Cover Story

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¹ Cunningham J, Everett R and Ryan WG. Assessment of FRONTLINE® TOP SPOT® and ADVANTAGE® in controlling fleas on dogs shampooed pretreatment or water immersed after treatment, in Proceedings World Veterinary Congress, 1999, Lyon, France.
² Vet-dispensed, MDI Data.
Dear Kennel Spotlight,

I am a breeder and absolutely love the magazine! I was wondering if you all could do an article about the high prices and how it may or may not affect the breeder in the near or long term future. I think this kind of article is what all the breeders really need right now with the way gas, feed and grocery prices are rising. My main questions are--Will the pet market crash? Will people stop buying puppies due to the housing market being so bad right now? Will brokers cut down on the number of puppies they buy? How will the cut down on imports of rice affect the dog feed industry-as well as the cut down on corn. These are just some questions I sure me and other breeders are wondering about. Thanks, I will be looking forward to reading!

Cory

Dear Cory,

We are so glad you love the publication. We spend many hours trying our best to keep our readers informed with new kennel management techniques, upcoming pet laws, nutritional needs, vaccination requirements and industry news. If not for the support of our advertisers, this would not be possible, therefore I urge you to thank the advertisers for this magazine. I would ask readers to respond their feelings on this subject as well. I will answer your questions to the best of my experience. My Father & Mother, Jim & Sue Hughes started in this business in 1960. Since that time I have heard my dad and others say at least a thousand times “when is this industry going to crash”? The answer I believe is NEVER! I believe we are in a recession proof industry. If this industry ever fails, it will be of our own doing. Rome was never defeated by its enemies, it was tore apart from the inside out. When gas prices rise, people will travel less, therefore they will look for means of family entertainment close to home, what is more loving & entertaining than a puppy? Now you also need to keep in mind this is an industry, so we are subject to supply and demand to set the market trends. Never before has the pet industry seen such an increase of USDA licensed kennels as it has in the last 8 years. The distributors are actually purchasing more puppies now than before, but we as an industry are producing twice as many puppies as we did in the late 90’s. Therefore the supply is over producing the demand. This allows the distributors & pet stores to be much more selective about the quality of puppies they buy. But lets say you have 1,000 beagle puppies available and the market can only purchase 500, it wouldn’t matter if they were all champion quality, the consumer determines how many are acceptable and the over supply determines the price. Now addressing current grain prices for dog food. It has been in the past that when grain rises, animal produce falls. So if corn goes up due to ethanol, then beef goes down due to high grain prices. Therefore the dog food should remain close to the same price (rarely does the dog food company agree with this) it seems the price goes up when grain prices rise and when animal produce rises. But then again, everything is supply & demand, so if they price themselves too high, breeders will sell out and they will not have those to market to and this will force the price down. We at Southwest Auction are seeing a lot of kennels going out of business right now and our industry has always been on a 7 year cycle, 2 bad years & 5 good years.

In my opinion we are coming to the end of the 2 bad years, I believe that you will see a good 2009 and a great 2010. Remember summer is always bad during a good market. The pet industry as a whole is about a fifty billion dollar per year industry, I don’t think it is going anywhere!

Thank you Cory for your comments & questions. I wish you the best in your kennel business endeavors. I encourage other readers to give Cory your feelings on the outlook of the pet industry.

Sincerely,
Bob Hughes/ Publisher

Bob and Jim,

I read the article “We Are At War” in the April/May issue of the Kennel Spotlight. I have to say that I pray that all groups have read this article and see it for what it is.....TRUTH. For years I felt as if I was brainwashed with the term “Puppy Mill” and did my part to create this war we are in. For that I am sorry and ask the breeders that I know to please forgive the ignorance for I too, was once so. Thankfully over the past years of getting to know some breeders and working WITH them to get their retired dogs, and puppies into good homes, I have found that instead of the evil, cruel inhumane people that I had been told ran commercial breeding facilities, I have met a group of wonderful, god fearing, loving people who care about their dogs and where they are placed. To this day I still get emails about the first dog I placed, share recipes for dog treats and dog care, send emails about the adoptions of some of the dogs and smile as I read emails of joy as they hear about their loving babies in homes. I DO NOT get dogs that are unsocial, full of medical issues, etc. I DO get sweet loving dogs that come here, are spayed/neutered and go into good homes that are checked out and approved. I do not pay thousands or even hundreds of dollars as rescue thinks and accuses me of supporting the breeders, instead what I do get is email and calls telling me that there are dogs ready to go and can I take them. I DO NOT get filthy horrid dogs, I get dogs ready to continue on with their life as happy as can be. I get dogs with bags of their toys and bones and medical history and letters on each dog from the breeders to give to the new homes. Yes I do get some old dogs, but I get a lot of sweet loving puppies that are given to me. I am not saying that all of the commercial breeding facilities are perfect, we all know they are not, but I am saying without a doubt that the breeders that I know, have facilities far better than most rescues I know, treat their dogs well, with many in the house, and should not be lumped into a total package with substandard breeders. I know show people who do not have the same ethics as some of the commercial breeders I have come to know. Whether one agrees or disagrees with a
commercial breeder is a mute point, until organizations such as PETA, HSUS, and other Animal Rights groups and well known television stars stop using commercial breeding as a tool to make money, as they do not take dogs in and PETA has well over a 80% kill rate this was will only get worse. I hope to help bridge rescue and breeders, to help educate the public to truth, to work with the breeders to close down the ones that need to be and to continue to help be a bridge for the animals that need to go into rescue. It has been my honor to meet the breeders that I have, to talk to them, to share stories of our animals, and to have their trust to place their dogs into good homes. I have heard their tears when they give up a dog that they love, and had them ask me to take a dog that they have hand raised and did not want to breed, even to feel them chastise me when I rename one a name that they do not feel is fitting, hardly what the public would think a commercial breeder was like. I thank each of the breeders that I work with for your kindness, your faith in what we do here, and your friendship.

Palena Dorsey  
Sanctuary Animal Refuge

Some comments from USA Breeders General Forum on “The Kennel Spotlight”

Just got my copy, and let me tell you, this magazine just keeps getting better! This issue was fantastic! Now, I have been hoarding all my back issues, so I am not crazy about giving up an issue, so could somebody PLEASE send Opera a copy???? The strongest reason for people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

LOVED IT!!! My hat’s off to all those involved in the magazine. I’m already looking forward to the next issue! Best magazine yet!

Toward the back, there’s an article on how to give a cat a pill. I laughed so hard I nearly fell out of my chair! There’s also another article by Jim Hughes called-How Do You Bargain With God? That really touched my heart and hit close to home. That was my personal favorite in the issue.

With God, all things are possible.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR!!

By Phyllis Disque

I’ve read many articles in recent issues of The Kennel Spotlight regarding the term “puppy mill”. As I see it, this term is like the N------ word in Black people, it will never go away. The harder we try to figure out a rhyme or reason for the term, the less likely anyone will succeed. If people call here and ask if we are a puppy mill, I just laugh. Then I ask what I can help them with. So now, they are confused and go on to say what they want. Or, if I simply say, “you know what, we are state and federally licensed, AKC and APRI approved, have a professional handler full time to show our dogs, have lived here 24 years raising puppies and I only have myself and my customers to please, so now, can I be of help?” Or, if they come here for an appointment and step inside our porch, or puppy room, and right off they ask if we are a puppy mill, I say, “well, I will try to please you and sell you a nice puppy and before you leave, you can tell me.” So they purchase a puppy that we groom, [I was a groomer for 25 years and have a shop downstairs] sell it to them for CASH with a packet of paperwork including a health certificate from my vet, registration papers, maybe a pedigree, shot and worming sheet, a one year guarantee against anything genetic, information sheet, USDA forms, sample of dog food and packet from the Co., perhaps micro chipped and tell them to call us anytime if they have any questions. We give them a free pen, a short list of do’s and don’ts and we also show them the puppies parents. So—I ask—What do you say? Well, many give me a hug and [yuk] sometimes a kiss on the cheek and leave here saying they’ll tell all their friends about us as they happily leave with their new puppy. I firmly believe we can defend ourselves till the cows come home but in reality we need to show them WHO we are and WHAT we’re made of! I have written my share of “Letters to the Editor” since spring, mostly in our area, including Oprah, and had 50% callers that now either want one of our pups or applauded my letters. The other half says “What do you want, every activist on your door step?” I see no sense in hiding under a rack over all this and be trampled into the ground by activist. We’re proud of what we do 7 days a week or I guess we would not be doing it. I don’t need to defend us after nearly 30 years of breeding dogs. Voice your opinions elsewhere or come buy a pup, but enough is enough. We are regulated so no need to police us by any one else. I also had the honor of meeting Mr. Jim Hughes at the IAPBA convention in March and enjoy his articles in the Spolight as well. He tells it like it is and that’s the way to go.

Sincerely;

Phylliss Disque  
Shiloh Kennels

An Exhibitor’s Lament

The entry was sent off on-line with the pressing of a key. I have a month to sort him out, now it’s up to me. Meals consist of measured amounts, no biscuits on the quiet - His eyes show in no uncertain terms what he thinks about the diet!  
Now roadwork is important, we both need to be fit; Combine it with a gallop for him and I’ll just have a sit! And think about the show ahead, and mentally make a list Of things to do: must trim his nails, nothing must be missed. His coat it shines, his teeth are white, his tail is looking neat;  
As I look at him I’m happy now, he surely can’t be beat! I’m ready now, it’s all in place, oh why is life so cruel? I’ve just looked in my purse and found I can’t afford the fuel!

