Mitchell Miller & ‘Knik’
cover story on pg 8

* Understanding the Animal Activist
* ASDR show highlights!
* Spay & Neuter HSUS update
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ASDR Show Highlights!!

Meet ‘Knik’
Hi Kathy,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for all the information you send. It's interesting to see much of the bills that are proposed in your area(s) - especially the ones supported by organizations such as HSUS - are similar to the ones here in NH. Sadly it's rumored that our state vet is an animal activist, (possibly with HSUS) and I know he's been working with an attorney that is affiliated with HSUS. Her goal is to work with the state vet to obtain names of breeders, pet shops, horse people, etc. and go to their neighbors and start litigation against them. At this time, I'm going through it with her trying to shut down my small breeding business - trying to get the board of selectman to authorize a cease and desist order and have all of my dogs removed to the SPCA (our local SPCA works with HSUS) until the zoning is approved (I should be grandfathered).

I have taken the advice of your emails & Spotlight magazine by posting the nolo signs and we're working on finding a quality video security system. I'm also going to look into the FBI info because 1-1/2 years ago, this woman trespassed with her adult son, taking pictures & assaulted my 70# daughter that was telling them to leave. The pictures were posted everywhere. The neighbors and others trespass to my kennel at least once a week. They opened up chain link doors that are clasped shut, then open the dog doors so the dogs will come out and bark - looking for noise violations. Footprints in the snow led right to the neighbor's door through our backyard. We put a lock on the outside of the fence that encloses the kennel. They were able to pull the stockade out & get under it, so we put another lock on the bottom. We put individual locks on the inside of the kennel dog doors. They continue to trespass at night. Other footprints have come from the other side of our kennel - right over the stockade, breaking it. We repaired it. That same evening, I heard a wood squeaking sound that was getting the dogs barking. The next morning we found one of the posts that had been rocked back & forth so it was unstable. The intruders use something that sounds like an air gun - anything to get my dogs barking; firing gunshots close to the kennel, rocks on the outside kennel's metal roof, etc.

I don't know if I would have enough for the FBI to get involved? The local police said they can't do anything - even with footprints to the neighbors house, we didn't witness them doing it (the police saw the footprints). These people are represented by the HSUS lawyer - this is the same lawyer that is suing me in Superior Court for $30,000 for a pup that died of a blood disorder three years after purchase - they are claiming UCC & consumer protection violations - even though there was a signed contract with a one year genetic guarantee. I asked the court for a summary judgment - which was granted but was reversed on a motion for reconsideration. This is going to trial in October and I'm unrepresented at this time due to the fact that I'm told representation will be $10-20K. I'm a stay at home mom of four with a small business that I've been doing for about 24 years! Of course they want a trial to show me as the bad breeder and about the sad family that lost their family member.

It seems by reading your emails that your area deals with more conflict - I'm not sure if it's lawsuits but I've not been able to get much from the dog groups here (ie NHDOGS which is an AKC affiliated group). If you have any thoughts or suggestions, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time,
Pam from N.H.

Greetings!

I just wanted to write a note to say 'Thank You' to all for your publication and for your place at the frontline of our industry. I especially appreciated the article on the Humane Society. Actually, I would like permission to copy the article so I can better share it with friends, fellow breeders, and customers.

Kudos to Jim for taking on the MO BBB. They certainly do have a lot to answer. I read the "War" article by Jim and the "Dog Show Observations" by Rob Hurd with interest as we are located in Northwest Iowa. The issues of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Minnesota probably affect us as much as greater Iowa occurrences. We have been watching, and visiting with some of the people involved in the Christensen debacle. He was not entirely in the right, but he was definitely not treated fairly and the whole thing has HSUS overtones as well. I will be thanking the KELO guys for sharing that info in a forthright manner! Sadly, we have lost a great friend to the industry, our USDA inspector, largely due to animal rightest (leftist) activity it appears. We are apprehensive for the replacement.

Anyway, thanks again from the tri-state area.
Keep up the good work!
Laura Stover, Northwest Kennel and The Dog House Etc.
Some comments to the Southwest Auction crew:

Bob,
Please give yourself a pat on the back. People always talk about how risky it is to buy dogs at auction. We’ve never had a problem and have been pleasantly surprised more than once with what we brought home. The worst case of worms I have ever seen came from a dog I bought from a private kennel of a veterinarian! So the warning maybe should not be for you but for those you least expect it from. Nancy

Bob & Chadd–
Once again I find myself writing to you to express the ‘above and beyond’ work ethic of your staff. Anyone who’s been to one of your auctions can clearly see that the ladies behind the counter are helpful, informative, and above all, professional. While you’re doing your thing in the auction ring, those ladies are taking the reins of every issue that presents itself and finding answers. It may look like chaos to us customers, but they make it look like ‘just another day at the office.’ I’d like to say “Thank You” to Kelli, Sandy, Stephanie, Terri and Kathy. Thank you for your patience, your willingness to help and your smiles...no matter how difficult the previous customer was, you always greet the next one with a smile. I know, I’ve watched it happen. Oh yeah, Bob & Chadd-you two are pretty awesom yourselves. We’ll always come back to SWA~ Carl & Judy Monteer

To Southwest Auction,
I attended my first dog auction this weekend and just had to say how impressed I was by the level of professionalism shown by the auctioneers and breeders. I wasn’t sure what to expect since I had read so many negative things about the way animals were treated and the physical/emotional condition of the animals. Before I went, I decided to watch footage of auctions of ‘youtube’ and couldn’t believe I was watching the same videos described in the youtube summary. What had been described as horrific conditions and animal abuse wasn’t even in their own video!
I then contacted one of the breeders and was pleasantly surprised by how kind and informative she was on her dogs. Once at the sale, I was again blown away by how clean the facilities were, as well as the dogs. They were for the most part, well socialized and all were in good condition. I appreciated how honest Southwest Auction was with the descriptions of the dogs and allowed the bidders to take their time in examining the dogs. I have been to many livestock/horse auctions and believe me, they don’t do this! I look forward to attending additional auctions through your company and please feel free to use this email if there are any doubts to the quality of your sales.
Sincerely, Diana Bergstrom

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Kennel Spotlight * Jun/Jul ’10 • 7
Meet ‘Knik’ A ‘SPECIAL’ SERVICE DOG

Service dog (noun) A dog that has been specially trained to assist a disabled person with certain daily tasks, such as picking up an object from the floor.

A service dog is a type of assistance dog, specifically trained to help people who have disabilities other than visual or hearing impairment. Desirable character traits include good temperament or psychological make-up, good health including physical structure, biddability and trainability. Service dogs are sometimes trained and bred by service dog organizations. Some dogs are donated by shelters or private breeders. Such is the case of Knik, a very special Alaskan Malamute donated by Cheryl & Glynna of Canyons AKC Puppies of Stillwater, Oklahoma. These wonderful ladies have been raising quality Malamutes, Welsh Corgis and Weimeraners since ‘95 and continually strive to produce genetically sound and social dogs with outgoing personalities and good temperaments.

They met Mitchell Miller, a disabled Sophomore student at Oklahoma State University, on November 19th, 2009 at the OSU vs Colorado football game. Mitchell had always wanted a Malamute and he quickly hit it off with a couple of the malamutes that Cheryl and Glynna had brought with them that night. The girls decided to fulfill his wish by donating one of their puppies they called ‘Knik’ out of Siren, one of their malamute females, who had whelped on New Years Day.

This touching story quickly became widespread and along with the help of Stacy Mason from the American Kennel Club, who has been instrumental in Knik’s puppy training, several organizations have chipped in to donate products and services to help Mitchell succeed with his new companion. Stacy has spent many countless hours with Knik, taking him to different events around the country in order to help Knik feel comfortable with strangers. Robin Hessel from the Stillwater Kennel Club has donated all of Knik’s puppy training classes, which Mitchell and Stacy attend to help teach Mitchell and Knik together. Dr. Kenton Beard from Midway Vet Clinic in Neosho donated a years worth of heart worm preventative medications, his neutering and a complete health check up with vaccines and wellness exam. Other companies have donated products such as; Lambert Vet Supply (they gave Knik a pet bed, ear cleaner & consultation), Greenies by the Nutro Company (they gave a years worth of Greenies pill pockets), Royal Canin Dog Food (who donated a years worth of food) and Every Dog Magazine (Courtney Williams gave him some mint bones).

At just 8 weeks old, Knik had already learned to pick up Mitchell’s keys and bring them to him. He was a very fast learner and quickly became the ‘star’ of his puppy training class, showing others how it was done! Stacy, who is still fostering Knik until he becomes fully trained, takes him to visit Mitchell in between his classes at school. Besides their training classes, Mitchell is often seen with Knik at the local restaurants and have even been motorcycle riding together!

continued on pg. 10
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‘Knik’ the service dog cont. from pg. 8

They spend some of their free time together at Cheryl and Glynna’s home in Stillwater playing tug-o-war and getting to know one another. Canyons AKC Puppies have a really great website and monitor Mitchell and Knik’s progress on the ‘Mitchell pages’ with lots and lots of pictures! (www.canyonsakcpuppies.com).

The pictures on their website really tell the story, showing Knik in his training and meeting lots of new people. I have personally been to some of the many breeder seminars that Stacy attends with Knik at her side. He is a very fun loving and sweet dog and extremely calm considering all the commotion going on with people coming in and out of the exhibition buildings; even during lunchtime! Kudos to this wonderful kennel for donating such a great dog to a well deserving person and to all the people and organizations contributing to help Mitchell and Knik enjoy a happy and healthy life together! A special ‘Thank you’ to Stacy Mason of AKC and the Cheryl & Glynna of Canyons AKC Puppies for allowing us to feature this awesome story in the Kennel Spotlight.  

By Kathy Bettes
“I love doing business with Revival.”
—Sherry W. Florida

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There is about 1 dog for every 3 persons and about 1 cat for every 5 persons! Pet related businesses make millions of dollars from cat and dog foods, toys, treats, there’s even doggie clothes and pet insurance. Pets are the main source of work for veterinarians, grooming parlors, boarding kennels and vet supply companies. In the past 20 years, restrictions on importing dogs and other animals from countries like Russia and Europe and Mexico have been eased. While this has helped give more genetic diversity to many AKC purebred rare breeds that have become very much inbred, it has also brought over strains of Parvo and other diseases that our animals are not used to and that vets don’t have medications for.

