

## **Dog-fighting suspected after 25 dogs are seized in Chaparral**

**By Ashley Meeks / [ameeks@lcsun-news.com](mailto:ameeks@lcsun-news.com)**

**Posted: 05/07/2010 11:29:50 PM MDT**

LAS CRUCES - Some are weeks old, barely raising their head as they cuddled in a brushed steel pen. One stared and growled. Another hung its head, wobbling, streams of drool hanging from its muzzle.

All of them were seized Thursday night as part of a search warrant executed at a suspected dog-fighting operation in Chaparral, according to Do-a Ana County Animal Control, which seized seven adult dogs and 18 pups from the 300 block of East Lisa Drive.

Equipment indicative of dog-fighting - like a blood-spattered wooden treadmill called a slat-mill and jaw-strengthening rope implements - was discovered when authorities arrived to serve an eviction notice Thursday, said County Animal Control Director Curtis Childress.

The resident of the house, David Swann, 51, has not yet been charged, but investigators are preparing to have a computer confiscated during the search examined.

"We may have enough to charge dog-fighting right now. It's up to the DA's office," said Investigator Robyn Gojkovich.

"In my training and experience, (the dogs) have scars that are related to dog-fighting, but we're going to have a forensic veterinarian come out and she's going to examine the dogs."

Ashley Meeks can be reached at [ameeks@lcsun-news.com](mailto:ameeks@lcsun-news.com).

# LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS