Cover Story

The Other Side of the Mountain

Economic Impact on the Dog Industry

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On the cover, Ron and Kim Menning’s grandson, ‘Micah’ with a litter of their Beagle puppies. See the story on Menning Enterprises on pg. 8.

The Kennel Spotlight is published by Southwest Publications, LLC, P.O. Box 534, Wheaton, MO Phone (417) 652-7540; Fax (417) 652-7019 To update subscriptions, call (417) 652-7540 or visit our website at: www.kennelspotlight.com
Letters from the....

Mailbox

To the Editor,
Love your magazine, always read it from cover to cover, there is so much info to absorb. I read with interest Mr. Glenn Knox’s article about ‘Buying & Selling in Today’s Pet Industry’. As always, Mr. Knox hit the nail on the head, but he left out one important thing that I have witnessed first hand. The last time I sold puppies at a large out of state trade days, pet stores were sending in their employees with cash purchasing “pets”. Several sellers knew what was going on and passed the word, but several sellers were caught unaware. The sad thing was that the USDA officials were following them (the fake pet buyers) around and if someone sold a puppy to one of these people, they (the seller) were handed a packet and told they were out of compliance and would be liable for a fine unless they got licensed immediately. Geez, even the REAL law knows not to blatently entrap people, when did the USDA become above the law? It should be impossible to force the issue until the people “circumventing” the rules is held accountable. Breeders need to stand up for their rights and stop being brow beaten. As long as you are following the rules, selling healthy puppies of the correct age, with current real health certificates and registration papers, how is it your fault when a Pet Store decides to try to bypass the brokers to get puppies? That is a question I would like to hear answered.

Lois Stevens
Fayette, MO

Hi Bob,
I had the great privilege of attending your sale in Purdy Mo, in March. I came across the article in the SE Missourian newspaper (see SE Missourian April 7th) and responded to it; thought you might like to see my comments before some over zealous do-gooder censors it. Here is my comment; wanna bet it stays on the comment area long?
Why is it that the sensational always takes the forefront? The vast majority of the breeders in Missouri are truly interested in the health and welfare of their dogs, and articles such as these vilify an industry (and yes, dog breeding is an industry; a very IMPORTANT one in Mo) that provides a large portion of Missouri agriculture. ...yes, I said it; dog breeding IS agriculture, pure and simple. It is licensed by USDA, inspected by such and also by AKC (if applicable) taxed and regulated. Sensationalism created by groups whose soul purpose is to put breeders, legitimate or not, out of business by whatever means possible is the fodder for newspapers and internet APs. To equate dog breeding (a legal business) with meth production (an illegal and criminal act) is insulting and unworthy of publication, except to create additional revenue for the papers that publish these articles exclusively.

Why is it that a large element of the dog industry chooses NOT to license their kennels? The label PUPPY MILL is attached to them whether deserved or not. The nation’s disapproving eyes on a legitimate business is upon them. Whether they sell the puppies individually, on the internet or thru a broker (apparently the devil incarnate) they are puppy mills... tried and convicted by public opinion.

I do not live in Missouri, but do go to some sales and have purchased some of my dogs in MO. OMG... am I purchasing from puppy mills? Do I own a puppy mill? Someone tell me what differentiates a puppy mill from a honest to god Kennel! Number of dogs? Whether they show their dogs? What about the equally offensive (if less inflammatory) backyard breeder title? ...Can anyone tell me why is it that only the bad is shown and never the good? Is every step-parent going to sexually or physically abuse their partner’s children? Certainly not. Does every priest that has contact with children abuse them? Absolutely not. ...But every dog breeder is a puppy mill... Read Craig’s list postings under pets and you will see the worst of the PETAphiles; those who lambaste the general pet owner community when they have to ‘rehome’ a single pet due to any circumstances; whether foreclosure, death or illness. Instead of helping their own (caring pet owners) they spend endless time preaching and tearing apart these individuals...how does this help? Brainwashing, brainwashing, brainwashing.

Here is a perfect example; think back of any conversation you have had with people who have adopted a pet. How many of them have said “we RESCUED Fluffy from an ABUSIVE situation”... if this is true, than NO ONE apparently takes proper care of their pets. It is time that a more even view of this legal and honest industry is given the light of day. When will the public get a more than sensational image of the norm? But that doesn’t sell papers, does it?

-- Posted by underdograilroad on Tue, Apr 7, 2009, at 9:22 AM   Just thought you would be amused. Beth

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!
SEND IN YOUR COMMENTS & QUESTIONS TO JIM HUGHES @ jshughes1@sbcglobal.net or kathybettes@kennelspotlight.com

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Subject: Puppy Shake recipe

Dear Jim,
Thank you for all you do for the pet industry.
I love your magazine and have learned so much from it. You are a mentor to many of us “newbies”. You have my permission to use this for your magazine or anything else you would like to do. My name is Leah Coates, aka ‘cozycritters.’

Recipe:
I actually got this recipe from another breeder. She gave it to me and I have great success with it. I use it to wean and I keep my babies on it till they are on straight kibble. I also use it if I have an older dog that is not doing well or a new mom who is having problems getting her milk in. My old boy Lennie eats this everyday. He is a Sheltie who is going strong at 13 years old. He still chases the crows, and my vet is amazed at his condition. He is a little hard-of-hearing, but otherwise is in great shape.

1/4 cup Grinde puppy food. I keep a zip lock bag of ground food ready to use in the freezer. I adjust the amount as they grow. At first it’s just a couple of teaspoons. (I use a coffee grinder, and I use Joy Professional puppy food) I grind it less each few days, until they get used to the texture of the whole kibble. Lennie gets it whole, as do my moms.

10 ounces of fresh or canned goat’s milk. If using the canned, add equal amount of water as it is condensed. (you can buy the canned at most grocery stores, in the baking food aisle, next to the condensed milk)

1 raw egg.
2 tbsp of Karo corn syrup.
1/2 cup of plain yogurt. (not the fat free or skim kind) (I add a couple tbsp of cottage cheese for the new moms if they need help with milk supply)

When they first start, it is very liquified. By the time they leave, it is just dry kibble with a liquid drizzled on top. I always send a can of goat’s milk home with some kibble with the new owners and a recipe in case they have any problems. I am lucky, as I have a goat farmer for a neighbor, so I use fresh most of the time. I trust this farmer, but make sure you have a good source for fresh, as sometimes that can be risky, as it is non-pasturized. I save my gallon milk jugs, and clean them well, then put boiling water in them, let them sit for 5 minutes, and then take them to the farmer for a refill.

If I have to bottle feed newborns, I use this recipe:

10 ounces goat’s milk
5 ounces boiled water
1 raw egg

1/2 cup plain yogurt
2 tbsp Karo syrup.

Blend, let sit for a few minutes until the bubbles settle, then gently heat until baby bottle is warm. Either tube feed or bottle feed every 2 hours. I like this recipe better than the prepared ones that the co-op sells. JMO, of course.

Thanks again, Leah

A note from the Editor,
In our Feb/Mar ’09 issue on page 20 at the bottom, there is a picture of a child and a dog praying asking ‘why are there no cars named after dogs? Stacy Mason, the Sr. Breeder Field Representative from the American Kennel Club, emailed the Kennel Spotlight to let us know that there was in fact a car named the ‘Whippet’. The Overland Motor Company produced the 1927 Whippet Sedan and the 1928 Whippet 96 Touring Car. These cars were 4 or 6 cylinders and carried a Whippet dog running for a hood ornament and an oval inlaid Whippet dog for their logo. See photos below:

Thank you Stacy, for keeping us informed!
In the small town of Edgerton, Minnesota, home to the annual Dutch Festival, lives the Menning family. Edgerton is well known for its strong economy supported by local agriculture and small thriving businesses. Ron and Kim Menning of Mennings Enterprises, definitely fit that description.

It all started with Ron’s dad, John A. Menning, Sr, who raised mostly large breeds back in the 60’s. In addition to farming corn and beans, John had a fairly large kennel and he had one of the first contracts to sell to Docktor’s Pet Center, a chain of pet stores located nationwide. At that time, he was shipping to over 18 different states and was best known for his St. Bernards. His one sire, Menning’s Hoss, had some of the best puppies around and they became their busiest seller. Ron had been helping his dad with the kennel during this time and learning the trade. In 1977, Ron decided to buy his dad out and start breeding some toy breeds since the trend was starting to go that way. He lived with his dad and mom on the farm and kept a few of the large breeds as well. They raised Cockers, Schnauzers, Shih Tzus, Dachshunds, Cairns and Westies. Ron had accumulated about 125 females and by ’78, they had increased to 185 breeding dogs.

Then in ’79, tragedy struck the Menning family. Ron had a serious waterskiing accident and broke his neck, paralyzing him from the neck down. His dad and brother ended up helping him sell the kennel except for six dogs. Ron had to learn to walk again and after surgery and a year of physical therapy, he was able to function pretty normally.

During this time, Ron had met and fallen in love with Kim, who had stood by his side throughout all his therapy. There were married shortly after. Together, they started raising some dogs again and within a couple of years, they were back up to 185 dogs. Ron was mostly recovered from his injuries but he had lost a lot of muscle in his upper body and was unable to keep up with some of the daily chores. He and Kim decided they needed to hire some part time help. Besides the large kennel they had to run, the Mennings also had 400 ewes to take care of. After a few years, they felt it was too much to handle the farm and the dogs, so they had a farm sale and sold off the sheep and all the farm equipment.

Ron and Kim focused their attention on the kennel and expanding the business. They also expanded their family and had their first baby girl, Kala, in ’83 and later, they had a boy, Jordan. Ron also had another job as a salesman for the yellow pages while still running the kennel. The Mennings had developed a good reputation for their quality puppies and soon he had several different pet stores buying from him direct. By 1994, they decided to move to the north side of Edgerton, and built a brand new state-of-the art facility for their dogs. They started with only 6 acres of hay ground and built it from scratch. They also planted over 500 trees which their kids helped them maintain, somewhat reluctantly, but Ron was determined to make their home into a show place that they could be proud of. He started looking into plastic products and built their whole facility out of heavy welded plastic. It proved to be very functional and easy to maintain without having to worry about rust spots and stains from metal units.