So far most of our pet animals are raised within the US. Some of the Midwestern states which have more rural economies have become the biggest suppliers of pets. This is very important for those states economies and you have a better chance of buying a healthy pet then if you get one imported from Mexico which does not have the regulations that we already have from the Federal USDA plus each state has its own laws for healthy conditions for raising pets. Both of these Federal and State agencies send out inspectors yearly to check that basic requirements for space, feeding, exercise and vet care are carried out by the kennels both large or small that supply the nearly 1 million pets that people want for their families each year.

Because dogs only live about 10 years there is always a demand for puppies. Many families would not think of raising a family without a dog or kitten for the children to play with. It helps teach responsibility for another being, and is a playmate that a child can feel close to—even when adults seem so strict and perfectionistic; the pet just loves the child as he is.

Currently there is an amendment to our State of Missouri laws, coming up this fall sponsored by the Humane Society of the US (HSUS)- that will make it so difficult before voting on this new ballot initiative legislation up for a vote..trying to say we need a third set of rules, theirs, that will trump the other two already in effect by making it necessary to completely rebuild each pet raising kennel to their specifications as well as restricting the number of dogs and puppies raised. This will be very bad for the economy of Missouri as well as your chances of getting a cute puppy that you can afford. It will cause the importation of all types of dogs and other animals from overseas and Mexico. Already puppies are coming in from Mexico…Another example of our jobs—that we really need, being given to foreign countries. It will also bring in a big influx of new diseases that your pet may die from because the foreign diseases are not ones your vet has medicines for. Please consider very carefully before voting on this new ballot initiative legislation coming up. It could affect you, your family, your job and your pets in many ways in the future.

Submitted by an anonymous member of MPBA

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DOGS RETURNED TO THUNDER RIDGE KENNEL AFTER FALSE ALLEGATIONS

“Hopefully the county attorney’s office will be smarter next time because they cost taxpayers, and I’m one of them, a lot of money,” said Buzz Powell after having the majority of his dogs returned to Thunder Ridge Kennel, west of Wyoming, Iowa. “No seizure has ever been resolved this fast—within 2 weeks. Normally it drags out for months.”

Seventy dogs and two puppies were taken in the seizure under execution of a search warrant by the Jones County Sheriff’s Office on March 15th. Six different animal rescue groups assisted in removing the dogs. “It is absolutely surreal how this has unfolded,” Powell noted. “It has been a horrible nightmare. What really irritates me are the lies. I just want everybody to tell the truth. Don’t lie about me, my facility or my dogs.”

Both veterinarians on the scene during the seizure, Dr. Debbie Strauss and Dr. Robert Beecher, agree that Powell is a good, respectable person capable of operating a fine business. Dr. Strauss said she and Dr. Beecher were called blank slate to the kennel. She was impressed with the cleanliness of the facility, and said the minor problems that were found were corrected. Powell cooperated with everyone the entire time and had nothing to hide. It was blown out of proportion. “Just remember, don’t pass judgment,” Dr. Strauss cautioned. “This could happen to anybody.”

Dr. Beecher said it could have been handled in a better fashion. He couldn’t believe it was happening and thought Powell had a deal worked out with the rescue groups. Normally after somebody makes a complaint, the sheriff’s office and a vet who is not associated with the owner investigate. If they feel the dogs need to be removed, then they move forward. Both veterinarians recommended that all the dogs be returned because there was no neglect or abuse. All the dogs at the facility had been seen by a veterinarian and were treated well by Powell and his three employees.

At the hearing March 29th, Assistant County Attorney Emily Stork stood up in the courtroom and announced the allegations against Powell were unfounded. The animal welfare groups wanted to make a deal. They wanted to purchase the 15 dogs and one puppy they held in custody. They came to an agreement on a dollar amount but asked that the amount not be disclosed. The agreement was written up without a purchase amount, which Powell didn’t like. He only charged them for the 15 dogs, giving them the one puppy because it was not weaned. There were 6 other dogs that had been returned that the rescue groups wanted, but he only allowed them to purchase the two that had been placed on the internet for sale. The rescue groups agreed to pay for the dogs remaining in their custody, but Powell as of April 8th, has not received payment. Powell is responsible for court costs and his attorney fees. All other expenses resulting from the seizure fall on the rescue groups.

Five dogs are still missing and nobody will admit that they have the dogs. All except two dogs that were taken are microchipped so they can be located. Powell was advised to wait until Wednesday and then report that these dogs have been stolen. Whoever has them can be charged with possession of stolen property. Twenty-three of the dogs seized had been purchased within 4 days of the seizure. Six of the Boston Terriers remaining in rescue were purchased on March 10th and brought to the kennel early on the 12th. They had only been in the facility a few days and Powell had a vet’s appointment on the day after the seizure for the new dogs.

When Powell buys out a facility, he must purchase everything, even the dogs he does not want. He was especially interested in 3 of the 9 Bostons at this facility because of their bloodlines, personalities and looks. The others he planned to get healthy and place on auction or with rescue groups. Powell is consistently particular about breeding and will not breed any animal that has any congenital defects. The rescue groups advertised on April 10th that the seized dogs were going up for adoption. First they noted the horrible condition of the dogs, yet in less than a month they were putting them up for adoption.

“This is surreal. They picked on the wrong kennel when they did this,” Powell said. “A lot of people would just buckle, but I won’t. I’m tired of letting people walk all over me and that night was my breaking point.”

One of the little Basenji puppies that were seized is partially blind. Powell was planning to keep him as a personal pet but had to wait until he was 8 weeks old to remove him from the kennel because of USDA regulations. He does not wean any puppy before 8 weeks.

continued on pg. 16
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of age. When the rescue group took the dogs, the puppy was placed in a separate home from his mother. The puppy was not allowed to continue nursing even though the vets on scene that night insisted and Deputy Andy Bowers and Powell specifically told the rescue workers that the puppy needed to be with his mother.

When the puppy was returned, Powell got the okay from USDA and he and his sister are now inside pets at the Powell home. “I live for my dogs,” Powell explained. “My kennel has central air and central heat.” His electric bill for the kennel ranges from $250 to $400 a month. The nursery stays at 82 degrees all winter. The kennel where his dogs live stays at 65 degrees, the same temperature as his house. The staff at Thunder Ridge feed the dogs twice a day, keep fresh water available at all times and are looking at installing automatic waterers.

Powell lives very simply, putting all the money he makes back into his kennel for new equipment and vet bills which amount to approximately $3,000 per month. He never asks what a procedure will cost, he just approves it if the dog needs it. No procedures are performed at the kennel; he has them all done at the Monticello Veterinary Clinic. His vet does all dew claws, C-sections, and tail docks, which many facilities do on their own to cut costs. He simply wants the truth to be known and the dramatization to stop. He printed off 97 pages from the internet about what people have been saying about the incident.

The Adopt a Boston website starts with incorrect information from the beginning of their posted article, saying Powell lives down a long gravel road. He actually lives right off a major highway, Hwy 64. They say he threatened Kirkwood and the vets, which Powell says is false. “If I would have threatened people, how would that help me get my dogs back?” he asked. “That is not how we operate.” A walk around the kennel shows that their accusations are totally unfounded.

Addressing the complaints noted the night of the seizure, the changes were already in the works. The vets saw the equipment setting there ready to be installed. Powell was waiting on people to come move the dirt to install 10 outside runs, to haul gravel, and to complete building 12 foot long dog houses. By that Friday, everything was finished. They accuse him of raising dogs in small cages, but most are 36x36x36. Isolation 30x30 pens are used for dogs that are not supposed to move around much. He also has inside and outside runs that are wire pens for dogs that don’t get along with other dogs. These dogs are not placed in a home environment.

The rescue groups stated that dogs sold on auction Dec. 5th were matted and lice infested. The auction company would never let such dogs through their auction service. Dogs are taken to auction to reduce their numbers just like a farmer does. Other breeders are looking for these dogs. Powell used to send his retiring dogs to rescue groups, but after this ordeal he will discontinue the practice. He will have to figure something else out, but they will not go to rescue groups. That is sad because he dealt with 2 great groups; one out of Minnesota and one in Wisconsin, who had nothing to do with this incident. They were heartbroken when he told them, but the local rescue groups ruined it for everyone else.

All dogs being retired had been cared for by his vet at Monticello, spayed or neutered and shots updated, before going to rescue. The groups would get a dog that needed no medical attention so they could work on getting it crate trained and ready for a new home. Whatever they made off that dog would go back into the group. “I’ve stood by my work since day one,” Powell added. “We keep detailed records.” USDA is stricter than the state so there are a lot of documents to fill out. Anytime a purchase or sale is made, multiple forms need to be filled out and kept on file.

“We have had people purchase a puppy who have asked if they are buying a house!” he laughed. He states in his purchase agreement with buyers that he has the right to stop in for a checkup. If he doesn’t like the way the dog is being treated and taken care of, he will take it back. He has only had to do that twice. When he travels, he looks to see which dogs are placed in that area, and stops to check on them. Powell receives 10 to 15 emails along with pictures each week from people who have purchased puppies from him, letting him know how they are doing. He stays in contact with buyers, sending out Christmas cards and keeping up with them. One lady who had purchased a dog 15 years ago lost the dog to cancer, so she recently purchased another puppy from Powell.

“With all the ordeal going on, it was really nice to see everybody who had purchased from us come out and say our dogs are healthy and happy,” Powell said. “That is what I strive for. I bend over backwards to make sure everybody is happy.” He has an adult dog that was purchased Monday and he was starting Tuesday with task of house breaking her. Earlier this year, he trained 2 French Bulldog puppies in his home for two months while the buyers were involved in purchasing a new house. He has helped with rescues, taken dogs in and housed them, and covered vets’ costs back when the Jones County animal welfare group was getting started. Powell was state licensed for a year, but gave up the license because it was an hour drive everyday to Dyersville where the kennel was located. He sold the kennel in Nov. 2008 and kept just 3 breeding dogs which
are below state requirement. On May 30, 2009 with the purchase of Marge Brunscheen property and adjacent property, he had enough land to go back into the kennel business. Last March he applied for a USDA license but it took them until October to issue the license. Since their inspector was injured last summer, USDA didn’t have anyone to come out and do the inspection, so that delayed the process.

The only infractions on which he was written up from USDA inspection were the nursery ceiling that needed painting and waterproofed, several dog houses that had been chewed on and straw the had been piled outside the pens. “These rescue groups have done nothing but lie since the beginning of this and I hope the county and the sheriff’s department realize that over the years, we have been harassed continuously by the animal welfare groups making false allegations,” Powell stated. “I have been targeted for years due to unfounded personal accusations. When Governor Chet Culver passed the puppy mill bill, that gave the rescue groups the ‘in’ and they got the ball moving. I hope county officials realize that rescue groups will lie to get into a facility and I hope that from now on, they actually LOOK at what they are doing before they do it.”

