murphy, 23, lay in the rear yard at 214 Harrison Ave. with two gunshot wounds in the chest. Morris told police he had been called in referenceto the dog chasing children. When he arrived the dog was in a rear yard of the house. The animal began chasing Morris and when it was about three feet away, he shot it twice. Morris issued a minor citation to the dog's owner for failure to license the dog and allowing it to run at large. Police cited the owner for harboring a vicious dog.

*[Ed. An unlicensed pit bull running at large is a time bomb.]*

NI Ohio-Lima NR

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**342**

Anon.: No charges in pit bull attack. Post-Intelligencer. (Seattle, Washington). 123:164, (July 10, 1986): D-1.

No charges will be filed against the owner of two pit bull terriers that attacked and nearly killed a boy, the Kitsap County prosecutor says. Dan Clem said that under state law, the prosecutor's office, would have to prove the dogs' owner, Leslie Hoyt, knew they were vicious. Hoyt had the dogs for three years, and they never attacked before. Brian Varney, 14, said he did not provoke the animals. The attack was stopped by William Chambers, who tried to pull the dogs off the boy and then shot and killed them. The boy suffered wounds on his arms and legs and underwent surgery.

*[Ed. Ohio passed a law in 1987 which defined all pit bulls as vicious.]*

NI Washington-Port Orchard NR

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**343**

Anon.: The menace of dangerous dogs. Tacoma News Tribune. (Tacoma, Washington). 104:23,(July 11, 1986): A-8.

was charged with permitting the dog to run at large and failing to have it inoculated. The city also has a vicious dog law, slightly more stringent than the leash law, which carries a \$50 fine if the vicious dog is loose. A state law, which makes dog fighting, promotion, operating and witnessing a felony, went into effect in June, 1980 after several arrests involving pit bull fights around Cincinnati. Pit bulldogs have become increasingly popular over the last four years, especially among those who want a macho image. Owning a pit bull gives a feeling of superiority among peers. The American Pit Bull Terrier is bred for fighting, is very muscular and aggressive. Most of the pit bulls around town are not pure bred. The AKC does not recognize pit bulls because they are fighters. Those who own pit bulls must be confined on the premises or under the owner's control.

*[Ed. This article outlines the serious problem of dog bites in Cincinnati.]*

PI Ohio-Cincinnati NR

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**647**

Irey, J.: Humane society to destroy dog that allegedly attacked woman. Omaha World-Herald. (Omaha, Nebraska). 121:253, (May 28, 1986): 18.

A dog allegedly involved in a Memorial Day attack on a South Omaha woman will be destroyed according to the Nebraska Humane Society. Frances Morong, was treated at Archbishop Bergan Mercy Hospital for bites on both legs after the incident but was not hospitalized. Omaha Police Officer Donald Hubbard and the humane society identified the dog's owner as David Bewley. The society said Bewley has two pit bulls, a female and a male. Kenna Belmont, humane society office manager, said Bewley agreed to the destruction of one dog, a pit bull named "Doc", after a 10-day observation period for rabies. Bewley also is to appear in court Tuesday on a citation for keeping a dangerous animal. The society had other complaints on the dogs but had been unable to take any action because employees had not witnessed a violation. Mrs. Morong was in her back yard to turn on a water sprinkler shortly after noon Monday. The black pit bull, the offspring of the other dog, was on a roof over the basement stairs at the house next door and jumped over the fence. The animal bit her on both legs as she worked herself into her house to call police.

*[Ed. This dog had demonstrated its propensity to bite prior to the attack but it was not properly confined.]*

NI Nebraska-Omaha NR

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**648**

Ironjaw Kennels: The readers write. To the owners of game dogs, beginners. Sporting Dog Journal. NV:NI, (March-April, 1984): 35.

Preconditioning is useful. The pup, three months old is attached to a ten foot chain, attached to a light garage door spring, that hooks onto a 20 foot cable for him to develop neck and stifle muscles. The light spring will be stretched and must be replaced with a heavier spring. The dogs are fed one at a time in a special pen (feed pen) which is filled with logs and branches to develop coordination. An adult dog must move either the logs or the branches to get to their food and that is teaching them to use their paws, muzzle, head and teeth. Walk a pup to improve his wind and for companionship. Wind and stamina will come with age. While walking him teach the pup some common traits, i.e., sit, stay, come, etc. and some hand signals. This paragraph pertains to pups and methods of conditioning them. The more time you spend with your dog, the more the dog will do for you.

*[Ed. This author believes in early and close preconditioning of pit bulls.]*

NI United States NR

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649

Jackson, R.: Pit bull kills Denver tot. Rocky Mountain News. (Denver, Colorado). 128:187, (October 27, 1986): 1.

