



Debunking Myths: Dogs from dog-fighting backgrounds

Carley Faughn, PhD

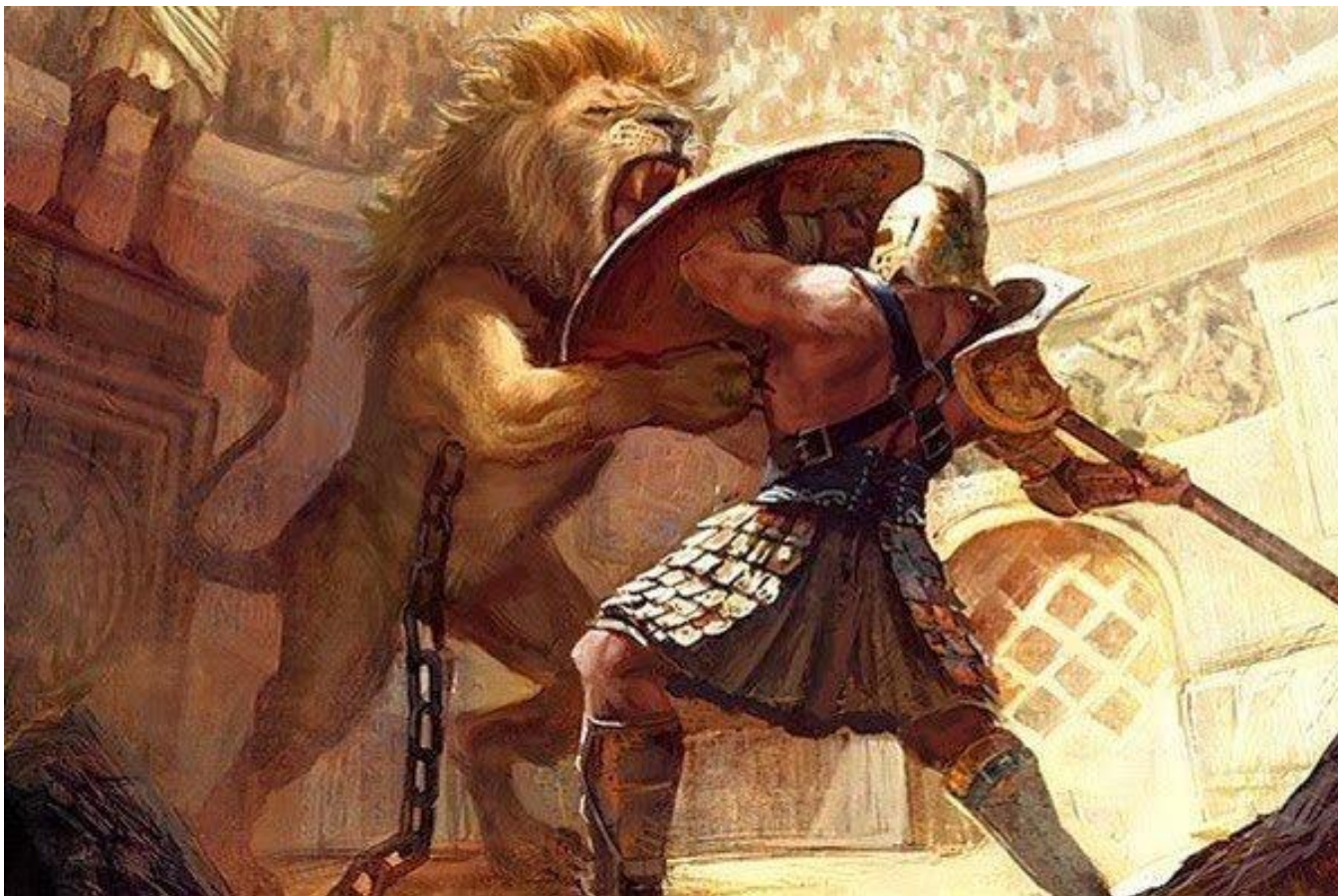




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Morgan Rivera, CPDT-KA, MS Candidate

History



Dog Fighting in the U.S.



Rules of the Game

“The rules are basically common sense and meant to allow either dog the opportunity to stop the combat at any point that he, the dog, has had enough. Remember it is a Sport, and as long as all parties involved conduct themselves like Gentleman it will remain so.” - Mitch Kemmer, son of Norman Kemmer



**Galbert "Gaboorn" A. Trahan
1894 - 1975
Lifelong Law Enforcement
Officer;
Chief of Police, 1936-1939.**

Terminology

Game: the willingness to continue fighting, especially after sustaining injuries

Turn: when a dog attempts to disengage from a fight

Cur: a dog that is not “game” and/or has “turned” in a match

Keep: the period of time in which the dog is put through rigorous conditioning in preparation for a match

Champion & Grand Champion: dogs that have won 3 or 5 more matches, respectively



Levels of Fighters:



