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OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
United States Department of Agriculture



September 12, 2023

Subject: Log No. 22-00074

This letter responds to the January 20, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)¹ appeal to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of Agriculture (USDA). On appeal, Inspector General Fong granted a portion of your appeal and remanded your request to FOIA staff for further processing. FOIA staff received the remanded request on March 1, 2022, and assigned it FOIA Log No. 22-00074. You requested copies of the final report, report of investigation (ROI), closing report, closing memo, closing letter, referral memo, referral letter and any other conclusory document regarding the USDA OIG investigations listed in your request.

We are enclosing 62 pages of responsive records. Pursuant to FOIA, certain information has been redacted and withheld as it is exempt from release. Specifically, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) and (b)(7)(C), the names, signatures, initials, and other identifying information of individuals were withheld because release of this information could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Exemption 6 protects information about individuals in personnel and medical files and similar files when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Exemption 7(C) is limited to information compiled for law enforcement purposes, and protects personal information when disclosure could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Information which was provided by an agricultural producer or owner of agricultural land in order to participate in a USDA program was withheld under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3). Finally, content pertaining to the attorney-client privilege was withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5).

We have enclosed an explanatory sheet of FOIA exemption explanations. Please be advised that we have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying FOIA exemptions.

You have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Whitten Building, Suite 441-E, Washington, D.C. 20250-2308. Appeals must be postmarked or transmitted by email no later than 90 calendar days from the date of the adverse determination. The outside of the envelope should be clearly marked "FOIA APPEAL."

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. 552(c)

(2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You have the right to seek the assistance of the OIG FOIA Public Liaison. You can also seek dispute resolution services from the OIG FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS).

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, OGIS was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS' services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974.

You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
{OGIS} 8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Phone: (202) 741-5770
Fax: (202) 741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>

For information about OIG, please refer to our Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/oig/>. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office at (202) 720-5677.

Sincerely,

ALISON DECKER  Digitally signed by
ALISON DECKER
Date: 2023.09.12
12:26:02 -04'00'

Alison Decker
Assistant Counsel

Enclosures: Exemptions sheet/documents



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: CH-3320-0004

DATE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Act Violations

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

DONALD E. MEEKS
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS
1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
1-File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) violated the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) by exhibiting animals without a license and provided false information on (b)(6) US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) applications for a license. The investigation found that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) exhibited animals without a license on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) filed false statements on applications for APHIS licenses (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) denied providing false information on (b)(6) APHIS applications (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

BACKGROUND

This case began after the U.S. Attorney's Office, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) requested that the USDA Office of the Inspector General investigate (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) activities following their receipt of a letter from the USDA Office of the General Counsel (OGC) alleging violations of the AWA by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and the animals (b)(6) exhibits as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) are located in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is located in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) all of which are located in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

FALSE STATEMENTS – 18 U.S.C. 1001
MAIL FRAUD – 18 U.S.C. 1341

A review of records maintained by APHIS showed that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was the owner of record for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) On (b)(6); Federal applications (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) APHIS (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibits 1-7) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) (Exhibit 8). (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) (Exhibit 7) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) sent a letter dated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) via facsimile to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) APHIS, USDA, stating that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 9). These forms are pre printed by APHIS and sent to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(3); Sect 1619 2008 (Farm Bill) the application was correct. A review of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) applications shows that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) application.

The applications for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) from the year (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were filed by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) listing a Social Security Number of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) This number is registered to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 10), (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Social Security Number is (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 11). It is notable that an Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Tax Identification Number (TIN) has the same number of digits but would be in the format (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). This number was also researched, and no such valid number was found.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) told the Reporting Agent (Exhibit 12) that the number (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) listed on the applications was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); however, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) but that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) received no benefit (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) let (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) advised that the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) applications containing false statements were (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) APHIS office to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) APHIS office via (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) advised that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were not kept.

ANIMAL WELFARE ACT - 7 U.S.C. 2134

Exhibiting without a license

The (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) applications filed by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were for the years (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and only the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) application was denied by APHIS. The (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) applications (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibits 1-6) were approved because APHIS was not aware of the false information on the application. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) applications (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the false information. On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) submitted (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) license renewal application (Exhibit 7), which was received by APHIS on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). This application (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and, on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) sent (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a letter (Exhibit 13) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for the renewal of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) license. On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) another letter (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 14) informing (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) license application.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) where (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) planned to exhibit (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) APHIS, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) APHIS, interviewed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who told the APHIS officials that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) from the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) property when (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to be exhibited. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) also met with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who stated that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) because (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) USDA license (Exhibit 15).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) letter was sent to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) by APHIS (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a valid license to exhibit animals (Exhibit 16).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was found exhibiting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) spoke with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and stated that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the exhibiter; however, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) ownership of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) then admitted that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) belonged to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) outside were also owned by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) observed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) accepting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) prepared a report regarding their inspection (Exhibit 17).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) When (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) arrived to view the exhibit, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) told them that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) license. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) but not with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) inspected the animals and generated an inspection report of the violations found (Exhibit 18).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) exhibited (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) animals at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) again stated to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and said that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) again stated that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) inspected the animals and told (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) license. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) filed a memorandum documenting their inspection (Exhibit 19) and an inspection report (Exhibit 20).

Agent's Note: Videotapes were made by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the inspections on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) which will be made available upon request.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) went to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) which is a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) owned and operated by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) telephonically spoke to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and told (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was needed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) animals. An inspection report was made by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 21).

On the evening of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) An (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was prepared by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 22) and a receipt was generated (Exhibit 23).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and
observed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) spoke with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) via telephone, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) told (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) APHIS license (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) prepared a report (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
inspection (Exhibit 24) showing that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) exhibiting
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) without a license.

The facts of this investigation were presented to an Assistant United States Attorney,
Northern District (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who agreed to prosecute this matter.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER:	Ch-3330-0005	DATE:	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
TITLE:	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)		
CASE TYPE:	Animal Welfare Violations/Dog Fighting		

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

JOE N. SMITH

Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS
1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
1-File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was involved in animal fighting in the area of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). During this investigation, several attempts were made to engage (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) regarding animal fighting, however, this investigation was unable to prove that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was actively involved in animal fighting.

This case is being closed in the files of this office pending the issuance of this report.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: Ch-3330-0012

DATE: APR 12 2010

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Indiana

Title Continues

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations/Cockfighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

JOE N. SMITH

Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS
- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1-File

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Ch-3330-0012

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) **IN**

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) **IN**

SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if cockfighting was occurring at a residence located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Indiana. The investigation found that several individuals were cockfighting at the location. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of these individuals were arrested and prosecuted on charges of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) animal fighting, and possession of animal fighting paraphernalia.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

PROMOTING ANIMAL FIGHTING CONTEST –
ICC 35-46-3-9.5

POSSESSION OF ANIMAL FOR FIGHTING – ICC 35-46-3-8

POSSESSION OF ANIMAL FIGHTING PARAPHERNALIA – ICC 35-46-3-8.5

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the Reporting Agent (RA) was contacted by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Police Department (b)(6) PD) regarding possible cockfighting activity at a residence located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Indiana. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated (Exhibit 1) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had visited the property (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds for fighting.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a search warrant was served at the above referenced location. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds were seized, along with cockfighting paraphernalia. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) cockfighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were also seized.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted (Exhibit 2) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) currently owns (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) purchased (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Indiana. The birds were obtained (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) owns. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) acknowledged the fighting paraphernalia was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) but said that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) does not fight birds.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted (Exhibit 3) that all the birds at the residence belonged to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said the birds are not used for fighting.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted (Exhibit 4) that all the birds at the residence belonged to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) paid between (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for each bird. All the birds were purchased (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of each bird (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the bird's (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) advised that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) attends cockfights in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) but (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) does not participate.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were arrested.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were charged with possession of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) animal fighting, and possession of animal fighting paraphernalia. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was charged with animal fighting and possession of animal fighting paraphernalia (Exhibit 5).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) both pleaded guilty to Possession of an Animal for Fighting. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) incarceration (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) suspended) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) probation. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) incarceration (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) days suspended) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) probation.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Promoting an Animal Fighting Contest, Possession of an Animal for Fighting Contest, and Possession of Animal Fighting Paraphernalia. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) incarceration (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years suspended) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) probation.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: CH-3330-0013	DATE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
TITLE: Animal Fighting Task Force (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	
CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations/Dog Fighting	

SPECIAL AGENT: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY: (b)(6)
 JOE N. SMITH
 Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services, APHIS
- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1-File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if dog fighting and/or bird fighting was occurring in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

The investigation, which was conducted jointly with the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Police Department (b)(6) PD), has identified an (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who is (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds for the purpose of fighting and is also involved in the fighting of birds. The investigation also found a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) where bird fighting is occurring. Future work on this part of the investigation will be conducted under OIG case number Ch-3330-0021.

This investigation also resulted in the service of a search warrant and the subsequent arrest of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) individuals on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for their participation in a dog fight. Charges have been filed in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and trail dates are pending. Future work on this part of the investigation will also be conducted under OIG case number Ch-3330-0022.

* * * * *



**United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois**



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: Ch-3330-0014

DATE: NOV 16 2009

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6);
(b)(7)(C)

Michigan

Title Continues

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations/Dog Fighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b) (6)

For **JOE N. SMITH**
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS
1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
1-File

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Ch-3330-0014

TITLE CONTINUED:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) MI

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) MI

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) MI

SYNOPSIS

Investigation conducted under the Michigan Dog Fighting Survey (Ch-3330-0007) has identified numerous suspected dog fighting subjects and people of interest for sponsoring and promoting dog fighting.