A 3-year-old boy was attacked and killed yesterday by a chained pit bull terrier after the boy wandered into a partly fenced yard a block from his home. The dog, named "Missy," attacked Fernando Salazar in the yard at about 5:30 p.m. Salazar died of multiple dog bites at Denver General Hospital. He was in surgery for more than an hour. The dog's owners, identified as Gil and Phyllis Troncosa, were issued a summons by a Denver sheriff's deputy for having a vicious dog on their property. The dog was removed to the Denver Animal Shelter for observation. Denver police officer, Steve Shott, said the boy may have provoked the dog before the attack. Police did not know why the boy was away from home unsupervised and the child's parents could not be reached for comment. Phyllis Troncosa was returning home from the grocery store, pulled her car into the garage and saw the dog holding the boy in his jaws. The dog was shaking his head while holding the boy. She rushed from the car, pulled the boy free and laid him on the grass before calling police. Jackie Vigil said most of the neighborhood children know the dogs will bite, so they usually walk on the opposite side of the street when passing the Troncosa house.

[Ed. Pit bulls should be confined within a secure enclosure to prevent children from approaching as well as to prevent escape.]

NI Colorado-Denver NR

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650

James, A.L.: Don't brand dogs. Reader's Forum. Blade. (Toledo, Ohio). 136:259, (September 16, 1986): 10.

Our county dog wardens have once again solved a problem in the way they know best, just kill the animal (pit bull), and in this instance, also put a brand on the breed as unfit and dangerous. They might direct their wisdom and energies in other ways such as increasing their hours, a more realistic fee structure, and encouraging spaying and neutering through reduced license costs, helping prosecute those that permit dogfighting, keeping an animal more than three days, and not giving animals for laboratory experimentation. An animal's personality is developed in the way it is raised. A German Shepherd or a Doberman could be raised to become dangerous. Let us not be too quick to brand a breed of dog as unsafe and undesirable.

[Ed. The author assumes that the personality of a pit bull is dependent on how it is raised, which ignores the hereditary influence and centuries of selection of these dogs for attacking, seizing, fighting and killing.]

NI Ohio-Toledo NR

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651

Johns, R.H.: "Smash Dog-Fighting and Badgering." The National Canine Defense League. Victoria Station House, (London, England). (1939): 1-32.

The dog fighting fraternity is close-knit and gives itself credit for sticking together. Its members do not live merely by winning money from each other but interest wealthy patrons from which they are able to make a lot of pickings. Such a patron, taken in by the high-flown talk, and imagining himself to be one of the "bloods", can often be induced to pay a large sum for a dog and to back it in a fight. Those in the know can forecast the result and come down on the winning side. Then there is a nice sum to be made by the man who undertakes the feeding and training. In England one must be well paid on account of the danger of prosecution. In U.S.A. and Canada the same conditions hold with less secrecy. One man advertises that he will undertake to prepare dogs for the pit at a hundred dollars a time in addition to the feed. The same man will supply treadmills for training at \$85 or in quantities of a dozen at \$75. Detective work is not required to see where the money comes from in the U.S.A. Advertisements would not continue to be



If they brought in no return. The advertisers point out that their pups are not intended for the show. "No Stafford-what not-shires" is their phrase. The stud fees asked range up to a hundred dollars.

[Ed. This is a review of the seamer aspects of dogfighting which leaves the reader with an impression that it is more common with the dregs of English society rather than the gentry.]

NI England-London NR

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652

Johnson, A.: American Dog Owners Association. Dog World. 68:11, (November, 1983): 37.

The American Dog Owners Association (ADOA) is seeking responsible dog owner members and dog club memberships. This Association has protected the rights of dog owners in America since 1970. Recently a city ordinance was proposed in Florida requiring a \$50,000 liability insurance coverage if you owned one of several breeds of dogs. The organization has also been instrumental in combating "puppy mills" which raised puppies in conditions that would make a concerned dog owner angry. Through ADOA and local efforts, the number of "businesses" have been reduced from 1,500 to 900 in a couple of years. There is still much work to be accomplished in this area and ADOA needs support! There are hundreds of state and Federal bills introduced each year which affect dog owners. If the ADOA had more members in these states, these bills could possibly be stopped. ADOA consists of approximately 2,000 individual memberships and 500 dog club memberships. Individual memberships are \$10.00 and dog club memberships are \$25.00. There are arm patches and pins available for a nominal fee.

[Ed. The ADOA has taken the position that no breed shall be mentioned in a restrictive ordinance which is difficult to defend in the case of pit bulls in some communities.]

NI United States NR

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653

Jones, D.: Dogfighting must be stopped. Ledger-Enquirer. (Columbus, Georgia). 7:49, (September 13, 1980): A-4.