Nancy Carlson  
New Designs Kennel  
515-408-0062  
www.newdesignskennel.com
It was Christmas 1979. Every year we went to all of our relatives houses to visit and exchange gifts. We were a young couple with 2 little boys. Jimmy, my husband, had just gotten hired on the Alexandria Fire Dept. so we didn’t have a lot of income. We were used to scraping by and making what we had stretch a long way. That afternoon we went to visit Jimmy’s sister and brother-in-law to wish them Merry Christmas and they had a little black poodle with one little puppy. I should say, ‘I was in heaven’, and held that puppy the whole time we were there. When we got ready to go, Jimmy’s sister asked me if I wanted the puppy. I said ‘yes’ right away but Jimmy said ‘no!’ Well of course that wasn’t the right answer I wanted to hear. We lived about a 45 min. drive away so Jimmy had to hear about all my dreams on the way home and how I wanted that little poodle puppy! And if I wanted a poodle puppy so bad, there would be others who would also want a puppy. He finally gave in to me. He said ‘if I give you $100.00, you can buy a poodle but that is a lot of money so I expect you to pay me back’. Of course I promised anything to get one. His one condition was that I had to buy an AKC registered puppy so I would have a good quality dog to do business with. I agreed. Of course that was a LOT of money in 1979 to us and the Poodles were selling for about $150.00 market price. I thought I would take a look around and make up my mind about what color and size of puppy I wanted. After all, I was ‘grown up’ and I could do that! Well the first ad I called the lady said she had one for $100. so I said I would go and look at her. I did and I remember she was just 6 weeks old and had blonde curls and she loved me. But I wanted to be sure about getting the right one and said I would look around and check back with her later. I went home and could not sleep that night. The next day, I called her and she was not at home. I panicked and started to cry, promising God if he would let me have this little puppy, I would be the best mama to her and do the best I could do to take good care of her. Finally the lady arrived home and yes she still had her. I went right over to get her. I named her Brandy Lee. I wanted a girl because I didn’t have any girl babies and I had to have a daughter! I had always wanted to have a baby girl and name her Brandy. But that never happened so I was happy with my new little apricot girl. When she was 2 years old, she came into heat. I called the local breeder here and brought her over to be bred. She had 4 little puppies. I guess I did all the mistakes that everybody else does along the way of grooming and breeding dogs. I fell in love with one of the puppies. She was black and had a white diamond on her chest. Of course, after the breeder picked the only solid black female puppy for pick of the litter, she informed me that a ‘true black poodle was not supposed to have white on the chest’. First mistake.... Oh well, it was too late! We loved her already. We named her Jo Lee which meant ‘pretty girl’ in French. Then I had 2 puppies left to sell so I payed back the $100.00 Jimmy gave me to start out with. About 2 more years passed then mother and daughter came in heat at the same time. I bred them and they had puppies that would be ready to go just in time for Christmas. So I gave the breeder her pick of the 2 litters and I sold the other puppies. I was thrilled because I had made enough money to buy my 2 boys anything wanted to for Christmas with my money!! That was a great feeling. I knew that having puppies was what I wanted to do in my life. The puppies filled my heart with love and joy. All I could do was think about Poodle Puppies, different colors like Easter eggs in a basket. Reds, Browns, Apricots, Black, White, and Silver. I wanted to do everything right and go...
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by the book, so of course I picked out one of my favorite ones, Dog World. In it they had a Champion red poodle male named ‘Jodan’s Red Pepper. I had a very nice little female and I got in contact with a breeder that had a son from Ch. Jodan’s Red Pepper and she agreed to breed my dog. The only thing was, she was in Texas and I was in Louisiana. So I asked Jimmy to take me to Texas to breed my dog to this little Champion male and she agreed. We paid a stud fee of $1000. My female had 4 puppies I kept 2 and tried to sell the other 2. At that time, I had a little red dog that was a slightly shorter legged and not the profile of the show quality that I had bred to a tiny red male I owned. She had a tiny little runt that I ended up keeping because she looked like a stuffed wind up toy. We named her Pee Wee. She became my house pet and we loved her like a little baby always. I had people over to see the Champion sired puppies but when they saw Pee Wee, they all wanted her and didn’t buy a puppy. So I then knew what direction I wanted to go in. I realized that if I like the puppies and really loved them because I thought they were cute in a different way than show quality, then others would love them too. I started collecting the tinier, cuter ones and soon I had a certain look. Even my mother, who has always been very critical of me, says if she see’s a person with a poodle out somewhere, she could tell that they came from me. I really didn’t think too much of that as it did come from my mother. LOL But then others would tell me the same thing. I guess sometimes mothers do know what’s best! Most of my life after that was centered around the love for my dogs. My first poodle lived to be 17 years old and she was a great dog. I owe her a lot of credit for my career. She helped me get my start. In 1985, we found some property with about 15 acres of beautiful flat green ground and my husband started planting trees. He also starting building me my Dream. I told him I loved the poodles so much I wished I could have a place as big as a barn so I could keep all the puppies I wanted to. I really didn’t think he would, but thinking back, our whole married life centers around him making everything possible. He is the love of my life and he does everything with me in mind. I would have to say he loves me with the same passion as I have for my dogs and family. He never stops amazing me. Just look at my new website and I am sure you will agree that he does it with a passion for me. We have been married 37 years and he has made my life become a dream come true. I wish everyone could have such a wonderful husband as I do.

For the first 15 years, I collected some of the cutest, most wonderful personality dogs I could find. At first I had to sell all my dogs locally until I found the Dog World magazine and later I found the Internet. This advertisement helped me out a lot. My oldest son Jimmy Jr. had made me a web page that featured my Champion Pomeranians. Of course at that time, a lot of people didn’t even have a computer or know how to use one. I certainly didn’t know how to use one. I then began meeting people over the internet that came from out of state and even out of the country. I have had people come to my house from England, Ireland, Germany, Canada and most all of the United States. It is so nice meeting people from different places. Mainly because they share the same love I have for their dog. I get pictures from a lot of the people that has bought dogs from me from all the way back to when I first started.

With the many phone calls and Mother’s Day and Christmas cards I get all year long, it gives me great joy and pleasure to be doing this!

We would like to Thank Janet & Jimmy Bordelon for allowing us to feature them in the Kennel Spotlight.
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NEGATIVE OR POSITIVE?
By Jim Hughes

I received an e-mail last week telling me a joke. It was funny but the reason it was funny is not funny. It has to do with negative reporting:

This rough and tough Biker was riding in the zoo when he saw a Lion grab a small child through the bars and try to pull it into the cage. The kid was screaming, the parents were screaming, and the Lion was winning the Tug-O-War. The Biker jumped off his motorcycle, ran up to the cage and delivered a terrific blow with his fist to the Lion's nose. The Lion dropped his hold on the kid and ran to the back of his cage to lick a very sore nose. A reporter for the local newspaper saw the whole thing and rushed up to the Biker. “That was the bravest thing I have ever seen, I want to write a story for tomorrow's paper about this incident. What is your name, what kind of motorcycle are you riding, and what is your political persuasion?” “Aw' it wasn’t anything great. The Lion was behind bars. I was not in any danger”. He told the reporter his name, that he was a republican and the bike was a Harley-Davidson. The next day the article appears in the paper. “Bush sends Harley-Davidson gang member to attack African immigrant and steal his lunch”.

This negative reporting is what sells papers and magazines. Nobody is much interested in any good stuff. Like Blue Ribbon Kennels, USDA licensed and operated by really good breeders. That is boring! Oprah wants only sensationalism. Well, I think I will bore you with some positive facts that you can take pride in your country. I would rather live in the good old USA than anywhere else in the world. Did you know that in the last 25 years of history we;

- Increased total economic output from $5.1 trillion dollars to $11.3 trillion dollars;
- Increased per capita economic output from $22,400 dollars to $37,807 dollars;
- Dropped the unemployment rate from 7 percent to below 5 percent;
- Increased the service sector of our economy from $1 trillion dollars to $5.5 trillion dollars.

Did you know that in spite of sending all of our jobs to foreign shores, our total manufacturing output peaked in 2007? Yes, our factories produced more product last year than any year in our history.

- The Dow Jones average increased from 825 to, despite recent declines, it stays in the 12,000 range. That is a 1400 percent increase.
- Increased stock investors from 19 percent of all households to 50 percent;
- Increased the median family net worth from $69,000 to $93,000;

This fabulous rate of growth, unheard of in any other country or any other period of time in the world history, did not happen by accident. These are the results of three most important reasons, a dramatic reduction in the marginal tax rates, a series of major deregulations, and a broad expansion of trade. President Reagan signed the Economic Recovery Act of 1981, reducing top corporate tax rates from 70 percent to today's 28 percent. President Carter signed the Airline Deregulation Act, lowering fares in the last 25 years by 18 percent. He also signed the Motor Carriers Act, reducing some freight cost by 25 percent.

In summation, I think this is a pretty good record. It has been achieved with a republican in the White House for 20 years and a democrat for 8 years. I do not know what our future holds. Both Obama and McCain tell us we live in the greatest nation on earth. I resist change. I hate to change the furniture, I hate to change the color of the walls. I do not feel I want to change too much of the above record for our country either.

The Five crucial Food Groups According to Dogs:

1. In the bowl. (A good foundation, but important to supplement with other groups.)
2. Off the table. (Most varied group, but best eaten when no one is looking.)
3. On the floor. (A nutritious way to snack between meals.)
4. Grass-taken at least once a day to enable vomit activity. (Vomit activity best engaged in while resting head on caretaker’s lap.)
5. Poop. (At least once a day for overall digestive happiness. May be taken topically via rolling in it. Best if eaten immediately after production. Be sure to lick owner in face after ingestion.)
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2008 FARM BILL - - NEVER ENDING SAGA ABOUT TO END!!!!:

By the time this article is published, the “Farm Bill” should finally be law. I say “finally” because the 2008 Farm Bill was passed by Congress; then vetoed by the President; then Congress “overrode” the President’s veto only to discover that a technical “omission” occurred, which then resulted in Congress correcting the technical “omission” and passing the Farm Bill for the second time, only to have the President veto the Farm Bill a second time, and then Congress is finally expected to override the President’s veto a second time. This may be the first time in the History of the U.S. that the same Bill was vetoed twice and overridden twice. If Congress ran a dog kennel the same way that it conducted its affairs with regards to the “passage” of the 2008 Farm Bill, APHIS would probably shut them down!!!! So what is the outcome of the fiasco? Despite the concerns of responsible breeders for the last year that Animal Rights and Animal Protection Groups would succeed in “loading down” the Farm Bill with a lot of the same provisions that were in PAWS three years ago, and its predecessor of five years ago, they failed! Yes, there are several provisions that made the final version of the Farm Bill. Those provisions were limited to animal fighting and penalties and a limitation on the importation of puppies younger than six months from foreign countries. THAT’S ALL! No last minute additions that could undermine responsible breeders.

While some may grouse over any Animal Welfare Act revisions, there are three major silver linings. The first, and most important, “silver lining” is the fact that the Farm Bill does not contain any of the provisions that that Animal Rights and Animal Protection Groups, such as HSUS, had worked so hard to be enacted in past years. No limitation on breeding……….No “socialization” requirements………. No “three strikes and your out” penalty provisions…..Nothing that was in the old PAWS Bill of two years ago, or its predecessor Bill of five years ago. The second “silver lining” is that there will not be another Farm Bill for five years. This means that Animal Rights and Animal Protection Groups will find it more difficult to find a Bill that they can easily seek to have their sponsored provisions attached. This means that they would probably have to rely upon a “Stand Alone Bill.” Stand Alone Bills are hard to pass, as evidenced by the fact that no Stand Alone Bill that sought to amend the Animal Welfare Act with breeder related provisions has been enacted in over six years. The third “silver lining” is there is not enough time left in the Congressional Calendar this year for Congress to consider any new Animal Welfare Act legislation that would affect breeders. In this regard, Congress will be adjoining early this fall because it is an Election Year.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ANIMAL RIGHTS AND ANIMAL PROTECTION GROUPS?:

While I don’t have a crystal ball, it is becoming more and more obvious that since Animal Rights and Animal Protection Groups have failed to persuade Congress to enact any sweeping changes at the Federal Level for the last six years, they have been focusing a lot of effort at the State Level. I suspect that their long term agenda is to initially do indirectly what they have not succeeded at doing at the Federal Level - - namely push for passage of laws at the State Level so that they can then use the state laws as a basis for seeking wide-sweeping changes to the Animal Welfare Act. In short, “if at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” Rest assured, they will not go away, and are currently nipping at your ankles at the State Level. And any successes at the State Level will be used as their “justification” next year as to why the Animal Welfare Act must be amended.

OPRAH WINFREY SHOW - - WHAT HAS BEEN THE FALLOUT?:

The April 4th Oprah Winfrey Show that featured footage and “commentary” supplied by HSUS occurred three months ago. While it was understandably outrageous to responsible breeders, it apparently has had no - - ABSOLUTELY NONE - - visible impact on motivating Members of Congress to amend the Animal Welfare Act - - no new Bills and no new dialogue.

