

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 cockfighting has finally been made illegal in South Carolina, simply outlawing it has not stopped those involved in this barbaric practice and the illegal activities conducted alongside



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(over)

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Cockfighting (cont.)

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.

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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.

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