

The Vick Case From the Start

- **April 2001:** Michael Vick is drafted by the NFL's Atlanta Falcons, playing quarterback from 2001 through 2006.
- **June 2001:** Vick purchases 15 acres at 1915 Moonlight Road, Smithville, Va., to build Bad Newz Kennels, a dog-fighting operation.

- **April 24, 2007:** Vick's cousin, Davon Boddie, is arrested on drug charges; lists address as 1915 Moonlight Road.

- **April 25, 2007:** Local, state authorities search 1915 Moonlight Road for drugs; discover evidence of illegal dog-fighting activities, including a pit dug in the ground. Sixty-six dogs, mostly pit bulls, are seized and placed in animal-control shelters.

- **July 17, 2007:** Vick and three other men are indicted by a federal grand jury on felony charges of operating an interstate dogfighting venture.

- **July 23, 2007:** Vick is ordered not to attend training camp by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

- **Aug. 23, 2007:** Vick is suspended indefinitely without pay by the NFL.

- **Aug. 27, 2007:** Vick pleads guilty to federal dogfighting charges in Richmond, Va.

- **Sept. 4 to 6, 2007:** An expert evaluation team conducts the first individual behavior testing of all 49 remaining forfeited animals.

- **Oct. 1, 2007:** The Court orders one of the dogs to be euthanized because of aggression toward humans.

- **Oct. 15, 2007:** Rebecca Huss, a nationally recognized expert on animal law and a law professor at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind., is appointed by the court as Guardian/Special Master to advise on the final disposition of the dogs.

- **Oct. 17 to 19, 2007:** Huss and Tim Racer of Bay Area Doglovers Responsible About Pit Bulls (BAD RAP) conduct round two of evaluations and arrange for some dogs to receive interim care

in foster homes, to start to relieve the effects of shelter confinement.

- **Oct. 21, 2007:** Three dogs leave the shelters for East Coast rescue groups; BAD RAP reps take a three-day, cross-country road trip to bring 13 dogs to three West Coast groups.

- **Nov. 6, 2007:** BAD RAP volunteer Nicole Rattay relocates to Virginia to provide six weeks of daily exercise and care for the dogs that are still in shelters.

- **Nov. 10, 2007:** One dog is euthanized for medical reasons.

- **Nov. 19, 2007:** Vick begins serving his 23-month federal prison sentence at the U.S. penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan.

- **Nov. 28, 2007:** Vick pays nearly \$1 million into an escrow account to reimburse some of the cost of caring for seized dogs.

- **Nov. 28 to 30, 2007:** Huss, Racer and a team from Best Friends Animal Society evaluate each dog that might be placed with Best Friends.

- **Dec. 3, 2007:** Huss recommends sending the 49 remaining dogs to eight groups across the country.

- **Dec. 10, 2007:** Vick receives final sentencing on felony charges.

- **Dec. 17, 2007:** USDA signs 10 dogs over to BAD RAP, roughly eight months after seizure.

- **Late December 2007:** Four dogs are assigned to Richmond Animal League; two arrive at the Virginia facility.

- **January 2008:** Twenty-two dogs arrive at the Best Friends sanctuary in Kanab, Utah.

- **May 24, 2008:** The first Vick dog adoption: Little Dutch is adopted by Linda and Bill Chwistek of the San Francisco Bay Area.

- **July 7, 2008:** Vick files for personal bankruptcy with an estimated \$16 million in assets, and \$20 million in liabilities.

- **February 2009:** Vick is approved for home confinement with electronic monitoring, most likely starting in May, instead of being released from federal prison in July.

- **May 20, 2009:** Vick is released from federal prison in the early morning to complete his sentence at home.

- **June 2009:** Vick's NFL team, the Atlanta Falcons, released Vick from his \$130-million contract.

- **July 20, 2009:** Vick is released from federal custody

- **July 22, 2009:** Best Friends Animal Society receives the 2009 Asset Forfeiture National Award from the U.S. Justice Department for its outstanding work with Vick's fighting dogs.

- **July 27, 2009:** The NFL reinstates Vick, making him eligible to sign with another NFL team, join its training camp and play in its last two preseason games.

- **August 13, 2009:** Vick signs on as a backup quarterback with the Philadelphia Eagles with a contract for \$1.6 million the first year, with an option for \$5.2 million in the second year. In a press conference, Vick says, "I was wrong for what I did... I think everyone deserves a second chance."

- **August 16, 2009:** Vick appears on 60 Minutes and admits to participating in and financing the illegal dog-fighting ring.

- **August 21, 2009:** Ed Sayres, president and CEO of the ASPCA releases statement explaining the ASPCA's reasons for not partnering with Vick: "We are simply not convinced that Mr. Vick has demonstrated compassion toward animals as living beings or the necessary remorse for his criminal actions against them."

— Lisa A. Hanks

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