Dog fighting has reached manic proportions in the Columbus-Phenix City area. Magnificent animals are being destroyed and abused. Recently a self-professed dog-fighter told me he operates on a national basis. He brags about it and the fact that local authorities will not do anything about it. During our many conversations he said one of his dogs is a national champion since he has won three fights and if he wins another, it will be a Grand Champion. This particular dog is known as a "dirty dog" since he attacks the private parts of other dogs. All you have to do to come into contact with these people is to own a pit bull terrier. If you sell or give away these dogs you are inundated with calls from people wanting to know their bloodlines and how many fights they have won. The most appalling thing about this is the people are dead serious about their sport and if Jack Swift doesn't shut up we may find him dead one morning because they are going to give him some hot lead.

[Ed. Jack Swift is a newspaper reporter who has written exposes on dogfighting.]

NI Alabama-Salem NR

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654

Jones, M.: The readers write. Sporting Dog Journal. NV:NI, (March-April, 1983): 51.

"We are trying to stop the felony dogfighting bill that is currently before the Texas legislature. Enclosed is a packet of material that has been mailed to about 20 pit bull owners around the state. That is all of the pit bull owners that we know. We are writing to you in hopes that you will decide to help us after you read the material we have sent you. You are welcome to reprint this packet of material and send it to some or all of your subscribers. Please act quickly. Time is very critical if this legislation is to be stopped."

*The Mall Street apartment complex has become a sanctuary for drug dealers and pit bulls. City officials, police, and people in the area feel threatened by these irresponsible individuals.]*

NI      Massachusetts-Lynn      NR

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**665**  
Kehres, K.: Undercover agents' pit bulls are stolen. *The Columbus Dispatch*. (Columbus, Ohio). 109:114, (October 22, 1980): B-1.

Revenge may be the motive behind the theft of two pit bulls that thieves cut through a Columbus humane society shelter fence to get. The dogs were owned by an undercover agent who infiltrated a number of dogfight rings. Columbus policeman, Detective Tom Cooper, speculated that they might kill the dogs and deliver them to the undercover agent to show their feelings. The agent's identity could have been learned from search warrants filed in other counties where fighting dogs have been impounded. There's an element of danger to anybody who works with the police in these matters. We are dealing with violence prone people, a lot of whom have police records. Someone cut a hole in a fence and pried open several run doors to remove the two dogs. The two dogs were not going to be used as evidence against anyone indicted for dogfighting.

"Reprinted, with permission, from *The Columbus Dispatch*"

*[Ed. Impounded dogs have been stolen from other humane societies, animal control centers and veterinary hospitals.]*

NI      Ohio-Columbus      NR

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**666**  
Kelley, B.G.: Vicious sport. Turning pit bulls into mean animals. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). 314:142, (May 22, 1986): A-27.

A Philadelphia mounted police officer shot and killed a pit bull terrier after the dog attacked his horse and began biting the horse's leg. The incident occurred recently in Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. It is an incident that hardens the public's perception of the pit bull as a vicious creature with a bite like no other dog's. Another image of pit bull terriers is one that Morley Safer caught in a recent 60 Minutes segment. The reporter, from humane society officials and pit bull owners, said that in the hands of a loving and caring master, the pit bull terrier is a docile, devoted, loving and intelligent animal. It is only when, Safer reported further, in the charge of a cruel and violent master does the pit bull become mean-spirited.

*[Ed. The cruelty of dogfighting and the involvement by teenagers in Philadelphia is described.]*

NI      Pennsylvania-Philadelphia      NR

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**667**  
Kelly, J.: Breeding and the brood bitch. *Sporting Dog Journal*. NV:NI, (January-February, 1985): 37-38.

The brood bitch is the single most important ingredient if you want to be a breeder of high quality bull terriers. Some argue that a top stud dog would be of primary importance. A top brood bitch 1) must come into a reasonably regular heat period, 2) must be physically able to whelp puppies, 3) possess the motherly instinct to take care of her puppies, and 4) must be capable of producing top quality dogs. No stud dog or brood bitch has ever produced 100% first class dogs or even a majority of first class dogs. Joe Corvino said that if 10% of the dogs he bred turned out to be match dogs, he was ahead of the other breeders. Joe's percentage was probably better than 10%, but only a small percentage are going to be first class.

*The Mall Street apartment complex has become a sanctuary for drug dealers and pit bulls. City officials, police, and people in the area feel threatened by these irresponsible individuals.]*

NI            Massachusetts-Lynn            NR

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665

Kehres, K.: Undercover agents' pit bulls are stolen. *The Columbus Dispatch*. (Columbus, Ohio). 109:114, (October 22, 1980): B-1.