Ron continued to expand his business and they built a nebulizer system to market to the breeders, pet stores and veterinarians who handled puppies or kittens. They had one of the first nebulizer units designed for puppies and kittens. Later, they learned to mix different antibiotics for treating respiratory infections. Mennings Plastics was formed and they had a special focus on redoing nurseries for puppies. They got their first contract with Cabellas, a nationwide sporting goods
chain, to build dog boxes for their hunters and with the help of 2 well known celebrity sponsors from the National Football League, Mennings Plastics took off. The company soon got a contract with the Navy for dog kennels on to put on piers for their drug dogs. Ron had given them one of his hunting units and since the plastic he used has a U.V. additive in it to keep the dogs cool in the summer, the Navy soon ordered multiple units to bolt onto their piers coast to coast. Soon after, Ron got the contract with Petland for their holding units and nebulizers in all of their stores. Mennings Plastics had become very well known for their exceptional plastic products and holding units in kennels and distributor facilities nationwide. Things were going great for the Menning family but Ron’s spinal cord damage was deteriorating and his health started to decline. Reluctantly, Ron ended up selling Mennings Plastics in 2004 to a gentleman from Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Ron and Kim were determined to keep the kennel and so they kept expanding and improving their puppy program along the way. Today, Mennings Enterprises has one of the finest USDA licensed breeding operations of its kind anywhere in the world. Their daily regimen includes a dental program and grooming program with all the puppies being vet checked several times before they leave for their new home. Their staff of employees, which also includes help from vet techs and veterinarians, take special care in giving all their puppies that ‘personal’ touch and making sure they are well socialized to adapt to a new family. There is an ‘open door’ policy at the Menning facility and anyone who is interested or has purchased a puppy from them is free to visit their kennel anytime. They love to hear about how the puppies are doing with their new families and welcome any questions about house training or food concerns. Kim is devoted to the nursery and spends most of her waking hours taking care of sometimes up to 300 puppies which makes it difficult for her to get away and do anything socially.

When the Kennel Spotlight asked to meet with the Mennings, I felt very fortunate that both Ron and Kim were able to join me at the Minnesota Pet Breeders Seminar in April at Morton, Minnesota. We had a great visit and I felt really honored that they let us do an article about them and their beautiful facility. The Menning children are all grown now and are both school teachers and sadly, Ron and Kim are offering their wonderful home and kennel for sale due to Ron’s deteriorating neck and back injuries. Anyone interested in purchasing their facility, can contact Ron or Kim at (507) 442-3722 or visit their website at www.menningenterprises.com.
‘RESPECT’

The breeder’s never ending battle!

The professional, USDA animal breeding industry has taken a few hits lately. Media has bought into “the Opera” image, as presented by PETA. You know the image…starving dogs in filthy conditions. It doesn’t matter that many of those “images and videos” that have been shown are staged for the camera. Of course, nobody seems to be sitting back and figuring out that a multi billion-dollar industry could not have become a multi billion-dollar industry by selling substandard, unhealthy, unhappy, abused animals.

Let’s look at Oklahoma for example:

Oklahoma is the second largest producer of puppy sales in the United States. Can you say 1.5 billion dollars in estimated gross revenue? That is just in puppy sales. That does not take into consideration the sales of puppy food and medicines and puppy carriers and veterinarians. It is a major industry.

Yet, for some reason, the USDA breeders and the quality breeders and kennels that produce that 1.5 billion dollars, who also follow U.S. Animal Welfare laws and USDA’s strict inspections and guidelines, are the same breeders and kennels that sell animals with veterinarian health certificates and buyer guarantees. These are also the same breeders that invest an average of $35,000 and up in kennels to support 35 or less dogs…and are being described as “puppy mills” by people that have never been to a kennel.

They are being called puppy mills by legislators that have no idea the basic guidelines that a USDA breeder must meet in order to be a…USDA breeder. They are being called “puppy mills” by people that have watched the nightly news as it shows some guy who is located by local police that is housing 100 dogs in his backyard…hardly ever fed, in unhealthy conditions, living in their own waste, etc.

PETA and other animal rights activists would like you and every legislative branch on planet Earth to think that all breeders and kennels are alike. They would have you believe that kennels are unhealthy, unfriendly, nasty places that house depressed, abused animals for the soul purpose of producing puppy after puppy after puppy for sale until the animal is no longer productive. At which time they would have you believe that the animal is killed.

Nothing could be further from the truth! Generally when an animal is no longer “productive”, that animal is either kept by the breeder to live out his or her life in the breeder’s home or the animal is found a new home to live out his or her life. Most quality breeders take great care in placing one of their “retired” animals and in many cases…it is a real tug on the old heart to let the animal go.

To assume to describe a professional, caring, animal breeder as a stereotyped image by referring to them as ‘puppy mills’…is on the same scale of insult by referring to any African American in pre-civil rights, socially accepted terms. Envision years of a never ending media blitz to destroy the image of all African Americans…by expressing terms that constantly referred to them as uneducated and ignorant Americans today. Envision the constant usage and referral of an entire race of people by using the “N” word. It is no different in referring to today’s modern, U.S. Animal Welfare, USDA regulated animal breeder when referring to them as a “puppy mill”.

The laws that are now being enacted in so many states regarding animals and animal rights are direct violation of “human rights”. There is a never-ending argument regarding “animal rights verses animal welfare and human rights”. The argument is being waged by falsely accusing all breeders as being abusive and uncaring. That is simply a lie! The fact is that “puppy mills” do exist. The fact is that bigots and racists also exist. But just because there is an occasional abusive breeder hiding “underground” is no reason to condemn an entire industry with exaggerated definitions and over blown media campaigns.

Just as it would be unfair to refer to an entire race of peoples in raciest terms just because a small group represented themselves as converse to the morals of everyday society! But the fact is that both definitions exist. And both are equally wrong. Before you condemn an entire business community over the bad apple in the basket and before you support the entire bunch of apples…maybe you should first educate yourself to the REAL FACTS on both sides of the issue.

Learn what a “puppy mill” actually is. Learn what a USDA and quality breeder is and what they must go through to produce a healthy and caring animal. Because…uninformed and undereducated comments referring to an entire industry…are nothing more than arrogant insults by the bleeding heart, blindly led ignorant.

By Michael Costin, Owner of the Oklahoma Reporter
www.theoklahomareporter.com

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One of the main benefits that breeders receive when they register their litters with the American Canine Association is the powerful support and assistance of the ACA legislative staff. This team, headed by ACA president Bob Yarnall Jr. is always vigilant in fighting legislation that could potentially impact the livelihood and financial well-being of breeders throughout the United States.

During the last few months, Yarnall and his team have already provided breeders and state legislators with assistance in understanding and combating the negative impact of newly proposed legislation in a number of high visibility battles in Oklahoma, Ohio, New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota and other states nationwide.

During March and April, Mr. Yarnall and the ACA legislative staff visited with each of the members of the Oklahoma Senate Appropriations Committee. Mr. Yarnall explained to the committee the issues surrounding Oklahoma House Bill 1332 and clarified its unintended negative impacts on Oklahoma’s responsible breeding community. Yarnall and team were joined by 24 Oklahoma breeders as they lobbied to defeat HB 1332.

After this, ACA initiated a counter rally that was held on March 31, 2009. A contingent of over 200 breeders and family members gathered in Oklahoma City to show the strength and determination of Oklahoman breeders.

Besides speaking with legislators, the ACA developed and distributed relevant talking points to counter the misinformation distributed by the Humane Society of United States and other animal rights activist groups.

ACA distributed handouts and other information that breeders could use while visiting Oklahoma Senators. ACA also helped pro-breeder groups design a lobbying phone call campaign and an e-mail campaign to provide them with added support after they visited lawmakers.

E-mail and phone calls from local Ohio breeders highlighted their appreciation for the support ACA provided. As one breeder from Oklahoma wrote in an e-mail to ACA, “I want to thank you again for all you and your staff at ACA have done. I was at the Capitol today, I was impressed with the turn out and the way ACA was prepared.”

Debbie Slama, of the Quad State Breeders Association confirmed the help ACA provided when she wrote, “ACA stood right there with us, hand-in-hand at the Oklahoma City Capital with the CEO of ACA Bob Yarnall and Lercy Alvarez for two days. This has not been Mr. Yarnall’s or Ms. Alvarez’s first trip to Oklahoma’s capital, I have seen them there many times when I have been there myself. Thank you Mr. Yarnall and Ms. Alvarez so much for everything you and your fine registry do for the dog breeders in Oklahoma.”

Unfortunately, HB 1332 was not defeated, but the resolve and determination of ACA working hand-in-hand with breeders was clear evidence of the strength of our industry.

Oklahoma isn’t the only state with proposed negative legislation. Ohio recently proposed legislation, House Bill 124/Senate Bill 95, also known as the “Licensing and Standards of Care for Breeding Kennels.” At a recent seminar held at Millersburg, Ohio, ACA’s Bob Yarnall spoke about the five bills that are currently being proposed in Ohio. ACA also mailed hundreds of legislative “Action Packs” that contain information and letters that breeders can adapt, sign, and mail to their representatives in the Ohio House and Senate.

ACA is not only working with breeders and legislators—a large part of the charter is in educating those in the field of breeding dogs and maintaining a loving kennel. As part of this role, ACA recently attended the Pennsylvania Professional Dog Breeders Association tradeshow in Blue Ball, PA.

With over 300 breeders in attendance, the ACA sponsored speakers such as Dr. Bob Page D.V.M., a practicing doctor of veterinary medicine, who spoke on reducing puppy mortality. As well, Dr. Rick Kesler D.V.M., who spoke on increasing litter sizes. Also in attendance was Len Brown, the attorney representing the Professional Dog Breeders Advisory Council Inc., a Pennsylvania organization representing breeders. Mr. Brown spoke to professional breeders on the challenges of the federal civil lawsuit that his firm filed by PPDBA and ACA in February concerning the unconstitutionality of the recently revamped Pennsylvania dog law.

Besides veterinarians and attorneys, ACA also asked two pet shop owners to speak about what breeders need to do to help pet stores maximize and improve the sale of puppies and dogs.

If these last few months weren’t busy enough, ACA also participated in a seminar in Dundee, New York. Mr. Yarnall spoke to the New York Professional Pet Breeder Association attendees about some of the 98 bills that are presenting being proposed in the State of New York.

And finally, one of our major successes came on April 23rd when ACA and breeders saw the defeat of U.S. House Bill 669. The sub-committee responsible for the bill received over 50,000 letters and thousands of calls, definite proof that the industry can work together in defeating the animal activist agenda. Congressman Faleomavaega said, “The letter and phone campaign hit the subcommittee like a BUZZ SAW”. Harry Burroughs, of the subcommittee staff said, “I haven’t seen a letter writing campaign like this in 30 years! You should be proud of yourselves.”

So, as you can see, ACA is an active and vibrant organization that helps to bring support and assistance to the breeders and kennel owners throughout the United States. Through seminars, advocacy, and hard work with kennel owners and breeders, the ACA is dedicated to improving the canine industry.

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THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PET INDUSTRY

By Jim Hughes

Let us take a look at the enormous impact the pet industry can and does make on the American economy and the financial loss that can be expected on the communities that pass adverse legislation designed to eradicate the production of pets from these communities. The Humane Society of the United States has stated publicly that they intend to abolish the production of animals in this country. They are starting this campaign by attacking the dog breeding industry in over 40 states with some sort of anti-dog breeding legislation. The Breed Specific legislation was the first as they targeted all the Pit Bulls and Rottweilers because of dog attacks on children. This was then expanded to include Dobermans and German Shepherds and eventually went on to include 75 breeds, which we included this list in a back issue of The Kennel Spotlight. Unless you were a breeder of one of these breeds, no one seemed inclined to defend your rights to raise these dogs. The city of Denver, Colorado banned these breeds in their city and killed over 800 of them. The only way to save your dog was to leave the city. Who would defend “child killers”?

