

# LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

## **No jail time for Anthony man convicted of dogfighting**

**Sun-News report**

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LAS CRUCES —An Anthony man who was the first person convicted of felony dog fighting in the state will spend no time in prison because of the crime, a state judge decided Thursday.

Gustavo Solis was handed a 6.5-year sentence, but the duration of that sentence was subsequently suspended, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Susan Riedel. Also, Solis was sentenced to five years of probation, the maximum possible, she said.

"Mr. Solis also admitted to having been to a recent cockfight with his young son, and then the judge made the decision he was going to make," Riedel said.

Judge V. Lee Vesely, a pro tem judge filling in at the 3rd Judicial District Court, issued the sentence.

On Jan. 12, Solis pleaded no contest to felony counts of dog fighting, extreme cruelty to animals and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, along with two misdemeanor counts of cruelty to animals charges.

A no contest plea means the defendant does not admit guilt but acknowledges that if the case were to go to trial, he or she likely would be convicted.

On Dec. 6, 2007, an anonymous tip led authorities to serve a search warrant at Solis' Anthony residence in the 2300 block of Venadito Trail, where officers seized about a dozen adult pit bulls and seven pit bull puppies. Some of the dogs were restrained with heavy chains and others showed signs of dog fighting, animal control officers said.