# Two men arrested and 27 cockerels rescued in Lancashire cockfighting crackdown



Police in Lancashire made a significant breakthrough in the battle against animal cruelty this week, arresting two men and rescuing 27 cockerels from a suspected illegal cockfighting ring. The operation, carried out by Fylde Police in collaboration with the RSPCA, was initiated following reports of animal welfare concerns in the Lytham area. Officers discovered evidence of organized cockfighting, including several makeshift fighting pits on the premises.

The cockerels, some of which required immediate medical attention, were seized and are now under the care of animal welfare specialists. This coordinated response underscores the ongoing efforts by authorities to combat the deeply ingrained culture of animal fighting, which remains prevalent in some communities despite being illegal for nearly 200 years. A spokesperson for Fylde Police stated, “Cockfighting is not only illegal but deeply cruel,” emphasising their commitment to tackling rural crime.

Historically, operations against such illegal activities are not uncommon. In May 2001, a similar incident unfolded in Lancaster, where police and the RSPCA arrested 14 individuals at an illegal cockfighting event that uncovered nine dead birds and five others injured. This echoes a troubling trend: between 2012 and 2020, the RSPCA's Special Operations Unit received over 350 reports related to cockfighting. The organisation highlights the brutality involved, noting that birds are often bred specifically for fighting and may suffer severe injuries, with many living in deplorable conditions.

Efforts from the RSPCA to investigate and eradicate these practices are critical. Their Special Operations Unit actively works to address cases of organized animal cruelty, and they encourage the public to report any suspicious activities. The RSPCA's ongoing campaigns bring attention to the harsh realities faced by these animals, who are often the victims of inhumane practices aimed at entertainment and betting.

The recent police action aligns with a broader strategy to combat animal cruelty in rural areas. “Whether it’s fly-tipping, livestock theft, or illegal animal fighting, the message is simple: if you're up to no good in the countryside, expect a visit from us,” the Fylde Police spokesperson concluded, highlighting the law enforcement agency’s proactive stance in protecting animals and deterring future criminal behaviour.

As the investigation continues, it remains crucial for both the authorities and public to remain vigilant. Ensuring the welfare of animals in such situations not only requires active police investigations but also a collective societal commitment to condemning and reporting animal cruelty whenever it is encountered. The plight of these cockerels serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing battle against animal fighting and the cruelty it entails.

### Reference Map

1: Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2: Paragraphs 2, 3
3: Paragraphs 3, 4
4: Paragraph 3
5: Paragraph 3
6: Paragraph 3
7: Paragraph 3

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14711157/Police-illegal-cockfighting-cockerels-arrest-two-men.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2001/may/29/audreygillan> - In May 2001, police and the RSPCA raided an illegal cockfighting event in Lancaster, arresting 14 individuals. The operation uncovered nine dead birds and five injured ones in a disused warehouse. The authorities found evidence of organized cockfighting, including makeshift pits and equipment. The arrested individuals, primarily from the traveling community, were released on bail pending further inquiries. The RSPCA emphasized the severity of the crime, highlighting the cruelty involved in such activities.
3. <https://www.rspca.org.uk/whatwedo/endcruelty/investigatingcruelty/organised/animalfighting> - The RSPCA's Special Operations Unit (SOU) investigates organized animal cruelty, including cockfighting. Despite being illegal for nearly 200 years, cockfighting persists in certain communities. The SOU has received over 350 reports of cockfighting between 2012 and 2020. The RSPCA emphasizes the brutality of the practice, noting that birds are often bred for fighting, mutilated, and housed in poor conditions. The organization urges the public to report any suspicions of animal fighting to help eradicate this cruelty.
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