



EVERGREEN
council on problem gambling



TREATMENT



TRAINING



AWARENESS

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“IF YOU SUSPECT IT, REPORT IT” CAMPAIGN TO STOP ILLEGAL DOG FIGHTING

Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling and Washington State Gambling Commission partner to launch message about dog fighting and illegal gambling

OLYMPIA, WA—Did you know there is a form of illegal gambling with a dark and deadly side that takes place right here in Washington State? It’s wagering on dog fights. Illegal gambling goes hand-in-hand, or jaw-to-jaw, when dogs are trained to fight other dogs—sometimes to the death—with thousands of dollars wagered on the fights. Dog fighting is the worst kind of gambling—especially for the dogs who don’t have a choice. Dog fighting isn’t something that only happened in the past. It is a thriving multi-million dollar industry.



Not only is dog fighting illegal and cruel, illegal gambling and other crimes take place at these violent events. The Gambling Commission protects the public by ensuring gambling is legal and honest. “This form of illegal gambling has a very dark side,” says Dave Trujillo, Interim Director of the Gambling Commission. “It fuels cruelty, pain and even death. We need your help to stop this blood sport.”

If you suspect dog fighting, report it to Susan Newer at 360.486.3466. You may be eligible for a \$5,000 reward, offered by the Humane Society of the United States.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, “All fighting dogs suffer, whether in the pit or out. Although they are pack animals, an instinct to fight other dogs is bred into these dogs so deeply that they mainly live isolated on chains or locked in cages. Dogfighters sometimes kill the losing dogs, and even winning dogs may die from their wounds.”¹

Running dog fighting events, being a spectator at dog fighting events, and owning, training, and breeding dogs for fighting are all Class C felonies in Washington State. In addition, the Federal Animal Welfare Act states buying or selling animals for the purpose of animal fighting can result in up to three years in jail and a \$250,000 fine for each violation.²

About ECPG: The Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling is committed to providing support and services for problem gamblers, their families, employers, students, treatment professionals, and the greater community through information and education, advocacy, and treatment services. The Council provides statewide confidential support through its 24-hour Problem Gambling Helpline (**800.547.6133**) and public awareness, education, prevention, training, and resource development services.

About WSGC: The Washington State Gambling Commission (WSGC) is the second oldest gambling regulatory agency in the nation. WSGC is a law enforcement and licensing agency. No tax dollars are used to fund the agency—it is self supporting through licensing and regulatory fees. Our Mission is to “Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest.”



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¹ The Humane Society of America. (n.d.). *Dogfighting*. Retrieved March 11, 2013, from The Humane Society of America: www.humanesociety.org/issues/dogfighting

² The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. (2013). *Dog Fighting FAQ*. Retrieved March 11, 2013, from ASPCA: www.aspca.org/Fight-Animal-Cruelty/dog-fighting/dog-fighting-faq