The real question that still needs to be answered is whether the “commentary” that was made on the show, such as “no responsible breeder sells its animals to pet stores,” has explicitly and adversely affected sales. Based on my inquiry to PIJAC, pet stores have not documented any negative impact on their sales that was directly caused by the “commentary” on the Show. Consequently, if we cannot document through the use of sworn affidavits that sales of dogs were adversely affected by the commentary, we will not able to demonstrate to the FBI that the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act was violated. Yes…… if individuals directly interfere with animal enterprise businesses, such as breeding or pet stores, such interference could be a violation of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Sworn affidavits should never ever be based on speculation or “chatter.” Sworn affidavits must be based on hard “facts.” However, if I receive sworn affidavits that cite specific, not general, examples of how the HSUS commentary directly and adversely affected the businesses of breeders or pet stores, I now have a door open to present them to the FBI for its consideration as to whether it will initiate an investigation. While the “defense” would be “we have the Constitutional Right of Freedom of Speech,” that is not a fool proof defense. For example, you can not use “Freedom of Speech” as a justification to cry out “Fire!”
in a crowded theater, nor should “Freedom of Speech” be considered to shield individuals from directly interfering with the businesses of breeders or pet stores. With this background, if I receive any sworn affidavits, I will turn them over to the FBI, provided they give specific details as to how comments made on the Oprah Winfrey Show by HSUS representatives caused prospective buyers not to buy your puppies. Sworn affidavits may be sent to:

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CREDIBILITY - - FOOD FOR THOUGHT - -
WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT:

Nearly two decades ago the Berlin Wall came tumbling down without a single shot being fired. How did that happen? One of the main reasons was President Reagan had enormous “CREDIBILITY” when he said “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” He and the United States earned that credibility and respect, and it paid enormous dividends throughout the world. Likewise, in Washington DC, CREDIBILITY OPENS DOORS AND PRODUCES DESIRED RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS THAT MONEY CAN NEVER BUY.

So how do dog breeders earn credibility and respect? One way to do so is to “bite the bullet,” and do what the Missouri Pet Breeders Association did over two years ago. Some of its Members were not happy with the decision made by the Missouri Pet Breeders Association to publicly condemn substandard kennels. However, when they did that, it helped to kill the PAWS Bill. In short, Members of Congress took notice of what the Missouri Pet Breeders Association did, and resisted pressure to support PAWS. And that credibility continues to pay dividends. For example, in early June, the credibility of the Missouri Pet Breeders Association ensured that the senior leadership in APHIS (Dr. Gipson and Dr. Gibbens) was quick to respond to a request for clarification of a bizarre approach of an APHIS inspector that threatened to disrupt an auction. In less than 48 hours, Dr. Gipson and Dr. Gibbens not only responded to the MPBA request, but addressed the issue in a most satisfactory way that served the best interests of the owners of dogs, the auctioneer, and even more importantly, the best interests of the dogs. That’s the kind of respect that only comes from being a “credible and respected voice.”

Groups such as the HSUS often tend to paint a skewed image of “all” responsible dog breeders at both the State and Federal Level. What better way to disrupt and discredit their “spin” than to condemn substandard kennels. Responsible dog breeders need credibility to overcome the mega-million dollar “spin” that discredits all responsible dog breeders. And it doesn’t cost anything to join with the Missouri Pet Breeders Association and publicly condemn substandard kennels. A groundswell of such condemnations will put Animal Rights and Animal Protection Groups on the defensive and in their own Credibility Dog House if they attempt to discredit such condemnations.

IT WILL DRIVE THEM NUTS!!!!

A Dog’s Plea to dog owners everywhere:

Treat me kindly, my beloved friend, for no heart in this world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me. Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me learn. Speak to me often, for your voice is the world’s sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail, when your footsteps fall upon my waiting ear. Please take me inside when it is cold and wet for I am a domesticated animal, no longer accustomed to bitter elements. I ask no greater glory than to have the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth. Keep my pan filled with water, for I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life, should your life be in danger. And my friend, when I am old and no longer enjoy good health and sight, do not make heroic efforts to keep me going, I am not having fun. Please see that my trusting life is taken gently. I shall leave this earth knowing with the last breath I draw that my fate was always safest in your hands.

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Kennel Spotlight *Aug/Sept ’08 •15
Should young puppies be fixed?

It seems the decision of when to 'spay or neuter' a pet continues to be a point of much controversy between pet owners and veterinary professionals across the country. I regularly hear from new pet owners that receive a new puppy that has been "fixed" already and are concerned because their veterinarian has told them that a dog should never be "fixed" before it is six months of age. So when is an "ideal" time to spay/neuter your pet? The answer to that may not be as simple as it sounds. With the continuing pressure from the press, daytime TV shows, and the HSUS (Humane Society), more and more professional pet breeders are offering to spay/neuter pets that they are selling prior to shipment. This can be a real win-win situation with new pet owners. First, the typical price of an ovario-hysterectomy (spay) anywhere in the US other than the mid-west can range from $150-$500+. The new owner often will be very excited that you offer a pet that has already had the procedure done prior to shipment for a much lesser cost than what they will have to pay from their veterinarian. Secondly, anytime that an animal is placed under anesthesia, there is some risk to the life of the animal. Though the risk is minimal, there is a possibility that this new pet could go to its new home, be taken to the new owner's veterinarian, and have had complications during the surgical procedure. Many times these new owners will call you wanting to know what you can do about this. By offering to have these procedures done prior to shipment, you personally take the risk of surgical complications but you have the comfort of having the procedure done by your veterinarian that you trust and typically at a fraction of the cost the new owner would have to pay. Many people have heard stories about why a pet should not be neutered younger than six months. Did you know that the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association), AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association), AKC, & HSUS all SUPPORT early spay/neuter of your pet? So why do many veterinarians refuse to do young pets? I believe that it is due to the comfort level of that veterinarian. Is it wrong that they refuse to do a pet until it is six months? No, it is just what they are comfortable doing. I am a big proponent of early spay/neuter. The benefits to the puppy of the early spay/neuter are numerous. I have seen thousands of neuters between 6-10 weeks of age do great through life and never have any medical complications. I have seen many pups that are spayed between 7-12 weeks of age that become super, well behaved dogs with no medical complications. So, I would ask, can you do your part to help control pet overpopulation by offering pets that have been spayed or neutered? The benefits go far beyond just additional revenue for you, they can help continue to show how responsible professional pet breeders are. There are too many other benefits to mention about early spay and neuter but you can find some really interesting thoughts about this at: http://earlyspayneuter.blogspot.com More questions? Contact us at All About Pets, 417-442-7387.
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Senator McCain will be our next president. Either way, chances are overwhelming that either Senator Obama or I am talking about our upcoming presidential election. First, let’s take a look at Senator McCain. He has earned a 75 percent approval rating on the Animal Activist list of approved legislators. He has co-sponsored legislation to stop horse slaughter in the United States. He has voted to eliminate a $2 million dollar subsidy for the mink industry. He has co-sponsored bills to stop the interstate shipment of birds for cockfighting and to stop the poaching of bears by ending the trade in their gall bladders and other viscera. He supported an amendment to the California Desert Protection Act that was very much desired by the animal activist coalition. He has been a leader in the effort to stop global warming and to treat the poaching of bears as a serious crime that it is. He has repeatedly voted to increase penalties for animal cruelty and violence, and importantly, to require psychological counseling for those who engage in this behavior as part of the punishment. In addition to being unacceptable in its own stead, violence towards animals is linked with violent behavior in general, especially domestic violence, and we need to acknowledge this connection and work to treat it. Strong penalties are important and I support them, but we know that incarceration alone can’t solve all our problems. As President, I would continue to make sure that we treat animal cruelty like the serious crime that it is.”

In the eight years that he served as an Illinois state senator, Obama voted in favor of at least a dozen animal protection bills. He voted for Pet Trusts for long term care of companion animals, stiffer penalties for animal cruelty, psychological counseling for abusers, to require veterinarians to report suspected cases of abuse and animal fighting, and to ban horse slaughter in Illinois. He has come out strongly against “Puppy Mills”.

Both senators are the masters of “double talk”. Who is going to disagree with them? But we need to keep looking under the rug. We are going to have to have a watchdog organization to interpret what they really said and this organization is going to need the means to fight for our rights when they are violated.

At present we have NAPO, PIJAC, all the state organizations and now the show clubs and the hunting dog groups. But, we are all splintered. We have no coalition to pull us all together and we have no leadership. We need the strength of an organization along the lines of the National Rifle Assn. Nobody steps on their toes with out a fight. But they have leadership that knows how to fight. And those that do the fighting are paid well. Good leaders expect good pay. The puppy industry expects volunteers to step out of the woodwork. It ain’t gonna happen.

The National Rifle Association has 8.8 million members. Our avowed enemies, the Humane Society of the United States has 10 million members and PETA has 2 million members. With the exception of their paid staff, these members do not make a dime from their involvement with these organizations. They are donating because they believe in a cause and are willing to support it. The NRA averages 6 dollars per member in contributions from its nearly 9 million members. The HSUS averages $10 dollars, and PETA is getting 15 dollars. The combined donations to all the breeder organizations are in this same general area. Our shortfall comes from lack of breeder participation and spreading the donations over to many different entities.

Wayne Pacelle is the president of HSUS. His official reported income is $207,000 per year plus a benefit package of $27,000 per year. He has a staff under him of which the top 7 people make anywhere from $172,231 with benefits of $35,047 down to $66,018 with benefits of $11,276. He has the services of 37 directors and trustees, donating their time and expertise to the organization. Ingrid Newkirk is the president of PETA and she only reports and income of $34,000 per year. The president of NAPO makes, now let’s see, O YEAH, ZERO. The president of MPBA, the largest dog breeder organization in the United States has 10 million members and PETA has 2 million members. With the exception of their paid staff, these members do not make a dime from their involvement with these organizations. They are donating because they believe in a cause and are willing to support it. The NRA averages 6 dollars per member in contributions from its nearly 9 million members. The HSUS averages $10 dollars, and PETA is getting 15 dollars. The combined donations to all the breeder organizations are in this same general area. Our shortfall comes from lack of breeder participation and spreading the donations over to many different entities.

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This past year the Humaniacs have been on the rampage. They have raided and confiscated (stolen) dogs from kennels in Washington State to Florida (350 dogs were taken in Maine, 800 in Virginia, 300 in Georgia, 150 in Florida, 45 in Texas, 700 in Tennessee, etc. etc.) They are hitting Pennsylvania too many times to count. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois have lost dogs. I get phone calls every day from choked up, crying breeders asking “What can I do?” For those already raided---
NOTHING---for those about to be raided, and that means YOU, get a license, join a breeder club, go to seminars, get educated, paint up and clean up your kennels and your dogs, get familiar with your local law enforcement, put a lawyer on retainer and familiarize him with the situation that will probably hit you someday. Put up “No Trespassing” signs all over the place. If they show up, demand to see a warrant, call your sheriff and your lawyer. Refuse them access to your kennels, they are not police.

We have a dog population in the United States of approximately 80 million. Even more cats if you can count them. Tell an NRA member he cannot buy a Sherman Tank or a Bazooka if he wants one and the NRA is down your throat even though they believe you really don’t need one. And if you deny a member the right to own a Bazooka, you will find your right to own a .22 will also be taken. Deny a family the right to own a Pit Bull and eventually, the right to own a Poodle will be taken. If you ask the members of NRA to send in a dollar for each gun they own to protect your Bazooka, you are going to get $250 million dollars. And if you make them mad, they will send it. Forty five percent of American households have handguns. An equal number have dogs. Now, do you really believe that we could get 80 million dollars if the same call went out to dog owners?

We need someone of major abilities to head NAPO and we need to pay him a salary equivalent to the NRA or HSUS. After the election there will be a large number of ex-politicians looking for a job. What are your dogs worth? What would you sell your kennel for? Well, if you are raided you ain’t gonna get nuttin, boy. They are going to steal them and make you pay for the gas to haul them off. Take notice! WAKE UP, AMERICA!

On the first day of creation, God created the dog.

On the second day, God created man to serve the dog.

On the third day, God created all of the animals of the Earth to serve as potential food for the dog.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labor for the good of the dog.

On the fifth day, God created the tennis ball so that the dog might or might not retrieve it.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the dog healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but He had to walk the dog.
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BRAINPOWER—CAN YOU SPARE SOME?