Article by Shirley Jones
Reprinted with permission from the Midland Times, Volume 45, Number 14-April 9, 2010

A note from Buzz;
“I would love to say this is the time that ALL KENNELS need to stand together no matter what state you are in! If you are a Substandard Kennel it is time to clean up your act and stop breeding poor quality dogs and STOP taking your poor quality dogs to the Auction. If you sell your poor quality dogs at auction and they end up with a Rescue group, that group will use it against the breeding industry.”

(Pictured below: Shayne with our house dogs; Blue, Roscoe, Snowflake Stevie and Anna)
What gives with the Better Business Bureau??

By Jim Hughes

It probably comes to you as no surprise that when somebody starts to bad mouth my industry, they quickly get on the “fight’en side of me”. Just like Meryl Haggard says, “I do not intend to take it lying down”. In last month’s issue, we printed a web site for you to look up. Space did not permit us printing this biased, prejudicial, piece of unmitigated CRAP. Besides, I did not want to stink up my beautiful magazine with the BULL EXCREMENT, bought and paid for by unnamed enemies that are dedicated to the demise of the entire animal agriculture industry. I would think another Internal Revenue Service audit is now indicated for the BBB. At this time, I am not condemning the nationwide group of the BBB, just the St. Louis group who is obviously being brainwashed be the HSUS. BUT, if a retraction is not forthcoming by press time, then this condemnation is directed at the group as a whole.

Please go to The Kennel Spotlight web site to read the entire 6 page report published by the BBB. Some of this is just the rehashing of old charges from years back, some are new charges, some are false charges and some are true charges. We are not lily white as an industry, but we are a heck of a lot better than the BBB and the HSUS would have you believe. If you do not understand how to work the computer for information, ask your grandchild, he grew up with a video game in one hand and a computer in the other. He would love an excuse to show grandma or papa how smart he is or how dumb you are. Smart alec little twirp!

I want the industry leaders in Missouri to demand an open public meeting with the BBB to tell us the who, why, when, and how that this investigation was performed, and the competency and qualifications of the one who did the investigation. I want him to stand in front of a group of conscientious, well educated, hard working, LEGAL AND LICENSED, kennel operators and tell them they have no right to produce puppies in this state of Missouri or any other state because he has deemed them unfit to raise dogs based on his opinion of the worst 5 to 10 percent of the people who are in this business. Surprise, we want them out too. But not with laws over and above what we already have in place.

This study headlines; “Missouri—The National Hot Spot of the Puppy Industry” It is stated that the Animal Welfare Act or USDA licenses 4000 breeders nationally. About 30 percent of these are in Missouri, with two-thirds of all licensees being in the five contiguous states including Missouri. In six of the states surveyed, they reported one kennel per 100,000 residents, while Missouri has about one kennel per 3000 residents. Missouri has four times as many USDA-licensed kennels as Nebraska, which they say is the next highest. They then proceed to claim that southwest Missouri is the hub of the kennel industry.

O.K. What this says to me is that Missouri is the best place to raise puppies. Why? Because until very recently the breeders here in Missouri had a faith that they could invest heavily in quality breeding stock and first class kennel buildings with the assurance that if they followed Missouri laws and passed Missouri inspections they would not be harassed out of business. They felt safe that a Missouri license would protect them. I now fear for Kansas, as I felt their license would also protect them.

Now we read that Nebraska is the second largest state in kennel population, even though Missouri outnumbers them, 4 to 1. So, I deduce from this figure that the Missouri Dept. of Agriculture was doing a pretty good job of regulating the kennel business. I want to know how many unlicensed breeders Nebraska has. Is the USDA inspection process so lax that it takes the Missouri ACFA program to bring their breeders under the inspection umbrella, either/or USDA or Missouri. If Nebraska had a similar program within the state, the number of USDA licensees would increase significantly. Also, as an after thought, why is Oklahoma also listed as the second largest state in breeding kennels as the HSUS is trying to ram a licensing bill down their throat that is not sympathetic to our industry. I feel that facts and figures are manipulated to push the agenda for whatever the HSUS is trying to push onto us.

May I brag just a little as the BBB recognizes that southwest Missouri and Barry County in particular is the hub of the industry. I will remind you that Do-Bo-Tri Kennels and its children grew up in Barry County. Nuff said!!

We are told that 352 complaints were filed with the BBB in the past three years. We are also told that there are 1200 licensed kennels and around 2000 unlicensed kennels in the state. The average puppy sales are around 100 puppies per breeder per year. 3200 kennels are producing 320,000 sales per year. Given the nature of live animals to get sick from being under the stress of weaning, vaccinations, de-worming, and shipping I give a hearty congratulations for an outstanding job well done.

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BBB article cont. on pg. 20
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One tenth of one percent, even the MAYO clinic cannot come close to that figure. Also, somebody needs to tell this ignorant person that a puppy might be harder to fix than a toaster. Another thing he needs to learn is that the pet industry depends on live animals to sell, not a carcass hanging on a hook. A side of beef does not get sick at a later date.

The BBB cites a case as a prominent example. The Kennel Spotlight would refer to this case as an isolated example. They also cited as an example that 20 breeders garnered over 987 violations in three years. For twenty breeders out of the 1200 that were inspected, we are supposed to support a change for harsher laws that would change the way we raise our dogs based on years of experience? These laws would be formulated by bleeding hearts in the city that regularly kiss their dogs in the mouth just minutes after it has licked himself clean. I think not!!! We have people who know what they are doing. If we want advice and input, we can attend our state seminars and listen to knowledgeable people that want to help us, not some jackass who wants to put us out of business.

We are then reminded of the traitorous acts of Senator Claire McCaskill who appeared as a speaker at the Springfield, MO seminar a few years back and pretended to be a friend, only to attempt to stab us in the back after she won her state auditor position. I always felt the inspector was there to help and a good inspector would offer advice on how to come into compliance on an inspection. It seems that the McCaskill idea is now permeating the thinking in the state auditor’s office as well as the Atty. General, the Governor and the new Secretary of Agriculture. Are all of these office holders also disciples of the H$US? Should government employees be reminded that they work for the tax paying public, not the other way around? We should be keeping these breeders in business, these people who bring millions of dollars into the state from the east and west coast.

We can then refer to the statement, “Consumers also may adopt a pet from an animal shelter”. Have you ever priced a dog from the shelter? Does the shelter pay taxes on the sale? Does the shelter provide paying jobs to the community? The Better Business Bureau needs to look into the business of stealing dogs from breeders, selling them to the public, getting most of their labor force free of charge, paying no taxes, being exempt from most of the regulations governing the handling of dogs, being allowed to kill a dog at will, having little to no veterinarian charges and with most of their feed and supplies donated to them. Hell yes, that’s a BETTER business. Better than we got, by a long sight.

Then the article talks about contracts, or guarantees which they criticize heavily. They do not address the situation of a puppy being handled by a three year old toddler, being fed table scraps which are a sure bet to cause diarrhea, being exposed to disease that he does not posses mothers immunity for, not excepting the Parvo vaccine into it’s immunity system because of mothers immunity, paying east coast veterinarian bills designed to cover the payments on the new Mercedes.

We are then told that the best we have to offer, a 20 million dollar broker facility and a chain of pet stores with franchises covering the world from Japan to South Africa is not good enough, not withstanding the fact that the Arizona lawsuit against these two entities were thrown out of court before this article was published. The omission of this fact proves the report to be prejudiced.

We are then told that the state does not spend enough money to enforce its existing laws, therefore the fees need to be raised to the breeders and the state needs to commit more money. Meanwhile state funded education projects and state funded mental health projects are being cut so drastically that a hospital in Nevada, Missouri is being closed with 98 patients being dumped out on the street. Sure, BBB, (can’t print my true thoughts) let’s spend some more money on enforcing the regulations you want passed.

Forgive me, the more I wrote the madder I got. I guess I am a radical after all. I need to go take my Valium.

---

The poor dog... in life the firmest friend; the first to welcome, foremost to defend! Lord Byron
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The ACA’s Legislative Team routinely travels to different state capitolss to correct the misinformation provided to lawmakers about the canine industry’s husbandry care, veterinary protocols, true statistics, proper facility housing standards, and other facts relating to the canine industry. ACA is fiercely dedicated to protecting our breeders, distributors, retailers, and canine owners.

Over the past 20 years ACA as forged strategic alliances with well respected organizations such as Farm Bureau, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), State Grange, Farmers Union, manufacturers associations, and breeder organizations on the state and national levels to coordinate lobby campaigns protecting the many facets of the our canine industry.

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Once again, Southwest Auction Service of Wheaton, Missouri held their annual Bulldog breeder seminar on the night of April 16th, right before their Bulldog Sale on the 17th. We had another great turnout for this year’s event with Dr. Kenton Beard of Midway Vet Clinic in Neosho speaking to the breeders about the care and breeding of bulldogs. He particularly focused on breed standards and educating breeders on being selective on choosing their breeding stock. Everyone enjoyed a free dinner along with the seminar and received some great door prizes.

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MY DOG AND ME

By Jim Hughes

I got “Maggie” as a present from my wife. She was about 9 weeks old and almost more than an old man can handle. As she grew up, she became heavier and stronger and harder to handle. She was no longer a puppy but I never told her that. When I put a leash on her I got the same sensation on dry land as a water skier gets on the lake. It became obvious that we had to develop an understanding.

I have friends in the neighborhood that walk their Golden Retriever every day. I soon realized that with her pulling me around our 1 mile circle, this walk was going to wear me out a long time before she got tired. This dog possessed more energy than Boulder Dam. I told her to run around our 3 acres and I would sit and watch her. She left the property a few times so one day I explained to her what they do to wandering dogs down at the shelter. I also showed her a buggy whip that I had when I had horses. I explained to her that if I was to get mad enough to use this means of persuasion, she would not like it. This discussion plus a high frequency training device worked wonders. She has been the most perfect dog I have owned in years.

Maggie is a Bernese Mountain Dog. She seems to possess an unusual amount of intelligence but I have very limited training abilities. So we do not do tricks nor do we work cattle nor herd sheep nor hunt coons, etc. We just sit and admire each other. My wife paid a lot of money for Maggie, as we got her when the breed was red hot and the prices were sky high. Later, I turned down the opportunity to triple my money by selling her as a breeding dog. I also resisted the temptation to breed her for the money I could make on her puppies. She was a member of the family. She replaced my kids after they moved out. After all, I did not sell my grandkids; (couldn’t get a high enough offer).

