

## Gambling Drives Cockfighting

**Gambling** is the entertainment of a society that has lost its moral bearings, and there is no stronger example than the degenerate

practice of **cockfighting**. In this barbaric activity, animals are penned, drugged and forced to fight each other, usually until death.

Along with the cruelty of this blood sport, cockfighting nearly always involves illegal gambling, gun smuggling and drug trafficking—in many cases in the presence of children.

Even though penalties for cockfighting have been strengthened in South Carolina for the first time in 100 years, it has not stopped this barbaric practice and the illegal

activities conducted alongside it. Cockfighting is a crime that continues to operate in the shadows, despite its illegality and the increased enforcement in this area.

“They’re still going to fight, they’re still going to fight for years to come,” said a Louisiana cockfight operator of 14 years. “They’ve still got cockfighting

in every state. They just hide it from the law.”

Law enforcement raids across the country have revealed several disturbing elements of this so-called sport. **Since gambling is the norm at cockfights, thousands of dollars regularly exchange hands as spectators**

(over)



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## Cockfighting (cont.)

**and animal owners wager large sums on their favorite birds.**

The owners of birds who win the most fights may win tens of thousands of dollars of unreported income. And because of the large amounts of cash present, firearms and other weapons are common at cockfights. Finally, cockfighting has been connected to other kinds of violence, including homicide.

To help stem the tide of cockfighting and the illegal

gambling that accompanies it, ordinary citizens can contact their local media to increase public awareness of the dangers of cockfighting and their law enforcement officials to urge them to take the issue seriously. As the eyes and ears of your community, if you suspect cockfighting in your neighborhood, alert your local law enforcement agency and Palmetto Family Council (email@PalmettoFamily.org). It's time to bring this crime into the light, and shut it down for good. ■

## Gambling in Real Life

Acting on an anonymous tip, South Carolina law enforcement officials arrested 30 people in 2006 at a cockfighting ring in Marlboro County. About 20 dead and severely injured birds were recovered from the site, as well as guns, **several thousand dollars in cash and some marijuana**. Of those arrested, eight juveniles were released into their parents' custody and 22 adults were charged with misdemeanors.

In a February 2008 York County cockfighting raid, lawmen arrested 33 and seized **\$4,000 in cash**.



## God has Spoken...

*“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*

- 1 Timothy 6:9-10 (KJV)

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