APRI Show Champion
“Little’s Bogatti Rewin Fury”
owned by Brian Hagedorn
See story on page 16....

Inside this Issue....
* Whelping Box Nutures Puppies
* Stop Dog Trafficking!
* History of Domesticated Dogs
Want To Get More Money for Your Puppies?

Puppy buyers want AKC puppies and will pay more for them.

In order for you to help meet this demand I urge you to work with AKC to get your breeding stock evaluated for AKC registrability. The AKC Breeder Relations team can quickly confirm if your breeding stock can become AKC registered. Pedigree research is free and will determine registration eligibility for dogs not currently AKC registered. Dogs may qualify for registration if all dogs originate from AKC registrable stock.

There are also many other good reasons to register with the American Kennel Club:

- The American Kennel Club has been a trusted brand among dog breeders and owners for over 125 years making them America’s premier dog registry
- To help you succeed as a breeder your AKC Breeder Relations team provides you with superior customer service, personalized programs, breeder education through seminars and prompt, efficient service.
- AKC Sponsored Health Clinics for breeding stock
- AKC Puppy Protection Package Registration Sales Program
- Reduced fees for litter registration and breeding stock registration

Contact us for more information:
AKC Breeder Relations
PO Box 900067, Raleigh, NC 27675
Fax – 919-816-4232
Phone – 800-252-5545  PIN 75777
Email – breeder_relations@akc.org
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  - AKC Marketplace puppy listings
  - Bred with H.E.A.R.T. breeder discounts on AKC products and services, marketing support and more
  - AKC sponsored health testing clinics for breeding stock
  - AKC Puppy Protection Package Registration Sales Program
  - Free pedigree research and breeding stock registration

For more information or questions, contact:
David Roberts, American Kennel Club
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Raleigh, NC 71617
EMAIL: dwr@akc.org PHONE: 919-816-3672
WHAT IF… A PROBIOTIC COULD HELP YOUR DOG FEEL CALMER?

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Helps support dogs with anxious behaviors such as excessive vocalization, jumping, pacing, and spinning

*Data was collected by Relevation Research via an online survey from August 15-19, 2018. A total of 826 nationally-representative dog owners qualified and completed the survey. Qualified participants were men and women age 18 and older, owned one or more adult dogs, were household members most responsible for taking the dog(s) to a veterinarian, and had taken the dog(s) to a veterinarian in the past 12 months.

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Dakota Pet Breeders, Making Tracks for APRI

Pictured above: “Evie” from Boggs
Summit Bulldogs (Harriett Boggs)
see ad on page 25
Why Won’t My Dog Get Pregnant?

You did your homework and have a female in her best condition and found the ideal male to mate her to. Both have passed all the health clearances recommended. But the breeding didn’t work. So, what can you do to improve fertility and the chances of a successful pregnancy?

Regardless of the breed of dog, there are three categories of reasons a female fails to produce a successful litter:

1. Failure of successful semen delivery
2. Failure of conception
3. Failure to complete a successful pregnancy

Sterility vs. Infertility in Dogs

In general, reproductive failure and infertility are complex and multi-factorial. Infertility is defined as a reduced ability to produce young, while sterility is defined as a permanent inability to reproduce. If you find yourself dealing with infertility there are some important questions to ask:

• Was semen with good motility, morphology, and count deposited into the female’s reproductive tract? A semen analysis should be completed prior to using the semen. A sperm count should be 10 million times the dog’s weight in pounds and the semen should swim forward with vigor. Normal morphology - sperm size and shape - is required for normal fertility.

• Did the sperm successfully fertilize the egg? Did the fertilized egg implant? Did the fertilized egg survive and become an embryo? Whether you are using fresh, fresh chilled or frozen semen, ensure the right semen delivery system is used. Frozen semen must be deposited into the female’s uterus, not vagina, using TCI (transcervical insemination) or surgical breeding. Fresh semen can be delivered vaginally with a natural breeding, TCI or surgical breeding. The chart below can help with this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semen Delivery Options</th>
<th>Semen Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fresh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Breeding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaginal AI</td>
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<td>TCI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgical Breeding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiple Site Breeding</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

• Was the timing right? An ovulation detector is a portable device that helps determine the best time for breeding or when an effective progesterone draw can be done. Better yet, use progesterone testing to determine when she will ovulate. Breed two days after ovulation (progesterone of 4-8 ng/dl is when ovulation occurs) with fresh or natural breedings or three days after ovulation when using frozen semen.

• Did viable semen get to the egg? For the semen to be delivered to the egg, the stud dog must have good quality and quantity semen. Fertilization in the dog takes place in the oviduct, not the uterus, so we have to count on the semen to be capable of moving through the uterus into the oviducts in sufficient quantity for a successful fertilization.

• Did a viable egg get to the semen? This is a tough one. In veterinary medicine we don’t have a way to evaluate the uterus and oviducts. If the oviduct or uterus has adhesions or other areas of constriction such as cysts, even the best semen delivered into the uterus cannot create an embryo.

• If this was a natural breeding, was there a tie? Was the breeding witnessed? Was there a normal length tie? A tie, when the male is bred to a receptive female in heat, is the time period when they are “locked” together. This may last as little as two minutes or as long as 25 minutes. Do not try to physically separate the dogs during this time or you may cause physical injury to both the male and female.

• If this was a vaginal AI or TCI, was the procedure performed correctly with no spermicidal exposure? Some lubricants and reusable equipment can have spermicidal properties. Using all disposable supplies such as the Disposable Artificial Insemination Kit is recommended. If there was a vaginal AI, was the equipment new? Latex and disinfectants can kill semen. AI collection sleeves and pipettes are inexpensive and should be discarded after one use. Syringes with latex stoppers and latex collection sleeves can kill sperm. Use latex free materials and a semen safe syringe.

• If this was a TCI, did you witness the procedure? Ask your veterinarian to show you the cervix and the passage of the catheter into the uterus.

• Does the female have a defect in her reproductive tract? Structural abnormalities can cause failure of semen passage from the vagina to the oviducts. This is not something we can assess at this time in veterinary medicine.

• Do either the male or female have brucellosis? Canine brucellosis is a bacterial disease that can be spread venereally and can cause sterility in the male or female as well as pregnancy failure and early neonatal death.

• Was the female exposed to canine herpesvirus? If a female dog has herpes for the first time, she can experience fetal loss, mummies of early fetus, as well as premature birth and loss of puppies at birth or shortly after. The dangerous window for a female is three weeks before and three weeks after whelping.

• Does the female have a bacterial infection in the vagina or uterus? Did she have another bacterial or viral disease? Does she have an illness that is affecting her entire body? For example, metritis in dogs is an infection of the uterus, during or after pregnancy. Pyometra is an infection of the uterus unrelated to pregnancy.

• Has the female aged to the point of cycling less frequently or producing fewer eggs? Females over age six have a 33 percent reduction in fertility.

• Has the male aged to the point of producing fewer sperm, producing fewer normal sperm, having abnormal prostatic fluid (BPH) or is less capable of mounting and ejaculating? Generally male dogs over age five can have a decline in prostatic fluid quality as well as semen quality. Have his semen tested prior to use.

If you have more questions, call us at 800.786.4751.

-Marty Greer, DVM, Director of Veterinary Services at Revival Animal Health
"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Benjamin Franklin

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Nesting is a primary maternal instinct of an expectant brood bitch. Pregnant dogs in the wild would select a secluded spot with adequate warmth and shelter and then camouflage the den with grass, sticks, branches, and brush. Although bitches producing purposefully bred litters today have whelping boxes provided for them, that nesting instinct remains intact.
Nurturing a pregnant dog’s nesting instinct entails introducing her to the whelping box at least five days before her delivery date. This allows time for her to become adjusted and comfortable before the puppies are born. Breeders often choose a small room in their home or kennel that is quiet and secluded to set up the whelping box.