This is when the miracle happened. When she came into heat, we penned her up to keep her home so the neighborhood Romeos could not get to her. But two months later a miraculous conception took place. She produced two puppies all by herself. We found a home for one of the pups but we still had the other when one day it just disappeared. I wondered if it left the same way it came, miraculously. I walked the neighborhood and asked if anyone had seen the pup but after three days, I assumed somebody had just picked it up to take home for their kids. But later, the neighbor who walked the Golden every day told me she had heard a puppy crying over in the woods. I went to investigate. I, too, could hear a puppy crying but no puppy could be found. Remember, this puppy had supernatural beginnings. It seemed that the crying was coming from a brush pile in the middle of a large overgrowth of bushes and small trees and weeds. I waded in and started tearing into the brush pile to see where that crying was coming from. When I got into the middle of the pile, there was nothing. But I could still hear that crying. This was getting creepy. I looked around to see if somehow the noise was coming from some place else and being transmitted from this brush pile. You know, like a ventriloquist. It was then that I saw a movement on the ground. But there was nothing on the ground. Just a movement. Then I saw it. A puppy nose popping up about a half inch above the ground. The puppy was caught in a ground hog hole. It was too deep for me to reach him or for him to jump out. I had to wait for him to jump again and then I grabbed him. He was one happy pup to get out of that hole!

A couple of years later Maggie developed Von Willabrand’s disease. We had her spade and she would not quit bleeding. Doctor Beard tried several things but we finally had to get human medicine from the hospital to cure her. She has not had any trouble since then.

Maggie has finally caught up with me. We
are both old now. She will get up and come to me for a little affection, even if it takes her a long time to get on her feet. I will do that also if my wife looks like she might give me a little affection. Maggie is black and white with tan markings. I have black and blue marks where I fell into the door jam plus I have age spots, so we are almost the same color. We both move a lot slower than we once did. We both like to be in front of the fire place except she gets over heated and asks to be let out. We are facing the time when we must ask the vet to send her over the rainbow bridge. I am not going to tell the kids about it. They might get the idea if it’s good for the dog, why not the old man? We hope Maggie will be with us for another year, but I am not sure she can take another winter. Time will tell. 

I tend to wonder if I am an animal abuser. She has a 29 dollar pillow in the garage plus 2 blankets that she can sleep on plus her feed bowl is in the garage. So, where do I find this 10 year old, arthritic dog? Laying out in the middle of the yard, on the ground, a dusting of snow covering her body in 25 degree weather. Why? Because she wants to, that’s why! She is not comfortable in the house for very long. But, when Missouri passes the law saying she has to be kept in a heated building because some bleeding heart idiot thinks just because humans want a heated building to live in, then obviously a dog must want it to. I will need help trying to explain this to her. It doesn’t matter what your druthers are, you gotta obey the new law. 

I have owned thousands of dogs in my time. About ten have become part of the family. Tottie, a Boston Terrier when I was a kid; Dixie, a dingo or Australian Cattle Dog when I was raising my family, and Maggie in my old age are the three I remember most fondly. My journey towards heaven will soon be upon me and I would like to think that all of my loved ones that left before me will be standing at the pearly gates when I get there, and somewhere in that crowd, I will see three tails waggin in the wind. O, yeah, I want to see you all there too.
Production agriculture has faced many issues of the years that have challenged farmers and ranchers. However, today’s attacks by animal rights activists threaten the very existence of livestock, grain and pet producers. Recently, a meeting was held in Cassville, Mo sponsored by the Barry County Farm Bureau, SW Chapter Dog Breeders Association, and SW Mo Cattlemen’s Association to educate the animal producers about the animal rights movement threatening animal agriculture and the proposed Missouri Ballot initiative by HSUS attacking dog breeders. Kelly Smith from the Missouri Farm Bureau gave a presentation about ‘engaging’ all animal producers to work together. He stated that agriculture can no longer let these issues go by unchallenged. Livestock and pet producers today have to be totally committed to protecting their livelihood and inform their friends, neighbors and associates on exactly what they do and how the services they provide for the nation’s survival. Farmers and ranchers have been so busy staying at home taking care of business, growing and producing grain and livestock to feed the nation, that the animal rights movement has stepped in and made a firm stand to get rid of all animal production. A quote by John “J.P.” Goodwin, the HSUS grassroots coordinator really says it all, “My goal is the abolition of all animal agriculture.”

Animal producers, whether it be livestock or pets, have to learn to band together for the good of their industry. They need to look into the local school systems and find out what they are teaching their children. HSUS is very aggressive in their ‘factory-fundraising’ tactics and they not only target the schoolchildren to influence them but they frequently misuse cartoons and popular celebrities to prey upon people’s emotions. Dr. Neal Barnard, a psychiatrist from the Physicians for Responsible Medicine, has made the statement, “Meat consumption is just as dangerous to public health as tobacco use.” Dr. Barnard consequently ‘lives’ with Ingrid Newkirk, the PETA President and Founder. Both of them fundraise together to subsidize various anti-animal organizations throughout the country.

To better summarize what the animal rights movement is all about, please read the following ‘Twelve Steps of the Animal Rights Agenda’. It is a NEW WORLD according to the animal rights activist. It is the world they are in the process of LEGISLATING into existence. They have been telling us for years EXACTLY what their goals are but we weren’t listening.

(1) Abolish by law animal research
(2) Outlaw the use of animals for cosmetic and product testing, classroom demonstration and in weapons development.
(3) Vegetarian meals should be made available at all public institutions, including schools. (There is a current HSUS initiative to make at least one meal a day at the public schools to totally vegetarian. Think about what they would do for the livestock producer.)
(4) Eliminate all animal agriculture.
(5) No herbicides, pesticides or other agricultural chemicals should be used.
(6) Transfer enforcement of animal welfare legislation away from the Dept. of Agriculture.
(7) Eliminate fur ranching and end use of furs.
(8) Prohibit hunting, trapping and fishing.
(9) End the international trade in wildlife goods.
(10) Stop any further breeding of companion animals, including purebred dogs and cats. Spaying and neutering should be subsidized by state and municipal governments. Abolish commerce in animals for the pet trade.
(11) End the use of animals in entertainment and sports.
(12) Prohibit the genetic manipulation of the species.

If anyone thinks the animal rights movement doesn’t affect them personally, this agenda should really open their eyes. “We have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding...One generation and out. We have no problems with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding.” ---Wayne Pacelle, President of HSUS.

WAKE UP AMERICA, HSUS IS HERE!

Thank You to Mr. Kelly Smith of the Missouri Farm Bureau for dedicating his time to educate the animal producers of Missouri.
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Health is an important yet challenging variable when breeding dogs. As a successful breeder you want to raise quality healthy puppies. Keeping puppies in a secure and sanitary environment is important but a puppy’s health begins before they are conceived. Maintaining and documenting a solid foundation of healthy stud dogs and brood bitches will in turn bring you healthy puppies. How is the best way to go about maintaining and monitoring health in your breeding program? One key proponent is genetic health testing.

Getting it right from the start

Health testing is an important aspect of maintaining quality in your breeding program. As a breeder you can be proactive by health testing your breeding stock before you breed. Health testing can detect inherited diseases and determine if your pets are carriers or affected. By starting at the source and making sure all your dogs pass their health clearances you can decrease the risk of passing on some inherited diseases to future generations.

Health Tests

Canine health testing of parents limits the risk of offspring contracting or carrying certain diseases. The nature of a particular health test depends on the nature of the genetic disorder you are testing. AKC Parent Clubs promote healthy breeding, genetic testing, and genetic diversity. When health problems occur, they address them through funding genetic research, encouraging the testing of breeding stock and establishing and using health registries for their pre-breeding screenings. There are a number of tests recommended by AKC parent clubs including OFA, CERF, and BAER. The recommended tests vary according to a particular breed.

You can learn more about canine health testing on the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) website, www.caninehealthinfo.org. If your breed does not participate in the CHIC program you can learn more on your breed’s parent club website at www.akc.org/clubs search under club search, national clubs.

How it can benefit you?

Health testing your breeding stock will display your commitment to your dogs and the industry. Having the dogs in your kennel health tested is another aspect of raising the bar in your breeding program. This will allow you to stand apart from other breeders. Breeding unhealthy dogs will in turn lead to more unhealthy dogs. Being proactive and aware of your breeding programs health concerns will help you be a successful breeder. Healthy puppies will lead you to more success and longevity in your bloodlines while unhealthy dogs will lead you into dealing with unsatisfied buyers and rising veterinary costs.

Being proactive

Your breeding program must consist of not only physical attributes but genetic as well. Do not let the problem creep up on you; eliminate the concern from the start with early detection. Your best approach is preventative; educate yourself not only on your own bloodlines but of the breed as a whole. Honesty with yourself and your puppy buyers is key. Study the health concerns of your breed possibly preventing a problem for you and your dogs in the long run.

Stay informed & involved

Knowledge is key! The more you educate yourself on canine health the better your dogs will be. Attend AKC breeder symposia and breeders conferences, inform yourself on your breeds health concerns, get your dogs tested by attending health clinics which often offer a wide variety of tests at a discounted rate. CHIC the Canine Health Information Center, a joint program of OFA and AKC parent clubs, is a reliable source of information on canine health for breeders. CHIC is about encouraging health screening, sharing health results, and increasing health awareness, all in an effort to help breeders make more informed breeding decisions and improve the overall health of the breed. The CHIC website is a valuable site to visit and can be found at www.caninehealthinfo.org. Another informative website on canine health is www.akcdoghealth.org. This site serves as a one-stop place for a variety of health information and health registries.
As the only purebred dog registry with a national inspections program, our inspectors conduct more than 5,000 inspections of kennels, pet shops, distributors, and auctions annually. We work with you, our valued breeders, to maintain the integrity of the AKC registry and the reputation of your breeding programs.

