



**Humane
World for
Animals™**

Formerly called
Humane Society International



I DON'T FIGHT

**A PROJECT FOR COUNTERING
DOGFIGHTING IN ITALY**

Overview of the phenomenon

Humane World for Animals and Fondazione Cave Canem, through the project "Io non combatto," are working to help provide the necessary tools for fighting this public suffering to law enforcement officials and key professional figures, such as veterinarians and dog trainers, as well as to educate the general population to recognize and effectively report it.

#IDON'TFIGHT

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Introduction



When addressing the topic of underground dogfighting, **recurring questions persist about whether it still exists today**, how widespread the phenomenon is, and its presumed geographic concentration in the South.

This document aims to **provide answers grounded in objective evidence**: underground dogfighting remains a concrete reality and does not represent a phenomenon confined to a specific area of the country.

Cases that have emerged in recent years outline a **cross-cutting dynamic**, found across several Italian regions and characterized by complex organizational structures, **which in some contexts also show connections beyond national borders**.

This document has been developed with the aim of **systematizing the available information, to reconstruct the main verified episodes and contribute to a clearer understanding** of the evolution **of the phenomenon**, offering a useful tool for the recognition, prevention and countering of illegal practices related to dogfighting.

The picture that emerges also highlights the **relevance of the current regulatory framework**, which recognises and penalises underground dogfighting through specific criminal offences, extending liability not only to organisers, but also to those who participate, train, bet or contribute to the promotion and dissemination of such activities.

Recent institutional initiatives and legislative measures confirm the need for a structured and sustained course of action on this front.

Provisions of the Criminal Code



Animal fighting is a criminal offence punishable under Article 544-quinquies of the Italian Criminal Code, which severely penalises anyone who organises, promotes or directs fights or competitions between animals that may endanger their physical integrity.

Furthermore, criminal liability extends beyond those who organise such events to include:

- anyone who breeds or trains animals to participate in fights, including through third parties;
- the owners or keepers of the animals involved, if aware and consenting;

- anyone who participates in the fights or competitions in any capacity;
- anyone who bets on the fights, even remotely or without being present at the venue;
- anyone who films or disseminates images or videos of these activities;
- anyone who promotes or stages these events involving minors or while carrying weapons.

The penalties provided for include imprisonment (up to four years in the most serious cases) and very substantial fines, which may exceed €150,000.

“

Carabinieri Forestali are engaged on a daily basis in the prevention and countering of crimes against animals, including clandestine dogfighting. Judicial seizure is a fundamental tool that contributes to the prevention and, above all, the suppression of these phenomena. ”

”

T. Col. Marco Trapuzzano

Commander of the Carabinieri CITES Unit of Naples

'Io non combatto' Conference, 18 April 2024 - "The Legal Protection of Animals Under Judicial Seizure"

The Phenomenon in Italy

In recent years, numerous investigations have shed light on the fact that the phenomenon of underground dogfighting is widespread throughout the national territory. Many dogfighters exploit the internet and social media to connect with other dogfighters for the buying and selling of dogs and the organisation of meetings [1].

“ It is not uncommon for these fights to be backed by criminal organisations, often highly structured and operating across the entire national territory, with no distinction between north and south. ”

Lt. Col. Irene Davì

Commander of the Operational Unit of the Carabinieri CITES Group

Press Conference at the Italian Senate for the presentation of the articles published in 'Sicurezza e Giustizia' on countering dogfighting, 26 June 2025

On the basis of the information currently available, the involvement of organised crime in dogfighting appears to be attributable primarily to the personal initiative of individual affiliates, rather than to a systematic criminal-economic activity traceable to their respective clan. To date, there are no judicial rulings demonstrating that dogfighting is organically integrated into the operational strategies of mafia organisations. However, it appears reasonable to conclude that conduct of this nature, carried out by members of a criminal association, cannot take place in the absence of at least implicit consent from the criminal structure [2].

