

**Kiva Friends**

**KivaFriends.org => Kiva Friends => Topic started by: CESOus on May 09, 2009, 10:44:18 PM**

**Title: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **CESOus** on **May 09, 2009, 10:44:18 PM**

I just read that the loan to William in Peru to raise cocks for fighting purposes has been "refunded" by Kiva. What exactly does that mean?

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Diane R** on **May 09, 2009, 10:58:43 PM**

Kiva did not refund the loan, the local microlending agency, FINCA Peru, chose to refund any lenders who had financed this loan, and to pull it from funding on the Kiva website. We have no information on what this means in a practical sense. In all likelihood, since MFIs are required to source 70% of their funds from non-Kiva source probably received his funding through FINCA Peru from another non-Kiva source.

--Diane.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **CESOus** on **May 09, 2009, 11:03:50 PM**

OK, thanks. That was informative. I found offering cockfighting as an entrepreneurial endeavor to be supported through Kiva highly offensive. Being sensitive to the preferences of various cultures is one thing, but extending that to encouraging cruelty to animals, as through cockfighting, regardless of the cultural milieu, is simply not acceptable. Let those who want loans for cockfighting find their money somewhere other than through Kiva, please.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **TheTatiana** on **May 10, 2009, 01:57:35 AM**

I think I agree with this but would put it differently. I think if kiva is willing to fund loans that involve cockfighting, I will be repulsed enough that I most likely won't be associated with kiva anymore.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **mungo** on **May 11, 2009, 01:50:57 PM**

There was a whole lot of todo about this loan last week. Lots of discussion and debate, ranging from the inflammatory to the icy logical.

I'll be curious to see how this is addressed in future. In the meanwhile, I started a team called KACL (Kivans Against Cockfighting Loans) (<http://www.kiva.org/team/k>) purpose of the team is simply this - to help Kiva quantify how many of their Lenders (that are aware of the issue) disagree with the listing of these loans, for whatever ideological differences aside, I believe a number of us think loans of this nature should not be listed, and by joining this team (membership is open) we can help Kiva quantify for how many lenders disagree with the listing of these loans.

For the record : I'm not your animal rights guy. This team isn't about larger issues. It's just a way to be counted.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **May 11, 2009, 04:53:53 PM**

Recent news from Finca:

Quote

We have decided to not post any stories that could be culturally sensitive in certain parts of the world.

If you have additional questions, please let me know.

Viviana.

Viviana Salinas Lanao  
Gerente de Soluciones para el Desarrollo Humano  
FINCA Peru  
Telefono: 511-222-9220

Jane Sladen.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Diane R** on **May 11, 2009, 05:04:23 PM**

Jane, where is that "recent news" from, and what does it mean?  
(What does she mean by "stories"?)

--Diane.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **May 11, 2009, 05:41:45 PM**

Quote from: **Jane Sladen** on **May 11, 2009, 04:53:53 PM**

Recent news from Finca:

Viviana Salinas Lanao  
Gerente de Soluciones para el Desarrollo Humano  
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Telefono: 511-222-9220

Jane Sladen.

That statement kind of turns the tables...  
not only are we worried about interfering in 'cultural issues' in the borrowers country...  
the MFI appears to be worried about 'the lenders cultural issues'  
kind of makes me blink - twice.  
jan 8)

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **CESOus** on **May 11, 2009, 05:58:50 PM**

It would be helpful to me to understand all this. What is MFI? Maybe I'm missing something here (perhaps missing a lot), but it seems to me that cultural sensitivity of BOTH the lender and borrower might not be a bad thing.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Ginni** on **May 11, 2009, 06:04:56 PM**

That's why Finca Peru (the mfi, or microfinance institute) pulled the cockfighting loan, isn't it? Concern over lender (our) cultural sensitivity? In my opinion, that was a

thing for them to do. Some people made a loan to another of their clients right away, and others of us will keep them in mind when we lend again, instead of possibly c their clients off our list because of this issue.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **May 11, 2009, 06:08:30 PM**

The following was posted by Kristin on both the Animal Lovers & the Vegans for Global Harmony teams message boards:

This is a letter below from FincaPeru: (notice the very bottom where they said they would not post anymore loans like this)

Dear Kristin,

Thank you very much for your emails. On Friday afternoon, Kiva took off the story that you mentioned. This is what Kiva posted:

Kiva's field partner, FINCA Peru, has decided to refund this loan. Here are is reason why, in their own words:

The story posted was from a young man, William, whose business is raising roosters for cockfights in Ayacucho. Cockfighting is legal in Peru. We understand and are se some of the Kiva community's opinions and criticisms regarding the use of this loan, which is why we have decided to ask Kiva to refund it, even though it has already funded on the website.

We would also like to share a bit more about FINCA Peru. We are the pioneer in the village banking methodology in Peru and have been working in Lima, Ayacucho and Huancavelica since 1993. We work with over 12,300 microentrepreneurs, 93% are women, most of them mothers, and 25% are in rural areas where there are few to financial services offered. As you may see, William's story is more of an exception than the average story of our wonderful clients.

Kind regards,  
FINCA Peru

We have decided to not post any stories that could be culturally sensitive in certain parts of the world.

If you have additional questions, please let me know.  
Viviana

Posted by Kristin  
May 10, 2009 - 3:12 pm PDT

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **mungo** on **May 11, 2009, 06:48:40 PM**

Quote from: **Jan & John** on **May 11, 2009, 05:41:45 PM**

That statement kind of turns the tables...  
not only are we worried about interfering in 'cultural issues' in the borrowers country...  
the MFI appears to be worried about 'the lenders cultural issues'  
kind of makes me blink - twice.

I have to admit, this has me thinking.

I initially indicated that I thought the MFI was using Good Judgment in pulling the loan, and I still believe that. But I'm less familiar with the MFIs than most, so mayb can enlighten me - are they well positioned to determine what loans may be culturally sensitive in certain parts of the world? And even if they are, is that a good tacti MFI to filter their own loans based on their knowledge and understanding of different cultures? Versus Kiva filtering out loans based on their knowledge and understar their own lenders? I believe that Kiva is more likely to be in a good position to determine what loans shouldn't be listed. It's not that I don't appreciate the actions of this case, I just think the burden of responsibility should shift to the party best suited to address the problem, and most likely to be negatively impacted by it. I still th Kiva.

But this all does have me thinking.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **tomviolence** on **May 11, 2009, 07:17:44 PM**

"Self Censorship" - by the Medium (Kiva), the Source (MFI), or Audience (Lenders) -

I really think that if Kiva becomes the filter, we start down that primrose path where some group somewhere will not be happy with whatever the loans being offered a want them removed. No farm animals, no agriculture with pesticides, no cars or motorcycles unless hybrid powered, no alcohol sales, ice cream is fattening, paper for children should be at least 80% post consumer recycled, etc. And when Kiva offers no loans, I will complain.

If the source (MFI) discovers certain loans do not do well or cause problems getting other loans funded, they might stop posting those loans. But this does require peop the offering, give feedback, and the MFI act on it.

Finally, the Audience. There are over 700 loans posting right now. The choice is yours.

I understand some people loan with out an in depth analysis of the offering, and sometimes the "blurb" is not clear. I think it is very very important to realize the rest world is not 2009 america, and 2008 america DID have legal cockfighting. Not that this makes blood sports great or wonderful, or to be encouraged, but is it really a li on whether Kiva should be supported or not ? I guess everybody has a make or break point, and perhaps this is it for some - not for me though.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Diane R** on **May 11, 2009, 07:21:35 PM**

I agree with you fully, tomviolence. This is the "slippery slope" concept that has been alluded to several times in related threads. The appropriate place for loans to be and evaluated is at the MFI.

--Diane.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **tomviolence** on **May 11, 2009, 07:28:08 PM**

it was funny seeing "agree with you tomviolence" used in a sentence.

BTW - my nickname is like calling a 300 lb biker "Tiny" or a bald guy "Curly" .....

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **cpbailey** on **May 11, 2009, 07:39:11 PM**

I agree that the best place is the mfi. It is a wonderful way to distinguish partners. I look for how a partner handles issues, and Finca has shown that it cares how it is perceived. It is showing cultural sensitivity to potential lenders by pulling this loan. It also will make efforts to consider which loans are posted in the future.

This was the perfect resolution in my opinion.

Colette

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Ginni** on **May 11, 2009, 07:45:45 PM**

Kiva already filters loans. You won't find a loan related to prostitution, regardless of it being legal in the originating country. I would like blood sports to be added to th

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Diane R** on **May 11, 2009, 07:52:54 PM**

And once again it's instructive to point out that prostitution and other loan uses disallowed by Kiva are related to human suffering and oppression.

--Diane.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Ginni** on **May 11, 2009, 08:11:47 PM**

On one of the other threads that was discussing the cockfighting issue, someone pointed out that violence against animals often leads to violence against people, espec children and women. I've been skimming these threads so I can't give you details, but I think the person worked in a field dealing with battered women.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **CESous** on **May 11, 2009, 08:15:41 PM**

The comment about prostitution prompts me to write again. When I received the original message about the cockfighting loan, I wrote to [contactus@kiva.org](mailto:contactus@kiva.org) as was s in the message. I received a lengthy and thoughtful reply from someone named Joe Ferrer of Kiva Customer Service. I then wrote back, and perhaps my comments to be pertinent here. Diane's note about HUMAN suffering and oppression does clarify the issue somewhat further, however.

"Thank you, Joe, for your lengthy and considerate explanation. I don't agree, however. There are some things that go beyond culture.

The most extreme example I can think of - and I hope you'll forgive me for this, as it is a difficult area and, frankly, is highly unlikely to ever involve Kiva in any way - circumcision, which is culturally desirable (even mandated) in parts of the world. Would any of us condone a procedure resulting in bodily trauma, disfigurement, poss infection, extreme pain and future dysfunction on a screaming, terrified pre-teen girl in the name of culture?

If someone wanted a loan to open a clinic to perform female circumcision in a country where such a thing is legal, would Kiva accept that?

What about a house of prostitution, where it's legal?

I grant that these are far-fetched examples, but I'm trying to make a point here.

Surely, Kiva, as an organization, has principles beyond just what is acceptable elsewhere."

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **tomviolence** on **May 11, 2009, 08:54:55 PM**

One other aspect of this is control.

Does loaning money to someone give you the right to direct them, force them to follow your vision ? What if someone who also loaned \$25 (out of let's say \$400), give right to tell them to do something differently ? Do we get together into sides and say the people who loaned the most have the right to direct the borrower how to live

There are several examples of loans listed for one purpose, then being used for something completely different - (Famous example of the case of the hunting dog)

Certainly, we expect the listed purpose to be clear and completed. But if the money is paid back on time, do we have any recourse ? Even if it is NOT paid back, do we recourse ? Loans refunded are not loans denied.

No, we lend - we hope for the best.

Is the bottom line to try and help people who are willing to work and use the "adam smith" capial we provide to increase their health, wealth and prosperity ?

Are our loans a moral wedge we use to force others less fortunate than us into living life as we envision it ?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 11, 2009, 09:23:49 PM**

And again, it is important and instuctive to point out that violence and cruelty against animals is intrinsically connected to violence and cruelty against people.

Judy

"Anyone who has accustomed himself to regard the life of any living creature as worthless is in danger of arriving also at the idea of worthless human life". - Albert Sc

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Diane R** on **May 11, 2009, 09:32:16 PM**

I accept and understand that many caring KivaFriends feel animals and humans are intrinsically connected in this way. Others of us do not.

--Diane.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **TheTatiana** on **May 11, 2009, 09:45:50 PM**

It's not a matter of me forcing anyone to do anything. It's just that if cockfighting loans are on kiva, then kiva becomes the sort of place with which I don't care to be : It's a matter of me choosing where to be myself, and where to put my money. I'm not trying to force someone across the world to change their line of work. My feelin cockfighting worldwide has no dearth of fans nor funding.

However, if by making these good choices together, we collectively cause someone who has never questioned the rightness of blood sports to stop and wonder, then the bad thing at all.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 11, 2009, 10:09:52 PM**

"To clarify a misunderstanding of my previous post:"

While I do feel animals and humans are intrinsically connected, that is not at all what I was saying in my post. What I was saying was/is that humans who are cruel to usually are also cruel to other humans. Cruelty to animals is intrinsically connected to cruelty to people. Violence against animals is directly connected to violence agai humans.

Cruelty towards animals leads down the slippery slope of cruelty towards humans.

We don't want to start down THAT slippery slope.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **wthepoo** on **May 11, 2009, 10:51:13 PM**

Quote from: Diane R on May 11, 2009, 09:32:16 PM

I accept and understand that many caring KivaFriends feel animals and humans are intrinsically connected in this way. Others of us do not.

OK, Diane, I will have to accept that, too, then, I guess.

I don't know enough about the studies Ginni mentioned here, and I believe Eli first mentioned in the other thread, and thus cannot say if these "others" are proven wr them (Judy and Ginni referred to *violence* against humans and violence against animals and the *prone*ness to such violence being interconnected; not to humans and a such [EDIT: while I was busy typing this, Judy already clarified that]).

To avoid any misunderstandings: I know that you don't support cockfighting, never loaned to one of the cockfighting loans and probably won't, should the "opportunity again.

So just a few remarks:

Quote from: Diane R on May 11, 2009, 07:52:54 PM

And once again it's instructive to point out that prostitution and other loan uses disallowed by Kiva are related to human suffering and oppression.

Even though I tend to disagree with the statement that e.g. prostitution (EDIT: or in fact drug trafficking) necessarily is related to human suffering and oppression (it is if not most cases, though, I am sure), I will accept this - at least for argument's sake - as an underlying reason for the whole of Kiva's guidelines. (EDIT: \*)

And still, with these restrictions they have entered - as Ginni rightly pointed out - the "slippery slope" (that still is none). With *any* filter beyond legality, they replace t judgment they have repeatedly claimed to rely on and accept for reasons of cultural sensitivity with their own. This decision IMHO invalidates the "slippery slope" argu completely - even if it were valid in the first place (which IMHO it is not, see my post here: <http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,1025.msg58154.html#msg58154>!

So there just remains the question *where* Kiva should draw the line - and that is a difficult decision, and I am certain a decision that will continuously be questioned by Yes, some lenders won't want to be associated with an organization supporting (and that's what posting the loans on Kiva comes down to - at least as long as Kiva stick story of peer-to-peer-lending instead of "just" supporting the MFIs) bingo parlours (see a recent post on the KF team board), moonshiners, butchers, coca leaf or cigare etc. So Kiva will have to reconsider their decision again and again - and that's a good thing IMHO -, and decide (a) which businesses - to quote Gerard - they don't feel comfortable enough with, and (b) which businesses are harming their own business interests too much to be posted on the website.

The easiest decision, namely avoiding any step onto the "slippery slope" at all and choosing a perfect *laissez-faire* attitude, is (again: IMHO) a fundamentally wrong on ethical organization - and one that Kiva does not take.

So, should "bloodsports" be excluded? You know my answer to that is "yes, without doubt or second thoughts" (as is the answer of many KFs). I repeatedly posted about and wherefore, and won't bother you with them, yet again. I just want to repeat here that it's my answer despite (at least) three more or less valid arguments for a d decision that I see and appreciate to a varying extent - which make me, I think, at least understand the opposite position, though I am far from sharing it:

- cultural sensitivity: cockfighting has a long tradition in many countries, and any denial of support to such an activity comes as a depreciation of local culture,
- borrower orientation: Kiva is borrower-focused and wants to help borrowers (more or less) in need; policy concerns like environment, animal rights, maybe also hum issues come second or are none of Kiva's business,
- ineffectiveness: the borrower will (probably) get the loan regardless of Kiva's decision (or has already received it); the roosters of this particular entrepreneur will th suffer anyway.

Despite all these arguments (I still don't really see the first, and think the other two [just like the first, should it have any value] are superseded by the need to take a against cruelty towards animals for entertainment purposes worldwide [the third argument in a way even providing a reason why the second isn't that striking; and po ineffectiveness never being a good enough reason not to take a stand...]) - and yes, that is a moral judgment on my part that others might and obviously do disagree w to agree with TheTatiana that I'd prefer not to be associated with any organization supporting cockfighting and other bloodsports in any conceivable way.

You mentioned a compromise in an earlier post, Diane - since reading that, I have been wondering what a compromise could look like. I haven't come up with anything think Kiva could realistically differentiate by the degree of need the borrower is in, by the amount of cruelty involved or the proximity of the business to the actual fig CEVI loan was for someone "just" raising the roosters and selling them, the Finca loan was for someone owning the roosters, an earlier loan was for someone running cockpit) or by any other criterion. So, so far I believe it's a "yes or no" decision; but I'd be happy to learn about your ideas.

I think I will leave it at that, and to quote one of your earlier posts, Diane: "I still love you all." - That holds true for me as well.

Best wishes,  
Wolfgang.

\* EDIT: One other thing... in the case of prostitution, a loan might actually help to lessen the "suffering and oppression", whereas with cockfighting businesses it most rather add to the tortures inflicted on animals. I don't *really* think the more or less categorical exclusion of prostitution related loans serves well to prevent human suff oppression.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Visitor Number 1** on **May 11, 2009, 11:15:37 PM**

Quote from: CESOUS on May 11, 2009, 08:15:41 PM

The most extreme example I can think of - and I hope you'll forgive me for this, as it is a difficult area and, frankly, is highly unlikely to ever involve Kiva in any way - is female circumcision, which is culturally desirable (even mand of the world. Would any of us condone a procedure resulting in bodily trauma, disfigurement, possible infection, extreme pain and future dysfunction on a screaming, terrified pre-teen girl in the name of culture?

If someone wanted a loan to open a clinic to perform female circumcision in a country where such a thing is legal, would Kiva accept that?

What about a house of prostitution, where it's legal?

Yet, many in the developed world wouldn't hesitate to donate to organizations such as Planned Parenthood that supports clinics performing abortions under the banner planning services". Many believe that abortion is a barbaric procedure that is as traumatic to the mother as it is to the unborn child, yet it is "legal" in many developec while deemed "illegal" in many developing countries.

So in terms of cultural sensitivity and legality, where does Kiva draw the line?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Diane R** on **May 12, 2009, 01:34:21 AM**

Thank you for the thoughtful responses, I am encouraged that we can continue to discuss even though we have some fundamental differences on some of the underlyi

I agree that where Kiva draws the line, and why, is the important missing puzzle piece here. Knowing that they are working now to clarify their position and justify it i even more eager to hear what they've come up with and why. I don't think there's anything near an easy answer, and I believe they may alienate some of their lendin constituency regardless of what decision they make. One possible compromise position I envisioned earlier was that Kiva might stick with its version of non-judgments neutrality (while remaining focused on alleviating human poverty), and the MFIs themselves would decide not to post certain loans at Kiva for funding, which in fact is happened in this recent case.

We're going to have to agree to disagree on some of your other points, Wolfgang. I can very easily see that if Kiva makes statements about forbidding posting of loans pertain to certain activities involving animals, it is a very short step to then forbidding all loans involving animals. While you may see 'bloodsports' as unconscionable I steak or lamb curry or chicken stew as just fine for dinner, others will say just as firmly that there is no difference, that it is just as cruel to kill an animal to eat as it is its death for some warped version of 'sport'. These others feel just as much passion and can plead their case just as strongly, and might then pressure Kiva to remove relating to using animals for any purpose, and soon Kiva becomes merely a clearing house for loans that could never insult or offend anyone in any way. And there aren't very many of those. (PS: As a former vegetarian, I know that humans don't need to eat animal products and I can provide cogent reasons for not raising animals. These reasons can sound just as convincing as those decrying 'bloodsports', so I know this next step could be a possibility.)

Perhaps Kiva will eventually decide to be explicit about excluding 'bloodsports' loans from the site. My only hope is that if they do, they have a coherent and well-thought rationale, so they do not open themselves up to round after round of demands to modify their 'prime directive' which would whittle down their mission of connecting people through lending to help alleviate poverty.

You are correct that I think cockfighting is wrong and would not support it in any way. I am glad I have the choice to invest my Kiva lending dollars in other loans instead draw a distinction between an MFI presenting such a loan request, and Kiva providing a neutral platform for lender opinion and choice. A distinction I meant to make in a previous post, which I didn't do a very good job at, is that I see Kiva as concerned with human rights and not animal rights, so it's perhaps easier for me to see the line the point where Kiva has it right now.

I keep hoping the clarification from Kiva will come sooner than later, so we can have a new kind of discussion about what they've declared. I'm glad again for our abilities about our positions and differences without resorting to any sort of personal attacks or insults. We're all better for this, as a community and individuals, I think. Than

--Diane.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **TheTatiana** on **May 12, 2009, 08:12:21 AM**

I think the slippery slope reason for not banning bloodsports is a fallacy. Nobody has called for kiva to ban ALL loans involving animals. So far as we know, nobody will use the threat of that as a reason not to ban something else entirely? Cockfighting involves profiting from a slow, brutal, cruel death for animals while humans watch enjoyment. The neural mechanisms of pain are quite similar in chickens and humans, so there's no scientific reason to believe the animal doesn't suffer the same death that a human would in similar circumstances. It's completely different than killing an animal quickly and humanely in order to butcher and eat it.

As for cultural sensitivity, kiva already draws a line, as Wolfgang pointed out. They already choose to ban certain types of loans. The only question is where the line is drawn. Looking at it as a purely business decision, if cockfighting loans are allowed, kiva will continually be mired in controversy over it. Is that good for kiva's business or not? It seems to me it would drive away a lot more lending than it attracted. I think the MFI in this case saw that it makes more business sense to pull it, and not let such loans through kiva anymore. I hope kiva itself will come to the same conclusion.

I wonder what Jessica thinks about this.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **tomviolence** on **May 12, 2009, 09:03:34 AM**

I do not see the issue as having to do with cockfighting loans, but rather, is kiva a portal to bring MFI's and lenders together, or is it a vendor of loans ?

I think there is a subtle but critical difference here.

Yes, they do have some filters in place, but honestly, do you think the MFI's would post loans that are illegal in their country ? To add a second layer, Kiva, as a police, the fundamental nature of the relationship between lenders, kiva and the MFI.

Perhaps this is the 30,000 foot view, but I think it is critical.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Unilove** on **May 12, 2009, 11:52:31 PM**

hi Tom... I am not sure I am understanding your point... Are you saying they are the portal or the vendor, and what is the subtle difference?

EDIT: mis-spelled your name... sorry!!

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **tomviolence** on **May 13, 2009, 12:27:25 AM**

What I am trying to say, is that Kiva does not provide loans. MFI's provide loans. Kiva provides access to MFI's. They are a portal.

Just as google is a portal. They provide access to information, but they do not create that information. Google does censor or filter certain things, to comply with government laws.

I am pretty sure if you asked them to block all content related to cockfighting, the answer would be "no".

People from other places besides the united states use Kiva. Someone from Sweden can loan to someone in Cambodia. Should Kiva make sure all loans have no issues with Swedish law ? If Finnish law differs from Swedish law, which takes precedence ?

If Kiva moves into the role of vetting loans, the complexity, responsibility and liability would crush them. IM very HO.

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Unilove** on **May 13, 2009, 01:34:14 AM**

thank you for the clarification :) much appreciated :) :thumb:

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Patricia SF** on **May 30, 2009, 11:46:40 PM**

Is this another cockfighting loan?

[http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697&\\_tpos=2&\\_tpg=1](http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697&_tpos=2&_tpg=1)

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Alaska Pack** on **May 31, 2009, 12:23:07 AM**

:o Looks like it to us and we sent a letter to contact us. We mentioned that the profile does not mention cock-fighting in the description. We wrote that the lenders are right to know the purpose of these chickens.

The Alaska Pack :o

**Title: Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **tomviolence** on **May 31, 2009, 06:12:45 AM**

Sometimes chickens might be chickens .....

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Eli** on **May 31, 2009, 06:21:19 AM**

Quote from: Patricia SF on May 30, 2009, 11:46:40 PM

Is this another cockfighting loan?

[http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697&\\_tpos=2&\\_tpg=1](http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697&_tpos=2&_tpg=1)

That is **most definitely** the breed of chicken that is used in cockfighting due to its aggressive nature. No ifs-and-or-butts about it.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **May 31, 2009, 06:28:15 AM**

Quote from: tormviolence on May 31, 2009, 06:12:45 AM

Sometimes chickens might be chickens .....

... but what is that perchie thing? We don't see it when chickens are being chickens ....

Jane Sladen.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Eli** on **May 31, 2009, 06:34:14 AM**

Quote from: Jane Sladen on May 31, 2009, 06:28:15 AM

... but what is that perchie thing? We don't see it when chickens are being chickens ....

Jane Sladen.

Fighting roosters are their own separate breed of gamefowl. They are different than meat or egg laying breeds, for example, as they have been bred to have different characteristics desired in cockfighting (aggression, fighting ability, gameness, etc.). Farmers have few roosters when breeding for eggs or meat. When using the male fighting you have to keep them separate and attach them to something like the 'perchie thingy' to keep them from killing each other outside of the fighting ring.

EDIT: You can see where these roosters are tethered because the vegetation is worn down in a circle around each perch if you look closely. The cockfighting rooster in foreground might look like it is running free, but by the vegetation I'd say that the perch is just out of the photo.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **RichardF** on **May 31, 2009, 07:11:56 AM**

(<http://i170.photobucket.com/albums/u270/RichardFr/kivaaloans.jpg>) (<http://s3.kiva.org/img/w450h360/328128.jpg>) (<http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697>)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **May 31, 2009, 07:26:37 AM**

This is a quote from Andrzej, in another thread, May 7th, 2009:

Quote

Part of the problem is that the cock fighting loans are misleadingly classified as 'Agricultural' and 'Animal sales'.

I had myself given a loan for cock fighting some time before, being misled by unclear description, ....

This one is classified as "Poultry". I thought I read somewhere that Kiva was going to "improve" (sorry - couldn't come up with a better word) these types of loans by s true purpose of the loan. I can't find it, so cannot substantiate what I am saying.....

In any case, this description goes back again to what Andrzej said. How many of the people who lent to Norma Taucan are aware of the cruelty that is probably involve

Jane Sladen.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 31, 2009, 07:33:07 AM**

From the In Defense of Animals Website: (This article was written before the 50th and final state banned cockfighting.):

COCKFIGHTING: A blood sport for roosters

Although it is illegal in 49 states, cockfighting is a tradition that dates back several centuries and spans several cultures. Thus it is difficult to stamp out. Like other ille fights, cockfights take place surreptitiously

What is Cockfighting?

Cockfighting is an organized fight between two roosters who are placed in a pit to fight each other. The roosters have been trained to severely injure and/or kill one another. These birds, which are raised for the purpose of fighting, are tormented to make them aggressive. They are also given various legal and illegal drugs such as strychnin amphetamines, and epinephrine to make them more aggressive, increase their endurance and clot the blood that will flow during the fight.

The natural spurs of the roosters are sawed off and replaced by razor sharp steel blades or curved implements called gaffs which measure from one to three inches long. The fight, from which neither rooster can escape, the birds peck and maim one another with their beaks and weapons. The long, sharp gaffs stab deep into the flesh of requiring handlers to physically pull the animals apart. Although they have been bred to fight, the animals often become tired, incapable and suffer severe injuries. The fight ends when one rooster is dead or is too weak to fight. The loser then gets thrown in the trash, sometimes while still alive. For the winner, there is no guarantee that he survive his injuries and often ends up with the same fate as the losing bird.

Cockfights are held before an arena of cheering spectators who often wager large sums of money on the outcome of the contest. Children are often present at the fight to concern that they are being desensitized to the suffering of others and they are being encouraged to use violence.

Don't these birds fight naturally?

Although these birds in a flock will often fight to establish a "pecking order", these battles rarely result in injury. Wild roosters conduct ritual showdowns that, as with many other animals, substitute for and deflect from actual physical combat. Only birds that have been bred and provoked to fight will inflict the serious injuries seen in cockfighting. Also, unlike birds in the wild, these animals cannot escape. They are placed in an enclosed pit and forced to fight until one quits, is severely injured, or die

**Isn't cockfighting a cultural tradition?**

**While cockfighting may be a tradition in some cultures, not all traditions are good ones that deserve to continue. Cesar Chavez, who condemned the practice of cockfighting, once wrote: "Kindness and compassion toward all living things is a mark of a civilized society. Conversely, cruelty, whether it is directed against human beings or against animals, is not the exclusive province of any one culture or community of people." In a statewide survey conducted in Arizona 95% of Hispanic voters said they felt that cockfighting was "cruel and inhumane." While only 34% of Anglo respondents disagreed that "cockfighting is an important part of Hispanic culture," 70% of Hispanics disagreed with the statement.**

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **TheTatiana** on **May 31, 2009, 07:48:12 AM**

I feel this is appalling. How long will kiva tolerate these things? They really spoil the whole enterprise for me. In contrast to the joy and enthusiasm I used to feel for I feel nauseated by the very thought. :( Poor birds. It's so sad. And poor people who watch. It's sickening.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 31, 2009, 07:58:28 AM**

I definitely agree with those who have spoken before me that these roosters belong to one of the cockfighting breeds which are bred for their aggressiveness, fighting, colorful plummage. There are also more perches a bit farther back in the photo. There is no doubt that these are cockfighting roosters.

Since Kiva continues to promote these ethically reprehensible, cruel and inhumane business loans by posting them on Kiva's website, and since Kiva is "washing its hair" blood of these poor suffering roosters, I suggest we write to this MFI and let them know how we feel. Kiva is not listening to its lenders but perhaps the MFI will.

Field Partner: Paglaum Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PMPC)  
Email Contact: [paglaumcoop@yahoo.com](mailto:paglaumcoop@yahoo.com)  
[paglaumho@paglaumcoop.org.ph](mailto:paglaumho@paglaumcoop.org.ph)

Network Affiliation: National Confederation of Cooperatives in the Philippines

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Dagfinn** on **May 31, 2009, 08:52:36 AM**

For my part I suggest we do not impose our cultural ethics on other - if so, it makes me feel we treat them as inferior to us.

I am afraid of all to often view all and everything as my own upbringing with all that brings as the norm. . .

Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **fredr1c** on **May 31, 2009, 09:20:35 AM**

Quote from: Dagfinn on May 31, 2009, 08:52:36 AM

For my part I suggest we do not impose our cultural ethics on other - if so, it makes me feel we treat them as inferior to us.

I agree completely with Dagfinn. I want to stay away from that part of it.

But all loans offered through Kiva should be clearly marked for what they really represent, at the very least. Call a cockfighting loan a cockfighting loan, if that's what Kivafriends shouldn't have to deputeize themselves as crack bloodsport detectors.

Own what you offer to the public, Kiva.org.

Be honest enough to own what you offer to the public for funding, so people can make informed decisions about Kiva in general and that loan in particular.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 31, 2009, 09:31:50 AM**

Quote from: Dagfinn on May 31, 2009, 08:52:36 AM

For my part I suggest we do not impose our cultural ethics on other - if so, it makes me feel we treat them as inferior to us.

For my part, if I am suffering because of another's or others' cruel actions, I hope someone imposes some cultural ethics and comes to my aid. In the same vein, we should come to the aid of helpless creatures who are being subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment. Compassion trumps supposed "cultural" practices any day.

And frankly, I think we do other cultures a disservice and we treat them as inferior by assuming that these cruel and inhumane activities are their culture and are accepted by the majority of the people. All of these countries have groups working within the countries to outlaw these practices.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **May 31, 2009, 09:41:56 AM**

Once you look at the original, enlarged version of this photo, you can actually see the tether attached to the fighting cocks leg. Judging from the position of the tether grass, it appears that the perch is directly to our left or in the foreground as we look at the photo. You can also see other perches (I count 4) in the photo background in one Jane S. pointed out. At the bottom of that perch there is another gamecock. Also directly to the woman's left, our right, you can see another perch lying in the grass.

Quote from: tomviolence on May 31, 2009, 06:12:45 AM

Sometimes chickens might be chickens .....

And sometimes people are blind because they simply refuse to see.

*Yes, n how many times can a man turn his head,  
Pretending he just doesnt see?  
The answer, my friend, is blowin in the wind,  
The answer is blowin in the wind.*

There is **NO** doubt about it, this woman is raising cocks for the cockfighting trade.

(<http://s3.kiva.org/img/orig/328128.jpg>)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Dagfinn** on **May 31, 2009, 09:54:09 AM**

The problem arise when feelings is put into the equation - there will always be someone that will claim something/someone is crossing a line of some kind. If ti use th reason to censor the cause is what upset (oops, here is a feeling again :) me as it makes life impossible.

I suggest look to the topic at hand, alleviating poverty and if one feel strongly about something I am sure there is a cause that have that as their concern - but in my view it where it belongs. I am certain that many of our entrepreneurs cope with a life not at all to their liking but they cannot afford the ethics we claim upon them. Beside possible to live a life that is not all based on Western "values" - just look here (to give just one example of western correctness do) where hunting seal is no longer all we hardly have cod left as the balance is thrown around and the seals take away the living for many a fisherman.

Most things may be viewed differently and I am always worried for those that hold "the truth" up as their weapon - one last thing. When I go to the shop the egg I find older than the chicken they offer. Why not look to us industrialised nations and how we treat those millions of chicken instead of those hens I wonder . . .

Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **May 31, 2009, 10:00:35 AM**

Quote from: Judith on May 31, 2009, 09:31:50 AM

For my part, if I am suffering because of another's or other' cruel actions, I hope someone imposes some cultural ethics and comes to my aid. In the same vein, we should be coming to the aid of helpless creatures who are beif to cruel and inhumane treatment. Compassion trumps supposed "cultural" practices any day.

And frankly, I think we do other cultures a disservice and we treat them as inferior by assuming that these cruel and inhumane activities are their culture and are accepted by the majority of the people. All of these countries have working within the countries to outlaw these practices.

Judy

Judy - I agree completely. I do not want to bring up the not-to-be-mentioned thing most of us hate in Canada .... but yes, there are MILLIONS of us trying to stop it... or no culture. Europe has helped a lot. Cruelty to innocent creatures MUST be stopped! If we sit back and say, "Wow! Protect their culture, otherwise they will think treating them as inferiors", we are condoning it and therefore just as guilty ourselves. **Kiva, do you hear me???**

Jane Sladen.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **tomviolence** on **May 31, 2009, 10:12:08 AM**

Quote from: Dagfinn on May 31, 2009, 09:54:09 AM

Most things may be viewed differently and I am always worried for those that hold "the truth" up as their weapon - one last thing. When I go to the shop the egg I find there is older than the chicken they offer. Why not look to industrialised nations and how we treat those millions of chicken instead of those hens I wonder . . .

Dagfinn A

Because eggs are delicious and many foods we eat are made with eggs. Eggs are used to make vaccines, for instance for the flu.

Besides, the giant agribusiness conglomerates in our back yards haven't posted any loans on Kiva.....

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **tomviolence** on **May 31, 2009, 10:29:31 AM**

Quote from: CherylS on May 31, 2009, 10:25:00 AM

Because food and entertainment are two different things.

Ahhh , now I understand, perfectly ok for inhuman treatment as long as we eat them ....

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **May 31, 2009, 10:34:00 AM**

For those who are *still* having a hard time ??? :thinking: telling the difference between a chicken & a gamecock raised for fighting :brickwall: :-\

### Gamecock

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A gamecock is a type of rooster with physical and behavioral traits derived from breeding for cockfighting. Gamecocks are usually much more territorial, have less prof combs and wattles (which may be removed entirely in a process called dubbing), and have hard feathering. There are numerous chicken breeds that fit the gamecock i gamecock is not in itself a breed. *Today, cockfighting, like most blood sports, is illegal in most of the world, but exceptions exist. Gamecocks are bred for traits that them less suitable for barnyard use*, and are kept today in the developed world primarily for exhibition purposes. There are several breeds of chicken, such as the Game and Old English Game, which fit the gamecock type, but are not directly used in cockfighting. (<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/30/Philippineroster.jpg/800px-Philippineroster.jpg>)

A Philippine gamecock

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamecock>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Alaska Pack** on **May 31, 2009, 10:44:34 AM**

Dagfinn, you are correct at the plight of factory farmed chicken which is why we choose to buy eggs from the local free range farmer.

On this topic, let's add that not only is it fighting but also includes gambling.

HOW ARE THE POOR BEING HELPED BY THIS INDUSTRY IF THE POOR BET AND LOSE THEIR MONEY WHICH WAS INTENDED FOR FOOD OR POSSIBLY THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION? (a quote from this site) If luck favored him that day, he heads home with his fighter and his opponent's dead rooster in hand. The family will feast on ch tonight. Otherwise, he wonders what to tell his wife when she finds out what has happened to their savings.

For those who are undecided, need more information, or just don't think this sport is cruel, please refer to the following site. It is by far one of the most descriptive. I know just because we don't see poverty in our daily lives, it does not mean it does not exist, the same with cruelty.