Next, came the dog fighting bills that were introduced into the state legislatures all over the country. You all should remember the Michael Vick case. As animal lovers and breeders, we certainly were not going to give the appearance that we would condone “Dog Fighting”. Then the “Spay and Neuter” legislation hit. Its avowed purpose was to prevent unwanted dogs from being produced to roam our city streets. Our legislatures were sold a ‘bill of goods’ about the unrealistic cost of housing these strays and how this problem could be solved if we just forced ALL dog owners to neuter their dogs. Now we are being faced with big government regulating our constitutional rights by telling us how many dogs we are allowed to keep on our own property, irregardless of whether that property is a back yard within the city limits, or a few acres outside the city or even the Texas King Ranch, with its million acres.

Eventually, if the Humaniacs have their way, they will put the dog breeders out of business, ALL DOG BREEDERS, sporting hounds, seeing eye dogs, drug enforcement dogs, police dogs, cattle and sheep ranching dogs, rescue dogs and the Hobby Show Dogs. Next will come cats, then horses, then pet shop type livestock, [parakeets, hamsters, reptiles, parrots, cockatoos, etc.]. Only after all of this is accomplished will they start on the Hog farmer, the Cattle farmer and the Sheep farmer, but eventually they intend to get everyone of us. They are Vegetarians and they want all of us to eat that way. Unfortunately, most legislatures refuse to see this. It has now become our first priority to convince these lawmakers of this long range goal of the HSUS.

People will listen if you talk about money and what it is going to cost them. When an insurance man is sitting in your living room, sure you want to know what the policy will do, but first, how much will it cost? Well, the destruction of the pet industry will cost the United States economy 45.4 Billion dollars in 2009. That’s $45,400,000,000.00. That was big money before Obama. That’s 9 billion, eighty million dollars per state, give or take a few million. Now bringing that figure down into your own back yard, there are 36,757 city, county and township voting entities in this country that will lose $2,470,000 each. Can they afford it? And remember, this is just pets. I do not know and cannot even think of how many zeros that will accompany these figures when we figure the farm animals in. Of course, these figures will change due to the population of that state. But the states with the most to lose are the ones that are leading the way. The HSUS and the countries’ lawmakers are oblivious of the fact that America’s pet industry has grown from 17 billion dollars in 1994 to 45.4 billion dollars today, making it the fourth largest industry in the country today.

There are 71.4 million homes in the United States that have pets which means that well over two thirds of our citizens love and want pets, but 99.8 percent have not the slightest inkling of what the end result will be if the HSUS is allowed to win this war. WHEN WILL THE PET INDUSTRY WAKE UP? We have a story to tell and we better get started telling it. We are falling further behind every day. There are 412 million pets residing in American homes today. If we can convince the American public to donate just one dollar per pet to save their right to own and keep pets, we can put the Animal Rights people on the moon. WE MUST ACT NOW, or forever hold our peace. Do we say goodbye to a way of life that we all love, or do we fight? You, the readers, hold our future in your hands.

What say you??
The Kennel Spotlight heads to the ‘Sioux Country’ of Morton, Minnesota.....

By Kathy Bettes

Towards the end of last year, our Editor in Chief, Jim Hughes, was asked to speak at the annual Minnesota Pet Breeders Association seminar being held in Morton, Minnesota on April 3 & 4 in 2009. He considered it a great honor to be asked to speak to breeders about what was happening in our industry today and it was a good opportunity to meet some new people. Since the Kennel Spotlight had never attended that particular show before, I asked Jim if he was flying or driving. He quickly replied, "why?, do you want to go?" I told him if he was going to drive, I would go with him and set up our booth. He immediately said, ‘let’s drive’. I said ‘great!’, and then I started considering how far it was up there. What was I thinking? As the seminar date got closer, I started to really worry about the potential weather and the fact that it was still winter here. My family told me not to worry, that it was the first part of April and it should be clear. Hmmmm……

A week before the show, I started checking the Weather Channel on TV and online, waiting and watching for updates. I pulled up Mapquest and figured the mileage and which road we should take for the quickest and best route. The forecast just called for a little rain on the way up so I was ‘mildly’ calm.

Jim and I headed out early Thursday morning on April 2, and the drive to Kansas City was ok except for the rain. As we drove further north, the rain changed to light snow. I felt myself tensing up, hoping that it was just a passing front. When we got to St. Joseph, it was really starting to accumulate and Jim started looking concerned. We started seeing snow plows on the highway, which is either a good thing or bad thing, depending on which way you look at it. I had a bad feeling of dread and the further we went, the roads were getting very slushy and slick. I told Jim if he wanted to turn around, that was fine by me! I was already dreading the drive and I could tell he was seriously thinking about it.

We decided to stop at the next town and call Sheila Haag with the MnPBA group and ask about the roads and the weather. When I got her on the phone, she said ‘it’s sunny and 40 degrees here’. Jim also talked to a guy fueling up next to us and he told us that if we went another 10 or 20 minutes up the road, it was as clear as it could be. So we decided to push on. That gentleman at the gas station proved to be right—it wasn’t 10 minutes up the road, and it was clear and dry. Jim and I looked at each other like we had just stepped into or (out of) the twilight zone. It was crazy!! We started talking about how the Minnesota group would have thought we were nuts telling them how bad the weather was and that we were thinking about turning around.

We finally made it up there after about 10 ½ hours on the road with no other problems—and it was clear and sunny all the rest of the way. Whew! We stayed at the Jackpot Casino Hotel & Convention Center and it was a great hotel with lots of slot machines and gaming tables. The exhibitor room was packed full and the tables in the speaker room were decorated with cute little puppy paw print bags full of goodies for the breeders. We were welcomed by the Minn. Breeder group with Sheila and Teri Franzen going out of their way to make us feel at home. They had several good speakers scheduled and it was a good turnout. Jim and I attended the banquet and auction on Friday night and their auctioneer kept the bidders lively and had people laughing constantly. They sure had some great auction items, I just wished I had brought more money!

On Saturday morning, we started getting weather reports that there was a big storm coming in. Jim was the last speaker scheduled for that afternoon, and we were a little concerned that there might not be any breeders left to speak to if everyone left early to avoid the weather. Boy, was I wrong! There were about 50 breeders that stayed and they were very anxious to hear what Jim had to say. By late afternoon, I was starting to get worried again, thinking about that ‘storm’. Ron Menning, from Menning Enterprises, told me we needed to get out of there as early as possible, that there were ‘blizzard warnings’ but several others were trying to talk us into staying another day or two. To them, I was a ‘sissy’ about the weather but I didn’t want to drive in it or be ‘stuck’
in it! Jim and I had sort of a ‘debate’ as to whether we should stay or go after he spoke. Not knowing how bad it would get, we decided to go but chose a different route, going 2 hours out of our way to avoid the storm hitting Sioux Falls first. By the time we got out of there, snow was already falling as we headed south towards Windham and Jackson and we wondered if we had made the right decision to leave that day. Luckily for us, by the time we got to Hwy 35 south towards Des Moines, the roads were clear and I had the ‘pedal to the metal’ to get us through Iowa. I just knew if we got past Des Moines, we would be alright. We finally stopped in Bethany, Missouri and stayed the night after we were both too tired to drive anymore.

The next morning, I watched the weather channel and saw how the storm had caused parts of Interstate 90 to shut down and that it was heading through Des Moines later that day. I was SO RELIEVED!! We made it home safely that day and I was very thankful we took the route we did.

All in all, it was a good show to go to and the people were really great. It was a great experience for my first trip to Minnesota and for the Kennel Spotlight to meet some new faces. A big ‘THANK YOU’ goes out to the MnPBA group for inviting us and making us feel so welcome! Maybe next year, they will schedule it in May for ‘weather sissy’s’ like me!!
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In my last few hours, I have chosen to spend my time writing this letter—hoping it may one day reach the eyes of many. But I no longer have that kind of faith. I once did. I once believed in truth, in logic, in rationality. Not any more. The time of reason has gone to pass leaving us only with irrational thought.

I will not make excuses for what I have done. I deserve to die. It was not my place to take a life, just as it was not their place to take mine. Still, two wrongs do not make a right. I can only hope that my choice will bring about change, even if that change is the realization that our rights have become so fragile.

Like so many others, I read the stories in the paper. I watched the notices on the internet. I heard that the Animal Rights movement was gaining power but I was slow to believe—no, I was in denial—that it would ever come to my front door. My home is rural, my neighbors far away, and because of my location I was breaking no laws. There were no city restrictions. In the twenty five years I have lived as a dog breeder, loving what I do, living to do what I love. I never imagined myself as a killer. A murderer; capable of snuffing out the lives of other human beings without a second thought. I suppose none of us knows what we are capable of until it comes to that moment in time.

A dog breeder. That’s what I was. A villain cultivated by the media as some sort of cruel and inhuman entity. But that is not what I was—was because now that I have nothing—I can become the thing that they hated and despised—now with what was important to me stripped away—my conscience has no chains. I am the monster which they have created. While I accept my burden of guilt the public still ignores theirs. The ignorance which has infected our society is malignant and it’s fatal. The lack of responsibility, the lack of accepting responsibility, the sudden surge of entitlement, the loss of pride and the rise of laziness, it has swallowed all reason. What happened to respecting differences and encouraging self-betterment? It used to be about finding hope in the struggle for success in whatever business venture a person chose to pursue? I chose to breed dogs. I was good at what I did. I lived and breathed my animals and my life was theirs. Committed.

I was committed. Everything I did revolved around their needs and yet so many believed the rhetoric, that somehow making money by selling puppies was wrong. Sinful. Evil. Even those who save lives have the right to earn a living. Who decides what work is elevated beyond monetary gain? The public is too willing to believe that breeding was somehow the cause of unwanted animals and not a person’s irresponsibility. That producing a puppy here in my home caused a man 3000 miles away to starve his dog to death. That taking money for a puppy I made, somehow caused a stray to have a litter of unwanted get under the porch of a broken down old home place. That by wanting to bring happiness to myself and others, I condemned unwanted and forgotten dogs to death.

My dogs were not unwanted and they will never be forgotten. Why can’t the public see the real cause? Why do they choose to blame and point fingers? It is not my fault they abused their pet. It is not my fault that they got rid of their dog because they didn’t account for time to train it. It is not my fault that they failed to spay that female and now have a litter of unwanted pets to deal with. It is not my fault that in choosing to breed their pet they bit off more than they could chew. That the puppies did not sell and they did not realize the type of space, work and time it takes to raise a litter.

It is not my fault that they let their pet run loose and it was lost. It makes about as much sense as blaming one spoke in the great wheel of society for all the social upheaval and committing to erasing a people one life at a time. When they took Lisa’s dogs, I knew things were grave. Like so many before her she thought since she was doing nothing wrong, she was safe. Untouchable.

