

TYING THE KNOT WITH NAIS;

Before I tell you what you likely won't believe, let me assure you that much more will follow. This is only a primer background setting the stage so you can connect the dots as you learn about new legislation that goes into effect this summer. Just like PAWS, it will take a lot of education and initiative from animal owners or it's a done deal. Call it dots, call it knots, call it a marriage made in hell, a genuine conspiracy. You can even call some of the most learned educators in the country nut cases. But read, then call your friends! The National Animal Identification System has finally sprung a leak but has yet to reach the public. One has to wonder why it has been suppressed by the media. What have you seen on television? Have you read anything in the newspaper? What about in Dog News and other show magazines? Hardly! Do you even know anyone else who knows about this? Were it not for Richard and Michele Shannon (smokeyvly@toledotel.com) and Mary Zanoni, Ph.D (Cornell), J.D. (Yale) mlz@slc.com, The Dog Press would not have been on top of this story. I promise you the media either does, will know, or you will know who is in denial. Fair enough? Part of the story is the way in which it has been kept quiet. Can you imagine the networks ignoring a new law that mandates satellite tracking of every food animal, even a chicken raised for the family's own consumption? Can't you hear Rush Limbaugh's monolog? "The chickens are out! Call a Democrat!" Seriously, every time a pleasure horse leaves the owner's premises, the government will know when and where it went and failure to report it can bring stiff penalties! Bill O'Reilly, where are you? Did you know that every piece of property on which resides a food animal must be registered in Big Brother's database? Did you know that detailed information about the property owner will be part of that database? Who kept this story from Sean Hannity? The guy who broke the figures on the Gulf Coast cleanup needs to know NAIS forebodes even more staggering costs, part of which would be the massive tracking database. Hannity? Listen up! The database is to be "privatized" i.e. run by someone other than the government. You covered the clamor on Haliburton? That story was like the Red Cross getting donations compared to who will get this contract? Who dreamed up NAIS and for what reason? This is not speculation. Some lucky company will recoup costs by selling "private" information about the premises owner and their habits! County Fair enthusiast? Polo anyone? It will of course record where and for how much he sells his horse, cow, pig, ducks, etc.. Oh... Why has this been kept so hush-hush? Why hasn't the secrecy/privacy issue crossed the aisle of political debate? Probably for the same reason PAWS never made media news. There's plenty of payback to go around. According to the popular new blog some politicians are connected to PAWS and NAIS through a tenuous but not surprising link. You know the old saying, "follow the money" but if they don't need the money, just follow the power and egotism as it winds 'round about through stupidity and disinformation'. For Politicians, the path to power is as crowded as Sunday morning jogger routes in Central Park! Here's the connection. If you haven't yet heard of Digital Angel and Senator Rick Santorum, you are on another planet and can't read this anyway. But the rest of you savvy dog people know that the good Senator is the power behind what The Dog Place mistakenly called "the worst threat to dog breeders in history. Wrong on two counts: There is a newer, greater threat to all animal owners and Santorum seems willing perhaps anxious to abdicate his throne on PAWS to Senator Durbin. Perhaps there's more prestige connected with at position on the Board of Directors of Applied Digital Technologies, the parent company of Digital Angel. And what do you ask, does Digital Angel have to do with PAWS, and now this new thing, this NAIS? Okay, the first answer is to be found in this self description: "Digital Angel Corporation develops advanced RFID and GPS technologies that enable rapid and accurate identification, location tracking, and condition monitoring of high value assets. Applications for our products include identification and monitoring of pets, humans, fish and livestock through our patented implantable microchips as well as message monitoring of aircraft in remote locations through integrated GPS and geosynchronous satellite communications systems." Now you can see how enforcement of PAWS would profit a microchip company and you know how one thing leads to another... After microchip technology to "protect our pets" and "stop the importation of masses of foreign dogs" there comes GPS tracking of every living thing on the planet. Wow, forget about the millions of dollars to be made from convincing USDA to institute and enforce PAWS, and don't even count the profit potential for "not for profit" organizations like AKC who it seems has already agreed to take some of the burden of inspections off the USDA(for a price of course). Whoops, does that mean either way, the taxpayer pays? Yup! And so does the dog breeder, private or commercial. We predict inspection fees will be quickly instituted but that's another story. NAIS is here now. It is already implemented on a voluntary basis in many states and is scheduled to really roll by THIS SUMMER. The same legislation crafters and backers who invented PAWS only took a tiny little stumble when dog people said "no, we ain't gonna roll over and play dead." They just hitched up their pants, dumped a few more bucks to the lobbyists and PR machines and quietly proceeded to where the real money is. How many chickens and pigs are there in the civilized world? Can't count that high? Okay, then how many cows in Texas? Okay let's narrow the chip thing down to just a tiny little country like—ummm, how about Portugal? Chew on this a minute, it's from a Digital Angel press release:

“The Portuguese dog identification program is being conducted in conjunction with the country’s annual rabies vaccination drive. The Portuguese ministry was prompted to undertake the project because other countries in Europe had experienced excellent results..The deadline for all of Portugal’s approx. 2 million dogs to be identified and registered in a national database is 2007...(Digital Angel’s partner) is Atlanta-based Merial, one of the world’s leading animal healthcare companies... pet identification is prominent throughout Europe, thanks also to the recently enacted European Union’s Pet Passport Initiative.” There! We didn’t have to count. Two million dogs will be chipped in just the tiny country of Portugal. Remember, that doesn’t include other pets and it doesn’t include Europe. Micro-chipping was just a precursor to GPS tracking by NAIS. Stop and think. PAWS was a first step. It brought up many “issues”, groundwork having been laid by AKC and HUSU. Microchip, microchip and microchip. Forget about DNA but for goodness sake, microchip. What if your dog is lost? PAWS was to smooth the way, enforce chipping, get AKC into your homes via “inspections” and yes, ultimately to insure that you live up those ridiculous USDA requirements written by non-animal people who think of dogs as rabbits so keeping them in above ground wire cages is just fine...But I digress. Go back and stare at the words” animal healthcare companies.” If you don’t make that connection, save this, we’re almost done, and later, go to Bad Medicine or Project:Vaccines. And if you aren’t too upset, go to: http://dogpolitics.typepad.com/my_weblog/2006/01/nais_us_govt_ma.html. Yes, there’s more tying the knot to follow....

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