We seem to be short on it around here. I feel that there are a lot of readers who know more than just how to raise dogs. Many of you have a profession and dogs are a sideline. NAPO would like to tap that expertise. We envision NAPO as being a 20 million member national organization someday, probably long after I am dead and gone, but maybe you young folks will donate me a plaque. You can find a plaque on E street in San Bernardino Calif. to the McDonald Brothers for the very first McDonalds ever. They never envisioned their little hamburger stand would someday grow into what it is today. I attended high school in San Bernardino. Both of my boys were born in San Bernardino. I have eaten thousands of 15 cent McDonalds hamburgers and I do not own one penny’s worth of stock. I then moved to Missouri and I shopped at the one and only Walmart in Arkansas when I needed to go down to Springdale. I do not own any of that stock either. Talk about short on brainpower!!

There are 45 million households that own 85 million dogs. The pet industry is the forth largest enterprise in the United States, generating 41 Billion dollars in sales annually. GMAC and GEICO are insurance stepchildren of major enterprises in the country. Farm Bureau and AARP sell more insurance than memberships. NRA and many national organizations offer group insurance to their members. We need, among many other things, an expert who would know how to convert this potential market into dollars for their company and for NAPO. Or possibly, NAPO could be the insurance company. Remember who State Farm and Farmers were initially intended for. A reader from Arkansas suggested a form of malpractice insurance for breeders. Well, you know me. I have a dream. When I wake up I may realize that the dream is too large, but right now, don’t wake me, help me!

We are open to suggestions from readers on any ideas from other professions that can be converted into programs that will help NAPO, and for that matter The Kennel Spotlight, grow. I envision a magazine that will be published monthly instead of every other month. I want to go to 80 to 100 pages and I want to bring on more salaried experts to make us better for the reader.

Should I call this article “I have a dream, part 3”? My son, Bob, used to envision Do-Bo-Tri Kennels as growing into a conglomerate equal to Walmart or JC Penneys. All it takes is to surround yourself with experts who are willing to take the idea and make it work. If you are a professional grounded in the basics of any related industry that could dovetail it’s efforts with NAPO or the Spotlight, let us hear from you! Thanks, Jim Hughes
AKC and AKC CAR Offer Disaster Relief to Iowa Shelters

In the wake of recent flooding in Iowa, the American Kennel Club® and AKC Companion Animal Recovery have donated much-needed supplies to temporary shelters housing displaced pets and are working closely with area officials to offer assistance and coordinate volunteers. Reaching out to local AKC club members in the affected areas, AKC and AKC CAR have been able to assess needs and coordinate several shipments of crates, portable kennels, bowls, leashes, harnesses, food, and other supplies that will help volunteers care for the hundreds of companion animals now located at two major temporary shelters - Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids and the Johnson County 4-H Fairgrounds in Iowa City. The AKC has been working closely with Scot Northern, President of the Cedar Rapids Kennel Association and Mark Shearer, Iowa Department of Agriculture Homeland Security and Veterinary Response Coordinator. Both men are working with the AKC to facilitate the immediate fulfillment of supplies to facilities with needs. “As people were being evacuated near the river people began to wonder where they were going to take their pets,” Northern recounted. “I heard about the shelters being set up and immediately contacted the AKC and AKC CAR, which gladly helped to supply the shelters. I’m also so proud of my club members, many of whom offered to help others in need, even while being evacuated themselves.”

“Recently, we have been contacting AKC clubs in the affected areas as well as local disaster officials in order to provide assistance for the benefit of any dog or companion animal displaced by the floods,” AKC President Dennis B. Sprung said. “We are able to offer assistance with the help of our friends at Dog.com and Jewett-Cameron and with generous donations from individuals and clubs including the Cedar Rapids Kennel Association, New England Dog Training Club and Greater Kingsport (TN) Kennel Club. We are thankful for the outpouring of support.”

“AKC and AKC CAR continue our outreach to officers of AKC affiliated clubs, humane society and animal control shelters and other organizations to identify affected and potentially affected disaster areas regarding dogs and their owners,” said Tom Sharp, VP and CEO of AKC CAR. “By being proactive before flood waters rise we can let potential temporary shelter coordinators know we are here to help should people and their pets need to be evacuated. This outreach has included the Missouri Humane Society in case flood waters continue to rise.”

Should dog clubs, shelters or individuals need disaster assistance or hear of those in need please contact Director of Club Communications Lisa Peterson at lxp@akc.org or 212-696-8360 or AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung at 516-637-6567 or dbs@akc.org.

The AKC will continue to post frequent updates to our website at www.akc.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer
Iowa Department of Agriculture Homeland Security and Veterinary Response Team have requested experienced volunteers to help man the area shelters in the coming weeks. People who have previous shelter management or operational experience, or veterans of Hurricane Katrina or other disasters should contact Mark Shearer at 515-281-5798 to volunteer.

Donations
In anticipation of the needs of the canine victims, we are accepting monetary donations. If you wish to make a tax deductible donation, you may send it to:

AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund
American Kennel Club
260 Madison Avenue - 4th Floor
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Or donate online at http://www.akc.org/donations.

The AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund is a permanent charitable fund which provides resources, support and other assistance to not-for-profit animal shelters and similar not-for-profit organizations providing care for domestic animals orphaned or displaced as a result of natural or civil disasters.

IAPB DONATES MONEY FOR IOWA DISASTER

The Iowa Pet Breeders Association board of directors pledged $1000 for disaster relief for pets in Iowa. The tornadoes and floods have been particularly hard on Iowa this spring and the club wanted to show their support and concern for those directly affected. They have sent the money to some local shelters in the hard struck areas to help with efforts in housing and reuniting pets with their owners. Unlike HSUS their funds will go ‘specifically’ to the animal relief efforts.

Photo courtesy of Rosemary Vines
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Choosing Breeding Stock, Part One

By Scott J. Gartner, DVM

Today’s breeder has a big, important job in the raising of quality, healthy puppies. The breeder must be constantly vigilant in building of well ventilated, functional facilities, maintaining those facilities in a clean and safe manner, and providing individual attention to the daily physical and mental well being of all the animals in his or her care. It can be daunting. The selection of the sires and dams that will produce the quality healthy puppies is no less important, requiring a fair amount of skill, knowledge, and determination. The breeder must know and be able to recognize dogs that conform to breed standard, and must be informed about flaws such as hernias, and genetic problems specific to a breed. The breeder must also have the discipline and organizational ability to keep detailed records of pups produced from specific pairings to make sure that assumptions about the breeding pairs selected are consistent with the results. This two part article is intended to provide a useful outline for the breeder to build on in developing the skills necessary in choosing the right breeding dogs.

Breed Standard. The first rule is: know your breed. The breeder must be familiar with the breeds he or she is raising. The breeder of an individual breed must know what is expected within key features for that breed. For example, a Yorkie breeder must be attuned to features such as quality and length of hair coat, appropriate leg length, and ear set. Intimate knowledge of the history and reasons for the establishment of a particular breed is often helpful in cementing in one’s mind expectations in such things as coat, muscling, and athleticism. For example, the Labrador retriever was bred for specific hunting purposes lending to the desirability of an animal with an athletic, strongly built, well balanced body. Illustrated standards provide detailed schematics of proportions which are extremely helpful in visualizing specific attributes as well as overall conformation for a particular breed. Illustrated standards can be found through specific breed clubs. Breeders should immerse themselves as fully as possible in all information available on a breed of interest. A last note is not to key in too heavily on any one feature. For example, a Rottweiler breeder would be ill advised to place too much emphasis on head size at the exclusion of all else.

Health. A good breeder must also be aware of potential health problems concerning dogs under consideration for a breeding program. Veterinary conditions such as hernias, hip dysplasia, knee laxity, and heart murmurs must be evaluated for potential breeding animals. The breeder can not be blinded by immediate outward aesthetics. A thorough physical examination of all sires and dams considered for breeding must be performed. Knowing your breed becomes critical in this aspect as well. Breeders must be aware of all health issues for which their breeds are at increased risk. The breeder that has this knowledge is not only more likely to avoid these health issues in potential breeding animals, he or she will also be more diligent in researching ancestors and littermates for the expression of these issues. Most health issues of concern are controlled by complex genetic factors and can be fairly insidious. For example, a female with perfect knees may produce a full litter with perfect knees. Pair her with a different male in the next breeding and half the litter may have unacceptable knees. A breeder would do well to pick four issues of particular concern in their breed and give all of the diligence possible to eliminate the risk of those issues in future litters.

Choosing Breeding Stock, Part Two

This is the second of a two part article to help breeders plan their selection of sires and dams for their breeding programs. Earlier, I talked about the importance of breed standard and health issues generally. In this section, we will talk about using knowledge of canine genetics to assist in selecting breeding pairs, and about certification programs for dogs.

Genetics and heritability are often used interchangeably. The term ‘heritability’ refers to how easily genetic traits are passed on to offspring. Heritability carries a deeper connotation of relative risk. That is, genetic traits, both good and bad, vary in their heritability. The breeder who knows the relative heritability for both good and bad traits can focus this knowledge to great advantage when choosing sires and dams for breeding. For example, the breeder who understands and accepts that litter size carries a low heritability would not put this factor high on the criteria list when selecting breeding pairs. The breeder who does his or her homework before selecting breeding pairs should keep detailed records of the puppies produced. Those records will allow the good breeder to quickly rectify any errors in planning the pairing of sires and dams.

Genetics is complex and insidious, however, advances in genetics have given breeders some high tech tools to use in addition to their own records. There are now labs that can expose carriers for genetic diseases based on oral swabs. The list of diseases that can be flagged by these tests is large and continuously growing. Even if a breeder does not directly utilize this technology in his or her own program, acquiring breeding stock from programs that do would give the breeder more confidence in the source of breeding animals. Specific certification programs now exist for certain genetic diseases. OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals)
and CERF (Canine Eye Registration Foundation) are the most notable. The breeder of German Shepherds or Rottweilers would be wise to look for OFA certification in the pedigrees of potential breeding animals. Likewise, a Golden Retriever breeder would be wise considering CERF certification in the pedigrees of potential breeding stock.

The depth to which a breeder can go to make decisions on what males and females will produce their puppies is obviously immense. This two part article is short and meant only to give the breeder a starting point in the selection of breeding animals. It would take several substantial textbooks to begin to expound on the topics touched on here. Those books do exist. I would encourage all breeders to begin by researching and becoming thoroughly familiar with their breeds of interest, and creating as complete a record system as possible to track all puppies produced in their breeding programs. Take the time to learn about advances in canine genetics and the state-of-the-art technologies available to breeders. Due to the complexity of genetics as touched on in this article, I would dissuade a breeder from trusting that a male or female under consideration for breeding would be a great choice simply based on outward appearances or the fact that they are a champion. Again, the more that you can learn about littermates, ancestry, and offspring already produced, the more you’ll know about what may lie hidden in an animal’s genes.

Dr. Scott Gartner is a staff veterinarian for The Hunte Corporation. Dr. Gartner can be reached at (800) 829-4155.

DEFINITION OF A BREEDER....

A Breeder is one who thrills for knowledge and never really knows it all and doesn’t pretend he does... One who wrestles with many decisions...

A Breeder is one who sacrifices personal interests, finances, time, fancy furniture... He gives up dreams of a long, luxurious vacation... Besides, who would watch/care for the dogs while he was gone...

He goes without sleep in hours spent planning, cleaning, watching anxiously over the birth process and afterwards, over every little sneeze, wiggle, or cry... He skips parties because that litter is due or the babies have to be fed...

