

Roger Goodell, NFL Commissioner

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Dr. Mr. Goodell and the Atlanta Falcons:

You may receive letters similar to mine. Please know these words reflect my sincere feelings about NFL star quarterback Michael Vick's alleged participation in dogfighting rings. I respectfully ask the NFL and Atlanta Falcons to promptly suspend Vick without pay and take a no-lenience stance on animal abuse.

I commend the NFL for barring Vick from training camp, in response to a federal grand jury's indictment on felony dogfighting charges. However, the NFL's reprimand is not commensurate with the crime. Vick, along with Tony Taylor of Hampton, Purnell Peace of Virginia Beach and Quanis Phillips of Atlanta, reportedly violated federal animal fighting laws and is accused of acquiring/training pit bulls to fight and operating across state lines.

Vick's indictment exposed horrific cruelty. Dogs who'd lost their "game" (ability to win fights) were "sometimes put to death by drowning, strangulation, hanging, gun shot, electrocution, or some other method." At least one dog was slammed against the ground until dead.

The killer conferred with Vick before slaughtering another defeated dog "by wetting the dog down with water and electrocuting the animal." At Vick's Virginia home officials uncovered over 50 pit bulls, along with fight tools such as a "rape stand" for forced breeding, treadmills, drugs to amplify aggression, and a bloody fight pit.

Animal fighting is associated with illegal gambling, auto theft, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, money laundering, and acts of human violence. Although illegal in 50 states, an underground network thrives. Dogs die from internal trauma, blood loss, shock, dehydration or infection. Survivors subsist with wounds on their heads, throats, shoulders and legs. Ears are bloody stubs and some faces are so lacerated dogs can hardly breathe.

Please let players and fans know celebrity never justifies illegal animal cruelty. I urge you to permanently suspend Michael Vick from the NFL.

Thank you,