[http://my\\_sarisari\\_store.typepad.com/my\\_sarisari\\_store/cockfighting/](http://my_sarisari_store.typepad.com/my_sarisari_store/cockfighting/)

([http://my\\_sarisari\\_store.typepad.com/photos/uncategorized/dead\\_rooster\\_sabong.jpg](http://my_sarisari_store.typepad.com/photos/uncategorized/dead_rooster_sabong.jpg))

([http://my\\_sarisari\\_store.typepad.com/photos/uncategorized/cook\\_sabong.jpg](http://my_sarisari_store.typepad.com/photos/uncategorized/cook_sabong.jpg))

([http://my\\_sarisari\\_store.typepad.com/photos/uncategorized/gaff.jpg](http://my_sarisari_store.typepad.com/photos/uncategorized/gaff.jpg))

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 31, 2009, 10:47:25 AM**

Quote from: Dagfinn on May 31, 2009, 09:54:09 AM

Why not look to us industrialised nations and how we treat those millions of chicken instead of those hens I wonder . . .

This is not an either/or situation. We can address cruelty and inhumaneness wherever we see it.

So we can address cruelty when we see it posted on Kiva by trying to get it removed, refunded, and not posted in the future as well as working towards a world without sports.

And we can address cruelty when we see it in our own backyards by not buying those inhumanely and unsustainably raised chickens and their eggs (as well as inhumanely unsustainably raised beef, pork, lamb, duck, goose, and turkey, to name a few) and instead we can buy from farmers who raise their animals in a humane and sustainable manner. (And there are many of these humane farmers who use sustainable farming methods.)

This is really not as difficult as some people try to make it out to be.

On another note, I also do not buy into the fact that these borrowers have no choice but to engage in a cruel and inhumane business. That kind of thinking really does borrowers as inferior.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Dagfinn** on **May 31, 2009, 10:50:00 AM**

Quote from: CherylS on May 31, 2009, 10:38:38 AM

One of the lenders on this loan has just responded to my note. She was unaware of what she was funding, and will be requesting a refund.

wow - when will the lawsuit be bright on I wonder . . .

More seriously: is this not putting things way out of proportion? I cannot help but think that is the ultimate luxury when one ask for a refund just because there are 4 roosters (I think I used the wrong word last time so I try to learn:) are the property of a woman struggling to make a living.

What else shall be banned - I know people willing to protest against oranges from Israel or non cooperative milk. Am I alone thinking this is fighting windmills?

Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Dagfinn** on **May 31, 2009, 10:58:49 AM**

Quote from: Judith on May 31, 2009, 10:47:25 AM

On another note, I also do not buy into the fact that these borrowers have no choice but to engage in a cruel and inhumane business. That kind of thinking really does treat the borrowers as inferior.

Judy

Judy, I beg to differ. In order to be inhumane it has to involve another human being from what I am taught. To project humanity towards animals is wrong and not po definition I think. That said, yes one should not be cruel to animals at all but what I wanted to point out is that you and I have much more to answer for closer to home was why I used the example of how we produce chicken, that is a greater cruelty in my view and I think we have many issues of that kind around us.

Anyway, people here get so heated up that I think this is my last post on this subject - outside we have the first summer day :thumb:

Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **May 31, 2009, 11:13:22 AM**

Quote from: CherylS on May 31, 2009, 10:38:38 AM

One of the lenders on this loan has just responded to my note. She was unaware of what she was funding, and will be requesting a refund.

As we have seen time & time again, many lenders are shocked, appalled, embarrassed & regretful when they find out that they have been deceived by kiva into fundin for cockfighting.

I do not think you are alone Dagfinn but this is most definitely NOT fighting windmills.

Cruelty is cruelty, plain & simple, and should be discouraged & opposed whenever & wherever it is found.

The fallacious argument that it is somehow okay due to cultural differences is seriously flawed.

And as Judy & others have pointed out, it is condescending & paternalistic to think otherwise.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 31, 2009, 11:21:45 AM**

Quote from: Dagfinn on May 31, 2009, 10:58:49 AM

Judy, I beg to differ. In order to be inhumane it has to involve another human being from what I am taught. To project humanity towards animals is wrong and not possible per definition I think.

Humane \Hu\*mane", a. [L. humanus: cf. F. humain. See Human.]

1. Pertaining to man; human. [Obs.]

--Jer. Taylor.

2. Having the feelings and inclinations creditable to man; having a disposition to treat other human beings or animals with kindness; kind; benevolent.

Of an exceeding courteous and humane inclination. --Sportswood.

3. Humanizing; exalting; tending to refine.

Syn: Kind; sympathizing; benevolent; mild; compassionate; gentle; tender; merciful. -- Hu\*mane"ly, adv. -- Hu\*mane"ness, n.

Source: Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Dagfinn** on **May 31, 2009, 11:30:22 AM**

So now I know Judith that there is a different explanation in your Webster and my Norwegian dictionary - what goes that to tell . . .

Be well, Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Dagfinn** on **May 31, 2009, 11:36:57 AM**

Quote from: bikeme on May 31, 2009, 11:13:22 AM

Cruelty is cruelty, plain & simple, and should be discouraged & opposed whenever & wherever it is found.

The fallacious argument that it is somehow okay due to cultural differences is seriously flawed.

And as Judy & others have pointed out, it is condescending & paternalistic to think otherwise.

hmmm - I had to look up to understand what I am here and now I know some see me as patronizing and that I view myself superior with a fatherly manner . . .

Really so ?

Be well all, with and without adjectives | Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **cpbailey** on **May 31, 2009, 11:47:38 AM**

Realistically, Kiva is posting whatever the partner provides. I don't think it is practical for Kiva to read through thousands of loans per month, researching to see if the or even the BORROWER has whatever key facts. It is positive to contact the lenders on these loans, and then the AFFECTED lenders can ask Kiva for refunds. It is posi contact the partner to ask that they post only accurate and complete loans, and that it is in their best interests to show an image of their clients and their country that

seen favorably in the world community.

If this middle ground is acceptable, I am on board. Else, the extremists can battle it out like our politicians in the U.S. Hmmmm, you think that has caused progress...

Colette

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Visitor Number 1** on **May 31, 2009, 01:08:22 PM**

Quote from: [bikeme on May 31, 2009, 11:13:22 AM](#)

Cruelty is cruelty, plain & simple, and should be discouraged & opposed whenever & wherever it is found. The fallacious argument that it is somehow okay due to cultural differences is seriously flawed.

And as Judy & others have pointed out, it is condescending & paternalistic to think otherwise.

If I were to follow your cultural differences argument, then it sounds like you would also be opposed to loans to medical clinics that offered abortion services since it is in much of the developing world because it is considered cruel and inhumane. Yet, it is legal in most of the developed world. I point out these "differences" in a separate

<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,1025.msg56704.html#msg56704> (<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,1025.msg56704.html#msg56704>)

So should this type of loan be banned? Please advise if this follows your logic.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **May 31, 2009, 02:59:52 PM**

Quote from: [Patricia SF on May 30, 2009, 11:46:40 PM](#)

Is this another cockfighting loan?

[http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697&\\_tpos=2&\\_tpg=1](http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697&_tpos=2&_tpg=1)

I saw this loan last night and there was still \$25 available.

I should have taken it and then I could get to see exactly what is written to a lender in this type of case.

I was drawn to the photo of a lady in a green space - my favourite kind of loan.

It was probably just my 'education' here at KF that allowed me to pass it by and move on.

However, it was listed under Agriculture with the Primary Activity as Poultry.

I saw in the photo a lady and a couple of examples of her 'Poultry'.

Until Kiva comes up with some more specific categories, I don't think this loan is actually misleading.

(I passed on a seller of 'soft drinks' the other day - on the shelf behind her was a lovely assortment of alcoholic beverages. I decided it was probably a bar, but didn't want to say that we had been misled. I just made the decision based on what I saw in the photo and my own personal lending preferences.)

That's all any of us can do.

I don't see the point in getting all upset at Kiva.

Thanks Judy for doing the research and posting the addresses for the MFI (<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,3447.msg59376.html#msg59376>).

Thanks also to RichardF for asking Diane to put this on the Liaison list (<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,3433.msg59404.html#msg59404>) for more clarification. Kiva again on the transparency aspect of these loans. There must be a better 'middle ground' somewhere here.

jan

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **May 31, 2009, 03:20:14 PM**

Quote from: [Jan & John on May 31, 2009, 02:59:52 PM](#)

.... However, it was listed under Agriculture with the Primary Activity as Poultry.

I saw in the photo a lady and a couple of examples of her 'Poultry'.

Until Kiva comes up with some more specific categories, I don't think this loan is actually misleading.

jan

OK, Kiva! We need a new Category: **Bloodsports**, and a new Primary Activity, **Cockfighting** - until you change your policy and stop these loans.

Jane Sladen.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Visitor Number 1** on **May 31, 2009, 04:21:31 PM**

Quote from: [Jane Sladen on May 31, 2009, 03:20:14 PM](#)

OK, Kiva! We need a new Category: **Bloodsports**, and a new Primary Activity, **Cockfighting** - until you change your policy and stop these loans.

Jane Sladen.

Even if new categories are created, it is up to the MFI to label the loan correctly. How many times under the "Mortgage the House..." thread have we seen health-related KF's wanted to support labeled as "Retail" or an education loan labeled as "Personal Use"?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **saabnet** on **May 31, 2009, 08:58:50 PM**

I've tried to see this from a number of different viewpoints, but the last one I stopped with is that it is going to be a bummer to have to explain to my daughter, Lily, how Kiva is despite the **animal-cruelty** loans. It makes me less enthusiastic about the prospects of passing along a Kiva tradition to the next generation, let alone other potential lenders (Kiva is great, except...)

-Scott (a fan of food culture-not animal-cruelty)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **karlynwagner** on **May 31, 2009, 09:14:05 PM**

Speaking of Cockfighting,

After Mass this morning Gery and I went out to a new Thai restaurant in our neighborhood. As we were leaving we passed the checkout counter and this is what we saw. See attached photo

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Dagfinn** on **June 01, 2009, 12:32:58 AM**

Quote from: [CherylS on May 31, 2009, 09:16:40 PM](#)

How do I explain that Kiva is okay with bloodsports, but maybe they shouldn't be? Yes, it's hard to pass Kiva-love on to the next generation.

---

If I'm being patronizing or culturally insensitive, so be it.

---

I do not think anyone for a second believe or regard Kiva as "okay with bloodsports" simply because an entrepreneur maybe raise roosters for cockfighting. This idea to follow other legal standards than your own you are not entitled to improve your living standard and we will not come to your aid I find inhumane and not helping the question either.

I suggest that if one have such an issue one could consider writing to the entrepreneur and (kindly) enlighten them of your views and encourage them to look at this from animals point as you get nowhere without establishing a base for communication based on trust and respect.

Last, I ask myself; do we have a right to barge in on others lives and all of a sudden command changes, just because we share a tiny part of our surplus with them?

Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **June 01, 2009, 05:35:39 AM**

[Quote from: Dagfinn on June 01, 2009, 12:32:58 AM](#)

I do not think anyone for a second believe or regard Kiva as "okay with bloodsports".....

Dagfinn A

---

Well, I for one DO! They have made it quite clear that they will not add Bloodsports to their banned list because the United Nations has not made it uniformly illegal, and because it is legal in some cultures. If I am mistaken here, other KF's, please correct me.

Jane Sladen.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **YowieFreak** on **June 01, 2009, 05:42:54 AM**

[Quote from: Jane Sladen on June 01, 2009, 05:35:39 AM](#)

Well, I for one DO! They have made it quite clear that they will not add Bloodsports to their banned list because the United Nations has not made it uniformly illegal, and also because it is legal in some cultures. If I am mistaken KF's, please correct me.

Jane Sladen.

That doesn't necessarily mean that **Kiva** is OK with it - it just means that the **United Nations** is OK with it.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Eli** on **June 01, 2009, 06:05:35 AM**

[Quote from: YowieFreak on June 01, 2009, 05:42:54 AM](#)

That doesn't necessarily mean that **Kiva** is OK with it - it just means that the **United Nations** is OK with it.

The United Nations isn't an **animal** rights group, it is a **human** rights group. That is like saying 'Mothers Against Drunk Driving' won't speak out for 'Save the Bay', because it doesn't have anything to do with the other. It is a wall that Kiva has chosen to hide behind so they don't have to make a stance, and they are obviously okay with it.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Dagfinn** on **June 01, 2009, 06:20:45 AM**

[Quote from: Jane Sladen on June 01, 2009, 05:35:39 AM](#)

Well, I for one DO! They have made it quite clear that they will not add Bloodsports to their banned list because the United Nations has not made it uniformly illegal, and also because it is legal in some cultures. If I am mistaken KF's, please correct me.

Jane Sladen.

I ask Jane, of you, consider whether UN is a body that globally can lay down the law of what is legal and not and also when a country is bound by their decisions.

I am also curious as to where you want this to end. What kind of demands would you find correct that the entrepreneurs put on us for lending them money? We live in times where western military forces do not respect their men to die in war and therefore produce new technologies that kill the civilians instead. To give one (we all know there are more) We have just had a war again on the Gaza strip where civilians were killed for no reason ever justified by UN or the global community in general.

When that kind of "bloodsports" have come to an end, at that time we can start looking for roosters - that is my take on it.

Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **June 01, 2009, 06:37:52 AM**

Yes ... It's time Kiva became responsible for its own decisions and took a stand other than to lamely say, "It's OK with the UN, so it's OK with us".

Jane Sladen.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Harvey:)** on **June 01, 2009, 09:06:49 AM**

[Quote from: Dagfinn on June 01, 2009, 06:20:45 AM](#)

I ask Jane, of you, consider whether UN is a body that globally can lay down the law of what is legal and not and also when a country is bound by their decisions.

Actually, no one is asking the UN to lay down any laws regarding animal cruelty. As Eli pointed out, the United Nations isn't an animal rights group, it is a human right: The United Nations is most likely never going to address cockfighting and Kiva knows this. For Kiva to base their decision to allow cockfighting on whether the United Nations addresses cockfighting in a convention is like basing decisions to aid people on whether The International Animal Rescue League, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Society for the Protection of Animals, or the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International addresses cruelty against humans. It is not their focus, not going to happen. So for Kiva to state they will continue posting cockfighting loans because the United Nations has no conventions against cockfighting loans, is just Kiva to side step the issue and continue to post the cockfighting loans.

Quit hiding behind the United Nations, Kiva, and take responsibility for your own actions and the cruelty you are promoting.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Dagfinn** on **June 01, 2009, 09:38:43 AM**

From the UN charter (I bolded what I wanted to highlight):

Article 1

The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. **To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character**, and in promoting encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. **To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.**

Maybe the UN is not that way off that some seem inclined to think . . . I for one find this issue of cockfighting to be in dire need of "international co-operation in solving

Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **YowieFreak** on **June 01, 2009, 01:31:07 PM**

Quote from: Eli on June 01, 2009, 06:05:35 AM

The United Nations isn't an **animal** rights group, it is a **human** rights group.

Kiva isn't an **animal rights** group, it is a **human poverty alleviation** group.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **mungo** on **June 01, 2009, 01:48:32 PM**

As the issue has come up again, I would posit the following:

As the MFIs realize that lenders react negatively to loans for cockfighting, I believe they will intentionally make it less clear that this is the purpose of the loan. The MFI's vested interest in the loans being funded by Kiva lenders, just as they have a vested interest in funding as many loans as they can. I believe these two elements could result in lack of transparency on behalf of the MFIs, if not outright dishonesty. In this most recent case, if the photograph had been only of the lender, no one would have known the purpose of the loan. I don't really believe the MFIs will stop listing loans for cockfighting. I believe they will just hide behind ambiguous language and presentation then be 'shocked' when we call them on it.

This raises a different problem for Kiva, and for us. If the MFIs are not clearly indicating the purpose of a loan, and if Kiva is not establishing their own policy with the what kinds of loans are not to be listed, then how can we be asked to judge each loan for ourselves based on the description given? If Kiva isn't willing to keep the MFIs in this regard, it's unreasonable to ask us bear the burden of responsibility for determining what loans are objectionable.

I've said from the beginning that Kiva was using bad judgment by listing these loans. A number of you have indicated that you believe that Kiva should stay out of the mess by listing all loans and letting the lenders raise objections or choose not to fund objectionable loans. For that position to be valid, all loans have to be described accurately and honestly, and Kiva needs to at the very least enforce honesty and accuracy with the MFIs.

I don't believe this was the case here, and I believe we will see more ambiguous loans in the future, unless Kiva sets some standards for the accuracy of loan descriptions. Kiva is unwilling to tell their MFIs not to list bloodsport loans, then are they at least willing to tell their MFIs to accurately reflect bloodsport loans in their loan descriptions as a condition of continued partnership with Kiva?

If Kiva is unwilling to enforce accuracy in the loan descriptions, how can they ask us to judge each loan for ourselves?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **June 01, 2009, 01:48:52 PM**

For what it's worth, I just got this:

Quote

Dear Ms. Sladen,

Thank you for your reply. I apologize if you perceived my previous response to your concerns as crass.

I wanted to follow-up and let you know that our Cruelty Investigations Department (CID) will be contacting Kiva. I will be happy to follow-up with you again to let you know when we have contacted Kiva.

Thank you again for your reply and compassion for animals.

Sincerely,

Carrie Edwards  
PETA Foundation

Jane Sladen.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Diane R** on **June 01, 2009, 01:49:41 PM**

#### **MODERATORS' NOTE:**

The moderating team has discussed the direction this thread and others may be taking, and rather than stifle important discussions on which many members have passed opinions, we would like to remind everyone that vigorous debate and disagreement is fine and even encouraged here at KivaFriends. But it is important to remember to discuss a discussion topic or point, and not to other members personally. If you feel you need to launch an attack, please be careful to attack the argument and not the person making the argument. We are a community of friends here, and we expect courtesy and respect to be shown to everyone who visits and posts here. Thanks for your cooperation as we weave our way through contentious topics.

--Diane and the rest of the moderating team (Peter, Wolfgang, and Kerry).

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **mungo** on **June 01, 2009, 01:53:02 PM**

Quote from: Diane R on June 01, 2009, 01:49:41 PM

**MODERATORS' NOTE:**

Thanks for stepping in with that. I hate it when things get personal.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **saabnet** on **June 01, 2009, 01:57:39 PM**

FYI,

The loan in question has been refunded. :thumb:

[http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697&\\_tpos=2&\\_tpg=1](http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697&_tpos=2&_tpg=1)

-Scott

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Diane R** on **June 01, 2009, 02:00:55 PM**

The comment on the loan when it was refunded reads as follows:

Quote

This loan has been refunded for the following reason:  
 The field partner has requested that this loan be refunded on the account that the project has offended the sensibilities of some of the Kiva lenders. PMPC express its deep regret for having posted this story on the Kiva website promised that it will not post any business that are related to cockfighting or any activity that implies cruelty to animals.  
 PMPC hopes that this unfortunate incident should not affect the Kiva lender's support to the borrowers of PMPC, particularly that it has taken steps to make sure that this won't happen again.  
 Thank you.  
 Posted by Elrico Muñoz, Kiva Staff, from San Francisco, United States

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **RichardF** on **June 01, 2009, 02:06:35 PM**

Note. Of course, Diane beat me to it. I deleted the redundant quote on the reason for refund.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **cpbailey** on **June 01, 2009, 02:21:09 PM**

Diane,

Thank you for reminding people to stick to issues and not get personal. I know that personal arguments not only affect the one attacked but also cause a bit of respect for the one attacking. So in my book, there are no winners when it gets personal.

I am very happy with the results of this latest loan being pulled. I think it shows the power of KF. We have reached around Kiva and connected from many points around world to affect change in a small way via the mfi! It wasn't directly stated in the loan, and yet it was figured out and removed. The mfi has stated that it would not post which are cruel to animals, so should something slip by...well, it should be a quicker process in the future.

If I am not mistaken, this has been 100% effective to pursue the illegal loans thru Kiva and the legal enterprises thru the mfi. Let's continue to put the time consumer on the mfi's when they post such loans.

Colette

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Alaska Pack** on **June 01, 2009, 02:43:42 PM**

Thank you Diane, Peter, Kerry, and Wolfgang for pointing out the moderation. My intent was not to single out anyone but I was getting tired of the back and forth argument every time there was a post. It was around about way that was my poor attempt to say that it was frustrating to see a point and then a counterpoint and nothing going anywhere.

My apologies and I have since deleted the post. Bernice :)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **June 01, 2009, 04:02:39 PM**

I would encourage anyone who is happy with PMPC's decision to refund this cockfighting loan to Norma Taucan & promise "that it will not post any business that are related to cockfighting or any activity that implies cruelty to animals" to please go to the loan & post your support of their decision:  
<http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=112697>

Of course follow up thank you emails are needed too. We need to let them know how large a part of the lending community is opposed to these loans.

And if you are so inclined, you might also post/email that you will from now on look for loans to their borrowers to show your support & to say "Thank You".

When the Field Partners make these (possibly tough for them) decisions, we need to let them know we are aware & grateful.

A big thanks to everyone who took action on this & contacted Paglaum.

:hurrah: :handshake: :hat: :hifive: :confetti: :drinks: :yahoo: :thanks: :party: :peace:

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Dagfinn** on **June 01, 2009, 04:54:25 PM**

To me this is far to important to just let it go as I detest cruelty to animals - though cruelty to mankind more.

What have been achieved here I ask myself. From what I read I find:

- Norma Taucan do not get Kiva funding to "buy additional chickens and feed".
- PMPC are sorry having offended some of the Kiva lenders's "sensibilities".
- PMPC will not post on Kiva any business relating to cockfighting or any other activity implying cruelty to animals.
- PMPC has taken steps that they will not offend some of the Kiva lenders sensibilities again.
- Kiva lenders express support to actively seek out and fund PMPC.

I fail anywhere to see that this secure less cruelty to animals, merely that we will not know. That all was brought on from a photo, not taking the text into account.

Further, what do we do now - do we ban Norma Taucan if she come around a second time with a correct photo supporting the text as we will not believe her or do we a

If anything at all should be learnt from this; I encourage Kiva if they can check out the fact in the field so we KNOW what is right and wrong here and not sit thousand kilometers away as judge and jury 120% certain in everything.

May be what we achieved was to give PMPC a signal that if they write and photo more carefully we are ok, that cruelty is ok as long as it is not showed publicly here or KivaFriends?

That now some of us will provide them more funding as long as they put up, a for the majority, a correct front Western style - freeing up fund so assisting PMPC can fund cockfighting?

Actually, I, I am more worried than ever. . .

Dagfinn A

ps. I always find spelling errors right after posting - there is probably still more ;)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Harvey:)** on **June 02, 2009, 08:07:13 AM**

The legal loophole that allows Kiva to transfer funds overseas for cockfighting:

Kiva appears to be able to post these cruel and inhumane cockfighting loans for fundraising on their website because of a loophole in the Federal Animal Welfare Act. (below)

<http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/stusawa.htm#2156>

Since Kiva seems not to care about the plight of these roosters (and potentially as well as the plight of dogs, bears, and other animals that are being abused and cruel I would suggest, in addition to the short term action of contacting the MFI in question, to also contact individual congressmen and senators to amend the Federal Animal Act to include banning the promotion of blood sports via the internet (if the organization is located in the US as Kiva is) and banning the transfer of funds from the US countries for the purpose of blood sports.

In addition to contacting lawmakers, several animal welfare organizations that are already working on banning blood sports may also be contacted and urged to work t amending the Federal Animal Welfare Act to include a ban on transferring funds from the US to foreign countries for the purpose of supporting blood sports (regardless whether it is legal in the country receiving the funds).

It is also possible that California, which is generally ahead of the rest of the United States in anti cruelty issues and humane treatment of animals, would pass a law to from organizations based in California being transferred to foreign countries for the use of promoting or supporting blood sports. So California state representatives an could also be contacted. And if anyone is really ambitious, a California state proposition could be launched and voters could vote on it.

Here is a list of organizations that may be interested in working on banning the transfer of funds (from the US to foreign countries) for blood sports, and I think contac is a good start:

In Defense of Animals  
3010 Kerner Blvd.  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
[www.idausa.org](http://www.idausa.org)

Animal Legal Defense Fund  
170 East Cotati Ave.  
Cotati, CA 94931  
Phone: 707-795-2533  
E-mail: [info@aldf.org](mailto:info@aldf.org)  
[www.aldf.org](http://www.aldf.org)

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)  
C/O Carrie Edwards  
Cruelty Investigations Department  
501 Front Street  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
Phone: 757-622-PETA  
[www.PETA.org](http://www.PETA.org)

PETA Philippines Office  
176 Sacedo Street Legaspi Village  
Makati 1229  
Philippines  
E-mail: [Info@PETAAsiaPacific.com](mailto:Info@PETAAsiaPacific.com)

The Humane Society of the United States  
2100 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
Phone: 202-452-1100  
<http://www.hsus.org/>  
[http://www.hsus.org/contact\\_us/contact\\_cruelty\\_fighting.html](http://www.hsus.org/contact_us/contact_cruelty_fighting.html)

Humane Society International  
Same address and contact information as The Humane Society of the United States

United Poultry Concerns  
P.o. Box 150  
Machipongo, VA 23405-0150  
Phone: 757-678-7875  
[www.upc-online.org](http://www.upc-online.org)

World Society for the Protection of Animals  
Lincoln Plaza  
89 South Street, Suite 201  
Boston, MA 02111 USA  
Phone (Toll Free): 800-883-9772  
<http://www.wspa-international.org/>

Animals Asia  
United States Office  
300 Broadway, Suite 32  
San Francisco, CA 94133-4587  
USA  
Phone: 1 888-420-BEAR  
E-mail: [info@animalasia.org](mailto:info@animalasia.org)  
<http://www.animalsasia.org/>

(Animal Asia also has offices located in UK, Germany, Italy, Hong Kong, Australia, and New Zealand)

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **TheTatiana** on **June 02, 2009, 03:32:11 PM**

Judith, way to GO! If kiva won't decide this issue humanely, then let's go over their heads and get the law changed. Fantastic idea!

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **cpbailey** on **June 02, 2009, 09:41:39 PM**

Judy,

Way to think much bigger than Kiva!

Here is some background on a victory: [http://www.hsus.org/acf/news/airlines\\_cease\\_cockfighting\\_shipments.html](http://www.hsus.org/acf/news/airlines_cease_cockfighting_shipments.html)

Here is the current (?) or supposed law on cockfighting. [http://ynola.multiply.com/journal/item/12/Philippines\\_Cockfighting\\_Law\\_of\\_1974\\_Martial\\_Law](http://ynola.multiply.com/journal/item/12/Philippines_Cockfighting_Law_of_1974_Martial_Law)

Colette

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **RichardF** on **June 02, 2009, 10:44:36 PM**

Thanks Collette. I particularly like this quote.

Quote from: [http://www.hsus.org/acf/news/airlines\\_cease\\_cockfighting\\_shipments.html](http://www.hsus.org/acf/news/airlines_cease_cockfighting_shipments.html)

**The get-tough on cruelty message seems to be enough to make any reputable company stop dead in its tracks.**

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Visitor Number 1** on **June 02, 2009, 11:48:35 PM**

Has anyone contacted the Field Partners in Peru to determine what their policies are?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Dagfinn** on **June 03, 2009, 12:59:20 AM**

Quote from: [CherylS on June 03, 2009, 12:09:30 AM](#)

Peru is next on my list after the Philippines, unless someone else gets to it first.

So cockfighting and cruelty to animals is a thing of the past now in the Philippines then? To me this only shows that the engagement (*I voice my opinion to all activists here and no single person in particular*) is not sincere OR misplaced.

Instead of educating and informing us non activists on this important issue one thread around as elephants at loose in a store breaking whatever comes in the way. Of arguments, good or bad, are ignored as the goal is wholly and hence no worthy an answer.

Whatever a good cause this kind of behaviour is counter productive and make me even stronger than before that no way can I be on the wagon as basic fairness and threaded on.

All this coming from a people that evidently on occasion their broadcasters hovers in helicopter zooming in on bloodsheds in schoolyards where children are bleeding to use it as news-shows while cannot see a female nipple as. But then, I am from a society that prefers showing a nipple on tv and refrain from displaying bloodsheds of entertainment. Frankly, it seems to me that to thread on someone far away with no means to stand their case which clearly is not illegal (though maybe cruel to anim yet not proven) is the name of the game.

Why, why, why - why not work WITH those people, engage them constructively so one make a lasting improvement for the sake of the animals, as well as the people in - that would be an example to follow and responsible global citizenship in my view.

For so many years the strategy of banning and brute force have given us a track record that is far less then impressive while we do have proof that constructive and engagement over time do - maybe it is time to replace the tools with which this fight is fought?

Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Visitor Number 1** on **June 03, 2009, 03:12:53 AM**

Quote from: [Dagfinn on June 03, 2009, 12:59:20 AM](#)

Why, why, why - why not work WITH those people, engage them constructively so one make a lasting improvement for the sake of the animals, as well as the people in question - that would be an example to follow and responsible citizenship in my view.

For so many years the strategy of banning and brute force have given us a track record that is far less then impressive while we do have proof that constructive and caring engagement over time do - maybe it is time to replace which this fight is fought?

I think lender communication with the MFIs **is** a constructive (and as we've seen, probably the most effective) means of preventing bloodsport loans from being posted. Field Partners are aware of lender objections, then they most likely will go out of their way to meet lender expectations so as not to jeopardize future funding.

I do agree with you that some of the "tough love" measures directed toward Kiva do more harm than good by diverting limited resources away from its primary objective: poverty alleviation. These include:

1. Redirecting resources toward screening hundreds of loans to find the proverbial "needle in the haystack".
2. Communication with outside organizations that have a history of engaging in "counterproductive" litigation (I'm defining "counterproductive" to mean pursuing a suit agenda without considering repercussions on all impacted parties - the dreadful thought of one nonprofit suing another nonprofit. I'm sure the donors of the "losing" nr would love to see how their dollars were spent).
3. Setting a dangerous precedent of banning loans/creating exceptions. I'm sure one lender could make a reasonable case to have another lender's favorite loan removed (gambling, tobacco, alcohol, coca leaves, not environmentally friendly, non-vegetarian, polygamous/premarital/extramarital relationships, food products high in fat/calories/cholesterol/sodium, objects that could potentially be used as weapons, etc.)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Dagfinn** on **June 03, 2009, 06:20:23 AM**

Quote from: [Visitor Number 1 on June 03, 2009, 03:12:53 AM](#)

I think lender communication with the MFIs **is** a constructive (and as we've seen, probably the most effective) means of preventing bloodsport loans from being posted. If the Field Partners are aware of lender objections, then they likely will go out of their way to meet lender expectations so as not to jeopardize future funding.

From what I have witnessed here there have not been much activity to **improve** the conditions for animals - the focus have been "I do not want it **here where I am**". response by the MFI you cannot read more that they promise to do just that; not putting it at our doorstep. In no way do that help any cause.

It comes across to me as an act in your third category in which I share your worry. I am already worrying that "tough love" as you describe it will push the entire corner keeping quiet as special interests command us what is ok and repercussion on other causes/people is a cost one willingly take as in its nature it is for other to foot that

Is it about time that the following rules were laid down:

1. Only one post per loan.
2. Personal & real life experience mandatory before voicing an opinion.
3. An obligation to look out for all parties impacted.
4. Do not take your battles elsewhere but fight your wars on the right battlefield.
5. Accept only hard evidence.
6. Sleep on it.
7. Sleep on it (I think that is needed twice).

Let me finish with a successful story from my motherland that I think is worthwhile sharing. NBIM (the Norwegian organisation which manages the national sovereign fund) found that banning corporation that behaved badly did not serve their cause. So lately they tried something different; they hired in a philosopher to head a new directorial dialogue. Based on research and open dialogue that asked (not demanded) for focus on their findings and how the company in question could improve the issue in the

Now they have success, seeing a drop in child labour to give one example - a result they could not achieve with "tough love" as communication is the key element to produce a result, with a healthy dose of patience and facts of course - not to mention an open mind.

The woman in question -she got her loan before it was posted on Kiva: do we remember her name (I do not), her objective (chicken and seed If I recall correctly) and idea whether the photo was of her roosters, at her property or indeed, her reason for applying for a loan. Neither do I think she asked for herself to be put up on Kiva children need food, shelter and education as poverty is the cruelty that needs to be leveraged out here. Making her life worse to not remove a single cockfight if that I concern. Engage in a dialogue with her might have done!

I am ashamed how strongly we are willing to thread upon a person that live a life that (as an average) have a lesser footprint on this planet that it can muster while w five (5) fold stronger footprint than our planet can sustain - if cruelty is the currency to count!

Dagfinn A

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **waywardcats** on **June 03, 2009, 12:02:53 PM**

I share many of your concerns Dagfinn. I think you raise some very valid issues. The discussion that you and Visitor Number 1 are having here brings me back to the of this discussion where Diane, our wonderful KF Liaison, laid out the slippery slope argument.

Quote from: [KFLiaison on April 02, 2009, 07:56:35 PM](#)

(5) The suspected cockfighting loan, and related issues  
Liz and I had a fairly long conversation about this topic, including all the pros and cons of various "solutions" which were discussed in chat and PMs. The short answer is that Kiva will, at this time, only reject outright loans for any are illegal in the country from which they are posted. Kiva's mission is "to connect people through lending for the sake of alleviating poverty". While it would be wonderful if Kiva could do even more good, it is not their mission, much every suggestion about keeping "immoral" or "undesireable" loans off the site has a slippery slope side to it as well: chicha corn liquor in Peru may not bother one person, but another may be morally outraged about it; self leather belts may not bother most, but others find it reprehensible; posting loans from countries where polygamy is practiced may be fine with some yet anathema to others; even the definition of "animal cruelty" may vary among individuals. Our discussion centered on the way Kiva might participate in an industry-wide approach to having an impact on MFIs to move to change things in their own practices and countries.

It is **because** the activism of a subset of lenders can be effective in having loans they find to be morally questionable removed from the Kiva site that this activism works. Other groups now have a blueprint to involving others and crying out for an end to loans to polygamous entrepreneurs or coca leaf growers as has been previously discussed. However, I still do think that activists have every right to voice their opinions and feelings. Which brings me to this part of your post:

Quote from: [Dagfinn on June 03, 2009, 06:20:23 AM](#)

Is it about time that the following rules were laid down:

1. Only one post per loan.
2. Personal & real life experience mandatory before voicing an opinion.
3. An obligation to look out for all parties impacted.
4. Do not take your battles elsewhere but fight your wars on the right battlefield.
5. Accept only hard evidence.
6. Sleep on it.
7. Sleep on it (I think that is needed twice).

Dagfinn A

As much as some of us may be weary of this discussion, it is still a valuable one. I do not think that restricting conversation here at Kiva Friends is a good idea. I am sorry you mean one post per person per (suspected cockfighting) loan, or something else, but I do not feel comfortable asking people to limit themselves if they feel they need something more and yet they have already posted once.

As for proposed "rules" 2-5, these can be somewhat subjective. We all have life experiences and I do not want to start getting into silencing voices because someone's that that person's experiences are somehow not (I don't even know what to say here - adequate? applicable? relevant?) Everyone here has a right to voice an opinion,

I agree that the evidence that this most recent loan was for cockfighting is based upon things seen in a picture that show the borrower with a certain breed of bird. We really hear her birds? Only the loan officer will know for sure if he or she took the picture in front of the entrepreneur's home or business. At this point I think we may never unless we hear something back from the MFI that the picture was taken in her neighbor's yard and she is not actually in the business. But I agree that it would be good to get more questions and perhaps get clarifications before jumping to conclusions based on what we see in borrower profile pictures.

As far as number 6 and 7, I think this is good advice. And will repeat the wisdom of Diane and others who have said "think twice, post once".

Thanks Dagfinn for raising some interesting issues,

-Kerry-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Dagfinn** on **June 03, 2009, 12:46:02 PM**

I must hurry to say I tried to write those 7 (seven to be a good number:) "rules" as a wry and ironic view on us all here. :2500: Else, I read your post with interest and welcome your tone of writing also :thumb:

Mostly I share your concern that one will lobby for a certain point of view and be willing to go far in achieving that. I think that in practice Kiva have taken the one point of view on this, all sides counted in. In school I was taught that one should use one's right of free speech to advocate for change as one believed in, but accept the law by exercising it. Later on I have experienced that it is only possible if we live in a good and safe democracy with strong institutions to uphold it.

When things are differently many of us find we cannot afford that luxury as to keep our children safe, with food and a future takes precedence.

I think I too often forget that aspect which is a daily struggle for so many - and in which the basic cruelty of life lies.

Dagfinn A

edited for spelling again

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Marilee** on **June 04, 2009, 02:18:56 PM**

My my, what an active topic. I've been lurking since April on this one, but I'm seeing more and more support for a tactic that troubles me, which is lenders going direct to the MFI.

Why does this trouble me? Because:

1) It threatens transparency, as someone else has already pointed out. If I were running an MFI, I'd start underdescribing or outright lying about the purpose of loans be found offensive.

2) There are a lot of people offended by a lot of things. I don't want this tactic used by groups who have a problem with a health clinic distributing birth control, and if it, I don't want the MFI to respect it.

If Kiva laid out in published written policy that a certain kind of loan should not be listed on the site, that would be a clear-cut line for the MFI. They wouldn't have to wait to hear from the angry mob. If Kiva decided to add bloodsports to the forbidden list, that would be clear. (Don't do it, or risk losing your funding.)

If Kiva decided to require clearer categorization of controversial loan types, that would be a clear-cut line for the MFI. (Your loan is okay, just be aware that it's a sensitive and label it clearly.)