Many considerations go into setting up the ideal whelping box for your breed of dog. Importantly, the size should be appropriate — large enough for a dam to stretch out with some room to spare — as a box that is too large can cause her great distress. It is easier for the dam to protect puppies that are close to her, and a box that is too large allows the puppies to move away from their mother and puts them at risk of malnutrition and becoming cold.

Especially during the first week when puppies are not able to regulate their own body temperature and thus rely on the dam’s body heat and the warmth of littermates to maintain a normal body temperature, a supplemental heat source is important. A heat source in the center of the whelping box encourages puppies to stay away from the edges where there is greater risk for the dam to lie on them. Modern heat sources include radiant floor heating that uses thermometer-controlled water to circulate in the center of the floor. There are many options available to choose from.

Whether a breeder selects a commercial style or a custom-made whelping box, the most important aspects are the comfort and safety of the brood bitch and her litter.

**IDEAL WHELPING BOX**
- Warm and dry
- Easy to clean
- Waterproof
- One and a half to two times the length of the dam, so she can stretch out in full length with room to spare
- Allows dam to get away from her puppies yet prevents puppies from escaping
- Has a railing or ledge — sometimes called a pig rail, bumper or puppy rail — 3 to 4 inches from the floor around the periphery to prevent the dam from crushing or suffocating a puppy caught between her body and the sides of the box

**BEST BEDDING MATERIAL**
- Soft and warm
- Good traction
- Easily cleaned and disinfected
- Insect free
- Allows moisture to be wicked away
- Not easily ingested by puppies
- Avoid hay, straw, shavings, or stiff particles that can cause eye and skin irritation to newborn puppies
- Avoid rags, blankets or carpeting that allow puppies to crawl underneath and potentially be smothered by the dam

**SUPPLEMENTAL HEAT CONSIDERATIONS**
- Should be placed so puppies can move away if they become too hot
- Should not interfere with the dam getting up and down
- Should not expose puppies to electrical cords or outlet boxes to chew on
- Heat in the center of the whelping box encourages puppies to stay in the center, away from the edges where there is greater risk of the dam lying on them
- Appropriate heat sources include heat lamps, electric or water-filled heating pads, and microwavable heating pads
Why is my Dog’s nose dry?

A cold, wet nose means a healthy pup. That wet nose is part of the reason why dogs have an amazing sense of smell—10,000 to 100,000 times more powerful than ours. The wet nose draws in tiny particles to be examined by a dog’s olfactory glands (nasal glands). The thin layer of mucus on dogs’ noses holds and absorbs scents and when a dog licks its nose, that adds the sense of taste to its sensory information. Should you be concerned if your dog has a dry nose? Although sometimes it can signal something serious, most of the time it’s a normal reaction to the environment or typical for the dog’s age or breed.

Common Reasons your Dog’s Nose is Dry:

**Your dog’s nose is dry while he’s sleeping.** This happens simply because your dog is not licking his nose while he’s asleep. His nose should be wet again within 10 minutes of waking up.

**Winter is tough on a dog’s nose.** Do you ever wake up with a dry, scratchy throat during the winter months? That’s probably due to the flow of warm air from heating vents. Warm airflow can have the same effect on a dog’s nose. Has your pup been sleeping right next to a vent to keep warm? That warm air can dry out his nose and things should return to normal once he moves away from the heat source. Along with indoor heating, the cold air and winds of winter also cause a dry nose. Think of how dry and chapped your lips get when you’re outdoors in winter. That’s similar to what happens to a dog’s nose. Older dogs may have drier noses. If you notice this as your dog ages, a dab of nose balm will help keep his nose moist.

**Brachycephalic breeds are prone to dry nose.** Dogs with short snouts, like Pugs and Bulldogs, often have difficulty licking their nose. You may have to apply moisturizer to keep it moist. Other breeds, Lhasa Apsos, for example are prone to blocked tear ducts, which can also cause the nose to dry out.

**Conditions or Illnesses that can Cause a Dog’s Dry Nose**

**Allergies can cause a dry nose.** Dogs can have allergies just like humans, and one of the symptoms is a dry nose. Talk to your veterinarian about determining the cause of the allergy and getting a prescription allergy medication to relieve your dog’s dry nose.

**A dry nose can be a sign of sunburn.** Some breeds, especially those with thin coats or pink or pale nose and eyelids are especially susceptible to sunburn. But even thick-coated breeds aren’t immune. This is especially prevalent in the summer months. Use a sunscreen to protect your pet.

**Dehydration causes a dry nose.** This could be the result of strenuous exercise, especially in hot summer weather. Make sure your dog has access to plenty of cool, fresh water. Stay alert to other signs of dehydration; you may need to consult your vet.

**Dry nose is sometimes a sign of an auto-immune disease.** Although this isn’t the first thing to think of when your dog’s nose is dry, discoid lupus erythematosus or pemphigus—both auto-immune diseases—can cause a dog’s nose to dry out, crust and crack.

Most of the time, a dry nose is just a dry nose. If it’s chronic and your veterinarian sees no signs of allergies or disease, you may need to use a prescription lotion or balm to keep his nose moist. Because dogs lick their noses so often, whatever you use should be safe to eat. The nose is a dog’s chief sensory source of information and you want to keep it in top working order.

Article from AKC.org
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Petland Novi’s Fifth Annual Fundraiser for Matthew’s Wish
Raises more than $3,500

(Novi, MI: July 2, 2019) - For the fifth year in a row, Petland Novi supported Matthew’s Wish, a 501c3 organization named after a young boy who passed away in 2015. Petland’s $3,581 donation this year brings their total fundraising effort to almost $15,000 since 2014.

The team at Petland Novi met Matthew in April, 2014. The 10-year-old boy was battling Mitochondrial Disease and Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH, a life-threatening disorder of the immune system).

Matthew named his Yorkie puppy ‘Jewels’ and his last wish was to find a cure for his illnesses. Matthew’s Wish, a non-profit 501c3 foundation, raises money for the research of and treatment for Mitochondrial Disease and HLH. Matthew’s Wish also donates toys to children’s hospitals and families with medically ill children and teens and assists families with financial difficulties.

Matthew passed on April, 20, 2015 but his Yorkie puppy, Jewels, is still bringing comfort and joy to his family.

Every April since meeting Matthew, Petland Novi has donated the proceeds of a Yorkie puppy to Matthew’s Wish.

“Petland has NEVER forgotten about Matthew!” said Erica Dugas, Matthew’s mom. “Every year April since Matthew’s passing, Petland has sold a Yorkie and donated all the money to Matthew’s Wish. This store is a miracle and these employees are truly a miracle. I wish everyone could see how truly amazing this group of people are. They have and will forever touch my heart.”

Petland Novi’s owner, Randy Horowitz, makes community support a priority, “We are thankful we are able to give back and help change lives. We are grateful and honored for the opportunity to help children with terminal or severe illnesses. Through Matthew’s Wish and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Petland Novi has helped create some smiles.”

Petland, Inc. is a franchise operation with quality, full service retail pet centers across the United States, Canada, China, Mexico, South Africa, Brazil, El Salvador and Saudi Arabia. For more than 50 years, Petland Pet Counselors have been dedicated to matching the right pet with the right person and meeting the needs of both. To its customers who already have pets, Petland is dedicated to enhancing their knowledge and enjoyment of the human-animal bond. Petland was founded in 1967 and is headquartered in south central Ohio. For more information on Petland, visit www.petland.com.