In [REDACTED] the USDA-OIG along with state and local agencies, initiated an investigation concerning allegations of organized dog fighting in [REDACTED]. This investigation was known as [REDACTED].

Agents of USDA-OIG along with [REDACTED] County Animal Control and the [REDACTED] County Prosecutors Office, developed an informant [REDACTED].

The six month investigation into [REDACTED] resulted in numerous undercover operations to include the purchase of a fighting dog and participation in a dog fighting match. The investigation revealed an extensive underground dog fighting and gambling organization operating in [REDACTED] which fought American Pit Bull Terrier (APBT) dogs.

CONSPIRACY TO SPONSOR AND PROMOTE AN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE – 7 U.S.C. SECTION 2156; 18 U.S.C. SECTION 371

BUYING, SELLING, DELIVERING, OR TRANSPORTING ANIMALS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE – 7 U.S.C. SECTION 2156(b)

SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE – 7 U.S.C. SECTION 2156(a)

PROMOTING AN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE – 7 U.S.C. SECTION 2156(c)

On [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] individual working under the direction of Reporting Agent (RA). [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On [REDACTED] an individual working under the direction of RA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) an individual working under the direction of RA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); State of Michigan issued search warrants were served simultaneously on the residences of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); Evidence of animal fighting was obtained at all (b)(6); locations to include the seizure of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) American Pit Bull Terriers. Interviews were conducted on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 1) and (b)(6); (Exhibit 2) at their respective residences. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was also interviewed (Exhibit 3) at (b)(6); place of residence. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was subsequently (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed (Exhibit 4) at the (b)(6); County Jail in (b)(6); Michigan. Prior to the interview, (b)(6); was advised of (b)(6) Miranda Rights which (b)(6) waived both verbally and in writing (Exhibit 5). Following the interview, (b)(6); gave a signed sworn statement (Exhibit 6) of (b)(6) account of the circumstances surrounding this case.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); were indicted before a Federal Grand Jury in the Eastern District of Michigan (Exhibit 7). Subsequent federal arrest warrants were issued for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for the above listed charges.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) plead guilty before U.S. District Judge (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Eastern District of Michigan, to all counts listed in the indictment.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) plead guilty before U.S. District Judge (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Eastern District of Michigan, to all counts listed in the indictment.

Sentencing for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is scheduled for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Sentencing for (b)(6); is scheduled for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Subsequent to the defendant's plea agreement, the American Pit Bull Terriers seized in this case have been forfeited to the government. Final decision of the American Pit Bull Terriers is forthcoming pending a final veterinary review and evaluation.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: Ch-3330-0015

DATE: NOV 10 2010

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan

Title Continues

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations/Dog Fighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

JOE N. SMITH

Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS
- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1-File

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Ch-3330-0015

TITLE CONTINUED:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan

SYNOPSIS

Our investigation conducted under the Michigan Dog Fighting Survey (Ch-3330-0007) identified numerous individuals suspected of dog fighting in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan area.

In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, investigations along with state and local agencies, initiated an investigation concerning (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Ch-3330-0015).

USDA-OIG agents along with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Animal Control and the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Prosecutors Office developed a Confidential Informant (CI) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D)

The investigation of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) ultimately resulted in a cooperating witness attending a dog fighting match in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan.

In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) state warrants were issued for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence. During the search warrant at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence, several dog fighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) training equipment, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was seized.

MCL 740.49a PROMOTING ANIMAL FIGHTING MCL 750.49b ATTENDING AN ANIMAL FIGHT

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) an individual working under the direction of Reporting Agent (RA) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) Michigan. At this location, our CI (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D)

Agent's Note: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) are the subjects of a separate dog fighting investigation (Ch-3330-0014).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) an arrest warrant was issued for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and a search warrant was also issued for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence. Evidence of a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and animal fighting were obtained at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence (Exhibit 1) which included (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fighting dogs, and dog fighting paraphernalia.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) an arrest warrant was issued for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) During the arrest of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Animal Control seized (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fighting dogs from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 2) plead guilty in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Circuit Court to attending an animal fight and additional animal fighting counts listed in the information.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 3) plead guilty in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Circuit Court to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) count of animal fighting.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 4 & 5) were sentenced in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Judicial Circuit Court, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Michigan, by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Circuit Court (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) supervision (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) probation, and fines of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Jail, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) probation, and fines of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Subsequent to the defendant's sentencing, the dogs seized in this case were forfeited to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Animal Control.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: CH-3330-0016

DATE: DEC 21 2010

TITLE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Animal Fighting Task Force
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Illinois

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations/Animal Fighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

JOE N. SMITH
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services, APHIS
1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
1-File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation, which was conducted jointly with the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Sheriff's Office ((b) CSO), identified a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Illinois where bird fighting took place.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) USDA OIG Agents (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) assisted in the raid of a cockfight in progress which was staged at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Illinois. Approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) people were (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to attend the cockfight, but most were able to flee prior to law enforcement's arrival. The (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the property was charged with unlawful (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and making a site available for animal fighting. Both of these state charges are felonies. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) other people apprehended by law enforcement officers were arrested on state felony charges of attending an animal fight. Several items were seized, including (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) syringes, and metal claws used by birds while fighting. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds were euthanized on site.

There are no further investigative leads in this matter.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: Ch-3330-0017	DATE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
TITLE:	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations/Dog Fighting	

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

JOE N. SMITH
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS
- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1-File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was developed through the Michigan Dog Fighting Survey (Ch-3330-0007), and identified a suspected dog fighter and breeder of fighting dogs in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan.

This investigation disclosed that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) possessed, bought, sold, and bred Pit Bull dogs for fighting purposes in which gambling took place on organized matches.

In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) USDA-OIG personnel along with state and local agency personnel executed a state search warrant at the residence of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan. Evidence obtained in this search warrant consisted of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Pit Bull dogs bearing fighting scars. Further evidence obtained consisted of dog fighting publications, dog fighting rules, contracts for dog fighting matches, photographs, and electronic media.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a state arrest warrant was issued for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for animal fighting and cruelty to animals.

MCL 750.49-A ANIMALS - FIGHTING
MCL 750.49-C ANIMALS – FIGHTING ANIMALS/EQUIPMENT
MCL 750.504C ANIMALS – ABANDONING/CRUELTY TO 4-10 ANIMALS

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) contacted the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Animal Control and advised that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was engaged in animal fighting and treating (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dogs inhumanely. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dogs on the property that were used for fighting purposes. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fought dogs on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at an unknown location. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) law enforcement personnel to conduct a search of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) property (Exhibit 1) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan.

Continuing on this date, USDA-OIG agents along with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Animal Control personnel responded to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Upon arrival, Agents found nobody at the residence; however, approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Pit Bull dogs were chained up (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the house. The dogs were chained up (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the maintenance of fighting dogs.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) USDA-OIG agents interviewed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 2) at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dogs that had (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) address. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dogs (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and would routinely (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) has (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the house. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) further stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) refused to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
 (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a state search warrant was executed at the residence of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan. Evidence obtained in the search consisted on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Pit Bull dogs, bearing scars and marks consistent of fighting dogs. Further evidence obtained consisted of dog fighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Pit Bull registration certificates (Exhibit 5) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 6), dog fighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) associated with dog fighting. A (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was seized (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Exhibit 7) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) A photo log was created and all evidence seized was photographed in place (Exhibit 8). A copy of the warrant and items seized (Exhibit 9) was left at the residence.

Continuing on this date, agents went to the residence of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan. According to reports from witnesses (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was seen at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) from the house and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) received a call from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) advising (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) works (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) turned (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) law enforcement arriving with a search warrant. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the following day.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) conducted an exam of the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dogs seized from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) provided a report (Exhibit 10) which included pictures of the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dogs in their current condition.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a state search warrant was issued for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) computers turned over to law enforcement (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) The computers were sent to the OIG-National Computer Forensic Division for examination.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was re-interviewed by reporting agent as to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) previous statements. A Sworn Statement (Exhibit 11) was completed and signed by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a state arrest warrant was issued for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) counts of animal fighting and cruelty.

This case has been accepted for prosecution by the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Prosecutors Office.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER:	Ch-3330-0018	DATE:	APR 18 2011
TITLE:	<div>(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)</div> <div>(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan</div>		
CASE TYPE:	Animal Welfare Violations/Dog Fighting		

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

JOE N. SMITH
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services, APHIS
- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1-File

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SYNOPSIS

An investigation conducted under the Michigan Dog Fighting Survey (Ch-3330-0007) has identified a suspected dog fighter and breeder of fighting dogs in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan.

This investigation disclosed that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) did possess, buy, sell, and breed Pit Bull dogs for the use of fighting purposes in organized matches.

In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the USDA-OIG along with state and local agencies, executed a state search warrant at the residence of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan. Evidence obtained in this search warrant consisted of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Pit Bull dogs bearing scars indicative of dog fighting which were chained in a manner consistent with fighting dogs. Further evidence obtained consisted of dog fighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dog fighting rules, dog fighting training equipment, photographs, and electronic media.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was arrested on charges of animal fighting and possession of fighting dogs in violation of Michigan penal code MCL 750.49.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled guilty to breeding/selling of fighting dogs and distribution of a controlled substance.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to prison for a term of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years for a controlled substance charge, and a term of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years for an animal fighting charge.

