

Stoughton Fair
P.O. Box 52
Stoughton WI 53589

May 29, 2010

Dear Stoughton Fair Organizers,

We write to express our concern regarding the upcoming 2010 pig wrestling event at the Stoughton Fair. We have consulted with two attorneys with expertise in Wisconsin's animal law and are advised that your "pig wrestling" event is in clear violation of the Wisconsin Statutes, specifically Chapter 951 entitled "Crimes Against Animals".

Section 951.08(1), of the Wisconsin Statutes strictly prohibits holding as an event a fight between humans and animals:

"No person may intentionally instigate, promote, aid or abet as a principal, agent or employee, or participate in the earnings from, or intentionally maintain or allow any place to be used for a cockfight, dog fight, bullfight or other fight between the same or different kinds of animals or between an animal and a person. This section does not prohibit events or exhibitions commonly featured at rodeos or bloodless bullfights."

Webster's English Dictionary defines a fight as "a hostile encounter." Pig wrestling frequently causes severe injuries to the animals, including broken bones and serious internal injuries. Clearly, a human wrestling a pig constitutes a hostile encounter, or a "fight", and is thus prohibited under Wisconsin statute section 951.08(1).

Pig wrestling is an event in itself and does not fit within the rodeo and bloodless bullfight exception to section 951.08(1) of the Wisconsin statutes. Pig wrestling is, therefore, a violation of section 951.08(1) of the Wisconsin statutes.

Other states have prohibited pig wrestling as well. Pig wrestling has been prohibited in Rhode Island and in our neighboring state of Minnesota.

Under section 951.08(1) of the Wisconsin statutes, the pig wrestling event you plan to hold is illegal. We urge you to immediately cease any and all present and future pig wrestling events your organization plans to hold.

By holding a pig wrestling event, not only will you expose the event's organizers and participants to criminal liability, you will also expose your spectators to criminal liability.

Under Wisconsin statute § 951.08(3):

"No person may intentionally be a spectator at a cockfight, dog fight, bullfight or other fight between the same or different kinds of animals or between an animal and a person."

Your spectators will be shocked to learn that they have paid admission to an event for which they could be criminally liable for attending. Should you not voluntarily cancel any and all of your organization's present or future pig wrestling events, we will inform your spectators of the law and encourage them to boycott the event and ask for refunds.

Wisconsin statutes § 951.18(2) provides the following penalties for organizing, participating or being a spectator at an animal fight or a fight between an animal and a human being:

"Any person who violates s. 951.08 (2m) or (3) is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Any person who violates s. 951.08 (1) or (2) is guilty of a Class I felony for the first violation and is guilty of a Class H felony for the 2nd or subsequent violation."

We assume that you were unaware that your pig wrestling events violated the law and that by staging these events you put your participants, organizers and spectators at risk of criminal prosecution. Now that you have this information, we request that you cancel any and all of your organization's present or future pig wrestling events.

If your event is not cancelled at least 14 days before its advertised date, we will assume that you have decided to proceed; in which case, we will notify the appropriate law enforcement authorities that a crime is being planned. We will urge the District Attorney to immediately seek an injunction to stop the pig wrestling event. We will also urge the District Attorney to prosecute you and staff to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We appreciate your anticipated compliance with Wisconsin law in halting these spectacles of animal cruelty.

Sincerely,

Lynn Pauly and Rick Bogle, Co-Directors