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**Gamefowl Storage Restriction**

The largest seizure of illegal cockfighting birds in U.S. history took place in May, 2017 in the unincorporated Los Angeles County area of Val Verde. More than 7,800 cockfighting birds, along with illegal cockfighting paraphernalia, guns, and illegal drugs were seized by the Los Angeles County Sheriff, the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control, and many supporting agencies. This property was the subject of a similar action in 2007, when more than 2,700 illegal cockfighting birds were seized.

Cockfighting is an inhumane crime in which animals are forced to fight to the death for amusement and gain. Other crimes such as gambling, illegal drugs, weapons, prostitution, and child abuse occur during these fights.

Cockfighting operations are not limited to rural areas. In many cases, property owners with close neighbors may keep hundreds of these birds. The keeping of such large numbers of fighting birds creates significant problems of excessive noise, flies, and potential sources of disease such as Avian Flu or Exotic Newcastle Disease. They interfere with residents' ability to peacefully enjoy their properties and reduce property values.

Also, many cockfighting operations store cockfighting paraphernalia at different locations from the game fowl. As was mentioned, storing game fowl attracts attention, but the lack of cockfighting evidence onsite inhibits law enforcement's ability to crack down on these illegal operations.

For these reasons a number of California counties have adopted ordinances restricting the keeping of roosters. These ordinances have helped to reduce or eliminate illegal rooster fighting in their counties, as well as the associated crimes and quality of life issues that come with them. Los Angeles County should have the same protections for its residents.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Department of Animal Care and Control and the office of County Counsel report back to the Board in 30-days with a recommendation to limit the keeping of roosters in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County.

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