



Office of the

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Michael A. Ramos, San Bernardino County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DA RELEASES VIDEO TO COMBAT COCKFIGHTING IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. – The San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office released a short video today to raise attention about the increasing problem of cockfighting in San Bernardino County and the negative effects that it has on communities.

The 6-minute video spotlights the frontline efforts of Deputy District Attorney Deborah Ploghaus and Fontana Animal Control Officer Jamie Simmons to curb cockfighting.

The video also showcases undercover footage provided by the Humane Society of the United States.

Cockfighting is a criminal blood sport between two roosters (also known as cocks), that are outfitted with steel blades on their legs and forced to fight one another in a violent death match.

“One other thing that we know is that it’s not just the crime of cockfighting, but you also have the infiltration of gangs, illegal drug activity, prostitution and serious crime that is associated with this enterprise,” said San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael A. Ramos.

To further combat animal cruelty and help train prosecutors, Ramos has also partnered with the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), which recently created the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse.

“Cockfighting is illegal in all states, but is only a felony in 39 states,” said Scott Burns, Executive Director of NDAA. “Even though only a misdemeanor in California, San Bernadino County District Attorney Michael Ramos and his staff are aggressively weeding this crime out of their community. The National District Attorneys Association and our National Center for Prosecution

of Animal Abuse are proud to support their efforts in raising awareness on the seriousness of cockfighting.”

One other vital partnership that Ramos has formed is with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Ramos noted HSUS will pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a cockfighter.

“One of the ways that a society should be judged is by how they treat their animals. I truly believe that,” said Ramos. When you have a community that really cares about the abuse of animals, it means we are a good society. I want to not only ensure that we continue to hold these people responsible, but that we also teach our children the responsibilities associated with taking care of our animals.”

To view the video, visit the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E57h2egfIAg>.

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