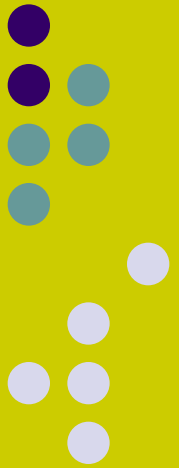




INVESTIGATION OF DOG FIGHTING

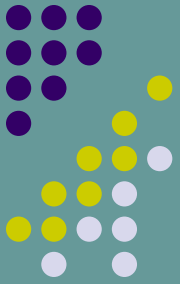




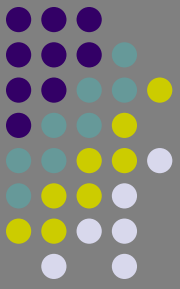
Prosecutor

Become the expert

You need to know all the lingo and how they
fight the dogs





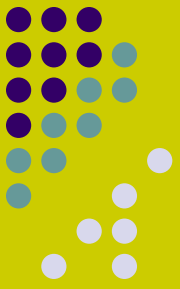


Dog Fighting Laws

- Illegal in all 50 states
- Felony in 50 states and D.C.
 - Idaho and Wyoming in 2008
- 47 states prohibit possession of dogs for fighting
 - 43 felony, 4 misdemeanor
 - No prohibition in Georgia, Idaho, Nevada
- 48 states prohibit spectator
 - No prohibition in Hawaii, Georgia



Who Participates?

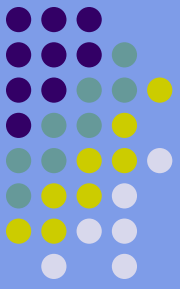


Professionals/Organized

Hobbyists or Dabblers

Street fighters

Street Level Dog Fighting For Status



Pit bulls, Rottweilers, Dobermans,
Shepherds, etc.

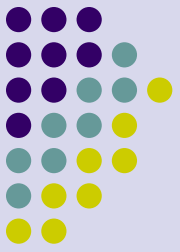
Fights are spontaneous and disperse
quickly

May or may not be gambling

Mostly juveniles or gang members

Usually found in urban area vs. rural areas

May only have 1 or 2 dogs



Hobbyist or Intermediate Level

“Dabblers”

Live near each other geographically

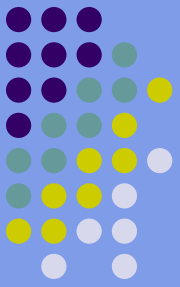
Use some training methods

Fewer dogs

Some breeding

Trying to advance

Professionals



Pit bulls only

Contracts signed in advance

Organized gambling

Adults (may have juvenile spectators)

Usually found in rural areas vs. urban areas

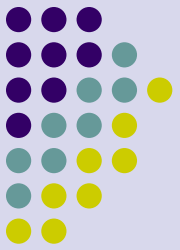
Operate websites

Extensive breeding programs

Documentation of bloodlines



Concealment Of Operations



Rural operations

Remote locations with temporary pits

Heavily wooded out of the way areas

Barns or sheds

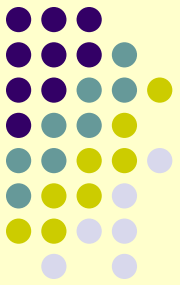
Urban operations

Garages, warehouses, abandoned buildings

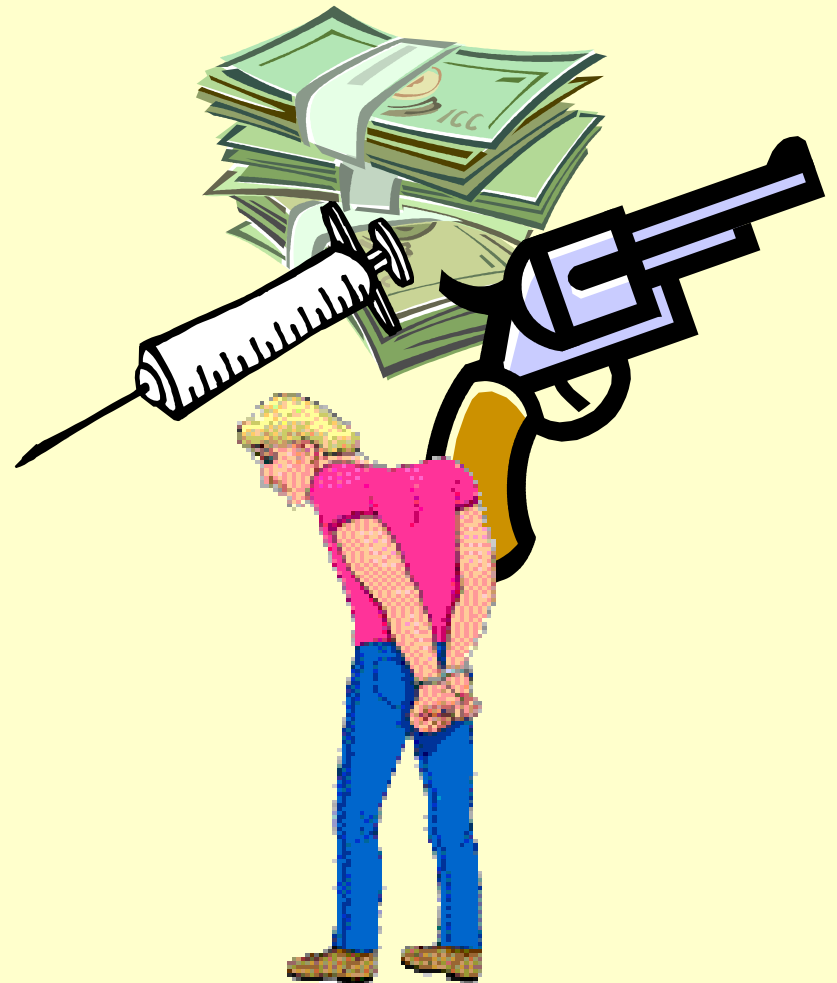
Inside homes

At established businesses

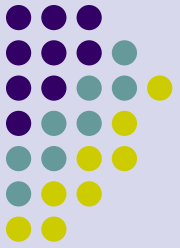
Collateral Crimes



Larceny
Narcotics (human and animal
use)
Alcohol
Gambling
Firearms
Malicious wounding & assaults
Child neglect/endangerment
Rape
Homicide
Vice crimes (humans and
animals)
Tax law violations
Veterinary medicine