So she let them in. Poor Lisa, she had nothing to hide. While we were never really friends, her dogs were nice and like so many of us she had a wall full of ribbons representing her dedication. But it didn’t stop them. Not the ribbons, not the club memberships, not the vet records, not the declaration of others to her dedication and love. I even wrote a letter on her behalf. Maybe that’s why they decided I was next. Not that it really matters. Eventually they would have found their way to my door. Lisa fought hard. She was smart, she was shrewd but the minor upheaval that every dog needs became the fuel for the fire. It’s ironic when vets make their living on those same shortfalls, and yet, no one stands by their door waiting to handcuff anyone who has a dog with dirty ears, a mat under the leg, or a watery eye. The public is allowed to seek over the counter care for their children yet only professionals may assist a pet? What kind of logic is that?

In this new age of ignorance, we want to believe the worst. We don’t want to think for ourselves. Thinking hurts. Thinking requires reason. It’s easier just to be told. It’s easier just to do…or not do. When Lisa was killed in that freak accident, part of me found solace...
in the fact it was over for her. She could finally rest. She wanted to rest. I could see it in her eyes. The lawyers she hired fought for her but she was still drowning in it all. The public wanted her to be wrong. The public wanted her to be the villain they had come to believe. But even with her death, it wasn’t over because the onslaught of joyous cries from the animal rights groups grated like claws on the backs of my eyes as I read their comments circulating on the internet. How she deserved to die. How justice had been served. How this was the sentence that all dog breeders should face.

When I was a child, I used to read about the atrocities of one nation against another. How one group of people different by race, culture, or religion (it doesn’t matter) could look upon another group of human beings and destroy them. Not because we’re a threat. Not because they were fighting for resources that dictated survival. But because they didn’t like what the other race, culture, or religion did. We look back on many of these epic exterminations and we shake our heads. We see the wrong in the choices that were made and realized how precious those differences were. They were human beings. And no matter how much I love my dogs, how beautiful or unique a rare bird species is, how intelligent and stunning a particular wild animal may be, they are not people. As humans, we are the most rare of all species on this planet and while we should take care of it, we should not be willing to sacrifice each other. We are the only species on this planet that writes novels, paints pictures and creates music. We are the only species on this planet that actually has care and concerns for others not of our own. Whether those defining traits are divine or by evolution, it doesn’t matter. The truth is, it is precious and above all it should be preserved. And yet, somehow we have let the life of animals surpass in value to the life of men.

I read the posts and emails and heard the banter on the news over and over until it became a constant hum in the back of mind, growing and aching like a black cancer. The knowledge of my helplessness had finally metastasized and every cell in my body was infected. It took them three years, almost four before they came to my door, after they torched Mike’s kennel, and poisoned 33 of Annie’s dogs. I did not let them in. Most of them headed to my kennel and when I protested, I was told to shut up by the couple still standing beside the truck. I was told I couldn’t deny letting them in, they had authority, self-proclaimed, imagined, or not. A republic. That’s what this country was supposed to be. Where the government followed the laws and leaves the people alone. And when I demanded an explanation from the officer accompanying them, I was ignored. I told them to get out. I told them to leave. I got in their way and I was pushed aside. They came with trucks, with cages, and crates. They came to take what was mine! What I had worked for, what I bled for, and now—now what I die for! They came to take my life! They came to take my purpose. They came to take my freedom and my happiness and leave me an empty shell! The cop stood by and watched. Not helping but not stopping them either, oblivious to his duty to protect my rights. Oblivious to stopping them from taking what was mine. If it had been money, would he have allowed them to invade my property and take what was not theirs? If it had been cars or jewelry, would these common thieves have been so brazen as to ask for police escort to help? When they brought out the crow bar to pry open the locked door, I knew that this was it. I had a choice. To stand idly by and let them take what was mine, my liberty, my rights, my property, my life….or stop them at all cost.

I do not remember making the decision, I only remember my tearing through the grass, then through the front door, and the closet door, hanging up for that split second as I yanked it open. The shells were on the top shelf and I stuffed two handfuls in my jacket pocket then loaded the double barrel. How many of them were there, how many shots would I need? I did not ask God for help. I was on my own because what I was doing was wrong but wrong hadn’t stopped them. Wrong hadn’t given them pause. Wrong hadn’t kept them from leaving Mike burned over 80% of his body as he tried pulling puppies from their burning cages. Wrong hadn’t stopped them from putting antifreeze in those water buckets and poisoning Annie with their hate. Hate takes a lot longer to kill than antifreeze. It took Annie about six weeks.

As I put my hand on the door knob, I remembered Ma Stevens. Her husband had died back in the 70’s and she’d been left to raise three young kids on her own. She put them through college, and buried the first two as well. All paid for with her puppy sales. Pride drove that woman and she would have never taken a government check as long as she could work and work she did, even old, withered, and bent nearly in half. But they’d come and taken her dogs too. Deplorable conditions they claimed. And yet, no one came to rescue her from that worn down old house. A little work, some paint, and a grass cutting would have made the place like new. But instead they took her living and left her with no way to pay the bills, buy food. There had been such concern for the puppies and dogs because their beds were worn and old, their dog dishes battered, their food only a mid grade brand. Being well fed, happy, healthy was not enough. And so, they took what was hers and left her forgotten, helpless. No one cared whether or not she was able to keep herself fed.

Continued on page 22
Legislation Demands Professional Kennel Management

A very active legislative season has been causing quite a stir among companion animal breeders. While the intent of such legislation may be seen by those outside the industry as promoting animal welfare, for those of us who are the kennel owners and breeders of companion animals, such legislation generally incites concern that our livelihood will be negatively affected. We work long hours to provide the best bred puppies to a willing clientele.

While not addressing legislation specifically, I suggest that legislative battles can serve to focus our attention on professional kennel management practices. Heightened public awareness of our industry is the call to action that kennel owners should heed: it behooves them individually, and collectively our industry, to address any substandard practices. If we hold ourselves to the highest standards, we are effectively preempting the need for more government regulations and intrusion into our businesses.

Professional kennel management includes more than just the required recordkeeping. It is in your best interest to ensure that when inspectors visit your kennel, they see healthy animals living in scrupulously clean and sanitary conditions. Instituting a preventive medical plan in your kennel is imperative. You must have a vaccine and worming schedule for each animal and adhere to it. Discuss your kennel’s specific needs with your vet, so that you make wise decisions that make medical sense and meet current veterinary medical standards. The old way of doing things no longer fits into our professional image. We need to change with the times and be up-to-date medically and professionally.

Keep detailed records on your animals medical care. The health of your animals directly impacts your bottom line. You’ll spend much less money on vaccines and other preventive health care than you will on dealing with the effects of an infectious disease among your animals. Inspectors are impressed with breeders who realize the importance of detailed records. A breeder who will take the time in this area is likely to pay attention to other details of healthy kennel management.

Insist that your kennel workers are degreasing before they clean with disinfectants. Degreasing is an important step that some kennels are tempted to skip, but that is an outdated idea of false economy. Use a foamer to apply your cleaning, degreasing and sanitizing solutions. Foamers are the best way to ensure that solutions reach every crevice where germs can hide. Insist that your workers wear protective gloves to prevent cross contamination.

Every kennel owner wants to produce quality animals and have a successful business. There are as many ways to accomplish these goals as there are breeders, but it is my belief that there must be a medically sound framework that all kennels should adopt. Our industry needs to move ahead into the future and upgrade our own standards. Our future is through legislation and through producing the best quality dogs with minimal infectious diseases. With that in mind we all win.

Rick Kesler, DVM has been addressing professional dog breeders throughout the Midwest on a variety of kennel health management topics. This article features information about the importance of professional kennel management.

Dr. Kesler is a 1985 graduate of Iowa State University School of Veterinary Medicine. He is member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and is licensed to practice in thirteen states. Dr. Kesler’s career has included small animal, equine medicine and surgery both in private practice and as an emergency room veterinarian. Dr. Kesler, staff veterinarian for Lambert Vet Supply, is available to speak at professional breeder seminars. Contact Dr. Kesler at drkesler@lambertvetsupply.com.

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I regret that I ever thought ill of her for breeding those little mixes. I regret that I ever let it cross my mind it was wrong. Her choice and her right to make that choice had just as much value as any one else and I had missed out on my chance to let her know. No one was paying attention to me, they were too busy loading up the dogs. Grabbing them by the scruff, dragging them with vocal protests to the cages they had stuffed in the truck. All the trauma and tension would make nice frightened photos for the press. The cop wasn’t looking at me. I hoped he wasn’t married. I hoped he didn’t have kids and I hoped he’d forgive me. I regret shooting him but he had made his choice to be an accessory in their crime.

The sound of the gun sent the dogs to wailing and 2 of the intruders—that’s what they were no matter what their t-shirts and home made badges said—stumbled out the door and I killed them, eight in all, the last 6 inside the kennel. I took their lives with the same callousness and lack of remorse that they dealt to so many others. Maybe not these people every time, but others like them, others who had lost all reason, respect, and felt it was somehow their duty to deny me of my rights, to take what was not theirs, to steal what was mine, to kill me with their slow death. To kill all of us...

They told the world I am a monster, that I am without love, I am without empathy, I am cruel, that what I do is evil, and what I want is wrong. History has shown me that public does not care about right and wrong, they simply want to believe what they are told. I know from their willingness to strip others of their rights, that I had no chance in fighting them, no matter what I would lose. Like so many before me, I had been designated the chalice of their wrongs, their responsibilities, their ignorance and now I was to be broken. So I became the evil that they painted me to be, after all I had nothing else to lose. I could only hope that in my willingness to die that maybe they would finally realize this isn’t about greed, it never has been, it never will be.

It’s almost time...

I hope that my fellow breeders will be able to forgive me for what I have done. I have taken the lives of human beings. I have done exactly what they, the animal rights people do. I have put the lives of dogs above the lives of men. I have destroyed lives and I have not shed a single tear. I have stolen what was not mine to take. I have ripped families apart. I did it without regard to their rights and without regard to their happiness. I did it without care as to who it affects. I can only hope that they still feel the need for self-preservation. That they will not run headlong into the next kennel, farm, or cattery. That if there is really a wrong that the law will be followed not ignored and people pushed aside. That private property is given respect, that what is not theirs is not taken, that the public realize that while they do not understand what we choose to do, that we are willing to die for it...and we will not stand by any longer. That there of those of us willing to put to the test their declaration to the value of animal life over that of men— that there are those of us willing to become just like them.

‘Future’ story cont. from pg. 19

Photo courtesy of Mary Johnson

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The CERF Registry not only registers those dog’s certified free of heritable eye disease by members of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (A.C.V.O.), but also collects data on all dogs examined by A.C.V.O. Diplomates. This data is used to form the CERF data base which is useful in researching trends in eye disease and breed susceptibility. Not only is this data useful to clinicians and students of ophthalmology, but to interested breed clubs and individual breeders and owners of specific breeds.

HOW DOES CERF WORK?
After the painless examination of the dog’s eyes, the A.C.V.O. Diplomate will complete the CERF form and indicate any specific disease(s) found. Breeding advice will be offered based on guidelines established for that particular breed by the genetics Committee of the A.C.V.O. Bear in mind that CERF and the A.C.V.O. are separate, but cooperating entities. The A.C.V.O only provides their professional services and expertise to ensure that uniform standards are upheld for the certification of dog’s eyes with the CERF organization.

