



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2018

Media contacts:

ASPCA - Emily Schneider, emily.schneider@aspca.org, (646) 784-5111

Kansas Bureau of Investigation - Melissa Underwood, Melissa.Underwood@kbi.state.ks.us, (785) 296-8283

Photos/Video (Credit/ASPCA):

Photos - <https://aspca.widencollective.com/dam/externalorderpickup/82d64332-2a2d-4583-badd-48fe4bee1151>

Video - <https://aspca.app.box.com/s/v9erfz0cgv0xs7atm29dd5r8tbbafpn>

ASPCA Assists Kansas Bureau of Investigation in Seizing Nearly 50 Animals in Suspected Dogfighting Case

Animals removed from property in Doniphan County transported to ASPCA emergency shelter

DONIPHAN COUNTY, KAN. —At the request of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), the [ASPCA](#)® (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is assisting with evidence collection and the removal of 45 dogs from a property believed associated with dogfighting in Bendena, Kan. Bendena is in Doniphan County, which is north of Atchison in northeast Kansas. The Great Plains SPCA and the Doniphan County Sheriff's Office are also assisting in the case.

A search warrant was executed Thursday morning by the KBI, where ASPCA responders discovered adult dogs and puppies living in deplorable conditions throughout the property. Some dogs appeared to exhibit scars and injuries commonly associated with dogfighting. Dogfighting paraphernalia was also discovered on the property.

Following execution of the search warrant, Colton R. Albright, 28, of Bendena, was arrested for 42 counts of dogfighting, four counts of possession of dogfighting paraphernalia, one count of animal cruelty, one count of possession of marijuana with the intent to sell, one count of felony drug paraphernalia, one count of criminal possession of a firearm by a felon, two counts of criminal possession of a firearm less than 18 inches, and a drug tax stamp violation. Albright was transported to the Doniphan County Jail.

"We are extremely thankful that the ASPCA was willing to partner with us in this investigation. Their responders are best equipped to ensure these animals receive the treatment and care they require," said Melissa Underwood, spokeswoman for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

"Sadly, dogfighting is more prevalent than many people think and it continues to be a popular underground activity throughout the country," added Joel Lopez, Operations Director for the ASPCA Field Investigations and Response team. "The ASPCA is grateful for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation for working with us to tackle this horrific form of animal abuse. Our immediate goal is to transport these dogs to a safe place where they will receive much-needed care and treatment."

The dogs will be transported to an ASPCA temporary shelter at an undisclosed location, where they will be cared for by ASPCA veterinary and behavior experts until custody is determined by the court. The ASPCA's Legal Advocacy department will work closely with law enforcement and prosecutors to ensure the best outcome for these animals.

Since 2010, the ASPCA has assisted with approximately 200 dogfighting cases in at least 24 states and has impacted nearly 5,000 victims of dogfighting through rescue, consultations, and investigations. For more information on the ASPCA's efforts to tackle dogfighting and what the public can do to help, please visit www.aspca.org/breakthechain.

About the ASPCA®

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) is the first animal welfare organization in North America and serves as the nation's leading voice for animals. More than two million supporters strong, the ASPCA's mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. For more information, please visit www.ASPCA.org, and be sure to follow the ASPCA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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