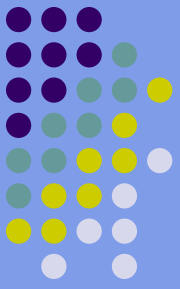
FEDS just busted a dogfighter



- **Pit Bull and Cock Fights Used as Networking Tool for Drug Traffickers**
- **AUG 09 -- LAKE CHARLES, La.** + The main organizer and supervisor of a lucrative drug trafficking organization responsible for transporting kilogram quantities of cocaine and marijuana from the Brownsville, Texas area, was sentenced on August 5, 2010 to 12.5 years in federal prison, followed by five years supervised release. Pedro Mendez Ramos, 41, of Church Point, La., was sentenced by U. S. District Judge Patricia Minaldi for Continuing a Criminal Enterprise and Money Laundering Conspiracy.
- Ramos and seventeen others were indicted on a variety of drug trafficking, money laundering and firearms charges following an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation dubbed “Operation Fowl Play” and “Rio Gallo.” While under Ramos’ direction, this drug trafficking organization was responsible for transporting and distributing cocaine and marijuana from the Brownsville, Texas area to the Church Point, La. area. From Church Point, the drugs would then be distributed to Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and other parts of Louisiana. Large amounts of drug proceeds would then be transported back to Brownsville, Texas and ultimately, Mexico. Ramos, an avid pit bull and cock fighter, with over three hundred gamecocks and sixty fighting pit bulls of his own, utilized these illegal events as a networking tool in order to recruit members to transport and sell cocaine and marijuana for his organization. The organization utilized various methods to conceal their cocaine, to include tractor trailers and trucks with hidden compartments and gamecock cages with false bottoms. The Ramos organization was supplied cocaine and marijuana directly from members of the Gulf Cartel, a multi-national drug trafficking organization located in Matamoros, Mexico.
- At one point, the Ramos organization had amassed so much cash from the sale of cocaine that Pedro Ramos attempted to purchase Canal Oil Refinery, an oil refinery located in Church Point, La. in order to launder the organization’s drug trafficking proceeds. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies, seized approximately 111 kilograms of cocaine and approximately 1.8 million dollars from members of Ramos’ drug trafficking organization, along with real property with an estimated value of one million dollars located in both Louisiana and Texas.
- Special Agent in Charge Jimmy S. Fox III of the New Orleans Field Division stated, “The coordinated efforts of this investigation not only exposed and dismantled a sophisticated drug trafficking organization, it also helped to cease the brutality and unspeakable cruelty of animals at the hands of inhumane individuals.” U. S. Attorney Finley stated: “Organized drug trafficking threatens our safety, disrupts our communities, and destroys lives. This case is an example of how federal, state and local partnerships can succeed in dismantling large international criminal organizations. Our office is committed to combating drug trafficking in this district.”



Hobbyist Dogfighter

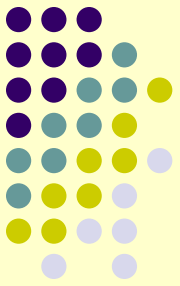


Dogs are evidence

Put everything into evidence through your
Officers -don't forget to move it into evidence
as a group or individual items (this is time
consuming and you have to ask for patience).







Publications

New subscribers must be sponsored

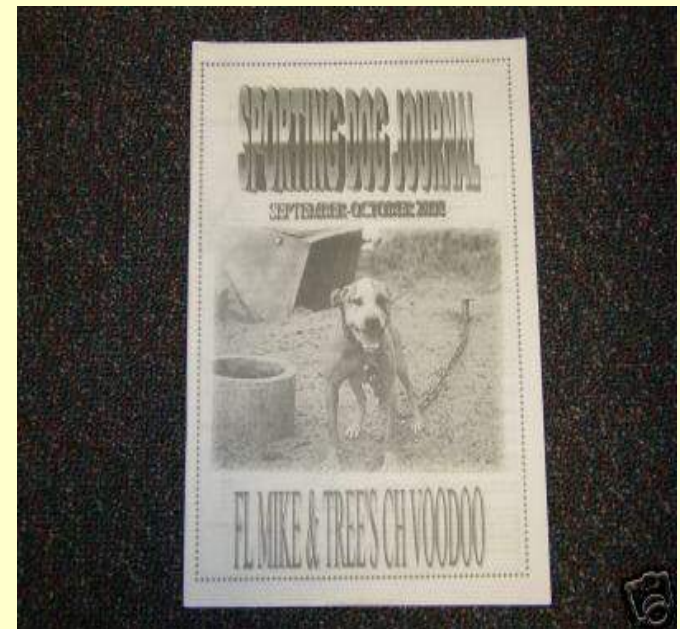
Various types

Gamedog Times

Sporting Dog Journal

Bits on Pits

Your Friend and Mine



Advertising

Web Sites

Message Boards

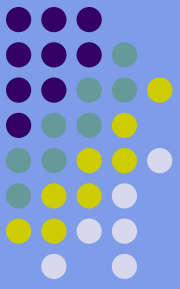
Chat Rooms

Magazines

Local classified ads



Fight Conditioning: The “Keep”



Six-week conditioning
program

Diet & Exercise

Drugs supplements

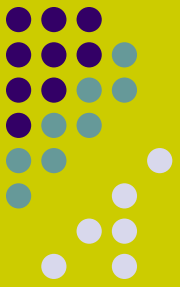
Object is “fighting weight”

Written instructions

Specific to each dog



Training Equipment



Treadmill

Carpet mill

Catmill/Jenny

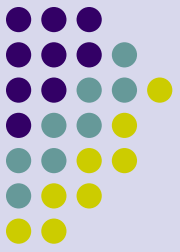
Spring Pole

Pit

Breaksticks

Swim Tank





Preparation

Weighing in

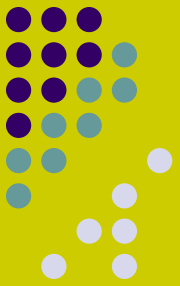
Washing the dogs

Selection of man to
watch “friend’s” dog

Man to watch
opponent’s dog



The Actual Fight



Only referee and 2 handlers in pit
Facing the dogs; release from
“scratch line”

Fight until a turn, “fang”, “out of
holds”

Dogs picked up

25 sec rest/clean up

10-20 sec for dog who turned to
“scratch”