Unclear loans, and the ethics of what, as an organization, Kiva is willing to be a conduit for, are Kiva's responsibility to address, not ours to protest to the MFIs until they're nervous.

Fair disclosure on my perspective: I got my library degree pretty recently. The pattern of "people yell, organization gets nervous, organization hides the controversial

how book banning happens. I don't want it to be how we do business.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **TheTatiana** on **June 08, 2009, 05:41:32 PM**

Dagfinn, I appreciate your point of view, however, I must respectfully disagree with it. It doesn't matter if our actions in protest to blood sports don't have the effect in of ending all animal cruelty in the country, or the world. By that standard, a bus boycott in one town in the southern U.S. didn't end racial discrimination in our country it wasn't worthwhile. I believe, on the contrary, that standing up for something you believe in is always worthwhile. It exposes people to ideas that they may never have considered before, and allows them to make a meaningful choice of how to respond. It also encourages and empowers others to follow suit. Rome wasn't built in a day neither is any good thing accomplished instantly. You have to keep a sustained effort up over a long period of time, sometimes, for success to follow.

So while I see what you're saying, I disagree with your conclusion.

Best wishes,  
Tatiana

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **AccountAbility** on **June 08, 2009, 07:31:20 PM**

Quote from: Marilee on June 04, 2009, 02:18:56 PM

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The pattern of "people yell, organization gets nervous, organization hides the controversial stuff" is how book banning happens. I don't want it to be how we do business.

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Marilee, I think they taught wisdom in your library classes. A bunch of pages ago I happened to compare this issue and Kiva to a library-- with the same concern that goal not get subsumed by perfectly good goals that sidetrack.

Dan

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Unilove** on **June 09, 2009, 01:56:52 AM**

I think I read somewhere that they have a new category of loan, clearly stating it is a Bloodsport loan. Am I mistaken?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **RichardF** on **June 09, 2009, 08:16:11 AM**

**Analogy** (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Analogy>) ... is an inference or an argument from one particular to another particular.

**False analogy** ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False\\_analogy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False_analogy)) is an informal fallacy applying to inductive arguments. It ... consists of an error in the substance of argument (the content of the analogy itself).

Please complete the following analogy.

Opposing the torturing of animals is to banning books, as

\_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **June 09, 2009, 08:29:36 AM**

... compassion is to needless dictatorship...

Jane Sladen.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **tomviolence** on **June 09, 2009, 08:40:53 AM**

should people who don't like the santanic harry potter books force the library of congress completely redo the methods they use to catalog, list, and lend books ?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **RichardF** on **June 09, 2009, 09:25:34 AM**

I'm opposed to cockfighting and I don't apologize for speaking out against it.

If anyone wants to speak out against banning books, that sounds like a good idea for a new topic.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Harvey:)** on **June 09, 2009, 10:56:27 AM**

I would add to Cheryl's post (just to clarify the issue from those of us opposed to cockfighting but not opposed to raising poultry for food):

Asking to ban a loan To **Torture** a Rooster is not, in any sense of the word, asking to ban a book To Kill a Mockingbird.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **greg3912** on **June 09, 2009, 11:36:42 AM**

Quote from: Jane Sladen on June 09, 2009, 08:29:36 AM

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... compassion is to needless dictatorship...

Jane Sladen.

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The United States has frequently imposed censorship on its citizens. I think TV networks still have censors who review for content. It may only be a formality at this point long as the format exists future governments can easily impose restrictions.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Marilee** on **July 07, 2009, 01:25:18 PM**

Quote from: RichardF on June 09, 2009, 08:16:11 AM

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**Analogy** (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Analogy>) ... is an inference or an argument from one particular to another particular.

**False analogy** ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False\\_analogy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/False_analogy)) is an informal fallacy applying to inductive arguments. It ... consists of an error in the substance of an argument (the content of the analogy itself).

Please complete the following analogy.

Opposing the torturing of animals is to banning books, as

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\_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_.

---

I apologize for stirring this up again a month later, but I didn't get to read KivaFriends for a month, and I wanted to address what I see as a misunderstanding here. I equating opposing cockfighting with banning books. I'm not suggesting people shouldn't act on their beliefs.

I'm saying that certain tactics have side effects that can be just as problematic as the original issue. I feel that applying pressure directly to the MFI is one of those tactics that suggest that this should be resolved, consistently and evenhandedly, at a Kiva policy level lest we open a whole can of worms that could affect whether MFIs offer the loans that you want to support.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **RichardF** on **July 07, 2009, 01:40:37 PM**

Quote from: Marilee on July 07, 2009, 01:25:18 PM

I suggest that this should be resolved, consistently and evenhandedly, at a Kiva policy level ...

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Thanks, Marilee. :yes:

I'm also all for Kiva doing that. :thumb:

...and that would mean Kiva needs to \_\_\_\_\_ next... ??? :) :laugh:

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **TheTatiana** on **August 19, 2009, 11:36:47 AM**

Interesting news item re: opposition to cockfighting in the United States. [http://www.hsus.org/acf/news/cockfighting\\_death\\_knell.html](http://www.hsus.org/acf/news/cockfighting_death_knell.html)

It seems the U.S. Postal Service has declared magazines about blood sports as unmailable material, putting out of business several magazines glorifying cockfighting and advertisers access to practitioners of the "sport". I think this is a great sign! :hurrah: :hat:

Perhaps we can see laws enacted soon that will make it illegal for kiva to support such businesses as well. We can hope!

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **August 19, 2009, 12:03:34 PM**

Great News, Tatiana. Thanks for posting it and the link. :thumb:

I also hope that we will soon see laws which will prevent Kiva from promoting/posting (for fundraising) cockfighting (and any other blood sports) loans. It is a sad comr that we have to wait for such laws to be in place before Kiva will step up (ethically and morally) and stop promoting cockfighting by posting those loans.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **cpbailey** on **August 19, 2009, 08:17:45 PM**

It would make Kiva's job easier if there were laws on things like this. Just saying...

so far, I think cockfighting is down 0-2 to KFers.

Colette

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **August 19, 2009, 09:06:45 PM**

Quote from: cpbailey on August 19, 2009, 08:17:45 PM

It would make Kiva's job easier if there were laws on things like this. Just saying...

so far, I think cockfighting is down 0-2 to KFers.

Colette

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I (and many others) have never *needed* a law to inform me (us) that torturing animals is inhumane, unethical, and immoral. And I (and many others) have never *need* to make it *easier* for me (us) to act in a manner which is humane, moral and ethical.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **RichardF** on **October 06, 2009, 09:15:21 PM**

This ongoing story is a timely backdrop to the animal cruelty discussions here.

**National Public Radio (<http://www.npr.org/>): High Court Weighs Arguments In Dogfighting Case (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=113538567>)**

by DEBORAH TEDFORD

October 6, 2009

Animal-rights groups and free-speech advocates squared off in a major First Amendment battle Tuesday, as the U.S. Supreme Court prepared to decide whether videos of dogfights are protected speech.

In oral arguments, the Obama administration asked the justices to reinstate the Federal Depiction of Animal Cruelty statute. The 10-year-old law prohibits the sale of other depictions of animal cruelty in jurisdictions where the activities shown are illegal unless they have "serious value."

But Virginia filmmaker Robert Stevens argued in court filings that the law is too broad and violates his constitutional right to free speech. In 2005, Stevens was convicted producing violent videos of dogfights and sentenced to 37 months in prison, but a federal appeals court found the law unconstitutional and overturned his conviction.

At issue in U.S. v. Stevens is whether animal cruelty should be categorized as expression so reprehensible that it does not deserve First Amendment protection. That has been done since the court's landmark 1982 ruling on child pornography.

During arguments Tuesday, several of the justices indicated that they may agree with Stevens.

"Why not do a simpler thing?" Justice Stephen Breyer asked a lawyer for the government. "Ask Congress to write a statute that actually aims at the frightful things they're trying to prohibit."

Stevens' lawyer, Patricia Millett, said Congress must be careful when restricting an individual's right to free speech, noting lawmakers should use "a scalpel, not a buzz :

Representing the government, Deputy Solicitor General Neal Katyal said Congress was careful to exempt hunting, educational, journalistic and other depictions from the law. Katyal urged the court not to wipe away the legislation in its entirety, but to allow courts to decide on a case-by-case basis whether videos are prohibited.

Justice Samuel Alito asked whether the court should focus on the potential prosecution of hunters, "or do we look at what's happening in the real world?"

Congress passed the law in 1999 with an eye toward limiting Internet sales of "crush videos," which show women crushing small animals with their bare feet or while wearing high-heeled shoes, according to Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-CA), who sponsored the anti-cruelty legislation.

"Other crimes often go hand in hand with animal fighting, including illegal gambling, drug trafficking and acts of human violence," Gallegly said in a statement on his visit. "Virtually every arrest for animal cruelty has also led to additional arrests for at least one of these criminal activities. Moreover, gratuitous cruelty toward animals dehumanizes all of us and is simply wrong."

The case has generated a large amount of interest, in part because of the dogfighting conviction of pro football player Michael Vick in 2007. Vick served nearly two years in prison for running an interstate dogfighting ring from his home in Virginia and was released in May.

Stevens, a pit bull enthusiast, has said he opposes animal cruelty. In court documents, he maintained he did not stage the dogfights and that the videos were intended as instructional guides for pit bull owners.

He has garnered support from major news organizations and free-speech advocates, who argued that the law could discourage efforts to investigate such activities as dogfighting or animal testing in the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries if video or photographic images are obtained.

"Images of bullfighting in Spain, historical footage of cockfighting in Louisiana and documentaries about dogfighting in Canada all could be prosecuted under the state anti-animal cruelty laws," the American Civil Liberties Union stated in a court brief supporting Stevens.

But animal-rights advocates and law enforcement agencies around the country argued that removing the profit motive from "blood sports" is a valuable tool for law enforcement authorities.

"The importance of the law in stopping animal cruelty cannot be overstated," said Sgt. David Hunt of the Franklin County (Ohio) Sheriff's Department. "It's a powerful tool after those who profit from illegal animal cruelty and promote criminal behavior."

*From NPR staff and wire reports*

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Harvey:**) on **October 06, 2009, 09:36:26 PM**

I originally posted this in another thread but I am going to repost it here because it is pertinent to this thread also:

From American Humane:

One Abuser, Two Victims

When 9-year-old Beth\* was sexually abused by her stepfather, she told the prosecuting attorney that someone else knew about it -- but that he couldn't talk. She was terrified of her beloved cat, Oreo. Beth explained that Oreo would bravely lie outside her door at night and hiss whenever her attacker appeared. In trying to protect her, the black and white cat also became another victim of violence; Beth's stepfather would always brutally kick Oreo away from the door. Beth's revelation gave the prosecutor an idea. He decided to have Oreo examined by a veterinarian. The results were chilling. Sure enough, poor Oreo had sustained injuries consistent with being physically abused. The prosecutor submitted the veterinarian's report to the jury as evidence showing a pattern of violence in the home. Beth's allegations gained credibility. In a way, Oreo was able to testify, convincing the jury that the traumatized little girl had been telling the truth. Beth's stepfather was convicted and received a long prison sentence. Meanwhile, Beth and Oreo were finally able to experience what every child and animal deserves: a safe home.

The prosecutor in Beth's case was Allie Phillips, who now works for American Humane as vice president of our Public Policy Office. She and our staff regularly conduct training for attorneys, judges, veterinarians, social workers, domestic-violence counselors and other social services providers on what American Humane calls The Link® between violence to people and violence to animals, increasing awareness of the powerful role it can play in unmasking and preventing abuse.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Harvey:**) on **March 02, 2010, 10:31:51 AM**

EDESSA in Costa Rica does *not* post Cockfighting loans.

I am posting an excerpt from a letter someone received from EDESSA. This excerpt contains great news for lenders who are opposed to supporting cockfighting and also lenders who have environmental concerns. Excerpt follows:

"Contrary to other countries of Central America, in Costa Rica cockfighting is not permitted. In EDESSA we do not give loans for this or any other illegal activity. In our statutes we also have strict regulations that do not permit loans which may cause any negative social or environmental impact."

Judy

Edit: This excerpt was posted with the permission of the person who received the letter.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Jan & John** on **April 17, 2010, 01:27:06 PM**

I'm afraid we have another loan for someone who wants spare parts for his taxi but also raised gamecocks. This would have been just another taxi loan and we would not have known.

Raul Gerardo (<http://www.kiva.org/lend/183580>)

Raul lives in the town of Santa Rita two kilometers from the municipality of Torno. His principal job is working as a taxi driver. He is single and his desire to improve his life is evident because he also raises gamecocks. Cockfighting, which is a combat between two roosters of the same species also known as "fine birds of combat", was created by humans for their enjoyment. The origin of these fights was in Asia. They began in China 2,500 years ago, and it is possible that 1,000 years before that cockfighting existed in India. In Ancient Rome gamecocks were used to inspire courage. Later, this practice was brought to the Americas by the Spanish Conquistadors.

Raul's great hope is to have his own house. With the loan money Raul will buy spare parts for his taxi. He is a responsible and dynamic person, and he is very thankful for the trust Emprender and Kiva have shown by awarding him with a loan.

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Henry** on **April 17, 2010, 03:13:05 PM**

It's probably this hangover...but that photo of him looks very familiar too :)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **April 18, 2010, 12:14:19 AM**

I sent an email to Emprender giving them a brief history regarding cockfighting loans and to let them know that some lenders respectfully request that they not post them on Kiva. I asked them to please withdraw the loan to Raul and refund the money to the lenders already on the loan. I also let them know that 3 other Kiva Field Partners were gracious enough to listen to our concerns & have previously done so.

**Finca Peru:**

*This loan has been refunded for the following reason:*

*Kiva's field partner, FINCA Peru, has decided to refund this loan. Here FINCA Peru explains why, in their own words:*

The story posted was from a young man, William, whose business is raising roosters for cockfights in Ayacucho. Cockfighting is legal in Peru. We understand and are some of the Kiva community's opinions and criticisms regarding the use of this loan, which is why we have decided to ask Kiva to refund it, even though it has already been partially funded on the website.

**Community Economic Ventures, Inc. (CEVI):**

This loan has been refunded for the following reason:

Kiva is refunding this loan as the purpose of the loan - to raise cockfighting rooster - was determined to be unclear in the original description. While cockfighting is legal in the Philippines and thus loans related to this industry from the country are eligible to be posted on the Kiva website, it was deemed that this business description did not state the intention clearly enough for lenders.

**Paglaum Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PMPC):**

This loan has been refunded for the following reason:

The field partner has requested that this loan be refunded on the account that the project has offended the sensibilities of some of the Kiva lenders. PMPC expresses its regret for having posted this story on the Kiva website and has promised that it will not post any business that are related to cockfighting or any activity that implies cruelty to animals.

PMPC hopes that this unfortunate incident should not affect the Kiva lender's support to the borrowers of PMPC, particularly that it has taken steps to make sure that such incidents do not happen again.

Thank you.

Let's hope that the Entrepreneur will reach the same conclusion & refund this loan.

Email Contact [empendercentral@msn.com](mailto:empendercentral@msn.com)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Henry** on **April 18, 2010, 10:03:23 AM**

wonder how you start a cock fight? "on your mark, get set....."

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **April 21, 2010, 06:58:34 PM**

([http://media.npr.org/chrome/news/nprlogo\\_138x46.gif](http://media.npr.org/chrome/news/nprlogo_138x46.gif))

**Early Animal Rights Poem Discovered: A Mouse's Plea (<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126051517&ps=cprs>)**

by Robert Krulwich  
April 21, 2010

He was just an ordinary mouse, nothing special. He lived, very briefly, 237 years ago, in the laboratory of a great chemist, Joseph Priestley. Here he sits, in his cage.

(<http://media.npr.org/assets/news/2010/04/19/mousejail.jpg?t=1271449043&s=4>)

There were lots of mice in Priestley's lab. He had made his reputation as one of the first scientists to identify oxygen. He studied mice to figure out what happens inside as they breathe. This meant he regularly opened them to examine lungs, veins, arteries, to see that blood changed color when it moved through lungs. And since tuberculosis -- was the scourge of that era, lung research seemed like a valuable thing to do.

But animals didn't last long in Priestley's lab, especially mice. So many died that his lab assistant, a young woman named Anna Barbauld, decided that Priestley should show lab animals a little more respect. It was, after all, 1773, just a few years before Lexington, Concord and the Declaration of Independence. On both sides of the Atlantic, "inalienable rights" were a rallying cry, and Anna, a young wife and poet, decided to write a protest poem. She called it "The Mouse's Petition to Dr. Priestley, Found in where he had been Confined all Night." (<http://www.rc.umd.edu/editions/contemps/barbauld/poems1773/p37.html>)

([http://media.npr.org/assets/news/2010/04/19/mousewrites\\_wide.jpg?t=1271443702&s=4](http://media.npr.org/assets/news/2010/04/19/mousewrites_wide.jpg?t=1271443702&s=4))

"There's this extraordinary moment," says historian Richard Holmes. It's 1773. "Priestley packs up for the day, and he leaves that next mouse in a cage on his desk for the morning. He will put it [in a breathing tank] and remove the oxygen, and the mouse will almost certainly die. And Anna Barbauld, who's cleaning up, she just looks at and she thinks, wait a minute, wait a minute ... and she sits down and writes a poem."

([http://media.npr.org/assets/news/2010/04/19/poem\\_custom.jpg?t=1271448119&s=2](http://media.npr.org/assets/news/2010/04/19/poem_custom.jpg?t=1271448119&s=2))

Holmes says Anna folded what she wrote into a square, jammed it between the bars of the mouse's cage, and left it for Priestley.

It is a poem, he says in a footnote in his prize-winning book *The Age of Wonder*, in which "a freeborn mouse, cruelly imprisoned in its laboratory cage, appeals for its right to life." It is written from the mouse's point of view.

This is, says Holmes, "perhaps the first animal-rights manifesto ever written."

The question, of course, is what happened next? Do we know if Priestley read the poem? Do we have any idea if he spared the mouse? Holmes says it's "terribly frustrating for a biographer," but there is no evidence, no mention of the mouse anywhere that he can find. This mouse may one day become a poster mouse for animal rights, being the first little mammal to be celebrated in this way. But its fate, alas, is unknown.

([http://media.npr.org/assets/news/2010/04/19/uncertainmouse\\_wide.jpg?t=1271448201&s=4](http://media.npr.org/assets/news/2010/04/19/uncertainmouse_wide.jpg?t=1271448201&s=4))

Special thanks to Benjamin Arthur for imagining Anna Barbauld's mouse in watercolor, and to actress Anne Bobby for her performance (including her outburst in our studio -- you can hear her losing it on our radio story, and her obviously broken heart is on display; just hit the "listen" button). Richard Holmes' book is called *The Age of Wonder*. It won the Critics Circle Award for Best Nonfiction 2009.

Listen to the Story - Morning Edition - 4 min 8 sec

<http://www.npr.org/templates/player/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=126051517&m=126155617>

*The MOUSE'S PETITION,\**

*\* To Doctor PRIESTLEY.*

*Found in the TRAP where he had been confin'd  
all Night.*

*Parcere subjectis, & debellare superbos.*

*VIRGIL*

*OH ! hear a pensive captive's prayer,  
For liberty that sighs ;*

*And never let thine heart be shut  
Against the prisoner's cries.*

*For here forlorn and sad I sit,  
Within the wiry grate ;*

*And tremble at th' approaching morn,  
Which brings impending fate.*

*If e'er thy breast with freedom glow'd,  
And spurn'd a tyrant's chain,  
Let not thy strong oppressive force  
A free-born mouse detain.*

*Oh ! do not stain with guiltless blood  
Thy hospitable hearth ;  
Nor triumph that thy wiles betray'd  
A prize so little worth.*

*The scatter'd gleanings of a feast  
My scanty meals supply ;  
But if thine unrelenting heart  
That slender boon deny,*

*The chearful light, the vital air,  
Are blessings widely given ;  
Let nature's commoners enjoy  
The common gifts of heaven.*

*The well taught philosophic mind  
To all compassion gives ;  
Casts round the world an equal eye,  
And feels for all that lives.*

*If mind, as ancient sages taught,  
A never dying flame,  
Still shifts thro' matter's varying forms,  
In every form the same,*

*Beware, lest in the worm you crush  
A brother's soul you find ;  
And tremble lest thy luckless hand  
Dislodge a kindred mind.*

*Or, if this transient gleam of day  
Be all of life we share,  
Let pity plead within thy breast,  
That little all to spare.*

*So may thy hospitable board  
With health and peace be crown'd ;  
And every charm of heartfelt ease  
Beneath thy roof be found.*

*So when unseen destruction lurks,  
Which men like mice may share,  
May some kind angel clear thy path,  
And break the hidden share.*

[http://www.rc.umd.edu/editions/contemps/barbault/poems1773/mouses\\_petition.html](http://www.rc.umd.edu/editions/contemps/barbault/poems1773/mouses_petition.html)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **April 21, 2010, 09:29:56 PM**

Another Kiva Lender who contacted Emprender about the loan to **Raul Gerardo** (<http://www.kiva.org/lend/183580>) gave me permission to post their reply:

On Tue, 4/20/10, christian rivera wrote:

From: christian rivera <XXXXXX@XXXXXXXX>  
Subject: cockfight

To: XXXXX@XXXXXXXX  
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 9:05 AM

Kiva Lender,

We greatly appreciate your concern and **thank you for making us notice this big mistake**, Kiva lenders are our most effective control than any other on these is now on we will take action on it, **so this error will not happen hereafter**, because in Emprender, we have a strict policy about Social Responsibility, and a very clear code.

Sincerely,

Christian Rivera  
EMPRENDER

-----  
Original message:

On Sun, 4/18/10, Xxxxxxx wrote:

> From: Xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx  
> Subject: Please do not post cockfighting loans on kiva  
> To: emprendercentral@msn.com  
> Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010, 9:46 AM  
>  
> This loan for Raul Gerardo is very disturbing.  
>  
> <http://www.kiva.org/lend/183580>  
>  
> In this country cockfighting is considered animal cruelty,  
> just like dog fighting. It is very upsetting for many  
> Kiva lenders to see loans on the site that are promoting  
> animal cruelty.  
>  
> I hope you will set a policy of not posting cock fighting  
> loans on Kiva, and will refund this loan now. Several  
> other field partners have agreed not to post cockfighting  
> loans so that lenders will continue to support the field  
> partner.  
>  
> Thank you  
>  
> Kiva Lender

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **RichardF** on **April 21, 2010, 09:49:09 PM**

**Local congressman introduces new bill to stop the sale of animal cruelty videos (<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/unleashed/2010/04/animal-cruelty-law-supreme.html>)**

Los Angeles Times  
April 21, 2010 | 6:20 pm

When **the Supreme Court struck down, on free-speech grounds, a law making it a federal crime to sell videos depicting animal cruelty** (<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/unleashed/2010/04/supreme-court-animal-videos.html>), Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-Simi Valley) had more than a passing int

He wrote the law.

On Wednesday, Gallegly responded swiftly to the ruling, introducing a "narrowly tailored" bill aimed at passing constitutional muster. The measure would target so-call crush videos, such as those showing women in high heels stomping on puppies and kittens.

The legislation comes a day after the court, in an 8-1 decision, overturned the conviction of a Virginia man prosecuted under Gallegly's "Depiction of Animal Cruelty Act" for selling dog-fighting videos. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. said the 1999 law was too broad and could allow prosecutions for selling hunting videos.

By Wednesday, Gallegly and Rep. James P. Moran (D-Va.), co-chairmen of the Animal Protection Caucus, had written the new law and, within a couple of hours, lined up their colleagues, from both parties, as co-sponsors.

"Violence is not a 1st Amendment issue; it is a law enforcement issue," Gallegly said in a letter to colleagues. "You are not allowed to cry 'fire' in a theater; you are not allowed to possess or distribute child pornography. You shouldn't be able to create and distribute videos that glorify the senseless killing of defenseless animals."

In an interview off the House chamber, Gallegly expressed hope the measure would pass Congress quickly.

Gallegly argued that the measure was needed not only to protect animals, but to guard against "the Jeffrey Dahmers of the world" who "began their killing sprees by cruelly inflicting pain on animals."

Wayne Pacelle, president of the Humane Society of the United States, said, "We think this is consistent with the court's ruling." Pacelle worked with Gallegly in drafting the measure.

Pacelle said that before the 1999 law was enacted, his group found about 3,000 of the videos on the market, selling for up to \$300 apiece. After Congress acted, the number disappeared, he said.

But after a federal appellate court declared the law unconstitutional in mid-2008, the videos again proliferated on the Internet, he said.

The new, three-page bill would prohibit the interstate sale of images of animals being "intentionally crushed, burned, drowned or impaled" unless they have "religious, scientific, educational, journalistic, historic or artistic value." Violations would be punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$10,000 or both. The bill says the prohibition would not apply to hunting videos.

But Andrew Tauber, a partner in the Chicago-based law firm of Mayer Brown who filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of free-speech argument against the law, says the measure would "still face serious constitutional challenge."

"Statutes and policies that discriminate against speech based on its content, as this bill would do, are ...presumptively unconstitutional," he said.

Gallegly took up the issue in 1999 after the Ventura County district attorney ran into problems trying to prosecute a Thousand Oaks man selling over the Internet a video depicting animal cruelty.

-- Richard Simon

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **A Nonny Mouse** on **April 21, 2010, 11:27:25 PM**

Awesome! Mr. Gallegly is OUR Congressman (<http://www.house.gov/gallegly/>) here in Ventura... ([http://www.house.gov/gallegly/images/elton\\_240494000.gif](http://www.house.gov/gallegly/images/elton_240494000.gif))

and has been for 23 years. :thumb:

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **RichardF** on **April 22, 2010, 08:31:33 AM**

Indeed!!! :thumb:

I'm adding the related story from his website.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 April 21, 2010  
 Contact: Tom Pfeifer, (202) 225-5811

**Moran, Gallegly & 54 Others Respond to Supreme Court Ruling on Animal Cruelty** (<http://www.house.gov/gallegly/media/media2010/042110crushvi>)

Chairs of Animal Protection Caucus Introduce Bill Making Crush Videos Illegal

WASHINGTON, DC—Today, Co-chairs of the Animal Protection Caucus Reps. Jim Moran (D-VA) and Elton Gallegly (R-CA) introduced, along with 54 other cosponsors, a bill authored by Gallegly and designed to overcome the Supreme Court's decision to strike down federal law barring the sale of so-called "crush videos," which graphically abuse and killing of animals.

Gallegly's original bill passed the House in 1999 on a bipartisan vote of 372-42 and in the Senate by unanimous consent. President Clinton signed it into law. For 10 years it shut down the crush video industry.

"Violence is not a First Amendment issue; it is a law enforcement issue," Gallegly said. "Ted Bundy and Ted Kaczynski tortured or killed animals before killing people. The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice consider animal cruelty to be one of the early warning signs of potential violence by youths. This law is a step toward ending this cycle of violence."

"The Supreme Court decision is a blow to the effort to prevent animal cruelty and a victory for the profiteers behind the 'crush' video industry, which glorifies the killing of defenseless animals," said Moran. "For 10 years, federal law had worked to dramatically reduce the proliferation of these videos. Now, Congress must act to restore the commonsense protections against animal cruelty."

The more narrowly focused legislation would prevent video depictions of drowning, impaling, burning and crushing of animals, while addressing constitutional concerns raised by the court.

"Animal abuse and profiting from these actions are wrong," said Rep. Betty Sutton (D-OH), a member of the Animal Protection Caucus and original cosponsor of the bill to close the loopholes to crack down and end the trade in crush videos. Today, we are unequivocally restating, with a narrowly tailored measure, that it is unacceptable to create and sell extreme, cruel, and illegal depictions of the torturing, maiming, or mutilation of animals."

"When the law banning animal cruelty videos was passed in 1999, the videos depicting the crushing of small animals virtually disappeared from the market," said Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-CA), another original cosponsor. "The implication by Chief Justice Roberts that the law should be circumscribed to require that the depicted conduct be 'cruel' will be corrected by this new bill."

"Animal cruelty is not something to celebrate and circulate online," said Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), an original cosponsor and Animal Protection Caucus member. "On the heels of yesterday's Supreme Court decision, we're taking immediate and bipartisan action to protect animals without infringing on the right to free speech. The bottom line is that we need to protect animals from being tortured or killed in a manner that is criminal or morally reprehensible. No one should be allowed to profit from so-called crush videos or other images of animal cruelty."

"While I am disappointed in its ruling, I have the highest respect for the Supreme Court," Gallegly said. "They left the door ajar for us to continue to outlaw these heinous videos and we intend to do so."

"I refuse to stand by while people profit from the mutilation and torture of helpless puppies, kittens and other animals," said Moran. "I look forward to continuing to work with Congressman Gallegly to respond to this decision while preserving the constitutional freedoms all Americans hold dear."

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Patricia SF** on **April 22, 2010, 01:18:16 PM**

I don't know if anyone else watched Law and Order SVU last night, but last night's episode about meat packing plants/slaughter houses, segued (briefly but forcefully) into the world of cockfighting.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **April 24, 2010, 09:43:30 PM**

([http://www2.aspc.org/newsletter/TOPHEADER\\_urgent.jpg](http://www2.aspc.org/newsletter/TOPHEADER_urgent.jpg))  
 Dear Animal Advocates,

*Earlier this week, the U.S. Supreme Court declared an important federal anti-cruelty law known as the "Crush Act" (18 U.S. Code Section 48) unconstitutional and then unenforceable. The Crush Act banned the creation, sale and possession of materials depicting genuine acts of animal cruelty where such acts are illegal. The Court made that its major concern was the broadness of the law's language, which could make the law applicable in many circumstances not intended by its authors.*

*While the ASPCA is disappointed with the Court's decision, we are moving forward! Representative Elton Gallegly of California has acted quickly and introduced a bill to a new law. H.R. 5092 will make the Crush Act's language more specific and resolve the over-breadth concerns raised by the Supreme Court.*

*Passage of H.R. 5092 will help prevent a revitalization of the crush video industry. The original Crush Act was passed with little opposition—help us ensure that this revision is successful too.*

#### **What You Can Do**

*Please tell your U.S. representative that you support H.R. 5092, and that he or she should co-sponsor the bill and help move it quickly through the legislative process. Visit [www.aspc.org/advocacy](http://www.aspc.org/advocacy) for more information. **ASPCA Advocacy Center online to email your representative now.** (<https://secure2.convio.net/aspca/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=2695&JServSessionIdr004=n69juefcb3.app28a>)*

*Thank you for helping us fight animal suffering and exploitation.*

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **David2051** on **April 24, 2010, 10:30:25 PM**

Thanks for that link Geoff!

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Patricia SF** on **April 29, 2010, 10:00:04 AM**

Someone from the environmental group team posted this article on the team's message board.

**Article from ANDA (the News Agency of Animal Rights) on the KIVA loans that violate the rights of animals and this [www.kiva.org/lend/183580](http://www.kiva.org/lend/183580) in particular**

Here's the loan: [www.kiva.org/lend/183580](http://www.kiva.org/lend/183580)

Here's the link to the article: [www.anda.jor.br/?p=58981](http://www.anda.jor.br/?p=58981)

Here's the article translated from Portuguese to English via Google Translator:

"The idea is good and original. Kiva uses the global reach of the Internet to get loans to small traders in the third world who need help to start your business. When I created the website four years ago, I liked the idea and became one of many creditors. You choose a small dealer of your choice, transfer credit for it and when the total is reached

receive an email warning. The money is refunded as a credit if the beneficiary makes the payments and the cycle begins again.

"But as I was exploring the best website I realized that the Kiva makes loans to people who exploit animals and it came into conflict with the fact that animals are not property and they should not be exploited by anyone and on behalf of no cause, even the seemingly 'philanthropic.' Compassion, ethics and solidarity should be basic parts of the proposed aid. Ever the exploration must be embedded as part of a supposed solution.

"I decided to withdraw my money from Kiva, when I realized that one of its beneficiaries was a man in Bolivia, but the activity for which he needed the loan (each deal page with a profile, which outlines what to do and how much money has already achieved), it creates 'fighting cocks', i.e. a person who provides animals for cockfights. Describing this activity is a strong advocacy of violent activity:

"Its main job is as a taxi driver. He is single and his desire to improve their lives is evidenced by the fact that it also creates gamecocks. Cockfights (...) were created by you for your enjoyment. The origin of these struggles are in Asia (...). In ancient Rome, fighting cocks was used to inspire courage. Later this practice was brought to the Americas by the Spaniards. Read more on the Kiva website.

"I found it odd that the text had been released to appear on the Kiva website. Mistakes happen, so I decided to write for them, alerting them to the fact. This was the email I received:

"We just forbid loans for business activities that are illegal in the country of origin or loans that even legal, violate the main UN conventions. We trust that our partner field make their decisions because they are familiar with the communities and cultures where their entrepreneurs live and work. While a loan may seem offensive to our field it can be completely normal in another cultural context."

"I was absolutely amazed with this policy in relation to the questionable ethics, so I'm relieved to have me this NGO coupled with a somewhat limited vision of social justice. I regretted one day have supported this organization, the only contact I made with that, gave me an answer impersonal and totally ignored my concern.

"I had the impression it is an entity with the same approach when a company receives a complaint, if not like, find another. Animal welfare does not seem to be on the Kiva. Because it is a firm global action, using the old excuse of cultural contexts to ignore the suffering of others does not work. Then someone would be acceptable to provide equipment financing for genitally mutilated women in a country where it is culturally accepted?

"Justice must be universal and go beyond what is technically legal. It has to be applied to all living beings on this planet and nature which keeps the body alive in operation. The prospect vegan does not include this one-sided exceptionalist the human element in the Earth Mother. So I invite all vegans who are reading this text in their search very carefully the policy of an NGO before giving its support to any institution. You could be supporting animal exploitation per table."

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **April 29, 2010, 11:36:01 AM**

Quote from: **Patricia SF** on **April 29, 2010, 10:00:04 AM**

Someone from the environmental group team posted this article on the team's message board.

**Article from ANDA (the News Agency of Animal Rights) on the KIVA loans that violate the rights of animals and this [www.kiva.org/lend/183580](http://www.kiva.org/lend/183580) in particular.**

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<snip>

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Thanks for taking the time to translate, Patricia...

I have highlighted what for me is crucial...

Kiva should not be hiding behind technicalities.

I don't think Kiva can change the world...

However, I would - at a minimum - like Kiva to tell us that they have notified their MFI's that this practice is not legal in the US and to please respect those laws when

I also appreciated the comment that Kiva...

Quote

**gave me an answer impersonal and totally ignored my concern.**

I have felt this way many times in return emails from customer service, that I was getting a brush-off.

I still lend because I do not wish to penalize other borrowers and the Kiva concept is a good one.

I do however, lend much more carefully now.

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **April 29, 2010, 12:21:13 PM**

I was glad to receive a team message about this article from the Palestine team, so it is evidently being shared widely, which I think is very good.

I think some organizations continue to exist only because they have no true competition. If they did they would have to clean their act up or cease to exist...

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Patricia SF** on **April 29, 2010, 02:03:17 PM**

Quote from: **Jan & John** on **April 29, 2010, 11:36:01 AM**

**I still lend because I do not wish to penalize other borrowers and the Kiva concept is a good one.**

**I do however, lend much more carefully now.**

Jan,

This expresses my sentiments exactly.

Patricia

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **April 29, 2010, 06:16:24 PM**

Alan, I see what your saying, but I think there have been more loans than just the ones you counted. Some of them did not mention it in the write up, but the photos of the paraphernalia in the yard, etc. I remember the first time I asked what made people think a particular one was a cockfighting loan and I got an education quick!

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **April 29, 2010, 07:24:14 PM**

This post is predominantly meant to be informative. Hopefully to provide some facts & simply correct a few misunderstandings and/or misconceptions.

Quote

**While I don't want for an instant to minimize the concern over cockfighting, fwiw I did a search on all loans for "cockfight" and came up with 4, including the one that is currently basketed. Of the three others, all long since definitely had to do with cockfighting, and the third mentioned incidentally that the client's husband was in the business, though the loan was completely unrelated.**

The reason a search only shows 4 cockfighting or related loans is because once a loan is refunded, it "disappears" from the Kiva search option. (It is like Kiva takes it out of books so to speak).

Why Kiva does this I can't say definitively although I have a theory.