“ The investigative activities of the State Forestry Corps first, and of the Carabinieri Forestali subsequently, have demonstrated in a clear and incontrovertible manner that these phenomena represent a source of substantial profits for criminal groups, whereby groups we mean an association of three or more persons who engage in unlawful activity on a stable and ongoing basis. ”

Lt. Col. Irene Davì

Commander of the Operational Unit of the Carabinieri CITES Group

Press Conference at the Italian Senate for the presentation of the articles published in 'Sicurezza e Giustizia' on countering dogfighting, 26 June 2025

Evidence gathered by Humane World for Animals in the United States confirms that animal fighting constitutes a criminal activity generating several million dollars in undeclared profits each year, with illegal gambling as the primary source of revenue. Furthermore, in multiple states direct links have been identified between methamphetamine trafficking and animal fighting [3].

[1] HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, THE FINAL ROUND - A LAW ENFORCEMENT PRIMER, 2013.

[2] CIRO TROIANO, "RAPPORTO ZOOMAFIA 2025", LAV.

[3] HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, ANIMAL CRIMES INVESTIGATIONS: CONSIDERATIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, 2022.

In Italy, between 1998 and 2023, a total of approximately 1,354 dogs and 120 roosters used in fights were seized. During the same period, 561 persons were reported, of whom 17 were arrested, and at least 4 fights were interrupted in flagrante delicto [4].

“ **These are mostly activities managed by organised crime, involving persons with prior criminal records. It is a phenomenon that primarily affects the most marginalised areas of large cities, involves animals — predominantly large-breed dogs — and is linked to other criminal offences, such as drug dealing, the distribution of doping substances, and others.** ”

General Massimiliano Conti

Carabinieri Corps — Command of Forestry, Environmental and Agri-food Units

'Io non combatto' Webinar - 2022

In addition to the primary offence under Article 544-quinquies of the Criminal Code, investigative activities frequently reveal the existence of further connected criminal offences, including the trafficking and use of doping substances, as well as the keeping of animals in conditions incompatible with their nature and ethology, in violation of Article 727 of the Italian Criminal Code. In many instances, additional offences under Title IX-bis of the Criminal Code are also established, such as animal cruelty (Article 544-ter of the Criminal Code) and, in the most serious cases, the killing of animals (Article 544-bis of the Criminal Code).

“ **The aim of fight training is to produce a dog that displays a 'predatory' aggressive attitude — that is, destructive towards another dog of their kind — contrary to its ethological and behavioural heritage, conditioning the dog to persist in its aggression despite the response, even violent, of its opponent, seeking victory over its rival at the expense of its own physical integrity. This represents an extreme form of behavioural distortion that must overcome two deeply ingrained inhibitions: the reluctance to engage in destructive intraspecific aggression and the disregard for one's own safety.** ”

Dr. Enrico Moriconi

Veterinarian and consultant in ethology and animal welfare

'Io non combatto' Webinar - 2022

Training practices are based on the forced modification of the animal's ethological behaviour, through the predominant use of negative reinforcement such as food deprivation and social isolation, with direct effects on welfare and the satisfaction of fundamental needs. Training methods involve repeated and unnatural physical exertion. These conditions may be further aggravated by the use of doping substances and physical punishment aimed at obtaining submission and obedience. The fighting phase produces additional harmful consequences, with often severe injuries to both dogs involved, at times treated solely in relation to their economic value. Particularly critical are the conditions of dogs that are defeated and those used as sparring partners [5].

[4] CIRO TROIANO, “RAPPORTO ZOOMAFIA 2024”, LAV.

[5] DOTT. ENRICO MORICONI, ETOLOGIA E BENESSERE ANIMALE: LA VIOLENZA ETOLOGICA, IO NON COMBATTO DISPENSA 2022.

“ An interesting phenomenon observed during investigations is the systematic exposure of minors, often of a very young age, to these events, whereby they are conditioned to internalise violence as normal, before being directly involved in the organisation of such events and becoming themselves victims of potential trajectories of social deviance. ”

Lt. Col. Irene Davì

Commander of the Operational Unit of the Carabinieri CITES Group

Press Conference at the Italian Senate for the presentation of the articles published in 'Sicurezza e Giustizia' on countering dogfighting, 26 June 2025

Animal cruelty in childhood or adolescence, and in some cases in adulthood, may constitute an indicator of behavioural distress and potential future social dangerousness. In minors, such conduct represents an early warning sign requiring timely intervention to prevent recurrence. Criminological and psychological literature has highlighted the link between violence against animals and subsequent violent conduct towards persons or vulnerable individuals (link theory). If not adequately intercepted, this dynamic may develop into a phenomenon with significant social relevance and wider repercussions for the community [6]. A study conducted by the Chicago Police Department in 2004 further found that 65% of individuals arrested for crimes against animals, including animal fighting, had prior convictions for violence against persons [7].