MCL 750.49-A ANIMALS - FIGHTING **MCL 750.49-C ANIMALS – FIGHTING ANIMALS/EQUIPMENT**

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Sheriff's Department conducted a consent search at the residence of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan, relating to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) investigation. Details of the consent search were later provided to the Michigan State Police (MSP).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Reporting Agent (RA) was contacted by MSP personnel regarding a suspected dog fighter in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Michigan, who had been identified through (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) investigation. The individual, who was identified as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had Pit Bull dogs at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence and what appeared to be training equipment for those dogs. Dogs at the residence were controlled with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and were (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Continuing on this date, RA contacted (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and requested (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) assistance with a possible search warrant at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) advised (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was available and would send law enforcement personnel in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) any available dog fighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a search warrant was executed at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence. Evidence obtained in the search consisted of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Pit Bull dogs, some of which bore scars and marks consistent with dog fighting. A Dog Addendum (Exhibit 1) and sketch (Exhibit 2) showing the location of each dog was completed by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). Further evidence obtained included a medical kit containing various medical supplies, vitamins, and wound treatments. A photograph (Exhibit 3) depicting the medical supplies was later taken. Further evidence included dog fighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 4) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 5). All evidence seized was noted on a search warrant Return and Tabulation (Exhibit 6) and a copy was left at the residence.

Continuing on this date, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was arrested by Michigan State Police for possession of fighting animals (MCL 750.49a) and possession of animal fighting equipment (MCL 750.49c).

Continuing on this date, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) completed a report (Exhibit 7) documenting the seizure of the dogs.

PROSECUTION

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled guilty to possession of animal fighting equipment (MCL 750.49c) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Circuit Court in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County for a term of incarceration of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years for violation of MCL 750.49c (Animal Fighting) and a term of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

* * * * *



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL - INVESTIGATIONS
Southwest Region
Temple, TX



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER:	KC-3330-0005	DATE: October 4, 2011
TITLE:	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Illinois (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	
CASE TYPE:	Perjury	

SPECIAL AGENT: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

ABELINO FARIAS, JR.
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Business Services, APHIS (Liaison Officer), Washington
- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG, Washington
- 1-Special Agent-in-Charge, Temple

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This investigation was conducted to determine whether [REDACTED] Illinois, committed perjury when submitting financial information to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois, during [REDACTED] initial appearance after being charged in a conspiracy to commit unlawful activities of dog fighting.

(Exhibit 1) is a Sentencing Judgment that shows [REDACTED] pled guilty to an indictment charging perjury, and was sentenced to [REDACTED] in prison and ordered to pay a [REDACTED]. The prison term for the perjury charge was ordered to be served consecutively with the prison term of [REDACTED] on the conspiracy charge to commit the unlawful activities of dog fighting (KC-3330-0004, [REDACTED]).

Due to disclosure restrictions, additional information can not be presented in this report.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Western Region
San Francisco, California



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: SF-3330-0009

DATE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

California

"TITLE CONTINUES"

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations - Cockfighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

LORI CHAN

Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

1-Deputy Administrator, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS

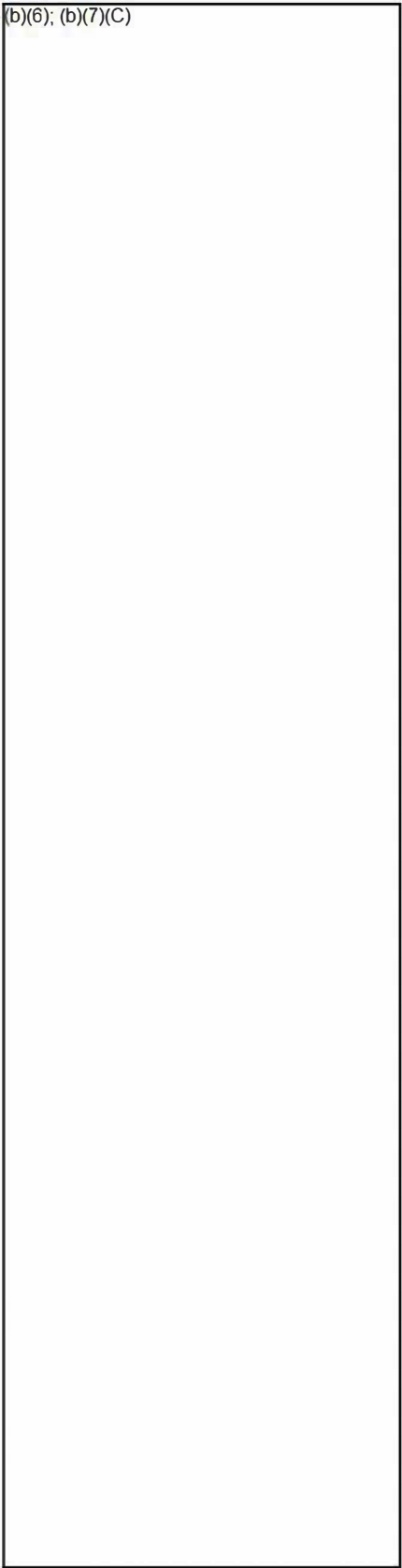
1-AIG for Investigations, OIG

1-File

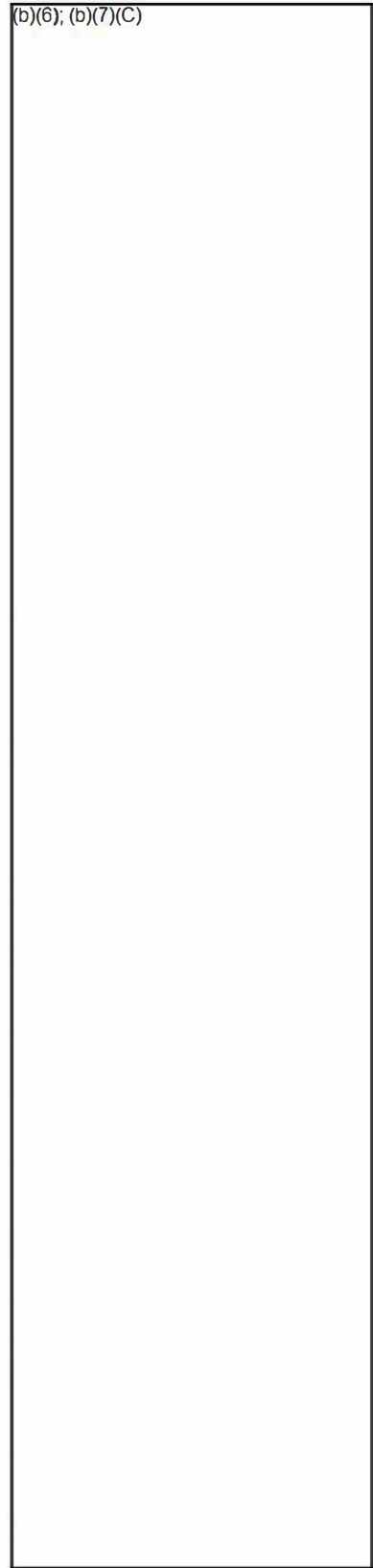
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TITLE CONTINUED