Afterwards, dogs scratch in turn

Fight ends when

- One dog fails to scratch

- One handler concedes

- One dog dies



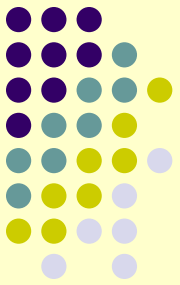
Winners

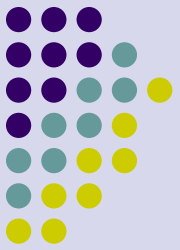
Champion

Winner of 3 contract matches

Grand Champion

Winner of 5 consecutive contract matches





Paraphernalia

Treadmills

Photo albums, journals, videos

Bite sticks

One thing doesn't make you a dog fighter... but
you never have just one item of
paraphernalia -- Perfect Storm

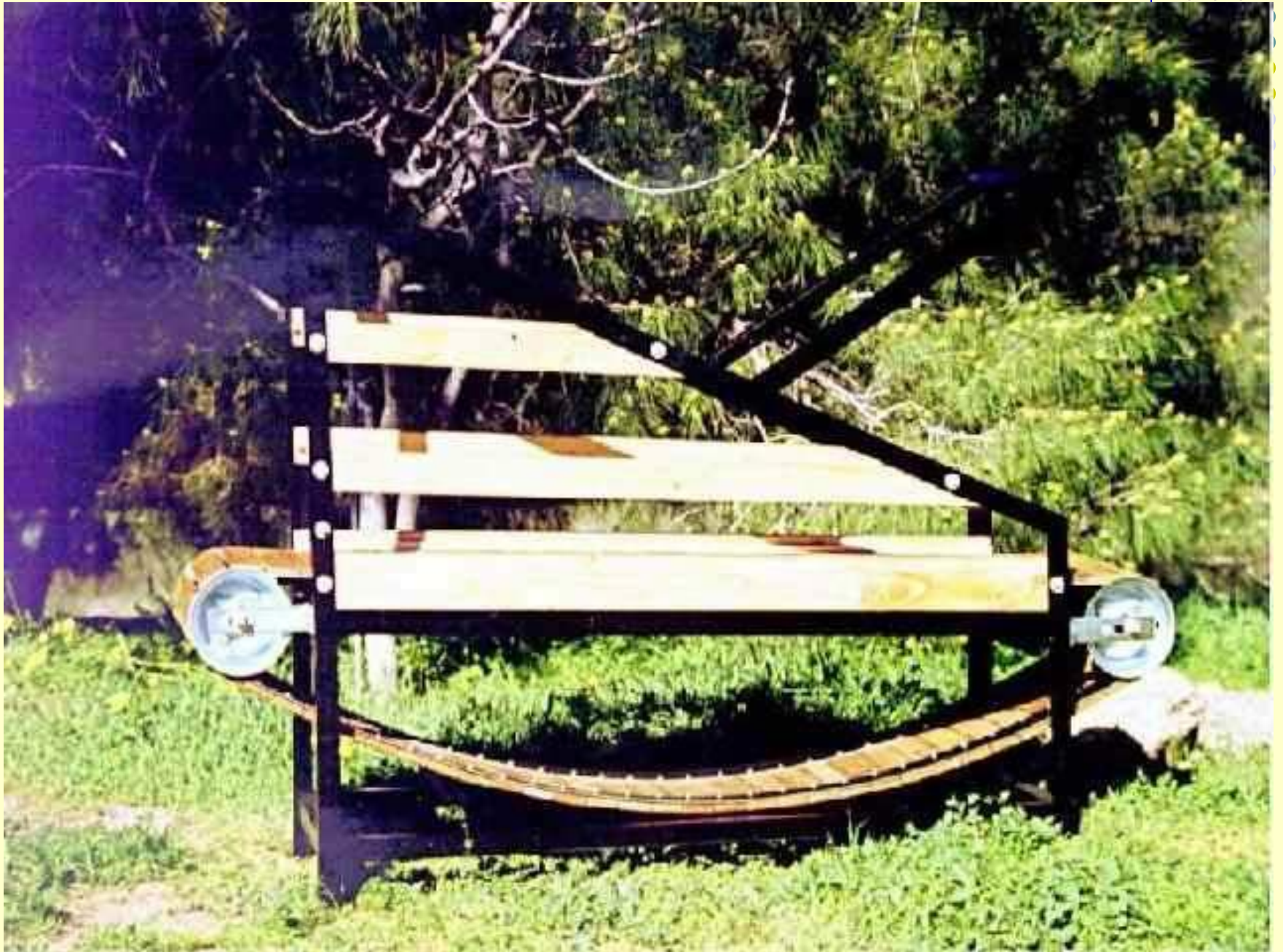




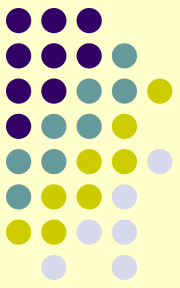
Photo courtesy of HSUS



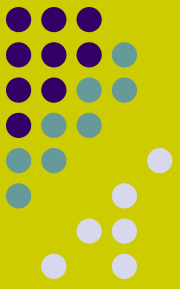
Photo courtesy of HSUS



Why “You” should care about dogfighting



Investigation



Overt

- License and Rabies

- Check Condition

- Patrol

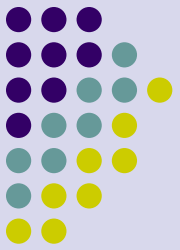
Covert or “undercover”

- Unmarked vehicles

- Informants

- Arial

Defenses



Defenses: Weight pulling

I am a breeder (rape stand is for aggressive female)

Not my dogs

“I love my dog”

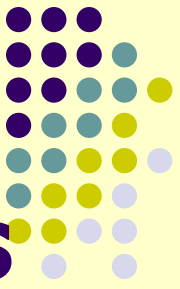
They like to fight

Got lost and an animal must have attacked them.

Got lost and must have got caught in briars or barbed wire.