Several studies place the phenomenon in social contexts marked by marginalisation, neglect and degradation. Within the context of clandestine dogfighting, it is not possible to outline a single, clearly defined profile of the trainer. However, across the various situations, one recurring element can be identified: a marked absence of empathy towards the animal.

From a psychological standpoint, the drive to train dogs for fighting has been interpreted as the pursuit of an act perceived as 'great' or heroic by individuals who aspire to recognition and social affirmation but are unable to attain them directly. In this context, ownership of a fighting dog assumes a substitutive and symbolic function: what the individual is unable to achieve is delegated to the animal. Dogfighting may thus assume, from this perspective, the role of a symbolic space through which certain individuals seek to assert their identity and masculinity, while avoiding direct exposure to physical risk. When the dog fails to reflect the attributes of strength, aggression or success projected onto it, it may be eliminated. In a context where the dog symbolically represents the man, a potential defeat or withdrawal is interpreted as a transference of weakness onto the trainer himself - a condition deemed unacceptable [8].

[6] DOTT.SSA FIAMMETTA TRISI, INQUADRAMENTO DEL FENOMENO RISPETTO AL PROBLEMA DELLA DEVIANZA MINORILE, IO NON COMBATTO DISPENSA 2022

[7] HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, ANIMAL CRIMES INVESTIGATIONS: CONSIDERATIONS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, 2022.

[8] DOTT.SSA GIADA ALESSANDRONI, IL FENOMENO DEL LINK CON RIFERIMENTO ALL'ADDESTRAMENTO E ALLENAMENTO DI CANI COINVOLTI NEI COMBATTIMENTI, IO NON COMBATTO DISPENSA 2022

Notable Cases



2025 - Central and Northern Italy

The operation, which took place in Central and Northern Italy between spring and summer 2025, with ramifications also at the European level, led to the rescue of 19 dogs by the Carabinieri Forestali. Among them were seven adults and 12 puppies, some of whom had their tails and ears amputated and were in extremely poor psychophysical conditions, showing significant behavioural alterations. All had been used within the underground dogfighting circuit, and included breeding females, fighters and so-called “sparring partners.” The animals were placed under the judicial custody of Fondazione Cave Canem, which ensured their care and legal representation.



2023 - Campoverde di Aprilia (Latina) [9]

Six dogs used in fights were rescued: a Maremma Sheepdog and five pit bull-type, found by Carabinieri in extremely serious conditions - injured, malnourished and kept without water or food. The animals were tied up in cramped spaces, some with lacerated ears and severe bite wounds. Inspections led to the seizure of the dogs. Five individuals - some with prior criminal records - were reported for animal cruelty and organisation of dogfights. According to the investigation, the animals were fed only rarely, and stray dogs or dogs stolen from families were also used as sparring partners (dogs employed to test or train fighting dogs).

[9] KODAMI - CANI USATI IN COMBATTIMENTI CLANDESTINI: SALVATI 5 PITBULL E UN MAREMMANO - [LINK TO PHOTOS & NEWS](#)



2022 – Canicatti (Agrigento) [10,11]

A Police operation against dogfighting. 25 individuals were stopped (including two minors) who had arrived from various cities in Sicily and Apulia; six pit bull-type dogs were seized, one of whom was seriously injured. Three bouts had been scheduled. Over €5,800 in betting money was recovered, along with medicines, syringes and treatment equipment. Charges also included unlawful veterinary practice.

