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## PRESS RELEASE

January 21, 2009

### Conviction in Dog Fighting Case Affirmed 2006-CR-4519 State of Ohio v. Eric A. Lewis

On January 19, 2009, the Court of Appeals for Montgomery County affirmed the conviction of the defendant, Eric A. Lewis, for 14 counts of dog fighting and three counts of Possession of Criminal Tools. On November 30, 2007 the defendant was convicted of all 17 counts as charged in the indictment, just before his trial date.

The Defendant was sentenced on March 20, 2008, to a one year prison sentence and was ordered to pay \$50,000 in restitution to the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center. The defendant was released on an appeal bond pending the outcome of his appeal. We are asking the Court to take him into custody and take him to the penitentiary so he can begin serving his sentence.

Prosecutor Mat Heck, Jr. said, "Dog fighting is a dangerous and sadistic criminal activity that is a blight on our community. The animals suffer terrible wounds that are frequently fatal. We will not tolerate such inhumane treatment of animals in our neighborhoods."