



SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Animal Fighting Arrest

On May 24, 2018 at approximately 8:30 AM, members of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Squad and the Criminal Investigation Division executed a search warrant at a residence located at 3550 CR 230B as well as two vacant lots, also located on CR 230B in reference to violations of the Animal Fighting Act. The operation was the result of a two month long investigation in which the Special Investigations Squad conducted physical and electronic surveillance of individuals who at those locations were involved in the tending, caring, conditioning, training and or baiting of fowls (roosters) for the purpose of fighting, as well as committing acts of cruelty towards animals.

The execution of the search warrant resulted in the recovery of 36 fowls (roosters), vitamins, supplements, antibiotics, and growth enhancements utilized during the training process of fowls (roosters). Also located were numerous items used to treat wounded fowls (roosters) as a result of fights between roosters, initiated by the offenders observed. There were several fowls (roosters) located and recovered that had wounds consistent with recent fighting, several fowls (roosters) of which had open wounds that appeared infected, and one having a gaping, untreated wound in the area of its neck.

As result of violations described under the Animal Fighting Act, Jose Luis Urueta-Guillen, who was on scene at the time of the execution of the search warrant, was arrested for violating Chapter 828 of Florida State Statute; Aggravated animal cruelty resulting in unnecessary pain or suffering, and Baiting, breeding, training, transporting, selling, owning, possessing, or using any wild or domestic animal for the purpose of animal fighting or baiting. Jose Luis Urueta-Guillen was transported to the Sumter County Detention Center, bond set at \$10,000.00.

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