If the dog is certified to be free of heritable eye disease, you can then send in the completed owner’s copy of the CERF form with the appropriate fee ($12.00 for the original CERF Registration, or $8.00 if it is a recertification or kennel rate). Hybrid Registration is $15.00 per dog. Re-CERF or kennel rate (10 or more new) is $12.00 per dog. CERF has adopted a policy effective Jan. 1st, 2001 (by post mark) that a permanent identification in the form of microchip, tattoo or DNA profile will be needed for any dog to be registered with CERF. The certification is good for 12 months from the date of the exam and afterwards the dog must be reexamined and recertified to maintain its’ registration with CERF.

Regardless of the outcome of the dog’s exam, the research copy of the CERF form will be sent to the CERF office at V.M.D.B (Veterinary Medical Database) where its information will be entered into the database for that specific breed. This information will be used in generating research reports, but the individual dog’s identities will become confidential and will never be released.

WHAT CAN CERF DO FOR ME?
• Provide a registry of purebred dogs that have been certified free of heritable eye disease.

• Provide various memberships which include the CERF Newsletter, and various registration and research reports to keep you up-to-date on various topics in canine ophthalmology.

• Provide various reports on the prevalence of eye diseases in certain breeds, including reports generated by the Veterinary Medical Data Base (V.M.D.B.) which compiles data from 24 participating veterinary colleges in the U.S. and Canada.

• Provide a centralized source to answer questions like: - “Is there an A.C.V.O. Diplomate located near me?” - “Are there any published materials on eye disease in dogs that can help me to better understand my dog’s condition?”

If you are interested in learning more about the CERF organization, the CERF process, or would like to inquire about the CERF status of a prospective mate for your dog, please don’t hesitate to call or write. We’d love to assist you! Watch for upcoming CERF clinics in your area! It’s just one more way to raise the bar in your breeding operation!

For matters related to the Canine Eye Registry Foundation, CERF exams and CERF certifications: CERF@vmdb.org

For general information about the Veterinary Medical Databases: vmdb@vmdb.org

Pictured above: Georgia Henderson from Neosho and her bulldog female, “Bertha”, with Dr. Jacqueline Pearce, Clinical Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology, from Columbia University at the AKC sponsored Health Clinic at Midway Vet Clinic in Neosho, MO. (see story on pg. 34)
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WHY??? What did I do or not do that they would all go without me? I have barked and whined and cried until I am hoarse in the throat, but they have left me behind. My owner came into my pen and looked at me and smiled and patted my head, but he said, “not today, Bugle Ann”. WHY? I love the hunt and I would rather run the fox than anything else in life. What is wrong?

In her heartbreak, she curled up in the corner of her pen to await the return of the other dogs. She knew there was a difference of some kind this morning. She remembered a similar feeling about six months ago, but not this strong. She was not herself this morning. She felt cranky and irritable and really resented being left behind. The master had told her repeatedly that she was the best fox hound in the state. She just could not understand why she could not go with the others.

As she urinated that morning, she noticed some blood on the ground. No big deal, she had seen her own blood before. The time when she tried to jump the barbwire fence and could not quite make it, that had bled a lot. Her owner had thought that a trip to the vet was in order. Bugle Ann did not like trips to the vet. Always sticking a needle into her or pushing a pill down her throat. She just licked the cut clean and it healed up on its own. Another time, she was bitten by another dog who was acting exactly the same way she was acting now. Dang, those puncture wounds hurt. But she healed those wounds also with a good cleansing from her tongue. “Just leave me alone”, thought Bugle Ann. “It will go away just like the last time”. “And just what the devil did Spot and Bullet think they were doing, sticking their stupid nose in my crotch?”

As Bugle Ann lay in the corner and brooded about how Bullet might lose that nose if he tried that again, she fell asleep. She knew the other dogs would not be home until daybreak. She might as well concentrate on going to sleep. If she could not catch Old Red when she was awake, she might as well experience the thrill of getting him in her sleep.

The next morning, all the dogs returned and were put back in their pens. They were all looking at her. She did not like it and somebody was going to get hurt if they tried to touch her in any way. Man, she seemed extra grouchy today. When her owner entered her pen, she was not sure whether to jump up and greet him in her usual way or just stay where she was to let him know she was quite miffed with him for leaving her behind. What did he mean when he told his wife that she was in heat? “What is that supposed to mean?”, she thought. “Looks like we will be going to Ohio in a few days”, Uncle Thumb told Aunt Mary. “So, who cares”, thought Bugle Ann. “What does he mean, I will be ready in a few days, ready for what”?

Five days later, when her master checked her behind again, he told her she was going to see Leon. “Well great! She really liked Leon. But just exactly what does Leon have to do with my hind end that he is always looking at?” thought Bugle Ann. But after the morning chores, Bugle Ann was loaded into the dog box in the pickup bed and off they went toward Logan, Ohio and their rendezvous with Leon.

They arrived a few hours later, and she was put into the pen next to Leon. They gave her some water, but held her feed until after. “After what”, she wondered. “Boy, Leon sure looked good but he was acting crazy as a loon. What was the matter with that dog? What’s all the whining and jumping about”?

After about an hour, Bugle Ann is moved into Leon’s pen. “What the heck is going on with this crazy dog? Why is he licking my behind? If I wanted that done, I could do it myself. Why is he climbing up on me? Get off me, you idiot. I might just take a piece of your nose off. Why did you bite my neck? I don’t know what has set you off, but if it’s a fight you want-get that thing away from me”!! Bugle Ann was experiencing her first encounter with a male. But Leon was a determined and experienced breeder. In a few minutes the job was done. As they stood there, tied together, Bugle Ann had time to reflect as to what had just happened. She was angry, but not too angry. She thought Leon had suffered some kind of seizure that had made him go temporarily insane. “Poor thing, he probably could not help himself”, she thought. “Besides, it wasn’t half bad. Not sure I would do it again, but, well maybe I would”. And she did again the next day.

On the way back home, she wondered about the events that had taken place, why they had happened and why her owner seemed pleased that Leon was the one that had done this strange thing to her. What would be the outcome of this trip? She had no way of knowing that today was the first day of the development of the West Virginia state champion for Fox Hounds. And Old Red did not have a clue that his days had just been numbered.

A few days later, the dogs were all loaded into the dog box on the pickup and off they went to a neighboring county to join a fox hunt with some friends of Thumb’s. Bugle Ann went with them. She was eager to join in and as soon as the gate was open, she hit the ground running. She was overjoyed that whatever she had done to be kept at home the last time, she had evidently been forgiven for it.

Bugle Ann was not the first dog to pick up the scent. She heard one of the other dogs strike the trail and she headed for him immediately. She cut across the arc of the trail so as to be with the leaders of the pack. As soon as she picked up the scent, she let go with that beautiful voice of hers. They were on that fox for most of the night and when Bugle Ann returned to the camp the
next morning, she felt that everything in her world was perfect. She was the apple of her owner’s eye once again. She had stayed on the trail all night. She had carried her load and she was proud of herself. Life was good!

About two weeks later, another hunt was planned. The dogs were loaded and excitement was in the air. Bugle Ann wondered why she did not feel as excited as she had in the past. She was not herself this evening. She really did not care if she went or not, but her owner wanted her to run, so run she would. They struck a trail after about 20 minutes and she started her move to the front of the pack. But it did not seem as though she was fast enough to catch the leaders. She just did not feel right. She thought about quitting and coming back to the fire, but she had seen other dogs do that and the punishment was not pretty. She would not embarrass her owner that way. She loved uncle Thumb and she knew he loved her. He never showed favoritism among the dogs, but when he stopped to play with them and pet them, he just could not help but spend extra time with Bugle Ann. But she was glad when that night was over. The next day every muscle in her body was sore.

As the weeks moved along she realized that something was different in her. Mostly, she wanted to sleep. Her belly was getting larger. Her temper was getting shorter. Her food did not want to stay down. She could swear that she was feeling something crawling around inside her. “What the devil was wrong with her? Why didn’t her master take her to the vet? Couldn’t he tell that she needed some strong medicine to get rid of those crawly things inside her? What was he going to do, just let her die?” She could hardly get up or down these days.

“So, they left her behind for this hunt. Who cares? All she wanted to do was sleep and be left alone. Why they all seemed to enjoy chasing a stupid fox all over the country was a mystery to her. She was perfectly content to stay curled up in her dog house and sleep for the rest of her life. She had not felt right since she went to Ohio. Lets see, wasn’t that almost 2 months ago?”

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By Jim Hughes
Recently, the nonprofit Center for Consumer Freedom (CFF) published documents online showing that People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) killed 95% of the adoptable pets in its care during 2008. Despite the years of public outrage over its euthanasia program, the animal rights group kills an average of 5.8 pets every day at its Norfolk, VA headquarters.

According to public records from the Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, PETA killed 2,124 pets last year and placed only 7 in adoptive homes. Since 1998, a total of 21,339 dogs and cats have died at the hands of PETA workers. Despite having a $32 million budget, PETA does not operate an adoption shelter. PETA employees make no discernable effort to find homes for the thousands of pets they kill every year. Last year, the Center for Consumer Freedom petitioned Virginia’s State Veterinarian to reclassify PETA as a slaughterhouse.

CCF Research Director David Martosko said: “PETA hasn’t slowed down its hypocritical killing machine one bit, but it keeps browbeating the rest of society with a phony ‘animal rights’ message. What about the rights of the thousands of dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens that die in PETA’s headquarters building?”

Martosko added: “Since killing pets is A-OK with PETA, why should anyone listen to their demands about eating meat, using lab rats for medical research, or taking children to the circus?”

CCF obtained PETA’s “Animal Record” filings since 1998 from the Virginia Dept. of Ag and Consumer Services. Members of the public can see these documents at www.PetaKillsAnimals.com.

In addition to exposing PETA’s hypocritical record of killing defenseless animals, the Center for Consumer Freedom has publicized the animal rights group’s ties to violent activists, and shed light on its aggressive message-marketing to children.

Written by the Center for Consumer Freedom. You can visit their website at www.ConsumerFreedom.com and be sure to check out www.PETAkillsAnimals.com.

Humane Society of the United States Does Little to Help Homeless Dogs & Cats

According to new research from the nonprofit Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) contributed less than 4% of its $91.5 million budget to hands-on dog and cat shelters in 2007. CCF is criticizing the nation’s largest animal rights group for not doing more to help hard-working local humane societies, calling HSUS’s name “misleading”.

According to its most recent tax return (filed on November 14, 2008), HSUS contributed about $3.1 million of its $91.5 million operating budget to hands-on pet shelters. CCF performed an exhaustive audit of HSUS in 2007, but only a tiny sliver of that went to helping homeless dogs and cats. That’s nothing compared to what HSUS spends hassling hunters, complaining about circus elephants, and trying to remove meat and dairy foods from the American diet.”

This news comes at a critical time for HSUS, which has been trying to rally support for its radical dog breeding legislation in more than two dozen states. Martosko continued: “HSUS is telling Americans how hard it is for local shelters to stay open in this economic climate. But it’s taking their donations straight to the bank. More Americans need to understand that the Humane Society of the United States is not an umbrella group for local humane societies. But the hard-working professionals and all the homeless pets in those shelters could certainly use one--especially now.”

