

Animal Wellness Action Applauds Bryan County Sheriff for Raiding Major Cockfighting Pit in Texoma Region

Dozens of major cockfighting kingpins continue to operate in the Sooner State.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Oklahoma City —

[Animal Wellness Action](#) (AWA)

applauded Bryan County Sheriff

Johnny Christian and a local tipster for

collaborating to put a stop to a major

cockfight in Allison that [occurred on](#)

[Saturday night](#). According to the

sheriff's office, 200 to 300 individuals

scattered after deputies found a

cockfighting derby in progress. KXII-TV

in Sherman, Texas reports one arrest

so far, but a continuing investigation by the sheriff's office.



Cockfighting Match

The site of this raid is not far from the old Texoma Gamefowl Club, which was shuttered after voters approved a ban on cockfighting by ballot initiative in November 2002.

“

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Wayne Pacelle

“Sheriff Christian provided a service to the community by stopping a cockfighting operation in progress,” said Wayne Pacelle, president of Animal Wellness Action. “There's nothing good about strapping knives or curved ice picks to the legs of animals, putting them in a pit, and watching them carve each other up just for human amusement and illegal gambling.”

This incident is the latest evidence of widespread cockfighting and trafficking of fighting animals in the Sooner State, despite a state law making it a felony to

stage fights between birds or even to train or possess them for fighting. Cockfighting and possession of fighting animals, along with transporting them across state lines, is also a felony under federal law.

In 2020, AWA and the Animal Wellness Foundation (AWF) announced the results of a [major investigation](#) showing a major cockfighting industry openly operating in the state. Former Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, co-chair of the National Law Enforcement Council of AWA and AW, provided evidence to three U.S. Attorneys in Oklahoma about 21 individuals operating major cockfighting complexes in the state. Included in that cache of information are 13 videos made by a Philippines-based broadcaster featuring Oklahoma-based cockfighters who marketed their birds to other cockfighters in the broadcasts.

Thus far, federal authorities have not announced any action against the alleged perpetrators.

AWA and AWF revealed that Oklahoma is home to some of the biggest traffickers of fighting animals in the United States. Nine Oklahoma cockfighters shipped 3356 animals to Guam for fighting purposes over a recent three-year period, according to an investigation conducted by the organizations. Through public records requests to the Guam Department of Agriculture, AWF and AWA obtained nearly 2,500 pages of avian shipping records dated November 2016 to September 2019, with more than 500 shipments. Oklahoman cockfighters accounted for more than a third of all birds illegally shipped to Guam.

AWA and AWF are continuing their investigations. Mr., Pacelle reminds Oklahoma citizens that Animal Wellness Action provides a \$5,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest of any individual for involvement in illegal cockfighting activities.

The Animal Wellness Foundation (Foundation) is a Los Angeles-based private charitable organization with a mission of helping animals by making veterinary care available to everyone with a pet, regardless of economic ability. We organize rescue efforts and medical services for dogs and cats in need and help homeless pets find a loving caregiver. We are advocates for getting veterinarians to the front lines of the animal welfare movement; promoting responsible pet ownership; and vaccinating animals against infectious diseases such as distemper. We also support policies that prevent animal cruelty and that alleviate suffering. We believe helping animals helps us all. Animal Wellness Action (Action) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty and to confront factory farming and other systemic forms of animal exploitation. To prevent cruelty, we promote enacting good public policies, and we work to enforce those policies. To enact good laws, we must elect good lawmakers, and that's why we remind voters which candidates care about our issues and which ones don't. We believe helping animals helps us all.

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