[10] TGR SICILIA - COMBATTIMENTI FRA CANI, BLITZ A CANICATTÌ - [LINK TO THE VIDEO](#)

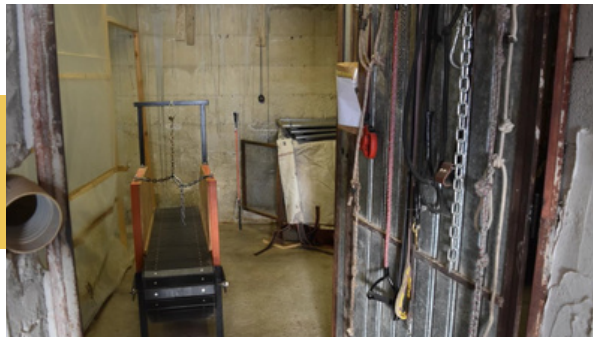
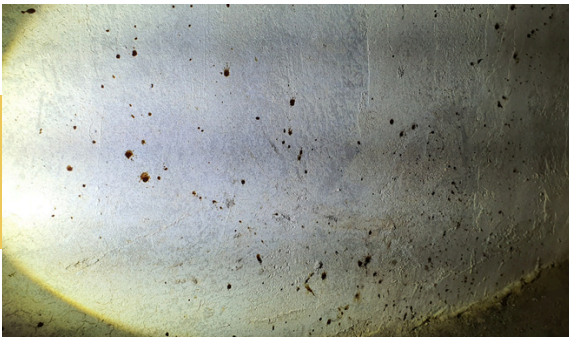
[11] LIBERATORIO - LE SCOMMESSE, I PITBULL “GUERRIERI”, I FARMACI: COME FUNZIONAVA IL COMBATTIMENTO TRA CANI INTERROTTO A CANICATTÌ - [LINK TO THE NEWS](#)



2022 - Torre del Greco (Napoli) [12]

A young female pit bull-type dog, severely injured around the muzzle and unable to stand on her legs, was found in the street. The animal was rescued by Animal Protection Officers. The injuries sustained . numerous bites to the muzzle and wounds on the body and limbs - are consistent with those found on dogs used in fights.

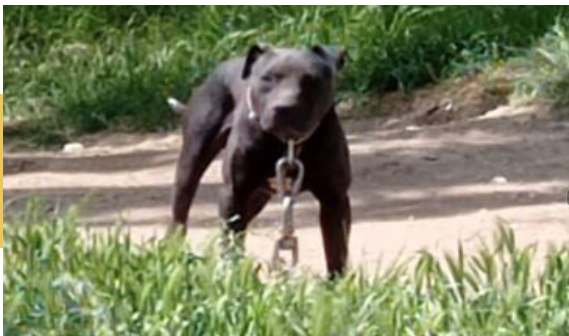
[12] KODAMI - PITBULL ABBANDONATO DOPO UN COMBATTIMENTO CERCA FAMIGLIA: ORA È IN CANILE - [LINK TO THE NEWS](#)



2021 - Padula (Salerno) [13]

Six dogs, presumably used for fighting, were seized after being found in an area used for training and breeding. The animals, all pit bull-type dogs (four females and two males), presented wounds, scars and signs of malnutrition, as well as severe fearfulness and behavioral difficulties. On the order of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Salerno Local Health Authority, they were transferred to a shelter in Rome to receive veterinary care and begin a rehabilitation programme.

[13] FANPAGE - COMBATTIMENTI CLANDESTINI TRA CANI: SALVATI 6 PITBULL MALNUTRITI E FERITI NEL SALERNITANO - [LINK TO THE NEWS](#)



2021 - Sulmona (L'Aquila) [14]

The Forestry Carabinieri discovered an illegal fenced kennel in a woodland area, housing 17 pit bull-type dogs without microchips kept in unsuitable conditions: some chained with heavy chains, in dilapidated structures built from waste materials, including asbestos-containing materials. Two individuals were identified, with dogs originating from breeding operations between Caserta and Sicily, presumably intended for fighting. 16 owners of cadastral parcels were also reported to the judicial authority for unauthorised construction works.

