

SB0375__Agriculture-Roosters-Restrictions__Favorable__Joy Wilson

I am testifying as a Certified Animal Control Officers for the State of Maryland. The properties that encompass the “business” of cock fighting and the training of said animals is vastly different than those of us that maintain chickens.

These roosters are kept tethered by their legs and/ or in very small cages until they are brought out for a “keep”, which is the training process that they use to prepare a game fowl. They remove their combs and waddles, and sometimes their spurs, keep them in small wooden boxes that do not allow any light in so as to make the bird more aggressive when brought out. They are injected with steroids and antibiotics without ANY oversight of a veterinarian. They have sharp knives tied to their legs where the spur would have been. During a match, these birds normally fight to the death slicing each other open while people cheer and place wagers climbing into the thousands.

Animal Control Officers know when they step onto a property with game fowl as opposed to backyard flocks. Backyard flocks do not maintain a majority of roosters, they do not tether their roosters or remove parts of their bodies.

I am asking for your support on this bill and a favorable outcome.