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Within seconds, Dennis Schmitz’s life changed forever. Truth be told, it nearly ended. On the morning of Jan. 19, 1999, Dennis was grinding feed for his livestock, a task he had completed hundreds of times before. But on this cold winter day, the northwest Missouri farmer’s vigilance lapsed as he worked near the tractor’s PTO. Without warning, the spinning shaft grabbed Dennis’ coat, pulling him into the machinery. His entangled clothing twisted and tightened, breaking bones and throwing him to the ground. Eventually, the PTO tore his shirts and coats off. As quickly as he had been caught, Dennis was free. “It broke my right arm 18 times and it wrapped around my left arm so tight that it destroyed the main artery in it,” he says of the accident. “It wrapped the coats around my neck so tight that it made my eyes bleed. It broke my collarbone, three ribs, gave me severe burns over most of the upper part of my body, and it broke my neck four times.”

After several surgeries and months of rehabilitation, Dennis returned to farming. To look at him today at age 44, you would be hard-pressed to guess he had been in such a horrific accident. But the effects still linger. “There isn’t anything that I don’t do today that I didn’t do back then, it’s just that I can’t do it as easily,” explains the United Electric Cooperative member who lives south of Parnell, Mo. “It either hurts or I can’t do it as long now, or I do it differently.”

Dennis is one of an estimated 37,000 to 55,000 farmers and ranchers with disabilities in Missouri. In August, he became the first to receive a unique farmhand through an innovative new program. Roy, a 3 year old Border Collie, has joined Dennis and his family through the PHARM Dog Program, which seeks to pair farmers with disabilities with dogs who can assist with various tasks around the farm, including herding livestock and special skills such as opening gates, carrying buckets or retrieving tools.

“PHARM stands for ‘Pets Helping Agriculture in Rural Missouri,’” says Jackie Allenbrand, a specialist with the Missouri AgrAbility Project, who originated the idea 4 years ago. “The goal is to help farmers remain independent, active and productive in agriculture by providing them with a dog trained for their specific needs. It’s been a long road to get here, but Roy is the first dog we’ve placed through the program.”

While using dogs for herding or service work is not a new idea, teaming such animals with farmers with disabilities at no cost to the farmer certainly is. According to AgrAbility Program Director Karen Funkenbusch, Missouri is the only state to implement such a program. “When you can give a farmer with a disability an extra set of hands—or in this case, paws—to help out, you’re giving that farmer an opportunity to remain successful,” she says.

With the help of partnering agencies, including University of Missouri Extension and Midland Empire Resources for Independent Living, Jackie secured a small starter grant for the PHARM Dog program in 2005. After two unsuccessful attempts to obtain a dog to demonstrate her idea, she finally received Kristy, a 6 month old Lab/Shepherd mix in Sept. 2008. Rescued from a shelter, Kristy received training to show skills that would benefit a disabled farmer. “She is a magnet,” Jackie says. “Everybody wants to come and see what the dog is doing.”

Though the word has spread gradually, finding the necessary funding to purchase and train dogs has been hard to come by. Well-trained herding dogs can cost $2500 to $3500, and dogs for service purposed cost at least $5000 and can run $30,000 or more, depending on the level of training. Through a fortunate series of events, Jackie made a connection in April ’09 with Bobby Miller, a Border Collie breeder and trainer in Plattsburg, Mo. He agreed to not only donate dogs to the program but also the training for both dogs and the farmers. In the process, he convinced a fellow trainer, Virgil Miles of Tonganoxie, KS to do the same. Roy came from Virgil’s farm. “Things have really moved quickly these past few months,” Jackie says. “We hope to place a second PHARM dog with a southwest Missouri farmer in the next three to four months.”

In addition to dogs and trainers, Jackie is working to line up others to help the program grow. She says as more puppies are donated, she’ll need to identify “puppy raisers,” people willing care for a pup and return it when it’s old enough to be trained. While Jackie has found one supplier for dog food, she’s seeking others, as well as a company willing to donate veterinary medical supplies.

“Farmers help us so much by raising our food supply that we need to give back to them, and my goal is to make this a 100 percent no-cost program,” she says, adding at that at this time, there still costs involved for farmers who request a service dog. As with other assistance from Missouri AgrAbility, a farmer need not be in an accident to qualify for the PHARM Dog program. Those eligible for services may have any type of disability, disease or disorder, including such ailments as arthritis, vision impairment, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, hearing impairment or stroke.

“This is something we’ve needed for a
long time,” says Sandy Rickey, a widowed farmer from Odessa and a member of West Central Electric Cooperative. “I’m hoping that it’ll take off and just go.” Sandy is helping Jackie demonstrate the potential of dogs to assist with farmwork. For more than 20 yrs, she has farmed with a trained dog by her side.

Currently, Barbed Wire Abe, a 9 yr old wire mouth heeler, helps her care for her sheep, goats and chickens. In addition to herding, Abe opens gates and performs other tasks. “You’d be surprised how handy it comes in,” she says. “If I need something, I don’t go get it: I send him. If you understand your dog and you work with him all the time, he’ll get to where he knows you. Dogs are only limited by what we’re able to teach them.”

Having Roy to herd the sheep and cattle on the Schmitz’s Nodaway County farm gives Dennis a chance to conserve energy he would have to otherwise expend on the tasks. This allows him to use that energy toward another goal—helping his sons establish themselves in the family business. “This is all I’ve ever wanted to do, and I’m helping them get started,” he says. “We’ve expanded a lot this last year, and this dog is going to help us with that expansion.”

There have been a few growing pains so far. On Roy’s first day on the job, a cow stepped on him, and he’s been a little ‘cow shy’ since. He’s really working well with the sheep, however. “Everybody asks how we’re getting along,” Dennis says. “I tell them we get better every time we go out. Last time we went out, it was almost like he looked at me and said, ‘Oh, you want me to go get those sheep, don’t you?’ And he just took off. “I’ve still go some learning to do,” adds Dennis, “but we’re learning together.”

For more details on the PHARM Dog program, contact Jackie Allenbrand by phone at 816-279-8558 ext. 1026 or by email at allenbrandj@missouri.edu. Those interested in learning more about the Missouri AgrAbility Project and its services may call 800-995-8503 or visit www.agrability.missouri.edu.

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THE OKPP SHOW!

By Kathy Bettes

A good time was had by all who attended this year’s Oklahoma Pet Professionals Educational Seminar held in OK City on April 23rd & 24th. I was encouraged to see more people show up this year and take advantage of the many show specials provided by the vendors exhibiting. The OKPP group really worked hard to bring in some great speakers such as Dr. Rick Kesler from Lambert Vet Supply who spoke to the breeders about some of the challenges raising puppies; Dr. Denise Travis about handling aggressive dogs and Dr. Tracy Thompson on signs and symptoms of stress in puppies. I particularly enjoyed Stacy Mason’s talk on making your dog ‘Show ring ready’. She gave a really cool slide presentation on several of the more common breeds and how much some of them have changed over the last 100 years. Stacy really encouraged the breeders to not be afraid to show their dogs and described the many events that were available even for the amateur show person. (I was ready to go home and get my Boston ‘Punky’ and run to the show ring myself!)

One of the highlights of the seminar definitely had to be Christian Chaffin of Chaffin Vet Supply. Despite his ‘little’ size, he sure had big plans and ideas! He practically took over the benefit auction on Friday night, which did over $4700 in proceeds and gave Terry Emmons from the Hunte Corporation a run for his money! Terry didn’t have a chance with Christian standing on his chair waving his bidder card and outbidding Terry on several items.

The next day Christian sat with the Question & Answer panel group which included Doug Hughes of Mid Am Pets, Chris Fleming of Mid Am Pets, Laura Bone of PBT & Kennel Marketplace, Don Darnell of Midwestern Pet Foods and Bobby Schmidt of Royal Canin. Christian really held his ground and probably got some future job offers after the discussion!

OKPP also gave away several $50.00 vouchers and door prizes throughout the show and even fed us lunch on Saturday before everyone left to go home. The Kennel Spotlight would like to personally thank Reda Ratliff, Thea King and all the officers of OKPP for making us feel so welcome and allowing us to take part in a great weekend! We look forward to next year; SEE YOU ALL THERE!!
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THE SPOTLIGHT GOES TO THE DOG SHOW!  By Kathy Bettes

*The Kennel Spotlight* was graciously invited to attend the American Stock Dog Registry show held in Warrentsburg, Mo on May 14th & 15th. We had a great time meeting new breeders and exploring the ‘show’ side of the dog world. Being a former breeder of Australian Cattle dogs and Australian Shepherds, we could really appreciate the quality we saw at this show. Everyone was really friendly and it was nice to see the breeders helping each other throughout the show; sharing grooming tips and helping one another with the agility course.

The judge, Michael Loller, who is an AKC and IABCA judge and breeder, even helped the participants in the classes. He was very quick to show new handlers how to not only lead their dogs but how to ‘stack’ them as well. He exhibited a lot of patience and understanding and always had a smile on his face! *(Too bad my Boston, Punky, isn’t a stock dog; I would have brought her to this show!)*

We had an excellent dinner Friday night with the ASDR staff and breeders in the show. The staff gave out door prizes to the exhibitors who had signed up for their classes and there was some stiff competition for the silent auction items. Jackie Allenbrand from the Missouri’s AgrAbility project gave a very inspiring presentation about the PHARM Dog program; a utilization of dogs to help disabled farmers and ranchers throughout Missouri. *(see article on pg. 30).*

I have a high respect for the breeders at this show in the way they took special care of their dogs from wrapping them in warm blankets in between classes *(Saturday was cold & rainy!)* to bringing them into their hotel rooms at night to sleep. And although I didn’t get to see any Australian Cattle dogs at this show, the Australian Shepherds were beautiful!

A big ‘Thank You’ to Lois Stevens for inviting the Kennel Spotlight to attend this show; I can’t wait til the next one and I highly encourage anyone with stock dogs to join this club and have some fun with your dogs!!

www.americanstockdog.org.
Some of the pics I took at the show—I even got to meet ‘Mali’ the Capucin monkey belonging to Lindsay Porter O’Keefe—she was tons of fun!!

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**SPAY AND NEUTER UP-DATE**

*By Frank Losey*

**5,500+ Thank Yous!:** For starters, I wish to personally thank those readers who were among the 5,500+ who wrote to the IRS. Your letters have become part of the “900 Pound Gorilla” that is stalking the IRS and the HSUS.

**Highlights of the “Campaign”:** The “Campaign” actually began nearly two years ago. In keeping with the proverbial “Give them enough rope to hang themselves,” the first 16 months were dedicated to quietly and methodically downloading documents from the HSUS Website, which included extracts from the HSUS Tax Returns for the years 2004-2008. Once a “portfolio” of over 700 incriminating pages of documents - - “THE PAPER TRAIL” - - was forwarded to multiple IRS Offices, the Letter-Writing portion of the Campaign was initiated.