Revenge may be the motive behind the theft of two pit bulls that thieves cut through a Columbus humane society shelter fence to get. The dogs were owned by an undercover agent who infiltrated a number of dogfight rings. Columbus policeman, Detective Tom Cooper, speculated that they might kill the dogs and deliver them to the undercover agent to show their feelings. The agent's identity could have been learned from search warrants filed in other counties where fighting dogs have been impounded. There's an element of danger to anybody who works with the police in these matters. We are dealing with violence prone people, a lot of whom have police records. Someone cut a hole in a fence and pried open several run doors to remove the two dogs. The two dogs were not going to be used as evidence against anyone indicted for dogfighting.

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*[Ed. Impounded dogs have been stolen from other humane societies, animal control centers and veterinary hospitals.]*

NI            Ohio-Columbus            NR

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666

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*[Ed. The cruelty of dogfighting and the involvement by teenagers in Philadelphia is described.]*

NI            Pennsylvania-Philadelphia            NR

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667

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*[Ed. What happens to the 90% of the pups that are not game or unsuited for the pit?]*

NI United States NR

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**668**

**Kelly, J.:** Breeding and the stud dog. *Sporting Dog Journal*. NV:NI, (March-April, 1985): 36-37.

If in breeding, the brood bitch is the single most important ingredient to possess, then it must follow that the stud dog is the second most important ingredient. Technically, a breeder doesn't even have to own a stud dog and you have an amazing array of dogs advertised "at stud". The history of the pit bull is full of famous performance dogs that never produced worthwhile progeny. Go through some of the old magazines and look up the champions. How many of them have ever produced offspring that have won? Many dogs with either no record at all or less than great show records have went on to fame and fortune as great stud dogs. Mayfield's "Nigger", who sired four recorded champions, and many that were not recorded, never was shown. Hammond's "Rufus" is another Register of Merit sire and a grandson to "Nigger" who was never shown. Colby's "Dime" was not bitten but he produced some of the best.

*[Ed. The author quotes an old saying among dogfighters that it is best to breed to the dogs that produce the champions rather than the champions.]*

NI United States NR

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**669**

**Kemme, S.:** Pit bull owner: Ban will be "like losing one of the kids". *Enquirer*. (Cincinnati, Ohio). 146:129, (August 16, 1986): C-1, C-2.

The Ed and Barbara Weinbergs and other Cincinnati pit bull dog owners can't understand why Cincinnati City Council passed a law last May banning that dog breed. Introduced by Councilman David Mann, the law takes effect on Tuesday and violating the law can result in a \$1,000 fine and 60 days in jail. To pit bull owners, the dogs are intelligent and gentle dogs who attack only when provoked. It would be like losing one of the kids, according to Mrs. Weinberg. They are going to have to fine us because we're not getting rid of our dog.

*[Ed. Several other families are saddened and/or angry over the possibility of losing their pit bulls.]*

NI Ohio-Cincinnati NR

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**670**

**Kemme, S.:** Opposition dogging law to ban pit bulls. *Enquirer*. (Cincinnati, Ohio). 146:130, (August 17, 1986): C-1, C-9.

A spate of pit bull dogs in Cincinnati in recent years convinced most city councilmen that the pit bulls are inherently vicious animals who shouldn't be permitted. In May, council approved, by a 7-2 vote, a law banning pit bull dogs and people violating the ordinance can be fined \$1,000 and imprisoned for 60 days. Councilman David Mann, who introduced the law, believes that pit bulls are more vicious than other dog breeds. In 1983, Mann tried to persuade council to ban pit bulls after a youth had been killed and several other people had been badly injured in recent pit bull attacks. Instead of approving a ban, council toughened the city's vicious dog ordinance to require pit bull dogs to be locked in pens or caged when in their owners' yards and leashed and muzzled when off their owners' premises. For three years, we've had the law but it hasn't worked and pit bull attacks are still occurring. Guy Guckenberger says the general safety of the community has to take precedence over the rights of responsible pit bull dog owners. Many cities in the country have passed laws banning pit bulls and some have withstood legal challenges and some haven't.

Champion "Diamondback Redbolt" or "Red" was a show dog and more dramatically, a sturdy little record-holding weight-puller. Strongest Dog in the World, a lot of people say about "Red", while others call him the dog world's Arnold Schwarzenegger. He was even a star on prime-time television as he heaved and lurched, dragged and jerked 3,275 pounds across the floor for "That's Incredible!" This American Staffordshire Terrier, cousin to the bull terrier, has handled the transition from celebrity to retired celebrity nicely. He lopez across the carpet in his owner's living room, plops nonchalantly on the sofa, circles his spot twice, collapses with a sigh, hangs one leg over the side, lolls his tongue around his lumpy lips and burps. His owner, Tom Shimak says, he is very self-confident.

