

Wayne Allard

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For Release:
November 15, 2001

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ALLARD COCKFIGHTING BILL ADDED TO FARM BILL LEGISLATION BANS INTERSTATE TRANSPORT OF ROOSTERS FOR COCKFIGHTING PURPOSES

Washington, D.C. – The Senate Agriculture Committee has approved language offered by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) to the Farm Bill that would amend the Animal Welfare Act to make it unlawful for the interstate transportation of roosters for the purpose of “cockfighting.”

“After more than a two year battle, we may have finally met success,” Allard said. “As a veterinarian, I view cockfighting as an inherently cruel and inhumane practice. I believe it is time to bring parity to the laws governing animal fighting and give law enforcement greater leverage to enforce current state laws.”

Allard began his effort to close the cockfighting loophole in Animal Welfare Act in early 1999. Last year, the Senate Agriculture Committee approved his legislation, but it failed to gain Senate passage. This year, he reintroduced his legislation (S. 345) with Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin. The passage of Allard’s amendment to the Farm Bill was praised by the Humane Society of the United States.

"Cockfighting is a gruesome and barbaric activity in which birds are bred for aggressive characteristics, dosed with stimulants to heighten their aggression, affixed with knives or gaffs on their legs, and placed in a pit to fight to the death," said Wayne Pacelle, senior vice president of The Humane Society of the United States. "We are enormously grateful to Senator Allard for his outstanding leadership in advancing this anti-cruelty legislation."

The legislation must still be approved by the Senate. The U.S. House of Representatives approved a similar ban on cockfighting in October when they passed the Farm Bill.

“We still need to gain final Senate approval before we can claim victory,” added Allard. “But getting this inserted into the Farm Bill is a huge step toward getting this legislation enacted this year.”

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