Here is the full list of cockfighting (or related) loans:

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/17882>

Graciela is 23 years old. Her husband works training roosters for the typical cockfights common in the area. Graciela works selling shoes from catalogs  
Activity: Shoe Sales  
Loan Use: Sales of footwear

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/36187>

Sara Elva Vasquez Rodriguez runs a cockfighting business in the rural jungle town of Jepelacio, San Martin. Cockfighting is a passion for people all over Peru, including urban areas.  
Activity: Retail  
Loan Use: With the loan she would like to buy a freezer to keep various goods she serves her customers

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/60965>

Jenny is a primary school teacher by profession... She earns a living by raising and selling poultry, as well as raising cockfighters which she either rents or sells.... She selling the poultry chickens every 25 days, while the cockfighters are major competitors in coliseums.  
Activity: Poultry  
Loan Use: Construction of suitable pens for raising her chickens and fighting cocks

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/99058> \*\*

Verencia Enjambre raises chickens for a living.... She has many cocks in her farm which she sells at Php 2,500 each.  
Activity: Poultry  
Loan Use: To buy feed for the chickens  
**Refunded by Kiva**

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/106842> \*\*

William... is 25 years old and single. He studied pharmacy in university, and now he raises fighting cocks.  
Activity: Animal Sales  
Loan Use: William needs a loan of 1500 soles, which he'll invest in rooster feed and tournament registration fees.  
**Refunded by Finca Peru**

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/112697> \*\*

The family raises poultry in their barangay (neighborhood or district).... She seeks a new loan of Php 5,000.00 to buy additional chickens and feed.  
Activity: Poultry  
Loan Use: Purchase 60 sacks of animal feed  
**Refunded by PMPC**

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/183580>

Current loan  
Raul... is single and his desire to improve his life is evident because he also raises gamecocks. Cockfighting, which is a combat between two roosters of the same specie known as "fine birds of combat", was created by humans for their enjoyment.  
Activity: Motorcycle Transport  
Loan Use: Purchase of spare parts

So the current number of loans for or related to cockfighting are 7 (or 6 depending on your point of view), not *really* 3 or 2.

Actually there is an 8th loan that strongly suggests it is for someone who is in the cockfighting business. However, since the loan description is vague & it is currently being investigated by Opportunity International via its Field Partner, I haven't included it here.

\*\* Loans that don't show up in a search for *cockfight*.

The most striking example of loans that are hard to find is **WITEP** (<http://www.kiva.org/partners/11>)

Kiva Entrepreneurs: 306  
Total Loans: \$4,500  
\$4500 divided by 306 = \$14.71  
Average loan size of \$14.71 ???

*See all loans from this field partner >>*

Found 5 loans sorted by New to Old.

[http://www.kiva.org/lend?partner\\_id=11&status=All&sortBy=New+to+Old](http://www.kiva.org/lend?partner_id=11&status=All&sortBy=New+to+Old)  
Total Loans - \$4500

**Refunded WITEP loans**

Found 301 loans sorted by New to Old.

[http://www.kiva.org/lend?partner\\_id=11&status=Refunded&sortBy=New+to+Old](http://www.kiva.org/lend?partner_id=11&status=Refunded&sortBy=New+to+Old)

Refund Rate - 5,606.67% :o  
Amount of Refunded Loans - \$252,300  
Number Of Refunded Loans - 301

(This information is available if one expands the Total Loans & Refund Rate lower down on the FP page under *Repayment Performance on Kiva*)

Quote

Four (or really 3 or 2) loans out of nearly 200,000 is a very small number, and while it should be zero, I think the article goes a little overboard with its statement that Kiva supports animal abuse.

Hmmmm?? :scratch:

I wonder how many banks someone would have to rob before being considered a bank robber ??? :hmm:

How many people would someone have to rape before being properly labeled a rapist ??? :thinking:

How many children would someone have to molest before correctly being called a pedophile ??? :search:

How many animals/people would someone have to torture, maim or kill before being accurately labeled as a degenerate, sadist or psychopath ??? :scratch:

If someone led an exemplary life for 30, 40, 50, 60, even 70 years or more and then murdered someone, wouldn't they then indeed be a murderer ??? :thinking:

Quote

The article could give the impression that this is a common sort of loan for Kiva, and in fact it simply isn't. I think it is important to express the views of the lender community to Kiva that many feel deeply upset about any loans business, legal or not.

I agree that people should express their own view.

Whether or not this kind of loan is common doesn't mitigate the fact that Kiva, by allowing their Field Partners to post loans that are for animal cruelty, bloodsports etc supporting & promoting this behavior.

*Support - a person or thing that supports, as financially a person or thing that gives aid or assistance.*

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/support>

*Promote - to help or encourage to exist or flourish; further to aid in organizing (business undertakings)*

*to encourage the sales, acceptance, etc., of (a product), esp. through advertising or other publicity.*  
<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/promote>

Quote

It might also be useful for Kiva to communicate with its field partners that this kind of business is upsetting to many of its lenders.

Kiva has consistently refused to do so (citing more than once "cultural imperialism")

Quote

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and that they should refrain from incidental mention of it, as in the case of the 3rd loan mentioned above. That is, if the client is, for example, a woman running a shop and the loan is for the shop, but the client's husband is in the business, that shouldn't taint the loan in my view. Better simply not to mention the husband's business.

---

I completely agree. Why taint or prejudice a loan with a known (at least by Kiva) controversial topic/practice when it is unrelated to the actual loan purpose ???

From a message to a Kiva Lender from the Field Partner EDESA:

*Contrary to other countries of Central America, in Costa Rica cockfighting is not permitted. In EDESA we do not give loans for this or any other illegal activity. In our cr statutes we also have strict regulations that do not permit loans which may cause any negative social or environmental impact.*

So there are some countries, even in Latin America, where the practice of bloodsports is frowned upon notwithstanding the spurious argument or claim that cockfighting is "part of the culture".

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **YowieFreak** on **May 01, 2010, 01:22:55 AM**

With only 45 minutes left to go before Raul's loan request expires, it seems certain that someone has successfully basket-hoarded the loan (unless Kiva's systems have playing up for the last few days) in order to ensure that Raul has to continue resorting to cock-fighting in order to provide his family with the sort of lifestyle that most would consider an absolute minimum.

All I can say is that whoever has done this must really hate animals and enjoy seeing them continue to suffer.

Kiva is meant to be about **changing** the lives of people for the better - not forcing people to continue to employ methods which we ourselves would refuse to use in or survive.

:( :'( :(

I just hope that all those people who say that Kiva should do things in order to stop animal-cruelty throughout the world will write to Kiva condemning the actions of w basketed the loan.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **May 01, 2010, 10:59:23 AM**

Raul's loan was pre-disbursed so hopefully he will improve his situation.

What I don't understand is why on a loan for parts, or whatever, someone went to great lengths to glorify cock fighting. Really the description was just over the top, ai get what their motivation was to write it up that way. Do you think that the loan officer writing it was a customer of Raul's or something? It just seemed really odd to

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **May 01, 2010, 11:02:59 AM**

I see that at least 16 people felt Raul Gerardo (<http://www.kiva.org/lend/183580>) deserved help with his loan.

It could be someone decided to support him so he no longer will \*need\* to raise gamecocks any longer...

It could be people just needing that country to fill their collection...

It could be Kiva's autolending kicking in... might that be the reason for the basket tie-up ???

I didn't lend...

however, my biggest worry is that by letting the MFI's know we disapprove, they will just not tell us that part of the story in the future.

Our lending right now is based on very little data and I want more information, not less.

The pride that the loan officer took in writing about the gaming shows me how deeply ingrained in their culture it is and the information was being shared in a positive

My opinion is that our complains will just drive it underground...

I can hear the loan officers saying to each other...

"oops, that is a Kiva loan, take that part out!"

This issue is much too big to be solved through Kiva lending.

It is a legal battle that needs to be fought by animal rights activists around the world and in the countries involved.

It is though, a shame that the loan did not expire.

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **alan** on **May 01, 2010, 11:21:44 AM**

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Quote from: Jan & John on May 01, 2010, 11:02:59 AM

It is though, a shame that the loan did not expire.

---

Oh, it expired all right, Jan. It says "Fully Funded" at the top because that's the way the coding has been done. There seems to be little accounting for expiry of loans i the site is set up, and this is one more example. But if you look at the Status box to the right of the borrower photo, you will see that the loan expired.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **May 01, 2010, 11:24:07 AM**

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Quote from: alan on May 01, 2010, 11:21:44 AM

Oh, it expired all right, Jan. It says "Fully Funded" at the top because that's the way the coding has been done. There seems to be little accounting for expiry of loans in the way the site is set up, and this is one more example. Bt at the Status box to the right of the borrower photo, you will see that the loan expired.

---

Oh good, thanks Alan.

Although I don't think Emprender will take that as the reason for the expiry, or will they?

Perhaps if they had enough emails...

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Alaska Pack** on **May 02, 2010, 12:05:10 PM**

Just like politics, there will always be two sides to this issue. We can look at it as this is as way for the entrepreneur to make a living. Yes, Raul received his money th "backfill" of these loans. One thing that I think we can all agree on is that we are better off than most of the entrepreneurs, that is why the generous people on the site loans.

At a deeper side to this issue, what about the gambling that is associated with cock-fighting? The entrepreneur makes a living but what about those who lose money o fights?

HOW ARE THE POOR BEING HELPED BY THIS INDUSTRY IF THE POOR BET AND LOSE THEIR MONEY WHICH WAS INTENDED FOR FOOD OR POSSIBLY THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION? "If luck favored him that day, he heads home with his fighter and his opponent's dead rooster in hand. The family will feast on chicken tonight. Otherwis wonders what to tell his wife when she finds out what has happened to their savings. He bets everything he owns on it..... If he wins, glorious; if in one pass his roost throat cut, then you will see how a philosopher takes disaster..."

Quote from the following site:

[http://my\\_sarisari\\_store.typepad.com/my\\_sarisari\\_store/cockfighting/](http://my_sarisari_store.typepad.com/my_sarisari_store/cockfighting/)

Are there more winners or more losers?

Bernice :(

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **YowieFreak** on **May 02, 2010, 03:32:07 PM**

As far as I can tell, **with our help** there is no need for cock-fighting to exist at all - which is why I think we should do everything in our power to help these people find alternative ways of generating income.

It's only once we (who are better off than most) stop deciding that "this person is not worthy to receive assistance from me because at the moment they are trapped in or of poverty which requires them to employ animal-cruelty as a way of making ends meet" that we can really say that we are doing something **positive** to stop animal-c

Raul's loan was a clear instance where, instead of just writing emails and letters to other people saying that **they** should do something about the issue, we could have money where our mouth is" and done something **ourselves** to help make the world a better place - so it's a shame that someone (or some system) blocked the loan at the status-quo to exist for just that little bit longer.

:(

And, although Raul did get his loan despite it not being funded by Kiva lenders, just think of what sort of message this has sent to the Field Partner - that Kiva lenders rather Raul rely on cock-fighting than on improving his taxi business. (Although maybe they will just interpret it as meaning "hey, we don't care whether cock-fighting or not, just hide the facts from us".)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **A Nonny Mouse** on **May 02, 2010, 03:42:57 PM**

Good post, Ian. :thumb:

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **May 02, 2010, 03:53:02 PM**

*It could be someone decided to support him so he no longer will \*need\* to raise gamecocks any longer...*

I don't accept the premise that he *needs* to raise gamecocks. Since he is already in the poultry business, he could convert it to raising chickens & selling eggs without t effort. This too would supplement his income. Also what is being completely overlooked here is that cockfighting, both legal & illegal, is intrinsically involved with gambl alcohol consumption, excess & abuse, organized crime, violence etc.

How sad it would be if a young father, or anyone for that matter, has to go home and face his family knowing he has just gambled away the last few pesos of his pitifull income. How tragic to have to look into the eyes of your little hijos y hijas and tell them you are so sorry but there isn't any money for food and they will again have to hungry. (If they lived in Haiti, maybe the mothers could make some of those wonderful **mud cookies** (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22902512/>). Mmm-mmm good, Mmm-mmm good, those delicious mud cookies are Mmm-mmm-mmm go-oo-oo-oo-od)

*-----*  
*The pride that the loan officer took in writing about the gaming shows me how deeply ingrained in their culture it is and the information was being shared in a positive n*

Actually this would only show how that **particular** loan officer currently feels about cockfighting. Again, the premise that it is symbolic or proof of *how deeply ingrained in their culture it is* is nothing but a fallacy.

The reply from EDESA in Costa Rica in my previous post - *Contrary to other countries of Central America, in Costa Rica cockfighting is not permitted. In EDESA we do not give loans for this or any other illegal activity. In our cr statutes we also have strict regulations that do not permit loans which may cause any negative social or environmental impact.,*

The reply from Jonathan Neri in the Phillipines (full post below) - *I would like to express my deep apology for posting the story of Verencia Enjambre... Just like you, I also don't support animal cruelty... I am so sorry!*

And the following comment by a potential Kiva lender on the loan to **Sara Elva Vasquez Rodriquez** (<http://www.kiva.org/lend/36187>) all demonstrate how false this is:

*Well, today I was surfing the internet looking for other things and accidentally found kiva.org*

*I was excited at the first moment. I liked the concept and I am able to do my first micro loan. Even picked the first beneficiary. But before going ahead, because I don't like to give money just for sake of god, I did some research on the internet.*

*I am not pro-animal, but I don't like cockfighting at all and found it really awkward. I live in a country where cockfighting is a common thing, and I don't know if it is legal, but I presume is not, (and held by government playing blindness) so I know what talking. I live in a particular town where many people raise cocks for fighting as a business and is completely unethical from my point of view.*

*So, that said, I found that this requested loan has been raised and been disbursed... I'm not happy with that.*

*Does Kiva taking action on this issue?*

*Posted by Ocasional visitor from Mexico  
May 21, 2008*

#### **Bravo! Latin American nations back animals**

WSPA is excited to confirm Bolivia and Nicaragua's full governmental support for the development of a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare. Once endorsed at the Nations, a Declaration will constitute the biggest EVER single step forward for animal protection worldwide.

Both nations recognise that a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) would go beyond helping animals – better animal care also benefits people, especially t poorest communities, and the environment. Read case studies »

Bolivia's Foreign Ministry acknowledged this when announcing support, saying it "constitutes one of its strategic pillars on improving food security and sovereignty, as \ considering that animal welfare is essential to provide consumers with healthy and top quality products."

In Nicaragua, the Ministry's counterpart stated that it "recognises the important role animals play in the environmental balance and their effect on the quality of life of Nicaraguan society and the world."

They join 35 other governments – including the entire European Union.

#### **Recognising responsibilities**

Following this amazing new support, Latin America is now both sending and receiving a strong message about the responsibility of individuals and governments to end

cruelty.

"With the support of Bolivia, we are one step further to ensure that animal welfare is recognised as an issue of great importance for the region. The support displayed government ... is a sign of their willingness to improve the quality of life for animals and protect the rich biodiversity the country fosters. This is an example to be followed by others, since animal welfare is a global issue", said Luis Carlos Sarmiento, Regional Director for WSPA South America.

Their support reflects a recent championing of animal welfare:

In 2009, Bolivia passed a groundbreaking anti-cruelty law prohibiting the use of wild and domestic animals in circuses. In addition, an animal protection law – including the welfare of animals bred for meat – is being discussed by the national congress.

Nicaragua, who first made a move to support a UDAW on Earth Day, is poised to approve a new animal welfare law that seeks to improve conditions for pets and other animals. <http://news.animalsmatter.org/post/377832382/bravo-latin-american-nations-back-animals>

It is though, a shame that the loan did not expire.

As noted, the loan did expire. However, it is no more a shame that his loan expired than it is that any of the other 11 loans also expired. I don't think the loan to Raul was any more deserving of being "back filled" on Kiva than any of the others that weren't fully funded.

my biggest worry is that by letting the MFI's know we disapprove, they will just not tell us that part of the story in the future.

My opinion is that our complains will just drive it underground...  
I can hear the loan officers saying to each other...  
"oops, that is a Kiva loan, take that part out!"

While it might be true that that **some** MFIs might do this (and what would that say about the practices & ethics of that specific MFI or its loan officers that they would do such blatant deception?) I think that is the more pessimistic view. Based on the responses posted by the three MFIs that **did** refund previous cockfighting loans, (after contacted by numerous Kiva lenders), I think that letting them know many lenders object has caused them to rethink & change their policies.

**Response from CEVI staff member Jonathon Neri -**  
To all the lenders:

I would like to express my deep apology for posting the story of Verencia Enjambre. Honestly, I was not able to check the type of business she has, when I post the story only know is that, she has been raising chickens to support her family.

Just like you, I also don't support animal cruelty. And I just want to say to all the lenders to please not boycott KIVA because of me. There are lot of poor people in there needs your support to grow their business.

If there a need for the loan to be pulled out, I leave the decision to KIVA management.

I am so sorry!

Posted by Jonathan Neri from Philippines  
Apr 5, 2009

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/99058/comment?ent=124048>

Location: Maribojoc, Bohol, Philippines

This loan has been refunded for the following reason:

Kiva is refunding this loan as the purpose of the loan - to raise cockfighting rooster - was determined to be unclear in the original description. While cockfighting is legal in Philippines and thus loans related to this industry from the country are eligible to be posted on the Kiva website, it was deemed that this business description did not state intention clearly enough for lenders.

Posted by Darren Miao from Maribojoc, Bohol, Philippines  
Apr 14, 2009

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/99058>

**Response from Finca Peru -**  
Location: Ayacucho, Peru

This loan has been refunded for the following reason:

Kiva's field partner, FINCA Peru, has decided to refund this loan. Here FINCA Peru explains why, in their own words:

The story posted was from a young man, William, whose business is raising roosters for cockfights in Ayacucho. Cockfighting is legal in Peru. We understand and are : some of the Kiva community's opinions and criticisms regarding the use of this loan, which is why we have decided to ask Kiva to refund it, even though it has already been partially funded on the website.

We would also like to share a bit more about FINCA Peru. We are the pioneer in the village banking methodology in Peru and have been working in Lima, Ayacucho and Huancavelica since 1993. We work with over 12,300 microentrepreneurs, 93% are women, most of them mothers, and 25% are in rural areas where there are few to no financial services offered. As you may see, William's story is more of an exception than the average story of our wonderful clients.

Posted by Michelle May Kreger, Kiva Staff, from San Francisco, United States  
May 8, 2009

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/106842>

**Response from Paglaum Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PMPC) -**  
Location: Dapacan, Alto, Calamba, Mis. Occ., Philippines

This loan has been refunded for the following reason:

The field partner has requested that this loan be refunded on the account that the project has offended the sensibilities of some of the Kiva lenders. PMPC express its regret for having posted this story on the Kiva website and has promised that it will not post any business that are related to cockfighting or any activity that implies cruelty to animals.

PMPC hopes that this unfortunate incident should not affect the Kiva lender's support to the borrowers of PMPC, particularly that it has taken steps to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

Thank you.

Posted by Elrico Muñoz, Kiva Staff, from San Francisco, United States  
May 31, 2009

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/112697>

So if we look at all of the Cockfighting (CF) loans, we can see a developing pattern.

The first loan, listed Sept. 10, 2007, was for shoe sales. It was mentioned in the loan description the husband raised gamecocks but basically went unnoticed and was f

The second loan, listed Feb. 15, 2008, received complaints that were sent directly to Kiva Customer Service and were rebuffed.

Matt Flannery even wrote about it in his Social Edge blog:

*A while ago, our Peruvian partner posted **this cockfighting loan** (<http://www.kiva.org/lend/36187>) on our site. Immediately, two things happened. 1) a swathe ??? of rushed to finance the cockfighter and 2) some very angry people wrote in to protest. Later, our **sad weekly newspaper** (<http://www.sfweekly.com/2008-02-27/news-s-micro-loans-underwriting-cockfighting-in-peru/>) wrote about it.....*

Kiva says Rodriguez' submission was red-flagged by one of the volunteers who look over the postings, but they let it go through after its Peruvian lending partner assu was kosher there.

SF Weekly called up one of the cockfighting lenders. Blake White, a partner at Accu-Logistics LLC in San Leandro, says **he picked the most recent batch of entrepre company lends to at random without fully reading the descriptions**. "I'm rapidly opening up my Kiva account to see who we're funding here," he says. "**Oh, she oh my God!**" It sounded as if he pulled the phone away from his mouth for a good chuckle. "You know what? I do feel bad. I would be happy to give an equal donation animal-rights activists to offset my Kiva footprint."

*.....A word of caution: Don't even consider promoting or sponsoring a cockfight in the USA. Especially don't try to transport anything related to the fight from a state i out of the country. Also, don't buy cockfighting magazines. **Also, don't spend too much time thinking about cockfighting. To be honest, you are best to stay i the subject entirely. I know it has wasted a lot of my time!***

<http://www.socialedge.org/blogs/kiva-chronicles/archive/2008/03/29/cockfighting>

The swathe(?) of lenders Matt referred to were a whole 22 people, some (most?) of whom didn't realize the true nature of the loan request. It was listed under Retail f purpose of buying a freezer.

The statement that *a swathe of lenders rushed to finance the cockfighter*, while maybe technically true, is disingenuous at best. The fact of the matter is at that point i Feb. 2008, Kiva had more lenders than loans. **ALL** loans were being quickly funded and Kiva was constantly running out. It was feeding frenzy time & lenders were fig get on a loan. To suggest that lenders deliberately chose a cockfighting loan to fund (listed as retail for the purpose of buying a freezer) and therefore it was an affirma Kiva's decision to allow them is nothing more than prevarication.

The third loan, listed Aug. 20, 2008, was quickly funded and to the best of my knowledge did not receive much attention but more lenders were now becoming aware t was posting cockfighting loans. And they also learned that Kiva would not listen to their concerns even though at a later time Premal said in a conference call that he v cockfighting. Matt/Kiva continues to refuse to rethink and/or change his/its policy.

The three three loans, the lenders changed their tactics and sent their concerns via emails directly to the Field Partners.

The next Field Partners contacted decided to voluntarily refund the loans & give assurances that they will not post these type of loans in the future. This is why I say i FPs decided to rethink & change their policies. Unlike some, they can learn still learn.

This last loan to Raul Gerardo did result in a reply from the Empreder stating that they made a *big mistake* when they listed this loan and said *this error will not happ hereafter*. They also said *we have a strict policy about Social Responsibility, and a very clear ethic code*. Although they decided not to refund the loan, we can only hope their response, that they will no longer list loans related to cockfighting or other bloodsports. Possibly, they, as well as other Field Partners, might become more like EE reconsider their policies and not fund cockfighting loans altogether.

All in all, I say that is progress.

Just my :piggybank: :piggybank:

We now know sending emails to Kiva is futile if we expect them to refund a loan (but don't stop, continue to let them know your opinion). It is much more productive t the Field Partner. As we can see, they have been much more open-minded & responsive. Kiva management/Matt has decided to dig its/his heels in and remain obstinat belatedly justified their decision to allow cockfighting loans to be listed after more than a year citing the The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_Declaration\\_of\\_Human\\_Rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Declaration_of_Human_Rights) - stating that was their guide and it did not pertain to animals. The fact that The Universal Decl: Animal Welfare (UDAW) - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal\\_Declaration\\_on\\_Animal\\_Welfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Declaration_on_Animal_Welfare) - has not yet been endorsed by the UN was also mentioned in a conf

So one way to try & get Kiva to stop promoting loans for animal cruelty would be to contact the political representatives in your own country & encourage them to supp endorsement by the UN of The Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare.

Universal Declaration campaign launched  
Animals Matter to Me

WSPA USA is joining hundreds of other animal welfare organizations around the world, urging the United Nations to adopt an international agreement on the welfare c [http://www.wspa-usa.org/pages/1731\\_universal\\_declaration.cfm](http://www.wspa-usa.org/pages/1731_universal_declaration.cfm)

A Universal Declaration accepted by the UN would:

- \* Recognize animals as sentient beings, capable of suffering and experiencing pain
- \* Recognize that animal welfare is an issue of importance as a part of the social development of nations
- \* Act as a catalyst for better animal welfare provisions worldwide

Reaching the goal of 10 million signatures worldwide will raise public and government awareness about animals and the importance of considering their welfare.

It will show governments that animals and their treatment matters to everyone.  
*It might also provide Kiva with a good reason to reconsider & change its policy.*

Sign The Animals Matter To Me Petition:  
<http://www.animalsmatter.org/>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **May 02, 2010, 04:28:31 PM**

Isn't it truly pathetic that Kiva needs the force of the UN to act in an ethical manner?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Peter S** on **May 11, 2010, 05:35:37 PM**

just an FYI for everyone with an opinion in this area:

(<http://s3-1.kiva.org/img/w450h360/529600.jpg>)

Sra. Guillermina Castillo de Vásquez is 59 years old. She raises and sells chickens, ducks, and fighting cocks. She is married, and her husband receives a monthly inco his retirement pension. They live in their own house in the Tate Camino Grande district. Their house is slowly being reconstructed through their efforts since the 2007 earthquake. Sra. Castillo is a very entrepreneurial woman who not only raises animals but also sells food. With this income, she has educated her children, who are no independent people. Her dream is to totally construct their house out of good quality materials, with the goal of achieving a better quality of life. This is why she is req loan.

Sra. Castillo is very grateful for the support that is offered her through this financing.  
<http://www.kiva.org/lend/195733> currently fundraising.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 11, 2010, 07:26:16 PM**

As noted above Kiva has posted yet another Cockfighting loan:

[www.kiva.org/lend/195733](http://www.kiva.org/lend/195733)

From past experience we know writing to Kiva will not do any good. But writing to the MFI and letting the MFI know that loans for cockfighting are not wanted on Kiva good results in the past. Anyone who feels that cockfighting loans are cruel and inhumane may want to write and express your feelings to the following MFI:

Caja Rural Señor de Luren

Contacts:

\*

Eduardo Castro Aviles  
Jefe de Planeamiento  
[ecastro@cajaluren.com.pe](mailto:ecastro@cajaluren.com.pe)

\*

Eliot Leonel Aleman Carbajal  
[ealeman@cajaluren.com.pe](mailto:ealeman@cajaluren.com.pe)  
(51) - 56 - 21 7057

\*

Manuel Echegaray Cueto  
Presidente del Directorio  
[mechegaray@cajaluren.com.pe](mailto:mechegaray@cajaluren.com.pe)

I see Kiva has either not placed the contact information on the Field Partner web page or it has removed the contact information from the Field Partner web page. I obt above contact information from the MIX profile.

Judy

PS: Incidentally, I know I will be attacked, by some, for posting this message. Go ahead and attack me. I really do not care. Cockfighting is repulsive, inhumane, cruel, and morally reprehensible. There is absolutely no justification for perpetrating, practicing, promoting, defending or supporting cockfighting. It is an insult to the people country to defend cockfighting by saying it is part of their culture. Cockfighting is nothing more than a cruel bloodsport carried out for the sick excitement it gives some individuals (just like the Coliseum did, 2000 years ago). In addition, cockfighting is associated with gambling, crime, and violence.

I will continue to speak out in support of these poor helpless animals as long as they are being subjected to such reprehensible cruelty. And I will continue to work toward making it illegal for Kiva to send money to support these loans for cruel and inhumane activities. To do otherwise is to be complicit in the cruelty.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **May 11, 2010, 07:31:51 PM**

Thank you, Judy, for doing the research on those links...

and :thankyou: for a good post.

I would hope no one would 'attack' anyone here for voicing their opinions.

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **May 11, 2010, 11:04:19 PM**

hmm, I was unable to send my email to these addresses. I got a response that said "sender address rejected"... :no:

There is also this contact information on their web site: Fax: 056-223492 | Email: [cajaluren@cajaluren.com.pe](mailto:cajaluren@cajaluren.com.pe)  
But this email address also did not work for me. Has anyone been able to send a message to them?

I got the same result from my yahoo and gmail addresses.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **May 11, 2010, 11:26:57 PM**

Quote from: **David2051** on **May 11, 2010, 11:04:19 PM**

hmm, I was unable to send my email to these addresses. I got a response that said "sender address rejected"... :no:

There is also this contact information on their web site: Fax: 056-223492 | Email: [cajaluren@cajaluren.com.pe](mailto:cajaluren@cajaluren.com.pe)  
But this email address also did not work for me. Has anyone been able to send a message to them?

hmm - I sent mail to all three addresses and nothing came back yet...

I'll see what's there in the morning...

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **May 11, 2010, 11:32:40 PM**

Quote from: **Jan & John** on **May 11, 2010, 11:26:57 PM**

hmm - I sent mail to all three addresses and nothing came back yet...

I'll see what's there in the morning...

-jan-

If it doesn't bounce, perhaps I could send my message to you and you could forward it on for me?

hmm, I just found a team for this MFI: [http://www.kiva.org/team/amigos\\_de\\_caja\\_rural](http://www.kiva.org/team/amigos_de_caja_rural)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **May 11, 2010, 11:46:36 PM**

Quote from: **David2051** on **May 11, 2010, 11:32:40 PM**

If it doesn't bounce, perhaps I could send my message to you and you could forward it on for me?

hmm, I just found a team for this MFI: [http://www.kiva.org/team/amigos\\_de\\_caja\\_rural](http://www.kiva.org/team/amigos_de_caja_rural)

ealeman and ecastro just came back ...

Quote

This is the mail system at host mailrelay.cajaluren.com.pe.

I'm sorry to have to inform you that your message could not be delivered to one or more recipients. It's attached below.

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 12, 2010, 08:51:30 AM**

Quote from: David2051 on May 11, 2010, 11:04:19 PM

hmm, I was unable to send my email to these addresses. I got a response that said "sender address rejected"... :no:

There is also this contact information on their web site: Fax: 056-223492 | Email: cajaluren@cajaluren.com.pe  
But this email address also did not work for me. Has anyone been able to send a message to them?

My apologies for thinking that the contact information on MIX was accurate and my apologies for posting that inaccurate contact information here. (I had not yet written letters to the MFI.)

This morning I attempted to contact the MFI via the contact information posted on MIX. Those three e-mails bounced back immediately.

I also attempted to contact the MFI through their official website and contact information at:

<http://www.cajaluren.com.pe/>.

That e-mail bounced back immediately too.

I then sent an e-mail to the general e-mail address, also posted on MIX:

cajaluren@cajaluren.com.pe

That e-mail also bounced back as undeliverable.

It appears that out of five different contact e-mail addresses (4 posted on MIX and 1 posted on the MFI's official website) none are correct.

This obstacle is obviously a problem for those of us who wish to express our concern over the posting of cockfighting loans.

In addition, I find it rather disturbing and alarming that Kiva is doing business with an MFI for which the e-mail contact information on MIX is inaccurate and the e-mail information on the MFI's own website is inaccurate. Legitimate businesses generally have accurate contact information and are able to be contacted by interested parties including the general public. Perhaps this is red flag.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John on May 12, 2010, 09:20:14 AM**

Quote from: Judith on May 12, 2010, 08:51:30 AM

In addition, I find it rather disturbing and alarming that Kiva is doing business with an MFI for which the e-mail contact information on MIX is inaccurate and the e-mail contact information on the MFI's own website is inaccurate. Legitimate businesses generally have accurate contact information and are able to be contacted by interested parties, including the general public. Perhaps this is red flag.

Judy

Agreed, Judy.

Whether or not we agree with Kiva's policy on this particular issue, I think we all agree that Kiva needs to most definitely stay on top of their partners to make sure their business practices are above board. Contact information should be a priority. Kiva appears to me to spend a lot of time researching and vetting new partners. I have how well they stay on top of the existing ones that are no longer in pilot phase. I used to trust Kiva's ratings and partner pages but now I know I need to stay diversified for many more reasons.

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051 on May 12, 2010, 12:47:41 PM**

Quote from: Jan & John on May 12, 2010, 09:20:14 AM

... Kiva **appears** to me to spend a lot of time researching and vetting new partners. ...

Emphasis added...

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:) on May 16, 2010, 09:12:47 PM**

Quote

Just took all my money out! Cockfighting is not permissible. Sent the money to Mark - he has a PayPal account and will reimburse me. Kiva sucks!!

Jane Sladen.

I agree, Jane. Posting and promoting cockfighting loans on the Kiva site is morally reprehensible.

I have been withdrawing a large percentage of my repayment money since July 15, 2009 and *all* of my repayment money for the past two months. I have fewer than half active loans I once had and most of these active loans will be paid off sometime this fall or before.

While there are several factors which have contributed to my decision to withdraw my money from Kiva instead of relending it, Kiva's continuing unwillingness and continued refusal to adopt a moral and ethical position to ban the posting and promoting of cockfighting loans on the Kiva site is a big part of my decision.

The money I withdraw from Kiva is being used to support organizations and causes which have high moral and ethical standards and which promote the humane treatment of living creatures, both human and animal.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:) on May 22, 2010, 05:32:27 PM**

#### **Cockfighting and Its Relationship to Other Crimes:**

Even if Kiva does not care about the pain and agony that cockfighting causes the animals, it seems that Kiva should be concerned about the issues outlined below which are associated with cockfighting.

[http://www.hsus.org/acf/fighting/cockfight/cockfighting\\_and\\_related\\_crimes.html](http://www.hsus.org/acf/fighting/cockfight/cockfighting_and_related_crimes.html)

Cockfighting goes hand in hand with other crimes. Media reports provide accounts of the various criminal activities associated with cockfighting. States with weak cockfighting laws attract cockfighters, who bring with them all kinds of social ills, including: homicide, narcotics, exposing children to violence, illegal gambling. The following is a selection of recently reported crimes linked to cockfighting.

#### Homicide

- April 2009: While arresting a suspected murderer, officers from the Monroe County, Ga., Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force and the Point Police Department uncover a suspected dog-fighting ring. Along with a stash of firearms, officers find 13 badly scarred pit bulls and dogfighting equipment. (Atheist Herald, 04/30/09)
- March 2009: During a raid on a Calif. cockfighting operation, Fresno County Sheriff Deputy Chris Curtice told media, "In years past, we have [had] a lot of other crimes associated with cockfights. We've had several murders, shootings, assaults, drug issues, weapons charges. A variety of things come as a result of these cockfights. That department takes it so seriously." (Fresno Bee, 03/07/09)
- January 2009: Local media reported that a spectator at an illegal cockfight in Cebu City in the Philippines was gunned down, reportedly in a drive-by shooting by a motorcycle. (Cebu Daily News, 01/09/09)
- April 2008: Five men were reportedly hospitalized in serious condition after being stabbed at a cockfight in Valenzuela City in the Philippines, apparently after an argument over gambling. (GMA News.TV, 04/08/08)

- March 2007: One man was shot to death and another was arrested in an early morning gunfight in Makaha, Hawaii, during what appeared to be a botched robbery cockfighting operation. (The Honolulu Advertiser, 03/25/07)
- January 2007: A Filipino mayor and his deputy were reportedly gunned down, and seven others were injured at a cockfight in San Jose City in the Philippines. (Age France-Presse, 01/16/07)
- September 2006: An argument over the outcome of an illegal cockfight in Fort Bend County, Texas, allegedly erupted into gunfire, leaving one man dead and another seriously wounded. (Dallas Morning News, 9/3/06)
- August 2006: A San Diego, Calif., man surrendered to authorities allegedly in connection with the murder of a fellow cockfighting spectator in Good Hope. (The Press-4/18/06)
- May 2006: Two men were shot dead at an illegal cockfight in rural Texas. The two murdered men were regulars at cockfights on the farm where they were found dead according to authorities. (The Monitor, 5/3/06)
- February 2006: A 24-year-old Sacramento, Calif., man died from gunshot wounds he allegedly received in a dispute over an illegal rooster fight. (The Sacramento E 2/20/06)

#### Narcotics

- Sept. 2009: An investigation into a cockfighting ring unearths a criminal enterprise in Pierce County, Wash., involving cockfighting, illegal gambling, a marijuana grow operation and meth lab. Stolen cars and automatic weapons also were seized on the property. (KOMO News, 9/19/09)
- Sept. 2009: During a raid of a Tulare, Calif. drug-trafficking operation allegedly tied to the Mexican drug cartel, authorities find cockfighting implements, in addition million in drugs and over \$30K in cash. (Visalia Times-Delta, 9/16/09)
- March 2009: Indianapolis police arrest three men who allegedly were raising cockfighting roosters, seizing 50 birds and animal-fighting equipment, along with coca marijuana. (Indianapolis Star, 3/25/09)
- February 2009: Sheriff's deputies from Darlington County, SC, responding to a call about an alleged dogfighting operation, seized ten pit bulls, several firearms and \$5,000 in crack cocaine, marijuana and cash. (Morning News Reporter, 2/27/09)
- January 2009: While busting an alleged international cockfighting operation in Nipomo, Calif., investigators reported finding cocaine, marijuana and a pound of methamphetamine. (Associated Press, 1/29/09)
- January 2009: Federal authorities shut down an alleged massive cockfighting outfit in Cumberland County, Tenn., and determined that those involved also were alle of a Mexican drug trafficking cartel. (CBS-5 News Nashville, 1/1/09)
- December 2008: An investigation into a possible narcotics operation in Laurens County, S.C., turned up \$70,000 worth of narcotics, illegal weapons and roosters th used for fighting, as well as one man who was thought to be in the country illegally. (WYFF-Greenville, 12/5/08)
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- March 2007: After an almost year-long investigation, state police shut down what they deemed the largest cockfighting gambling operation in north La., booking the charges of illegal gambling, contributing to the delinquency of juveniles, racketeering and money laundering. (Shreveport Times, 03/31/07)
- February 2007: A raid of an alleged cockfighting operation in Medina County, Ohio led to charges against the property owner of running a cockfighting operation an operating a gambling house. (Beacon Journal, 02/19/07)
- January 2007: The operators of the Del Rio cockfighting pit in Tenn. pleaded guilty to charges of felony gambling and sponsoring or exhibiting animals in an animal venture. (Associated Press, 01/23/07)
- July 2006: A man who held illegal cockfights on his Montgomery County, Ky., farm, where police seized nearly \$430,000, was convicted of conspiracy to promote ga a plea deal. He had originally been charged with running a criminal syndicate, a Class B felony. (Lexington Herald Leader, 07/28/06)

Full article at link above.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **May 22, 2010, 11:23:53 PM**

Thanks for the article and link, Judy. I found a good sample letter to the editor on the Humane Society site that could be adapted for use too. It seems to cover most points. Unfortunately I see that California ranks 37th on cockfighting laws. :( Indiana is quite a bit more serious about cockfighting at 20th in the nation...

