

Lee-Animal

March 25, 1975

[REDACTED]
Pomona, Kansas 66076

Dear [REDACTED]

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of March 17th concerning H.R. 17083, legislation aimed at curbing cockfighting.

To date, there has been no legislation introduced in either the House or the Senate that would impose federal regulation on this sport. The legislation you mention in your letter was introduced during the last session of Congress, and all indications are that it will not be re-introduced this year.

Appreciate knowing your views, and will certainly keep them in mind should legislation of this nature be introduced later in this Session of Congress.

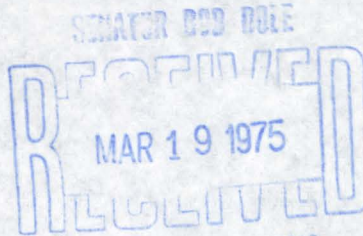
Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BD:clj

Pomona, Kansas
March 17, 1975

Senator Robert Dole
Senate Office Bldg
Washington D.C.



Dear Senator Dole;

I'm writing concerning bill H.R. 17083 (Animal Fighting Prohibition Act) and any other bills before the Senate that would hinder, damage or eliminate my beloved hobby, the ancient sport of cockfighting. Senator, under no circumstances should dog-fighting legislation be contained in the same bill as cockfighting as the two are completely separate. I know nothing of dog-fighting so must leave the dog fanciers to speak for themselves.

Thousands of people raise these noble birds and many sell them overseas by the thousands. We Gamecock fanciers also ship them to one another over the entire U.S. Any curtailment of our right to ship these birds would be a gross injustice and would impose severe hardship on those who sell these fowl. In the first place, every carrier cargo agent would have to be a poultry expert to determine which fowl were being shipped for fighting, show, or simple domestic use. To become passably proficient in determining the exact of fowl out of the thousands of breeds and cross-breeds, would require many years of study and schooling with each type of fowl. Even if such experts were employed by all carriers, mistakes and law-suits would be many. Furthermore Senator, some strictly show breeds have a pugnacious disposition, as many egg laying domestic breeds contain some "Game" blood for more strength and vitality without losing egg laying capabilities. This is just a small example of the problems that would arise if such bills are passed.

Senator Dole, with the world in chaos, starvation, wars, crisis, millions unemployed, inflation, pverty and misery, I'm appaled and more than a little alarmed in the obvious attitudes of a few of our Congressmen. These gentlemen expend their time and talents formulating these bills with little or no concern with the major problems of alleviating human suffering and misery. It's also obvious these bills by design are "sandwiched" between really important legislation to pass practically unnoticed through our Congress and Senate as unimportant and harmless with little or no investigation into its merits.

Cockfighting is our heritage as well as our other rights, such as the pursuit of happiness. Simply because it's the least understood and most maligned sport doesn't remove our "rights" to enjoy it. The charges of cruelty, brutality, and bloodiness are allegations based on heresy, false assumptions and sheer ignorance. Compared to a few of our accepted and most honored sports, Cockfighting is seen in a different light. Of all the game birds, game animals, fish and even the lowly earthworms, none have any choice but to be participants in our accepted sports. Being blasted to death, wounded and left to die slowly and painful, snatched from the waters with hooks embedded in their mouths, and worms being impaled on hooks is "sport" ? There lies the vast difference Senator, our Gamecocks DO have a choice. They can either elect to fight or not, there is no power other than God who can force or compel them to fight. And once fighting, they can discontinue at any time, again there is no forcing or compelling. The choice to participate in our sport is theirs and theirs alone. We simply provide the opportunity for them to fight under rigid enforced rules protecting each. We also use the finest blood coagulants money can provide for each cocks protection. So the allegation of "blood, guts and gore" is false. I've seen more blood in one round of boxing than I've seen in a hundred cockfights. It's true one cock will die in most cockfights. This isn't quite as harsh as it seems. These cocks accept their death rather than relinquish their courage. This "Gameness" is God given whether in a cock or human in battle.

Our fore-fathers and founders of this country recognized and cherished this trait in Gamecock and man alike. And many of our founders starting with George Washington were avid cockfighters. Abraham Lincoln reputed to have been the most sensitive and compassionate man to ever occupy the presidency, was also an avid cockfighter and cockfight referee. In fact Senator Dole, the Gamecock was defeated by only one vote in becoming our national symbol. So if cockfighting was as mercilessly cruel as some modern day people would have us beleive, I doubt if some of the most loved founders of our country would have openly participated in the sport and left diaries, letters and records of their sport. The entire list of these men is unknown, but it's quite impressive of those known to have participated freely, Henry Clay, Martin Van Buren, John Calhoun, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Floyd then the Govenor of Virginia, President Andrew Jackson kept his Gamecocks in the white house stables and fought some of them on the white house lawn !! Many illustrious men who since these times have trod the same Congressional halls and occupied the same Senatorial chambers as you do today, were avid cockfighters. In modern times most these men didn't advertise their love of the sport for fear of losing a few votes back home. Every rung on the social ladder is represented at the cockfight, and I might add their is no discriminations either to race, social standing or religeon, we are all lovers of these little feathered warriors that are the most courageous creatures on the face of the earth, that provide one of the few sports where a poor man has the same opportunities of success as a rich man.

To eliminate any chance of false impressions, let me state quite clearly I love all sports including hunting and fishing. I simply made comparisons. I'm sorry I've taken your valuable time, but one must go to some lengths to shed light where it's remained dark for so many years. A simple objection to a certain bill wouldn't have been sufficient. So Senator Dole, I feel quite confident when such bills come to you for consideration you will investigate their merit and judge accordingly. Thank you and I remain....

Si [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Pomona, Kansas
66076