

Statement: Animal Wellness Action Chief Reacts to Survey Showing Near-Unanimous Opposition to Cockfighting in Oklahoma

Sooners see cockfighting as 'the very definition of barbarism and backwardness'

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, UNITED STATES, March 30, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Today, [Animal Wellness Action](#), which has been leading the effort to defend State Question 687 from efforts in the Oklahoma legislature to gut its provisions, reacted to a just-released poll from the Sooner Survey. The [statistically valid survey](#) of 500 Oklahomans revealed that less than 10 percent of Oklahomans think cockfighting should be legal and nearly 90 percent of voters favor the ban.



Sooners overwhelmingly oppose cockfighting. Lawmakers should, too.

Here is the statement from Wayne Pacelle, president of Animal Wellness Action:

“

Cockfighting is the very definition of barbarism and backwardness, and that's how Oklahomans from every part of the state see it.”

*Wayne Pacelle, president,
Animal Wellness Action*

“If political leaders pay heed to the views of values of Oklahomans, the debate over cockfighting ends today. Cockfighting is the very definition of barbarism and backwardness and that's how Oklahomans from every part of the state see it. The poll also reveals that voters will be harsh in their judgments of lawmakers who favor efforts to promote the crime of animal fighting and the other illicit conduct entangled with it.”

SB 2530, from Rep. Humphrey, R-Lane, provides a pathway for counties to opt out of the strong penalties in the law –

“a practical decriminalization of cockfighting” and operate cockfighting enclaves. That bill had its

title stripped in the House and got the bare minimum number of votes to keep it alive and send it to the Senate before the bill crossover date. It would have to pass both chambers to get to the governor's desk, but that prospect is extremely remote, especially now with the polling data that shows near-unanimous support for retaining the state's anti-cockfighting law.

Unfortunately, that law has been poorly enforced, and perhaps the polling data will kickstart more robust enforcement. From 2004 to 2022, there were only 29 law enforcement actions resulting in the arrest of individuals involved in cockfighting, an average of 1.75 busts a year for 76 of 77 counties in Oklahoma. (Data are not yet available from Oklahoma County.) There's not been a single arrest in most of the biggest cockfighting counties in the state, including Atoka, Coal, LeFlore, and McCurtain counties. In fact, there's not been a single arrest of anyone named in an 87-page dossier assembled by Animal Wellness Action that exposes many of the biggest cockfighters traffickers throughout Oklahoma. The data was assembled by the District Attorneys Council at the request of Oklahoma State Rep. Andy Fugate, D-94, and was obtained by Animal Wellness Action.

Earlier this year, the Center for a Humane Economy released a [comprehensive 63-page report](#) on the links between cockfighting and avian influenza and virulent Newcastle Disease. There have been 15 introductions of vND into the United States since 1950, 10 of which occurred via the illegal smuggling of game cocks across our southern border from Mexico. (Virulent Newcastle disease is endemic in Mexico and all of Latin America.) Just three of those outbreaks cost the federal government more than \$1 billion.

ABOUT

Animal Wellness Action is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) whose mission is to help animals by promoting laws and regulations at federal, state and local levels that forbid cruelty. The group champions causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife, and it advocates against dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty. To prevent cruelty, Animal Wellness Action promotes enacting good public policies and monitors the enforcement of those in place. Animal Wellness Action believes helping animals helps us all.

Center for a Humane Economy is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(3) whose mission is to help animals by helping forge a more 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. The Center believes helping animals helps us all.

WAYNE PACELLE

ANIMAL WELLNESS ACTION

+1 202-420-0446

[email us here](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/624909746>

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.

© 1995-2023 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.