To read the explosive “Seven Things You Didn’t Know About HSUS,” visit www.ConsumerFreedom.com

Written by the Center for Consumer Freedom

Written by the Center for Consumer Freedom. You can visit their website at www.ConsumerFreedom.com and be sure to check out www.PETAkillsAnimals.com.
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Understanding AKC Inspections

A week in the life of an AKC inspector

Upon hearing the word inspections, most folks think of a scary and invasive search. For the American Kennel Club, the emphasis is on education and cooperation. Our goals are to work with breeders who are interested in improving their breeding programs and to maintain the integrity of the AKC registry.

AKC is the only purebred registry in the United States with an ongoing and systematic kennel inspection program. We inspect all types of breeders, including those who raise just a few litters a year to those with large commercial breeding operations. AKC also inspects breeders based on written, signed and substantiated complaints.

For a better understanding of the schedule of an AKC inspector, we will follow Pete Wannamaker through a typical week. Since starting with the AKC in May 2002, Pete has driven more than 420,000 miles to complete 3,033 inspections.

Pete’s week starts bright and early on Monday. At nine AM he departs his home in northeastern Kansas to visit the first kennel 162 miles away. His first visit is to a medium-sized kennel with approximately 75 dogs on site. Before setting foot on the grounds, Pete dons disposable, protective shoe covers to keep diseases and germs from entering kennels and the breeder’s house.

Pete’s inspection routine begins with examining the dogs and the condition of their environment. Pete checks to ensure dogs are properly identified, have access to adequate food, water and shelter, and that kennel space is appropriately constructed and not overcrowded. If a dog appears to have a health issue, Pete makes sure it is being addressed. After Pete’s visit to the kennel, he reviews the breeder records, which must be maintained for at least five years. Through his inspection, Pete works with breeders to help correct any deficiencies and educates new breeders on effective practices and procedures.

If eligible AKC litters are present, Pete collects DNA from the puppies, sire, and dam. The samples are used to verify the parentage of a litter of puppies to confirm that the breeder is maintaining accurate pedigree records.

Once finished with this visit, Pete moves on to his second inspection of the week, a small kennel of hunting dogs 25 miles away. Again, Pete reviews the breeder’s records and checks out the kennel facilities. A typical inspection takes one to two hours depending on the number of dogs and the number of questions the breeder has for Pete.

After these two visits, Pete drives 30 miles south to spend the night and prepare for his Tuesday inspections. The day for AKC inspectors does not end with site visits. After an inspection, inspectors prepare a report for the AKC corporate office and set up inspection appointments for the coming week.

Pete’s Tuesday inspections include a smaller breeder and a 25+ breeder (a breeder who breeds more than 25 litters a year). The second inspection takes more time as there are more dogs to see and more records to review. As he does for all passing inspections, Pete provides breeders with a Compliance Report and a Kennel Check report. A Certificate of Compliance may be provided to select breeders acknowledging that the breeder met AKC’s inspection policies on the date of the visit. If an inspector finds minor deficiencies, the issues are noted and discussed with the breeder. AKC will review the noted issues during the next kennel inspection.

Pete’s Wednesday starts in eastern Oklahoma, 120 miles south of his starting point on Tuesday morning. On today’s schedule are two breeders: another 25+ breeder and a first-time breeder. For first-time inspections the emphasis is on education. Inspectors take the time to answer breeders’ questions, provide tips for record keeping and inform breeders of AKC’s special programs like litter coupons and the Administrative Research Registration service.

Thursday and Friday visits concentrate on breeders located 70 miles down the road on the Oklahoma and Arkansas border. Again, Pete visits a variety of breeders, including a few 25+ breeders, a
couple of smaller breeders, and a breeder retiring his breeding stock. By the end of day Friday, Pete has already inspected close to 500 dogs and eleven kennels.

While most folks would be ending their week, Pete still has another day of business. On Saturday, Pete inspects an auction to check for accurate paperwork and proper care and conditions for the 80 AKC dogs on site. Rather than returning home, Pete decides to stay in southeast Oklahoma so that he is closer to his inspections for the following week. Monday morning will come soon enough for Pete – no doubt with a very early wake-up call.

Pete and the other AKC Inspectors conduct more than 5,000 inspections of kennels, pet shops, distributors, and auctions nationwide. In these inspections AKC monitors the care and conditions of the dogs and kennel facilities, and reviews recordkeeping and dog identification practices. Additionally, AKC inspectors coordinate with state and local governments on cruelty and neglect cases, and provide assistance during natural disasters. Our inspectors, including Pete, work diligently to preserve the reputation of the AKC and its valued breeders.

If you have any questions regarding AKC's inspections policies, please contact: AKC Investigations and Inspections
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27617-3390
Phone: (919) 816-3629

Hello, My Name is...

AKC Inspectors conduct more than 5,000 inspections of kennels, pet shops, distributors, and auctions nationwide. To help you get to know your neighborhood inspector, we will feature a different AKC inspector every month.

Kathy Peaker
with AKC since 1996

Territory: Missouri & Kansas

In addition to being an avid dog lover, Kathy has worked riding and training horses since she was 5 years old and has taught Western and English riding throughout the U.S.

For more information about AKC’s inspections program go to www.akc.org

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SOUTHWEST AUCTION HOSTS BREEDER SEMINAR!

It is always the same scenario. A breeder wants to sell out their kennel. They contact the auction company and book a date. Flyers are sent out to notify potential buyers of what will be available. Longtime breeders and new breeders come to buy dogs to upgrade or start out their kennels. But what if the new breeders aren’t sure of what they are getting into or who to contact for information on the breed they are interested in? That was the question on the mind of Bob Hughes, owner/operator of Southwest Auction Service and also Publisher of the Kennel Spotlight.

Bob wanted to do something different. He decided to host an educational seminar on the night before the Bulldog Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 9th. He wasn’t sure how it would go or how many breeders would attend. He contacted Steve Ruggles of Pro Pac dog food to help sponsor the event. Dr. Sam Harkey of All About Pets in Purdy, Mo. was contacted to speak. Dinner was planned and product suppliers were contacted for door prizes. Everything was in place, who would show up? EVERYONE! It was a HUGE SUCCESS! Well over 100 breeders came to listen and learn from Dr. Harkey who has extensive knowledge in puppy care and bulldog breeding and handling. The breeders that attended really took advantage of learning something new and sharing thoughts and ideas from the Q & A session. Lots of door prizes were given out and the American Kennel Club had a breeder rep there to supply everyone with educational handouts on English & French Bulldogs. The lecture, (that was only scheduled for an hour), ended up lasting over 2 ½ hours with Dr. Harkey still speaking to a handful of breeders after the rest had gone home.

This educational seminar was not only a great success, but a wonderful opportunity to dispel the negative ‘stigma’ of dog auctions being compared to ‘flea markets’, where dogs are just run through without care of breed standard and health. We at Southwest Auction Service & the Kennel Spotlight would like to give special thanks to Pro Pac Dog Food for sponsoring the event and all the suppliers who donated door prizes; Revival Animal Health, VS Supplies, Lonewolf Pet Transport, Southwest Kennel Supply, Countryside Supply, Tuffys/Nutri Source dog food, American Kennel Club, and Plasticrate. Dr. Harkey even donated some free progesterone testing as well! We appreciate all the breeders that attended this wonderful event and we look forward to doing this again in the future!

By Kathy Bettes
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IS EVERYTHING ‘OK’ IN OK?

Recently, the Kennel Spotlight attended the annual Oklahoma Pet Professional Breeders Seminar held in Oklahoma City, OK. Hundreds of flyers were sent out by Thea King, President of OKPP, and Reda Ratliff (Vice Pres.), to invite the breeders and vendors from several companies to attend. There were many wonderful speakers scheduled to talk on a variety of issues and the show program listed all the exhibitors that had reserved booth spaces. I was thinking that we would see a lot of breeders there especially with all the legislation going on in OK, particularly HB 1332.

The first day of the show came and we were all geared up to work. We waited and waited, and a very few breeders started to trickle in. I thought any minute now, we’ll get a big rush of people coming through. But they never came. Where was everybody? Why aren’t they there banding together with the OKPP leaders who are fighting for the Oklahoma breeders to stay in business? The OKPP group spent tireless hours putting this show together to promote awareness of not only legislation in the pet industry, but the education of dog breeders everywhere so that they can produce better pets for the public and improve the image of the Professional Pet producer. This seminar and others like it, is the PRIME OPPORTUNITY for breeders to exchange ideas and learn new information about proper animal care and health. The exhibitors that attend are always anxious to show off something new and they continually offer great specials for the breeders that attend. And the unbelievable part about all these shows, is that it they are all FREE!! How much better of a deal can you get than that? I don’t know of any college courses or lectures that are ‘free’ and these seminars are just as valuable as there is ALWAYS something new to learn, no matter how many years a breeder has been in the business.

This article is not being written to offend anyone but to show the many breeders out there that they are really missing out by not attending these shows. I know that these breed clubs work very hard to put these seminars together and the vendors spend thousands of dollars in travel, lodging and food expenses to get to these shows and STILL they are able to offer ‘show specials’ to the breeders. I would like to thank the OKPP group for inviting the Kennel Spotlight Magazine to attend and I hope that the breeders reading this issue will think about attending this show next year!! DON’T MISS OUT!!

Bobbie Rayburn of ‘Puppy Ranch’ in Douglas, KS with one of her ‘home raised’ 2 1/2lb. Yorkie males

A NICE STORY......

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight. When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. ‘When he was close enough, he called out, ‘Excuse me, where are we?’

‘This is Heaven, sir,’ the man answered. ‘Wow! Would you happen to have some water?’ the man asked. ‘Of course, sir. Come right in and I’ll have some ice water brought right up.’ The man gestured and the gate began to open. ‘Can my friend,’ gesturing toward his dog, ‘come in too?’ the traveler asked. ‘I’m sorry sir, but we don’t accept pets.’

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog. After another long walk and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book. ‘Excuse me!’ he called to the man. ‘Do you have any water?’

‘Yeah, sure, there’s a pump over there, come on in.’

‘How about my friend here?’ the traveler gestured to the dog. ‘There should be a bowl by the pump.’ They went through the gate and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveler filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog. When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree.

‘What do you call this place?’ the traveler asked. ‘This is Heaven,’ he answered. ‘Well, that’s confusing,’ the traveler said. ‘The man down the road said that was Heaven too.’

‘Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That’s hell.’ ‘Doesn’t it make you mad for them to use your name like that?’ ‘No, we’re just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind.'
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Air Quality/Ventilation Systems

CALL FOR A FREE CATALOG
THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
By Jim Hughes

Breeders beware!!! Your number one enemy is flexing its enormous muscle once again! How much power does this organization have? You may remember the 20-20 show with John Stossel a couple of years ago. An expose on the stealing of dogs from Texas breeders under the direction of the Dallas Humane Society. That was when it was a rare occurrence to steal another person’s personal property and get away with it, even when the thief was identified on national television. Since that time this criminal act has been perpetrated hundreds of times all over the United States. But no more follow up by 20-20. Not a word!