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

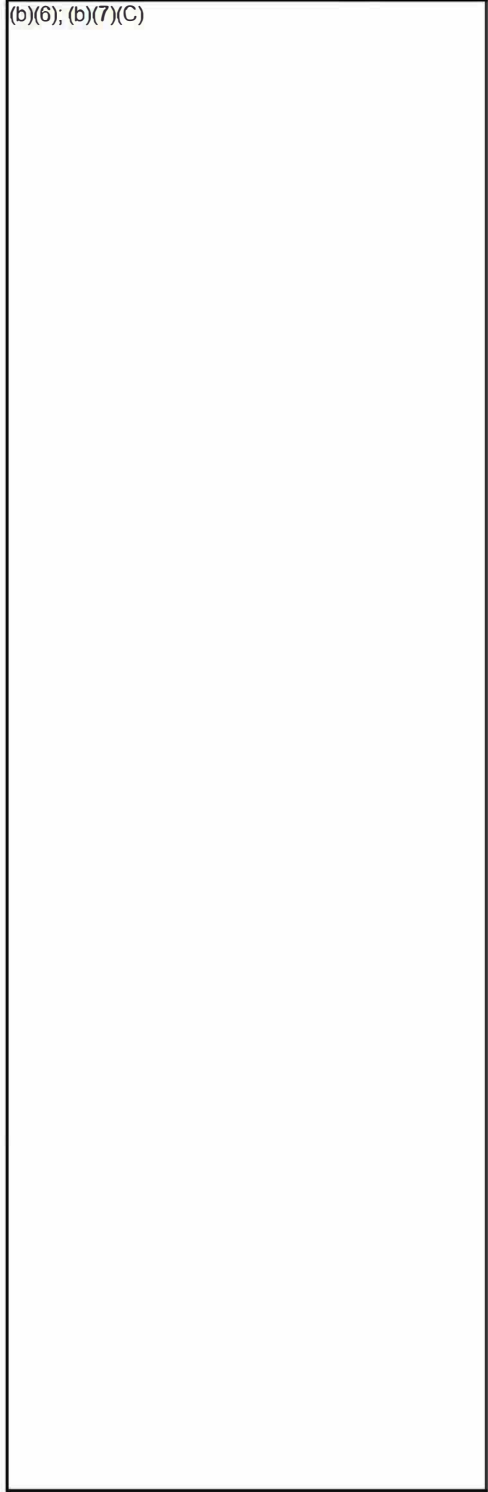


(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

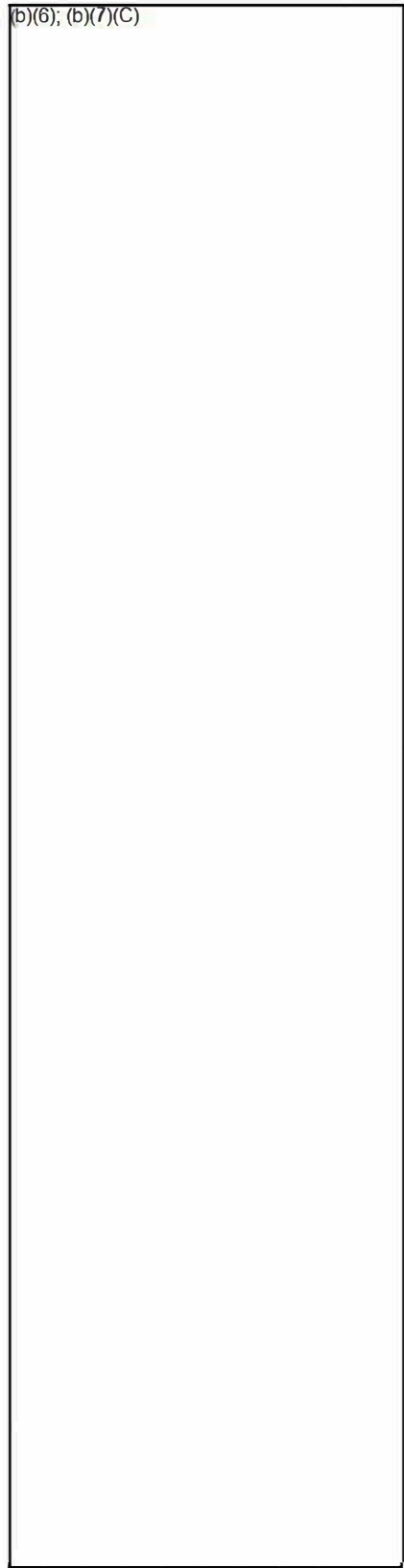


TITLE CONTINUED

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

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(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if various individuals violated the Animal Welfare Act by raising, training, and fighting gamecocks. [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] persons were cited for misdemeanor violations of California Penal Code 597, in addition, [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] of those were cited for felony violations of California Penal Code 182. Ultimately, a number of these individuals were successfully prosecuted.

BACKGROUND

[b)(6); (b)(7)(C)]

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

DETAILS

SECTION 182 CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE - CONSPIRACYSECTION 597 CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE – ANIMAL CRUELTY

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Department of Animal Services, Officer
 (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) provided the following information in substance:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was investigating multiple suspects for violations involving cockfighting, and after (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) surveillance, it was determined that these individuals were raising, training, and fighting gamecocks at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) properties (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). The property addresses were (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) location was the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) property which was approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in size and contained a cockfighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). Within the cockfighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Each (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). The estimated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). Most had (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

There was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) about a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) which contained (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). Suspects have been identified (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) location that also (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) over (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) cockfights (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) identified approximately (b)(6); suspects/owners that can be cited or arrested. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) obtained the suspects home addresses, photos, vehicle information, and phone numbers. Some of the suspects have already been convicted of cockfighting charges and may face felony or enhanced misdemeanors. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Other agencies involved in the investigation were the County of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Animal Services, District Attorney's Office, the City Attorney who will be present to cite the property owner for code violations and serve an order for removal of all structures. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Humane Society, the Humane Society of the United States, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Police Department, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and other agencies.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) search warrants were executed at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 1), and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 2). Additionally, multiple search warrants were executed to include but not limited to the homes of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 3), (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 4) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 5), (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 6), (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 7), (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 8), (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 9), and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 10). Numerous individuals were issued citations. Most of the individuals relinquished ownership of their birds, which were euthanized.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed and voluntarily provided the following information, in substance (Exhibit 11):

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) has (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the day of the warrant and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Animal Services. When (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the (b)(6); location, Animal Services provided (b)(6); with a waiver to euthanize (b)(6); roosters (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had (b)(6); roosters (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) maintained (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) location where (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) since (b)(6); knows (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) month on feed and purchases it from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on medicines. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

AGENT'S NOTE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was shown (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) provided by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 12) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) obtained by Animal Services (Exhibit 13).

In reference to the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) related (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) exclusively and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) maintained (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) between (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the property (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was owned by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) knew what (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) maintained (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) considered (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and it was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) roosters had (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) but (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) purchased them (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) purchased those roosters from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) no further information given.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted shipping the birds (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Initially, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the birds. According to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) them and does not fight them.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds are (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and provided (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) contact numbers (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) drives a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the birds at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) location. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) provided the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

After the warrant, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) called (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that was taking place between (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (No further information given) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) claimed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) never sparred or fought (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) roosters, and did not (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) spar or fight birds at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) location. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) been to a cockfight anywhere (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed and voluntarily provided the following information, in substance (Exhibit 14):

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and many of the people at the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) currently (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) also volunteers at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

The day of the warrant (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the roosters had been euthanized, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) when (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) called (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the warrant. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) asked (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and told (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the

birds were dead and that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) as a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) has known (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) since (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) after (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Officer (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) instructed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and when (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Animal Services (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to owning (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) roosters (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) location. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) known only to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) introduced (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at that location since approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the property and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) approximate (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) receive a receipt. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) purchased the feed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the feed by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) did not use (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) along with approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

The birds (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) raised had (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) did admit to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) liked snarring the birds and did so approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) location. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) knew fighting the birds was illegal, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) It was a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

AGENT'S NOTE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was shown the pictures taken from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and of the evidence obtained during the search warrant at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to include a picture of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) sparring birds (Exhibit 15).

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to sparring birds with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and identified (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) as the person (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) as the person (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) The birds were sparred using (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) through (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is when they spar the birds. The birds do not spar (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) because they (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

AGENT'S NOTE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was shown (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) provided by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) obtained by Animal Services.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) related that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) identified (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on the Animal Services (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) There were approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) No Last Name Given (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) No Last Name Given (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) provided (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) cell number as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) cell number as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) claimed that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds and that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) picks up the birds. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) has (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) has seen (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed and voluntarily provided the following information, in substance (Exhibit 16):

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) held the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) has worked for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) worked at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) as a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and is responsible for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) related (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is owned by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) did not suspect the property was under investigation and no one told (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) it was.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was cited by Officers (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) counts of fighting birds and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) counts of possession of owning fighting birds.

AGENT'S NOTE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was shown an (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) obtained from Animal Services.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) indicated and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) since (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) by check and made the checks out to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) but was not given a receipt. Approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the property (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) knew (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) spent approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on feed, which (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) purchased from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) very (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) supplies.

This was the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds in the United States. All the birds (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) transferred (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) roosters (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of which (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Currently, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) has these birds located in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

When (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) own (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to care for the birds. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) did not pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to care for the birds and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the birds. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to care for the birds.

Most of the birds (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) owned had their (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) The ones that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that way. The roosters (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) because they would fight, but not because (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) The birds are (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) The breeds of birds (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) owned were (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fight the birds and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) spar birds. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
 (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fights birds (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had about (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
 (b)(6) had cages with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) knows fighting birds in the United States is
 illegal, but (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds anywhere and does not know (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
 (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) are beneath (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) associated with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
 (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
 (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

The name (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) refers to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and
 (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) declined to be interviewed.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) District Attorney's Office has accepted this case for prosecution. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
 persons were cited for misdemeanor violations of California Penal Code 597, in addition,
 (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were cited for felony violations of California Penal Code 182. Ultimately, a
 number of these individuals were successfully prosecuted.



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Western Region
San Francisco, California



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: SF- SF-3330-0016

DATE: JAN 24 2011

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

California

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

County

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations - Cockfighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6)

APPROVED BY: ✓ LORI CHAN

Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

- 1 – Director, Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS
- 1 – AIG for Investigations, OIG
- 1 – File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was opened to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) sold and shipped fighting roosters to other states and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). The investigation resulted in a search warrant that was executed in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). Contraband and other cockfighting items were seized during the warrant. In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and co-defendant (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled no contest to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) count of California Penal Code Section 597i, Possession of Animal Fighting Instruments.

BACKGROUND**The Animal Welfare Act Provisions on Animal Fighting**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has general enforcement responsibility for the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Among many other provisions, the AWA prohibits individuals from sponsoring or exhibiting an animal in a fighting venture, such as dog or cockfighting, if the animal was transported across State lines or in foreign commerce for that purpose. The law prohibits selling, buying, transporting, or delivering an animal in interstate or foreign commerce for animal fighting. Cockfighting and dogfighting is illegal in all states.