Highlights include:

1. The stage for the Letter Writing and Follow-up E-Mail Campaigns was first set into motion in 2008 - - repeat 2008. With the “stealth” of “carbon monoxide,” the “Campaign” was quietly launched when I sent a letter to the IRS that was dated October 29, 2008 and requested that the IRS conduct an audit and investigation of the lobbying activities of the HSUS based on documentation that I had downloaded from the HSUS Website. Since then, I have forwarded nine more letters to the IRS Offices in Washington DC, Ogden, UT, Fresno, CA and Dallas, TX - - and the cumulative number of incriminating pages of documents attached to those 10 letters totals nearly 1,000!!!!!

2. Since December, more than 5,500 concerned tax-payers from all 50 States sent letters to the IRS and asked that the IRS audit and investigate the lobbying activities of the HSUS. (To the best of my knowledge, the IRS had never, ever, ever before received more than several hundred “complaints” about the lobbying activities of any public charity, let alone more than 5,500!!)

3. In early March, the IRS Tax Fraud Office in Fresno, CA transferred the “mound” of 5,500+ letters to the IRS Office in Dallas, TX. That IRS Office has the authority to rescind the tax-exempt status of a public charity, and that Office has been sending out “form letters” to the 5,500+ who had written to the IRS. While “form letters” were used, each one was individually addressed, which suggests that the concerns of the 5,500+ were not being “blown off” by the IRS.

4. In addition to the “Letter-Writing Campaign,” hundreds of concerned tax payers also sent E-Mails to their Members of Congress. Most received a boilerplate, non-responsive response…….BUT A FEW RECEIVED RESPONSIVE RESPONSES! The few are very positive, and to date, at least two Members of Congress have actually sent specific requests to the IRS Commissioner, and asked for specific responses. That is significant! And I have reason to believe that a few more Members of Congress will be contacting the IRS in the near future about constituent concerns as they relate to the excessive lobbying activities of the HSUS.

5. The Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Treasury (OIG) has acknowledged in writing that it has received a letter requesting that it ensure that an expedited audit of the HSUS Tax Returns occurs. A key document that was attached to this letter was entitled the “Monolithic Growth of the Lobbying Activities of the HSUS,” and it includes 26 Questions that need to be addressed by the IRS. WHY THE OIG YOU ASK? Because that Office has the authority to audit the IRS to make sure that the IRS does its job!

6. For more detailed information on the “Monolithic Growth” document, as well as a document entitled “119 Incriminating Examples of Excessive, Prohibited and Under-Reported Lobbying Activities of the HSUS,” I encourage everyone to go to the Missourians for Animal Care Website (www.missourifac.com) and read my documents that have been posted on that Website. These documents discuss how the HSUS has literally generated millions of lobbying contacts, which by any reasonable definition should be considered to have violated the IRS limitation on “TOO MUCH LOBBYING” by a public charity, and result in the termination of the public charity status of the HSUS!

**So What Will the IRS Do Now?:** Officially, the IRS is not permitted to discuss any on-going audit or investigation of any tax-payer or public charity. Furthermore, I have been personally told by an IRS representative that were an audit to occur, it could take one to two years to complete. Even without any official confirmation that the IRS is conducting an audit, ask yourself: “Why would the IRS Tax Fraud Office in Fresno, CA send the 5,500+ letters to the IRS Office in Dallas that has the authority to revoke the tax-exempt, public charity status of the HSUS if there was no plan to audit the HSUS?????????!” Yes, I do believe that the IRS is looking more closely at the nearly 1,000 pages of incriminating documents that it has in its possession.

**Reactions of the HSUS to the Spay and Neuter Campaign:** Several months ago, Mr. Markarian, the COO of the HSUS, described the Campaign as “anemic,” and said that the letter-writers were “barking up the wrong tree.” I wonder what he thinks now that 5,500+ “dogs” have “marked” the “HSUS MONEY

continued on pg. 38
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Additionally, the HSUS has dramatically altered its Website Home Page to remove links to its blatant lobbying activities which the IRS considers to be evidence of lobbying activities. While the timing of the removal of those links could be coincidental, could it have occurred because the HSUS spotted an IRS Junk Yard Dog sniffing at the base of the “HSUS MONEY TREE?!!?!?!?!” (P.S. Those Webpage Lobbying Links were downloaded before the HSUS removed them, and are now part of indexed tabs to the nearly 1,000 pages of incriminating documents in the possession of the IRS!)

What More Can Responsible Breeders Do?: I encourage and ask all responsible breeders to urge the leadership in their respective Pet Groups and Associations to join the growing ranks of responsible breeders who have condemned substandard kennels. To date, Pet Breeder Associations in Nine Different States (AR, CO, IN, IA, KS, MO, OH, OK and PA) have publicly condemned substandard kennels. Significantly, approximately 60% of all Federally Licensed and Inspected Kennels are in those Nine States. Additionally, the Hunte Corporation, which is the “world’s largest distributor of puppies to the pet industry,” has condemned substandard breeding facilities.

To the “DOUBTING THOMASES” who may be worried that such condemnations will be used against breeders, those worries are unfounded. In this regard, these condemnations are like a pre-emptive attack, and when the public becomes more aware of these condemnations, the initial reaction of many will be a bewildering: “I DIDN’T KNOW THAT!” And that bewilderment will be followed by the QUESTION: “WHY HASN’T THE HSUS TOLD US THIS?” And when that light bulb goes on, the credibility of the HSUS will be adversely affected. This assessment is based upon the fact that there is not a single instance of the above condemnations having been used against any Association or its Members. Furthermore, when the former Senator Santorum, who once was the figurative “Congressional Champion” of the HSUS, was informed of the fact that the Missouri Pet Breeders Association had publicly condemned substandard kennels, he issued a Press Release the following week that acknowledged that the PAWS Bill was not intended to affect the “VAST MAJORITY OF RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS WHO CARE ABOUT THEIR ANIMALS.” And what most do not realize is that the public condemnation of substandard breeders by the Missouri Pet Breeders Association over four years ago played a significant role in why Senator Santorum let the PAWS Bill die when it looked like it was going to be taken to the Floor of Congress for a Vote.

That is what CREDIBILITY DOES!!!!!!! IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!!!!!!

If the list of groups and organizations of responsible breeders that publicly condemn substandard kennels continues to grow, would not that become a featured item on the Humane Watch? Additionally, it would focus attention on what could become two nagging questions that will haunt the HSUS: First, “Why won’t the HSUS acknowledge the public condemnations of substandard kennels by responsible breeders?!!?!?!?!” Second, “Would such an acknowledgement by the HSUS adversely affect its credibility and its “FACTORY FUNDRAISING” efforts?!!?!?!?!” Yet another opportunity to put the HSUS on the defensive for a change while the IRS is contemplating what to do with nearly 1,000 pages of incriminating documents, many of which have been specifically referenced and included as attachments in letters sent to the IRS by at least one Member of Congress.

The wording of the condemnations can be as simple as “(Name of Group) condemns all substandard kennels which reflect poorly on the vast majority of responsible breeders who have demonstrated by their actions that they are in compliance with all existing Local, State and Federal animal welfare laws and regulations, and that they truly care about the health and welfare of their animals.”

If your Group or Association publicly condemns substandard kennels, let me know so that I may exploit the growing numbers of public condemnations. And rest assured, I will exploit such condemnations to the disadvantage and chagrin of the self-righteous deceivers!!!!

Final “Food for Thought”: How would the HSUS react if a Member of Congress were to propose an Amendment to the Tax Code that would further restrict the lobbying activities of a public charity, and were to name the Bill “The Public Charity Integrity Act?” What would be the effect on the credibility of the HSUS if it objected to an “Integrity Act??????”

Happy 4th of July!!
PUPPY KISSES
By Jim Hughes

DOES YOUR PUPPY LOVE YOU,
IS HE ALWAYS IN YOUR FACE
DO YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHERE OR WHEN
HE CHOSE TO LICK HIS PRIVATE PLACE

SOME PEOPLE KISS THEIR DOGS
ON THEIR BELLY, HEAD OR MOUTH
BUT I JUST SAW YOUR DOG
CHEWING UP A DEAD MOUSE

SOME LIKE TO USE BABY TALK
TO SEE FIDO’S EARS PERK UP
BUT YOUR DOG CAN NOT UNDERSTAND
THAT SILLY DOGGY STUFF

SOME WILL LET THEIR DOG
SLEEP IN BED WITH THEM
THEY WILL GIVE HIM HIS OWN BLANKET
SO HE CAN CHEW UPON THE HEM

HE WILL SMELL LIKE A PIG FARM
AFTER ROLLING IN THE CRAP
BUT HE KNOWS HIS MAMA
CAN SURELY TAKE CARE OF THAT

HE WILL ROMP AND PLAY
AND DIG HOLES IN THE GRASS
HE WILL MAKE YOU CHASE HIM
AND CAUSE YOU TO FALL UPON YOUR--#@!#

BUT WHEN THE DAY IS OVER
HE WILL GIVE YOU QUITE A START
AS YOU BOTH CLIMB UNDER THE COVERS
AND HE GIVES YOU A GREAT BIG FART

YOU CANNOT STOP COUGHING
AS YOU SEE THE ROOM TURN GREEN
HOW, O, HOW CAN SUCH A LITTLE PUP
SMELL LIKE A FERTILIZER TRAIN

HE COCKS HIS HEAD TO ONE SIDE
AS HE JUMPS DOWN ON THE FLOOR
HE KNOWS THAT HE JUST BLEW IT
AS HE BEELINES FOR THE DOOR

IF A PUP EATS DEAD ANIMALS
AND A LITTLE BIT OF POOP
WHY WOULD YOU EXPECT HIM
TO NOT SMELL, YOU NIMCOMPOOP!

HE GOES OUTSIDE TO DO HIS JOB
HE LEAVES IT ON THE STEP
I STEP ON IT AS I COME DOWN
BUT, OH WELL, WHAT THE HECK

A DOG CAN BE A TREASURE
IF HE IS WELL BEHAVED
AND ALL HIS LITTLE ANTICS
ARE DESTINED TO BE SAVED

BUT WHEN HIS TIME HAS COME
TO DEPART FROM THIS OLD WORLD
THE SORROW COMES FROM MEMORIES FELT
AS HIS PERSONALITY,
WE MENTALLY RECORD

SO GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND OF MINE
YOU WERE THE ONE I LOVED
I WILL SEE YOU SOON
AS I MAKE THE TRIP ABOVE

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Tuesday morning came too fast. But then that will happen when you’re up till 4:00 am, unable to sleep. Every time I closed my eyes I’d see Emily’s face. Her crocodile tears and carefully timed choking sobs. Worse than that was Maggie. How she looked in the glow of the TV set. Her eyes so wide--so full of hurt. My shoulders ached from trying to find a comfortable position. It took me a while to realize it wasn’t how my pillow was fluffed or which blanket I used. The discomfort was in my chest. The pain was the realization that we were helpless.