Now, on May 14, 2009, an ABC affiliate in Atlanta, Georgia has done a story on the finances of the HSUS. WSB-TV has investigated the fundraising practices of this national organization, who, by the way, claims 501 [c] 3 status as a charity who helps animals, when in truth, they do not spend one dime on the welfare of abused animals. That job is left up to your local humane shelter, who is always under staffed and under financed and therefore is hard pressed to do the job they would like to do. Meanwhile, HSUS is pocketing all the money sent by the kind hearted little old ladies who want to help all abused, abandoned and hurt animals all across the country, not realizing that their hard earned money is going into the coffers of a giant organization to the tune of over $150,000,000.00 [that’s one hundred and fifty million dollars] annually. For what???

Their stated purpose is to stop all, [I said ALL] animal production in this country. They have already closed a slaughter house in California, costing 300 employees their jobs. They are attacking pig farmers in Ohio. They have already destroyed pig production in Florida and poultry production in California. They are combating the goose and duck industry in New Jersey and stealing horses in Vermont. You get the picture. But you dog breeders are their primary target and the kind hearted little old ladies are financing this abomination on your legal and civil rights and they do not even have a clue as to where their money goes. I am sure the ladies in question think they are donating to help the local shelter. Are they being purposefully deceived? MAKE IT YOUR JOB TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

The WSB-TV article exposed some of the misconceptions the HSUS were content to let stand. Mainly this broadcast points out that:

1. The Humane Society of the United States has little or no affiliation to local shelters and local Humane Societies, despite having a name that leads to the misconception that they are the national headquarters for all local shelters.

2. Only a small percentage of donations made to HSUS goes to the locals. In 2007, less than 6 million dollars were handed out as grants to the locals out of 152 million dollars received from the public. This is less than 4 percent, yet the IRS grant them tax-exempt status for this piddlin amount. Even that 4 percent was handed to several groups that did not provide needed care for animals.

3. After Hurricane Katrina, HSUS raised 34 million dollars but 2 years later, only 52 percent, 18 million dollars, could be accounted for being spent on Katrina related activities. The purpose of the fundraiser was to reunite pets with their owners. After 2 years the remainder of these funds somehow found their way to HSUS legislative accounts.

4. The reporter that attended the local HSUS meeting found that the 2 hour discussion centered around activist planning and lobbying efforts. [this is a political organization and these donations are for political purposes. If they are deductible under 501 status, so should our democratic and republican contributions to help our candidate of choice be also.]

The May 14th expose has been squashed. Where did it go? Why did it disappear less than 24 hours after it was published? This question was asked by Erica Saunders of AR-HR to the stations Talk2Us hot line. Their response was, “we put up and take down stories as part of our daily editorial process. We are working on an additional story about HSUS.” Ms. Saunders questions this odd response. “How often does a network pull a story after less than 24 hours where the viewing is accelerating and the comments are still being logged in at a rapid rate, [mostly supporting the article]”. She also states that the You Tube videos have all been removed. WSB-TV has 254 You Tube video links, but only the one about HSUS has been removed. Do we see a need for that one hundred and fifty million dollars?

I guess I would also like to know why David Martosko of the Center of Consumer Freedom has had all of his accounts on Twitter removed for “Suspicious Activity”, allegedly at the bequest of HSUS. I would also like to believe that after this expose was aired, legislators in Texas and Oklahoma started to drop an anchor on the bills that were flying through their state house. Maybe they decided to take another look at HSUS!!!
Demonstrating its dedication to canine health, the American Kennel Club sponsored a special health screening clinic at the Midway Vet Clinic in Neosho, MO on Wednesday, May 6th. More than twenty-five local breeders brought in 58 dogs to receive free CERF tests, OFA patella and OFA cardiac exams. Breeders were appreciative of the free service with one remarking: “Wow, I can’t believe AKC did this for us!”

A special thanks to Warren Stice of Tuffy’s NutriSource, Dr. Kenton Beard, Dr. Elizabeth Dittman, Dr. Jacqueline Pearce and the staff at Midway Veterinarian Clinic (Georgia, Jodey, Mary & Val) for their support and assistance on this great event. For questions and upcoming clinics, please contact Stacy Mason at srm@akc.org.
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN

By Jim Hughes

When we enter this life as newborn babes, we start to climb the mountain of life and we seek the knowledge we gain from that mountain. Only one man in all of our history has gained the top of the mountain. That man was our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But many have gotten very high up that hill, men like Ronald Reagan, Charlton Hesston, Billy Graham, etc.

We start that climb as infants when we learn to talk, walk, and potty break. We continue through kindergarten, middle school and high school, until we start our trip through life in the work force. At this time we are young, strong, smart and unbeatable. We can do anything! The wife and I could have made Colorado look like Kansas if we were given a good reason, a sharp pick and a good shovel. We climbed pretty high on that mountain of knowledge and success.

But we are all faced with calendar disease, we all get older and as we get older, our abilities to do the things we used to do with ease are now becoming impossible. Instead of climbing that mountain, we find that we are circling it. We are heading to the back side.

Our mind tells us we are forty but our body tells us we are eighty. Why is our body smarter than our brain? I bet Ali thinks he can still whip most of today’s boxers. Joe Nameth still thinks he can pass a football for 70 yards but if he tried, he would have a charley horse of gargantuan size. If greats like Reagan and Graham and John Wayne and Sam Walton could not beat the Calendar disease, why does Jewel Bond think she can do it?

Twenty years ago, Jewel could care for 200 dogs in her kennel without much problem. Her mind is still telling her she can also do it today. I think back on what I could do in two hours when I was fifty. Today my mind still thinks I can work with the best of them but it seems to take me two days to get that 2 hours of work done. We must take heed and learn a lesson from this Jewel Bond story.

For over 30 years, Jewel was a highly competent and well respected dog breeder. She raised her puppies on a 4 acre kennel property north of Seneca, Missouri. She was a breeder and a booking agent for an out of state puppy broker. She was licensed by the state of Missouri and the USDA. But old father time was creeping up on her. Her kennel buildings were getting old and seemed to need constant repair. She was finally forced to destroy her old buildings and replace them with a new 40x40 building. It was taking her longer to care for her dogs plus it seemed that every time she needed to repair something, she was the one that needed repaired. She was spending more and more time in the doctor’s waiting room. She was taking more medicine for more ailments every year. Between the ravages of old age and the medicine she took to combat these ailments, her power of reasoning was starting to diminish. She needed to cut back on the number of dogs she was caring for, but she just could not grasp that situation. The USDA inspections were getting more negative with every inspection. She no sooner got one repair done than another popped up needing attention. Even though she was fixing problems as fast as she could, that double edged sword of old age, both her body and her kennel, and the medications were slowing her down to the point that USDA said “ENOUGH”. They started proceedings to levy outrageous fines and to take her license. Without a license, her ability to make a living was being hampered in a big way. She tried to sell direct to the consumer, thus avoiding the need for a license, but with puppies from 200 dogs in a town of 2000 people, she could not move enough puppies to pay the bills. Then things started to go from bad to worse. Jewel was sliding down the back side of that mountain. Some call it “over the hill”, but you all know that when you start that slide, it seems to pick up momentum until everything goes up in smoke.

In her prime years, Jewel had hired 3 full time employees to help her operate her kennel, but last year, when Jewel became too sick to care for her dogs, she could only afford to hire her teenage niece to help her, and when she was hospitalized, the work was more than the teen could handle. The niece then asked a neighbor for help, but when the neighbor saw how both of them, due to their inexperience, could not handle the job, she called for help. And not being a breeder or having any experience with the Humaniacs of the world, she called what she considered the most logical place around, the Missouri Humane Society. Major Mistake!!! Bad news for Jewel, BIG TIME. They proceeded to ask the sheriff for a search warrant in order to seize to dogs, but the sheriff asked the Missouri Dept. of Agriculture for advice on the law. The ACFA program took over from the sheriff and told the Humane Society to stay out of it, as this case was under the ACFA jurisdiction. ACFA seized the dogs and levied the fines against her. They then transferred the dogs to Southwest Auction Service, where they were cared for by Jewell so as to cut down on the sale expense. When the sale was held about three weeks later, Jewel was given the check for the sale of her dogs, minus the fines from ACFA and the boarding fees. She received about $35,000. This case was handled exactly the way it should have been.

Now, 18 months later, here we go again. Jewel was reported to the sheriff’s office for selling a problem pup. Jewel said she gave it away. The state inspector visited her kennel, only to find that she was again housing 200 dogs. The kennel was in terrible shape. Jewel had fired her kennel help, she and her husband had separated and she was once again having numerous medical problems. Complicating the situation, was a Tiger that she had kept for 10 years. It really needed to be housed at a proper Tiger sanctuary. Tigers do not fall...
under the ACFA umbrella. So the Missouri Humane Society was called into the case once again. The state inspector was to be on the premises at 12 noon, but when he got there, he found that the H.S. and the sheriff were already loading the tiger and the dogs into H.S. trucks. They were circumventing the state’s authority. Mrs. Bond was asked to post a $75,000 bond in order to keep the judge from awarding custody of the dogs to the Missouri Humane Society. So, as of this writing, these are the questions that need to be answered and the facts that need to be addressed;

1. Will the state be better off to prosecute this woman to the fullest extent of the law?
2. The Humaniacs would like to see her executed for animal abuse.
3. Why did the state and the feds allow her to accumulate 200 dogs once again and not be licensed?
4. What is the true story on their mutual agreement that she could keep 20 dogs?
5. If she kept 20 dogs, why was she not licensed and inspected long before her kennel got into its present state?
6. Who is at fault here?
7. Why did the sheriff allow the H.S. to start loading dogs at 8 am when they were supposed to know that the state would be there at noon?
8. We, here in Missouri, have a state law that was exercised and honored by the sheriff’s dept. in the first case, and was to be followed in the second case.
9. What will be the consequences for the whole Newton County judicial system for deliberately violating and circumventing this law and allowing the Missouri Humane Society to steal the personal property of Jewel Bond?
10. Why did the Missouri Humane Society ask for $75,000 dollars to board these dogs when Southwest Auction did the same boarding 18 months earlier for $3500?
11. Why did the local newspapers report this case in such a negative and crucifying manner?
12. Where is the compassion for an aging woman that needed help instead of prosecution and condemnation? This is a sick woman, one who has no children, no grandchildren, no husband and nobody to help her or worry about her. She only had her dogs. And now they are gone. Why did they take her two house pets? Why did they take her computer, her camera, her records and even her gun?

Continued on pg. 40
13. When will the Missouri Humane Society be recognized for what it is, an opportunistic, money grubbing, personal property stealing bunch of “holier than thou” fanatics who jump at the chance to set their ideas of what is animal abuse into any circumstance they get a chance to insert themselves into?

14. Why were these fanatics even allowed to intervene into stealing raids of kennels in West Virginia and Tennessee and other points in between? They steal these dogs and then proceed to sell them for enormous prices and call it adoption. Their profit is then 100 percent.