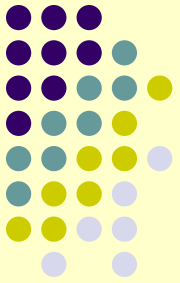


Registration Groups for Dogs



- American Dog Breeders Association (ADBA)
- United Kennel Club (UKC)
- Bonafide
- Private kennels

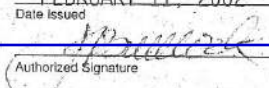
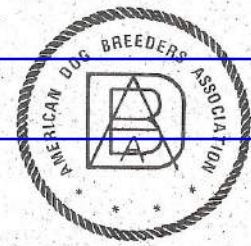
ADBA Registration



American Pit Bull Terrier

AMERICAN DOG BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Registration Certificate

Registered Name <u>VILLANUEVA'S "KILLA KAHLUA"</u>	Call Name <u>"KAHLUA"</u>	No. <u>58900H-23</u>
Breed <u>AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER</u>	Sex <u>FEMALE</u>	CHIP I.D. or Tattoo #
Color <u>BUCKSKIN/RED NOSE</u>	Born <u>JUNE 21, 2000</u>	
Sire <u>SHAPIRO'S "POPEYE"</u> 37700H-23		
Dam <u>SHAPIRO'S "SADIE"</u> 37700H-27	Date Issued <u>FEBRUARY 11, 2002</u>	
Breeder <u>SAHWN SHAPIRO & SHERRI SHAPIRO</u>	Authorized Signature 	
OWNER VINCENT BRUGGE VILLANUEVA 5208 WINDING BANK RD. VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23455		

Registered
and call
name

Number

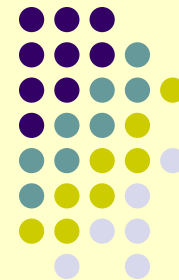
Sire

Dam

Breeder

Owner

Bonafide




American (Pit) Bull Terrier

BONA FIDE Kennel Club, Inc.

Registration Certificate

Registered Name	<u>WRECKING CREW'S "ROY"</u>	B.F.K.C. #	<u>V1-2016L</u>
Breed	<u>AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER</u>	Sex	<u>MALE</u>
Color	<u>BRINDLE/WHITE (BN)</u>	Whelped	<u>AUGUST 5, 1994</u>
Sire	<u>MIMS' "FIDDLEFOOT"</u>	B.F.K.C. #	<u>V1-0366</u>
Dam	<u>MIMS' "TRIXIE"</u>	B.F.K.C. #	<u>V1-0426</u>
Breeder	<u>CARL M. MIMS</u>	Date issued	<u>SEPTEMBER 1, 1995</u>
OWNER	<u>DARYL SILLS</u> <u>2315 BUSKY LANE</u> <u>VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.</u> <u>23452</u>	Authorized Signature	<u>C.M. Mims</u>



Name

Number

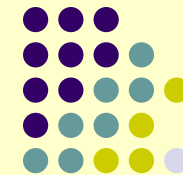
Sire

Dam

Breeder

Owner

Pedigrees



Pedigree 55955

Page 1 of 1

 Offspring List Siblings List Pedigree Statistics			
4 GENERATION PEDIGREE DIRTY CAJUN KENNEL'S HERDAY			
BREEDER: POWER HOUSE KENNEL OWNER: DCK SEX: FEMALE COLOR: BUCKSKIN POSTED: 2003-10-30 LAST MODIFIED: 2005-08-07 No OF VIEWS: 3272 times			
Generations in Pedigree			
First	Second	Third	Fourth
(Sire) CH POWERHOUSE'S HERCULES	CH POWERHOUSE KENNELS DEADLIFT (4XW) ROM	TANT'S BOB POR	CH CHAVIS' YELLOW JOHN (4XW) ROM CHAVIS' GO-GO GIRL
	POWERHOUSE'S MISS MAYDAY ROM	TANT'S GLADYS (POR)	CH CHAVIS' JOCKO (4XW) POR TANT'S HOT STUFF
(Dam) POWERHOUSE'S MISS MAYDAY ROM	GR CH SOUTHERN KENNELS MAYDAY ROM	GR CH SOUTHERN KENNELS MAYDAY ROM	GR CH TANT'S YELLOW (6XW) ROM HOLLINGSWORTH'S DOLLY ROM
		ROBINSON'S SANDY	POWERHOUSE KENNEL'S SANDMAN (AKA) ROBINSON'S SANDMAN (1XW) HOLLINGSWOTH'S TOOT
	ROBINSON'S SANDY	GR CH TANT'S YELLOW (6XW) ROM	CH CHAVIS' YELLOW JOHN (4XW) ROM TANT'S MISS JOCKO (2XW) ROM
		HOLLINGSWORTH'S DOLLY ROM	BROWNING'S YAZOO CODY (1XGL) PATRICK'S LADY IN RED
		POWERHOUSE KENNEL'S SANDMAN (AKA) ROBINSON'S SANDMAN (1XW) HOLLINGSWOTH'S TOOT	GR CH TANT'S YELLOW (6XW) ROM TANT'S GLADYS (POR) CRUM'S CARIBOU PATRICK'S LADY IN RED