Maggie fell asleep against my back. Her pillow soaked with tears, her nose so stuffed that she had to breathe through her mouth. I listened as she talked in her sleep. Mostly she talked to the dogs that were no longer with us or spoke to her mother. She’d died about ten years back. When she’d make those helpless mewing sounds that told me the pleasant dream had turned ugly, I’d stroke her hair and her back and whisper that she was safe. I lied to my wife and told her everything was okay. At some point I dozed off and slept till Kipper began to get restless. Then I dawned my blue jeans and shoved my arms into a flannel shirt. I made sure that Maggie had enough cover, then I took both dogs out to the front. The rain had left everything ticked with diamonds. The two pugs cut trails through the liquid glitter. I needed to cut the grass again. I stared at the horizon and watched it bleed from lavender to peach, and then begin the slow bleach of a pale late spring morning. Birds chirped and sang and the sound of the dogs sniffing and romping in the high grass made a pleasant symphony of sound. Even though I was aware of it I heard none of it. It was like everything inside me had dried up and died. My world was silent. An endless bottomless silence that left me with the sensation that I was falling.

I sat down on the edge of the porch and rested my arms on my knees. It was a beautiful perfect morning. Like the world had been washed clean and it was time to start over. Maybe that’s what I needed to do. Start over. Kipper trotted up the steps and sat down beside me while Tiki found a pine cone to play with. A few years ago, the Martin family had made an offer for our place. I’d told them no thanks but Mr. Martin had given me his card. Nothing was revealed from behind the glass. I looked back at Ms. Snow who was still holding my hand. Maybe she thought if she let me go I’d run inside and lock her out. Surely someone looking to cause trouble wouldn’t bother to obey traffic laws. I opened the screen door and shoved both dogs back into the house. The town car eased up the drive, its perfect paint reflecting every blade of glass and the vastness of the sky. I looked at my watch. It was eight o’clock.

The front passenger door opened and Kristy Snow stepped out. She was dressed in a dark blue suit that looked expensive and turned her into a corporate porcelain doll. Her eyes met mine then dropped and a pale blush bloomed over her cheeks. She glanced back over her shoulder at the darkened glass then took a few tentative steps forward. “Mr. Jacobs,” she said. And I guess because I didn’t yell at her she figured it was okay to step up onto the porch. She held out her hand and I reluctantly took it. “I’m sorry we’re so early. My aunt is very particular about never being late.” She pumped my limp hand and I glanced back at the car. Nothing was revealed from behind the glass. I looked back at Ms. Snow who was still holding my hand. Maybe she thought if she let me go I’d run inside and lock her out. When she realized I was staring she dropped it. “You don’t mind, do you? That we’re early…”

I heard the click of a car door and a strong steely voice accented in a way that I’d only heard in movies, answer. “Of course he doesn’t mind Kristine, the man’s a farmer. His morning started hours ago. It’s practically lunch time for Mr. Jacobs.” The tall lithe frame eased out of the car and leaned on a mahogany cane. The woman was tall, and she was shaped like a thin rectangle that reminded me of sharp things you bloody your fingers on. Her face was too handsome to ever have been considered pretty and even then the shrewd eyes that were perched under her perfectly drawn eyebrows made her expression...
like ice. Judge Sosbee had been imposing but this woman
down right froze the blood in my veins. She leaned on
her cane and her eyes raked me up and down like
fingernails on a chalk board. The car door shut with a
flick of her wrist and with the same grace she brushed
imaginary lint from her grey blouse which was a few
shades lighter than her slacks. If the woman had been
wearing robes and a crown it would have looked perfect
on her. For the first time in my life I was embarrassed to
be wearing jeans.

“This is my aunt, Mr. Jacobs.” Ms. Snow made a
gesture at the woman walking towards my porch. “Her
name is Amelia Hannon.” Amelia held out her hand and
Kristy took it like a well trained pet and helped her up the
steps.

“How do you happen to have any coffee, Mr. Jacobs?”
She turned those eyes on me and I shivered. Eyes like
that belong on men who kill people for a living. Not little
old grey haired aunts walking with a cane. I choked out a
reply, “Yes, ma’am.”

“Good.” She flicked her fingers dislodging Kristy’s hold,
a motion that was almost a dismissal. She leaned on her
cane and smiled a little. It looked like something she had
practiced and it took a lot of effort. Her eyes, which were
silver like her hair, slid to the door. It was a demand for
her to open it for her.

“I fumbled with an apology and pulled open the
screen and stepped back to let her in. The two Pugs made
a shabby broken down kitchen in her presence. The two
pugs were lying at her feet, staring at her as if they had
been a clean quaint country setting had been reduced to
’pee mail’. Some how she made the thing look elegant.

“Just get dressed. Comb your hair…” Maggie glared at
me. “Let’s just hear what they have to say. This lady…
Amelia…” I looked for a word to describe her but came
up with nothing.

“I don’t care if she baked a damn cake and popped out of
the thing!” yelled Maggie. She tried to slip around me
to the door and I threw my shoulder into the wood and tore
the knob out of her grip. It snapped back into place with
a loud thump that sounded like a mule had just kicked a
hole in the wall. “Maggie…”

“Let me out, Franklin. I have a few things I need to say to
Ms. Snow.”

“She quit,” I blurted. Again too loud and I cursed, also
too loud.

Maggie stared up at me, her green eyes burning. “What
did you say?”

“She quit her job because of what they did. She brought
her aunt here to help us. I think…”

“You think?”

“Just get dressed. Comb your hair…” Maggie glared at
me. “Let’s just hear what they have to say. This lady…
Amelia…” I looked for a word to describe her but came
up with nothing.

“Fine.” Maggie stepped back and grabbed a pair of jeans
off the dresser. I opened my mouth to tell her to wear
something nice. Thank goodness my brain managed to
kick on and I closed my mouth before something stupid
came out.

When I was sure she was really going to get
dressed and not come down the hall in her night gown
screaming curses at Kristy Snow, I slid back into the hall
and then walked to the kitchen. Amelia was sitting at our
small round table. Her back perfectly straight, her long
elegant fingers holding one of my coffee cups. It had a
cartoon dog on it, leg lifting on a tree, with the caption,
‘pee mail’. Some how she made the thing look elegant.

The rest of my kitchen surrounded her and what had once
been a clean quaint country setting had been reduced to
a shabby broken down kitchen in her presence. The two
pugs were lying at her feet, staring at her as if they had
just found the most fascinating thing in the world.

Ms. Snow was busy with my coffee pot pouring three
more cups of coffee in various mismatched mugs. Amelia
spoke, leaving her back to me.  

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Winning the War cont. from pg. 41

“You did say make ourselves at home Mr. Jacobs?” I cleared my throat and managed to squeak out a yes. “Then please,” she turned her head slightly and I could see a small thin smile at the very edge of her profile. “Then join us if you would. You may sit there,” she indicated the chair across from her, and went back to sipping from her cup.

I eased into my own kitchen feeling out of place. I stumbled around the dogs and managed not to bump into Kristy and found the chair without falling on my face and sat down. Sitting was good. Staring at this woman made me dizzy. “I saw my niece’s interview with you and your wife.” She didn’t look at me when she spoke, she stared straight ahead, eyes half lidded, as if concentrating on the taste of morning Joe. “And I saw that piece of tripe Elwood cooked up.” Another sip. “Lies destroy, Mr. Jacobs. And the destruction they create is absolute. You cannot undo a lie. Did you know that? Once it has been spoken it cannot be taken back.” She put her coffee cup on the table, then looked at me. “Please, join us Mrs. Jacobs, I promise not to bite.”

I glanced up and saw, Maggie staring at the back of Amelia’s head like a deer in headlights. Her hands rolled over her shirt, smoothing out wrinkles that didn’t exist and then she stepped into the kitchen and made her way to the chair next to me. Ms. Snow put a cup of coffee in front of each of us with a cereal bowl of sugar and a glass of milk standing in for cream. She sat down with her own cup, her eyes quickly glancing at Maggie and me, then back to her aunt. She sipped her coffee. It was in an Easter mug that I’d given Maggie some time ago.

“Who are you?” blurted Maggie loud enough to make me wince. I put my hand on her knee under the table.

“Amy Hannon,” answered the woman in a tone that resembled a laugh. “But then there wasn’t much honor to the name.” She made a bitter sound that concentrated on the taste of morning Joe. “And I saw that piece of tripe Elwood cooked up.” Another sip. “Lies destroy, Mr. Jacobs. And the destruction they create is absolute. You cannot undo a lie. Did you know that? Once it has been spoken it cannot be taken back.” She put her coffee cup on the table, then looked at me. “Please, join us Mrs. Jacobs, I promise not to bite.”

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“Who are you?” blurted Maggie loud enough to make me wince. I put my hand on her knee under the table.

“Amy Hannon,” answered the woman in a tone that suggested she should already know.

“No,” said Maggs. “WHO are you? What do you want? Why did you come here? I mean, quite frankly after last night, I’m not really in the mood to be entertaining friends of Ms. Snow.” Kristy dropped her eyes and her bottom lip trembled. She looked down and away trying to hide her shame. If Amelia saw it, she didn’t react. Her face remained cool, emotionless, her eyes grey windows to a stormy sky. She sipped her coffee twice before answering.

“My niece was not at fault for the choices that Channel 17 made. Unfortunately Elwood is the senior reporter there and his ego needs to be neutered. The only mistake that my Kris made was taking a job with that second rate news channel to begin with.” I glanced over at Ms. Snow again, her cheeks were bright pink and her eyes swam. But she stayed silent. Staring into the dark pool of coffee in the bright pink Easter cup clasped in her hands. “Fine,” snapped Maggie. She crossed her arms. “That still doesn’t tell me who you are and what you want.”

Amelia’s lips curled. She took a sip of her coffee, added a drop or two of milk, then a small bit of sugar. She was making Maggie wait. And she was enjoying it. Finally, after she had swept the spoon through the milk and bleached the coffee for the hundredth time, she met Maggie’s glare.

