

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PET INDUSTRY

By Jim Hughes

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

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

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

People will listen if you talk about money and what it is going to cost them. When an insurance man is sitting in your living room, sure you want to know what the policy will do, but first, how much will it cost? Well, the destruction of the pet industry will cost the United States economy 45.4 Billion dollars in 2009. That’s \$45,400,000,000.00. That was big money before Obama. That’s 9 billion, eighty million dollars per state, give or take a

few million. Now bringing that figure down into your own back yard, there are 36,757 city, county and township voting entities in this country that will lose \$2,470,000 each. Can they afford it? And remember, this is just pets. I do not know and cannot even think of how many zeros that will accompany these figures when we figure the farm animals in. Of course, these figures will change due to the population of that state. But the states with the most to lose are the ones that are leading the way. The H\$U\$ and the countries' lawmakers are oblivious of the fact that America's pet industry has grown from 17 billion dollars in 1994 to 45.4 billion dollars today, making it the fourth largest industry in the country today.

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