Quote

**Sample Letter to the Editor about Cockfighting**

[Date]

[Name of Editor]  
[Name of Publication]  
[Address]  
[City, State, Zip]

Re: Cockfighting

Dear [Mr./Ms. Last Name]:

[If you are responding to an article that has run in the publication, cite the article's title and date. Please note that the purpose of this letter is to enhance public awareness of the evils of cockfighting in general, not to make accusations or organizations or to comment on particular events. (If you have information to support specific accusations, you should contact local law enforcement agencies rather than the media.) Keep your letter general in the following text as an example.]

It is inexcusable that some people view the animal suffering involved in staged cockfights as a form of entertainment or a way to make a profit. This barbaric blood sport is prohibited in every state, and federal law makes the import or export of animals for fighting purposes a felony.

Cockfighting promoters often say that they are simply allowing the birds to do what they do naturally, but this claim is absurd. While it is true that birds will fight over food, territory or mates, such fights generally take place only within a group and seldom result in serious injury. This natural behavior is quite different from what takes place in staged cockfights, in which pairs of birds—bred for maximum aggressiveness and sometimes given steroids to enhance the bloodshed—are placed in an enclosure where they are forced to fight, with no opportunity for escape. The birds are usually fitted with artificial spurs called gaffs or slashers, sharp implements designed to mutilate. A cockfight often results in the death of one or both of the birds.

Aside from the animal suffering involved, this so-called sport has several other disturbing aspects, which have been revealed by law enforcement raids. Gambling is the norm at cockfighting events. Thousands of dollars can change spectators bet on their favorite birds. The owner of the bird winning the most fights in an event can receive a purse of up to tens of thousands of dollars in presumably undeclared income. Because large amounts of cash are present and other weapons are common at cockfights. Violent crimes, even homicides, have been connected to cockfighting in recent years. Furthermore, law enforcement officials have documented the strong connection between cockfighting and the distribution of illegal drugs.

The presence of young children at cockfights is especially disturbing. Exposure to such brutality can promote insensitivity to animal suffering and an enthusiasm for violence. Anthropologist Margaret Mead suggested that acts of cruelty to animals committed in childhood may signify the development of an impulsive, assaultive character disorder. Psychiatrists at the Menninger Foundation revealed that a history of cruelty to animals can be symptomatic of serious aggression and that such aggression is significantly associated with aggressive behavior directed against other humans. Animal fighting is a vicious and brutal activity that can breed violence.

While it is true that cockfighting has been practiced for centuries in various countries, including the United States, "old" does not necessarily mean right or even acceptable. At one time the United States allowed slavery, lacked child labor laws, and refused women the vote.

**Cockfighting is now illegal in every state and is a felony in many of them.** We should encourage and support local animal care and control agencies and law enforcement officials as they work to stem this brutal and shameful practice and we should urge our prosecutors and judges to take cockfighting seriously when it comes time to prosecute.

Sincerely,  
[Your Signature][Your Name]  
[Your Address]  
[Your City, State, Zip]  
[Your Phone Number]

[Note: Some publications require your address and phone number before they publish a letter to the editor, but you may request that this information be withheld.]

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**Post by: **alan on May 23, 2010, 05:13:32 PM**Quote from: Judith on May 22, 2010, 05:32:27 PM

**Even if Kiva does not care about the pain and agony that cockfighting causes the animals,** it seems that Kiva should be concerned about the issues outlined below which are associated with cockfighting.

Your assertion here is neither proven nor fair nor called for. The fact that Kiva does not do what you want it to do, which is apparently to ban any and all loans that merely incidentally hint of cockfighting, even where the loan itself has nothing whatsoever to do with cockfighting, does not prove that Kiva "does not care about the pain and agony that cockfighting causes."

And what if they did? Those loans would just stay in the 70% of non-Kiva loans at the same MFIs, or get buried in group loans. And what, precisely, would have been accomplished?

Quote from: Judith on May 22, 2010, 05:32:27 PM

**Cockfighting goes hand in hand with other crimes.** Media reports provide accounts of the various criminal activities associated with cockfighting. States with weak cockfighting laws attract cockfighters, who bring with them a host of social ills, including: homicide, narcotics, exposing children to violence, illegal gambling. The following is a sample of recently reported crimes linked to cockfighting.

**Homicide**

- April 2009: While arresting a suspected murderer, officers from the Monroe County, Ga., Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force and the West Point Police Department uncover a suspected dog-fight. Along with a stash of firearms, officers find 13 badly scarred pit bulls and dogfighting equipment. (Athens Banner Herald, 04/30/09)

**Narcotics**

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Er, do these four examples have to do with a new breed of chicken-dog? I thought the topic here was cockfighting. Padding your statistics does not help to prove your point.

In fact, I fail to see what any of this has to do with the price of bananas in Timbuktu or even Timbukthree. You have shown some anecdotal evidence to the effect that people who engage in illegal activities sometimes commit illegal acts. And your point is?

Animal blood sports have been banned in several countries (I have no idea how many) because these countries consider them to be inappropriate, barbaric even. The fact that there is obviously an illegal market for these activities in the US and the Philippines, judging from your post, indicates that there is a minority of people who disagree and are prepared to risk criminal sanction to run these operations. And, yes, they attract a generally criminal element who do other nasty things. Of course, there are similar problems associated with a variety of other activities which are otherwise legal. Consider horse racing, dog racing, boxing, football, baseball..... All of these involve gambling, some by design, and all have their own unique ethical problems.

But your highlighted statement at the beginning of the above quote should read that "illegal cockfighting goes hand in hand with other crimes." Where it is not illegal, it is not a crime. And none of this addresses cockfighting where it is both legal and socially accepted, which appears to be the case in at least certain countries. And, frankly, neither barraging Kiva with angry e-mails, or writing to the MFIs, or posting long posts here on KF, or basketing a loan into expiry. (And on this last point, I have no idea who you are and I don't want to know, and I'm not for an instant accusing you or anyone else personally. But someone did it. And it didn't save a single bird.)

We get it. You don't like cockfighting. Neither do I. Neither, I venture to guess, do the majority of people on KF, or at Kiva HQ. And I haven't yet discovered a Kivans For Cockfighting Team.

If you want to do something about cockfighting, I suggest you first make sure there is none in your own backyard. Just 'cause it's illegal doesn't mean it doesn't exist. If you've demonstrated that. And if you want to do something about cockfighting in Peru, I suggest you donate to the Peruvian SPCA. Lend through Kiva or don't; contribute or don't. But I for one think this thread has gone on long enough.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**Post by: **YowieFreak on May 23, 2010, 06:32:55 PM**Quote from: alan on May 23, 2010, 05:13:32 PM

... But someone did it. And it didn't save a single bird. ...

... And I haven't yet discovered a Kivans For Cockfighting Team. ...

Strictly speaking, the last time that a "cock-fighting" loan was basketed (or the last one I saw basketed anyway), the basketing probably ensured more birds were harmed than meant that the entrepreneur seeking a loan may not have received the money to invest in other businesses and therefore had to continue using cock-fighting as a source of future income.

(And, even if that particular entrepreneur **did** receive the loan he was after, e.g. due to pre-disbursal, the MFI would have had less capital to invest in other entrepreneurial situations.)

I suspect that the people who basketed the loan **do** belong to a KFC team, but just don't publicise it as such.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting Ioan**

Post by: **Sengbe Pieh** on **May 23, 2010, 10:40:23 PM**

The following **Nature** (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/why-we-love-cats-and-dogs/introduction/4538/>) program was rebroadcast tonight on my Ic station.

I thought I would share it once again with all my animal loving friends :)

**Why We Love Cats and Dogs** (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/why-we-love-cats-and-dogs/introduction/4538/>)

*Some people are cat people, some are dog people. But regardless of which camp they fall into, most people are simply crazy about their pets. The connections people form with their cats and dogs are often the longest, strongest relationships in their lives. They are our soul mates, our best friends, sometimes even our surrogate children. What are these creatures such great members of our families?*

*Perhaps it's because our furry friends have long provided us with comfort, camaraderie, and unconditional love. Cats and dogs are our unending source of kisses, cuddle time, and laughs. Watch as NATURE shares the stories of pet owners and their beloved animals. From a very special dog named Jerry, to a cat that saved a man's life, Love Cats and Dogs presents a portrait of some of the most powerful and remarkable connections we experience as humans—the unbreakable bonds with our pets.*

Enjoy!! :) :( :)

**NATURE | Why We Love Cats and Dogs | Jerry's Story | PBS**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFLWC\\_W9KM8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFLWC_W9KM8)

**We love our chickens!**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDHB\\_1cJSA&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDHB_1cJSA&NR=1)

Seems they also love their animals. :)

**Miguel Gonzalez Ortiz from Piedras Negras, Mexico** (<http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=86850>)  
(<http://www.kiva.org/img/w800/264264.jpg>)

**María Maximina Casimiro Hilario** (<http://www.kiva.org/lend/70941>)  
(<http://s3-1.kiva.org/img/w800/216858.jpg>)

**Nguyen Thi Them** (<http://www.kiva.org/lend/68523>)  
(<http://s3-2.kiva.org/img/w800/211419.jpg>)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdx2yVWUN8c>

**Kids playing with their pet chickens!**

([http://lh6.ggpht.com/\\_385nxvdl3sE/R6Bia6ei3VI/AAAAAAAAAB5s/kfUzdGo\\_nU/Best\\_112.JPG](http://lh6.ggpht.com/_385nxvdl3sE/R6Bia6ei3VI/AAAAAAAAAB5s/kfUzdGo_nU/Best_112.JPG))

**India 2007 - New Delhi, Himachal Pradesh & Ladakh** (<http://picasaweb.google.com/KevinGale110/India2007NewDelhiHimachalPradeshLadakh#>)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting Ioan**

Post by: **Harvey:** on **May 24, 2010, 11:34:40 AM**

Since I no longer have the right to edit my own post, I am reposting it to clarify a couple of things that apparently were not clear to everyone. The clarifications are in letters.

Cockfighting and Its Relationship to Other Crimes:

Even if Kiva does not care about the pain and agony that cockfighting causes the animals, it seems that Kiva should be concerned about the issues outlined below which are associated with cockfighting. **(and other bloodsports) (For anyone who does not know, cockfighting is considered a bloodsport.)**

[http://www.hsus.org/acf/fighting/cockfight/cockfighting\\_and\\_related\\_crimes.html](http://www.hsus.org/acf/fighting/cockfight/cockfighting_and_related_crimes.html)

**The following is a quote from the above article: (This fact was apparently not clear to at least one person.)**

Quote

Cockfighting goes hand in hand with other crimes. Media reports provide accounts of the various criminal activities associated with cockfighting. States with weak cockfighting laws attract cockfighters, who bring with them all kinds of crimes, including: homicide, narcotics, exposing children to violence, illegal gambling. The following is a sample of recently reported crimes linked to cockfighting.

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- March 2009: During a raid on a Calif. cockfighting operation, Fresno County Sheriff Deputy Chris Curtice told media, "In years past, we have [had] a lot of other crimes associated with cockfights. We've had several murders, assaults, drug issues, weapons charges. A variety of things come as a result of these cockfights. That's why our department takes it so seriously." (Fresno Bee, 03/07/09)
- January 2009: Local media reported that a spectator at an illegal cockfight in Cebu City in the Philippines was gunned down, reportedly in a drive-by shooting by a man on a motorcycle. (Cebu Daily News, 01/09/09)
- April 2008: Five men were reportedly hospitalized in serious condition after being stabbed at a cockfight in Valenzuela City in the Philippines, apparently after an argument over gambling. (GMA News TV, 04/08/08)
- March 2007: One man was shot to death and another was arrested in an early morning gunfight in Makaha, Hawaii, during what appeared to be a botched robbery of a cockfighting operation. (The Honolulu Advertiser, 03/25/07)
- January 2007: A Filipino mayor and his deputy were reportedly gunned down, and seven others were injured at a cockfight in San Jose City in the Philippines. (Agence France-Presse, 01/16/07)
- September 2006: An argument over the outcome of an illegal cockfight in Fort Bend County, Texas, allegedly erupted into gunfire, leaving one man dead and another seriously wounded. (Dallas Morning News, 9/3/06)
- August 2006: A San Diego, Calif., man surrendered to authorities allegedly in connection with the murder of a fellow cockfight spectator in Good Hope. (The Press-Enterprise, 4/18/06)
- May 2006: Two men were shot dead at an illegal cockfight in rural Texas. The two murdered men were regulars at cockfights on the farm where they were found dead, according to authorities. (The Monitor, 5/3/06)
- February 2006: A 24-year-old Sacramento, Calif., man died from gunshot wounds he allegedly received in a dispute over an illegal rooster fight. (The Sacramento Bee, 2/20/06)

Narcotics

- Sept. 2009: An investigation into a cockfighting ring uncovers a criminal enterprise in Pierce County, Wash., involving cockfighting, illegal gambling, a marijuana grow operation and meth lab. Stolen cars and automatic weapons seized on the property. (KOMO News, 9/19/09)
- Sept. 2009: During a raid of a Tulare, Calif. drug-trafficking operation allegedly tied to the Mexican drug cartel, authorities find cockfighting implements, in addition to \$1.1 million in drugs and over \$30K in cash. (Visalia Times-Delta, 9/16/09)
- March 2009: Indianapolis police arrest three men who allegedly were raising cockfighting roosters, seizing 50 birds and animal-fighting equipment, along with cocaine and marijuana. (Indianapolis Star, 3/25/09)
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- March 2008: Police arrested 10 people at an alleged cockfight in Honaunau, Hawaii, where they found 40 live and 4 dead birds, along with 4 firearms, drugs and cockfighting paraphernalia. Charges filed included gambling, cruel possession of dangerous drugs and possession of a firearm without a permit. (Honolulu Advertiser, 03/04/08)
- December 2007: The Otero County Sheriff's Department in N.M. raided an alleged large-scale cockfighting operation, confiscating 144 roosters, more than \$22,000 in cash, cockfighting paraphernalia and ledgers that were believed to be evidence of gambling. (Las Cruces Sun-News, 12/24/07)
- March 2007: After an almost year-long investigation, state police shut down what they deemed the largest cockfighting gambling operation in north La., booking the owner on charges of illegal gambling, contributing to the delinquency of juveniles, racketeering and money laundering. (Shreveport Times, 03/31/07)
- February 2007: A raid of an alleged cockfighting operation in Medina County, Ohio led to charges against the property owner of running a cockfighting operation and operating a gambling house. (Beacon Journal, 02/19/07)
- January 2007: The operators of the Del Rio cockfighting pit in Tenn. pleaded guilty to charges of felony gambling and sponsoring or exhibiting animals in an animal fighting venture. (Associated Press, 01/23/07)
- July 2006: A man who held illegal cockfights on his Montgomery County, Ky., farm, where police seized nearly \$430,000, was convicted of conspiracy to promote gambling in a plea deal. He had originally been charged with running a criminal syndicate, a Class B felony. (Lexington Herald Leader, 07/28/06)

Full article at link above.

Juday

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **May 24, 2010, 06:59:16 PM**

I am so sad about the ill effects that this subject has brought upon this community. :no:

It makes me think of an animal caught in a leg trap that will chew its own leg off trying to escape. It seems like there should be some way of reacting to the reality of cruelty in the world without inflicting terrible wounds on this community of people who came together to make a positive difference in the world.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:** on **May 30, 2010, 10:40:55 AM**

I want to clear up any misconceptions that anyone may have concerning my May 22, 2010 post in the Cockfighting thread.

Link to my post: <http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,3447.msg78109.html#msg78109>

Quote from: Judith on May 22, 2010, 05:32:27 PM

Quote

Even if Kiva does not care about the pain and agony that cockfighting causes the animals, it seems that Kiva should be concerned about the issues outlined below which are associated with cockfighting.

I then included part of an article written by the Humane Society of the United States and the link to that article.

(Below, in quotes, are some statements which were contained in a post which followed my post.)

Quote

"Your assertion here is neither proven nor fair nor called for. The fact that Kiva does not do what you want it to do, which is apparently to ban any and all loans that mention the merest incidental hint of cockfighting, even where has nothing whatsoever to do with cockfighting, does not prove that Kiva "does not care about the pain and agony that cockfighting causes.""

\*The issue of caring has nothing to do with whether Kiva does or does not do what I want or what anyone else wants. My statement is related to what Kiva does as an organization. I have no doubt that there are some very caring employees at Kiva who are very concerned about the plight of cockfighting roosters and about the plight abused in other bloodsports. That is not the issue. The issue is what Kiva as an organization does, what Kiva embraces, what Kiva condones by its actions and what Kiv promotes and supports by its actions. In my opinion, if Kiva cared about the pain and agony caused by cockfighting, Kiva would not promote or support those activities loans for those activities on its website. One cannot honestly say, "I care about the pain and agony of the cockfighting roosters", and at the same time continue to fund to the businesses involved in the torture of those roosters.

\*If someone (or some organization) operates a website that posts loans for businesses engaged in slavery, child labor, female genital mutilation, bloodsports, etc. then definitely are supporting and promoting those activities. If they then transfer the funds that were raised to an entity that gives the raised funds to those businesses, it most definitely supporting those businesses and are complicit in the activities of those businesses. If they cared about the pain and agony that those businesses inflict most definitely would not be raising money for them and they most definitely would not be transferring funds to them.

Quote

"And what if they did? Those loans would just stay in the 70% of non-Kiva loans at the same MFIs, or get buried in group loans."

\*Maybe, but at least Kiva would not be promoting those loans by posting them on the Kiva website for fundraising and they would not be supporting those loans by transferring funds for those loans.

Quote

"And what, precisely, would have been accomplished?"

\*Raising public awareness about an issue is not usually something that occurs over night. Likewise, social change generally takes place over several years and is often small steps. Those small steps are generally the result of innumerable actions taken by many people and organizations. While one specific action does not usually cause change (although, in the past, one specific action can and has caused social change) an accumulation of such actions do generally result in social change. So, while one loan may still be funded by the MFI, the very fact that Kiva does not allow Kiva lender funds to be used for that loan, makes a statement and may raise awareness about issue, produce further thought, and eventually produce social change. In any event, if we all sit around and wait for the action that we are certain will cause social change will never act. What matters is that Kiva takes a stand against bloodsports by refusing to post such loans on the Kiva website.

Quote

"Padding your statistics does not help to prove your point."

\* Your interpretation (padding my statistics) makes it appear that you are saying that I am falsely trying to inflate my numbers and therefore lying (an attack on my credibility)

\*In addition, I did not compile those statistics. That fact, I think, is very clear to anyone who actually read the article (the link was provided as was the article's source Humane Society of the United States). So anyone who thinks that the statistics are being padded thinks that the Humane Society is falsifying its statistics. Interesting. article is about bloodsports which include bull, dog and cockfighting. Anyone who has an issue with the accuracy of the statistics should, in fact, contact the Humane Society of the United States.

Quote

"You have shown some anecdotal evidence to the effect that people who engage in illegal activities sometimes commit illegal acts. And your point is?"

\*As previously noted, my entire post, except for the first paragraph, consists of a quote from the Humane Society of the United States article. That article shows a dire correlation between people who choose to engage in bloodsports and other illegal activities such as, but by no means limited to, gambling, drugs, violence, murder, etc think the HSUS statistics are merely anecdotal evidence, then I suggest you take that up with them.

Quote

"We get it. You don't like cockfighting. Neither do I."

\*No, I do not like bloodsports of any type and I do not support, promote or fund bloodsports. If I did fund a loan for bloodsports of any type, I would most definitely be that business and that activity and I would be complicit in the activity.

Quote

"But I for one think this thread has gone on long enough."

\*Interesting statement. This thread was stated on May 9, 2009, consists of 17 pages and has been on the forum for just under 13 months. By comparison, another thr you seem to be fond of was started on August 1, 2009 (10 months ago) and already consists of 111 pages. Depending on one's point of view, it could be suggested that thread "has gone on long enough". If a certain thread isn't one's "cup of tea" then all one need do is simply choose not to read it. Every person on the KF forum has the initiate threads and post in threads. Everyone might not like a certain post or even an entire thread but we certainly all have the prerogative not to read threads we do not like. However, I would propose we do not have the right to tell others when to post or what to post, to post only about topics we like, to refrain from posting about topics we like, or to refrain from posting in threads we do not like. There have been many threads over the years that didn't necessarily appeal to every member of this community (until recently) most KF have been mature enough to handle the situation privately.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **RichardF** on **May 30, 2010, 05:05:06 PM**

This is an RSS Feed from Kiva Bank that will show fundraising loans that mention cockfighting.

<http://www.kivabank.org/feed.svc/rss/15ed3aeb-8a80-4ec0-a9ac-e11e68b66198>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **June 03, 2010, 09:33:20 AM**

Another step towards ending bloodsports:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FX7eYOPQ2E>

More information and to sign the petition:

[http://www.wspa-usa.org/pages/3306\\_ricky\\_gervais\\_partners\\_with\\_wspa\\_to\\_end\\_bullfighting.cfm](http://www.wspa-usa.org/pages/3306_ricky_gervais_partners_with_wspa_to_end_bullfighting.cfm)

From the World Society for the Protection of Animals web page:

Quote

Ricky Gervais Partners with WSPA to End Bullfighting  
June 1, 2010

Today, actor, producer and writer Ricky Gervais has partnered with the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) to call for an end to the cruel practice of bullfighting, and urge tourists to stop supporting such brutality on their travels.

Bullfighting is widely marketed to U.S. tourists as a cultural "experience," especially in Europe and Latin America. And, despite the fact that a majority of Americans are aware that bullfighting causes unnecessary pain to animals, millions have been to a bullfight at some time in their lives.

"Sometimes the worst kind of cruelty is done in the name of entertainment. It sickens me to know that people still pay money to see an animal tortured to death. Cultural heritage is no excuse for inflicting such pain on a frightened and confused animal," Gervais says in a PSA for WSPA launched today. ....

One of their campaigns is against bullfighting. It sickens me to know that in this day and age, people are still paying money to see an animal suffering in such a horrific way."

"The bull is stabbed for around 15 minutes by spears, spikes and daggers. It dies slowly and painfully, because when the matador sticks the final sword in, it often pierces the lungs instead of the heart, and the bulls are left to drown in their blood. It's amazing that there are fans of this so-called 'sport' across the world, from Spain to Latin America. I just can't accept that cultural heritage is an excuse for inflicting such pain on a frightened and confused animal."

"There's already quite a bit of progress being made. At the moment, the Catalan Government in Spain is on the verge of voting for a ban on bullfighting. It could be a real step forward, so I wanted to get involved with this campaign. Catalan MPs know that there are thousands of people all around the world who care which way they vote."

"Anyway, it's not even that popular anymore – a survey a couple of years ago showed that 72 per cent of Spaniards have no interest in it. In Barcelona, they've had to cut the number of bullfights they have because audiences are smaller. They don't even show it on TVE, the main public TV station in Spain! Even in Latin America it's in decline – there's a city in Ecuador that has publicly declared itself anti-bullfighting."

Full article is at the above link.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **June 03, 2010, 11:17:58 AM**

thanks for the link and the info Judy...

we signed the petition and shared the link on Facebook and Twitter.

-jan-

edit: tiny url for Twitter <http://tinyurl.com/2a54m85>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **June 03, 2010, 12:56:27 PM**

I signed too! I was glad to see that "title" was optional. I just hate when that is a required field. As if one's opinion is valued more or less if you are a Mr. or Mrs. or Dr. Rev... grrrrr

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Alaska Pack** on **June 11, 2010, 11:37:44 AM**

While not about cock-fighting, this article was on-line today from the New York Times. It is a little hard to stomach so don't read it if you are having a bad day.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/13/magazine/13dogfighting-t.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

Bernice :(

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **June 11, 2010, 01:32:43 PM**

Quote from: **Alaska Pack** on **June 11, 2010, 11:37:44 AM**

While not about cock-fighting, this article was on-line today from the New York Times. It is a little hard to stomach so don't read it if you are having a bad day.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/13/magazine/13dogfighting-t.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

Bernice :-(

Excellent article on animal abuse (of which cockfighting is one form) and its relationship to violence against humans.

Thanks for sharing it with the rest of us, Bernice.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **June 21, 2010, 10:44:33 PM**

Today, I came across this post (<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/kiva-address-cockfighting-loans.html>) on a site I have never heard of called Go Petition.

It says "Petition is currently under construction."

I sent a lender message to the Kiva lender who initiated this site (<http://www.kiva.org/lender/david82195864>) and wanted to share my message to him with the forum doing this only because I want to go on record as **continuing to support Kiva** even though I **disagree with the sport of cockfighting itself**.

Quote

I saw the "Call on Kiva to Address Cockfighting Loans Issue".

I just wanted to let you know that I do not agree with any kind of blood sports.

That being said, I feel that the fight to stop cockfighting needs to be handled through animal rights organizations and the governments that have not so far outlawed the practice. There is also still much work to be done in court policing the laws is also not followed well.

To single out Kiva from this mighty crowd and stop lending through Kiva, in my opinion, will just penalize the poor people who have little control over their own lives, let alone the laws of their country.

I believe helping them gain control of their lives and encouraging education will go much farther than spending your time attacking an organization like Kiva that is trying to do good.

My husband and I will continue to support Kiva in any way possible.

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Diane R** on **June 21, 2010, 11:26:58 PM**

Thank you, Jan. Well said.

--Diane.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **July 08, 2010, 03:09:08 PM**

Quote

Re: Cockfighting loan

« Reply To This #170 on: June 21, 2010, 10:44:33 PM » Quote

Today, I came across this post on a site I have never heard of called Go Petition.

It says "Petition is currently under construction."

I sent a lender message to the Kiva lender who initiated this site .....

Quote

I saw the "Call on Kiva to Address Cockfighting Loans Issue".

.....

I feel that the fight to stop cockfighting needs to be handled through animal rights organizations and the governments that have not so far outlawed the practice. ....

-jan-

Sorry for the delay in posting a response but I have been in San Francisco for the past 2 ½ weeks and am only now getting caught up on other things.

Kiva has chosen to promote and support cockfighting by posting cockfighting loans on the Kiva website. By making this choice, Kiva opens itself up for criticism for sup such a morally reprehensible activity as cockfighting (a bloodsport).

Personally, I applaud David for having the courage to start a petition concerning Kiva and its morally reprehensible stand on cockfighting.

In the previous post, the poster stated the following:

"I feel that the fight to stop cockfighting needs to be handled through animal rights organizations and the governments that have not so far outlawed the practice."

Those of us who are opposed to animal cruelty and animal torture *are* the animal rights organizations. With the help of paid and volunteer staff from various humane organizations we are able to address the issue of animal cruelty through various actions such as letter writing, petitions, calling elected officials, boycotts, the news me picketing, rescuing abused animals, lawsuits, passing legislation, etc.

In the past I have been involved in and helped organize many actions/campaigns, including actions related to the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, Gay rights, Farm Workers, animal cruelty, the environment, and many more. Petitions are only one part of any organized campaign. Most organized campaigns involve nationwide investigative reporting (via newspapers and TV), press releases, boycotts, picketing, leafleting, telephoning, and getting the word out via nationwide newsletters (most contain petitions and calls for action) and the internet. Many campaigns also involve legal action in the form of lawsuits or the passage of laws prohibiting an activity (i case, it would be something along the lines of prohibiting the transfer of funds for the purpose of bloodsports or related activity)(and these laws need not be nationwide; they can be city or county ordinances).

I am mainly pointing out that petitions are only one very small but very important part of an organized campaign. When an organized campaign to end the posting of loans on Kiva is initiated, petitions will be only a small part of that campaign. Most of the energy will be focused on passing a law that prohibits Kiva and any other org businesses or entities from transferring funds for the purpose of bloodsports or related activity. All of the other actions (petitions, media, investigative reporting, teleph contacting officials, press releases, leafleting, etc.) are part of exposing the problem and getting the law passed.

Again, thank you, David, for initiating a petition.

Judy

For those of you who want to call me a liar or otherwise personally attack me because of my stand for the humane treatment of animals and my stand against bloodsp ahead, but know in advance that I never lie and I never falsify information or pad statistics (which is the same as lying).

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **July 17, 2010, 08:22:17 AM**

**"History's verdict is all we have left. And when tomorrow calls today into account, some of us want to say we stood up. We called out. We were not**

--Leonard Pitts, Jr., "Gestures of Conscience Bring Solace," Baltimore Sun, March 19, 2006

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **July 23, 2010, 03:50:52 PM**

**Great News! "Hagdan sa Pag-uswag Foundation, Inc. (HSPFI) does not post or support any businesses which are engaged in gambling, businesses which consequently affect the environment and others that can be considered harmful to both human beings and to the nature." (Cockfighting is included in 1 types of businesses.)** :thumb:

A couple of months ago there were some questions about two businesses posted on Kiva. After unsuccessfully attempting to contact the MFI (Hagdan sa Pag-uswag Foundation, Inc. (HSPFI)) directly (the e-mail address did not work) a Kiva Friend contacted the parent organization of the MFI and eventually received the following reply:

From: Dianna Andrade <dandrade@opportunity.net>  
Subject: Kiva Inquiry  
To: XXXXXXXXX  
Cc: "Haisley, Ian" <IHaisley@opportunity.org>  
Date: Monday, June 21, 2010, 9:36 AM

"Dear XXXXXXXXX,"

"I am writing to you in response to the inquiry that you made to Ian Haisley regarding two clients on the Kiva site. I followed up on your inquiry with the President/CE APPEND which is the association of all of our partners in the Philippines. Below is the response that she received from the Senior Internal Auditor at HSPFI. Please note although this response makes reference to one of the two clients, I did confirm that this statement is true for both.

"With regards to the posted story of HSPFI client who is handling a chicken in her photo in which such chicken is the one usually use in cockfighting, we just want to advise such client is engage only in raising chickens to sell and not raising chickens for cockfighting purposes. **In fact HSPFI is not accepting clients whose businesses are engage in gambling, businesses which consequently affect the environment and others that can be considered harmful to both human beings and to the nature.**"  
Melchie B. Badion  
Senior Internal Auditor  
Hagdan Sa Pag-uswag Foundation, Inc.

Thank you for your concern.  
Sincerely,  
Dianna

Dianna Andrade  
Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief of Staff, SharePoint Content Coordinator

Opportunity International Network  
Opportunity Exchange Support

PS: To those who wish to call me a liar or attack me in any other way, go ahead, but please note: This is an informational post. I am posting a letter that was received from KF (as noted above). Just as I did not write the article that I posted a couple of months ago, I did not write the above letters. So, if anyone has a problem with the content of the letters or thinks the information contained in the letters is incorrect, then contact the appropriate people and discuss it with them, but please do not call me a liar.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Visitor Number 1** on **July 23, 2010, 04:32:25 PM**

Quote from: [Judith](#) on [July 23, 2010, 03:50:52 PM](#)

**Great News! "Hagdan sa Pag-uswag Foundation, Inc. (HSPFI) does not post or support any businesses which are engaged in gambling, businesses which consequently affect the environment and others that can be considered harmful to both human beings and to the nature." (Cockfighting is included in these types of businesses.)** :thumb:

Hopefully this means this borrower is vindicated for the tarnish against his reputation and business:

Quote from: [karlynwagner](#) on [January 29, 2010, 11:47:46 PM](#)

This young fellow doesn't look like a chicken farmer to me; it looks like he is holding three dead chickens. Does anyone have any ideas what this loan could really be for?

Karen

Carmello Tunzo

<http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about&id=169935>

Quote from: [Judith](#) on [January 30, 2010, 04:36:38 PM](#)

I think Karen has every right to question what this loan may be for.

My first reaction when I saw this loan, after it was already funded, was this:

If this man is a chicken farmer, then I am the Virgin Mary.

Personally, I like to know exactly what a loan is for before I fund it. I think a photo displaying the butts, the back legs and the very limp heads of 3 dead chickens is an odd way of displaying a business for raising chickens and an odd way to advertise and ask for a loan for the business. I think a few live chickens running around in the grass might be more effective if the business is really for raising food chickens.

Some of us have ethical and moral reasons for not supporting certain businesses/loans so we would really like to know exactly what a business is doing before we support that business.

Judy

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **July 23, 2010, 05:30:52 PM**

Quote from: [Judith](#) on [July 23, 2010, 03:50:52 PM](#)

**Great News! "Hagdan sa Pag-uswag Foundation, Inc. (HSPFI) does not post or support any businesses which are engaged in gambling, businesses which consequently affect the environment and others that can be considered harmful to both human beings and to the nature." (Cockfighting is included in these types of businesses.)** :thumb:

Thanks for the good news Judy! :)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:** on **July 28, 2010, 08:34:20 AM**

**More Great News!**

The following is from an article in the Huffington Post. (The article concerns bullfighting, a bloodsport. Cockfighting *is* a bloodsport. I mention this because it has become so common that some people do not seem to realize that cockfighting is a bloodsport.)

**"Bullfighting Ban In Spain: Catalonia Becomes First Major Region To Ban Tradition"** [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com)

"BARCELONA, Spain — Lawmakers in Catalonia outlawed bullfighting Wednesday, making this Spain's first major region to do so after an impassioned debate that pitted the rights of animals against preserving a pillar of traditional culture. Cheers broke out in the local 135-seat legislature after the ban had passed .....

**Joan Puigercos, a lawmaker from a Catalan pro-independence party, insisted this was not about politics or national identity but rather 'the suffering of an animal. That is the question, nothing more.' He said that even though attendance at bullfights is on the decline in Spain it would be morally wrong to stop them and just let the Spanish national pastime die a natural death. ...."**

Link to full article here: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/28/bullfighting-ban-in-spain\\_n\\_661787.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/28/bullfighting-ban-in-spain_n_661787.html)

Note: To those who wish to call me a liar or attack me in any other way, go ahead, but please note: This is an informational post. I am posting an article from the Huffington Post (as noted above). Just as I did not write the article that I posted a couple of months ago, I did not write the above article. So, if anyone has a problem with the content of the article or thinks the information contained in the article is incorrect, then contact the appropriate people and discuss it with them, but please do not call me a liar.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Peter S** on **July 31, 2010, 10:47:26 PM**

what to make of this, cockfighting going on this very day in California, almost in Kiva's own backyard, about 25 miles northeast of San Francisco as the crow flies...

Quote

**Dozens of spectators cited at Napa County cock fight**

By Lanz Christian Banes  
 Vallejo Times-Herald  
 Posted: 07/31/2010 07:56:14 PM PDT  
 Updated: 07/31/2010 07:56:15 PM PDT

NAPA COUNTY — About 40 or so suspects were cited and released on suspicion of misdemeanor participating in cockfighting Saturday after dozens of law enforcement agents descended upon American Canyon Road.

The initial call came in at about 4:15 p.m. and warned of about 40 suspects fleeing a suspected cockfighting arena in the 1400 block of American Canyon Road. There were also reports of drugs and firearms at the scene, according to a statement released by the Napa County Sheriff's Office.

The area is east and within view of the new American Canyon High School, slated to open this fall.

Arriving deputies saw about 40 people in a caged arena with a cock fight in progress, the sheriff's office said. The crowd scattered on foot through the hilly landscape and were captured by responding deputies and other law enforcement agents.

...

About 50 live birds were discovered at the scene, along with two dead ones, officials said.

...

full article available at MercuryNews.com ([http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_15650256](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_15650256))

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Kay** on **August 01, 2010, 01:01:41 AM**

I'm not trying to justify cockfighting, which I deplore, but I found this on Wikipedia:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockfight>  
 North America  
 United States

Cockfighting has a tradition in some American cultures and history. It is said that some founding fathers participated in cockfighting including Washington and Jefferson and the influx of immigrants from Mexico, Central America and Asia, they have each added new forms of cockfighting.

In the United States, cockfighting is illegal in all 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.. The last state to implement a state law banning cockfighting was Louisiana; the Louisiana State Legislature voted to approve a Louisiana ban in June 2007. [24] The ban took effect in August 2008. [25] Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia have made cockfighting a felony, and it is illegal in 40 states and the District of Columbia to be a spectator at cockfights. Animal welfare activists continue to lobby for a ban on cockfighting remains legal in the United States territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam, although in 2006, the Virgin Islands adopted a law banning the use of artificial spurs.

The Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, a federal law that made it a federal crime to transfer cockfighting implements across state or national borders and increased the penalty for violations of federal animal fighting laws to three years in prison became law in 2007. It passed the House of Representatives 368-39 and the Senate by unanimous consent and was signed into law by President George W. Bush. [26]

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **dkf** on **August 01, 2010, 01:24:24 PM**

Quote from: **Judith** on **July 08, 2010, 03:09:08 PM**

Quote from: **Jan & John** on **June 21, 2010, 10:44:33 PM**

Today, I came across this post (<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/kiva-address-cockfighting-loans.html>) on a site I have never heard of called Go Petition.

It says "Petition is currently under construction."

