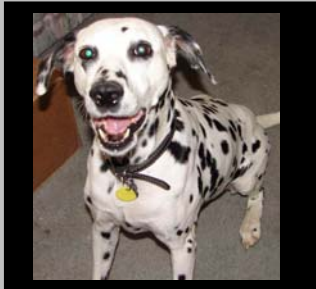




# Spotted News

OCTOBER 2007

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## DAILY UPDATE

### FOUND A HOME

**Patches** found a home with his foster parents, Linda and Bob and dal brother, Brady. They decided they just couldn't see him go and he was already part of the family.

**Dolly** (see picture to the left) is a young female that has gone on a few adventures, but is now ready to settle down with her new family in Chicago. She is so sweet and loves to cuddle and we were sad she had such a short stay in foster care.

## SPOTTED UPDATE from the Raquet's

Dice (formerly named *Gemini*) has come into his own over the last few months. Upon the first few months of his adoption into our home we all had to make adjustments. Dice, whom we adopted at 10 months old, had so much energy and was always finding something to carry around, traits that our family was not used to seeing. Prior to Dice we had a very calm eight year old Dal who loved his naps and rocking in the lazy-boy with dad; unfortunately we lost that Dal to kidney failure this past December. Dice, now a year and a half old, seems to have calmed down a little, but still enjoys playing outside for hours on end. He has become well mannered and seems to listen better now. On any given day, Dice enjoys playing ball, catching a Frisbee, chasing the bunnies around the house, and licking the peanut butter out of his kong toy. Dice has captured our hearts and we are very happy to have him in our home!

Dice enjoys soaking up the sun every morning on our front porch. This picture was taken one morning when apparently Dice found that the carpet on the porch was not soft enough for him and decided that the patio furniture would be a better fit. None of us had ever seen him do this and couldn't believe that he could fit up there comfortably. It certainly put a smile on our faces!



## **“SPOT SOS”**

Chicagoland Dalmatian Club's Speciality in Shiller Park, IL on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.

Petco in Germantown on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>.

SOS Holiday Shopping/Open House (date to be determined)

IKC Dog Show in Chicago on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

### **PREPARING FOR HALLOWEEN**

#### **Constant visitors**

Halloween is the time for constant ringing of the doorbell and little faces peering in. This is not the time to start training your dog to sit while you open the door. This can be very stressful with constant activity and children with frightening costumes and the smell of candy. It may be best to crate your dog or keep him out of view. If you allow your dog to come to the door with you, make sure he can't escape out the front door. Don't forget to praise for appropriate behavior.

#### **Chocolate**

Candy is not good for dogs and chocolate is deadly. Keep all candy out of the reach of your pets. Be aware, candy can smell and be a strong incentive for stealing behavior that previously may have been unknown. If your dog eats chocolate, immediately call the Animal Poison Control hotline at 1-900-680-0000.

#### **Dogs and Costumes**

Some dogs don't seem to care what you put on them; others act like they are caught in a deadly trap and try to escape the strange sensation of a costume; most reactions are in between (If you have this very frightened kind of dog, perhaps a costume is too much. Consider a bandana instead!). Also, keep safety in mind - you should still be able to keep your dog on a leash, and if you're going out at night some reflective strips (such as the kind you can get at sporting good stores for bikes) or flashing lights will help people and drivers see your pet. Make sure that your dog can still see and move comfortably, and that she can't chew off and swallow any pieces of her costume

Please understand (and convince your friends) that it is NOT funny to scare a dog who's frightened by a Halloween costume. After all, aggression from a dog is not very funny, and even "nice" dogs may bite when scared.



