

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Humane Society of the United States and Sheriff Arpaio Announce Animal Fighting Reward Program

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 3, 2009) — Calling it a “vile pastime or business” and a haven for criminals participating in illegal gambling, drugs and weapons possession, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio is joining forces with The Humane Society of the United States to help stop the illegal blood sports of dogfighting and cockfighting in Maricopa County.

At a press conference, Sheriff Arpaio and Kari Nienstedt, Arizona state director for The Humane Society of the United States, will announce that tipsters who call the sheriff’s hotline (602-876-7283) with information that leads to the arrest and conviction of a person involved in dogfighting or cockfighting will be eligible for a reward of up to \$5,000 offered by The Humane Society of the United States.

“Animal fighting is a horribly cruel practice and anyone who participates in it should pay a price for their crime,” Sheriff Arpaio says. “In Maricopa County that means jail time.”

Earlier this year Arpaio met with members of the The Humane Society of the United States and they discussed the abhorrent spectacles in which animals were pitted in bloody duels — often to the death — for human entertainment.

“Cockfighting and dogfighting are undeniably cruel blood sports,” Nienstedt says. “Sheriff Arpaio’s enthusiasm for bringing those who commit animal cruelty to justice makes him a great ally to have in the battle against animal fighting criminals.”

At the scheduled 2 p.m. press conference, the Sheriff and Nienstedt will discuss how individuals can detect the signs of animal fighting in their neighborhoods. . A number of dogs and puppies will also be displayed in order to highlight the typical victims of dogfighting.

The press conference will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 2 p.m. at the Sheriff’s Dog Park, on top of the First Avenue Jail, 120 South 1st Avenue. The First Avenue Jail is the facility that houses the Sheriff’s MASH unit, where dogs and cats who have been abused or neglected and confiscated from their owners are housed and cared for by female inmates.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