Matthew’s Wish

Matthew’s Wish was established in 2015, a registered 501c3. Matthew planned to be a medical researcher to find a cure for the very disease that was robbing him of not only his youth, but his life. Matthew asked his mom to promise to never stop looking for a cure. Matthew’s Wish raises money for research, treatment, and eventually one day soon, a cure. Matthew’s Wish also donates toys to different children’s hospitals as well as individual families with medically ill children and teens. Matthew’s Wish helps families with financial difficulties too. For more information or to donate to Matthew’s Wish, visit https://bit.ly/2WFbAGU.
THANK YOU!

Your commitment to raising happy, healthy puppies and your dedication to animal welfare are greatly appreciated. Thank you!
TOXICITY OF ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES IN COMPANION ANIMALS

Kia Benson, DVM
Associate Veterinarian, Clinical Toxicology Pet Poisonhelpline.org

What comes to mind when you think of the following words? Summer berries, Vanilla Bean, Mango, Cheesecake, Almond, Chocolate, Blueberry. Luscious desserts and treats with which you can indulge yourself? Think again! These delectable sounding flavors are just a fraction of those currently available in e-liquids, the nicotine containing liquid used in electronic cigarettes. With the surge in popularity of such devices that has taken place over the last few years, nicotine toxicity in our companion animals is very much on the rise. Let’s take a more in-depth look at the hazards posed by e-cigarettes.

Electronic Cigarette Design

To understand how e-cigarettes are toxic to animals, we first need to understand the design and components of these devices.

Electronic cigarettes – also known as e-cigs, vapes, tanks systems, vape pens, or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) – are battery-operated devices used to create and inhale an aerosol composed of nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals. The devices can take on many forms from looking like traditional cigarettes (called cigs-likes), cigars, or pipes, or even everyday items like pens or USB memory sticks. Most are designed to be reusable with replaceable or refillable cartridges, though some are disposable.

The 4 main parts to an e-cigarette are: 1) a cartridge or reservoir filled with e-liquid, 2) a heating element (called an atomizer), 3) a power source (usually a battery), and 4) a mouthpiece used to inhale the e-liquid. Puffing or sucking on the mouthpiece triggers a sensor which, in turn, activates a heating element. The heating element then vaporizes the liquid nicotine solution held in the cartridge. Users inhale the resulting aerosol or vapor into their lungs, a practice known as vaping. Bystanders also breathe in this aerosol as a form of second-hand exposure.

The risk to humans from electronic cigarettes is much the same as with regular cigarettes – inhalation of nicotine plus carcinogens and toxic chemicals present in the vapor. Toxic nanoparticles of metals such as nickel, chromium, and cadmium have also been found in the vapor, and may come from the heating coils of the vaping device itself. However, the risk to animals from e-cigarettes often lies with ingesting the e-liquid itself.

Nicotine Risk

Most e-liquids contain nicotine, but there are non-nicotine liquids on the market as well (vaped for the flavor alone). E-liquids containing nicotine are made by extracting the nicotine from tobacco, and then mixing it together with a base (e.g. propylene glycol) plus some flavoring. Colorings and other chemicals (e.g. formaldehyde) may also be added. The e-liquids are then sold in pre-filled cartridges, or in large bulk bottles with which a user can refill empty cartridges.

The aroma of liquid nicotine in e-cigarettes can be alluring to animals (i.e. dogs), and flavored e-cigarettes might be even more enticing. Animals are exposed when they chew on pre-filled cartridges or bulk refill bottles containing an e-liquid, ingesting nicotine in the process. While dogs account for most of the exposures reported to Pet Poison Helpline, nicotine toxicity could occur in cats that ingest the e-liquid. The nicotine content of e-liquids can vary greatly from relatively low levels (8 milligrams nicotine per milliliter) to extra-high levels (59 milligrams nicotine per milliliter). In comparison, strong, unfiltered cigarettes contain about 36 mg of nicotine per cigarette, regular cigarettes contain 16 mg, and ultra-light contain 8 mg. The exposure to substantial doses of nicotine with ingestion of an e-liquid is possible, especially if a multi-pack of cartridges or a bulk refill bottle has been chewed. Severe nicotine toxicity and even death can result.

Signs of nicotine toxicity occur rapidly in companion animals ingesting an e-liquid due to the quick absorption of liquids in the G1 tract. Signs can be seen within 15-30 minutes of ingestion of an e-liquid, versus 15-90 minutes after ingestion of more traditional forms of tobacco. Signs of nicotine toxicity can include vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, agitation, rapid breathing, high or low heart rate, abnormal rhythms to the heart, tremors, muscle weakness and wobbliness, high or low blood pressure, respiratory depression, and seizures.

Coma, cyanosis and death are even possible with high-dose exposures.

Prompt treatment at a veterinary clinic is needed for nicotine toxicity. Home care is not advised even with exposure to small doses. Treatment that can be expected includes close monitoring for and treatment of both cardiac and neurologic abnormalities. Intravenous fluids, blood pressure and EKG monitoring, muscle relaxants, anticonvulsants, G1 medications, and other drugs are often needed to treat an animal suffering from nicotine toxicity. Signs may last several hours in minor exposures up to 24 hours plus in severe cases.

Risk from Secondary Inhalation

Another major risk to companion animals from e-cigarettes is exposure to the aerosol or vapor generated during vaping. The vapor is often mistaken for water vapor, but it actually consists of nicotine, ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs, chemical flavorings linked to causing serious lung disease, volatile organic compounds, cancer-causing chemicals, and heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead. Respiratory irritation can result when animals breathe in the vapor from an e-cigarette, resulting in watery nose or eyes, a burning sensation in the nose/throat, nausea leading to drooling and/or vomiting, and even difficulty breathing (labored breathing, fast breathing, panting, coughing, or wheezing). Companion animals showing such signs need to be moved immediately into fresh air and require emergency veterinary treatment should their symptoms not quickly resolve once they are in fresh air. Animals with pre-existing respiratory issues (e.g. asthma, bronchitis, airborne allergies) are at greater risk for developing severe respiratory irritation from second hand exposure. Chronic exposure to the aerosol or vapor from e-cigarettes can cause permanent changes in the animal’s lungs.

Pet owners and veterinary professionals are encouraged to consult with the veterinary toxicology specialists at Pet Poison Helpline if an animal is ever exposed to nicotine/tobacco in any form – electronic or traditional.
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Making Tracks for APRI Championship Dog Show

The **Making Tracks** group for **America’s Pet Registry Inc (APRI)** held our First Championship Show on June 8th, 2019. It was held at the amazing Moberly Area Community College Recreation Hall in Moberly, MO.

The day started with 84 dogs participating in the 3 Conformation shows. The Championship show started about 5 pm. We were excited to have the great participation of all the breeders and non-breeders who came to show off their babies and see how they stacked up to the conformation standards of the breeds.

The Making Tracks group has several purposes in providing these activities for breeders. They all have families who have quality stock and enjoy getting ribbons as well as those who like to come and have their dogs examined by professional judges for quality, training and socialization. Each and every reason is very valuable to our profession. The more we can learn and share, the bigger our programs can go!

The Championship show was a tough one for our judges! There are so many high quality dogs in our organization. Every judge had a handbook of breed standards to let the breeders know how each breed should “look”, “feel” and “act” like. This year’s first place championship trophy went to the Doberman Pinscher, “Little’s Bogatti Rewin Fury” (alias: “Hobbs”), owned by Brian Hagedorn. (pictured on the cover)

Second place went to Havanese, “Cachet N Maxanita Louise”, owned by Juanita Kimbrough. Third place winner was a French Bulldog named, “Houdini II”, owned by Christine Puzocha.

We enjoyed having exhibitors from several surrounding states here to show off their babies. Please feel free to join us at a dog show sometime; we would love to cuddle your babies!

We would like to thank the following sponsors who help support our dog shows; APRI, Therese Villa IGES, LLC, Microchip ID, Eukanuba and Nutrisource. We could not have done it without you!!

Sarah Soverns  
Making Tracks member and a proud APRI Judge!
It’s NOW or NEVER! Stop Dog Trafficking NOW!

By Patti Strand, NAIA president

With your help, 2019 can be the year we finally stop the flood of foreign stray dogs pouring into U.S cities. We are at a tipping point in a long and evolving battle. Either we stop it now or we must accept a slow and steady erosion of the health, quality, and type of dogs available to Americans in the future.

Retail rescue has become the leading animal health and welfare issue of our time. And when this practice is backed by wealthy lobby groups that work to shut down every source of dogs but their own, it threatens the preservation of breeds, and a continuing supply of healthy American-bred dogs.

The tipping point: from pet overpopulation to a national pet shortage..

For most of the twentieth century, ending pet overpopulation was a leading animal welfare challenge and the primary reason for the development of private, not-for-profit animal shelters. Over decades of endless effort, these animal shelters, along with government-funded shelters played an irreplaceable role in reducing or ending the euthanasia of adoptable dogs.

In addition to caring for local pets in need, these organizations - private shelters in particular – became the dominant voice for pets in their communities. They understood that their success depended on effective community outreach, so employing people with good marketing, development and communications skills was fundamental. They also did a great job of recruiting celebrity support. From 1979 on, Bob Barker, host of The Price is Right reminded his audience at the close of every show to spay or neuter their pets.

By the late 1980s, most hobby dog breeders were selling pet puppies on spay-neuter contracts, the larger city shelters had initiated spay-neuter programs of their own, and an ever-increasing number of pet owners neutered their dogs.

In 2018, American Pet Products Association reported that 85% of all household dogs in the US were neutered. Today, there are no longer enough dogs being born in the US annually to replace the approximately 8 million dogs that die each year.

As a result of all these remarkable changes, dog overpopulation no longer exists in most parts of the US and today many regions of the country do not have enough dogs to meet demand.

But the fundraising arm of the animal movement didn’t get the memo. Instead of acknowledging the enormity of this achievement and moving on, HSUS and similar animal fundraising groups just switched their target from irresponsible pet owners and oops litters to purposeful breeders and purpose-bred dogs. Soon, anti-breeding legislation mushroomed across the land, each limiting proposal accompanied by sophisticated media campaigns that disparaged breeders as contributing to overpopulation and shelter euthanasia or as owners of cruel breeding operations. As long-time animal rights activist Kim Sturla said in advocating for breeder bans, “Our goal is to make the public think of breeding dogs and cats like drunk driving and smoking.”

In more recent times, the animal rights movement has morphed its anti-breeder campaign with a consumer-focused campaign to ban pet stores - retail outlets where purebred dogs are sold. To date, over 300 communities have passed retail pet store bans. A huge number of these communities, however, never had a pet store in the first place, a Potemkin Village marketing tactic designed to create a bandwagon effect.

These initiatives – spay/neuter (voluntary and mandatory), breeding bans and pet store bans (or conversions to rescue-only retail outlets) have not only ended the pet overpopulation problem; they have created shortage of dogs in many parts of the country.

Interstate transport rescue and international importation programs

To fill the void, rescues began moving dogs from areas of high supply to areas where shortages exist. But as the US supply of dogs declined, rescues expanded their networks to foreign areas, a phenomenon that has blossomed into a full-blown supply chain. Today, an ever-increasing number of unhealthy and ill-tempered rescue dogs from both national and international rescues pour into our communities, arriving with temperament problems and illnesses that threaten U.S. dogs, livestock and the American public.

Continued on page 20
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Know Your Source
GRAIN FREE
Imported dogs are reintroducing diseases and parasites that were previously eliminated in the U.S. Dogs imported from South Korea introduced canine flu in 2015, which required the development of a new vaccine and more recently a new strain of the distemper virus arrived. Making matters worse, our animal populations have no immunity to many strains of these imported diseases, so disease progression can be fast-moving.

In addition to new and lethal strains of distemper and canine influenza, multiple rescue dogs have been imported carrying canine brucellosis and countless vector-borne diseases like ehrlichiosis, babesiosis, and leishmaniasis. These diseases and parasites are becoming common in the destination sites for international rescue dogs.

For example, prior to rescue relocation programs, there were no native cases of heartworm in the Pacific Northwest. Now, due to interstate transport programs dog owners throughout the region must treat their dogs monthly to prevent heartworm infections.

As the Washington Post recently reported, consumers who purchase sick rescue dogs are affected by the experience in many ways. When 1,300 dogs carrying canine influenza, imported from South Korea and China, ended up in the Chicago area in 2015, dog businesses had to be shut down and dogs had to be quarantined. Some had to be euthanized, leaving behind grieving families who had no idea their rescue pet was already infected with a fatal disease.

The emotional cost wasn’t the only price to be paid by these consumers. Dr. Edward Dubovi, a professor at the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell University, estimated that the cost of the influenza outbreak to dog owners in the Chicago area was between $25 and $75 million.

Scientists at Cornell have documented a direct cause and effect relationship between rescue dog shipments from Korea and several outbreaks of the H3N2 strain of canine influenza in the U.S. These shipments were facilitated and advertised by the Humane Society International (HSI), an affiliate of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), organizations that routinely lobby against US dog breeders for their practices.

The National Association of State and Public Health Veterinarians compendium of information on rabies contains this statement: “Canine rabies virus variants have been eliminated from the United States; however, rabid dogs and a rabid cat have been introduced into the continental United States from areas with dog-to-dog rabies transmission. The movement of dogs for the purposes of adoption or sale from areas with dog-to-dog rabies transmission increases the risk of introducing canine-transmitted rabies to areas where it does not currently exist, and this practice should be prohibited.”

The end of Pet Overpopulation poses an existential threat to animal shelters

In the past, pet shelter operators were often heard to say that they were working hard to put themselves out of business. However, very few have actually closed their doors in celebration of the end of pet overpopulation. Rather than find new ways of supporting responsible dog ownership in the local community, many of these organizations have opted to become aggressive pet retailers, importing rescue dogs from virtually every corner of the world with little, if any understanding of the public health risks posed by such indiscriminate dog trafficking. Worse, hundreds of new rescue and sheltering groups have sprung up to exploit the foreign dog supply.

Developing countries have hundreds of millions of street dogs available for export: If news accounts are correct, Egypt has an estimated 15 million, India, 30 million; and Afghanistan, 100 million, just to name a few. Thousands of dogs have already been imported from South Korea, China and the Middle East. Pipelines are being created to ship more to the US.

In 2006, more than a decade ago, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimated annual dog imports at around 287,000. Today, CDC estimates the number of arrivals to be more than a million a year, making the importation of stray dogs very big business.

It seems clear that many retail rescue groups see this as just the beginning. The website of Big Dog Rescue Ranch (BDRR) features a photo of the “first phase” of an immense, almost military-looking “campus” being developed to house thousands of dogs. Phase II of the development, for which fundraising already begun, will include a boarding facility, veterinary clinic and pet supply store.

