

Protest of Ed Block Courage Award Recipient Michael Vick

The American Kennel Club was extremely disappointed in the recent news that Michael Vick would be receiving the Ed Block Courage Award. This Award is given to an NFL Player from each team - as voted by his teammates - who exemplifies commitment to the principles of sportsmanship and courage. For more info visit: www.edblock.org/content/home

AKC President Dennis Sprung sent a letter to the Ed Block Foundation and Jeffrey Lurie, owner of the Philadelphia Eagles expressing AKC's concern that a player who has been convicted in connection with his dog fighting activities which included abuse, torture and killing is being honored with an award named after someone who abhorred child abuse and fought to prevent it. This is especially troublesome since research has suggested there is a direct link between animal abuse and child abuse and domestic violence.

ARC President Jeff Shaver also sent a letter on behalf of the American Rottweiler Club (see below) and we encourage all dog lovers to send their own letters of protest.

Letters, e-mails and calls of protest should be directed to:

Ed Block Courage Award Foundation
Sam Lamantia Jr., CEO & Chairman of the Board
8808 Orchard Tree Lane, Towson MD 21286
Fax: 410-821-6240 sam@edblock.org

Ed Block Courage Award Foundation
Dave Copenhaver, Manager
8808 Orchard Tree Lane, Towson MD 21286
Fax: 410-821-6240 dave@edblock.org

Philadelphia Eagles
Jeffrey Lurie, Owner
NovaCare Complex
1 NovaCare Way, Philadelphia, PA 19145
Fax: 215-667-6114

Philadelphia Eagles
Derek Boyko, Director of Public Relations
NovaCare Complex
1 NovaCare Way, Philadelphia, PA 19145
Fax: 215-667-6114 boyko@eagles.nfl.com

January 26, 2010

RE: Ed Block Award objection.... Michael Vick

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the American Rottweiler Club to let you know how sickened our national club and its members are that Michael Vick is being honored for anything, much less the Ed Block Award. What a shock to learn that Michael Vick will be receiving the 2009 Ed Block Courage Award. This award "honors those National Football League players who exemplify commitment to the principles of sportsmanship and courage." How can anyone tarnish such an award by allowing Michael Vick, who was convicted of committing such heinous acts of abuse against animals, to be held up as a "role model" of sportsmanship and courage, as well as an inspiration to others. Ed Block, the Award's namesake, dedicated his life to ending the vicious cycle of pain and despair suffered by children at the hands of their abusers. Vick was, and is, simply an abuser of another type.

And while Michael Vick has been voted by his teammates for this award, we strongly disagree with them on their selection. We believe he should NOT be honored in light of the documented connection between abuse to animals and child abuse and domestic violence. Researchers have also found that having a history of animal abuse is considered to be one of the key predictors of violent criminal behavior against people.

More importantly are the newest details revealed in the press of just how horrific this "man" and his actions were. Torturing, maiming, mutilating and killing animals he thought were not "vicious" enough for his felonious games is admirable? Not only should he be rejected for this otherwise prestigious symbol of courage, he should be immediately terminated, without pay, from his position with the Eagles (who should think seriously

about hiring this felon in the first place). The only place Vick belongs is to be still behind bars. What an embarrassment to the Eagles, their fans, Ed Block's memory, and the NFL as a whole.

We know football is a violent sport on the field, yet it is a legal sport. No one in it is intentionally beaten or killed because of poor performance after a game. While you or the players or some other humans may not feel canines are worthy of any recognition, you should follow national news stories to see how they help and save human lives everyday without regard for their personal gain or fame. The same can't be said of Vick.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery J. Shaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffery J. Shaver,
President, American Rottweiler Club

The letter was emailed to the Ed Block Foundation and to Mr. Boyko at the Philadelphia Eagles, with the request that it be forwarded to the Eagles' Owner, Management and Mr. Vick.