

## Karel Minor

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**From:** "Karel Minor, Executive Director" <kminor@berkshumane.org>  
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**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2009 2:39 PM  
**Subject:** Press Release: Second Cockfighting Ring Raided by Humane Society of Berks County

Press Release

For Immediate Release

# Humane Society of Berks County Raids Second Cockfighting Ring In 30 Days

**Reading, Pennsylvania - April 8, 2009** - The Humane Society of Berks County (HSBC), the leader in animal welfare, announced that it assisted in the seizure of gamecocks from an illegal cocking fighting location, the second such seizure in Berks County in 30 days. Humane Society Police Officers responded to 328 Rose Street, Reading, following a request for assistance by a Pennsylvania State Police vice and narcotics unit. Troopers were conducting an unrelated investigation when the fighting birds and fighting paraphernalia were found on the scene.



After entering a makeshift room described as a "dimly lit dungeon" by HSBC Officer Dylan Heckart, a hen and six roosters, including one which had been dressed to fight and was being held in a sealed "keep cage", were found. All were seized along with various paraphernalia associated with illegal cockfighting such as supplements, injectable vitamins and antibiotics, and liquid adhesive, as well as tools used to groom the birds (shown above roosters in picture at left).

"The Humane Society of Berks County was pleased to be able to provide assistance to the State Police," said Karel Minor, HSBC executive director. "The Humane Society applauds the Troopers and the State Police for recognizing the seriousness of blood sports in Pennsylvania for acting swiftly to intercede."

The chickens were documented as evidence before being turned over to the Humane Society. The HSBC attempts to find adoptive homes for animals in cases like this, however, fighting roosters can rarely be saved due to their training for aggression. "It is truly sad that those who perpetrate these sadistic crimes also ensure that we are unable to save these animals even when we can save them from the fighting ring," said Officer Heckart.

Today's raid is the second in only a month. On March 10, following an anonymous tip to the HSBC, Humane Society Officers worked with Muhlenberg Police to raid a cockfighting ring in Muhlenberg Township. Felony charges have been filed in that case. Several of the hens seized were adopted and others remain awaiting homes. All the roosters seized had to be euthanized.

The Humane Society is uncertain if there is a sudden increase in cockfighting locally or if increased vigilance and press attention is resulting in great awareness and reporting. Either way, says Minor, "The Humane Society of Berks County and local and State Police will be

here to enforce Pennsylvania's animal cruelty laws."

If anyone is aware of animal fighting or other forms of animal cruelty, please contact the Humane Society of Berks County at 610-921-2348 or anonymously [report cruelty online at www.berkhumane.org](#).

## Who Pays (Again)?

Well, we hope that the people involved in the cockfighting ring pay for their crimes. But who pays for the investigation and the care of the chickens during the case? The Humane Society of Berks County, of course.

You may not know that unlike every other type of police agency in the State, animal welfare agencies like the HSBC receive no tax dollars for our law enforcement work and we receive no share or distribution of fines and penalties. We enforce State laws at our own expense- or more specifically, **at yours**.

We rely on our donors to support our operations, including our cruelty investigations and prosecutions. Please, help us to be there for the animals by [making a donation online](#), by joining us for our [special events](#), by off setting personnel costs by [volunteering your time](#), or by [donating products and services](#).

***Can you imagine what kind of police department or military or schools you would have if these all relied on donations and bake sales?*** That's why the Humane Society of Berks County needs your help now. We never want to say, "We'd have shut down that illegal animal fighting ring, but we just didn't sell enough cupcakes this month."

Please, give now. [Give generously](#).

### About Humane Society of Berks County

Founded in 1900, the Humane Society of Berks County serves all of Berks County and surrounding communities. It is an **independent**, private, non-profit organization funded through donations and service fees. In addition to enforcing Pennsylvania's animal cruelty laws for all of Berks County, the Humane Society provides adoption services, spay and neuter services, humane education, pet behavioral counseling, veterinary services to the general public, and helps stray, injured and mistreated animals. The Humane Society is located at 1801 N. 11th Street, Reading, and 1201 Ben Franklin Highway E., Douglasville, Georgia. Donor soliciting by

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