Coushatta, La. (AP) — Red River Parish Sheriff Kerwin Brown says cockfighting just comes naturally in Louisiana and it's hard to stamp out.

"It's been going on for 50 years that I know of," he said. "There's lots of things you know about that you can't put a stop to — you stop it at one place and it breaks out in another."

Would Stop

Brown said he would stop cockfighting in a rural barnyard near here where a newspaper reporter paid a $2 admission fee last Sunday and watched a 13-year-old boy send his rooster out to do or die.

The matches had reportedly been held in the same barn on alternate Sundays for three years.

"Cock fighting at that place will be stopped," said Brown, "but I can't guarantee it won't break out somewhere else."

Cruelty Laws

Brown also said he didn't believe state law forbidding cruelty to animals was applicable, adding, "I wouldn't call a chicken an animal cause it's fowl."


"If it isn't vegetable or mineral, it's got to be an animal," he said.

Define 'Animal'

"But it appears that the legislature is going to have to define the word, because 'animal' to the attorney general and to the various district attorneys in the state of Louisiana just doesn't include fighting cocks."

Atty. Gen. William Guste could not be reached for comment.

Dysert said he doesn't have authority to intervene in cock fights outside Orleans Parish, but he's looking for someone willing to launch a court suit against it.

"I'm chafing at the bit," he said.

'Cruel To Child'

"It's certainly cruel to the fighting cock, but it's a hell of a lot more cruel to a child to teach him that it's proper to let one animal kill another for the amusement of people."

Sheriff Brown doesn't see it that way.

"Now I happen to think that streaking is worse than cock fighting," he said.