[14] IL CAPOLUOGO - ALLEVAMENTO ABUSIVO DI PITBULL SMANTELLATO DAI CARABINIERI: CANI INCATENATI - [LINK TO PHOTOS & NEWS](#)

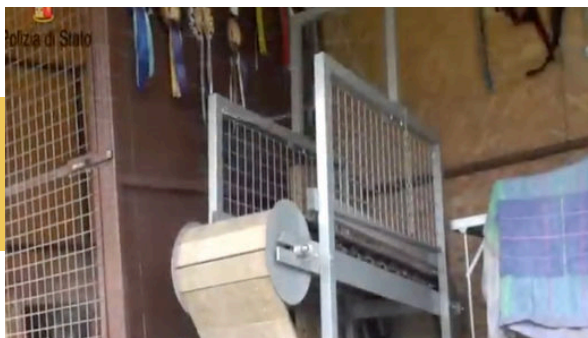


2016 – Operation Imperia/Genova (Vallecrosia – Pavia – Torino) [15]

More than 10 individuals were reported for organising dog fights (pit bull-types and Argentine Dogos), animal cruelty and related criminal offences. The investigation, initiated following an inspection at a breeding facility in Vallecrosia housing approximately 40 injured dogs, led to the interruption of a fight in the Pavia area and the seizure of medicines, training equipment, video material and documentation. Among those reported was a veterinarian, accused of having supplied medicines and professional instruments. A network operating across the entire national territory was established, with contacts abroad (Serbia). Evidence was found of doping of the animals, intensive training sessions (including on treadmills), filming of fights, and possible illegal betting. The trial concluded in February 2025 following the expiry of the statute of limitations.

[15] IMPERIA POST - IMPERIA. ORGANIZZAVANO COMBATTIMENTI CLANDESTINI TRA CANI, ALLENATI E DOPATI. LA SQUADRA MOBILE DENUNCIA 10 PERSONE. TRA LORO ANCHE.../FOTO E VIDEO - [LINK TO PHOTOS & NEWS](#)

[16] RIVIERA24 - COMBATTIMENTO CANI, NESSUN COLPEVOLE: IMPUTATI ASSOLTI NEL MERITO E PER PRESCRIZIONE - [LINK TO THE NEWS](#)



2016 – Pavia [17]

The Mobile Investigation Units of Genoa and Imperia, investigating clandestine dogfighting in Liguria, traced a Genoese businessman, owner of pit bull-type dogs trained for fighting, to Pavia. During a raid on a gymnasium where a clandestine bout was underway, five individuals attempted to flee through a tunnel but were stopped. Seized dogs kept in isolation – pit bull-types without microchips – along with medicines and training equipment. During the subsequent search of a property used by the gymnasium owner, officers discovered an illegal breeding operation housing approximately 40 dogs of various breeds; searches carried out at the residences of other reported individuals led to the discovery of further pit bull-type dogs, without microchips, along with numerous medicines and equipment suitable for animal training.

[17] PAVIA: COMBATTIMENTI CLANDESTINI DI CANI, DENUNCIATI GLI ORGANIZZATORI - [LINK TO THE NEWS](#) - [LINK TO THE VIDEO](#)



2014 – Lombardia, Marche, Umbria [18, 19]

The State Forestry Corps reported seven individuals – including breeders and owners of Argentine Dogos – for animal cruelty. The investigation, initiated on the basis of reports from members of the public and lasting six months, documented fights between dogs and wild boars, particularly in the border area between Umbria and Marche, in the Cagli district. Investigators obtained videos and photographs depicting dogs mauling wild boars in front of spectators; similarly graphic footage was recorded in Lombardy. At a breeding facility in Valtopina (Umbria), an Argentine Dogo was found bearing fresh scars consistent with fighting injuries. According to reconstructions, some local residents supplied and trained dogs for these so-called 'challenges'. 10 individuals were committed to trial by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Urbino on charges of organising animal fights, killing and cruelty to animals, including three breeders living in the Provinces of Perugia and Milan, and six owners of Argentine Dogo-breed dogs resident in Lombardy, Umbria and Campania, some of whom had filmed the fights using cameras and mobile phones. Charges were also brought against the operator of a wild boar farm.

