

PRESS RELEASE

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Major Victory for County Attorney's Office in Animal Abuse Case

(Tucson, Arizona) - Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney, is pleased to announce that her Office has succeeded in obtaining a court order requiring the forfeiture of property used to breed dogs for dog-fighting rings.

Yesterday, April 5, 2010, **Arizona Superior Court Judge Stephen C. Villarreal** found there was probable cause to believe the property, previously owned by **Emily Dennis**, had been used to commit felonies for financial gain, the breeding and selling of dogs for fighting, and ordered it forfeit. This may be the first time in the United States that a residential property has been forfeited because it was used as a site for breeding and selling dogs for fighting.

Emily Dennis was arrested in February 2008 as part of the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the Humane Society's investigation into the breeding and multi-state sales of pitbulls for fighting by the **Bolio/Magnus Kennel**. Although Dennis and her partner, **Mahlon Patrick**, were acquitted of criminal charges in November 2008, the Pima County Attorney's Office continued to pursue the civil asset forfeiture proceeding. **Deputy County Attorney Kevin Krejci**, who was assigned to the case, said "The civil forfeiture of assets used in connection with criminal enterprises is an important tool used to combat ongoing criminal activity." The Court found there was sufficient evidence that the property had been used for the criminal dog-fighting business.

LaWall said, "This is a significant accomplishment and a major victory over those who abuse animals. My Office will continue vigorous enforcement of the law to protect animals."

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