One hopes that they will focus their efforts on trying to help American pets, but alas, at the end of March, the NBC affiliate in West Palm Beach, Florida, aired a story describing Big Dog Rescue Ranch’s trip to China to rescue 37 dogs from the “meat trade.” In June, Big Dog Rescue Ranch further exposed its vision by importing another 60 rescue dogs from China. It is alarming that news outlets seem oblivious to the downside of such import activities and cover them using the perspective of the importing group. In this case they covered the arrival of the imported dogs at the Big Dog facility enthusiastically and posted the story in the “Good News” section of the station’s website.

Even more troubling, well-known glitterati from both the Republican and Democrat parties have picked up the cause and even served as chairs of the Big Dog Rescue Ranch’s annual fundraisers. We can only hope that these high-profile individuals will modify their support when they realize the damage to animal health and welfare caused by the business model that BDRR is pioneering, which at this point appears based on importing foreign stray dogs.
More Regulation is needed!

Unfortunately, there is very little regulation to control the importation and resale of these stray dogs. At the federal level, the regulations that exist are strewn among multiple agencies without any one agency having the statutory authority to do what is needed to protect the health of Americans and their animals. As the saying goes, “when everyone is in charge, no one is in charge.” Less than one percent of the 1.06 million dogs estimated to be entering the country by CDC fall under the USDA oversight. Others fall under the purview of the CDC, which focuses on zoonotic diseases.

Once these pets get to the rescue or shelter facility, there is often less oversight. While most retail pet stores have been regulated by state or local ordinances and regulations, not-for-profit pet shelters are largely unregulated. And consumers buying dogs at shelters have little way of knowing where their puppies came from or what kind of health and temperament issues they may have.

The lack of transparency and oversight in the retail rescue pet market has led some to compare it to the “wild west.” National animal rights organizations have raised millions of dollars demanding accountability in the for-profit pet retail market but they have been conspicuously silent on the subject of accountability for not-for-profit rescue and shelter operations.

In fact, animal rights groups are systematically positioning these programs as well-motivated, humane efforts to rescue stray dogs otherwise destined for the brutal dog-meat markets of exotic locations around the world. To paraphrase WPTV, it’s all “good news.”

But the reality is very different. The facts are that these groups are attempting to “mainstream” the unregulated import of foreign stray dogs, no matter their health, physical condition or temperament, in order to maximize their revenues, expand their operations, and fund the expensive lobbying and media relations campaigns that keep them in business.

As a result, the unregulated pet retail market thrives, while regulated breeders, consumers, local animals and public health all decline.

They say that a frog tossed into boiling water will jump out immediately, but one tossed into lukewarm water may get comfy and not detect that the water is gradually rising to a boil.

That’s where responsible dog breeders are today. The issue of pet importation has reached the boiling point and it’s now or never if we are to protect our dogs, preserve our breeds and assure a healthy source of dogs for Americans in the future.

The NAIA and NAIA Trust are working with key Congressional offices and the American Kennel Club on bipartisan, federal legislation to regulate dog importation. The legislation will:

- Move dog importation under the purview of APHIS Veterinary Services. Veterinary Services already oversees the importation of other live animals and animal products.
- Ensure that all dogs imported into the U.S. are in good health, are properly vaccinated and are permanently identified. Vaccinations and health testing must be certified by a foreign government-accredited veterinarian before exported to the US.
- Require dogs that are imported for the purpose of transferring ownership or control another to not only meet the specifications above but also be at least six months of age and accompanied by a USDA import permit. This includes dogs imported for sale, adoption, exchange or donation.
- Require all Certificates of Veterinary Inspection for transport in commerce to be sent to USDA for inclusion in a centralized database.
- Provide USDA resources through a certificate fee to fund these initiatives.

What you can do

If you share our concerns and values, we ask you to join our campaign.

* Subscribe to our mailing list so we can reach you when action is needed on important legislation;
* Volunteer to get active in your state;
* Advertise your events;
* Donate to support our lobbying and educational efforts.

Email: naia@naiaonline.org

Here's the really important link.
https://www.naiatrust.org/subscribe-to-our-mailing-list/
When we finally introduce our bill it will be critically important that we are able to reach our constituency and get them to write in immediately.
That's why they need to sign up now. Thanks, Patti Strand
503-761-8962
The History of Domesticated Dogs

Classifying the Dog

The question of the dog's original ancestor is fascinating, but the answer remains highly speculative. Dogs are placed within the order Carnivora, a division of the larger class Mammalia. Carnivores are usually divided into eight families: Canidae (dogs), Procyonidae (raccoons), Felidae (cats), Mustelidae (weasels), Ailuridae (pandas), Ursidae (bears), Viverridae (civets) and Hyaenidae (hyenas). Domestic dogs are classified under Canidae. The Canidae are generally divided into four groups: the dog group (genus Canis), the fox group (genus Vulpes), the culpeo group (genus Dusicyon), and the bush dog group (all other genera).

The bush dog group includes the bush-dog, crab-eating fox, bat-eared fox, raccoon dog, and gray fox, while the fox group covers almost all species of foxes except the gray fox and a few others. The culpeo group contains in-between species of dogs and foxes, such as the Falkland wolf, culpeo fox, striped-tail dog, Andes wolf and maned wolf.

Included in the dog group are the dhole, African wild dog and canis. The first two genera have only dholes and African wild dogs, respectively. The Canis group includes coyote, jackal, wolf, dingo and the domestic dog.

All in the Canis group have the same skeletal structure, including five digits on the front paws, and four on the rear paws, and have a circular contracting iris. These shared characteristics indicate that the domestic dog may find its ancestor in this genus.

Prehistoric Roots

Members of the genus Canis appeared about a million years ago, first in Asia or Eurasia, later migrating back and forth between these continents and the Americas, mainly within the Northern Hemisphere. At that time, the Eurasian continent and the Americas were not yet separated. As no fossils of dogs have yet been discovered in Australia, it is presently believed that dogs evolved well after this continent separated from the others.

Because the oldest fossil of a dog is reputed to be from the Mesolithic, discovered in Yorkshire, England, with the remains of a civilization, it is currently believed that some 500,000 years ago, during the Paleolithic, humans had not yet developed a bond with dogs. Many early dog breeds evolved into their present form by adjusting to their habitat. Breeds with ancient bloodlines, which often resemble wolves in appearance and jackals in habit, are said to be less aggressive than wolves as they were often scavengers, surviving mainly on the remains of other carnivores and animals.

Wild Dogs and Domestic Dogs

Dogs resemble wolves more than any other animal. Wolves are distributed mainly in the Northern Hemisphere: Europe, North America, and Asia. Generally, those inhabiting the colder climates are larger, lighter in color (probably for protection), and more aggressive, while those found in warmer regions are smaller, with a yellowish fawn coloring that becomes lighter towards the abdomen, and are less aggressive. This latter coloring is the one most often seen in the domestic dog. Although wolves are often believed to be enemies of humans, in reality the opposite is more often true; they very rarely attack, but rather easily become accustomed to people.

Jackals often hunt in groups; however, they mainly survive on carrion left over by other carnivores. The coyote, with its pointed muzzle, large ears, and thick tail, closely resembles the wolf, but lives on the grasslands of North America; hence it is also called the ‘Grassland Wolf’. It has sharply declined in number due to the misdirected eradication efforts on the part of people seeking to protect their livestock. South America has wild dogs such as the crab-eating Fox and the Zorro. Zorros have big ears, thick tails, and the thickset bodies. Progeny of crosses between these wild dogs and domestic dogs were highly treasured by the locals for their hunting ability. The wild dog of Australia is the dingo, which rarely barks in the wild, but readily starts barking once it is domesticated.