Name

Breeder

Owner

Champion sire

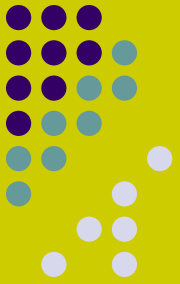
Champion, 4 time
Winner, ROM

Famous Tant dog
Grand Champ

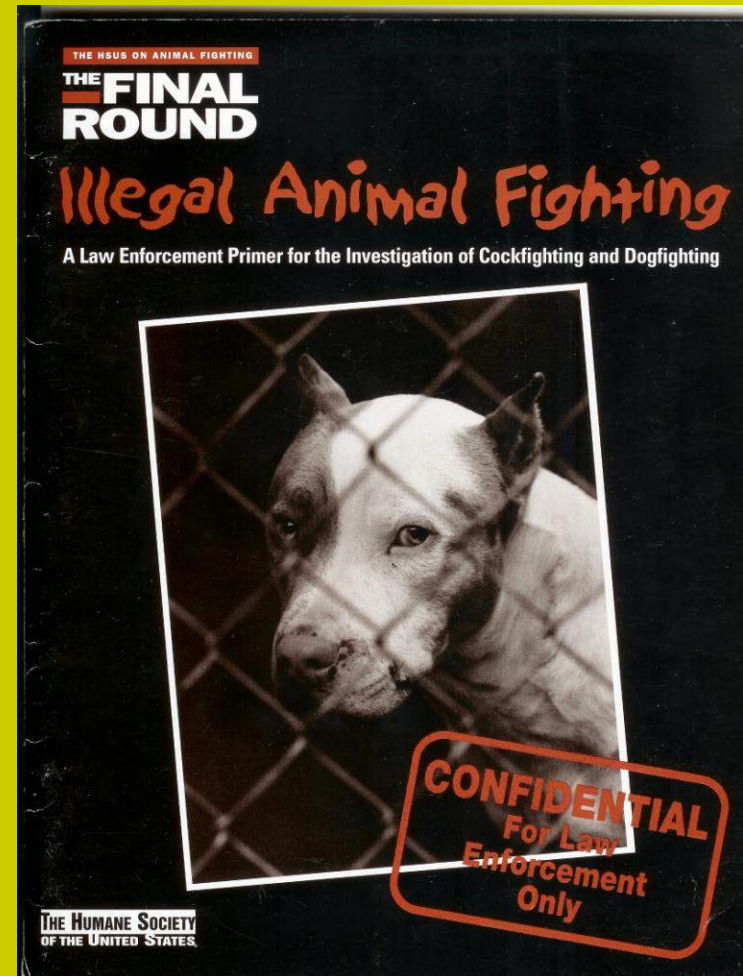
Dam is ROM

This information is stored in and generated by apbt pedigrees online.

“The Bible”



- From HSUS
- Everything you always wanted to know...
- Request on letterhead



It Includes...

Glossary

Wording for affidavit and search warrant

Evidence and descriptions

Fight rules and descriptions

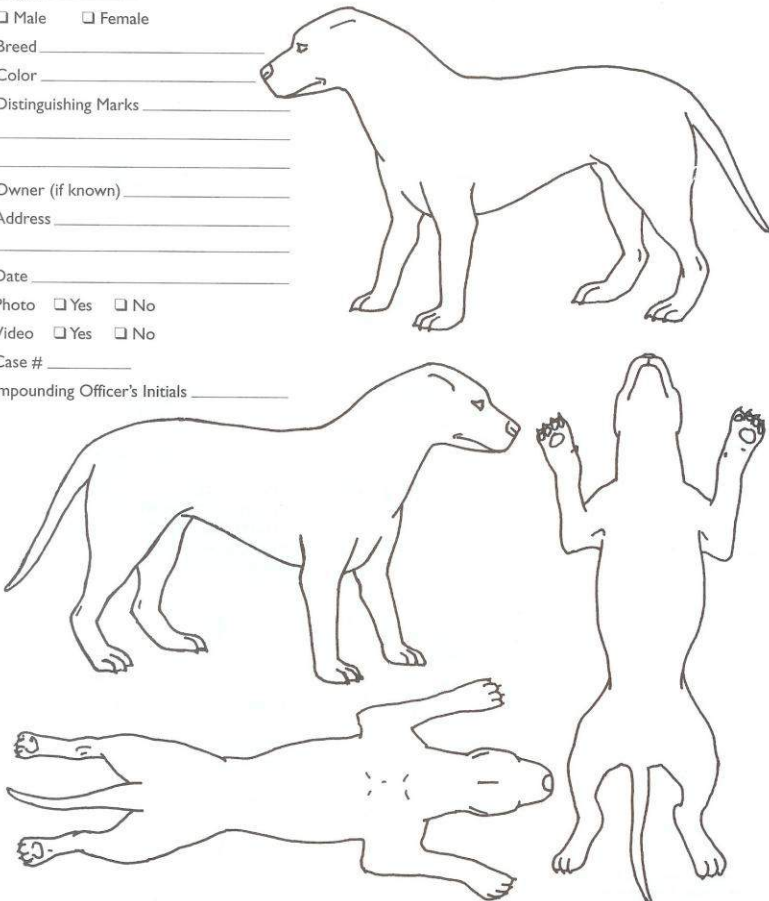
Dog intake diagram

Appendix IV: Dog Impoundment Chart

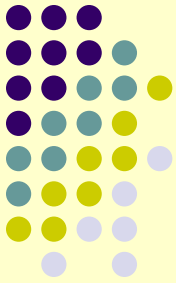
Dog # _____
 Male Female
Breed _____
Color _____
Distinguishing Marks _____

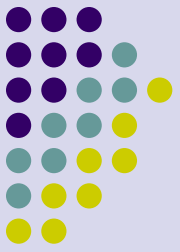
Owner (if known) _____
Address _____

Date _____
Photo Yes No
Video Yes No
Case # _____
Impounding Officer's Initials _____



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Putting on Your Case



ACO's own observations

of dogs and method of confinement-dogs as evidence

Pictures are worth a thousand words

Wounds and old scars

Equipment

Veterinary records

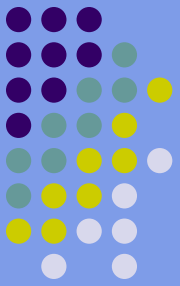
Companion Cases – statements from other officers and citizens

Experts “Must haves”

Vets

Dogfighting expert

Be Ready!



Search Warrant-you should be in from the beginning

If original warrant is for drugs, you need another one for the dogfighting search.

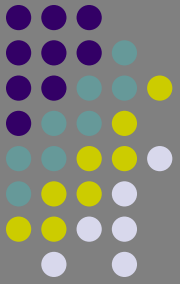
Computers need another search warrant

Motions practice-you need to be in at the beginning b/c you will have motions to suppress on the search warrant and probably on statements as well.

And any other motion you can think of:
Constitutionality/bill of particulars, etc.



Your Evidence



What you have to move into evidence?

