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New details emerge as 3 more arrested in Lansing dogfighting investigation

Christopher Haxel, Lansing State Journal Published 1:54 p.m. ET Nov. 21, 2017 | Updated 9:52 p.m. ET Nov. 21, 2017



(Photo: Courtesy image)

LANSING - Three more people have been charged in connection with a dogfighting ring officials have been investigating since April that led to the recovery of dozens of dogs.

Clement Ralph Waddy, Charles Joseph Miller and Kian Maliak Miller, all of Lansing, each face at least five felony charges relating to dogfighting.

All told, the three Lansing residents face a combined 17 felony counts. Animal fighting typically is punishable by up to four years in prison upon conviction. A judge can also impose hefty fines and order hundreds of hours of community service. Attorneys representing the men did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In a court hearing that led to the charges, Ingham County Animal Control Officer Caitlin Budzinski testified that Waddy, 42, admitted owning six suspected fighting dogs found in July at a house on the 1100 block of North Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Five of the dogs were tethered with heavy chains weighing up to 15 pounds, according to a transcript of Budzinski's testimony.

Three of the dogs had scars and other wounds consistent with dogfighting, she said.

Also found at the property were a treadmill designed specifically for dogs, weighted collars, strength supplements and handwritten notes for feeding and exercise regimens.

More: [At least 5 pit bulls seized in dogfighting probe to be euthanized \(/story/news/local/2017/09/06/pit-bulls-seized-lansing-dogfighting-investigationeuthanized/636724001/\)](/story/news/local/2017/09/06/pit-bulls-seized-lansing-dogfighting-investigationeuthanized/636724001/)

Numerous suspected fighting dogs belonging to brothers Charles Miller, 33, and Kian Miller, 40, were found at other locations in Ingham and Eaton counties, the officer said.

Charles Miller's cell phone stored "extensive videos of dogfights," Budzinski testified, as well as "conversations with dogfighters about fighting dogs, training dogs for fights, and medical care for dogs after fights."

Esco

One pit bull, Esco, belonged to Kian Miller, the officer said.

Investigators found a bloody T-shirt imprinted with a picture of Esco and the name of Kian Miller's kennel, Budzinski said.

Esco previously won at least one dogfight lasting 32 minutes, according to records found by investigators. Charles and Kian Miller exchanged photos of the dog's injuries, and messages sent several months later imply Esco fought again this spring, the officer said.

The pit bull's pedigree, [posted online \(http://www.apbt.online-pedigrees.com/modules.php?name=Public&file=printPedigree&dog_id=589084\)](http://www.apbt.online-pedigrees.com/modules.php?name=Public&file=printPedigree&dog_id=589084), lists "notorious names in the dogfighting community" such as grand champion fighting dogs Mayday and Barracuda, Budzinski said.

Mayday's [online profile \(http://www.apbt.online-pedigrees.com/modules.php?name=Public&file=printPedigree&dog_id=560\)](http://www.apbt.online-pedigrees.com/modules.php?name=Public&file=printPedigree&dog_id=560) has been viewed more than 750,000 times.

More: [2 charged as investigation into 'professional' dogfighting ring expands \(/story/news/local/2017/08/02/2-charged-investigation-into-professional-dogfighting-ring-expands/532152001/\)](http://www.ansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2017/08/02/2-charged-investigation-into-professional-dogfighting-ring-expands/532152001/)

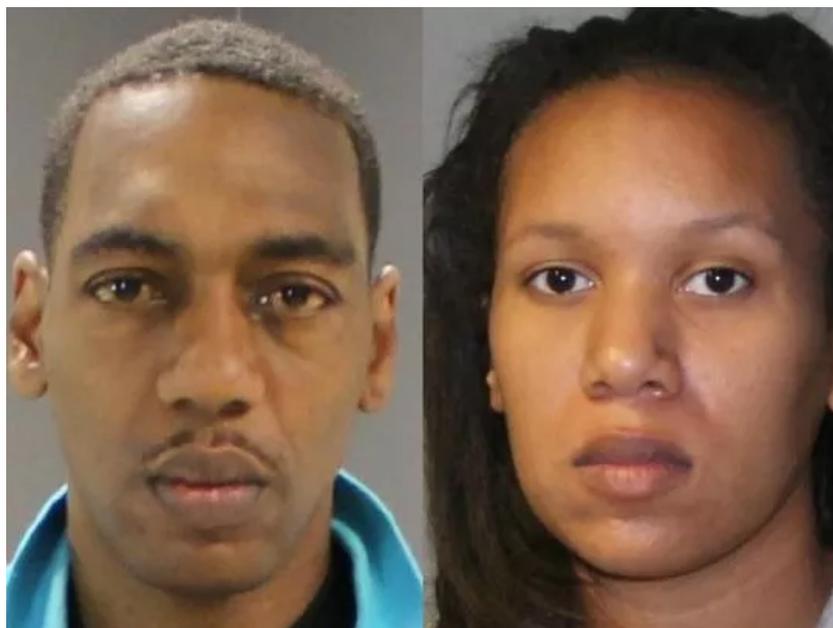
Esco was one of seven suspected fighting dogs found at a home on the 1400 block of Roseland Avenue in Lansing. At least five of the dogs belonged to Kian Miller, Budzinski said, and four of them had injuries consistent with dogfighting.

'Professional' ring

Officials seized more than 50 dogs after raids in Ingham and Eaton counties earlier this year, and so far have charged at least three other people in connection with what Ingham County Animal Control Director John Dinon described as a "professional" dogfighting ring.

Synquiss Tairee-Devon Antes, 26, [pleaded guilty \(/story/news/local/2017/10/10/woman-pleads-guilty-animal-cruelty-lansing-dogfighting-case/751337001/\)](http://www.ansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2017/10/10/woman-pleads-guilty-animal-cruelty-lansing-dogfighting-case/751337001/) to a misdemeanor charge of animal cruelty in October. Antes originally faced nine felony counts of animal fighting and one 90-day misdemeanor count of having an unlicensed dog.

Her father, 47-year-old Corey Devon Henry, currently awaits trial in Ingham County Circuit Court on 15 charges — 10 of them are felonies — related to dogfighting.



Corey Devon Henry, left, in a mugshot from 2013. Synquiss Tairee-Devon Antes, right, in a mugshot from 2014. (Photo: Courtesy image)

Demarius Hoyle, 22, was charged with one count of dogfighting, although prosecutors later dropped the charge.

Of the dogs seized during the investigation, some have been euthanized while others remain in the custody of animal control officials pending court proceedings. Four dogs were transferred in October to Bark Nation, a Detroit-based nonprofit that specializes in fighting dogs.

Officials hope the dogs can eventually be re-homed.

All of the dogs seized were pitbulls, Dinon has said.

6/24/2018

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