[18] IL MESSAGGERO - CAGLI, COMBATTIMENTI CLANDESTINI TRA CANI E CINGHIALI, RETATA DI ALLEVATORI - [LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

[19] CORRIERE ADRIATICO - COMBATTIMENTI TRA CANI E CINGHIALI UNGULATI DILANIATI, IN DIECI A GIUDIZIO - [LINK TO FURTHER PHOTOS & NEWS](#)



2013 - Palermo [20]

During a road check, the Carabinieri stopped a vehicle carrying five individuals who were found watching a video they then attempted to conceal. The suspicious behaviour and the presence of blood traces on the clothing of one of the occupants led to the inspection of a camera, which contained footage of a fight between two pit bull-type dogs, watched by numerous spectators who were inciting the animals and filming the scene. The identification of some of those present in the footage initiated a monitoring operation that led to the location, in the Zen 2 district, of an area set up as a fighting arena.

During the intervention, a further dog fight was documented; three individuals, including a minor, were stopped, while others managed to flee. On the premises, six pit bull-type dogs were found, one of whom was seriously injured, along with improvised structures for their confinement - without microchips and in precarious conditions. A deceased rooster was also found bearing signs consistent with the use of doping substances.

[20] PALERMO TODAY - VIDEO SHOCK, COMBATTIMENTO TRA PITBULL ALLO ZEN 2: SEI DENUNCE - [LINK TO THE NEWS](#) - [LINK TO THE VIDEO](#)

Other Cases of Presumed Animal Fighting

2026 - Castel Volturno (Caserta)

The body of a pit bull-type dog was found along the coastline, near the beach of Castel Volturno (Province of Caserta). The animal presented deep lacerations. The incident, reported to law enforcement by local residents, is under assessment, with the hypothesis of a possible connection to dogfighting based on the characteristics observed.

[LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

2025 - Taurisano (Lecce)

In the countryside of Salento, authorities discovered the remains of numerous dogs, presumably linked to underground dogfighting. The operation was launched following repeated reports from residents who had reported the disappearance of their dogs in the area. The Animal Protection Officers of Agriambiente Lecce, together with the Local Police and the ASL Veterinary Service, conducted an inspection of a private property where they found carcasses and scattered bones, along with materials associated with the training of dogs used in fights: bait animal cages, ropes with nooses, leashes and other tools. A report against unknown persons was filed with the Public Prosecutor's Office for animal cruelty and other suspected offences. Investigations are ongoing to identify those responsible.

[LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

2022 - Licola (Napoli)

A young female pit bull-type dog was found with severe injuries to the neck, muzzle and back – scars consistent with both abuse and dogfighting. The animal was discovered by a young local resident while walking his own dog; the dog was in a desperate condition, with parasites, internal bleeding and clear signs of both recent and past trauma.

Despite immediate veterinary treatment, the dog did not survive.

[LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

2020 - Torre Annunziata (Napoli)

In the Poverelli district, a joint operation by the State Police and the Municipal Police dismantled illegal structures linked to the Tamarisco clan. Numerous dogs were found, primarily pit bull-type and German shepherds, used as guard dogs and strongly suspected of involvement in underground fighting. Puppies were also present.

[LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

2020 - Termoli (Campobasso)

In Termoli, a custodial order was executed against a man accused of animal cruelty and organising dogfights. The intervention followed an investigation by the local Police Commissioner's Office; the individual, a native of the city, was placed under house arrest.

[LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

2018 - Taurianova (Reggio Calabria)

A joint law enforcement operation in the Piana di Gioia Tauro area led to the arrest of seven individuals involved both in trafficking of narcotic substances – cannabis and cocaine – and in the organisation of dogfights.

During the operation, seven terrier-breed dogs used in fights were seized, along with a substantial quantity of anabolic steroids and other medicines administered to the animals. The facilities where the animals were kept were also seized.

[LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

2016 - Torre Annunziata (Napoli)

In Torre Annunziata, Guardia di Finanza seized an illegal kennel where 11 German shepherds were being kept in precarious sanitary conditions, confined in unsuitable cages. In addition to the animals, numerous medicines were found, including doping and psychotropic substances – typically encountered in the context of dogfighting to enhance strength, endurance and aggression.

In total, 34 packages of medicines for human use (including anabolic steroids and psychotropics) and 52 packages of veterinary medicines stored in inadequate conditions were seized, along with carriers, cages and a vehicle. The suspect was reported for animal cruelty.

[LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

[LINK TO THE VIDEO](#)

2015 - Palermo

The Carabinieri investigation originated from reports concerning alleged dogfights said to have taken place inside a gas cylinder retail outlet. Following surveillance activity, officers conducted an inspection of the premises, where they discovered the carcass of a pit bull-type dog placed beneath a sheet with a bunch of flowers laid on top. The animal bore signs consistent with injuries attributable to fighting, as well as a gunshot wound to the head.

During the inspection, a modified gun, a firearm with an obliterated serial number, unlawfully held ammunition and mechanical parts of suspicious origin were also found. An illegal connection to the public electricity network was likewise established. Three individuals were reported and/or arrested.

[LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

2015 - Palermo

Law enforcement conducted a joint operation leading to the discovery of three premises used for dogfighting in the Brancaccio district: a prefabricated structure of wood and aluminum panels, a dilapidated garage and an abandoned former shoe factory. Inside the structures, four pit bull-type dogs were found in severely precarious sanitary conditions. The walls and floor of the garage were stained with coagulated blood. Some dogs bore scars and open wounds consistent with previous fights; a carcass was found sealed inside a bag.

[LINK TO THE NEWS](#)

2015 - Castel Volturno (Caserta) / Napoli

Following the online circulation of a video depicting a dogfight, the Postal Police of Naples launched an investigation that led to the identification of four individuals involved, including a minor, engaged in the organisation of fights for the purpose of clandestine betting.

Reports received from residents and animal welfare associations proved decisive in rapidly activating the inquiry. Through the analysis of digital traces and telecommunications evidence, investigators geolocated the fighting area near Castel Volturno, identifying dog holding pens and a rudimentary ring. The subsequent intervention made it possible to halt the illegal activities, seize the structures and rescue an injured pit bull-type dog, who was placed in veterinary care. A second dog, an Argentine Dogo, was also found, kept in conditions of severe abuse at a property in Naples.

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2013 - Ottaviano (Napoli)

Four pit bull-type dogs were located in an abandoned garden, without identification microchips, with two of them showing evident injuries. It is suspected that they were being used for fighting.

[LINK ALLA NEWS](#)

Conclusions

The analysis of the cases highlights how dogfighting remains a criminal phenomenon still deeply entrenched across the entire national territory.

The geographic distribution of the cases, the involvement of organised networks, and the co-occurrence with other offences – including the trafficking, possession and unlawful use of narcotic or psychotropic substances, the use of doping substances, illegal gambling and the keeping of animals in incompatible conditions – confirm the structured nature of animal-related crime.

The emergence of the cases examined has been made possible through the synergistic role of law enforcement agencies and animal protection associations, which have reported suspicious situations. However, the scarcity of data, the difficulties associated with the care of seized animals, as well as those relating to their possible reintegration into family environments, suggest the need to strengthen monitoring activities, ensure broader dissemination of prevention and public awareness measures, and expand the tools available to those working in the field of protection and recovery of animals that are victims of this phenomenon.

In this context, it appears essential to invest in:

- specific training programmes for public and private sector operators;
- dedicated funding for the management and rehabilitation of seized dogs;
- public awareness campaigns targeting the wider community;
- inter-institutional and inter-regional collaborative networks;
- operators specialised in animal rehabilitation.

The countering of dogfighting cannot be limited to the repressive sphere, but requires a strategy that combines animal welfare, public safety and a culture of legality, placing at its centre the recognition of the animal as a sentient being and a member of the community.

Only through a coordinated and sustained approach will it be possible to significantly reduce these offences and prevent the perpetuation of criminal patterns by new generations.



**Humane
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Formerly called
Humane Society International

With millions of supporters and work happening in over 50 countries, Humane World for Animals—formerly called Humane Society International—addresses the most deeply entrenched forms of animal cruelty and suffering. As the leading voice in the animal protection space, we work to end the cruelest practices, care for animals in crisis and build a stronger animal protection movement. Driving toward the greatest global impact, we aim to achieve the vision behind our name: a more humane world.



Fondazione Cave Canem is a women's non-profit organization founded with the aim of improving the health and social relationship between animals and humans. It pursues objectives of great social impact throughout Italy, with concrete and measurable results. It finances co-design models, awareness campaigns, and social inclusion practices to change the fate and protect the rights of animals in need, particularly dogs and cats.

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