Equipment

Correspondence, bills, proof of residency

Keep records

Registrations and pedigrees

Journals, day runners

Calendars

Drugs, supplements, and medical supplies

Veterinary records, licenses

Pictures, videos, DVDs

Computers, CDs, diskettes

Underground magazine publications

Statements, admissions, names of dogs

Medications, supplements, veterinary supplies





Outside and In

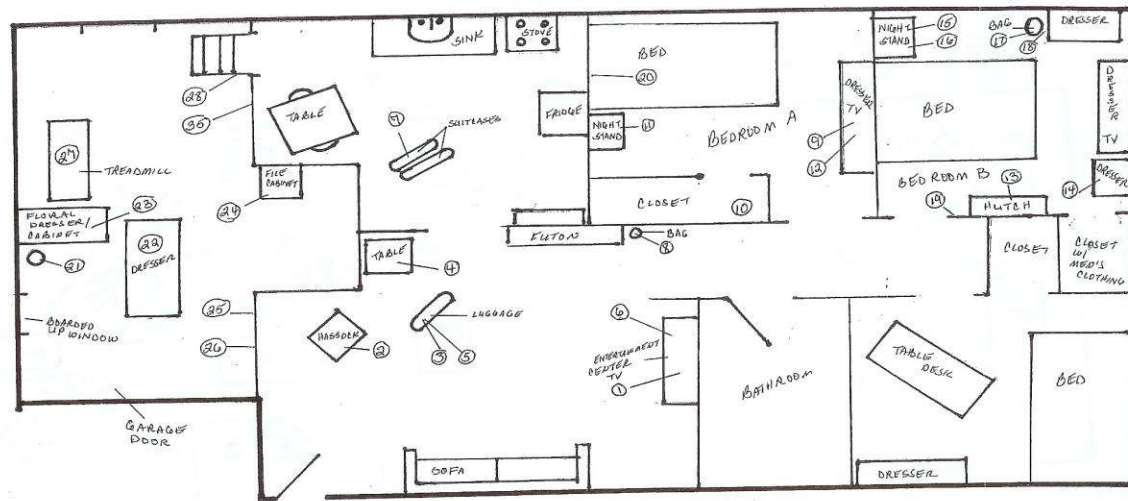
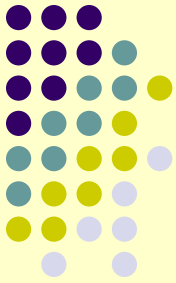


DIAGRAM OF HOUSE AT [REDACTED] SEVEN ELEVATED RD. CHESAPEAKE, VA
NOT TO SCALE



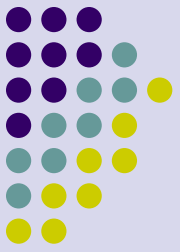












Mounds of Evidence

Photographs

Overview

In place

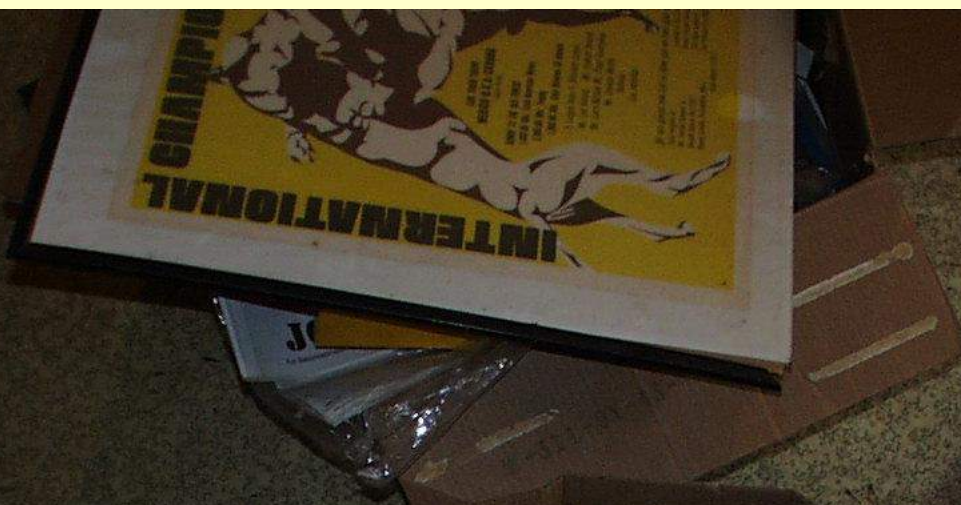
Close up/scale

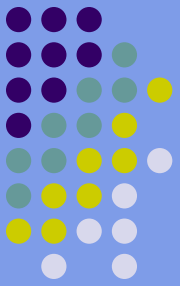
Each number on diagram
represents a recovered item

Corresponding numbered
“Evidence Key” List

Your officers should be writing it all
down







Documenting the Dogs

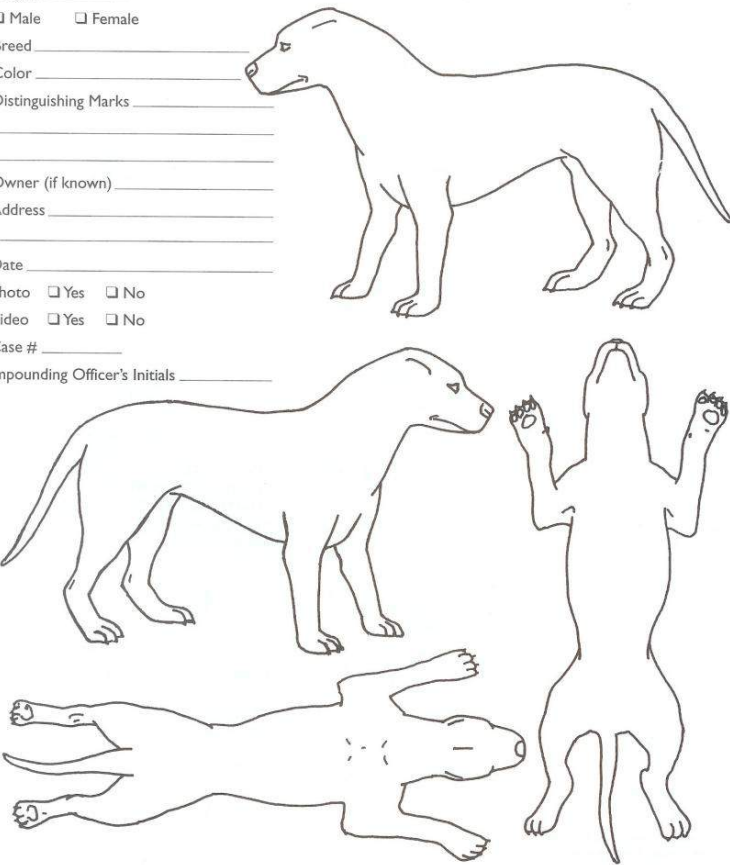
- Diagram each dog
- Assign dog number (1-??)
- Write case number

Appendix IV: Dog Impoundment Chart

Dog # _____
 Male Female
Breed _____
Color _____
Distinguishing Marks _____

Owner (if known) _____
Address _____

Date _____
Photo Yes No
Video Yes No
Case # _____
Impounding Officer's Initials _____



The form includes three line drawings of a dog to facilitate documentation. The first drawing shows the dog standing in profile, facing left. The second drawing shows the dog standing on all fours, facing up. The third drawing shows the dog lying down on its side, facing right.