DETAILS

TITLE 7 UNITED STATES CODE 2156(b)
BUYING, SELLING, DELIVERING, POSSESSING, TRAINING, OR TRANSPORTING
ANIMALS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE

CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 597i(a)
PROBABLE CAUSE, POSSESSION AND TRAINING OF A BIRD FOR A FIGHTING
EXHIBITION

CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SECTION 597i
UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF COCKFIGHTING INSTRUMENTS

In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C), the USDA, Office of Inspector General (OIG), received information from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Sheriff's Deputy (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) address, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California (CA), was listed in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) cockfighting websites, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). The websites mentioned that fighting birds (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C).

In Deputy (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) investigative report (Exhibit 1), Deputy (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) link showed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) roosters (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). Another (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) showed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) rooster (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). Based on Deputy (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) training and experience, these were indicative of cockfighting.

In a website addressed as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Deputy (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) discovered an (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). A contributor (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) attached to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) also mentioned that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fighting cocks (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) contributor (b)(6); (b)(7)(C).

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
contributor later (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

AGENT'S NOTE: Sparring is a brief fighting match between roosters to see if they are game enough, or have the tendency to fight, before they are purchased. Sparring is accomplished with the roosters fitted with rubber boxing boots.

A review of another (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) revealed that a contributor, known as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) mentioned (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) spar roosters (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in the same (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fighting implement used in cockfighting, and the roosters (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Surveillance and additional investigation revealed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) California. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Deputy (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) witnessed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) as well as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) roosters. Deputy (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) estimated that there were at least (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) birds at the search warrant site spread (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

AGENT'S NOTE: Roosters (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the OIG, the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Sheriff's Department and the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Animal Services Department executed a search warrant at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) CA. Evidence obtained at the site included (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pertaining to cockfighting. Animal Services handled the roosters and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) found at the property.

During the search, recent receipts for payments to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) CA were discovered. A telephonic warrant to search (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) site was subsequently obtained. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were taken from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

This investigation was presented to the United States Attorney's Office in the Central Judicial District of California, however, the case was declined for prosecution due (b)(5)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a misdemeanor complaint was filed against (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) charging them with (b)(6) counts of Penal Code Section 597j(a), Possession of a Bird/Animal for Fighting.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pleaded no contest to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) count of Penal Code 597i, Unlawful Possession of Cockfighting Instruments. Each defendant was ordered to serve (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years probation, destroy all contraband, pay a fine and reduce their number of roosters to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Western Region
San Francisco, California



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: SF-3330-0023

DATE: JAN 20 2011

TITLE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) California

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations - Cockfighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6)

APPROVED BY:

LORI CHAN

Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

1-Deputy Administrator, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS

1-AIG for Investigations, OIG

1-Files

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DETAILS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) violated the Animal Welfare Act by attempting to smuggle gamecocks across the international border with the Republic of Mexico for participation in an animal fighting venture in violation of 7 USC 2156 and 18 USC 554.

According to CBP records, on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) entered the US via the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Port of Entry (POE) at approximately (b)(6); in a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) license plate (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). During entry, the CBP Officer stationed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) noticed something unusual about the (b)(6); and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C).

According to the CBP report prepared by Officer (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 1), on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at approximately (b)(6); Officer (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) at the (b)(6); POE. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) attempting to exit the US and enter Mexico alerted (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the vehicle. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stopped (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and asked if (b)(6); had anything to declare or if (b)(6); was transporting anything from the US to Mexico. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) stated "No." (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) immediately located a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with feathers and claws protruding out. (b)(6); placed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in restraints and escorted (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to the Security Office.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) informed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) belonged to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) but did not provide a name and said (b)(6); was paid (b)(6); pesos per bird to smuggle them into (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said the person who coordinated the operation was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who contacted (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) by radio and instructed (b)(6); to go to the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to pick up the birds, and transport them to the (b)(6); in (b)(6); to meet with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). (b)(6); received (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the money when picking up the birds and was due to receive (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on delivery. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); person, and stated the money was payment for the attempted bird smuggling.

Upon further inspection, the hidden compartment contained (b)(6); birds; (b)(6); roosters and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) USDA Veterinary Services eventually removed the (b)(6); birds, of which (b)(6); roosters were deceased.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the facts associated with this investigation were discussed with an Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of California, San Diego, CA, who accepted it for prosecution. Special Agent (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (SA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)) subsequently performed a warrantless arrest of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a criminal complaint was filed.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a Federal Grand Jury for the Southern District of California, San Diego, California, indicted (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in a (b)(6); count indictment charging (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with smuggling gamecocks across the international border with the Republic of Mexico for participation in an animal fighting venture, in violation of 7 USC 2156 and 18 USC 554.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a (b)(6); count superseding indictment was filed on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) charging (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with smuggling gamecocks across the international border with the Republic of Mexico for participation in an animal fighting venture in violation of 7 USC 2156 and 18 USC 554 supported by 9 CFR 91.4 and 71.1, and False Statements in violation of 18 USC 1001.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled guilty to unlawful exportation of wildlife in violation of the Lacey Act 16 USC 3372 and 3373.



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Western Region
San Francisco, California



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: SF-3330-0026

DATE: NOV 01 2011

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) CA

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations - Cockfighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

VORI CHAN
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

1-Deputy Administrator, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS
1-AIG for Investigations, OIG
1-Files

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DETAILS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) violated California Penal Code 597 – Possession of Cocks for Fighting.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Department of Animal Services, Officer (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) informed United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) that Animal Services Officer (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was investigating a suspect for violations involving cockfighting. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) animal fighting warrants were being served on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and that the subject of the warrants was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) further stated that the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) warrant was being served on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) CA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) where (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) breeds and trains the gamecocks and that the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) warrant was on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) CA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). According to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) warrant was being served on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) CA. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) said (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) believed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was involved in interstate/international shipment of fighting cocks.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Department of Animal Services, with the assistance of OIG, executed search warrants at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) CA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 1), (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 2), and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) CA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 3). (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was not issued a citation.

The investigation was presented to the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) District Attorney's Office, who accepted this case for prosecution. On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a complaint was filed in the County of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Superior Court of California (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) count of California Penal Code 597j. Trial is scheduled for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C).



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL - INVESTIGATIONS
Southwest Region
Temple, TX



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER:	Te-2499-16	DATE:	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
TITLE:	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)		
(TITLE CONTINUES)			
CASE TYPE:	Conversion of Mortgaged Property		

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

 ABELINO FARIAS, JR.
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG, Washington
1-Special Agent-in-Charge, Temple

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TITLE CONTINUED

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) intentionally (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) subsequent destruction of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) breeding chickens (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

This investigation did not substantiate that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) intentionally (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) denied (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

This investigation was conducted jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

18 U.S.C. 43 - FORCE, VIOLENCE AND THREATS INVOLVING ANIMAL ENTERPRISES

In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the FBI notified the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, Investigations Office, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had occurred in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed by Special Agent (SA) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) FBI, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and said:

(b)(4); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(4); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(4); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(4); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(4); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

AGENT'S NOTE:

(b)(4); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed by SA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and said:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(4)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) believed that due (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) occurring (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) they had to be caused by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(4); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed by SA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and said that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) after being (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) from the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

SA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) advised that after (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on or about (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) approached (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) about a conversation (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had planned to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) after the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in order to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Specifically, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) planned to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) from a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) placing (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in order to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed by SA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and the Reporting Agent (RA) and denied (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed by SA (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and Task Force Officer (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and also denied (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

The RA and/or FBI agents interviewed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who said in substance that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) also said that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

The facts of this investigation were discussed with an Assistant United States Attorney, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) District of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who declined to prosecute.

* * * * *



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL – INVESTIGATIONS
Southwest Region
Temple, TX



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: TE-3330-16

DATE: October 14, 2011

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Texas

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

CASE TYPE: Animal Fighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6)

APPROVED BY:

ABELINO FARIAS, JR.
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG, Washington
1-Special Agent-in-Charge, Temple

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) et. al., knowingly kept a place for the participation and observation of animal fighting, sponsored an illegal gambling business, and moved game dog(s) in interstate commerce to participate in an animal fighting venture in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) TX.

The investigation determined that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) operated an illegal gambling and dog fighting venue on property belonging to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) TX. During the investigation, undercover surveillance video determined they performed acts in furtherance of, or to facilitate, a dog fighting and gambling operation. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) knowingly sponsored and exhibited animals wherein at least one animal was transported in interstate commerce from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to Texas and elsewhere. Additional video determined that all of the above mentioned subjects were present and participated in the animal fighting, as well as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) all (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) identified subjects, as shown above, were charged in a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) count Indictment with Conspiracy; Sponsoring or Exhibiting an Animal in an Animal Fighting Venture; Aiding and Abetting; and Buying, Selling, Delivery or Transporting Animals for Participation in an Animal Fighting Venture.

From (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) through (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) subjects pled guilty and were sentenced in multiple courts. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled guilty in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and was sentenced to serve (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) confinement, and pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were all sentenced in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Court, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) TX, and each defendant received (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years Deferred Adjudication Probation, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) hours of community service. On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the Federal Indictment was dismissed for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in lieu of State prosecution. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to serve (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years probation, pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in restitution to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced, in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to serve (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years probation and pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) court to serve (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years probation, pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in restitution to the HSUS. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced, in the United States District Court, Western District of Arkansas, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and was ordered to serve (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years probation, pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in restitution to the HSUS.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the indictment for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was dismissed.

