

Karel Minor

From: "Karel Minor, Executive Director" <kminor@berkshumane.org>
To: <kminor@berkshumane.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 11:36 PM
Subject: Breaking News: Cockfighting Ring Raided by Humane Society of Berks County

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Humane Society of Berks County Raids Cockfighting Ring

Temple, Pennsylvania - March 10, 2009 - The Humane Society of Berks County (HSBC), the leader in animal welfare, announced that in conjunction with Muhlenberg Police it raided an illegal cockfighting ring in Temple. Acting on an anonymous tip Tuesday, Humane Society Police Officers from the HSBC verified the presence of a fighting ring and roosters at a property on Wentzel Road in Temple.



Late in the day, HSBC and Muhlenberg Police Officers jointly raided the cockfighting compound and seized 18 roosters and a variety of paraphernalia associated with cockfighting. "The Humane Society cannot begin to express its gratitude for the close cooperation of the Muhlenberg Police," said Karel Minor, executive director of the HSBC. "This kind of partnership not only helps to bring offenders to justice, it helps make Berks a safer place for people and animals."



Muhlenberg Police processed the various fighting paraphernalia as evidence and officers from the HSBC transferred the roosters to HSBC custody. The resident and owner of the birds voluntarily surrendered custody of the roosters to the HSBC. The birds will be held as evidence. Many of the birds had been "dressed", which involves the removal of the feathers on the belly and legs of the birds in a manner generally associated with fighting. Paraphernalia removed from the scene (shown) included tools and drugs often used to patch up injured birds during fights and to increase

their endurance during cock fights.

Cockfighting involves placing two roosters into a ring to fight, often with artificial spurs of metal or razor. Bets are placed on the match. "All fifty states have outlawed this so-called sport for a good reason," said Minor. "It has no place in Berks County or anywhere else." Cockfighting and other "blood sports" are felony offenses in Pennsylvania. The owners of the birds and the fighting paraphernalia face serious animal cruelty charges.



If anyone is aware of animal fighting or other forms of animal cruelty, please contact the Humane Society of Berks County at 610-921-2348 or

[report cruelty online at www.berkshumane.org](http://www.berkshumane.org).

Who Pays?

Well, we hope that the people involved in the cockfighting ring pay for their crimes. But who pays for the investigation and the care of the roosters during the case? The Humane Society of Berks County, of course.

You may not know that unlike every other type of police agency in the State, animal welfare agencies like the HSBC receive no tax dollars for our law enforcement work and we receive no share or distribution of fines and penalties. We enforce State laws at our own expense- or more specifically, **at yours**.

We rely on our donors to support our operations, including our cruelty investigations and prosecutions. Please, help us to be there for the animals by [making a donation online](#), by joining us for our [Arf's Art Auction](#), by off setting personnel costs by [volunteering your time](#), or by [donating products and services](#).

Can you imagine what kind of police department or military or schools you would have if these all relied on donations and bake sales? That's why the Humane Society of Berks County needs your help now. We never want to say, "We'd have shut down that illegal animal fighting ring, but we just didn't sell enough cupcakes this month."

Please, give now. [Give generously](#).

About Humane Society of Berks County

Founded in 1900, the Humane Society of Berks County serves all of Berks County and surrounding communities. It is an **independent**, private, non-profit organization funded through donations and service fees. In addition to enforcing Pennsylvania's animal cruelty laws for all of Berks County, the Humane Society provides adoption services, spay and neuter services, humane education, pet behavioral counseling, veterinary services to the general public, and helps stray, injured and mistreated animals. The Humane Society is located at 1801 N. 11th Street, Reading, and 1201 Ben Franklin Highway E., Douglassville.

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