



PALMETTO FAMILY FOCUS

Defending and Strengthening Families

Anti-Gambling Sunday - Special Edition

2011

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, roosters are fitted with razors, drugged, and forced to fight each other, usually until death.



■ The Humane Society rescues a rooster used in cockfighting.

cockfighters will flout 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 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 Alabama has the weakest cockfighting law in the nation, with the maximum fine being just \$50. This attracts cockfighters from other states, who come to Alabama to gamble on fights

(over)



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Cockfighting (cont.)

of cash present, firearms and other weapons are common at cockfights. Finally, cockfighting has been connected to other kinds of violence, including murder.

To help stem the tide of cockfighting and the illegal gambling that accompanies it, you can make a difference by:

- Contacting local media to ask them to increase public awareness of the dangers of cockfighting.
- Contacting elected officials to urge them to take the issue seriously by

supporting legislation that will finally stiffen penalties for cockfighting and gambling in Alabama.

- Contacting local law enforcement. As the eyes and ears of your community, if you suspect cockfighting in your neighborhood, you can alert your police or sheriff's department. Or, you may call the Alabama Bureau of Investigation at (334) 353-1100.

With your help, we can bring this crime into the light and shut it down for good. ■

Gambling in Real Life

The Lawrence County Drug Task Force raided a cockfight in August and arrested 31 people. **Children and drugs were present**, and the gambling was brisk. An investigation into cockfighting in Mobile and Chilton Counties early this year also showed young children being exposed to the gambling and the bloodshed. At the Mobile County pit, one cockfighter had won \$75,000 in recent weeks.

With potential winnings so high, the existing maximum fine of \$50 will not deter any of these criminals. This \$75,000 had to be won from other people, who no longer had that money to feed their families.



Cockfighting (cont.)

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