

# Pro-Cockfighting Legislation Dies in the Oklahoma State House

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, USA, March 24, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Today, the Oklahoma House of Representatives chose not to take up House Bill 3283, by Rep. Justin Humphrey, that would have gutted penalties in Oklahoma's comprehensive, voter-approved anti-cockfighting law. The bill would have also decriminalized possessing and training of fighting animals. Today was the deadline for a bill to get out of its chamber of origin, so that means that House inaction translates into the death of the bill.



Cockfighting that runs rampant in the U.S. | Photo: Shutterstock

"H.B. 3283 would have made cockfighting violations the price of a speeding ticket and subverted the will of Oklahoma voters," said Wayne Pacelle, president of Animal Wellness Action. "It was an outrageous maneuver to allow individuals to commit malicious and premeditated acts of cruelty. House leaders acted responsibly in letting the bill a humane death."

“

H.B. 3283 would have made cockfighting violations the price of a speeding ticket and subverted the will of Oklahoma voters.”

*Wayne Pacelle, president at  
Animal Wellness Action*

Cockfighting is a legally and morally settled matter in Oklahoma. Oklahoma became the 48th state to outlaw cockfighting after a vote of the people in 2002, setting the stage for New Mexico and Louisiana to follow suit soon thereafter and outlaw it in every state.

When Oklahoma voters approved the anti-cockfighting law in 2002, they did so at the recommendation of Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating, U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe, Attorney

General Drew Edmondson, and U.S. Representative Tom Cole. The Oklahoma Supreme Court [upheld the law](#) as constitutional in a unanimous decision after the law was challenged.

Also in 2002, Congress banned any interstate or foreign transport of fighting animals.

Lawmakers subsequently strengthened the federal animal fighting law four times, with the Congress establishing a national ban on animal fighting in 2019, leaving not an acre of American soil a refuge for cockfighting. Reps. Tom Cole (R-4) and Frank Lucas (R-3) [voted in favor of the national law](#), and the measure passed unanimously in the U.S. Senate.

An Animal Wellness Action investigation unearthed two dozen cockfighting operators illegally shipping birds to Mexico, the Philippines, and some 20 other nations. Records obtained from the Guam Department of Agriculture revealed that Oklahoma cockfighters shipped nearly 5,000 fighting birds to Guam over the last five years; this is contraband and these people have no respect for the law.

"If this bill had passed, Oklahoma would have reverted to its situation 20 years ago, with dozens of cockfighting pits operating on the Oklahoma side of its borders with Arkansas, Texas, and Kansas," noted Edmondson, who serves as the co-chairman of the National Law Enforcement Council of Animal Wellness Action and the Center for a Humane Economy. "All border states treat cockfighting as a felony offense, and Oklahoma will be a magnet for criminals in these states, conducting illegal gambling, drug trafficking, money laundering, and attempting to corrupt law enforcement."

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.

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.

The Center for a Humane Economy ("the Center") is a non-profit organization that focuses on influencing the conduct of corporations to forge a humane economic order. The first organization of its kind in the animal protection movement, the Center encourages businesses to honor their social responsibilities in a culture where consumers, investors, and other key stakeholders abhor cruelty and the degradation of the environment and embrace innovation as a means of eliminating both.

WAYNE PACELLE  
ANIMAL WELLNESS ACTION  
+1 202-420-0446

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/566480911>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2022 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.