All of the above are members of the so-called dog group, and are thus considered relatives of today's domestic dogs. In appearance, habits, and expression, they are all quite similar. Even though there are some exceptions, such as short-faced bulldogs, toy Chihuahuas, bent-eared setters, and spaniels, generally they have shared characteristics. These include the type and total number (42) of teeth; skull shape, although size differs; total number (50 to 52) and type of vertebrae: 7 cervical, 13 thoracic, 7 lumbar, 3 sacral, and 20 to 22 coccygeal (tail); irises circularly contracting; a keen olfactory sense, with prey being sought by smell; similar physical ailments and illnesses such as distemper, rabies and heartworm; manner of howling, growling and expressing pain; facial expressions; method of expressing delight (ears pulled back and tail wagging), anger (hair stands up and canine teeth are displayed), and submission (rolling over on back and/or tail being placed between the legs);
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nocturnal habits; a propensity to dig; a nine-week gestation period; and the opening of eyes at about two weeks of age. Despite such similar characteristics, it is considered dangerous to cross domestic dogs and other *canis familiaris*. The offspring, although they can reproduce, not only have odd physical appearances but often prove to be shy.

The remaining kinds of wild dogs seem to be irrelevant to today’s domestic dogs. Even today, some wild dogs are completely devoid of human contact, and live as they have for tens of thousands of years, allowing us to observe phenomena that give us clues as to how early wild dogs behaved tens of thousands of years ago.

**Humans and the Dog**

Ancient humans, wearing virtually nothing, must have shivered in the cold while hunting animals such as mammoths, deer and boar with hand-held weapons. They also caught fish and collected shellfish from rivers and along seashores, foraged for roots, and picked fruits and edible leaves from plants. Probably at this time, humans competed with wild dogs for food and even ate them. Later on when people banded together to form tribes and moved to caves, they began establishing and guarding territories.

While human hunters most likely prevailed over dog packs, both creatures probably began learning of the mutual benefits of establishing a relationship: Carrion leftovers were easily available wherever humans settled, and dog packs would begin barking when unknown humans or other animals approached. As dogs moved to live closer and closer to humans, people probably began to attempt taming them. We know that in northwest Europe during the Mesolithic period some twelve thousand years ago, humans began keeping dogs and other animals.

During the Neolithic, humans moved out of caves and established early settlements of thatched huts near water, engaging in agriculture and sheep raising. A complete fossil of a dog that had been neither killed nor eaten was discovered in a settlement in Europe from this period, and is believed to have been a domesticated dog. Neatly laid-out bones from Neolithic burial sites recently excavated in Europe also show that at this time dogs were greatly treasured by people.

From the time humans realized that domesticated dogs could be useful and started to catch wild puppies, selection for desired physical and behavioral characteristics began in order to make the dogs better suited to certain tasks. Over centuries, these manmade modifications resulted in a number of recognizable dog breeds with distinct characteristics. Today, over 350 dog breeds are recognized by the Federation Cybnologue Internationale (FCI), headquartered in Belgium, but considering that a number of national kennel clubs still are not FCI members, the total number of recognizable breeds probably approaches five hundred. Each breed has an official set of standards, which demonstrates the amazing degree to which the original wild dogs have been modified to produce the great variety we recognize today. Generally the standards set by each breed’s recognized parent club, by which this type of dog is judged, covers its history and lineage, use, general appearance, temperament, conformation (head, body, tail, limbs, coat, coloration, and so on), gait, size, and faults.

**Seven Groups**

The following is an overview of the seven groups (herding, working, sporting, hound, terrier, toy and non-sporting) into which the dog breeds have been divided.

**Herding Group**

Humans used to catch wild animals and corral them for food or livestock farming. In order to keep the animals from running away and to protect them from predators, people started keeping dogs, thus originating sheepdogs. Consequently, human life improved enormously, as food and materials for clothes were always close at hand.

**Working Group**

Dogs sense an approaching enemy and warn their master. This was the origin of the many kinds of guard dogs. Today they include brave and loyal military dogs; pack dogs pulling heavy packs; big but gentle life-saving dogs; enormous and competent guard dogs; fighting dogs that once battled other dogs and animals; police dogs; companion dogs serving the deaf and the blind; sled dogs and so on.

**Sporting Group**

Dogs of this group have a keen nose for prey. They will tell their master where the birds are and retrieve the birds when they are shot. Some retrievers like the water and are good swimmers, so it is easy for them to get the prey from the water.

**Hound Group**

There are two types of hounds: sight hounds and scent hounds. Sight hounds spot their prey from a very far distance and chase it until it is exhausted, while scent hounds find their prey by smell. Scent hounds work with police, searching for drugs and bombs. Dogs of this group can run at more than thirty-five miles per hour. The powerful and graceful body of a hound running at its maximum speed is a work of art. Many hounds are used as show dogs or racing hounds.

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Terrier Group
The name terrier comes from the Latin word *terra*, which means "soil" or "ground", and these dogs are so named because they hunt prey hiding in burrows. Big hunting dogs are generally called hounds and small ones terriers. Every terrier is endowed with an excellent sense of smell, agility, a fighting instinct and intelligence. Terriers are classified as long-legged, short-legged, long-haired, short-haired or rough-haired. Today they are gaining popularity as domestic dogs and show dogs rather than as hunting dogs because of their good appearance, agility and cuteness.

Toy Group
Some dogs from the hound group, sporting group, and terrier group are grouped into the toy group. These are distinguished by their small size, cuteness and desirability as pet dogs and have become indispensable companions to many people.

Non-Sporting Group
Dogs that are suited for specific work and others that are not related to dogs of other groups in appearance or lineage are classified in the non-sporting group. Some are suitable for circus acts, as they have an attractive appearance and an excellent understanding and memory. Others are better rat catchers than terriers are, or are excellent guard dogs as they don't bark unnecessarily. It almost seems wrong to call them "non-sporting", as they are all wonderful dogs.

Habits
Dogs have an exceptional sense of direction that is distinct from their keen senses of smell, hearing and sight. They have an uncanny ability to return home from a long distance by the shortest route, without any landmarks that humans can recognize. There is a touching story of a Shiba Inu from Shinshu, Japan and was transported to his new owner in Tokyo by train. On the third day, the Shiba chewed a hole through its wooden kennel fence and escaped. Ten days later, the Shiba has made its way back to the previous owner in Shinshu, some 155 miles away! Many similar episodes have been reported all over the world.

There are many theories about why dogs dig, try to sleep in dark hidden areas and why, before they sleep, they usually walk around their resting spot. None of them have been proven conclusively, however. Dogs typically like to keep themselves and their living area clean. This begins at the time they are born, when the mother cleans her puppies. Once they are able to walk on their own, puppies will defecate a good distance from where they sleep and eat. At this time, they also start to fetch and hide things.

Males will demarcate their territory (a trait believed to be a throwback to their wild canid roots) by urinating at various points within and outside their perimeter. Dogs are legendary for their loyalty and protectiveness, although some breeds are better guard dogs than others.

Dogs help us psychologically, too. Tests have shown that walking a dog, or just having one as a companion, effectively helps speed recovery from an illness and aid in rehabilitative efforts. For everyone, but especially for children and the elderly, a dog can be a best friend, one that people can talk to about anything and who will help improve the quality of human life.

*Dogs, no matter how we look at them, are lovable animals.*
August 5, 2019

Dear Members and Supporters,

Don’t forget that your Congressional U.S. Representatives and Senators are home for August recess!