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[Ed. Weight pulling has become a popularized sport for American Pit Bull Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers or pit bulls, since dogfighting was outlawed.]

PI Illinois-TinleyPark NR

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663

Keenan, G.: The savage world of dogfighting. Amer. Humane Magazine. 66:8, (August, 1978): 8-11.

Pit fights are ritualistic contests that have remained relatively unchanged since the sport got its start in England during the 16th century. Dogs are matched by weight under complex rules originally drafted by the old Police Gazette magazine. The events are organized and pre-match contracts specify the amount of money to be wagered, forfeit money and weight of dogs. An average pit may be 20 feet square with plank board sides four feet high, which allows spectators to get close to the action. Released simultaneously inside the pit by handlers, the animals leap at each other, looking for a hold on the neck, throat, leg or other spot. Fighting continues until one dog refuses or is unable to continue the match. Pit bull training is quite extensive and similar to a human boxer. The animals may be exercised on a treadmill to build up chest and forequarters.

[Ed. Details about dogfighting, raids and prosecution are presented.]

DI United States RI

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664

Kehoe, P.: Pit bulls may be banned from city. Mall Street attack on mailman prompts action by safety committee. Item. (Lynn, Massachusetts). 216:149, (June 4, 1986): 11.

Something must be done immediately according to Ward Councilor Richard Coppinger, chairman of the City Council's Public Safety Committee about pit bulls on Mall Street. Coppinger said the letter carrier had to have 12 stitches taken in his arm. His face bore a bandage where additional damage had been inflicted by the animal. As a result of this, as well as complaints lodged by Councilor Norman R. Cole regarding a family on Mall Street, the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the council that an emergency ordinance be drafted that would ban all pit bulls from the city. The animals are often unchained and even allowed by its owner or owners to roam the hallways of an apartment building at 23 Mall Street. The ordinance would give greater power to the dog officer who told councilors that when the threat of a fine is mentioned, these people only laugh. Questions about the legality of such an ordinance were raised. Have the city solicitor draft an ordinance and then let the pit bull owners challenge us in court. The post office won't deliver mail to the end of Mall Street until the problem has been corrected. He said 8 inhabitants of the apartment building in question have been evicted. Cole asked if the police could obtain a search for the building, where relatives are constantly shuttling the dog among them. The pit bull attacks have increased since the start of all the publicity. Police even had to use their guns on two occasions during the past year.

attacks by various pit bull breeds in the greater Houston area. Current city law allows the return of an animal to its owner after the first time it bites a person but after the second bite, the city can require a muzzle, force removal of the animal from the city, or destroy the animal.

[Ed. This incident demonstrates that the dog is vicious.]

NI Texas-Houston, Pasadena NR

674

King, W.: Dogfighting: Illegal brutal, growing. The New York Times. (New York, New York). 123:42,572, (August 15, 1974): 1-1, 1-20.

"Pat Bodzianowski is a construction worker by trade, a burly, ponderous man about 40 years old, with a great stomach. His bare upper body, across the chest and back and over the arms, is covered with tattoos. There are two naked women spinning a spider web, a fiery serpent with a human torso in red, green and black, flaming fighting cocks and, on one shoulder, a pair of dogs, their jaws open, fighting with fangs and straining muscles. They look very much like those in Mr. Bodzianowski's back yard in the Chicago suburb of Tinley Park. Mr. Bodzianowski is a breeder of fighting dogs, Staffordshire Terriers, one of an estimated 40 to 50 such breeders around the country. They are part of a collection of men as many as 5,000 by the best-informed estimate who regularly meet clandestinely at locations across the country to take part in an illegal and apparently growing activity: pitting one dog against another and betting on fights that last up to several hours and often leave one or both dogs dying or dead."

[Ed. This article contains several sadistic and awesome accounts of training procedures and matches. In one instance a dog continued to attack even though its front leg was broken and the bone was sticking through the skin.]

NI Canada, Illinois-Chicago, Tennessee-Nashville, Texas NR

675

King, W.: Dog fights: Our deadly newsport. Today. (Chicago, Illinois). 6:76, (August 15, 1974): 1, 12.

Pat is a construction worker and a breeder of fighting dogs, Staffordshire Terriers. He is one of an estimated 40 to 50 breeders in the country. The breeders are part of a collection of men, as many as 5,000, who regularly meet secretly across the country to take part in an illegal pitting, one dog against another, and betting on fights that last up to several hours, and often leave both dogs dying or dead. The matches are secret because they are illegal under various state humane laws and the fights are always accompanied by heavy betting. Pat says he has been breeding fighting dogs for 19 years and has raised fighting cocks.