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Photographs

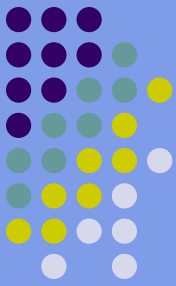
Photograph each dog
with placard

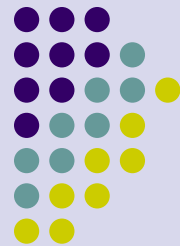
Address, date, case
number, location

Dog #

Polaroid and digital or
35mm

Staple polaroid to
diagram!





Each Record Consists of....

Appendix IV: Dog Impoundment Chart

Dog # 8 blue collar-nylon
#50536

Male Female
 Breed PITBULL
 Color black

Distinguishing Marks
white on chest/toes
scars on face

Owner (if known)
 Address 2745 SEVEN ELEVEN RD.
CHES. VA
 Date 3-31-06

Photo Yes No
 Video Yes No
 Case # 06-29569
 Impounding Officer's Initials BB

The Humane Society of the United States



City of Chesapeake Animal Control
 3837 Cook Blvd., Chesapeake VA 23323

Spay/Neut Mo/Yr _____
 Media Pet/Employee Spec. _____

Rec. Date 3-31-06 Rec. Time 11:15 Msg # 06-29569 Officer BURDA Control# 50536
 Location 2745 SEVEN ELEVEN RD AL S SQ O CV Court Date _____ Date Avail NA Date _____
 Species K9 Breed PIT BULL Color BLACK W/WHITE Collar/Tattoo/Othr BLUE NYLON
 Sex F App Wt 30 App Age 1 year #/exp NK Lic/Yr NK Scan (Neg) Chip# _____
 Victim _____ Exp Date _____ Rel Date _____ By _____
 Notice: Date/Officer _____ Supplement Attached Y ___ N ___ ID/Chip to be Traced Y ___ N ___ Cage/Run _____
 Vet _____ \$ _____ Return Date _____ Tx/Vacc/Test by CAC _____
 Comments DOG # 8 HOLD FOR COURT

Owner _____ Address _____ Phone _____
 RTO Print Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ Cell _____
 Signature _____ Date _____ CAC Init _____ \$ _____ Voucher # _____ INV Y ___ N ___ \$ _____
 PTS Date _____ Reason: Rm ___ Tmp ___ Ag ___ S/I ___ Wld ___ Fer ___ ORq ___ CC's-K/R ___ SP ___ Officers _____

ADOPTION CONTRACT - SPAY NEUTER RECEIPT - Control # 56398

Adopter _____ SS# _____ Date _____
 Address _____ Phone (home) _____ Phone (othr) _____
 City _____ ST _____ Zip _____ Landlord _____ Phone _____
 Species _____ Breed _____ Sex _____ Age _____ Color _____
 Shelter Vacc/Treat _____ Voucher # _____ CAC Agent _____
 Fee Paid \$ _____

The undersigned Adopter and the Chesapeake Animal Control ("CAC") hereby acknowledge that Adopter has received the animal described herein ("the animal" from CAC and agree to abide by the following terms and conditions of adoption:

1) **STERILIZATION OF THE ANIMAL IS REQUIRED BY TITLE 3.1, CHAPTER 27.4, ARTICLE 6.1 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA. A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS ARTICLE IS SUBJECT TO CIVIL PENALTY. THE NEW OWNER MAY BE COMPELLED BY COURT TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.**

2) Adopter attests and affirms by his/her signature below that he/she has never been convicted of any violation or an ordinance or statute enacted pursuant to cruelty, neglect or abandonment of animals.

3) Adopter agrees to take the animal to a licensed veterinarian within 2 working days after adoption to be examined and for necessary vaccinations or treatment. Adopter will take the animal to a licensed veterinarian for spay/neuter surgery ("surgery") not later than _____, 20____ for an additional cost payable at the time of surgery. The Adopter will cause the veterinarian certification, which appears on the back of this document and which is incorporated herein by reference, to be validated by a licensed veterinarian and returned to CAC within 7 days after surgery. CAC will rebate to the Adopter the sum of \$ _____. This contract is not transferable. Only Adopter is eligible to receive the rebate.

4) If the animal is lost, stolen, or dies before surgery, Adopter will notify CAC within 7 days, as required by law. Adopter may not dispose of the animal by any other means other than return to CAC before surgery is done.



Adopter agrees to use the animal for medical or other experimentation, hunting, guarding or fighting. Adopter agrees to abide by all laws and regulations regarding the animal while in the animal will reside including, but not limited to, those pertaining to adequate food, water, shelter and exercise. Adopter agrees to examine the animal at any time, and IF A VIOLATION OF STATE OR CITY ANIMAL LAW IS FOUND, CAC may require the animal to be euthanized.

Adopter agrees to indemnify and hold CAC and the City of Chesapeake harmless for any costs, claim, liability, damage, or injury of any nature or kind resulting from the use of the animal. Initials _____

Adopter agrees to pay to CAC liquidated damages in the amount of \$150.00 for each separate breach of the above terms and conditions. Adopter agrees to pay to CAC attorneys fees and court costs in the event that this contract is referred to a court for enforcement. This contract shall not bar the Chesapeake Animal Control from seeking return of the animal by a judicial process.

Date _____
 Date _____

Control # 56398

Adopter (type and number of animal[s]) _____ hereby relinquish same to CAC. No other person has a right of property in the animal, and do herein surrender all proper title to the animal. Adopter agrees to pay to CAC attorneys fees and court costs in the event that this contract is referred to a court for enforcement. This contract shall not bar the Chesapeake Animal Control from seeking return of the animal by a judicial process.

Signature _____ Animal Name _____
 Phone _____ Donation/Receipt # _____
 Witness _____ Date _____



Live Dogs as Evidence

Must be separated

Must be prepared for medical costs

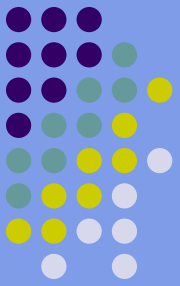
Most cannot be adopted

May be stolen

Must be identified properly

Will eat the cages

May be your guests for years-Seizure... make sure you get custody of the dogs so they don't sit for year... and let the judge know they could sit for years/plight of the animals.