Case Study: Stephanie





Myth: Flourishing



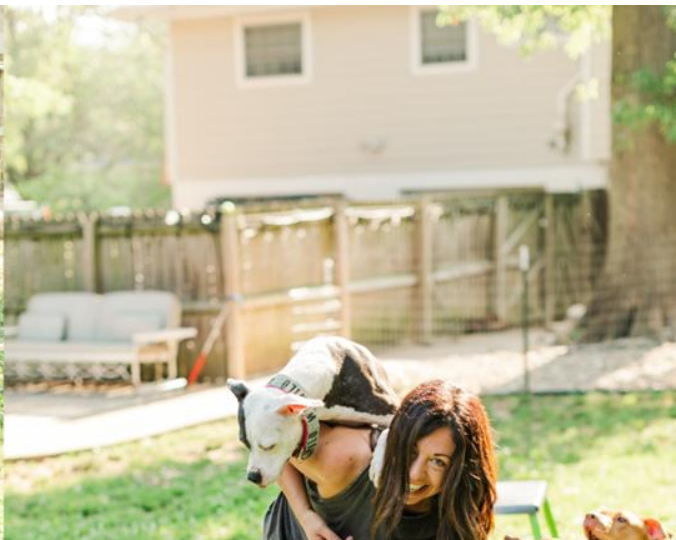


Case Study: Solo












Bait Dogs



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Author	Message
Senior Member ☆☆☆☆☆	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Posted: Fri Sep 20, 2013 9:37 pm quote</div> <div>http://www.opposingviews.com/i/society/animal-rights/dog-fighting-damian-labon-arrested-trunking-miami-dade-video</div> <div>Where they come up with this shit? Guess the "bait dogs" were not bringing in the donations anymore and had to make this shit up Way to go chudd #skell</div> <div>profile pm</div>
Senior Member ☆☆☆☆☆ Joined: Aug 08, 2013 Posts: 910	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Posted: Fri Sep 20, 2013 9:38 pm quote</div> <div>These are the kind of fuckers that bring major heat to us... I would love to personally CULL this fucking SKELL with my bare hands. Fucking idiots!</div> <div>Last edited by Skell Hunter on Fri Sep 20, 2013 9:45 pm; edited 1 time in total</div> <div>profile pm</div>

Scarring



“Aggressive”





Research: Perspectives

- Pit bull guardians tend to use a variety of techniques to avoid the stigmas associated with these dogs
 - Identify as a different breed
 - Argue their dog is not innately aggressive
 - Train their dog to engage in public-appropriate behaviors so others do not perceive them as threatening (Twining et al., 2000)





Research: Media & Policy Change

- Media events highlighting such cases (e.g. Michael Vick case, 2007) encouraged more policies to change and to be implemented:
 - HSUS (2007) reported more arrests among those participating in dog-fighting rings
 - Kerry-Boxer bill
 - Dog Fighting Prohibition Act (HR 3219)
 - Federal Dog Protection Act (HR 3327)



Research: What has been studied?

- Discourse of the cultural knowledge of dog fighting; field interviews (Kalof & Taylor, 2007)
- Sympathetic reactions to the bait dog in a short dog-fighting video (Lee et al., 2010)
- Power relationships between humans and dogs estimated # of people involved (40k in America; Yilmaz et al., 2015)
- Is there a relationship between dog scarring and dog aggression? (Miller et al., 2016)
- Qualitative research from interviews, police files observations and online reviews (Siegel & van Uhm, 2021)
- What about research on the victims, individual differences, how are they treated once rescued, statistics on behavior and save rate?



Treating dogs as individuals

- Like humans, all dogs are individuals and should be treated as such
- Do not make too many assumptions based on breed, or breed assumptions
- Learn who the individual is: likes/dislikes, what's exciting or fearful?
- Functional assessments and ongoing interactions are key to understanding who a dog is as an individual.
- Explore socialization with people and other animals
 - Use a muzzle if you're uncomfortable/unsure



Case Study- Mya & Curly



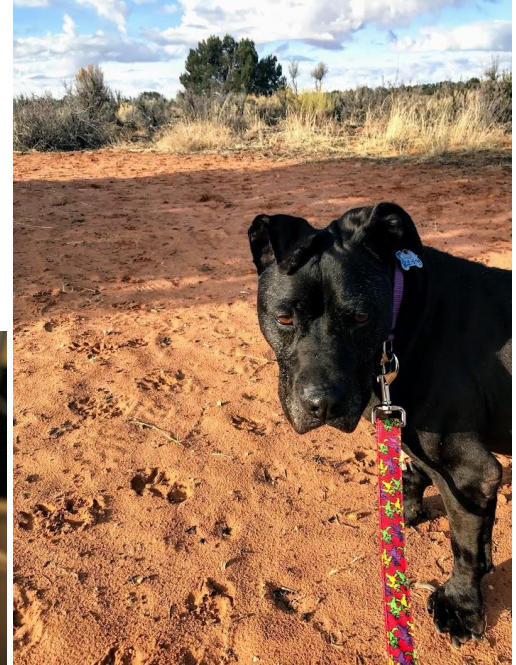


Case Study – Mya & Curly





‘Who is the dog in front of me?’





Case Study - Saroo



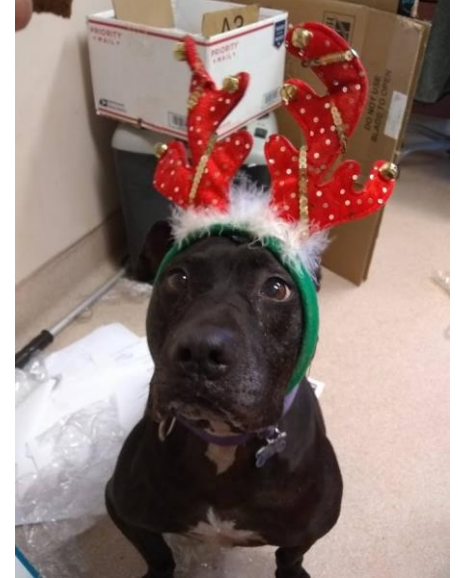


Case Study- Saroo





Bringing it Together





- <https://bestfriends.widen.net/s/qrphgj2d9l/vi>
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Thank you!

Questions?

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