His lap is a marvelous place where generations of happy, healthy and loved babies have snoozed... And still do... His hands are strong and firm, but ever so gentle and sensitive to the thrusts of a puppy’s wet nose... His shoulders are stooped and often heaped with abuse from unkind words of those who don’t understand, but wide enough to support the weight of a thousand “Thank You’s” from happy new families... His arms are always able to wield a mop, support an armful of puppies or lend a helping hand to a newcomer... but can’t hold grudges or hold onto unpleasant ridicule...

His ears are wondrous things, sometimes red (from being talked about) or strangely shaped (from being pressed against a phone receiver,) yet always fine-tuned to the whimper of a puppy or an oncoming storm... His eyes may be blurred from research and paperwork, but they are ever so keen to what a healthy, happy puppy looks and acts like... His brain is sometimes foggy on faces, but can recall how many were in a litter four years ago that produced a certain puppy... It’s so full of knowledge that sometimes it blows a fuse: it catalogues thousands of colors, sizes, and perfect temperaments...

His heart is sometimes broken but it beats strongly with hope everlasting... and it is always in the right place!”

Author Unknown
Malnutrition in Puppies – Causes, Effects and Treatment

Malnutrition in puppies occurs when nutritional requirements are not being met. This is a very common occurrence during the time pediatric puppies are entirely dependent upon the mother for their nutritional needs.

Causes
There are many factors that contribute to weak or “down” puppies. Improper prenatal nutrition and care of the mothers could be one factor. During the 9-week gestation period, good nutrition is essential, particularly during the last 5 weeks. During this time, a pregnant dog’s nutritional needs nearly double, therefore feeding increased amounts of food in several small meals each day along with ample fresh water is recommended.

Another contributing factor may be that the puppy is not getting sufficient milk, which can be caused by a number of reasons ranging from low milk levels in the breast, to competition among litter mates or mothers pushing pups away, refusing to nurse, possibly due to mastitis (swelling and infection of the teats). Supplement the mother’s diet by feeding puppy food for higher energy and protein intake during lactation.

Effects
Healthy puppies rest quietly, sleeping most of the time on full stomachs. However, when a puppy is malnourished it is common for them to have high-pitched, constant crying. A malnourished puppy will also be noticeably weak, will have diminished activity and possibly a weak suckling reflex. It may be smaller in appearance, weaker than it’s littermates and realize less weight gain. The puppy may also have a lower than normal body temperature and suffer from dehydration. Weak, undernourished puppies are also highly susceptible to hypoglycemia, the inability to regulate glucose production, causing the puppy to become lethargic or to “go down.”

Treatment
Maintain a warm environment (minimum 72 degrees) free from drafts and dampness. Rehydrate the puppy by administering a balanced electrolyte solution such as Rebound. Remember to warm the fluids to body temperature or the pup’s temperature will fall even further. The normal temperature of a puppy at birth is 96-97°F. The temperature gradually increases with age until it is 100°F at 4 weeks of age. Milk replacers should not be given until the puppy has been rehydrated and the temperature restored to normal. At that time mixing the milk replacer 50:50 with Lactated Ringers will decrease the risk of diarrhea. Further supplement their diet with Nutri-Vyte, a low-volume, high energy syrup that is easy to administer, providing quick energy and nutritional support when puppies are weak and are not eating as they should.

Hypoglycemia
One of the biggest problems in handling pediatric puppies is the two-pound or less puppy that “goes down” repeatedly. It is not uncommon in puppies to have reoccurring episodes. When hypoglycemic puppies go down, liver function shuts down, decreasing glucose production from fat stores. It is four days before the puppy can regulate the glucose because the liver is not making glucose from energy stored between meals. Feeding around the clock hours is not always practical. This is a very frustrating ailment to treat.

The inability to convert fat to glucose is a result of an L-Carnitine deficiency. L-Carnitine helps puppies mobilize fat and maintain blood sugar until they are able to do so on their own. L-Carn is an excellent product to have on hand in your kennel. One cc per 2 lbs administered twice daily will help puppies make glucose from fat between meals, eat larger meals, resulting in weight gain. Gaining weight is the key to managing small, weak puppies.

Realize, too, that stresses such as weaning and shipping may also contribute to hypoglycemia. L-Carn can be used at these critical times to help prevent the occurrence of this devastating and potentially fatal condition.

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Malnutrition Treatments

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- L-Carn Liquid L-Carnitine
- Nutri-Vyte Compare to Nutri-Cal

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- Eukanuba Large Breed Adult
- Iams Vet Formula Low-Residue
DOGS IN THE NEWS

A BLIND DOG SEES AFTER SURGERY

‘Dixie’ a blind, seven year old Mountain Cur dog from Iowa, received the first veterinary corneal implant that has ever been done in North America. The assistant professor of Veterinary Clinical Sciences from Iowa State University removed Dixie’s damaged cloudy cornea and replaced it with a permanent synthetic one. Corneal transplants in humans are fairly routine, dating back to the early 1900’s but very few have ever been done on canines. The plastic cornea, that contains no biomaterial, should offer an advantage over transplants of real corneas from other dogs which are often rejected by the recipient’s body. Dixie’s owner, Brett Williams, stated that she used to be very scared and walk behind him whenever they would go out. Now she wants to run ahead and seems to be restored to her old self before she had lost her sight. Even though the new cornea doesn’t give Dixie peripheral vision, it is helping to improve her quality of life. And now a once-blind dog can now see to chase squirrels to her heart’s content!!

Pit Bull Puppy saves owners from fire!!

A Tasmanian couple owe their lives to Tank, their four month old Pit Bull Terrier. Ironically, their government in its wisdom is trying to make sure no act of heroism by a Pit Bull dog ever happens again. It all started when Tank was asleep in bed with his owners, Mr.Saunders and Ms. Gilley. Their dryer caught on fire and the fire quickly spread throughout the home. and down on his owner’s to bite him Saunders, up he found with thick smoke. A smoke alarm which had been tested a few months ago had failed to go off. Saunders quickly woke Ms. Gilley and they fled the house. Fire crews arrived within minutes but the fire gutted the house, causing $200,000 worth of damage. Their possessions, which were not insured, were destroyed in their rental house. Putting it all into perspective, Ms. Gilley said, “At first I was really upset about losing our stuff. But when you see the house, which is absolutely gutted, you are just thankful to be alive.” And now here is the irony. Tank is an American Pit Bull Terrier, a breed which the Tasmanian government is in the process of banning. If/when this legislation is passed, Tank, the hero of this story, might be destroyed by law. Or he will have to spend his life in a concrete bottomed cage with a muzzle and short lead whenever he comes out of it. And here is more irony. How many people have been killed by the American Pitbull Terrier in Australia? Answer = None.

“LEO GETS A SECOND CHANCE.....

“Leo” the Pit Bull, who was rescued from Michael Vick’s dogfighting ring, is now a lover, not a fighter. He now sports a clown collar as he makes the rounds at the Camino Infusion Center in Mt. View, Ca., where he brings comfort to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Despite his training as a killer, he is very gentle and brings a smile to everyone he meets. Leo was one of the lucky ones. Some of his former companions, however, were not so fortunate. When officers had raided Vick’s stables last year, they found several of the dogs injured and scarred while chained to buried car axles. Leo is a survivor and is an inspiration to those fighting for their lives. He also visits the young men at the Alternative Placement Academy where they seem to identify with the ‘former tough guy’. He is definitely an ambassador to his breed and proof that there is hope for the ‘stereotype’ killer Pit Bull.

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KEEPING COOL IN THE SUMMER!

With the summer heat upon us, it is important to remember about keeping your pet friends healthy and enjoy the months of sun and fun. The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) has a few tips to protect your pets in the summer heat waves.

• NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN THE CAR. Cars are a potential death trap during the hot summer months because the inside temperatures can quickly climb to more than 120 degrees Farenheit on even a mild sunny day, even with the windows rolled down. If you absolutely must leave your pet in the car, open windows and vents as wide as possible without providing an escape route or keep your pet inside a well-ventilated carrier inside the car and open the windows fully and check your car every 10 minutes.

• PROVIDE FRESH WATER. Whether your pet is indoors or out, they need access to fresh, clean water at all times. The bowl should be placed in a shaded area where it cannot be heated by the sun and be sure to check the water frequently as the warmer it gets, your pet will drink more often.

• ADEQUATE SHELTER. If your pet lives outdoors, make sure there is adequate shelter for protection from the midday sun and heat. Outdoor kennels should be well-ventilated and in a shaded area. There should always be some shade for the pet to get out of the sun.

• SAY NO TO TANGLES. Keeping your pet well groomed will help keep them from getting overheated from too much fur. If your pet has extremely thick hair, you may want to shave them down completely. This will also help aid you in parasite control and avoid hotspots.

• BE CAUTIOUS ON HUMID DAYS. Humidity interferes with animals’ ability to rid themselves of excess body heat. When we overheat, we sweat, and when the sweat dries it takes excess heat with it. Our four-legged friends only perspire around their paws, which is not enough to cool the body. To rid themselves of excess heat, dogs will pant. The air moves through the nasal passages, which picks up excess heat from the body. As it is expelled through the mouth, the extra heat leaves along with it. This is usually a very efficient way in controlling their body heat but if the dog is in close quarters or in an area of high humidity, it can be very limited.

• WATCH FOR HEATSTROKE. Make sure your pet doesn’t over exert themselves especially in extreme heat as this can lead to possible heatstroke which is a medical emergency. If you suspect your pet has heatstroke, act quickly and calmly and call your veterinarian immediately. In the meantime, you can lower your dog’s body temperature by applying towels soaked in cool water to the hairless areas of the body. Often your dog will respond after only a few minutes of cooling, only to falter again with his temperature soaring back up or falling well below normal. Rubbing alcohol applied to the pads of their feet can also help reduce fever. With this in mind, it is imperative to get your pet to the veterinarian immediately for proper treatment.

• TAKE IT EASY ON DOGS THAT CAN’T DEAL WITH THE HEAT. Elderly, very young and ill animals have a hard time regulating their body temperature, so make sure they stay cool on hot, steamy days. Dogs with snub noses, such as Pekingese, Bulldogs and Pugs have a harder time staying cool because they cannot pant efficiently. It is important to know your breeds’ limitations and prepare for them well in advance. Overweight dogs can also be prone to overheating, so keep your pets on a well-balanced and healthy diet at all times.

Summertime doesn’t have to be a hardship for your pets, with ample precaution, both you and your furry friends can enjoy those long, hot ‘dog days’ of summer!!
Transport Diarrhea

Why do my puppies get diarrhea during travel?
By asking that question and exploring the reasons, breeders can do a better job of finding ways to prevent this aggravating problem. Diarrhea is the number three reason for vet visits, so it’s important for breeders to make sure that they avoid diarrhea if at all possible. Travel diarrhea is also referred to as stress diarrhea or routine diarrhea. This means that the cause is simply the dog’s intestinal reaction to a change in their environment. Canines have a simple and short digestive tract and with any change in routine they are quite susceptible to the “runs”.

The actual cause of this type of diarrhea is an intestinal imbalance between what is commonly referred to as “good and bad” bacteria. A balance of both is essential to break the food down so that the nutrients can be absorbed through the intestinal wall, as well as to push along what’s left to be eliminated. The good bacteria get spent in the digestive process and need to be replaced daily to maintain optimum GI balance. Once the “bad bacteria” get the upper hand, they breed quickly and can lead to diarrhea.

There are numerous diarrhea remedies available and recommended by vets, breeders and pet owners. One type is the digestive aide, incorporating beneficial bacteria to normalize the digestive system. There is a difference between a true digestive aide and many diarrhea medications. Medications will put the brakes on the diarrhea for a short time, but won’t do anything to correct the underlying problem. In fact, some medications or diarrhea products will actually contribute to a cycle of diarrhea because they interfere with the digestive process. A Digestive Aide will get to the root of the problem, helping the body to get back into balance, so that diarrhea is taken care of safely, naturally and long-term. Probiotics have long been used as a digestive aide. Prebiotics are emerging as an even more effective and economical type of digestive aide and they also have the benefit of being much easier to administer.