I sent a lender message to the Kiva lender who initiated this site (<http://www.kiva.org/lender/david82195864>) and wanted to share my message to him with the forum. I am doing this only because I want to go on record as **supporting Kiva** even though I **disagree with the sport of cockfighting itself**.

Quote

I saw the "Call on Kiva to Address Cockfighting Loans Issue".  
 I just wanted to let you know that I do not agree with any kind of blood sports.  
 That being said, I feel that the fight to stop cockfighting needs to be handled through animal rights organizations and the governments that have not so far outlawed the practice. There is also still much work to be done in convincing the public that the laws are also not followed well.  
 To single out Kiva from this mighty crowd and stop lending through Kiva, in my opinion, will just penalize the poor people who have little control over their own lives, let alone the laws of their country.  
 I believe helping them gain control of their lives and encouraging education will go much farther than spending your time attacking an organization like Kiva that is trying to do good.  
 My husband and I will continue to support Kiva in any way possible.

-Jan-

Sorry for the delay in posting a response but I have been in San Francisco for the past 2 1/2 weeks and am only now getting caught up on other things.

Kiva has chosen to promote and support cockfighting by posting cockfighting loans on the Kiva website. By making this choice, Kiva opens itself up for criticism for supporting such a morally reprehensible activity as cockfighting.

Personally, I applaud David for having the courage to start a petition concerning Kiva and its morally reprehensible stand on cockfighting.

In the previous post, the poster stated the following:

"I feel that the fight to stop cockfighting needs to be handled through animal rights organizations and the governments that have not so far outlawed the practice."

Those of us who are opposed to animal cruelty and animal torture are the animal rights organizations. With the help of paid and volunteer staff from various humane organizations we are able to address the issue of animal cruelty through various actions such as letter writing, petitions, calling elected officials, boycotts, the news media, picketing, rescuing abused animals, lawsuits, passing legislation, etc.

In the past I have been involved in and helped organize many actions/campaigns, including actions related to the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, Gay rights, the United Farm Workers, animal cruelty, the environment, and other issues. Petitions are only one part of any organized campaign. Most organized campaigns involve nationwide petitions, investigative reporting (via newspapers and TV), press releases, boycotts, picketing, leafleting, telephoning, and getting out via nationwide newsletters (most of which contain petitions and calls for action) and the internet. Many campaigns also involve legal action in the form of lawsuits or the passage of laws prohibiting an activity (in Kiva's case, it's something along the lines of prohibiting the transfer of funds for the purpose of bloodsports or related activity) (and these laws need not be nationwide or even statewide; they can be city or county ordinances).

I am mainly pointing out that petitions are only one very small but very important part of an organized campaign. When an organized campaign to end the posting of bloodsports loans on Kiva is initiated, petitions will be only a small part of that campaign. Most of the energy will be focused on passing a law that prohibits Kiva and any other organizations, businesses or entities from transferring funds for the purpose of bloodsports or related activity. All of the other actions (petitions, media, investigative reporting, telephoning, contacting officials, press releases, leafleting, etc.) are part of exposing the problem and getting the law passed.

Again, thank you, David, for initiating a petition.

Judy

For those of you who want to call me a liar or otherwise personally attack me because of my stand for the humane treatment of animals and my stand against bloodsports, go ahead, but know in advance that I never lie and I do not provide false information or pad statistics (which is the same as lying).

Judy,

Thanks for the support.

I don't think Kiva ought to have loans which go toward cockfighting on the site. I'm surprised that Kiva didn't just make a clear policy prohibiting such loans when the issue came to public attention a few years ago.

I could open the petition at any time.

Over two weekends or so I prepared a wiki addressed at this question:

<http://kaclwiki.org/kacl> (<http://kaclwiki.org/kacl>)

The wiki seeks to be objective in presenting both sides of this issue.

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Henry** on **August 01, 2010, 01:40:17 PM**

Reading your wiki i was very surprised and shocked (even somewhat dissapointed) to see this:

(here is where the ability to delete/change ones internet posting is a great thing)

Quote

Some of the people who posted on Kiva friends supporting allowing cockfighting loans:

Amanda 1  
Dagfinn 1  
Dlane R. 1 2  
Fredric 1  
Kerry 1  
Mark Grimes 1  
Opa Jan 1  
Tom V 1  
Visitor Number 1 1

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **dkf** on **August 01, 2010, 02:09:08 PM**

Henry,

Yes, those people felt that it was culturally insensitive to make a policy preventing cockfighting loans from being posted to Kiva.

I was just surfing the web, and I found this site:

<http://www.kivapedia.org>

I'm thinking that <http://kaclwiki.org/kacl> could redirect to a page on <http://www.kivapedia.org> (and the content could be moved to kivapedia.org).

I wasn't aware of kivapedia when I created [kaclwiki.org/kacl](http://kaclwiki.org/kacl) . I could think about that, and see if people have any comments. That might make sense

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **fnord** on **August 01, 2010, 02:16:50 PM**

That list is weird, especially when I read the posts that were supposed to put someone clearly in the "camp" of "Kiva friends supporting allowing cockfighting loans". The wording of this section could use reworking, in my opinion. And I wonder what this list is supposed to achieve anyway.

I can only speak for myself, but I'd much rather see some more arguments against cockfighting loans instead of that list. And I don't think such a wiki should really bot pretending to list opposing views. I don't expect anyone to be objective enough to portray accurately what he disagrees with, so just responding to known objections w avoiding a too blatant straw man would be as much as I could expect. And something I'd like to read, by the way, the discussion here got way too heated and personal taste -- though the naming tactic doesn't bode too well on that front.

And, David, if you feel the need to classify people as friend or foe, put me in the latter box.

fred

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Visitor Number 1** on **August 01, 2010, 02:36:36 PM**

Quote from: **dkf** on **August 01, 2010, 02:09:08 PM**

Yes, those people felt that it was culturally insensitive to make a policy preventing cockfighting loans from being posted to Kiva.

DKF,

I find your Wiki an interesting read and very thorough in documenting all sides of this debate.

I would ask that you re-read the link on your Wiki to my comment. If you review it carefully, I was questioning the logic being used in a previous comment for justifying cockfighting loans (on the basis of cruelty) and whether it should be applied to loans to medical clinics that provide abortion services (which is illegal in some developed countries because it is deemed to be a form of cruelty). Questioning the logic used to argue one position **is not equivalent** to taking sides with the opposing position.

I do not mind having links to my discussion threads made available because I believe discussion and dialogue are productive avenues. However, I do not appreciate the comment was characterized as taking one side when in fact it was coming from a neutral perspective in an attempt to get the previous author to expand on his position (he chose not to do).

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **dkf** on **August 01, 2010, 02:48:15 PM**

fnord,

Okay, I just made a few changes to the wiki (including adding your name to the list of people who are opposed).

For the time being I'll just keep it on [kaclwiki.org/kacl](http://kaclwiki.org/kacl), but this change can be made at some point redirecting to [kivapedia.org](http://www.kivapedia.org).

Another approach other than the list of names might be to organize based on the arguments that the people were saying, along with counter arguments.

For example, some people might have felt that it was culturally insensitive to make a policy against the cockfighting loans. However, they might have not felt that it was there would be any slippery slope.

So culturally insensitive could be one group of people with a statement summarizing that opinion while another paragraph could be slippery slope, with people who agree that. Some people might agree with both.

Arguments for allowing cockfighting loans ([http://kaclwiki.org/kacl/index.php?title=Main\\_Page#What\\_are\\_arguments\\_for\\_allowing\\_cockfighting\\_loans.3F](http://kaclwiki.org/kacl/index.php?title=Main_Page#What_are_arguments_for_allowing_cockfighting_loans.3F))

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **RichardF** on **August 01, 2010, 02:52:57 PM**

Quote from: **Visitor Number 1** on **August 01, 2010, 02:36:36 PM**

Questioning the logic used to argue one position **is not equivalent** to taking sides with the opposing position.

Hi, VN1. I agree and also would say your comment puts you in some very good company! :yes: :thumb:

*It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.*  
 — Aristotle (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotle>)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Visitor Number 1** on **August 01, 2010, 03:17:04 PM**

David - Thanks for placing the link to my comment in a separate paragraph. The update you made to your Wiki is a more accurate representation of the context in which my comment was made.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **dkf** on **August 01, 2010, 03:22:14 PM**

Visitor Number 1, Thanks, I was just composing a reply letting you know about the change. If people are interested feel free to make edits (and if you see anybody making inappropriate or off topic comments feel free to revert them). If you see any spam just feel free to revert it.

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **dkf** on **August 01, 2010, 03:24:19 PM**

The way this is done is to just go to History, and then click "undo" for the change that was spam, or vandalism. David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **fnord** on **August 01, 2010, 03:39:57 PM**

David,

You misunderstood my point: on principle I'd rather be counted as a foe of anyone who feels the need to classify others as friends or foes.

But it happens that I wouldn't support a cockfighting loan, and would like to support a ban. As of now I just don't have good enough reasons to call for a ban, which would like to read more. But as long as I lack the proper grounds, I am not supporting a ban on cockfighting loans. Sorry, but my dislike is far from enough to justify mine for making my feelings a rule for others.

If you want to address the objections you listed, I think the best way to debunk a slippery slope fallacy is to show that the principles you follow when calling for a ban on cockfighting loans just don't apply outside of a narrow range of cases. For instance you could show how your opposition to bloodsports would not entail opposition to raising livestock for slaughter, assuming it doesn't. By the way, I'm not sure but I think that introducing an objection under the name of a fallacy is actually another fallacy; it's not really making the section credible at all.

I think the cultural sensitivity issue is trickier. On this issue I think your reference to the guinea pigs loan weakens your position. To me the assumption that these animals are pets is evidence of cultural bias. I think different people would draw the line in different places when it comes to animal cruelty. I know people who campaign against raising dairy cattle because they believe dairy -- even on a small scale -- involves using animals as means and inflicting serious pain in the process. It's definitely not easy, but unless you explain your reasoning, where you draw the line looks a lot like a gut call that can all too easily just reflect your community and background, hence the risk of cultural insensitivity.

I'm sure a lot of people would be more qualified than I am in discussing this, and I'm eager for more arguments. Knowing how quickly tempers can flare around here, I probably already said too much.

fred

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **YowieFreak** on **August 01, 2010, 05:07:55 PM**

An interesting slant to the loan to Raul (which appears not to have been a "cock-fighting" loan anyway, but rather a "develop another business so that cock-fighting was required to survive" loan - but let's not quibble).

The wiki states(?) "Another cockfighting loan however appears to have expired because not enough lenders supported it within the thirty day time frame required for a funded.", which I guess is true - because that is now the way the loan "appears" - but the loan actually expired because of basket-hoarding.

If you want to make a list on the wiki of people supporting the concept of helping these people get away from needing to use cock-fighting as a means to live, you can name them to the top of the list. (And if you ever find out who blocked Raul's loan from being funded, you should probably add their name to the top of the list of Kivans who support cock-fighting!)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Henry** on **August 01, 2010, 05:23:19 PM**

If I'm unable to choose a side because it's someone else's culture.... then I would also have to say, it's OK for a homosexual to be executed in some countries around the world. It's OK to stone a woman to death for some stupid reason, etc, etc.

So...

I'm perfectly capable of saying that cockfighting loans are not acceptable behaviour in any culture, and should not be allowed on KIVA.org, that would be the list I believe I thought a list of names was needed. And I'm glad I have the ability to voice my objection to it, cause I'm sure that might get me stoned in some country.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Harvey:)** on **August 01, 2010, 06:25:32 PM**

The following is an article written by Elizabeth Jennings, executive director of Animal Protection of New Mexico (prior to the passage of the law making cockfighting illegal in New Mexico).

**"Stop Animal Cruelty"-**

"Those of us who live here know that New Mexico and New Mexicans are unique. .... However, one aspect of New Mexico that makes most people shake their head in disbelief is our retention of a centuries-old practice called cockfighting. ...."

**The late Cesar Chavez said that compassion towards all living things is a mark of a civilized society. Conversely, cruelty, whether it is directed against humans or against animals, is not the exclusive province of any one culture or community of people: "Racism, economic deprivation, dogfighting and cockfighting....are all cut from the same fabric: violence...."**

**Twenty years ago, caring New Mexicans fought a tough battle in the Legislature to ban dogfighting. At that time, New Mexico became a leader in the nation by making dogfighting a fourth-degree felony. Passing that law demonstrated that New Mexicans are passionate about protecting dogs from intentional harm. Interestingly, the same arguments about culture, freedom and economic benefit that are now used to defend cockfighting were used in 1981 to defend the outlawed practice of dogfighting.**

So why is cockfighting still legal, when it involves the same intentional harm to helpless animals, simply for fun and money? .....

The fact is, a lot of people *are* troubled that cockfighting is not illegal in our state. A recent poll conducted by Research & Polling, Inc., of Albuquerque, reveals **81% of New Mexicans support a ban on cockfighting.** According to the poll, tremendous support for a ban cuts across all categories, including ethnicity, geography and political affiliation. Of those surveyed:

- **84% of Anglos and 76% of Hispanics support a ban. ....**

Some people claim that cockfighting is part of Hispanic culture and tradition. Why, then, do so many Hispanics support a ban? Senator Nancy Rodrigue legislative session introduced and fought passionately for Senate Bill (SB) 276 to ban animal fighting. Senators Mary Jane Garcia, Carlos Cisneros, Ron and Richard Martinez all enthusiastically supported that bill. None of them claims cockfighting as a part of *his or her* culture and heritage.

To hear cockfighting enthusiasts talk, nothing could be more wholesome than a good cockfight. .... Those who have to live with cockfighting in their neighborhood are a much bleaker and more believable picture. Many are on record objecting to the cruelty to animals involved, the excessive traffic and noise, public intoxication, drinking and driving, illegal gambling, public urination and fighting among the spectators.. ...."

Full article at:

[http://www.apnm.org/campaigns/cockfighting/tribune\\_editorial.html](http://www.apnm.org/campaigns/cockfighting/tribune_editorial.html)

Article written by Elizabeth Jennings, executive director of Animal Protection of New Mexico (prior to the passage of the law making cockfighting illegal in New Mexico)

Note: To those who wish to call me a liar or attack me in any other way, please note: This is an informational post (as is my next post). I am posting an article written by Elizabeth Jennings, executive director of Animal Protection of New Mexico (as noted above). Just as I did not write the article that I posted a couple of months ago, I did not write the above article. So, if anyone has a problem with the content of this article (or the article in my next post) or thinks the information contained in the articles is incorrect, please contact the appropriate people and discuss it with them, but please do not call me a liar.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **August 01, 2010, 06:27:58 PM**

Excerpt from an article found on the In Defense of Animals website: <http://www.idausa.org/campaigns/sport/cock/cockfighting.html>

"Isn't Cockfighting a Cultural Tradition?"

"While cockfighting may be a tradition in some cultures, not all traditions are good ones that deserve to continue. Cesar Chavez, who condemned the practice of cockfighting once wrote: "Kindness and compassion toward all living things is a mark of a civilized society. Conversely, cruelty, whether it is directed against human beings or again is not the exclusive province of any one culture or community of people."

**"In a statewide survey conducted in Arizona in 1997, 95% of Hispanic voters said they felt that cockfighting was "cruel and inhumane." While only 34% of Anglo respondents disagreed that "cockfighting is an important part of Hispanic culture," 70% of Hispanics disagreed with the statement."**

Full article here: <http://www.idausa.org/campaigns/sport/cock/cockfighting.html>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **A Nonny Mouse** on **August 01, 2010, 07:00:20 PM**

I for one would like to know precisely *why* it is necessary to post a list such as Henry showed us...I can think of no positive reason for it.

I find it offensive, and rather threatening -- but then maybe that's just my inner Oliver Stone talking.

Nonny

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Dottie b** on **August 01, 2010, 07:38:25 PM**

David, I don't see the necessity of listing the names at all. Instead of over-parsing the comments, how about just summarizing the points on each side and linking to them in general?

Dottie B

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **alan** on **August 01, 2010, 08:21:04 PM**

[Quote from: YowieFreak on August 01, 2010, 05:07:55 PM](#)

... the ban actually expired because of basket-hoarding.

Exactly. There's a word for that: "vigilantism". Which I suggest is unacceptable behaviour. And to suggest that this loan expired because not enough people supported it is misleading. FWIW, I had a brief window of opportunity in which I could have supported this loan, but while I considered doing so, the window closed. I have regretted not taking that opportunity ever since, even if to do so would have been a quixotic gesture. I support lending to people who want to run legitimate businesses, such as taxi services, to improve their lot in life. That's why I joined Kiva in the first place.

And I agree that there is no good purpose in listing people's names with respect to whether it appears (or they explicitly state) that they "support" or oppose cockfighting loans. Making a list of people's names under the rubric of supporters of cockfighting comes too close to slander for my comfort level, especially if inclusion involves a subjective interpretation of someone's statement. I suggest the list should be removed. Beyond that, let people speak for themselves.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **RichardF** on **August 01, 2010, 09:01:15 PM**

[Quote from: dkf on August 01, 2010, 01:24:24 PM](#)

Over two weekends or so I prepared a wiki address at this question:

<http://kacwiki.org/kac/> (<http://kacwiki.org/kac/>)

The wiki seeks to be objective in presenting both sides of this issue.

Hi David. If you want to link people with arguments, I would suggest a different approach, more along the lines of what a reporter or policy analyst might do. For example, you could rework two sections and modify the style by presenting particular arguments and then illustrating them with specific, attributed quotes.

## 9 Debate and Arguments

9.1 On what forum has there been debate on this issue, and what is a summary of the current debate? Who has been active in the discussion?

The forum where the main debate has occurred has been Kiva Friends. **Examples of arguments for or against cockfighting loans made by participants in the discussions are included in the following sections.**

9.2 What are arguments against allowing cockfighting loans?

9.3 What are arguments for allowing cockfighting loans?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **dkf** on **August 02, 2010, 03:38:24 AM**

Quote from: **A Nonny Mouse** on **August 01, 2010, 07:00:20 PM**

I for one would like to know precisely **why** it is necessary to post a list such as Henry showed us...I can think of no positive reason for it.

I find it offensive, and rather threatening -- but then maybe that's just my inner Oliver Stone talking.

Nonny

Quote from: **Dottie B** on **August 01, 2010, 07:38:25 PM**

David, I don't see the necessity of listing the names at all. Instead of over-parsing the comments, how about just summarizing the points on each side and linking to the thread in general?

Dottie B

Quote from: **RichardF** on **August 01, 2010, 09:01:15 PM**

If you want to address the objections you listed, I would suggest a different approach, more along the lines of what a reporter or policy analyst might do. For example, you could rework two sections and modify the style by particular arguments and then illustrating them with specific, attributed quotes.

9 Debate and Arguments

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The forum where the main debate has occurred has been Kiva Friends. **Examples of arguments for or against cockfighting loans made by participants in the discussions are included in the following sections.**

9.2 What are arguments against allowing cockfighting loans?

9.3 What are arguments for allowing cockfighting loans?

I think these are reasonable suggestions.

For now the usernames have been removed so there are just links to the posts. This way people who were unaware of the discussion, can get a sense of what people h with respect to one point or another.

Quote from: **fnord** on **August 01, 2010, 03:39:57 PM**

If you want to address the objections you listed, I think the best way to debunk a slippery slope fallacy is to show that the principles you follow when calling for a ban on cockfighting loans just don't apply outside of a narrow rar For instance you could show how your opposition to bloodsports would not entail opposition to raising livestock for slaughter, assuming it doesn't. By the way, I'm not sure but I think that introducing an objection under the nam actually another fallacy: that isn't really making the section credible at all.

Perhaps I got into higher level reasons against cockfighting in the religion part of the wiki page . However, it is also worth considering that it is illegal in many cultural countries throughout the world. There seems to be fairly strong international consensus on the issue.

Quote from: **fnord** on **August 01, 2010, 03:39:57 PM**

I think the cultural sensitivity issue is trickier. On this issue I think your reference to the guinea pigs loan weakens your position. To me the assumption that these animals are pets is evidence of cultural bias. I think different peopl the line in different places when it comes to animal cruelty. I know people who campaign against milk because they believe dairy -- even on a small scale -- involves using animals as means and inflicting serious pain in the proces not easy, but unless you can explain your reasoning, where you draw the line looks a lot like a gut call that can all too easily just reflect your community and background, hence the risk of cultural insensitivity.

I'm sure a lot of people would be more qualified than I am in discussing this, and I'm eager for more arguments. Knowing how quickly tempers can flare around here, I've probably already said too much.

Maybe the guinea pig issue was perhaps more of a misunderstanding. I know of no place in the world where eating guinea pigs is considered illegal. It seems that if th pig is slaughtered in a humane way then there isn't any question of animal cruelty.

Although the name of the page is "Kivans Against Cockfighting Loans Wiki" it isn't just advocating one point of view or the other. I didn't intend it to just include my po The goal is to present information objectively, to be a repository of facts and information, and to present different points of view or arguments.

If I get time I'll try to work more on this, but the best time to work on it is probably Sunday.

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Peter S** on **August 06, 2010, 05:03:12 PM**

Recalling that David (dkf) had referred somewhere to a letter from Kiva recently which indicated that they were revisiting their policy on cockfighting loans, and wond myself how a change of policy would be presented, I tried to find his wiki using a Google search, and stumbled instead upon Kiva's public relations guidance to staff wh questions from the press and others about various subjects, including cockfighting loans, in the form of model answers to model questions.

Anyone who has been following this whole topic will immediately see that the suggested answer bears little relation to the issues of principle put forward on either side debate. I don't know whether this says more about Kiva or about the subtle art of public relations...

edit: important note: Kiva has subsequently clarified that the following was not and is not Kiva's actual answer to the sample question I quoted. See john@kiva's post later in this thread.

**Question: "What about the cock-fighting / bear bile / BMW loan?"**

**Key Message: Kiva Lenders choose who they'd like to lend to**

Answer: While Kiva conducts extensive due diligence on each Field Partner, Kiva isn't able to conduct due diligence on every loan which raises funds on the website. K Partners agree to upload to the website only loans which serve Kiva's mission of alleviating poverty, however it is possible that a loan which doesn't serve this mission by mistake. As always, Kiva Lenders have the choice of which loans they would like to fund, and Kiva is usually notified of these loans, by Kiva Lenders, very quickly.

This is an entirely new angle. Basically it's the Field Partners who are to blame, for uploading loans which do not conform to Kiva's policy, and anyway lenders can cho whom they will lend. No word about cultural relativism, UN Conventions, or animal cruelty.

I'm going to guess that Kiva's response to this (if there is a response) will be that this answer in a document evidently intended for internal use hasn't been signed off a wiki page (*inactive link deleted*) that was last amended on February 16, 2010 as of this posting.

By the way, if Kiva feels the need to have internal guidance on how to deal with the press, including stuff like DO NOT BRING UP \*\*\*\*\* -- OR EVEN SAY THE WORD \*\* UNLESS THE INTERVIEWER DOES FIRST, I'm going to offer the probably not very controversial observation that it might be better not to post it in public on the interne can take transparency just a bit too far, maybe. But thanks for the insights.

Peter

\*\*\*\*\* potentially embarrassing PR guidance redacted (the same word in both instances), at Kiva's request.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **RichardF** on **August 06, 2010, 06:39:58 PM**

Quote from: **Peter S** on **August 06, 2010, 05:03:12 PM**

... I ... stumbled instead upon Kiva's public relations guidance to staff ...

Actually, my impression is that this site is intended more as a collection of resources for "volunteer" speakers.

Quote

**Kiva Speakers Bureau (<http://speakers.kiva.org/>)**

**Front Page**

**Welcome to the Kiva Speakers Program!**

This wiki is a place to learn more about the Kiva Speakers Program, to get resources and tools to speak about Kiva in your community, and for current Kiva Speakers to connect with other Kiva Speakers.

Overview of the Kiva Speakers Program

Mission

Kiva Public Relations: What you should know

---

Resources: Powerpoint Presentations  
 Resources: Video  
 Tips and Tools  
 Speaking Events Calendar  
 Photo Album  
 Contacts

---

Quote

Overview (<http://speakers.kiva.org/Overview>)

The Kiva Speakers Program is a community of people who spread the word about Kiva by speaking at local events.

Kiva's Speakers Program (KSP) is an established program that is currently undergoing revision. The Program was designed to manage the overwhelming requests Kiva receives for speakers at events and gatherings, and create a space where people can access Kiva presentation resources. The goal of the Program is to build an international team of trained speakers on behalf of Kiva in order to spread Kiva's mission consistently to a greater audience.

**Kiva appreciates all of the work of the Kiva Community at large in spreading the word about Kiva, whether you are a registered Kiva Speaker or an unregistered speaker.**

The purpose of the Kiva Speakers Program is to create ways for all of those who are already speaking about Kiva to collaborate by connecting with each other and sharing resources!

---

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Peter S** on **August 06, 2010, 06:46:36 PM**

yes, I spotted that Richard. I got the impression though, rightly or wrongly, that the one particular page I linked to in my post was aimed only at Kiva staff. It begins, for example: *"The Public Relations Director must be informed of all press leads received by staff. By centralizing press leads, the Public Relations Dir. can co-ordinate multiple opportunities covering similar topics, and also maximize each press opportunity by offering additional subjects/information which might be of interest to the journalist."*

Perhaps that wiki is the victim of a confusion of purposes...

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **JohnAtKiva** on **August 06, 2010, 06:50:37 PM**

Hmm this must've been well before my time. It looks like it was prepared by a volunteer, and doesn't reflect Kiva's positions as I understand them.

Quote from: Peter S on August 06, 2010, 05:03:12 PM

By the way, if Kiva feels the need to have internal guidance on how to deal with the press, ... I'm going to offer the probably not very controversial observation that it might be better not to post it in public on the internet... you transparency just a bit too far, maybe. But thanks for the insights.

Peter - I agree and will lock down that entire wiki. Along those lines, can you help out and remove your quotes from your recent post? I would greatly appreciate it.

Thanks,  
 John

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **RichardF** on **August 06, 2010, 07:17:53 PM**

Peter - As it turns out, Gerard beat me to the page you referenced by a few minutes and deleted the content, so I didn't see the original list of Questions, Key Message and Follow-up. However, geek that I am, I did browse the deleted text and now agree with you that page was directed toward staff.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Peter S** on **August 06, 2010, 08:01:04 PM**

Quote from: JohnAtKiva on August 06, 2010, 06:50:37 PM

Hmm this must've been well before my time. It looks like it was prepared by a volunteer, and doesn't reflect Kiva's positions as I understand them.

Peter - I agree and will lock down that entire wiki. Along those lines, can you help out and remove your quotes from your recent post? I would greatly appreciate it.

Thanks,  
 John

John - I've edited my post, in a way that strikes me as being in line with open debate about this important issue.

For the Key Message and Answer to the question **"What about the cock-fighting / bear bile / BMW loan?"**, I've preceded the quote with a prominent note to the effect that this is not and was not Kiva's actual answer to the question. But I think it's quite useful to keep the quote in place here in public, (1) so we can rule out that answer as a useful reminder that policy in relation to important issues should never be dictated by public relations considerations, or left to PR people to elucidate.

The other quote I've edited appropriately, to take the sting out. Are you happy with this?

Given that it's not actually the Field Partners' fault for uploading loans that are in contravention of Kiva's policies, it seems now only right to ask what **is** the actual answer to that cockfighting loans question?

Is Kiva still working on it? Do we have an e.t.a. for delivery of the new policy? or the same policy differently articulated? By the way, the reference by David / dkf that searching for appeared on his personal web pages, here. ([http://www.dkfriedman.name/kiva\\_cockfighting\\_loans.php#kiva\\_cockfighting\\_loans\\_07\\_13\\_2010](http://www.dkfriedman.name/kiva_cockfighting_loans.php#kiva_cockfighting_loans_07_13_2010))

Peter

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **JohnAtKiva** on **August 08, 2010, 11:37:06 PM**

Quote from: Peter S on August 06, 2010, 08:01:04 PM

Are you happy with this?

I appreciate your flexibility with the edits. If you stumble on any other pages that look like they may be internal documents, do you mind contacting me before posting? I really appreciate that!

Quote from: Peter S on August 06, 2010, 08:01:04 PM

It seems now only right to ask what is the actual answer to that cockfighting loans question? Is Kiva still working on it? Do we have an e.t.a. for delivery of the new policy? or the same policy differently articulated?

I've been working on this, although I have to admit I haven't made much progress in the last few weeks as I've been traveling and I have had a personal emergency. I'm ready to post about this publicly but I've given some updates on this privately, and would be glad to do so with you if you'd like to talk on the phone. If you're interested drop me a private message!

Thanks,  
 John

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **August 08, 2010, 11:51:50 PM**

I received a petition today to stop bear farming in South Korea. I don't know if these things actually accomplish anything, but I don't guess it can hurt to try. Maybe you like to consider signing on?

When I went back looking for the email just now I couldn't find it so I googled it and found another similar one too, so take your pick.

**World Society for the Protection of Animals**

http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea\_client.id=24&ea\_campaign.id=7387&ea\_param.extras=Organization:WSPAUK&ea\_param.extras=Source:email,j=11332459&e=d-annie@supanet.com&l=2295814\_HTML&u=101313494&mid=52985&jb=0

#### The Petition Site

http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/end-bear-bile-farming-in-korea

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **dkf** on **August 09, 2010, 01:18:15 AM**

I hope there can be a productive discussion. Kiva would rather not lose lenders because of the cockfighting issue. They would like to keep existing lenders, get new len the site, and maintain their reputation.

Lenders visited the site because they were interested or inspired to help others, and to make loans that would help people to become self-sufficient contributing memb society – not to spend time writing e-mails or letters disagreeing with a certain policy.

The cockfighting loans make up only a very small percentage of the total loans going through Kiva, but some of the general questions and concerns go back to 2007 (<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,1279.msg13546.html#msg13546>).

There shouldn't be any need to sweep anything under the rug, or for Kiva to hide anything -- with John participating it will be possible to better understand Kiva's poin

Although I think there ought to be an explicit policy preventing "bloodsport" loans from being posted to the site I would also like to say that it can be productive to hav mind. I'm willing to listen to other people and to try to understand how people see this issue. I may write something one day, and then decide a week, or a month later don't fully agree with it, or that it should be amended. People have a right to change their mind.

For example, I wrote on this thread that there isn't the issue of animal cruelty with respect to the raising of guinea pigs for food.

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#### Quote

It seems that if the guinea pig is slaughtered in a humane way then there isn't any question of animal cruelty.

---

Maybe that should be amended to indicate some uncertainty. I don't know generally speaking how much cage space they are given, whether they are crowded, whethe overfed, etc.

From the pictures in this loan description (<http://www.kiva.org/lend/58861?redirect=true&page=businesses&action=about&id=58861>) it does not look like they are much different from what one would see in a pet shop in the United States (of course the photo isn't definitive).

Although there are laws against certain practices in the raising of livestock (e.g. veal crates ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veal#Veal\\_crate\\_bans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veal#Veal_crate_bans))) I don't think any n government has completely banned the raising of livestock for food.

One does not necessarily find the raising of livestock for food to be associated with illegal drug use, weapons, violence etc.

I do not think any lenders stopped lending, and changed their personal messages on account of the confusion with the guinea pig loans.

Let me just add three additional comments:

\* I haven't posted on my site the exact e-mails verbatim from customer service. John, is Kiva okay with me posting the e-mails? If necessary I could send them to you might provide people with a better understanding of what was said and more information.

(I think when I summarized the e-mails this was because that's what was done in a book I had read a while ago ([http://www.amazon.com/Sincerely-Andy-Rooney/dp/1586480456/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1281311878&sr=1-5](http://www.amazon.com/Sincerely-Andy-Rooney/dp/1586480456/ref=sr_1_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1281311878&sr=1-5)). I'm not sure why that was done there, but anyway this is a different situation.)

\* Another Kiva Friend wrote to me and suggested that people volunteer to write position papers on how they feel about the cockfighting loans, appropriate loans in get other points. I just wanted to share that idea, and if people are interested I could help to gather the statements, and then post them on a web site.

\* Another idea is to have a teleconferencing open house, so during one day somebody would be logged into a Vview classroom, and people could participate in discussi this issue. We could share different ideas.

An open house would help to avoid the issue of trying to arrange multiple disparate schedules. People could leave notes or comments as to what their thoughts are on whiteboard.

Maybe this could be tried on Sunday 8/15 (or it could be earlier during the week).

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **August 13, 2010, 09:14:47 AM**

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#### Quote

Quote from Peter S. July 31, 2010:

"what to make of this, cockfighting going on this very day in California, almost in Kiva's own backyard"

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And another cockfight, this time deadly, almost in Kiva's own backyard:

Article from the Turlock Journal, August 3, 2010:

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#### Quote

##### Cockfighting Melee Leaves Two Dead, Two Jailed

Dispute over small wager triggers deadly fight

By Sabra Stafford  
Crime Desk  
POSTED Aug. 3, 2010 10:39 p.m.

The violence of a cockfight spilled out of the ring Sunday when one man fatally shot another over a \$10 discrepancy in a wager made between the two men.

The shooter's own life came to a brutal end minutes later when he was beaten to death by the victim's brother and friend. The shooting victim was identified by the Merced County Sheriff's Department as Miguel Romo Orosco, 2 The deceased shooter has not yet been identified. He is believed to have been in his late 20s.

Two Turlock men – Rafael Orosco, the 24-year-old brother of Miguel Orosco, and Juan Aguilera, 32, have been charged with homicide in relation to the beating death, said sheriff spokesman Deputy Tom MacKenzie.

The incident was set in motion late Saturday night when several dozen people converged at 6219 Livingston Ave., in Livingston to watch an illegal cockfighting match. As the night wore on into Sunday morning a disagreement i sides rose up over money staked on a fight. One side was saying the small wager had been \$10 more than what the other side claimed, MacKenzie said. The argument took a deadly turn when the shooter pulled out a firearm a Orosco dead on the spot.

Rafael Orosco and Aguilera chased after the shooter and wrestled the gun away from him. During the fray Aguilera received a gunshot wound to his side and one other individual was grazed by a bullet, MacKenzie said. The unnar was treated at Emanuel Medical Center and released, MacKenzie said.

With the gun out of the shooter's hands Rafael Orosco and Aguilera took to beating him repeatedly, according to the sheriff's department.

"There was a passerby that witnessed some of it, and tried to get them to stop," Sheriff Mark Pazin said at a press conference. "And they were bent on getting their vengeance right away for the shooting of the brother."

Calls had been pouring in to the emergency dispatchers since the sounds of gunfire and when deputies arrived around 1 a.m. they found Miguel Orosco dead of a gunshot wound and the unidentified man lying lifeless on the stree Rafael Orosco was taken into custody and charged with homicide.

Aguilera was flown to a Modesto hospital for treatment of his wound. He will be booked into the Merced County Jail on a homicide charge upon his release.

Sheriff's detectives are still investigating the double fatality and are trying to determine if others were involved in the beating. It's unknown if the men knew each other prior to the incident and it is unknown if they brought roosters to fight or were there as spectators.

The agricultural crimes unit at the sheriff's department is investigating the homeowner of the rural Livingston home to determine their involvement in the cockfighting match.

Investigators found 15 to 20 rooster carcasses as well as live roosters, which will be euthanized. Common practices in cockfighting operations are to breed the birds to be vicious and to drug them to increase their aggression. It

standard practice to fit their legs with knives or other sharp weaponry, according to the Humane Society.

In California, cockfighting is punished as a misdemeanor for the first offense and as a felony for subsequent violations. "The two deaths in Merced County are only the most recent in a series of killings that have happened at cock California in recent years," said Eric Sakach, senior law enforcement specialist for the Humane Society. "It is time to make cockfighting a felony on the first offense so we can deter cockfighters from staging these events. The on cockfighting, and the carnage that goes hand-in-hand with it, is to provide penalties that are greater than the potential gambling winnings. Strong penalties have proven to be an effective deterrent for cockfighting in other states.

Full article here: <http://www.turlockjournal.com/news/article/5026/>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Alaska Pack on August 13, 2010, 11:13:10 AM**

Quote from: [Judith on August 13, 2010, 09:14:47 AM](#)

And another cockfight, this time deadly, almost in Kiva's own backyard:

In California, cockfighting is punished as a misdemeanor for the first offense and as a felony for subsequent violations. "The two deaths in Merced County are only the most recent in a series of killings that have happened at cock California in recent years," said Eric Sakach, senior law enforcement specialist for the Humane Society. "It is time to make cockfighting a felony on the first offense so we can deter cockfighters from staging these events. The on cockfighting, and the carnage that goes hand-in-hand with it, is to provide penalties that are greater than the potential gambling winnings. Strong penalties have proven to be an effective deterrent for cockfighting in other states.

Full article here: <http://www.turlockjournal.com/news/article/5026/>

Thank you for posting Judy. One thing to add to this article from my experience is that there are countless other victims. When I was in high school on the island of K man across the road raised fighting chickens. His house and yard were a mess, at least a dozen junk cars in the yard with often a rooster tied to it, a shabby house in The family, unfortunately with children were dressed often in clothes worse than that of the entrepreneurs on Kiva. Arguments would erupt frequently and despite the occasional police call, nothing changed, I am not sure that the children finished school.

