

The Humane Society of the United States will

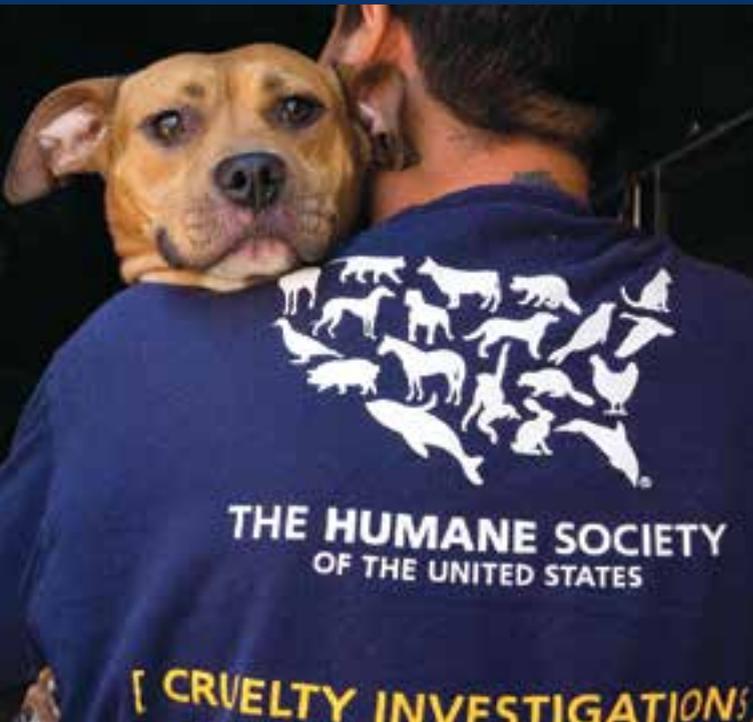
# PAY YOU UP TO \$5,000

for information leading to the arrest  
and conviction of a dogfighter.

If you witness a dogfight in progress,  
call the police immediately.

If you suspect dogfighting in your neighborhood,  
call the HSUS tip line at 1-877-TIP-HSUS.

**YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE PROTECTED.**



For more details about the reward program,  
visit [humanesociety.org/rewards](http://humanesociety.org/rewards).

## ABOUT THE HSUS

The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization, rated the most effective by its peers.

Since 1954, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education, and hands-on programs. We rescue and care for tens of thousands of animals each year, but our primary mission is to prevent cruelty before it occurs.

We're there for all animals, across America and around the world.

To learn more about dogfighting,  
visit [humanesociety.org/dogfighting](http://humanesociety.org/dogfighting).



[agjimhood.com](http://agjimhood.com)

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

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[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)

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[ End Animal Cruelty ]



# END DOGFIGHTING IN MISSISSIPPI



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES





**WHETHER IT'S AN IMPROMPTU FIGHT** on inner-city streets or a well-planned tournament at a discreet rural venue, dogfighting is everywhere. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that there are more than 40,000 people involved in organized dogfighting and many more taking part in impromptu street dogfighting in the United States.

### What Happens in a Dogfight?

Dogs, usually pit bulls, are bred and conditioned to fight each other to the death or until one dog can't continue—all for the amusement of spectators and the profits from high-stakes gambling. Fights can last for hours, as the dogs are conditioned to continue even after suffering serious wounds. Dogs who can't fight are abandoned or mercilessly killed by electrocution or gunshot.

### How Does Dogfighting Affect People?

Dogfighting not only hurts animals but also endangers a community's safety. Illegal drugs and firearms are commonly found at the scene of animal fighting events. Young children brought to matches are desensitized to violence and taught that cruelty is acceptable. Evidence shows that those who commit dogfighting crimes and other forms of animal abuse are more likely to be violent toward people.



IMAGES CLOCKWISE: Telltale signs of fighting: springpole used to strengthen dog's neck and jaw muscles; treadmill for building endurance; dogs kept on heavy chains; blood-stained fight pit.

### Is Dogfighting Illegal in Mississippi?

Yes, dogfighting is a felony in every state and a federal felony. Activities prohibited in Mississippi include:

- sponsoring, conducting, staging, or promoting a dog fight;
- betting or encouraging betting on a dog fight;
- owning a dog with the intent to enter it into a dog fight;
- training or transporting a dog for a dog fight.

Penalties are a fine of not less than \$1000.00 nor more than \$5000.00, or imprisonment for 1–3 years, or both. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-41-19.

### Does My Community Have Dogfighting?

Dogfighting is pervasive and can take place in any community. Some signs include:

- A large number of pit bulls held in one location, especially multiple dogs who are chained and seem unsocialized
- Dogs with scars on their faces, front legs, hind ends, and thighs
- Dogfighting conditioning equipment such as treadmills and springpoles
- Many people visiting a location at odd hours



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- If you see any suspicious activity related to animal abuse or dogfighting, report it to local police or humane officers.
- Urge your local, state, and federal representatives to support better funding for enforcement of animal fighting laws.
- Write letters to the editors of your local newspapers about the cruelty and dangers of dogfighting. This raises awareness in your community and can persuade others to take action.
- Volunteer at, or adopt from, your local shelter. Remind people that the dogs are the victims in animal fighting!
- Learn the truth about pit bulls, many of whom make great pets. Spread the word—one of the best ways to help these animals is by dispelling the stigma associated with the breed.