

POSSIBLE SIGNS OF DOGFIGHTING

The following photos show equipment, supplies, and other signs to look for if you suspect dogfighting is taking place at a residence.



PIT BULLS ON HEAVY CHAINS

Many dogfighters keep pit bulls on heavy logging chains, sometimes with padlocks. In urban areas, the dogs are often kept in basements or otherwise confined. If a home has multiple pit bulls who seem abused, injured, unneutered, or unsocialized, it is highly possible they are being used for dogfighting.



SCARRED DOGS, ESPECIALLY PIT BULLS

Fighting scars can be found on the face, front legs, hind ends, and thighs. Puncture wounds, swollen faces, and mangled ears are also telltale signs of fighting. If you see dogs with these characteristics, contact law enforcement or animal control immediately.



TREADMILLS

Dogfighters use treadmills as conditioning tools, either homemade, like the slatmill shown, or electric. Look for a chain or harness used to tether a dog to the treadmill.

FIGHTING PIT, OFTEN WITH "SCRATCH LINES."

Pits are often constructed from plywood and measure 14 to 20 square feet, with walls 2 to 3 feet high. Look for blood stains. Pits can also be constructed from chain-link fencing or makeshift materials such as hay barrels. Diagonal scratch lines are drawn in two opposite corners. The dogs stay behind these lines until the referee orders them to be released.





WASHTUBS

Prior to a fight, handlers wash and examine their opponent's dog under a referee's supervision in order to remove any poisonous or caustic substances that might have been applied to the dog's coat (a method of cheating).

VITAMINS, DRUGS, AND VET SUPPLIES

Although these items may have legitimate uses, they are often found in connection with illegal dogfighting operations. A few commonly used drugs include dexamethazone (steroid), amoxicillin and ampicillin (antibiotics), Canine Red Dog (iron supplement), and Winstrol-V (steroid).



BREAKING STICKS

These are used to pry open a dog's mouth in order to break up a fight. They are about a foot long, flat on one side, and often bloodstained.

JENNY MILL OR CAT MILL

This resembles a miniature horse walker. Harnessed to a spoke projecting from a rotating center shaft, the dog chases a small bait animal such as a rabbit or cat who has been caged or tied to a spoke just ahead of the dog. This activity encourages prey drive and physically conditions the dog.



DOGFIGHTING PUBLICATIONS

Dogfighters keep track of winning dogs and bloodlines through underground publications such as the *Sporting Dog Journal*. Other titles include *Scratch Back*, *International Dog Journal*, and *Certified Contender Report*. It is illegal to ship these magazines through the U.S. mail.



SPRINGPOLE

This device conditions a dog for fighting by building up his neck and jaw muscles. The dog bites and holds onto the springpole, made from a rawhide, knotted rope, tire, or other material suspended from a beam or sturdy tree branch.