Good Documentation

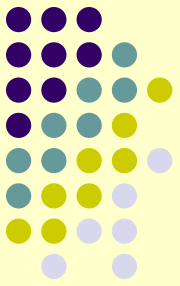
Add to each appropriate dog's paperwork in your case file
paperwork in your case file

Any medication, vaccination
done by your shelter

Any veterinary treatment, bills
and statements

What happened to them once
at shelter-respond to
treatment, ate ravenously,
put on weight, ate a cage or
a worker?





What Else?

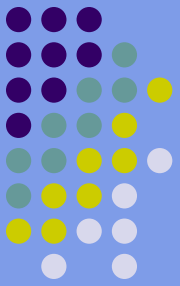
What if your subject denies ownership?

What if your subject denies residency?

Make sure you know everything he said

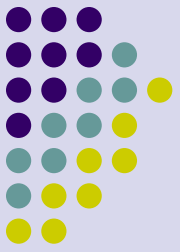
No surprises

Chain of Custody



Make sure you don't have any chain of custody issues

Necropsies-where is the dog's body?



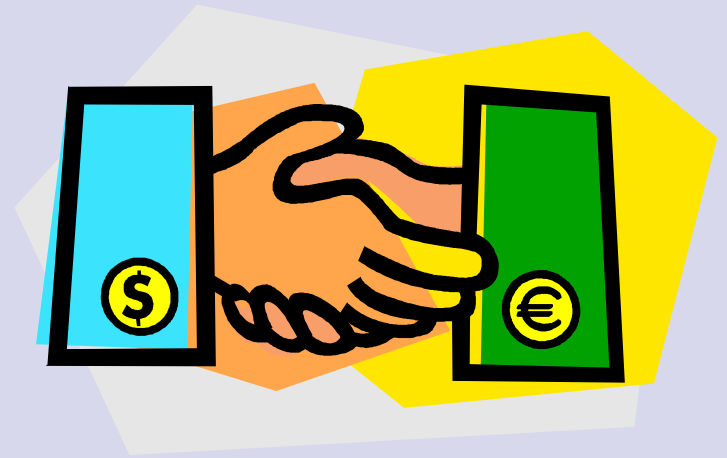
Working With ACO or PO

Talk to your ACO/PO in advance

Remember it was their case first

Remember they care about the case

Take it seriously



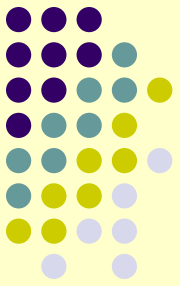






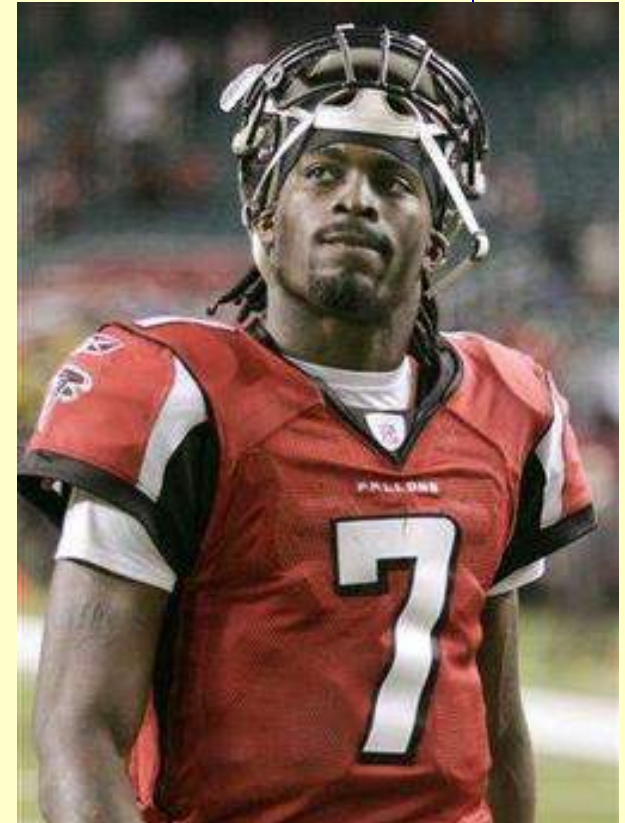
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Vick-Redemption Story?

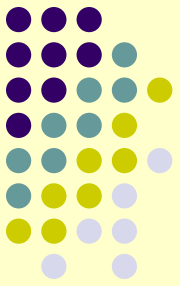


Michael Vick to GQ:

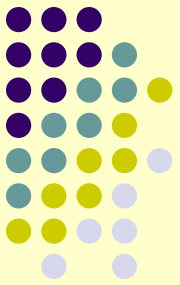
talked about his experience in prison, and the perceptions of him that he thinks are misplaced. "For a while, it was all 'Scold Mike Vick, scold Mike Vick, just talk bad about him, like he's not a person,'" he says. "It's almost as if everyone wanted to hate me. But what have I done to anybody? It was something that happened, and it was people trying to make some money."



Vick's Home is Dogs Deserve Better Sanctuary



Resources



www.acofunstop.com

www.hsus.org

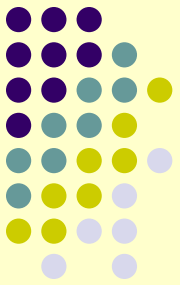
www.aspca.org

www.nacanet.org

www.angelfire.com/mo/bytekennels

www.municode.com

www.APAINC.org



More Resources

USDA OIG

IRS

FBI

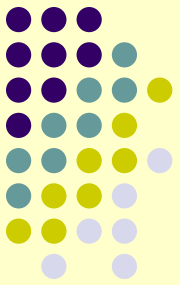
Police/State Police

Sheriff

NACA / HSUS / ASPCA

APA

US Attorneys



HUMANS BUY ME...

HUMANS OVER BREED ME...

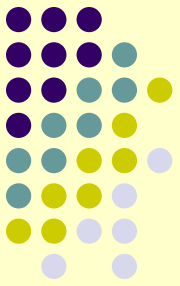
HUMANS CUT MY EARS OFF...

HUMANS BEAT ME...

HUMANS MAKE ME FIGHT...

and i'm the one they want to ban?
i'm the one who gets the bad rap?
i'm the one you fear??

Michelle Welch



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