This investigation was conducted jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Missouri State Highway Patrol, Texas Department of Public Safety, and the HSUS.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health, administering the Animal Welfare Act, and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. The Animal Welfare Act provides APHIS with the ability to regulate minimum care of warm blooded animals used in research, bred for commercial sale, exhibited to the public, or commercially transported. In addition, the law requires standards of animal care be established and enforced.

On or about (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) information was received from the USDA, Office of Inspector General (OIG), (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were participating in a dog fighting operation involving numerous individuals from multiple states. Undercover investigators determined (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were actively orchestrating a large-scale dog fighting venue scheduled for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) property in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) TX.

18 U.S.C § 371 CONSPIRACY
18 U.S.C. § 2 and 49 AIDING and ABETTING
7 U.S.C § 2156(a)(b) ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE PROHIBITION
TEXAS PENAL CODE § 42.10(a)(3) DOG FIGHTING

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) undercover investigators were present on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) property in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) TX, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) Undercover surveillance video determined that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) Furthermore, additional video determined that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were charged in a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) count Indictment (Exhibit 1) with Conspiracy; Sponsoring or Exhibiting an Animal in an Animal Fighting Venture; Aiding and Abetting; and Buying, Selling, Delivery or Transporting Animals for Participation in an Animal Fighting Venture.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) multiple Federal Arrest Warrants were executed on the aforementioned subjects by the FBI and USDA-OIG. During the arrests, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) agreed to a consensual release of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fighting dogs into the custody of the HSUS (Exhibit 2).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) relinquished ownership of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Pit Bull Terriers into the custody of the HSUS (Exhibit 3).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) having pled guilty to count (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the indictment, and was ordered to serve (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) confinement and pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines (Exhibit 4).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were all sentenced in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Court, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) TX, and each defendant received (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years Deferred Adjudication Probation, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) hours of community service (Exhibit 5).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the Federal Indictments for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were dismissed in lieu of prosecution by the State of Texas.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the Federal Indictment of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was dismissed. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was not charged in State court.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) having pled guilty to count (b)(6) of the indictment, and was ordered to serve (b)(6) years probation, pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in restitution to the HSUS (Exhibit 6).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the United States District Court, Western District of Arkansas, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) having pled guilty to count (b)(6) of the indictment, and was ordered to serve (b)(6) years probation, pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in restitution to the HSUS (Exhibit 7).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) having pled guilty to count (b)(6) of the indictment, and was ordered to serve (b)(6) years probation and pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines (Exhibit 8).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) having pled guilty to count (b)(6) of the indictment, and was ordered to serve (b)(6) years probation, pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in restitution to the HSUS (Exhibit 9).

* * * * *



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL – INVESTIGATIONS
Southwest Region
Temple, TX



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER:	Te-3330-18	DATE: March 11, 2011
TITLE:	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	
	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	OK (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
CASE TYPE:	Animal Fighting	

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

 ABELINO VARIAS, JR.
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG, Washington
- 1-Special Agent-in-Charge, Temple

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) knowingly facilitated and participated in dogfights at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) OK, in which others from neighboring states participated.

The investigation determined that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) hosted (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dogfights at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) OK, on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). The investigation also determined that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was actively training and breeding pit bulls for the purpose of dog fighting.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in United States District Court, Eastern District of Oklahoma, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) OK, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled guilty to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) count of Possessing an Animal for Participation in an Animal Fighting Venture, and on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years probation, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) home detention, a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fine, and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) special assessment.

This investigation was conducted jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) State Highway Patrol, and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health, administering the Animal Welfare Act, and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. The Animal Welfare Act provides APHIS with the ability to regulate minimum care of warm blooded animals used in research, bred for commercial sale, exhibited to the public, or commercially transported. In addition, the law requires standards of animal care be established and enforced.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) information was received from the USDA, Office of Inspector General, (USDA-OIG), (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was actively participating in a dog fighting operation involving numerous individuals from several states. This information was obtained as a result of undercover agents (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Hogfights (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) hosted on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C).

7 U.S.C § 2156 POSSESSING AN ANIMAL FOR PARTICIPATION IN AN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a Federal search warrant was executed at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) OK, in an effort to obtain and preserve evidence of an alleged dog fighting venture by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). Numerous dog fighting implements and documentation, as well as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pit bulls were seized at the property. USDA-OIG relinquished the care and custody of the seized animals to the Humane Society of the United States, who then arranged for the placement of the animals in local shelters.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Exhibit 1) relinquished ownership of the seized animals to USDA-OIG and the FBI, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) OK.

On [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Oklahoma, [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)]
[b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] was charged in a [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] count indictment (Exhibit 2) with Conspiracy, Sponsoring an
Animal in an Animal Fighting Venture, and Possessing an Animal for Participation in an Animal
Fighting Venture.

On [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] in said court, [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] pled guilty to count [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] of the indictment,
Possessing an Animal for Participation in an Animal Fighting Venture. On [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)]
[b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] was sentenced (Exhibit 3) to [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] years probation, [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] home detention, a [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)]
fine, and [b)(6); (b)(7)(C)] special assessment.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Great Plains Region
Kansas City, Missouri



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: KC-3330-0001 **DATE:** (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

TITLE: Dog Fighting Survey
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

CASE TYPE: Dog Fighting

SPECIAL AGENT: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY: (b)(6)
JAMES L. MENDENHALL
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

1-Deputy Administrator for marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS
1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
1-File

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DETAILS

This survey investigation was initiated to capture time associated with potential dog fighting investigations in [REDACTED]

Information was developed that supported cases opened in [REDACTED] involving [REDACTED] residents, but [REDACTED]
(b)(5) – Deliberative Process Privilege

* * * * *



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
United States Department of Agriculture



September 12, 2023

Subject: Log No. 22-00075

This letter responds to the January 21, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)¹ appeal to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of Agriculture (USDA). On appeal, Inspector General Fong granted a portion of your appeal and remanded your request to FOIA staff for further processing. FOIA staff received the remanded request on February 28, 2022, and assigned it FOIA Log No. 22-00075. You requested copies of the final report, report of investigation (ROI), closing report, closing memo, closing letter, referral memo, referral letter and any other conclusory document regarding the USDA OIG investigations listed in your request.

We are enclosing 24 pages of responsive records. Pursuant to FOIA, certain information has been redacted and withheld as it is exempt from release. Specifically, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) and (b)(7)(C), the names, signatures, initials, and other identifying information of individuals were withheld because release of this information could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Exemption 6 protects information about individuals in personnel and medical files and similar files when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Exemption 7(C) is limited to information compiled for law enforcement purposes, and protects personal information when disclosure could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

We have enclosed an explanatory sheet of FOIA exemption explanations. Please be advised that we have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying FOIA exemptions.

You have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Whitten Building, Suite 441-E, Washington, D.C. 20250-2308. Appeals must be postmarked or transmitted by email no later than 90 calendar days from the date of the adverse determination. The outside of the envelope should be clearly marked "FOIA APPEAL."

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You have the right to seek the assistance of the OIG FOIA Public Liaison. You can also seek dispute resolution services from the OIG FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS).

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, OGIS was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS' services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974.

You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
{OGIS} 8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Phone: (202) 741-5770
Fax: (202) 741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>

For information about OIG, please refer to our Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/oig/>. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office at (202) 720-5677.

Sincerely,

ALISON DECKER

Digitally signed by
ALISON DECKER
Date: 2023.09.12
08:08:41 -04'00'

Alison Decker
Assistant Counsel

Enclosures: Exemptions sheet/documents



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois**



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: Ch-3310-0001

DATE: September 10, 2018

TITLE: ANIMAL WELFARE SURVEY

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

**Anthony V.
Mohatt**

Digitally signed by Anthony V.
Mohatt

Date: 2018.09.10 08:16:53 -05'00'

ANTHONY V. MOHATT
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1- Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Business Services, APHIS
- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1-File

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not to be distributed outside your agency, nor duplicated, without
prior clearance from the Office of Inspector General, USDA.*

SYNOPSIS

This investigation was initiated through cooperation between several federal, state and local agencies to investigate criminal violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Criminal prosecutions related to investigative operations were pursued by the United States Attorney's Office in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and county courts throughout (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Agency personnel partnered with federal task force initiatives such as the Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) and the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) to conduct investigative operations into suspected animal fighting operations. The investigations disclosed widespread Animal Welfare Act violations whereby individuals were engaged in organizing underground dog fighting or cock fighting operations that included illegal gambling and narcotics trafficking. Items seized in the course of investigation included narcotics, U.S. Currency, firearms, and vehicles. Violations of the Animal Welfare Act included the conspiracy to commit animal fighting; buying, selling, and possessing of fighting dogs; the manufacture, distribution, and possession of dog fighting paraphernalia; and attending an animal fighting venture.

This survey initiative has been operational since (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and has resulted in three spin-off investigations. Task force operations to date have yielded 30 indictments, 82 arrests, 15 search warrants, and numerous convictions. Additional State and Federal prosecution of defendants identified through task force operations is ongoing and will be reported under their respective case numbers.

The following spin-off cases were opened as a result of this investigation:

<u>Target or Kennel Name</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Case Type</u>
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	CH-3330-0031	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	Cock Fighting
	CH-3330-0033		Dog Fighting
	CH-3330-0036		Dog Fighting

Investigation of the above referenced cases will continue under their respective case numbers, and future Animal Welfare Act investigative activities will be reported under the respective case number.