Another nice thing about using natural digestive aides is that you won’t have to withhold food, change foods or be concerned about contraindications with any other medications you might be giving. Many treatment recommendations for common diarrhea are to withhold food. This sometimes works but can be difficult to manage when working with several puppies or when shipping pups.

Every breeder dreads receiving calls from unhappy customers with a new puppy with diarrhea. It’s not always easy to convince customers that their puppy isn’t really sick; just has a case of travel jitters. And unfortunately, if puppies do get into a cycle of diarrhea, it can lead to more serious problems if not corrected quickly, especially in small breeds. As the saying goes, prevention is the best cure. Preventing the problem saves breeders a lot both in time and money, as well as keeps new customers happy. Understanding that puppies will be susceptible to travel diarrhea helps breeders be prepared by stabilizing the digestive system in advance and take the right steps to prevent this difficulty.

Courtesy of the Hillsboro Company

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Recently, a letter was sent to the Editor in a Lancaster, Pennsylvania newspaper regarding the dishonesty of rescue organizations. The comment section was especially interesting since many did not believe the facts in the letter.

Since the Oprah show, highlighting “puppy mills” - many people have questioned why the State has not done anything about the conditions that were shown. It could be that there is some type of arrangement between those that “rescue” dogs that are “no longer wanted or needed” and the facilities shown on the Oprah expose’. It was interesting to note that in an interview, the man that has been hailed a hero, by some, for bringing these dogs to Oprah’s attention, stated that he was counting on the Amish that were featured in the Oprah show - not having televisions. Having made such a comment tends to lead one to believe that something is not exactly as originally stated and even more so questionable particularly since the Pa. Dog Law Bureau is having a difficult time identifying those “kennels”. However, that isn’t the subject of this article and I only mention it because the Oprah show opened other doors related to the subject.

In reading the comments regarding the LTE mentioned above, the writer was asked to prove her allegations. Many of those that commented simply refused to believe that dogs were being imported into the United States by “rescue” groups. One particular individual asked why these phenomena would occur since there are, allegedly, so many homeless dogs available in shelters and rescues across the country. Another person commented that dogs had to sit for 6-8 weeks before entering U.S. soil. Rather than research the subjects themselves, to see just how duped they have been by animal rights activists, they accused the writer of misinformation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has regulations on the importation of dogs and cats into the United States. In general, they require that dogs be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days prior to entry, except for puppies younger than 3 months and dogs originated or located for 6 months in areas considered to be free of rabies. A dog with an unexpired health certificate meets these requirements. This information is verifiable at the CDC website. The US Department of Agriculture has certain restrictions on the importation of dogs imported from any part of the world except Canada, Mexico, and regions of Central America and the West Indies. Only those dogs that are to be used in the handling of livestock must be inspected and quarantined at the port of entry for a sufficient time to determine their freedom from tapeworm. Dogs that are imported into Hawaii are quarantined for 130 days. There are no quarantine regulations for “pets” or “strays”. It is monetarily advantageous for groups with a “non-profit” status, who, at the same time, claim the country is “overpopulated,” to import puppies for resale or “adoption” - for a nonreportable fee. There are some special circumstances regarding dogs imported from areas known to be infested with screwworms or foot and mouth disease, but the general rule is that all dogs are only subject to inspection at ports of entry for evidence of infectious diseases that can be transmitted to humans. As a result of this missing link in governmental importation regulation, statistics of imported dogs are estimated according to Port of Entry reporting.

On April 2, 2008, the Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases of the CDC, filed a report regarding Importation of Dogs into the United States and in the summary of that report it states: “The importation of dogs into the United States poses a risk for the introduction of rabies and other zoonotic diseases. Federal regulations (42 CFR 71.51) currently require proof of valid rabies vaccination for imported dogs, but allow the importation of some unvaccinated dogs, including dogs less than 3 months of age, provided certain requirements for confinement are met until the dog is vaccinated. Although there is no accurate surveillance data on the number of dogs imported each year, it is estimated based on extrapolated data that over 287,000 dogs were imported into the United States during 2006. Of these, approximately 25% were either too young to be vaccinated or lacked proof of valid rabies vaccination. Import trends suggest that an increasing number of unvaccinated puppies are being imported into the United States, mostly through commercial resale or rescue operations.”

Since 2006, that 287,000 figure per year has doubled. Importation from Canada, Mexico, Central America and the West Indies, where no regulations are required, continues on a daily basis. The majority of dogs imported are puppies and small breeds that are far more acceptable to the general public than large dogs and much easier to resale or adopt out - for a fee. Not counted in the CDC’s estimated number of imports are those dogs that are brought into the country by various groups, such as Compassion Without Borders (who partners with another organization in Albuquerque, New Mexico to bring MexiMutts into the U.S.), United Hope for Animals in Southern California, Doglandia (a People’s guide to Mexico, asks to adopt a dog during your trip to the country), Blue RoadRunner, and SAMM (Save a Mexican Mutt) are only a handfull of such groups bringing dogs into the United States from Mexico. This doesn’t include those groups bringing dogs in from Central America, Puerto Rico or the West Indies. These imported dogs are flown, driven, shipped, transported and sent to shelters throughout the United States. Shelter owners say the importation programs are safe, moral and in demand. Although the work that these people do is admirable, one has to ask - What are their definitions of safe and moral? Bringing in dogs of questionable
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background and health issues from other countries while our own American dogs are euthanized is NOT safe or moral nor humane for those dogs already in shelters across the U.S. Accusing American breeders of causing overpopulation and high shelter kill rates is not safe, moral, just or fair, especially when the problems exist all --- for a fee.

Groups that convince the public that breeding should be restricted or banned should be looked at closely by legislators. Somebody has got to ask the question sooner or later. If all breeding is regulated, restricted or banned, how would these non profit groups continue to operate? The answer is simple. They don’t need breeders here. They can continue to plead to the American public’s emotions about some dog in (‘x’ Egypt) while they pursue the removal of the American dog breeders and their Constitutional Rights. That’s how big business works. In order to make more money, to get more orders or to increase the profit margin, they remove anything or anybody that could be remotely considered as competition while still keeping their sources in place. You won’t see non-profit importing groups pushing for the demise of all breeding or mandatory sterilization in those countries. It’s not good sense to eliminate your sources if your intention is to continue in the business of filling shelters and rescue groups offering animals that were “rescued from a puppy mill” to the unsuspecting public to adopt --- for a fee.

Now that you have access to verifiable facts, you can ask those who do the importing yourself. More than likely, you’ll be told they do it “to save the dogs”. You can then ask them why they aren’t spending that money and time on the alleged “over-surplus” dogs that are already here. I wonder if any of them will be honest enough to tell you. The general public needs to learn to research issues and think for themselves prior to repeating comments that they have been spoon fed over the years. They need to stop listening to those whose intentions are less than honest and ask for facts and verifiable proof - or can you only get that information from those who lead you down their dishonest, profitable path… for a fee?

---

**THE SURF DOGS OF SUMMER!!!**

California’s Imperial Beach has gone to the dogs!!

The Loews Coronado Bay Resort of Imperial Beach, California held its 3rd Annual Surf Dog Competition on June 28th. The canines were ‘hanging ten’ (or is it twenty?) for a great cause, The Modest Needs Foundation, an inspirational organization that aims to prevent poverty before it begins. The event is billed as the largest dog surfing competition in the nation. Hundreds turned out to see the four-leggers ride the waves, and for a few, wipe out with a splash. And as all good dogs do, they just shook it off!

About 60 dogs were registered for the event which consisted of various size categories and teams with their ‘human’ partners. Each dog and team had 3 waves (or chances) to impress the judges and was scored on confidence level, length of ride and overall ability to ‘grip it and rip it’. The winners of the ‘Small surf dogs 40 pounds and under’ were: 1st place; TJ (a Spanish Spaniel), 2nd place; Murphy (a Wire Fox Terrier), 3rd place; Toby (a shih-tzu mix). The ‘Large surf dogs 41 pounds and over’ winners were: 1st place; Stoli (a black Lab), 2nd place; Scooter (a golden Retriever), 3rd place; Stanley (a Chesapeake Bay Retriever). Team winners were: 1st place; Zoey (a Jack Russell Terrier), 2nd place; Pogey (a poodle mix). Congratulations to all the winners!!

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How Incubation can enhance YOUR operation as a Breeder or Veterinarian!!

Let’s start with the Breeder. This would include Hobby, Show, and Commercial Breeders. As a breeder, we’re always asking ourselves, ‘What would make our operation less time consuming, more productive, more successful, and more profitable?’ I’m not sure there is single cure or solution for all of this, but here are ways you can increase the probability for a better, more successful operation.

Let’s begin with the first moment your puppies are born. Being there for the birth increase’s your puppy’s survival rate (should there be a problem) be it new un-experienced mothers, long traumatic birth, etc. There are several conditions which we have limited or no control over, however, the second they are born, the odds change to our favor. Now we have the ability to take control of the situation. Sometimes success or failure depends on how ready or prepared you are in any given situation. This philosophy holds true to most things in life. With everything we have to do around the kennel on a daily basis, we are looking for ideas to save time, not to increase it. If you look at incubating newborns at birth with controlled temperature, humidity and oxygen, whether it’s a natural birth or c-section, you have just lessened the chance of future respiratory problems in the most critical stage of this puppy’s life. This means less sickness, which takes time and money whether your medical service is in home or out. Even saving the puppies life (in extreme cases) just made your time more productive, successful and profitable. I have spoken to thousands of breeders over the years, and from the ones that are now using incubation I have heard comments wishing they knew about or had used incubation years ago. Comments ranging from, ‘I just lost a litter weeks ago that I could have saved’ to, ‘I wish I would have known about this 30-40 years ago for all the puppies I’ve lost over the years that could have been saved’. It doesn’t matter what breed you raise or how much your pups will sell for, you will definitely increase your kennel’s productivity using incubation. Medical hospitals have been using them for your children for years, and why? Hospitals are in the business of saving lives, and though incubation has evolved over the years, simply put, ‘they work!’ Breeders have a love for animals and will spend as much time and money needed to save a puppy.

I know as a breeder, we take on the responsibility of trying to save each and every life, be it hours, days or weeks, to ensure the survival of each and every one. So why do we do it?? First and foremost, because we care, we spend the long hours we put in and many sleepless nights nurturing the ones that need our undivided attention. Secondly, we want our business to be more productive, successful, and profitable and ultimately, spend less time in the long run. Now that’s what incubation can do for your kennel!!

Now let’s address the veterinarian side. Veterinarians are looking for ways to increase their productivity, save time and be more profitable as well. They want to give their patients (animals) better care and keep the pets’ owners happy by returning to them their beloved companions. With this, I would like to address the breeder’s side only. Breeders make their living raising puppies. With that being said, it goes without saying that the more live puppies we leave with, the more successful our operation is, thus making us happy knowing that EVERY pup survived (although not every pup does with no fault from the vet). There are occasions, however, that a few of the puppies or even the whole litter may have difficulty breathing. Sometimes it happens when we are already on the way home or when we get home that they start to fade away one at a time, sometimes until they have all perished. I understand from being in this business over the past several years, that most breeders have been there at one time or another. Not only do we have time and money invested in the litter, (c-section) (possibly medicines) and the care of the mother, we know it will be at least 8 months before we can she can produce another litter. This plays a drastic part of our success rate as a kennel owner. Success or failure of the kennel depends on several things. However the first and most important step is live, healthy and happy puppies. Veterinarians who already use incubation can relate and understand what every live puppy means to the breeders success. Now veterinarians are also rewarded for their extra efforts. The more puppies your vet saves for you, the more breeders you are going to tell to use his or her vet clinic. In addition, a certain percentage of puppies sold usually remain in the same or general area which in turn, can be more potential clients for the vet in the near future and for years to come. This brings it back full circle to the veterinarian.

