

## Animals Used in Blood Sports

### Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society (EHS) does not support the use of animals in blood sports or activities which endanger animals such as dog fighting, bullfighting, cockfighting, and similar activities.

### Summary

- The welfare of animals used in blood sports is compromised, and animals used in blood spectacles may die an inhumane death.
- Blood sports negatively impact animals and society.

### Rationale

- Animals used in blood sports are forced to fight, causing injury, suffering, and death to each other.
- Animals injured in blood sports may not receive adequate veterinary care as owners may attempt to treat the injuries themselves or by an unqualified person, in order to evade reporting from a veterinarian who is mandated to do so.
- Animals may be subjected to surgical modifications or treatments that are not medically necessary and may be administered by unqualified persons, including without anesthesia. Examples include the removal of spurs and administration of steroids.
- Animals who do not perform or are of no further use for the sport can be at risk of being inhumanely killed or abandoned.
- Blood sports do not serve a useful purpose to animals that fulfills their welfare needs. While aggression between animals can occur naturally as a form of communication, blood sports are not replications of naturally occurring circumstances. The conditions that blood spectacles create (e.g., boxes for matches, human spectators, rules for fighting, breeding programs, fighting to the death) are not naturally occurring or useful for the animals involved. Furthermore, they can endanger animals.
- Blood sports are inhumane, promote insensitivity to animal suffering, enthusiasm for violence, and a lack of respect for the law.
- Blood sports and other acts of cruelty towards animals are often associated with other forms of criminal activity and interpersonal violence.
- Animal abuse and neglect are offences under the *Criminal Code of Canada* and *Animal Protection Act of Alberta*.

### References

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