* * * * *



United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: Ch-3330-0034	DATE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
TITLE: <u>Animal Fighting Survey</u> (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	
CASE TYPE: Animal Fighting (Survey)	

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

ANTHONY
MOHATT

Digitally signed by ANTHONY
MOHATT
Date: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

ANTHONY V. MOHATT
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1-Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services, APHIS
- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1-File

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Ch-3330-0034

A survey investigation was opened in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to address allegations of animal fighting and animal welfare violations.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

This case was worked jointly with the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Sheriff's Office, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C).
The following individual was investigated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>USDA OIG Case Number</u>
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	Ch-3330-0035

The results of the above investigation were reported under the corresponding case number.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

This case was worked jointly with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) The following kennel was investigated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Summary</u>
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)	Subject(s) storing and breeding dogs for fighting purposes.

The United States Attorney's Office, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) declined to accept this case for prosecution.

* * * * *



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Midwest Region
Chicago, Illinois**



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: Ch-3330-0037

DATE: April 21, 2020

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Ohio

CASE TYPE: Animal Fighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

**Anthony V.
Mohatt**

Digitally signed by Anthony V.
Mohatt
Date: 2020.04.21 12:57:34 -05'00'

ANTHONY V. MOHATT
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution

- 1- Deputy Administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services, APHIS
- 1- Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1- File

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SYNOPSIS

This joint investigation was initiated based upon a referral from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force during (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and involved a narcotics trafficking and animal fighting operation in the Northern District of Ohio. Our efforts focused on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) an individual identified by HIDTA personnel as possibly engaged in animal fighting.

SPONSORING AND EXHIBITING ANIMALS IN
ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE – 7 U.S.C. § 2156 (a)(1)

POSSESSING AND TRAINING ANIMALS FOR
ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURES – 7 U.S.C. § 2156 (b)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) USDA-OIG personnel assisted (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) HIDTA with the execution of federal search warrants issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Ohio. The search warrant operation conducted in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Ohio was executed by FBI SWAT personnel, and broke up an animal fight in progress involving roosters. Additionally, five search warrants were executed in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Ohio, seeking evidence of animal fighting, narcotics, money laundering and other criminal violations. USDA-OIG personnel assisted with the execution of the search warrant at the rooster fight in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Ohio as well as (b)(6) locations in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Ohio. The (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) locations in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Ohio, were used by the subjects of this investigation to raise and train roosters for fighting. USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services and Ohio Department of Agriculture personnel assisted with the handling of the roosters during warrant operations.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) appeared for an Arraignment and Change of Plea Hearing pursuant to an Information filed on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Exhibit 1) in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to the Information, waived Indictment, and signed a Plea Agreement. The Information contained (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) counts of Money Laundering, 18 USC 1956(a)(3)(B); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) count of Operating an Unlicensed Money Transmitting Business, 18 USC 1960; (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) counts of Sponsoring and Exhibiting Animals in Animal Fighting Venture, 7 USC 2156(a)(1) and (b)(6) counts of Possessing and Training Animals for Animal Fighting Ventures, 7 USC 2156(b).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced (Exhibit 2) to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) incarceration, followed by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years of supervised release. Additionally, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was ordered to pay a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fine (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) special assessment, and forfeiture in the amount of \$ (b)(6); (b)(7)(C).

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Ohio.

* * * * *



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Northeast Region
New York, New York**



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: HY-3330-0045

DATE: July 27, 2020

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) DE

CASE TYPE: Animal Fighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

BETHANNE M. DINKINS
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

- 1 – Deputy Administrator, Marketing & Regulatory Programs Business Services, APHIS
- 1 – Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1 – File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if animal fighting was occurring in the state of Delaware, specifically in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County and (b)(6); County. As a result, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of Inspector General (OIG) began an investigation into (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who operated a dog fighting venture that went by the name (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); County, Delaware. USDA, OIG's case stemmed from a Delaware State Police (DSP) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and Delaware Animal and Care Control (DACC).

The investigation disclosed that between (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) property located at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) which served as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) bull dogs in the animal fighting venture and was used for conducting dog fights. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) trained and bred pit bulls for participation in dog fighting competitions; traveled to other locations in interstate commerce to participate in dog fights; and sponsored and exhibited dogs in animal fighting competitions in interstate commerce by transporting and causing the transportation of dogs across state lines.

DETAILS

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) DSP and DEA executed a search warrant at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) residence for a (b)(6); violation. While at the residence, DSP observed a large number of dogs (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the property and contacted DACC officers. DSP and DACC contacted USDA, OIG (OIG) for assistance. DACC responded to the property, observed evidence of animal neglect and dog fighting, and obtained a search warrant related to dog fighting.

Scattered throughout the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) house, DACC investigators found adult American Pit Bull Terriers, including (b)(6) puppies. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) In the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the property was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) within which DACC found (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for various dogs.

In the (b)(6); of the property, DACC officers found a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) type device in which (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Also in the (b)(6); of the property was (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) contained dog (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) DACC took custody of all the animals.

During the course of this investigation, the (b)(6); DE Police Department (SPD) was also conducting a separate investigation into (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) allegation. During the SPD investigation, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were obtained. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) SPD realized that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) related to animal fighting. SPD in accordance with the Delaware Attorney General's Office made those (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) available to USDA, OIG for review.

After (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) it was determined that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) had been operating a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) animal fighting venture. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pit bulls that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) bought, sold, fought, and killed. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pit bull (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fighter that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) purchasing. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dogs (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and also about dogs (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were able to be corroborated with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitting to the behavior during interviews.

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

This case was accepted for prosecution by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware.

In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was charged in a criminal information with possession with intent to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in violation of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in violation of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) knowingly sponsoring and exhibiting an animal fighting venture in violation of 7 U.S.C. § 2156(a)(1); and buying or transporting an animal for the purpose of participating in an animal fighting venture in violation of 7 U.S.C. § 2156(b) (Exhibit 1).

In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was convicted and sentenced to a total of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) imprisonment to be followed by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) supervised release, and ordered to pay a special assessment of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 2).

* * * * *



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS



Northeast Region

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: HY-3330-0050

DATE: August 20, 2015

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6);
(b)(7)(C) Virginia

CASE TYPE: Animal Fighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

WILLIAM G. SQUIRES, JR.
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

- 1 – Deputy Administrator, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, APHIS, Washington, DC
- 1 – Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG, Washington, DC
- 1 – Special Agent-in-Charge, OIG, Investigations, New York, NY

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was initiated in response to a request from the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to assist them with an investigation into the alleged (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and organized cock fighting taking place in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County, Virginia area.

This investigation revealed that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Virginia, were engaged in the breeding and selling of roosters to be used in animal fighting ventures, as well as (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) These activities were carried out in a conspiracy with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) operated by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Between (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were arrested, indicted, convicted, and sentenced as a result of this investigation.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed and admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for the purposes of holding cock fights. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to attend these fights, to become (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted that people fought birds there in order to win money. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) also admitted (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fighting pit. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed and admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for the purposes of holding cock fights. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed and admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for the purposes of holding cock fights. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed and admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) cock fighting (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fight attendees.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) declined to be interviewed during this investigation.

This matter was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

ANIMAL FIGHTING - 7 U.S.C. § 2156

CONSPIRACY - 18 U.S.C. § 371

ILLEGAL GAMBLING - 18 U.S.C. § 1955

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Exhibit 1 are pertinent excerpts from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) regarding this investigation, which summarizes the undercover operations in which (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) discussed or engaged in animal fighting and/or illegal gambling activities.

During this investigation (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were arrested and questioned (Exhibit 2). The results of these efforts are summarized below.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was arrested (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) waived (b)(6) rights and was interviewed. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for the purposes of holding cock fights. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted that people fought birds there in order to win money. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) on the property and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of the fighting pit. (b)(6) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was arrested at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) waived (b)(6) rights and was interviewed. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for the purposes of holding cock fights. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was arrested (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) waived (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) rights and was interviewed. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for the purposes of holding cock fights. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was arrested at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) waived (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) rights and was interviewed. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) admitted to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fight attendees.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was arrested at (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) declined to be interviewed.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were indicted (Exhibit 3) by a federal grand jury in the Western District of Virginia

and charged with (b)(6) criminal violations related to animal fighting and operating an illegal gambling enterprise. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was also indicted on (b)(6) count of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Exhibit 4 contains the court records documenting the prosecutive actions in this matter, which are summarized below.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) plead guilty. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6) months in prison, placed on (b)(6) years of supervised release, fined (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in Special Assessments, ordered to forfeit all items seized from (b)(6) home, and had a money judgment imposed against (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for an additional (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) plead guilty. (b)(6) was sentenced to (b)(6) months and (b)(6) day in prison, placed on (b)(6) years of supervised release, fined (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in Special Assessments, ordered to forfeit all items seized from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) home, and had a money judgment imposed against (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for an additional (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) plead guilty. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6) months in prison, placed on (b)(6) years of supervised release, fined (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in Special Assessments, ordered to forfeit the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in cash seized from (b)(6) home, and had a money judgment imposed against (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for an additional (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) which was to be paid jointly or severally.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was convicted via jury trial. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was subsequently sentenced to (b)(6) months in prison; (b)(6) years of supervised release; fined (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in Special Assessments; ordered to forfeit the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in cash seized from (b)(6) home; and, was ordered to pay, jointly or severally with (b)(6) co-defendants, an additional (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) plead guilty and was sentenced to (b)(6) months in prison, placed on (b)(6) years of supervised release, fined (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in Special Assessments, ordered to forfeit the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in cash seized from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) home, and had money judgment imposed against (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) for an additional (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) which was to be paid jointly or severally.