I would like to clarify a myth about oxygen.

Cont. on page 41
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 15TH, 2008

WISCONSIN ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL TRADE SHOW & SEMINAR, Horst Stables Auctions, N13653 Cty. Hwy M, Thorp, WI Contact Michael Glass (484) 880-7962 mg@aprpets.org

SEPTEMBER 6th, 2008

UNITED PET PROFESSIONALS ASSOC. (UPPA) and The NEBRASKA DOG BRDRS ASSOC. (NDBA) are hosting the 3rd Annual Nebraska Breeders Education Seminar, The Interstate Holiday Inn, Grand Island, NE. Sponsors include Royal Canin (Mark Salber) and Nebraskaland Pets (Casey & Angie Schaaf). Contact Amy Lambrecht (402) 329-4102 or email: myshadow@ptcnet.net for advertising/ For booth info contact CeeCee Polt (308) 584-3748 or email: brassring@nebnet.net

SEPTEMBER 13th, 2008

ABCDA/STEPP Seminar, Russellville, ARK Contact Amos Stafford (870) 416-6933 or email: antiquefarmer@hughes.net or Grover Jameson (479) 965-2078

SEPTEMBER 26 & 27TH, 2008

HUNTE 9TH ANNUAL BREEDER EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE, John Q. Hammons Convention Center, Joplin, MO For more information, contact Stephanie Morris (888) 444-4788 or email smorris@huntecorp.com

OCTOBER 17th & 18th, 2008

MINNESOTA PET BREEDERS ASSOCIATION FALL SEMINAR, Breezy Point, MINN. For more information contact Teri Franzen (218) 894-0005 or email terifranzen@hotmail.com

OCTOBER 25TH, 2008-RESCHEDULED FOR APRIL 18, 2009: ILLINOIS PET BREEDER SEMINAR, Marion, ILL. For more information contact Betty Curb (618) 596-4014

OCTOBER 31ST & NOV. 1ST, 2008

MPBA-Missouri Pet Breeders Association Fall Convention, Holiday Inn Select Executive Center, Columbia, MO For more information contact Barb York (417) 876-5787 or email york@healypc.com

UPCOMING SOUTHWEST AUCTIONS

AUGUST 30TH, 2008-Consignment Sale, Wheaton, MO

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2008-Larry Hibbard, Toronto, KS

SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2008-Tim & Bonnie Ward, Windsor, MO

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2008-Jay Blackburn, Here @Sale Barn, Wheaton, MO

OCTOBER 3RD & 4TH, 2008-Randy & Cindy Hale, Milan, MO

APRI SHOW SCHEDULE

August 23rd-Dakota Pet Breeders-Stickney, SD-Deadline August 13- contact Karen Veurink (605) 946-5786

Sept. 13th-IAFED-The Amanas, Iowa-Deadline Sept.3-contact Joe Gerst (319) 846-2348

Sept. 20th-PPA (Prof. Pet Connoisseurs)-Stockton, MO-Contact Linda Vinyard (417) 276-3843

Sept. 27th-NE Texas Canine Exhibitors-Mt. Pleasant, Texas-NEW CLUB!-Deadline Sept. 17-contact Joan Richardson (903) 331-0452

Oct. 4th-UPPA-Kearney, Nebraska-Deadline Sept. 24-Contact Sid Barrett-Powell (308) 868-9003

October 10th-Texoma Kennel Club-Durant, OK-Deadline Oct. 1-Contact Martha Hall (580) 924-7782

October 18th-Crossroads Breeders in Bolivar, MO-Deadline Oct. 15-Contact Brenda Arnett (417) 998-5001

October 25th-Piney Woods Assoc.-Marshall, TX

November 8th-East Texas Dog Lovers-Canton, TX-Deadline Oct. 29th.

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NOTE: FOLLOW STEPS EXACTLY OR IT WON’T WORK!

1st: Call Walmart and see if they have anything ‘GUARANTEED TO KILL FLEAS’.
2nd: Drive to Walmart and buy all products ‘Guaranteed to work’ and be prepared to wipe out check book.
3rd: Spend hours doing as instructed on products.
4th: Ignore Fleas laughter as you work your butt off doing as Products instruct you to do.
5th: Fall in bed exhausted feeling good about what you’ve accomplished with your ‘Guaranteed To Kill Fleas’ Products and dream of a flea free environment!

7th: Crawl back to the house to pick up the phone and start calling FEED ####, HARDWARE STORES, anyone listed as having products that are ‘GUARANTEED PRODUCTS THAT KILL FLEAS’ after you’ve been beaten back to your house from those SUPPOSEDLY DEAD FLEAS. Then buy $50 dollars worth of gas for car so you can drive all over picking up all these store’s ‘GUARANTEED TO KILL FLEAS PRODUCTS’.

8th: Repeat all of the above steps #3 thru #5 again after you purchased ALL the ‘GUARANTEED TO KILL FLEAS’ PRODUCTS from all these places only after you confirmed thru your bank that you really have not depleted your checking account totally....
9th: Again rush outside early in A.M. and run thru your ‘GUARANTEED FLEA FREE’ KENNEL! But this time be smart and take phone with you. You might not be lucky enough to get back to the phone if they grew as much this time as they did last time after you fed them the ‘Guaranteed Flea Free’ Products..

10th: If you can find the strength to dial PEST CONTROL only after you call the bank and ask for a personal loan..CALL IMMEDIATELY AND GET THEM OUT TO YOUR PLACE...after all, THEY ADVERTISE THEIR PRODUCTS AS ‘GUARANTEED TO DO THE JOB’!

11th: SPEND HOURS MOVING DOGS while they do their job and use “THEIR” GUARANTEED TO KILL FLEAS PRODUCTS and during this time spray dogs exactly as they instruct........

12th: Also keep an eye out for those vicious fleas that can sneak up on you and eat you alive before you know it…

13th: Again fall in bed exhausted but sleep good because you used a professional who ‘GUARANTEE’S TO KILL ALL FLEAS OUT’!!!!!!!

14th: Wake up early to banging on your back door… stagger to back door but first move curtain back to see who is banging on your door...DO NOT OPEN DOOR and I REPEAT DO NOT OPEN DOOR!!!!...IT IS ALL THOSE FLEAS YOU WERE GUARANTEED TO BE KILLED OUT demanding BREAKFAST....

15th: NOW FOR THE FINAL INSTRUCTIONS IN THE PROPER STEPS TO KILL OUT FLEAS: Make sure no neighbors are watching that could call in the little straight jacket men..dress out in beehive clothes and use super large rubber bands around ankles, waist, wrists, and neck to make sure those evil fleas cannot slip under clothing..rush to kennel, grab up all dogs and stick them in building that you first make air tight but only after you make sure all doggeys are free of any of the evil fleas(be prepared for hrs. of searching and lifting each hair while you do it and remember to check all orfices-those evil fleas hide in strange places....

16th: After following step #15 while laughing yourself sick (cuz by this time you REALLY DO need the guys with the little straight jackets!) crawl on BULLDOZER that you had put your house up as collateral to rent for a few hours and enjoy yourself while you destroy your kennel by PUSHING IT ALL INTO A BIG PILE..then then start emptying out all gas tanks on the place from cars to lawn mowers. Toheck with how expensive gas is! Follow all of this by also removing car tires(forget you just put a new set on car) and pile on mess(they make a heck of a fire once you get them going up in flames!). Then step back and throw match on it..while calling all the neighbors to come over for a big weenie roast........

17th: And at last.. fall in bed exhausted and broke, but truly happy because you finally found the ONE CURE that was GUARANTEED TO KILL ALL FLEAS... “ROASTING THEIR LITTLE HINDENDS” is the only true GUARANTEED TO KILL FLEAS ANSWER!

NOTE: IF anyone disagrees with my Guarantee please post YOUR GUARANTEED REMEDY...I’m really thinking about following thru on #16 so I can reach #17’s TRULY HAPPY STATE of being FREE FLEA!!!

submitted by Lynn Muston
Evening Shade, AR
People ask about the dangers of using oxygen, as a safety issue reference being ‘flammable’. To those of you who are welders and cutting torch people, you already know the answer to this question. You pick up your torch which has the gas valve on one side and the oxygen valve on the other. You grab your striker (cause’s sparks which ignites the gas) and turn on the valve, but you accidentally turn on the oxygen valve by mistake, you hit your striker several times but it will not light. We finally realize (I know, I’ve done the same thing) that we turned the wrong valve on. You shut off the oxygen valve, turn on the gas valve, hit the striker once and what do you know, you have flame, then you ease the oxygen valve open and the flame turns hotter. Have you ever seen a person using oxygen and have a cigarette in their mouth at the same time?? I have. The point I am trying to make is that oxygen will not burn, however, if you put oxygen on a fire, it will make it burn hotter and more intense. As a final note I would like the opportunity to help you with any and all incubation questions you may have. Feel free to call or email me at any time and I will be happy to show you how you can increase your kennel’s success through incubation!

Life Saver Incubators
Mark Santo, owner

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I’m not sure if this is a letter to the editor or not, I guess it is more just a story. You are welcome to publish it wherever you want, if you want, I just wanted the chance to share my story with someone I thought might understand:

I’m not sure where to start so I’ll just stick to chronological order. I have always been an animal lover. By the age of 9, I was a full fledged member of PETA and a few other organizations. I passed out anti-animal testing brochures in front of CVS, I put stickers that said “this package contains the rotting corpse of an animal” on packaged meat in the super market, and the list goes on and on. I signed petitions, went door to door with petitions, pushed for product dumps, and protested circuses, fur, etc.

To say the least, I was your enemy. I put my heart and soul into all of the humaniac causes. I saved my money and when I turned 19, I bought a small farmette so that I could do everything “right.”

I wanted to breed dogs because they were my passion. I was offered two Australian shepherds and told they would be shot that night if I didn’t take them. When I got there, I discovered a nightmare. This place is what they show when they are talking about puppy-mills. There were starving, matted, mangey, sick, dead, and dying dogs everywhere you looked. I was horrified. The man who owned the dogs told me he used to breed them, they were all registered, and I could have them all for $100. I paid the $100 wondering how many could be saved. He had some miscellaneous cages that he included in the deal. He dumped some dog food and skinny puppies came out of every crevice in the run-down buildings. It took a few hours to load my 47 dogs. I took them straight to the vet. They were dewormed, treated for mange, vaccinated, and some were euthanized (the vet said they couldn’t be saved). I took them home with a list of instructions and a bag of medications that would terrify most vets. I brought some in the house and put some in kennels. It was an all day task just to treat them all. Well, of course, someone reported me and animal control showed up. I showed them vet records, medications, and each of the dogs. Seeing this they left me alone. I was reported a few times, but by the end of the month I had all of the dogs cleaned up and looking nice. Then animal control came back and said I had to have county tags for all of them – oops. I had never managed to get papers for them and when animal control offered to “help” me out and take some of them off of my hands I gladly agreed. I turned them all over along with their individual medications.