:( Bernice

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051 on August 13, 2010, 12:12:36 PM**

Quote from: [Judith on August 13, 2010, 09:14:47 AM](#)

And another cockfight, this time deadly, almost in Kiva's own backyard:

Article from the Turlock Journal, August 3, 2010:

Full article here: <http://www.turlockjournal.com/news/article/5026/>

This is so sad. It seems like a whole different world from the one I inhabit... I just can't even fathom what people are thinking.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:) on August 14, 2010, 09:35:40 AM**

Article from the website, Helping Animals: [http://www.helpinganimals.com/oi\\_cockfighting.asp](http://www.helpinganimals.com/oi_cockfighting.asp)

Quote

#### **Give Roosters Something to Crow About: End Cockfighting**

##### **Forced to Fight or Die**

In their natural environments, birds fight over mates, food, or territory and to establish their dominance or position in a flock's pecking order. According to Paul Siegel, a Virginia Tech expert in fowl genetics and behavior, birds rare death because the weaker bird generally flees. "If there's a way to escape," Siegel said, "they'll just get the heck out." In cockfights, Siegel says, roosters continue fighting because they cannot escape.

There is nothing natural about the manner in which birds who are destined for the ring live or die. "Battle stags" (roosters under the age of 2) and "battle cocks" (roosters 2 years of age and older) are born, raised, and trained to properties known as "game farms." Breeders (also called "cockers") kill the birds they deem inferior so that their flocks will have genetic lines filled with birds who are "game"—i.e., willing to fight.

Many of these birds spend most of their lives tethered by one leg near whatever object is intended to serve as their shelter, such as an overturned plastic barrel or a small wire cage placed directly on the ground. When they're in the ring, the birds are conditioned to fight through a combination of physical work, including being forced to walk with weights attached to their legs, and "practice fights" with other roosters.

Before they are thrown into the ring, many birds have their feathers plucked, and their wattles and/or combs (the flesh at the top of their heads and under their beaks) are hacked off, usually with shears. These mutilations are an offensive measure—in other words, so other roosters don't do it in the fighting ring. Because roosters do not have sweat glands, the loss of these body parts deprives them of the ability to cool themselves. Some cockers cut spurs, which are the natural bony protrusions on the legs that serve as roosters' natural weapons, so that more deadly, artificial weapons can be strapped to their legs.

##### **What Happens at Cockfights**

Many cockfights are held in round or square enclosures known as "cockpits," or simply, "pits." Once birds have been paired according to their weights and weapons, their owners and spectators place bets on which bird will win.

A bell, a whistle, or a referee's signal marks the start of the fight. At that time, the handlers "pit" the birds, placing them on the pit's floor to fight. According to one eyewitness, "With neck feathers fanned and wings whirring, the parry at each other. They kick and duel in mid-air, striking at each other with feet and beak." Blood stains the pit's floor. If the fighting wanes, handlers pick the birds up and blow on their backs, yank at their beaks, or hold them in an attempt to "reignite the frenzy." The birds are then re-pitted. According to one official, one rooster must be killed or nearly killed for the fight to end, because the alternative is to "have one of the cockers pick up his rooster the fight, but nobody wants to do that 'cause then you're saying, 'Hey, I'm a loser, I don't train good birds.' They would rather have them die in the pit than pick them up."

"Losing" birds often end up discarded in a barrel or trash can near the game pit. One visitor to a cockfight found a trash can where "two fighters had been discarded. The rooster on the bottom was dead. The one on top of him I chest wound. He was still alive, but barely." Even birds who "win" cockfights are frequently disfigured.

Roosters who are rescued from game farms or cockfights are typically euthanized because, as one official explained, "[T]he only thing they've been trained to do is fight other roosters ... euthanasia means a humane death—it's barbaric, brutal activity inside the pit that they're being raised for."

##### **Cruelty Is Just the Tip of the Criminal Iceberg**

Cockfighting usually involves other crimes in addition to cruelty to animals. Gambling—which is often illegal and involves large sums of money—is found at many cockfights, as are firearms and other weapons that are sometimes violent, interpersonal crimes, including murder, as seen in a triple homicide that occurred at a Northern California cockfight.

Illegal drugs are also commonly found at cockfights, and criminal investigators have happened upon roosters and fighting pits while searching for other illicit materials. In one instance, officers raiding a California marijuana farm all more than 150 roosters and cockfighting paraphernalia "amid the 4,000 pot plants they expected to find ...."

Young children are often present at cockfights: exposure to such violence can promote insensitivity to animal suffering and an enthusiasm for bloodsports. ....

Full article here: [http://www.helpinganimals.com/oi\\_cockfighting.asp](http://www.helpinganimals.com/oi_cockfighting.asp)

Note: To those who wish to call me a liar or attack me in any other way, go ahead, but please note: This is an informational post. I am posting an article from the website Helping Animals (as noted above). Just as I did not write the article that couple of months ago, I did not write the above article. So, if anyone has a problem with the content of the article or thinks the information contained in the article is i then contact the appropriate people and discuss it with them, but please do not call me a liar.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **dkf on August 15, 2010, 10:36:37 AM**

I think what could be interesting to consider is what other MFI platforms view is on questions of the appropriateness of certain loans.

For example,

MYC4 (<https://www.myc4.com/>)

Microplace (<https://www.microplace.com/>)

Babyloan (<http://www.babyloan.org/>)

Wokai (<http://www.wokai.org/>)

Energy In Common (<http://www.energyincommon.org/>) -- Loans for energy purposes.

Education Generation (<http://www.educationgeneration.org/>) -- Loans for education

I'm not going to be researching that now, because I am up in Vermont celebrating a wedding. However, I should have time for it later.

Some people who objected to Kiva's view have now taken their loans to other platforms like Energy In Common.

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Alaska Pack** on **December 02, 2010, 01:21:37 AM**

After receiving a message and link from another team, I find it hard to get interested in another loan, even a new MFI from South Africa was not compelling enough.

It seems that loans associated with cock-fighting are still being posted. Sometimes one can extrapolate from a photo but this loan is not just one that supports the fight produces the weapons to make the fighting more bloody.

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/239548>

Edpyme Alternativa: Initially, I liked this MFI because of the services they provided.

(<http://s3.kiva.org/img/w800/620114.jpg>)

For the last ten years, Edwin has created spurs which he sells to owners of roosters that participate in cock-fighting. Edwin travels the zone visiting various centers and selling his wares. The spurs are created by combining a special stone with metal and leather in order to attach them to the rooster's feet.

This loan bothers me more than all the others. Would Kiva post loans that produces handcuffs or torture devices?

Earlier in the year, I thought that there were posts that indicated that Kiva might be reviewing the matter. I hope that it will not be forgotten like the Michael Vicks case he got off with a slap on the hand and now back in the limelight while the animal victims are still suffering.

<http://blogs.dogtime.com/editors-notepad/2010/11/michael-vick-call-it-a-comeback-but-don-t-dare-say-redemption>

Excerpt:

Plaschke tells the story of Mel, a former Vick dog now living in Dallas with Richard and Sunny Hunter. Though he's received the utmost in compassion and care since his rescue from Vick's compound, Mel is still so emotionally ravaged from his days as a bait dog, he convulses with fear each time a stranger enters the house.

The dog's scars remain so raw -- and so heartbreaking -- that Hunter can't bring himself to watch football. While a stadium crowd cheers for Vick, a frightened Pit Bull become invisible in a corner of the house. Though it's been years since Vick has touched him, he hides his head and lies motionless, soundless. As Plaschke writes, the literally beaten out of him.

Bernice :(

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **December 02, 2010, 09:21:16 AM**

Quote from: Alaska Pack on December 02, 2010, 01:21:37 AM

After receiving a message and link from another team, I find it hard to get interested in another loan, even a new MFI from South Africa was not compelling enough.

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The dog's scars remain so raw -- and so heartbreaking -- that Hunter can't bring himself to watch football. While a stadium crowd cheers for Vick, a frightened Pit Bull tries to become invisible in a corner of the house. Though it's since Vick has touched him, he hides his head and lies motionless, soundless. As Plaschke writes, the bark was literally beaten out of him.

Bernice :(

Thanks for informing us about this loan, Bernice, and thanks for helping to make everyone aware that these loans to people involved in bloodsports are being posted b marketed under various titles and categories.

Perhaps some day Kiva will become more enlightened about the violence these loans perpetrate in the communities in which they are located and perhaps then Kiva w develop a moral and ethical fabric and stop supporting and promoting these cruel and reprehensible loans.

In the meantime, I am happy to say, I have almost all of my funds out of Kiva. Those withdrawn funds are now supporting humane projects, businesses, education and with humane minded organizations and MFIs.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **December 02, 2010, 10:28:35 AM**

Quote from: Alaska Pack on December 02, 2010, 01:21:37 AM

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/239548>

Edpyme Alternativa: Initially, I liked this MFI because of the services they provided.

...For the last ten years, Edwin has created spurs which he sells to owners of roosters that participate in cock-fighting. Edwin travels the zone visiting various centers and owners, selling his wares. The spurs are created by comb stone with metal and leather in order to attach them to the rooster's feet.

This loan bothers me more than all the others. Would Kiva post loans that produces handcuffs or torture devices?

Earlier in the year, I thought that there were posts that indicated that Kiva might be reviewing the matter. I hope that it will not be forgotten like the Michael Vicks case where he got off with a slap on the hand and now back in it while the animal victims are still suffering.

Kiva needs to come up with some way of dealing with this and quickly.

Edpyme Alternativa on the partner page has no website and no contact email.

I found <http://www.alternativa.com.pe/> and contacts...

José Gonzáles  
Gerente General  
[jgonzales@alternativa.com.pe](mailto:jgonzales@alternativa.com.pe)  
(517) 420-4808

Luis Enrique Sampén  
Jefe de Sistemas  
[lsampen@alternativa.com.pe](mailto:lsampen@alternativa.com.pe)  
(517) 420-4808

I hope they have someone there who can read my English!

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **December 02, 2010, 12:57:43 PM**

The official answer received from Kiva.

Quote

Hi Jan and John,

We appreciate you writing in, and we've been notified by other lenders of this loan recently being posted to the site. Kiva's policy around what loans we allow our Field Partners to post remains the same.

We trust our Field Partners to determine whether or not a loan request is appropriate, and we only prohibit loans for business activities that are illegal in the country of origin or loans that, though legal, violate major UN convention or international human rights.

We trust our Field Partners to make these decisions because they are familiar with the communities and cultures where our borrowers live and work. Whereas, a loan might seem offensive to one person, it may be perfectly reasonable in another cultural context.

We know that some lenders don't wish to fund particular loans on the Kiva website, so we recommend that lenders exercise their consumer choice in selecting loans that are in line with their values and preferences.

Best wishes,  
Ali Carroll  
Customer Service Manager

Kiva.org  
Loans That Change Lives

I guess then the only ray of sunshine to offer here is the fact that the loan clearly states the reason for the loan... it could easily have been buried in the description, but I can make all sorts of things, and he would have been funded just as quickly.

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **David2051** on **December 02, 2010, 01:22:33 PM**

Yeah, I didn't see this loan raising, but I'm glad that I haven't seen any CF loans for a long time and that this one was very upfront about it.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **dkf** on **December 02, 2010, 01:42:00 PM**

Quote

found <http://www.alternativa.com.pe/>  
and contacts...

José Gonzáles  
Gerente General  
jgonzales@alternativa.com.pe  
(517) 420-4808

Luis Enrique Sampén  
Jefe de Sistemas  
lsampen@alternativa.com.pe  
(517) 420-4808

Jan,

Thanks very much for posting the information. I wrote to Edpyme Alternativa and let them know that FINCA Peru refunded the loan to William:

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/106842>

Quote

I hope they have someone there who can read my English!  
-jan-

I found a site called <http://www.speaklike.com> which does human translation for a pretty good price.

Between English and Spanish costs \$0.06 a word.

It ended up costing me \$20 but that's because my message went slightly over 208 words (with the 250 credit promo and 1,000 credits for \$10 -- one could get a human translated message of 208 words or less which costs  $6 * 208 = 1,248$  credits so the translation only costs \$10)

So in general you can get 166 words for \$10 with 4 credits left over.

Of course you can do machine translation with <http://translate.google.com> but the quality isn't as good.

Using Google translate I tried doing the translation from English to Spanish and then back from English to Spanish and saw how good the English was. :)

But at any rate -- that doesn't really accurately measure the quality of the Spanish translation.

Using SpeakLike the translation also went pretty quickly -- (I think about ten to twenty minutes to do my message).

Anyway, here's the Spanish translation and the corresponding English:

Quote

Edpyme Alternativa,

Por favor comprenda que escribo teniendo presentes los valores de la microfinanza, y los valores de Edpyme Alternativa como se menciona en el sitio web:

Honestidad

Cooperación

Lealtad

Respeto

Servicio

Creo que las microfinanzas tienen el potencial de sacar a la gente de la pobreza.

Estoy preocupado sobre este préstamo a Edwin Quispe Suarez.

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/239548>

No soy un experto en Perú. Sin embargo, en los Estados Unidos hemos visto que las peleas de gallos conducen al alcoholismo, abuso de drogas y crimen. Esto perjudica la economía local y provoca un desarrollo más lento. Esto no sigue las metas más grandes del microfinanciamiento.

El gobierno de Estados Unidos ha prohibido las riñas de gallos.

Sé que es legal en Perú pero te urjo que investigues a FINCA Perú con el siguiente préstamo:

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/106842> (ver "Las entradas en el diario de William")

"Journal entries for William"

Este fue reintegrado por la siguiente razón:

"Comprendemos y estamos sensibilizados con algunas de las opiniones y críticas de la comunidad Kiva con respecto al uso de este préstamo, por lo que hemos decidido pedir a Kiva que lo reembolse, aunque ya ha sido pagado parcialmente en el sitio web."

"We understand and are sensitive to some of the Kiva community's opinions and criticisms regarding the use of this loan, which is why we have decided to ask Kiva to refund it, even though it has already been partially funded on the website."

David Friedman

.... Hay más información acerca de esto en los sitios web siguientes (que están en inglés):

<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php?topic=3447.new;topicseen#new>  
<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,1025.310.html> (a partir de la página 32)  
<http://kaclwiki.org/>

Quote

Edpyme Alternativa,

Please understand that I write seeking to keep in mind the values of microfinance, and the values of Edpyme Alternativa as stated on the web site:

Honesty  
 Cooperation  
 Loyalty  
 Respect  
 Service

I think microfinance has the potential to lift people out of poverty. I am concerned about this loan to Edwin Quispe Suarez.

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/239548>

I am not an expert on Peru. However, in the United States we have found that Cockfighting leads to alcoholism, drug abuse, and crime. These hurt the local economy, and slow growth. It does not follow the larger goals of microfinance. The government in the U.S. has banned cockfighting.

I realize that it is legal in Perú but I would urge you to follow the lead of FINCA Perú with the following loan:

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/106842>

(see "Journal entries for William")

This was refunded for the following reason:

"We understand and are sensitive to some of the Kiva community's opinions and criticisms regarding the use of this loan, which is why we have decided to ask Kiva to refund it, even though it has already been partially funded on the website."

David Friedman

.... There is more information on this at the following web sites (these are in English):

<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php?topic=3447.new;topicseen#new> <http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,1025.310.html> (beginning on page 32)  
<http://kaclwiki.org/>

I forgot to put in there another way to look at this:

It's short-term benefit for what may later be long-term loss in terms of crime, economic turbulence, etc.

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **dkf** on **December 03, 2010, 03:35:32 PM**

I heard back from Edpyme Alternativa and they have decided to terminate this loan:

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/239548>

I think taking steps to discourage cockfighting is in the long term interest of the region of Lambayeque and the country of Perú -- both in terms of economic development and the development of the society.

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **RichardF** on **December 03, 2010, 03:51:04 PM**

:thankyou: :thankyou: :thankyou: :party: :travolta: :cheer: :confetti: :dance: :angel: :clap: :yahoo: :friends: :hurrah:

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **December 03, 2010, 04:03:36 PM**

Quote from: **dkf** on **December 03, 2010, 03:35:32 PM**

I heard back from Edpyme Alternativa and they have decided to terminate this loan:

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/239548>

I think taking steps to discourage cockfighting is in the long term interest of the region of Lambayeque and the country of Perú -- both in terms of economic development and the development of the society.

David

thanks David.

I have not heard back on my email however I did not specifically ask them to remove the Kiva loan.

In part, I said...

Quote

I understand the values of Edpyme Alternativa as stated on the web site are Honesty, Cooperation, Loyalty, Respect, Service.

Please consider reviewing your company goals and based on your values, please encourage your borrowers to find other ways to feed their families.

My biggest concern is that they will continue to fund these types of loans...  
but post other, more acceptable loans on Kiva.

Either way, they have received the message that some Kiva lenders don't approve and that is a good step.

-jan-

edit: just received...

Estimado Señor Jan and John Bacon, le informo que vamos a proceder a cancelar el prestamo.  
which Yahoo tells me says...

Dear Mr. Jan and John Bacon, I inform to him that we are going to come to cancel the loan.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **December 03, 2010, 05:25:18 PM**

:thankyou: :thankyou: :thankyou:

I wish to add my thanks to Mr. Jose Gonzalez Tapia and the staff of Edpyme Alternativa for their response to our letters of concern.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **December 08, 2010, 03:03:05 PM**

The loan to Edwin Quispe Suarez for manufacturing cockfighting spurs was refunded on December 5th.

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/239548>

Below is the update posted on the loan profile on December 5th:

Subject: Loan Refunded  
Location: Oyotún - Chiclayo, Peru

This loan has been refunded for the following reason:

The following is a message from staff at Edpyme Alternativa:

Dear Lenders,

Edpyme Alternativa has decided to reimburse this client's loan due to the fact that his occupation has upset a sector of lenders who contribute through loans on the Kiva

Edwin Quispe Suárez makes spurs to sell to people who raise birds for cockfighting. Though cockfighting is a legal activity in Peru, we nevertheless identify with the feelings of some members of the Kiva community in regards to this activity, which is why we have decided to take the abovementioned action regarding this loan.

Edpyme Alternativa is a financial institution characterized for its support of entrepreneurs with small or micro businesses in northern Peru. In order to work with Kiva we have created a special product called Capital Semilla [Seed Capital] that has a very low interest rate relative to those offered by other local financial institutions. Through this product, we are supporting entrepreneurs in rural and marginalized urban areas of our region and neighboring regions who oftentimes do not receive support from the financial system.

We invite you to learn more about the clients we are supporting through Kiva and our Capital Semilla product on our Kiva partner page and our own website. We also invite you to join our lending team, Amigos de Edpyme Alternativa.

Best wishes from Chiclayo, Peru,

The team at Edpyme Alternativa  
Posted by Cynthia McMurry, Kiva Staff, from San Francisco, United States Dec 5, 2010

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Skimmis** on **December 11, 2010, 02:11:15 PM**

<http://www.kiva.org/blog/fellows/2010/12/11/culture-cock-fighting-and-something-of-value-2/>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **December 11, 2010, 11:26:42 PM**

Quote from: **Skimmis** on **December 11, 2010, 02:11:15 PM**

<http://www.kiva.org/blog/fellows/2010/12/11/culture-cock-fighting-and-something-of-value-2/>

thanks for that link Skimmis.  
a very reasoned sensible post, I thought.  
-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Skimmis** on **December 12, 2010, 01:57:22 AM**

(<http://www.apnm.org/campaigns/cockfighting/graphics/gaffs/gaff1L.jpg>)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LI2N4KmGHwG>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkCNfYOo6A&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRLwm1YbKU8&feature=related>

<http://www.apnm.org/campaigns/cockfighting/facts.html>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **December 14, 2010, 09:47:45 AM**

The exceptionally naive and truly disturbing blog post by Kiva Fellow Casey Unrein (defending bloodsports) has been removed from the Kiva web site.

The original blog can still be found here:

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:rmPJQZVdTtJ:fellowsblog.kiva.org/2010/12/11/culture-cock-fighting-and-something-of-value-2/+http://fellowsblog.kiva.org/2010/12/11/culture-cock-fighting-and-something-of-value-2/%23comment-27576&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=firefox-a>

However, that cache was made before the (mostly) excellent comments (one comment was truly alarming) were posted to the blog and so those comments cannot be viewed on that cache site. However, anyone who is interested in reading both the blog post and the comments can PM me and I will send you the entire blog and comments. I saved them before they were removed.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **JohnAtKiva** on **December 14, 2010, 09:56:31 AM**

Hello Judy - The author of the post (a volunteer Kiva Fellow currently with EDPYME Alternativa in Peru) took the post down temporarily yesterday until he could prepar update, which he posted at the same URL yesterday afternoon.

You can read his note along with all of the original comments here:

<http://fellowsblog.kiva.org/2010/12/11/culture-cock-fighting-and-something-of-value-2/>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **December 14, 2010, 10:08:11 AM**

It is good that the comments were reinstated. (They were missing when I looked yesterday.) It is one thing to remove one's own post, something to which I have no ob and which every poster has a right to do, but to remove the comments posted by others is not okay, so I am relieved to see that those comments have been reinstated

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **JohnAtKiva** on **December 14, 2010, 10:27:38 AM**

Quote from: Aletheia on December 14, 2010, 10:08:11 AM

It is good that the comments were reinstated. (They were missing when I looked yesterday.) It is one thing to remove one's own post, something to which I have no objection and which every poster has a right to do, but to re comments posted by others is not okay, so I am relieved to see that those comments have been reinstated.

Totally agreed. We wanted to respect the original author's request to remove his post, but also make sure that everyone still had the chance to review the comments : their own as well.

Best,  
John

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Henry** on **December 14, 2010, 10:38:01 AM**

ensorship! ;)

I find it sad our culture (or KIVA)??? won't allow this person to express their own opinions.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Skimmis** on **December 14, 2010, 11:37:29 AM**

If cockfighting is illegal in the state where kiva is, is it then legal for kiva to rise funding for an illegal activity ?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **dkf** on **December 19, 2010, 06:50:41 PM**

Quote from: dkf on December 03, 2010, 03:35:32 PM

I heard back from Edpyme Alternativa and they have decided to terminate this loan:

<http://www.kiva.org/lend/239548>

I think taking steps to discourage cockfighting is in the long term interest of the region of Lambayeque and the country of Peru -- both in terms of economic development and the development of the society.

David

I just wanted to make a brief comment that Edpyme Alternativa does not just operate in the Lambayeque region of Peru, but also in other parts (including Cajamarca, and also the capital city of Lima).

I do not know how the cockfights are actually conducted in Peru. However, in writing to a member of the Edpyme Alternativa staff he commented that they did not lead to crimes or alcoholism, but said that they were attended by families, and people behaved in a decent and respectful fashion.

He said that the loan was refunded because of concerns about cruelty to animals, not because the cockfights were seen to be harmful to civil society.

I think it is good to keep this in mind, because I recall to mind Matt Flannery's words in the blog post that he wrote concerning the risk of being paternalistic.

Quote from: Matt Flannery

We can be paternalistic when we start imposing our moral framework upon societies half a world away. Cockfighting in Peru is legal and part of a rich cultural tradition. It may not be humane or palatable from a Western perspective ~~misses the point. Kiva, the organization, should not be making those decisions. Our lenders should be the ones voting with their dollars.~~

<http://www.socialedge.org/blogs/kiva-chronicles/archive/2008/03/29/cockfighting>

The people of Peru are in a better position to judge what is best for economic growth, and what is consistent with appropriate behavior in the society.

Perhaps I could just make one further comment.

In a post to the Kiva team Kivans Against Cockfighting Loans I said the following:

(the loan to William was an earlier cockfighting loan which came through FINCA Peru)

Quote from: David Friedman

The second comment comes from a statement that Diane R. made on KivaFriends:

Quote from: Diane R on May 09, 2009, 10:58:43 PM

Kiva did not refund the loan, the local microlending agency, FINCA Peru, chose to refund any lenders who had financed this loan, and to pull it from funding on the Kiva.org website. We have no information on what this means in sense. In all likelihood, since MFIs are required to source 70% of their funds from non-Kiva sources, William probably received his funding through FINCA Peru from another non-Kiva source.

L- Diane.

William may have still gotten the loan even if the money is not raised through Kiva.

This might be a point of discussion. Is this a problem? Although we are asking Kiva to stop posting the cockfighting loans are we also asking Kiva to stop partnering with MFIs that do cockfighting loans?

In my correspondence with Sr. Tapia I took the former view.  
An MFI might still fund cockfighting businesses, but this may not be a major issue as long as the money for the cockfighting business is not being funded through the Kiva web site.

This policy might discourage cockfighting to a certain extent just like in the U.S. certain policies and regulations about the marketing and sale of tobacco products might discourage some people from smoking, but that may not be the main point.

I think what is most objectionable about posting the loans is that Kiva is sending a message \_to lenders\_ that animals and the welfare of animals aren't that important.

These are postings for loans for an activity that is criminal in many if not most of the countries where lenders are coming from.

Not only something that is illegal but also offensive to many.

I would also point out that in the U.S. not only is cockfighting itself a crime, but the promotion of cockfighting is also a crime:

[kacwiki.org/index.php?title=Main\\_Page#What\\_are\\_the\\_current\\_U.S.\\_federal\\_laws\\_against\\_cockfighting\\_2C\\_and\\_what\\_are\\_the\\_state\\_laws.3F](http://kacwiki.org/index.php?title=Main_Page#What_are_the_current_U.S._federal_laws_against_cockfighting_2C_and_what_are_the_state_laws.3F) ([http://kacwiki.org/index.php?title=Main\\_Page#What\\_are\\_the\\_current\\_U.S.\\_federal\\_laws\\_against\\_cockfighting\\_2C\\_and\\_what\\_are\\_the\\_state\\_laws.3F](http://kacwiki.org/index.php?title=Main_Page#What_are_the_current_U.S._federal_laws_against_cockfighting_2C_and_what_are_the_state_laws.3F))

Furthermore, the more people hear about this and know about it the more they can become desensitized to it. When a person hears about something the first time there may be a sense of outrage, but if it occurs repeatedly the outrage may fade, and he or she simply sees it as the normal way that people do things.

David Friedman

I think a policy which prohibits the posting of loans which may be offensive while allowing MFI's the freedom and discretion to determine appropriate businesses may be a good solution for all parties.

As far as I know neither FINCA Peru nor Edpyme Alternativa were coerced in any fashion. I didn't detect that Sr. Tapia or any member of the staff of Edpyme Alternativa was offended -- in fact Sr. Tapia was open enough to say that he didn't think the cockfights were a problem at all in terms of crime.

There are so many loans going through Edpyme Alternativa and other MFI's that the cockfighting loans do not represent a major part of their business.

The last count for Edpyme Alternativa is 1760 entrepreneurs for 16 months of operation:

<http://www.kiva.org/partners/143>

16 months is about 4/3 of a year which is about 70 weeks.

And 70 weeks is about 350 work days

(actually, it looks like most branches are also open half a day on Saturday (Sábado)  
<http://www.alternativa.com.pe/id=ag1.htm>)

Anyway, that's about 5 new entrepreneurs per day from all the branches.

I would guess that the main branch in Chiclayo probably gets more visitors than the other branches.

I only know of a single loan of the 1760 that involved cockfighting.

It does not seem that the economic growth of Edpyme Alternativa (which is a for-profit organization) would be harmed by a policy which would prohibit the posting of cockfighting loans on the Kiva web site.

About 5 new entrepreneurs per business day can be added to the records forming a mutually beneficial business relationship in a variety of other kinds of operations.

Now in terms of the entrepreneur: I do not have exact information about how things go for him or her.

But if Diane R.'s assessment is correct the person may still get the loan from the original MFI.

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **December 21, 2010, 12:50:00 PM**

Several lenders have contacted me and requested a copy of Casey Unrein's December 11, 2010 original Fellow's blog post (which concerned his views on cockfighting). seems to have disappeared from even the cache site. Therefore, for all of those interested, here is a copy of the original post by Casey Unrein:

Quote

CULTURE, COCK FIGHTING AND SOMETHING OF VALUE  
11 December 2010

Culture can be very hard to define. Traditionally we are taught that culture is an esoteric amalgamation of music, food, religion, family, tradition, humor, language, education and history. However such definitions seem to often les trivialize these elements of culture. We therefore get little snippets in language and history classes about the preparation of special dishes, traditional dance, or common greetings. But these snippets are little more than reference

Culture is far more than these snippets. Culture is emotion. Culture is the collective emotion that a group of individuals feels when they participate in the practices of their culture. Culture is the power that you and all your friends listening to your favorite song from high school. It is the nostalgia inspired when you smell a good home cooked meal. Culture is the excitement that builds up as the special holiday approaches.

These collective emotions are what make culture so beautiful and uniting. Unfortunately, the emotional factor is also what makes culture so polarizing. Strong cultural emotions don't simply revolve around happiness; culture is a tied to moral values, justice and ideas of fairness. Many of us want to believe that our ideas of morality, justice and fairness are universal; however the reality is to the contrary. These parts of our social structure are just as cult food we eat and music to which we listen. In fact, in many cases, these parts of our social structure encompass and dictate what we eat and what we listen to. Take for example, societies who ban all music in defense of morality who refuse to eat certain meats.

What I find sad is that at times culture practices come into direct conflict. I am reminded of the film Something Of Value, a movie set on the backdrop of English colonization in Kenya and the Mau Mau guerillas. In the film, a local follows tribal custom and drowns a recently born child. The English, shocked and abhorred, therefore imprison the tribal chief. He subsequently dies in prison.

I can understand the paternalistic indignation inspired in the English. I can also imagine the melancholic duty that the tribesman and his people must have employed in order to protect the community as a whole. After all, undoubt practice of killing the child evolved out of a necessity of population control in order to ensure that there was enough food for all. Sadly the difference between the two cultures produced an extremely emotional reaction in the Eng attempted to transform the culturally noble action of the tribesman into criminality.

So, why am I writing this blog post?

I am writing because the MFI with which I work was recently involved in the ongoing discussion over whether or not loans related to cock fighting should be funded through Kiva. (See note at end of blog for a short summary of Kiva's position). As Matt Flannery recommends, I am not going to spend time contemplating the details of cock fighting. Instead, I want to inform you of the pain I saw in the eyes of some of the members of this community decision came down from the MFI's upper management that the loan in question would be removed from Kiva. The pain wasn't derived from monetary loss (none of them actively attended cock fights), but it was clear that cock a part of their culture.... and the fact that some outside force was forcing them to deny a part of the culture hurt.

Imagine someone telling you to erase that high school song that you and your friends grew up with because it was morally objectionable. Imagine having to reject all the nostalgia of a specific home cooked meal because one is illegal to eat. Cock fighting for some cultures inspires many similar emotions as your high school song and that home cooked meal. It is an event which brings families and friends together. Memories are made and relationships a

around cock fights. Men and women learn and grow. If you question this, just read the book El Caballero Carmelo by Abraham Valdelomar.

Of course, I don't want the above text to provide blanket support of the status quo in cultures. What I would like, however, is to deepen the understanding of those who boldly place themselves in opposition of cultural practices, importantly, I would like to further introduce you all to the argument of the movie Something of Value.

The movie begins with a quote (my apologies, but I must paraphrase due to a lack of access to the script): If a culture is going to attempt to impose its systems of economy, morality and justice on another group of people, the be aware of what it is taking away from the other group in doing so... and more importantly the culture must ensure that it replaces that which it takes away with something of value.

With the above in mind, I write: Hopefully the conversation over cockfighting will go beyond Kiva and loans, and center more on the day to day life of those that are directly involved in the dispute. I suspect that only then will the able to detect any hypocrisy in the cultural systems which underlie the dispute and be able to trade cultural practices for something of value...

Short summary of Kiva and cockfighting: Cockfighting is illegal in many countries, specifically those of the "developed world," but it is legal and has a rich tradition in a number of the countries in which Kiva has field partners. As cock loans are therefore disbursed by Kiva field partners for businesses related to cockfighting and at times posted on the Kiva website. These loans have subsequently caused an uproar among some Kiva lenders for various reasons have been formed to try to eradicate cockfighting from Kiva. Kiva itself has taken an open stance, stating that cockfighting is not illegal in the countries in which the loans are managed and Kiva is unwilling to dictate what type of posted. Note: Kiva does require that loans fall within the UN conventions.

Casey Unrein KF 12 joined the Kiva Fellows program in Sept. 2010. Prior to becoming a Fellow, Casey worked with a fiduciary management company in Seattle, WA, providing financial management services for minors, the elder disabled. Casey completed a bachelors in Economics and Education at Occidental College. He expects to become a Certified Public Accountant by the end of 2010. Casey is currently a Fellow with EDPYME Alternativa in Chiclayo, support Kiva.org and EDPYME Alternativa by joining lending teams and expanding the community. You can join Friends of EDPYME Alternativa by clicking on the link.

(Note: A copy of this blog is also on the Animal Lover's team [http://www.kiva.org/team/they\\_depend\\_on\\_me](http://www.kiva.org/team/they_depend_on_me) and the Kivans Against Cockfighting Loans team <http://www.kiva.org/team/kacl>. In addition, there are several excellent comments and responses concerning this blog which can also be viewed on those two teams.)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jane Sladen** on **December 21, 2010, 08:11:36 PM**

Thank you Rosebud - and you are right: Only thieves claim ownership of another's words.

Jane Sladen.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **January 22, 2011, 01:30:29 PM**

Cockfighting in Haiti:

This link:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=127114784>

was posted by someone else in another thread:

<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,5319.msg86051.html#msg86051>

Here are a couple of quotes from that article:

"On a recent afternoon in Croix de Bouquets, just outside Port-au-Prince, about 100 men have gathered in the back of a dusty, empty lot. **An old man sitting at a table charges 20 gourdes, or about 50 cents, for admission.**"

"Every time one of the birds lands a hit, **the men in the crowd yell. They wave crumpled 100 gourde notes — worth about \$2.50 — calling out bets.**"

The article poses some food for thought (over and above the obvious animal cruelty issues):

**Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.**

**The admission fee to the cockfight (20 gourde) is more than a quarter of the daily wage of the average Haitian.**

**100 gourde is more than the average daily wage for a Haitian.**

Attack me for my humaness and concern for the suffering of animals if you want; I am quite used to it by now. However, in my opinion, those who support cockfighting cockfighting loans might do well to look beyond the suffering of the animals and look at the social and economic effects of cockfighting (and other bloodsports) as well.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Peter S** on **February 07, 2011, 09:47:39 PM**

there are fairly regular news reports of illegal cockfighting in California and other states, but this AP report just published in the San Jose Mercury News caught my eye obvious reasons, and might be of interest to those who are following the cockfighting loans debate here at Kive Friends

**Central Valley man killed by armed bird at cockfight**

DELANO -- A California man attending a cockfight has died after being stabbed in the leg by a bird that had a knife attached to its own limb.

The Kern County coroner says 35-year-old Jose Luis Ochoa was declared dead at a hospital about two hours after he suffered the injury in neighboring Tulare County on An autopsy concluded Ochoa died of an accidental "sharp force injury" to his right calf.

...  
full AP report at [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_17321782](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_17321782)

other reports at:

<http://www.examiner.com/strange-news-in-national/cockfighting-chicken-kills-handler-with-fatal-leg-wound>

and, with a video report, at the local ABC news station for North County

[http://www.turnto23.com/north\\_county/26737174/detail.html](http://www.turnto23.com/north_county/26737174/detail.html)

-Peter

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Skimmis** on **February 08, 2011, 12:20:24 PM**

Quote from: Skimmis on December 14, 2010, 11:37:29 AM

If cockfighting is illegal in the state where kiva is, is it then legal for kiva to rise funding for an illegal activity ?

John@kiva and kivaliason , is it legal for Kiva to fund cockfighting loans ?

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **February 08, 2011, 01:47:36 PM**

Quote from: Skimmis on February 08, 2011, 12:20:24 PM

John@kiva and kivaliason , is it legal for Kiva to fund cockfighting loans ?

Skimmis,

I am not John or Charmaine, but from what I have researched, Kiva is not breaking the law by supporting, promoting and funding cockfighting loans (yet).

Kiva is supporting, promoting and funding cockfighting loans because of a loophole in the law.

It is my firm belief that when the animal welfare groups and the legislators crafted the animal welfare bill (under which cockfighting falls), none of them dreamed that organization (especially a non-profit organization which professes to care) would circumvent the intent of the law simply because it was not specifically stated that funds be sent overseas/to foreign countries for cockfighting loans. Yet that is exactly what Kiva is doing, taking advantage of a loophole in the law.

Since Kiva managers will not cease promoting, supporting and raising funds for animal cruelty/torture on their own volition, another law (or laws) specifically prohibiting supporting and promoting cockfighting (no matter where the cockfights are located) and prohibiting the transfer of funds for bloodsports (to any location, including foreign countries) needs to be passed.

It is truly sad that Kiva managers must be forced to take the moral and ethical action concerning this issue. Their refusal to voluntarily do so speaks volumes.