PROSECUTIVE DETERMINATION

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

* * * *



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Northeast Region



(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

DATE: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: HY-3330-0055

TO: Deputy Administrator
Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Business Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

FROM: BETHANNE M. DINKINS
Special Agent-in-Charge
for Investigations

(b)(6)

SUBJECT: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) – Animal Welfare Violations

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of our decision to close the above-referenced investigation, initiated in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). In cooperation with the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Police Department, Animal Cruelty Division, and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD), the investigation was initiated to investigate possible violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

The investigation initially identified (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) as possibly involved in the breeding and training of dogs for the purposes of fighting within the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). After extensive records reviews, interviews, and operations, investigative efforts failed to show knowledge, on the part of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C), that these violations were ongoing. As such, DOJ, ENRD declined to prosecute this matter.

If additional information is required, please contact Christopher Robinson, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge, at (b)(6) or me at (b)(6).

Cc:
Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
File



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Northeast Region
New York, New York



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: HY-3330-0057

DATE: May 4, 2020

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6);
(b)(7)(C)

Maryland

CASE TYPE: Animal Fighting

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

BETHANNE M. DINKINS
Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

- 1 – Deputy Administrator, Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services, APHIS
- 1 – Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1 – File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was engaged in animal fighting, the breeding and selling of dogs for the purpose of dog fighting, and engaged in acts of animal cruelty.

The investigation revealed that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) facilitated the mauling of a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dog by a pit bull-style dog in (b)(6) possession (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) this act and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in order to increase the sale value of the pit bull-style dog by representing it as a fighting dog. Furthermore, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) engaged in conversations with an undercover police officer to participate in an organized dog fight.

DETAILS

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) a detective with the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Police Department ((b)(6) CPD) contacted the reporting agent (RA) and provided the following information regarding (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) as well as requesting the assistance of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of Inspector General (OIG) with the (b)(6) CPD investigation:

During the month of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was contacted by an anonymous source in reference to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) training pit bull style dogs to be aggressive and fight. The source directed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6) accessed the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pit bull style dogs, and photos of a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) subject positively identified (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Police Department who had (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

In (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is a small pit bull style (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dog. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) As (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the small pit bull style dog is observed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dog, and then (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dog. The pit bull style dog is then (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dog. The pit bull style dog can be seen (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dog (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Acting in an undercover capacity, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(D)

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) CPD and USDA, OIG executed a search warrant at the residence of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) In addition, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was interviewed and made the following statements:

At the time (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the dog (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) involved by the name of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) who lives (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) used (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Agent's Note: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) is the name of the pit bull-style dog (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) dog (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) threw the dog (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) know what happened to it.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was trying to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and stated (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) increase (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) value.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was subsequently arrested on probable cause by (b)(6) CPD.

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

This case was accepted for prosecution by the State's Attorney's Office for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was charged in Circuit Court of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County with (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) criminal violations including dog fighting, possessing or training a dog for dog fighting, possession of dog fighting implements, aggravated animal cruelty, animal cruelty, and dog fighting.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled guilty in Circuit Court of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) counts including aggravated animal cruelty, dog fighting, possessing or training a dog for dog fighting, and possession of dog fighting implements.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years in prison to be followed by (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in restitution.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL - INVESTIGATIONS
Southwest Region
Temple, Texas



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: Te-3330-0039

DATE: November 18, 2020

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) MS

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

Anthony V. Mohatt

Digitally signed by Anthony V.
Mohatt
Date: 2020.11.19 22:31:51 -06'00'

ANTHONY V. MOHATT

Acting Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution:

- 1-Deputy Administrator, Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services,
APHIS, Washington D.C.
- 1-Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG
- 1-File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Mississippi actively engaged in an animal fighting venture.

The investigation established (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was actively engaged in an animal fighting venture. The animal fighting venture included training and breeding pit bulls for the purpose of dog fighting, and organized gambling.

This investigation was conducted jointly with the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County, Mississippi Sheriff's Department (b)(6) CSD).

BACKGROUND

On or about (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) The (b)(6) CSD conducted a State search warrant and evidence was seized indicating (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) bred and trained pit bulls for the purpose organized dog fighting. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of Inspector General, (OIG) was contacted by the (b)(6) CSD who requested assistance with the investigation.

ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE – 7 U.S.C. § 2156(b)

From (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) through (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the Reporting Agent (RA) reviewed the evidence obtained by the (b)(6) CSD via the search warrant served on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). The RA also reviewed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) cellular telephone data, photographs, and interviews. The evidence was reviewed in order to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was actively engaged in an animal fighting venture.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was charged via a Bill of Information with (b)(6) count of violating 7 U.S.C. § 2156(b) (Exhibit 1).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in said court, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled guilty (Exhibit 2) and on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) probation, ordered to pay a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fine, and a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) special assessment (Exhibit 3).

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United States Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL-INVESTIGATIONS
Western Region
Oakland, California



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: SF-3330-0052

DATE:

JUL 12 2019

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6);
(b)(7)(C)

Idaho

(b)(6);
(b)(7)(C)

CASE TYPE: Animal Welfare Violations

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

**PATRICIA
CONTRERAS**

Digitally signed by
PATRICIA CONTRERAS
Date: 2019.07.12 11:20:35
-07'00'

APPROVED BY:

PATRICIA CONTRERAS
Acting Special Agent-in-Charge

Distribution/via email:

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Regulatory Programs Business Services, APHIS

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1-File

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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) ID (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) organized an animal fighting venture in (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Idaho.

Investigation disclosed that on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) falsely represented (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) assigned to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in order to complete (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) knowingly misrepresented (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) so (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) could (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

An additional investigation conducted by the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Sheriff's Department discovered a cock-fighting venture in progress on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Subsequent investigation by the United States Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General and the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Sheriff's Department revealed that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was the organizer of the event.

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Idaho, and the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Prosecutor.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled guilty to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) felony count of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in violation of (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to time served (Exhibit 1).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pled guilty to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) misdemeanor count of Exhibition of Cockfights in violation of Idaho Criminal Code 25-3506. (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) time served and a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fine (Exhibit 2).

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL – INVESTIGATIONS
Southwest Region
Temple, TX**



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NUMBER: Te-3330-21

DATE: September 12, 2012

TITLE:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Texas

(b)(6);

CASE TYPE: Animal Fighting/Animal Welfare Act

SPECIAL AGENT:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

APPROVED BY:

Mary L. Lewis

Digitally signed by Mary L. Lewis
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MARY L. LEWIS
Special Agent-in-Charge

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- 1 – Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OIG, Washington, D.C.
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SYNOPSIS

This investigation was conducted to determine if (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) knowingly kept a place for the participation in and observation of animal fighting, sponsored an illegal gambling business, and participated in an animal fighting venture, in (b)(6); Texas, located in (b)(6); County Texas.

The investigation determined that (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) operated an illegal gambling and gamecock fighting venue located on (b)(6) property in (b)(6); County Texas

This investigation was conducted jointly with the (b)(6); County Special Crimes Unit (CSCU); (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Texas Police Department (PD); Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Texas Rangers, and Air Wing Division; Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), Washington, D.C.; and the Texas Department of Family Services (DFS).

BACKGROUND

On or about (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the Reporting Agent (RA) was contacted by the (b)(6); CSCU, who requested the assistance of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding a large-scale gamecock fighting operation in (b)(6); Texas. According to (b)(6); CSCU, (b)(6); was facilitating a (b)(6); gamecock fighting and gambling venue on (b)(6) property in (b)(6); County Texas. Additionally, (b)(6); CSCU surveillance efforts revealed that over approximately (b)(6); participants and spectators were attending these animal fighting events.

TEXAS PENAL CODE § 42.09(6) CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) USDA-OIG, (b)(6); CSCU, DPS, (b)(6); PD, HSUS and DFS executed a State Search Warrant on (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) property, during the scheduled time of an ongoing animal fighting venue. During the warrant, evidence of a gamecock fighting operation, to include documents, fighting paraphernalia, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) roosters, and (b)(6); were seized. Other items of evidence seized included an (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6); in cash. On scene, (b)(6); individuals were arrested and charged with a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) gambling violation. The arrests included a suspect (b)(6); (b)(7)(C). In addition to the arrests, approximately (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) were on the property and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) DFS.

The RA determined that from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) all (b)(6); individuals pleaded guilty to the gambling violations and (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in fines were collected by the Justice of the Peace, Precinct (b)(6); County Texas. On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fighting roosters were euthanized by USDA, APHIS Veterinary Services under Court Order (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Texas.

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) an Assistant County Attorney, (b)(6); County Texas, filed (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Bills of Information in (b)(6); County Court, charging (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) with Conspiracy to Commit Cruelty to Livestock Animals (Exhibit 1).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) in the (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) Judicial District Court, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) County Texas, (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was indicted for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 2). On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the indictment for (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was dismissed (Exhibit 3).

On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to the Information and was sentenced to (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) probation and ordered to pay a (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) fine (Exhibit 4). On (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) the Information charging (b)(6); (b)(7)(C) was dismissed (Exhibit 5). Legal action continues at this time.

* * * * *