

Two Souty Georgia Residents Plead Guilty To Dog Fighting And Firearms Charges

Â TWO SOUTH GEORGIA RESIDENTS PLEAD GUILTYÂ TO DOG

FIGHTING AND FIREARMS CHARGESÂ Â Â Â United States Attorney Michael

J. Moore announced today that Raymond Lee Hendrix a/k/a "Georgia Lee" and

"Lee", of Echols County, Georgia; and Willie Henderson, of Lowndes County,

Georgia, entered guilty pleas to a number of charges in

UnitedÂ StatesÂ District Court in Valdosta.Â The pleas were entered on June 25, 2015

before the Honorable Hugh Lawson, Senior District Court Judge.Â Â Â Â Mr.

Hendrix pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to travel in interstate commerce

in aid of unlawful activities and to sponsor and exhibit a dog in an animal

fighting venture.Â He faces a maximum

sentence of five (5) years imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$250,000.00, or

both.Â Â Â Â Mr.

Henderson entered a plea of guilty to one count of conspiracy to travel in

interstate commerce in aid of unlawful activities and to sponsor and exhibit a

dog in an animal fighting venture and to one count of possession of a firearm

by a convicted felon.Â His plea will subject

him to a maximum sentence of five (5) years imprisonment, a maximum fine of

\$250,000.00, or both on the dog fighting charge and a maximum term of

imprisonment of ten (10) years, a \$250,000.00 fine, or both on the firearms

charge.Â Â Â Â In their plea agreements, Mr.

Hendrix and Mr. Henderson admitted that between January 2008 and August 2013,

they operated Clyattville Kennels, maintaining and training American Pit Bull

Terriers for other dog fighters in exchange for a "tipping fee", breeding and

registering American Pit Bull Terriers and participating in organized dog fight

gambling events throughout the Southeast.Â In addition, Mr. Henderson admitted to possessing a rifle and shotgun,

after having been convicted of a felony.Â A copy of each plea agreement is attached.Â Â Â Â Sheriff Randy Courson with the

Echols County Sheriff's Office stated, " This case has been years in the making

with alot of hard work and many man hours of agencies working together to

eliminate the cruel and inhumane treatment of these animals for profit."Â Â Â The case resulted from an inter-agency

investigation

conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of

Agriculture – Office of Inspector General, Echols County (Georgia) Sheriff's

Office, Auburn (Alabama) Police Department, Bainbridge (Georgia) Department of

Public Safety, Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, Lee County (Georgia)

Sheriff's Office along with assistance from the Humane Society of the United

States and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Â Â Assistant United States Attorney Julia C.

Bowen is prosecuting the case for the government.Â Â Â The Court set sentencing for Mr. Hendrix and Mr.

Henderson for September 23, 2015 at 9:30 am in Valdosta.Â Â Â Â -MORE -Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Â Inquiries regarding this

directed to

Pamela Lightsey, United States Attorney's Office at (478) 621-2603.Â Â Â Â