15. Why do they prey on the elderly who do not know the law or their rights and intimidate them into signing a release to give the H.S. legal custody?

If this were 100 years ago and these were cows instead of dogs, we would just hang the *!x@*----- If they have so much animal compassion, why do they not take on the large poultry corporations? They too, are law abiding businesses. Our dogs are transported in air conditioned and heated vans with 1 or 2 dogs per crate to their new homes to join into someone’s family to love and be loved. Chickens are hauled on the flatbed semi-trucks in freezing rains and 100 degree heat filled days to slaughtering plants where they will get their throats cut. Why are they so interested in saving [stealing] our dogs and have no concern for the chickens? Possibly because a chicken would be hard to adopt out for $400 dollars each!!

I know that all of you are wondering why she got back into her second situation when she really lucked out in the first one. I do not know the answer to that question. I would assume that she needed to make a living and raising dogs was the only occupation she knew. This is not an evil lady and she was done a gross injustice by the way her character was portrayed by the H.S., the law enforcement and the newspapers in her home area where she has lived her whole life.

There is a saying, “There, but for the grace of God, go I”. There is not a single breeder in the United States who is immune from this scenario if his luck runs out and he comes to the attention of his local SPCA. I was once told by an old time Humaniac when we appeared on national television on the “Geraldo” show that “it’s not my job to separate the black hats from the white hats, they’re all black hats to me”. By this scenario, all Pharmacists would be considered ‘drug dealers’.

The Kennel Spotlight is not saying that Jewel Bond was in the right and should have been left alone. She was not licensed, she was not able to care for her animals properly, the kennel was dirty, and even though the dogs were not in any immediate danger (according to the State Inspector and the Veterinarian on hand), the state had every right to close her down, take her dogs, levy a fine for violating the law and put her permanently out of business. We are stating that the Missouri Humane Society had absolutely no rights in this case and should be sued for slander, and for overstepping their authority. Jewel cannot hang the JERKS but she can and should sue the JERKS!

Mrs. Bond has no money for legal expenses. On the very same day that the Newton County court awarded custody of her dogs to the H.S., the bank repossessed her car. She is behind on the payments on her home and kennels and is in fear that they will also take her home from her. Her only source of income is her social security check. On Mrs. Bond’s behalf, I call upon the Missouri Pet Breeders Assoc. to intervene into this case and hire a lawyer to represent Mrs. Bond in a lawsuit against the Missouri Humane Society. If we do not fight back collectively, we will be destroyed one by one.

EDITORS NOTE:

After I finished this article, I hand delivered a copy to the prosecuting attorney and to the Newton County sheriff’s office. I also e-mailed a copy to the Missouri Dept. of Ag. I asked for their comments. The state admitted that they were too lenient in this case, the deputy sheriff disagreed with almost everything and the prosecutor admitted that he knew nothing about the dark side of the humane society but would now look at the case from both perspectives. This article is just my slant on this case. It was written to show all of you that age can and will slow your abilities without you even becoming aware of it. Be forewarned!!
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Kennel Owners

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Maybe they’re just bored.....

Everyone knows you can catch a yawn from another person, and studies have shown that it works between humans and primates too. The response is thought to be a sign of empathy. Now, a team of researchers from Birkbeck University of London’s School of Psychology has published a study in the journal Biology Letters on contagious yawning between people and dogs. The team observed 29 dogs and their responded to the yawn with a yawn of their own. None of the dogs responded to the control mouth movements.

An 8 yr old male Border Collie logged the most yawns in one session: five.

The team concluded that the phenomenon needs further study, but the results suggest dogs might possess a “rudimentary form of empathy.” And, as the researchers put it, “yawn contagion may help coordinate dog–human interaction and communication.”

Or, the dogs might just want some more interesting study material, such as ‘squirrel-chasing-induced euphoria’.

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Picture it: You’re out working in your kennel when you look up to see someone walking up your drive to the kennel. You don’t recognize the person and before you have time to react, he walks right up to your kennel and starts taking pictures. What do you do?

Recently this scenario has become more common at commercial facilities throughout the country. A number of factors have led to this including the newfound prominence of private humane organizations in political arenas and increased media coverage of commercial producers. One example is the airing of footage of multiple commercial facilities on the Oprah Winfrey Show in 2008. On youtube.com, a quick search showed a variety of content related to commercial breeders including some footage of Missouri breeders & pet retailers taken by activists in non-public areas of these facilities.

While increased consumer awareness of unscrupulous breeders can be a positive for the commercial breeding industry, it carries some significant risks. Today’s kennel operator must be aware of these risks and work diligently to prevent problems in their facility. Ben Franklin once said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In a kennel setting, a dollar spent on prevention could prevent spending hundreds more on a solution.

Disease transmission and social activism are the biggest potential risks to your facility. The probability of these risks occurring can be greatly reduced by implementing a basic biosecurity plan and taking some standard precautions.

The most common hazard is disease transmission. Diseases can be transmitted accidently even by the most well-intentioned visitors. When we go out in public, we come in contact with all sorts of different contaminants that risk our health and our animals. In light of the recent flu outbreak, the CDC has reminded us of the importance of proper hand-washing.

When dealing with animal diseases, it is necessary to think about other transmission vectors such as your shoes. If you walk through a store, you may come in contact with debris from someone else’s shoes. What if that person has a parvo puppy at home, and you wear those shoes into your whelping area? You could transmit that disease to your animals.

The easiest prevention of accidental disease transmission by people who regularly enter your kennel is to completely cover or change out of your street clothes and thoroughly wash your hands before entering kennel areas. It is wise to keep a box of shoe protectors or spare boots on hand for occasional visitors.

Government inspectors should always wear disposable shoe covers. Visitors should wash their hands or use an instant sanitizer before and after handling any animal.

Let’s go back to our original scenario: a stranger on your property taking pictures of your kennel. Preventing this from occurring in the first place is simpler than dealing with the potential consequences of the encounter.

First, make sure that your facility can not be viewed from any public place or another person’s property. Consider installing at least a 7 foot tall privacy fence around your kennel area. One might think a 6 foot fence would be sufficient, but the definition of plain sight does not limit the height of the viewer. For example, if you install a 6 foot fence, and the person looking over your fence is 6’ 6” tall, your kennel may now be considered in plain sight.

Second, post “No Trespassing” signs prominently at all entries to your property as well as around your kennel area. If possible, install a physical barrier such as a gate to completely prevent access to your property without notifying you before entry. Your kennel area should be posted as a biosecurity area.

Unfortunately, you didn’t have these protocols in place before your unwelcome visitor made his appearance. Now what? At this point, your response depends on your comfort level. If you feel physically intimidated, frightened or have any concerns for your safety, immediately contact your Sheriff.

Once you are certain your personal safety is not in jeopardy, document who the visitor is and determine whether he has any reason to be on your property.

Let’s say the visitor claims to be a federal or state inspector. Before allowing the individual access to your facility, ask for identification. All inspectors should carry government issued photo identification. If there is more than one individual, make sure that you verify the identities of all individuals in the party. If you find that one or more members of the group are not government inspectors, you do not have to allow the

By Elizabeth Wainright
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Unauthorized individual access to your facility. However, to protect your interests and license status, be sure to document the identities of all members of the group and contact the regulating agency’s office to report that unauthorized individuals were brought to your facility by the inspector. Ask the inspector to complete an inspection report and document on the report all individuals present at the inspection including the unauthorized individuals. Make sure that you have a copy of the completed report prior to their departure.

If the unwelcome visitor is not a government representative and has no other valid reason for being on your property, ask him to leave. If he refuses, ask again firmly. If he refuses again, contact your Sheriff to report that you have a trespasser who is unwilling to leave. Under no circumstances should the visitor be left alone. Be sure to make note of the physical appearance of the individual. If you can see their vehicle, note the license plate number as well as a vehicle description. If possible, photograph the person and his vehicle. Sample forms for these incidents can be found at www.mofed.org/Property-owners.htm.

No one has the right to enter your kennel without permission or a warrant. This includes duly appointed law enforcement officials such as the county Sheriff. If you are state and/or federally licensed, inspectors from USDA and state agencies with similar programs can access your facility with your permission while you are present to perform routine annual inspections and in response to complaints. While you can refuse inspection by these agencies, this is most likely not in your best interests as it could lead to violations and/or sanctions for refusing access.

It is important to note that Missouri Department of Agriculture inspectors do not have the authority to investigate any potential violation of RSMo 578 which covers animal abuse and neglect. Their statutory authority is limited to enforcing the provisions of the Animal Care Facility Act (RSMo 273.325-273.357) which regulates companion animals entered into commerce. However, if during inspection, violations of RSMo 578 are found, the agency can refer the information to the Sheriff’s department for investigation of any criminal allegations.

Some private humane organizations purport to have the authority to inspect your kennel. These “investigators” will often arrive at your property wearing a badge with the Sheriff’s department in tow. Such “investigators” have absolutely NO legal authority to do anything. They are private individuals no different than you. Unfortunately, anyone can buy a badge on the internet these days. **Remember, no one is responsible for protecting your property but you!**
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PPA-Professional Pet Association Seminar, Moberly Community College, Moberly, MO. For more info, contact Cathy Griesbauer (573) 564-2884 or Sharon Lavy (573) 656-3367

July 18th, 2009

Pennsylvania 3rd Annual Summer Educational Trade Show & Seminar-Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, Harrisburg, PA. For more info, contact Michael Glass (484) 880-7962 or email: mg@apppets.org

August 1, 2009

SEMPBA-Southeast Missouri Pet Breeders Association Seminar, Bess Activity Center, Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, MO. July 31st is set up, dinner & auction. For more info contact Tim Toombs (573) 998-2284 or email: tim.toombs@windstream.net

August 15th, 2009

STEP-P-Society for the Training and Education of Pet Professionals & ABCDA-Arkansas Breeders of Companion Dogs Association, annual EXPO, Fort Smith Convention Center, Fort Smith, AR. For more info contact Will Parker (479) 209-0431

September 19th, 2009

AKC Canine Health Foundation Breeder Symposium-Sponsored by AKC & AKC Canine Health Foundation, Chisholm Trail Pavilion, Garfield County Fairgrounds in Enid, OK. For more info contact Stacy Mason (405) 747-6053 or visit the AKCCHF online at: www.akcchf.org

September 20th, 2009

OK AKC Canine Experience & Responsible Dog Ownership Day-Chisholm Trail Pavilion, Garfield County Fairgrounds in Enid, OK. Hosted by the OK AKC Kennel Clubs & OKPP (Oklahoma Pet Professionals). For more info contact Stacy Mason (405) 747-6053 or email: srm@akc.org

Upcoming Southwest Auctions:

June 6th, 2009-Don Arthur, Lexington, MO
June 13th, 2009-Consignment Sale, Wheaton, MO
June 20th, 2009-Jean Bowers, Ponca City, OK

*SUMMER BREAK UNTIL AUGUST 29th, 2009*

A Man May Smile and Bid You Hail Yet Wish You to the Devil; But When a Good Dog Wags His Tail, You Know He’s on the Level. ~Author Unknown~

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