By tradition and by law, Congressional August Recess is a chance for U.S. Representatives and Senators to spend time with family and meet with constituents in their home states. As a constituent, it is an opportunity for you to inform, educate, and champion your Congressional Representative & Senators about:

- Your animal enterprise.
- How you make your living with animals.
- The importance of defeating HSUS-driven federal legislation and why it is critical to the survival of your industry, animal ownership, and animal agriculture in America.
- Inform them about the animal rights ideology and organizations like the Humane Society of the U.S., Animal Wellness Action, PETA, ASPCA, Animal Welfare Institute, World Wildlife Federation, and all the animal rights splinter groups and their agenda.
- Animal Rights vs Animal Welfare: Know the Difference!

Please make an appointment to meet with your U.S. Representative and Senators at their district office in your state right away. Some may even plan on holding Town Hall meetings in your area. You can check by calling their local office.

Be sure to seize the opportunity to Speak up, Inform, and Educate Your federal law makers!

Urge Your Congressman & Senators to OPPOSE the following bills which can be found on our website under the Take Action tab: (www.thecavalrygroup.com)

- **Prevent All Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act - HR724**

  Animal abuse and torture should NEVER be tolerated, and for that reason, every state in the U.S. already has felony animal cruelty laws on the books. However, sponsors of this bill fraudulently claim that there are no federal laws against animal cruelty. We believe this “Prevent All Cruelty & Torture Act” is setting the stage to criminalize animal ownership out of existence.

  Authored by Florida Republican Vern Buchanan (wealthy owner of an auto dealership chain) and co-sponsored by Palm Beach Anti-2nd Amendment Democrat Ted Deutch, HR 724, the so-called Prevent All Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act was filed in the House of Representatives on January 23, 2019, now referred to the House Judiciary’s Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Subcommittee.

  Every state in the nation has felony animal cruelty laws on the books. Legislators want you to believe that this bill only applies to people who are committing horrendous acts of horrific animal cruelty that they then video tape. But what about medical research trials? What if a veterinarian videotapes a spay or neuter surgery for teaching purposes? What about normal security surveillance videos on a dairy farm? A cattle ranch? An egg farm? What if no video tape is involved at all?

  In America today, average every day activities are now being reclassified as deliberate acts of animal cruelty by animal rights-driven legislation masquerading as increased welfare standards. The most normal every day animal owner actions are being redefined as criminal acts even when no animal is harmed.

  In states across America, kittens and caterpillars now have more rights than people.

  Please urge your federal lawmakers to OPPOSE the PACT Act.

  For talking points, opposition email campaign and more information about the PACT Act, see the next facing page.
OPPOSE Animal Rights Driven P.A.C.T.

(H.R. 724)

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These concerns go all the way back to 1999 when Congress originally passed this legislation which was later overturned by the Supreme Court. Passed again in 2010, this legislation would amend the existing federal law to create a whole broad new category of animal cruelty crimes.

In America today, average every day activities are now being reclassified as deliberate acts of animal cruelty by animal rights-driven legislation masquerading as increased welfare standards. The most normal every day animal owner actions are being redefined as criminal acts even when no animal is harmed.

In states across America, kittens and caterpillars now have more rights than people.

Representative Buchanan has been investigated by the House Ethics Committee, FEC, Justice Department and the Office of Congressional Affairs. Buchanan owns a massive $100 million-dollar insurance and real estate empire in Florida, Bermuda and the Bahamas. After years of investigations and scandals, Buchanan won re-election in 2018 with just 54.6% of the vote. This ‘feel good’ legislation is just another way for Buchanan to white wash his dodgy background and win back his disenfranchised constituents. He may be well meaning but a real estate and auto dealership magnate is totally unqualified to determine whether or not common animal practices are acts of animal cruelty, let alone felonies.

The American Kennel Club recently issued a new warning against this avalanche of new animal cruelty laws being passed on state and federal levels, “Increasingly restrictive laws that allow the confiscation of animals and criminal charges against the owner are being enacted every day in states and communities across the U.S. You can be convicted of animal cruelty under these overreaching laws even when no animal is harmed.” Did you read that? Even when no animal is harmed.

- HR 724 does nothing to stop animal abuse or cruelty. What it does is criminalize animal owners.
- HR 724 would make a felon out of the the owner of a dog with nails too long.
- HR 724, would make a felon out of the the owner of an older horse that has difficulty keeping on weight.
- This legislation amends already existing legislation to create a whole new category of felons, your next-door neighbor and you.

Animal rights organizations want Americans to believe that here in 2019, there are no federal laws banning animal cruelty from occurring, a complete out and out lie. This legislation amends already existing legislation to create a whole new category of felons, your next-door neighbor and you.

Animal abuse and torture should NEVER be tolerated, and for that reason, every state in the U.S. already has felony animal cruelty laws on the books. However, sponsors of this bill fraudulently claim that there are no federal laws against animal cruelty. We believe this “Prevent All Cruelty & Torture Act” is setting the stage to criminalize animal ownership out of existence.

Animal owners nationwide are under attack by the animal rights movement, now more than ever – HR 724 must be vigorously OPPOSED.
The Microbiome-Gut-Brain Axis in Canine Epilepsy
By Sharon Albright, DVM, CCRT
Manager of Communications & Veterinary Outreach, AKC Canine Health Foundation

The adage “you are what you eat” may be more profound than we ever realized. A growing body of evidence shows a complex system of two-way communication between the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and neurologic system in humans and dogs. The link between GI health and diseases such as multiple sclerosis, autism, and epilepsy has been studied in humans. In fact, patients with celiac disease or inflammatory bowel disease have an increased risk of developing epilepsy. Since the community of microorganisms that live in the digestive tract – known as the gut microbiome – plays an important role in GI health, what impact does it have on neurologic disease? AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) funded researchers are exploring the role of this microbiome-gut-brain axis in canine epilepsy.

At North Carolina State University, Dr. Karen Muñana and her research team are investigating how alterations in the gut microbiome affect the development and severity of canine idiopathic epilepsy with funding from CHF grants 02249 and 02561. They are specifically studying Lactobacillus and Helicobacter bacteria. Lactobacillus is considered a “good bug.” Some strains can produce the inhibitory neurotransmitter GABA, which decreases neuronal excitability throughout the nervous system. Helicobacter is a “bad bug” and a primary pathogenic factor for upper GI disease in humans. Alterations in the populations of these two microbes within the canine GI tract and the resulting inflammation may impact the course of canine epilepsy. A better understanding of this relationship may allow us to treat canine epilepsy by influencing the gut microbiome.

At the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, investigators are exploring whether the beneficial effects of the ketogenic diet seen in humans apply to canine epilepsy. This high fat, low carbohydrate diet alters the gut microbiome and has successfully decreased seizure

continued...
The Microbiome-Gut-Brain Axis in Canine Epilepsy

continued

activity in children. Supplementation with medium-chain triglycerides (MCT), one component of the ketogenic diet, did result in decreased seizure frequency in a small population of dogs. With funding from CHF Grant 02252, investigators are assessing the effect of MCT supplementation on seizure frequency and severity in dogs. They are also investigating whether MCT supplementation influences the side effects of common anti-epileptic drugs, behavioral problems, and stress levels in affected dogs. Results will improve our understanding and use of MCT supplementation as a treatment for canine epilepsy.

CHF’s Epilepsy Research Initiative focuses research funding on important topics such as the microbiome-gut-brain axis to develop more effective treatments for dogs with epilepsy. CHF and its donors remain committed to improving outcomes for dogs affected by idiopathic epilepsy, the most common medical neurologic disease in dogs. Learn more at akcchf.org/epilepsy.