# DOGFIGHTING

Dogfighting has been around for a long time. It has been brought to the public's attention in a recent celebrity arrest. Dogfighting is not a sport nor is it naturally part of anyone's culture. It is abuse and a societal problem. Dogfighting does not only injure innocent animals, but abuse to animals often is preceded or accompanied by abuse to people. There is extensive research regarding the connection between animal abuse and child and domestic violence. We are all dog people, so I know everyone is appalled by this violent so-called sport. But for anyone you know who may attempt to make excuses for dogfighters, maybe presenting it as a precursor to possible violence in the home or community may be a stronger argument. Below are some facts on dogfighting as written by the Humane Society of the United States. Please go to their website for additional information, <http://www.hsus.org/>

## 1. What is dogfighting?

Dogfighting is a sadistic "contest" in which two dogs—specifically bred, conditioned, and trained to fight—are placed in a pit (generally a small arena enclosed by plywood walls) to fight each other for the spectators' entertainment and gambling. Fights average nearly an hour in length and often last more than two hours. Dogfights end when one of the dogs will not or cannot continue. In addition to these dogfights, there are reports of an increase in unorganized street fights in urban areas

## 2. How does it cause animal suffering?

The injuries inflicted and sustained by dogs participating in dogfights are frequently severe, even fatal. The American pit bull terriers used in the majority of these fights have been specifically bred and trained for fighting and are unrelenting in their attempts to overcome their opponents. With their extremely powerful jaws, they are able to inflict severe bruising, deep puncture wounds and broken bones.

Dogs used in these events often die of blood loss, shock, dehydration, exhaustion, or infection hours or even days after the fight. Other animals are often sacrificed as well. Some owners train their dogs for fights using smaller animals such as cats, rabbits or small dogs. These "bait" animals are often stolen pets or animals obtained through "free to good home" advertisements.

## 3. Are there other concerns?

Yes. Numerous law enforcement raids have unearthed many disturbing facets of this illegal "sport." Young children are sometimes present at the events, which can promote insensitivity to animal suffering, enthusiasm for violence and a lack of respect for the law. Illegal gambling is the norm at dogfights. Dog owners and spectators wager thousands of dollars on their favorites. Firearms and other weapons have been found at dogfights because of the large amounts of cash present. And dogfighting has been connected to other kinds of violence—even homicide, according to newspaper reports. In addition, illegal drugs are often sold and used at dogfights

## 4. What other effects does the presence of dogfighting have on people and animals in a community?

Dogs used for fighting have been bred for many generations to be dangerously aggressive toward other animals. The presence of these dogs in a community increases the risk of attacks not only on other animals but also on people. Children are especially at risk, because their small size may cause a fighting dog to perceive a child as another animal.

## 5. Why should dogfighting be a felony offense?

There are several compelling reasons. Because dogfighting yields such large profits for participants, the minor penalties associated with misdemeanor convictions are not a sufficient deterrent. Dogfighters

merely absorb these fines as part of the cost of doing business. The cruelty inherent in dogfighting should be punished by more than a slap on the hand. Dogfighting is not a spur-of-the-moment act; it is a premeditated and cruel practice.

Those involved in dogfighting go to extensive lengths to avoid detection by law enforcement, so investigations can be difficult, dangerous, and expensive. Law enforcement officials are more inclined to investigate dogfighting if it is a felony. As more states make dogfighting a felony offense, those remaining states with low penalties will become magnets for dogfighters

#### **6. Do some states already have felony laws?**

Yes. Dogfighting is illegal in all 50 states and a felony offense in almost every state.

#### **7. Should being a spectator also be a felony?**

Yes. Spectators provide much of the profit associated with dogfighting. The money generated by admission fees and gambling helps keep this "sport" alive. Because dogfights are illegal and therefore not widely publicized, spectators do not merely happen upon a fight; they seek it out. They are willing participants who support a criminal activity through their paid admission and attendance.

#### **8. What can I do to help stop dogfighting?**

If you live in one of the states where dogfighting is still only a misdemeanor (Idaho and Wyoming), please write to your state legislators and urge them to make it a felony. To find out how your state treats dogfighting, visit our page on State Dogfighting Laws.

We encourage you also to write letters to the media to increase public awareness of the dangers of dogfighting and to law enforcement officials or prosecutors and judges to urge them to take the issue seriously. You may want to display our dogfighting poster in your community. For free posters, please include your name and address in an email along with the number of posters you would like to receive, and we'll send our catalog as well.

If you suspect that dogfighting is going on in your own neighborhood, alert local law enforcement agency and urge agency officials to contact The HSUS for practical tools, advice and assistance.

Taken from the Humane Society of the United States



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