

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O

For Release:
April 29, 2005

Contact: Angela de Rocha
(202) 224-5944
Stephen Myers
(202) 224-6207

SENATE PASSES BILL TO STRENGTHEN FEDERAL ANTI-COCKFIGHTING LEGISLATION

*Amplifies animal fighting regulations,
prohibits transport of cockfighting knives across state lines*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Senate on Thursday approved legislation co-sponsored by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) that provides additional clarification to animal fighting regulations by making it illegal to transport the knives and gaffs used in cockfighting in interstate commerce.

It also clarifies that crossing the borders of a tribal reservation constitutes “crossing a state line” with regard to enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act. Finally, it increases penalties for violations of this law.

“As a veterinarian, I view cockfighting as an inherently cruel, barbaric and inhumane practice,” Senator Allard said. “This legislation gives law enforcement officials even greater leverage to enforce current state and federal laws that prohibit this activity.”

The legislation amplifies an earlier bill that Senator Allard successfully added to the 2002 Farm Bill that removed a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act exempting birds from a prohibition on interstate movement of animals for the purpose of fighting. This important provision has gone a long way toward assisting state and local officials enforce the laws.

#