Researching New Treatment Strategies for Canine Atopy

By Sharon Albright, DVM, CCRT – Manager of Communications & Veterinary Outreach, AKC Canine Health Foundation

Canine atopic dermatitis, or atopy, is a common and frustrating condition. It results from over-reaction of the immune system in response to a variety of commonplace and otherwise harmless substances in the environment - such as pollens, house dust mites, mold spores, and more. Clinical signs can occur seasonally or year-round and include scratching, chewing, licking, and rubbing affected areas of skin. The trauma from all this itching leads to hair loss, thickened or red skin, and recurrent skin and ear infections. Unfortunately, the disease cannot be cured, but must be managed with a combination of avoidance (when possible), medications, and allergen-specific immunotherapy. Canine atopy is a challenge because individual dogs respond differently to the various treatments and a dog’s response to treatment may vary over time. To improve the clinical outcome for affected dogs, AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and its donors are investing in research to identify new treatment targets for canine atopy.

A recent publication from CHF-funded research (Santoro D, Archer L, Kelley K. (2019) A defective release of host defense peptides is present in canine atopic skin. Comparative Immunology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases) showed that secretion of host defense peptides is defective in atopic skin. These molecules are part of the innate immune response and have anti-microbial activity. Atopic dogs may be prone to recurrent skin infections due to altered secretion and increased adhesion of these peptides. Further study of the biochemical and structural alterations in the host defense peptides of atopic dogs may provide new treatment targets and improving the skin’s anti-microbial defenses may reduce the need for antibiotics.

Lokivetmab (Cytopoint®) is a relatively new treatment option for canine atopy. It is a monoclonal antibody that targets IL-31, an inflammatory molecule involved in causing an unpleasant itchy sensation. With funding from CHF Grant 02472-A, investigators are examining how lokivetmab modulates the expression of various genes in affected and unaffected skin of atopic dogs. Results may identify additional inflammatory molecules or pathways that can be targeted for therapy.

Investigators that received funding through CHF Grant 02651 are analyzing the epidermal lipid (fat) composition of the skin of healthy and atopic dogs. We know that canine and human atopic dermatitis is associated with changes in this epidermal lipid composition, but do not know if the changes occur before or after inflammation sets in. A better understanding of these epidermal lipid changes may lead to better diagnostic tests and provide a method to predict or monitor response to treatment in atopic dogs.

Finally, with funding from CHF Grant 02653-A, investigators are evaluating the correlation between disease severity and the levels of various signaling proteins in the blood, exosomes (pouches used for cell to cell communication), and skin of atopic dogs. The specific proteins being studied were chosen based on previous canine and human research and may provide a target for treatment or monitoring a dog’s response to treatment.

CHF and its donors are dedicated to improving the diagnosis and treatment of canine atopic dermatitis. Since the molecular characteristics of canine and human atopy are similar, the knowledge gained may have One Health implications benefiting dogs and people. These innovative approaches to understanding atopy have the potential to greatly improve quality of life for affected dogs and their caregivers. Learn more at akcchf.org/derm.
A Calming Probiotic Impacts Dogs Displaying Anxious Behavior
By Barbara Fawver — Purina Manager of Pet Influential Communications

Efforts by Purina research scientists to understand how probiotics can positively affect dogs displaying anxious behavior has led to the introduction of Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Supplements Calming Care in January 2019. This probiotic supplement helps dogs cope with external stressors. The beneficial probiotic strain, *Bifidobacterium longum* (BL999), is shown to help dogs maintain calm behavior. One potential mechanism is via the microbiota-gut-brain axis, a bidirectional communication system between the gastrointestinal tract and the brain.

To better understand the impact of anxious behaviors, Purina recently conducted a survey of 826 U.S. dog owners whose dogs visited the veterinarian in the last 12 months.¹ The findings revealed that these behaviors can be quite common, with 62 percent of dog owners surveyed reporting that they have regularly seen anxious behaviors in their dog. Excessive barking, jumping, spinning, and pacing can be signs of anxious behavior in dogs. Other signs are panting when not hot, repeated yawning, lip licking or smacking, urinating or defecating, and even aggression.

Short-term stress is a normal and healthy response to startling or novel stimuli, but chronic stress can be harmful because it can affect a dog’s physical, mental and social health.

— Purina Research Scientist Ragen T.S. McGowan, PhD, animal behaviorist

To assess the impact of BL999 on dogs, Purina evaluated 24 Labrador Retrievers displaying anxious behaviors in a 15-week crossover study. By the end of the study, 90 percent of the dogs showed improvements in displaying anxious behaviors such as excessive barking, jumping, pacing and spinning. They also showed improvement in physiological factors such as positive cardiac activity during stressful events.

“From both a behavioral and physiological standpoint, BL999 had a calming effect on dogs,” Dr. McGowan says. “We found that BL999 could serve as a useful tool in the development of management plans for dogs displaying anxious behaviors.” Dr. McGowan will be presenting the findings of this research at the AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference in August.

¹. Revelation Research Online Survey (Aug. 15 to 19, 2018). A total of 826 nationally representative dog owners qualified and completed the survey. Qualified participants were men and women age 18 and older, owned one or more dogs (age 13 months or older), were household members most responsible for taking dog(s) to a veterinarian, and had taken the dog(s) to a veterinarian in the past 12 months.

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**Theriogenology Residency Program**

The AKC/AKC CHF/TF Theriogenology Residency Program, started in 2014, is a collaboration between the American Kennel Club (AKC), the AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKC CHF), and the Theriogenology Foundation (TF) to increase the number of trained practitioners in companion animal theriogenology and clinical genetics. Theriogenology is the branch of veterinary medicine concerned with reproduction, including the physiology and pathology of male and female reproductive systems, and the clinical practice of veterinary obstetrics, gynecology, and andrology. Learn more about this grant program at akcchf.org/therio.

**Jamie M. Douglas, DVM, MS (CHF Grant 02538-E)**
Residency Coordinator: Robyn Wilborn, DVM, MS, DACT
Auburn University
Grant Period: 7/1/2019 — 6/30/2022

Dr. Jamie M. Douglas is the newest recipient of a residency grant through this program. She received her DVM from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014 and her master’s degree in animal science (focus: reproduction) from Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s College of Agricultural Sciences in 2015. She is the proud owner of two Boston Terriers and one mixed breed dog.
Dakota Pet Breeders has used the proceeds from their annual APRI sanctioned dog shows to help in a different way this year. Our proceeds usually are designated to help a child with medical needs or trips to hospitals, families traveling to hospitals with children, or family medical emergencies. We have also helped a small town with a donation to help clean up their community after a tornado....

This year we have presented a $2000.00 scholarship for a second year veterinary student at South Dakota State University in Brookings South Dakota. Our members and officers have seen the need to help where & when we can. We hope this can give other clubs incentive to also do what they can for others. We are a club with approx. 70 members and welcome others to join us in our adventures in the “Dog World” to better our communities.

Presenter Pat Neises, board member of DPBA to Clay Hoffman with the SDSU Foundation.. – Pat Neises
We have over 5,000 references, computerized clerking and invoicing, cataloging, website listing, mailing lists for potential buyers, invoice division for consigned sellers and full time office & auction personnel. We will handle your auction as if it were our own from start to finish! Whether you have a $5,000.00 or $5,000,000.00 auction, your sale will get our full attention! Kennel, Farm Equipment, Antiques, Real Estate, Personal Estate, Automobiles, Guns & Collectibles; we can do it all! It’s all about reputation & marketing and we know how to bring the buyers to your auction! Don’t make a mistake that can cost you thousands of dollars, call us first!!

“We work hard for our seller and never compromise honesty to our buyers!”