



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Colleton County Man Convicted of Dog Fighting

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Phillip Michael Maffei, 45, of 56 Benton Farm Road in Walterboro, was convicted today on dog fighting charges.

Maffei was found guilty of Animal Fighting (§ 16-27-30(b)), Owning Animals for the Purpose of Fighting (§ 16-27-30), Making Available the Use of a Structure for the Purpose of Animal Fighting (§ 16-27-30), and Ill Treatment of Animals (§ 47-1-40(B)). All charges are felonies, and carry a maximum possible sentence of five (5) years imprisonment.

During the period June 2004 through January 19, 2006, Maffei arranged for fights between pit bull dogs on his property. Maffei also arranged for pit bull dogs to attack pigs in a similar fashion. At the time of Maffei's arrest, ten (10) pit bull dogs used in the dog fights were seized by Colleton County Sheriff's Deputies.

Judge George C. James, presiding over the General Sessions Court of Colleton County, sentenced Maffei to five (5) years imprisonment, suspended to three (3) years, to be followed by three (3) years probation on each count. All sentences are to run concurrently. Judge James also imposed a fine of \$5,000 per count.

The case was investigated by the Colleton County Sheriff's Office, SLED, and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

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