[Ed. Wayne King from the New York Times was informed of dogfighting in Chicago and was able to attend a match after an informer, Thomas Stephenson, agreed to help State's Attorney Bernard Carey expose dogfighters. There are several articles by Charles Mount, Carol Oppenheim, Larry Green, Evelyn Richards, Leonard Amson, Roger Flaherty, Martin Gershen and others about these events.]

NI Illinois-Chicago NR

676

King, W.: Law officers are found to be usually unaware of dogfighting. The New York Times. (New York, New York). 123:42,586, (August 29, 1974): 1-1, 1-17.

"Investigators of the Cook County State Attorney's Office are looking into allegations and reported evidence that three police officers in the Chicago area are involved in a dogfighting ring known to operate

re. William Prendergast, the primary investigator providing information to a Cook County grand jury conducting an inquiry into dogfighting, which is illegal under Illinois law, also said that the investigators "have a number of leads on fights that have occurred in Milwaukee, Evansville and elsewhere." Inquiries by The New York Times into other areas around the country where dogfighting is known to exist indicated that Chicago's pattern of careful secrecy was followed elsewhere, with the result that law enforcement officials were usually unaware that fighting was taking place. This was the case in Chicago until newspaper articles brought it to light. However, interviews in various parts of the country did uncover some police cognizance that illegal pitting of dogs was taking place. But in most cases, even where fighting and gambling were known to the police, arrests were hard to make, since in most cases it is necessary to find a fight in progress before an effective charge can be made."

*[Ed. Great difficulties were encountered in prosecuting dogfighters under the old laws.]*

NI California, Illinois, Rhode Island, Texas NR

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677

King, W.: Congress plans hearings on dogfighting. The New York Times. (New York, New York). 123:42,591, (September 3, 1974): I-1, I-26.

"A Congressional subcommittee will begin hearings in Washington this month into illegal dogfighting, gambling and other illegal activity associated with fights throughout the country. An aide to Representative Thomas S. Foley, Democrat of Washington, said recently that inquiries had corroborated newspaper accounts of widespread, organized pit-fighting of trained and untrained animals at locations from coast to coast. Representative Foley is chairman of an agricultural subcommittee that deals with animal welfare. His aide, Stephen Coonrod, said that the Congressional inquiry would begin in the latter half of September, although no specific date had been set. The inquiry, he said, would concern itself primarily with possible legislation concerning the interstate transport of animals for fighting and gambling. A list of witnesses is being compiled, Mr. Coonrod said. Meanwhile, the American Dog Owners Association, an animal welfare group based in Sacramento, has called for a Federal grand jury to investigate dogfighting with a view toward Federal indictments under existing laws related to organized interstate gambling. The association said it could provide evidence to such a jury. A Cook County (Chicago) grand jury has already begun hearing witnesses with information about a dogfighting ring whose activities were detailed by The New York Times."

*[Ed. Animal welfare organizations appear to be more informed about dogfighting than law enforcement officials.]*

NI United States NR

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678

King, W.: Texas a major U.S. center for illegal dogfighting and gambling. The New York Times. (New York, New York). 123:42,604, (September 16, 1974): A-28.

"If it can be said that there is a capital of dogfighting, the illegal, usually organized, gamblers' game that is growing from coast to coast, it is probably in Texas. On any given weekend, up to a dozen fights might be held in and around Dallas, Austin, San Antonio or at other well-guarded locations elsewhere in the state. A clandestine dogfighters' magazine, Pit Dog Reports, with a secret mailing list, is published near Dallas, several pit dog breeders live in the state, and some of the biggest matches—called "conventions"—are held here, an inquiry by the New York Times has found. Moreover, dogfighting here, as well as in some other areas, not simply the weekend dimension of a handful of men in their own special idea of sport. There is high stakes gambling, prostitution, illegal liquor sales, suggestions of drug sales and allegations by a participant of payoffs to the rural police for protection. Violence is not uncommon; many spectators at fights carry pistols, and there have been gangland style assassinations of well known dogfighters within the last year. "If you consider the general level of fighting itself, the number of fights, the number of breeders,

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King, W.: Pit dogs journal lean, long-lasting. The Toledo Times. (Toledo, Ohio). NV:150, (October 8, 1974): 6.