“I’m the devil, Mrs. Jacobs,” she took a sip making absolutely no noise and not even leaving wetness on her painted lips. “At least I am to people like Emily Ducet.” “I don’t understand,” said Maggie. Neither did I. But to be quite honest Amelia scared me a little. I believed every word she said.

Amelia put her cup on the table and her long fingers stroked the rim, then tapped along the side. Her eyes fell and something slid behind them that resembled sorrow but it was too quick for me to be sure. Her thin lips curled again, a grimace, like something hurt. And then she looked back up at us with a stare that could have frozen stars.

“I grew up in a small village in Norway. With a great amount of effort I have forced myself to forget the name. My father bred top winning Shepherds.” Her stare cooled a little and she leaned back and some of that rigid nature leaked out into the air making her more human. “We won many shows and took home many ribbons. My father had the best Shepherds in Norway. Some say maybe the best in all Europe; depending on whom you ask, of course. I was very young when the Nazis began their reign. But I remember the things our friends said. ‘They only want to make things better,’ or ‘if you have nothing to hide you have nothing to fear.’ Rumor has it, my father sold five dogs to Hitler, himself. All the top military men wanted dogs from us. And my father sold them only the best.

You see, we were Catholic. So we were safe.” She made the word safe sound like it tasted bad. “And since the Nazis didn’t want ‘us’ they only wanted ‘them’ my father was convinced we were safe. Many kennels belonging to many different people were laid to waste all through out Germany, England, and Italy. As dogs became more difficult to find, more people came to my father to buy them. We had one of the few kennels that the Nazi’s hadn’t destroyed…for one reason or another. Not everyone lost dogs at their hands, mind you. Most didn’t, to tell you the truth. Most breeders killed their own stock to keep it from starving to death or being stolen, even abused. So we thrived. My father was getting ten times the amount for his pups and they were sold before the bitch was even bred. And he was winning top honors at the shows.” She made a bitter sound that resembled a laugh. “But then there wasn’t much competition left either. And those that were competitive were frightened of beating my father at anything. Rumor was, the Nazi generals didn’t like the idea of their doggy
relatives taking second seat.” Amelia shifted in her chair. I guess it was her version of fidgeting. The kind of thing a person does when they are about to tell you something uncomfortable; something that hurts the important parts of their soul.

“The Nazi’s made my family incredibly wealthy Mr. Jacobs. They supplied our dogs with fresh meat when the people around us were starving to death. My father amassed many valuable gifts from them, gifts that were later sold at a remarkable profit.”

“You story is terrible. No, it’s horrible. But that still doesn’t tell me why you’re doing this,” said Maggie. She glanced around the table then met Amelia’s cold stare head on.

“I spoke with the members of my dog club yesterday evening.” Her eyes dropped and her long fingers danced around the edge of her cup. “I expressed my concern regarding your rights and the impotence of the courts to make amends.” She paused and smiled a little. “Do you know what they said?” She looked at us again and there was real sorrow behind her eyes. All the coldness was gone and sadness remained.

Maggie’s reply was barely a sigh, “no”.

“They said, why should we care, they aren’t one of us. They deserved what they got. Who cares? They are no one. They are commercial breeders. They are puppy millers. They are the source of all the problems.”

The words hurt. They struck my ego like a dull serrated knife, dug in deep and refused to let go.

Maggie’s lips pressed into a thin line, her eyes shimmered and she sat very silent for way too long. Amelia said nothing, she only watched, waited, that cold-cold mask she wore slowly overtaking any empathy that had been expressed in her face. Maggie swallowed several times and the muscles in her jaw ticked like she was about to open her mouth and say something, but then she’d just gulp again, and remain quiet.

Amelia cleared her throat, a sound that clearly conveyed her annoyance. “The people of my village said almost the exact same thing about the Nazis when they killed the infirm, the criminals, the gypsies, then the Jews. Then they started killing the Catholics in my village and my father told us we were different. We weren’t like them. When the war was ending and Hitler’s army was falling apart they came to my home and killed my brother, my two sisters, my mother, and they gave my father a choice between my life and the life of his dogs.”

Her long hand moved to the collar of her blouse and she pulled it aside to flash a thick pink scar that kissed her collar bone. It was quick, just a peek, and then she folded it back with a pat. “He did not make the right choice.”

Maggie flinched and I felt like someone had just unplugged my lungs.

“You see Mr. Jacobs, when the price to pay for our immunity is our humanity, it is a price we cannot afford.”

To be continued.......
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King Chas. Cavalier; 3F
Leave msg. for Ray at (660) 748-3444

OOPS! In the April/May issue of the Spotlight, we inadvertently used a parti yorkie picture on an ad for parti yorkie puppies. The picture was NOT part of the ad and we apologize to the owner of the picture.
DUE TO A PRINTER ERROR IN THE LAST ISSUE, THE FOLLOWING IS A REPRINT OF THE LAST HALF PAGE OF THE ARTICLE ‘ANATOMY & FUNCTION OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM OF DOGS’ by Drs. Foster & Smith:

Hypersensitivity: A hypersensitive immune system is one which overreacts to a stimulus. In addition to T cells and B cells, various other cells can also be activated during an immune response. These cells produce chemicals such as histamines which can affect multiple parts of the body. In hypersensitivity, the body produces too much antibody, the wrong kind of antibody, a large number of antigen-antibody complexes, or antibody to proteins which are not really foreign. In addition, an excessive number of cells may be activated to produce histamine and other chemicals. There are four major types of hypersensitivity.

Immunosuppression and immunodeficiency: Certain drugs and disease-causing organisms can suppress the immune system. For organ transplantation and in some cases of autoimmune disease, we want to suppress the immune system and use various drugs to achieve that goal. In some infections with parasites such as malaria, trichinosis, and leishmaniasis, the organism can suppress the immune system through various mechanisms, allowing the organism to grow and multiply within the person or animal. Immunodeficiency can occur as a result of a genetic defect in different breeds of cats and dogs. Some viral infections (e.g., feline immunodeficiency virus and canine parvovirus) can cause immunodeficiency, as well. Newborns who did not receive adequate amounts of colostrum are immunodeficient and in great danger of becoming seriously infected with a number of diseases. Poor nutrition, such as Vitamin A, Vitamin E, and selenium deficiencies, and restricted protein or calories can result in suppression of the immune system.

Summary

The immune system is an incredible defense mechanism which protects the body from many kinds of disease-causing agents including bacteria, viruses, toxins, and parasites. The innate portion of the immune system, including the skin, is the first line of defense, is nonspecific, and provides protection from many foreign invaders. The adaptive portion of the immune system is much more specific, reacts to unique molecules called antigens, and uses antibodies and cell-mediated immunity to rid the body of foreign substances. The adaptive portion of the immune system can ‘remember’ previous encounters with a foreign substance and react faster and to a higher degree with subsequent exposures. A body may acquire immunity through transfer from another animal (passive immunity), or through its own exposure and reaction to a foreign substance (active immunity). Sometimes, the immune system can malfunction and either attack its own body (autoimmunity), overreact (hypersensitivity), or react insufficiently (immunodeficiency or suppression).


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CALENDAR OF EVENTS!!

June 18th & 19th, 2010
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

June 26th, 2010
AOAT-Animal Owners Assoc. of Texas Seminar, Texas Farm Bureau Building, Canton, TX. Call Ray (903) 277-3088
Speakers will be Rob Hurd (APRI), Dan Christensen, Stacy Mason (AKC), Bob Yarnell (ACA)

July 10th, 2010
STEP Professional Pet Breeders Expo, Kay Roger Park Expo Building, Fort Smith, AR. Contact Grover Jameson (479) 965-2078
email: ark.stepp@ymail.com.

July 17th, 2010
Lambriar Breeder Education Day, West Plains, MO. Contact Sarah Talkington (877) 526-2742

August 14th, 2010
SEMPBA-Southeast Missouri Pet Breeders Assoc. seminar, Bess Activity Center, Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, MO. Contact Tim Toombs (573) 998-2284 or email: tim.toombs@windstream.net

August 21st, 2010
Lambriar Breeder Education Day, Mahaska, KS. Contact Sarah Talkington (877) 526-2742

September 24th & 25th, 2010
Hunte Breeder Educational Conference, John Q Hammons Convention Center, Joplin, MO. Contact Breeder Support at (888) 444-4788.

ATTENTION ALL PROFESSIONAL BREEDERS! Be sure to attend one or more of these events and take advantage of the many show specials and free education! Please help these clubs & organizations support YOU and YOUR INDUSTRY!!

UPCOMING SOUTHWEST AUCTIONS:
JUNE 5TH-SMITH FARMS SPECIAL EQUIP. SALE, COLUMBIA, MO. (“VET CLINIC CAGING, SOME HEAVY EQUIP, ETC.”)
JUNE 12TH-CONSIGNMENT SALE, WHEATON, MO.
JUNE 19TH-TO BE DETERMINED
JUNE 20TH-(SUNDAY) SPECIAL LARGE EQUIP. SALE; (FARM TRACTORS, TRAILERS, ETC...)

Minnesota Pet Breeders Seminar

By Pat Nieses of DPBA

The MnPBA seminar was held at Jackpot Junction Casino. Attending from DPBA (Dakota Pet Breeders Assoc.) was Pat Nieses, Nancy & Mike Ogle, and Gary Sanborn. This was the best Seminar I have ever attended and hope maybe next year some of our members can attend as it was a very informative seminar and I walked away with a lot of new knowledge.

On Friday we learned about ear concerns from Dr. Kesler. He also told us about a rise in Brucellosis. He reminded us if you bring a new dog or puppy into your facility, you need to quarantine for 30 days and then have a Brucellosis test done.

An attorney, Zenas Baer talked to us about the activists. Did you know that the activists donated lots of money to the MN board of animal health & companion animals. This is to help implement a new law that may come into affect in Minn. We were all kind of putting Stacey Schwabenlander on the spot for this. Friday evening was the banquet and auction. They raised over $5000.00 at the auction!

Saturday was a great grooming demonstration by Carol Fodstad. Also Joe Grissom spoke to us about neonatology & weaning - Did you know you can get fluids to a puppy through the rectum....? The first thing to do to a sick puppy is warm them slowly & get fluids to them. Never try to feed a sick puppy till this is done.

A grand prize was given away at the end of the seminar...this was a grooming table, clippers, a gallon of shampoo & a great dryer. We all came away with a lot of new knowledge & many things to share with you.

Pat Nieses,
Sec. DPBA
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