



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

11/22/19

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MAN FOUND GUILTY, SENTENCED FOR
COCKFIGHTING**

Late yesterday in Department 17 of the Tulare County Superior Court, South County Justice Center, Judge Michael Sheltzer presiding, a jury found Travis Risner, age 40, of Murrieta, guilty of one count of possession of a bird for fighting, one count of possession of cockfighting implements, and one count of unlawful presence of fighting animals. Each count is a misdemeanor.

Immediately after the verdict, Risner was sentenced to 30 days in custody, three years probation, and he was ordered not to possess fighting implements or attend cockfights. Risner is scheduled to be remanded into custody on January 9, 2020.

In the morning of August 4, 2019, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to a pistachio orchard a half mile east of Road 176 in Pixley for reports of cockfighting. When the deputy arrived, he saw several cars flee the area. At the location, he discovered a makeshift fighting ring and tables set up with betting slips. Risner was contacted next to his vehicle located in the orchard, which contained nine to ten roosters in cardboard boxes. Entry forms for the birds were also located in his vehicle, as well as 21 sheathed gaff blades and rooster supplements.

"Animals play an important role in our county both economically and culturally. Our office will continue to prosecute those who seek to cause them harm," said District Attorney Tim Ward.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kelly Habroun and was investigated by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

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