\*\*\*\*\*

Those who wish to attack me for my humaneness and compassion for the suffering of helpless animals, sentient beings, go ahead; I am quite used to it by now. However, opinion, those who support cockfighting and cockfighting loans might do well to look not only at the suffering of the animals (which is enormous) but also look at the social and economic effects of cockfighting (and other bloodsports) as well.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **tomviolence** on **February 08, 2011, 08:52:00 PM**

In a new take on man bites dog, there is death by cock.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-cockfighting-20110208,0,3554027.story> (<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-cockfighting-20110208,0,3554027.story>)

In the interest of full disclosure, I do not think cockfighting loans should be pulled. I also believe in karma, and the complete and utter illogicness of the universe.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **granite** on **February 13, 2011, 09:59:01 PM**

I'm a little late to the conversation and I've skimmed through a lot of the posts so I'm sorry if I'm being repetitive. Is cocking fighting illegal in the state / country where based? I think it would be reasonable for Kiva to have a policy that it won't fund loans which would be illegal in its state / USA. This lets you bypass many of the slippery arguments because the question becomes fairly concrete.

Quote

It is also possible that California, which is generally ahead of the rest of the United States in anti cruelty issues and humane treatment of animals, would pass a law to ban funds from organizations based in California being transferred to foreign countries for the use of promoting or supporting blood sports. So California state representatives and senators could also be contacted. And if anyone is really ambitious, a California state proposition could be launched and voted on it.

There are efforts up here in Canada to pass laws to punish Canadian mining companies that are exploitative of people in their efforts to mine.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **dkf** on **February 14, 2011, 04:15:09 PM**

I originally did not even believe that it was real. I thought it was some kind of hoax or joke.

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
Post by: **Harvey:)** on **February 14, 2011, 05:48:10 PM**

Quote from: **granite** on **February 13, 2011, 09:59:01 PM**

Is cocking fighting illegal in the state / country where Kiva is based? I think it would be reasonable for Kiva to have a policy that it won't fund loans which would be illegal in its state / USA. This lets you bypass many of the slippery arguments because the question becomes fairly concrete.

Granite,

The cruel and inhumane practice of torturing roosters via cockfighting is illegal in all 50 US states.

However, Kiva is legally able to promote and support the torture of animals (via cockfighting) by posting cockfighting loans on the Kiva web site because of a loophole in the Federal Animal Welfare Act which does not prohibit the transfer of funds for the purpose of cockfighting (or any other bloodsports) if the bloodsports take place outside the US.

Obviously that loophole in the law needs to be closed because certain people seem to lack an ethical objection to the torture of animals and are taking advantage of that loophole.

Since Kiva managers refuse to make the ethical decision to voluntarily stop supporting and promoting animal torture by posting cockfighting loans on the Kiva web site, it is up to them to pass laws prohibiting Kiva from raising funds and transferring money for the purpose of cockfighting (or other bloodsports).

As far as the slippery slope argument is concerned, the slippery slope argument is a fallacious argument.

"Description of Slippery Slope"

"The Slippery Slope is a fallacy in which a person asserts that some event must inevitably follow from another without any argument for the inevitability of the event in question. In most cases, there are a series of steps or gradations between one event and the one in question and no reason is given as to why the intervening steps or gradations simply be bypassed. This "argument" has the following form:

- 1. Event X has occurred (or will or might occur).
- 2. Therefore event Y will inevitably happen.

This sort of "reasoning" is fallacious because there is no reason to believe that one event must inevitably follow from another without an argument for such a claim. This is especially clear in cases in which there is a significant number of steps or gradations between one event and another. "

See these links for more explanations of the slippery slope fallacy:

<http://www.logicalfallacies.info/presumption/slippery-slope/>

<http://www.nizkor.org/features/fallacies/slippery-slope.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

Those who wish to attack me because of my ethical stand against animal torture and animal cruelty, go right ahead. It won't be the first time. I am quite used to it.

And I will stand by my assertion that if people truly have an ethical objection to animal torture and animal cruelty, those people would not be supporting and promoting cruelty by posting loans (for animal torture) on a website and raising funds to be used for torturing animals, and those people would not be sending those funds to borrowers knowing those borrowers were using those funds to torture animals.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **cpbailey** on **February 14, 2011, 08:19:52 PM**

Just wondering...what IS the count of cockfighting loans that were not later refunded?

Colette

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **dkf** on **February 15, 2011, 02:10:43 AM**

Going off of Geoff's post (<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,3447.msg77346.html#msg77346>) and including the loan to Edwin Suarez gives three that went 1 out of eight.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **cpbailey** on **February 15, 2011, 03:47:29 AM**

Quote from: **dkf** on **February 15, 2011, 02:10:43 AM**

Going off of Geoff's post (<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,3447.msg77346.html#msg77346>) and including the loan to Edwin Suarez gives three that went through out of eight.

I would like to point out that the last loan that stuck was listed August 20, 2008. Every single cockfighting loan since has been removed by MFIs after people have de MFIs. This is almost two and a half years.

It would not surprise me if behind the scenes Kiva has been rather clever. It could have in a manual for MFIs:

1. Forbidden business types = Illegal in country loan originates in, violates UN conventions, or involves human sex trade
2. Recommend against and, while not forbidden, the MFI is likely to irritate potential lenders and you will be likely to have a crisis management issue = Cockfighting

Colette

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Skimmis** on **February 15, 2011, 09:41:33 AM**

The number of cockfighting loans are probably not very high. The MFI's and Kiva would probably attract more capital from lenders (and avoid lenders withdrawing from the cock fightingsloans wasnt allowed / posted on kiva.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **March 05, 2011, 10:53:58 AM**

#### **Ecuador's Blood Sports Face Possible Ban**

ALANGASI, Ecuador -- For generations, young men have tested themselves in Alangasi's annual "Toros Populares" festival, amateur bullfights that have become a rite of passage for its youths. Many venture into the rustic ring to taunt and tarry with the bulls, emboldened by beer and aguardiente, a local anise-flavored firewater.

But this month's festival could be the last for the town just outside the capital of Quito. **President Rafael Correa has called a referendum asking Ecuadoreans to ban bullfighting, cockfighting and other pursuits where animals are killed for human entertainment. The referendum, which could come as early as May, could end the dirt-floor cockfights at "El Gallo Rojo" (The Red Rooster) in Cotacollao, north of the capital.**

Mexican corridos and local tropical beats are the backdrop at the tradition-bound honky-tonk, where gamecocks are set against one another. Owners carry the testy cocks to the ring in canvas cases. Like prizefighters, the birds are weighed in. **As the sanguinary pageantry of the fight begins, bets are placed - \$5 maybe \$10.**

.....

The Spanish province of Catalonia banned bullfights in July, joining the Canary Islands, which outlawed them in 1991. **And just last month, Spain's main broadcaster stopped showing bullfights, judging them harmful to children.**

By DOLORES OCHOA  
The Associated Press  
Wednesday, February 23, 2011; 4:12 PM

Full article here:  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/23/AR2011022304816.html>

Avg Annual Income in Ecuador: \$4,776 (\$91.84 per week) (from Kiva's statistics)

Note: To those who wish to call me a liar or attack me in any other way, go right ahead. I am used to it by now. However, please note: This is an informational post. I do not write the articles that I have posted over the past few months, I did not write the above article. So, if anyone has a problem with the content of this article or thinks information contained in the article is "padded" and therefore deceptive, then contact the appropriate people and discuss it with them, but please do not call me a liar.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 07, 2011, 01:21:38 PM**

#### **Child's birthday party was cover for illegal cockfighting ring, Texas police claim**

BY Nina Mandell  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER, Monday, May 2nd 2011, 1:30 PM

A children's party in Texas took a tough turn for the birthday kid after police stormed the bash to break up an illegal cockfighting ring.

Deputies from Liberty County Sheriff's Office arrived at the party on Saturday about 40 miles outside of Houston. They found what looked like a normal party, complete with a waterslide, Newscore reported.

But they also found loads of evidence of a large cockfighting ring, **with injured and dying birds only a few feet from the children.**

**Some of the birds were armed with steel blades, while others were pinned to cages.**

Officials also found a gun and a steel machete, local television station KHOU reported.

Two people were arrested at the scene while others ran off or drove away shortly after the police showed up, according to the report. Some of the suspects sped off so they crashed into each other. At least one driver plowed through a wooden fence on the property.

Officials from the Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals recovered 48 live birds and took a horse and two dogs from the home.

Read more: [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/05/02/2011-05-02\\_childs\\_birthday\\_party\\_was\\_cover\\_for\\_illegal\\_cockfighting\\_ring\\_texas\\_police\\_claim.html#ixzz1Lgxy3ISH](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/05/02/2011-05-02_childs_birthday_party_was_cover_for_illegal_cockfighting_ring_texas_police_claim.html#ixzz1Lgxy3ISH)

Article here: [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/05/02/2011-05-02\\_childs\\_birthday\\_party\\_was\\_cover\\_for\\_illegal\\_cockfighting\\_ring\\_texas\\_police\\_claim.html?r=news/national](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/05/02/2011-05-02_childs_birthday_party_was_cover_for_illegal_cockfighting_ring_texas_police_claim.html?r=news/national)

And another article about the same "party."

#### **Police Bust Cockfighting Ring at Texas Children's Party**

Published May 01, 2011, NewsCore

DAYTON, Texas -- Police busted a cockfighting ring in Texas that was using a children's party as its front, officials said Sunday.

Acting on an anonymous tip, deputies from the Liberty County Sheriff's Office showed up at a property in Dayton, Texas -- about 40 miles (65 km) northeast of Houston to investigate a report of a cockfighting operation Saturday.

When they arrived, the officers discovered a children's party underway, complete with a waterslide and a picnic table.

But suspects began to emerge from behind the innocent revelry, fleeing to their vehicles and on foot into the tree line, upon seeing the deputies.

Several suspects sped away in their cars, some even crashing into one another and driving through a wooden fence, police said.

**As the children stood by the waterslide, crying, police officers discovered a grisly scene of dead and dying fowl -- some suffering severe blood loss and The birds were found just feet from where the children were playing, police said.**

**Live fowl were found pinned in cages throughout the entire property, some still armed with deadly steel blades attached to their beaks.**

Inside a small barn, officers discovered a fighting ring, complete with scales, tags, entry slips and other evidence of cockfights.

**Officials from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) responded to the scene and recovered 48 live birds -- many valued in excess each -- and also removed a horse and two dogs in poor condition from the property.**

Officers arrested Jose Lara and Irasema Ramirez at the scene for failing to identify and interfering with a law enforcement investigation. Police said additional charges arrests could be expected as the investigation continues.

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/05/01/police-bust-cockfighting-ring-texas-childrens-party/#ixzz1Lh0Heb9d>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Amy-in-PHX** on **May 08, 2011, 07:08:44 PM**

Re the article in the immediately preceding post: "Child's birthday party was cover for illegal cockfighting ring, Texas police claim"

Seems a shame that the animals which were still alive when the bust came could be rescued from that environment, while the poor children were left behind. :(

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Jan & John** on **May 08, 2011, 09:29:13 PM**

I always come to this thread when notified of a new post...

I wish to be informed if someone notices a new cockfighting loan and comes here to post because then I am prepared to write to that particular MF1.

It has been a while though since we have seen one at Kiva.

-jan-

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Amy-in-PHX** on **May 09, 2011, 12:27:33 AM**

Quote from: Jan & John on May 08, 2011, 09:29:13 PM

I always come to this thread when notified of a new post...

I wish to be informed if someone notices a new cockfighting loan and comes here to post because then I am prepared to write to that particular MF1.

It has been a while though since we have seen one at Kiva.

-jan-

This is true, that we have not seen a loan posted for a while. Last December was the first one I ever saw since becoming a Kiva lender. But the Fellow's blog that fell and comments posted on the Fellows blog and here on this Forum, have been percolating in my mind, off and on, since then. I don't mind that the article Judy posted me to think about cockfighting loans some more during this weekend, because I have reached some conclusions now. I have selected a different course of action than seen anyone post, so I will set that out here, and I hope if someone \*has\* said this before, that you all will forgive me for the repetition -- I read back a ways in the thread not every single thing that has been said before.

1. Kiva -- and by "Kiva" I mean the officers and directors, together with the advisors to the Board who have or could have influenced Kiva's position on this issue -- is a platform where people connect for the sake of alleviating poverty, through making loans. That is their mission in life, and I respect them for maintaining an intense it. At the same time, I think Kiva has its own responsibility to make a decision about these loans which support and foster animal cruelty. Kiva has attempted to defile responsibility from themselves, by saying it's up to the lenders to fund or not fund what they choose. That does not wash with me. Kiva is the one that established the web platform; Kiva must accept responsibility for controlling what can or cannot be posted on the web platform. Lenders are not the only people in this loop who a responsible actors.

2. I believe Kiva is wrong to allow the posting of cockfighting loans -- and while writing a new policy about that, I would make sure the language was broad enough to bullfighting, dogfighting, and any other activity in which sentient creatures are tortured for sport, for gambling purposes, etc.

3. To call cockfighting part of a "rich" culture is no excuse. To be sure, every Kiva country and neighborhood has its own rich and beautiful culture, which none of us v stamp out. I see a good deal of celebrating other cultures in the "Kiva Countries" threads on this forum, to which I have contributed several hours of my time. But cock is not one of the "rich" or beautiful aspects of those cultures which still permit and even celebrate it. The enslavement of black people was once called part of the rich beautiful culture of the American South. (If you doubt it, watch *Gone With the Wind*.) The government of the United States began, in my view, with the phrase "We h truths to be self-evident." I agree that there are some things that are self-evident, and I believe the idea that people should refrain from torturing one another and of sentient beings is one of them. That people's ability to perceive this can be impaired by their cultural background (as in the American South of the past), does not make less true. The Kiva Fellow who posted a blog on this subject in December (whom I will not name, out of respect for his having taken down his blog entry) raised the q

whether there would be "something of value" to take the place of cockfighting in the culture of Peru. I think, to borrow a phrase from former President Bush, a "kinder culture is a thing of value. I will have no more nostalgia for the pursuit of bloodsports, after they have passed out of the cultures of the world, than I have for the cult Old South in which the white race enslaved the black.

4. All of that being said, the next thing I have to ask myself is, what should I do about it? I value the opportunities Kiva gives me to "do good" in the world, by helping lift themselves out of poverty. (At least, so far, I still believe that is what is happening in many cases.) I do not wish to stop Kiva lending yet. **Where I have something to say on the topic of "what to do about it" is this: I am not going to donate any money to Kiva for Kiva operations.** That is my statement on how wrong I Kiva is, to permit the posting of cockfighting loans, and on Kiva's moral cowardice that I discussed above.

5. In addition, Jan says she monitors this thread, planning to write to individual MFIs in the event any new cockfighting loans are posted. In reading through posts in from "before my time" as a KivaFriend, I saw that Jan and others had success with Edpyme Alternativa and one other MFI, by writing directly to their staffs. I intend to keep a lookout for cockfighting loans, and writing respectfully to MFIs. Cultures change only slowly, with much patience and dialogue, and I think we might be at win some people over with very careful and respectful letter-writing, always bearing in mind that I am in the relationship with the borrowers to help them improve the health, first and foremost.

6. One of the things I will not do, is basket loans with the goal to cause their expiration. If Kiva is not persuaded by my reasoning, I will not respond by abusing Kiva platform. (I do not know if that has occurred in the past, but there was reason to suspect that that was the case.) Having now said my piece on the subject of cockfighting I intend to say no more, unless folks want to engage me in discussion, or new loans are posted. I bid you all a peaceful, good evening.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **cpbailey** on **May 09, 2011, 01:57:20 AM**

It has been years since a loan has been posted and only two or three loans have been funded. It seems that in terms of how much this impacts Kiva's amount of loans a royal pain in the backside. I remember reading that one Fellow recommended that an MFI pull a cockfighting loan. It didn't, and then it had to deal with letters from retract the loan and so on. I suspect from this that Kiva lets the Fellows and probably the MFIs know that there are the absolutes--must meet United Nations rules, no and not illegal in the home country. Then there are the "we won't stop you, but you may get bad publicity. It isn't worth it" category. This is cockfighting. And I see if guinea pig loans as well, but I have no idea if this is coincidental.

Let's face it. Kiva is no more than 30% of an MFI's loans. It can use the other 70% for cockfighting if it wanted. It is a bigger message if an MFI realizes that individual object. Kiva's banning cockfighting would only drive cockfighting loans underground into the 70%.

The system that I suggested and Jan (and probably others as well) is implementing seems to be working fine. Let's focus on what we can do instead of bringing up this issue. Hey, I hear that Florence's school, Mirembe Community College, is having a fundraiser!!!! :D

Colette

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Amy-in-PHX** on **May 09, 2011, 10:42:17 AM**

Quote from: **cpbailey** on **May 09, 2011, 01:57:20 AM**

It has been years since a loan has been posted and only two or three loans have been funded. It seems that in terms of how much this impacts Kiva's amount of loans made, it is a royal pain in the backside. {snip}

The system that I suggested and Jan (and probably others as well) is implementing seems to be working fine. Let's focus on what we can do instead of bringing up this divisive issue. Hey, I hear that Florence's school, Mirembe College, is having a fundraiser!!!! :D

Colette

Being the OCD type that I am, I needed to say that this loan <http://www.kiva.org/lend/239548> was "posted" on October 18, 2010, and heavily discussed in this forum I assume, Colette, that you meant to say "years since a loan was funded without being refunded," or something like that?

Now, how 'bout that Mirembe CC fundraiser? I heard great things are happening there!! Not only a salon will be started up, but now a catering business as well, and r additional things! Don't you just love those generous "matching funds" donors? I sure do! They give me a chance to use this little smiley guy: :superman: and this :hurrah:

EDIT: Thanks, Sverre, I meant to put in a link to the Salon Startup Fund info, but forgot. It is post 652 in this thread: <http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,1492.msg88647.html#msg88647>

(Diane is so much more talented at putting in simple links than I am, but I hope that does it!)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Skimmis** on **May 09, 2011, 12:59:01 PM**

Quote from: **Amy-in-PHX** on **May 09, 2011, 10:42:17 AM**

Now, how 'bout that Mirembe CC fundraiser? I heard great things are happening there!! Not only a salon will be started up, but now a catering business as well, and maybe additional things! Don't you just love those generous funds" donors? I sure do! They give me a chance to use this little smiley guy: :superman: and this one: :hurrah:

You can find more information here

<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,4403.0.html>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Peter S** on **May 09, 2011, 11:26:30 PM**

A post in this thread recently sparked off a series of responses in this and one other thread which were in no way related to the topic of cockfighting loans, and in the moderating team represented a failure of civility towards and respect for other forum members. These posts have been deleted by the moderating team, along with others which though not in themselves objectionable, make no sense in the absence of those other posts.

This is not about taking sides on the issue of cockfighting loans on Kiva (all opinions both for and against are welcome), it's about members failing to address each other respectfully and constructively on the forum.

It's also not about censorship or freedom of speech. Every opinion is welcome, and polite disagreement is welcome here, as long as it's expressed with civility. What's to attack other members for holding the opinions they've expressed. Comment on content, not on the contributor.

We do try to moderate this forum with a very light touch, but occasionally it's necessary to step in where expressions of personal animosities and resentments have caused members to forget that bit in the forum **Terms of Use** (<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php?action=agreement>) where it says *we're all here for a good cause ask that you be civil to one another*, or the similar advice in the **KivaFriends Guiding Principles** (<http://www.kivafriends.org/index.php/topic,4137.0.html>) in the section headed "Be Civil".

If anyone really does feel the need to attack or personally criticize or express resentment towards another member, then (after taking a deep breath and thinking about hopefully the feeling will go away) please understand that the Kiva Friends forum, and its Personal Message facility, should never be used for that purpose, whether overtly or covertly by implication and insinuation.

If anyone has a problem with the way the moderators have handled this, please contact me or any another moderator to spell out your concerns. The concerns you express should be shared with the other moderators, and given the proper consideration.

Thanks for your understanding.

Peter

on behalf of the KF moderating team - Diane, Kerry, Natasha, Peter, & Wolfgang

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **cpbailey** on **May 10, 2011, 12:29:49 AM**

Thanks, Peter for keeping us in line. :)

I say this because I am sure that 9 times out of 10k, people complain about the job you all do. Given that you are volunteers, I think it is nice to hear, "Good job. I a what you do."

Colette

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 11, 2011, 08:58:36 PM**

**Article from In Defense Of Animals website:** <http://www.idausa.org/campaigns/sport/cock/cockfighting.html>

#### **COCKFIGHTING: A blood sport for roosters**

Although it is illegal in 49 states, cockfighting is a tradition that dates back several centuries and spans several cultures. Thus it is difficult to stamp out. Like other ille fights, cockfights take place surreptitiously

What is Cockfighting?

Cockfighting is an organized fight between two roosters who are placed in a pit to fight each other. The roosters have been trained to severely injure and/or kill one another. These birds, which are raised for the purpose of fighting, are tormented to make them aggressive. They are also given various legal and illegal drugs such as strychnin amphetamines, and epinephrine to make them more aggressive, increase their endurance and clot the blood that will flow during the fight.

The natural spurs of the roosters are sawed off and replaced by razor sharp steel blades or curved implements called gaffs which measure from one to three inches long. The long, sharp gaffs stab deep into the flesh of the fight, from which neither rooster can escape, and maim one another with their beaks and weapons. **the animals often become tired, incapable and suffer severe injury fight only ends when one rooster is dead or is too weak to fight. The loser then gets thrown in the trash, sometimes while still alive.** For the winner, their guarantee that he will survive his injuries and often ends up with the same fate as the losing bird.

Cockfights are held before an arena of cheering spectators who often wager large sums of money on the outcome of the contest. **Children are often present at the fights leading to concern that they are being desensitized to the suffering of others and they are being encouraged to use violence.**

Don't these birds fight naturally?

Although these birds in a flock will often fight to establish a "pecking order", these battles rarely result in injury. Wild roosters conduct ritual showdowns that, as with many other animals, substitute for and deflect from actual physical combat. Only birds that have been bred and provoked to fight will inflict the serious injuries seen in cockfighting. Also, unlike birds in the wild, these animals cannot escape. They are placed in an enclosed pit and forced to fight until one quits, is severely injured, or dies.

Isn't cockfighting a cultural tradition?

**While cockfighting may be a tradition in some cultures, not all traditions are good ones that deserve to continue. Cesar Chavez, who condemned the practice of cockfighting, once wrote: "Kindness and compassion toward all living things is a mark of a civilized society. Conversely, cruelty, whether it is directed at human beings or against animals, is not the exclusive province of any one culture or community of people." In a statewide survey conducted in Arizona, 95% of Hispanic voters said they felt that cockfighting was "cruel and inhumane." While only 34% of Anglo respondents disagreed that "cockfighting is an important part of Hispanic culture," 70% of Hispanics disagreed with the statement.**

(This article was written before the 50th state made cockfighting illegal.)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 12, 2011, 03:40:57 PM**

**"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."**

-Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 16, 2011, 07:37:48 AM**

**"The question is not Can they reason? Nor Can they talk? But Can they Suffer"**

~ *Jeremy Bentham*

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Harvey:)** on **May 20, 2011, 11:31:01 AM**

Article from MSNBC:

**Pet Abuse Registry May Also Protect Children: Brutality against an animal is indicator of possible domestic violence, experts say.**  
 By Barbara Goldberg, Reuters, 5/19/2011

"A New York county is launching a registry for animal abusers which could also help to identify potential violence against women and children. ...."

It is the result of growing awareness that brutality against an animal is an indicator of possible family abuse, according to experts and studies.

'Animal abuse is not only the tip of the iceberg of family violence, but it's often the first warning sign and the one a neighbor is most likely to call in,' said Phil Arkow, co-founder of the National Link Coalition, which educates people about the link between animal and human abuse. 'People assume the kids and the spouse can pick up the phone on their behalf and feel sorry for the animal because it's a silent victim,' he said. ...."

Four states have also included animal cruelty under the criminal definition of domestic abuse.

The progression from animal to human abuse, known among experts as "the link," is changing the way laws are being written and enforced. ...."

Animal abusers use more forms of violence against humans, such as stalking and marital rape, and are more dangerous than batterers who do not, he added. ...."

Full article at this link: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43095732/ns/health-pet\\_health/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43095732/ns/health-pet_health/)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **Amy-in-PHX** on **May 20, 2011, 04:33:36 PM**

The killing of animals, primarily horses and dogs, was apparently one of the steps in learning to view murder as a fun thing to do on a slow evening, for infamous serial killer Dale Gribble and Samuel Dietman, and Gribble's brother Jeff. See, e.g., "'Serial Shooter' Tells How Spree Started," dated August 23, 2008, Arizona Republic, at this <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2008/08/23/20080823hausner0823.html>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**  
 Post by: **dkf** on **May 20, 2011, 05:24:38 PM**

Hi everybody,

I cancelled my Kiva account because of this issue a while ago.

However, when I saw that there was going to be a Q&A with NC State Philosophy Professor and Animal Rights Activist Tom Regan I submitted a question about it.

Feel free to read the discussion over on the AnimalSuffering forum:

<http://www.animalsuffering.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=9260>

I submitted the question about a month ago, and the Q&A was posted about a week ago, but it doesn't appear that within the Q&A this was specifically addressed.

The Q&A is on another forum which is called: ARzone:

<http://arzone.ning.com/>

I received an e-mail with different links to topics that Regan talked about:

<http://arzone.ning.com/forum/topics/the-tom-regan-week-if-tom>  
<http://arzone.ning.com/forum/topics/the-tom-regan-week-on-violence>  
<http://arzone.ning.com/forum/topics/the-tom-regan-week-on>  
<http://arzone.ning.com/forum/topics/the-tom-regan-week-on-rights>

And I read these. I learned that Regan was much influenced by the book:

*Gandhi An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments With Truth*

[http://www.amazon.com/Gandhi-Autobiography-Story-Experiments-Truth/dp/0807059099/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1305928982&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Gandhi-Autobiography-Story-Experiments-Truth/dp/0807059099/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1305928982&sr=8-1)

Although later on in the Q&A Regan states that he doesn't fully agree with the way that Gandhi saw violence vs. non-violence.

David

P.S. I think one of the reasons I reacted the way I did when I heard about this is that there were other things going on at the same time which made it seem particularly strange and bizarre. The whole timing of it seemed uncanny.

P.P.S. Oh, and Regan is going to be on ARZone chat tomorrow Saturday, May 21st at 6 p.m. U.S. eastern time.

I can't make it at that time, but I think the transcript will still be available.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Skimmis** on **May 21, 2011, 12:22:26 AM**

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockfighting> (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cockfighting>)

"the bebebotoh (*tajen gamblers*) usually sacrificed their properties and family to continue their practices. In tajen, the cocks fight armed with a sharp knife called taji."

"United States  
Cockfighting club in Puerto Rico, 1937.

Cockfighting has a tradition in some American cultures and history. It is said that some presidents participated in cockfighting including Washington, Lincoln and Jeffers

In the United States, cockfighting is now illegal in all 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.. The last state to implement a state law banning cockfighting was Louisiana; Louisiana State Legislature voted to approve a Louisiana ban in June 2007.[26] The ban took effect in August 2008.[27] Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia made cockfighting a felony, and it is illegal in 40 states and the District of Columbia to be a spectator at cockfights. Animal welfare activists continue to lobby for a ban sport. Cockfighting remains legal in the United States territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam, although in 2006, th Islands adopted a law banning modifications such as the use of artificial spurs.

The Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, a federal law that made it a federal crime to transfer cockfighting implements across state or national borders and in the penalty for violations of federal animal fighting laws to three years in prison became law in 2007. It passed the House of Representatives 368-39 and the Senate by unanimous consent and was signed into law by President George W. Bush.[28]"

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **June 01, 2011, 04:55:54 PM**

From California Watch:

**Senate Passes Stronger Penalties for Cockfighting**, by Gregory Thomas, May 25, 2011

State legislators voted in support of two bills in the past week to curb cockfighting, an ancient blood sport animal rights advocates say is thriving in California because laws aren't tough enough.

**"The type of elements that this activity draws is dangerous to the community," said Sen. Ron Calderon, D-Montebello, who proposed two bills this year would increase penalties for cockfighting. "The drug element, the gang element, and in many cases there are firearms."**

The first bill, SB 425, would raise the minimum fines for cockfighting, possessing cockfighting instruments and watching a cockfight. It would also make cockfighting a nuisance, which would allow law enforcement officials to seize property purchased with proceeds from cockfighting. The state Senate last week voted 36-1 in favor of t which is now in the pipeline for the Assembly. The second bill, SB 426, would expand on the property forfeiture provision of SB 425 by allowing landlords and property evict tenants who raise or keep fighting birds or host cockfights. SB 426 would also grant officials authority to seize the property if it is used repeatedly for cockfighting. Senate approved the bill Monday with a 39-0 vote. It's now headed to the Assembly as well.

The bills come amid a national campaign to clamp down on cockfighting, a practice that while illegal in all 50 states and a felony in 39, has surged in California the pas years. Earlier this month, for example, Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies busted a backyard cockfight in Valinda involving 45 birds and about 100 spectators, accor Humane Society of the United States.

"We're throwing out the welcome mat for people involved in this at the higher levels," said Eric Sakach, senior law enforcement specialist for the humane society, the c leading the charge to squelch the activity.

**In cockfighting, two roosters selectively bred for their fighting prowess are outfitted with steel blades on their legs and pitted against each other in violent death matches. Though the activity was outlawed in California more than a century ago, cockfighting persists, as do crimes associated with it: illegal gambling, drug trafficking and, on occasion, murder.**

.....  
Sakach said cockfighting in California is reaching "epidemic" proportions because California laws aren't harsh enough. A first offense in California is a misdemeanor while surrounding states it's a felony. .... But passing legislation to make the crime a felony in California isn't feasible given overcrowding in the state's prisons. "In light of what we've been trying to find ways to provide some real, meaningful tools for law enforcement to crack down on the way these activities are exploding here," Sakach said.

.....  
Experts traced an epidemic of Exotic Newcastle Disease that spread through California in 2002 and 2003 to Mexican roosters brought into the state for a fight. The disease infected about 3.5 million birds and cost the state's commercial poultry industry \$160 million, according to the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center.

.....  
Sakach said that outbreak (Exotic Newcastle Disease) is just cause for increasing penalties for cockfighting in California. He called the Senate's decision a milestone of protection laws, "but not an endpoint."

Calderon agrees. "A felony conviction for cockfighters is what California needs," he said.

Full article here: <http://californiawatch.org/dailyreport/senate-passes-stronger-penalties-cockfighting-10423>

Title: **Re: Cockfighting I**

Post by: **Amy-in-PHX** on **June 02, 2011, 12:49:30 AM**

Quote

Calderon agrees. "A felony conviction for cockfighters is what California needs," he said.

Since CA has a 3-strikes law, it sounds like a bad idea to me, to make attending a cockfight a felony offense. You would end up with somebody going to prison for life, possibility of parole, for merely attending a cockfight.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting I**

Post by: **Skimmis** on **June 02, 2011, 04:11:20 AM**

Quote from: **Amy-in-PHX** on **June 02, 2011, 12:49:30 AM**

Since CA has a 3-strikes law, it sounds like a bad idea to me, to make attending a cockfight a felony offense. You would end up with somebody going to prison for life, w/o possibility of parole, for merely attending a cockfight.

a 3 strike law sounds strange and inhuman to me, close to slavery.

In Norway you will get a penal discount when you meet the judge if you have committed several crimes.

Title: **Re: Cockfighting I**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **June 02, 2011, 08:56:25 AM**

In my opinion, all acts of animal cruelty should be classified as felonies. The cruel and brutal "sport" of cockfighting (as well as other bloodsports and incidents of individual animal cruelty) should all be considered felonies and the perpetrators should be in jail.

Prison overcrowding is not a justifiable excuse for allowing animal torturers to go free. There would be ample room in prison for animal torturers if the parolees who stole gum or drank a beer were not in prison and if drug users were sent to drug rehabilitation programs instead of prison.

It is my opinion that the actual people who are responsible for the cockfighting should definitely be charged with felonies (owners of the birds and hosts of the "games")

I don't think the article was advocating for spectators to be charged with felonies, although in some cases it might be difficult to determine which people were spectators which were participating in animal cruelty by betting on the outcome. (And, in my opinion, any person who is present at a cockfight, who is watching an act of animal cruelty who stands by idly is to some degree complicit in the act.)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting I**

Post by: **Harvey:)** on **July 18, 2011, 06:00:58 PM**

Article from the Humane Society of the United States: June 11, 2011

### **Bipartisan Legislation Introduced in Congress to Crack Down on Animal Fighting Spectators**

"WASHINGTON-- The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society Legislative Fund applaud U.S. Reps. Tom Marino, R-Pa., and Betty Sutton, D-Ohio, for their bipartisan federal legislation, **H.R. 2492, that would prohibit knowing attendance at organized animal fights and impose additional penalties for causing a attend such events.** Over the past decade, Congress has strengthened the penalties for and closed major loopholes in the federal animal fighting law, but has left the spectators unaddressed. The Marino-Sutton bill will correct this remaining gap in federal law to allow for a more comprehensive crackdown on this barbaric activity.

"Spectators are participants and accomplices who enable the crime of animal fighting, provide a large share of the funding for the criminal enterprise through their admission fees and gambling wagers, and help conceal handlers and organizers who try to blend into the crowd when a bust occurs," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society. "We are grateful to Representatives Marino and Sutton for introducing this legislation. We call on Congress to swiftly pass it and give law enforcement the tools they need to crack down on the entire cast of characters involved in animal fighting."

**Animal fighting is an inhumane and cruel activity involving the deliberate pitting of animals against each other to fight, often for lengthy contests that result in death, for the sole purpose of gambling and entertainment of spectators. Animals used for fighting are often drugged to heighten their aggression and keep fighting even after they've suffered grievous injuries such as broken bones, deep gashes, punctured lungs, and pierced eyes. Young children are often brought to these events and exposed to the gruesome spectacle as acceptable entertainment.**

"As a former state and federal prosecutor, I've seen first-hand the criminal culture that surrounds animal fighting events and the damaging influence this environment has on children," said Rep. Marino. "We try to protect our kids from criminal violence and yet there is no safeguard for those adults who take impressionable children to animal fights where they can witness these heinous acts in person. I introduced this legislation to make sure that law enforcement has all of the tools necessary to deprive the organizers and profiteers of these horrific events from receiving the support they need to continue this activity."

**"Animal fighting is a horrible and barbaric activity, and by making it a federal crime for individuals to knowingly attend these events or bring minors to these events we will make tremendous strides in putting an end to it once and for all," said Rep. Sutton. "I am proud to stand with Members from both sides of the aisle and look forward to passing this common-sense, humane legislation."**

It is illegal in 49 states to be a knowing spectator at an animal fight. A majority – 28 states – impose felony-level penalties on spectators. The Marino-Sutton bill imposes misdemeanor penalties for knowing attendance and felony penalties for causing a minor to attend. State and federal law enforcement agencies often work together to enforce animal fighting laws, and the federal law will complement the state laws on animal fighting spectators.

The law would not reach to individuals who are not aware they are present at an animal fight or situations where two animals fight without provocation by animal fight organizers. Because organized animal fighting is a federal crime and illegal in all 50 states, this activity is highly clandestine. Spectators at animal fights don't just happen upon a fight – they seek out the criminal activity at secret locations, often need passwords to enter, and pay hefty admission fees for the opportunity to watch the fight. The law would reach to individuals who are not aware they are present at an animal fight or situations where two animals fight without provocation by animal fight organizers. Because organized animal fighting is a federal crime and illegal in all 50 states, this activity is highly clandestine. Spectators at animal fights don't just happen upon a fight – they seek out the criminal activity at secret locations, often need passwords to enter, and pay hefty admission fees for the opportunity to watch the fight. The law would reach to individuals who are not aware they are present at an animal fight or situations where two animals fight without provocation by animal fight organizers.

"Facts:"

- "Spectators pay hundreds or thousands of dollars in admission fees and gambling bets, generating the bulk of the revenue for this illegal enterprise. The fights we see occur without the crowd betting on the outcome and enjoying the bloodletting".
- "Spectators provide cover for animal fighters, who weave into crowds to evade prosecution at the first sign of a police raid."
- "Often spectators are themselves participants in animal fights, waiting their turn at a typical organized animal fight, with several rounds during an event or derby. When a police raid an animal fight, it is extremely difficult to differentiate between spectators and participants who were going to fight their dog or bird in the next match."
- "Cockfighting has been linked to the death of a number of people in Asia from bird flu and to an outbreak of a poultry disease that cost U.S. taxpayers more than \$1 billion to contain."
- "Animal fighting is also closely associated with other criminal activities such as gangs, narcotics, illegal weapons possession, public corruption and various violent crimes."

three-year study by the Chicago Police Department found that 70 percent of animal offenders had also been arrested for other felonies, including domestic and aggravated battery, illegal drug trafficking and sex crimes.”

The above facts are from the Humane Society of the United States and are part of the article.

Link to article here:

[http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press\\_releases/2011/07/federal\\_animal\\_fighting\\_spectator\\_bill\\_introduced\\_071211.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2011/07/federal_animal_fighting_spectator_bill_introduced_071211.html)

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **dkf** on **July 19, 2011, 01:34:05 PM**

Judy,

Thanks for sharing this information.

David

Title: **Re: Cockfighting loan**

Post by: **TheTatiana** on **October 04, 2011, 03:40:48 AM**

Just stopped by after a long time away. Still no change in kiva's revolting policy? :(

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