"Pit Dogs," an irregularly published magazine from Starke, Florida for \$10 per year is written by Pete Sparks. It has been used for 20 years by those interested in matching fighting dogs. A nationwide problem of clandestine dogfighting is under inquiry by a House subcommittee in Washington and dogfighting magazines such as "Pit Dogs" are under scrutiny. To obtain copies, a subscriber must be recommended by someone on the list or known to Mr. Sparks. "Sporting Dog Journal" from New York, and "Pit Dog Report", which is published in Dallas, are not as old or large as "Pit Dogs." The magazines name dogfighters, fight organizers and referees, carry ads for fighting dogs and announce matches (conventions) which may attract several hundred participants and spectators. Mr. Sparks breeds and sells dogs as well as writing about them. Betting and ancillary activities are not included in the articles but colorful jargon known to dogfighters is used, i.e., the brindle "lost two lower tusks in the fight, may be one reason why he lost."

[Ed. The magazines of the dogfighters are very difficult to obtain but provide a lot of information on how the system is organized and functions.]

NI

United States

NR

682

King, W.: Attacks on humans by pit bulls causing concern. Herald. (Brownsville, Texas). 90:187, (February 12, 1982): 26.

A San Francisco man told the police he was set upon by a pit bull when the dog's owner slipped the leash and shouted, "Kill him, kill him!" The dog attacked, biting the man on the stomach, arm, hand and leg and he required hospitalization. A 2-year-old boy in suburban Pleasanton was attacked in his yard by a 60-pound pit bull, who dragged the youngster along the ground until his grandmother managed to free him. Fifty stitches were required to close wounds on the boy's head and body. These and other attacks by pit bulls, dogs trained for combat in clandestine matches that draw hundreds of paying spectators and highstakes gamblers, have caused mounting concern in California as the animals proliferate as pets and fighters. Attacks by pit bulls on humans are rare and usually involve a dog bred for viciousness and fighting skill to such a degree that its only instinct is to attack, according to breeders and handlers.

[Ed. This article which appeared in papers which subscribe to the New York Times News Service, contains incidents with pit bulls as well as a general description of dogfighting.]

NI

United States-California

NR

683

King, W.: Fighting dogs' attacks raise alarm on coast. The New York Times. (New York, New York). 131:45,222, (February 12, 1982): A-1, A-18.

"Last Sunday, a San Francisco man told the police, he was set upon by a pit bull when the dog's owner slipped the leash and shouted, "Kill him, kill him!" The dog attacked, biting the man on the abdomen, arm, hand and leg and sending him to the hospital. Last week, a two-year-old boy in suburban Pleasanton was attacked in his yard by a 60-pound pit bull that dragged the youngster along the ground until his grandmother managed to free him. Fifty stitches were required to close gashes on the boy's head and body. These and other attacks by pit bulls, dogs trained to fight other dogs in clandestine matches that draw hundreds of paying spectators and high-stakes gamblers, have caused mounting concern in California as the animals proliferate both as pets and fighters. "The pit bull has one major characteristic," said Richard Avanzino, director of the San Francisco office of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. You might call it a flaw in its personality—it shows its love by serving its master. Some of those masters are vicious, evil, sick people who train the dog to fight and kill, turn it into a lethal weapon. If we are to believe the recent report, the animal had to be trained to attack." In normal circumstances,



"Buddy" at bay with a bench. A police officer then shot the dog. The American pit bull historically has been bred to fight which is illegal. The other popular pit bull, the Staffordshire Terrier, is bred for shows. Randall Couturier, President of the Tri-State Pit Bull Club, believes that gameness is the best way to distinguish these two types of pit bulls. He felt that pit bulls should never be around children unless they have been bred correctly and trained properly.

[Ed. This brutal killing was a major factor in passage of an ordinance restricting pit bulls in Cincinnati.]

PI Ohio-Cincinnati NR

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935

Thornton, A.: Teens arrested in dog cases. Daily Oklahoman. (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma). 95:295, (October 27, 1986): 4.

Police arrested two brothers and their cousin on dogfighting complaints after officers found the carcasses of four dogs and four severely injured pit bulls near their house. The three youths were released to their parents when a juvenile detention center refused to accept them. Police found the decomposed dogs' bodies in an alley after a woman complained that her teenage boys were fighting their pit bull dogs against other animals. The dead dogs, of various breeds, were bound with extension cord and wire and apparently had been dragged into the alley after losing their matches. All of the animals appeared to have been dumped there at least 10 days ago. Police have investigated several reports of dogs being stolen in the area recently, but the carcasses were beyond recognition. The four live pit bulls were taken to the city's animal shelter, but police speculated they would have to be destroyed because of serious injuries and malnutrition. The brothers, ages 15 and 13, and their 16-year-old cousin, were arrested on felony complaints of dog fighting. Police would not release the youths' names due to their ages.

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[Ed. Unfortunately teenagers have become involved in dog fighting.]