Well, they euthanized all of the adults and “saved” all of the puppies. This was my first true taste of their “humane” treatment, but it wasn’t enough. I went on to set up a breeding kennel with actual registered dogs. The breeding dogs were kept in kennels, but brought into the house to give birth. I lived by myself in a 5 bedroom house so I rearranged everything for the dogs. My dogs were vetted as needed, vaccinated, groomed, fed, watered, and cared for. There were a few injuries from dogs fights and a couple accidents, but overall my dogs were healthy. I took in a variety of strays and drop-offs until I could find them homes. Of course I quickly developed a reputation as the place to take any dogs you don’t want. I was given a couple pregnant dogs and some puppies (including a litter of orphaned puppies) in the middle of the winter. Adding those to my bred dogs filled the house. I rearranged and found the perfect arrangement. I had a large room (12X26) and I sectioned that room off for puppies. Then I had 2 bedrooms each with a mommy and newborn puppies. I woke up every morning, fed my dogs and cleaned the room the puppies were in with a snow shovel. I then groomed dogs, walked dogs, cared for dogs, and met with people who were interested in puppies.

One day a woman who worked for a rescue group showed up for some mixed breed puppies I was “selling” for $50 (should have called it an adoption fee) to try to offset some of the costs of care. She was paying $50 for puppies, because their adoption fee was higher and they had a lot of demand for puppies, plus mine came already wormed, treated for fleas, and vaccinated. She was “interested” by my set-up and I proudly showed her around. I took her to the kennels. 
of my breeding dogs. I showed her a couple dogs on chains (these were large dogs that shredded my chain-link kennels) and I showed her how I had adapted my house for my dogs. Well, of course, I instantly entered the “puppy mill” category. She said I looked over-whelmed and I agreed. She offered to “buy” all of my puppies for $50 each and I said no. I would sell her my mixed breed puppies for $50 a piece, but I wasn’t selling her my registered puppies for $50 each. It turns out she didn’t like that and this is when my nightmare began.

I couldn’t beat the animal rights activists off of my porch. Animal control was called to my house multiple times a day. It didn’t seem to matter that my dogs were healthy, clean, and cared for. I told animal control my cleaning schedule and he seemed to approve. The two bedrooms with dogs and little puppies got their bedding changed and washed twice a day, the dogs were potty-trained, and the puppy room was cleaned with a snow shovel twice a day and the floor was scrubbed every Saturday.

Well they came in with a search warrant at 6AM on a Saturday morning, the height of any mess, and seized all of my dogs. I brought them out one at a time, told their name and who they got along with, and then loaded them in a crate. I told my dogs they were going on a car ride and tried to stay as calm as possible. As the trailer of my dogs pulled off I hit my knees and cried. How could this have happened to me? I loved them, I cared for them, and I did everything you were supposed to do.

The front page of the paper boasted of the seizure of 34 abused, neglected dogs. I had vet records, worming records, fecal analysis records, vaccination records, and every other care record you could imagine. I knew I could win in court. Unfortunately none of that mattered. They were seeking over $1,000 for their “cost of the seizure” and I was being charged $10 per dog per day as long as they were in their care. The judge upheld those costs calling them reasonable. He had them held until court. He would not listen to any of my evidence then and simply told me to bring it to court and we would “sort it out” then. I consulted a lawyer and was warned the court case would probably drag on for a month or two. Each month would run around $10,000 for care of the dogs. On top of that all of my puppies would be too old to sell by the time I got them back. I chose not to fight, I made a plea agreement, and I paid the just over $1,000 for the seizure and signed all the dogs over (handing over their papers to give them the best chance at a new home), 5 dogs were returned, and the charges were dropped. I have leased my farm, moved out of that county, and tried to move on with my life.

Having all those babies was the happiest part of my life, but loosing them was the hardest. I definitely lost my interest in all of my humaniacal causes. My fiance wants to discuss building a proper kennel on our property and running a small breeding operation. I want to, I would love to try again, but a part of me is still afraid. I get my Kennel Spotlight and read it cover to cover. I feel close to the people writing the articles, like they understand what I’ve been through. Maybe not the seizure, but you all understand getting up every morning and devoting your life to your dogs. I would love to try breeding again, but I have my reservations.

Well that’s my story, I am a former member of PETA who would love to join your community, but is still afraid. I would love some advice and encouragement, but I know, no matter what, “they” are still a threat to the industry.. I am now ashamed to say I used to be one of “they”, but I am proud to say I want to be one of “you”.

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What in the world was The Kennel Spotlight doing? We all know Best Friends Sanctuary in Utah is on the other side of our fence. They always help the enemy. But, just who is the enemy? Is it Dr. Frank McMillan, who wrote the article that appeared in the June issue of The Kennel Spotlight? No, I think not. Yes, Dr. Frank works for Best Friends and there are some questions about Best Friends and its founders, both in England and here in the United States. But this is not about the company Dr. Frank works for. This is about what Dr. Frank had to say in his article. I would like to encourage all of my readers to re-read the June article and think about his message.

Our worst enemy is the sub-standard breeder. Some of you may fall into that category and not even realize it. I have always contended that a dog is an animal and could be treated just like all other animals. But Dr. Frank’s article sent me researching the books and my mind. I started to use some of that common sense that I wanted the Animal Rights people to exercise. As I have told you before, I am a farm boy, born and bred. I have always been a strong believer in animal welfare. I want every animal in captivity cared for with the utmost sensitivity to its basic needs for food, water, shelter, veterinarian care and overall comfort. We have always had a dog as our personal pet companion. The one’s we have now demand our loving attention. Our Shiffon is in my lap every time I sit down. My Bernese Mtn. Dog always slides her head under my hand. I have owned hundreds of cattle and hogs. Never has one tried to climb in my lap. I have never snapped my finger at a Holstein and have it do anything I want it to. I have always thought a hog had its head on the wrong end. It has been said that the dog is not the most intelligent member of the animal world. They rank somewhere below the octopus and the elephant. Who cares!! Maybe we do too!

I feel that the laws that animal rights, or maybe (animal welfare people) have pushed on us for socialization and required personal attention for our dogs is justified. I have come to the realization that we, as high volume breeders, must be more aware of the needs for our dogs.

Dr. Frank points out that the Animal Welfare Act sets the basic requirements for the care of our animals. The standard says that the pen a breeding dog must spend its entire life in is one and one half times the length, width, and height of the dog. We do not keep our prisons patrons in cells that small. Common sense should tell us that a dog should be able to run the length of his pen with more than one step. He should be able to stretch on his hind legs and not hit his head on the top of his pen. He should not have to suffer from the matting of his coat and the hot spots that develop under it. He should not be starved for human companionship. Those of us who inspire to shed the label of sub-standard breeder should be willing to multiply every requirement in the Animal Welfare Act by at least two but preferably three.

I would like to see a panel of breeders meet together to form a guide for those of us who inspire to go the extra mile in the care of our dogs. These people need to use some common sense to determine the needs of the dog versus the need for economic considerations. Our Animal Rights adversaries contend that the almighty dollar is the driving force in our business while others want gold lined palaces for our animals while still others just do not want any animals in confinement – PERIOD! A panel of high quality breeders with a sprinkling of animal welfare people thrown in could develop a set of standards that would go a long way towards shedding this negative image of “Puppy Mill” these Animal Rights idiots have been branding us with.

As each state brings more restrictive laws onto its books, the dog breeding business as we know it is coming to a standstill. I have been pretty active in combating restrictive legislation for almost 40 years. In the early years, the high volume breeder could not even buy a better quality breeding animal from an AKC show breeder. These people wanted us out of business. The sporting dog people did not see any reason to get concerned about our troubles. The service dog people and the guard dog people and any other group of dog people you can think of was not interested in any problems that we might have. Well, as you may have noticed, we are now ALL just DOG PEOPLE! The Humaniacs want us all out of business! This Humaniac attitude is also spilling over into the other forms of animal enterprises, but it is the puppy that gets the public’s attention. But the day is coming when the cattle producer, the hog producer, chicken or sheep or even catfish farmer will feel the hot glare of the radical, anti-anything to do with all animals, beacon of light fall upon his back. Circus people and the entertainment industry walk a tightrope every day. Kentucky Fried Chicken is subject to demonstrations as is McDonalds. We in the animal producing field, no matter which form it takes, are being crucified by these radical idiots. We complain about our industry going to Mexico or some other third world country, well you better get ready to join them. If we do not silence this group we will all be producing animals in some other country.

In the April issue, I suggested various things we could do to alleviate these charges that the AR’s level against us. I expected some comments, both positive and negative. What did I get? Zilch. Nada. Nothing. I would like to see YOU the BREEDER take some interest in protecting your future. I want suggestions from you, that I can print and submit to NAPO, to PIJAC, and to your state legislature. We are slowly, or maybe not so slowly, being legislated out of business. Breed bans, spay and neuter laws, limiting the number of dogs you are allowed to keep or the number you are allowed
to sell, these restrictions are springing up all over the country. Breeders are not fighting them. Legislators are hearing many reasons to support these bills and almost no reason to vote NO. The very few people who testify do so at their own expense to help themselves but the 90 percent of breeders who profess to neither have the time or money are getting a free ride. Well, you know what? The breeder is getting his monies worth. MPBA hires a lobbyist to represent you at both the state and national levels. PPA sends their president to Washington to try to influence Congress on your behalf. NAPO and PIJAC try to look after your interest. MOFED is constantly in the halls of the legislature in Jefferson City. A new group formed in Pennsylvania last year and they have hired a lobbyist to represent them. Etc. etc. etc. There are small efforts being made in almost all the states to combat all of these attacks on our industry. How many are you supporting with your time/money/or even interest? Look into yourselves. Are you producing in a facility that exceeds standards, are you going the extra mile in the personal care of your dogs, are you giving extra attention to the exercise and socialization of your dogs, are you contributing your dollars to some or all of the above organizations? Are you proud of you? If so, I expect the rest of us can be to.

I thank Dr. Frank for his observations and suggestions for improvements, which he submitted to The Kennel Spotlight to be read by you, who can digest and act upon those suggestions. This was sincere criticism, not headline grabbing sensationalism to boost ratings for the Oprah show.

We have people who are interested in Animal Welfare. Many of these people volunteer at the local Humane shelter. They are constantly bombarded with adverse publicity from HSUS condemning the high volume breeder as an uncaring, abusive, money grubbing, socio-pathetic “Puppy Mill”. If we do nothing to combat this impression then they will feel free to help spread this false impression of our industry. Imagine their surprise when we invite them to offer suggestions on a book of industry standards formulated by highly responsible breeders, state chapter officers, NAPO officers and/or any other caring professionals. A starting point could be Missouri’s “Blue Ribbon” program.

Our problem is not wholly “sub-standard” breeders. It is a lack of qualified, totally committed leaders of our industry who will give of their time and money to preserve the future, and a willingness to wait for the future to reap their rewards. Many of these types came forward in the 70’s to save this industry from obliteration. We are growing old. We are getting tired. Someday we will be gone. Is there not one “Obama” type leader to pick up the reins and say “follow me”. Will the real “Industry Saviour” please stand up?

One of the state organizations needs to start this ball rolling and invite all the other state organizations to join in. Arkansas gave immediate support to NAPO to help get that organization going, even while other states took a wait and see attitude. Maybe they will do it again. Kansas has the talent to get this program started. I would encourage them to move on it before it is too late. Missouri needs to continue the leadership that has been exhibited in the past. New leadership is not yet worn out in Wisconsin. Maybe this project would bring that organization national recognition. Come on people, I just dream. YOU MUST ACT!!

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A PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES

By Joe Wright, Minister

Opening a new session of the Kansas Senate;

“Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know your word says, “Woe to those who call evil good” but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values we confess that we have:

1. worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism.
2. endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle.
3. exploited the poor and called it the lottery
4. rewarded laziness and called it welfare
5. killed our unborn babies and called it choice
6. shot abortionists and called it justifiable
7. neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem
8. abused power and called it politics
9. coveted our neighbors possessions and called it ambition
10. polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression
11. ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of your will. I ask this in the name of your son, the living savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN!!

Submitted by Jim Hughes

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