NI Oklahoma-Oklahoma City NR

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936

Tietjen, S.: Next time it could be your breed..... Canine Chronicle. 9:33, (April 14, 1984): 1-6, 1-10, 1-14.

The background of anti-pit bull ordinances in several locations, i.e., Cincinnati, Ohio, Hollywood, Florida and Walbridge, Ohio is discussed, with suggestions as to how to prevent such ordinances, i.e., 1) Form and fund, a nationwide Political Action Committee whose purpose will be to act as a clearing house of anti-dog legislation across the county and lobby for the defeat of any anti-dog/breed measures, 2) urge the AKC to have a person work directly with member clubs who are encountering problems, 3) get involved in community affairs and keep abreast with what is happening in their municipalities and be prepared to speak up and out and work with communities to calmly resolve problems, 4) promote better public relations geared towards an improved image for the kennel owner and directed towards teaching persons on how to properly care for their animals, 5) stop dog fighting with laws which can be enforced, 6) neighborhood watch groups against cruel and inhumane treatment of animals, 7) understand that legislation against dogs will not cure the evils of the human element, 8) study the laws already on the books and seek information as to whether or not those laws are currently being enforced. (A new law should be equitable and fair and directed towards the general problem itself, rather than a specific breed or dog) and 9) utilize action rather than reaction.

[Ed. Background of the current pit bull problem is presented with suggestions directed toward preventing restrictive ordinances and banning.]

NI United States NR

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932

The Rambler.: Champion Dusty. Sporting Dog Journal. NV:LJ, (September-October, 1984): 35.

I purchased "Dusty" as a young dog in May of 1978, from a man in Georgia who used to make some of the best treadmills. I had been in the business for two years and still hadn't had much success finding a match dog. Finally, I bought two dogs, "Dusty" and another young dog, that hadn't yet started, called "Wheat" for \$500.00. The owner said that if he ever sold a dog that he thought would become an ace, "Dusty" was that dog. So, I started my career with "Dusty". "Dusty" was absolutely the hardest working dog I had ever handled. He would run a mill, work a hide, chase a flirt pole until he dropped. I played with him through the summer and then matched him into "Dominey's Mudbone." The match lasted 43 minutes and "Mudbone" couldn't continue. I waited until the following September and matched him into "Towson's Buck" (a winner of two matches). During the keep, "Dusty" got ahold of a big piece of canvas fire hose and ate a piece which became lodged in his intestines. The veterinarian who operated on him had to remove about a foot of his intestines to get the piece of hose. After the operation, he laid "Dusty" on the floor next to a German Shepherd, that had also just had an operation. While the veterinarian was working on the next dog he happened to glance over his shoulder and "Dusty" was trying to crawl over to the Shepherd with over a hundred stitches in his stomach.

[Ed. Other matches are described in a career that will probably end in the Register of Merit.]

NI United States NR

933

Thompson, F.M.: The real criminal. Editorial. Police Product News. 11:11, (November, 1986): 4.

This month's story on dogfighting exposes a dark, insidious crime where people become animal-like, pitting two dogs in a struggle against death. As in the drug subculture, the blood sport can occur anywhere and involve anyone; from the garages of middle-class America to the barns of the good-old-boys. The signs of dogfighting activity are strange and subtle; lovable dogs with fine fur speckled with buckshot-like wounds, an exercise machine to keep the dogs in shape, or a large gathering of autos with out-of-state plates. It is an overview of the criminals who promote that cruelty. A dogfighter justified his means with, "Rape is against the law, but people continue to do it." Dogfighting is illegal across the nation but he further commented, "I don't think the law is going to have any effect on dogfighters. They're committed. They're really radicals and their whole lives revolve around the dogs."

[Ed. This is a useful and informative editorial preceding an expose of dogfighting and dogfighters. Law enforcement personnel must have considerable knowledge about this blood sport in order to be effective against it.]

PI United States NR

934

Thomsen, S.: Dog wasn't trained to fight. Post. (Cincinnati, Ohio). 102:217, (September 10, 1983): A-8.

The owner of "Buddy", the pit bull dog that attacked and fatally wounded an 11-year-old Fairmount boy, said the dog had not been trained to fight. Marcellus Hampton died within hours after being attacked in his front yard by the family's dog. Edward "Charlie" Morris said he sold the dog, named "Buddy", about three weeks ago to the Hampton family for \$50. He described the animal as playful and not vicious. A female pit bull had been purchased from Morris about four months previously for protection. It was hoped that the female and "Buddy" could be mated. Marcellus had tripped and fell down the porch steps to be within reach of the dog which grabbed him by his head and dragged him up and down the steps. His brother hit the dog with a stick to free Marcellus. Rescue workers tried to treat Marcellus, while a Cincinnati firefighter